



Mr. R. W. Hanbury. Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. Goschen. Mr. Balfour. Lord G. Hamilton.  
THE TREASURY BENCH.

## OUR YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

BY ARCHIBALD CROMWELL.

*Illustrated by S. BEGG and WARWICK GOBLE.*



As soon as the General Election fever had subsided in statistical convalescence it was found that the honour of being the youngest member of the House of Commons belonged to Viscount Milton. Three or four new members were twenty-five years old, but Lord Milton had not reached his twenty-third birthday when Wakefield returned him to Parliament. Between the ages of the Right Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, "father of the House of Commons," and that of Viscount Milton there is therefore the extraordinary interval of seventy years. In this day of interest in young men I thought it would be worth while to hear from Lord Milton a little about his career, so far as it had advanced. He courteously granted me an interview in the London hotel where he was staying, while passing through town. My first satisfaction was in seeing that there was no truth in the report that he had broken his collar-bone while hunting. The tall, lithe young man looked the picture of health as he sat beside the glowing fire and discussed matters in rapid musical tones.

"It is a curious coincidence," said Lord Milton, "that my father was twenty-two when he entered the House, and my grandfather, Earl Fitzwilliam, was just the same age when he became M.P. for Malton in 1837. My great-grandfather was still younger, he was only twenty-one when he became M.P. I had not noticed these facts until it was discovered that I was following the tradition of the family. My birthday was July 25, 1872, so you see I was twenty-two when nominated for Wakefield. Three or four men run me close as regards age. Mr. Bathurst is twenty-three, Mr. Richard Cavendish is twenty-four, and Mr. T. B. Curran, the youngest member of the Irish Party, is about the same age."

"Did you expect to be returned to Parliament?"

"No, I really did not. I was only chosen to contest Wakefield a fortnight before the poll, and against me was Mr. H. S. L. Wilson, who was a local man, with a very good chance of winning. I thoroughly enjoyed the election from first to last—especially last. It was fought fairly and squarely, and the people were wonderfully enthusiastic and

kind. Wakefield is one of the two or three seats which were ceded by the Conservative Party to the Liberal Unionists; West Marylebone, for which Sir Horace Farquhar sits, is another. So that on that ground the Liberals had especial reason to try and capture it. Oh yes, I am a Liberal Unionist, not a Conservative, as some of the year-books say. I have been called everything — Liberal, Unionist, and Conservative — except an Irish member."

"Then give me your autobiography, so that the WINDSOR may at least be correct."

"I don't suppose anybody is anxious to know it, correctly or incorrectly." Lord Milton laughed in his pleasant unaffected way, but I persisted in my inquisitiveness. "I was born in Canada, so it will be no surprise to you to hear that I believe in Imperial Federation. Any Britisher who travels even a little abroad must

understand the existence of the 'crimson thread of kinship' which binds the mother country to her children."

"And you have travelled much, I think."

"Well, yes; I have always enjoyed moving about. After being educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, I went to India as aide-de-camp to the Marquis of Lansdowne, in 1893, returning in the

following year. The public are only just waking up to discover what a powerful man Lord Lansdowne is. He can do a great deal more than reform the British Army, I can assure you, though he needs no testimonial from an onlooker like myself. Still from personal observation I can say what a remarkable statesman he is, with an infinite capacity for hard work."

"Did you form any opinion, Lord Milton, as to the effect of our government on India? For instance, what do you think of the Indian National Congress?"

"My opportunities were not long enough, nor am I old enough to judge much of what I saw. In travelling I think you get the facts, but the theories have to be formed afterwards. The worst of it is that usually people take their theories on board and never let the facts alter them. In going about India I found that everywhere the

Englishman and his money were respected. In a village you would find at an inn the Englishman would receive more attention than any other person. As to the pictures of life in India by Mrs. F. A. Steel, Mr. Rudyard Kipling and other writers—well, remember that the Indian Empire is full of diverse nationalities, and life-like photographs of one section may be absolutely



From a photo by]

VISCOUNT MILTON.

[G. & J. Hall, Wakefield.

(The youngest member of the House of Commons.)

inaccurate of another. I have been reading Miss Sara Jeannette Duncan's 'His Honour and a Lady,' and should consider that a specially true picture of official life. No, I don't think I have read Sir George Trevelyan's 'The Competition Wallah.' Probably that is a trifle out of date by this time. It would take a great many writers to exhaust India as a field for fiction, and I think it is a good sign that we are getting more interested in that vast country than we used to be."

"One last question: Are you going to take up any one political subject?"

"Well I am bound to be specially interested in coal. But otherwise there seems so much to learn merely as to procedure in the House of Commons that I shall have my hands full without attempting very much else."



From a photo by]

[Lamb, Tetbury.

HON. A. B. BATHURST, M.P.

The Hon. A. B. Bathurst, who was elected for the Cirencester Division of Gloucestershire, is by one month the senior of Viscount Milton. He is the son of the late Earl Bathurst, and was born on June 25, 1872. After being educated at Eton he spent a period at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, near which his home is situated. Mr. Bathurst is a captain in the 4th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. His oppo-

nent at the General Election was Mr. Harry Lawson, and only 215 votes divided the candidates.

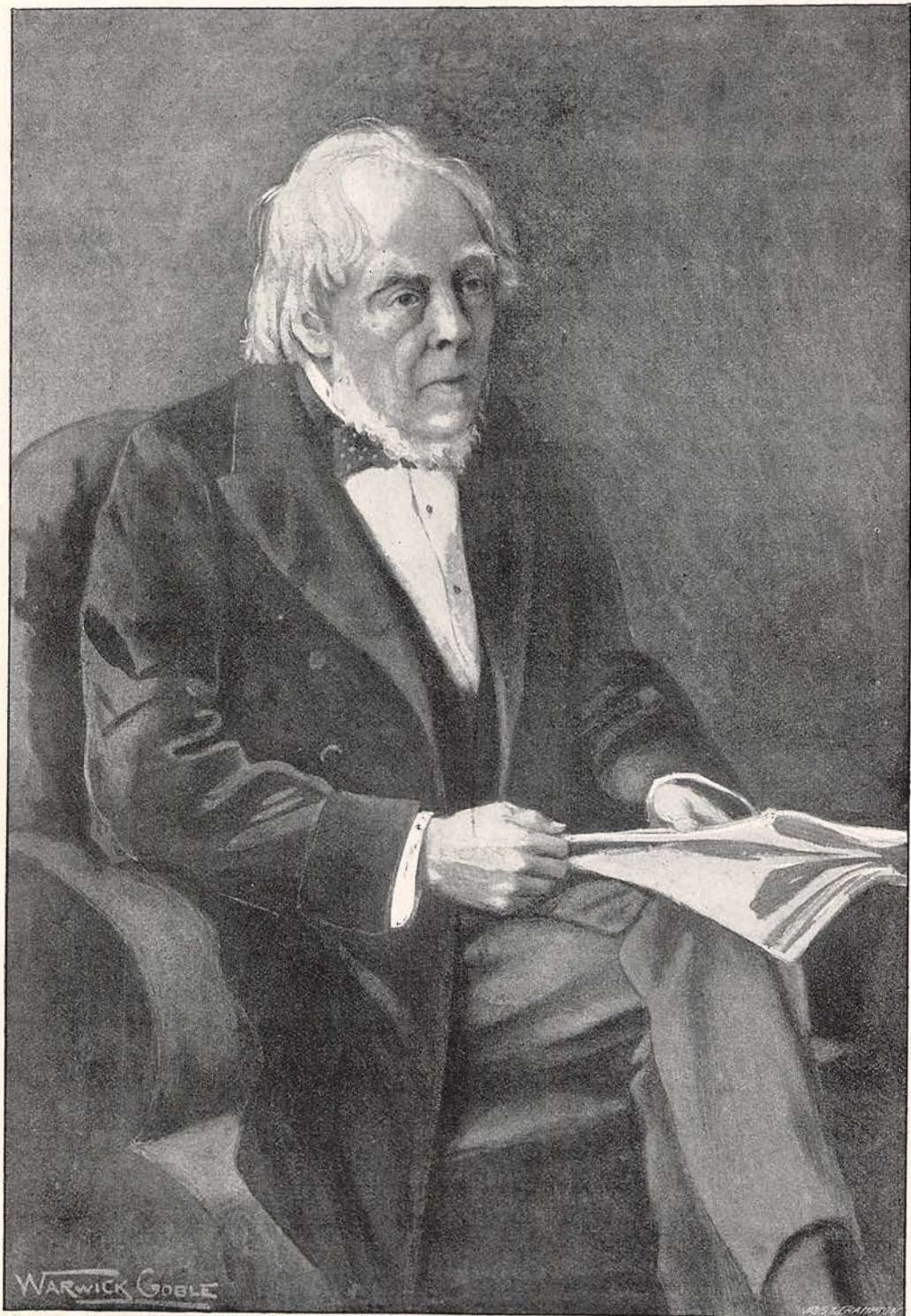
Another young M.P. is Mr. Thomas B. Curran, who was elected last year as the Nationalist Member for North Donegal. He is not new to Parliamentary life, for he sat for Kilkenny from 1892 to 1895. The youngest member of the Irish party, he was born October 14, 1870, so he is now twenty-five years of age. The son of Mr. Thomas Curran, M.P., who represents South Sligo, he was



MR. T. B. CURRAN, M.P.

born in Sydney, where his father was a merchant. He received his education at St. Ignatius College, Sydney, taking the gold medal for his ability as a debater. Afterwards he studied at Sydney University, subsequently coming to England and entering as a law student at the Middle Temple. Mr. Curran is likely to sustain the prestige of his historic name in the new session of Parliament. His father has been a liberal supporter of the Irish cause at some of its most critical moments.

A year older than either Mr. Bathurst or Lord Milton is Mr. Richard Cavendish, who was elected to represent, in the Liberal Unionist interest, the North Lonsdale Division of Lancashire. He is the second son of the late Lord Edward Cavendish, his elder brother being Mr. Victor Cavendish, M.P. It will be recollected that the present Duke of Devonshire was a member of the House of Commons at the same time as his



*Drawn specially for the WINDSOR MAGAZINE]*

*[by Warwick Goble.*

THE RIGHT HON. CHARLES PELHAM VILLIERS, M.P.

THE "FATHER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS."

Born January 3, 1802.

(Member for Wolverhampton since 1835.)

two brothers, Lord Edward and Lord Frederick Cavendish. Once again the family is represented by two brothers, both very young men. Mr. Victor Cavendish is twenty-seven and Mr. Richard Cavendish is twenty-four. Both were educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. Mr. Victor Cavendish entered Parliament at the age of twenty-three as the member for West Derbyshire, the constituency he still represents.

It is sincerely to be hoped that careers of public usefulness lie before both the brothers, who have the examples of their father, their uncle and their grandfather to inspire them.

Mr. Walford D. Green, M.P., who has written about some of the impressions which the House of Commons made on him, is among the band of young men to whom one turns instinctively with hope. He is one of those who have pursued with steady aim the idea of being a politician, and his education has been conducted with that career in view. Mr. Green is the eldest son of the Rev. Walford Green, who was President of the Wesleyan Conference in 1895. He was born on August 24, 1869, and is consequently twenty-six years old. After education at the Leys School and King's College, Cam-

bridge (graduating in 1891), he was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple last year. Mr. Green had a well-fought struggle at Wednesbury, standing in the Conservative interest against Mr. C. Roberts, whom he defeated by 191 votes. During the contest Mr. Chamberlain delivered a speech on his behalf which undoubtedly operated in his favour. But he had, prior to the General

Election, devoted much time and energy to making himself known to the electors, and this fact had more to do with his success than even his attempt to meet the insatiable craving of the men of Wednesbury for speeches. In this connection it may be interesting to record a curious coincidence. Mr. Green only once saw a copy of *Reynolds' Newspaper*, and he happened to study particularly closely a certain article in that issue. At one of the many meetings he addressed in Wednes-

bury a man in the audience rose and demanded Mr. Green's opinion of this very article. Of course he was fortunately able to discuss the matter and to criticise the statements with a readiness which surprised his questioner and delighted the meeting.



MR. RICHARD CAVENDISH, M.P.



"Who goes home?"