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ENGLAND'S BEREAVEMENT.

Men of all parties and of all views will hear with profound regret the news of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's decease. For more than a month past the bulletins had been assuming an ominous tone, and King Edward's visit to the patient's bedside before his journey to Biarritz was interpreted by many as a sign that the late Premier's medical advisors recognised the possibility of a fatal termination. Barely a fortnight has elapsed since Sir Henry tendered his formal resignation as Prime Minister, and it can be truly said that he died "in harness."

Of the late statesman's distinguished career it is unnecessary to speak at length, since many of the achievements with which he was more or less directly connected are contemporary history. His death will be mourned by every Englishman; it removes another great personality from the international stage, one, indeed, whose understudy will not easily be found.

AMERICAN DIPLOMATISTS.

The difficulties, only recently overcome, respecting the post of American Ambassador at Berlin have found echoes in Congress, which indicate the delicacy of the subject. It has been a delicate subject since Deane and Franklin came to Paris as the fathers of the American Diplomatic Service. "Now to behold our Deane, our Franklin, American Plenipotentiaries," says Carlyle, "here in person soliciting: the sons of the Saxon Puritans, with their Old-Saxon temper, Old-Hebrew culture, sleek Silas, sleek Benjamin, here on such errand, among the light children of Heathenism, Monarchy, Sentimentalism, and the Scarlet-woman. A spectacle indeed; over which saloons many cackle joyous." It must, in fact, be recognized that the standards of diplomatic representation throughout Europe do not tally naturally with the democratic principles of the American people; on the other hand, to regard the question as though the development of American plutocracy had left the democratic principle unaffected would be to shut one's eyes to vital changes in the character of the American nation. Money may be the gad-fly that stings the American nation to higher and higher leaps of democratic activity, but, if this is the case, let us at least admit that American democracy, like *Io*, has been changed into a lower form. Facts, as Mr. Gradgrind might say, are facts; or, to put the same thought into the words of Stephen Blackpool, "everything is a muddle." It is no use pretending that Americans are so narrowly democratic as to wish their poor men to meet rich men of other nations on an equality without contributing something to the expense which such representation involves. Doubtless, extravagances are evils much to be deplored, but since America's influence is neither so all-powerful as to efface them, nor her principles so menaced at home by the obligations of her ambassadors abroad as to unsettle her subjects, the only course is to do at Rome as the Romans do, and to arrange her Diplomatic Service on a basis which will admit other qualifications also than the rare combination of diplomatic skill with inherited millions.

At present, the demands which Americans make on their Ambassadors are enormous. The Service is inadequately financed; the highest posts involve

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their holders in expenses which their private purses must bear almost exclusively; and the diplomatists themselves run the constant danger of a dilemma in the direction of undue modesty or undue magnificence. If the conditions of competition render a career open to talent possible only within the narrowest limits, there would appear to be something wrong with this application of democratic ideas. *Ex hypothesi*, where an Englishman Evan Harrington can sneak into the British Service through a back-entrance, an American Evan Harrington should be welcomed at the main gates, without reference to birth, influence, wealth, or anything but character and capacity for the post. There is room in Europe for reform in the conditions of the diplomatic career, and while America is at the point of considering reforms it would be agreeable to find in them a powerful example. There is nothing in the world more truly independent than sheer ability; no amount of private fortune can make a man more fearless before privilege and caste than the good sense and self-respect of honest effort and sound experience; and America must wish, above all things, that into the unwholesome atmosphere of courts and embassies her envoys should bring something of the ampler air in which they have been raised. But poor men are powerless in the midst of riches; if the honest humility of a Quintus Fixlein before stars and garters is to be avoided, the American people must give its representatives such means as will enable them to base their state on the dignity of a great nation, rather than on the extravagance of a private individual. An American Ambassador, though he be as brilliant as Calonne or as compelling as Mirabeau, is no better than a theorist when circumstances compel him to live, like another Diogenes, in a mere tub; while an Ambassador who is a millionaire tends to merge his first character too completely in his second to be an efficient diplomatist at all moments. In America money has replaced many things which do not yet, in Europe, respond to the exchange, but let us hope that wealth and ability have not become interchangeable qualities. Now, more than ever, there is room for earnest diplomacy in the councils of the Powers, when there is reason to hope that the shallowness and insincerity of international relations may be gradually replaced by more generous aims. We wish every success to Mr. Nicholas Longworth's Diplomatic and Consular Appropriations Bill, by which more adequate arrangements are to be made for American representatives. As the son-in-law of President Roosevelt, Mr. Longworth appears to have imbibed something of the directness of aim and breadth of vision of his distinguished father-in-law, and perhaps, during his recent visit to Europe, he had means of judging how unsatisfactory were the provisions made for American ambassadors.

GENERAL NEWS.

DEATH OF SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN.

The ex-Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, died at his Downing Street residence yesterday morning at 9.15 o'clock. He was unconscious 36 hours before death took place, this being due to sudden heart-weakness. The end had not been anticipated so soon.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

KING EDWARD IN DENMARK.

Their Majesties King Edward and Queen Alexandra, with Princess Victoria, arrived at Copenhagen on Tuesday evening, and were received by the royal family and high officials of State. An enormous crowd had gathered to greet the visitors. The King and Queen will take up their abode in the castle of Amalienborg.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT AT CORFU.

The British armoured cruiser "Aboukir," having on board H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, entered the harbour of Corfu at 8 o'clock yesterday morning amidst the thunder of guns from the batteries. A salute was also fired from the German cruiser "Hamburg."

MR. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

We learn that Mr. Chamberlain continues to make the most gratifying progress at Cannes. A walk of a mile along the sea-front has now become part of his daily routine, and, though he usually leans on the arm of his wife, his increased activity and strength are very noticeable. Mr. Chamberlain also takes longer and more frequent drives, and generally appears to take a keener interest in life. Once again he wears an orchid in his button-hole and affects his monocle. All things considered, he looks marvellously young, and his doctors believe now that he will be able to take an active part in politics when he returns to England.

ENGLISHMEN IN BELGIUM.

Indignation is rising apace in English circles in Belgium, owing to the arrest in Antwerp of four English electrical engineers, who were originally charged with the betrayal of secrets, and who, after four weeks' imprisonment, have had the original charge reduced to one of petty larceny, but have not yet been released or tried. Moreover, the *Chambre de Conseil* of Antwerp having deliberated as to the release on bail of the accused, has fixed the amount of the bail at £800. The whole procedure to which these young men have been subjected seems more than strange, and to a certain extent arbitrary, and it must be hoped that the joint efforts of the British Consul-General and the London Foreign Office will secure the early release of the prisoners or their trial.

Commenting upon the incident, the *Belgian Times*, of Brussels, in a strong leader, says very rightly:—There is no longer any doubt that a grave injustice has been committed, and a question of principle is at stake. It is therefore high time that official notice should be taken of the action of the Belgian authorities; and that a full explanation should be demanded. The bald fact remains that these men were imprisoned on an unproven charge, and that they still remain in prison after nearly a month's incarceration. Even should the

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