

by the side of the aged Queen and recited her address to the newly assembling Parliament. He was covered from head to foot by medals and trappings of state, the only part left visible being his face, but in it alone, covered with deep hollows, was written the whole history of his success—a strenuous life.

The political career of Benjamin Disraeli was indeed a wonderful one. During the forty years that intervened between these two incidents he rose in the face of most adverse circumstances to occupy the most honored place in Britain.

Let us briefly review the most important steps by which he rose to his high office. In 1837 he entered Parliament as a Tory. After receiving his first severe rebuff, he became very reserved and followed quietly the leadership of Sir Robert Peel. He continued to speak occasionally, however, in a modest way, and in a few years became one of the best speakers in the house. Being conscious of his growing power he gradually separated himself from Peel and in 1847 there was a complete split between the two over the question of Duties on Corn. The strongest men of the party, Peel, Gladstone and many others, went over to the Liberal party. Those that were left were rich and aristocrats. What they needed was a keen incisive speaker and Disraeli proved to be the right man. He at once organized the Protectionist party and when its leader, Lord Bentick, died in 1849 he became the first man in the party. Three years later Lord Derby made him leader of the Tories in the House of Commons and also Chancellor of Exchequer. For this office he had no preparation, and as a result Lord Derby's ministry fell during the same year, defeated on the Chancellor of Exchequer's Budget. Gladstone vehemently attacked the Chancellor's crude production and this was the beginning of the great struggle between these two rivals that lasted down to 1881.

During many years following this Disraeli was leader of the opposition, varied only by brief intervals of office. His party was in a permanent minority in the country and all he could do was to fight a series of losing battles. He was very careful during this period to point out all the mistakes of the Whig