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# The Daily Record

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## THE STATE AND THE INDIVIDUAL.

On Friday, June 12th, on the occasion of his installation as Chancellor of Glasgow University, Lord Rosebery gave one of those vague if brilliant addresses with which his name has become more and more associated during late years. Bearing as they do the impress of a wide experience in high places, of a strong individuality, and of an inherent pessimism in the face of organized action, they are remarkable more for their striking phrases and occasional suggestions than for any sustained argument or consistent philosophy. They are the utterances of a man who has always chosen to go his own way without succeeding in the task of making others follow him; and, though it is possible that we read into them what we are expecting to find there, we seem to remark a shade of personal disappointment, *aliquid amari*. When, however, Lord Rosebery chooses as his theme the place of the individual in the State, and dwells on the need of personal character to combat the temptations to remissness which the State holds out, we may justly assume that his words imply a sort of confession and a sort of defence. Lord Rosebery is not an egoist in any vulgar sense; he neither boasts of his achievements nor finds in himself a pattern for the world. But in his speeches he is reflective, speculative and inconclusive as only one can be who lives an intellectual life apart from other men and finds in the qualifications which his intelligence puts on the views of others the supreme test of right and wrong. That is a mental bias which unfits for the pursuit of politics; and which, if very decided, may also unfit for the less practical function of giving sound advice.

Lord Rosebery dwells with great emphasis on the true merit of a University. We must heartily agree with him in the belief that the great boast of a University should be, not that it merely fits its graduates for the professions but that it trains character. The distinction between teachers who are no more than pedagogues and teachers who are also men of the world well able to instil into the studies of their pupils a subtler feeling of experience and breadth of view than books alone provide, is one that is worth cultivating, and that has, in point of fact, been forced more and more during the last few decades. Here in Germany, where the status of the teacher is perhaps higher than in any other country and where the connexion between the University and the larger world is fostered without infringing academic excellence, Lord Rosebery's words are less applicable. He urges the students of Glasgow University to train themselves to be "men who absolutely would refuse to harness their intellects to the current cant of the day, men not angular but true to themselves and their faith." The great quality, he urges, is self-reliance, and its great enemy is the State. "Every day the public infringes on the individual." "The nation is being taken into custody by the State." These are happy phrases, clearly embodying high ideals of political activity, but, as practical advice, they appear to have a slighter value. A conscientious man, resolutely acting on such advice, would sever himself altogether from politics, since it leaves no room for the compromises which render politics possible. Character is essential, and common honesty of belief equally so; yet to demand these of citizens is a vastly different thing to demanding that, in politics, individual faith should assert itself without relation to collective action. "Politics," says Lord Rosebery, "were made for men, not men for politics." The proposition is not one that can be easily denied. By what construction, however, are we to conclude that individual self-reliance would make politics better? Under the present system of individualism prevailing among all self-governing peoples, the creed that we seek the greatest happiness of the greatest number accepts individual character as a powerful asset in communal development and efficiency; but one cannot pretend that it is rendered workable by

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the force of individual belief as distinct from the collective will. Men holding the strongest political faith must either lead or be content to follow; for all but the very few compromise is inevitable.

Possibly the root idea of Lord Rosebery's address was the feeling that compromise, so systematically exerted, is a corrosive element in political life, that from compromise to stagnation is not a distant step. From this point of view, there is every reason to dwell on the force of character and the danger of shibboleths. The great menace to a self-governing people is present when a class of professional politicians anticipate the opinions of the electorate by always having at their fingers' ends principles which spring from nowhere and which crystallize into policy before the nation has time to revoke its mandate. From hasty decisions of this kind, rendered probable by the rapidity with which elections are fought and the artificiality of the stimulus with which they are accelerated, much mischief springs. From many sources the integrity of public opinion is constantly assailed, but mainly through the mouths of self-seeking politicians and a plausible press. Against such abuses there is no safe-guard except the strength of individual opinion and the force of individual character. It is no exaggeration to say that the training a University provides thoroughly ensures the reliability of the educated, and therefore the most influential, vote. But when it is demanded that every participant in the affairs of his nation should be inured to the fallacies of public life by a schooling in adversity, when it is claimed that only by making the way as tortuous and stony as great pioneers must of necessity have found it, we confess we find it impossible to agree.

## GENERAL NEWS.

### NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

#### SUFFRAGETTES AFLOAT.

At 4 o'clock on Thursday afternoon a large steam launch, flying flags and containing several Suffragettes displaying printed scrolls, steamed down the river, and stopped in front of the Terrace of the Houses of Parliament at Westminster.

A small band was on board, and when it ceased playing, one of the leaders of the Suffragettes, believed to be Mrs. Drummond, stood on the little cabin roof and proceeded to harangue the comparatively few ladies who at that early hour had assembled on the Terrace for afternoon tea. She pointed to the banners of her comrades announcing the procession to Hyde Park which takes place today, and that "Cabinet Ministers are specially invited." She declared to all the members of Parliament present that as members of a democratic Legislature their proper place would be in the procession. Mrs. Drummond said she had been to gaol for her principles, and that was more than members of Parliament had done.

At the close of her address the steam launch moved slowly away, its band striking up as she left. Just at that moment the river police boat arrived on the scene, and followed the Suffragette launch in its return journey up towards Battersea.

#### THE "GLADIATOR" COLLISION.

APPLICATION TO CALL FURTHER EVIDENCE. Application was made on Thursday to Sir Gorell Barnes, President of the Divorce and Admiralty Division, for leave to call further evidence on behalf of the Admiralty in regard to the collision between the liner "St. Paul" and the cruiser "Gladiator." Mr. Batten, K. C., for the Admiralty, said a letter from a lady was published in the *Times* on the 16th inst., stating that her attention had been called to the incident by reading the court-martial proceedings. The lady lived in a bungalow on the shore of the Solent opposite to where the collision occurred, and she said she saw something, and heart blasts sounded from one of the vessels. In these circumstances they wanted to investigate the evidence.

(Continued on page 2.)