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# The Daily Record

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## LORD ROSEBERY AS PROPHET.

Lord Rosebery is the evil genius of Liberalism. Steeped in the tradition of a disappearing generation, true to convictions which he holds sacred, removed from the clamour and confusion of parties, he continues to plough his lonely furrow as courageously, and as sadly, as ever. Politically, he is a soul without a body, a Prime Minister of rhetoric and paper, a patriot without a people, a philosopher who has abandoned the aims of theory without committing himself to the dangers of practice. He is a force; yet an indeterminate force which dissipates itself for want of antagonism; for although his words ring true and might find an echo, he speaks, not in order to bind opportunity to his ideals, but simply as the mood impels him. This is a high virtue in any man, although it is not politics; it is, at all events, honesty. Honesty, however, especially when it finds an expression in criticism, is not palatable to the advocates of party interests in so far as it introduces a larger element, a more severe standard, into their calculations; and, apart from this, even on party issues Lord Rosebery's views are unacceptable to stereotyped Liberals. He not only puts his patriotism before his politics, but he shares only in one or two aspects of the politics of the bulk of the Liberal party. Thus Lord Rosebery, while he makes no enemies, makes no friends: he is not a party man. It is at once his greatest merit and his greatest defect. His address to the Liberal League last Thursday was sincere, brilliant, educative, yet without for one moment gripping the real heart and substance of political controversy. In so far as its outlook was broader and more assured than that of practical statesmen it had a higher distinction and marked a more intellectual impulse; but, in so far as it left the springs of political activity untouched, it was an ineffective piece of political exhortation. How, then, must we regard Lord Rosebery? Is he a political seer, living and thinking in an atmosphere to which other men are foreign, or is he a statesman whose practical advice is thrown away upon a nation which is too narrow-minded to appreciate him? With much of what he says it is impossible not to agree. More than any man whose voice is raised in political issues, does he appear to have a sense of the immensity and the inevitableness of the forces with which politicians are occupied; more than any man does he appear to be impressed by the infinite ebb and flow, by the depths and distances of human motive, human effort, human temerity as he watches the unending drama being enacted at his feet. But, we repeat, his standpoint is too high, too detached, too extraneous—we had almost said too poetic—for the turmoil of political life, and the wear and tear of ideas.

About the future Lord Rosebery is anything but optimistic. He wishes for peace at any price and he desires a sane Imperialism on a basis of free trade. Negatively, he fears protection and Socialism, but he fears Socialism much more than he fears protection; so that, if ever the alternative of protection or Socialism must be faced, as he anticipates, he would rather choose protection a thousand times over. "Socialism is the end of all things, Empire, religious faith, freedom, property—Socialism is the death blow to all." Against the abolition or emasculation of the House of Lords, Lord Rosebery's opposition is very decided. He holds that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's proposal by which a measure, having been three times refused by the House of Lords, would become law, is a sham and a mockery. Better, he says, to abolish the Upper Chamber straight away, and let the House of Commons assume the power it held in 1649. But the House of Lords was at the moment engaged in trying to reform itself, and he believed that if this issue were to go to the country at the next election, it would lie not between the House of Lords as it was and no Second Chamber, but between no Second Chamber and a reformed Second Chamber. Finally, and grudgingly, as it were, if not paradoxically, Lord Rosebery turned aside to express his hope in the Government, to whom he looked to protect the country from Socialism. He admitted that, in one or two respects, he disagreed with the legislation of the last few years, but in the main he regarded the party in power, with all its defects, as "an as-



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## STOP PRESS NEWS.

### GROUNDLESS RUMOURS OF SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC.

Rome, March 16. The news published in foreign journals to the effect that in the Santa Sabina lazaret and other Roman hospitals several foreign tourists suffering from smallpox are isolated, and that the first-named institution is guarded by military, is entirely without foundation. On the contrary, the general health conditions of Rome are excellent.

### EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA INDISPOSED.

Vienna, March 16. According to the *Korrespondenz Wilhelm*, the cold from which Emperor Franz Josef is suffering continues to take a normal course, without giving rise to any anxiety of complications. Today the cold has perceptibly loosened, and the slight cough which accompanied it is now scarcely apparent. The Emperor, who enjoyed an invigorating sleep last night, is in the best of spirits and has a very good appetite. He is staying at Schönbrunn, and will there receive Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria.

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semblage of earnest, able, courageous men, singularly successful in administration so far, in whose hands our foreign policy and our services are safe." This, though it is a tribute to the House of Commons or to certain members of it with which not all of us may feel able to concur, is not necessarily a tribute to the extraordinarily heterogeneous Cabinet ultimately responsible for the guidance of the national will; and, if it is intended to be both, it is at least fair to point out that much of the spirit of this eulogium is contradicted by what preceded it. But Lord Rosebery cannot be taken to task for his want of party consistency. The heads of his programme, which he himself summarized as including sane Imperialism, free trade, hostility to an Irish Parliament, hostility to Socialism, and a reformed and efficient Second Chamber, disarm the criticism of good Conservatives and Liberals alike, for Lord Rosebery embodies much of what is best in both parties. Or is he a statesman whose broad-minded Conservatism has found in the Liberal camp a thorny resting-place?

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

Today, March 17th, millions of Irishmen in both hemispheres will assemble to do honour to the memory of St. Patrick, the patron saint of the Emerald Isle. In England, public memory of the late Queen Victoria's graceful tact is annually revived by the sprig of shamrock worn on this day by the Irish Guards. The decree that authorised this public display effectually annulled the deplorable memories of those days when "The Wearing of the Green" constituted practically a capital crime, and probably did more than decades of legislation to promote better feeling between the high-spirited Irishmen and their English neighbours.

The genealogy St. Patrick, or Succat, as the name was originally, is lost in the shades of antiquity. According to one of several accounts he was born at Kilpatrick in Scotland in the year 373, and died at Saul, near Downpatrick, Ireland, in 493, being thus 120 years old at the time of his death.

He has received the credit of clearing Ireland of its serpents, but this is, of course, not his chief claim to affectionate remembrance. His entire life was spent in prosecuting the work of evangelisation in Ireland, and his efforts laid the corner-stone of the present ecclesiastical fabric that claims so many whole-hearted disciples in Hibernia.

## GENERAL NEWS.

### NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

#### SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN.

Week after week passes without any apparent improvement in the Premier's condition. There has been nothing in recent bulletins to allay the worst fears. Reference has already been made to the general belief that in any case Sir Henry will resign the leadership of the Liberal party during the Easter recess, but it now seems more than likely that he will shortly retire from politics altogether. We do not hesitate to say that if this should turn out to be the case it will be felt almost as a personal loss, not only by members on all sides of the House of Commons, but by everyone who is in any degree in touch with the political life of Great Britain.

In the event of Sir Henry's retirement his successor would, of course, be Mr. Asquith, but the latter's accession would certainly not do much towards extricating the Government from the Serbian bog into which its unwieldy majority has forced it. Mr. Asquith's unpopularity is too well-known to need reiteration. He is almost certain to irritate the Nationalists into a fresh obstructionist campaign, the Labour party have not forgotten Featherstone, the Suffragists justly regard him as their special foe, and the mass of the Liberal party distrust, where they do not actively dislike him.

#### ROYAL VISIT TO MALTA.

H. M. S. "Aboukir," with their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught on board, was expected to arrive at Malta early on Monday. The Duke and Duchess will take up their residence at the Sant Antonio Palace, which is situated about three miles from Valetta. The Palace of Sant Antonio has been entirely redecorated and refurnished.

(Continued on page 2.)

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