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THE MORNING GUARDIAN

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1902.

THE SOLITARY STATESMAN.

Lord Salisbury has been described as a solitary statesman, unsocial, desiring few friends. He has held himself aloof from his fellow men to a greater extent than almost any man of his exalted position. He is never seen at routs, or at fashionable restaurants, where everybody from the King downward goes. Some foolish writer once described him as smoking a friendly cigar with the late Mr. Parnell in the smoking room of the House of Commons. Lord Salisbury took the pains to deny this. He had never spoken to Parnell in his life, had never been in the Commons smoking room and never smoked. Mr. Gladstone also never smoked, but was not so distinctly hostile to the practice as Lord Salisbury.

While other great noblemen are frequently giving great receptions Lord Salisbury seldom entertains, and then only after an official manner. He is described as a very shy man, a very reserved man, a student and philosopher by instinct and a politician by accident. The facility for writing which he evinced while in the Foreign Office, dashing off long and most important despatches at a sitting, is believed to have been acquired in large part by writing for the press in

his younger days, when, having married against his father's wishes, he was compelled to earn his living by his pen. There are scores of men, prominent in his own party and among his active supporters, with whom he has never exchanged a single word.

In recent years he has grown stout, almost to unwellness, a great contrast to his physical proportions in earlier life. When he entered the House of Commons as Lord Robert Cecil he was a tall, very thin man, in that regard not unlike his nephew and successor in the Premiership, Mr. Balfour. In those days he was as once the delight and terror of the House. He was always listened to, however. The Manchester Guardian repeats the somewhat familiar story of young Lord Robert in those days describing the conduct of Mr. Gladstone as "more like the petting of an attorney than the act of a statesman." There was a fierce outburst over this, and some nights later he stood up and referred to the incident, which he said had been open to misconstruction. Everybody thought he was about to beg Mr. Gladstone's pardon. Indeed, he said that he felt he ought to apologise, and then, after a long pause he added, "to the attorneys."

The Salisbury of today is a very different man in physique, in temper and speech from the Robert Cecil of those old days. But the solitary habit has characterized him through life. In his many journeys over the eighteen miles from London to Hatfield he prefers a carriage by himself and if he should be "cursed with company" they find him with his nose stuck into a book as a warning that he wishes to remain undisturbed. He is an omnivorous reader, as is Lord Rosebery. The extent of information displayed in his speeches is almost boundless. He knew much about electricity long before it had come into common use and had Hatfield House fitted up with a extensive lighting and power plant at a time when other noblemen and men of wealth were still content with gas jets and oil lamps. To such a man, after the labors and toils of statecraft, and the attainment therein of the highest position, the retirement of his ancestral home will be enjoyable. In the midst of his books and scientific studies he will find a welcome rest and solace in the domestic quiet which is congenial to his taste.

After a few hot days the rain of yesterday will do good in the drier sections of the Province. We learn that the grass and hay crops have much improved of late and that the grain crops generally give excellent promise of a bountiful harvest.

It is not often that one newspaper man takes action against another of the same craft for libel, as in most cases they fight out their battles to a finish in the columns of the press. An exception has now occurred in which Mr. Milligan of the St. John Telegraph has caused a writ to be served upon Mr. Crockett of the Fredericton Gleaner. Should the case come to trial it will create very wide interest in New Brunswick.

A most reprehensible practice in England is that species of gambling which takes the form of insurance on the life of the Sovereign. In most American countries no one can lawfully insure the life of another with whom they have not either a relationship, or some financial interest. In England it is different. It is said that some \$25,000,000 are insured upon the life of King Edward by persons who have no other interest in his life than that of speculators and gamblers. This was carried on while the King was lying ill, during which time the rates of insurance for one week were from 20 to 50 per cent. Some of those who had thus gambled on the King's life probably had a ghoul's desire that he might die. It is high time that British law-makers put a stop to this almost treasonable form of gambling.

Another noteworthy Islander abroad has departed this life in the person of Sir Joseph Ignatius Little, K. C. M. G. Judge of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland. He was born and educated in Charlottetown, removed to Newfoundland where he was called to the bar, entered the Legislature in 1868, became Attorney General in 1870 and was made Judge in 1882. He was a Roman Catholic in religion, and at his death was fifty-eight years of age and unmarried. Judge Little bore an honorable fame for high character, ability, justice and impartiality.

It is said that for years past no love has been lost between Lord Salisbury and Mr Chamberlain. The latter probably had in his mind the succession to the Premiership. Lord Salisbury and the Conservative party had other intentions. It comes about that while Mr Chamberlain is laid up from an accident the change is made. The retiring Premier recommended to the King that Mr Balfour be sent for and His Majesty acquiesced. Then Balfour went to the sick bed of Chamberlain, and told him what had occurred. The latter could not do otherwise than accede. Should Balfour make a successful leader, which seems not improbable, Chamberlain's chances of ever becoming Premier are now sixty six years of age—will not be good.

Mr. Balfour, now Premier of Great Britain, first entered Parliament in 1874. He had a distinguished university career, had become a Fellow of the Royal Society and a clever contributor to the reviews. Lord Salisbury had taken young Balfour with him on his diplomatic missions to Berlin and Constantinople a quarter of a century ago. The nephew, under the appreciative guidance and patronage of his uncle made his way rapidly in politics. At thirty-eight years of age he was selected for the difficult position of Chief Secretary for Ireland. He discharged his trust during a most trying time with signal success as a moderate but resolute administrator. He was afterward promoted to the leadership of the Commons which under successive Conservative ministries he held for nearly nine years. This training will serve him excellently as leader of the Government while sitting in the same House.



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