In the Wonderland Of North America.

Twenty-sixth Letter of Northwestern Travel. Further Facts Concerning Seattle.

Written for The Tribune.

In the race for commercial supremacy between Tacoma and Seattle, each city has some strong points and advantages over the other. Good natured rivalry, of the kind which promotes improvements, is nowhere better illustrated than among the citizens of these two cities. The people speak of the great fire in 1889 as a blessing in disguise, for inside of four years the city had been rebuilt with finer structures and wider streets and avenues, all on a more substantial basis than before. The architectural beauty of the new brick business blocks is truly wonderful; it is said as each handsome structure, one after another was erected, each seemed to surpass its predecessor, the block ranging in value from $100,000 to $300,000.

Seattle is certainly, from any point of view, on sound or on land, a beautiful city—a city of much promise and if no further disaster befalls it, and no check to its business prosperity is encountered, there is no reason why it should not grow into even greater prominence until it wields the largest influence in our new northwest. It would hardly be wise for a traveler to make comparisons between these two noble and enterprising cities in the race for improvement, or champion one at the expense of the other. Both are splendid illustrations of energy and enterprise, which ever emanate from Puritan New England stock. Both are filled with men and women of refinement and superior intelligence, and the visitor quickly discovers that each enthusiastically believes in his own city and thinks his the better as a place for business and for homes graced by royal hospitality.

Seattle's Majestic Heights.

Almost every large city has some one location designed by nature to draw to itself the culture, wealth and taste that seek expression in the form of beautiful homes. Portland has its "Mount Tabor;" Tacom has its "boulevard;" Scranton has its "Sanderson Hill;" Honesdale, its "Central Park" and "Fifth Avenue," and Seattle has its "majestic heights," which for this purpose are ideal. From the harbor, the view overlooking Puget Sound on the one side, and Lakes Washington and Union on the other, with Mount Tacoma (pardon me, I mean, in Seattle, Mount Rainer) in the foreground standing alone in its unparalelled grandeur, unhidden by any foothills to take away its dignity, and rising 14,444 feet above you, while to the north, near the Canadian border, is Mount Baker, rising 10,850 feet high, and showing a perpetual snow line of over one mile vertically— is a sight to stir the soul of every beholder, whether an American or foreigner.

These slopes and summits are intelligently platted and laid out in lots and tracts and building sites, perfectly adapted to the wants of those who can afford to gratify a taste for elegant and picturesque homes.

Two Beautiful Lakes.

The situation of Seattle is such that it possesses all the essentials to health as well as the advantages of beauty. The rising summit of the ridge attains a height of four hundred feet above sound and then descends to the two lakes, Union and Washington, which form its eastern limit. These lakes are marvels of beauty, bodies of fresh water unsurpassed in any city on this continent. Lake Washington is twenty miles long with an average width of two and a half miles, and it covers an area of nearly forty square miles, or to be exact, 24,896 acres, of which 20,000 acres have a depth of twenty-five feet of water. The depth of the lake is very great and sounding of six hundred feet have been made, and in some places bottom has not been found. It is hemmed in by hills covered with giant forest trees. The water supply of Seattle is drawn from this lake, and of this supply I will speak later.

Northward is Lake Union, another body of fresh water also fed from hidden springs and the eternal snows of the Cascades. It covers about two sections of land, which connected with Lake Washington, by means of a small canal of a few hundred yards in length which is now being enlarged by the United States government into a ship canal, thus connecting the salt waters of Puget Sound with the fresh water of the above lakes. Of this gigantic enterprise I will also speak later.

Superb Natural Advantages.

The city is therefore naturally drained and the character of the soil, which is a sandy loam, makes it a ready absorbant of all impurities. The climate is mild and equable, free from all dangers from the clouds above, from vapor or miasma around, or the foes beneath, no cyclones, tornadoes or blizzards. A peal of thunder is a rarity. The "Chinook" wind, blowing from the southwest, thaws with its warm breath, exhilarating with new life animal as well as vegetable creation. I might mention that the death rate in Seattle is only seven in one thousand per annum, which is less than one-third of that of the northern cities of the Union.

The sewer system of Seattle has been constructed at great expense. Two tunnels have been completed within a year, costing respectively $100,000 and $170,000. The total length of sewers in use is thirty-three miles—vitrified pipe sewers twenty-seven miles and brick sewers six miles—costing the city nearly a half million dollars.

Seattle has about 750 miles of platted streets, of which 112 miles are improved. The streets are from 60 to 120 feet wide, and avenues from 80 to 150 feet; brick, macadam, asphalt and fir plank are used for pavements. Like in Tacoma, thirty miles of fir planking from three to five inches in thickness and often 50 and even 150 feet long, are laid, covering the entire surface of the street, and extending up the steepest grades, which are sometimes one foot in four, to the summit of the ridge. These plank streets are a novel sight to tourists. The planks cost, delivered, $7 per 1,000 feet. The cost of planking and permanent pavements amounts to $200,000.

Seattle's School System.

A sure index of the character and substantialability of any community is the reputation of its schools and colleges. Seattle has a system of public schools equalled by few cities in the union and second to none in points of efficiency, completeness of equipmet and thoroughness of organization. This is not only attested by competent tourist visitors from all parts of our country, but also by experts, who accredit to the work of the Seattle schools the highest standard of excellence. It is a matter of record that at the Columbian exposition Seattle ranked third in the United States with respect to her public school exhibit. No better guarantee can be given of the solid educational advantages afforded the children of Seattle than the fact that the best eastern colleges admit graduates of its high school without examination. While a temporary guest of Professor Edwin Twitmeyer, now principal of the Seattle high schools, who, by the way, is a brother of Principal George W. Twitmeyer, of the Honesdale graded schools, we were courteously escorted by him through the various school buildings, museums, laboratories and given particularly valuable information which a reading public may accept as reliable. He says: "Seattle, as you are aware, has some of the finest school buildings in the United States, and a corps of teachers ranking high above the average in point of scholastic acquirements and successful experience in their profession. Our four "high school" buildings are probably the largest and finest structures north of San Francisco, and are capable of accommodating 2,000 children. There are sixteen fine school buildings in all, of modern styles of architecture and arrangement, well lighted, heated and ventilated and furnished with all useful apparatus. The total number of teachers employed is 144. The census shows 9,000 children of school age."

The city owns school property valued at nearly three-quarters of a million dollars, including five brick and twelve frame buildings, containing one hundred and thirty-six commodious rooms. In 1892 some $58,000 was expended for new grounds and $82,000 for new buildings and extensions. I should say the common schools here are under the direction of a board of education, connected in no wise with the city government. The present board are men of progressive ideas and good judgment, in controling its educational affairs. Only the best and most approved methods of instruction, practiced and endorsed by the leading educators of the country, are in vogue in Seattle. Speaking of the educational advantages of Washington, Prof. Twitmeyer says in substance: "Though a young state, it has a vigorous system of common schools throughout. There are very few states that have as good. The total school revenue was about $3,000,000 last year and the value of the school property far exceeds $4,000,000.

Washington's School Fund.

"To secure a permanent school fund, the sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections of every township in the state, are by law dedicated to public schools—in all some two million acres of land; even if sold at a nominal low price it will put the schools on a substantial basis. A careful estimate has placed the fund with future accumulations at $30,000,000 to $35,000,000; probably the largest school fund in the United States." Prof. Twitmyer further says: "There is a common impression among those unacquainted with us in the West, that education is neglected and children grow up much as did the children of the first inhabitants of the land. Such an impression is grossly unjust and erroneous. The vast majority of our present population came from the older settled eastern states and brought with them their college training and eastern culture. They have lost none of this and it is not their purpose that their children shall grow up with inferior advantages or training to that which they themselves enjoyed. Consequently they have established schools and churches and they demand as good a class of instruction, both secular and religious as any section in the East receives." The professor said that teachers of every grade received from one-third to one-half higher salaries in Seattle than those paid in the East. Teachers in the Scranton and Honesdale graded schools receiving say forty dollars per month would command at Seattle sixty and perhaps seventy dollars. This broad, generous and progressive spirit is characteristic of this people. We would gladly entertain our readers with further sayings of this enthusiastic and skillful instructor if time and space would permit.

Worthy Benevolent Institutions.

Apart from the public schools of the city, are a number of educational and benevolent institutions worthy of special mention. Chief among them is the University of Washington, and the leading school of higher learning in the state. The first building was erected in 1882 on a site of ten acres in the center of the city of Seattle. Possession was taken of its present structure Sept. 3, 1895. The present location is remarkably beautiful, on a tract comprising 350 acres between Lakes Washington and Union, with the water frontage on both lakes and surrounded with natural forest trees ad the snow-crowned mountains in all directions—truly an ideal sight for a great institution of learning. The building, which is of French architecture, covers 20,000 square feet and is furnished with the best know facilities for heating and ventilating. It has ample accommodations for 600 to 800 students. Last year's registration was 425. Reached by both steam and electric cars, it is an enjoyable and instructive trip for the tourist, and an attractive feature of the suburbs of Seattle.

Next to the state university in importance is the Roman Catholic academy of the Holy Names, with sixty boarders and 120 day pupils. In the Seattle Female college are fifty pupils. In addition to these, the Episcopalians have a seminary for girls. The University of Seattle is the property of the Baptists. There are, besides, three business colleges and several schools of art, free reading room, public library and kindergartens. The library is provided for and maintained by setting apart 10 per cent. of the fines and licenses collected by the city. It is a "permanent free library," containing 7,000 volumes, which, with the periodicals, fixtures, etc., cost $17,000. The income available for library purposes is about $1,100 per month.

Seattle has two hospitals, Providence, conducted by the Sisters of Charity, and Grace hospital, under the control of the Episcopal church; Providence accommodates 175 patients.

A Church-going City.

Seattle, like Tacoma, is a church-going city, for a western city, remarkably so. Here are fifty-two church structures, and many more church organizations, the membership amounting to 7,000 and parishioners 16,000. The entire church property is valued at $800,000. The Young Men's Christian association has an active organization of 500 members, with a lot, house and furniture worth $60,000.

Parks and Pleasure Resorts.

In writing of the grandeur of Seattle environments there is so much of natural beauty and lovely scenery in any direction the eye may choose to turn, that the public and even private parks and pleasure resorts are apt to be overlooked. There are in and around Seattle numerous resorts for pleasure and recreation—parks artificial, parks natural, parks without lakes, and parks possessing all the delightful attractions which sea and lake can possibly bestow. There is Leschi park, on Lake Washington, a garden spot of great beauty, where a large pavilion and museums amuse and intsruct and where it is made evident to the visiting multitudes that sea lions thrive in fresh water. From this point steamer launches, sailing vessels and boats constantly radiate in all directions, some bound on pleasure trips and others to the numerous villages on the lake.

There is Madron park, Madison park, Kinnear park, Deny park, Woodland park and Ravenna park, all natural "beauty spots" located either in the primeval forest or on the borders of the lakes, all deserving of special mention, particularly Woodland park on the shores of Green lake, whose beautiful sheet of water appears like a translucent liquid gem in its exquisite setting of green lawn and woods. It contains some 200 acres, covered for the most part with the natural forest, with drives and rustic walks, meadow flats and ball grounds, and around the shores of the lake, boat houses and pavilions. It is surprising how many places of resorts Seattle possesses. The fact is, that nearly every line of street railway—and there are fourteen of these lines—leads to some public resort or place of interest and recreation. But the over-topping and enchanting, stupendous and unique park of all, designed by the Masterhead of the universe, is the "Pacific Forest Reserve," containing 15,000 square miles, or nearly 1,000,000 acres, and upon which is located Mt. Rainier, whose giant cone eclipses in height, massiveness, glacial interest and grandeur all other grand sights vouchsafed to us, and as we view it, with every true American, we ardently exclaim:

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing.

John E. Richmond.

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Hundreds of Prominent Citizens Cured by Munyon's Improved Homœopathic Remedies.

Positively Successful Cures for Dyspepsia, Rheumatism, Catarrh, Kidney and All Blood and Nerve Diseases—At All Druggists, 25 Cents a Bottle.

H. J. Hayes, of Troy, N. Y., writes: "I have used in my family your Cough, Cold, Rheumatism, Catarrh and Headache Cures, and surely I never found anything so good. In fact, I never before found any medicine that could be depended upon to cure as Munyon's can. I had heard of your medicines, and induced my druggist to get some for me. He did so, and now he has a large trade for them. I have recommended them to my friends, and they all tell me that they have great success. There is nothing so efficacious as Munyon's Remedies. I cannot indorse them too highly."

Munyon's Rheumatism Cure never fails to relieve in 1 to 3 hours, and cures in a few days. Price, 25c.

Munyon's Dyspepsia Cure is guaranteed to cure all forms of indigestion and stomach troubles. Price, 25c.

Munyon's Catarrh Remedies positively cure. Price, 25c. each.

Munyon's Kidney Cure speedily cures pains in the back, loins and groins, and all forms of kidney disease. Price, 25c.

Munyon's Female Remedies are a boon to all women. Price, 25c.

Asthma Cure, with Asthma Herbs, $1.00.

Munyon's Nerve Cure stops nervousness and builds up the system. Price, 25c.

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Munyon's Vitalizer restores lost powers to weak men. Price $1.00.

A separate cure for each disease. At all druggists, 25c. a bottle.

Personal letters to Professor Munyon, 1505 Arch street, Philadelphia, Pa., answered with free medical advice for any disease.

THE CONQUEST OF ENGLAND.

An Allegorical Object Lesson Teaching the Short-Sightedness of the Nation Which Neglects to Provide Adequately for Its Own Defense.

We mentioned editorially the other day the reprint, by a Chicago firm, Way & Williams, of a tract called "The Battle of Dorking," in which a vivid object lesson was presented in the form of an allegory showing how easily a country like our own, without coast defences, regular soldiers or much of a navy, might suddenly be overrun and conquered by a hostile foreign power. To the Chicago Times-Herald we are indebted for the excellent synopsis of that tract which follows:

In May, 1871, an article appeared in Blackwood's Magazine which attracted instant attention and really deeply moved the English people to a sense of their weakness. It was attributed to Colonel George Chesney, an officer in her majesty's service; certainly it must have been written by a man of experience in military affairs.

The narrator is an old man depicting fifty years after, the inspiring events of 1875. "I need hardly tell you," he says, "how the crash came about. First, the rising in India drew away a part of our small army; then came the difficulty with America which had been threatening for years. We sent off 10,000 men to defend Canada—a handful which did not go far to strengthen the real defenses of that country, but formed an irresistible temptation to the Americans to try and take them prisoners, especially as the contingent included three battalions of the guards. Thus the regular army at home was smaller than usual, and nearly half of it was in Ireland to check the talked-of Fenian invasion fitting out in the west. Worse still the fleet was scattered abroad; some ships to guard the West Indies, others to check privateering in the China seas, and a large party to try and protect our colonies on the Northern Pacific shore of America, where with incredible folly, we continued to retain possessions which we could not possibly defend. * * * It was while we were in this state, with our ships all over the world, and our little army cut up into deetachments, that the Secret Treaty was published and Holland and Denmark were annexed. People say now that we might have escaped the trouble which came on us if we had at any rate kept quiet till our other difficulties were settled; but the English were always an impulsive lot; the whole country was boiling over with indignation, and the government, egged on by the press, and going with the stream, declared war."

The Inspiration of Prophecy.

There is something like the inspiration of prophecy in these words. England's fleet is widely scattered today; she is in difficulties with America; and her present quarrel with Germany centers around the emperor's affection for the Dutch. As to the cause of this imaginary war, it is not long since England became furious over the rumor that Germany designed to annex Holland, and in the last of Mr. Labouchere's papers to come to hand we find the fear expressed by that astute observer of foreign affairs: "The emperor—apart from direct German interests in South Africa—cannot be sorry to show that Dutch Boers may count on his support, and by his telegram he was playing very possibly for the peaceful incorporation of Holland into his empire, with, perhaps, some idea in his mind, if France were to assent to this, to restore to her the provinces lost by the Franco-German war."

But to return to "The Battle of Dorking:" When the correspondents of the London papers broke the marrier of mystery erected around Germany's operations by the emperor, they learned that "every port from the Baltic to Ostend" had been placed under embargo; the fleets of Germany had moved out and troops were hurrying on board ships detained at various ports. An invasion was intended.

It might have been intercepted if the fleet had been ready. "But then the best part of the fleet had been decoyed down to the Dardanelles." (To overawe the sultan?) It was ten days before the vessels in the home ports were prepared for sea. The queen dismissed them with her blessing. And the newspapers declared that "England awaits with calm confidence the issue of the impending action"—singularly enough, almost the very words used by the Standard less than a month ago in commenting on continental hostility to England. The narrator goes on to tell of the naval battle:

It was about 10 o'clock that the first telegram came; an hour later the wire announced that the admiral had signaled to form line of battle, and shortly afterward that the order was given to bear down on the enemy and engage. At 12 o'clock came the announcement, "Fleet opened fire about three miles to leeward of us"—that is, the ship with the cable. So far all had been expectancy; then came the first token of calamity. "An ironclad had been blown up"—"the enemy's torpedoes are doing great damage"—"the flagship is laid aboard the enemy"—"the flagship appears to be sinking"—"the vice admiral signaled"—there the cable became silent, and, as you know, we heard no more till two days afterward. The solitary ironclad which escaped the disaster steamed into Portsmouth. Then the whole story came out—how our sailors, gallant as ever, had tried to close with the enemy; how the latter evaded the conflict at close quarters, and, sheering off, left behind them the fatal engines which sent our ships, one after the other, to the bottom; how all this happened almost in a few minutes. The government, it appears, had received warnings of this invention; but to the nation this stunning blow was utterly unexpected.

The Dread Result.

Panic instantly befell. Bank after bank and merchant after merchant failed. Funds fell to 35. Every attempt was made to mold the few regulars, the militia and the volunteers into a cohesive army. But guns and ammunition were lacking and the command of the forces was characterized by fat incompetency. England needed only time; time was not allowed, for the writer makes Germany strike with the adder-like swiftness that characterized her movements against France. She landed hundreds of thousands of the best soldiery in Europe on English soil in three places. The rabble of volunteers, untrained, ill-armed and officered from the counting room, melted before the fighting automaton and England was conquered. The story of the chief engagement, "The Battle of Dorking"—Dorking is a Surrey village a few miles from London—is told with directness that reminds one of Zola's "Downfall."

The old man comments bitterly upon the causes that brought about the disaster and on the consequences to England.

Stripped of our colonies; Canada and the West Indies gone to America; Australia forced to separate; India lost forever, after the English there had all been destroyed; Gibraltar and Malta ceded to the new naval powers; Ireland independent and in perpetual anarchy and revolution * * * To hear men talk in those days you would have thought that Providence had ordained that our government should always borrow at 3 per cent. and that trade came to us because we lived in a foggy little island set in a boisterous sea. * * * Nor would men believe that there could ever be an end to our coal and iron, or that they would get to be so much dearer than the coal and iron of America that it would no longer be worth while to work them, and that therefore we ought to insure against the loss of our artificial position as the great center of trade by making ourselves secure and strong and respected. We thought we were living in a commercial mellenium, which must last for a thousand years at least.

The new publishers call attention to the similarity of the conditions depicted in "The Battle of Dorking" with those existing in America at the present time. The comparison is stretched. But those who follow the narrator and have been at any pains to read the frequent criticisms of the English army in English newspapers will be struck with the applicability of this book to the revelations of Germany and England today.

Is another "Battle of Dorking" among the auguries for the close of the century?

DEATH OF A VAGABOND.

Put Out of His Misery by His Sorrowful Partner.

From the New York Press.

Together they limped into the little shelter for animals in East 102d street. It was a question which was the more ragged and disreputable, the dog or the tramp. In one respect the tramp had the best of it. He limped with only two legs, and his companion was lame in three.

They stood there in the little office side by side, looking at the man who sat behind the deck, making entries in a book.

"Say, mister," said the tramp, "what can you do for me frien' here?"

"What is the trouble with him?"

"If you can discover anything that ain't the trouble with 'im, you're a artist. Me frien's suffering with premature baldness, one eye's gone, and he got locomotor attacks. He ain't no Beau Brummel, mister, but he's the squarest pard I ever traveled with, and if you can fix him up we'll pay you some day."

"If yer can't," and almost unconsciously the tramp lowered his voice, "I want yer to send 'im over the bay by the smoothest road yer got."

The superintendent examined the dog gently, and then told the wanderer that there was no hope. The weary little waif had outlived his usefulness and was better dead.

Without a word the tramp handed the frayed rope to the superintendent, and when the official led the poor dog into the room from which no canine traveler ever returns, he followed.

"Good-by, pard," he said, reaching out his hand. His friend solemnly raised his one sound paw, and they shook hands silently and reverently, as old friends do who are about to part for a long time.

Then the tramp walked alone out into the street.

Dr. Goransky declared that the use of the pure and fresh juice of raw cranberries, given freely, either undiluted or with an equal part of water, is an excellent means of relieving the thirst and vomiting peculiar to cholera. In fifty cases in which ice and narcotics failed to make the slightest impression the cranberry juice is small but repeated does rapidly checked both vomiting and nausea.

A HARD-WORKING WOMAN

—sooner or later suffers from backache, nervous, worn-out feelings, or a sense of weight in the abdomen, dragging down sensations and dizziness. It will all come to an end with Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription for it's woman's special tonic and nervine; it restores her strength, regulates and promotes all the natural functions and makes a new woman of her. Uterine debility, irregularity and inflammation are most often the cause of the extreme nervousness and irritability of some women—the medicine to cure it is the "Prescription" of Dr. Pierce. All the aches, pains and weaknesses of womanhood vanish where it is faithfully employed. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is therefore just the medicine for young girls just entering womanhood and for women at the critical "change of life."

DR. PIERCE'S FAVORITE PRESCRIPTION

CURES THE WORST CASES.

Mr. Homer Clark, of *No. 208 West 3d Street, Sioux City, Ia.*, writes: "My wife was troubled with female weakness, and ulcers of the uterus. She had been doctoring with every doctor of any good reputation, and had spent lots of money in hospitals, but to no purpose. She continued to get worse. She was greatly prejudiced against patent medicines, but as a last resort we tried a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. We had seen some of your advertisements, and Mr. Cummings, a west-side druggist, advised us to try a bottle. We tried it with the following results: The first bottle did her so much good that we bought another, and have continued until she has been cured."

Mrs. Clark.

"Jingo Joe" as He Is Now Denominated.

The Plans and Ambitions of Joseph Chamberlain—He Wants to Be Premier.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

For the moment the most conspicuous man in British political life—always excepting Lord Salisbury, the responsible minister of a sovereign who reigns but does not govern—is Joseph Chamberlain. It is not the premier but the secretary of state for the colonies who is handling the Transvaal squabble and the Venezuelan imbroglio. Both of these affairs are as yet within the purview of the colonial office, as incidents of colonial administration. The intervention of the United States and of the German emperor have brought Lord Salisbury into a nominal relation to both controversies; but the actual work of negotiation and settlement is left, under the well-established schedule of division of labor in the British cabinet, to the resourceful, aspiring, combative and not too punctilious statesman who leads the Liberal Unionist party in the house of commons.

During the last eight or nine years Mr. Chamberlain has been the subject of as much hostile criticism as any other public man in Great Britain. After the defeat of the Gladstone ministry in 1886 and the rejection of the home rule bill by the so-called "unionist" coalition, he was singled out by the Irish Nationalists as chiefly to blame for the failure of their plans. At that time, and for several years after—even down to 1892—there was no adjective of abuse too violent to be hurled at him from the Irish benches in parliament, and the active animosity of his opponents inside the house helped to spread outside of it and outside of England the belief that he was a monster of political faithlessness and ingratitude compared with whom Benedict Arnold was a paragon of honor. His enemies dubbed him "Judas" and prophesied his speedy political extinction.

The epithet has stuck; but the prediction has not been fulfilled. Mr. Chamberlain is today one of the two commoners in the "big four" who form a cabinet within the cabinet of the strongest government which Great Britain has known since the first administration of Disraeli.

Freely Carricatured in London.

The London cartoonists are fond of caricaturing him in the familiar attitudes of that celebrated Jew. Those who would criticise him without going to the length of the "Judas" gibe style him "Dizzy the Second." There is much in its methods to suggest those of Disraeli. If Salisbury is the embodiment of English pluck, Chamberlain is the embodiment of English chicane. There is a strain of Machiavelli in the blood of the colonial secretary which is never left out of the calculations by those who in any given set of circumstances would estimate the value of an action or the probable direction of a movement done or projected under his authority or inspiration. Where Salisbury plays the lion's role Chamberlain plays the fox's. The element of craft is strongly pronounced in both animals, but it is not difficult to recognize a distinction and a difference. Chamberlain will fight. He will fight as fiercely as Salisbury; but he prefers, if possible, to get his foe into ambush before the struggle begins. He has all of Disraeli's outward aspect of frankness, but even his warmest admirers—and he has admirers—do not affect to regard his displays of candor as genuine.

Chamberlain is now in his sixtieth year. When the writer last saw him—in the summer of 1893—he did not look a day over forty; certainly not thirty-two years the senior of the fair American wife who was assisting him to welcome to Highbury, his elegant home in Birmingham, some of the most distinguished men and women of England, representatives of both political parties and of all shades of religious belief. Time has dealt very gently with the "Birmingham dictator," the "Brummagem statesman," the "second Disraeli" and the "British political Judas." His jocund air of aggressive boyishness has done as much as his imperturbability to exasperate his opponents. A singularly able politician who will neither get mad nor old, Mr. Chamberlain has in his physical and temperamental equipment qualifications for the special demands of public life in England such as are possessed by no other Englishman, perhaps, of his day.

Has a Strong Constitution.

As a consequence of a capital constitution and a figure with no tendency to fatty degeneration, he boasts himself superior to physical exercise and as entirely free from malaise when that exercise is not forthcoming. Of wine he takes but little; of tobacco he cannot get enough. In the days of his widowerhood he used to say that his idea of luxury was a cab and a cigar—a double suggestion of his liking for the weed and his disinclination to walk. The latter trait is the more remarkable in the case of a man of Chamberlain's vigorous health in a community of sportsmen which all but glorifies physical activity as the chief condition of national development.

In the political society which gathers around the house of commons he is now very much what John Bright was in a similar position forty years ago—the reality of him is less terrible than his name. The uproarious animosity he has often provoked might lead to the belief that his men is fierce and aggressive; even hateful. Nothing could be farther from the fact. His social manner is agreeable, conciliatory, benign; and he passes with a light touch—yet with more earnestness and less cynicism than the average Englishman in public life—over a wider range of subjects than the average English host will take the trouble to talk of with his guests. Unlike most of his colleagues, however, he makes no attempt to conceal the fact that society occupies the second, not the first place, in his thoughts and that he will yield to its demands only so far as these happen to be agreeable to his tastes or obligatory upon his position.

Politics is the controlling object of his existence. An unrivaled man of business; master of the plain, unrhetorical oratory to which the house of commons is used; alert, daring, inquisitive, full of expedients, with a dash of yankee cuteness and more than a dash of Jewish plausibility, Mr. Chamberlain is a typical English statesman after the most approved patterns of this century. A radical of radicals by conviction, he is an opportunist of opportunists by policy. Holding tenaciously to his views, he never hesitates to sacrifice a temporary advantage in order to secure a permanent one. With him a compromise is often the most effective way of winning a victory for a principle. If he cannot have the whole of his desire, he cheerfully accepts the part. And his career is a remarkable illustration of the superiority of tact to talent as a working tool in practical politics in England.

His Greatest Ambition.

He aspires to be prime minister. Eleven years ago every radical in England hoped that he would be; today every tory in England is half afraid that he may be. In the reorganization of parties, which the not distant future will witness, it is not unlikely that he will attain the supreme distinction he covets. During the last three years there has been a marked change in the character of public feeling concerning him. This is not so much the result of anything he has done to bring it, to pass as of a clearer understanding of his motives. Some of those who were his severest critics in 1886 are now pointing out that he is likely to prove of more actual service to Ireland than many of her avowed English champions. Should he stand out, as it is fully believed he will, against his cabinet colleagues in their reactionary proposal to revise the elementary educational settlement of 1870, he will win the applause of the whole liberal party.

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