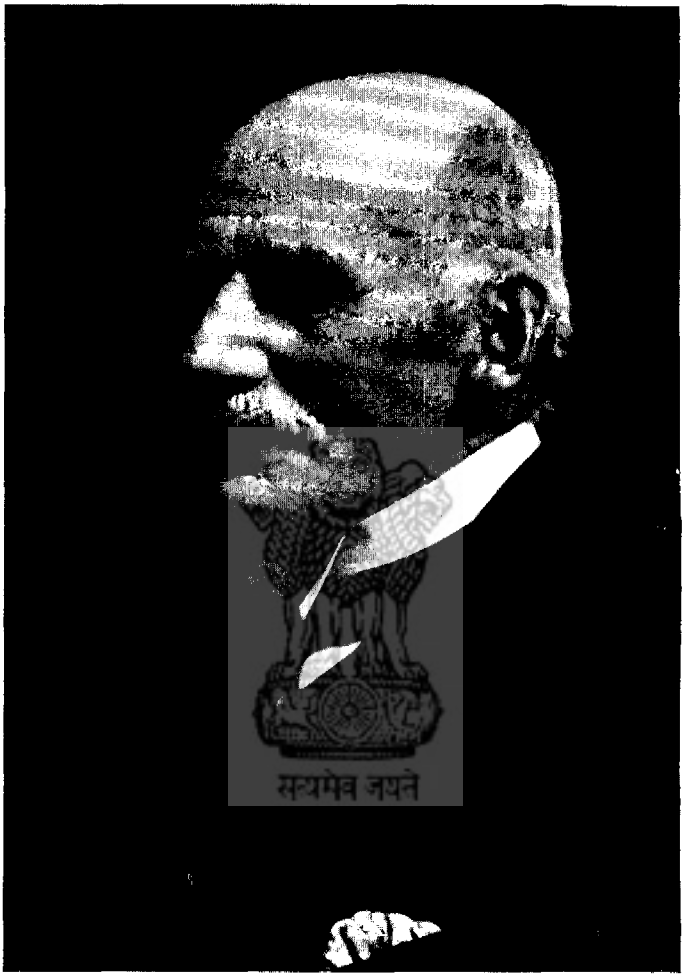

SIR JOHN A. KEMPE, K.C.B., 1926.
Elliott & Fry.

REMINISCENCES
OF AN
OLD CIVIL SERVANT
1846—1927

SIR JOHN ARROW KEMPE, K.C.B.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

Qui serunt in lacrimis metent in gaudio
(Kempe Family Motto)

LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET, W.

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I dedicate this work to two people. To Dr. H. F. Lumsden, by whose farsighted arrangements I was given the time and opportunity for its composition; and to Ethel Kenworthy Brown, without whose efficient help and patient encouragement I could not have carried it through.

J. A. K.


सत्यमेव जयते

PREFACE

I HAVE gratefully to acknowledge the permission given me where necessary for the publication of letters and other documents included in the *Reminiscences*. The chief interest of the book perhaps rests upon them, slight as most of them are, and they are therefore my best apology for the publication at all of a work which was originally intended for family record only.

While the book was still in the press I became aware, for the first time, that a most complete and valuable history and scientific analysis of the work of the Treasury had just been published by Sir Thomas Little Heath. I have been much relieved to find on reading it that my work in no way cuts across his masterly and exact description of the place of the Treasury in the Constitution and its relations to other Departments of the State. My book is on quite different lines, and in fact represents the personal life of a Civil Servant under the official system which Sir Thomas so ably describes. I have not therefore thought it necessary to alter a single word in the *Reminiscences*.—J. A. K.

NOTE

These reminiscences are my father's parting gift to his family and his friends. They were

begun during a short period of enforced rest and furnished him with an absorbing interest during the last year of his life. He had always had a taste for writing, though it was perhaps less individual than his artistic capacity—here illustrated by several of his drawings—and had been less frequently exercised. His mind was still, as ever, clear and alert, and he delighted in recalling memories of his working days, the faces of old colleagues, the echoes of stirring times in which he had played his part. But he did not live to see his book published. The last proof-sheets were lying beside him when his summons came. He died, very suddenly, at his home, Coram Court, Lyme Regis, on Wednesday morning, April 4, 1928, in the eighty-third year of his age.

D. G.

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REMINISCENCES OF AN OLD CIVIL SERVANT

CHAPTER I

PATERNAL ANCESTRY

I HAVE been asked, in my eighty-second year, to record some reminiscences of people and scenes connected with my life.

My life has not been one, like the career of a great man, to arouse the interest and curiosity of the reader to know by what means and by what steps his progress to greatness has been achieved. It has been a life of which the actual interest does not lie in its achievements, but in the pictures it can give of a long and, for a Civil Servant, unusually varied career: not passed in the limelight, though witnessing some vivid scenes at which only a limited number of people now living can have been present, and in touch with a somewhat unusual number of distinguished men with whom my father or I have had personal relations, including nine Prime Ministers, beginning with Lord Aberdeen.

One has to recall, and arrange in, as far as possible, coherent relations with one another, the main facts which have shaped out the course of

a life. The recollections of such facts are no doubt often coloured by their results. This constitutes the experience by which the future is largely influenced. The complete cycle of an average man's life is known to no one but himself. Others have seen and perhaps remembered disjointed fragments of it, but they cannot be pieced together. The life of a great man is followed with intense interest by thousands, and the influence of his great doings upon his career can be observed by the whole world. The average man is governed less by his own will than by his opportunities.

Reminiscences are reminiscences only, and therefore do not include ancestors beyond a generation or two. I do not propose to give more than the merest sketch of my ancestral history.

To some, a pedigree seems a compilation, put together with infinite labour, representing a number of mere shadows of names, making no appeal to the imagination. To others it presents a glowing reality of life: a picture connecting us with the long past and suggesting dreams of a possible future: a glimpse into eternity.

I am in possession of an old pedigree, with no clue to its date, which gives on one large sheet the ramifications and collateral connexions of at least eight families, Courtenay, Haweis, Kempe, Tanner, Taunton, Tregarthyn, Tregrin, and Wolvedon. The pedigree, which is in Latin, starts with "Henricus I^{mus} Rex Angliae," from whom through "Sybella filia Roberti Corbet, Militis domin:, de Alcester in com: Warwic: . concubina Hen. I^{mi}," after six generations, sprang "Iana, filia 2^{nda} et cohaeres

vidua Alex Oakeston militis, et concubina Ric^di Plantagenet." He was the second son of King John, and " Rex Romanorum Comes Cornubiae."

This is a sad beginning! But all the other families in the pedigree begin their careers apart from the illegitimate line. The object of the pedigree would in fact almost seem to have been to show how the illegitimate offspring of Henry I gradually merged into the legitimate stock of all the other families. Those of Courtenay and Kempe do not appear in it until many generations after Henry I and Richard Plantagenet. That of Courtenay only begins with Edward I, from whom their descent is direct. That of Kempe starts with Thomas Kempe of Ollantye in Wye (Kent). He was father of John Kempe, Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury. A descendant in the fifth generation from him, another Thomas Kempe of Lavethan, united in 1542 the two families of Courtenay and Kempe by his marriage with Catherine Courtenay, a direct descendant in the ninth generation from Edward I. My branch of the family trace their descent in this line.

The eight families pursue their several careers through the centuries, but here and there we find intermarriages. Among them a Kempe marries a Taunton. The Kempe line ends with a Nicholas Kempe whose name I pick up again in a later pedigree as one of the Cornish branch in the fifteenth century. From him descends the existing family, and in the present generation the Kempes and Tauntons have again been reunited by the marriage of one of my daughters to a son

of Robert Taunton Raikes, whose family had also intermarried with the Tauntons appearing in the Latin pedigree.

This is about as much as the average brain can assimilate from studying the pedigrees. A cross-word puzzle is nothing to it. I have been furnished with an American publication for working out family genealogical records. The difference from the English system is striking. The English system commences, in the form of a pyramid, with a single name (Henry I in my case) at the top of its apex, from which branch out in every direction downwards ties connecting together quite a large section of the human race of which we know little or nothing except the names; and it is only with the greatest difficulty that the direct descent of any one person can be traced.

By the American plan the pyramid is inverted. It stands on its apex instead of on its base and spreads out upwards, but the growth is confined to progenitors in the direct line only. Thus on the next line above the person who is the apex will be found two spaces for the names of his father and mother; on the next line above that are four spaces for his grandparents; on the next, eight for his great-grandparents, until the top of the page is reached. Succeeding pages give spaces for the ancestors of the eight great-grandparents, thus recording the pedigrees of ten generations in all. Each individual is provided with his own niche. None of the brothers and sisters of those occupying the niches, however numerous or distinguished, have any place in the family record.

The plan ensures, like all American inventions, perfect uniformity and precision. Each ancestor has his appropriate number attached to his niche, like a prisoner in his cell. When fully worked out it will always make the total number of ancestors in the direct line of ten generations exactly 2,024 persons. The same number applies to every individual who has ever lived. What a sublime thought! Yet it is in accordance with the natural instincts that I should be No. 1 and my remotest ancestor only No. 2,024.

This is, of course, far short of the number which would result from a complete pedigree on the English system, including all the collateral relations of brothers and sisters and their ramifications. The American plan furnishes a perfectly planned machine for turning out an exact and uniform record of the origin of every individual in the direct line; but it lacks the wide and interesting field for the imagination afforded by the English plan, with its full and picturesque wanderings into vast and unknown regions of history and romance, open to the display of any connexions which may be thought interesting though not in the direct line. What colour and beauty may not be conjured up, for instance, by picturing the story of the loves of Thomas Kempe of Lavethan with Catherine Courtenay, a scion of the Royal House, whose existence might never have been recognized within the limits of an American pedigree! What a thrill of pleasure in the sudden discovery of our relationship, perhaps not thirty generations back, with our illustrious neighbour at the Great House which may have so

often attracted our awe and admiration! Have the scandals of Sybella Corbet and Jane Oakeston ever found their way into drama or fiction?

Thomas Kempe of Ollantyne in the parish of Wye, Kent, lived in the reign of Edward III, and from him sprang, in the reign of Richard II, Thomas, Bishop of London and, as before mentioned, his brother John, born A.D. 1380, who became Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury and twice Lord Chancellor of England. He officiated at the marriage of King Henry VI to Margaret of Anjou, and has a magnificent tomb in Canterbury Cathedral. There may have been many others of the family before him or after him who rose to distinction, but the pedigrees do not disclose their merits.

This is enough of the extreme past. For my own reminiscences it will be sufficient for my purpose if I hark back two generations.

After a man has emerged from the chrysalis of his education into the world of action, his reminiscences do not necessarily include many relatives of his own generation, unless their careers happen to touch his own. Wife and children may give colour to, and secure the happiness and even the success of, life; they are its background and object, but they may not necessarily take a part in it visible to the world. It should not, therefore, be imputed as egotism if reminiscences appear to be confined chiefly to self, and to people and circumstances which have influenced a man's career apart from home life.

I am in possession of a vast heterogeneous mass of family records. Many of the documents have

found their way into print in various forms; most of them were accumulated by my grandfather Alfred John Kempe and his sister Mrs. Bray. Alfred John was an accomplished antiquary and a constant contributor of articles to the pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine* and other publications in the last century, founded upon his researches, documentary and topographical. He also published some substantial books which were appreciated in his day: *The Losely Manuscripts*, *Historical Notices of the Collegiate Church of St. Martin le Grand*, now the site of the General Post Office, and a translation, in two volumes, of Baron Von Odleben's *Campaign in Saxony in the Year* 1813.

He left a family of four sons and six daughters. In the year 1918 I addressed a letter to *The Times*:

A Record of Longevity

To the Editor of *The Times*

Sir,

May I put upon record what is probably a unique case of family longevity?

Mrs. Arthur Mozley of Cheltenham completed her 103rd year on January 22. She is the last survivor of the eleven children of Alfred John Kempe, antiquary. One died in infancy. The record of the remaining ten is as follows:

			Yrs.	Days.
Rev. John Edward Kempe	Mar. 9, 1810	Mar. 10, 1907	97	1
Miss Mary Anne Kempe	Dec. 22, 1811	Nov. 13, 1899	87	326
Rev. Alfred Arrow Kempe	Apr. 13, 1813	Dec. 15, 1909	96	246
Anna Eliza Mozley	Jan. 22, 1815	Aug. 14, 1919	104	226
Jemima Frances Martin	Dec. 26, 1816	May 6, 1911	94	131
Caroline Wilhelmina Davies	Mar. 14, 1820	July 13, 1903	83	121
Adeline Octavia Benson	Nov. 19, 1821	Nov. 12, 1916	93	358
Charles Nicholas Kempe	Aug. 23, 1827	Dec. 9, 1904	77	108
Eleanor Brandreth Parish	Dec. 3, 1829	Mar. 17, 1916	86	104
Reginald Carlisle Kempe	Nov. 23, 1831	Dec. 2, 1916	85	9
	Total		906	170

The average age obtained by the ten children thus exceeds 90½ years, five of them reaching an average of above 97 years, and the other five nearly 84.

I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN A. KEMPE.

January 13, 1918.

I have brought the letter up to date by inserting the death of Mrs. Mozley in her 105th year.

The letter found its way into most of the newspapers in this country and the Colonies, and I was inundated with communications from all over the world commenting upon the extraordinary and perhaps unique record, and references to it still recur if by any hap the name of one of the family comes into prominence in the Press.

The career of one of the daughters, Mrs. Albin Martin, who died in New Zealand in May 1911, at the age of 94, is a picturesque and interesting one.

Voyaging by the ship *Cashmere*, Mrs. Martin went out to the colony in 1851 with her husband, an artist, and her five children, and never revisited England. The Martins were members of a party of persons of gentle birth and education who emigrated in the early fifties under the influence of a vision, almost Utopian, of life in the Antipodes. The voyage was then a matter of six months in a sailing ship. Auckland before the second Maori War was scarcely more than a fishing-village. The Martins' concession was a patch of uncleared land in the outlying district

SKETCH BY ALBIN MARTIN OF THE HOUSE BUILT BY HIM IN 1857.
Facing north-west towards the River Tamaki.

of the Tamaki. The first cow known in the colony came out with their party. There was no provision for housing, far less for educating the children.

The family passed through the anxious and perilous period of the native uprising. While other families in the neighbourhood moved into Auckland for safety, Mr. Martin, who had a great affection for the Maoris, preferred to stay on his settlement with his family, and they were never molested in any way. And in early days the risks were by no means imaginary. There is a well-authenticated story of two eminent authorities of Scottish Universities who were discussing the curious fact that the Maoris assimilate the Scotch language more easily than the English. One of the professors remarked that this was not surprising as the Maoris had Scottish blood in them, one of his grandfathers, a missionary, having been eaten by them.

Mrs. Martin long survived these early hardships. She represented a generation which clung with pathetic tenacity to English traditions by which the colonist of to-day sets little store. No hardship—and few women lived a life of more unremitting manual labour—could destroy the tradition of culture and the love of art which she brought with her from home and handed on to her children. A collection of some 250 drawings and prints by Albert Dürer and his contemporaries had been treasured for a generation in the little wooden house at Ellerslie.

Some of these, including an original drawing by Altdorfer, a contemporary of Dürer's, have been

acquired by the British Museum. A note from Sir Sidney Colvin gives an amusing glimpse of red tape which obtruded itself into the transaction.

BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON, W.C.
July 2, 1904.

DEAR MR. KEMPE,

With reference to the Altdorffer drawing which I was going to recommend to the Trustees at the next meeting for purchase as from yourself:

My chief, Sir Edward Thompson, reminds me that we cannot buy from a Civil Servant, and that you in the Auditor's Office would have to check and disallow the payment made to yourself.

So will you please send me the name, as vendor, of some person not in Government employ to whom we may make the price payable, and who would hand it over to you for the owner in New Zealand?

Yours very truly,
SIDNEY COLVIN.

NOTE.—On the day when I completed the correction of the proof-sheets of this book there appeared in *The Times* of March 24, in large type, the following notice:

"DISCOVERY OF SUPPOSED BLAKE PAINTINGS

"WELLINGTON (N.Z.), March 23.—Water-colour paintings which are claimed to be the work of William Blake, and valued at from £12,000 to £17,000, have been found in the Auckland home of Mrs. Hickson and her sister, Miss Martin, daughters of the late Albin Martin, an English artist and a pupil of Blake. The pictures form a set illustrating 'the Book of Job.'—*Exchange.*"

I insert this as it forms a remarkable climax to the story I have told above about the art treasures which have survived in the little house at Ellerslie, Auckland.

CHAPTER II

MATERNAL ANCESTRY—ATKYNS FAMILY—EARLY YEARS

IT is generally the fate of antiquaries that their researches and discoveries appeal to a limited public. They have to be satisfied with the absorbing interest of patient study, and the joy of discovery enhanced by the appreciation of a few kindred souls. The larger part of their life's work has probably served as useful material for more popular work by others. My grandfather had one such kindred soul in his sister Mrs. Bray, whose copious pen produced novels and historical memoirs, many of which are still current and popular, especially in Devon and Cornwall, and some of which are to be found in booksellers' catalogues among "rare first editions." Her Life of Thomas Stothard, R.A. (published by John Murray), whose son was her first husband, was at the time the most coveted book in the market for "Grangerizing" purposes, old Thomas Stothard (some of whose paintings are in the National Gallery) having been the most graceful book illustrator of his day. The term "grangerizing" is perhaps not familiar to everyone, possibly because photography has so much superseded engraving in book illustration. It was derived

from one "Granger"—I know no more about him—whose passion for extra-illustrating books which he possessed was such that on paying a call upon a friend, while waiting for his host he would casually take a book from the table or from a shelf, and if he found in it an engraving which might suitably illustrate some book in his own library, he would cut it out and pocket it before his friend appeared. In collaboration with her brother she also published a magnificent work, *The Monumental Effigies of Great Britain*, the chief life-work of her first husband, Charles Stothard, sometime Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries, who met his death by a fall from a ladder in the church of Bere Regis, Dorset, when engaged on his great work. The original drawings of the whole are now in the British Museum.

Mrs. Bray's second husband, the Rev. Atkyns Bray, was my mother's uncle. She came of the Dorset family of Wood. Her father lived at Osmington, near Weymouth, and owned property there extending to Preston and down to the sea at Redcliffe Point. King George III was frequently at Weymouth, and my grandfather put up bridle gates about his land for the convenience of the old King, who used often to ride in the neighbourhood. The White Horse on the downs above Osmington was cut by him after the King's death as a memorial. The inhabitants of Weymouth were very much annoyed because the architect represented His Majesty as riding away from the town instead of towards it. One of the Wood ancestors, Sir Robert Atkyns, was a Baron of the Exchequer in the reign of Charles II. Two

Tablet in Westminster Abbey :—

TO THE MEMORY OF

SIR EDWARD ATKYNS

ONE OF THE BARONS OF THE EXCHEQUER, IN THE REIGNS OF KING CHARLES THE FIRST AND SECOND. HE WAS A PERSON OF SUCH INTEGRITY, THAT HE RESISTED THE MANY ADVANTAGES AND HONOURS OFFERED HIM BY THE CHIEFS OF THE GRAND REBELLION. HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE IN 1669 AGED 82 YEARS.

OF

SIR ROBERT ATKYNS

HIS ELDEST SON, CREATED KNIGHT OF THE BATH AT THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES THE SECOND, AFTERWARDS LORD CHIEF BARON OF THE EXCHEQUER, UNDER KING WILLIAM, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS IN SEVERAL PARLIAMENTS; WHICH PLACES HE FILLED WITH DISTINGUISHED ABILITIES AND INTEGRITY; AS HIS LEARNED WRITINGS ABUNDANTLY PROVE.
HE DIED 1709 AGED 88 YEARS.

OF

SIR EDWARD ATKYNS

HIS YOUNGEST SON LORD CHIEF BARON OF THE EXCHEQUER; WHICH OFFICE HE DISCHARGED WITH GREAT HONOUR AND INTEGRITY: BUT RETIRED UPON THE REVOLUTION, FROM PUBLIC BUSINESS, TO HIS SEAT IN NORFOLK; WHERE HE WAS REVERED FOR HIS PIETY TO GOD AND HUMANITY TO MEN. HE OCCUPIED HIMSELF IN RECONCILING DIFFERENCES AMONG HIS NEIGHBOURS; IN WHICH HE OBTAINED SO GREAT A CHARACTER THAT FEW WOULD REFUSE THE MOST DIFFICULT CAUSE TO HIS DECISION; AND THE MOST LITIGIOUS WOULD NOT APPEAL FROM IT. HE DIED 1698 AGED 68 YEARS.

AND OF

SIR ROBERT ATKYNS

ELDEST SON OF THE SIR ROBERT ABOVE MENTIONED: A GENTLEMAN VERSED IN POLITE LITERATURE, AND IN THE ANTIQUITIES OF THIS COUNTRY; OF WHICH HIS HISTORY OF GLOUCESTER IS A PROOF. HE DIED 1711 AGED 65 YEARS.

IN MEMORY OF HIS ANCESTORS, WHO
HAVE SO HONOURABLY PRESIDED IN THE COURTS OF JUSTICE IN WESTMINSTER HALL,

EDWARD ATKYNS, Esq.

LATE OF KETTERINGHAM IN NORFOLK, SECOND SON OF THE LAST-MENTIONED SIR EDWARD, CAUSED THIS MONUMENT TO BE ERECTED.
HE DIED JANUARY THE 20TH, 1750, AGED 79 YEARS.

of his three sons both became Lord Chief Barons of the Exchequer. A tablet to the memory of the father, his two sons, and his grandson, is in Westminster Abbey.

I possess a beautiful portrait of Sir Robert, the eldest son, by Zoerst, a Dutch portrait painter of the Stuart times. The portraits of Sir Robert the father and his younger son Sir Edward hang in the Guildhall, London. The reason for this distinction was that they were the Commissioners for settling the claims of the sufferers by the Great Fire of London in 1666.

I was born in the year 1846. The country had not then long recovered from the great wars in the early part of the century. We were still groping our way out of the mists of ignorance of the application of science and art to the uses of actual life. The Prince Consort was incubating those plans of *Kultur* which found expression in the Great Exhibition in 1851, and which have done so much to develop the march of enlightened commerce. Free Trade was beginning to exercise the minds of statesmen, but the measure of its ultimate effects was obscured by the prosperity of all classes due to the simultaneous development of the application of steam to the purposes of manufacture and transport.

My first recollection is of the Great Exhibition of 1851, the first of its kind; but the only feature which I can distinctly recall is that of the two great elms left growing inside the vast building of glass. Other features are too confused with recollections of later exhibitions to be trustworthy.

Another memory belongs to the early age of six, when I was taken by my father (then Vicar of St. Barnabas, Kensington) to see the lying-in-state and the funeral of the Duke of Wellington. There must have been considerable risk in providing me with this imperishable remembrance, for the crowds were enormous, barriers being thrown across the road to relieve the pressure, and some lives were lost. The sight of the great funeral car with its imposing pall of purple velvet, the ducal coronet and his sword on the top, and his charger led behind, moving slowly through the street, was one never to be forgotten by a child.

The Vicarage of St. Barnabas was in those days in Addison Terrace, behind which an uninterrupted view of fields stretched right up to Notting Hill in the distance with Addison Road and the railway closing it in on the east and west sides. On the other side of the High Street, behind the old squares and crescents bordering it, stretched away to Chelsea an open waste of brickfields and nursery gardens, now Earl's Court. My brother and I attended a little school further east, in Phillimore Gardens. Every morning an Isleworth bus stopped at our door after breakfast and the conductor in a white top hat, standing on a small step behind, holding on by a strap, descended and rang our bell if we were not ready, to rattle us over the macadamized and sometimes cobbled roads, with straw on the floor to keep our feet warm. If we were not ready we had to wait, perhaps five or ten minutes, before another bus plodded leisurely up.

In 1852 my father was appointed by Lord Aberdeen to the Rectory of St. James, Piccadilly :

ARGYLL HOUSE,
May 28, 1853.

SIR,

In the execution of the difficult task imposed upon me, of supplying the place of the Bishop of Lincoln in the Rectory of St. James's, I have been led to believe that this might be effected to the advantage of the Church, and of the Parish, by your appointment.

If, therefore, you should be disposed to listen to this proposal, I shall be happy to submit your name to the Queen.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Yours very truly,
ABERDEEN.

REVD. J. E. KEMPE.

The Rectory House is to this day unaltered, adjoining the church in Piccadilly. A year or two later two of my brothers and I were given nominations in St. Paul's School, then housed in the old buildings under the shadow of the Cathedral at the East End. The old school has been described by others,[1] with its dark-pillared cloisters for its only playground in early days. Most of us of course did not learn much in those days of primitive methods of education, but some of my contemporaries turned out brilliant scholars and eminent men. Among my nearest contemporaries were Bishops Knox and C. J. Ridgeway, and his brother Sir J. West Ridgeway, Sir E. Ray Lankester, J. R. Illingworth, Aubrey Moore, Alfred Smee, Judge Howard Smith, Edward Bell the

[1] "A History of St. Paul's School," by Michael F. J. McDonnell, 1909; "Res Paulinæ," by the Rev. R. B. Gardiner and John Lupton, 1911.

publisher, J. L. Lyne (who became Father Ignatius, founder of the brotherhood of Llanthony Abbey), and my brother Alfred, for many years Treasurer of the Royal Society, as well as Chancellor of the Diocese of London and of five other dioceses. Every morning my brother and I took bus from Piccadilly to St. Paul's. We occasionally had the disagreeable privilege of seeing, at the end of the street as we passed Old Bailey, a victim suspended from the gallows opposite Newgate; once there was the horror of the twelve bodies of the pirates of the *Flowery Land* swinging together. This barbarous exhibition was abolished before our schooldays came to an end.

We often walked home in the evening in company with Ray Lankester, who rose to no particular distinction at school, but even in those young days was becoming eminent in the scientific world. We took occasional expeditions on half-holidays, sometimes to Hampstead, where we extracted worms and other interesting objects from the ponds, which Lankester (aged about fourteen) afterwards dissected and wrote upon them learned treatises which appeared in scientific journals.

My mother's grandfather, Mr. Bray, was agent and friend of John, sixth Duke of Bedford, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. Until a few years ago I had in my possession a beautiful portrait of the Duke, by Gainsborough, which was presented by the Duke to his friend, a replica by the artist's own hand of his portrait in the National Portrait Gallery. One of my aunts married Mr. John Benson, the agent of a later Duke of Bedford, and lived at the Manor House, Tavistock. About the

year 1860 one of my brothers and I were on a holiday visit to my aunt. There was a garden party at the Manor House, and among the guests were two choristers from the Chapel Royal, St. James's, Arthur Sullivan and Bridgman, who gave us some delightful songs. We boys were larking about the gardens. A "haha" ditch divided the lawn from a field, with an iron railing at the bottom rising about two feet above the level of the lawn. We began jumping over the "haha." The jump was not a high one, but Arthur Sullivan had smart shoes with high heels. He caught his heel in the fence and came a heavy "cropper" the other side into the ditch. It might have been a serious crisis for the musical world, but though stunned for a moment he was not hurt. We made friends during our stay in Tavistock, and on our return to London I often met the Chapel Royal boys in their gorgeous costume walking in the Mall, and Sullivan always fell out for a little conversation. He then, I think, went to Germany for his musical education, and I lost sight of him. Many years after, when he was at the zenith of his fame, I was sitting in the front row of stalls at a concert in St. James's Hall, when Arthur Sullivan passed in front of me. I touched him as he passed and merely said, "I wonder if you remember your fall over the 'haha' at Tavistock." He recognized me at once and said "Rather!" We had a pleasant little conversation on the old days for a few minutes, but I never saw him again, as he died not very long after.

In our boyhood my father used to take summer

duty during our holidays at some country parish where trout fishing could be had—a taste which I shared with him, having fished with success over some forty streams and rivers of the United Kingdom. For two summers we inhabited for six or seven weeks the Rectory of Kilkhampton, Cornwall. The vicar of the next parish was the Rev. R. S. Hawker, the well-known poet, author of "And shall Trelawny die?" When he first went to Morwenstow the place was notorious for its "wreckers," who were said even to show false lights on the shore to decoy vessels to their destruction. He laboured to put this down, and very successfully. We saw a great deal of him and his eccentricities. A story was told us of him (I do not know whether it appears in his *Life*) that he was preaching one Sunday, when a man put his head in at the door and called out "Wreck!" The congregation immediately sprang up. Hawker raised his voice to stop them; came down from the pulpit and went to the door, tucking up his brown Armenian cassock, which he always wore, as he went, and calling out, "Now we'll start fair," set off running to the scene of the wreck to keep his wild congregation in order.

CHAPTER III

ECCLESIASTICAL REMINISCENCES

OUR life at St. James's of course ran very much in ecclesiastical circles. My father had an active and strong mind, and we knew and frequently saw many of the leaders in the ecclesiastical world of those days—Dean Stanley, Dr. Liddon, F. D. Maurice, Dean Church, numerous bishops, especially Bishops Blomfield, Tait, and Temple, and others. He initiated a "Monthly Conference" which attracted many men, lay as well as clerical, among them Matthew Arnold, Lord Lyttelton, and others.

All shades of opinion were welcomed at the meetings, but the "Broad Church" element was perhaps the most strongly represented. Dean Stanley, F. D. Maurice, and Dean Oakley were all very constant in their attendance and the debates were often of a very lively character. As years went on this element became, in my father's opinion, rather too predominant. Also there arose a demand by a younger generation for something a little more free and easy, and a new society was formed, known, I believe, as the C.C.C. (one of the C's denoting, I think, "Curate"), in which smoking and jugs of beer were allowed at the meetings. After, therefore, nearly twenty years of service, of which the great

usefulness was cordially acknowledged in a letter from Lord Lyttelton, on behalf of a large body of Churchmen, as "affording, in a manner the most acceptable and convenient, frequent opportunities to a large number of clergy and laity of meeting and discussing matters of the highest social and ecclesiastical interest," the older-fashioned and more dignified conferences came to an end.

Among his curates my father had some who rose to high distinction: Dr. Bury, who became Bishop of Northern Europe and is now Assistant Bishop of London; Dr. Wace, afterwards Dean of Canterbury; Dr. Oakley, Dean of Manchester; Dr. Leathes, the distinguished Hebrew scholar, one of the framers of the Revised Version of the Bible; and many others who have taken high position in the Church. Dr. Wace was a particular friend of mine. He was a man of extraordinary ability. Besides being Preacher and Assistant at St. James's, he also wrote leading articles in *The Times* twice a week, which kept him up until two or three o'clock in the morning. In the vestry between the Rectory and the church, during the intervals off duty, he studied German and shorthand, and I generally joined him for an hour before going to my work. I never progressed in German beyond reading an easy German novel; but Dr. Wace became one of the most distinguished Lutheran scholars of his day. I soon gave up shorthand, but he practised it assiduously, writing his sermons in "Pitman," and sometimes even delivering them from his shorthand notes to a long-suffering evening congregation. Doubtless it was useful practice, but

it spoilt the delivery of what might have been a fine sermon. His manner was naturally cold and deliberate, yet he was a splendid story-teller, his precision of language adding much to the humour.

Among the many letters to my father from eminent Churchmen which I have in my possession arising out of these monthly conferences, there are some which show the kind of difficulty with which he occasionally had to deal. A correspondence with Dr. Pusey with reference to Dean Stanley gives a striking illustration of two great intellects differing sharply within the pale of the English Church without impairing its all-embracing influence, and without prejudice to the holiness of character of either of the disputants. Dr. Pusey wrote about a report which had reached him that the Dean was to read a paper upon the newly published *Eirenicon* at one of the monthly meetings. He protested against an attack being made upon him by the Dean, whom he accused of untrue censure upon himself at a previous conference. He admitted the antagonism between them, but having himself written freely about the Dean's theology, he claimed no right to exemption from retaliation. But he did not think he ought to be attacked at a meeting of brother-clergy when he was absent and could not defend himself. He thought the Dean would differ from him on any subject of theology proper, as he feared they had not a principle or belief in common.

To this my father of course replied by an invitation to attend the meeting. Dr. Pusey accepted, but pointed out the disadvantage under which he laboured in not being a ready speaker,

whereas the Dean was fluent; and also in not being acquainted with the line his antagonist might take. He asked therefore whether he might be allowed to read a reply, upon some of the heads of objection to the *Eirenicon* which he knew of, as this would avoid the appearance of a personal answer to the Dean and would save time. He also asked to be allowed to bring his friend Canon Liddon with him.

I can find no record of the sequel to this interlude. As Dr. Liddon is referred to, I include a letter from him dealing with the question of his undertaking one of a series of addresses which my father contemplated arranging for Sunday afternoons at St. James's, upon special subjects which might appeal to the cultivated classes of club-men and others.

3 AMEN CORNER,
Jan. 9, 1877.

MY DEAR RECTOR,

You will, I trust, forgive me if I decline your kind invitation. To do these things properly requires—at least in my case—not only time but a certain amount of freedom from other and more or less pressing duties and engagements. Of this I see no prospect between now and June: and therefore I am sure I am doing the best I can for your effort by not taking part in it. If a great author is to be discussed honestly he must be read attentively; he cannot be safely dismissed with a few *a priori* generalities about him. Of the names you send, South and Donne in their different ways attract me most; but then they both deserve far better treatment than I could hope to give them. Taylor whom you suggested, is (may I say it?) too fond of parading his quota-

tions and his images, and Barrow is too artificial to be a great favourite of mine. But you will find no difficulty in finding devoted admirers for them; as though they are at issue with some aspects of the fastidious minds of our day, there is no doubt of their intrinsic and indeed classical greatness.

Once more thanking you,
I am, my dear Rector,
Yours very truly
H. P. LIDDON.

The addresses drew crowded congregations and among them was, after all, included a series by Dr. Liddon (since published), in which he held his audiences for six successive Sundays, for periods of an hour to an hour and forty minutes. The Prince and Princess of Wales attended two of them, and it was a source of great pride to us children that in passing through the Rectory to the church, which adjoins it, the Princess stopped to speak to us, and greatly admired a large cage of canaries which we possessed.

In the course of time the attendance at the monthly conferences had outgrown the capacity of the accommodation at the Rectory, and they were held in a schoolroom in Old Burlington Street. The opener of the subject to be discussed and some of the leading members generally met at dinner at the Rectory before the meeting. The nature of the interest with which our young minds were inspired by these dignified symposia, may be gathered from the fact that the attention of my brothers and myself was once attracted by the sight of a row of clerical hats with cords and curly

brims waiting in the hall. The spirit of mischief entered into us, and we inserted under the forehead lining of each hat a small strip of folded paper. We watched from the drawing-room windows as the procession emerged and went down Piccadilly, and gradually symptoms of uneasiness developed. To our great delight, heads were shaken and hats removed and examined. As, however, the corner was soon turned down Sackville Street and they passed out of sight, we never knew the result of our experiment.

St. James's Church was in those days the resort of many great men, from Prime Ministers downwards. Tradition of the churchwardens had assigned the front seats in the galleries to the most distinguished parishioners. Lord Derby, "the Rupert of debate," occupied a seat just over the pulpit, and as the sermon went on his tall and stately figure might be seen leaning over the ledge in front upon which the top hats reposed all round the church, adjusting his eyeglass, and peering down on the MS. sermon of the preacher below to see how it was progressing. Lord Lyttelton was a regular attendant at the eight o'clock matins which my father always undertook until well past his fourscore years. On one occasion Lord Lyttelton, who was absent-minded, went through the service, probably asleep, with his hat hoisted up over his head upon the top of his stick, which rested upon the book-ledge.

Another distinguished and frequent attendant at church was the old Duke of Cambridge (Commander-in-Chief). He generally occupied a seat

in a pew reserved for stray bishops in front of the Rectory pew. One Sunday the old Archbishop of Armagh sat next to him, and the Duke, seeing that he had no hymn-book, offered a share of his. I was told (I did not hear it myself) that the Duke was heard to whisper in a loud tone (he was always emphatic in his language), "Damn it, sir, you are singing the wrong hymn!"

I do not know whether the custom of depositing hats upon the front ledge of the gallery still holds good, but the introduction of white paint instead of oak graining had the effect of bringing the hats too much into evidence, and it ceased, at any rate temporarily, in my father's time. The organ was also redecorated. In those days the parish vestry had a voice in the care of the church, and a debate arose upon the new decoration of the organ, of which the superintending angels had been gilded and embellished. One of the orators of the day raised his voice in protest. "Everyone knows that the colour of angels is white, and you have made them the gingerbreadest, harlequinest things as ever was seen in a circus."

In 1866 my father was offered by Lord Cranborne (afterwards Lord Salisbury, the Prime Minister) the Bishopric of Calcutta.

INDIA OFFICE,
Nov. 26, 1866.

MY DEAR MR. KEMPE,

A friend of yours and mine, I will not mention his name, surprised me by telling me that he thought you would be willing to let me

recommend your name to the Queen for the vacant See of Calcutta. Is it so? It would give me very great pleasure if it were, and would be good news to send to Calcutta.

Believe me,
Yours sincerely,
CRANBORNE.

The offer was declined owing to reasons of health.

CHAPTER IV

AT CAMBRIDGE—TREASURY—LEGGATT BROS.

I LEFT school for Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1864. I had intended to read for the Classical Tripos, but in 1867 I had the good fortune to be nominated by Lord Derby for limited competition for a vacancy in the Treasury.

DOWNING STREET,
Nov. 2, 1866.

MY DEAR SIR,

I will with pleasure direct that your son's name shall be placed on my list of candidates to be admitted to competitive examination for a clerkship: but it is fair to say that there are others on the list to whom I should be bound to give priority, and vacancies at the Treasury are of such very rare occurrence that I cannot encourage you to be very sanguine.

I am, dear Sir,
Very truly yours,
DERBY.

THE REVD. J. E. KEMPE.

I succeeded in the examination and accordingly left Cambridge in that year before completing my full term of residence for a degree. In 1866 I rowed No. 5 in the winning trial eight for the 'Varsity Boat Race, and received the silver medal. I then rowed on alternate days in the crew train-

ing for Putney with an Etonian named Cunningham. He was ultimately selected for the seat a few days before the crew went to Putney, and I was asked to keep in training as an " emergency " man for the heavy weights ; but (perhaps luckily !) I lost my chance of rowing in the race.

An exciting episode in my Cambridge career was what was long remembered as " Kemplay's motion " in the Union. Alfred Kemplay was a friend of mine and was upon the Committee of the Union. At a business meeting with Fletcher Moulton, then President of the Union, in the chair, afterwards senior wrangler and eventually Lord Moulton, one of the Judges of Appeal on the Privy Council, some trivial motion was moved by Kemplay, and on the show of hands Moulton declared it carried, and it was so entered in the minutes. After the meeting the clerk came to Moulton and told him that he had counted wrong and the motion was really lost. The President proceeded to alter the minutes accordingly. Kemplay was furious when he heard of this, and he and I gave notice of a motion for the next full meeting of the Union, impeaching Moulton for an illegal proceeding. We diligently canvassed in support of the motion, and upon the day the debating hall was crammed, members coming in numbers from outside as well as inside the University. Abdy, Professor of (I think) International Law, took the chair. After Kemplay had moved and I had seconded the motion, Moulton, either disdaining to reply on so trivial a matter, or, knowing his case was a weak one, preferring to leave his defence to others and trust

in his legions, gathered up his gown in dramatic style and marched out of the hall. An amusing and animated debate followed, but it ended in defeat of the motion by a small majority, Johns having whipped up their forces to better effect than we had done with ours.

In our progress through life we come across people with whom our acquaintance may be slight: our paths may cross only at long intervals; but little traits and incidents piece themselves together in our memories and make up in our minds characters which may perhaps bear but slight resemblance to reality, but which form images for which we conceive feelings of love or dislike which cling to us throughout life.

In my early years at Cambridge and after, my eldest brother, Edward Wood was curate at the Parish Church at Enfield for a good many years. Later he became Vicar of Forty Hill, a neighbouring parish, and held also the office of Priest-Vicar at the Chapel Royal, St. James's. While curate at Enfield he lodged in a cottage on Chase Side with Mrs. Leggatt, widow of a well-known picture dealer in Cornhill, with five sons: Ernest, Frank, Percy, Martin, and Dudley. I used often to stay with him in the cottage and made friends with the boys, who throughout their lives looked up to him with great affection and in whom I became much interested. We went out together with the school carol-singers at Christmas swinging our lanterns in the snow, and I introduced them to juvenile books such as Thackeray's *Rose and the Ring*, Marryat's *Masterman Ready*, and others.

I saw but little of them as time went on. I

not with what truth) that when his hair became scanty, instead of donning a wig he had the top of his head painted with the representation of hair ! I cannot say that I ever noticed it myself, which is of course a tribute to the excellency with which it was carried out !

Upon one occasion when I visited him at his shop in Cheapside, he produced a copy of *Masterman Ready* which I had given him when a boy, and pointed out to me a little epigram I had written in it (one of the very few occasions upon which I have ever dropped into poetry) :

> " Masterman-Ready always he,
> So may you Ernest ever be ! "

He said he had always treasured it, which made me proud of my little epigram ; and certainly it had justified itself in a remarkable way.

Another little incident also reflects the simplicity of a bachelor life ! Her Majesty Queen Mary and Princess Mary, a few years ago, paid a private visit to Enfield to see the collection of engravings and pictures in the house on Chase Side. They honoured the brothers by having tea with them. The parlourmaid had prepared the tea, but being overcome with " stage-fright " would not take it up to the drawing-room. One of the hosts accordingly took the tray up himself and served her Majesty—a graceful little act which I am sure must have pleased the Queen. After a thorough inspection of the wonderful collection, they afterwards proceeded to view the old Palace with its beautiful Tudor panelling,

marshalled by one of the brothers, who took a prominent part in the civic life of the borough.

Upon the death of Ernest, two years ago, her Majesty wrote to the brothers a kind letter of condolence and appreciation.

Enfield, as I knew it in those old days, was an attractive place of what is called the "old-world" type. Fine old Georgian or Queen Anne houses with spacious gardens laid out in "pleasances" and "quincunxes" and with beautiful specimens of the "topiary" art in box and yew. Mulberry, quince, and barberry trees abounded. The wrought-iron gates were a beautiful feature. The neighbouring Park of "Theobalds" gloried in strange acclimatized animals such as zebras, camels, kangaroos, and varieties of deer. It now possesses the additional attraction of the old "Temple Bar," which was erected as one of the entrances when it was removed from its site between Fleet Street and the Strand. One of the sons of Mr. Bowles, a prominent resident in the place, author of many well-known books on horticulture, had formed a marvellous garden on the New River, full of rare specimens of every kind which attracted many visitors from all parts. The country around, besides its neighbourhood to Epping Forest, was full of sylvan beauty. But during the Great War, its proximity to the Small Arms Factory attracted many Zeppelins. The attacks met with no success; and the very first Zeppelin brought down in flames was destroyed at Cuffley, three miles from Potter's Bar; a later one falling at Potter's Bar itself.

CHAPTER V

THE TREASURY—WORK FOR MR. DISRAELI

WHEN I was installed in the Treasury in 1867 I found myself one of a body of about forty men, higher division, supplementary clerks and copyists, whose work did not then seem to me of a very attractive or important nature. There was too much useless duplication in the shape of copying out, and making précis in books of decisions and matters which were merely formal. There were some able men on the staff, especially among the younger ones, who afterwards rose to distinction: Reginald Welby, who later became Permanent Secretary and Lord Welby; Rivers Wilson, who with Lord Cromer distinguished himself in Egypt as Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Constitutional Government formed in 1878 under Nubar Pasha; Charles Fremantle, who became Deputy Master of the Mint and did good service in connexion with the purchase of the shares in the Suez Canal and afterwards represented the Government as Director; Francis Mowatt, who afterwards became Permanent Secretary to the Treasury; Stevenson Arthur Blackwood, one of the handsomest men of his day, who married the Dowager Duchess of Manchester. He was sent by the Treasury to the Crimea to reduce into order the then Commissariat Department of the

settled down at the Treasury, and as they grew up they joined together and followed in their father's footsteps by starting a small business as picture dealers in Fenchurch Street. I have no knowledge of the steps by which the business gradually grew from small beginnings to the well-known firm of Leggatt Brothers, with a second place of business in St. James's Street and a name known throughout the world as expert judges of art, competing with other great dealers in profound knowledge of the works of painters and engravers of all kinds, and themselves producers of some beautiful engravings. Two only of the brothers now survive and carry on the business in St. James's Street. From time to time I have come across them. Ernest, the eldest, was the one I knew best. He was of the simplest and most lovable disposition, and yet with a character remarkable for its shrewdness and marvellous knowledge of art. After the death of Mrs. Leggatt the cottage was enlarged and transformed into a wonderful treasure-house of art of every description: pictures, sculpture, rare curios of every sort, and the unmarried brothers lived there together. The leading character of Vachell's novel *Quinneys* bears, to my mind, a striking resemblance to Ernest, in his reluctance to part with things of beauty. His look and manner were so straightforward and charmingly simple that it was difficult to realize his profound knowledge of art. He was of late years the trusted selector and purchaser of pictures for the National Portrait Gallery, and his brothers shared his gifts of insight and knowledge of art. It was said (I know

War. He was subsequently invalided home, underwent a sudden "conversion," and became a devoted follower of Lord Shaftesbury in the movement which he originated. He was Secretary of the Post Office for some years. His funeral at Kensal Green was attended by thousands who lined the streets as the funeral passed along. Frederick Clay was at that time Private Secretary to the Parliamentary Whip, but better known as a musician, a friend of Arthur Sullivan and author of some beautiful songs, especially "She wandered down the mountain side." He was also remarkable as the inventor of a raft for which he claimed great stability. He persuaded the Prince Consort (who was a friend of his) to embark with him for a trial on the St. James's Park lake, but the thing upset and the illustrious party were ducked in the not too clean water. A little later we had George Herbert Murray, who began his career in the Foreign Office, but was transferred to the Treasury. He became private secretary to Mr. Gladstone and Lord Rosebery when Prime Ministers, Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, Secretary to the Post Office, and then Permanent Secretary of the Treasury, a Privy Councillor, and a G.C.B.

In those early days we had a good deal of time on our hands. Occasionally some of us would be joined at the luncheon hour by equally bored young Guardsmen from neighbouring barracks (supposed to be on duty), and we indulged in cricket in a large room at the top of the office in Downing Street. Those halcyon days did not, however, last long. Before I had been a year

in the office, economies were called for in the Public Service, and our numbers were considerably reduced, to the great improvement of the work, most of the useless duplication being abolished and direct intelligence finding better scope. The previous slackness had, however, its advantages to me, as it was owing to this that Their Lordships were pleased to allow me to forestall two years' leave and spend at Cambridge the time necessary to complete the remainder of residence required for my B.A. degree. I passed the final "General" examination for the ordinary degree, coming out first in the First Class, and thus attaining the honour of "King of the Pol," as it was then called. Thurlow, who was next to me in total marks, took the first place in Mathematics, and was several places below me in Classics, so that I stood, on the whole, first. I also entered for a "special" examination, then newly instituted, and taking up History as my subject passed bracketed with another man, the only occupants of the First Class.

With the gradual introduction of recruitment of the Civil Service by open competition, the quality of those entering was improved to an extraordinary degree. The Treasury always got the pick of the successful candidates—generally Firsts or Double Firsts, and sometimes Fellows of their colleges—men of the very highest ability; among them such as Thomas Little Heath and Stephen Spring Rice, both of them Double Firsts and Fellows of Trinity, Cambridge.

Robert Chalmers was perhaps my closest and best friend at the Treasury, and of all the brilliant

men in my forty-four years of service I think the ablest as well as the most interesting. During an illness, in his early years at the Treasury, he had taken up the study of the most ancient of Indian languages, Pali, in which he became one of the first scholars of his day, editing Pali books for Oxford University and ultimately becoming President of the Royal Asiatic Society. He took a First Class in Natural Science, as well as in "Literæ Humaniores." He was a fine classical scholar and had a keen vein of humour which made him the most delightful company.

3 CORNWALL MANSIONS, KENSINGTON COURT, W.8.
Nov. 21, 1922.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

I wish with all my heart that it were in my power to be of service to you in finding employment for your friend. Unfortunately it is not in my power, for I have cut myself adrift from everything which makes for "influence," and am now even as a sparrow on the housetop. "Litteris me involvo"—like M. T. Cicero of dreary memory.

Yours ever,
CHALMERS.

This from the Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge! After rising to be Permanent Secretary to the Treasury he became Governor of Ceylon, and subsequently was raised to the Peerage as Lord Chalmers, and although a fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, was lately chosen to be Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge. He was one of the best authorities on the difficult subject of currency.

We also had John Bradbury, afterwards Lord

Bradbury, whose name became so familiar upon the Treasury Notes in circulation during the Great War, and who did such splendid service in post-war negotiations with Germany; and Sir Laurence Guillemard, latterly Governor and High Commissioner of the Straits Settlements.

In old days, with the "upper" classes, any connexion with trade was out of the question. A clerkship in the Civil Service was regarded as more respectable and less strenuous than those in institutions connected with trade, such as banks, insurance offices, and commercial firms, of which the drawback, besides their connexion with trade, was the greater stringency of the discipline exercised in occupations connected with the pursuit of private wealth.

All this is now changed with the development of democracy. The peer does not disdain any occupation. He is put into trade instead of, like the sons of Eli (was it?), into one of the public offices to earn a piece of bread. Wealth is more regarded than ancestral descent. But the Civil Service still holds its own; though no longer on account of its greater leisure and independence. The opportunities it offers of taking a high place in the service of the State and the great problems it presents worthy of solution by the acutest brains, have attracted into it, in the choice of a career, some of the highest intellects; and the advantage of this to the public weal is being recognized by the lure of higher pay to compete with the inducements offered by the great institutions which look after the interests of commerce. The only drawback to filling the Service with such

a brilliant field is the difficulty of getting through their horses to a career worthy of them.

Towards the close of 1868 Montagu Corry (afterwards Lord Rowton), private secretary to Mr. Disraeli, then Prime Minister, wanted help at 10 Downing Street, and I was sent for a few weeks to assist them. I cannot claim to have got to know Mr. Disraeli intimately, but I necessarily saw a good deal of him, and some of the letters standing over his signature in those days were composed and written by me, though I cannot say that any were of national importance, nor in fact anything beyond mere formal letters of current business. The solitary document which I have retained as a memento of my connexion with him at that time is a scrap of paper in his own handwriting which he gave to me to send to the press.

"Lord and Lady Napier of Magdala will pay a visit on Monday next to the Prime Minister and Mrs. Disraeli, at their seat, Hughenden Manor."

Lord Napier was at that time the hero of the hour after his successful conduct of the Abyssinian War. I had already in the course of my Treasury duties had to deal with the finances of the war, and I came into contact with one of its sequels at a later period of my service. It was a pathetic one.

After the defeat and death of King Theodore of Magdala, his son Alamayou Simyen, aged seven years, was assigned to the care of Queen Victoria, and for a while was educated in India. While there he was in the charge of the India Office,

and during Mr. Disraeli's first administration came under the eye of Sir Stafford Northcote, then Secretary of State for India. He was subsequently brought to England, and arrangements were made for his residence with Dr. Jex Blake, Headmaster of Rugby, in the hope that some of the influences of an English public school might be shed upon him. The arrangement continued during Mr. Gladstone's ministry, but it was not very successful, and during Mr. Disraeli's second administration (1874–80) he was sent by Sir Stafford Northcote to Professor Ransome as a private pupil. As the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer were his quasi-guardians, he was often at Downing Street, and I had to do with some of his personal arrangements; e.g., we were authorized by Their Lordships to procure him a gun, at the cost of £15, for which it was officially considered that a "serviceable weapon" could be provided. But the boy did not long live to enjoy its use. He died in 1880, seeming, as Justin M'Carthy said, to "wither under the influence of our uncongenial civilization."

Mr. Disraeli, during the short time I was with him, would hardly be aware of my existence. Probably he regarded me as Rudyard Kipling tells us an Admiral is supposed to regard a midshipman—much as the Almighty regards a blackbeetle.

In later years Algernon Turnor, one of his secretaries during his second Premiership, who kept, as Lord Beaconsfield remarked in one of his letters, nine hunters, replied by direction of his chief to a letter from Lady Anne Blunt, well

known in connexion with Egyptian affairs, and addressed her as "Mrs. Blunt." The letter was published, as it stood, in *The Times*. Lord Beaconsfield wrote an apology to Lady Anne, and said nothing to Turnor but "Remember, my son, that a Private Secretary should look upon Debrett as his Bible."

I saw enough of Disraeli at that time to realize his extraordinary genius and self-confident mastery of men. His power of assimilating and digesting other people's ideas was marvellous. On one occasion while I was with him he was to receive a deputation of bankers; he knew nothing of banking, but before the interview he sent for a few experts, the Governor of the Bank of England, the Secretary of the Treasury, Sir Philip Rose, and some others. They had seen the statement of the case, and Disraeli asked them to discuss it before him while he listened and asked occasional questions. After he had heard the deputation he made them a speech apparently as full of mastery of the subject as if he had been a banker all his life. His perfectly original little touches of vanity and artificiality amused most people, who regarded them as indicative of his eastern origin; but to others they suggested a strain of vulgarity. He would sit before the fire in green kid gloves and the D'Orsay curl, thinking. I had occasionally to answer his call-bell if his secretaries were out, but exchanged very few words with him except to take his orders. I really saw and heard more of him in after-years in my constant attendance under the gallery in the House of Commons during his next Ministry.

He was the most perfectly finished of speakers, but his emotions of sorrow or indignation always had something of artificiality. He would sting Gladstone into a fury of natural eloquence with his satire, and damp all its effect with ridicule not always the most delicate; but he never lost command of himself. His passion was always under control of the orator.

CHAPTER VI

EARLY YEARS IN TREASURY—MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

WHEN I left Downing Street in 1868, I returned to my work at the Treasury. My life for four or five years was occupied in the ordinary Treasury routine, varied with the duty of taking down bullion from the Mint to various ports, Liverpool, Southampton, Plymouth, and Gravesend, for shipment to the Colonies to provide payment for the troops: Mexican dollars for China, gold for the Colonies. I had charge of consignments of from £5,000 to £20,000 at a time, and was allowed two days for the trip, so that the duty was regarded as an enviable one. I was sometimes accompanied by a policeman in plain clothes, but generally went alone with a small revolver in my pocket. I once had to pass the night with my freight in the railway-carriage pushed into the siding of a station. This was what was called the "Treasury chest" business.

I had sharing my room at the Treasury at this time James Daly, afterwards Lord Dunsandle, a delightful and amusing companion. One evening as we were walking together across the Horse Guards Parade, we were joined by the Head of another Department; a very able man but without much sense of humour. As we passed

the large elm-trees opposite the Admiralty, not then enclosed as they afterwards were, Daly pointed to one of the largest and said that it was not generally known, but that tree had an historical interest. Every evening, after dinner, King Charles II used to walk along the Mall to it from St. James's Palace and back. Next morning I found a note on my table from our companion. He said that after parting with us he had gone to the British Museum to look at the old London maps, and he thought that Daly's story could have no foundation, as there were no trees at the end of the Mall in those days!

We occupied a room on the second floor of the Treasury with windows opening on to the gardens of 10 Downing Street. One cold November day a message was circulated from Mr. Gladstone that there was going to be an experiment with gun cotton in the garden at one o'clock, and that all windows were to be thrown open wide. We looked out and saw a small tree with a necklace of little white balls slung round it, and some Royal Engineers standing about. We waited more than half an hour, when we began to be sick of the cold and some of the windows were shut. Then a party of Cabinet Ministers appeared on the scene, and presently there was a loud explosion. The tree was cut in half and every pane of glass in the closed windows was smashed, besides many of the open ones.

In those years my brother Alfred and I lived on at St. James's Rectory. He had won a scholarship at Trinity, Cambridge, and took his degree as 22nd Wrangler, a place much below than to

which he might have attained had he studied in the conventional course, but his bent led him into more original channels, with his friend W. K. Clifford.

At this time he was immersed in some of those abstruse problems of Kinematics which ultimately led to his long and important connexion with the Royal Society. With great regularity we took our morning's exercise by walking from the Rectory right round Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, the Green Park and St. James' Park to the Treasury. He often discoursed on the way on some of his problems—not that I knew anything about them, but just then he was engaged on one which he soon after published as a small book entitled *How to Draw a Straight Line*, and he liked to clear his thoughts. He was reading for the Bar, with the intention of taking up Patent Law and practising in cases requiring scientific knowledge. But fate had other views as to his future. To anticipate a few years, in 1881 he was asked by Tait, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to undertake the secretaryship of a Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Courts. In the two years for which the Royal Commission lasted, his active brain accumulated a great knowledge of Ecclesiastical Law. The public took it into their heads that this was his speciality, and he was forced into a line which is the very antipodes of Patent Law, but in which he was nevertheless to attain high distinction as well as in the scientific world.

Another brother, Harry Robert, also lived with us at the Rectory for a time. He was associated in early years with two distinguished

electricians, Sir Charles Wheatstone and Sir Samuel Canning, and was engaged in laying the first cable in the Mediterranean, forming telegraphic communication between England and India. He was subsequently appointed to the Post Office Telegraph service at Southampton as assistant to Sir W. Preece. He became Principal Staff officer of the Postal Telegraph Department and subsequently rose to be Electrician to the Post Office in 1913. He designed the first submarine telephone cable laid between Dover and Calais, and the numerous pneumatic tube systems which have been installed by the Post Office; and his investigations and experiments made the establishment of telephonic communication between London and Paris practicable.

The first telephone to Paris was led into my room at the Treasury in order that the Cabinet might send their congratulations to the President of the French Republic. My brother was on duty at the other end in Paris, and at once recognized the voice of my wife, who was in my room at the time. Mr. W. H. Smith, then First Lord of the Treasury and leader of the House of Commons, came first to offer his congratulations, but was not very fluent in his little speech. Mr. Goschen, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, followed him and rattled off a graceful greeting in French without the least hesitation.

My only sister, Caroline Mary, was married to the Rev. Canon Erskine Knollys, for many years Vicar of Folkestone, and first cousin of Lord Knollys, Private Secretary to King Edward VII.

In 1872 I was married to a daughter of the Rev. Joseph Edwards, Vicar of Barrow-on-Trent, a small village on the banks of the river in Derbyshire. He was for twenty-five years Vice-Master of King's College, London. Among his pupils were many eminent men, including Henry Fawcett, M.P., Henry Kingsley, Professor Martin Irving, and others.

He was a most attractive and revered character, and the author, among other works, of a scholarly and beautiful translation of the *Odyssey* of Homer in blank verse. It was never published and has joined the many other similar productions in the limbo of forgotten excellence. He died at the age of seventy-six, with the polishing style still in his hands, putting the last touches to this much-loved work.

Shortly before our marriage we were staying at Barrow-on-Trent with Miss Anne Mozley, a friend and collaborator of Miss Charlotte Yonge. One of her brothers married my aunt, whose death in her 105th year has been before recorded. Another brother, the Rev. T. Mozley, was a well-known leader-writer on the staff of *The Times*. His articles were said to have had great influence upon the policy of the Crimean War. He and another brother married sisters of Cardinal Newman. Upon his retirement from *The Times* he took a small college living at Plymtree, in S. Devon, about four miles from Sidmouth Junction. He did not altogether sever his connexion with *The Times*. Once or twice a week a special messenger was sent down from London with the subject for a leading article, arriving

at the station in the evening. Mr. Mozley met the train, sat down in the waiting-room, and wrote his article in time to be taken back by the messenger and appear in the paper next morning.

Although he had been a leading spirit in the Oxford Movement of the day, on taking up his parish duties he restored the flute, violin, and bassoon to the organ loft in place of the harmonium and preached in a black Geneva gown.

Just before our visit to Miss Mozley the Cardinal had been on a visit to her at Barrow, and had left behind him in her care a precious violin, the gift to him of Mr. Gladstone. While we were there the violin was reposing in its case under the piano. One evening we heard a crash, and on opening the case found the instrument collapsed flat, probably due to dampness in the stone floors with which even the drawing-rooms in those parts used to be furnished. I took it up to London and got it restored, so far as we could tell, to its former condition. It was returned to the Cardinal and no more has since been heard of it.

My wife died in 1926. She will appear but little in these reminiscences, although in our happy married life of fifty-four years she played so prominent a part. She had those beautiful qualities of sympathy, helpfulness, and restfulness which, though they may not be revealed to the public eye, are of such inestimable value in the encouragement and success of others. Throughout my life her influence has affected the essential character and direction of such success as I have been enabled to reach, and it would be impossible to express adequately the debt I owe to her.

LADY KEMPE.
From a photograph by G. C. Beresford, 1903.

Two of our sons served with distinction in the Great War. Lieutenant-Commander Ronald Northcote, R.N., after being in command of a small fleet of trawlers sweeping up mines in the North Sea for a couple of years, was appointed to command a sloop in the Mediterranean, and among other services landed troops on the beach in the attack on Gallipoli. He also did good service in organizing supplies and was mentioned in despatches. The other, Major Harry Francis Christopher, R.F.A., after service in India, fought in Mesopotamia, gaining his M.C. for "conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at the lesser Zab on October 5th, 1918. He brought his battery into action well forward in the open under heavy fire, and effectively supported the advance of another column in enfilade fire on the enemy's left flank. His timely assistance was invaluable." He was also mentioned in despatches for services in Southern Kurdistan (1919) by Major-General MacMunn for "gallant and distinguished service in the field." The other son, John Erskine, entered the Colonial Service as an eastern cadet by open competition, and has done remarkable work as Land Commissioner at Treng Ganu in Eastern Malaya. A daughter married the Rev. Thory Gage Gardiner, Canon of Canterbury, and is well known for her contributions to the history of that place and in other paths of literature. Another daughter married Frederick Monro Raikes. After training in the Machine Gun Corps he left this country in October 1916, and after a short but useful and splendidly heroic service, of which he has left an extraordinarily interesting and graphic

description, he was killed at Kut-el-Amara in Mesopotamia on February 22nd, 1917. He was the eldest of seven brothers, one of whom, Cuthbert, laid down his life as a young doctor, combating the plague at Singapore. All the other five fought through the war with barely a scratch, and all earned the D.S.O. and other honours. One (Robert) in the Navy had a conspicuous career in submarines; another (David), after distinguished service in the "Tanks," was the gallant but unsuccessful stroke of the Oxford Boat for several years in the 'Varsity race. Their father was also an Oxford blue.

My youngest daughter, Mary Cicely, married in Canada Harry George Pocock, who served through the war in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

CHAPTER VII

VISIT TO PARIS AFTER SIEGE IN 1871—FUNERAL OF ARCHBISHOP AND PRIESTS MURDERED BY COMMUNE

It will be remembered that in 1871, Paris having capitulated after a siege of four months, the Germans did not occupy it, but encamped outside, and only made a formal entry through the Arc de Triomphe. The National Assembly was settled at Versailles, but in Paris the Communists, taking advantage of the miseries of the siege, had secured the government of the city and it was given up to disorder. After severe fighting they were put down by Marshal MacMahon, and order was restored, but only after they had set fire to the city in many parts and had seized over sixty hostages, twelve lay and the rest clerical, including the Archbishop of Paris. The Archbishop and five other priests had been summarily taken from their prison, set up against the wall of La Roquette, and brutally shot. The Hôtel de Ville, the Louvre, the Palais de Justice, and the Ministry of Finance were in flames when Marshal MacMahon took possession of the city, and nearly all the hostages had been massacred. At this time my uncle, Charles Nicholas, who had been Private Secretary to various Secretaries of the Admiralty, then in the intelligence branch of the office, was inspired

with a desire to visit Paris, and asked me to accompany him. It was hardly yet open to visitors, but we thought we would try our luck. My leave was due, so having provided ourselves with special passports from the Foreign Office, we started together for Paris on June 4, 1871. We had no difficulty in getting across to Calais, and though trains were neither frequent nor regular we managed to get through to Paris, going slowly with gangs of workmen all the way repairing the lines under charge of German soldiers: once having to quit the train at a river side and ferry across to join another waiting on the opposite bank, the bridge having been destroyed. We had no difficulty in getting into Paris with our passports. All the large hotels were filled with wounded, but we found accommodation in the Rue Richelieu.

The ruin of Paris was most terrible to see, far exceeding anything we expected, and the destruction looked so hopeless, no attempt having been made at reconstruction. Indeed, parts were simply a mass of smouldering ruins the Vendôme Column lying in fragments on the ground, and every street hopelessly disfigured by shot-holes, glass hardly anywhere intact, and the walls often tottering in the most dangerous condition—we had, in fact, a complete figure of the horrors of the siege and of Communism. In the Parc Monceau it was said that 50,000 bodies were heaped up in a pit. The magnificent public buildings were going up in smoke and still partially on fire, with the *pompiers* busily engaged in extinguishing the flames. Père-la-Chaise was still full of dead bodies. Hawkers were all about the streets

selling "Broadsheets" and handbills, descriptive of the murder of the Archbishop and priests, whose funeral at Notre Dame was fixed for June 7 at eleven o'clock. We bought a number of broadsheets and I have them still, besides beautiful little medals of silver and bronze, with the bust of the Archbishop on one side and the date of his birth and death on the reverse. Our original idea had been to see the funeral only, but by a great piece of luck we succeeded in getting into the cathedral itself. We hung about the place for about an hour, and had settled down in the square before the great door, where the people were kept back perhaps 200 yards by the soldiers, and the funeral cars were drawn up before the door. An officer on guard was standing near us and I showed him our special passports and mentioned the name of one of Marshal MacMahon's staff whom my uncle knew slightly—we also said (as shown by the passports) that we were officers of the English Government. The officer happened to know the staff officer mentioned, and impressed with our statement he let us through the line to take our chance at the great doors. We walked all across the great empty Place with our hearts in our mouths, got in at the door without being stopped, and were shown to seats among the deputies, among whom we saw Thiers and MacMahon.

All around the cathedral were soldiers standing with fixed bayonets. *Pompiers* with their brass helmets, clanking round looking for any traces of fire: for the great pulpit and much of the woodwork had been fired and only charred masses remained. The smell of fire was overpowering.

At the end of the nave lay the bodies of the Archbishop and the four priests, their faces uncovered, in full canonicals, under magnificent black and silver canopies; the cathedral also was hung in velvet and silver, candles burning, incense smoking, crowds of priests and bishops in magnificent vestments—a terribly solemn scene. At each corner of the great building a military band was stationed, which joined with the organ in the requiem and dead marches, the brass notes resounding with strong effect through the vast edifice. Cannons and musketry pealed outside, and all, with the glory of the cathedral and the beauty of the singing, made a spectacle that it would not be easy to forget.

At the close of the service all the congregation were allowed to walk round the biers and sprinkle holy water on the bodies as they passed, the massed bands all the while playing beautiful and solemn dead marches; at intervals the word of command was heard shouted round the place by the officers, and all the soldiers brought down their rifles simultaneously on to the stone floor with a metallic crash which had a startling and most imposing effect.

With the true British tourist's taste for relics I could not forbear as I passed the great pulpit from breaking off a small piece of charred wood, and as we passed the guttering wax candles detaching a small fragment of the congealed drip, which I pocketed and still possess. I suppose there are but few people now living who can have been present at that wonderful ceremony.

In the afternoon, furnished with a large sheet

map of the city and fortifications which I still have, we made our way to the last fort to fall to the Germans, Mt. Valérien on the east side. From thence we gained a wonderful view of the devastated city. The fort was in ruins, just as it had fallen. Still coveting relics I cut off a small piece of telegraph wire, and plucked a beautiful little bud of a rose which bloomed among the ruins. I have it now before me and there is still left a slight tinge of colour in the withered bud.

Next day we visited St. Cloud and saw the encampment of the German Army. We were never molested or annoyed in any way, but it was sad to see the devastation which the Palace and grounds had undergone under the rude occupation of the troops: many of the larger buildings seeming to be in a ruinous state.

One of the small handbills, of eight pages, which I have preserved, contains a full description of the treatment of the victims and their ultimate fate. Out of the sixty-four, only seventeen seem to have escaped death. They were first confined in Mazas Prison, then, on May 22, the Archbishop Darboy and five other priests were transferred to La Roquette. On May 24 about seven or eight in the evening they were taken by a guard " parmi lesquels beaucoup d'adolescents pouvant à peine traîner leur équipement et leur fusil. Un gardien, une liste à la main, alla de cellule en cellule pour appeler les six otages qui étaient portés sur cette liste. C'étaient

L'archevêque de Paris, Monseigneur Darboy.
M. Bonjean, le président de la cour de cassation.

L'Abbé Deguerry, curé de la Madeleine.
Le Père Ducoudray, Supérieur du Collège des Jésuites.
Le Père Clercq, professeur au même Collège.
L'Abbé Allard, aumônier des ambulances.

On les fit descendre par un petit escalier tournant, près de la chapelle, dans le jardin servant de promenoir, et on les fusilla immédiatement tous les six contre le mur intérieur." Another large sheet headed "Funérailles de l'archevêque de Paris" contains four rough but striking pictures: a portrait of the Archbishop in his cell at Mazas; the assassination of May 24 with the falling figures against the wall; the lying in state in the chapelle ardente; and the funeral of the six victims (I only recollect seeing four bodies at Notre Dame besides that of the Archbishop). A little poem is given entitled "Grande Complainte; air de Fusaldès."

Another sheet is headed "O! Liberté! Que de crimes on commet en ton nom!" It gives lists of buildings, etc., destroyed by the Commune: buildings about 125; barricades "enlevées" 160. But this only includes five out of ten arrondissements.

Another and still more striking sheet headed "Récit historique des hauts faits de la Commune" contains four pictures—those of the Hôtel de Ville, the Palais de Justice, the Tuileries, and the Ministry of Finance—very rough but striking sketches of the buildings going up in flames, with a song at the end, "Les Ruines de Paris (air Pauvre Paris, de la Léonie ou du Chant de Marengo)."

My uncle was a fine artist and possessed a power of imagination which sometimes developed almost into superstition. He was once staying in Ireland with Mr. Thompson Hankey, M.P. A picnic was organized to a place of which I still possess some of his sketches. They were a large party and the governess was sent ahead in a pony cart with some of them. Before the start one of the company took a photograph of the pony cart and party about to start. The rest followed later. On their way they had to cross a bridge over a small river and were horrified on reaching it to find that the cart had somehow fallen over the parapet of the bridge and the governess was drowned. I never saw the photograph myself, but my uncle told me that by some singular combination of shadows with shrubs behind the cart an extraordinary resemblance to a hearse with plumes had been developed.

A letter to Lord Clarence Paget from Captain Cowper Coles, which my uncle gave me as an autograph, has a melancholy interest, as it refers to the original design of the "turret" class of battleships, one of the first of which "turned turtle" off the coast of Spain, and went down with the whole of her crew, including Captain Coles himself.

MOUNTFIELD, BONCHURCH, I. OF WIGHT.
Dec. 26, 1868.

MY DEAR LORD CLARENCE PAGET,

I take the liberty of enclosing you drawings and descriptions illustrative of my views of a low freeboard turret ship. The long contested duels between armour plate and guns with the increasing power of ordnance points conclusively to low

freeboards and turrets as the only resource left for the future Ironclad, and I sincerely wish we had even one good turret ship under your command; for I feel sure you would give her a fair trial. I often think of the Mediterranean in olden times, and it is with pleasure, if I may be allowed to say so, that I hear of the good doings of its present Commander-in-Chief. Wishing you a happy New Year and many of them,

Believe me to be
Yours very very truly,
COWPER P. COLES.

CHAPTER VIII

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

In 1874, after the defeat and resignation of Mr. Gladstone's Government, I received a communication from Sir Stafford Northcote, who had accepted office as Chancellor of the Exchequer, offering me the post of his assistant Private Secretary, his son, Walter Northcote, taking the chief post; the work to be shared, he to take the Parliamentary and general work, I the financial and Treasury side of it.

Of course I gladly accepted the offer, and took up the work at once.

11 Downing Street,
March 2, 1874.

My dear Sir,

Mr. Mowbray wrote to me a few days ago to say that he heard you were desirous of filling one of the Private Secretaryships now vacant at the Treasury.

I have decided to follow Mr. Lowe's example and to appoint two secretaries. My son will be one, and I hope that you may join me as the other. Your salary would be the same as that of Mr. Hamilton when he was with Mr. Lowe: but I hope you would not find the work disagreeable and that you and my son would manage it easily between you. In the event of your accepting my

proposal I should be very glad to make your acquaintance some time to-morrow.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

J. A. KEMPE, ESQ.

My father had, at the same time, a letter from Mr. W. H. Smith, who throughout my career was always a good friend to me.

11 DOWNING STREET,
March 3, 1874.

MY DEAR MR. KEMPE,

I did not reply to your note of the 17th ulto. because I really did not expect at the time to come here. At this moment I am not Secretary and the old Board is still in office, but in a day or two we shall be regularly at work; and it is now arranged that Mr. Kempe will become an additional Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and that Mr. Primrose will be my Private Secretary. If Sir Stafford Northcote had not taken Mr. Kempe I should have done so, but it is perhaps better that I should retain the services of Mr. Primrose, who is Mr. Dodson's Private Secretary, as he is acquainted with everything which has been done in the office for the past year.

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
WILLIAM H. SMITH.

THE REVD. J. E. KEMPE.

Mr. Disraeli's Cabinet included:

LORD CAIRNS . . .	*Lord Chancellor.*
DUKE OF RICHMOND . .	*Lord President.*
EARL OF MALMESBURY . .	*Lord Privy Seal.*

Richard A. Cross . . .	*Home Secretary.*
Earl of Derby . . .	*Foreign Secretary.*
Earl of Carnarvon . .	*Colonial Secretary.*
Gathorne Hardy . . .	*War Secretary.*
Marquess of Salisbury .	*Indian Secretary.*
Sir Stafford Northcote .	*Chancellor of the Exchequer.*
G. Ward Hunt . . .	*First Lord of the Admiralty.*
Lord John Manners . .	*Postmaster-General.*

Nearly every morning I found on my table a note from Sir Stafford, asking me to get him information and statistics of all sorts, which I had to arrange for his convenient use. I append a few of the many hundreds of letters I received from him during my connexion with him. They will be sufficient with those inserted in the text in other places referring to current work to give a good idea of the very miscellaneous duties of a Private Secretary.

Petworth,
March 22, 1874.

Dear Kempe,

I hope to be at the office by one o'clock. Please tell the messenger to bring down my letters from Harley Street, if Walter does not bring them himself. I should be glad if you will look up the Debate (1861 ?) on the repeal of the Hop Duty and Composition of the Brewer's licences. Also what Mr. Lowe said on the subject in the House of Commons the year before last or last year. Also I should like to have a note of the number of licensed Brewers in or after the year of change and the number now. Also, if you can get it, an account of the quantity of Hops then used and the quantity now used: so as to form an idea of the amount they would now be paying for Hop Duty.

Yours very faithfully,
Stafford H. Northcote.

11 Downing Street, Whitehall.

Mr. Kempe,

Please look out for me what has passed about the adjournments for the Derby Day.

My recollection is that up to the death of Lord G. Bentinck (184 ?) he always moved it. Afterwards in (184?) Lord Palmerston did so (look out his speech) and that thereafter it was always moved by the leader of the House without opposition till about 3 years ago, when Sir Wilfred Lawson took to opposing it. What divisions have taken place in the last few years? We evaded the question last year,

S. H. N.

Pynes, Exeter.
Sept. 15, 1874.

My dear Kempe,

What can be the meaning of this week's Revenue return? A falling off of £206,000 on Customs and £142,000 Excise! Surely there must be some explanation. I was not altogether unprepared for the Excise, as I knew there was to be a bad malt return somewhere about this time, and the Excise return had been very good last week: but the Customs are a great disappointment. According to present appearances we shall barely realize the Customs Estimate, while Excise will be some £400,000 and stamps some £500,000 below it. Income Tax looks—by rule of three—as if it meant to yield £1,000,000 more than the Estimate; but as this can hardly be the case, the rule of three must be inapplicable. Can you get any information about P.O. and Telegraphs and Miscellaneous? I should like to have some idea about them against the end of the half year. The expenditure, I think, does not look bad, though the Navy item is high.

Yours very faithfully,
Stafford H. Northcote.

Please ask the Colonial Office for some introductions to Cape Town for Mr. Watts.

PARIS,
Oct. 2, 1874.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

We go to-morrow to Dieppe and mean to stay there, at the Hôtel Royal for a week, returning to England probably about the 12th or 13th, but I mean to leave this as long as possible, as there is no use in telling people that one is coming back. I have just been looking at the newspapers at Galignani's and am very grateful to the *Times*, but still more so to the *Telegraph* and *Daily News* for anticipating so much worse a fate than I myself look for. If they make up their minds to a deficit of 2 millions, it will be very nice to come out with a surplus of sixpence, and I am still sanguine enough to expect a few hundreds of thousands.

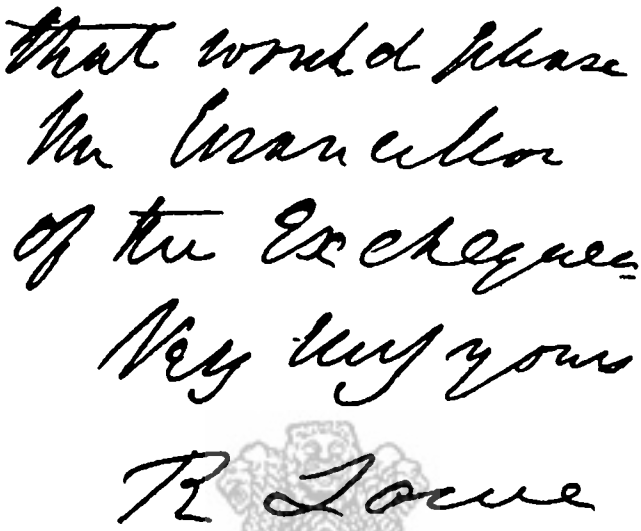
Ever yours faithfully,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

As Mr. Gladstone had left over the Budget, the year 1874 had opened with the question of the use to be made of the surplus of £6,000,000 which he had left at the disposal of his successors.

He had held out, as an election bribe, the suggestion that he might with it abolish the Income Tax and sugar duties. But the practical impossibility of so sweeping a measure was generally felt. Even Mr. Chamberlain had pronounced the proposal "a huge bribe," and Mr. Gladstone's election address as "the meanest public document which had ever in like circumstances proceeded from a statesman of the first rank." Sir Stafford contented himself with abolishing the sugar duties

Sept 1 74

My dear Wallis,
I was in Hamburg the other day and heard the most dreadful lamentations the new Sugar trade was causing. We mean and going to England - I think



and effecting several other useful reductions or readjustments of taxation which had long been called for, besides providing considerable contributions towards lessening the burden of local taxation. The following note from Mr. Lowe, Mr. Gladstone's ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, is of interest in this connexion :

REFORM CLUB, PALL MALL, S.W.
Sept. 1, 1874.

MY DEAR WELBY,

I was in Hamburg the other day and heard the most dreadful lamentations that the sugar trade was leaving the town and going to England. I think that would please the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Very truly yours,
R. LOWE.

Robert Lowe had a marvellous memory. We were spending a week-end at Mortimer, near

Reading, with Sir John Mowbray, member for Oxford University; and among the guests were R. Lowe, Sir R. Lingen (Secretary of the Treasury), and Gathorne Hardy. Sir John Mowbray took the three and myself for a walk. Lowe and Lingen walked together most of the way, and while the rest of us were engaged in general conversation we could hear them intently discussing Aristotle, quoting in the original Greek, not merely words, but whole paragraphs in "chunks."

Besides the Budget work I had my share in preparing civil replies to correspondents suggesting various subjects for taxation. In one year we had no less than eighty suggestions. Then there were acknowledgments of "conscience money" in the papers. The post once brought a bundle of notes amounting to £600 tied round with a string, without any covering and with only a label attached. There would be more important letters on which the Chancellor had jotted down directions for reply, which we had to put into shape of letters for his signature. The House of Commons in those days began to sit at 3 and we had to prepare replies to questions of all sorts, and frequently to go down to the House, sometimes to be kept until late in the evening, or even, on nights of important debates on subjects belonging to our Department, up to 3 or 4 in the morning. I was in the House, under the Gallery, most nights and witnessed many thrilling scenes. For the six years of Mr. Disraeli's Premiership included some great historical events.

Duty visits by Cabinet Ministers to the Queen, wherever she might be, took up time, and inter-

fered a good deal with business: but Her Majesty was exacting in such matters, and prided herself upon understanding and taking part in any questions of importance.

10 DOWNING STREET
(IN CABINET).

The Queen's last letter arranges the invitations for Balmoral, putting me first on the list. I am ready to go either first or third; but would rather not go second. What do Lord Cranbrook and Mr. Cross wish?

S. H. N.

Second exactly suits my plans, as I must be in London at the end of September.

C.

I had made all arrangements for going first, and this will put an end to my going to Sheffield, which I should be very sorry to have to do. If therefore it suits both Secretary of State for India and Chancellor of the Exchequer, I should prefer,

Cross 1st.
Cranbrook 2nd.
Northcote 3rd.

R. A. C.

MILLDEN, BRECHIN, N.B.
Oct. 12, 1874.

MY DEAR NORTHCOTE,

I am going on the 15th to Balmoral, to remain till the 21st. It is just possible that the Great Lady may refer to the revenue, as to which I know nothing that is accurate: and if there is anything that I may, or ought to, say about it, please to let me have a hint on the subject: or on any other gossip fit for Royal ears.

Ever yours,
CAIRNS.

Telegraph Station,
Edzell.

Milldon,
Brechin,
N.B

Private

12 Octr 1876

My dear Northcote

I am going on the 15th to Balmoral to remain till the 21st. Have just heard that the Great Lady may refer to the Famine, as to which I know nothing that is accurate: if there is anything that I may, or ought to, say about

it, please to let me
have a hint on the
subject : or on any
other gossip fit for
Royal Ears

Ever yours
Cairns

Post after the [illegible], or afterwards
will find me at
Balmoral.

OSBORNE,
Jan. 12, 1879.

DEAR KEMPE,

My cold has been rather bad, and the Queen has kindly asked me to stay here till to-morrow, and then I shall go straight home. I hope to come up about the 20th for good.

The Queen would like to see the reports as to the distress which have been forwarded to me by the Home Office. Will you send them to General Ponsonby?

Yours very faithfully,
S. H. N.

The rest of the year 1874 passed without any very stirring national events. The next, 1875, opened with great activity in preparation for legislation on social reforms. Sir Stafford had under his charge the Friendly Societies Bill, a complicated measure which laid the foundation of the healthy financial condition in which such Societies now stand.

This, with the Budget, fully occupied our time.

PYNES,
March 30, 1875.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

I enclose one or two notes of points which I should like got up before the Budget. I must also have a detailed statement of the Estimate of Expenditure for next year. Mr. Smith gave it to me in gross as £75,360,000 exclusive of Irish Education and any possible supplementary votes. But as we are running it rather fine I should like to have the details in the ordinary form; Debt, C.F. Charges, etc.

Yours very faithfully,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

Osborne.

Jan 12. 1874

Dear Kempe,

My cold has been rather bad, and the Queen has kindly asked me to stay here till tomorrow, and then I shall go straight home. I hope to come up about the 20th for Council.

The Queen would like to see the reports as to the distress which have been forwarded to me by the Home Office. Will you send them to Genl Ponsonby?

Yours faithfully

The notes follow:

Points for Budget

Review state of Trade.

Exports, imports, and shipping for the twelve months ending

Dec. 31 { 1873 and the 3 months ending Mar. 31 } 1874
{ 1874 " " " } 1875

Take the same articles as I mentioned in my reply to Mr. Gladstone last year.

State of Working Classes
Savings Banks Deposits
Poor Relief
Prices of necessaries of life.
} Comparison with last year.

Consumption per head { Tea and spirits. Malt. Tobacco.

Number of letters.

Railway receipts.

Notes in circulation.

Total remission of, or contributions to, taxation in the two years, showing how much belongs to 1874–5 and how much to 1875–6.

	1874–5	1875–6	Total
Income Tax . . .			
House Duty . . .			
Sugar Duty . . .			
Police			
Lunatics			
Rates on Government property			

Compare "normal" growth of revenue with "automatic" increase of expenditure.

[Letter opened in my absence by Walter Northcote. His note upon it:—

"You have at least a fine field for the exercise of your genius."—W. S. N.]

The Budget included the establishment of a new Sinking Fund for reducing the National Debt,

which involved a good deal of labour, but has made its mark by securing a reduction of £150,000,000 of debt in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Then followed the Plimsoll agitation against the withdrawal of the Merchant Shipping Bill which was before Parliament. After violent scenes in the House, where Mr. Plimsoll lost control of himself and defied the Speaker, having to be led out, a new Bill was introduced by the Government, establishing a "load line" for ships and other very necessary reforms in maritime law. I have a note in Lord Salisbury's hand referring to the draft bill: "People will look upon Adderley's proposal as a very small matter after all the row there was."

The crowning event of the year was the purchase of the shares in the Suez Canal from the Khedive of Egypt. The purchase was conducted with the greatest secrecy by Lord Beaconsfield, but of course involved a good deal of work afterwards.

Sessions may close, but even in his holidays a Cabinet Minister cannot altogether get rid of his responsibilities.

HUGHENDEN.
Oct. 14, 1875.

DEAR KEMPE,

I must prepare some kind of answer to the Duke of Edinburgh's request about Clarence House. Please let me know what has been done about Marlboro' House, and about that Bagshot Park House. I think there has been some promise made in the case of the latter, and that the question now is whether we cannot do more than has been promised. How are we to dis-

tinguish between the case of a vote to aid Prince Arthur and a vote to aid Prince Alfred? Is there any rule laid down on the subject of these votes?

What votes have been taken in favour of the Duke of Edinburgh at the time of his majority and of his marriage respectively? I suppose we have the burden of keeping Clarence House in repair? and the larger it is the more it will cost? Suppose next year the Duke wished to have a new door or window put in, should we do it? If he wished for an additional storey should we take it into consideration? In short, where do we draw the line in these cases?

You had better consult Mr. Lingen and Mr. Mitford on these points.

Yours,
S. H. N.

MR. KEMPE.

Wanted for Manchester Speech

Returns showing progress of:
Imports.
Exports.
Consumption per head of principal articles.
Shipping.
Railway Traffic.
Savings Banks Deposits.
Pauperism.

Comparative taxation of different countries.

And of England at different periods, 1845–55–65–75.

Exports are now falling off more rapidly than Imports.

How was the ratio of their advance when they were advancing?

Ratio of Imports: Exports in 1865 and 1875.

S. H. N.

CHAPTER IX

CABINET WORK—RISE OF THE EASTERN QUESTION

It may be interesting to give an idea of the method adopted in order to somewhat relieve the volume of business which may come before the cabinet at its sittings, for ventilating questions of secondary importance by circulating memoranda among its members.

The red boxes in which such matters are circulated are fitted with locks of graduated classes. A set of keys which will open boxes of every class is assigned to the Sovereign, Cabinet Ministers, and some Ambassadors. A second set will open all but the first class of locks, and they are assigned to Ministers of the next rank such as Under-Secretaries of State. The next set will open all but first and second class locks, and are assigned to lower grades such as Permanent Secretaries of some departments, Private Secretaries, and others. This is the ideal scheme, but variations of course creep in.

I annex a specimen of the circulation of such memoranda to the Cabinet which I have in their own handwriting on the subject of unauthorized communications to the Press, with the notes from every one of the Cabinet except Lord Carnarvon.

WESTON, SHIFNAL.
Jan. 19, 1875.

I agree with Mr. Goulburn, that the minute will raise a storm, but it would be a greater evil to submit to this abuse in silence.

D. (DISRAELI).

CARLTON CLUB.

I think this step should not be taken without a discussion in Cabinet.

CAIRNS.

I agree in this.

GATHORNE HARDY.

I think the question should be a Cabinet one.

MALMESBURY.

As it appears to be decided to discuss this question in Cabinet I need only say that the evil complained of is very much felt at the Post Office, and that I assented and still assent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's proposed minute.

J. MANNERS.

Jan. 27, 1875.

SECRETARY OF STATE, HOME DEPARTMENT.

I have no means of knowing to what extent the practice alluded to prevails. But it is a vicious practice. Granted, an attempt to stop it will undoubtedly raise a great storm. If you can stop the evil in this way, well and good, the evil is greater than the storm.

But I doubt very much whether you can succeed by the move suggested, and then you may have the evil and the storm together, which will be worse.

It is, I think, a Cabinet question.

R. A. C. (RICHARD ASSHETON CROSS).

My inclination is in favour of some step of the kind: but I think it ought to be discussed in Cabinet before action is taken.

SALISBURY.

Jan. 25, 1875.

I doubt as to the expediency of the step proposed, but reserve reasons till it is discussed in Cabinet.

DERBY.

F.O., *Jan.* 25, 1875.

ADMIRALTY, WHITEHALL.

I doubt the wisdom of interfering in the manner proposed, but I cannot give a positive opinion off-hand. I should prefer to have the question discussed in the Cabinet.

Unauthorized communication to the Press of official matters is very rife at the Admiralty and Dockyards.

G. W. H. (GEORGE WARD HUNT).

Jan. 21, 1875.

The next year, 1876, opened with debates on the Royal Titles Bill, conferring on Her Majesty the title of Empress of India, and it was marked in the summer by the elevation of Mr. Disraeli to the House of Lords. His retirement left open the question of succession to the leadership of the House of Commons. He hesitated between Gathorne Hardy and Sir Stafford Northcote, and finally, for reasons which will be found set out at length in Mr. Buckle's *Life*, decided upon Northcote. The change of course threw additional work upon his staff and greatly increased his own responsibilities. The leader of the House was expected, after its rising, in those days often

long after midnight to two or three in the morning, to sit down and write to Her Majesty a sketch of any business of the evening which was worthy of notice.

The year was chiefly marked by the increasingly menacing aspect of the Eastern Question. Mr. Gladstone had stirred up excitement by his pamphlet entitled *The Bulgarian Horrors*. In a letter to Lord Derby Lord Beaconsfield says, "Gladstone has had the impudence to send me his pamphlet, though he accuses me of several crimes." Sir Stafford wrote to ask me to procure him a copy, but subsequently he too was supplied by Mr. Gladstone himself. He makes no comment upon it in writing to me.

BALMORAL,
Sept. 8, 1876.

DEAR KEMPE,

I leave Balmoral on Monday, and go for one night to Sir E. Clarke's, but think it will be hardly worth while sending letters to me there, as I fancy the post arrives very late; so please address on Monday to Sir John Ogilvy's, Baldovan, Dundee, where I shall be till Friday, and then go on to Sir G. Montgomery's (Stobo, Peebles).

Mr. Gladstone has sent me his Pamphlet, but there will be no harm in having a second copy if you have ordered one. I should be glad to have notes kept of speeches, letters, etc., made or written during the vacation on the Eastern question, or on other matters likely to require notice next session. Of course I don't mean of every speech, but only of important ones and only notes to show when they were made so that we can look

them up in *The Times* if necessary. What do you say to the Revenue returns?

Yours very faithfully,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

The Budget of the year had no special feature to mark it. Financial problems were of course continually arising throughout the year, but it will perhaps not be necessary to make any full reference to Budgets of succeeding years, except so far as finance was affected by political events. The construction of the Budget so far as it affected my work has been sufficiently indicated in previous pages. A full account is given in Andrew Lang's *Life of the Earl of Iddesleigh*.

STUDLEY ROYAL.
Sept. 28, 1876.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

Thanks for your note about the Turkish Bondholders. You have given them quite the right advice. I am sending their letter to Lord Derby. As they left it with you it is perhaps unnecessary even to acknowledge its receipt; but you can do so if you think they expect an acknowledgment.

Yours very faithfully,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

TREASURY,
Oct. 27, 1876.

DEAR KEMPE,

Many thanks for sending me the Chancellor's letter. When you send on the papers you may say that although the present difficulty is overcome there is a strong probability that it will recur in February if some steps are not taken

by the Porte before that time to divert altogether the tribute from the Bank.

Yours truly,
W. H. SMITH.

I have the notes from which Sir Stafford delivered his résumé of the National position at the rising of Parliament in 1876. They bear a striking though modified similarity to the position at the present day.

Résumé of our Position

What's done we partly may compute, &c.
Prospects in Turkey.
,, in India.
,, in Egypt.
,, in our own Colonies.
,, at Home.
The respect entertained for us.
Hopes of peace and confidence may counteract depression.
Causes of depression—
Reaction from excitement, &c.
Loans to Foreign Countries, &c.
Strikes.
Measure of depression.
Remedies proposed.
Protection.
Home legislation.
Financial position.

The conundrums which Sir Stafford addressed to me were not always with reference to wants of the moment, but sometimes involved more general questions of statistical interest.

EASTBOURNE,
March 31, 1877.

DEAR KEMPE,

It would be interesting if we could have some sort of calculation showing (1) which sections of the tax-paying community pay best under present circumstances, and which taxes are the most and the least affected by the stagnation of trade, etc. (2) We should also try and get some comparison between the financial condition of the country now, and what it was at some period when there was a similar stagnation. Does the revenue from the articles of consumption among the Masses fall off in the same proportion as that from the articles consumed by the rich? Take Leone Levi's classification, published four or five years ago, and see how he divides incidence of taxation, and how far we may set down the diminution (or the retarded increase) of revenue and the account of one or the other class. Does the movement of the produce of direct taxation correspond to that of the taxation on consumption? Or does the one advance more? or less? rapidly than the other? Again, how does the comparison stand between such a year as the last and such a year as 1868, or which ever it was thereabouts which showed the greatest signs of pressure? Do the people seem to be more, or less, depressed (in their character of tax-payers) now than they were then? Taking into account the comparative falling-off in Imports and Exports can we get any interesting comparisons between our financial position and that of other countries?

Yours very faithfully,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

The "Bulgarian horrors" crusade of Mr. Gladstone was backed up by other enthusiasts such as

Mr. Froude, Canons Liddon and McColl; and meanwhile in 1877 active negotiations were going on with Russia, through Shouvaloff, as to the measures for the protection of the Christians against the Turk.

2 WHITEHALL GARDENS, S.W.
Feb. 12, 1877.

MY DEAR C. OF E.

Another and most unexpected obstacle to our arrangements has arisen. All therefore must be suspended till we have conferred together. I will endeavour to effect that at D.S. to-day, as your time now is more valuable than mine.

Yours,
B.

FOREIGN OFFICE.
March 14, 1877.

RIGHT HON. CHAN. OF EXCHEQUER.

DEAR NORTHCOTE,

I yesterday gave Shuvaloff my amendments on his draft protocol, which he took away to consider. If he has to refer home (which is likely) some days may pass before he gets his answer. Till we do, it is useless to hold a cabinet, and nothing can be said as to the state of the negotiations.

Ever truly yours,
DERBY.

CHAPTER X

LORD BEACONSFIELD—DISSENSIONS IN CABINET—BERLIN CONGRESS

In the year 1878 Lord Beaconsfield reached the culminating point in his great career. Mr. Buckle, in an eloquent passage of the *Life*, describes how the change of name seemed to correspond remarkably with a change of character, from the "Consummate Parliamentarian" to the Imperial and European Statesman at a "critical epoch in international politics"; the leading figure at a European congress presided over by Bismarck and containing Gortschakoff, Andrassy, and Salisbury among its members. But the year was also too visibly clouded by the increasing bodily weakness, over which his indomitable spirit indeed triumphed, but at a great sacrifice.

Increasing dissensions in the Cabinet over the reopening of the Eastern Question made the business of Government still more harassing. Confused European turmoil over Bulgaria, Montenegro, Bosnia, Servia, and other Slav nations gradually resolved itself into the attempt by Russia to destroy altogether, by force of arms, the power of Turkey to create disturbances in Europe; and in 1878 she was slowly advancing her forces towards Constantinople. Lord Derby,

the Foreign Secretary, and Lord Carnavon were resolutely set against any interference whatever in the turmoil. The rest of the Cabinet still adhered to the hereditary policy of retaining Turkey as far as possible as a check to Russia's well-known ambitions. I have numerous small autograph letters and notes which passed through my hands arranging interviews, etc., indicating the intense excitement under which the Cabinet had to deal with the cross currents of the Eastern position. A note from Lord Beaconsfield is expressed with that vigour of language which was more common with the Prime Ministers of a previous age than it probably is in the present day.

He was doing all he could to arrange matters. News came of some contemplated fresh arrangements between Turkey and Russia for the control of the Straits. In an extract from Sir Stafford's Diary quoted in Buckle's *Life*, he says, "After a little hasty consultation with those of my colleagues who were in the House of Commons I went up to Downing Street taking W. H. Smith with me. We found Lord B. in bed, but quite able to talk the matter over with us." I find among my papers a scrap of paper with the hasty note of this date scribbled by Lord Beaconsfield himself in blue pencil:

"After your walk best, but I fear you will find me in bed, as I am very unwell. Damned unfortunate, but I am anxious to see you. B."

In January 1878 the Cabinet came to a resolution to offer to Austria a defensive alliance with this country provided she would mobilize a

After your walk
best. But I fear
you will find
me in bed, as I
am very unwell –
Damned unfortunate
but I am anxious
to see you.

B

sufficient force upon her frontier, and join in an identic note to Russia; our fleet to go up to Constantinople, and Parliament to be asked for a vote of credit of £6,000,000. Upon this Lord Derby and Lord Carnarvon sent in their resignation. Lord Beaconsfield, however, ultimately succeeded in persuading Lord Derby to withdraw his notice from a sense of public duty. The breach was temporarily patched up, and Sir Michael Hicks Beach was brought into the Cabinet in the place of Lord Carnarvon.

At this crisis Russia made some advances as to terms of peace, and the orders to the fleet were countermanded. But the terms proved quite unsatisfactory, and notice was given in the House of Commons of the vote of credit of £6,000,000 as an intimation of the seriousness of our determination.

Meanwhile preparations were hurried on for a military expedition from England in case it should be required, and Ministers were impressed with the necessity of establishing some " place of arms " in the Levant, as a basis.

Uneasiness in the Cabinet, temporarily subdued, began to revive. On February 18 Sir Stafford brought forward his motion for the vote of credit. I have the actual notes from which this speech, one of his best, was delivered, and also those from which he closed the debate and answered the Opposition speeches.

Sum up situation.
Suspicious delay.
Turkey must submit.
She has not consulted us, nor could we advise.

Criticize the terms.

European interests.
Turkey possible in two ways.
Re-arrangements imminent.
Must not sacrifice Turks—but speak for ourselves.

Austria—Andrassy's words.

Position of England.
Policy of May.
Course since.
Greece, reconcile differences—prevent extension of war. No pressure or inducements.

Despatch of fleet.
Asked 19th.
Ordered 23rd.

England
Comparison of real strength,
and points of weakness.

Dénigreurs.
Dangers of reaction.
Mitigate terms for Turkey.
Provide for safety of Europe.
Must be heard and respected, otherwise remove us.

"We all want to be taught a lesson on prudence; and no one will be listened to unless he is strong."

Private

CARLTON CLUB, S.W.
Jan. 28, 1878.

DEAR NORTHCOTE,

I wish to say how very heartily I congratulate you on the success of your statement this

evening. I listened to every word, and watched the effect produced. Our friends are thoroughly content: and I am sure the effect abroad and at home will be everything we could wish.

Yours very sincerely,
W. H. S.

Notes for summing up Speech

Serious demand met by special pleading.
Classes of objections.
Your false position.
Attempt at compromise.
Its absurdity.
We ask for what we want.
On you lies the responsibility if you decline to give it.

Our general views of policy.
But very convenient to discuss now 3 Points.
1. Freedom of Black Sea, &c.
2. Guard road to India.
3. Peaceful resettlement.
But peaceful resettlement most complicated.
Races—Greeks, &c.
Religions—Mussulmans as well as others and sects of Christians.
Dynastic ambitions not to be got rid of by words.

Questions were of course rife in Parliament as to the warlike preparations:

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE, PICCADILLY,
Feb. 28, 1878.

DEAR SIR STAFFORD,

I propose to ask you this afternoon whether the statement is true that the Commander in Chief and Chief of the Staff of an Expeditionary Force have been appointed; and if so whether the appointment is of recent date.

Do not take the trouble to answer this, unless you have any objection to answer the question.

Yours sincerely,
HARTINGTON.

P.S.—If you should have any news about the negotiations, I would add this to my question.

The disclosure of the Treaty of St. Stephano which was negotiated in the strictest secrecy between Russia and Turkey, and which was extorted from the Turks under threat of occupation of Constantinople, largely reduced the Dominions of the Ottoman Empire in Europe. Strong representations were made to Russia, the Cabinet anxiously awaiting the result.

2 WHITEHALL GARDENS, S.W.
March 15, 1878.

MY DEAR CHANCELLOR,

I wrote last night immediately to Lord Derby, enclosing your letter and suggesting that we 3 should meet to-morrow (to-day) to confer upon it.

I have not heard from him—I believe he is closeted with Shuvaloff. At all events I shall be at your service here at 3 o'ck. or after. Yours,

B.

The reply was a refusal to accept our conditions, and steps were at once taken to prepare for the possibility of war. Indian troops were ordered to Malta, thus establishing a precedent which has since been followed by both parties.

To Mr. Gathorne Hardy

Is there anything which limits the number of troops in India? Might you to-morrow add 10,000 men to them? S. H. N.

So far as I know, but I have not made enquiry.
G. HARDY.

I have never heard of any limitations and think I must have heard if there had been.
S.

The reserves were called out. The acquisition of Cyprus as a place of arms in the Levant was actively discussed and the Fleet entered the Dardanelles.

All this proved too much for Lord Derby's allegiance to the Cabinet. He tendered his resignation on March 27. His place was taken by Lord Salisbury and other changes were made in the Cabinet.

The following notes are dated on the day of his resignation :

FOREIGN OFFICE,
March 27.

DEAR NORTHCOTE,

In a quarter of an hour I shall be free if that time (1.45) suits you.

V. truly yours,
DERBY.

Private.

17 GROSVENOR CRESCENT, S.W.

MY DEAR NORTHCOTE,

I will hold myself at your disposal at 4 p.m. Your room at the House the place of meeting, I suppose.

Yours very truly,
GATHORNE HARDY.

March 27, 1878.

11 Downing Street, Whitehall.

To Lord Beaconsfield:

Lord Hartington's messenger is waiting for an answer. Shall I send what I have written? I send you Lord Derby's note.

S. H. N.

Yes. You will let Richmond know that Derby goes.

B.

The firm stand taken by this country had its effect, and the Russian advance upon Constantinople was checked. Negotiations were pressed on for the meeting of a Congress at Berlin.

Private.

Athenæum Club,
April 17, 1878.

My dear Northcote,

A line to say that I have nothing yet from Berlin. Münster expects a message to-morrow, and if so he will telegraph to me and I shall come up to see him.

Beust brought me a message which I hope you will get in print as soon as this—I have reserved an answer till I could consult my colleagues.

Ever yours truly,
Salisbury.

To Lord Salisbury

11 Downing Street, Whitehall,
May 3.

I am inclined to think the words I have underlined had better be omitted.

I suppose there is nothing I can say to-night on the general situation?

A few words, however vague, might be useful in the course of the debate.

S. H. N.

I think it would be dangerous to say anything as to Shou's mission. It practically would pledge your decision.

S.

After much discussion and remonstrances from the Queen, Lord Beaconsfield carried out his wish to represent this country at the Congress and proceeded to Berlin accompanied by Lord Salisbury.

CHAPTER XI

PEACE WITH HONOUR—TROUBLES ABROAD—FINANCE

19 Ashley Place,
May 28, 1879.

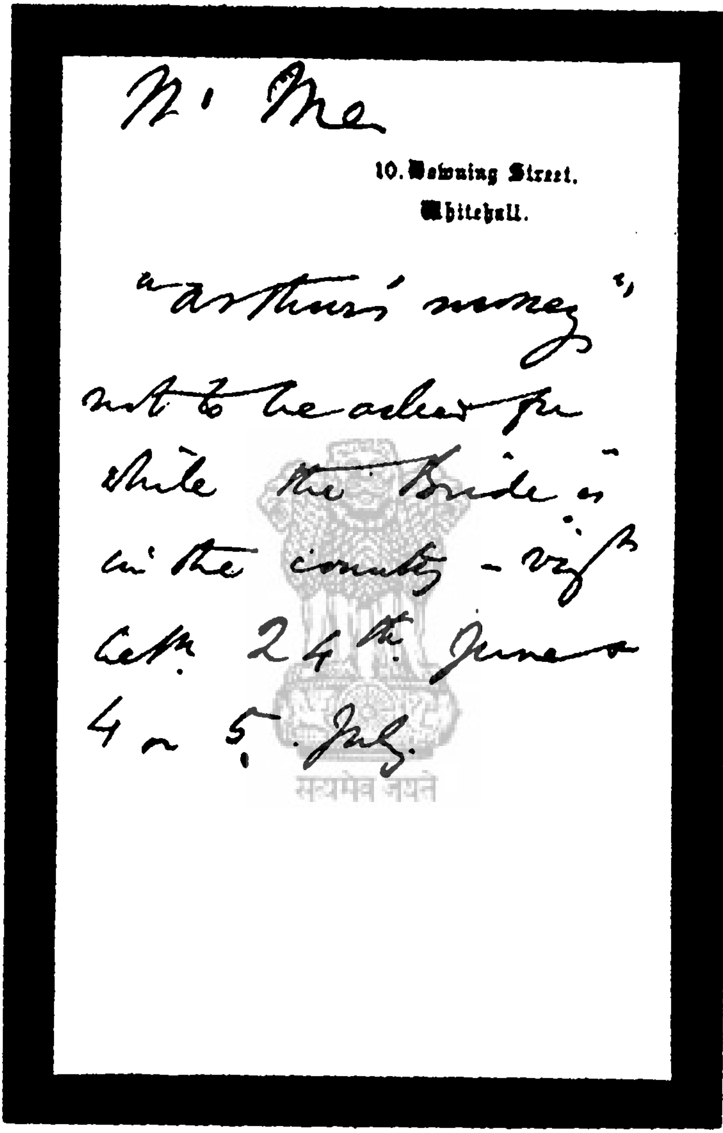
My dear Sir,

The case of the writers of the enclosed letter appears to be a hard one, will you look into it and see that justice is done? Persons who have long and faithfully served the country deserve generous treatment and should not be heedlessly and coldly thrown aside, when it becomes convenient to dismiss them. They have stated their case simply and fairly and I feel sure that you will deal justly by them. Excuse me for thus troubling you, but you are, I think, the proper person to apply to.

Believe me, yours truly,
J. A. Roebuck.

The Right Honble. Sir S. Northcote, M.P.

It was at this time that Lord Beaconsfield suggested to Her Majesty the bestowal of the Privy Councillorship upon Mr. Roebuck, now very advanced in age and infirmity. This was the sequel of a dramatic incident in the House of Commons of which I was witness. Mr. Roebuck had long occupied the corner seat below the gangway next to the front Opposition bench. From this vantage ground he often berated his



N' Me

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

"Arthur's money"
not to be asked for
while the Bride is
in the country — viz
betw. 24th June &
4 or 5 July.

own party sitting behind and around him. One evening he came into the House during a full debate, and when he got to his usual seat found it occupied by Mr. Dillwyn, who could not stand his attitude to his party. Roebuck stood looking at him for a few moments, then tottered across the floor of the House leaning on his stick, amidst loud cheers of a mixed character, and sank down into a front seat on the Conservative side which was vacated for him, and which he occupied for the rest of his career.

I have a note from Lord Beaconsfield to Sir Stafford among my papers: "'Arthur's money' not to be asked for while the Bride is in the country, viz. between 24th June and 4 or 5 July." The explanation of this is that the future Duchess of Connaught was on a visit to Berlin while Lord Beaconsfield was attending the Congress, and sat next to him at a banquet given to the English mission. Until later years, when the practice was abolished, Parliament was always asked to vote a marriage portion for the sons or daughters of the sovereign. This had lately become the occasion for a Radical attack which Lord Beaconsfield wished to avoid. The sequel appears in another note written after his return from the Congress.

10 DOWNING STREET, WHITEHALL,
Thursday.

I think it is better to have the Cabinet at noon to-morrow and I will so call it, but it plays the deuce with many arrangements. I am glad "Arthur's money" went off so well.

Yours,
B.

Lord Beaconsfield's return from Berlin was the occasion of the historic incident of his proclamation of "Peace with Honour" to the listening crowd in Downing Street. The following letter from my collection has an interesting reference to his great achievement, which is generally regarded as the culminating point of his career.

HUGHENDEN MANOR,
Aug. 8, 1878.

MY DEAR C. OF E.

When ought we to begin our Cabinets? Leader of the H. of C. ought to decide this. They must not be put off an hour because of my gout. It is better that they should be held without me than postponed. But I hope to do very well and come to time. Tho' I write this in bed I am much relieved from great suffering of months. The gout is the best Doctor, after all. During the whole of our brief but triumphant campaign my sufferings were great.

I hope you are all right, and yours

Ever,
B.

One of the most interesting documents in my possession is a telegram from Queen Victoria to Sir Stafford after the great debate upon the Berlin Treaty, when it was endorsed by Parliament, without a division in the Lords and by a majority of 143 in the Commons, "in spite of all Gladstone's efforts and eloquence" (Buckle) and violent speeches by Labouchere and other Radical members opposite. The telegram was given to me by Sir Stafford with other letters, etc., which I have inserted, when I sorted and helped to

Hughenden Manor.

8 Aug 1875

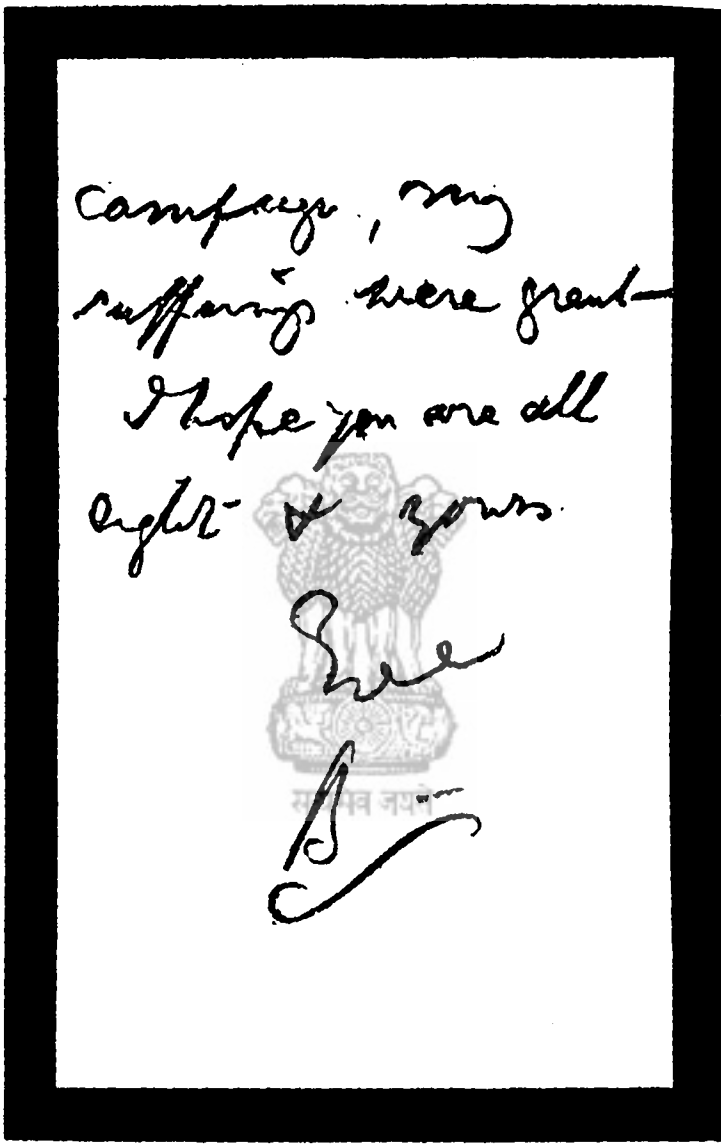
My Dear C of L —

When ought we to begin our Cabinets? — Leader of the H of L — ought to decide this — They must not be put off an hour, because

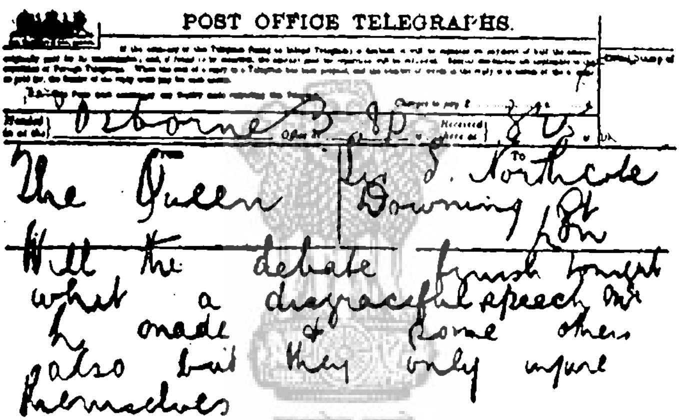
be caused my gout -
Its better, but it
wd be held with -
me than before -

But I hope to
do very well & come
in time - Yes'
I

I write this in bed.
I am miraculously relieved
from great suffering
of months. The
Govt is the best
Doctor after all —
During this incident
on leave, but for insignificant
companion


Campaign, my
sufferings were great—
I hope you are all
right & yours.

arrange his papers on the retirement of the Government in 1880. It illustrates the deep concern with which Her Majesty followed the debates in Parliament upon subjects of which she felt the importance. Telegrams from the Queen would generally be sent in cypher, but her indignation seems on this occasion to have been too great to admit of such delay.


POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Osborne 3. 80.

The Queen | Sir S. Northcote Downing St Lon

Will the debate finish tonight what a disgraceful speech Mr H made & some others also but they only injure themselves

My own connexion with all these stirring events was of course purely financial, as they affected the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But finance is, after all, at the bottom of most questions by which the bulk of the nation is stirred: or if, in the passion of the moment, they are not governed by it, it has its effect as the excitement cools down and the bill is presented. Taxation may represent a factor in the political relations of the country, both domestic and foreign, of much greater importance than the mere revenue raised. By its adjustment it may

become in the hands of statesmen an instrument as important as the disposition of the military force of the State. Influences may be brought to bear which may materially change the habits of a whole people. Foreign affairs therefore have a direct bearing upon the business of the Treasury, and make it necessary to give some indication of the circumstances of the times, even in a Private Secretary's sketch of his work in the office of a Chancellor of the Exchequer. They enter into and influence his daily life, though he may not help at the steering, but only grease the wheels.

Lord Beaconsfield's achievements of course ensured him an enthusiastic reception at the Guildhall Banquet in November, when he made what Buckle considers the finest of his great speeches. I was present at this, as well as at all the other Guildhall banquets during his Ministry. At this one, I was proceeding, as usual, with my colleague, Henry Northcote (who had succeeded his brother), behind the Chancellor of the Exchequer between the ropes which kept a passage through the rows of other guests in brilliant attire looking on, to the Lord Mayor who stood at the end shaking hands with the new arrivals. Henry Northcote had no particular desire to shake hands with his Lordship, so spying a gap in the rows of spectators, he dived under the rope to escape among them. But unfortunately his manœuvre was observed by some dignitary, who came up to him and said that his name had already been announced to the Lord Mayor and his Lordship would like the pleasure

of welcoming him. So Henry, the future Lord Northcote and second Governor-General of the Australian Commonwealth, had to dive again under the ropes and join me in the dignified ceremony.

The year closed with the shadow of troubles in Afghanistan. But this was only the beginning of misfortunes. The next year, 1879, was marked by disasters which began to shake the popularity of the Government and ultimately led to their fall. It also opened with the prospect of domestic distress in the country and with trouble in Egypt.

The session promised to be a quiet one: but in February fell the bolt from the blue in the alarming news of the defeat of the British Force invading Zululand under the command of Lord Chelmsford. Eight hundred white soldiers and five hundred native were surprised by the enemy and cut off to a man. It was of course at once necessary to take steps to retrieve the disaster, and strong forces were sent out under Sir Garnet Wolseley. But before their arrival on the field Lord Chelmsford had advanced again, and gained a victory at Ulundi, which for the moment composed the situation. But the victory was clouded and the public mind much distressed by the death of the Prince Imperial of France in a small outpost encounter with the Zulus. He had joined the expedition without the consent of Government, but with the acquiescence of the Queen and his mother the Empress Eugénie.

With all this trouble on their hands difficulties arose in the administration of Egypt, and the affairs of Greece.

76 Sloane Street, S.W.
May 20, 1879.

Dear Bourke,

If you are in the House at 2 o'ck to-day I propose to ask you when the Greek Papers, which were promised yesterday in the House of Lords, are likely to be distributed to members of the House of Commons.

Yours very truly,
Charles W. Dilke.

If you are not there I will ask Northcote.

In 1876 the Khedive had suspended payment of his debt to the bondholders, but accepted arrangements for putting his affairs into order by the appointment of Commissioners among whom were Lord Cromer and Sir Rivers Wilson. In 1878 on the recommendation of the Commissioners he appointed a responsible Ministry under Nubar Pasha with representatives of France, and Sir Rivers Wilson as Chancellor of the Exchequer. The finances were soon got into hand, and the condition of the country prospered.

Pynes.
Aug. 25, 1878.

My dear Kempe,

Will you send a telegram from me to Rivers Wilson: "I congratulate you on your success. You have done your work very ably." I suppose it should go in cypher.

We start to-morrow morning for Salisbury (The White Hart) and come to town on Tuesday, I hope by dinner time, but it may be later. Your answer to "Statistician" is excellent. He is evidently the *Manchester Examiner* himself. I should like to take this to Scotland, together

with your other calculations, made for the second Budget. It would be well to make out a statement of the amount of taxation per head in each of the ten years; also of the amount added to local rates by the legislation of each year (if it can be made out), also of the contributions made in aid of rates in each year, also of the amounts lent to local authorities in each year. I must try to give the Birmingham people a lesson.

Yours very faithfully,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

Private.

69 PORTLAND PLACE, W.
July 6, 1879.

DEAR NORTHCOTE,

If I can see you for 5 minutes this afternoon or evening behind the Speaker's chair, I should be glad to have a few more words about Egypt.

Yours very truly,
GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

But in 1879 the Khedive turned restive. The English and French Governments had to interfere, and with the consent of Germany the Khedive was induced under pressure to abdicate in favour of his son Tewfik, with two permanent Comptrollers, Cromer and de Blignières, for his advisers. A meeting of the party was summoned and the arrangements of the Government approved.

10 DOWNING STREET,
July 5, 1879.

MY DEAR C. OF E.

I have called the Cabinet for Monday at 11 o'clock. I assume you have summoned the party at 2 o'clock. It is very unfortunate that I am obliged to go to Windsor to-morrow—but

I have seen Lord Salisbury and conferred with him, and he counts on seeing you.

Yours,
B.

During these Egyptian Debates, I witnessed the painful scene of Lowe's breakdown in the House. It is not often that such an incident is seen in the House, even with unpractised speakers. A nervous man would probably manage to pass it off by some commonplace winding up of his speech. But Lowe took it full in the face. He was an albino and could only read his paper or book by holding it close to his eyes. His memory was marvellous and he trusted much to it for his figures, even in his Budgets, rather than to his notes. His speeches were most masterly, but rough and hesitating in delivery. The language was always perfect. One seemed to realize the working of his brain within as he spoke, as if he was thinking aloud. He was attacking the Government on some point of their Egyptian policy, when he began to hesitate and stumble over some figures. He struggled on for a time, but at last sat down abruptly in the middle of a sentence, amid sympathetic cheers from the House. He was afterwards raised to the peerage, in 1880, as Lord Sherbrooke.

Under all these troubles Sir Stafford kept up a strong face in his leadership of the House. But behind the scenes he was depressed. In a letter to his son Henry (my colleague since the appointment of Walter to the Board of Inland Revenue) he said: "I am very low over the Egyptian pros-

pect. It is as bad as the rest of our prospects, which are as bad as possible. The people have been singing the Jingo song ; as if I liked it ! but your mother seems to be cheered by it."

Sir Stafford was also having trouble with the Cabinet as to the method of payment of the cost of the Zulu War. He, with his strong sense of orderly finance, wished to pay for it by an addition to the tea duty. Lord Beaconsfield objected strongly to this in the then distressed state of the country, and proposed to suspend the sinking fund established by Sir Stafford in 1875. The question seems to have led to quite a hot debate in the Cabinet, which Lord Beaconsfield in a letter to the Queen described at considerable length, and though mixed with high personal praise, showed also dissatisfaction with the attitude taken up by Sir Stafford, which he regarded as showing a weakness, attributing it to the strain of leadership in a long session. But Sir Stafford naturally had a strong feeling against the suspension of a new Sinking Fund, which had so recently been solemnly sanctioned by Parliament, and of which the efficacy depended upon the fixed sum laid down by the Act being regarded as immutable as the law of the Medes and Persians.

The meeting was adjourned and the money eventually borrowed by Exchequer bonds. In his letter Lord Beaconsfield also alluded to the concern which the House felt at a severe accident which had just befallen Sir Stafford. He was coming into my room from the garden of 11 Downing Street, through the tall window opening upwards from the floor. The window

was wide open and, being near-sighted, he did not notice the sharp hasp of the upper sash projecting above his head, and coming in hurriedly he scraped the top of his head against it, and was cut right across by the sharp projection.

The remainder of the session was quiet so far as the Exchequer was concerned, but diversified by some important debates on financial questions. One known as "Peter Rylands' motion," upon Public expenditure, of which notice had been given early in the session, called out a powerful speech by Sir Stafford of which I give his notes as they show the activities of Ministers.

MR. RYLANDS' MOTION DIVISIBLE UNDER EIGHT HEADS

1. *House regrets increase of Expenditure, for which the* present *Government are responsible.*
   Therefore he does not regret that for which they are not responsible.
   Now what is it for which they are peculiarly and exclusively responsible?
2. *This Expenditure was not necessary for security of this country at home or protection of its interest abroad.*
   That depends on view of policy. House has repeatedly affirmed ours.
   If you take the opposite view the Expenditure of our predecessors was certainly excessive.
3. *Taxes to meet "present" Expenditure impede agriculture and manufactures.*
   Why the "present" only?
   How do they differ from other taxes?
4. *They diminish the funds for Employment of Labour in all branches of productive industry.*
   Compare them with those in 1873.

Income tax rather higher—what else?
House duty—Sugar.

5. *They tend to produce pauperism and crime.*
Give us statistics—Expenditure increased for the purpose of checking these evils.
Education—Sanitary measures, &c.

6. *Adding to* local *and general burdens.*
Remember, relief to local burdens is one great cause of increase of expenditure.

7. *We should take* immediate *steps to reduce present expenditure to equality with Revenue.*

8. *And give material relief to taxpayers.*
What expenditure will you cut off?
Or will you stop paying debt?

10 DOWNING STREET,
April 29, 1879.

MY DEAR COLL:

I congratulate you on your speech and on your division.

Yours,
BEACONSFIELD.

Private.

H.M. POST MASTER GEN.,
April 29, 1879.

MY DEAR NORTHCOTE,

First let me congratulate you on your admirable speech and on the satisfactory majority. Then I must apologise for leaving you in the lurch to-day: but gout has chained me to the house, tho' I hope to manage the Cabinet to-morrow. Blackwood will represent me at your Deputation.

Always, yours truly,
JOHN MANNERS.

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE, PICCADILLY,
Jan. 28, 1879.

DEAR SIR STAFFORD,

I had not noticed Rylands' resolution, but I saw him yesterday and mentioned to him the

arrangement we had come to, and as he made no objection I should think that you have no interruption from him to anticipate. I think that it may be best that I should put the question about the Progress to you at the beginning of the Evening.

Yours sincerely,
HARTINGTON:

The year had been one of bad trade and bad harvest, but on the whole the country seemed quieting down after its long series of disasters, when in the autumn another blow fell, in the news of the massacre of the British envoy Cavagnari at Cabul with all his staff, by mutinous Afghan troops. The situation was restored by the energetic measures of Lord Roberts; which considerably strengthened our Afghan frontier.

A marked revival of trade after its long depression enabled Lord Beaconsfield to make a comparatively cheerful speech at the Guildhall Banquet and even to strike a high note as to the future in his claim that "Imperium et Libertas" would not make a bad programme for a British Ministry and was one from which they did not shrink.

CHAPTER XII

"TRUTH" ON THE SURPLUS—DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT—SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE

THE Budgets of 1879 and 1880 were necessarily overshadowed by the expense of the series of military operations in Africa and India, added to the legacy of £6,000,000 debt left over on the cost of preparations made against the risks of the Russo-Turkish embroilment, happily averted by the Berlin Treaty. The large deficiency of £1,560,000 had to be met by increased taxation and more borrowing. The state of Ireland also made necessary special measures for possible relief.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
March 1, 1880.

MY DEAR SIR STAFFORD,

The Duke of Richmond has just told me that the Prime Minister wished you to know that a Cabinet will be summoned for to-morrow at 2 p.m. to consider the Irish Relief question, raised by the letter I gave you on Saturday.

Yours,
JAMES LOWTHER.

Altogether, the lot of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was at this time not a happy one. Duties on tobacco and the dog tax were increased. Puppies over two months old were to have been

included " to meet the case of persons whose dogs are never more than six months old." Additional income tax was imposed.

Truth in its Christmas number had a poem " After Edgar Allan Poe " upon the vanished surplus. There were eighteen stanzas, but a selection will be sufficient.

" TRUTH " CHRISTMAS NO. 1879

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER AND THE SURPLUS

AFTER EDGAR ALLAN POE

Lately on a midnight dreary, whilst I studied though so weary
Several sheets of close-writ figures I had gone through times before ;
Whilst I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at the Treasury door.
" Is that Kempe ? " I slowly mutter'd. " If it is, pray leave the door,
I shall want you here no more ! "

Oh ! distinctly I remember, for it happen'd this December,
And each separate dying ember traced a figure on the floor.
Nervously I wish'd the morrow ; for so far I'd failed to borrow—
From the Bank of England borrow—at the same rate as before.
At the same low rate of interest I had borrow'd at before
They would lend at two no more.

Presently the rap was stronger, hesitating then no longer
" Kempe ! " I said, " or Law, or Lingen, is that you outside my door ?
If it be pray cease your tapping, if you have no cause for rapping
Cease and let me strike my balance ere I sleep, I you implore.
Do come in if you are out there ! " Here I open'd wide the door—
Darkness there and nothing more.

Deep into the darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing,
Seeing Ghosts of former Budgets—Gladstone's Budgets—o'er me soar :

But the silence was unbroken, and of Kempe I saw no token;
He had gone with Law and Lingen shortly after half past four;[1]
So I "Hssh'd," perchance assuming there were cats about the floor,
Merely cats and nothing more.

Open then I flung the shutter, when with quite a fussy flutter
In there stalked a handsome surplus of the Liberal years of yore.
Not the least obeisance made it, not a minute stopp't or stay'd it,
But—nor tried I to dissuade it—hopp'd on something on the floor,
Hopp'd upon my rough-drawn Budget, which I'd thrown upon the floor;
Hopp'd, then sat; and nothing more!

Then this welcome guest beguiling my sad fancy into smiling,
By the cheery and contented cast of countenance it wore,
"Welcome," said I, "Surplus comely! tho' you have arrived so 'rumly,'
For 'tis some years since a Budget drawn by me a Surplus bore,
Let this be a happy omen—that they'll come as heretofore!"
Quoth the Surplus—"Never more!"

But the Surplus, sitting lonely on my Budget draft, spake only
That one word already mentioned—I refer to "Never more."
And not for its answer caring, and by no means yet despairing,
I took heart and said, "Six millions was there left in Seventy-four,
When shall I next get a Surplus large as that in Seventy-four?"
Quoth my guest, "Why, never more!"

But this time 'twas not contented with the word I so resented,
But went on and said: "Oh, Northcote, ruin is for you in store!
Thanks to your mysterious master, dearth will follow on disaster.
This will follow fast and faster, trade will wholly leave your shore;
And the people, so impoverish'd, will your taxes pay no more.
Debt will haunt you more and more!"

[1] This must be regarded as only representing the exigencies of rhyme.—J. A. K.

Surplus, said I, much I question if I don't to indigestion
Owe the vision of thy presence: still I ask thee this once more:
In the name of Ewart Gladstone [1] whose finance I did adore,
Tell me, here with debt so laden, if, before I go to Aiden,
I shall ever make a Budget with a Surplus as of yore.
Shall I e'er announce a Surplus from my place upon the floor?
Quoth the Surplus, "Nevermore!"

In spite of the financial and other misfortunes the temper of the country, after the satisfactory settlement of the Indian and African difficulties, and the revival of trade, combined with an apparently favourable turn of fortune for the Conservatives in some by-elections, suggested to Ministers that a General Election might relieve the situation. At a meeting of the Cabinet on March 6, 1880, it was decided to recommend to Her Majesty the immediate dissolution of Parliament.

The returns told heavily against the Government and upon April 21 Lord Beaconsfield went from the Cabinet to the Queen and tendered his resignation.

My connexion with Sir Stafford is the most supremely interesting recollection of my official career. A Private Secretary, although a small animal, sees necessarily a good deal behind the scenes of some of the most momentous events in the contemporary history of the country, or maybe of the world. He may even, by ability and devotion to his chief, undoubtedly assist him materially in his career, and thus be taking an important part in it. Such were Lord Rowton to Lord Beaconsfield, and Lord Sanderson to

[1] Sir Stafford was formerly Private Secretary to Mr. Gladstone.

Lord Derby. Even a lesser man, although he may take no such prominent part, has been in constant touch with the movement of events. He bears much the same relation to them as such documents as I have inserted in these recollections bear to documents of real historical importance. They may chiefly relate to minor or unimportant matters of administration, but even the mere arrangement of interviews or other small details of a Minister's business may represent the germs of events of great importance. The originals in my possession are in the actual handwriting of eminent men of the time, written perhaps under the stress of important events to which they relate, although they may make no reference to the subject; and they have played a part, however insignificant, in the history of the country under the leadership of a great minister.

In my subsequent career, both on the Board of Customs and as Comptroller of the Exchequer and elsewhere, I got to realize by personal experience what an "armchair" to a busy man, a good Private Secretary may be.

Continuous intercourse with such a statesman as Sir Stafford Northcote must be in itself an elevating and absorbing interest. With certain disabilities, which perhaps stood in the way of his rising to the highest place, he had the most thorough knowledge and understanding of the temper of the House of Commons and its business of any statesman of his day. His wonderful tact and his power of at once grasping the essential points in a debate, made him an admirable leader

of the House, and his keen and scholarly intelligence always ensured a high level of expression both in speaking and in writing. At times, he even reached a degree of eloquence, but it was not of the fiery sort which men like Gathorne Hardy, of less culture but greater force, could command. Lord Beaconsfield and all the Cabinet esteemed him greatly and leaned much upon his help and advice. All these attributes made him the most delightful of chiefs. He was always clear and precise in his transaction of business, as well as encouragingly appreciative of results; and I never saw him out of temper.

On his quitting office I helped to sort out and arrange his papers, and he kindly allowed me to keep some of minor importance, some of which I have incorporated in these Reminiscences. As I had charge of some of his collection afterwards for a time, my connexion with him was not altogether broken off.

Private.

11 Downing Street, Whitehall.
April 17, 1880.

My dear Kempe,

I send you a few lines which I wish to place on record before leaving the Treasury; and I must at the same time add a private expression of my sense of the obligations under which I feel myself to you. We have been in close relations now for upwards of six years, and I think I may say that there has never been even the shadow of a cloud between us. I carry away most pleasant recollections of the office as a whole, and certainly not the least pleasant will be those of my intercourse with yourself.

With hearty good wishes for your prosperity and with kindest regards to Mrs. Kempe,

I remain, yours most faithfully,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

J. A. KEMPE, ESQ.

30 ST. JAMES'S PLACE, S.W.
March 28, 1881.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

It will give me very great pleasure to be your little boy's Godfather: and I shall come and pay my visit to him as soon as I may. I trust he may grow up and be a comfort to Mrs. Kempe and yourself, and I shall be very proud to have my name associated with one which (both here and in Devonshire) I have so long had reason to value.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

Private.

PYNES, EXETER.
Sept. 12, 1881.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

Can you send me any note of the position in which the Budget has been left this year? I have not got the estimates here, and do not quite reconcile Mr. Gladstone's Budget figures with the weekly accounts. What did the Supplementary Estimates amount to, and what did they include? I am also anxious to get a statement as to the Suez Canal affairs. I have no papers about them here, and I really forget what is the extent of our powers in connexion with the Canal. We have, of course, only three votes (out of how many?), but what does our voting power truly amount to? How many votes could we make if we chose to divide the shares? And have we not always

practically found that we could carry any point on which we seriously set our heart ?

Is Sir C. R. Wilson in town now ? or Sir John Stokes ?

Pray forgive this trouble.

Remember us kindly to Mrs. Kempe—I hope my godson is flourishing.

Yours very faithfully,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

J. A. KEMPE, ESQ.

The name of Walter Stafford Northcote appears very little in these pages. We were so closely and happily associated through the whole of our career together as private secretaries to his father that little separate reference is required to our respective work. He became a member of the Board of Inland Revenue from 1877 to 1892. After his retirement he strayed into the paths of literature with much success. Our lives drifted somewhat apart ; but on the day before his death in 1927 he sent me, through his daughter Lady Rosalind Northcote, a most kind and touching message in giving his consent to my publication of any of the documents which I had in my possession connected with our joint work. My memories of him and of his brother Henry, who succeeded him as my colleague, have always been and will be most happy ones.

CHAPTER XIII

LORD FREDERICK CAVENDISH—LIBERAL CABINET

UPON my return to the Treasury I became Private Secretary to Lord Lingen.

I did not stay long with him as in the new Government Mr. Gladstone assumed the triple office of Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Leader of the House of Commons. As the combination was too much even for his energies, Lord Frederick Cavendish, the Financial Parliamentary Secretary, undertook some of the duties of Chancellor of the Exchequer, and I was asked to undertake the post of Private Secretary to Lord Frederick.

TREASURY,
Apl. 29, 1880.

DEAR MR. KEMPE,

If the vicissitude is not too great for you to become my private secretary, after being the Chancellor of the Exchequer's, I shall be very glad to offer you the place which Seymour is quitting in order to become private secretary of the new Financial Secretary. Lord Frederick Cavendish takes up his command to-morrow, so I shall be glad if you will come to me on Saturday, if you accept the offer.

Yours very truly,
R. R. W. LINGEN.

ELMLEY HOUSE, WIMBLEDON.
May 1, 1880.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

I am truly glad to hear that Lingen takes you as his Private Secretary. I thought it not impossible, for he responded warmly to what I said to him respecting your service under myself. It has been a great pleasure to work with you, and I feel sure you will do well in your new post.

Let me thank you very much for the kind expressions in your note, and remain,

Yours very faithfully,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

J. A. KEMPE, ESQ.

79 PORTLAND PLACE,
June 21, 1880.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

I must write you one line of congratulation. I am indeed very glad to hear of your merits being recognised by both sides in politics, as well as by the non-political permanent Chief. You are too good a Conservative to be corrupted by your association with the enemy; and officially you could not be with a better man than Lord F. Cavendish. I have a very high opinion of him.

Believe me, yours faithfully,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

Will you thank Sir R. Lingen for kindly telling me the news. I am very busy to-day.

My life under Lord Frederick was not eventful, as I was mostly engaged upon his work at the Treasury: but the change was interesting as I was plunged into quite a different atmosphere of politics and made the acquaintance of quite a different set of Ministers. The Cabinet consisted of Mr. Gladstone, Sir William Harcourt, Lord

Granville, Mr. Childers, Lord Kimberley, Lord Spencer, Mr. Chamberlain, Lord Northbrook, Lord Hartington, Lord Selborne, and Mr. W. E. Forster. Outside the Cabinet I made the acquaintance of Mr. G. O. Trevelyan, Sir C. Dilke, Mr. J. Stansfeld, the Duke of Argyll, and Mr. A. W. Peel (afterwards Speaker). When I left Lord Frederick he kindly gave me autograph letters to add to my collection of all these Ministers except Lord Selborne and Lord Northbrook. They have (except those of Mr. Gladstone) no special connexion with my work for him, and are of more interest as autographs than in their subject-matter. A few of them are appended.

HAWARDEN CASTLE, CHESTER.
Oct. 21, '80.

MY DEAR F. CAVENDISH,

Probably you would like to consider a little further the Mem: on the Dover Harbour Case which you sent me. It should then be printed with Welby's paper and copies of them with the B. of T. Mem. sent to each member of the Cabinet. I have only to say at present that I have no recollection of what passed in the former Cabinet and should be glad to learn about what time the division was taken, when I can hunt for any notes of it which I may possess. Perhaps Lord Sherbrooke's fine memory would assist us.

I *never* attempted to justify lending public money at 3¼ % on its merits. It was a small evil incurred to help us in averting an enormous one: besides that the security was perfect. It was life and death and compensated for the loss of our tails. That is the history of the 3¼ Loans.

Ever yours,
W. E. GLADSTONE.

SECRETARY OF STATE, HOME DEPARTMENT.

DEAR F. CAVENDISH,

I earnestly hope that before you leave town you will give authority to Adam to do what is absolutely necessary to prevent this office from being shut; it is pestilential and dangerous to the health of all who have to live in it.

Yrs. v. truly,
W. V. HARCOURT.

WAR OFFICE,
May 26, 1880.

MY DEAR MR. GLADSTONE,

Has it ever occurred to you that great saving of time and money would result if the principal offices in London were able to communicate by telephone? It would only be necessary to have one central room, with a single clerk who would put any office requiring it into telephonic connection with any other. From some difficulty about Patents we in England are very behindhand about the Telephone: but to my personal knowledge it is universally used in America and with undoubted advantage.

Yours very truly,
HUGH C. E. CHILDERS.

Private:

Of course this would be generally unpopular in the departments, as certain to lead to reductions.

10 DOWNING STREET,
December 16, '80.

MY DEAR FREDDY,

You are too bad at the Treasury. I have appointed Colin to be my Private Secretary. Of course so long as he is Private Secretary he can't draw any salary. But his illness or other causes might compel me to appoint some one else. If the salary is not put on the Estimates I could not

do this except on the condition of gratuitous service.

I don't think this is fair. I do a good deal more work than most people who have held the office of Privy Seal and I often feel the need of a Private Secretary.

As one is normally attached to the office, I can't see why the salary should be struck out of the Estimates merely because at the moment I don't need to take advantage of it.

Yours ever,
ARGYLL.

A curious little incident occurred in my connexion with Lord Frederick. One evening I had been under the gallery of the House from three or four in the afternoon, attending a debate in which Lord Frederick had to represent the Treasury. About two in the morning the debate appeared to be collapsing and I thought I might safely go home to bed. I had scarcely got into bed when it suddenly occurred to me that there was a point which might be raised at the close of the debate as to which Lord Frederick might want information. I got up and dressed and took a stray hansom down to the House. I had not been five minutes under the gallery when Lord Frederick came across and asked me that very question.

The Bradlaugh case of course took up a good deal of the time of the House, and led to many disorderly scenes. I witnessed most of them from my seat under the gallery. Upon his election Bradlaugh had presented himself at the table, but refused to take the oath upon conscientious grounds. He was not allowed to take

his seat. He again presented himself at the table, this time prepared to take the oath. Both sides were equally at a loss how to deal with the case. After two nights' debate, two committees were appointed to consider the question, and both reported against his being allowed to take the oath, having regard to his disavowal of acceptance of its binding force. He formally presented himself again at the table to take it, but was removed by direction of the Speaker until the question should be settled by the House. He presented himself again and again, until by order of the House (the Speaker intimating that he had no power to forbid the taking of the oath), he was removed by the Sergeant at Arms to the lock-up in the clock tower, which brought the incident to a somewhat farcical end. The matter was (I think) ultimately compromised by his being allowed to affirm.

HARLEY STREET,
May 2, 1880.

MY DEAR F. CAVENDISH,

With these papers there ought to be a copy of Bradlaugh's note to the Speaker making his claim; but I cannot at the moment lay my hand upon it.[1] I learned last night from Northcote that Holker took the same view as Richards. I said that the fact would seem enough of itself to establish the case for a committee, which, so far as I know the facts, I hope will be appointed.

Yours ever,
W. E. GLADSTONE.

P.S.—I send Mr. Bradlaugh's notes.

[1] It is herewith.—E. W. H.

I was with Lord Frederick less than a year when promotion came to me in the office, and Stephen Spring Rice took my place with him. Next year Lord Frederick was transferred to Dublin as Chief Secretary. I said good-bye to him when he started for Ireland, and next day came the terrible news of his assassination by Fenians in Phœnix Park, on May 8, 1882.

TREASURY.

Mr. Kempe having been appointed a First Class Clerk, the Financial Secretary is anxious to place on record his sense of Mr. Kempe's services.

Mr. Kempe was appointed Private Secretary to Lord Frederick Cavendish in June 1880 and has performed all the duties of the post, which, owing to the combination of the offices of First Lord and Chancellor of the Exchequer, have been of an unusually laborious character, with the greatest tact and assiduity.

Lord F. Cavendish parts with Mr. Kempe as his private secretary with great regret, as his experience and ability combined with his indefatigable industry have made his assistance most valuable.

F. C. C.

April 2, 1881.

CHAPTER XIV

MRS. BRAY—HER LIFE AND CORRESPONDENTS

In 1883 my great-aunt and godmother, Mrs. Bray, died at the age of ninety-four. She was born in 1789, and until the age of ten lived constantly with her grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Arrow, who died in 1799 at the age of ninety-nine. Mrs. Arrow had, at an understanding age, known and talked to people who had lived some years before the execution of King Charles I. One can imagine how such a close touch with the historic past would appeal to a child of such vivid imagination and intelligence as Mrs. Bray possessed. She told me many a tale from the times of the Stuarts to those of Queen Anne, which her grandmother had heard from people still living when she was more than ten years old, who were born in the reign of James I.

At the death of Mrs. Bray I became her "literary executor" and all her writings, published and unpublished, came into my possession. Among them was an unpublished autobiography which I was enjoined to publish at the expense of her estate. It was in three thick volumes of MS., consisting chiefly of travel, history, and anecdotes of her family told in extreme prolixity and of little or no public interest, but there were some

oases of her peculiar literary gifts. I consulted Mr. John Murray:

50 ALBEMARLE STREET, W.
March 15.

MY DEAR SIR,

With real regret I must tell you I am in despair about Mrs. Bray's autobiography and can see no prospect of obtaining even a moderate amount of public attention. My own partial perusal of the MS. caused me misgivings, but they are more than confirmed by a literary friend, whom I asked, in confidence, to read it. Although his opinion is unfavourable, it shows so much tender consideration of the Authoress that I think I shall not offend you by sending you his notes. I have been thinking what can be done to carry out to some extent the wishes of Mrs. Bray. It occurs to me that if her novels are to appear in a new and uniform edition, a Memoir might be prefixed of moderate extent in which extracts from the "Autobiography" might be inserted. I return the MS. with regret that I cannot be of use. Thanking you for entrusting it to me,

My dear sir,

yours very sincerely,

JOHN MURRAY.

I then set to work to reduce the MS. to more readable form and size, and with the help of Mr. Frank Harris, succeeded in producing a volume which Messrs. Chapman & Hall agreed to publish. A favourable review appeared in *The Times*, which was (to tell the truth) written by myself, at the request of Dr. Wace, to save him the trouble of reading the book (!), but drastically edited by him

before it appeared in the pages of *The Times*, and Mr. Murray wrote to me as follows:

50 ALBEMARLE STREET,
May 8.

MY DEAR SIR,

I ought to have acknowledged sooner your welcome present of the Memoir of Mrs. Bray, but I wished for a little time to enable me to master its contents. I can now congratulate you on having launched a very interesting volume, which does credit to its judicious editor. I am particularly touched by the kindly and discriminating mention of my good father, who had a real regard for Mrs. Bray. I beg you to accept my best thanks and wishes for the success of this very readable volume.

I remain, my dear sir,
Your obliged and faithful,
JOHN MURRAY.

For many years Mrs. Bray corresponded with Robert Southey, and after his death with his second wife, Caroline Bowles, the poetess. I have the originals of the whole series of his letters to Mrs. Bray, some of which have been published in his *Life and Letters*. At her table I met Borrow, of *The Bible in Spain*. My recollection of him is of a man of large frame, slightly bent, with a dictatorial manner of speaking in a loud voice, which I thought very disagreeable. He dominated the conversation at the table.

She also knew Isaac d'Israeli, father of Lord Beaconsfield and author of the *Curiosities of Literature* and other works. I have a long autograph letter of his to Mrs. Bray, in which he

refers to his son travelling in the East with his friend Meredith, whose tragic death brought so much grief to Benjamin and his sister Sara, to whom Meredith was engaged.

BRADENHAM HOUSE, BUCKS.
Oct. 13, 1831.

MADAM,

I duly received your obliging letter 3rd inst., to which I should have given an earlier reply had not a domestic calamity in the death of a young friend, the companion of my son in his travels at Thebes, struck a cessation to all literary thoughts. He was a young gentleman of great acquirements, of a noble mind and a fortune which would have served to exemplify them to the world, as well as to his friends. He was particularly attached all his life to my family, and I mourn in him the loss of a son.

Those letters, of which you furnish so full an account, are unquestionably extremely interesting, for Sir Bevil Grenville was a very marked character—somewhat violent. We who are interested in that interesting period, and study, as well as we can, to analyse that mixture of opposite feelings which often agitated the parties of the time, would gladly consult—curious to learn—what those said who would have gained over Sir Bevil; and what Sir Bevil assigned as his arguments for adopting the Royal cause. I am not at all acquainted with Lord Carteret; and one or two persons of whom I have enquired are in the same predicament. At the writing of the present I am in town for a day or two, which enabled me to make these enquiries.

I myself have often intended to have composed a historical romance of the times of Charles I,[1]

[1] His *Life of Charles I* in five volumes was published in 1828.

which luckily I never did: for doubtless I should have been mortified to have had to encounter the author of Waverley. I regret to add, that that delightful man and writer can never recover from the fatal attack he has suffered. The climate of Naples has been prescribed. Sir Walter has lived for his latter years a life of great excitement, and put in his last twenty what others have not always acquired in forty.

You see the turn of the times, the revolution of feelings. I have done what I am pleased to find you approve of—and so have many—and even some foreigners. I have not written for a party, nor run after popular feelings: but I have addressed myself to the majesty of Truth. Your happier vein may lead you to the enchantments of fiction, which I hope you will find can ever allure the people.

I remain, Madam,

Your obliged humble servant,

(Signed) I. D'ISRAELI.

Thomas Stothard, R.A., the father of Charles Stothard, Mrs. Bray's first husband (as noted at the beginning of these Reminiscences), among the countless book illustrations which he executed in the early years of the last century, contributed many to various editions of Scott's novels. Mrs. Bray had some of the original drawings, which passed into my possession. The following letter to her from Sir Walter Scott has reference to those drawings:

Sir Walter Scott has to express to Mrs. Bray his particular regret that his immediate departure from home and the hurry necessarily attending it prevents his profiting by Mrs. Bray's obliging

offer to afford him an opportunity of seeing the late Mr. Stothard's drawings, which would have been particularly acceptable to him.

24 Sussex Place,
Saturday.

Among the many autographs which came into my possession at her death is one of considerable interest. It is a letter written in his own hand by the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, enclosing one of his best known sonnets which he had just then composed. It does not appear to be classed as a "Sonnet" in his collected poems, but is included under "Poems of the Imagination." I do not know how it came into her possession, but it may have been given her by her friend Robert Southey.

The Rev. Gerald H. B. Coleridge, in kindly giving me permission to publish the letter and sonnet, gave me also an interesting little piece of information which connects Samuel Taylor Coleridge with Mr. Disraeli. In the *Life of Lord Beaconsfield* Mr. Monypenny tells us that Disraeli was baptized at St. Andrew's, Holborn. Mr. Coleridge adds to this that the ceremony was performed by the Rev. William Hart Coleridge, a nephew of the poet's, who was at that time curate of St. Andrew's, and afterwards first Bishop of Barbadoes.

My dear Friend,

As I came in this evening after a glorious sunset, a sort of lazy poetic mood came on me, and almost without knowing it I composed the following sonnet, which merely because it is the first resumption of the rhyming idleness, Mrs. G. will

have me send you. It has the character of a sonnet, that it is like a something that we let escape from us—a sigh for instance. I am so far onward with the Essay, in which I regret the good parts only, that I have little doubt it will be perfectly finished by this day week—and then when I am caught again, it shall be with other birdlime.

My health is in some respects improved. With kindest respects to Mr. Williams, and my love to Mrs. Milne,

Believe me,
My dear Gilman,
Your obliged and very affectionate Friend,
S. T. COLERIDGE.

FANCY IN NUBIBUS

(A Sonnet composed at Little Hampton, 29 Oct., 1817)

O it is pleasant with a heart at ease,
Just after sunset or by moonlight skies,
To make the shifting Clouds be what you please;
Or let the easily persuaded eyes
Own each quaint Likeness framed within the mould [1]
Of a Friend's fancy; or with head bent low
And sidelong glance see Rivers flow of Gold
'Twixt crimson Banks; and then, a Traveller, go
From Mount to Mount, through Cloudland, gorgeous Land,
Or listening to the Tide, with closed sight,[2]
Be that blind Bard, who on the Chian Strand,
By the deep sounds informed with inward Light,
Beheld the Iliad and the Odyssee
Rise to the swelling of the voiceful Sea.

S. T. COLERIDGE.

[1] Quy. *issuing from the mould?* [This was chosen.]
[2] Quy. *with lids prest tight?* [This rejected.—A. G.]

The initials in pencil after the footnote seem to be those of Mr. Gilman, to whom the letter is addressed.

My dear Friend

As I came in this evening after a pleasurable sunset a sort of lazy poetic mood came on me and almost without knowing it I composed the following Sonnet, which merely because it is the first Resurrection of the Rhyming Sollerciety since I. will have me send you— It has the character of a Sonnet that it is like a something that we let escape from us—a Sigh, for instance— I am so far onward with the Essay, or think I regret the good parts only, that I have little doubt it will be perfectly finished by this day week—and then when I am caught again, it shall be with other "Bird Lime.

My Health is in some respects improved. Write kindest respects to Mrs Williams, and my love of Mrs Gillman to believe me, my dear Gillman,

Your obliged & very affectionate
Friend
S. T. Coleridge

Fancy in Nubibus,
A Sonnet composed at Little Hampton 29 Oct. 1817

O it is pleasant with a heart at ease,
Just after sunset or by moonlight skies,
To make the shifting Clouds be what you please;
Or let the easily persuaded Eyes
Own each quaint Likeness framed within the mould *.
Of a Friend's fancy; or with head bent low
And sidelong glance see Rivers flow of Gold
Twixt crimson Banks; and then, a Traveller, go
From Mount to Mount, thro' Cloudland, gorgeous Land
Or listening to the Tide, with closed sight, ‡
Be that blind Bard, who on the Chian Strand,
By the deep sounds inform'd with inward Light,
Beheld the Iliad and the Odyssee
Rise to the swelling of the voiceful Sea!

S. T. Coleridge

*. Qy springing from the mould? This was chosen
‡ Qy with lids prest tight? —This rejected — J. G

Mr. Arthur Hamilton Smith, Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum, once noticed hanging in my house a small round cast, in plaster, about 8 inches in diameter, of a beautiful Greek bronze relief representing Aphrodite and Anchises on Mount Ida. He wondered how it came into my possession. The original was found, with other bronzes, at Paramythia in Epirus about 1790 and was in the collection of the Hawkins family of Bignor Park for more than a hundred years. When Mr. Smith saw the cast, the bronze had only just been acquired by the Museum, in 1902, and as far as he knew no cast had ever been taken of it. Upon further examination he noticed that the cast showed several reproductions of hands and feet and other details which were missing in the original, but had been replaced in wax by the sculptor Flaxman many years ago. This gave me the clue to the mystery. Flaxman was a great friend of Mrs. Bray and had even taken for her a cast (which I still possess) of her little child who died in infancy. The cast of the bronze had probably been given to her by Flaxman. Mr. Smith afterwards sent me a photograph of the original as it now appears, indicating the restorations made by Flaxman by colouring them red.

My father inherited from Mrs. Bray a small silver cup about 7 inches high, which had belonged to Mr. Bray, possibly a relic from the family of my mother's ancestor, Sir Robert Atkyns. One night, Mr. Wilfred Cripps, the well-known authority on silver plate, who arranged the collection of plate in the South Kensington Museum,

was dining with us, when he spied the silver cup on the mantel-piece. He asked how we came by it. He knew of only six in existence, Grace Cups of the time of James I and Charles I—1617 was the date of ours—and all were figured in his book. Ours appeared in the next edition. He was dining with us again later, and asked, "Did you see the sale of the Dunn Gardiner plate at Christie's? An eighth cup has turned up, and was bought by the Goldsmiths' Company for £620." He advised us to sell ours. I took it to Caringtons in Regent Street, and they reported to me an offer of £500, from, I think, Pierpont Morgan. The sequel of it was that I got, through Mr. Carington, who was then Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company, an invitation to dinner in Goldsmiths' Hall, where I saw the set of three cups, the high price having been given for the third in order to complete the set of three. I had to return thanks for the guests, the Customs, of which I was then Deputy Chairman, having, among other miscellaneous duties, to look after the Hall-marking of silver imported from abroad.

CHAPTER XV

TREASURY ESTIMATE CLERK—PROMOTION TO PRINCIPAL CLERKSHIP

On my return to the Treasury, after a few months' work in the Legal Division, I was appointed to succeed Sir George Lisle Ryder as Estimate Clerk. I remained at this post until 1888. During these years I had the privilege of being associated with a small body of men in different departments, among whom the late Sir Ralph Knox, afterwards Permanent Secretary to the War Office, took the most prominent part, for the promotion of thrift and providence in the private lives of Civil Servants. The foundation was laid of two Civil Service Societies, the Benevolent Fund in 1886 and the Insurance Society in 1890. A beneficial arrangement was made by the Insurance Society with the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, for undertaking the insurance of lives of Civil Servants, and in twenty years the insurances effected through the agency of the Society had reached six and a quarter millions. It has now, thirty-six years after its foundation, reached over £20,000,000. The Benevolent Fund has shown equally remarkable vitality, the amount of annual pensions and grants on behalf of widows and orphans made in 1926 having reached £6,897.

I wish I could single out by name the workers to whom the service owes a deep debt of gratitude. But although some survive, some have passed away, and it would be difficult to select individuals for due appreciation of the great work their devotion has accomplished. The name, however, of Seymour Bennett stands out prominently among the founders of the Insurance Society, by whose ability and great expert knowledge of insurance matters the arrangements with the North British and Mercantile Company were successfully negotiated.

The spirit in which these Societies were originated survives in those, whether high or low in the Service, who still give of their best abilities to the work, and the success which has already been reached will be the outstanding record of an achievement of inestimable value.

The position of estimate clerk involved constant personal communication with all the public offices and attendance in the House of Commons on all "Supply" nights, which kept me in pretty constant touch with the House throughout the session, and as supply nights afforded particularly favourable opportunities for obstruction by the Irish party, my attendances at the House were often extended far into the night. On one occasion I went down as usual about four o'clock in the afternoon and had to sit under the gallery until six o'clock on the following afternoon, an experience which was repeated to nearly the same length upon another occasion. During one of these episodes I had to sit through a five-hour speech by the arch-obstructor, Mr. Biggar, who

eked out his eloquence by reading copious extracts from blue books, which were sufficiently related to his subject to prevent the interference of the Chairman. These debates were by no means without their exciting incidents, Parnell, Sexton, Tim Healy, and other fine speakers often taking part in them. For the Estimates, ranging over an infinite variety of subjects, present many opportunities for eloquence, even with the ulterior object of mere obstruction. The duty of course brought me into close touch with the Parliamentary representatives in the House of many departments, and although my primary function was to cut down their demands for money to the lowest possible dimensions, my relations with them were generally upon a friendly footing. Among those with whom I became upon friendly terms were Sir William Harcourt and Mr. W. H. Smith. I had known Mr. W. H. Smith slightly in earlier years: our acquaintance continued and improved all through my official career, as will be seen by an incident which occurred later. He was, without exception, the best Financial Secretary I knew at the Treasury. Perhaps not the cleverest; I should be inclined to assign that position to Leonard Courtney, afterwards Lord Courtney and Penwith. But for business capacity and cool judgment, combined with the tact to deal with men, he was unsurpassed. All through my career as Estimate Clerk and after, Sir William Harcourt was very cordial to me, and I saw a good deal of him in the House. I perhaps appealed to his instincts as an ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer in framing ingenious pretexts, of course

based upon sound principles, for cutting down estimates of other departments. I was never thrown in much with Mr. Balfour, but my first acquaintance with him began at Cambridge, when up in the Long Vacation I was playing tennis with the marker at Fenners. Mr. Balfour and a friend (I think it was one of the Lytteltons) came in and asked whether we would make up a four. So the marker and I played Mr. Balfour and his friend. I did not meet him again until he came to the Treasury as First Lord. My duty did not bring me much into contact with him, but when it did I was struck with a faculty which he had, in a more marked degree than anyone I have ever met, of "thinking ahead." One perhaps had to explain to him, after much previous digestion, some matter which required his decision. He would interpose in the middle of it with a question or remark which showed that he had already travelled in his mind far beyond the point laboriously reached in the statement of the case; sometimes with disconcerting effect; but he was always perfectly clear and reasonable.

Owing to my late sittings in the House I often found myself in company with Joseph Arch, discussing a late supper of cold meat and pickled onions at the buffet of the House. He was then in the full blast of his campaign on behalf of the agricultural labourers. In those days it was a common thing for a family of a wife and a dozen children to be brought up on wages of 8*s*. to 12*s*. a week with a cottage and perhaps a small plot of potato ground. There was of course much hardship and distress, and Joseph Arch's straightforward

and single-minded sympathy and zeal in his cause made a very different impression from the devious and unscrupulous ways of the modern agitator.

In 1888 I was summoned by Lord Hartington to give evidence before a select committee of the House of Commons as to the procedure upon consideration of Estimates in Supply. I made some suggestions for improving the form of the Estimates with a view to simplification of procedure and shortening discussion in the House, some of which were recommended to the House by the Committee and afterwards adopted.

COMMITTEE OFFICE, HOUSE OF COMMONS.
April 23, 1888.

DEAR SIR,

I am instructed by the Marquis of Hartington, Chairman of the Committee on Estimates Procedure (grants of supply), to inform you that you will be required to give evidence before the said Committee on Thursday next at 12 a.m. Lord Hartington further informs me that Mr. H. H. Fowler will confer with you as to the information that you will be requested to impart to the Committee.

I am, yours truly,
A. BRAND.

ALLERTON HOUSE, CHAPEL ALLERTON, LEEDS.
April 2, 1888.

DEAR KEMPE,

I think the new plan for putting together the information *re* estimates a great improvement, and one which makes reference to the available facts most easy, and am much obliged to you. If you would do the paging with blue

pencil a little bolder it would be more easily read by the dim light.

I shall be at the Treasury on Wednesday.

Yours truly,

W. L. JACKSON.

At this time Mr. Goschen, then Chancellor of the Exchequer in succession to Lord R. Churchill, asked me to serve on a small Commission appointed to enquire into the question of the best way to assist a movement for the establishment of Agricultural and Dairy Schools. The Commission was under the chairmanship of Sir Richard Paget, M.P., and our visits to "Creameries" and other similar educational establishments already in being, such as "Aspatria" in the North and Hollesley Bay in the South, as well as the examination of witnesses, dairy-maids, and others, in the methods of making butter and cheese, including one from a family in whom the secret of the manufacture of (I think) Stilton has rested for generations, were most interesting. Our recommendations to the Government resulted primarily (as might be expected) in nothing more than the grant by Parliament of some small subsidies, chiefly for the establishment of perambulating lectureships and other small improvements.

In a letter to me the Chairman wrote:

"Lord John Manners has written in very favourable terms of the value of our Report (just issued as a Blue Book) and I am bound to confess that it reads well, and that in view of the large range of our enquiry and the limited time we had for the work we have produced results fairly complete and by no means unworthy. I am much indebted to you for the great assistance you so

kindly rendered us and sincerely hope our labours will not be in vain."

In the course of my work as Estimate Clerk I was offered and refused the office of Secretary and Comptroller of the National Debt office. As I did not feel drawn to the work of that office, and was keenly interested in that of the Estimates, I preferred to take my chance of promotion in the Treasury itself.

The incident in my relations with W. H. Smith, to which I have referred above, occurred shortly after. A vacancy arose among the four Principal Clerks of the Treasury, as they were then called, now "assistant secretaries," or perhaps "Comptrollers." The Permanent Secretary, Lord Welby (or Sir Reginald as he then was), recommended for the promotion Stephen Spring Rice, a Double First at Cambridge and Fellow of Trinity. He was some years junior to me and certainly at that time one of the most brilliant men in the service. The recommendation of the Permanent Secretary would usually and properly have been accepted without question, but Mr. W. H. Smith, then First Lord of the Treasury and Leader of the House, Lord Salisbury being Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, objected. He had seen much of my work both with Sir Stafford Northcote and as Estimate Clerk, and stood out against my being passed over. The dispute waxed warm and the decision was delayed for some months. Eventually the case was brought before the Cabinet and decided in my favour, Spring Rice succeeding me as Estimate Clerk.

To complete the story, I may perhaps be forgiven if I insert here a letter I received from Lord Welby some years later, upon my appointment as Deputy Chairman of the Customs.

ST. JAMES' CLUB, PICCADILLY, W.
Nov. 28, 1894.

MY DEAR JOHN ALOYSIUS,

In the far distance of the Highlands, I had not heard of your transfer to the Customs, and I am reproaching myself for not having sooner written to you about it. Since my learning it on my return I am, I assure you, most sincerely glad at the good news. I think you know that when Barrington retired, I recommended Spring Rice as his successor. I did so because I thought that I was bound to submit, not the fit man, but the fittest. I should not mention this now, except in order to tell you honestly how well I think you have filled the post for which Smith selected you. Under you the control of the Treasury on the Revenue Departments, and especially the Post Office, was reduced to a system which I think is calculated to make that control efficient in a reasonable sense, and that result is all due to you. You will understand then the pleasure with which I have learned your promotion to the second post in one of the Treasury Departments, which you have earned so well. Heartily wishing you a long and successful tenure of your Post,

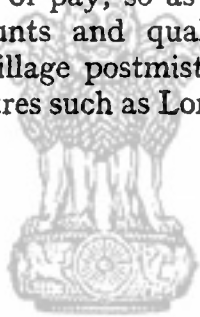
Believe me,
Yours sincerely,
WELBY.

It may be asked, "Why John Aloysius" The genesis of the name was this. Lord Welby had somehow got it into his head that my initials

J. A. stood for John Aloysius, confusing me with one John Aloysius Blake, an M.P. whom he once knew. Every summer, while he was secretary of the Treasury, he gave a picnic at Penton Hook on the Thames to some members of the staff. Upon his first invitation to me he asked, as I was so closely connected with the church near which he had his rooms in Jermyn Street, that I would get my Patron Saint, whom he understood to be St. John Aloysius, to put up a prayer for fine weather on that day. The weather proved propitious, and the next morning he received a bill, purporting to come from the Churchwardens, for £1 1s. as a thank-offering! He sent a cheque (!) and the Churchwardens, not of course knowing its purport, asked me. I told them to put his name down as a contributor to a fund for some decoration of the church which was then in progress. He was not much of a churchgoer himself (though I once saw him sharing a hymn-book with Mr. Gladstone when both were staying with Lord Granville at his house Holmbury, near Leith Hill), but in acknowledging receipt of the subscription the churchwardens (in whose name I acknowledged it) said they understood that he wished to select a sitting in the church, and they would wait upon him with the plans. He replied that he would wait until he could have the seat formerly occupied by Lord Derby in the Gallery. The incident here closed. He adopted the name for me, but I never got any more subscriptions from him.

My promotion put me at the Head of the Division which dealt with the great Revenue Depart-

ments, the Customs, Inland Revenue, and Post Office. As the lower-paid branches of the services, especially the postmen and sorters at the Post Office, were agitating for improved scales of pay, my time was at first taken up a good deal with sitting on Committees and visiting the offices to investigate the grievances and hit, if possible, upon some reasonable scheme of relief. This led, in the case of the Post Office, to my attempt to put upon a more automatic basis the mode of calculating scales of pay, so as to be appropriate to varying amounts and qualities of business, from the small village postmistress and her staff to the largest centres such as London and the great Provincial cities.



CHAPTER XVI

ROYAL COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATION WITH LIGHTHOUSES

BUT proceedings in Parliament soon brought me temporarily into a new and very different field of work. Upon a motion by Sir Edward Birkbeck in 1892 with reference to the terrible waste of life from wrecks due to want of communication between lighthouses and light-vessels and the shore an important debate occurred in Parliament. Public feeling was first aroused on the subject in 1875 by the wreck of the *Deutschland* off the Kentish coast, and the Wreck Commissioner, Mr. Rothery, suggested that it might be well if telegraphic communication were tried.

A terrible example had fallen within my own observation. My Uncle Charles Nicholas, with whom I witnessed the funeral of the murdered Archbishop and priests in Paris, had taken me when a boy of about fourteen for a little trip to Wales, to see the beautiful house, the residence upon the Menai Straits of Lord Clarence Paget, whose private secretary he had been when Lord Clarence was Secretary to the Admiralty. On our way back we heard of the terrible disaster, which had just occurred, the wreck of the *Royal Charter* off the coast of Anglesea. My uncle was a fine artist, especially

on subjects involving stormy seas, and had a morbid desire to see any place where a wreck had taken place. The wreck of the *Royal Charter* has been luridly described by Charles Dickens at the beginning of his *Uncommercial Traveller*. Some four hundred passengers lost their lives. The bodies of the drowned were being continually washed up on the beach, and reverently carried to the little church where they were laid out in rows for identification. We turned a little out of our way to visit the scene of the wreck. We found the little place crowded with friends and relatives who had come to identify the remains. The scene was a most painful one, and of course the public were deeply stirred. My uncle did not take me into the church, but he went himself, and saw about two hundred bodies laid out for identification.

Upon a conference between the Board of Trade and the Trinity House it was decided at first to try carrier pigeons, but the experiment did not prove satisfactory. In 1884 a cable had been laid to the "Sunk" light-vessel, and was taken over by the Trinity House in 1886 as a success. For years a long series of wrecks kept the subject before the public, and in 1886 Col. King Harman, M.P. and Sir Edward Birkbeck, M.P. urged upon the Board of Trade the necessity of extending the experiment which had been tried at the "Sunk." In 1887 a Committee was appointed to enquire into the subject, but it reported against the extension of the "Sunk" system. Enquiries and committees followed fast upon one another, and experiments met with but very little success.

The agitation both in and out of Parliament for something to be done was continued by Sir Edward Birkbeck and others, and on April 27, 1892 he brought forward a motion in the House of Commons—

"That with a view to the better preservation of life and property in cases of vessels in distress or shipwrecked on the coast of the United Kingdom and to give the earliest possible information to lifeboat authorities and rocket apparatus stations, in the opinion of the House it is desirable that all coastguard stations on the sea-coast and signal stations should be telegraphically and telephonically connected by government, and that on those parts of the coast where such stations do not exist the Post Office nearest to the lifeboat station should be telegraphically and telephonically connected; and that a Royal Commission should be appointed to enquire into the desirability of connecting certain light-vessels and rock lighthouses by cable with the mainland in order to give information of vessels in distress."

After an animated debate the motion was agreed to, and the Government at once proceeded to get the Royal Commission appointed. The Form of the Royal Commission is here given *in extenso*, as its quaint expressions may not be known to everyone.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON ELECTRICAL COMMUNICATION OF LIGHTHOUSES, ETC.

(Extract from the *London Gazette* of June 17, 1892.)

WHITEHALL,
June 15, 1892.

The Queen has been pleased to issue a Commission under Her Majesty's Royal Sign Manual to the following effect:

VICTORIA, R.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, to—

OUR right trusty and right well-beloved Cousin and Councillor, William Henry, Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe; Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Edward Birkbeck, Baronet; Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Francis Leopold M'Clintock, Knight Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Admiral on the Retired List of our Navy; Our trusty and well-beloved Sir George Strong Nares, Knight Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Rear Admiral on the Retired List of Our Navy; Our trusty and well-beloved John Cameron Lamb, Esquire, Companion of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Our trusty and well-beloved Ronald Craufurd Munro-Ferguson, Esquire; Our trusty and well-beloved Edward Graves, Esquire; Our trusty and well-beloved John Arrow Kempe, Esquire; and Our trusty and well-beloved Henry Lyle Mulholland, Esquire, Greeting!

WHEREAS We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to inquire and report what Lighthouses and Light-vessels it is desirable to connect with the telegraphic system of the United Kingdom by electric communication, for the purpose of giving information of vessels in distress or casualties at sea to places from which assistance could be sent, and of transmitting storm warnings, having due regard to the practicability of establishing and maintaining such communication without impairing the efficiency of the Light Service, and at a cost bearing a reasonable proportion to the advantages that might be expected to result; and to suggest the manner in which such com-

munication should be established wherever it might be recommended.

NOW KNOW YE, that WE, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have authorized and appointed, and do by these presents authorize and appoint, you and the said William Henry, Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe; Sir Edward Birkbeck; Sir Francis Leopold M'Clintock; Sir George Strong Nares; John Cameron Lamb; Ronald Crauford Munro-Ferguson; Edward Graves; John Arrow Kempe; and Henry Lyle Mulholland; to be Our Commissioners for the purpose of the said inquiry.

AND for the better effecting the purposes of this Our Commission, We do by these presents give and grant unto you, or any three or more of you, full power to call before you such persons as you shall judge likely to afford you any information upon the subject of this Our Commission; and also to call for, have access to, and examine all such books, documents, registers, and records as may afford you the fullest information on the subject; and to inquire of and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever.

AND We do by these presents authorize and empower you, or any three or more of you, to visit and personally inspect such places as you may deem it expedient so to inspect for the more effectual carrying out of the purposes aforesaid.

AND We do further by these presents will and ordain that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any three or more of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment.

AND We do further ordain that you, or any three or more of you, have liberty to report your proceedings under this Our Commission from time to time, if you shall judge it expedient so to do.

AND Our further will and pleasure is, that you do, with as little delay as possible, report to Us, under your hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of any three or more of you, your opinion upon the matter herein submitted for your consideration.

AND for the purpose of aiding you in such matters, We hereby appoint our trusty and well-beloved Garnham Roper, Esquire, to be Secretary to this Our Commission.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's the thirteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, in the fifty-fifth year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,
(Signed) HENRY MATTHEWS.

Our Chairman, Lord Mount-Edgcumbe, was Lord High Admiral of Cornwall and the most effective and charming of chairmen. Sir Edward Birkbeck, M.P., having been for years hammering at the subject and knowing almost every foot of the coast and its dangers, supplied a thorough mastery of the business and great driving power. An elder brother of the Trinity House, Admiral Sir Leopold M'Clintock, was the well-known Arctic navigator and discoverer of the fate of Sir John Franklin. Admiral Sir George Nares, also eminent as an Arctic Navigator, but perhaps best known as the leader of the " Challenger " Expedition. Mr. Preece, Chief Electrical Engineer to the

Post Office (who was appointed to the Commission on the death of Mr. Graves), and Mr. J. C. Lamb, Secretary of the Telegraph Department, supplied the necessary scientific knowledge and experience in telegraphic communications. Scotland and Ireland were represented by Mr. Munro Ferguson, afterwards Secretary for Scotland in Mr. Gladstone's government, and Mr. Mulholland, afterwards Lord Dunleath, respectively. I represented the financial interests of the Treasury.

After a few preliminary meetings in London, the Royal Commission started with a visit to Liverpool, when the steam yacht of the Mersey Docks & Harbour Board took us to the Bar Light vessel, where a lifeboat had lately been upset. All the lights from Liverpool to the South Stack Lighthouse were in charge of the Board. We then proceeded to Holyhead, where after visiting the South Stack light we crossed over to Ireland. The passage was cold and wet. There was not a conveyance to be had on shore. Two buoyant members of the Commission, roving about, discovered a two-wheeled cart, like a brewer's dray: on this a quantity of luggage was piled, and one of the pair, clothed in sou'wester, tarpaulin coat, and sea boots, mounted the pile and stood in the highest part, whilst the other hung on behind. Lord Zetland, the outgoing lord-lieutenant, had that day departed, and the driver of the cart had been drinking whisky in honour of the event. All the way to the hotel he flourished his whip and shouted "Hooray for Home Rule!" encouraged by cries of "Bravo!" from one of his passengers, and heedless of the

deprecatory remarks of the other. The scene was roughly sketched by the chairman.

In the *Princess Alexandra*, the yacht of the Commissioners of Irish Lights, we visited the Rockabill Lighthouse, and the "Tuskar" (Wexford), and then crossed to Milford Haven, where the Admiralty yacht *Enchantress* awaited us. On our way we landed at the "Smalls," a graceful lighthouse about fifteen miles off the coast of Pem-

brokeshire, touching at the "Mouse" on our way. The entrance to the "Smalls" is about thirty feet up, and is reached by a series of iron clamps outside, which have to be climbed holding on at each step to a clamp above. We visited the *Helwick* light vessel and Nash Point light. As we returned we found that the surf was too heavy to keep our boat on the beach: so she had to be taken out into deeper water, and we had to borrow a dinghy to which each Commissioner had to be carried out by a bluejacket and deposited over the gunwale without ceremony.

We then steered for Lundy Island. In the clear, calm evening the *Enchantress* came to

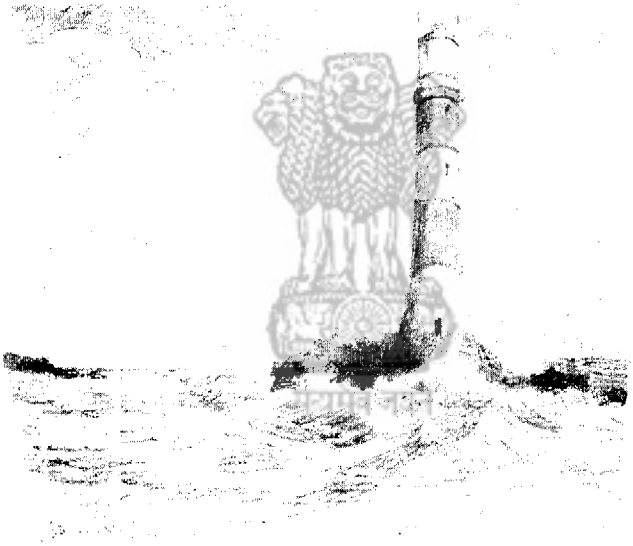
anchor at the south-west corner of the island, her only companion being a weather-stained coasting steamer. Except at this corner, where there is a shelving shore round a little bay, the whole island is girdled with high cliffs—the home of the peregrine falcon and of innumerable sea birds. There were sixteen men in the island, including the proprietor (Mr. Heaven), the tenant of his farm (who also held the office of sub-postmaster the lighthouse keepers, some farm hands, and one fisherman. With women and children the otal population numbered fifty.

As the *Enchantress* was bound for Scilly, and Captain Vine (our skipper) wanted to get his anchorage there by daylight, we got our visit to Lundy over before breakfast. Never had the lighthouse keeper been under inspection at so early an hour. The surprise was great: but everything was in beautiful order and the keen eye of Sir Leopold M'Clintock detected no fault.

The sea was too rough to permit of a landing at Bishop's Rock light, so we had to be satisfied with as close an inspection as possible from our side. The lighthouse was cased with granite blocks, dovetailed into each other on top, sides, and bottom, so as to form a solid mass. As it is only in very fine weather that a boat can land on the rock, the work took several years to complete. On the following day we were the guests of Mr Dorrien Smith, Lord of the Isles of Scilly, and in his steam-cutter visited the lighthouses on Round Island and St. Agnes.

Through recent books the Scilly Islands have become well known, otherwise it would seem like

THE MAIDENS, ANTRIM.



SMALLS, OFF PEMBROKESHIRE.

a "traveller's tale" to say that palm trees, Australian gums, and New Zealand ferns form a grove near Tresco Abbey, and that ostriches stalk about the paddock. All kinds of rare birds visit the islands. The golden oriole comes in considerable numbers every year. The splendid black-backed stork of Egypt, and a beautiful little falcon, whose home is amongst the ruined temples of Greece, come now and then; and birds of passage from the distant north take up their quarters regularly for the winter season. The islands are a paradise for the naturalist and for the man who likes to cruise about in a sailing-boat.

The *Enchantress* (formerly the despatch-boat *Helicon*) was an old-fashioned paddle-steamer, incapable of more than about ten knots an hour; but she was comfortable, and her officers charming. The cruise to the Bristol Channel, the Scilly Islands, and round to Portsmouth, therefore, was very enjoyable, and the only regret was that it could not be prolonged.

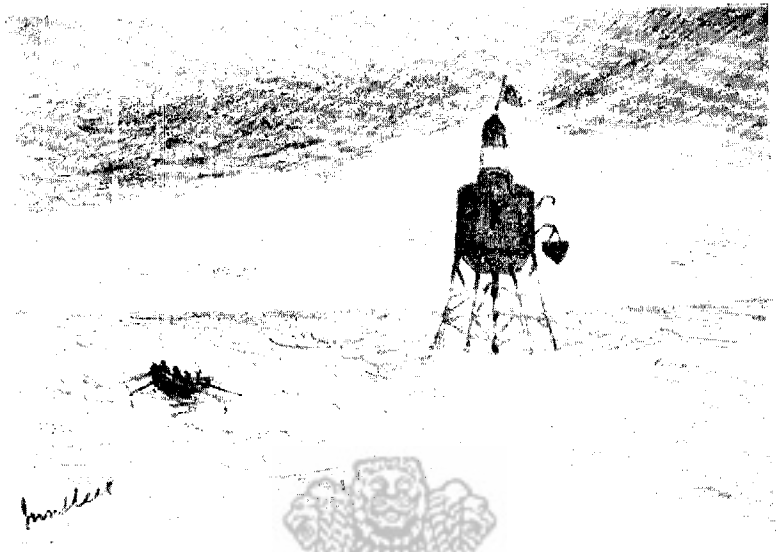
At Plymouth our chairman had to leave us temporarily, being summoned to Osborne to take leave of the Queen upon the change of Ministry. At the Needles we inspected an interesting experiment being made by Mr. Willoughby Smith of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, for effecting communication with lightships or rock lighthouses by means of a "non-continuous" cable, in order to overcome the difficulty of the wash to and fro of the sand by the strong tides which often race between an island light and the mainland, wearing down the strongest cable in a few months. Apart from scientific

detail, under this scheme a short cable is run out from the mainland and secured by a "mushroom" anchor. Another is run out from the lighthouse and anchored in the same way, leaving a gap between the two cables through which the tidal current sweeps. In the comparatively short distance between the Needles and the Isle of Wight, the electric current over-leapt the gap. Mr. Preece afterwards improved upon this plan so as to extend the leap over a much greater distance.

The cruise was now drawing to an end. Steering her course midst men-of-war and yachts, with the sun glancing on a blue sea and on white sails, the *Enchantress* made for Portsmouth Harbour, and landed us at the railway jetty, whence we departed by train to our several destinations.

Reassembling in a few days at Dover, we joined the Trinity Yacht *Vestal* and visited the lightships on the east coast, from the Goodwins to Harborough, and the "Gunfleet," a small lighthouse built on pillars about five miles out from Walton-on-the-Naze.

The *Vestal* lay quietly all night in Harwich Harbour, and proceeded in the morning through a choppy sea to Orfordness lighthouse, and to the Shipwash, the Corton, the Cross Sand, and the Newarp lightships. The commissioners had a lively time of it, and were glad to land at Yarmouth and get a comfortable night's rest. Next morning the more hardy ones paid an early visit to the Would and Hasborough lightships, and at midday the whole party left by train for Peterborough, to be ready to catch the next day's express for Edinburgh.



THE GUNFLEET, WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE.

ROUND ISLAND, SCILLY.

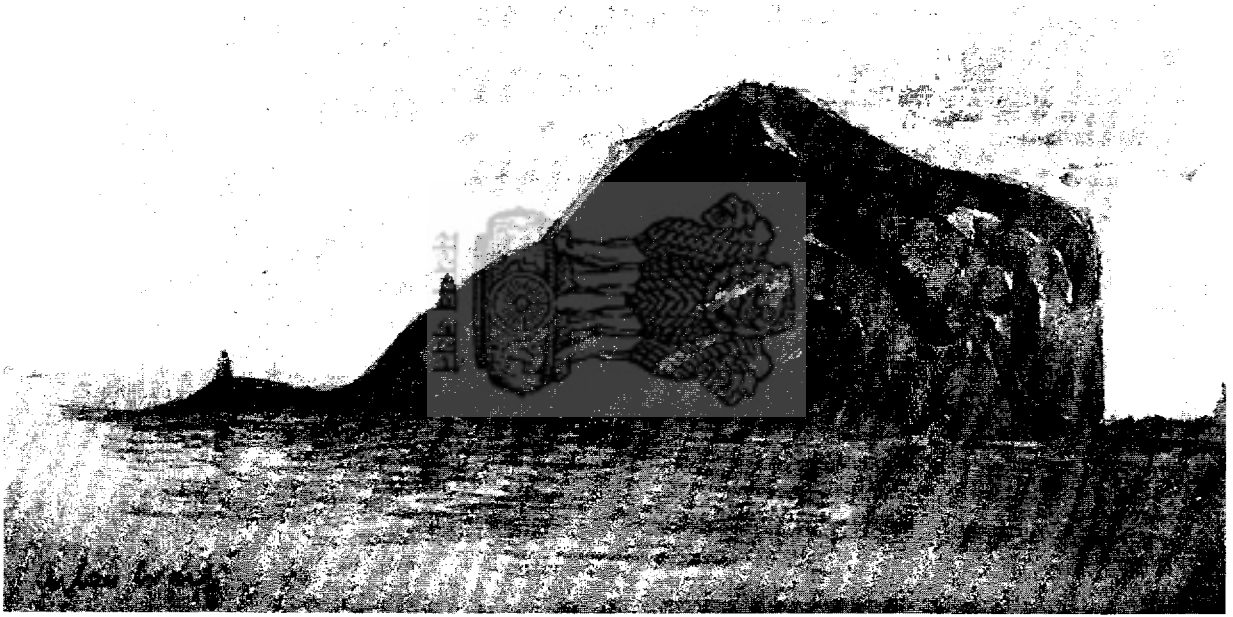
Business began without delay at Edinburgh, for no sooner was dinner done than a meeting took place with the Board of Northern Lights; and, far into the night, the conclave was held at their offices in a dim religious light, with solemn testimony from two pilots of the Forth, and much serious reading of correspondence and reports.

After early breakfast in the morning a drive to Granton brought the Royal Commissioners to the *Pharos*, the steam-yacht of the Commissioners of Northern Lights, where there was a full meeting of the Board. Its composition is curious—the sheriffs of the maritime counties and two or three provosts, with not a seafaring man amongst them. They gave their visitors a very cordial welcome, and the cruise in the Forth will long be remembered with pleasure. Their gas buoys alone are well worth study. To give a steady gas light is comparatively easy, but to give an intermittent one requires a very ingenious arrangement. It is done in this way. The full blaze heats the air until by expansion it presses a valve and turns the gas tap down. The light cannot go out because the tap will only turn far enough to bring the light down to a little jet. With the light thus reduced, the air cools quickly and releases the valve, the tap then turns full on again, and the light leaps into sight; and so it goes on incessantly. On May Island, at the entrance to the Forth, the lighthouse is fitted with the electric light, which is visible even at Broughty Ferry and Carnoustie. There is a curious old watch-house on the island where the pilots used to sleep whilst their boats were lying in the creek. Now, their boats being

decked, they stay on board. The sleeping place in the watch-house is a wooden slope round the walls. There is some curious carving in the chimney-piece, and the date 1636 and a star are carved over the doorway. It was on a trip with the Northern Lights Commissioners that Sir Walter Scott got the materials for the *Pirate*. Mr. Stevenson, the engineer of the Board, passed round the table at luncheon a silver-mounted snuff-mull, with an inscription on it recording that it had been presented by Sir Walter as a memento of that very trip.

Night brought the travellers to their hotel again, and thus ended the first tour of inspection of the Royal Commission.

I cannot honestly say that on this tour I myself visited every one of the lightships and lighthouses at which the Commission touched, but I was able to take small sketches of all the island lighthouses we visited. Those which I have inserted are a selection from some 120 which I was able to make hastily while waiting for the boats to be got out for conveyance of the Royal Commissioners on their visits to the lighthouses. Thus they are merely a reproduction of ten-minutes sketches on grey paper in pencil and Chinese white, so that some indulgence must be asked for their roughness of execution. On very stormy days I sometimes landed at a convenient port to cut off a stormy corner and rejoin the ship farther on. The roll of a light vessel in a stormy sea, moored fore and aft, is a sensation to be avoided by an indifferent sailor. But it was summer weather and storms were not very frequent. Often the



AILSA CRAIG.

visit to an island lighthouse, such as the Bishop's Rock, had to be made in a small boat, and we had to wait until a wave came up high enough to lift the boat within reach of a basket let down from the lighthouse. An entry had to be made by swarming up holding on to iron clamps on the outside. It was a sight to see old Sir Leopold M'Clintock skipping up at an age considerably above three score and ten.

At some of the lighthouses which we visited, especially, I think, May Island in the Firth of Forth, we found that the lightkeeper had made and set up most interesting collections of birds, chiefly migratory, which had killed themselves by striking against the lantern in their flight. Sir George Nares was specially interested in them, and brought away from one a beautiful little specimen of spotless white, I think he said it was a tern, which on our journey in a first-class carriage he proceeded to skin, with the aid of some "tailors' chalk" which he appeared to carry in his pocket against such emergencies, to add to his own collection.

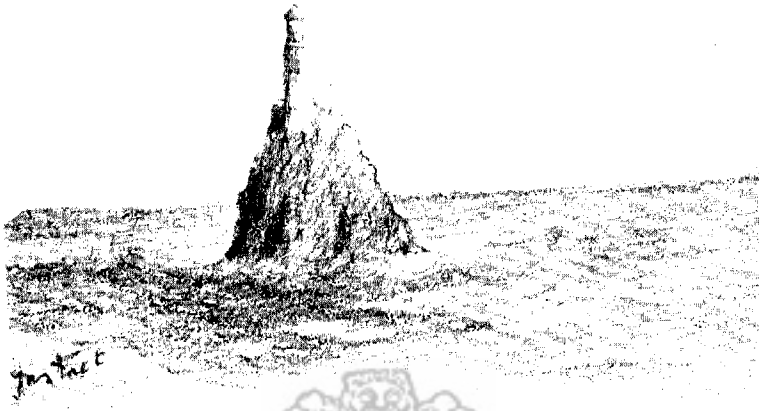
We were a very cheerful party (excepting perhaps myself in unpropitious weather) and were kept well amused by the eccentricities and humour of at least one of our number. He rarely came on board in the ordinary way, but would suddenly appear alongside in a small boat, at some out-of-the-way place, from nowhere in particular, with no luggage but a small brown-paper parcel: and remain with us for perhaps a few days, disappearing as unaccountably as he came.

I returned to London in company with the

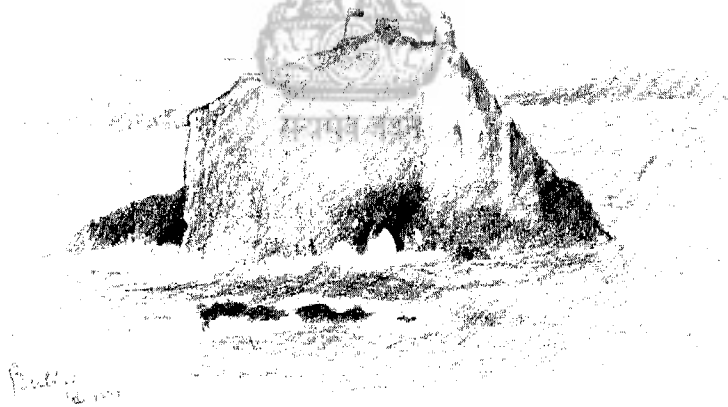
chairman. We slept at Shrewsbury on our way putting up at the "Raven." After dinner in the smoking-room we found a young parson of sociable disposition who fell into conversation with us. He had been making holiday in Cornwall, and having visited the Cathedral then beginning to rise at Truro, criticized unfavourably its design. Lord Mount-Edgcumbe discussed it with him freely, until at last the parson remarked: "You seem to speak with a good deal of knowledge of the details; may I ask whether you are connected with the building?" "Well," said Lord Mount-Edgcumbe, "the fact is that I am chairman of the Building Committee."

The outcome of our first Report was a recommendation to establish electrical communication with 5 light-vessels, 1 pile lighthouse, 18 shore lighthouses, 4 lighthouses on isolated rocks, one of which, the Fastnet, to be effected by non-continuous cable. The estimated cost was £8,000.

Our second tour of inspection began in the following year (1893) on July 10. In our second report a complete summary is given of the places visited. But Sir J. C. Lamb, one of the Commissioners, with my co-operation, wrote a short account of this trip for the Post Office magazine, and as it gives a more graphic description, I have obtained leave to make free use of it here, as well as of portions of a previous article dealing with the First Tour. Thanks to the kindness of Sir George Nares and Sir Leopold M'Clintock, I was able to pull through the whole of this trip without any cutting off of rough corners. In consideration of my very indifferent seamanship, they gave up



FASTNET, KERRY.



BULL ROCK, KERRY.

to me their cabin amidships, and changed into mine in the stern. The *Enchantress* was on this cruise under the command of Captain Ouless, brother of the well-known portrait painter. She was most comfortable to a good sailor, and we much enjoyed our two cruises in her.

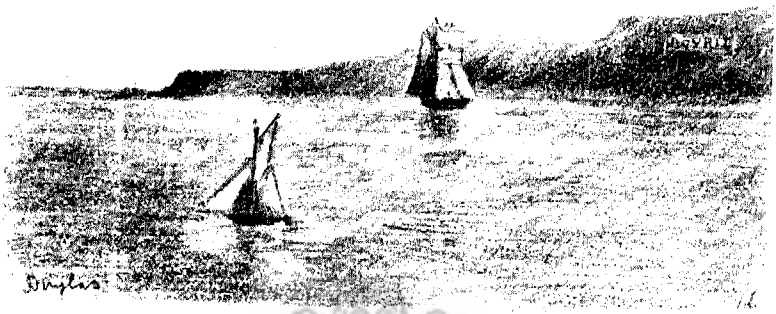
On July 10, 1893, the Commissioners assembled at Glangariff, Bantry Bay, and, in the *Moya*—a trim little screw steamer belonging to the Commissioners of Irish Lights—visited the Bull Rock and Fastnet. On the way we passed the "Calf" Islet, surmounted with the stump of a lighthouse. In 1881 a great wave washed the upper part of this lighthouse away. One of the two keepers, who was in bed in an apartment near the base of the lighthouse, was scarcely disturbed; the other, who had just descended from the lantern, intending to return immediately, narrowly escaped with his life, but, poor man, the shock was so great that his mind became affected, and he had to be pensioned. This disaster decided the Commissioners to erect a lighthouse on the Bull Rock, whose summit, standing high out of the water, is inaccessible to the biggest Atlantic wave. The Rock is pierced with a natural arch, and has bold and precipitous sides. It is the resort of innumerable sea birds, and when the keepers fired off their fog signals a perfect cloud of gulls, gannets, puffins, and guillemots rose in the air.

The Fastnet is well known to travellers from America, being generally the first object sighted on their approach to Ireland. A cable was laid some years ago to this lighthouse, but, owing to the difficulty of maintaining it, the project

was abandoned. The Royal Commission recommended that a non-continuous cable should be laid down, on the plan which had been tried with success at the Needles Lighthouse, but the Government did not see its way to provide he necessary funds. Landing at Baltimore, the Commissioners proceeded by train to Cork, and thence to Kingstown, where they joined H.M.S. *Enchantress*.

Baltimore is the place where Lady Burdett Coutts had rendered so much help in furnishing the fishermen with boats and nets, and in the establishment of a fishery school. The school has more than 120 poor boys, who are lodged and fed, and taught to make fishing nets, to mend their own clothes, to play musical instruments, and to manage boats. They are also given instructions in the habits of the fish. At the request of Lord Mount-Edgcumbe they were given a day's holiday, and their delight was expressed in a very hearty and noisy manner.

The *Enchantress* conveyed the Commissioners to Chicken Rock Lighthouse on the south of the Calf of Man. It was with some difficulty that a landing was effected. The surface of the rock was smooth and shelving, and every now and then it was covered by the sea. The entrance to the lighthouse was reached after a climb of nearly 30 feet up a series of steps fixed to the outside of the lighthouse, and the Commissioners had to make a run over the slippery rock to reach the bottom step, as one wave receded and before another overflowed the rock. The lighthouse is maintained by the Commissioners of Northern



OFF DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.

CHICKEN ROCK, ISLE OF MAN.

Lights, and it was not, therefore, surprising to hear broad Scotch spoken by the keepers.

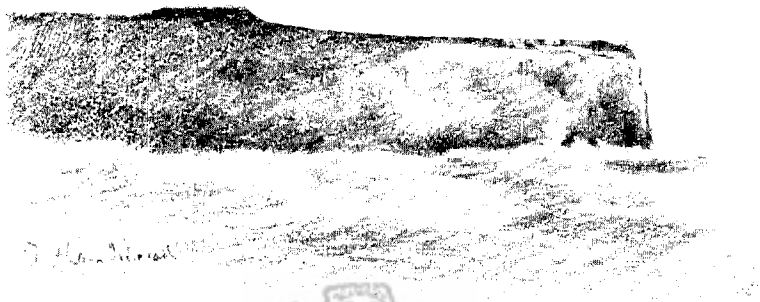
The *Enchantress* anchored in Ramsey Bay, and proceeded on the following morning to the South Rock and Skulmartin Light-vessels, and the Maw Island Lighthouse on the north-east coast of Ireland. There was a regatta going on in Belfast Lough, and the flag-boat marking the termination of the course was in Bangor Bay. The *Enchantress* came to anchor close to this boat, and the Commissioners had a splendid view of some exciting matches. The Prince of Wales's yacht the *Britannia* and Lord Dunraven's yacht the *Valkyrie* were beaten by the *Satanita*. On the second round of this race the *Britannia* was leading, and tried to get to windward of the *Satanita* by closing up and making it almost impossible for her to keep her course without coming into collision with the *Enchantress*. The *Satanita*, however, risked the collision, and at the last moment the *Britannia* had to give way in order to round the flag-boat without going about. The *Satanita* then scraped through between the stern of the *Enchantress* and the *Britannia*, got to windward, reached the flag-boat, and kept the lead for the rest of the race. As she passed a biscuit could have been dropped on her deck by those who were looking over the stern of the *Enchantress*.

The next day a visit was paid to the lighthouses on the Maidens and on Ailsa Craig. At the latter place there is a very complete plant for the manufacture of gas, which is used as the illuminant for the lighthouse, and as the motive-power for a

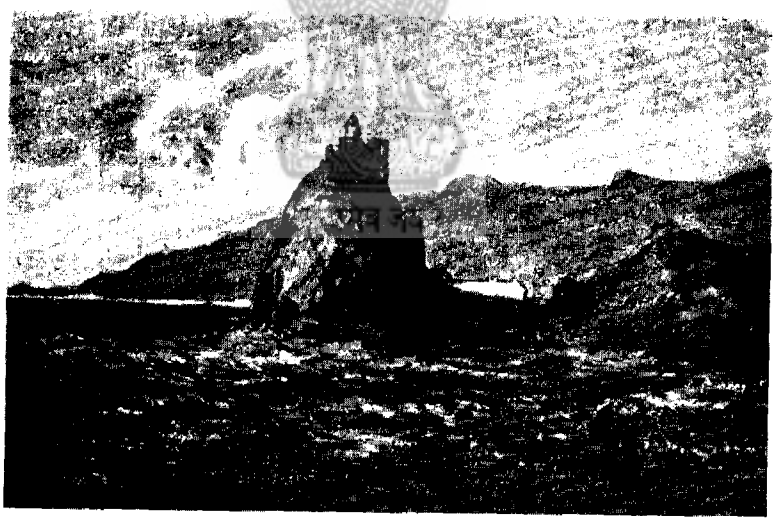
landing derrick and the engines which work the two sirens on the island. One of the sirens is situated 800 yards from the lighthouse towards the north, and the other 600 yards towards the south. Compressed air is conveyed to them in pipes, and their action is governed by electricity. They cannot always be heard in the engine house, but telephones with trumpet-shaped "receivers" have been provided, which enable the engineer in charge to tell at all times whether the sirens are acting properly or not.

Perhaps the most picturesque lighthouse in the British Isles is that at Sanda Island. Viewed from certain points it is more like a Rhine castle than a lighthouse. There appear to be three towers one above the other. The two lower towers are covered staircases, by means of which the lightkeepers ascend to the top of the rock in order to reach the lighthouse itself.

The keepers have comfortable cottages on the low ground near the lighthouse. There is one farm on the island, kept by a very intelligent man, who has a good boat, and has not seldom used it for the purpose of saving life. After visiting Rathlin, where, for some time, Lloyd's maintained a signal station, but were obliged to abandon it because of the havoc wrought by peregrine falcons amongst the pigeons which were employed to carry intelligence to the mainland, the *Enchantress* proceeded to Lough Foyle, and came to an anchor. Starting at about four the next morning she proceeded to Inistrahull, a little rocky island off the north coast of Donegal, which had come prominently before the public on



RATHLIN ISLAND, ANTRIM.



SANDA, CANTIRE.

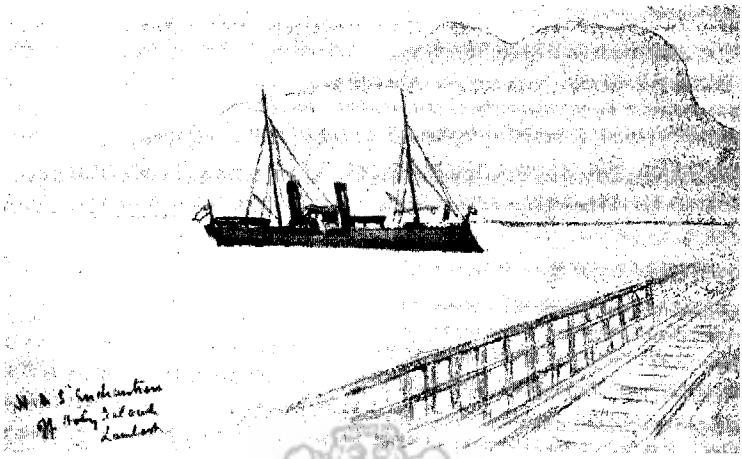
account of its inhabitants having been reduced to the point of starvation. The island contains about sixty persons all told. When the Commissioners visited it they found that there was no resident priest or minister of any kind. A school had only been established in the previous year. Every Sunday the people were in the habit of gathering on a green, and kneeling down in the open air to say their prayers. A priest from the mainland visited the island once a year, and his visit was duly recorded in the log-book of the lighthouse. The men possessed a few fairly good boats, and caught a considerable quantity of fish. They had goats and fowls, and grew a few oats and potatoes. They relied for a large portion of their food on supplies from the mainland, and sold their fish to enable them to effect the necessary purchases. In the recent succession of gales they were unable to engage in fishing, or to cross to the mainland. Hence the sufferings which were described in the public press. The weather was extremely rough on the occasion of the visit of the Commissioners, and only four of their number landed. They arrived at the lighthouse as the keeper's family were about to sit down to breakfast, and the bright kitchen fire and clean white tablecloth presented a strong temptation to the visitors to join the family at their comfortable meal. The temptation had to be withstood, however, because the *Enchantress* was rolling about in a by no means comfortable manner in the offing, and the other Commissioners were being kept waiting for breakfast on board.

The Commissioners intended to land at Dhubh

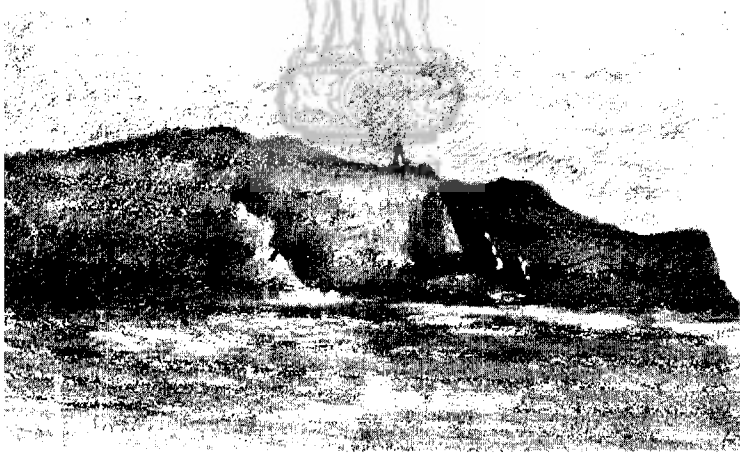
Artach—a lonely rock about fifteen miles south, west of Mull—but the thick squally weather made this quite impossible, and they went on to Oban to allow the *Enchantress* to coal. The route after that lay through the Sound of Mull and the Sound of Sleat, to Stornaway; but before Mull could be left behind a gale sprang up and the *Enchantress* was obliged to put into Tobermory Harbour. As the Commissioners were sitting at dinner the bowsprit of a large schooner yacht appeared at one of the port-holes. Everybody at once ran on deck, and found that the yacht, in attempting to take up a better position in the harbour, had run foul of the *Enchantress*. Captain Ouless and his blue-jackets managed, with great exertions, to keep the schooner off, and gave her bewildered skipper suitable directions, but all they got was a stolid stare from the owner of the yacht, and from his stout spouse, who had been surveying the operations through her spectacles. In the Sound of Mull there was a sight which none of the Commissioners, except Sir George Nares, had ever seen before, and it was only in the Straits of Magellan that he had seen it: a series of waterfalls caught by the gale at the top, prevented from falling, and completely turned into clouds of spray.

From Stornaway the *Enchantress* returned to the mainland, and anchored at Loch Inver, whence the Commissioners drove to Rhu Stoer—a remote and rugged point crowned with a lighthouse.

Leaving Loch Inver the *Enchantress* proceeded to Longhope, in the Orkney Islands, passing Cape



HOLY ISLAND, LAMLASH, ARRAN.



APE WRATH, LOOKING WEST.

Wrath on the way. From Longhope a visit was paid to the Cantick Lighthouse, and to the look-out station of the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses at Brough Ness, opposite the Pentland Skerries. To reach the station conveyances had to be taken at St. Margaret's Hope. A telegram had been sent to the innkeeper there asking whether they would be forthcoming, and he had answered in the affirmative. On landing at St. Margaret's Hope the Commissioners found a small pony chaise and a two-wheeled thing, which looked like a superannuated cucumber frame fitted with home-made shafts. This extraordinary vehicle had seats for two in front and for four behind, the latter being placed like those of a wagonette. When some of the Commissioners attempted to get in behind, the vehicle was overbalanced, and the horse was nearly lifted off its legs. Operations had, therefore, to be begun *de novo*, and great care had to be exercised. First one Commissioner got up in front, and then one got in behind; then another in front and another behind; then the driver got up in front and sat on the knees of one of the Commissioners; and, finally, one more Commissioner got in behind. In this way a balance was struck, and the Commissioners went off in triumph through the village, with nearly all the inhabitants looking on. After they had gone some distance the driver himself thought that the joke had gone far enough, so he stopped, hailed a reverend-looking gentleman, who might have been the parish minister, and asked him to lend us his aid. A servant was despatched to a neighbouring field, and the reverend

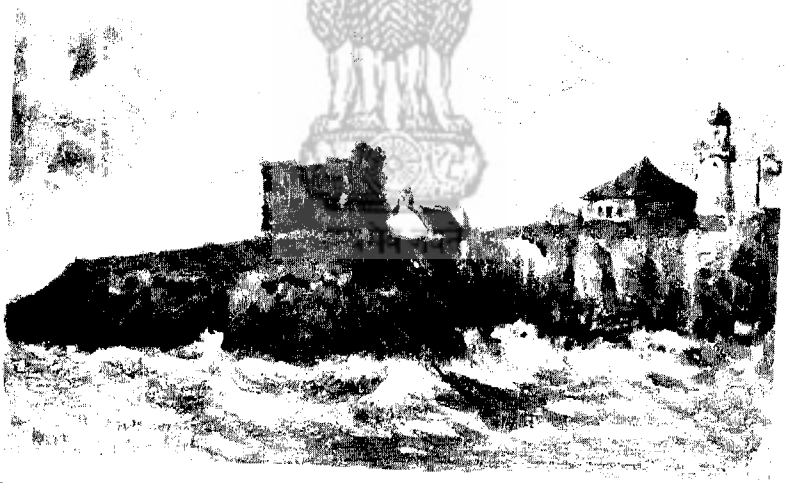
gentleman's horse was caught and yoked to the small phaeton. The cavalcade then consisted of three vehicles of very varied appearance, with which the drive of nine miles to Brough Ness was achieved without mishap. Returning to St. Margaret's Hope the Commissioners went on board the *Enchantress* and proceeded to Stroma Island, where evidence was given to them of the usefulness of the telegraph offices which the Post Office had recently established at Huna and Canisbay, on the mainland, in connexion with the Coast Communication scheme. The fishermen of Stroma, who have splendid boats, were now, it appeared, in the habit of crossing to the mainland, and sending messages to the fish dealers from the telegraph offices in question.

The Commissioners disembarked at Scrabster on July 26, and went south by train to Seahouses in Northumberland. They there embarked on the Trinity House steamer *Argus* and visited the lighthouse on the Farne Islands. With this visit their tour of inspection came to an end.

We landed on the island and visited the ancient cell of St. Cuthbert; also the outlying rock of which the sea birds have taken such complete possession, the extensive plateau on the top being entirely covered with nests and white fluttering parents. It occurred to me that the name "Pinnacle Rock" might be a corruption of "Pennacol," referring to the masses of feathers alive and dead with which the rock is covered. The top is a flat plain, with no "pinnacle" whatsoever.

In our second Report we confined ourselves to recommending the connexion of nineteen shore

PINACLE ROCK, FARNE ISLANDS.



ST. CUTHBERT'S CHAPEL, LONGSTONE, FARNE ISLANDS.

lighthouses by telephone with coast-guard or Post Offices at a cost of £1,804, progress not having as yet been made in carrying out the recommendations of our First Report.

In our third Report, issued in 1895, we stated that effect had now been given to nearly all the recommendations in our first Report and we submitted a further list of light stations for connexion, the Formby light vessel, Maplin Pile lighthouse, and Smalls lighthouse, and three more shore lighthouses, at a total cost of £8,535. In this year our tour of inspection was limited to a few lighthouses in the Liverpool and North Wales district.

Our fourth Report was issued in 1896 and covered only a supplementary tour to visit Denmark and ascertain the system adopted there. I was unable to accompany this inspection, which only occupied a few days.

In the fifth and final Report we gave a general summary of the results of our recommendations, which we considered would sufficiently provide for present needs, and laid down some principles which we recommended for adoption in any future additions.

In some cases the electrical communication proved a failure. The general result had been to place in connexion with the general telegraph system of the country

Light-vessels, 5
Outlying lighthouses, 8
Shore lighthouses, 39

At this point we stated in our Report that our

attention had been called to a system "of signalling through the ether without wires which had been brought to the notice of the authorities of the Post Office by Signor Marconi, and we decided to await the result of the preliminary experiments with that system which the Post Office officials had determined to institute on our recommendation."

A grant of £500 was placed at his disposal for the experiments and we witnessed some of them. Although it was not yet proved that the "ethereal system," as it was then called, could surmount a hill, the experiments so far as regards the sea "proved satisfactory, communication being obtained without the aid of intermediate wires between two points on either side of the Bristol Channel district, nearly nine miles from one another, and we have consequently arranged for a practical test of the system at a light vessel."

And the values built upon the "ethereal system" now amount to untold millions! and communication can be held with places across the Atlantic! Without knowing anything about the science, one may feel a thrill of interest in having been in touch, however slightly, at the very beginning of the greatest development of our times. It gives one to think of the extraordinary changes which the innumerable discoveries in the application of electricity have made in the world during a single generation; and yet we do not know what electricity is! Mr. Preece, while on board the *Enchantress*, once told us a story—I do not know whether it was then an old one, but it is at least thirty years since he told it to us—of a Professor

who was lecturing upon an electrical subject and thought one of his listeners was dropping off to sleep. "Mr. Jones, what is electricity?" "Electricity, sir, I am very sorry, I did know, but unfortunately I have forgotten!" "Gentlemen," said the lecturer, "this is indeed a misfortune to mankind. We have among us one who once knew what electricity is, and he has forgotten!"

In 1894, upon the retirement of Sir Charles Fremantle from the Deputy Mastership of the Royal Mint, the post was offered to me by Sir William Harcourt, the Chancellor of the Exchequer being *ex officio* Master of the Mint. The Deputy Master is provided with an official residence in the Mint, on Tower Hill; not the most attractive of situations, especially in those days when locomotion was not so easy as it has since become. I, however, accepted the post.

CHAPTER XVII

AT THE CUSTOMS—SHELLING OF RINGSTEAD BAY—C.B.

BEFORE the appointment was made, in consequence of some re-arrangements which the Treasury wished to make, Lord Rosebery, then Prime Minister, sent for me and asked me to undertake, instead, the post of Deputy Chairman of the Board of Customs. During my interview I happened to say that I had had a good deal of experience of Treasury views. Lord Rosebery remarked that "Treasury-mindedness" had better not be too much in evidence by anyone who had to administer a large Department! Sir R. G. C. Hamilton, just then retiring from the government of Dominica, was at the same time appointed Chairman. But he was in ill-health, and never took his place at the Board. After an illness of some months he died, and in his place Lord Rosebery appointed Sir Henry Primrose.

BROOKS'S, ST. JAMES' STREET,
April 28, 1895.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

You may like to have the earliest information that the Chairmanship of your Board has been offered to Henry Primrose. The Queen has not yet approved of it, so no public announcement can be made at present: and perhaps you will therefore keep the intelligence to yourself for a day or two. Lord Rosebery hopes that you will not consider the appointment as in any way

reflecting unfavourably on your own capacity—about which as far as he can judge there is no question. But, as you probably know, H. P. was much pressed upon him in the autumn (before R. Hamilton was thought of), by those on whose advice he has to rely in these matters; and though he did not feel at liberty to make the appointment last year, he thinks that the reasons which weighed with him ought no longer to stand in the way of Primrose's undoubted claims to promotion. I am sure he will be a valuable addition to the strength of your Board.

Always sincerely yours,
G. H. MURRAY.

52 CHESTER SQ., S.W.
July 7, 1894.

MY DEAR MR. KEMPE,

I was sorry through stress of business not to see you before I left the Treasury last week, so must make my adieux by letter. I have to thank you for all the acceptable help which I received from you, both in your old and in your new post, and shall always retain a most pleasant recollection of our official connection.

With my best wishes for your future success in the important work in which you are engaged,

I am,
Yours very truly,
JOHN J. HIBBERT.

POST OFFICE,
Nov. 12, 1894.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

Although all here who know you rejoice at your promotion we all regret the severance of your connection with Post Office business.

Sincerely yours,
W. H. PREECE.

J. A. KEMPE, ESQ.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, ISLE OF MAN,
March 17, 1894.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

A thousand congratulations on your new appointment. I hope that your duties will soon bring you over here. We shall be delighted to see you and Mrs. Kempe if she will come.

Yours very sincerely,
WEST RIDGEWAY.

BOARD ROOM, INLAND REVENUE, SOMERSET HOUSE.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

My best congratulations on your new appointment. It is very unselfish of me to offer them, for though I am glad for your sake I grieve for my own to lose you at the head of that branch of the Treasury which deals with our affairs.

Yours ever,
A. MILNER.

Sometime before this a little incident had occurred which brought me into collision with their Lordships of the Admiralty. A few years after my marriage we rented, for about twenty years, a small house (Upton) in Ringstead Bay, near Osmington Mills, upon the estate of Mr. Hayne, one of my mother's family (Wood of Osmington). It stood half-way between Weymouth and Lulworth, solitary, high up on the Downs in a field running about 200 yards to the beach; a beautiful situation commanding the whole of Weymouth Bay, with woods and a small stream below. Battleships coming out of Portland Harbour were constantly practising gunnery in the bay in front of us.

One day a live shell fell about 200 yards from

RINGSTEAD BAY AND UPTON HOUSE.
Shelled by H.M.S. *Anson* and H.M.S. *Iron Duke* in 1873.

the house and exploded, making a huge hole in the ground. A boat's crew came ashore, with a note from the Captain apologising for the "unfortunate incident," as well he might, taking away the pieces of shell and filling up the hole.

Next year more serious "unfortunate incidents" occurred, resulting in the following correspondence:

TREASURY, S.W.
May 10, 1893.

DEAR SIR EVAN MACGREGOR,

You may remember that last year I spoke to you about a shell which H.M.S. *Anson* threw into a field in which my house stands in Weymouth Bay. It was explained that this was an accident and that more care would be taken in future. The matter therefore dropped.

I have just been down to the house for a few days, and find that at least three more shells have been thrown into the adjoining field and woods a few weeks ago. I am also told that others were thrown and are embedded in the low cliffs at the bottom of the field. But of the three which I specify I have seen not only the fragments but also the holes in which they fell in the field, and the trees which they smashed in their course. One of them flew over the top of a little bungalow belonging to Colonel Pickard Cambridge. A girl passing through the wood (a public path) heard one hissing over her head and saw it fall and roll through the trees not far from her. I do not know what ships fired the shots, nor the exact date, but if necessary I can ascertain and collect exact evidence of the circumstances.

Meanwhile I wish to call serious attention to the matter. It was very well to pass over the incident of the single shell last year, but it is quite

impossible to pass over as unimportant the fall of 6 or 7 shells and perhaps more in two days. My own household and the people in the neighbourhood are seriously alarmed. The Public surely have a right to protection against such occurrences, whether due to accident or carelessness. I do not think, therefore, that it is too much to ask that a formal enquiry may be held and an explanation furnished; and also that some definite and distinct assurance may be given that such occurrences will be impossible in future.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. KEMPE.

From Sir Evan MacGregor

ADMIRALTY,
May 31, 1893.

SIR,

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have now received from Admiral the Earl of Clanwilliam, Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, the result of the very full enquiry which has been instituted in regard to the danger resulting from shot and shell fired from ships of war while practising in the neighbourhood of Portland, and a copy of the same is transmitted herewith.

2. My Lords desire to recognize the very temperate representations put forward by you, and direct me to convey to you the expression of their great concern and regret at the occurrences in question. They trust, however, that the measures now taken will effectually remove all risk of their recurrence.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
EVAN MACGREGOR.

"VICTORY" AT PORTSMOUTH,
May 26, 1893.

SIR,

In compliance with the directions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty contained in your letters of 5th April, 11th and 16th inst., enclosing complaints from residents in the neighbourhood of Portland that shot and shell from Ships of War practising have fallen close to their houses, I have the honour to report that I have caused full enquiries to be made on the spot by Captain Fanshawe of H.M.S. *Alexandra*. The evidence taken by that officer from the coastguard at Osmington, and from civilians, doubtless shows the complaints to be well founded, and that during the annual prize firing of past years projectiles have landed on the shore.

2. I have in consequence issued the enclosed orders which will prevent the possibility of a recurrence of such an accident.

I have furnished copies of it to the Officers commanding the Channel, Coastguard, and Training Squadrons.

I am, etc.,
(Signed) CLANWILLIAM,
Admiral.

THE SECRETARY, ADMIRALTY.

Additions to Art. 144, Clause 6 of Port Orders:

6. In order to prevent the possibility of projectiles falling on shore during target practice at the prize firing range off Portland, all firing is to take place between the bearings of E.S.E. and South (magnetic). No firing under any circumstances to be allowed to the Northward and Westward.

We hung the Fleet order up in our drawing-

room and no further "unfortunate incidents" occurred.

Later, I was dining out in London and sat next to a naval officer who, I knew, had served on the *Anson*, one of the ships practising. I narrated the little incident to him, and the only consolation I got was, "Well, we must practise somewhere." "Certainly," I said, "but there really was not room for it in my back garden!"

Some years after we were turned out of our house by the War Office, who wanted to build a fort on the site, corresponding to that at the end of the breakwater, so as to command the entrance to the harbour on both sides.

The post of Deputy Chairman of the Customs was, in my opinion, one of the most attractive in the Civil Service. The Deputy Chairman usually takes the control of the staff and discipline of the great service, which involves tours of inspection, for a couple of months every year, of about 150 ports and creeks round the coast of the United Kingdom, besides many coast-guard stations in more remote places at which Customs duties are undertaken. During my ten years' tenure of the office I completed the tour of the whole coasts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, with the outlying islands of Orkney, Shetland, the Hebrides, outer and inner, and those on the Irish coast, nearly twice, generally accompanied by my wife. We travelled by road, rail, or steamer as best we could, and accumulated delightful remembrances of the whole seaboard. It added much to the pleasure to be sure of a friendly greeting at every port in the United

Kingdom, and with the kind assistance of the officers I have made in my perambulations a complete collection of photographs of ports and creeks and any historic buildings or other points of interest right round the coasts. It is remarkable how many of our cathedrals and great civil buildings of antiquity are either upon or within easy reach of the coast. The collection is complete as regards England, Scotland, and the outlying islands, but I found it less possible to make a similar collection for Ireland, as the art of photography, perhaps on account of the paucity of tourists in those days, seemed to have made less progress there than in other parts of the United Kingdom.

An adequate description of the wide interest of these delightful tours of inspection would require a separate volume. It was pathetic sometimes to realize the awe with which the powers of "the Board" were regarded by a large and intelligent body of men, each individual officer with his own hopes and ambitions, perhaps in sole charge of a small port or creek. The prospects of promotion were of course a fruitful subject of anxiety with all. I was talking to one in charge of a lonely creek in Ireland and asking about his work. Though he was a zealous and good officer the claim to which he seemed to attach the greatest importance was that upon one occasion he had received a letter from "the Board" asking for some information, and he had sat up most of the night in order to get it ready for despatch the next morning. Such is the monotony of the duties of many a life in the great service.

One of those curious little coincidences which are sometimes startling occurred to me at what was then the "rising little port" of Seaham in Durham. I looked in as I passed a small mission church and found the old sexton at work. In the course of conversation he confided to me that last year they had "a rare good man as vicar, such an one as you seldom comes across: but he was ''ticed' away by some gentleman in London who wanted him for a new church he had built." I asked him the name of the former vicar. It was Wilkinson: his address was St. Peter's, Great Windmill Street, London. The gentleman who had "'ticed him away" was my father, and Wilkinson subsequently became Bishop of Truro! I had no idea that he had any connexion with Seaham.

In still older days the Board possessed a sailing yacht, the *Vigilant*, in which some of the visits were paid. In my time the *Vigilant* was a small screw steamer of about 140 tons, stationed in the Thames, with two or three smaller launches, for the convenience of boarding and searching vessels coming up the river: and in all the larger ports round the United Kingdom steam launches were provided for the use of the "Waterguard" service. The *Vigilant* was not large enough for inspection purposes at the more distant ports, but could be used on the south coast where good harbours are more frequent, from about Harwich to the Scilly Isles, and my wife and I completed more than one inspection in her of that section of the coast. Even the Lords of the Treasury, including Mr. Austen Chamberlain, then Secretary

of the Board, occasionally deigned to accept accommodation in her upon such occasions as great naval reviews.

For the discipline of the great service, as well as for dealing with cases of smuggling, the Commissioners had magisterial powers, and could impose heavy penalties upon culprits. The total of such fines hardly ever, so far as I can recollect in my time, exceeded £6,000 a year. Down to 1890 even such a vessel as a P. & O. liner of 10,000 tons was liable to forfeiture if smuggled tobacco was found on board. In that year our claws were cut by Sir Albert Rollit, who got an Act passed which a good deal limited the operation of the powers of forfeiture, but they were still pretty severe. Upon one occasion, while the Board were sitting as usual in the morning, transacting the business of the day, a telegram was handed in, with the information that a large ship was coming up the river, which had a heavy consignment of tobacco concealed on board. The Board at once sent the *Vigilant* down the river with a strong crew of examining officers to search the ship. They boarded her off the Nore, swarmed over the ship, searching every cranny, even taking up floors, but could find no trace. They telegraphed for instructions and the Board recalled the crew and sent another down the river at once, which boarded the ship off Gravesend and had another thorough search with no result. The ship brought up in the Pool, and the Board sent down a third crew for another search, as it had been ascertained that our information was to be trusted. This crew on getting on board found

the engine fires put out, a suspicious circumstance so soon after mooring. They waited until the furnaces had cooled down, then crept behind them and found a carefully prepared receptacle with a great store of tobacco. The owners were fined three times the value and duty, besides forfeiting the stuff. So far as I can remember fines and forfeiture exceeded £3,000 in value.

In those days we had in the Custom House a museum of objects in which smuggled goods had been discovered. It had probably been originally intended for initiating the examining officers into the arts of the smuggler, but it had become also an exhibition for the public and we decided to abolish it. The devices included lifebuoys, hollowed out Bibles, hollow brooms, and numberless other articles which it would be too tedious to describe. But even more simple devices could be made the source of a comfortable income. One of the objects in the museum was a small lamp which used to hang in the passage of one of the Channel steamers. A candid old sailor remarked at the investigation of the case, "Well, it's time you found it. Why, that lamp has come across full of cigars every day for the last twenty years." If this was true, half a pound of cigars a day would represent, at the then rate of duty, a profit of some £45 a year to the smuggler, and the boats often made the double passage twice a day. Some smuggling of the petty kind will no doubt always exist. But smuggling on a large scale represents in these days too great a risk to be worth taking; at any rate by the old-fashioned methods. The old picturesque smuggler running

his cargo on dark nights is a thing of the long past. The modern smuggler is a man of science, probably educated on the modern side of a public school: but more often he comes from Germany, a product of the higher commercial education by which she builds up her trade. The duty on sugar, for instance, is based upon the amount of "saccharin" contained in it. Pure saccharin is about 600 times as sweet as average sugar. If a pound of saccharin is stirred up in a sack containing a hundredweight of sugar, on which the duty in 1893 stood at 4*s.* 2*d.* the hundredweight, it is imperceptible to the eye, but increased the dutiable value of the sack by about 21*s.* besides the value of the saccharin. The intelligent student devises means by which the saccharin can be separated from the sugar, so that if the mixture is not discovered by the Customs a good profit accrues to him. We are therefore obliged to devise means to meet him on his own ground.

As Deputy Chairman of the Board of Customs I was for ten years an honorary member of the Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes, and often, when duty led me to Cowes, I took advantage of my privilege as member of the Club. When proceeding there in the *Vigilant* our skipper flew the white ensign at the stern, a privilege of the squadron. I did not feel quite easy about this little bit of ceremony, so upon the first occasion before we went to Spithead to attend a Naval Review I took the precaution to write to the Secretary of the Admiralty, who was a friend of mine, to ask him about our position. His reply was that if I flew the white ensign at the Review

I should probably be severely handled by the Admiral of the Fleet; the privilege attaching not to the member, but to the yachts belonging to the squadron, an honour which the *Vigilant* could not be allowed to claim. Perhaps the position was accentuated by the fact that, not long before, a seizure of smuggled tobacco had been made from a seaman on board the Prince of Wales's yacht, the *Britannia*.

In 1901 the sugar duties, which had been taken off by Sir Stafford Northcote in 1875, were reimposed. The changed circumstances of the day made it necessary to investigate carefully the organization of a new scheme for the duties. The introduction of saccharin into many branches of trade rendered necessary the establishment of laboratories at many of the ports, and the instruction of examining officers in the methods of ascertaining the duties appropriate to different varieties of the imported articles into which the use of sugar may enter. We had to visit the great factories and ascertain the effect that the reimposition of the duties would have upon them, and determine the simplest methods of collection. All this, affecting every port and many of the industries of the United Kingdom, meant much expenditure of time and brain-work in the organization. Life, even at the head of administration of one of the great Revenue Departments, has none of the glamour and stir of Downing Street, where the affairs of the nation are focused, thought out, and directed. It is the difference of being on the headquarters staff of an army in the field, and commanding one of its battalions.

The Revenue Departments are as the supply branch of the Army, carrying out decisions, of the object of which they may know nothing. That is not to say that there is no room for initiative or other interest in the work of a Revenue Department.

In May 1900 I received a letter from Mr. Balfour announcing that he had submitted my name to the Queen for the grant of the Companionship of the Bath, and shortly after I was summoned to Windsor to be invested.

Private.

FOREIGN OFFICE,
May 20, 1900.

DEAR SIR,

I am desired by the Prime Minister to inform you that in recognition of your services on the Board of Customs he has had great pleasure in submitting your name to the Queen for a Companionship of the Bath, and that Her Majesty has been pleased to signify her approval.

I remain, dear Sir,
Faithfully yours,
SIDNEY GREVILLE.

J. A. KEMPE, ESQ.

VICTORIA R.I.

VICTORIA, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India and Sovereign of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath.

To Our trusty and well-beloved John Arrow Kempe, Esquire, Deputy Chairman, Customs Establishment, greeting.

WHEREAS We have thought fit to nominate and appoint you to be an Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the Third Class or Companions

of our said Most Honorable Order of the Bath. We do by these presents grant unto you the dignity of a Companion of Our said Order, and hereby authorise you to have, hold and enjoy the said dignity and rank as an Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the Third Class or Companions of Our aforesaid Order, together with all and singular the privileges thereunto belonging and appertaining.

Given at Our Court at Windsor under Our Sign Manual and the seal of Our said Order this twenty-third day of May 1900, in the sixty-third year of Our Reign.

By the Sovereign's Command,
ALBERT EDWARD P.
Great Master.

Grant of the dignity of a Companion (Civil Division) of the Order of the Bath to John Arrow Kempe, Esquire.

69 S. GEORGE'S ROAD, WARWICK SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.
July 7, 1900.

SIR,

I have the honour, by direction of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Great Master of the Order of the Bath, to request your attendance, in Levee dress, at Windsor Castle, on Saturday next the 14th instant at about three o'clock, for the purpose of your receiving from Her Majesty, the Sovereign of the Order, the Insignia of a Companion of that most Honorable Order.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
ALBERT W. WOODD,
Garter,
Reg. & Sec. to the Order.

An answer is requested.

JOHN ARROW KEMPE, ESQ., C.B.

There were not much more than a dozen recipients. One of them was afflicted with a stiff leg, and as he obviously had a difficulty in kneeling, Her Majesty graciously stopped him and he went through the ceremony standing. We waited in an outer chamber and were ushered separately into the presence chamber. In those days, as the recipient went in, a hook was attached to the left breast, and the Queen hung the decoration upon it. After the ceremony we all lunched at the Castle. I sat next to Sir H. Ponsonby, and he explained to me that formerly Her Majesty used to fix the order on to the chest with a safety pin, but on one occasion the recipient was an Indian Rajah, clad in a tight-fitting golden gown. Her Majesty in pinning on the order took up a fold of his skin with his garment, and ran the pin through it. The Rajah had the nerve to make no sign until he got out of the presence chamber, when he fainted. After that the device of the hook was adopted.

CHAPTER XVIII

IMPRESSIONS OF COAST OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

I HAVE more than once been asked, "You have travelled nearly twice round the coasts of the United Kingdom and its outlying islands in your inspection of its ports and creeks, and once by sea in your researches with the Royal Commission on Lighthouse Communication. Have you ever written down the impressions you must have gained by such experiences?"

I agree that my reminiscences would be very incomplete without some record of experiences which have coloured deeply such large periods of my life. I have accumulated them, both from the sea and by land. I have no written record of them, except such as I have already given in these pages. Recalled at this distance of time, and at my age, they are more like beautiful dreams than vivid pictures. All the pains and penalties of travel by land and sea have fallen away from my memories of them, and what is left is perhaps exaggerated like a mirage; but if I am asked what has left the strongest impression upon me I think I can still give a fairly intelligible answer.

The coasts of the United Kingdom are undoubtedly unequalled in beauty and variety of interest by those of any country in the world. For this reason I have been tempted to devote

a separate chapter to the physical as apart from the personal and official features in my reminiscences of them. When my thoughts turn to these wanderings, as they often do, what in them rises most distinctly and with the most pleasure before my mind's eye?

The question is a difficult one to answer. It has two sides to it: the human and the natural, the human side being the magnificent buildings which abound all round our coasts, with the interesting studies they afford both historical and architectural; the natural, the wonderful beauty and grandeur of the scenes presented by the storm-beaten coasts of the United Kingdom and its islands. To answer the question it is impossible altogether to treat the human and natural elements of interest separately. The human mind inevitably derives its impression from both; but to a certain extent they may be treated separately.

To begin with the human side.

Of the 118 counties which constituted the United Kingdom of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland when I was at the Board of Customs, 77 have direct tidal communication with the sea. England has 20 out of 41; Wales 7 out of 12; Scotland 29 out of 33 (Selkirk, Peebles, Roxburgh, and Kinross being the only exceptions); Ireland has 21 out of 32. This difference has had more than its proportionate effect upon the architectural treasures of England and Wales, chiefly from historical and local influences applying most particularly to the East Coast. Of the 29 old cathedral churches (erected before the last century) 20, all of which I have seen, are either

at seaports or within easy reach of them, so that we (my wife generally accompanying me on my longer inspection journeys) were often furnished with entrancing food for our Sunday rest off duty, and with imperishable memories of the wonderfully beautiful and conscientious work of our ancestors. It is perhaps one of the most promising traits of the present generation that so many, as in Manchester, have returned to that innate love of architectural beauty and stateliness which moved the old builders, in spite of the modern attempts at the culture of mean and ugly ideals of art, both in painting, music, and literature. The same remarks apply to the great number of our finest specimens of lesser ecclesiastical foundations as well as to those of our domestic architecture.

To answer the question I have suggested, I would say that, of ecclesiastical buildings, Lincoln and Durham always take the first place in my thoughts, Canterbury being *hors de concours*, not being on the seaboard: and Westminster falling into the category of "minor ecclesiastical foundations."

In domestic architecture, Alnwick and Arundel Castles hold the palm, to my mind, among the stately buildings still occupied, and have no rivals on the seaboard, though there are others, such as Warwick Castle, which would compete with them inland.

Of the countless magnificent specimens of impressive beauty in ruins, ecclesiastical and domestic, especially on the East Coast, it would be impossible to compare the relative merits.

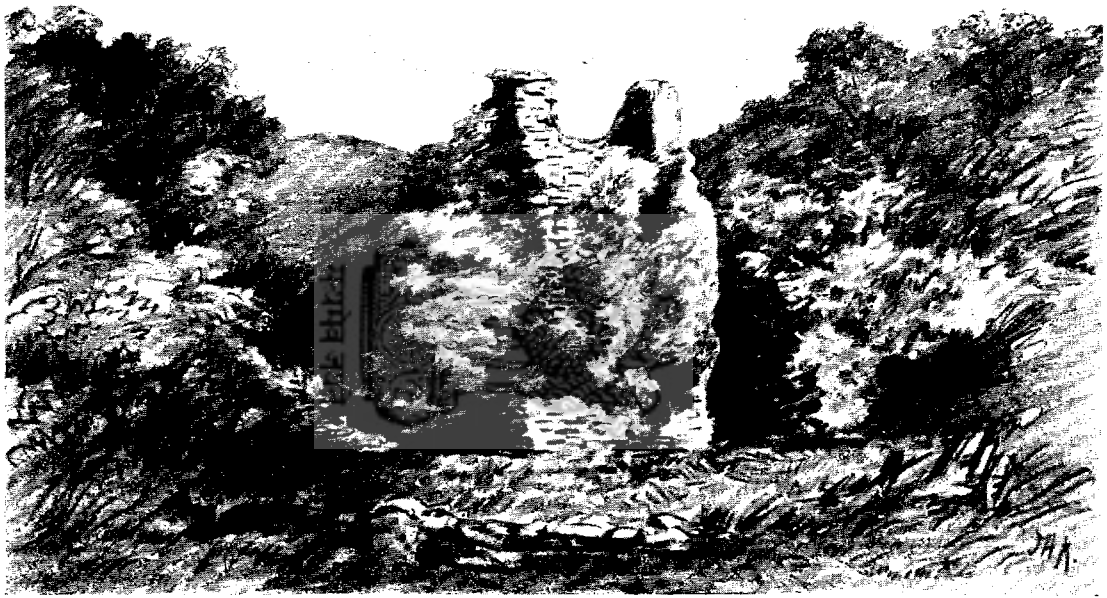
To turn to the question as regards purely natural

beauty, the picture which most immediately springs to my mind is that of the section of the Scottish coast in the extreme north, between Loch Laxford and Thurso. There are no architectural features to disturb it, and for pure beauty and grandeur of scenery I think it is unequalled. There are many single examples of splendid cliff and loch scenery in other places, such as Loch Inver, Loch Hourn, and Skye, as well as in the islands of the Outer Hebrides; but for the combination of all kinds of beauty in colour, atmosphere, form, and sentiment, no considerable extent of scenery dwells more strongly in my mind than this section of the coast—the solemn and overwhelming grandeur of Cape Wrath as seen from the sea, with the terrific Atlantic breakers dashing up into its gloomy hollows and the friendly lighthouse perpetually on guard at the top; the Kyle of Durness, with its Smoo cave; Loch Eriboll and Loch Hope, with the majestic view of Ben Loyal and Ben Hope in crossing the ferries; the lovely Kyle of Tongue, with the tender colours on a calm day over its shores and its long sweep of waters, which we crossed, carriage and all, in a sailing barge, and the more rugged grandeur of the coast as we approach Thurso and get a view of the Orkneys and the stern severity of Dunnet Head. Then follows naturally the remembrance of Stromness in the Orkneys, with the grim Scapa Flow, since desecrated by the suicide of the German Fleet in its deep waters; and the hollow basin of the Island of Hoy, where a scarce species of butterfly was said to have its habitat.

But beautiful as these natural pictures are without any aid from human associations, the section of the coast which always seems to spring first to my memory is that of the north coast of the Solway Firth. Here I may be affected by other than the natural influences. Walter Scott has always been one of my ideals, and my love of that coast has always been intensified by my love of *Guy Mannering* and *Redgauntlet*. From Dumfries to the Mull of Galloway the place is full of the fascinations of the Wizard. In my visits to the opposite coast of Cumberland, Silloth, Maryport, Workington, I always looked across the Firth to the lovely stretch of the North Solway shore in the distance with longing for my coming progress along that fascinating coast; and whenever I had to visit Ireland I always chose the route by Larne and Stranraer (not perhaps without some reference to the superior shortness of the sea passage) because even the train journey along it was full of delightful associations.

Annan, Dumfries, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright, Gatehouse of Fleet, Creetown, Newton Stewart, down to the Mull of Galloway are all sweet memories. It is not that the scenery surpasses or even equals that of many other parts of the coast. It is the atmosphere of association with tales that I have loved from my childhood which lends enchantment to it—the staves and salmon nets on the shore, the scene of the riots in *Redgauntlet*; the intense Scottishness of Annan and Kirkcudbright; with the solemn appeal of Castle Douglas and the tender beauty of St. Mary's Isle in the glow of an autumn sunset; Ravenhill

SOLWAY FIRTH.
Scene of the Salmon Stake Net Riots in *Redgauntlet.*
192]



BARHOLM CASTLE.
The " Ellangowan's Height " of *Guy Mannering*.
193]

with Dirk Hatteraick's cave, and Barholm Castle, the Ellangowan of "Bertram's might and Bertram's right." It is a coast full of dreams.

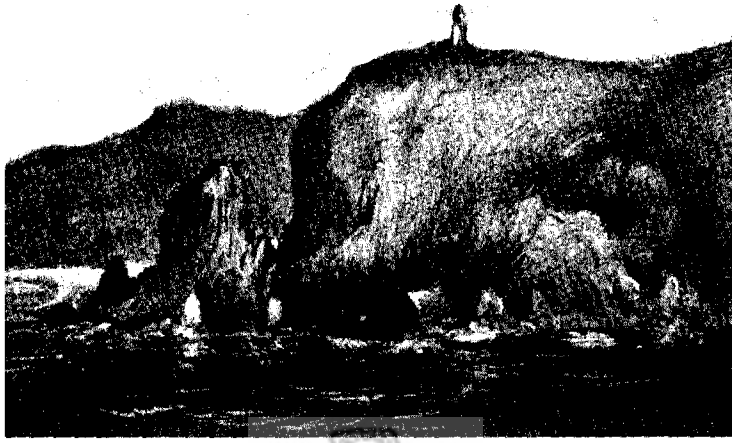
Next to these scenes I think I should put recollections of the north-west coast of Ireland. The contrast of the sentiment and colour on the wonderful coasts of Mayo, Galway, and Donegal with those on the west coast of Scotland is a striking one. The silvery purple and grey of Croagh Patrick rising out of the sombre colours of its bogs in the light of a beautiful evening, and the lovely estuary of Leenane on the coast of Galway, with its fuchsia hedges, dwell most in my memory; but Rathlin Island and the basaltic cliffs on the opposite shore with the Giants' Causeway (though somewhat disappointing in its proportions at high tide), which I visited with the Lighthouse Commission, make a beautiful picture to remember. Another bright dream is also my recollection of Parknasilla, in Kenmare on the south-west coast. The beauty of the spot is past description. In those days Mr. Balfour's wonderful development of the so-called "Atlantic Drive" had begun. The excellent "Southern Hotel" had been erected, but it had as yet attracted but few visitors and we had it almost to ourselves. It stands high, looking down upon a collection of exquisitely beautiful islets, revealing at low tide seaweed of brilliant colours round their shores. Some of them are connected together and with the mainland by small bridges. We wandered out among them, disturbing here and there seals which had been basking on the shore, and plunged immediately into the water out of sight. This was more than

twenty-five years ago, and the spot is probably now a fashionable watering-place.

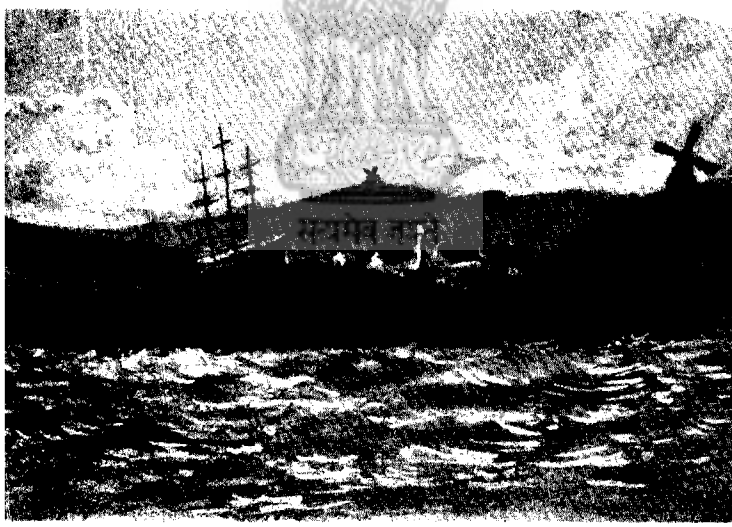
Another interesting remembrance is the island of Achill off the coast of Mayo. When we visited it, most of the turf-built dwellings had already gone to ruin, though we still found some old women at their distaffs in their smoke-dried abodes. But we chanced upon a funeral, with all the quaint customs of the place, more curious than pathetic. At the close of the ceremony everyone broke a large clay pipe and laid the fragments on the grave; and the mounds in the little churchyard were still covered with similar relics. The island is now converted into a sanctuary for sea-birds, and a more beautiful and appropriate home for them cannot be imagined.

Though the shores of the Atlantic seem to furnish the first thoughts of our wanderings, I have always been strongly attracted by the Mourne Mountains in County Down on the east coast of Ireland, especially by the lovely pile of Slieve Donard; and in the north-east of England by the stretch of coast between Berwick and Sunderland; but its attraction owes more to the human interest of its wonderful buildings, to which I have already referred, than to the beauty of its scenery. The main features of its interest to me are the Farne Islands with their two lights, one the Longstone associated with the story of Grace Darling; the other with the little chapel and cell of St. Cuthbert beside it, dating from the seventh century.

Another interesting feature of the islands is the Pinnacle Rock, the haunt of sea-birds, which I



APE WRATH, LOOKING EAST.



ILWCH, ANGLESEA.

have already noticed in the account of the visit of the Royal Commission.

In the south my most vivid impressions spring from the beautiful little Cornish harbour of Fowey, and its associations with " Q's " fascinating tales of Troy Town.

The coast of Wales presents less interesting features, especially from the sea, than other parts of the United Kingdom. But passing the picturesque little town of Amlwch, on the coast of Anglesey, untouched by the Irish mail route to Dublin via Holyhead, the sight of a ship of some hundreds of tons being built or repaired high up on the cliff, complete with masts and rigging, is somewhat startling; and seen after sunset on a fine evening made an interesting and beautiful picture not easily forgotten.

CHAPTER XIX

CUSTOMS—CORONATION OF EDWARD VII

ABOUT this time I was asked by the London Chamber of Commerce to give a lecture upon the Customs System of the United Kingdom. To do this, before a great gathering at Salters Hall of City men keenly interested in the working of the system, was an ordeal which required a good deal of study and thought, but gave me a useful insight into the bearing of it upon the commercial interests of the country. The lecture was afterwards published as one of a series of pamphlets which the London Chamber of Commerce issues upon subjects interesting to trade.

About 1902 we began again to be stirred up by the campaign of Joseph Chamberlain in the cause of "Tariff Reform." He obtained from us most of the material for statistics with which he built up his case, T. J. Pittar, the very able head of our Statistical Department, being an ardent Tariff Reformer. And here is an illustration of the great part which taxation may play in changing the whole political atmosphere and habits of a nation. The introduction of Free Trade was of course the great example of this. Protection as advocated by Disraeli might have wrought great changes and influenced the attitude of the nation

for generations both at home and abroad. But the time was not ripe for it. It has ripened since, with the growing feeling of the importance to us of our Colonial Empire, and the great possibilities which the encouragement of our trade with the Colonies by preferential treatment would open out. Chamberlain's system of tariff reform might have been too drastic a measure, but it suggested the haven into which we seem gradually drifting by sheer force of circumstance.

In August of this year (1902) King Edward VII was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE, NORFOLK HOUSE,
ST. JAMES'S STREET, S.W.
July 1902.

The Earl Marshal presents his compliments and encloses a new card of admission to their Majesties' Royal Coronation, at Westminster Abbey, a carriage ticket and a copy of the special police regulations for that day, the cards of admission issued for the 26th June last not now being available.

The Earl Marshal most earnestly begs for the immediate return of the enclosed cards if they cannot be made use of.

My wife and I were invited to the ceremony, and I cannot do better than give her account of it written in a letter to one of the children.

CORONATION DAY

August 9th, 1902

"The King has recovered, thank God, but the Coronation is *dead*."

This seemed the prevailing feeling when we came up to town on the Wednesday before the

great day, and it was certainly borne out by the quiet aspect of London and the rows of shuttered houses in the great squares and fashionable streets. No difficulty about finding cabs to take ourselves and luggage from the station, and no block to retard progress across Westminster Bridge and through Whitehall. Round the Abbey red cloth was being once more nailed to the seats in Parliament Street, and fresh corn attached to the Canadian Arch, but we noticed in many ground-floor windows, where seats *had* been erected, only barricades were now being fixed as safeguards against the crowd. There was none of that excitement we had all felt in June, and remembered as a unique sensation when London was looking forward to the great Diamond Jubilee.

On Thursday and Friday things cheered up a little. Decorations began to be impressive and what was lost in painstaking elaboration and finish was gained in simplicity of effect. Some of us thought the flags festooning Piccadilly even more effective than the first scheme of decoration.

A few carriages began to enliven the streets, notably those with the scarlet liveries of royalty. We felt ourselves one of the 7,000 important people who were to meet as a sort of family gathering in the Abbey to see that the King was safely crowned *this* time, and an end put to all the sinister forebodings and prophecies that had occupied the public mind so much. No one else outside this small circle mattered much. We had our fears as to whether we should really play our small part at all. Should we wake in time? Would the hairdresser, the carriage, come in time? Could a block at the last prevent our reaching the Abbey at 9.30 when the doors would be shut upon us?

The waking was no difficulty. At sunrise the

first salute was fired, so near to us that we felt the guns must have been posted at the point in the Park farthest from the King's ears and nearest to our own, and the great day had begun.

It seemed quite in order to put on our smartest attire at 6.30 a.m., grey satin and lace, bare shoulders and diamonds for the lady, and a coat heavy with gold lace, white breeches and silk stockings for the C.B. All seemed fitting and natural to wear, and even to breakfast in, on Coronation morning.

We had not even to wait for this impression till we got into the Park and soon found ourselves one of the select throng, in such wonderful variety of attire, making their way to the Abbey. We found we had joined " the line " as early in the route as Hyde Park Corner, having passed on the way a delightful company of Colonials in khaki on brown horses waiting in the park for their orders, and seen crowds of soldiers hurrying up from different points to line the route. In our *own* procession we had plenty to interest us in the carriages that passed and re-passed, peeresses with coronets carefully nursed, one a little maiden of tender years with a small velvet circle by the side of her to fit on her flowing locks. A G.C.B. with the geranium-coloured mantle of his order, tied on the shoulders with rather lady-like white satin bows, generals and admirals, civil servants, no end of variety that prevents a long wait in Victoria Street from being too monotonous. We did begin to get a little sleepy at last, and noticed the same weary look on the faces round us.

Suddenly, after crawling for nearly an hour, we began to drive on quickly, and found ourselves within the great temporary gates across the entrance to Westminster Square, through Dean's Yard and at the entrance in the Cloisters to the

South Nave of the Abbey, in a last quick rush. We crossed the threshold and were at once in the bay of the nave where our seats were placed close by one of the great pillars, and about five rows back from the passage left for the procession. This block of seats was already occupied by a large number of Civil Servants in high places, next to us the Chairman of Customs and his wife, the head of the Post Office and his wife, and below we saw the Maxwell-Lytes and the Courthopes in a brilliant throng.

It was now 9.30 and we were *amongst* the last, though not the last to enter. The peers and peeresses had an hour more allowed them, and were passing up the nave to the inner sanctuary behind the screen, for some time after we were seated. That inner sanctuary was quite hidden from our view, and it was difficult to realize how near to us the ceremony was to take place, the screen was so impervious. At the top of it the singers and trumpeters were placed, and were a brilliant throng above our heads.

The first procession from east to west, was the procession of priests with the regalia, and we recognized familiar faces in Deans and Canons; the Archbishop, whose head, looking shaggy and rather unkempt it must be confessed, rose above his brilliant cope, came in later with a tall son on either side, but even in *his* case the dignity of age and grey hairs more than held its own. Even youth and beauty were less remarkable than some of the older figures in their robes of state. We noticed particularly the old Duke of Rutland, whose splendid height and venerable white head made him quite an ideal knight, and the Secretary of the Treasury, a G.C.B. in one of the geranium cloaks, was a figure not to be forgotten.

The Queen's entrance, with her ladies, made us

hold our breath. She looked so young still, and there was a suggestion of weakness and nervousness especially when, half-way up the nave and near to where we were sitting, she faltered a little in her slow progress and turned and spoke to the Bishop of Oxford who was walking close to her left hand, that was infinitely pathetic. One thought of the anxiety so bravely borne by the one, and the deep trouble through which the other had passed so lately.

Coming back again after the Coronation with the radiant crown on the head that had been bare as she walked up, all this nervousness had gone, and she was a Queen, with only a regal aspect and far removed from ordinary mortals.

It was the *King* who seemed most in touch with us then, and the cheers that started within the Abbey behind the screen—we wondered if the Archbishop had led them off—gathered and swelled as he moved down the lines a crowned monarch, and we all greeted him with a relief and joy past words.

The interval between his arrival, walking with bent head and slow step, and vanishing under the archway of the screen where so much was happening, was a blank to us in the nave, coloured only by the music and singing that reached our ears as the service went on. We heard and recognized the notes of the Archbishop's voice, but nothing that the King himself said was audible to us, and we could only follow the service by guess-work in the little book provided for each guest.

The time the ceremony took did not seem long to us, and soon began the exit from the Abbey. People wore their crowns and coronets with a difference. The Queen, who ever seems to have the right and becoming head-dress, be it a "sailor" hat or a jewelled crown, *did* look lovely as she

walked down the aisle. I believe the ladies' trains were a radiant spectacle from the galleries, but while our nearness enabled us to see the faces of all, this particular feature of the procession was lost to us in some degree. The coronets with the white ermine next the face gave to most faces a curiously dark complexion which was quite startling.

Looking back, I remember most distinctly the figures and coroneted heads of the Duke of Wellington (looking much the same as at Valescure, dignified but slightly bored), bearing the Imperial Standard, with his train held up by the "little Wellesley boy"—Lord Kitchener, very stiff and impassive, wearing his coronet as if he had done so all his life—Mr. Balfour, a *most* impressive Commoner in plain hair—and lastly the figure of the Lord Chancellor (Halsbury) with his wig, on the top of which, jauntily cocked on one side, rested his coronet! The effect was too comic, and a scarcely suppressed titter ran down the nave as he passed along. Our impression is that he rather enjoyed the effect produced upon the Coronation guests by his appearance.

We were asked to wait till the last procession had passed, and could not have done otherwise, as any attempt to "slip out at the back" was met politely but firmly by the gentlemen ushers in court dress (who were, however, the very pink of courtesy) with a request to "keep our seats."

At last we turned to go, half sorry it was all over even at the end of the six hours we had been in our seats. The change from the brilliant nave to the bare scaffolding behind us under which we reached the bare stairs and finally the familiar cloister, where the sunshine had departed and a soft rain was beginning to fall, was very marked and not too pleasant. People were hurrying off

in every variety of costume, each and all bent on getting "home" as fast as they could, and caring little or nothing what effect they produced *now*. Peeresses gathered up their robes and tucked their coronets into safe corners, ladies of lower degree twisted their long veils round their throats and picked up flowing skirts, and pages in scarlet dresses, and perfectly at home in them, scampered along. The poor men tried their hardest to get unaccustomed skirts in hand, generally with the funniest result, but the grey cloister made a background for it all that took the eye and made one forget detail in satisfaction at the effect of form combined with the unwonted colour.

At last our party of three—we had joined a friend in a carriage whose husband was riding in the procession—met, and we moved with the rest to Dean's Yard. There the usual chaos—a crowd of footmen waiting for orders and nobody to give them, for the right master and the right man never come within speaking distance on these occasions—carriages driving up drearily and driving away again empty as they came up, to fall into the line once more. Occasionally by a happy chance someone found his conveyance, and at last our turn came and we departed, feeling at last that we were tired and hungry. We had promised to go to lunch with Uncle Alfred, who as Vice-President represented the Royal Society at the ceremony, and felt some compunction at leaving our host and hostess on the pavement still waiting when we drove off; but this was tempered with a natural elation at having found our carriage first by pure and happy chance, when a well-matured plan of action of Uncle Alfred's and his coachman to get away at the first possible moment had failed to come off.

We met at last at Porchester Square and flat-

tered ourselves we were rather a brilliant little luncheon party, a decorated general in scarlet, a C.B. in civil uniform of the second class, a court dress of black velvet, and three brilliant dames whose dresses must be seen to be appreciated.

It was discomforting to find after we adjourned to the drawing-room, that these splendours, satin, lace and diamonds, scarlet coat, gold lace and cocked hat, could not compensate to the little son of the house for a father in a plain black coat who had to go and lie down with a bad headache instead of coming up to see his baby. Humphry would have none of us, and roared the louder at every fresh attempt to comfort him.

CHAPTER XX

LETTERS TO "TIMES" ON TREASURY CONTROL

AMONG my friends in the House of Commons was Thomas Gibson Bowles, member for King's Lynn, a man of great ability and humour, but erratic. An attack sprung up in *The Times* upon "Treasury control" of the Public Departments. As there seemed no one inclined to take up the case for the defendant I ventured to address the Editor. My letter was published, and I had to follow it up by a good many others, all signed "K." Gibson Bowles joined in the fray, and the controversy was finally closed by a leading article. This led to a pleasant friendship with him which lasted until his death. He was, I think, at one time, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, or at any rate a leading member of it, and was always interested in my connexion with it as Comptroller of the Exchequer and Auditor-General, writing to me frequently or coming to the Audit Office to discuss financial questions which arose in Parliament.

Judged by other departments the Treasury is, of course, the most unpopular in the Civil Service. As the subject is one of permanent interest, I venture to give a selection from the letters to *The Times* which, though perhaps too long and too many, I think give a fair view of the controversy.

It is important and perennial, not a mere passing attack of discontent. In the course of years some changes have been made, but they cannot in my opinion alter the inevitable tension between the Exchequer and those who are struggling for what are, no doubt, very important matters; but their very importance tends to obscure the more general difficulties of finance. The wood cannot be seen for the trees. Committees of enquiry may come and go, but I do not myself believe that any changes of really essential importance can be made in the relations of the Treasury to the finances of the nation:

Treasury Control

To the Editor of "The Times"

Sir,

We may, perhaps, assume that some central control outside the spending departments of the State is admitted to be necessary for the proper regulation of the public finances. The questions which arise are with regard to the constitution of such a controlling power, its composition, and its practice. With regard to its constitution, it is difficult to conceive a more appropriate foundation for such a control than the Minister who is constitutionally responsible to Parliament for the regulation of the national revenue and expenditure, whether the Board, of which he is a nominal member, be a fiction or a reality. Whatever form of responsible head or body be adopted, it must have the assistance of a permanent staff, whether the whole be called the Treasury or by any other name. The staff of the Treasury under its existing constitution is composed of a body of highly educated gentlemen,

who have either gained their places by open competition with some of the most distinguished University men of their day or have been selected for their merits from other departments, which are manned with an equally capable staff. Surely such a body of men, with the advantage of the wide experience gained by close and constant acquaintance with leading men and affairs of all departments of the State, are as likely to bring to bear upon the financial and other questions with which they have to deal as much common sense and honesty, and as little prejudice, as a body of men selected by any other conceivable method.

The common allegation comes to this—that the financial control of the Treasury is exercised with more regard to the abstract exigencies of finance than to the real importance of the matters brought before them, and that thereby the functions of responsible Ministers in other departments are overridden by them.

It may be that the abstract exigencies of finance are put in the forefront by the Treasury. That is their function. But the application of it is guided by judgment formed upon the representation of their case by the department desiring to spend. Experts are not required for such a judgment. They are provided by the pleading department. The function of the Treasury is rather to carefully discriminate among the too numerous applications than to pronounce an absolute judgment upon their merits. For no Parliament would agree to unlimited expenditure; therefore some limit must be imposed and someone must be responsible for seeing that the limit is observed. The Treasury is in the position of being able to take a comprehensive survey of all the various proposals, to exclude those to which

they may be able, by their general experience, to detect objection, co-ordinate others so as to ensure as far as possible equal treatment, and select those for which, in their judgment, a strong case is made out. But the permanent staff has not the final word in the matter. If any department is aggrieved, they have their representative in the Cabinet, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer must justify or give way. The Government makes itself responsible. Against the decision of the Government, or of the Treasury if the department had no other representative in the Cabinet, there is the appeal to Parliament. What better system could be devised?

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
K.

February 7.

TREASURY CONTROL

To the Editor of "The Times"

SIR,

Your correspondent "Administrator," while admitting my proposition, tries to turn the flank of the question by assuming that the complaints of Treasury control are well founded, merely on the ground that "there can be no smoke without fire." But proverbs are dangerous arguments, and it would be more satisfactory if he would base his sweeping indictment upon the tangible evidence of specific illustration. Is there any serious ground for the complaints? The control exercised by the Treasury touches many interests, and is of its very nature necessarily irritating. Small fires may produce the greatest volume of smoke.

"Administrator" gives us a picture of the inner working of the Cabinet which is, no doubt,

based upon knowledge. But is he not placing upon the Prime Minister a somewhat serious task if he asks him personally to master and compose all the injustices alleged against the Treasury? Would not "Administrator" discriminate between the more and less important? All, doubtlessly, may relate to proposals of great importance in themselves, but some will be relatively less important than others. The rejection of any of them may cause just annoyance to a Department which knows and feels that its proposals are for the public good; yet it may nevertheless be necessary to rule them out, at any rate temporarily, to meet the exigencies of finance. Surely in the judgment of any prudent householder this reason will be regarded as sufficient for economy in any but matters of the highest moment. If, on the other hand, the matters are of such importance that even the interests of economy must give way, is it conceivable that proposals so seriously affecting the State would be allowed to drop by the Minister responsible for them? Has "Administrator" reason to know that such an appeal by a Minister has ever failed because the rest of the Cabinet have been unable to grasp the details? And when it is made, then has not the Government made itself responsible for the decision? Does not common rumour credit a Chancellor of the Exchequer with having tried and failed, even to resignation, in an attempt to force Treasury control upon the Cabinet?

The question seems to me still unanswered—given the necessity of control in the interest of financial equilibrium, what better system could be devised?

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
K.

Feb. 12.

The Treasury

To the Editor of "The Times"

Sir,

As no one else appears inclined to take up the cudgels on behalf of the Treasury, I hope I may be allowed a few words in reply to Mr. Gibson Bowles. His attitude differs from that of your other correspondents, because he does not confine his complaints to the manner in which the Treasury control is exercised, but he would abolish the control altogether, except for purposes of "high finance"; by which I understand him to mean the mere devising of expedients for providing ways and means, the regulation of balances, and generally keeping the national accounts. He regards the Treasury in other respects as a "fifth wheel" to the coach; the financial progress and safety of the State being sufficiently provided for by the other four, which are the spending departments, the Cabinet, the House of Commons, and the Exchequer and Audit Department. The last of these, though indispensable as a means of ensuring that the money voted by Parliament is applied to the purpose for which it is appropriated, and that all the financial machinery is in proper working order, has no influence in controlling the origination of expenditure. For checking any tendency to extravagance by the spending departments Mr. Bowles would apparently trust to the control of the Cabinet and the House of Commons alone.

But what machinery have these two bodies for such a function? Have they time or means for effective mastery of the enormous mass of detailed estimates contributed by every department of the State They can with advantage control the general subjects of expenditure, but surely some

trained permanent staff is necessary to assist them in the co-ordination of details, unless the spending departments are to be left to exercise each its own discretion subject to the idiosyncrasy of successive political chiefs? From this point of view, the Treasury can hardly be described as the "fifth wheel" of the coach. It is rather the stout and necessary buffer regulating and guarding against the effect of the momentum of the spending departments behind the engine of the State.

Mr. Bowles sums up the iniquities of the Treasury in the accusation that it thwarts the spending departments at every turn, by cutting down necessary new expenditure, refusing increase of staff, and denying permission to make pressing purchases at the proper moment. The mere recital of these accusations is sufficient to suggest the impossibility of any antecedent control of expenditure by such bodies as the Cabinet and the House of Commons, without permanent expert assistance such as is supplied by the Treasury. It is no doubt true that the staff of the Treasury are not experts in the sense of having been trained by direct contact with the pressure of the concrete facts and difficulties which other departments have to encounter. But neither are our Judges expert in this sense; yet they are not less capable of bringing their intelligence to bear upon the diverse questions with which they have to deal, from the special point of view from which it is their duty to regard them. Upon one, however, of the sets of questions to the treatment of which by the Treasury Mr. Bowles takes exception, they may claim to be regarded as experts. For no other department can pretend to the wide experience which the Treasury is able to bring to bear for the co-ordination of questions of staff,

of organization and pay. Yet it is in this matter that the complaints of Treasury control are the loudest; it is from the accumulation of these small fires that the greatest volume of the proverbial smoke arises.

To what Mr. Bowles refers when he accuses the Treasury of forcing on expenditure in order to get rid of surpluses, it is not easy to say. But if any such action is taken, it is clearly due not to the caprice of Treasury control, but to the constitutional requirement that all balances of votes unexpended are to be surrendered to the Exchequer at the close of the financial year. If there is any blame to be assigned for this, it is to the Parliamentary, and not the Treasury, system.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

K.

Feb. 15.

To the Editor of "The Times"

SIR,

Having regard to the consensus of adverse opinions as expressed in your columns regarding the Treasury clerk and his baneful effect on all State Departments, perhaps you will again afford me space for a parting word in reference to my suggested remedy in the shape of a highly-qualified "advisatory board" sitting at the Treasury.

While all your correspondents have admitted the evil, no one has, to my mind, framed any really practical proposal for dealing with it adequately. "Verax's" objection to my suggested board is that many of the permanent heads of the several State offices are ex-Treasury clerks wedded to the system, and argues that,

this being so, the proposed remedy must be ineffective.

He appears to forget, however, that the heads of the Army and Navy Departments, which are most directly affected, never have been, nor ever can be, ex-Treasury clerks. Nor is such the case with many State offices which could be named. Even if it were so, why should any man who has passed through the Treasury mill necessarily lose all his independence when he ceases to belong to that body?

I can safely aver from examples which could be given that, so far from this being the case, these are the very men who, having as heads of departments agonized under the system while so placed, and being better than all others acquainted with all the tricks of the trade, are better qualified than any others for combating the pernicious system, if given a potential position such as I suggest.

There is no reason, moreover, why a Government should not call in the aid of any qualified outsider if eminently qualified for taking his place on the board I propose.

"REFORMER."

I have ventured to give some of the letters at full length as, though no doubt they will be "caviare" to the man in the street, the controversy has again of late years been raging in the Press and in Parliament, and I think they represent fairly the views then held by the Treasury upon the principle and practice of Treasury Control. I have unfortunately no note of the year in which they appeared in *The Times*; but I think they must have been written when I

was upon the Board of Customs. I probably signed them "K" only, mindful of Lord Rosebery's caution to me at my interview with him on my appointment to the Board not to reveal too much "Treasury-mindedness" in the administration of a great Department.

CHAPTER XXI

COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL—K.C.B.—FUNERAL OF KING EDWARD

In 1903 the Chairmanship of the Board of Customs became vacant. In the prosecution of his Tariff Reform campaign Mr. Chamberlain wanted a Tariff Reformer at the head of the Customs, and Mr. Balfour offered me the post of Assistant Comptroller and Auditor-General with reversion to the Comptrollership which was due to be vacant in six months' time. Mr. Pittar was appointed to the Chairmanship of the Board. I succeeded to the Comptrollership of the Exchequer in 1904.

10 Downing Street, Whitehall, S.W.,
Dec. 10, 1904.

Dear Mr. Kempe,

It gives me much pleasure to inform you that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve of your appointment as Comptroller and Auditor-General.

I ought to add that it must be a condition of the appointment that the rule as to retirement at the age of 65 applies.

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
Arthur James Balfour.

The post is an important one, being subject to no authority but that of the House of Commons,

of which the Comptroller is an official. He is appointed by Letters Patent under the Great Seal, of which I was furnished with a beautiful impression in red wax about 4 inches in diameter, with the status of a judge removable only by resolution of the House of Commons. Hence the condition attached to the appointment of late years that the holder is to conform to the rule of retirement at the age of sixty-five. The Comptroller sits with the Public Accounts Committee at the House as Assessor, while the expenditure of all the Departments of the State is being scrutinized upon his Report as Auditor-General. This involves a good deal of attendance both upon the Public Accounts Committee and in the House while financial discussions are going on, so that once more I was thrown into close touch with the House of Commons and the Treasury. Only this time with reference to the results instead of to the initiation of national expenditure. The Comptroller has almost daily to sign the heavy drafts, amounting to many millions, for issues from the Exchequer, and his staff are continuously engaged, all over the country, with concurrent audit of the expenditure.

I was at this time asked by the Board of Trade to be chairman of a small committee appointed to consider what changes would be necessary in the staff of the Patent Office in consequence of the passing of the Patent Act of 1902. I had already, in 1897, served upon another committee with regard to changes in that office.

In those days the check of the House of Commons upon the expenditure of Public Departments

was a very superficial one. The Public Accounts Committee sat for the greater part of the Session examining the expenditure by the light of the Auditor-General's Reports. Their own Report lay upon the table of the House, but few if any other Members of Parliament ever set eyes upon it, unless some subject in which they happened to be interested induced them to look, and see what the P.A.C. thought about it. A feeling now arose that more advantage should be taken of the labours of the Committee, and it was resolved that a day should be set apart for the consideration of their Report. At the conclusion of the first discussion:

Extract from "Hansard"

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith) (Fifeshire, E.), in appealing to the House to bring the debate to a close, acknowledged that the discussion had been a fruitful one, and said he thought that the innovation of setting apart a day for the consideration of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee was a valuable precedent, and one which he hoped would be followed in the future. On behalf of the Treasury he recognized the admirable assistance which the Treasury received, in controlling the other Departments of the State, which were responsible for the expenditure of public money, from the rigid scrutiny of the Public Accounts Committee, and further, he thought it was not sufficiently borne in mind by the House, the enormous obligation they were under to the Comptroller and Auditor-General, who was not a servant of any Department but solely of this House. He suggested that the House ought not to pass away from the discussion without a unanimous acknow-

ledgment of the Comptroller and Auditor-General's services. He hoped that with this expression of opinion the House might now be allowed to pass to the orders of the day.

Question put, and agreed to. (Hansard, Aug. 23, 1907.)

It is not everyone who can boast of having had a formal expression of thanks passed to him by the House of Commons upon the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, then Mr. Asquith, afterwards Prime Minister.

I was at this time asked by the Treasury to be chairman of a committee to draw up the regulations required for the issue of Pensions under the Old Age Pensions Act which had just become law.

TREASURY CHAMBERS, WHITEHALL, S.W., *July 2*, 1908.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

Under Clause 10 of the Old Age Pensions Bill the Treasury and Local Government Board have to issue regulations, which will be very important, as nearly the whole machinery for granting the pensions will be governed by them.

I am getting together an Inter-Departmental Committee to draft them; and I am anxious to get a competent outsider unconnected with any of the Departments concerned to act as Chairman of the Committee. Can you undertake the job? I should be very much obliged if you will.

The Treasury (Bradbury), Inland Revenue (Meers and Crowly), Local Govt. Board (Monro), Post Office (Swayne), and perhaps Scotch Office (Dodds) will be represented; and I have secured a draughtsman from Thring's Office.

The Committee ought to get to work at once as the regulations ought to be in a shape fit for con-

sideration by the end of this month; though we cannot very well get them issued before the autumn.

Yours sincerely, G. H. MURRAY.

Some alterations have been made in the regulations for Old Age Pensions by later Acts, but for many years those we drew up governed the procedure of the grants.

In 1909 I received from the King the honour of a K.C.B.

10 DOWNING STREET, WHITEHALL, *June* 1909.

DEAR MR. KEMPE,

I have the pleasure, with the King's approval, of proposing that you should receive the honour of a K.C.B. on His Majesty's approaching birthday.

Yours very truly, H. H. ASQUITH.

It may be of some interest to those who have not undergone the ceremony to give the whole of the order of it, including the minute directions as to dress and the order as to the adjustment of the Badge, with its subsequent alteration.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE,
ST. JAMES PALACE, S.W., *July* 1, 1909.

SIR,

The King will hold an Investiture at Buckingham Palace on the 22nd instant at 12 o'clock noon and I am to inform you thereof and to desire your attendance accordingly, in order that His Majesty may invest you with the

Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (Civil Division).

An immediate reply is requested in order that you may be furnished with the necessary card of summons.

Levee Dress should be worn with Decorations and Medals.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS DAWSON, Colonel.
Registrar & Secretary.

J. A. KEMPE, ESQ., C.B.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD
LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE,
ST. JAMES PALACE.

A Knight Commander to be invested by His Majesty is to attend in Levee Dress, *with* Decorations and medals, but if promoted from a lower class in the Order he is *not* to wear the Insignia of such lower class.

On being admitted into the Royal Presence he will advance opposite the King and make the usual reverence bowing, and then kneel on the right knee.

The Sovereign will then confer upon him the honour of knighthood (if not already a knight) by placing the sword on both shoulders.

The Knight will remain kneeling and His Majesty will proceed with his Investiture by placing the Riband with badge appendant round his neck, and affixing the Star on his left breast. The Knight will raise his right arm horizontally, and His Majesty will then place his hand on the wrist of the Knight, who will raise it to his lips.

The Knight will then rise and retire from the Royal Presence with the like reverence that he made on entering.

N.B.—Those attending the Investiture will leave their cocked hats, helmets, etc., in the lower hall. They should wear one glove, on the left hand. Swords are *not* to be hooked up.

K.C.B. The Most Honourable Order of the Bath

The Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order should be worn in the following manner:

The Riband with the Badge is worn round the neck inside and under the collar of the uniform coat so that the Badge may hang about 2 inches below the collar, the Star being affixed to the left breast.

Followed almost immediately by this correction:

The Riband of the Badge is worn round the neck inside and under the collar of the uniform coat, so that the badge may hang about ¾ of an inch below the collar.

29 HYDE PARK GATE, S.W.,
June 25, 1909.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

Many congratulations on your K.C.B., which I am delighted to see in the list this morning.

Yours sincerely,
H. BABINGTON SMITH.

I am told that my method of address is the strictly correct one till you have been knighted by the King.

J. A. KEMPE, ESQ., K.C.B.

18 GREAT COLLEGE ST., WESTMINSTER,
June 25, 1909.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

Please accept my warm congratulations on the honour conferred on you to-day.

Yours sincerely,
WALTER RUNCIMAN.

TREASURY CHAMBERS, WHITEHALL, *June* 25, 1909.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

I derive a double pleasure from your promotion—first on your own account, and secondly as possibly creating the vacancy in the lower class for me. Please accept my warmest congratulations.

A cynic once said that the E. & A. D. Act was only workable because the Executive Government is the fountain of honour. You have proved this to be a libel, for have you not made the P.A.C. denounce the Treasury and carried off a K.C.B. in the same Session?

Yours very sincerely, JOHN BRADBURY.

[On a visiting card]

SIR J. A. KEMPE, K.C.B.

With Mr. Austen Chamberlain's hearty congratulations. 9 Egerton Place, S.W.

11 STRATTON ST., *July* 1, 1909.

DEAR KEMPE,

I had not the opportunity the other night at the C. of E.'s of offering you my hearty congrats on your new honour, all which you have personally earned and which also fits well the important office which you have so well filled.

Always yours sincerely, WELBY.

Pray abide by your well-known official name, Sir John Aloysius, and don't be misled by any scruple as to your baptismal name.

DESART COURT, KILKENNY, *June* 25, 1909.

DEAR KEMPE,

Hearty congratulations to you on this tribute to your long and distinguished public service.

It is a far cry to the old days when we were both at the Treasury.

I find cultivating my cabbages very pleasant—but I propose to come to London on Monday for a short time.

Yours ever, DESART.

Upon the death of King Edward VII in 1910, as Comptroller of the Exchequer I received an invitation to attend the funeral at Windsor, also to Lunch in St. George's Hall.

Those invited had all to attend in court dress, and the spectacle was a brilliant one. We were all conveyed by special trains to Windsor, finding seats in the carriage at our own discretion. On the journey down I found myself in company with two German Uhlans and two gentlemen of the blackest possible hue—one, with a brilliantly polished complexion, in resplendent full-dress uniform; the other equally dark, but with a complexion dull and "flatted," in ordinary evening dress with a white tie. The sixth occupant of the carriage was a Bishop unknown to me.

I occupied a favourable seat, upon crowded benches, in the ante-chapel. The heat was intense; but the array of distinguished persons in full court dress was sufficiently interesting to pass the time until the funeral procession filed through into the chapel. The procession was most impressive, though those following in it, crowded together with no order, seemed even more oppressed by heat than the lookers-on. The music was beautiful, and the whole spectacle one never to be forgotten. We were all provided with books of the service, bound in purple velvet.

Upon the return journey I found myself in the

company of Mr. and Mrs. Winston Churchill, the Bishop of London, the Archbishop of York (I think), and an officer in brilliant uniform. The Bishop was sitting next to Mr. Churchill. I had a little conversation with the Bishop, whom I knew, and then Mr. Churchill remarked to him, "I never could understand the meaning of 'The strength of sin is the law.'" I could not quite follow the discussion, which seemed chiefly to rest upon the arguments, on the one side that sin preceded the law, which therefore did not strengthen it but weakened it; on the other that the law precedes sin, and therefore there can be no sin without law. He and the Bishop discussed the question a good part of the way up to London, while I was conversing with the brilliant soldier sitting by my side.

In the earlier days of my tenure of the Office of Comptroller and Auditor-General, I had the appointment of Auditors for the Crown Colonies. The nominees were generally selected from B.A.'s or men in residence at Oxford or Cambridge, and they spent a year at the Audit Office learning the Audit duties and methods. Amongst those whom I appointed was my nephew, W. A. Kempe, son of my eldest brother, the Rev. E. W. Kempe, who subsequently rose to be Treasurer of Kenya Colony. He made his mark in financial administration. The period covered by his service witnessed the rise of the colony from a very humble Protectorate, with an insignificant revenue and expenditure, to a Crown Colony with an annual budget of large proportions, and his sudden death cut short a career of great promise.

In connexion with my long and close relations with the House of Commons which now came to an end, I have said little about my impressions of individual members apart from Ministers. Among the many fine speakers I have heard there are two who always stand out vividly in my memory. One was Sir Robert Peel (3rd Baronet). He had a striking presence and a fine voice, but was rather grandiloquent in delivery, though with plenty of action. His speeches were a flood of splendid eloquence with great debating power, the House always filling up when he rose. Perhaps his finest speech was one he delivered during Gladstone's campaign on the Bulgarian horrors. With one hand raised above his head he closed his peroration, in an impassioned voice which thrilled the House, with

"Tantum religio potuit suadere malorum!"

The other great speaker was Joseph Cowen, Member for Newcastle. He spoke with a strong north-country accent, almost like a working man, but his eloquence was most vivid. In a debate during the advance of Russia on Constantinople in 1878 he elaborated one of the finest similes I have ever heard, comparing her influence over Europe to that of a gigantic iceberg, numbing all the nations with which she came into contact. He too was always listened to with rapt attention.

CHAPTER XXII

RETIREMENT—CHAIRMAN OF LOCAL TAXATION COMMITTEE

In the year 1911 I retired from the Office of Comptroller of the Exchequer and Auditor-General at the close of forty-four years in the Civil Service.

I had been on the pleasantest relations with successive chairmen of the Public Accounts Committee, including Mr. Arthur O'Connor, Mr. Victor Cavendish (afterwards Duke of Devonshire) and Sir Robert Williams, and upon my retirement I had the honour and pleasure of being entertained at dinner at the House of Commons by the Chairman (Sir R. Williams) and the members of the Committee.

In proposing my health Sir Robert made some kind remarks as to my special suitability for the post; and in my reply I told a little story with reference to this. The old gardener (Downton) at Osmington Vicarage was well known to people in Dorset (including Sir Robert, our member) for his quaint sayings. He was once talking about the dispensations of Providence in regard to employment. "As I says to my wife, if we had the ordering of our own lives instead of the Almighty, it is like we should make a greater mess of it than He do!"

SIR JOHN A. KEMPE, K.C.B.
After a portrait by Miss C. Ouless.

At the last sitting of the Committee at which I attended the chairman addressed to me some very kind words of farewell.

FROM PROCEEDINGS OF "SELECT COMMITTEES" OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Committee of Public Accounts

Chairman: Sir John Kempe, the Committee understand that this is probably your last appearance here as Comptroller and Auditor-General, and I want, on behalf of the Committee, and on my own behalf, to express their sorrow at losing you from the position you have occupied (hear, hear)—and also their sense, not only of the pleasantness, but of the great ability with which you have conducted your business all the way through, and the great services you have rendered to the Nation, to Parliament, and to this Committee during your tenure of the Office of Comptroller and Auditor-General.

Sir John Kempe

I thank you very much indeed for the very kind way in which you have spoken of my services. The great kindness and consideration which the Committee have throughout extended to me will always be a pleasant recollection to me.

I am afraid that of recent years my Reports must have occasionally seemed rather meagre, but I should like it to be understood that it is not the fault of my department; it is to be attributed to the great excellence of the ideas of the framers of the Exchequer and Audit Act, under which so great an improvement has taken place throughout the Public Service in Accounting. I should like to express, if I may, my thanks for, and to commend to the Public Accounts Committee

the services of my department to myself—I think the Committee owe a great deal to them, more than they do to me—and especially I would mention Mr. Gibson, whose services I cannot value too highly. (Hear, hear.)

CHATSWORTH, CHESTERFIELD,
May 3, 1908.

DEAR MR. KEMPE,

Please accept my best thanks for your kind reference to myself.

I miss the House of Commons more than I can say, and I am particularly sorry to leave the Public Accounts Committee. I am fully aware of my own deficiencies as Chairman, but I look back upon my term of office with great pleasure, which to a very considerable extent is due to the support and consideration which I always received from you yourself and your department. You not only made my work pleasant, but you did much to help me in making the Committee a really useful body, whose work is appreciated by those who have any knowledge of our financial system.

Again thanking you for all you have done for me,

I am,
Yours v. truly,
DEVONSHIRE.

At the risk of being accused of conceit, I append an extract from an article in the *Civilian* upon the occasion of my retirement from the service:

We are bound to say that, judged even by this exacting standard, Sir John Arrow Kempe, K.C.B., lately Comptroller and Auditor-General, will not

be found wanting. During his more than six years' tenure of that important office he has had to deal with a great variety of administrative problems, ranging from the elucidation of the chaotic finance of the Boer War to the systematizing of the novel circumstances created by recent legislative activities. Always his treatment of these has displayed the care, conscientiousness, lucidity, insight, and sympathetic knowledge of men, predicated by his previous record as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Customs and Treasury official. It is not surprising, therefore, that the recent Public Accounts Committee took occasion to mark its sense of Sir John's eminent public service by a warm tribute of praise. It was a wise Government that made haste to enlist his services by appointing him Chairman of the Committee on Local and Imperial Taxation. That he had a fine grasp of broad general principles, combined with an eye for detail and a quite considerable gift of lucid exposition, was evidenced by his pamphlet upon His Majesty's Customs prepared for the Higher Education Series of the London Chamber of Commerce. His continuous work for the Civil Service Benevolent Fund and the Civil Service Insurance Society attest equally his administrative capacity and the very human qualities which have endeared him to so many subordinates who have been privileged to serve with him. Men of the rank and file of the Customs Service up and down the country still speak of him in terms of affectionate remembrance. We learn that the same note dominated the good-bye proffered by the Exchequer and Audit Department to its late Chief on Thursday last.

Shortly before my retirement from the Exchequer and Audit Office, I was asked by Mr.

Lloyd George to undertake the Chairmanship of a Committee which was appointed—

To enquire into the changes which have taken place in the relations between Imperial and Local Taxation since the Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation in 1901 [Lord Balfour of Burleigh's Commission]; to examine the several proposals made in the Reports of that Commission, and to make recommendations on the subject for the consideration of His Majesty's Government, with a view to the introduction of legislation at an early date.

The Committee of thirteen members was a strong one—

Sir John Kempe, K.C.B., Chairman.
The Right Hon. Sir Henry Robinson, K.C.B.
Sir John Struthers, K.C.B.
Sir Horace Monro, K.C.B.
Sir G. L. Barstow, K.C.B.
Sir Lewis Beard.
Sir E. J. Harper.
Sir T. J. Hughes.
Sir W. Murison.
Sir G. E. P. Murray, K.C.B.
Mr. P. J. O'Neill.
Mr. F. E. N. Rogers, M.P.
Sir D. M. Stevenson, Bart., Lord Provost of Glasgow.
Secretary: A. W. Hurst, C.B.—

and upon one at least of the subjects which they had to consider, the imposition of rates upon "Land Values," they were divided in opinion. A Chairman was wanted who knew nothing about Local Taxation, and could therefore bring an unprejudiced mind to bear upon the subject, and

I was thought to possess this qualification. We sat for 122 days, from November 14, 1911, to March 3, 1914, and took evidence from forty witnesses (asking 12,164 questions), including Lord St. Aldwyn, who wished to speak upon the working of the system in Germany; representatives of a group of Members of Parliament who were banded together to support the taxation of Land Values as a main feature of the Local Taxation System; and most of the foremost authorities on Local Taxation questions in the United Kingdom.

Among the most prominent members of the Committee, Sir Horace Monro, Permanent Secretary of the Local Government Board, naturally took a leading part, and the great experience and ability with which he conducted his share of the examination of witnesses produced some remarkable duels, especially on the question of the taxation of Land Values. His encounters with Mr. Compton Llewellyn Davis, Secretary to the Land Valuer group of M.P.s, the strongest witness in favour of the movement, were of intense interest. In sympathy with Mr. Llewellyn Davis we had among members of the Committee Sir Edgar Harper, who, added to great ability, had behind him his experience upon the London County Council and as Head of the Inland Revenue Valuation office; Sir John Struthers, Secretary of the Scotch Education Department; and four other members of the Committee also sympathized with the system. These, combined with the representatives of the band of M.P.s, who gave most earnest and able evidence in support of their cause, brought about a searching enquiry into

the merits of the question; with the result of the unanimous agreement of the Committee in objecting to the complete acceptance of the theory, but with a strong minority report in favour of its partial adoption.

Upon education questions Sir George Evelyn Murray gave us powerful help, and upon Irish subjects Sir Henry Robinson was of course invaluable. For much of the completeness of the Report we were greatly indebted to Mr. (now Sir) Lewis Beard, Town Clerk of Blackburn; and for the lucidity of arrangement and expression with which the complicated mass of subjects with which we had to deal was marshalled into order, we were indebted to our very able Secretary, A. W. Hurst (now C.B.), of the Treasury.

When we were half-way through our labours, Mr. Lloyd George wrote to me to suggest an extension of our enquiry.

TREASURY CHAMBERS, WHITEHALL,
Nov. 13, 1912.

DEAR SIR JOHN KEMPE,

I have been thinking over the questions which we discussed last week in connection with the future work of the Local Taxation Committee. I am very reluctant to add to the labours of the Committee any additional burden, but there seem to me to be two questions at least which must be discussed by some expert authority in view of recent changes, legislative and otherwise, before the problems of readjustment of local taxation can be definitely considered. The only alternative to your Committee reporting upon them would be the appointment of a separate and special Committee to deal with the subject, and that would

seem to be a rather absurd method of proceeding, considering the ground which you have already covered and the increased value which would be given to your recommendations on these points by the fact that the members of your Committee have been considering the problem of local taxation as a whole.

The first of these questions is that of valuation. You will recollect that a Royal Commission on Local Taxation arrived at the conclusion that an alteration in the law for the purpose of attaining a uniform basis of valuation in England and Wales is a necessary preliminary to any revision of the existing system of local taxation. That report showed how far the present system of valuation for local rates varies from the standard of uniformity, equality, simplicity, and economy which should exist in this important matter. They agreed that as between parishes and parishes, unions and unions, counties and counties, there is no uniformity in the system adopted for valuation. Consequently there is frequently considerable inequality in the valuation of properties of the same character in different districts, and also in the relative amount of rates paid by occupiers in different parishes in the same poor law union.

. . . . . .

The second question is the question of the various difficult problems, both in the actual incidence of local rates and in the allocation of grants, which have arisen owing to the inequalities of local government rating areas. The existence of sharp divisions between adjacent boroughs of the rich and the poor, such as Manchester and Salford, or Hove and Brighton, or Newcastle and Gateshead, has resulted in the creation of necessitous areas which have been continually pressing

the Treasury for many years for special grants adequate to their special needs.

. . . . . .

I should be very grateful, therefore, if your Committee could see their way to giving some investigation into these two important questions.

Yours sincerely,

D. LLOYD GEORGE.

With regard to the more general questions referred to us, of State assistance to local expenditure, we recommended the substitution of direct grants from the Exchequer for specific purposes, in place of the then existing system of assigning certain branches of revenue in general aid of local rates; such grants to be limited to "semi-national services" such as education, poor relief, police, main roads, public health, criminal prosecutions, and mental deficiency. The cost was put at about £4,700,000. Changes were also recommended with regard to the Agricultural Rates and Tithe-rent Charges Acts, substituting additional assistance for small elementary schools in country areas, increased contributions to roads, and further relief for public health purposes.

As regards the two extra subjects referred by Mr. Lloyd George to the consideration of the Committee, our main recommendations were:

That the duty of preparing valuations for rating purposes be placed upon the Land Valuation Office.

That the right of appeal from the decision of the Assessment Committee to Special Sessions and Quarter Sessions be abolished, and that all appeals be heard by a single appellate tribunal

consisting of a practising barrister or solicitor and two eminent valuers; the decision of this tribunal to be final, except on points of law. That the valuation list as finally settled be conclusive for the purpose of all rates.

That the Government contributions in lieu of rates be made upon a valuation prepared by the Land Valuation Office.

We were of opinion that the inequality of rating between Local Government areas referred to by Mr. Lloyd George would be reduced by our proposals in regard to grants for semi-national services, and we further proposed that the special areas of charge for elementary schools should be abolished and the county and county boroughs be made the areas of administration and rating for all semi-national services.

So far, with a few reservations by members on minor points, the Committee were unanimous in their opinion as to the rating of Land Values; they were also unanimously opposed to the suggestion that all rates should be raised on Land Values. These objections were summarized as follows:

(1) That the benefit derived by landowners (using the term in its broadest sense) from the general activity and expenditure of the community is not sufficient to justify the charge of the whole cost of local government, present and prospective, on this class alone.

(2) That a large part of this benefit is due to other causes than the activity and expenditure of the persons living in the local government area or areas in which the land is situated.

(3) That other classes of the community derive benefit from communal services, and that many of these would not contribute towards the cost of such services, either directly or indirectly, under the proposed basis of rating.

(4) That we are strongly of opinion that the primary criterion to be taken into account in distributing the burden of local expenditure is that of " ability to pay," and that the present rating system conforms more nearly to this principle than that proposed.

(5) That a system of rating upon land values would, we believe, tend to increased congestion of buildings.

(6) That the proposal, if adopted, to give the occupier the right of deducting the rate from his rent would dangerously reduce the number of ratepayers, and would tend to deplorable results in local government.

(7) That the defects and inequalities of the present system (e.g. its effect in discouraging the improvement of rateable premises) are unduly emphasized by those who support the change, while it is doubtful whether the alternative system proposed would give rise to fewer defects and inequalities.

The Committee as a whole was equally unable to agree with the proposal, made by a minority of six of their number, to impose a rate on land values alongside of the present rating system, for the following reasons :

(1) That the proposal is subject to most of the objections noted in the preceding paragraph to an extent depending upon the amount of the rate.

(2) That, while it may be the case that landowners derive a greater benefit from the activity and expenditure of the local community than is represented by their indirect contribution under the present rating system, it should not be overlooked that the situation has been greatly altered, since the Royal Commission on Local Taxation issued their Final Report, by the new taxation under the Finance (1909–10) Act, 1910, under which an annual impost based on site value is laid upon the owners of undeveloped land, and a specific tax is imposed on increments in site value whenever realized. These methods of taxation appear to be more equitable than the imposition of rates on site value.

In his Budget of 1914 Mr. Lloyd George adopted most of the suggestions of my Committee as to direct grants to Local Authorities for specific purposes.

With regard to the Education Grant he said:

"The general principles laid down by the right hon. gentleman, the President of the Board of Education, in his speech last year for dealing with Education have been sanctioned on the whole by the Kempe Committee and we propose to reconstitute the Education grant upon the principle laid down then. What are the two main principles laid down by the Kempe Committee? That there should be a distinction between the richer and the poorer areas, and between the areas which spend much on Education and those that spend little.

"Take Bournemouth; a penny rate there raises as much per child as a sixpenny rate at Walsall.

"In Hove a penny rate raises as much per child as a 7*d*. rate at Dudley.

"Take the second distinction.

"Halifax spends 126*s.* 2*d.* on the education of each child as against 61*s.* 10*d.* spent by Preston.

"Barry spends 156*s.* 6*d.* as against 53*s.* 10*d.* spent by Grantham."

"We propose that the grant should be distributed in such a way as to give the greatest measure of relief to the poorest districts and to the districts where the expenditure is highest."

As to the readjustment of taxation to provide additional grants for relief of the local ratepayers, he said:

"In Germany the Income Tax is the most useful weapon for the purpose of assisting the local authorities in their local expenditure. It is always forgotten that in this country what is equivalent to a 9*d.* Income Tax goes now to local purposes. About £27,000,000 goes from the Exchequer which in Germany would be treated as for purely local purposes. Lord St. Aldwyn lent the weight of his great authority before the Kempe Committee to a suggestion that we should have a local Income Tax, but he stated that before it was adopted it ought to be very carefully examined by experts. It has been examined by the experts, and they are unanimously of the opinion that it would not work. Then we come to the conclusion that the best method of equalizing the burden is by means of a graduated Income Tax. I propose, therefore, that the Income Tax should be raised."

In 1917, on moving the vote for Education in the House of Commons, Mr. Fisher said:

"The Committee will remember that the Prime Minister, when Chancellor of the Exchequer, appointed in 1911 a Departmental Committee

under the chairmanship of Sir John Kempe to report on the changes which had taken place in Imperial and Local Taxation, and that Committee presented in 1914 a report which, if I may say so, is a model of excellence in the survey of a complicated range of facts and in the skill in which these facts are focussed. With certain modifications I have adopted the recommendations of that Committee as the basis of my present proposals."

The proposals were not, however, adopted.

TREASURY CHAMBERS,
March 24, 1914.

SIR,

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, forwarding for their consideration the Report of the Committee appointed by their Lordships to enquire into certain questions affecting the relations between Imperial and Local Taxation.

I am to convey to you the expression of their Lordships' thanks for your services on this Committee.

My Lords note that the Committee propose, subject to their directions, to deal in due course with the cases of Scotland and Ireland, and a further communication will be addressed to you on this point.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
T. L. HEATH.

TREASURY CHAMBERS, WHITEHALL,
March 17, 1914.

MY DEAR KEMPE,

In our official letter acknowledging your English Report we shall probably promise a further

communication in regard to the question you ask about the future course of your enquiries.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer does not wish at the moment to commit himself either way, but he hopes that in ten days or a fortnight's time he will be able to speak more definitely. I do not think there would be any advantage in your pressing forward the Scottish or Irish enquiries at the moment, and I dare say your Committee will not be sorry to have a breathing space.

As regards O'Neill's letter, a copy of which I sent to Heath, I do not see how you could possibly present your Irish Report in time to make it possible to take action upon it before the Government of Ireland Bill leaves the Commons (even assuming that the proceedings upon that Bill will allow the question to be dealt with). But as the letter is now nearly a month old I daresay you will be able to keep him "at bay" (as Chalmers would say) for a short time longer.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN BRADBURY.

CHAPTER XXIII

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE—DEATH OF SIR ALFRED KEMPE

My last public employment was in 1915, when Mr. Asquith wrote to ask me to serve on the Royal Commission on the Civil Service.

10 Downing Street,
Dec. 17, 1914.

Dear Sir John,

The Civil Service Commission will shortly complete its Report on the Diplomatic and Consular Departments. It will then proceed to consider the Legal Departments.

Sir Henry Primrose has informed me of his intention to resign his membership of the Commission, and I have pleasure in proposing that you should be appointed to the Commission in his place, as I feel that your experience would be of great value.

Yours very faithfully,
H. H. Asquith.

Sir John Kempe, K.C.B.

The Commission was a most interesting one, the members being of a very varied character.

Sir Henry Babington Smith (Chairman)	Sir Donald MacAlister
Duke of Devonshire	Sir John A. Kempe
Bishop of Southwark	Samuel J. Gurney Hoare
Sir J. Prescott Hewett	Arthur Cecil Tyrell Beck
	Alfred Allen Booth

Arthur Boutwood	Arthur Everett Shipley
J. R. Clynes, M.P.	Philip Snowden, M.P.
Cecil Coward	Graham Wallas
Richard Durning Holt	Miss E. S. Haldane
Percy Ewing Matheson	Mrs. Streatfield.

Afterwards added: Sir Geo. M. Paul; and on resignation of Mr. Beck and Mr. Booth, Lord Murray and Lord Dundas.

As might be expected, witnesses from Legal Departments showed up well under cross examination. They included two Lord Chancellors, Lord Loreburn and Lord Haldane, as well as the Permanent Secretary to Lord Chancellors, all the Masters and Magistrates of the Supreme and other courts, and representatives of all Legal Departments in England and Scotland as well as of almost every legal interest, official and non-official.

Among other subjects we turned our attention to the question of imposing an age limit upon the legal service such as exists in other Civil Departments of the State. The Bar is remarkable for the great age to which high intellectual power is retained, or assumed. We had an extraordinary instance in Mr. James Rigg Brougham, Senior Registrar in Bankruptcy. He entered the room, a fine upright figure, as clear and alert, in spite of his nearly ninety years, as any of the witnesses who had come before us, in answering above 200 questions which were put to him.

The Chairman proceeded to question him:

You are the Senior Registrar in Bankruptcy?

Mr. Brougham: I am.

Chairman: How long have you held the post of Registrar?

Since August 1848.

Chairman: Were you originally appointed to the public service in 1845?

Yes. As a clerk in the Lord Chancellor's Secretary of Bankrupts office.

Chairman: And you were appointed registrar in 1848?

August 1848.

Chairman: So that you have held that post for nearly sixty-seven years?

I have.

Then, towards the end of his examination:

Chairman: Is there any age limit for retirement?

No. None.

Chairman: Neither in the case of the registrar nor in the case of the clerks?

No.

Chairman: What is your opinion as to the question of fixing an age limit?

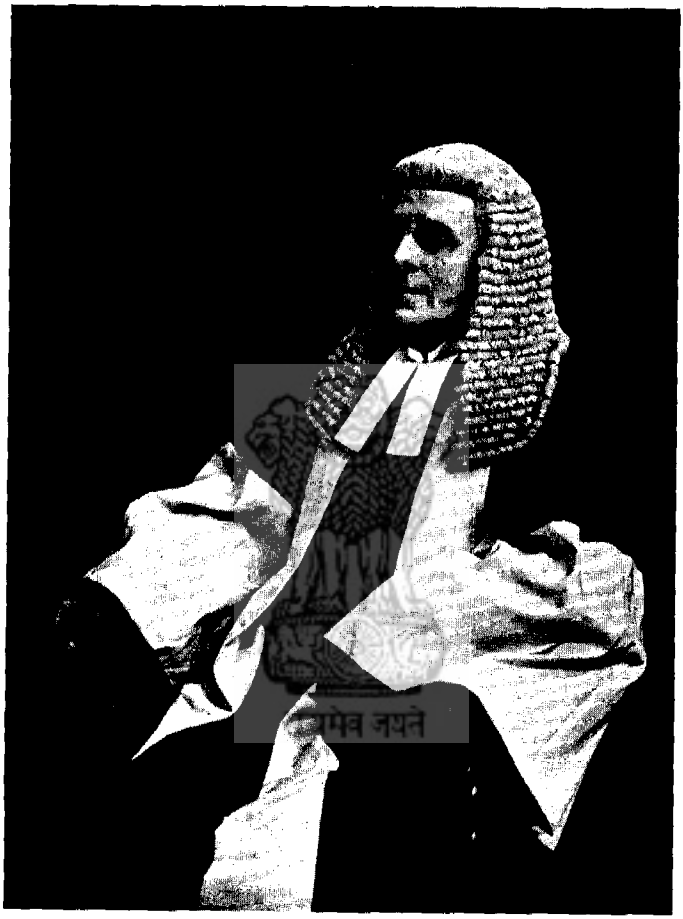
There may be instances where a retiring age limit is not only desirable but necessary. As a general principle, however, I do not think it would be absolutely beneficial to this branch of the public service. But perhaps I am a prejudiced witness against an age limit.

Chairman: If I may be permitted to say so, you yourself are the best argument I have yet come across in favour of the absence of an age limit.

Lord Mersey: I absolutely agree.

We made our final Report in November 1915. It may be of interest to remark that we did not venture to touch upon the question of the age limit for any rank above that of Masters. We suggested that Masters should be required to retire normally at seventy and clerks at sixty-five.

In the year 1922 my brother Alfred died at the age of seventy-three. In 1873 he was called to the Bar and joined the Western Circuit. He became a Bencher of the Inner Temple in 1909. In 1912, the year in which he was knighted, he was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of London, succeeding Dr. Tristram. At the time of his death he was also Chancellor of the Dioceses of Southwell, St. Albans, Peterborough, Chichester, and Chelmsford, and he had been Chancellor of Newcastle. He received the honorary degree of D.C.L. from the University of Durham. I have already mentioned the Essay he published in 1877 entitled "How to draw a Straight Line." This and other essays published by him previous to 1879 were the ground on which he was in that year proposed for election into the Royal Society as "distinguished for his knowledge of and discoveries in Kinematics." His certificate of claims was signed by a group of the foremost mathematicians of his day, including Cayley, Silvester, and others. He became F.R.S. in 1881. Upon his death his great friend Sir Archibald Geikie wrote a beautiful little obituary notice of him for the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* in which is included an appreciation by Major MacMahon of his mathematical work. It is too technical for popular understanding, but a general idea can be gleaned from it. His chief contribution to mathematical science was his *Memoir on the Theory of Mathematical Form* (1886). He showed that under all subjects of exact science lay a bare form ready for any "accidental clothing," geometrical, algebraical, logical, etc., which might be put upon



SIR ALFRED B. KEMPE.

it, and which to all appearances may have little or nothing in common. He once told me that he had applied his formula to the theories of logic and of knots and several geometrical theories. I forget what others he mentioned; but he said that in the investigation he had discovered errors in what should be the exact science of logic. "It was the desire to see the subject-matter of thought in its absolutely lowest terms that dominated Kempe's activity during the twenty years in which he published his work." By means of his "graphs" of points variously coloured placed in certain relative positions and connected by lines he was able to form a mental picture of any subject of thought, and to ascertain the nature and extent of essential differences. In this respect he resembled W. K. Clifford more than any other mathematician, ancient or modern. But he had gone somewhat deeper than Clifford into the graphical representation of mathematical forms, which enabled him within a short time to fill in the *Lacunæ* in Clifford's work, and "it is safe to say that at that time no one but Kempe could have achieved this."

In 1897 he was elected on the Council of the Society, and in the following year became Treasurer and Vice-President, an office which he held for twenty-one years. It was apt to be forgotten that the time which he gave to the work of the Society was found by him in the midst of all the claims of his legal profession—and it was no little work that he gave to it. Sir Archibald Geikie's memoir does full justice to it: it was too great and important to be set out in any

detail here: "His clear common sense, legal knowledge, wide experience of men, and gift of clear exposition gave to his opinion great influence in the Council and contributed in no small measure to shape the policy and sustain the prosperity of the Royal Society." Of all the important work which he did for the Society, there was perhaps none of which he was more proud and in which he took a keener interest than in the National Physical Laboratory, of which he was Treasurer. The Royal Society had with some hesitation accepted the control of the laboratory, in view of the urgent need by the commercial interests of the country for an institution for physical testing and standardization. A site was secured at Bushey, and the Treasury, under the influence of Lord Balfour, was induced to place a small grant on the Estimates, the Society to be responsible for the maintenance. It was opened by the Prince of Wales in 1902, and my brother, as Treasurer, watched anxiously over the finances. After a struggle for sixteen years, during which he did much to obtain public support by subscriptions, it became evident that the institution ought to be a national one and undertaken by the State; and in 1918 it was taken over by the Board of Trade. It has proved to be an important addition to the scientific resources of the country.

CHAPTER XXIV

LYME REGIS—LETTERS TO "THE TIMES"—LIFE AT LYME REGIS

IN 1914, just before the Great War began, we settled in the beautiful little Borough of Lyme Regis.

As I now had a good deal of leisure, only broken for about three years by my visits to London, almost weekly, as Chairman of the Local Taxation Committee, and afterwards, as member of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, I occasionally, like many other people, gave expression in the columns of *The Times* to thoughts stirred up by its tremendous issues. The Editor was good enough to insert my communications, and I was promoted to large type. I insert two of them as they, of course, take a vivid place in my reminiscences. I have included a letter from Conan Doyle which followed one of mine (April 1917) on the same page, as it touches the same subject.

MR. WILSON'S MESSAGE

To the Editor of "The Times"

SIR,

President Wilson's message to Congress seems to have effected, as if by one stroke of an enchanter's wand, a sudden transformation of the view of the civilized world with regard to the position of the Central Powers and their allies.

From a confused vision of warring nations, with aims which the President at one time described as practically the same, his trumpet message seems to convert the war into a call to the honour and conscience of the world for a crusade against the cruelty and unscrupulousness of unrestrained autocracy. For the strength of the feeling aroused we have to thank the deliberate and patient policy which has at last culminated in this eloquent and tremendous indictment. The progress of the Allies is suddenly recognized as the menace of a righteous retribution even more than as a struggle for the liberty of civilization. The sense of the great power brought into the conflict by the entry of the New World upon the side of right and justice has, no doubt, much to do with this extraordinary change of attitude; but for the clearness of the response which has been aroused in America by the menace of the high ideals of civilization we have greatly to thank the steadiness of the Allies in their refusal to be led aside from the chivalry and honour of war in their indignation at the base expedients adopted the enemy, which have been discarded by the general consent of nations.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) JOHN A. KEMPE.

LYME REGIS,
April 8, 1917.

AN AMERICAN OFFER

To the Editor of "The Times"

SIR,

I have received a cable from a friend, Mr. Joseph Knapp, of New York, offering £200 towards the translation and printing of the President's speech, to be distributed by aeroplane behind the German lines. Perhaps some of your

readers could indicate the best way of bringing this about.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.

WINDLESHAM,
CROWBOROUGH, SUSSEX.

The occasion of the second letter in December 1918 was the visit of the President of the United States to this country after the close of the War and his conference with the Cabinet. I may be excused from feeling some pride when on opening the paper next morning I found my letter with the heading "ENGLAND'S PART," the only one upon the leading article page, coupled with news headed in unusually heavy type:

THE PRESIDENT AT WORK.
BRITISH CASE AND THE 14 POINTS.
MR. WILSON. STATE BANQUET.
CITY VISIT TO-DAY.
THE ELECTION. RESULTS TO-DAY.

ENGLAND'S PART

To the Editor of "The Times"

SIR,

We are face to face with a regrouping of the great political forces of the world, and the Anglo-Saxon race have cause to be proud of the part they are playing in its development. For centuries we have been accustomed to stand aloof from the political movements of the Great Powers of the Continent of Europe, except when forced to take part in some vital settlement by menace to our own interests. All this is changed. The Imperial and regal powers which have bulked so largely in history have lost their glamour, and

are being, as we hope, replaced by the majesty of the people. They have played their part, with us or against us, in the great military struggle which has resulted in the victory of the powers of justice. But it is to the English-speaking race that the world is looking for a lead in its regeneration, as well as for help in its need. And this newly awakened giant, with strength accumulated from every corner of the earth, offspring of the Anglo-Saxon genius for colonization and good government ripened by the evolution of centuries, with the vigour of sea power in his veins, has emerged from his splendid isolation to some purpose. This offspring, of which England can proudly claim to be the mother, has inspired the nations with the vision of a higher plane of civilization and morality, from which it is hoped that a new era may dawn of peace and security for mankind. It is inconceivable that with such tremendous issues at stake, demanding for their safe guidance all the power and genius which the world can produce, there should be in this country any suggestion of subordinating these great questions to the petty shibboleths of party strife or class interests. Let us hope that the new Parliament will face its duties with a resolution to take a worthy part in the great matters which will come before it; rising to the opportunity of reconstruction of the old conventions of the nations, but not omitting the setting of our own house in order, so as to be worthy of the future, in the shaping of which Providence has entrusted to our race so great a part.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) JOHN A. KEMPE.

LYME REGIS,
Dec. 26, 1918.

Later disclosures have somewhat modified the popular enthusiasm aroused by the part taken by the President in the interposition of America in the war: but public feeling was undoubtedly at a high pitch at the time, and justified considerable optimism. And, casting a look back upon the confused state of the world a few years after the conclusion of peace, there seems to be good ground for the hope that the dreams of regeneration may gradually have their effect. The League of Nations becomes yearly more understood and respected as a movement in the right direction, and the great part which this country has taken in it is being more generally recognized and accepted. We have a capable Government who thoroughly understand and appreciate the importance of this, as well as of strengthening the bonds of confederation with our Colonies; and the Colonies have shown themselves equally eager to accept the idea of a great empire of the English-speaking race. We have had to contend with enormous difficulties in the obsession of our labour troubles, but even those seem to be working out in a more reasonable temper.

The Borough of Lyme Regis possesses all the essentials for a life of quiet repose. The loveliness of its situation and surroundings is not surpassed by any seaside resort in the Kingdom. We have a moderately interesting historic past. Our Borough Council is of the usual type and our inhabitants have been able to supply mayors of high excellence. Among them, Mr. A. J. Woodroffe, a keen supporter of the Boy Scout Movement

and a leading member of the County Council, who gave up his beautiful house, Rhode Hill, for a military hospital during the whole of the war; the late Mr. Henry Ellis, the learned Treasurer of the Astronomical Society; and our present Mayor, the Rev. G. F. Eyre, who has presented the borough with a charming house on one of the most attractive sites in the place, for a new cottage hospital. We have for our historian Mr. C. Wanklyn, who has produced for us a most fascinating study of the history of the Borough, and for our geologist Dr. Wyatt Wingrave, whose unceasing zeal has done so much to foster our local museum. The next house to mine was the property of the great Lord Lister and his brother, Mr. A. Lister, also eminent in the scientific world, some of whose accomplished family we still have the privilege of retaining as neighbours.

At the last census our population was returned as over 2,880. A census of earlier years gave it as over 3,000, but on the census day of that year a battleship with 800 men on board anchored in the bay within three miles of the shore, and the crew had to be included in the population of the place. It is said (I know not with what truth) that one consequence of this was that with a population officially above 3,000 the borough gained a higher status, and the licences for public-houses had to be charged upon a higher scale. If so this might perhaps supply a useful hint to the advocates of temperance.

We have also a town crier of supreme excellence, Mr. Abbott, who recently tied for the first prize in a public competition with twenty-five of the

best criers in the Kingdom. A few years ago the landlord of the "Royal Lion" was a Cambridge graduate of good family who had taken up the business, partly on account of the health-giving qualities of Lyme Regis, partly in order to have a place to keep his hunters. He was a man of considerable humour. One day he was standing at his door when Abbott took his stand and rang his bell in the road opposite—"Oyez! Oyez! Be sure to read in this week's number of *John Bull* the splendid article on——" The landlord hated *John Bull*, and as a car happened to be standing at the door he turned on the hooter to drown the crier's stentorian voice, not an easy thing to do. Abbott waited until the hooter was turned off again. Then again he rang his bell. "Lost, by the landlord of the Royal Lion, the manners of a gentleman." Next week, an "open letter" appeared in *John Bull* describing the incident with much humour, beginning "My dear Harold" (the landlord's name), and signed "Horatio Bottomley." In the following week there was another open letter, equally amusing, beginning "My dear Horatio" and signed "Harold Russell."

At this place I have had pleasant opportunity and time for observing the effect of theories of local government upon the practice of the governed. I have sat upon the Board of Guardians of the Axminster Union, under the very able chairmanship of Mr. E. H. Cuming, a practical farmer on a large scale; with Mr. H. E. V. Crawford as Vice-Chairman, a cultivated country gentleman of clear intelligence and admirable

business qualities, a member of the County Council and interested in many of the problems, administrative and educational, which are of so much importance to the well-being of a locality. A good old Board of Guardians composed of representatives of all classes, especially the farmer class, and well led, is as good an instrument of local government on a small scale as can be devised for a community with the instinct of order generally to be found, at any rate in country districts.

We are most of us unconscious of being governed. We observe it the less because, as a rule, we are like Wordsworth's cloud, which "moveth all together if it move at all," and except when we have to fill up our Income Tax forms or pay our rates or slow down our car we do not nurse individual grievances. It is not until the light mists have gathered into a thunder-cloud that we begin to feel that there is something wrong, and even then we end in a compromise.

Take the Assessment Committee of the Board of Guardians on which I have had the privilege and profit of sitting. The difficulty there is not the strict observance of any theory of law. Our Chairman, Mr. Crawford, and the clerk, Mr. Forwood, are highly competent men with a sound practical knowledge of the law and plenty of common sense. They keep us in the groove. We struggle to get out of it. Our victims are all our near neighbours, and we know and esteem them well enough to try and avoid annoying them more than we can help. My slight theoretical knowledge never came in at all. To my mind our Assessment Committee, composed mainly of

the most intelligent of the farmer class, judging the value of their neighbour's property in the light of their own experience, is as near to a fair human tribunal as we could hope to get.

So it is with all human institutions. Law is absolute; an abstract theory. But the administration of it must rest upon human judgment. Life is a compromise swaying between circumstance and will, with the law human and divine to temper it. We steer as straight a course as we can, getting as much satisfaction out of it as we are able to do. Circumstances may run more easily for some than for others. We are not all equally able or willing, or in a position to take full advantage of them. It has ever been and ever will be so with all created things while the world lasts. This is a fair summary of life. With me it has gone well indeed; and with this, these reminiscences shall be closed.

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