

GLADSTONE'S LIFE-STORY.



WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE, the great Com-moner, the Grand Old Man, is dead. The foremost Britisher of his time has found peace and rest after a long life of strenuous and splendid activity in the highest realm of human effort.

William Ewart Gladstone was born in Liverpool, England, on December 29, 1809. He was spinning tops, at five years, when Bismarck was the new baby at Schoenhausen. He was learning Greek, at the age of ten, when Victoria put in an appearance. He entered Parliament when Andrew Jackson was in his first term as President, and did not leave it until Grover Cleveland had begun his second term. He and Daniel Webster were serving their first terms as

government, previously a mockery, into something like a reality, was a Tory of the straightest, old-fashioned sect. His maiden speech in the House was in the debate upon the measure abolishing slavery in the British colonies, and was a defense of the slaveholders against attacks made by radical abolitionists. For nearly twenty years he was one of the shining lights of the Conservative party and the foremost lieutenant of Sir Robert Peel, its great leader. Then he gradually drifted into Liberalism, and, after being for some time more or less "a free lance," he became a member of Lord Palmerston's cabinet in 1859.

At the death of that statesman he succeeded him as leader of the Liberals in the House of Commons, and when his party regained office in 1868, after Disraeli's first government, Gladstone attained the premiership. He held it for six years, and again from 1880 to 1885, when he declared himself in favor of the Irish demand for home rule, which up to that time he had strenuously opposed. The result was the secession of a large body of his supporters and his defeat at the polls in 1886—a defeat which the dauntless veteran afterward retrieved. A glance at the following chronology will show the principal events in Gladstone's career as a statesman and author:

- 1809—December 29, born at Liverpool.
- 1831—Graduated at Oxford.
- 1832—Entered Parliament.
- 1834—Junior Lord of the Treasury.
- 1835—Under Colonial Secretary.
- Resigned.
- 1838—Married.
- 1839—"The State in Relation to the Church."
- 1840—"Church Principles Considered."
- 1841—Vice-President of the Board of Trade.
- 1842—Revised the tariff.
- 1843—President of the Board of Trade.
- 1845—Resigned.
- Colonial Secretary.
- 1846—Resigned.
- 1847—Advocated freedom for Jews.
- 1852—Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- 1855—Resigned.
- 1858—Lord High Commissioner to the Ionian Isles.
- "Studies of the Homeric Age."
- 1859—Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- 1865—Leader of the Commons.
- 1866—In opposition.
- 1868—Prime Minister.
- "Ecce Homo."
- "A Chapter of Autobiography."
- 1869—Carried Irish disestablishment.
- "Juventus Mundi."
- 1870—Carried Irish land bill.
- 1871—Unveiling of his statue by Adams Acton in his native city on September 11.
- Abolished purchase of army commissions.
- Abolished confiscation in penal laws.
- 1873—Irish university reforms proposed.
- Resigned, but resumed power.
- 1874—Dissolved Parliament.
- 1876—"Homer Synchronism."
- 1879—"Mid Lothian triumph."
- "Gleanings of Past Years."
- 1880—Prime Minister.
- 1885—Resigned.
- 1886—Prime Minister.
- Irish home rule proposed.
- Resigned.
- 1892—Prime Minister.



GLADSTONE AT THE ZENITH OF HIS PARLIAMENTARY CAREER.

Cabinet officers in the Administrations of their respective countries at the same time.

Although born in Liverpool, Gladstone was fond of proclaiming that every drop of his blood was Scotch. He came of the Gladstone family, of Lanarkshire, where the Gladstones are first heard of. Centuries ago—away back in 1226—Herbet de Gladstone figured in the Ragman Roll as one of the lairds who swore fealty to Edward I. William Gladstone, the last surviving scion of the family, removed to Biggar early in the seventeenth century, and by the time William's grandson had been born the family name had been altered to Gladstones. The Premier was baptized Gladstones, but in 1835 his father, John, dropped the final "s" from his name.



GLADSTONE IN RETIREMENT.

His father was Sir John Gladstone, a wealthy merchant, who relinquished a small business in Glasgow, about 1785, and removed to Liverpool, where he acquired a large fortune in the East India trade, being created a baronet in 1846. This fourth son was sent to Eton, and while there gave promise of the splendid brilliancy which marked his course at Oxford, from which he graduated at Christ-church in 1831 as double first class, the highest honor and one rarely attained. Then he became a fellow of All Souls.

After traveling for a short period he entered Parliament in December, 1832, as member for Newark, a nomination borough belonging to the Duke of Newcastle, which he continued to represent till 1846.

It is a mark of strong character when a man who finds he is headed in a path turns completely around in the other direction, when he was first in the House of Commons, passage of the reform English representative

1893—Irish home rule passed Commons; defeated by Lords.

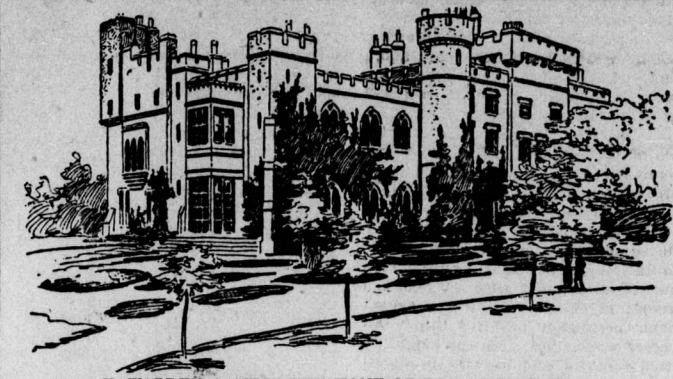
But Gladstone, the Eton boy, was as interesting as "the Grand Old Man." His special and inseparable friend was Arthur Hallam, the subject of Tennyson's "In Memoriam." The friendship commenced when Gladstone was in his thirteenth year and was never weakened until death came to loose the silver cord.

On July 25, 1889, Mr. Gladstone celebrated his golden wedding. His eighty-first birthday anniversary, in 1890, was made the occasion for the unveiling of a memorial fountain at Hawarden. He carried out another Midlothian campaign in 1892, and was returned at the general election by a small majority. In August he became Premier for the fourth time.

There had been many rumors of Gladstone's retirement, but when it came few were prepared for it. His last speech as Prime Minister was made in the House of Commons on March 1, 1894, and was a memorable protest against the jurisdiction of the House of Lords.

Thus Mr. Gladstone closed his public life in an attack upon the House of Lords, against which he fought many a battle before. Few of his auditors seemed to realize that this was to be his last utterance in the assembly, plain as his words were. Many a man would have been pathetic, tragic, perhaps, at such a point in his career.

The figure upon which I looked down might have been some beautiful statue of grayish-white marble recumbent upon a tombstone. Yet stern the features still are, severely aquiline the nose, tight drawn the lips. It was in death the face of some great leader of men, a mortal hero whose earthly pilgrimage had ever been over.



HAWARDEN CASTLE, THE HOME OF THE GLADSTONES.

"It is well understood," says Justin McCarthy, "that Mr. Gladstone, on his retirement from public life, received from the sovereign the offer of an earldom, with, of course, a seat in the House of Lords. Mr. Gladstone gratefully and gracefully declined the title and the position. He had already made a name which no earldom or dukedom or any other rank could have enhanced."

Mr. Gladstone, in 1838, married



MRS. GLADSTONE AND DOROTHY, MR. GLADSTONE'S FAVORITE GRANDCHILD.

Catharine, daughter of Sir Stephen Richard Glynn, of Hawarden Castle, Flintshire, a descendant of Sarjeant Glynn, who was Lord Chief Justice in Cromwell's time. Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone have had eight children, seven of whom survive—four sons and three daughters. The eldest son, Mr. W. H. Gladstone, was elected M. P. for East Worcestershire, having previously represented Whitley in Parliament; the second son, Rev. Stephen Edward Gladstone, became rector of Hawarden; the third son, Henry Neville Gladstone, keeps up the commercial reputation of the Gladstone family, and the youngest son, Herbert John Gladstone, was elected member for Leeds.

Two of Mr. Gladstone's daughters married clergymen. Agnes, the eldest, became the wife of the Rev. E. C. Wickham, M. A., head master of Wellington College. Mary married the Rev. Henry Drew. She practically lives at Hawarden Castle with her husband and little daughter Dorothy. Little Dossie, as her family calls her, is a little more than five years old.

Miss Helen—the youngest daughter—was the pet of her illustrious father, and for several years had devoted almost all her entire time to him. On his retirement she resigned her position as vice principal of Newham College so she would be able to devote herself to him.

The last years of Gladstone's life were passed at Hawarden Castle, the property of his wife, which is practically in the gateway to Wales. The residence is on the hills overlooking the valley of the beautiful Dee, six miles east of Chester, in a picturesque park of 700 acres. And there he lived, surrounded by four sons, three daughters and seven grandchildren, who loved him with intense devotion.

The London News prints a description given by a friend of the family who visited the death chamber in Hawarden Castle from which the following extracts are given:

"I walked to the side of the narrow little iron bed, whose head was surrounded by a simple screen of black with a pattern of gold. This background was in sharp contrast with the



MISS HELEN GLADSTONE.

snow-white bed linen which partially covered all that remained of the great statesman. If this was the chamber of death it was also the abode of peace.

THE FARM GARDEN



Here's a Cattle.

The English Hereford cattle will stand severe cold better than the shorthorns, and are therefore preferred to the latter in some parts of the northwest. Their especial distinguishing mark is a solid, beefy body and broad white faces. The Hereford cattle come more quickly to maturity than shorthorns, and will fatten quite readily when two years old. This early maturity means that as a rule most Herefords will make cheaper beef than will shorthorns.

Nitrate of Soda for Peas.

It is a good plan to drop a little nitrate of soda in the drill rows where early peas are put in. It is true that the pea roots later in the season will decompose air and supply nitrogen to the soil, but they will do this much more quickly if some is given at the first to start vigorous growth. All success with peas comes from making them grow rapidly from the first. There is little plant food in any soil in early spring as the winter rains and snows have washed most away that was in soluble form.

Live Fence Posts.

An indestructible fence post, that instead of growing poorer will constantly increase in value, may be made of willow stakes. If these are put in the ground right side up to the depth of a foot, the lower part of the stake will put forth numerous roots that will brace the tree so that no wind can overthrow it. In two or three years the tree will be big enough to drive nails into it to hold the boards for a fence. By keeping the top cut down the willow may be made to thicken up in its trunk and yet will not occupy much land. But if the soil is very wet there will soon be too much tree in the fence. The stakes are harder to root on dry land, but once rooted they will make a slow, steady growth, and the trees may be used as fence posts for many years.

How Plaster Helps Clover.

Land plaster has a great affinity for water, and where it is sown early it probably takes some moisture from the air which it carries into the soil. In this air moisture there is some carbonic acid gas and a trifling amount of ammonia, as there is in all dew. This ammonia is direct food for all plants, but for clover it acts as a double stimulant, for it excites the formation of those nodules on the roots which are known to decompose air in the soil, and make even its free nitrogen available. All air has 80 per cent. of nitrogen, but except as the roots of clover decompose it, plants cannot get any benefit from it. So the small amount of ammonia in the dew which the clover attracts from the air may be likened to bait, as it secures in a few weeks an amount hundreds of times greater than itself.

Seed Bed for Onions.

In growing the onion crop the preparation of the seed bed is of the greatest importance. It should be fine and mellow at the surface but ought not to be deep. This condition is best secured by fall plowing land that has been already plowed and cultivated with some hoed crop a year to lessen the weed seeds in the soil. A crop of potatoes is the best to precede onions. Corn is objectionable because the stubs of corn butts when plowed under do not decay rapidly, and will remain under the furrow next year, setting in air, and making the bottom of the furrow too loose. For the same reason sod land should not be plowed for onions. It is best to leave the soil slightly rough after the fall plowing, but not in ridges as the breaking down of these will make the mellow soil too deep. So soon as the ground is dry enough, harrow and roll this surface so as to compact it while mellowing it. Mark the rows straight, making them an inch deep. Then roll a short roller over the drill mark, packing the soil over the seed. If the onion seed is soaked so that it is nearly ready to sprout, the young onions will be up, so as to see the rows before the weeds come up. This enables the grower to destroy most of the weeds by hoeing before they are up. Only the weeds in line with the onions will have to be taken out by hand. A still better way, perhaps, is to grow onion sets, planting the seed in greenhouses some time during fall or winter, and saving the sets to be transplanted when the ground is fit for them in the spring.—Boston Cultivator.

Soaking Corn for Seed.

Whether soaking seed corn in water, in which some nitrogenous fertilizer has been mixed will benefit the crop is very doubtful. Early in our farming experience we always soaked corn in hot water into which a little tar had been put, which gave it a taste not liked by crows or wire worms, and dried it by mixing some powdered lime with the seed. This did possibly keep the crows off to some extent, especially so long as we had neighbors who planted their corn dry. But we

always found that our neighbor's corn planted the same day and with no more care than our own was up first. The lime made our hands sore when planting and therefore we used plaster as being less likely also to dry the seed too much. Still our corn would not come up after soaking so strong as that which we planted dry, even though we made it early by swelling the seed until the germ was nearly ready to put forth. We made up our mind then that soaking such large seed as corn was a mistake. The seed needs to swell in the soil so as to press the soil around it and give its roots soil, instead of an air space to root in when they first put forth. A little fine manure in contact with seed makes a great difference increasing the vigor of its growth.

Handling the Cow.

One of the best dairymen writes: I have often asked myself if I could afford to have a cow spend her vital force trying to digest indigestible food. I cannot see the profit in such work, and fully believe it shortens the period of a cow's usefulness. I have learned that cows prefer warm to cold water, and I practise warming their drinking water in cold weather. I have never watered in the stable. I have thought considerable about it, but am less disposed to do it now than I was several years ago. I believe it is to the advantage of the cow to go out of the stable long enough daily to get what water she wants. When the weather is such that the cow prefers to stay outside for a time it is pretty safe to allow her to do so. A milch cow cannot resist much cold weather and will soon want to go into the stable in severe weather. The cow stable should be ventilated, not by having the windows open at the top, but by flues in the walls opening outside at the bottom and inside at the top. This is for the fresh air supply; and the foul air should be drawn from near the floor through a flue reaching to the highest point of the building. Have these flues with a capacity of one square foot for each ten cows. Have plenty of windows in the stable, it needs light as much as our dwellings.—Western Plowman.

Practical Sheep Husbandry.

If the fleece is becoming loose before shearing time it is an indication of some disease of the skin, and this is best treated after shearing. Shear such a sheep, and if the weather is unfavorable protect it for a time until it is safe to turn it out.

The first early grass is very apt to loosen the bowels of the ewe and cause diarrhoea, which is to be alleviated by small doses of castor oil, half a teaspoonful for each ewe. This acts, not as an aperient, but a tonic in such small doses, and is one of the best remedies for diarrhoea due to the change of food.

Very often the food of the ewe is a cause of trouble to the lamb by its effect on the milk. It is to be thought of at all times that the milk is a direct product of the food, and is greatly influenced by its effect on the ewe, which escapes by reason of this drainage of the system, and, of course, the lamb's suffer.

From hay or other dry food to grass is always a critical time with all farm animals, especially sheep, so that this change is to be made with due care to accustom the flock to it gradually. It is well to turn out the ewes early, before they can get a full bellyful, and thus get accustomed to the change.

The prevalent custom of docking lambs is based wholly on danger of fouling by indigestible food. It is a question if it is not easily possible to avoid this operation, which in a large flock is somewhat costly—by due attention to the feeding and the use of an occasional dose of medicine given in some of the feed.

The nibbling of the wool indicates some irritation of the skin, which should be attended to immediately, or the wool may be swallowed and gather in the stomach, forming balls in the intestines, which will surely cause death in time unless treatment is taken. An oily laxative in this case should be given; half a teaspoonful of sweet oil or melted lard will afford relief.

The writer of this, when quite a small boy, but the owner of a little flock entirely under his own management, had some good advice given him by a gray-headed old shepherd. And one of these things impressed on his mind was never to drive sheep over bars only partly let down, or through a gate not securely fastened back. Forgetting these good lessons his flock was once driven over a set of bars only partly let down, and two broken legs was the result.

A broken leg may be easily mended if attended to at once in this simple way. Secure the sheep so it cannot struggle. Get some thick brown paper and soak it in water. Wrap the leg first properly put in position with several thicknesses of this wet paper. Sprinkle some calcined plaster over this and then wrap over it a bandage of stout cotton cloth. Keep the sheep up two or three days, after which it may be turned loose. If the bandage is well applied the break will be healed in two or three weeks. It is equally applicable to the shepherd's dog. Indeed, to the shepherd himself in the absence of a surgeon.—American Sheep Breeder.