

BRITONS IN THE SERVICE OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

BY A. DE BURGH.



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[Kuhn, Paris.

WILLIAM HENRY WADDINGTON.

Formerly French Ambassador to this country.

THE British Empire is extending farther and farther every day. Nor do we wonder at the extraordinary power Great Britain has grown to wield over vast portions of this earth of ours. A careful study of the needs of human nature has enabled her to formulate and apply sound political principles which make themselves felt in every corner of the world. An inborn love of liberty, an unquenchable patriotism, and a desire to afford others the same advantages they themselves enjoy – these qualities (spiced, no doubt, with an appreciable grain of selfishness and some reasonable expectation of a return of ultimate benefit to themselves) have produced men who laid the foundations and then built upon them the Empire of to-day.

A renowned statesman once remarked that "Britons must be made of a very superior clay." The results of their work would certainly point to that.

All nations guard more or less jealously against foreign intrusion; therefore, when we see our countrymen attain to the highest positions in foreign lands, we may be pardoned the vanity of thinking that the clay they are made of must be a superior one.

During the Thirty Years War many Scotchmen in the various armies were renowned all over France, Germany, Hungary, Spain, Sweden, and the Netherlands. Only a few instances of the more remote times can be mentioned, as there are so many eminent Britons or descendants of Britons holding high rank in foreign countries at the present day, and these, naturally, are of more immediate interest.

A very prominent case is that of a cadet of the Leslies of Balquhain, who became a Count of the Romish German Empire and Imperial Ambassador to Constantinople. His son James, who succeeded to his hereditary

honours, gained great fame in the defence of Vienna against the Turks.

The Swedish Count of Orholm was Sir James Spence, of Warminster; Sir Patrick Ruthven was a distinguished general of the German army and governor of Ulm; Sir Alexander Leslie we find as governor of the Baltic coast-towns and field-marshal of the army of Westphalia; Sir David Drummond became illustrious as general and governor of Stettin, in Pomerania.

Everyone has heard of Keith and Lacy, the former Scotch, the latter Irish, who have



THE LATE MARSHAL MACMAHON.
President of the French Republic.

done such signal service to Russia. James Keith subsequently became a field-marshal (1747) of Frederick the Great, and died the death of a hero, being struck by a cannon

shot on the battlefield of Hochkirch in 1758, during the Seven Years War. He was one of the few men whom Frederick the Great admitted to his intimate friendship, and a letter of the famous king is still extant which shows the feelings entertained by him towards the Scotsman.

One of the incidents history records in the life of Keith is worth repeating, as showing especially the qualities of the man. When once summoned by the Prince of Hildburghausen to surrender a town which he occupied, he replied to the messenger, "Tell the Prince that by birth I am a Scotchman, by choice and duty a Prussian, and I am deter-



FIELD-MARSHAL COUNT LAVAL NUGENT, OF THE AUSTRIAN ARMY.

mined so to defend the town that neither the Scotch nor the Prussians shall be ashamed of me!"

Before touching on the array of extraordinary personages of the present day and of our own epoch, one must mention at least by name the Gordons, who became a great power in the court and camp of Peter the Great of Russia, and Admiral Samuel Carlowitch Greig, who was, in fact, the creator of the Russian navy, and was the projector and author of the fortifications of Kronstadt, of which fortress he became governor. He also

died the death of a soldier, succumbing to wounds received at the renowned battle of Hogeland.

In the Cathedral of Bremen is to be seen the burial-place of Alexander Erskine, Minister of War to Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden. He represented that country at the historical conference which resulted in the Treaty of Westphalia.

A few months ago there died at Glynde, near Lewes, Eliza Viscountess Hampden, widow of the first Viscount, who, as the Hon. Henry Brand, was for many years Speaker of the House of Commons. By descent the lady belonged to the renowned family of Barclays, of Tolly or Towie, who were merged with the Ellices by marriage. One of her ancestors, whose parents, like many other natives of Scotland, emigrated to the dominions of the Czar during the seventeenth century and settled there, became the celebrated Russian General, Prince Barclay de Tolly, whose rivalry with Kutuzov is described in Tolstoi's "War and Peace." Another equally famous branch of her ancestry were the Barclays of Urie, one of whom fought under Gustavus Adolphus, and while in prison became a Quaker.

Looking over the last twenty years we see a very significant state of affairs. In France we find a President who is a descendant of an Irish family, Marshal MacMahon, Duke of Magenta; but we also find in the same Republic a Prime Minister who was an Englishman. M. William Henry Waddington, who was also for many years French Ambassador at our Court, was the son of an Englishman, and was educated at Rugby and Cambridge, taking his degree in 1847 with a first class and a chancellor's medal. He was one of the victorious crew in the University boat-race of 1849. Thirty years later he was President of the Council, after having held the high position of Deputy and Senator of the French Republic, Minister of Instruction, Foreign Minister, and French Plenipotentiary to the Berlin Congress in 1878.

Austria had a genuine Irish peer as her Prime Minister from 1879 to 1893. The late Count Taaffe, eleventh Viscount Taaffe and Baron Ballymote in the Irish peerage, and Count of the Holy Roman Empire (since 1784), was a personal friend of the Emperor Francis Joseph I. and his trusted counsellor for nearly fifty years. His son Henry, twelfth Viscount, serves now in the Austrian army. We may here mention that Austria is the adopted country of many Irishmen,

who have occupied high positions in the realm.

It was an Irishman, Count O'Donnell, who acted as equerry to the present venerable Emperor when his life was attempted nearly fifty years ago. The Count, fearing that the knife with which the Emperor was wounded might have been poisoned, sucked the wound clean after having disabled the would-be assassin and prevented him from striking a second blow.

Baron MacNevin O'Kelly of Aughrim (O'Kelly ab Aughrim), whose ancestors were made Austrian barons in 1767, is a highly esteemed personage in that Empire. The present head of the family was born in 1847, and married the Countess of Monfort, daughter of the Princess Thurn and Taxis. He is heir to Ballynahown in Ireland. Another great family in Austria are the Barons MacÉnis of Atter and Iveaghe, who were ennobled in the Holy Roman Empire in 1680 and made Bohemian barons in 1784. These are only a few instances of many which might be enumerated.

One of the greatest and most honoured names in Austro-Hungary is that of Nugent. Field-Marshal Count Laval Nugent was one of the distinguished military leaders in the early days of the present reign. His descendants, who hold high rank in that exclusive country, speak with pride of their Irish origin, being a branch of the West Meath family of that name.

In Sweden and Norway Count Ludwig Douglas has been Minister of Foreign Affairs since 1895. He is a descendant in the seventh generation of Robert Douglas, who served with a company of mercenaries, under the command of his kinsman, the Marquis of Hamilton, in the armies of King Gustavus Adolphus. This Robert Douglas was made Count of Skenninge, and later on became field-marshal. His son Gustavus was appointed Governor of the Province of Vesterbotten. Two of Count Gustavus's sons were made prisoners in the battle of Pultava, and the younger of these entered the service of the Czar, and was later appointed Russian Governor of the Province of Finland. The elder

kept true to his allegiance, and returned, after peace had been restored, to Stjärnap, his father's estate in Ostergothland, which remains up to this date in the possession of



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KAÏD MACLEAN,
Commander-in-Chief of the Morocco Army.

his family. His successor, Charles William, allied himself to royalty by marrying the daughter of the Grand Duke Louis of Baden. Charles William had two sons, one born in

February and the other in November, 1849. The elder is an officer in the German army and member of the Reichstag. The younger—the Count Ludwig already mentioned—was educated at the University of Upsala, and entered the Swedish parliament in 1887. He was for a time equerry to the Crown Prince, and became in 1895 Foreign Minister, as already stated. He is married to the daughter of the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count Albert Ehrenswärd, and has a large family.

It is not necessary to speak of the many English, Irish, and Scotch who occupied high and responsible positions in the United States of America, as naturally the great majority of Americans are Britons by descent. One fact should be mentioned, however, as it may not be universally known, namely, that President McKinley is the descendant of Francis McKinley, the leader of the Ulster rebels a century ago.



CHARLES O'DONNELL, DUKE OF TETUAN.

Formerly Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Premier.

In Spain there is a strong admixture of Irish blood. The Spanish envoy to the Peace Conference at the Hague, and formerly Minister of Foreign Affairs and Premier, is the Duke of Tetuan. "Red Hugh" O'Donnell, who fled his country when England conquered Ulster, was the ancestor of a line of Spanish grandees of which the Duke is the present head. He is

an Irish chieftain in his own right, and the owner of a name famous in the history of Ireland. He claims to be Lord of Donegal, and rejoices in his patronymic of Charles O'Donnell. In appearance he is a typical Castilian noble, of stately presence, fine face, and dignified manner. He was born in 1834, but by no means looks his age, though his beard and hair are almost white.

One of the most brilliant courtiers of the young Spanish King belongs to the great family of Murphy, and bears the name of Conde de Morphe or Count Murphy. He holds one of the most responsible places at the Royal Court, being private secretary to Alphonso XIII.

An ex-Premier of Holland is Baron Aeneas Mackay d'Oppement, who is heir to the Scotch peerage now held by Lord Reay. The Baron, who is sixty years of age, is a cousin to the present holder of the title, and future chief of the Mackay clan.

Another remarkable instance of the advancement of a Briton on foreign soil is that of Colonel Maclean, who is now Kaïd Maclean, Commander-in-Chief of the Morocco Army, and the Sultan's most trusted friend and companion. He is the son of the Maclean of Loch Buie, his father owning a great part of the Isle of Mull. The Kaïd is popular, in spite of the great jealousy of the Mohammedans, and the tact he displays in his most difficult position is quite wonderful. He invariably travels with the Sultan, and exercises an immense influence over him.

A few years ago, when there was a probability of trouble arising between Morocco and Great Britain, a Scotchman, hailing from Glasgow, who was in the Sultan's dominions at the time, got compromised in some way and was seized and cast into prison by the Sultan's orders, being kept without food of any kind, as is the rule in Morocco. During the night, when the poor Scot was actually near starvation, a figure clothed in a white gown came softly to the cell and addressed the terrified prisoner in broad Scotch. He produced from the folds of his gown a bottle of real Scotch whisky and various eatables. The two clansmen sat far into the morning talking of the old home and of their friends in bonnie Scotland. It is needless to say that in the morning the prisoner was released and seen safely out of Morocco by his countryman, Kaïd Maclean.

It is not generally known that an Irishman is chief of the general staff of the Russian army, and one of the foremost advisers of the Czar, who has loaded him

with honours and decorations. He has Russianised his Irish cognomen O'Bryan and is known as General O'Brutscheff.

In China many Britons have during the present century made great names for themselves. We need only mention that noble philanthropist and soldier, General Gordon, whose death the whole world mourned, or refer to the present virtual



COUNT LUDWIG DOUGLAS.
Minister of Foreign Affairs in Norway and Sweden.

head of the Chinese Embassy at the Court of St. James, Sir Halliday Macartney. The latter was born in Scotland of Irish and Scotch parents, and is married to a French lady, the daughter of Jacques Léon du Santoy. So great was and still is his influence in the Celestial Empire that he has been dubbed the "English nose of the Chinese Emperor."

Sir Halliday has had a very unusual career.

He joined the Army Medical Service and became surgeon to the 39th Regiment; but he drifted early to China, where he entered the Chinese service as Director of the Imperial Arsenal at



BARON AENEAS MACKAY D'OPPEERMONT.
Ex-Premier of Holland.

Nanking. During the Taiping Rebellion he acted with General Gordon. From that time he steadily rose into greater prominence, and is to-day one of the celestial nobles and

a most trusted and esteemed friend of the Emperor and Empress-mother. Although faithful to China, Sir Halliday is continually rendering services to Greater Britain.

No foreigner, however, in recent times has reached such a position of power and influence as the Irishman, Sir Robert Hart, Director of Chinese Customs. Sir Robert entered the Chinese service forty years ago, and in the short space of barely ten years became Inspector-General of Customs. Probably no man in any country holds a position of more difficulty and responsibility, and holds it so resolutely and well. Under his absolute command he has a force of some three thousand men and a fleet of armed



THE LATE COUNT TAAFFE.
Prime Minister of Austria.

cruisers. Sir Robert is the son of the late Mr. Henry Hart, of Portadown, Armagh, and is ably supported by his brother James and his brother-in-law (likewise an Irishman), Mr. Burdon.

A native of Birmingham wields great power in the realm of the Ameer of Afghanistan. Sir Salter Pyne entered the service of his present master in 1886, and undertook to establish a regular army and an arsenal on European principles. He has been successful and has won the confidence of the Ameer and his people. Sir Salter is still under forty years of age.

In the service of the Sultan of Turkey we have also instances of Britons attaining great

power. Hobart Pasha was Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish navy, and to enumerate those sons of our Isles who have come to eminence in the service of the Khedive would be an impossibility in the limited space at our disposal.

A case of gaining sovereign power in foreign lands is that of the son of the late Rev. Francis Charles Johnson, vicar of White Larkington, Somerset, and nephew of the late Sir James Brooke, whose name he assumed. Sir James entered the service of the Malay Rajah of Borneo, and assisted successfully in quelling a serious rebellion among the natives. The Rajah presented him with forty thousand acres of land surrounding Sarawak, and he established here an independent principality and assumed the name of Rajah Brooke, of Sarawak. He left at his death his dominions and wealth to his nephew, who assumed the sovereignty which he now holds in semi-alliance with Great Britain.

In Italy there are various Britons who, under their new foreign titles, are little known in their own country. Italy's chief naval authority and the former head of her navy is a cousin of Lord Acton, and representative of a branch of a family which for generations has been eminent in the adopted country. His great-uncle, Sir Edward Acton, was the most brilliant man of his day in the Kingdom of Naples, of which he was both Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief. His grandfather was an admiral in the Neapolitan navy, and his brother holds flag rank in the Italian navy.

Another interesting example is the Italianised Earl of Newburgh, who is now better known as Sigismund Giustiniani Bandini, Prince Bandini, Duke of Montdragone, etc. He is a descendant of the first Edward. Lord Newburgh can boast of the most intimate relations with the Pope. He is the son of Maria, Countess of Newburgh in her own right, by her marriage with an Italian.

Although an English peer he has never taken his seat in the House of Lords. He has been educated in Italy and is more Roman than the Romans, and even in his appearance he suggests rather the Italian prince than the descendant of Sir John Levingston, the brave soldier of five centuries ago.



GENERAL O'BRUTSCHEFF.
Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Army

The roll-call has by no means been completed, but enough distinguished names have been given to illustrate the varied achievements of our countrymen in foreign service. No other nation can show such a record; no country can claim more men who have risen to the highest places on foreign soil than Great Britain, a fact that testifies most eloquently to the capacity and enterprise of her sons.