

ary opinions, and in 1827, he composed his drama, "Cromwell." In 1829, he published his "Last Days of a Condemned Criminal," the terrific interest of which secured it an immense success. M. Hugo prepared a further attack on the stiff and unnatural style of French dramatic literature in his "Hernani," at the Théâtre Français, February 26th, 1830, and it caused a scene of riotous confusion. The Academy went so far as to lay a complaint against his attempted innovation at the foot of the throne: Charles X. sensibly replied that "in matters of art he was no more than a private person." Shortly after the Revolution of July, 1830, his "Marion de Lorme," which had been suppressed by the censorship under the Restoration, was brought out with success. "Le Roi s'amuse" was performed at the Théâtre Français in January, 1832, and the day after its production was interdicted by the Government. M. Victor Hugo, who published a number of dramatic pieces of various merit, after many struggles was admitted into the Academy in 1841, and was created a peer of France by Louis-Philippe. In 1849 he was chosen President of the Peace Congress, of which he had been a leading member. After 1850, M. Victor Hugo resided in exile in Jersey, Guernsey, and elsewhere, and refused to avail himself of the general amnesty issued August 10th, 1859. On the fall of the empire, however, he hastened back to his native country, entered heartily into a Republican movement, and was returned to the National Assembly at Bordeaux, which he soon quitted in disgust, sending on March 9th, 1871, the following characteristic letter to the President, M. Grévy:—"Three weeks ago the Assembly refused to hear Garibaldi; to-day it refuses to hear me. I resign my seat." M. Hugo then repaired to Brussels, but the Belgian Government, alarmed by his violent writings, expelled him from the country. He then sought refuge in the little town of Vianden, in Luxemburg, where he composed "L'Année Terrible." Returning to Paris in July, 1871, he pleaded earnestly for the lives of Rossel, Ferré, and the other Communists, to no effect. He accepted the *mandat impératif* in the following elections, but M. Vautrian defeated him. He wrote much after he quitted France in 1852. His satire, "Napoléon le Petit," appeared at Brussels in 1852: "Les Châtiments," at the same place in 1853; and "Contemplations," at Paris, in 1853. His fame rests principally on his "Notre-Dame de Paris," which has been translated into most European languages, and is known in England under the title of the "Hunchback of Notre-Dame." His semi-historic and social romance, "Les Misérables," translated into nine languages, was issued at Paris, Brussels, London, New York, Madrid, Berlin, St. Petersburg, and Turin the same day, April 3, 1862. His last novel, "L'Homme qui Rit," appeared in 1869. M. Victor Hugo has been a prolific writer. His most recent works are "Le Légende des Siècles," new series, 5 vols. 1877-83. "Histoire d'un Crime," 2 vols. 1867-68, being an account of Louis Napoleon's *coup d'état*: "Le Pape," a poem, 1878; "La Pitié Suprême," a poem, 1879; "Religions et Religion," 1880, a poem which, beginning, like the "Châtiments," in a tone of comedy and irony, reviews creeds and systems, passes from Catholicism to Nihilism, and concludes by an affirmation of a Theism without "catechisms, korans, and gram-

mars;" "Les Quatre Vents de l'Esprit," 1881, poems: and "Torquemada," a dramatic poem (1882).

GLADSTONE.

The following clipping from the *Toronto Week* eloquently demonstrates *inter alia* the recent decay of dignity in the British House of Commons, while it justly eulogizes the character of its late premier.

No one who looks at English politics quietly from a distance, and is not a thoroughgoing devotee of Mr. Gladstone, will deny that there may be reasons sufficient at all events in the eyes of Conservatives for opposing his Government. His Irish policy, his Egyptian policy, his extension of the Franchise to untried masses without the provision of corresponding safe-guards, all are fair subjects for criticism and rational grounds for differences of opinion. But no one who is not rabid with political hatred can imagine that Mr. Gladstone is a proper object of personal contumely and outrage. His character is unblemished, his aims have always been the highest, his vast ability and marvellous accomplishments are disputed by none, he has served England for more than fifty years, his achievements in finance alone would entitle him to the highest gratitude, and if majorities have any meaning, he is the elect of the British people. Yet with personal contumely and outrage he is continually assailed, not only by the Irish members, but by men who pretend and think themselves pre-eminently entitled to the name of English gentlemen. Illustrated papers in general profess neutrality. One of them, however, has an extremely bitter article against Mr. Gladstone on the Russian question, inspired very likely by Jewish influence, for, behind almost every one of those curtains in England as well as on the Continent there is a Hebrew. But in the same columns we find a detailed description by another hand of a "painful scene" in the House of Commons, "in which Conservative gentlemen howled at the Leader of the House with that tone of intense personal hatred which may be noted in the shout of a mob on a racecourse day when they discover a welsher in their midst." It is not wonderful that Mr. Gladstone should have assigned as a reason for his speedy retirement, "the blow which has been struck at the liberties and dignity of the House by the modes of proceeding which within the last few years have been introduced into its debates. There is no blackguardism like that of a gentleman when once he forgets himself, because in his case the insolence of class is combined with brutality of manner: though there are some perhaps on the Tory as well as on the Irish benches to whom this reflection need not be extended. As to the dignity of the house of Commons, it has become a legend of the past. But it does not depart alone; other attributes still more indispensable in the case of a governing assembly are rapidly following it to the grave.

It must gratify every lover of freedom, political honesty and good government to learn, by late advices that Mr. Gladstone has decided not to retire from public life.