

which would still be the finest memorial of Gladstone's most brilliant rival, had it not been that Gladstone himself made by his speech on the death of Beaconsfield, as Sir Stafford Northcote said: "A more enduring monument than could be carved out of stone."

It was not in keeping with the hour to compare the values of the public services of poet and statesman. Gladstone had already awarded the palm to Tennyson in lustrous and stately phrase, for he was sufficiently poetic to perceive that the poet is the true prophet of civilization. On the other hand, Tennyson himself spoke of Gladstone as the loftiest of English statesmen. The very method which Gladstone had often adopted and for the adoption of which he was most often and bitterly reproached—that of the steersman, who seeking to reach a given point and finding two channels possible, one with a cataract ahead, the other more circuitous but with no fatal difficulty, chooses the bend as his course—this, his friend, the singer, urged upon him, for the reason that Tennyson knew that a Gladstone, by endowment of genius, is accountable, not for himself alone, but also and more especially for himself as a leader and commander of men. Men said he yielded enough to his theory of eloquence and the orator. He said: "It is an influence principally received from his audience (so to speak) in vapor, which he pours back upon them in a flood. The sympathy and concurrence of his time, is, with his own mind, joint parent of his work. He cannot follow nor frame ideals; his choice is to be what his age will have him, what it requires in order to be moved by him or else not to be at all." But this must be balanced by the equally strong opinion of others that he was too attached to lofty ideals, and fought too far in front of his army. Bright called him a sunflower ever turning to the sun; but he was more, for he wooed all else sunward.

The question of questions to be asked concerning a man like Gladstone is not, Did he succeed in being popular? Did he reach the highest seat of power? Was he always of the opinion of his ancestors or of himself on some yesterday? It is this rather, granted that he had much to renounce