



THE RIGHT HON. WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE.—FROM "THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS."

The Right Hon. William Ewart Gladstone, the First Lord of the Treasury, and Prime Minister of the Queen, has long filled so great a place in the opinion of his countrymen that the main facts of his biography must be familiar to everyone. Mr. Gladstone, though born in Lancashire, is a Scotchman by race. His father was Mr. John Gladstone, afterwards Sir John, a merchant of Liverpool, in the West India trade, but at first a corn-merchant of Leith, one of the old yeoman family of Gladstones, known for many generations at Biggar, in Lanarkshire, and still more anciently in Clydesdale. The mother of Mr. Gladstone was a daughter of Andrew Robertson, of Stornoway, in the Hebrides, sometime Provost of Dingwall, Ross-shire; so that, as the statesman told his Glasgow audience, he has "not a drop of any but Scottish blood in his veins." Mr. John Gladstone made a large fortune, and towards the close of his life was elected M.P. for Woodstock, and created a Baronet in 1845. He had four sons. The eldest, the present Baronet, Sir Thomas Gladstone, of Fasque, Kincardineshire; the second, Mr. Robert Gladstone, who carries on his late father's business at Liverpool; the third was Captain John N. Gladstone, R.N., who was M.P. for Portarlington, and

died a few years ago; the fourth is William Ewart Gladstone, the present Prime Minister. He was born Dec. 29, 1809, in the same room of the same house where Mr. Cardwell, now Secretary of State for War, was born five years later—the Cardwell family having bought the house when the Gladstones removed to another. Mr. Gladstone was educated at Eton, and at Christ Church College, Oxford, where he obtained the high honours of a double first class. He became there the intimate friend of the late Sidney Herbert and Earl Lincoln, and by the help of the father of the latter he first obtained a seat in Parliament for the nomination borough of Newark, December, 1832. In 1835, during Sir Robert Peel's administration, he was made a junior Lord of the Treasury; then Under Secretary for the Colonies, retiring with his leader after two months of office. When Sir Robert Peel returned to power Mr. Gladstone accepted the Vice-Presidency of the Board of Trade and the Mastership of the Mint. In 1842 the revision of the tariff was brought about, and in 1843 he succeeded the Earl of Ripon as President of the Board of Trade; and subsequently succeeded the present Earl of Derby as Secretary of State for the Colonies. On the formation of the Coalition Ministry Mr. Gladstone became Chancellor of the Exchequer.