

# The Marquis of Salisbury

By Frederick Douglas How

Author of "Bishop Walsham How, A Memoir"; "Bishop Selwyn, A Memoir";  
"Noble Women of Our Time" &c.

## I. Ancestry and School Days

DAY by day Lord Salisbury's name is on the lips of thousands of English men and women. Day by day his movements are followed and his actions noted by a large part of the civilised world. His plans are guessed at, his policy is praised or criticised, and his every utterance carefully weighed and examined. His appearance is familiar, for no figure is more frequent in the window of the vendor of photographs or in the pages of the illustrated paper. Yet there are few public men about whom less is known. The ordinary person who is neither in the swim of politics nor of that set in society which would bring him into personal contact with Lord Salisbury has a twofold feeling about him. First of all he has, whatever his politics, a sense of the Prime Minister's absolute sincerity and

probity, coupled with a pride in the knowledge that in him England has possessed the greatest Foreign Secretary of modern times. Secondly he has a mysterious idea of him, looking upon him, and indeed frequently speaking of him, as something of a sphinx. This impression has been caused by Lord Salisbury's anxiety to keep his home-life, and indeed everything that is no part of his public duty, as simple and retired as possible, as well as by that absorption in thought and appearance of pre-occupation which has always set him a little apart from other men, and has acted as a kind of barrier between him and the passing world.

English people have much sympathy with the privacy of family life. It is one of the things of which the country is specially and rightly proud. But in the case of the leaders of the nation it is well that something should be known a little more familiarly than in the brief notices of going and coming or the detailed reports of speeches in the daily press. The mysterious may be admired, may be trusted, may even be a little loved, but there must be at least some measure of revelation before a people can give their full affection even to the greatest of their benefactors. It is with the hope that the personality of Lord Salisbury may become a little better known that the present papers have been written.

It is a remarkable thing that the three great Prime Ministers of quite modern times, *i.e.*, the three whom the middle-aged man of to-day regards as such, can none of them be described as a typical Englishman. Who can conceive Lord Beaconsfield, Mr. Gladstone, or Lord Salisbury taking his own line over a stiff country with the Pytchley or the Quorn? Where is the bluff, quick-tempered, rosy-gilled country gentleman in breeches and gaiters, so dear to the novelist and play-



(Bradshaw & Sons, photographers, Newgate Street, London)

William Cecil, Lord Burleigh



(Bradshaw & Sons, photographers, Newgate Street, London)

William Cecil, Lord Burleigh.  
By Marc Gheerards

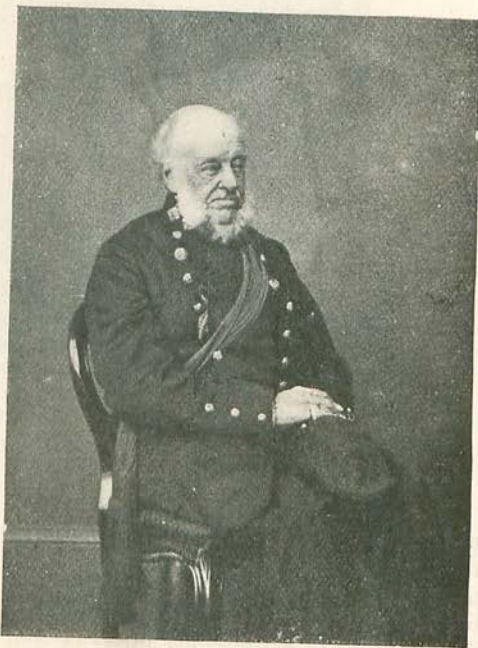
wright, and the first idea to some of us, who are country-bred, of what an Englishman ought to be? No, somehow or other, we have entrusted the fortunes of our country to other hands. The scholar, the diplomatist, the man of scientific interests, these men have led, and led successfully, where the "typical Englishman" might have blundered and failed.

But in Lord Salisbury we have got something more. In him we have a great inheritance of statesmanship. His is no new name in the roll of England's leaders. Founded in the days of William Rufus by Robert Sitoilt, a distinguished fighting man, whose services were rewarded by a gift of land in Herefordshire, the family of Cecil has from time to time given statesmen of historical fame to the service of the country.

It is impossible here to tell of all of these. We must pass to the days of Elizabeth, when the Cecil of the day was appointed to be her Secretary of State. Curiously enough, this

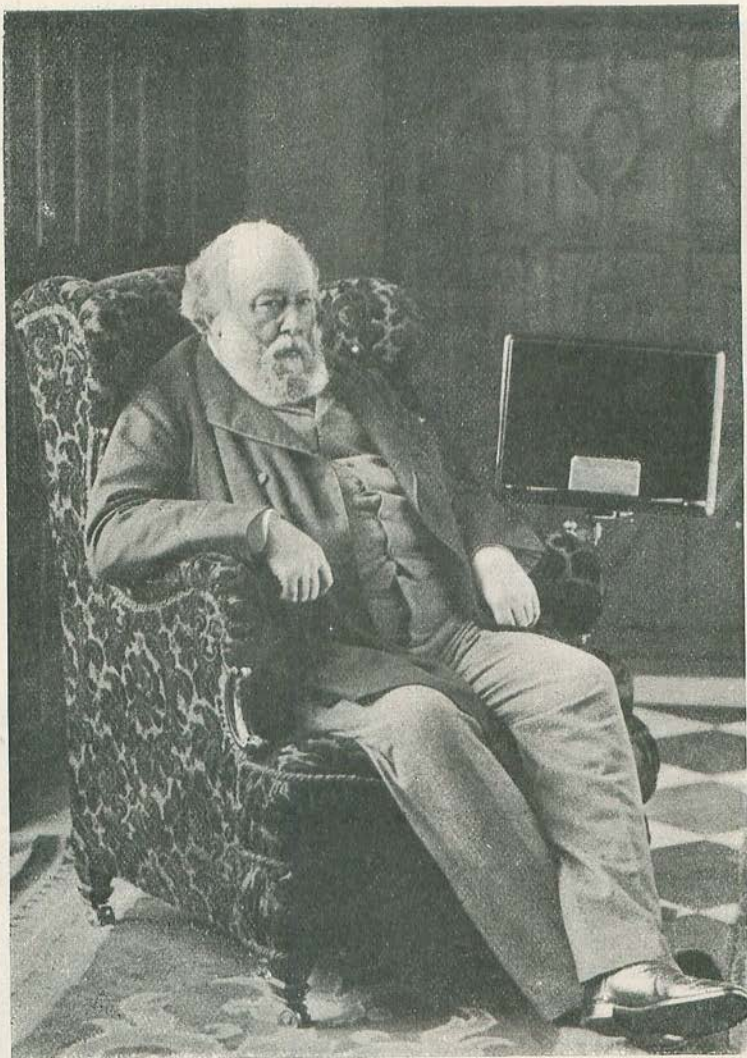
occurred at Hatfield, then a possession of the Crown, on the occasion of the Royal lady being informed of her sister's death and her own accession. This ancestor of Lord Salisbury was William Cecil, the great Lord Burleigh, whose two sons were also famous men, the elder becoming Earl of Exeter and founding the family of the present Marquisate of that name, and the second, Robert, becoming Lord Cecil of Essendine, then Viscount Cranborne, and finally, in 1605, Earl of Salisbury. He, therefore, was the first of the noble line of the House of Salisbury. The second Earl was also a well-known man, but his notoriety had a less satisfactory cause. He was a famous turn-coat, changing sides according to the apparent success of Royalist or Roundhead, and even sitting in some of Cromwell's Parliaments.

The next ancestor who must be noticed is the seventh Earl. He sat in the House of Commons from 1783 to 1804, and was afterwards Lord Chamberlain. But he was



(Elsden & Son, photographers, Hertford)

The second Marquis of Salisbury, father of the present Marquis



(Elsden & Son, photographers, Hertford)

The Marquis of Salisbury

more than this, for it is recorded of him that he was a student of history, that he gave much time to the pursuit of science, and that he was a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was raised to be marquis in 1789, and from him, no doubt, the present Lord Salisbury inherits many of his tastes and qualities of mind.

His son, the father of the present marquis,

was a different man altogether. It is true that he took considerable part in political affairs and twice held important office. He was Lord Privy Seal in Lord Derby's Cabinet of 1852, and when the same Prime Minister again took the reins of Government in 1858 he obtained the Lord Presidency of the Council. But he was beyond everything a country gentleman of the old school, rather

behind than before his time. He hated the idea that any common people should obtain the merest peep at what lay within the boundary walls of Hatfield. He had the iron-work gate at the old entrance at the top of the town boarded up, and he even went so far as to have a cupboard put against the window of the tennis-court room, though this was far enough from the house and was merely used as a kind of ante-room to the tennis-court, and although the said window is high up above the outer archway of the entrance. Then again he detested railways, and it was a bitter pill to him when the Great Northern was constructed through his property and close to his park, although he was sufficiently shrewd to obtain excellent terms from the company. Needless to say, he himself invariably, or almost invariably, drove in his own carriage on his journeys to and from London. In this he was more consistent than many of the original opponents of railroads, who quickly repented of their mistake. A former owner of a large place on the Great Western line between Oxford and Banbury opposed the formation of the railway with might and main, and then, when a small station was erected not far from his house, became so much interested in the enterprise that he spent a great part of each day on the platform delightedly watching the arrival and departure of the trains! It was left to the son of the second Marquis of Salisbury thoroughly to appreciate the boon of a conveyance which would take him in the greatest comfort and in the short space of half an hour to King's Cross. The present Lord Salisbury more than twenty years ago made the excellent new approach to Hatfield House with large iron gates exactly opposite the station. Thus the steep hill up the town is avoided, and a beautiful drive through part of the park is obtained. The cost of this work must have been very great, for it entailed the erection of a viaduct over the low-lying ground between the station and the park, and indeed almost over the chimneys of some of the nearest houses of the town. The magnificent iron gates, too, which it is almost a surprise to learn were cast at St. Albans in the immediate neighbourhood, must have run into

a large figure. Iron gates are a great feature at Hatfield. Besides those at the entrance there are beautiful specimens of this kind of work on either side of the terrace in front of the house leading into the gardens on either hand. They are obviously designed by the same artist as those already mentioned, but are rather more ornate. The little Cupids swarming up the perpendiculars are exquisite, and no visitor to Hatfield should pass them by unnoticed. The most beautiful specimen of all is, however, to be found in the parish church, but this must be left until it is time to speak of that most interesting building, for this article is getting on too fast and must return to the days of the second Marquis.

The name of this nobleman was James Brownlow William, but when he married the daughter and heiress of Mr. Bamber Gascoyne he added his wife's maiden name to his own, and so it comes that the present Lord Salisbury, his son, is called Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne-Cecil. This lady, Lord Salisbury's



Lady Blanche Balfour, sister of Lord Salisbury  
and mother of the Leader of the House  
of Commons



F. M. BALFOUR. C. C. BALFOUR. G. W. BALFOUR. MISS A. B. BALFOUR. E. J. A. BALFOUR.  
 MRS. H. SIDGWICK. LADY B. BALFOUR. LADY RAYLEIGH.  
 A. J. BALFOUR.

Lady Blanche Balfour and her children

mother, had pronounced views on the management of her household and family. It is even said that she dieted her children with such extreme care that every particle of food given to them was exactly weighed out, the result being that a healthy and unabated appetite was the rule among the young Cecils, and slices of bread and butter sprinkled with sugar, or indeed any gifts of the kind which might be offered them on their frequent visits to the various lodges &c., on the estate, were highly appreciated!

There were five children in the family, three sons, and two daughters. The eldest son, Lord Cranborne, was extremely charming and cultivated, but was unfortunately a great invalid and totally blind. There are at least two fine portraits of him on the walls of Hatfield House. They give the impression of much gentleness and refinement, and there is on the face in both pictures that curious blending of sadness and happiness which is so often found in the blind. This

elder brother of Lord Salisbury took what share he could in the affairs of the world and was by no means a recluse. He travelled abroad from time to time with a friend, and was always glad when chance brought him a talk with some fellow traveller of intellectual attainments.

Lord Robert Cecil, the present marquis, was the second son, and the youngest was Lord Eustace, who held a commission in the Coldstreams, was Surveyor-General of Ordnance for six years, was Member for South Essex and then for West Essex for twenty years, and for a time was one of his brother's private secretaries. The two daughters were both married, the elder to the late Mr. Beresford Hope, the Member for Cambridge University, the younger to Mr. J. Balfour, thus becoming the mother of the present leader of the House of Commons, and of Mr. Gerald Balfour.

It may be mentioned in passing that after the death of the mother of the present Lord

Salisbury and his brothers and sisters, his father married again. His second wife was a daughter of the fifth Earl Delawarr, and by her he had several sons and daughters.

But to return to the days when Lord Robert Cecil (as he then was) was a little boy. It is said that he was a serious little fellow, giving small promise of the large proportions which have characterised his later years. Curiously enough, almost the only description of him as a child comes to us from the late Mr. Gladstone, who once said that he never could think unkindly of him since the day he first saw him, "a bright boy in red petticoats playing with his mother." Perhaps those who have known his youngest son, Lord Hugh Cecil, will have the best idea of his personal appearance at that time, for Lord Hugh is considered to be very much like what his father was before him.

There are very few reminiscences to be obtained of the early years of the young Lord Robert Cecil. His first school was one kept by Dr. Faithful, at that time Rector of Hatfield. This worthy lived at the old rectory, a country house outside Hatfield, lying some way from the high road and approached by a considerable drive. One

can picture the little lad with his bundle of books going out of the old red gateway and finding his way along by the park wall, past where the National School now stands, and so to the rectory and lessons. At the present day the drive to this house is bridged by the railway, and, whether from this cause or because of the distance from the church, the rectors of Hatfield have elected to live elsewhere.

There is just one little story connected with these early school days. It is interesting as showing how soon in his life a disregard for the exigencies of dress (to some extent a family trait) began. Probably Lord Robert was a very little boy at the time, for boys went to Mr. Faithful at the tender age of seven. A schoolfellow remembers that an old nurse, Betty by name, was kept there to look after these little fellows, and that Lord Robert came into the nursery one evening saying: "Oh Betty, I wish I was a cat!" "La! Lord Robert," she replied, "how can you wish yourself a beast?" To which came the answer: "When I think of the many times I must dress and undress before I die, I wish my clothes grew on my back!"

Somewhere about the year 1840 the young



(Elsden & Sons, Photographers, Hertford)

The old rectory where Lord Salisbury went to school. The house has of late years been restored, but the view given here shows few of the alterations. It is much the same as in Lord Salisbury's school-days

Lord Robert Cecil was sent to Eton, being then ten years old, an age slightly below that at which boys are usually sent at the present day. The inquirer who goes to Eton expecting to hear traditions of the learning or precocity of our present Prime Minister will come away sadly disappointed. He seems to have left no mark at all, if we except that of his name, which is carved "Robert G. Cecil" on one of the panels of the upper school.

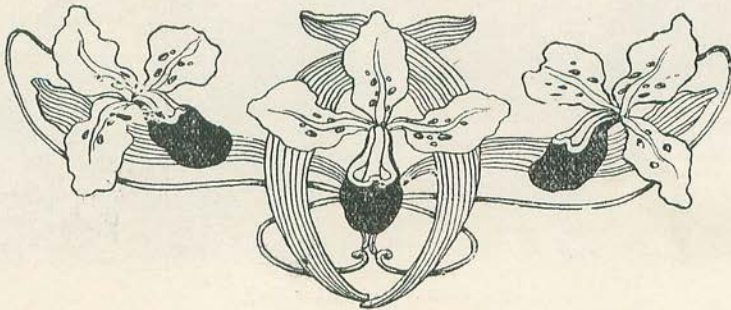
He was in the house of the Rev. W. G. Cookesley, a school character whose reputation survives as an extremely clever but eccentric House Master. He was also Lord Robert's tutor, and it may be partly owing to this fact that he (Lord Robert) did not specially shine as an Etonian. It is more than possible that Etonians of a later day will hardly realise which was Cookesley's house, and for their benefit we may say that it was that rather ugly building at the end of Baldwin Shore now in the possession of Mr. Heygate. Mr. A. C. James had the house for a considerable number of years, and later on Mr. John Carter and Mr. Rawlins. In Mr. Cookesley's day a dame had part of the building, and in her portion it is said that Mr. W. E. Gladstone boarded some years before his future antagonist arrived under the same roof.

The Provost of Eton writing about Lord Salisbury's school-days says: "I was at Eton

from 1839 to 1845, and his time would be about 1841 or 1842 to 1847-8. He must have been at the last Eton montem, which was in 1844. The Provost at the time was Dr. Hodgson, and the Head Master, Dr. Hawtrey. Among his contemporaries were (certainly) Lord Justice Chitty, Mr. Justice Stephen, Sir Robert Herbert, Lord Cottesloe, and (I think) Lord Dufferin then Mr. Blackwood."

Probably more could be learnt at Eton about any one of his celebrated contemporaries than about himself, though he was destined in a few years' time to occupy a position of greater influence and prominence than they ever reached. No doubt games were not half a century ago of such importance as at the present day, and from all that is known of his after-life one would not have expected to find the young Lord Robert Cecil a proficient at any one of them.

Probably Eton did not offer many attractions to him. Some men have greatly preferred their school to their college days, but to a mind like Lord Salisbury's there were opportunities at a university, opportunities of indulging in his taste for scientific matters, for metaphysics, and for debate, which no school life could have afforded him. His connection with Oxford has been so long and so important that it must be left to another chapter to describe the early days of his university career.



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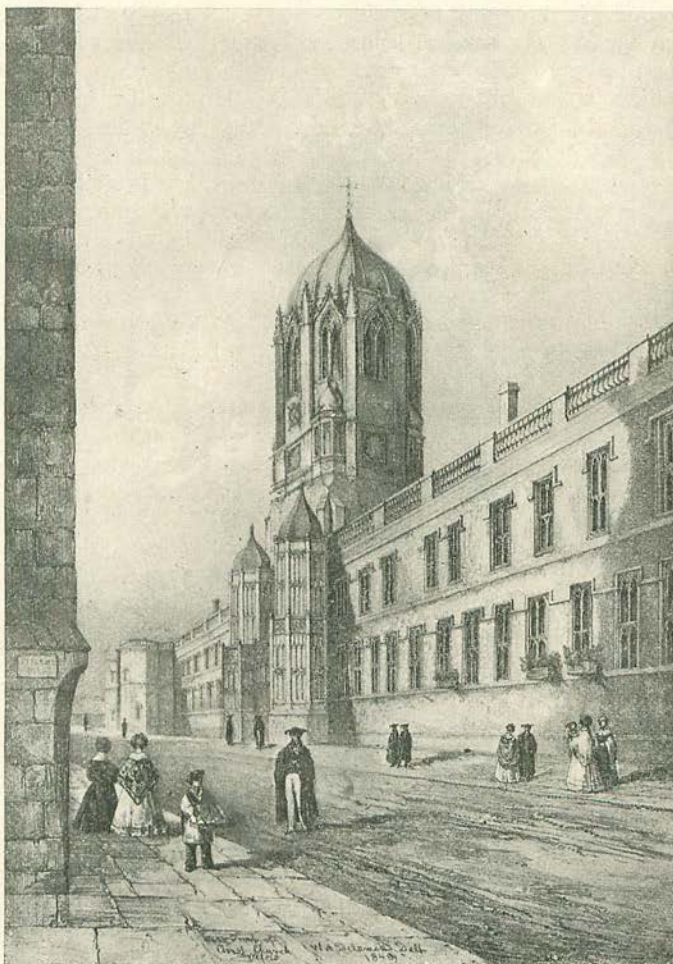
Author of "Bishop Walsham How, A Memoir"; "Bishop Selwyn, A Memoir";  
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## II. Oxford Days

**I**N 1847 Lord Robert Cecil left Eton and matriculated as a gentleman-commoner at Christ Church.

The visitor to Oxford who is wise keeps his eyes shut as far as possible all the dreary way from the station to Carfax. If, when he gets there, and some of the beauties of the City and University lie before him, he chooses to go first of all down St. Aldate's past the magnificent new municipal buildings, he will find himself close beneath the walls of Christ Church, where two turrets help to form the corner of the college. It was in one of these that Lord Robert Cecil had his rooms. They looked out, therefore, upon the street, but to get to them one must go through the big gateway beneath Tom Tower and, turning sharp to the left, must ascend staircase No. 7. These same rooms have subsequently had several well-known tenants, notably the late Marquis of Bute and the present Duke of Abercorn. The

old turret and the very rooms themselves are just as they were nearly fifty-five years ago,



Christ Church, Oxford. Lord Salisbury's rooms were situated in one of the turrets shown in the illustration



but it was to an Oxford differing completely from the Oxford of to-day that the future Prime Minister came.

Dr. Gaisford was Dean of Christ Church—a very different man from those appointed to the office in recent years. It is said that he only preached once a year, and that one of his sermons ended with the words, "Nor can I do better, in conclusion, than impress upon you the study of Greek literature, which not only elevates above the vulgar herd, but leads not infrequently to positions of considerable emolument." The famous Mr. Osborne Gordon, whose sayings are still often quoted, was classical tutor and senior censor, and probably had most to do with the direction of Lord Robert's studies.

But if we want to know wherein lies the main difference between the Oxford of those days and of these a reference to the amusing (if caustic) reminiscences of the Rev. W. Tuckwell will best inform us. Writing of days but little earlier than those in question, he says that he finds the main difference to exist first of all in dress. In those days no one dared appear in the public streets except in most correct attire. Men who boated or played cricket changed at their barge or pavilion. "Nowadays," he adds, "the garments of a gentleman are reserved, as High School girls tell me that they keep their Longfellow, for Sundays." Then, again, there was no football and no "sports." Few men boated and fewer still played cricket. Rich men rode, but the great body of men with limited incomes simply went for walks. Nearly every one turned out at two o'clock and walked in pairs or threes along the country roads till dinner at five! What a strange sight it must have been! And dinner at five! There is another change. Five o'clock is now the hour for tea, and dinner is at least two hours later. But Mr. Tuckwell, *laudator temporis acti*, considers that the old plan had all the advantage on its side. "Only," he says, "in unathletic days was possible the affluent talk of a Tennyson and Hallam on the Cam, on the Isis of a Whately and a Coplestone, a Newman and a Froude, a Congreve and Mark Pattison, a Stanley and Jowett, Clough and Matthew Arnold—brain

as against muscle, spirit as against flesh, the man as against the animal, the higher as against the lower life." However this may have been—and it might be easy to set down a list of athletes whose intellectual attainments are famous—this was the Oxford to which Lord Robert Cecil came, and, as he never loved a horse, and as, indeed, his allowance was probably not of undue dimensions, he was doubtless among the daily pedestrians, accompanied by one or other of his special set.

There is still at Christ Church an ancient retainer who remembers him well. Standing in the sunshine on the south side of Tom Quad, he thus delivered himself. "Remember him? I should think I do. I was valet then to Mr. M—— as had rooms this side of the gateway, and Lord Robert he used often to come to lunch. He was a very quiet gentleman, was Lord Robert, but he was a fine-looking man in his gentleman-commoner's gown with its long stripes, for all the world like a doctor of civil law's gown, and his velvet cap. A gold tassel? No! He wasn't a peer in them days. The last as I remember wearing a gold tassel was Lord Rosebery. But he was a fine gentleman, was Lord Robert Cecil. I remember his father, too, coming to see him. He was a little man, he was."

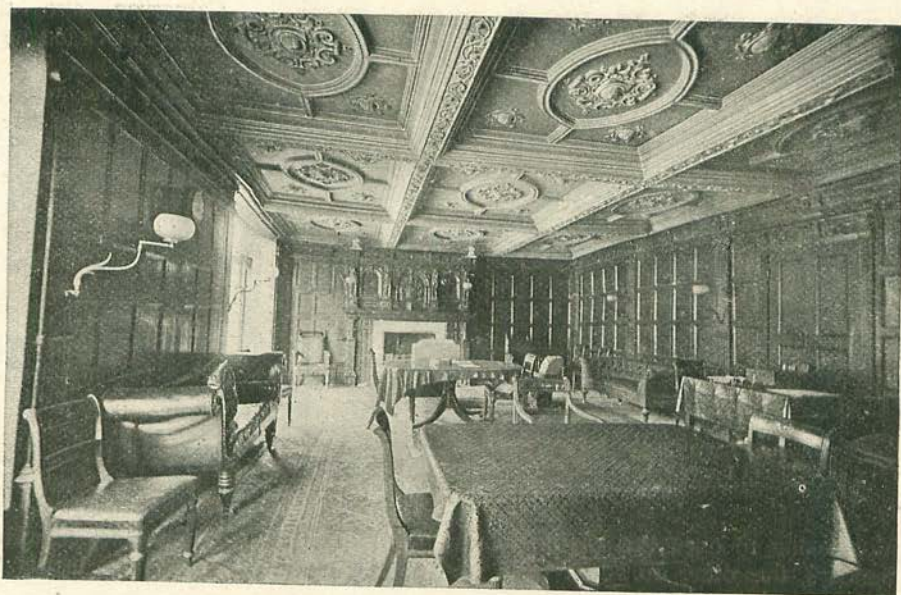
This old college servant was not the only one who thought Lord Robert a "quiet" man. One of his old intimates of those days says that he was "of a quiet disposition, not averse to a joke, but it was quite impossible for him to be uproarious."

He had plenty of time for the reading of scientific or metaphysical works, in which he chiefly delighted, for his father did not think it was well for a man of his rank to go in for honours. He, therefore, took a pass degree in 1849, though his papers were so good that he was given the doubtful distinction of an "honorary fourth." The main records of his life at this time centre round the Union, of which he was a distinguished member, and was at one time treasurer. It is remembered that on the frequent occasions of his addressing that society during their debates he was always exceedingly grave, and lost some effectiveness by a habit of looking

down and rather sideways as he spoke. But already his words were winged, and noted for their directness, as when, speaking about Sir Robert Peel, he said: "Let him lie in the grave of infamy which his political tergiversation has dug!"

But the chief source of information about his connection with the Oxford Union is a delightful paper by the late Lord Brabourne (at that time an undergraduate by name Knatchbull) which appeared in that

in the Union) as Lord Robert Cecil in February 1849, 'that any endowment of the Romanist priesthood, or of any Romanist place of education, will prove an insuperable obstacle to the social or political welfare of Ireland.' He also, about the same time, spoke in favour of a motion to the effect that 'the dissolution of monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. was, politically speaking, a most injudicious measure, and one which deserves our utmost condemnation.'



(Hills & Saunders, photographers, Oxford)

Vincent's Club (1873)

bright miscellany brought out by Edmund Yates with the title of "Time." The following extracts from that paper are of great interest. After saying that some of the men associated with him in the Union of those days were still "to the fore," he wonders whether Lord Salisbury "the Foreign Minister," would be inclined to serve in the same Government with him then, he having discarded his youthful Toryism for a Liberal creed. He then goes on:

"I wonder whether the Lord Salisbury of to-day is prepared to support at this moment his proposition (brought forward at a debate

From other sources it appears that among his many speeches was one in favour of the drama, the future Dean Burgon being his chief opponent, and another on the duty of the country to place its affairs in stronger hands than those of the Liberal party. But to return to Lord Brabourne's paper:

"Our debates used at that time to be carried on in Wyatt's rooms in the High, and our rooms for ordinary club purposes were at Vincent, the bookseller's, in the same street. Our debates were not always upon matters of public interest. A tremendous conflict raged for a long time upon two pro-



Dining Hall of All Souls College, Oxford. Lord Salisbury's portrait hangs over the "high" table

positions—one, to open the Union Rooms on Sundays, the other to admit what we called 'theological papers,' by which high-sounding phrase we designated *The Tablet*, *The Record*, and other papers in which religious disputations abounded. I had quite forgotten which side I espoused, but I find an entry in my diary of Nov. 22, 1849: 'Debate on theological papers. Cecil succeeded in carrying them by 29 to 25. I led against them.'

Here is already evidence of the keen interest which the present Prime Minister has always taken in religious matters. There is subsequently an entry in Mr. Knatchbull's diary also on a literary matter which it is much less easy to understand. There was, it seems, a proposal to acquire the "Ingholdsby Legends" for the Union Library, and it was carried by a majority of 35 to 30,

but its chief opponent was Lord Robert Cecil, supported by his two friends Lygon and Meyrick.

"However," says Lord Brabourne, "we did not let our Union differences interfere with our personal friendships, for I see on the next page of my diary—'Dined with Cecil in Christ Church. Lothian, Dalkeith, Sandon and Carnarvon also there: wined in C.'s lodgings.'"

The names just mentioned are, with the addition of the late Mr. Portal, afterwards incumbent of Burghclere, and, a little later, Mr. Meyrick, then fellow of Trinity, those of Lord Salisbury's chief friends during his Oxford days. It is an example of the turn of his mind that when the last named had his famous discussion by letter with the Rev. H. E. Manning (afterwards Cardinal) all the letters were shown to

Lord Robert Cecil, as he then was, who took the keenest interest in the whole matter. When it is stated that the subject was the Moral Theology of the Church of Rome, and that the letters were written by Mr. Meyrick to show that the teaching of St. Alfonso Liguori was immoral in many respects, and that his theory of Equivocation was incompatible with Truthfulness, while the replies of Mr. Manning were to uphold the said teaching, it will be seen that for a very young man—scarcely twenty-three at the time—to interest himself keenly in such a controversy showed a mind of no common calibre. His opinion of the arguing powers of the future cardinal was not high, for he wrote to Mr. Meyrick from the Island of Rum, saying, "You have smashed Manning, but it is breaking a fly on a wheel."

There is another side to his life as an

undergraduate at Christ Church which must be just touched upon. He was a leader, even at that time, of men. Not a leader who would head a rowdy party in planting Peckwater with shrubs uprooted from the Dean's garden; not a leader of the more social and musical set—he left that to Lord Cork; but a leader of the men of the very highest and the most intellectual stamp. One who had known him well writes that many members of his college, who had either known him or succeeded to a knowledge of him, well remember the tradition which he had left there as a leader and counsellor of such men as these. With men of this kind his influence was remarkable, and continued to operate after he himself had left the University. There is just one more little extract from Lord Brabourne's paper which bears in some measure upon this fact. There was, it seems, in 1848, when he had not been up for more than a year, a great deal of unpleasantness connected with the election of the Committee of the Union. Mr. Portal was at that time President, and used certain language to which the future Lord Brabourne took exception, the latter writing several letters complaining about it. Naturally there was a great "row" between the two men, but it is nice to read that "Cecil acted as mediator between us"—though his efforts appear to have been unsuccessful, for "he finally wrote that we were both old enough and ugly enough, as the saying is, to fight out the battle for ourselves!"

If Lord Salisbury when an undergraduate did not elect to go in for honours, Oxford University has showered her highest honours upon him ever since. To begin with, he was elected a Fellow of All Souls in 1853, and so held one of the most enviable positions in the University. A Fellow of All Souls, as is generally known, possesses all the dignity and emoluments of such an office with none of its drawbacks. For him there are no dull lectures to teach the elements of classics necessary for the undergraduates who are in for "Pass Mods." His evening reading is disturbed by no unseasonable chorus, by no shout or ribald jest from window to window of the 'Quad.' For does not All Souls exclude such troublesome

folk as undergraduates, with the exception of some one or two whose solitariness ensures their quiet? The old idea was that the Fellows of All Souls were bound to be *bene nati, splendide vestiti, et mediocriter docti*, of which Robertson, in his history of the College, says, "Like most academic *bons mo's*, much of its virtue lies in a complete absence of a basis of solid fact, for the Statutes of Chichele, or indeed of anybody else, do not contain a syllable to justify its point." As to the second part of the saying, there can be little doubt that it never applied to Lord Salisbury, except when dressed in the magnificence of his Chancellor's robes, for, as a rule, he probably never had much notion of what particular garb he might be wearing!

Just sixteen years later he had made for himself such a name as a rising statesman and as a great leader of debate in both the Houses of Parliament, as well as such a reputation for learning, that on the death of Lord Derby his election to the Chancellorship of the University of Oxford was carried in a Convocation held on November 12, 1869, without a dissentient voice. Mr. Traill, in his interesting "Life of Lord Salisbury," says: "It may be doubted whether, wise and fortunate as our two ancient Universities have been throughout their history in their choice of occupants for the Chancellor's chair, there has ever been a case in which office and incumbent were more obviously and indisputably made for each other." Certainly it may be said that, after more than thirty years' experience of his Chancellorship, there is no member of the University, whatever his politics, who is not proud to think that that position is still held by Lord Salisbury.

When the extremely arduous duties of the Prime Minister's political life are considered, it will be understood that, if the Chancellorship of the University entailed any serious amount of work, it would have been impossible for him to continue in the office. As a matter of fact, this is not the case. There are Chancellor's Prizes which he gives, but he does not present them in person. There is a Chancellor's Court to which University men may be summoned, but it is invariably presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, who



(Hills & Saunders, photographers, Oxford)

Lord Salisbury, as Chancellor of the University of Oxford, at the laying of the memorial stone of the Indian Institute, Oxford

is, in fact, the one really executive authority. Sometimes the Chancellor heads deputations to Court, and sometimes (but rarely) he comes to Oxford to preside over some special function, when his weighty words are greatly valued. It is interesting to note some one or two of these occasions, as completing the account of the fifty-five years of Lord Salisbury's connection with Oxford.

The first great event to bring the Chancellor to Oxford was the laying the memorial-stone of the Indian Institute by King Ed-

ward VII., at that time Prince of Wales. Next to the Prince, Lord Salisbury was certainly the most marked man in that great assemblage, and to both it was an occasion of special interest. It is well known how keenly our King has always backed up every movement for the advantage of the more distant parts of the Empire, and this, as well as the fact that the event was an important masonic ceremony, was sufficient to interest him deeply in the proceedings. For Lord Salisbury the day had a double significance. It was a distinct step towards the future that he had always hoped might belong to India. He had twice been Secretary for that country, and he knew what were her needs and possibilities. Then it was a distinct step, also, in the life of the University over whose fortunes he presided as Chancellor. No wonder that he spoke with special eloquence on the occasion. Here is a brief extract from his splendid speech :

“It had seemed good to those who had charge of our Indian Empire that the servants who were appointed to govern it should be equipped for their work by that most valuable of all preparations for a life's work—the education at a University. And the University had stepped forward and had secured for itself no small share in this enviable duty. He believed it was destined to acquire a still larger influence in the education of those to whom their Indian Empire was entrusted. There could be no greater

gift with which they could send them forth to their splendid task than that of preparing them to improve the ancient civilisation of the East by all the knowledge which the civilisation and the culture of our English Universities could afford. . . . This was a point of great interest, not so much in the political as in the intellectual history of this country. They were standing where two great streams of intellectual tradition were beginning to meet, and the Institute which they had founded that day was the indication that they were meeting, and would tend to make the combination more complete. What the results of that day might be, who could say? When they compared the increase of culture and civilisation of England, strengthened by the power of a dominant empire—when they compared it with the civilisation of India, which had barely maintained itself, they were accustomed to think that the influence must be all on one side. But the intellectual force which across so many centuries of political depression and political subjugation had yet maintained itself alive was not a power to be despised. It might be that they too had their lessons to learn: that they too had modifications in their intellectual traditions to undergo."

In this speech there comes out the mind of a man whose political interests were mainly of an almost world-wide nature, but to whom, if domestic politics were admitted to any share in his affections, they would be those of the University whose son and whose ruler he was proud to be. In 1887 Lord Salisbury was again at Oxford, but this time not in connection with the University, for on November 23 of that year the National Union of Conservative Associations met in that city, and he, then for the first time Prime Minister, received upwards of 500 congratulatory addresses, and made a great speech to a mass meeting in the Corn Exchange.

Yet again Lord Salisbury proved his affection for Oxford and all connected with her by coming down in 1893 and receiving "purses" for the Radcliffe Infirmary.

Altogether the record of his connection with City and University is a singularly happy one. It is hardly necessary to state that he was presented some years ago with the honorary degree of D.C.L., but it is interesting to record that Christ Church added to the lustre of its fame in 1894 by adding to the roll of its honorary students the name of the Marquis of Salisbury.



## The Garden in Winter

By E. Kay Robinson

**T**HERE are intervals in the best regulated winter when the abnormal mildness of the season brings out the florists' catalogues, prematurely blazing with all the colours which make a July garden gorgeous. And man, who was once a wild animal and the slave of the seasons, feels the first breath of untimely warmth stirring his pulses with the joy of life. He throws off his overcoat, and is ready at a moment's notice to "dance with the daffodils," though many weary weeks of winter in spring must follow a spring in winter, with blizzards searching out loopholes in the lambing yards, and snow often piling over the crocuses.

Still, from the beginning of the year the days get longer and the nights shorter; the oak's twigs are all nobbly with swollen buds, and the trails of honeysuckles in sheltered nooks are tufted with the green leaves of spring. You cannot help noticing these things as the unusually balmy air tempts you to potter round the garden, picking up slabs of the sodden gravel with your boot-heels, and marking how prematurely high some of the green spikes of the early tulips have thrust themselves through the mould. Gardening books tell you that these should be protected by an inch or two of earth: but it seems a silly, mud-pie sort of game to play on a mild, moist winter morning, and at heart

mind being laughed at for her unsociability, brought Cuthbert to her aid.

"Why do you not want to accompany Marjorie on the visits she wishes to make?" he asked his young wife one afternoon, when Marjorie had driven off in Mrs. Thiselthwaite's carriage and left her at home.

Una answered very simply.

"Because it is such waste of time sitting up to talk and pay each other compliments. I have other things to do."

Cuthbert looked at her childish figure as she stood before him with a net across her arm and her old woollen cap pushed to the back of her curly head; and he shook his head with a smile.

"You are getting too old to be so absorbed in your beach amusements. Marjorie thinks the mistress of the Towers should show more dignity and precision. Now what is your business this afternoon, may I ask?"

He spoke indulgently, as if to a child; and the colour rose at once to Una's cheeks.

"Every day this week I have been out with Marjorie. She takes up all my time. This afternoon I am going to have to myself.

If she thinks me childish I do not care a bit. And you knew what I was when you married me, and we have got on very well indeed up to the present time. You promised not to interfere with me."

Cuthbert looked surprised at her indignant tone.

"My dear child, I am not going to interfere with you. Perhaps when this book, that is taking up so much of my time and thought, is finished, I may have leisure to go about with you a little. I have been thinking what a nice companion Marjorie is for you. She will prevent you from feeling lonely and dull."

"I don't know what dulness means!"

Una dashed out of the room, and running swiftly along the top of the cliffs, she made her way towards the entrance of the Witches' Hole.

"Cuthbert is so stupid!" was her impatient thought. "Here is something that needs my help, something that I ought to work at with no hindrance or interruption, for it is to save human beings! Yet he talks as if I am spending my time in making sand castles on the beach!"



## The Marquis of Salisbury

By Frederick Douglas How, Author of "Bishop Walsham How, A Memoir," &c.

### III. Travel—Entry into Political Life

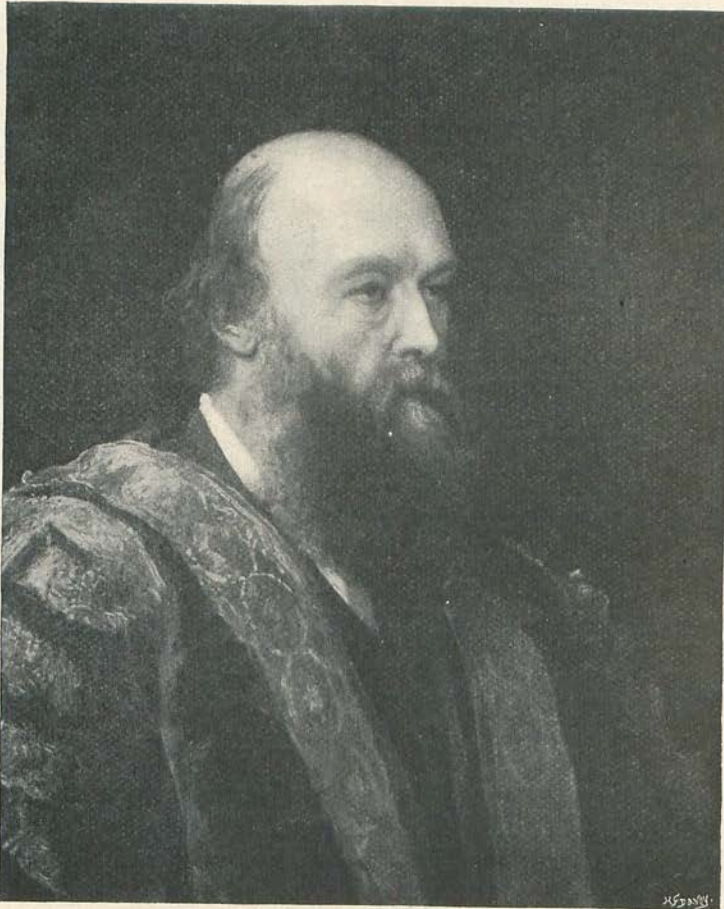
**B**EFORE the election of Lord Robert Cecil to a fellowship at All Souls, and before his entry into political life as Member for Stamford, both of which events took place in 1853, he devoted a considerable time to travelling in foreign countries and in some of our colonies. It was usual at that time for young men of good family to do "the grand tour" as a sort of preparation for whatever public life might lie before them, and a very serious undertaking it was considered, although it entailed no longer journeys than are now comprised in a £10 tour on the Continent, and are taken with a light heart by any city clerk in his few days Easter holiday. But Lord Robert Cecil was not content with this.

He visited indeed several of the countries of Europe, but he also went to see for himself what Australia and New Zealand were like, grasping already the enormous importance of these colonies to the mother country. Who can say how great an influence on the mind of the future statesman these visits may not have made? It is certain at all events that, from the very first, his political interests and his political outlook have been thoroughly Imperial in character.

What changes have come to colonial life since then! When, in 1852, Lord Robert Cecil visited Melbourne, that magnificent modern city, there were just three stone buildings in the place—a stone Government House, a stone prison, and a stone public-

house! The rest was all wood, and ramshackle and irregular enough. Where nowadays carriages roll by and tramcars run, the adventurous driver of a waggon found himself often enough bogged to the axle-tree. Those were still very early days for the great colony.

claim on the flat by the river. This would be what is called a "wet claim." Their tents, which were rather more ambitious than those of other gold seekers in their neighbourhood, were pitched on the side of the hill above, and outside these tents they



(F. Hollyer, photographer, 9 Pembroke Square, W.)

Lord Salisbury, from a painting by G. F. Watts, R.A.

The gold fever was running high, and of this side of life, too, Lord Robert determined to see something. Accompanied by a party of friends, among whom were actually some ladies, he visited the Mount Alexander diggings in Victoria, some eighty miles from Melbourne. In order to have some practical experience of mining, the party pegged out a

cooked their meals over the camp fire like every one else. It must have been a delightfully new experience for a short time. Their whole surroundings were so strange. There were the gum-trees growing in the flat below, and the peppermint-trees on the hillsides above; there were the numberless gay parakeets and macaws, birds of unaccustomed



plumage and still more unaccustomed scream! There were also the other mining camps, peopled by men of whom they knew nothing but with whom they became on more or less friendly terms. The kindness of the ladies of the party in visiting a neighbouring tent where a miner lay ill with malarial fever, and their generosity in giving him freely a share in the "comforts" with which they were provided, is remembered to this day. There is a certain yeoman, now getting on in years and living in retirement in a little midland village, who is never tired of telling of how Lord Salisbury, "leastways Lord Robert Cecil," was working on an adjacent claim to the one in possession of himself and his brother, and how they would see him running down the hillside to his work, and how he and the narrator's brother were the two finest men at the diggings, for "Lord Robert was a fine square-shouldered man in those days."

Probably no education for a life-work such as our Prime Minister has had to do could possibly have been better than these travels, undertaken in this thorough and practical manner.

It is now time to record Lord Salisbury's first plunge into political life. Once more one is reminded that nearly half a century has gone by since that took place, for it happened under conditions such as have been for many years impossible. Plunge, indeed, it can hardly be called; there was certainly no splash and no troubling of the waters when the young Lord Robert Cecil slipped into a Parliamentary career as Member for the pocket-borough of Stamford in 1853. It is difficult to realise the state of things then existing. The little town of Stamford, notable only as possessing five fine churches which, with their mimic "closes," almost crowd one against the other, and long ago absorbed for Parliamentary purposes into a county division, at that time possessed two members, both of whom were simply and absolutely the nominees of the Marquis of Exeter, the patron of the borough. When Mr. Herries one of the existing members retired it was not unnatural that the Marquis should appoint one of the name of Cecil to the vacant seat, and so it came about that

the young Lord Robert, only twenty-three years of age, entered Parliament with none of the difficulties, expenses, or excitements of a contested election. The whole proceeding was more or less of a farce. The electors had never heard of him (or of his predecessor's intended retirement) until a letter from Lord Exeter's lawyer told them they were to change their representative, and informed them of the member selected for them. That was quickly followed by a personal visit from the candidate, when a so-called canvass was made. The notices are still preserved which invited his supporters to assist at this function. They are in the following form, and were issued for both the Wednesday and Thursday mornings of his visit:

"STAMFORD ELECTION.

"The friends of Lord Robert G. Cecil are respectfully requested to meet his Lordship at the George Hotel, St. Martin's, to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock precisely, to accompany him on the canvass.

"J. PHILLIPS, *Chairman.*"

On the Thursday afternoon a handbill was issued by Lord Robert saying that the result of the canvass was "most satisfactory," and earnestly requesting the attendance of his friends at the George Hotel on the following Monday morning to accompany him to the hustings. Meantime, of course, he had put out an election address, of which an extract is here given. It is extremely interesting as showing how early in life he became a staunch supporter of the Church of England and of religious education:

After speaking of Mr. Herries as one who had "always been a consistent adherent of those great Conservative principles to which England owes her vast Empire abroad, and the maintenance of her time-honoured institutions at home," he went on to say: "It is my desire to uphold these same principles as earnestly as he has done, though of course not objecting to make such cautious changes as lapse of time or improvements in science or the dispensations of Providence may render necessary. . . . I am a sincere and warmly attached member of the Established

Church; and therefore I shall be ready at all times to support any measures which will increase her usefulness, and render the number of her bishops and clergy more nearly

truths of Revelation, as a distinct and indispensable element. The events that have just passed in Ireland are a sufficient warning of the futility of all educational plans in which

# STAMFORD ELECTION

THE FRIENDS OF

## LORD ROBERT G. CECIL,

Are respectfully requested to meet his Lordship at

**The GEORGE HOTEL, St. Martin's,**

*To-morrow (Wednesday) Morning,*

At 10 o'clock precisely, to accompany him on the Canvass.

**J. PHILLIPS,**  
CHAIRMAN.

*Stamford, Tuesday, 16th August, 1853.*

LANGLEY, PRINTER, HIGH-STREET, STAMFORD.

Facsimile of the first election handbill issued by Lord Salisbury, when Lord Robert Cecil, inviting his supporters to accompany him on his canvass

equal to the requirements of our large and increasing population. And I shall be ready from the same motive to oppose any attempt to alienate the endowments, or to extend the support already far too freely given to hostile sects. Although I am ready to grant full toleration to the religious opinions of others, I am determined to oppose as far as in me lies the working of these ultramontane doctrines which are at variance with the fundamental principles of our constitution. The recent subservience of Government to the Irish Romanists\* seems to augur that it will be attempted to concede far more to them than can be justified under the name of toleration.

"I shall equally resist any public system of education which is not based on the

\* This refers to the Government subsidies to Maynooth College.

religious instruction is not enforced; and demonstrate that such compromises do not even satisfy those in deference to whose hostility they were adopted."

The *Lincoln, Rulland, and Stamford Mercury* for Friday, August 26, 1853, has a short account of the election which shows the want of interest which was, naturally enough, taken in the event. Here is what it says:

"The vacancy in the representation of Stamford, caused by the retirement of Mr. Herries, was filled upon Monday last by the election of Lord Robert Cecil without opposition. There was no excitement whatever on the occasion, and, if it had not been for the ringing of the bells and the distant sound of a band of music just before the time fixed for the nomination, no one would have conjectured that a Parliamentary election was about to take place. . . . There was the customary scrambling at the close

for the timber of which the hustings were made."

Of this first election of the then Lord Robert Cecil to Parliament, nothing further need be added than that he was proposed by Joseph Phillips, Esq., and seconded by Alderman Haycock; that his first colleague in the representation of Stamford was Sir Frederick Thesiger, and that the whole proceedings, speeches, election, &c., took no longer than three-quarters of an hour.

Having mentioned his first colleague, this may be a fitting place to record that during the fourteen years that he was Member for Stamford, he shared the representation of the borough with no less than four gentlemen—all, of course, nominated by the Marquis of Exeter. Thus, when in 1858 Sir Frederick Thesiger became Lord Chancellor, Mr. John

elector describing him as a Puseyite! Sir Stafford remained member for the borough for eight years, when in 1866 he became member for part of his own county, Devonshire, and Sir John C. Dalrymple Hay took his place.

By this time Lord Robert Cecil had become Lord Cranborne, and in Nevinson's "History of Stamford" there is the proud boast that that town "in recent times can point to the honoured names of Granby, Herries, Thesiger, Cranborne, Northcote, and Hay, as its representatives."

But it must not be thought that every one in Stamford quietly acquiesced in a system which provided them with members according to the whim of their patron. The following letter is evidence of an under current of feeling which has since helped to

TO THE  
**ELECTORS**  
OF THE  
**BOROUGH OF STAMFORD.**

GENTLEMEN,

Having now completed my Canvass, I take the earliest opportunity of announcing to my friends that the result has been most satisfactory; I therefore request that you will accept my best thanks for the kind and gratifying manner in which I have been received.

As the Election is fixed for Monday next at 10 o'clock precisely, I earnestly request the attendance of my Friends at the George Hotel, Saint Martin's, on that morning, at Half-past 9 o'clock, to accompany me from thence to the Hustings.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,  
Your obliged and faithful Servant,

**ROBERT G. CECIL.**

GEORGE HOTEL, Thursday, 18th August, 1858.

H. JOHNSON, PRINTER, ST. MARY'S-HILL, STAMFORD.

The second handbill issued by Lord Salisbury, when Lord Robert Cecil, asking his supporters to accompany him to the hustings. (The use of hustings was abolished by the Ballot Act of 1872)

Inglis took his place. This was in February of that year, and in the following July, that gentleman having received high judicial appointment in Scotland, Sir Stafford Northcote stepped into the empty place, in spite of a widely circulated leaflet from a Devon

bring about the new state of things with which we are familiar.

"To the Editor of the *Times*."

"SIR,—The notice of an evil is the first step towards its remedy, and with this view

TO THE

# ELECTORS

OF THE

## BOROUGH OF STAMFORD.

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to offer you my most sincere acknowledgments for the honor you have done me in electing me to be one of your Representatives.

The only return I can make for your kindness will be, to do all that lies in my power to carry out what I believe to be your political wishes, by a zealous and undeviating adherence to the Conservative principles which have gained for me the honor of your support.

Though I never can hope in any degree to supply the void left by the retirement of my Right Honorable predecessor, or to make you feel his loss the less; still I trust that I may never by any deficiency in earnestness or assiduity, give you cause to regret the confidence you have on this occasion reposed in me.

I have the honor to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**Robert G. Cecil.**

*George Hotel, 22nd August, 1853.*

LANGLEY, PRINTER, HIGH-STREET, STAMFORD

Facsimile of handbill issued by Lord Salisbury, when Lord Robert Cecil, returning thanks for his election to Parliament for the Borough of Stamford in 1853

I trust you will give space for a few lines pointing out an evil existing in this borough, and I fear many others where they are troubled with patrons. I allude to the unconstitutional interference of peers in the election of members of Parliament.

"This borough is completely under the

control of the Marquis of Exeter. On no occasion whatever are the electors consulted as to the member to be returned for the borough. A vacancy occurs. A candidate is selected, and commences his canvass (so called) in the borough before we 'the represented,' poor ignorant mortals, are aware of our former member retiring.

"This is no overdrawn picture. The farce was gone through just at the close of the last session of Parliament when Mr. Herries retired and was succeeded by Lord R. Cecil, a scion of the Salisbury branch of the house of Cecil. The fitness of any candidate is never any question with us; he is sent to us and we return him.

"Should any elector be so daring as to commit the sin of thinking for himself and vote for any but the candidates sent to us, the blue-book from the Stamford Election Committee, session 1848, is sufficient to show what may be expected to follow if the power of the house of Burghley be able to reach him. Even the member himself is subjected to similar treatment. Sir George Clerk voted on the corn law ques-

tion\* contrary to the views of the patron of the borough, and he (Sir George) troubled the electors no more. Mr. Herries succeeded him, and, until introduced by letter from the London solicitor to the Marquis of

\* On Sir Robert Peel's motion for the Repeal of the Corn Laws.

Exeter, Mr. Herries was a total stranger to every elector in the borough. Mr. Herries' retirement followed so close upon his vote on the Indian question that there is no trouble in guessing the reason for his retirement. If the influence exercised by the borough patron ended with the election

fourteen miles distant, we there see precisely the same state of things under Earl Fitzwilliam, a Radical. It may be argued that these two cases afford a balance of power; but the electors suffer, like the frogs in the fable.

# STAMFORD ELECTION, JULY, 1866.

THE FRIENDS OF THE  
**Right Hon. Viscount Cranborne,**  
AND REAR ADMIRAL  
**Sir John Chas. Dalrymple Hay, Bart.**

F.R.S.,

ARE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED TO MEET THEM

AT THE GEORGE HOTEL, ST. MARTIN'S,  
*To-morrow (Tuesday) Morning, at Nine o'clock precisely,*  
TO ACCOMPANY THEM ON THEIR CANVASS.

**RICHARD THOMPSON,**

STAMFORD MONDAY, 9TH JULY, 1866

CHAIRMAN.

W P DOLBY, PRINTER HIGH STREET STAMFORD

Handbill issued by Lord Salisbury when, as Viscount Cranborne, he contested Stamford in 1866

of members of the House of Commons we might perhaps submit quietly; but every transaction in which the town is locally interested is made to feel the baneful effects of this political influence. We are denied direct railway communication. We are surrounded by enclosed fields, and we labour under numerous other disadvantages, simply for the reason that if it were otherwise the borough might become independent, and the patronage to the House of Commons jeopardised.

"Now, the Marquis of Exeter is a Tory; but if we glance at Peterborough, only

"Surely some remedy ought to be applied to this glaring evil. If it is the law of the land that peers are not to interfere in the election of members of Parliament, either enforce that law or efface it from the statute book.

"A. B. C.

"*Stamford, December 16, 1853.*"

On Lord Robert Cecil's visits to Stamford he used to stay sometimes at the George Hotel, a most picturesque old coaching house with a sign that stretches right across the street, and sometimes with Mr. Phillips in

Water Street. When at this house he used to borrow books from the well-lined book shelves of the library, and impressed his host with his literary and intellectual turn of mind. Otherwise, he does not seem to have given the people of Stamford in those early days any idea of the real power which lay beneath his quiet exterior. They did not the least expect to see their new member become, in a few short years, one of the leading statesmen of Europe. The training he had received in the debates at the Oxford Union gave him a certain ease in speaking and he treated public matters in a clear and fearless manner, but "he always made a good speech" is the utmost that can be got from those who heard him and who remember well his first arrival at Stamford.

In the light, however, of all that has happened since it is extremely interesting to read his first electioneering speeches. Reference will have to be made to them again when speaking of the part that the Prime Minister has taken in the question of reform and other matters, but here some extracts from his very first speech as reported in the *Stamford Mercury* of August 26, 1853, will be of great interest. Probably, had there been any opposition, his words would have made a greater impression, and greater interest would have been taken in the proceedings. In reference to this latter point it is amusing to note the word "slightly" in the following account.

"Lord Robert Cecil then presented himself and was slightly cheered by his friends, he said :

"Gentlemen, electors of the borough of Stamford, I come forward to thank you for the honour you have done me in electing me as your representative, and I must in the first instance admit to you that I am conscious how inadequate I am to supply the place of the gentleman—(a voice : 'speak out !')—I will try: I repeat that I am inadequate, probably in point of lungs as well as ability to represent you, to represent you as has done the right honourable gentleman whose resignation on account of ill-health has just been declared. . . . My opinions accord so entirely with those of Mr. Herries, so

thoroughly with those of the great Conservative party which has ruled England so successfully and so long—that it is not necessary for me to trouble you with them in detail. There is, however, one point especially on which I shall speak in a tone different to Mr. Herries—I mean on the subject of what is commonly called Protection. When Mr. Herries last presented himself on the hustings the battle of Native Industry was not yet concluded: the hopes of the Protectionists were not entirely destroyed, and there was a reasonable expectation that the country would retrace its steps and undo the unhappy policy of the late Sir Robert Peel.\* It is useless now to disguise the fact that those hopes are at an end, and we must submit to the new commercial system which goes by the name of Free Trade. Consequently I do not present myself before you as a Protectionist, for, I repeat, the Protectionist party is at an end. That principle was merely one development of the great Conservative party, and now that the designation is no longer in existence we present ourselves as Conservatives again—simply as the supporters of those great institutions on which the safety and prosperity of the country so entirely depend. . . . It is admitted even by our opponents that some taxes, more especially the rates, fall far more heavily on the agricultural than on any other interest, and I do not think they will deny that the burden of taxation presses most unduly upon the land. The great hope on which farmers must now rely is the reform of taxation—that national burdens may fall equally and fairly on every class alike."

In these words—dealing with the very first subject upon which as a member of Parliament their new representative spoke—the people of Stamford might (if they would) have seen a suggestion of those statesman-like qualities of which they were so little

\* The Corn Laws were enacted in 1815 to protect the farmer by imposing a tax on imported corn. In 1846, a bad harvest in England and a potato famine in Ireland caused Sir Robert Peel to introduce a Bill to repeal these laws. This was ultimately carried, and to this allusion is made in this speech.

aware. There was the readiness to acknowledge the hopelessness of a lost cause and the determination to let it interfere as little as possible with the great principles of political life. There was the willingness to bow to the inevitable while still holding as strongly as ever his own personal convictions, which has proved so characteristic of Lord Salisbury's career. He next spoke about the proposed Reform Bill, deprecating any interference with what had been thought scarcely twenty years before to be a final and satisfactory settlement. He went on to refer to the religious agitations of the day, and reference to his words on this subject will have to be made hereafter. It is sufficient here to note that he spoke with some reluctance, for, as he said, "the cause of religion always suffers from discussion when introduced into a political point of view." Last of all he turned to education

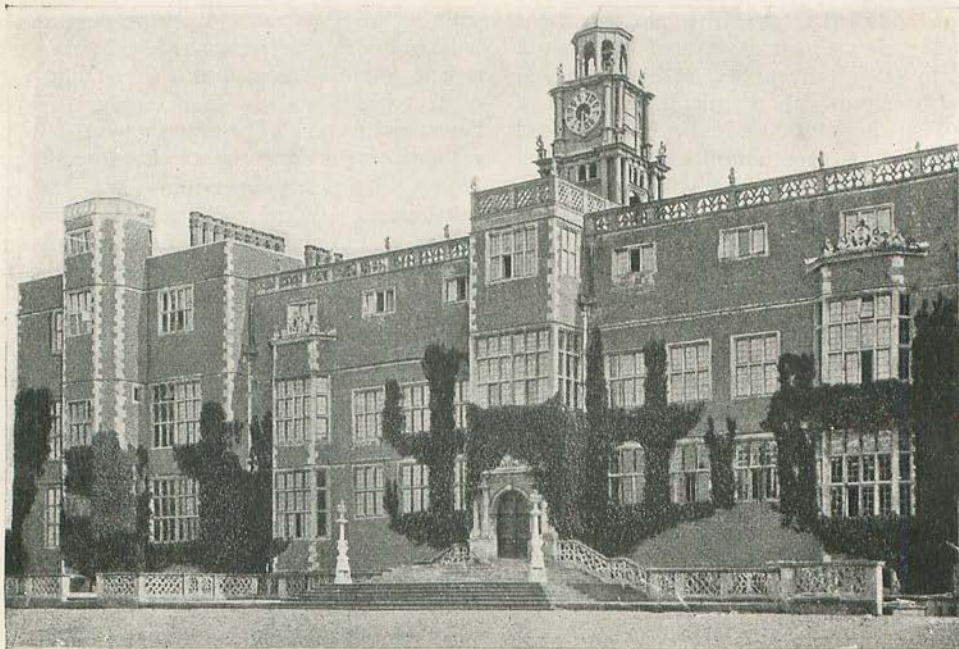
and uttered these remarkable words—remarkable assuredly from the lips of so young a man:

"I now turn to general education, our efforts to meet which have been most tardy and sluggish. . . . But while I feel this I cannot sympathise with those who would, professing it necessary to diminish differences, promote a system of education in which religion would be entirely ignored. That would be setting aside the main end for which education is held up. It is not merely intellectual culture, instruction in reading and writing, that will make a man moral and a good citizen, and the only reason we should press education is that those truths and that morality should be inculcated by which alone, and not by mere terror of earthly punishments, can be produced a virtuous, peaceful, and orderly population."



*(H. E. Bird, photographer, Stamford)*

The George Hotel, Stamford, a picturesque old coaching house where Lord Salisbury had his headquarters during the Stamford election of 1853



Hatfield House. North Front

(Elsden, photographer, Hertford)

## The Marquis of Salisbury

By Frederick Douglas How, Author of "Bishop Walsham How, A Memoir," &c.

### IV. Marriage—Becomes Lord Cranborne—Secretary for India

IT has been said that no specially great things were expected of the young Lord Robert Cecil by his constituents at Stamford. But it has also been shown that their acquaintance with him was by no means great. There were others who knew him better—those friends who, in the imaginary Governments which they formed as they sat round the fire in their Oxford rooms, invariably made him Prime Minister—who were on the tip-toe of expectation now that he was fairly launched into political life.

And they had not very long to wait. In 1854, not many months after his first election, a Bill was brought in by Lord John

Russell as the result of a Commission which had been sitting under his Chairmanship for the Amendment of the Statutes of Oxford University. This may be said to have been the beginning of that system of diverting the incomes arising from ancient endowments from their original purposes—a system which has become so far-reaching that there is no scheme or benefaction sufficiently small or remote to escape the clutches of the terrible Commissioners, provided only it be carried out according to the will of the pious founder. To oppose this Bill Lord Robert Cecil rose to make his maiden speech. He not only objected to it on the ground that it was wrong to sweep away as of no account



the intentions of the original donors, but he looked forward to the future as well as back to the past, and feared that "if they squandered in this way the endowments of the various founders, they would have no more endowments to deal with again." There were, of course, the usual compliments paid to a maiden speech, but on this occasion an unusual impression was made upon the House, and Mr. Gladstone spoke warmly of the new member as one "whose first efforts, rich with future promise, indicate that there still issue forth from the maternal bosom of the University men who, in the first days of their career, give earnest of what they may afterwards accomplish for their country."

Thus his first speech was not, as might have been expected, upon external politics, but was uttered in defence of the University which he had so lately left. But his opportunity was at hand. Foreign politics had assumed a gravity which demanded the closest attention from politicians old or young. Lord Aberdeen and his Coalition Ministry had let England drift into war with Russia. In February 1854, our Foreign Office sent its ultimatum, on the rejection of which by Russia war was declared. From the first there was that terrible story of confusion and reverses, of defective transport and commissariat, of soldiers dying of disease and neglect, which drove Englishmen nearly mad during the days of the Crimea. If ever there was a chance for a man with a real gift of diplomacy, with a gift for dealing with foreign powers, it was then. The member for Stamford made his first speech on foreign affairs in 1855 on the question of closing the Black Sea to ships of war, and so much ability did he display that, in the same year, less than two years from the date of his entering Parliament, he was paid the high honour of being selected to second a motion which was to express the views of a large and influential portion of the Opposition. The occasion arose thus: Lord Aberdeen's Government had been dismissed, and Lord Palmerston was now at the head of affairs. A Commission had sat upon the conduct of the war, and, on the strength of its report, Mr.

Roebuck brought forward a motion condemning the Government for its incapable administration, to which was ascribed the state of things existing at the seat of war. But this Government had not been six months in office, and the real offenders had already been turned out. Besides which, it would have been a most disastrous matter to unsettle the Government again while the country was in the throes of a European war. It seems extraordinary that the official Opposition could have for a moment contemplated such a course. But the fact was that party feeling was just then extremely bitter, and this motion of Mr. Roebuck's, while apparently condemning the Ministry of Lord Aberdeen, was aimed in reality at Lord Palmerston. There was, however, as has been said, a strong body of the Opposition who declined to follow the official lead, and General Peel proposed, and Lord Robert Cecil seconded, the previous question. "It was," says Mr. Edward Salmon in his brief Life of Lord Salisbury, "largely through Lord Robert Cecil's representation that such a motion [*i.e.*, as Mr. Roebuck's] was not only historical and retrospective, but dangerous as a precedent, and wholly futile, that the vote of censure on the late Government was defeated."

Thus we find that at the early age of twenty-five our present Prime Minister was a prominent Member of Parliament, whose opinions and words were already influential. In 1857 he made his first attempt to introduce a Bill. Those were the days before the ballot was more than a dream in the brain of politicians of the most advanced type. Lord Robert Cecil wished to encourage a larger number of people to vote by letting them fill up a voting-paper at home instead of enforcing their attendance at the poll. This plan would, of course, have done away with a great deal of the rioting and disturbance of an election, and this was one of his great arguments in its favour, though it seems to come strangely from him with his sole experience of the tame and somewhat farcical elections at Stamford. This Bill was withdrawn—a fate which inevitably awaited it from the first. In connection with this, and while speaking

of the matters which specially interested Lord Robert from the first, it is impossible to avoid saying something about the subject of Reform. It formed a considerable item in his first speech at Stamford on his election in 1853, at which time there was a proposal for a Reform Bill among the suggestions of the Liberal Government of the day. Speaking of this, he said: "Looking at the composition of the Cabinet, we know that the opinions of the men forming it are not so extreme as some of their supporters desire; but the fact cannot be concealed that it is to bribe the democracy that the alteration will be proposed. . . . They will do the bidding of those who wish the suffrages of the nation to be vested in the hands of all people alike, however limited their education, however small the amount of their intelligence, and however meagre their stake in the country. . . . I shall oppose as well as I am able any proposal to unsettle the adjustment which took place twenty years ago."

Here we have his very earliest utterance on this great question. It is impossible to help asking whether his last words on the subject may be to advise the readjustment of the present representation of the United Kingdom so as to bring Ireland into line with Great Britain.

But between 1853 and the present day what changes have occurred! In 1857 the Liberal Government was defeated, and it seems to have occurred to them that the best way to return to favour with the constituencies was to start an agitation for Reform. During this period, a paper, by Lord Robert Cecil, on "The Theories of Parliamentary Reform," was published in the volume of "Oxford Essays" for 1858. In this paper he examined the various species of possible Reform, and concluded by saying that while he allowed that the present representative system was not absolutely perfect, yet that, for the time being, it seemed best to leave it undisturbed. Judging from this carefully considered opinion, it may well be imagined that it was a source of some vexation of spirit to him when, in 1859, the Conservative Government found that their one chance of existence lay in

introducing a Reform Bill themselves. Mr. Disraeli took charge of the measure, which contained a number of "fancy" qualifications, chiefly on the lines of giving larger suffrages to the more highly educated, and it was loyally defended by Lord Robert Cecil when attacked by Lord John Russell—an attack which proved successful, and which caused the resignation of the Conservatives. Speaking of this in his election address for that year, the member for Stamford said: I voted against Lord John Russell's motion in the late division not because I regarded the Reform Bill of her Majesty's Government as altogether free from defect, but because I thought it was a more straightforward course to follow the usual Parliamentary practice and remove those defects in Committee than to adopt an amendment almost unexampled in the history of Parliament. I was anxious, and am still anxious, for an early settlement of the question, believing that any delay will only facilitate Mr. Bright's revolutionary scheme for transferring all political power from the counties and smaller boroughs to the cotton factories of the North."

No doubt this was a very general fear at that time. But the writer of those words has lived to see the Lancashire operatives returning a large majority of Conservatives, and the agricultural districts becoming the happy hunting-grounds of the Radical agitator.

During these early years, and before the next important occasion on which the subject of Reform again came to the front, several interesting events happened in the career of the subject of these papers. First of all, in 1857, his marriage took place with Georgina Caroline, daughter of Sir Edmund Hall Alderson, Baron of the Exchequer. Of this marriage, and of its beneficent results, more must be said hereafter, when speaking of the domestic as opposed to the political life of Lord Salisbury. The second event was his succession to the title of Lord Cranborne on the death of his elder brother on June 14, 1865. It is said by more than one of Lord Salisbury's biographers that there seems to have been no thought that he would be likely to succeed



The Marquis of Salisbury, in his robes as Chancellor of the University of Oxford  
*(From a painting by G. Richmond)*

to the position of Marquis. It is difficult to understand how this could have been so, for his brother had always been an invalid, whose tenure of life must have been considered precarious. The end was, however, to some extent sudden, for the younger brother was actually speaking in the House of Commons when the message arrived, which announced to him the sad news and the important change in his own position.

The third event occurred in 1866, when Lord Cranborne (as he then was) for the first time received office, being appointed by Lord Derby to be Secretary for India in the Conservative Government which was formed by him after Mr. Gladstone's Reform Bill of that year had been defeated. It need hardly be said that Lord Cranborne spoke and voted against the Bill, one of his most vigorous utterances being that in which he lashed the Liberals for their apparent truckling to the working classes, whom, as he said, they seemed to adulate as their future rulers.

But a crisis in his career occurred in the following year. Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli determined to take the wind out of the sails of the Liberal Party—or, as the former afterwards described it, to “dish the Whigs”—by introducing a Reform Bill which practically granted household suffrage! Lord Cranborne's horror and indignation may easily be imagined. No sooner was the ultimate form of the proposal determined upon by the Cabinet than he sent in his resignation. His old companion and friend of his Oxford days, Lord Carnarvon, did the same, and General Peel had already for the same reasons tendered his resignation. Remembering that he was still a young man, and that he had held his first office for no more than a few months, it is impossible to withhold admiration for the courage and independence which actuated Lord Cranborne on the occasion.

Before entirely leaving the subject of reform, it may be as well to refer here to the further notable action taken by him in the matter. This occurred some years later when Mr. Gladstone brought in his great Franchise Act of 1884, which was mainly concerned with the remodelling of the borough

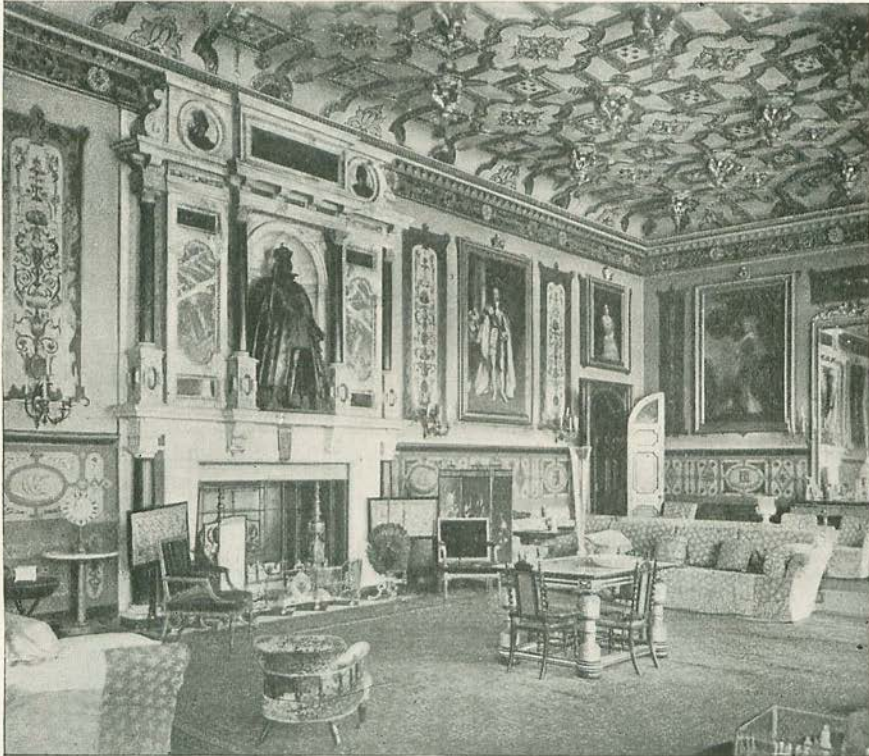
constituencies and the enfranchisement of the agricultural labourer. Mr. Gladstone in a somewhat high handed manner proposed to bring in his Bill without any explanation of its contents and without any scheme for a redistribution of seats. Against this the Conservative party rebelled. By this time, Lord Beaconsfield having died in 1881, Lord Salisbury was their leader, and while not objecting to the introduction of a Franchise Bill, he strenuously opposed the way in which it was introduced. Under his guidance the Bill was thrown out by the House of Lords, and immediately an agitation was set on foot by the Radicals, who held “monster demonstrations” everywhere. These were the cause of Lord Salisbury giving utterance to one of his well-known caustic sayings. He sneered at his opponents for what he called their attempt at “legislation by picnic.” Mr. Chamberlain met this by the reply that “although legislation by picnic was not an altogether desirable thing, obstruction by privilege was an unmitigated nuisance.” There was, as may be imagined, something very like a deadlock, and it is said that the Queen by her wonderful gift of statesmanship brought about interviews between the leaders on either side, which ended in the Radicals giving way on the question of redistribution and a *modus vivendi* being discovered. But, although the initiative was no doubt due to her late Majesty, it was the skill and tact of Lord Salisbury, as leader of the Conservative party, which brought the matter to a satisfactory conclusion, and which enabled a Franchise Bill to be passed which contented both sides of the House, and which has proved a settlement of the question up to the present time.

This matter of “Reform” has been mentioned here at some length for two reasons. First, because it was one of the two questions of home politics in which Lord Salisbury showed from the first a keen interest; the other one being the welfare of the Church, about which more must be said later. Secondly, because it affords a splendid instance of the way in which Lord Salisbury has ever made the best of things when they have not gone exactly as he would have chosen, and has guided the ship with a firm

hand even when her owners—the nation—have ordered a course of which he could not altogether approve.

It is necessary now to return to the days of his earlier Parliamentary career before, that is, he became the acknowledged head of the Conservative party, and to try to see what was the nature of the influence which he wielded. No doubt his hereditary gifts had

oratory. Chief among these is the occasion when the Liberal Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1861 included the whole of his proposals (including the repeal of the Paper Duties) in one Bill. The Member for Stamford strenuously attacked the Minister in question, saying that his conduct was "more worthy of an attorney than of a statesman." Being subsequently brought to book for using such



Part of the King James Drawing-room at Hatfield House

(Elsden, photographer, Hertford)

much to do with it. As was seen in the first chapter politics were in his blood, and not politics only, but the control of men and things political. Next must come his power of speech. There is evidence of this from the very first. Had he not been a really remarkable speaker he would never have been selected to second General Peel's important motion in 1855. Then again there are several well-known stories which point to the keen and slashing character of his

an expression, he allowed that it was perhaps rather too strong, and admitted that an apology was due—to the attorneys!

When, as Lord Cranborne, he felt it his duty in 1867 to resign his office as Secretary for India, there is little doubt that he let himself go and used towards the leaders of his own party some of the hard language which he usually reserved for the Opposition. What makes this probable is that in 1874, during the debate on the Public Worship

Regulation Bill, he used in the House of Lords some words which were mistaken to mean that there was a "great deal of bluster" in the House of Commons. The matter was taken up warmly in the latter place, and Sir William Harcourt described his utterance as "the ill-advised raillery of a rash and rancorous tongue." Mr. Disraeli, replying to this, spoke of Lord Salisbury as a man who did not measure his phrases, and as one who was "a great master of gibes and flouts and jeers." It is extremely improbable that this would ever have been said by a close political ally unless there was some old soreness which prompted the ill-natured exaggeration. Is it not more than possible that Mr. Disraeli had never forgiven or forgotten the words spoken by the Secretary for India when the Reform Bill was suggested of which he (Mr. Disraeli) had charge?

Besides his political genius and his power of speech, his great intellect always impressed those with whom he was brought in contact, and proved greater than anything of which

his personal appearance gave promise. An exceedingly able man once sat next to him at dinner in the early days of his career, and did not know the identity of his neighbour. Speaking of this afterwards the former said: "I soon found out that he was a clever fellow—a very clever fellow—a much cleverer fellow than I was myself!"

As a matter of fact there were few subjects which the young politician was not able to master. It may not be generally known that as a business man he proved of the greatest service to the Great Eastern Railway Company. He became their Chairman in 1867 at a time when the Company were in serious embarrassments. An application had just been made to Parliament to borrow one and a half millions and had been refused. Under his auspices, however, better things began. He induced the Company to amend their Bill and to ask for leave to borrow three millions. This they did, and so ably did he conduct the matter that this time they gained the day. Having put their



Hatfield House. West Front

(Elsden, photographer, Hertford)

affairs on the high road to success he retired from the Chairmanship in 1872, having held the post for just five years.

A little later, in 1874, he assisted Lord Cairns in dragging the London, Chatham, and Dover Company out of an apparently hopeless state of financial muddle and set their affairs also upon a sound basis. This is strong evidence of a mind able not only to seize upon the points of a political argument, not only to work out the most difficult

scientific problems, but able also to grasp and to manipulate vast business matters with the clearness and decision of one who might have been from his earliest years at the head of great commercial concerns.

When all these things are considered, and it is further realised that his birth and position gave him exceptional advantages, it is a matter of less surprise that our Prime Minister has occupied a foremost place in controlling the destinies of Europe.



## Browning's Treatment of Nature\*

By Stopford A. Brooke, M.A.

Author of "Tennyson: His Art and Relation to Modern Life"

### THIRD PAPER

MUCH has been said in the previous chapter about Browning as a poet of Nature, but not enough. Some points were not sufficiently illustrated, others were omitted. The best way, perhaps, in which we can repair these deficiencies will be to take chronologically the natural descriptions in his poems and to comment upon them, leaving out those on which we have already touched. New points of interest will thus arise; and, moreover, taking the natural description as it occurs year after year, we may be able—within this phase of his poetic nature, and chronologically—to place his poetic development in a clearer light.

I begin, therefore, with *Pauline*. The descriptions of nature in that poem are more deliberate, more for their own sake, than elsewhere in Browning's poetry. The first of them faintly recalls the manner of Shelley in *Alastor*, and I have no doubt was influenced by him. The two others, and the more finished, have already escaped from Shelley, and are almost pre-Raphaelite, as much so as Keats, in their detail. Yet all the three are original, not imitative. They suggest Shelley and Keats, and no more, and it is only the manner and not the matter of

these poets that they suggest. Browning leaped into originality at once in this as in other modes of poetry. It was characteristic of him from the beginning to the end of his career, to possess within himself his own methods, to incessantly draw out of himself alone new things and new inventions.

From one point of view this was full of treasure, matter for us. It is not often the gods give us so opulent an originality. From another point of view it was unfortunate. If he had begun by imitating a little; if he had studied the excellences of his predecessors more; if he had curbed his individuality sufficiently to mark, learn and inwardly digest the noble style of others in natural description and in all other matters of poetry as well, his work would have been much better than it is; his original excellences would have found fitter and finer expression; his faults would have been lessened instead of being developed; his style would have been more concise on one side, less abrupt on another, and we should not have been wrongly disturbed by obscurities of diction and inadequacies of expression. He would have reached more continuously the splendid level he often attained. This is plentifully illustrated by his work on external nature, but less perhaps than by his work on humanity.

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of the old wooden root, representing the fruit; and I need not say that there are human beings who maintain their youthful characteristics, not only mental and emotional but also physical, in extreme old age!

The peculiarity of the globe-flower, its difference from all others, has attracted the notice of the common people, who have given it the name of the Witches' Gowan. It is also called in Scotland Lucken Gowan, lucken being in all probability derived from the Scandinavian Loki, who in the mythology of the north is regarded as the personification of malice and subtlety combined, and the enemy of all goodness. Its scientific name has the same uncanny reference, being *Trollius Europæus*. It is the troll-flower, the flower of witchery, specially dedicated, on

account of its acrid and poisonous qualities, to the malignant giant who works such mischief in northern lands. But I prefer to consider its magic as not that of superstition, but that of beauty and grace. It has no purpose to serve in human economy; it seems created only to give pure pleasure, and yet its faithfulness to its own idle beauty is its greatest charm. It has a power to soothe the sadness and heal the aches of the weary spirit, which is much more precious than any utilitarian ends. And when it teaches us its secret, and we have learned its lesson, we shall feel that not in vain has it been created to adorn the summer brook, and spread a gleam of floral sunshine on the moist upland meadow, and we shall long for its return every summer with the cuckoo and the swallow.



## The Marquis of Salisbury

By Frederick Douglas How, Author of "Bishop Walsham How, A Memoir," &c.

### V. Lady Salisbury—Hatfield receptions—Journalism

As has been already stated, the marriage of Lord Salisbury took place in 1857. Miss Georgina Caroline Alderson, eldest daughter of Sir Edmund Hall Alderson, one of the most brilliant judges who ever occupied the position of a baron of the Exchequer, was the lady who from that day forward until her death, forty-two years afterwards, shared with Lord Salisbury the varied fortunes of his life. At first there were the more or less precarious years during which as Lord Robert Cecil, and then as Lord Cranborne he was, as he afterwards said at a dinner of the Press Fund, "no stranger to the anxieties, the labours, and the rewards of the newspaper press," and afterwards there were the dignity and responsibility of the position to which he attained as Marquis of Salisbury. It is impossible for any one unacquainted with the details of their family life to measure the influence which this marriage had upon his career. Still, something at least may be surmised with an approach to certainty.

All the descriptions of Miss Alderson as a girl agree in picturing her as one who would necessarily fill up and perfect the life of a man of Lord Salisbury's character and disposition. She was one of the brightest, cheeriest, even merriest people possible. She was as clever in her way as he in his, and in one respect, viz., the gift of writing, they had much in common. She was remarkably keen and interested in anything that came in her way, and was of a more practical nature than her husband. The main point of difference between them, however, lay probably in the brightness and liveliness of her disposition. Beneath this there lay a solid foundation of goodness and piety, making a combination of the greatest value, and enabling her to give to Lord Salisbury an amount of support and help in his overwhelming labours, which will never be more than guessed at by the world at large. A lady who knew the Aldersons well, and who was often present at their merry parties in Park Crescent, says: "She was





The late Lady Salisbury  
(Elsden & Son, photographers, Hertford)

one of the wittiest and cleverest people I have ever known, and once it chanced that I had a few minutes talk with her that made me feel how much more there was. This I have never forgotten."

As may be imagined, Miss Alderson was extremely attractive, and not a few envied the young Lord Robert Cecil his good fortune. But with all her cleverness and attractiveness there was an element of simplicity about her which gave a special charm to her personality. There is a description of her in a letter from one who knew her well, which must be quoted, as giving an admirable portrait. This lady says: "As to appearance she was very fair in hair and complexion, and extremely bright and capable looking. She was a very amusing talker, but no one could fail to be struck with her simplicity in every-day life. She was an eminently straightforward, downright natured woman, full of good sense, and warm-hearted and loyal. She was a loyal

and very zealous Churchwoman, taking always a great interest in religious education and Church affairs generally. I believe she fully entered into Lord Salisbury's political work. For the rest I knew her as a very devoted wife and a very devoted mother, and, latterly, her chief enjoyment (or one of them) lay in the great interest and pleasure she took in her grandchildren."

One or two things may be mentioned as bearing out this description. Lady Salisbury's sound sense and loyalty to her husband led her to undertake very largely the management of the whole place when they came into Hatfield. It is impossible to talk to any of the retainers there without being struck with this. Each improvement, each detail, is sure to be ascribed more or less to Lady Salisbury. When any great function was at hand it was she who saw to all the preparations. "She was a wonderful one for decorations," said an old man, still in the service of the family. "No," said another, "Lord Salisbury cares nothing about the horses: it was Lady Salisbury who always saw to them." And so on from thing to thing, it was always Lady Salisbury who evidently took every bit of trouble she possibly could off those shoulders so over-weighted with the nation's cares. Then again, there is no doubt that the Prime Minister relied much upon her clever, capable mind to advise and help him in matters political as well as domestic. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, in a recent issue of his clever little weekly paper, says: "Lord Salisbury is one who may be justly described as a widower indeed. His late wife—a clever woman and keen politician—was his sole and paramount Egeria." The fact was that in all other political matters than those relating to the Foreign Office, Lady Salisbury was probably the keener of the two. "Ah!" she once said to the wife of a neighbouring landowner, "how I wish my husband were as much interested in politics as yours!"

To complete the picture of Lady Salisbury, which it has been attempted thus inadequately to draw, it is necessary to refer to the account of her which was given in some of the leading newspapers at the time of her

death. The *Times* said: "The spectacle of Lord Salisbury's long years of domestic happiness strongly appealed to the best and strongest affections of the race. . . . Lady

small part of their gifts, and of the fearless independence some of them have shown so conspicuously on occasion."

The *Daily Telegraph* supplemented this



Lord Salisbury

(From a recent photograph by Russell & Son, Baker Street, W.)

Salisbury did not take part in many social functions apart from the obligations of her rank. She knew how to draw the distinction between acquaintances and friends. To her friends, and especially to her own family, her common sense, her keen and shrewd humour, and her love of the truth, and the whole truth, were a constant moral and intellectual training. . . . Her sons inherit from her no

account with much information of a like kind. It said: "Without exactly assuming the functions of a leader of Society, Lady Salisbury was in all the later years of her life essentially *grande dame*, and discharged duties, social, political, and personal, which were of the highest moment and utility. Lord Salisbury, by habit and inclination a domesticated man, has been accustomed

in many ways and upon many subjects to trust largely to the keen and practical judgment of his wife, so that there are councils never mentioned officially or publicly reported from which a true and tried adviser will henceforward for ever be missing. In the crowded political and social receptions of her London abode, Lady Salisbury may sometimes have appeared a little weary with her share of the 'cares of State,' but she never failed to impress her guests with her strong desire to perform an ever courteous fulfilment of public duty. At Hatfield, however, she was thoroughly 'at home,' and the house parties there never failed to exhibit her as an ideal hostess, considerate, alert, genial, and brilliant." At the conclusion of the article the author added that Lady Salisbury always kept herself in the background politically, and neither spoke nor wrote as a less great woman with her gifts might have done.

In connection with the receptions at which Lord and Lady Salisbury received, it is sometimes said that there was a remarkable difference between the way in which the host and hostess shook hands with their guests. "No one," said an enthusiastic admirer, "ever shakes hands so beautifully as Lord Salisbury," while it sometimes happened that Lady Salisbury with her quick and active mind would look away to some one or something else while in the very act of greeting a guest.

Just one thing more is worth mentioning while on this subject. The fashion of Saturday to Monday parties, which has since become so popular, is said to have originated with Lady Salisbury, who tried the experiment at Hatfield. It is very certain, however, that with her love for the Church and its services, the extent to which the custom has grown and the lack of any recognition of the proper claims of Sunday would have met with little approbation at her hands. From the foregoing description it is hoped that some idea may be gathered of the kind of wife whom the young Lord Robert Cecil selected in 1857. It will never be known to how great an extent England has benefited by that choice.

Curiously enough the one person who did

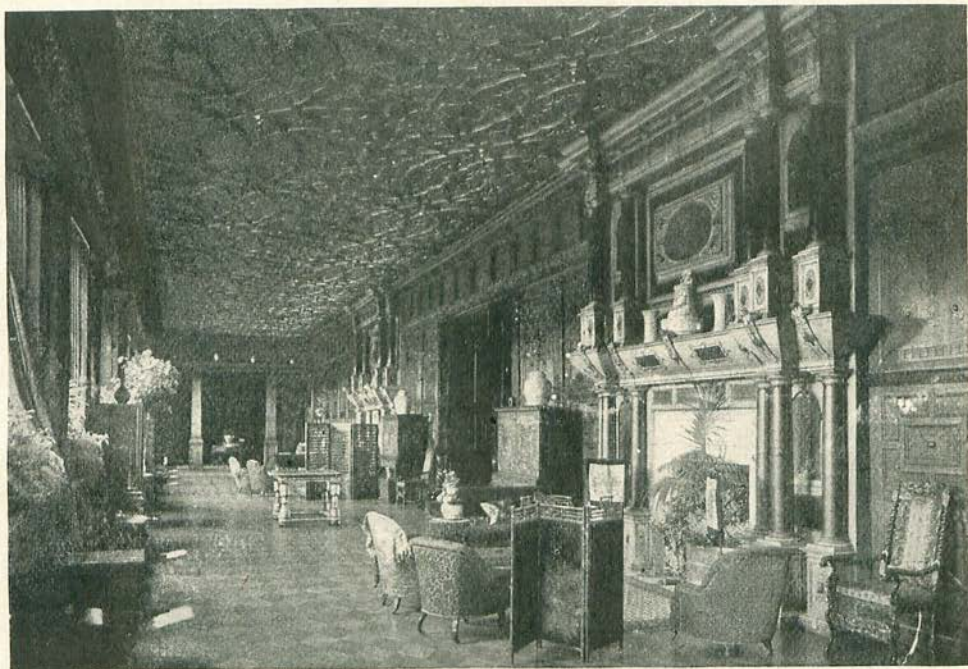
not seem entirely to approve of the marriage was the then Marquis. It is not so very long ago that the idea obtained that to open the windows of a house and let in the fresh air was a most dangerous practice. Some notion of the kind may have influenced the Marquis in opposing the match. Certainly the future Lady Robert Cecil was a different sort of person from those who had mainly formed the atmosphere of the house of Cecil. Her introduction into the family was like letting in a strong fresh breeze, which might indeed upset some ideas of long standing but which could not fail to impart new vigour and vitality. Lady Robert Cecil's life had not been spent in a narrow circle of relations and friends whose standards and prejudices were identical. She had on the contrary, mixed much in the society of the cleverest people of the day. Able writers, notable physicians, brilliant lawyers were amongst her friends, and amongst her relatives were also some of the best known Church people of the day, from whom doubtless she acquired her strong affection for and allegiance to the Church of England.

Amongst these last was Mr. Milman, the rector of Lambourne, afterwards to become Metropolitan Bishop of India. There is an amusing little story told of a visit paid to him at Lambourne by Lord and Lady Robert Cecil when the present Lord Cranborne was a baby. Mr. Milman was a great student, and frequently pored over his books far into the night. It happened that on this occasion he had sat up reading until the small hours, when, feeling very cold, he went into the kitchen to warm himself by what was left of the kitchen fire. He was not a very imposing looking person, in fact he is described as having been a "curious little lumpy man, not unlike a little brown bear." Well, it may be imagined that his odd appearance had not a little to do with what happened. He lay down in front of the fire, the better to warm himself, and fell asleep. Presently he awoke and remembered that he had not said his prayers. He then proceeded to kneel down in a corner of the kitchen, and, as his custom was, to pray aloud. Now that very night the little Lord Cranborne was restless and his nurse had

occasion to go down very early to warm some food for him. Terrified at what she saw and heard she rushed upstairs to fetch Lord Robert Cecil, who came down in his dressing gown to investigate. The ensuing scene and explanations may be imagined!

From what has already been said it can easily be gathered how great a measure of vigour and energy came with Lady Robert

education and career, so that when they grew up they had as much respect for their parents as when they were babes. Though, in the most familiar possible way, the parents gave their best intellectually to their children, yet, owing to the fact that the children were treated as comrades, they did not become prigs. And what they were to one another intellectually, that they were in their religious



(Elsden & Son, photographers, Hertford)

The Long Gallery, Hatfield House

Cecil. In many respects it was the beginning of a new era in the family, but in none more than in the principles which underlay the bringing up of the children. Nothing better can be done than to quote from a letter written by one who had every opportunity of judging. The writer says: "Lord and Lady Salisbury were both very genuine persons, and what they seemed to be they were. The standard held up for the children to copy was exactly what they saw and heard from their parents. The parents never pretended to be better than they were, and this from the very earliest beginning of the children's

relations, and the result here is equally satisfactory. . . . No doubt it would be extremely perilous for all parents to follow the example of Lord and Lady Salisbury, for even if they had their minds they must also take the same anxious trouble to stimulate and influence their children's minds and lives, or disaster would result. Few persons, in my judgment, ever had the stimulating power for good that Lady Salisbury had, and this she exercised upon both her husband and her children in a very remarkable way." Surely to get such a light as this thrown upon the life and character of the subjects of

this chapter is of the highest value. To get an insight into the principles which guided Lord and Lady Salisbury in the bringing up of their children so successfully would be worth while even if nothing else could be found to say about them. Canon Lyttelton, of Haileybury, has said that the education of the Cecil family violated every law on the subject, but "with the happiest results."

The more that is brought to light of the influence and character of the bride whom Lord Robert Cecil won on that morning in 1857 the more wonderful they seem, and the stranger it appears that it took her father-in-law so long to be reconciled to the marriage. It is remembered that it was some little time after the wedding that the young Lady Robert Cecil was first publicly acknowledged by him at a function at South Kensington Museum at which she assisted him to receive the guests. One of the results of the late Marquis' disapprobation was found in the limited income which he placed at the disposal of the young couple. Although this may have been a temporary inconvenience, yet the people of England have cause to rejoice at the result, for the future Prime Minister obtained an insight into the life led by a vast number of Englishmen such as he would never have obtained had he been surrounded by the luxury and signs of wealth which usually belong to his rank. His natural sympathy—for Lord Salisbury is not the narrow and exclusive aristocrat which his political opponents delight to paint him—was greatly enlarged by his experiences and, in addition, the literature of the day was enriched by a multitude of articles from his pen in the *Times*, *Saturday Review*, *Quarterly*, etc. There was at a later date evidence of the width of his sympathy in the fact that the Commission on the Housing of the Poor (on which King Edward served with the greatest interest and diligence) owed its origin in large measure to him. In his writing he was aided by his young wife, and between them they earned a very considerable addition to their income. It is no uncommon thing for members of our noble families to make valuable contributions to literature, e.g., the late Duke of Argyll, but

that the heir to such a position as the Marquisate of Salisbury should take up the writing of newspaper articles as a profession is probably unique. During the time that Lord and Lady Robert Cecil were thus occupied they lived in various parts of London. They had houses at 20 Arlington Street, 9 Park Crescent (Portland Place), 21 Fitzroy Square, 11 Duchess Street, 1 Mansfield Street, and, when Lord and Lady Cranborne, they had also a country retreat at the Oaks, Headley, near Liphook.

Lord Robert Cecil's articles were invariably anonymous, and, as it is now some thirty years since they were written it is impossible to trace them, and, indeed, it may well be that Lord Salisbury would prefer not to have the opinions he then expressed on the political and other subjects of the day brought once more to public notice. As may be imagined from the description of the partner in his labours which has been given above, the late Lady Salisbury's writings were full of sparkle and genius.

The period during which the main part of these writings appeared was the first decade of her married life. Had the young Lady Robert Cecil been content to occupy herself entirely with her domestic duties, and had her literary achievements, therefore, been all lost to the world there would have been no cause for surprise. It was during these first ten years after her marriage that six children were born to her, the youngest only, Lord Hugh, arriving after this anxious period was passed, and to it had succeeded the new and weightier duties of her position as Marchioness of Salisbury.

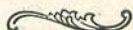
For many years the energy and bright vigour which characterised her life brought their full measure of happiness to all with whom she had to do, and chiefly to Lord Salisbury. It was probably these very qualities, as contrasted with the well-known calmness of Lord Salisbury, which caused her life to be the brighter of the two.

In 1898, serious symptoms of a constitutional breakdown showed themselves in Lady Salisbury. The usual visit to Beaulieu—their villa near Nice—was paid in 1899,

and it was greatly hoped that the rest and change might prove beneficial. Unhappily this was not the case. Lady Salisbury herself scarcely hoped for much improvement. At a garden-party at Hatfield during the previous summer she took an affecting farewell of some of the younger members of the family, being evidently persuaded that her days were numbered.

On their return from France the family went to Walmer Castle, Lord Salisbury being at that time Warden of the Cinque Ports,

and there the illness became more pronounced. A move was made to Hatfield, and at 2.30 P.M. on November 20, 1899, Lady Salisbury died in the house she loved so well, and had done so much to beautify and improve. All the family were able to be present excepting Lord Edward Cecil, who was serving his country in South Africa. Something has been said of Lord Salisbury's manifold joys and successes. These few words must find a place to tell of the heaviest of his sorrows.



## Browning's Treatment of Nature\*

By Stopford A. Brooke, M.A.

Author of "Tennyson: His Art and Relation to Modern Life"

### CONCLUDING PAPER

THE last paper on this subject closed with Browning's treatment of Nature in *Paracelsus*. In that poem Browning is chiefly concerned with the inner problem of life. In *Sordello*, that inner problem still is the chief matter, but the poet shows how it developed itself under the stress of warring circumstances. In *Sordello*, therefore, outward life takes an equal place with inward life. And, naturally, Nature and its changes and beauty, being outward, are more fully treated. But Nature is never treated for itself alone. It is made to image or reflect the sentiment of the man who sees it, or to illustrate a phase of his passion or his thought. But there is a nearer grip upon it than before, a clearer definition, a greater power of concentrated expression of it, and especially, a fuller use of colour. Browning paints Nature now like a Venetian; the very shadows of objects are in colour. This new power was a kind of revelation to him, and he frequently uses it with amazing force. Things in Nature blaze in his poetry now and ever afterwards in gold, purple, the crimson of blood, in sunlit green and topaz, in radiant blue, in dyes of earthquake and

eclipse. Then, when he has done his landscape thus in colour, he adds more; he places in its foreground one drop, one eye of still more flaming colour, to vivify and inflame the whole.

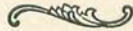
The main landscape of *Sordello* is the plain, and the low pine-clad hills around Mantua, the half-circle of the deep lagoon which enarms the lonely town, and the river Mincio, seen from the height of Goito, as it enters and leaves the lagoon among its marshes. It is a landscape Vergil must have loved. A long bridge of more than a hundred arches, with towers of defence, crosses the marsh from the battlemented gateway of the town walls to the mainland, and in the midst of the lagoon the deep river flows fresh and clear with a steady swiftness. Scarcely any where in North Italy is there a wider, purer sky at dawn and even, and there is no view now so romantic in its desolation. Over the lagoon, and puffing from it, the mists, daily encrimsoned by sunrise and sunset, continually rise and disperse.

The character and the peculiarities of this landscape are seized and enshrined in the poem. But his descriptions are so arranged as to reflect certain moments of crisis in the soul of *Sordello*. Browning does not (as he also does not in other poems) describe this

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to use a commercial word, of the harvest. When the first-fruits are brought in, men can realise the kind of harvest which is at hand. St. Paul alludes to this—if the first-fruit is holy, so is the lump (Rom. xi. 16). The prophet Jeremiah describes Israel as “holiness to the Lord and the first-fruits of increase” (Jer. ii. 3). There is thus always a looking forward to some great future implied in the image of the first-fruits. For this reason Christ is called the first-fruits of them that slept (1 Cor. xv. 20), and Christian hearts are said to possess the first-fruits of the spirit, an earnest and pledge of the fuller life of the spirit among all when the revealing of the sons of God takes place

(Rom. viii. 23). The first-fruits were offered to God to show that all the harvest was God's. Christians thus are first-fruits and they are those who live as God's children, and, so living, make constant affirmation that all men are God's children. To be thus witnesses of God's claim upon all, of God's power and spirit available for all, the new life of the spirit was conferred upon regenerate souls. Thus there is a true, real, and inspiring purpose set before them. The position of the possessive pronoun His (“His creatures”) is unusual. The emphasis lies in the thought that all creatures are God's, His creation, His possession, and that they only fulfil their true life in being His.



## The Marquis of Salisbury

By Frederick Douglas How, Author of “Bishop Walsham How, A Memoir,” &c.

### VI. Religious Belief—Scientific Research

NOT so many years ago it appeared as though the breach between religion and science was past all healing. This state of things has passed away, and thoughtful men rejoice to believe that the revelations of these two great forces are by no means inconsistent one with another. Of this the life of Lord Salisbury forms a striking illustration. Devoted from his youth to scientific pursuits, an eager experimentalist in his laboratory, and a geologist of the first rank, he has at the same time been a son of the Church whose loyalty can never have been questioned. Encouraged by the example of Lady Salisbury his religion has permeated the whole scheme of his life, indeed, in the early days long before his marriage there is plenty of evidence of the reality of his faith.

It has been seen how splendid was the influence which he exercised upon the men of his set at Oxford, and the keen interest he took in all matters touching upon religious belief, as for instance in the controversy between Mr. Meyrick and Mr. Manning. Then, again, in his first speech to his constituents at Stamford there is evidence of his

dread lest the Roman Catholics in Ireland should by means of the College at Maynooth damage the purer faith which he himself held. Here are his words :

“Unhappily the recent course of the present Government in Ireland [with reference to the State endowment of Maynooth] has been inimical to the interests of the established Church. No doubt there has been a long course of agitation there, and we have seen in the Press of that part of the kingdom, in the speeches of politicians, and in the writings of their hierarchy, doctrines promulgated which are utterly subversive of the allegiance which every British subject owes his Queen. The priests have attempted by the exercise of spiritual power and spiritual influence to band together a body of representatives whose sole object is to wrest from the established Church of Ireland that superiority which the consent of ages and the laws of this kingdom have guaranteed for it; they have attempted to interfere with the freedom of vote, and have actually been proved to interfere with the freedom of election. Yet in the face of this proof the Government has made no effort to punish

the offenders. . . . It appears to me to be absurd that even the smallest extent of support should be given to the College of Maynooth."

No doubt these words may not commend themselves to all readers, and Lord Salisbury himself would probably not utter them at the present day, but they are interesting as showing how early an attention he gave to the religious questions of the time.

There is just one other small matter connected with Stamford and with his first connection with the borough which points to his affection for the Church. There would, no doubt, have been many opportunities offered him for subscribing to various local funds, but the two donations to which publicity was given in the columns of the *Stamford Mercury* were in aid of the restorations of the Churches of St. Mary and All Saints in that town.

A great deal has been written and said about Lord Salisbury's Churchmanship, chiefly by writers in the extreme Low Church Press who have made him out to be a narrow-minded partisan and supporter of the ritualistic party. No greater mistake could be made. Lord Salisbury is a High Churchman, but of the most wide-minded and charitable kind. He is no friend to the advanced school of modern ritualism, neither does he fail to appreciate at its full value the piety and learning of "Evangelicals" with whom he may not be in all matters in perfect sympathy. It is only necessary to notice the advice that he has given to the Crown as to the appointments to Bishoprics to be assured of the impartiality and wisdom of his views. Lord Salisbury fully believes in the comprehensive embrace of our mother the Church within whose arms may be found men of widely different views who are yet one in their love for her and for her and their Master. Probably no Prime Minister has ever been concerned with the appointment of so many bishops. It will be a matter of surprise to some to learn that these appointments are thirty-seven in number. They are as follows: to the Archbishoprics of Canterbury and York once each; to the Bishoprics of Salisbury, Manchester, Ely, Chester, St. Asaph, St. Alban's, Truro,

Lichfield, Carlisle, Newcastle, Chichester, St. David's, Bristol, Exeter, and Liverpool once each; to Sodor and Man, Wakefield, Oxford, Durham, Bangor, Winchester, Worcester, Peterborough, Rochester and London twice each. Surely a portentous list! Only consider who are included in these appointments and it will instantly be seen that Lord Salisbury is no narrow party man, but one who tries to the utmost to find the man most proper for the post. Take two Oxford men of noted piety, the present Bishops of Rochester and Liverpool—a wide contrast, but both appointed by Lord Salisbury. Or take two very recent nominations, those to the sees of Durham and Oxford, or the two appointments which the present Prime Minister has made to the Bishopric of Worcester, and it becomes clear that only ignorance of facts can have led to any description of him as a prejudiced adviser to the Crown. The last-named appointment shows also that Lord Salisbury has not allowed political considerations to influence him, for it is well known that the new



Lord Salisbury as a saint. This curious and interesting statue is to be seen in the sculpture gallery of the beautiful reredos of the Chapel of All Souls' College, Oxford. The reredos was erected about forty-two years ago, at the time that Lord Salisbury had just been elected to a fellowship of All Souls', and the artist having determined to give his saints the faces of actual living people rather than idealised features, chose Lord Salisbury's face as his type of a Christian warrior.

(Hills & Saunders, photo. Oxford)



Bishop of Worcester holds many Radical and Socialistic opinions. The real fact is that these numerous appointments have been a source of great anxiety to Lord Salisbury, and have been made after the most con-

outside the old entrance gates, and is not five minutes walk from the house. On the north side of the chancel is the chapel belonging to the house of Cecil, and here, when he is at Hatfield, the Prime Minister is to be seen



(Elsden & Son, photographers, Hertford)

Hatfield Church

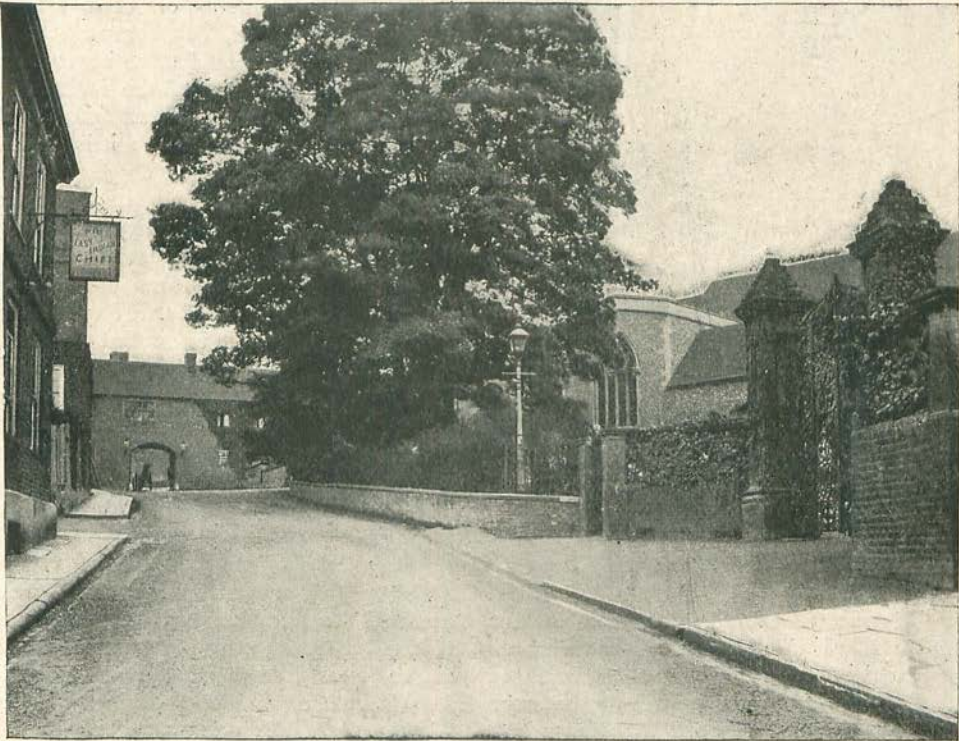
scientious investigation and thought. He once said in allusion to this that there were a certain number of men—but not many—whom he himself thought eligible for the bench of bishops: that there were a certain number—not so many—whom the Queen thought eligible: and that the number whom both he and the Queen approved was very small indeed!

To pass from men to things ecclesiastical it is only necessary to visit the Church at Hatfield and the domestic chapel in the house to understand that Lord Salisbury approves of things in God's house being not only decent and in order but as beautiful as man can make them. The Church was restored by him in 1872. It stands just

Sunday by Sunday occupying a corner of the front seat. Very close to this seat are some iron gates of extreme beauty. They came originally from Rome but had found their way to Paris, and were bought there at the time of the French Revolution. Mosaics and frescoes cover the walls of this chapel and there are some exceedingly good windows, notably one to the memory of the late Lady Salisbury. In the domestic chapel there is a gorgeous window about three hundred years old immediately above the altar which is of solid marble. Round three sides of the chapel, and very high up, there runs a gallery which is used by royalty when any happen to be staying there, or sometimes by members of the family when

there is an unusually large party in the house. The services in this chapel include daily morning prayer at 9.30 (the general breakfast hour being 10) and on Sundays an early celebration at 9.15 with afternoon service at 3.30. These services are taken by one of the curates at the parish Church, but when there is no one staying at Hatfield the morning service on Sundays is given up, Lord Salisbury and Lady Gwendolen Cecil coming to the Church instead. These arrangements are all the easier to make as the rectory of Hatfield is held by Lord William Cecil, which recalls the fact that the rectory of Hawarden is held by the son of the late Mr. Gladstone, the rival statesmen

Lord Salisbury to a church in the neighbourhood of Hatfield which exemplifies both his dislike of what he would consider a cold and dreary edifice and the kindly courtesy which carried him safely through a difficult interview. The church in question was one of the old sort, now mercifully nearly extinct, which, bare to the extreme limit of decency, was kept carefully shut from the eye of man for six days out of the seven. The incumbent met Lord Salisbury to conduct him over the building and unlocked one after another the three doors which led into the church from the west end. "There must be something very precious here to be so well guarded," said Lord Salisbury, and



(Elsden & Sons, photographers, Hertford)

The noted iron gates at Hatfield

each having had the happiness of being ministered to by one of their sons. Another coincidence is the circumstance that both rectories are of exceptional value.

There is a story told of a visit paid by

then, when the last door was thrown open with a flourish he was ushered in to a wilderness of whitewashed pews with real mahogany tops. For one moment he stood speechless and aghast, and then he very



(Elsden & Son, photographers, Hertford)

Memorial window to Lady Salisbury in Hatfield Church

slowly said: "I should think there is not another like it in England!" These words so greatly delighted the poor old incumbent that he was never tired of telling the story and repeating what Lord Salisbury had thought of his church.

Within the first few years of his entering the House of Lords, Lord Salisbury made a memorable speech against the Public Worship Regulation Act. No better evidence could be produced of the sober and thoughtful attitude which he has always maintained on religious questions than is to be found in

this speech. He said: "If ever there is a subject which requires to be treated with care and caution and deliberation it is these matters [*i.e.*, questions of ritual] which themselves may be thought unimportant, but which in their bearing on the belief of religious men in this country are supremely important and likely, if dealt with rashly and inconsiderately, to precipitate divisions. . . . It is precisely because the matters in dispute are not disputed on account of their intrinsic value, but because they are supposed to be important as symbols of the doctrines to which we all attach the deepest value; it is for that reason that they have taken a deep hold of the feeling of the country, and have excited the earnest fears and apprehensions of my noble friend [Lord Shaftesbury]; and it is on that account I am afraid they will excite fears and apprehensions on the other side which will produce violent dissensions in the Church of England if violent proceedings are taken." These were words of wisdom and of warning which, had they been

attended to, might have saved much of the bitterness and heart-burning which has so greatly damaged the reputation of the Church of England during the last thirty years. Yet one more matter calls for mention in connection with Lord Salisbury's wide-minded churchmanship. In 1882 Dr. Pusey died, and it was at Lord Salisbury's house in Arlington Street that the great meeting was held to settle upon the form that the Pusey Memorial should take. Some men in his position as a leading statesman and as Chancellor of the University of

Oxford might have shrunk from taking so prominent a part in promoting a memorial to a man who was looked upon as a leader of one extreme section of the Church. But Lord Salisbury took a wider view than this, as his words on the occasion show. "Dr. Pusey," he said, "was deeply mixed up with the controversies of the day, and it was probably owing to his connection with those controversies that the only authority in the Church which he enjoyed was given him before his fame and his merits became known. But there was another aspect of his character, another goal to his efforts—he was above all things a Christian apologist. His most earnest aims were not associated with the controversies with which his name in public estimation was specially bound up. His mind was chiefly bent upon one thing, that in an age when Christian faith was exposed to many and dangerous attacks the first duty of her sons and of those whose learning would give her support was to defend it in all its integrity. . . . It is with the efforts which he made, with the instruments which he furnishes for combating this danger [the spirit of unbelief] that, in my belief, the name of Dr. Pusey will be ultimately bound up."

Canon Liddon, in his "Life of Pusey," says that "to the clear-sighted and statesmanlike discernment of these words it is only necessary to add that they express what was throughout Dr. Pusey's view of his own work."

It is worth mentioning, before leaving this subject, that Lord Salisbury has held several offices more or less connected with the Church, among them being a trusteeship of Lancing College—a school on the Woodard Foundation—and a seat on the Committee of the Anglo-Continental Society.

Enough has been said to exhibit the thorough attachment of Lord Salisbury to the Church. His love for her has always been sincere and unostentatious. He has made few professions, he has not taken prominent part in her services except as a regular worshipper, but the one thing which has had the power to rouse him to an outburst of indignation has been an attack upon her by her so-called friends. It is well remembered that at the time when the late Mr. Gladstone was proposing to disestablish the Church in Wales, Lord Salisbury made several speeches in the provinces. On each occasion he spoke in his usual quiet and unimpassioned style, until he came to touch upon Mr. Gladstone's



(Elsden & Son, photographers, Hertford)

Lord William Cecil, Rector of Hatfield

action in this matter. Then his wrath kindled, and he blazed out against such a putting up of one Church for sale against another, and denounced the insidiousness of the Church's foes.

And all through these years this champion of his country's Church and best religious interests was occupying any spare moments he could find in the laboratory at Hatfield. What is sometimes called "Lord Salisbury's den," consists of a laboratory, a dressing-room, and a bathroom on the ground floor. Though not nearly so much used of late years, there yet remains plenty of evidence in the paraphernalia of the former of the industry with which at one time its occupant pursued his scientific researches. It has already been stated that Lord Salisbury is a geologist of the first rank. He has also given time to photography, and to the practical study of electricity; the splendid electric lighting at Hatfield House having been carried out under his direction.

It is possible that the first leanings towards scientific matters owed their origin to his Oxford days. That University was just beginning to awake to a due sense of the importance of such matters. The late Sir Henry Acland came to Oxford in 1844, and was made Lee's Reader of Anatomy at Christ Church, his influence making itself felt at once, and leading to the building of the museum in the parks.

In order to judge of the effect of his scientific studies upon the Prime Minister's mind it is only necessary to turn to the account of the visit of the British Association to Oxford in 1894. Lord Salisbury on that occasion held a unique position. He was President of the Association, and at the same time Chancellor of the University. His opening address emphasises the possibility of being at once a leader of science and a devout Christian. He referred to the change in this direction which had taken place in half a century. Speaking of the protest issued by Mr. John Keble against the action of the University in conferring doctors' degrees upon Messrs. Faraday, Dalton, Brewster, and Brown on the last occasion of the British Association meeting at Oxford in 1832, he said: "When we recollect the

lovable and severe character of Keble's nature, and that he was at that particular date probably the man in the University who had the greatest power over other men's minds, we can measure the distance we have traversed since that time, and the rapidity with which the converging paths of the two intellectual seminaries—the University and the Association—have approximated to each other." It was on this occasion that the late Professor Huxley was so sorely put to it, as is told in his "Life" written by his son. It devolved upon him to thank Lord Salisbury on behalf of the Association for his address, an address which (as he afterwards said) ran contrary to the sentiments which he (Professor Huxley) had held for five and twenty years.

This was not by any means the first meeting of the two great men. In the same book it is told how Lord Salisbury consulted the Professor in 1887 about a wish of the Queen to make some formal recognition of distinguished services in science, letters, and art, by the institution of some sort of order analogous to the *Pour le Mérite*. Professor Huxley opposed the idea so far as science was concerned, though he acknowledged that he believed that most scientific men would welcome the scheme. The interview ended by Lord Salisbury smilingly summing up thus: "Well, it seems that you don't desire the establishment of such an order, but that if you were in my place you would establish it!"

Their meeting in 1894 at Oxford could not have been so comfortable, at all events to the Professor. Lord Salisbury spoke at some length upon Darwin's Theory of Evolution. He allowed that "The Origin of Species" had proved two things, viz., that the doctrine of the immutability of species could no longer be held, and that animals separated by differences far exceeding those that distinguish what we know as species have yet descended from common ancestors. But he went on to put forward the two great arguments against Darwin's theory. The first he based upon the fact that the earth cools at a recognised rate. That, seeing that we know that the form of man has not appreciably changed for 3000 years,

it must be many millions of years since the existence of the original jelly-fish from which it was suggested that man descends, and that at that period the earth must have been so hot as to have consisted of vapour, a state of things precluding the jelly-fish's existence.

Secondly he spoke with scorn of the argument that we are bound to accept the theory of natural selection (a necessary part of the Darwinian theory) because it is the only possible explanation science can give. "This reason," he said, "seems to me instructive of the great danger scientific research is running at the present time—the acceptance of mere conjecture in the name and place of knowledge in preference to making frankly the admission that no certain knowledge can be obtained."

But there is no doubt that the part of the address which chiefly vexed the spirit of Professor Huxley while it rejoiced the heart of many who heard it was its conclusion. He ended his address thus:

"I prefer to shelter myself behind the judgment of the greatest living master of natural science among us, Lord Kelvin, and to quote as my own concluding words the striking language with which he closed his address from this chair more than twenty years ago: 'I have always felt,' he said, 'that the hypothesis of natural selection does not contain the true theory of evolution, if evolution there has been in biology. I feel



(Elsden & Son, photographers, Hertford)

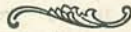
Lord Salisbury's Private Chapel at Hatfield House

profoundly convinced that the argument of design has been greatly too much lost sight of in recent zoological speculations. Overpoweringly strong proofs of intelligent and benevolent design lie around us; and if ever perplexities, whether metaphysical or scientific, turn us away from them for a time, they come back upon us with irresistible force, showing to us through nature the influence of a free will, and teaching us that all living things depend on one everlasting Creator and Ruler."



they truly are. The really valuable things are the ethical and spiritual. A man's life does not consist of the abundance of the things which he possesses. A man's life is nearness to God, likeness to his Father in heaven. All that makes for this is good. The turning wheel of fortune can bring nothing but good. Patience will work experience, and experience hope. All things will work together for good, therefore all can be met with joy. The loss of wealth is nothing to him whose riches are things spiritual, and whose treasure therefore is of a kind outside the reach of earthly change. The rich man in St. James' day did meet with humiliation.

He felt it, as men must feel change, but he had a compensating joy in the access of inner peace. He could realise the beatitude of the poor, for he measured riches by spiritual affinity with God; he measured life by service. Earthly means were only of secondary importance, valuable only as means of service. Therefore the soul in which Christ dwelt could strike the note of gladness whatever fate or fortune came. His song, like the song of a lark, was sung close to the gate of heaven, and poured forth from a heart rich with spiritual joy and strong in the inspiring sense of the love of God.



## The Marquis of Salisbury

By Frederick Douglas How, Author of "Bishop Walsham How, A Memoir," &c.

### VII. Personal Characteristics—Hatfield House

**A**N attempt has been made in the foregoing chapters to give some idea of a few of the phases of Lord Salisbury's life with which the public may not be familiar, either by reason of the lapse of time, or because the brilliance of his career as Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary has put other matters in the shade. It remains to describe the sort of man our Premier is at the present day and the sort of surroundings among which he lives. The first thing to strike any one who has carefully observed Lord Salisbury is his extraordinary calm. His self-command under circumstances the most trying and in crises the most alarming has been nothing short of marvellous. A great ambassador of a foreign court once spoke of his astonishment at this great calmness and likened him to a rock beaten by the waves. During the period in which Lord Salisbury has guided the fortunes of our country, events have happened which would have shaken to their foundations many other governments and states. To his firmness and calm resolve we in great measure owe the fact that the greatness of our nation has not been impaired by the loss of Ireland and by the dismemberment of the Empire in

other directions. To come to very recent events, the self-control exhibited by the Prime Minister all through the anxious strain of the Boer War has done much to keep the nation cool and to minimise the fear of disaster. There was a good deal of criticism expressed when he took his usual holiday and rest at Beauieu in the summer of 1901. Many letters and articles appeared in the Press at the time. An exceedingly amusing little poem found a place in the *Outlook*, and is worth quoting here:

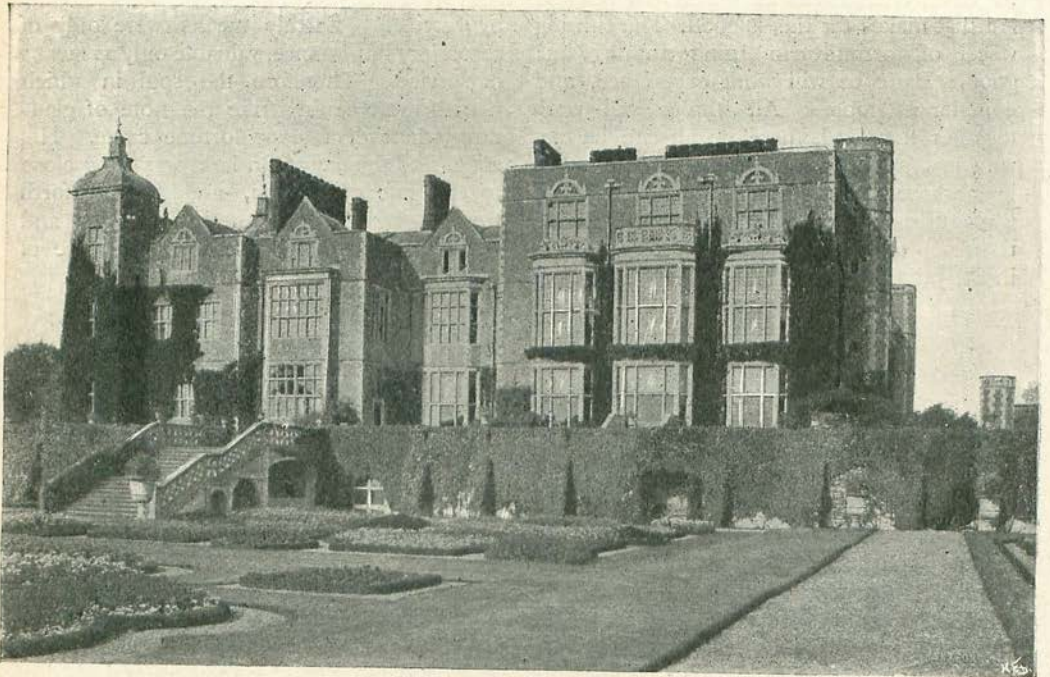
#### ODE TO LORD SALISBURY

My dear Lord Salisbury,—  
 If this should meet your eye,  
 Return at once;  
 All will be forgiven and forgotten,  
 Johnnie  
 (You remember little Johnnie Bull, don't you?)  
 Is asking after you.  
 I expect to see this, or the like of it,  
 In my morning paper  
 Almost any morning,  
 Things, my dear Lord Salisbury, are in a bad way.  
 I grudge no man a holiday,  
 But I do say,  
 What is the good of having a Prime Minister,  
 Who somehow,  
 Never seems to bestir himself?

This very wittily expresses what a good

many people felt at the time, but anything in the shape of a premature return to London, or an apparently urgent summoning of the Cabinet, would have been not only un-

Always an advocate of regular exercise, he still tricycles every morning when the weather permits, and at eight o'clock is to be often seen thus wheeling along the London streets



(Glasgow, photo, Hertford)

Hatfield House, east front

necessary but possibly productive of a panic, and no good purpose would have been served.

Then, again, in January 1901 there occurred the death of our beloved Queen Victoria. How quietly and calmly the nation passed through what many expected, and some few hoped, would have proved an anxious crisis. No doubt the nation was ready to welcome King Edward VII., whose public labours and private geniality had already greatly endeared him, but it was also due in some measure to the sense of security engendered by the strong and quiet personality of Lord Salisbury as Prime Minister, that the history of England was undisturbed by any untoward incident, however trivial, at that season of the nation's grief.

To this quality of calmness Lord Salisbury's wonted good health has greatly conduced.

before the traffic of the day has assumed formidable proportions. Some years ago he was a tennis player of some repute, but the court at Hatfield has not witnessed his powers for some time. One of the last games he played was against M. Waddington, the French Ambassador. Lord Salisbury's superior knowledge of the game at first gave him the advantage, but his lighter and more active antagonist ultimately wore him down and secured the victory. Then came a day when a nasty fall in the court caused the breakage of Lord Salisbury's spectacles, and from that time forward he gave it up altogether, Lord Hugh Cecil being now the chief representative of the family in the tennis court. Besides this amusement the Premier has in his day been a fair shot, but his greatest delight has been in his garden and farm. In the former he has always



taken an extraordinary interest, and well has it repaid him. No visitor to Hatfield can help being struck with the beauty of the gardens, and not a few will remember with delight a bed—probably nearly a hundred yards in length—which in September 1901 was one mass of low-grown pink roses. In his farming operations he has never had any special fads, but has undertaken it upon regular business principles, gaining a knowledge of the trials and necessities of agriculture in this country. While considering, as has been said, that a horse is “the most tiresome beast in the world,” he has often ridden about his farm on a mount that has been carefully exercised beforehand. In the course of his strolls when on foot, it has been no uncommon thing to find Lord Salisbury meditatively scratching the backs of his favourite pigs with his walking stick, though where his thoughts are at such times it would be difficult to say.

He is, indeed, one of the most “detached” and mentally absorbed men in existence. He is often seen to pause in his walks about the grounds at Hatfield and lean upon his long staff for many minutes at a time, evidently deeply wrapt in thought. “He is always studying—studying—studying,” said an old retainer who watches him with that rather distant affection and respect which he inspires in most of those who serve him.

Trifles are not allowed to disturb his reveries. An eye-witness describes how she watched him walking up and down the platform at King’s Cross, while the rug which he carried trailed along the dusty pavement. At last a man approached and said, “I beg your

pardon, sir, but your rug is trailing on the ground.” “Ah!” said Lord Salisbury, with a smile, “it generally does!” This little story forcibly reminds one of the occasion when Dean Stanley, who was staying away from home, came down to dinner with his collar hanging down attached by one button only. His hostess went up to him, and gently pointed out the fact. “Do you object?” said Dean Stanley. “Oh no!” was the only possible reply. “Well,” said the Dean, “no more do I!”

In addition to this “mental aloofness,” as it has been called, Lord Salisbury is extremely short-sighted, and is also one of the shyest of men. These facts taken together account for the accusation that is sometimes brought against him, of passing acquaintances in the



(Elsden, photo, Hertford)

The grand staircase, Hatfield House



(Elsden, photo, Herford)

The Marble Hall, Hatfield House

street without recognition. When travelling in a train he buries himself instantly in a book—probably a novel, for he is a great reader of this class of literature—and spends much of his spare time when indoors in this manner. Music and art have few attractions for him. He has, indeed, been known to express his inability properly to appreciate the compositions of Wagner!

When he is at work he is, however, a different man. He is phenomenally rapid, not only in his grasp of a subject, but also in his method of getting through his business. He writes far more letters himself than is usual for a man in his position, although he still (since, that is, he has resigned the Foreign Secretaryship) retains the services of two

private secretaries, one of whom, the Hon. Schomberg McDonnell, has held this post for fourteen years.

Of Lord Salisbury's attachment to his family it is scarcely fitting to speak during his lifetime, but it is well known that it is intense. His fondness of children is perhaps less notorious, but is none the less true. He is especially "jolly" with boys. There is one tiny bit of evidence in Hatfield House that the young ones are not forgotten, for a miniature children's billiard-table occupies a prominent position in the cloisters.

To his servants he is always extremely considerate, but, as may be supposed, undemonstrative. Probably no one in his service has ever been admitted to the familiarity which is sometimes allowed between master and servant of old standing. At the same time it is easy to discover that a very real

attachment exists. Here is a story which may well illustrate the point. An old butler, who had been in the family during the lifetime of the late Marquis, lay dying. Lord Salisbury went to see him, and found that the one thing that was marring the peace of his last hours was the idea that he would be buried in the cemetery, and not in Hatfield Churchyard, which had been closed. Nothing would console the old man until Lord Salisbury suggested that *he* had no dislike to the cemetery, and promised to attend the poor old fellow's funeral. The old women at the Union used to tell how they had all been to see Lord Salisbury and four of his sons attend a cemetery funeral, which at that time was considered

in Hatfield a very "common" sort of funeral indeed.

So much for what Lord Salisbury is in himself. Now one word as to his personal appearance. It is scarcely necessary to state that the slim young politician has developed into a massive and somewhat ponderous (physically) statesman. His portraits are too familiar for any detailed description to be necessary. His size and weight are sometimes the subject of jest on his part. When the late Baron Dimsdale, also an exceedingly big man, was once staying at Hatfield, Lord Salisbury, on coming in to breakfast, said, "Now, Baron, you and I will sit at the end of the table and show how well it can be filled!" There is also what Sir Herbert Maxwell, in his "Life of W. H. Smith," calls a "grimly comical little note" from Lord Salisbury to the latter. An intimation had been received from the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire that the lives of the Prime

Minister and of Mr. Smith were threatened. This is how Lord Salisbury conveyed the intelligence:

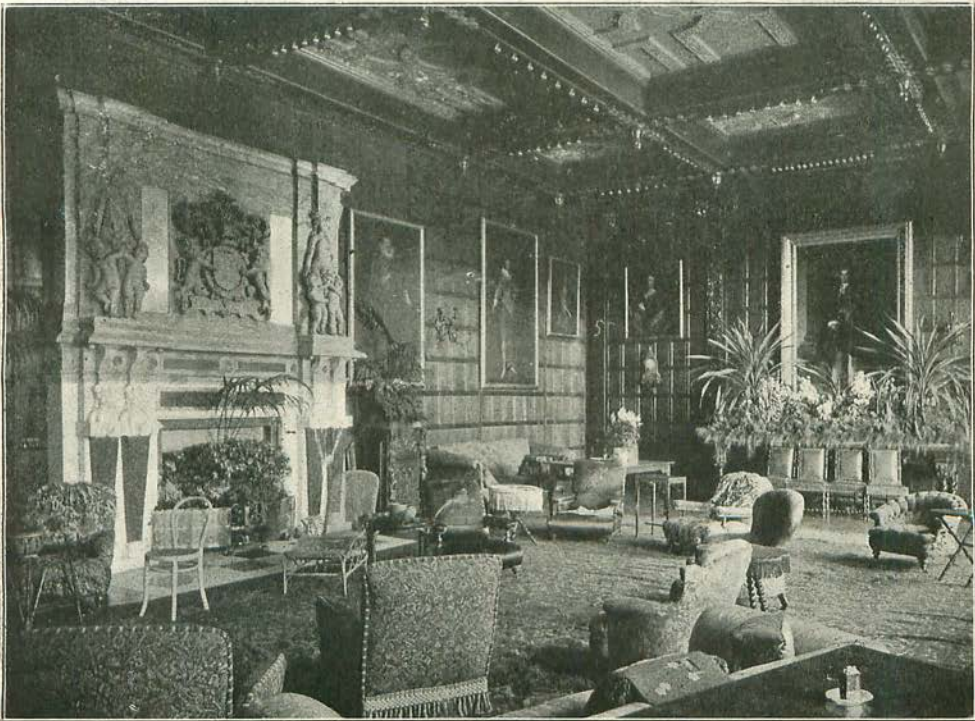
Aug. 6, 1882,  
"HATFIELD HOUSE, HATFIELD,  
"HERTS.

"MY DEAR SMITH,

"The enclosed may interest you. I am afraid I am, in point of superficialities, the biggest mark of the two.

"Yours very truly,  
"SALISBURY."

Owing to this increase in weight as well as in years the Premier has become to some extent uncertain in gait and movement. The porters at Hatfield Station always exercise the most watchful care as he crosses the line on the level, which he is obliged to do to avoid the steep ascent and descent by the bridge; a precaution on their part which



(Elsden, photo, Hertford)

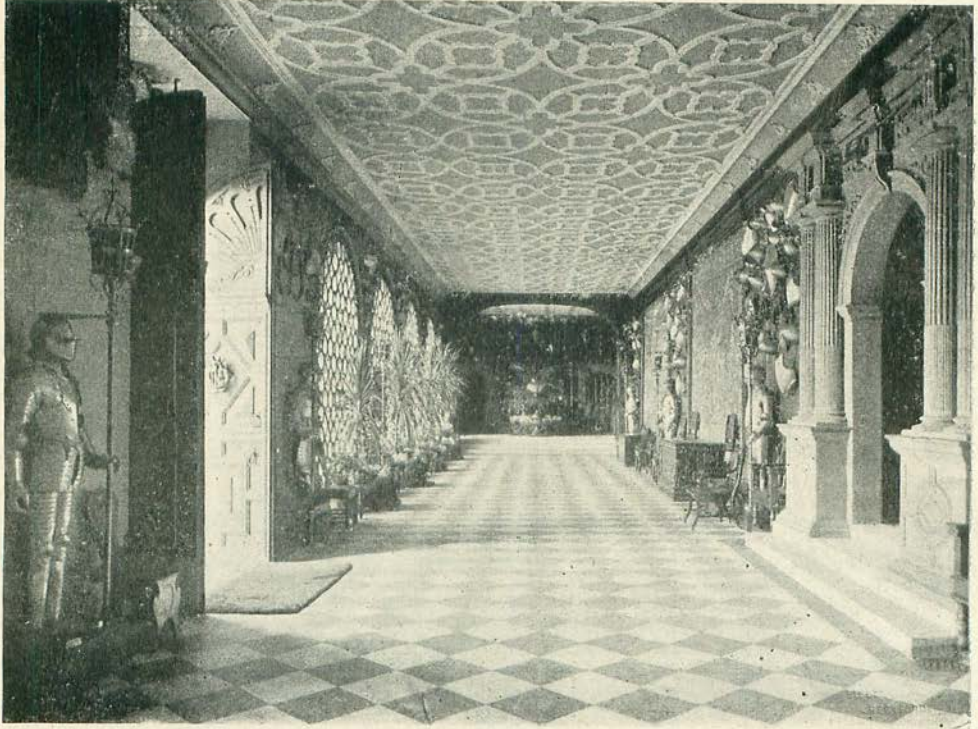
The winter dining-room, Hatfield House

is rendered necessary also by Lord Salisbury's constant absorption in thought.

And now to give some idea of where Lord Salisbury lives. Reference was made in a

wreckage, but this no longer exists, and there is no source of supply from which to meet the large expense of keeping up the castle.

Besides these three abodes there is also, of



(Elsden, photo. Hertford)

The Cloisters, Hatfield House

previous chapter to the various London houses which he occupied in his early days. Since then his residences out of London have been mainly four. For some years he had two villas in France: Beaulieu, Villefranche, near Nice, which he still retains; and the Châlet Cecil near Dieppe, which was sold when he became Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in 1895. This appointment gave him the use of Walmer Castle, where a succession of notable men have sojourned for longer or shorter periods, and where Pitt and Wellington both ended their days. The honour of holding the Wardenship of the Cinque Ports is nowadays all the recompense pertaining to the office. Formerly there was an income of £3000 or £4000 a year from

course, Hatfield, Lord Salisbury's real home, to which he returns as often as can possibly be managed, even during the sittings of Parliament.

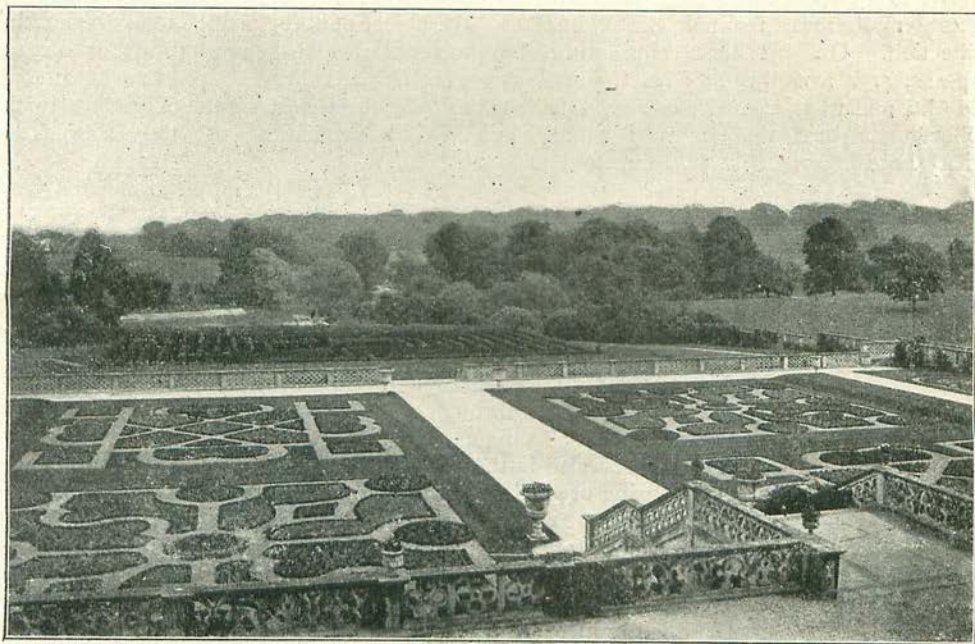
It was the writer's good fortune to arrive at Hatfield for the first time late on an autumn evening. After dinner at the hotel a lovely moon tempted him out for an evening stroll, and never will he forget the picturesqueness of the scene. The old town climbing up gable by gable, distinct yet mysterious in the moonlight. The steep and narrow street, crowned by the parish church, and faced at its summit by the ancient gateway, of which the ruddiness of the old brickwork was scarcely subdued by the cold rays of the moon. It was very

quiet, an occasional footfall sounding distinct and solitary, and the scene seemed scarcely real. It was more like a wonderfully set piece in a gigantic theatre, and one half expected to see the big gates roll back and men in armour march out in gleaming ranks.

It is said that the best time to see the interior of the house is when it is lighted up on some State occasion. It is certainly a little bit gloomy by daylight in parts, but exceedingly impressive notwithstanding. Even when discovered in *deshabille* (as it was by the present writer) this is eminently the case. The library windows were being removed by a gang of masons, carpets were being beaten on the grass, and coal was being taken in in prodigious quantities, but none of these things could spoil the effect that the stately old mansion cannot fail to produce. Perhaps the finest room in the house is the marble hall where Lord Salisbury entertains his tenants at an annual dinner. High up on the walls are hung French colours taken at Waterloo, while below them several portraits of Queen

Elizabeth, to whom it will be remembered the house once belonged, claim attention. A magnificent ceiling, which gives a perfect decorative finish to the hall, was put in by Lady Salisbury thirty years ago, not long after the present Marquis came into possession. Another beautiful room is that which goes by the name of the Long Gallery. Here the family and guests mostly assemble, and very warm they must generally be, for it is said that the heating arrangements of this part of the house are so thorough that it is difficult to keep the temperature of this room below seventy degrees!

There are, as is well known, numberless treasures to be viewed by the sightseer who is lucky enough to visit Hatfield on a day when the house is thrown open to visitors. Chief among these are the bed in which Queen Victoria once slept, and the cradle which many years before was the resting-place of her great predecessor, Elizabeth, when a baby. Lady Salisbury had a model made in silver of this cradle and presented it to Queen Victoria on her



(Elsden, photo, Hertford)

View from the East Terrace, Hatfield House, showing the maze in the distance

eightieth birthday. Another curiosity which is of special interest is the pen—a broad white feathered quill — with which Lord Salisbury signed the Berlin Treaty on July 13, 1878.

But, if the house is impressive, what words can describe the park? It is, in the first place, of vast size; so big, in fact, that Lord Salisbury has been able to give permission for a rifle range to be formed in one part of it without the least interfering with its beauty or utility as a pleasure resort. To wander among the mighty oaks, many of them showing signs in their gnarled trunks of the greatness of their age, to stand and gaze down the vistas of the avenues, to find one's footsteps leading one to the still waters of a winding river, and to do all this on an autumn afternoon, when the blue mists intermingle with the red and gold of the turning leaves, is an experience never to be forgotten. It is almost possible to imagine oneself alone in some scene of enchantment—almost, but not quite! Presently there draws near an irreproachable individual in a suit of grey who passes and is lost to sight, only to re-appear again in a most mysterious manner from another direction. On his next appearance, he speaks, and from his anxious inquiries as to who, and what, and why one is, it is not difficult to guess that he is there to see that Lord Salisbury's domain, and also

perhaps his person, is safe from undesirable visitors.

But night comes on and one must reluctantly turn one's steps away from all the beauty and stateliness of Hatfield House and park, grateful for the chance of having seen it all, and feeling that the statesman who so largely has controlled the destinies of Europe is fittingly housed.

And now the limits set to these chapters has been reached, and so very much has been left unsaid. They are indeed the greatest things of all which have not been touched. But they are the things of which all are well aware, and to which the history of these latter days, when it comes to be written, will give due prominence. His mission to Constantinople in 1876, and that to Berlin with Lord Beaconsfield in 1878, for which he received the Garter, his statesmanlike avoidance of a breach with America on the question of Venezuela, his guiding hand and never-failing influence over his colleagues, his masterly arguments and unflinching front when Home Rule threatened the country with disaster, these and many kindred things have all been left untold, for the object of these chapters has been rather to recall what has been forgotten, or to relate what has been little known, than to attempt to add the tiniest shred of gilding to the brilliant reputation of the Marquis of Salisbury.



### Unity

As when two talking gradually discern  
 Their own experience mirrored in the speech  
 Of one another strangely, and so learn  
 How much they have in common each with each,  
 So they who search through great philosophies  
 A unity below all variance find.  
 Truth is revealed in those high sympathies  
 That spring of goodness in the human mind,  
 Wherein all men of every race are one.  
 Time cannot touch this bond of brotherhood,  
 From east to west the splendours of the sun  
 Declare the source of universal good,  
 Of which in life, love is the parallel,  
 The source of all delight; who loves, lives well.

ROSA WAUGH.



LORD ROBERT CECIL, THIRD MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, IN 1860

From a Drawing by GEORGE RICHMOND, R.A.