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LLOYD GEORGE AND CHATHAM.**LIKE AND LIKE.**

Plutarch discovered many years ago that history loves to repeat itself. Having once done a thing thoroughly well, it generally contrives to do it over again. History, indeed, is very much of the same mind as the writers of successful novels and successful melodramas. It changes the names of its characters. It changes the scenes and it alters the costumes. But the plots remain the same. Thus it happens that the incidents in the lives of prominent men of one generation can almost always be paralleled in the lives of prominent men who have lived in preceding generations, and the comments, the criticisms, and the eulogies can be appropriately repeated almost without change.

EXTRAORDINARY RESEMBLANCE.

There is, for example, an extraordinary resemblance between the positions of Mr Lloyd George in 1919 and the elder Pitt in 1760. Pitt entered Parliament at the age of twenty-seven in the year 1725. Mr Lloyd George first gained fame through his persistent and brilliant attack on Mr Joseph Chamberlain when he was the autocrat of the House of Commons. Pitt first gained fame by his persistent attack on Walpole, then the established autocrat of Great Britain. Macaulay's description of Pitt as a speaker could be applied with the smallest qualification to Mr Lloyd George:—

He could treasure up in his memory some detached expression of a hostile orator, and make it the text for lively ridicule or solemn reprehension. Some of the most celebrated bursts of his eloquence were called forth by an unguarded word, a laugh, or a cheer. . . . His merit was almost entirely rhetorical. He did not succeed either in exposition or in refutation; but his speeches abounded with lively illustrations, striking apophthegms, well-told anecdotes, happy allusions, passionate appeals. His invective and sarcasm were terrific. Perhaps no English orator was ever so much feared. But that which gave most effect to his declamation was the air of sincerity, of vehement feeling, of moral elevation, which belonged to all he said. . . . The enthusiasm of the orator infected all who heard him; his ardour and his noble bearing put fire into the most frigid conceit and gave dignity to the most puerile allusion.

THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR.

In 1756 England began the Seven Years' War against France. The war started with a series of disasters, the most humiliating of which was the loss of Minorca, for which Admiral Byng was shot on his quarter-deck. Military misfortune and public apprehension led, as it led in 1916, to the formation of a Coalition Government, in which Pitt was Secretary of State, with the supreme direction of foreign affairs and the war. The formation of this Government and Pitt's vigorous leadership at once led to victory in every theatre of the war. The French Fleet in America was destroyed. Great victories were gained by Clive in India. Wolfe's triumph on the Heights of Abraham secured British supremacy in Canada. Hawke defeated the Brest Fleet, and led the way for Nelson to establish British mastery of the sea. On the Continent, by a wholesale system of subsidies to weaker Powers (a system for good or ill generously followed during the late war), a series of defeats were inflicted on the French which culminated in the battle of Minden.

FIRST ENGLISHMAN OF HIS TIME.

Summoning up the situation as it existed in 1760, and Pitt's part in it, Macaulay writes:—

He had undoubtedly great energy, great determination, great means at his command. His temper was enterprising; and, situated as he was, he had only to follow his temper. The wealth of a rich, the valour of a brave nation, were ready to support him in every attempt. In one respect, however, he deserved all the praise that he has ever received. The success of our arms was perhaps owing less to the skill of his disposition than to the national resources and the national spirit. But that the national spirit rose to the emergency, that the national resources were contributed with unexampled cheerfulness, this was undoubtedly his work. The ardour of his soul had set the whole kingdom on fire. It enflamed every soldier who dragged the cannon up the heights of Quebec, and every sailor who boarded the French ships among the rocks of Brittany. . . .

The Minister, before he had been long in office, had imparted to the commanders whom he employed his own impetuous, adventurous, and daring character. They like him were disposed to risk everything, to play double or quits to the last, to

think nothing done while anything remained undone, to fail rather than not to attempt. . . . The situation which Pitt occupied at the close of the reign of George II, was the most enviable ever occupied by any public man in English history. . . . He domineered over the House of Commons; he was adored by the people, he was admired by all Europe. He was the first Englishman of his time.

A STRIKING PARALLEL.

Almost all this can be applied practically word for word to Mr Lloyd George today. There is another parallel, more accurate three or four months ago than at present. Macaulay records that after Pitt's victories, Parliament was quiet. "The old party distinctions were almost effaced; nor was their place yet supplied by distinctions of a still more important kind."

The situation at home, however, was very different then to that through which we are living now. War had brought with it a large measure of prosperity. The nation was never so wealthy. Trade had never flourished so brilliantly. Merchants had never waxed so rich. There was none the less then bitter opposition to the continuance of the war as there is now to the operations in Russia for the destruction of Bolshevism and Soviet rule and to the subsidizing of Finns and Estonians. Macaulay records that men were asking what was it to England whether the House of Hapsburg or the House of Brandenburg ruled in Silesia, just as they are asking now what is it to England whether Koltchak or Lenin rules in Moscow. They were asking why the best English regiments were fighting on the Main as they are asking now why any English regiments are fighting in Archangel. Truly, history is almost grotesquely unoriginal.

OUT OF OFFICE.

A suggestion of originality arises from the fact that Pitt, unlike Mr Lloyd George did not sign the Treaty which brought to an end the war that he had waged so successfully. Peace was signed at Paris in 1763, as it was signed in Paris in 1919. Pitt went out of office two years before, and in 1762, when England found herself at war with Spain, as well as with France, he made a speech in the House of Commons which Mr Lloyd George repeated several times between 1914 and 1918.

This is no season for altercation and recrimination. A day has arrived when every Englishman should stand forth for his country. Arm the whole; be one people; forget everything but the public.

The fame of Pitt was at its highest in this year. It was eclipsed long before his death. Let us hope that a striking historical parallel will remain partial.

LOST DAYS.

The lost days of my life until to-day,
What were they, could I see them on the street
Lie as they fell? Would they be ears of wheat
Sown once for food, but trodden into clay?
Or golden coins squander'd and still to pay?
Or drops of blood dabbling the guilty feet?
Or such spilt water as in dreams must cheat
The undying threats of hell, athirst
alway?

I do not see them here; but after death,
God knows I know the faces I shall see,
Each one a murder'd self, with low last breath.

"I am thyself—what hast thou done to me?"

"And I—and I—thyself" (lo! each one saith),

"And thou thyself to all eternity!"

—C. G. Rossetti.

Some comment has been aroused recently in connection with the quicker discharge which is alleged to be secured in London for South American meat. As it is now pointed out, South American liners have brought no chilled meat for some months past. In accordance with Government instructions, the liners have been bringing frozen the same descriptions of beef which had previously been carried chilled. It is clear, however, that South American meat reached the market in the United Kingdom much more quickly than Australasian meat, which is also suffering from the length of time it has been in store. It is asserted that until the vast stocks of old meat have been disposed of the good character earned before the war by fresh Australian and New Zealand frozen meat cannot be fully remedied. It is further contended that not much progress will be made with the disposal of meat until it is offered at a price nearer 4d per lb. The present wholesale price is 6d per lb.

SHORT STORIES.**THE RIVER BEDS.**

A story is told concerning Father Bernard Vaughan when he was touring in America. A boastful American at St. Louis said to him one day, "Look at our Mississippi and Hudson rivers. Why, in comparison with them your Mersey and Severn and Thames are sleepy, sickly streams."

"Oh," said Father Vaughan, "I think yours are just as sickly as ours."

"How do you make that out?" inquired the American.

"Well, they are all confined to their beds," replied Father Vaughan.

VERY CHEAP.

A clergyman, upon introducing some new hymn-books to his flock, instructed his clerk to give out the notice just before one of the Collects. The clerk forgot, and instead read out:

"All those who have children to be christened, please let me know after the service."

The clergyman was very deaf, and added blandly, "And I should like to say for the benefit of those who have none, that they may be obtained in the vestry any day between three and four, the ordinary ones at a shilling, and the special ones at one and six."

CRUSHING.

A lady of doubtful musical abilities was calling on a friend. She settled herself before the piano, and proceeded to entertain the little daughter of the house, aged five, with a selection from her repertoire.

After thumping for a spell she glanced round to the listener, who surveyed her round-eyed. Thinking that her music was being thoroughly appreciated, she gathered all her skill together for the finale. With a vigorous pound and a crashing discord she closed the performance.

Little Daisy looked up and said, quite innocently, "I can't play that tune either, Miss Pounder."

WHICH IS WHICH

There is a family that has recently had presented to it a very brilliant parrot that is a great talker. The bird was presented to the family by a sea captain, and as a gift it is greatly prized. But recently it has become a thorn in the side of the lady of the house, who has a little son seven years old. The other day she said to a neighbour, "I am afraid we shall have to get rid of that parrot—that is, as sure as I am sure of one thing."

"What is that?" asked the neighbour. "Whether Johnny is corrupting the parrot, or the parrot is corrupting Johnny."

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT LOVELY FRUIT?

THAT HANDSOME BOX OF SWEETS?

THOSE BEAUTIFUL PALMS AND

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LAND HO!

WHEN the sailor on the look-out made the welcome cry from the crow's nest, he has just caught sight of the top of a mountain, but he has discerned the land and it is welcome news, no matter if it be a bleak and barren mountain.

But let us get down to the plains. Here we find the real land that will yield up its hidden treasure to the man who seeks it. To the sailor, whether mountain or plain it is merely land, quality not concerning him. But the practical landman wants quality, and he will recognise the following as the right stuff.

(1) 75 ACRES; originally all heavy bush now in grass or crop. All necessary buildings. Great carrying capacity. Undoubtedly one of the best little dairying places in Southland. Price £52 10s. Cash £1000. Balance 10 per cent. for term of years.

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A delicious glass

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