

amply fulfilled. There is no man in the House of Commons who is now more eagerly listened to than the eloquent member for Buckinghamshire.

Four years after his election to Parliament, Mr. Disraeli was the acknowledged leader of "the Young England Party." Between that year and 1846, his attacks on Sir Robert Peel were as frequent as they were often brilliant and severe. When his friend, Lord George Bentinck died, in 1848 he became the leader of the Conservative party in the House of Commons, and in or out of that office he has retained that position ever since. In 1852 he was Chancellor of the Exchequer under Lord Derby, and again in 1858, and in 1866. It is a noticeable fact in his life, as well as in that of Mr. Glad-

stone, his great Parliamentary opponent, that they are both as eminent as exponents of financial policy and progress as in imaginative and literary power. On the retirement of Lord Derby from the Premiership in January; 1868, Mr. Disraeli became Premier of England, his great ambition, and held the position until after the general election of that year, when in consequence of an adverse vote in the country, he retired from office.

Though at times having a care-worn appearance, Mr. Disraeli is still in the full possession of intellectual vigor; and it is far from unlikely that before two sessions more of Parliament have passed, he will be again at the head of affairs in the first nation in the world.

LITERARY NOTICES.

A TERRIBLE TEMPTATION. By Charles Reade. Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Co.

Every recent novel that Mr. Reade has published has been the signal for a perfect torrent of criticism and invective, and "A Terrible Temptation" has been no exception to the rule. The assault began, in fact, before a half dozen installments were fairly before the public, and will no doubt be continued as long as the novel retains any of its present popularity. Most of the criticism has been of the character which Mr. Reade consigned to an immortality of contempt in his famous "prurient prude" letter, and as he is probably now engaged in preparing another one of that type adopted to present circumstances, and as he has proved himself on more than one occasion quite capable of "taking care" of both himself and his critics, we refrain from attempting here any answer in detail.

It seems necessary, however, to remind the critics now and then, that it would be well to ascertain what use an author is going to make of his material, what moral he is going to teach, and what is the final result of his work, before indulging in unreserved and intemperate denunciation. This reminder seems especially needful in

the case of "A Terrible Temptation," for as we have said, the criticism which has given color to all since written, and which has no doubt largely shaped the popular impression of the book, was commenced before the story was fairly under way, when it was utterly impossible to tell what lesson the author intended to teach, and was based evidently on an entirely false prognostic of the course of the story. We imagine that there are few readers who taking the novel as a whole, would be prepared to say that "it is licentious to a degree which ought to bring it under the ban of the law," or, "that it is a disgrace both to author and publisher." Appearing as it did in parts, there were one or two situations no doubt which were sufficiently dubious to impart a shock to the delicate sensibilities of the "prurient prudes;" but judging the story as a whole, we have no hesitation in saying that its moral tone is exceptionally high, that no one can doubt for a moment whether the author believes in a line of demarcation between the virtues and the vices, and that as far as ethics are concerned, "A Terrible Temptation" is unexceptionable. It would be very refreshing to meet the "young person" whose imagination has been soiled by contact with Mr. Reade, and especially with his latest pro-