

Passing of a Great Generation of Statesmen

The Recent Death of Lord Salisbury Marks the End of a Distinguished Coterie of Diplomats.

WHEN Lord Salisbury died there passed away not merely a great statesman and a commanding personality, but the last of the distinguished group of diplomatists of European reputation who made modern Europe. Beaconsfield, Gladstone, Russell, Bismarck, Gortchakoff, Crispien and Andrassy—these were his contemporaries, and one looks for successors with such wide-reaching influence.

The great influence wielded by Lord Salisbury in a democratic age and through the medium of a system with which he had scant sympathy is a striking illustration of the power exercised by high character, lofty motives and ardent patriotism. Without any of the flexibility of political conviction which distinguished Mr. Gladstone, and wholly devoid of the arts of the demagogue which often temporarily command public success, Lord Salisbury yet managed to find a following at the polls larger than any English statesman ever enjoyed before, and to secure a degree of confidence at the hands of the nation which has scarcely any parallel. His great rival, Glad-

stone, had a stronger personal following it is very likely, but Lord Salisbury's strength lay in the confidence which he inspired when any international question arose.

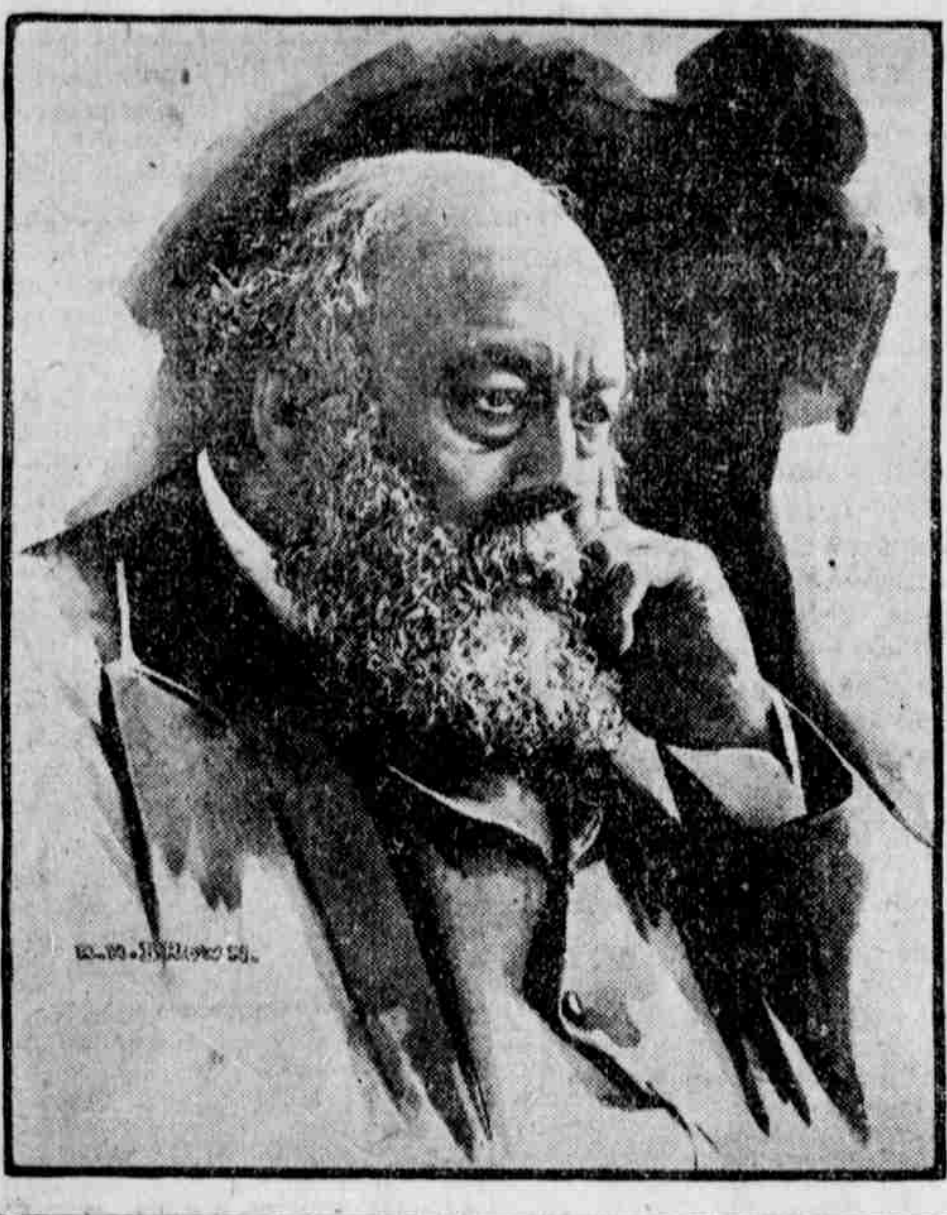
He was the survivor of a day when the grand manner ruled in politics and great personages steered the ships of state. He had witnessed the last great dramas of European history, and was regarded as a sort of Nestor ripe with wisdom, rich in experience and, above all, imbued with that great sense of responsibility which is so conspicuously absent from the mediocrities produced by the present democratic regime in England.

Born on February 13, 1830, Lord Robert Cecil was the second son of the second marquis, who was himself a statesman of some note, having twice held office as cabinet minister. He went to Eton and to Oxford, and took his B. A. in 1849. He did not offer himself as a candidate for honors, but he acquitted himself so well in the pass examination that he was awarded an "honorary fourth." He took an active part in the debates of the Oxford union, and then, leaving Oxford, undertook a long foreign tour, visiting many of England's colonies and gaining at first hand a knowledge of men and countries which at that time was considered an all-essential part of the training of those who aspired to political honors.

On his return to England in 1853 Lord Robert Cecil was elected a fellow of All Souls and very shortly entered parliament, being returned unopposed for Stamford. For 15 years he represented that constituency, and then, on the death of his father, succeeded to the title, and forsook the commons for the lords. As a young member he quickly made his mark in the house, even as outside his trenchant writings and forcible style at once attracted attention, for at one time he practised journalism with some assiduity. At 25 he was a prominent person, and in

1857 he attempted to introduce a bill which should encourage people to vote by providing them with voting papers to fill up at home, instead of enforcing their attendance at the poll. In 1866 Lord Cranborne, as he then was, his elder brother having died in the previous year, 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.

He was not in office long, for with characteristic independence he resigned in the following year with Lord Carnarvon when Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli tried to take the wind out of the sails of the liberal party by introducing a sweeping reform bill of their own. Subsequent events showed that he was by no means opposed to reform; indeed that subject and the welfare of the church were the two questions which occupied him most of the days before he became known as a great foreign minister. With regard to the church, he must have had many points of resemblance to his son, Lord Hugh Cecil. The subject that most



LORD SALISBURY.

fired his enthusiasm was church defense. From whatever direction the church was attacked, he was ready to defend her with hot, uncompromising speech. When, after Lord Beaconsfield's death in 1881, he had become leader of the conservative party, he was largely instrumental in throwing out in the lords Mr. Gladstone's great franchise act of 1884; but it was the way it was introduced more than the bill itself which excited his opposition, and a compromise on the bill was subsequently arrived at—Lord Salisbury putting on one side his openly avowed distrust of a democratic electorate, in order to secure a peaceful solution of a dangerous political conflict.

For over 49 years Lord Salisbury's parliamentary career extended, and in many ways his last periods of office were the most notable. The skill with which he handled many crises subsequently will only be known when the full history of our times is written. The Venezuelan dispute required most careful handling; the Fashoda question, referred to before, needed beyond anything a firm hand on the reins; the siege in Peking developed internal questions of the gravest importance, while, last and greatest of all, the South African war was a severe and protracted strain on the statesman in his old age. There is a story which may or may not be true, that when the German emperor sent his famous telegram to President Kruger Lord Salisbury was giving a dinner party at Hatfield. An urgent message was put into his hands, and he excused himself for some time. He afterwards explained to a friend the nature of the news received. "What did you do?" said his friend. "I acted instantly," was the reply, "and ordered a flying squadron to be called together ready for any emergency."

Two millions of London's inhabitants never go to church.

BETTER ROADS WANTED.

Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress Favorably Impressed by Brownlow Bill.

The Trans-Mississippi Commercial congress, which held its fourteenth annual session at Seattle, Wash., not long ago, took up the subject of good roads for consideration for the first time. It was a noticeable fact that whatever difference of opinion there might have been as to other questions under consideration, there was absolute unanimity prevailing as to the good roads question, and the necessity for a general cooperation between the United States and the different states or civil subdivisions thereof, to hasten their permanent improvement. The subject was thoroughly discussed by R. W. Richardson, of Omaha, Neb.; James W. Abbott, of Nevada, Col.; Hon. Martin Dodge, director of the office of public road inquiries, Washington, D. C., and many delegates from different states and territories.

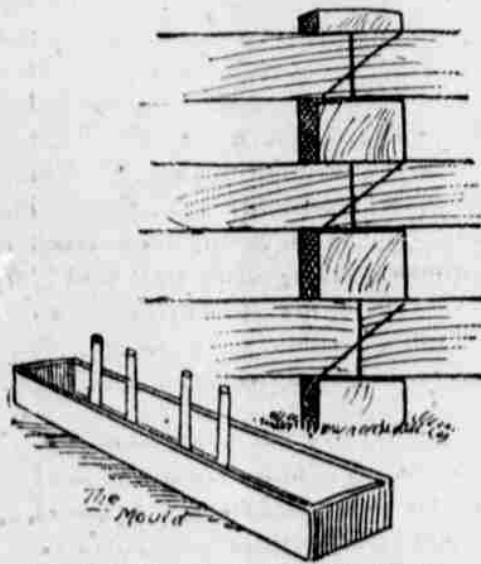
Director Dodge has just returned to his desk in Washington. In an interview with a representative of the press Mr. Dodge has the following to say regarding the sentiment for better roads at the Trans-Mississippi congress:

"The point was clearly made that many of the interior states and territories, especially in the mountain districts, have no navigable rivers and harbors, and that, therefore, they receive only remote and indirect benefits from the expenditure of the vast sums of money appropriated for the improvement of rivers and harbors, and that it would be just and equitable if the general government should lend its assistance to the building and maintaining certain public highways through such states and territories. It was not contended that the United States government should bear the total cost of building such roads, but that they should pay a contributory share not to exceed one-half, as provided for in the Brownlow bill. This was thought to be more just on account of the fact that the burden of raising the enormous revenues of the United States government rests as much upon the people in the rural states and districts as upon all other classes combined. The revenues of the general government approximate ten dollar per capita per annum, whereas the revenue of the state governments is only about one dollar per capita. The revenues of the general government are so large, and are raised in such a manner by indirect taxation, that there would be neither hardship nor inequity if the United States should bear a considerable portion of the costs of improving some of the principal highways in the various states and territories. It would seem that the best and most equitable method would be to require the United States to pay a portion of the cost, the state a portion, the county a portion, and the property owners in the vicinity of the road a portion."

A STONE FENCE POST.

Where Permanent Improvement Is Desired It Might Be Well to Give It a Trial.

The idea is worth trying. A stone fencepost will not rot. On ground alternately wet and dry, wooden posts do not last long. Make an open box for a mold, of the shape and size de-



THE MOULD AND THE WALL.

sired for the posts. Bore holes in the bottom where holes are desired in the posts. Insert long wooden pins, as shown. Make the sides and ends of the mold slightly flaring, that the post may be gently turned out. After the box has been filled and the cement has "set," the pins can be pulled out, leaving the holes in the post, through which fence wire can be passed to bind the boards or stakes, as shown. Dry gradually, out of the sun, to prevent cracking.—Farm Journal.

Improvement in Poultry.

The value of the improved fowls over the common stock of the country is seen in the beauty, symmetry, uniformity and utility of the former, says Fruit World. As the tendency of the offspring is to resemble the average of the parents, grandparents and other remote ancestors, the more alike the ancestors the more harmonious and decided influences they exert over the progeny. And there is still a great advancement in this method of improvement, every season, showing finer specimens in greater number among almost all the better known varieties.

LINCOLN SAVED A LEE

Civil War Incident That Is Well Remembered by Some Appreciative Southerners.

President Lincoln's magnanimous disposition and kindly nature were never better exemplified than in a case during the civil war in which two sons of the confederate chieftain, Robert E. Lee, were involved, says the Washington Post. As narrated by one of the most hospitable Virginians, himself a scion in a family noted for the brave deeds and heroic sacrifices, the story of Lincoln and the Lees reveals a depth of fraternal affection, chivalry and heroism of which Americans may justly be proud, no matter what state may claim their allegiance.

"There is a piece of history which seems to have escaped some northern writers," remarked the host, "and that is an incident involving Lincoln and two sons of 'Marse Robert,' as Gen. Lee was familiarly termed in the army. I have been an omnivorous reader of history connected with the civil war of 1861-65, but nowhere have I encountered any mention of the incident I am about to relate.

"It was after the battle of Brandy Station, in which Brig. Gen. W. H. F. Lee, called by his father and family 'Rooney' Lee, was not only badly wounded, but captured by the federal forces. Upon being taken to the headquarters of the union army his identity became known, and there are consequent great rejoicings over such a capture. Subsequently a federal officer who had been captured by the confederates was shot under peculiar

circumstances, and the captors of Rooney Lee determined that he should be executed by way of retaliation. A day had been fixed when he was to be shot at sunrise. In some manner Maj. Gen. Washington Parke Custis Lee, who once owned the Arlington estate, which was subsequently made a national cemetery by the United States government, learned of his brother's peril. By means of a flag of truce, Custis Lee appeared at the headquarters of the union commander, who cordially received him and inquired the nature of his visit.

"To save my brother's life, if possible," was the reply, "and return him to his wife and children. You must know, general," continued Custis Lee, "I am a bachelor, and not only that, but I outrank my brother, who is a brigadier general, while I am a major general. If anyone is to suffer for the unfortunate occurrence by which one of your officers forfeited his life, let the blow fall upon me. There will be no one to grieve and worry about me, for I am a single man and a soldier, able and willing to abide by the arbitration of war. With my brother it is different, for he is a man of family, with a wife and four little ones awaiting him at home. He knows nothing of my visit, neither does our father, Gen. Robert E. Lee. Knowing both of them as I do, it is my conjecture that if my purpose had been communicated to either of them, they would have endeavored to dissuade me from such an undertaking. Consequently I have come to your headquarters of my own volition, and with-

out any advice whatever, either from my family or friends. Give me my brother's life for his family's sake and take mine as a means of retaliation for a regrettable and unlooked-for act of war and its misery."

"Moved by this appeal, the union general pointed out to his visitor that what he asked was not in his power to grant. 'Lots were drawn for the execution,' he said, 'and fate willed it that your brother should draw the fatal number. A time has been fixed for the execution, the necessary orders have been given, and it only remains to carry out the details. There is nobody to help you in your extremity unless President Lincoln at Washington sees fit to interfere.'

"This suggestion, coming from the source it did, aroused a gleam of hope within the bosom of Custis Lee, and he inquired of the federal commander whether it would be possible to stay the execution of the death sentence until President Lincoln could be informed of the circumstances.

"Most assuredly," was the reply, "and, furthermore, he shall be informed of your heroic and brotherly offer of sacrifice immediately."

"This officer kept faith to the letter," continued the narrator, "and sent a detailed account of the interview with Custis Lee to the president of the United States Abraham Lincoln. Within a few hours after the message was received at



"TO SAVE MY BROTHER'S LIFE."

Washington there came a reply from President Lincoln to the federal commander, saying: 'I know Custis Lee means what he says. Defer the execution of his brother until you receive further orders from me.'

"These orders never came," concluded the host, "for shortly afterward W. H. F. Lee was exchanged for a federal officer of the rank of a brigadier general, and at once set out to rejoin his family. His devoted wife in the meanwhile, learning the story of his capture and sentence, and having no means for ascertaining his subsequent fate, had pined away and died. Scarlet fever carried off his four children, so that it was to a darkened and desolate fireside that Rooney Lee returned out of the jaws of death. He knew nothing at this time of the offer made by his brother to take his place, and it was not until long after the civil war had ended that he had learned what a big-hearted man Abraham Lincoln was and what he had done.

"Is it any wonder," continued the narrator, "that men of the south revere the memory of Lincoln? It was the darkest day in our history when he fell by the assassin's act, and none deplored his untimely end more than brave 'Old Marse Robert' and his sons Custis and Rooney Lee, the last named afterward a congressman at Washington. A son of Rooney Lee by a subsequent marriage is now a member of the Virginia legislature, and as he bears the name of his grandsire worthily he is an ideal Virginian, brave, chivalrous and gallant."

What Army Training Will Do.

"Talking of dogs," said the colonel, "a friend of mine has a Gordon setter. She's the most sympathetic dog I ever heard of. She has the maternal instinct so strong that she has brought up a litter not her own."

"I've known of such cases," said a listener.

"There was a hen had a chicken. The hen died and the chicken was in sore distress. This dog took pity on it and brought up that chicken."

"Yes," said another, "that's curious, but it's not uncommon."

"And now," said the colonel, solemnly, "that chicken barks!"—Stray Stories.

Incandescent Lamps.

Attention has been called by E. Bohm to two new forms of incandescent lamps. In both, the lower half of the bulb is of fluted glass, which, acting as a row of lenses, concentrates the light downwards, and gives the special advantage of strong illumination directly beneath the lamp. One form has the ordinary filament with the upper half of the bulb of opal glass, while the other has a zig-zag horizontal filament and a top of clear glass.

Something Lacking.

He—Why do you think I don't love you?
She—It's the way you tell me you do.—Detroit Free Press.