

A MAN OF MARK.

Mr. James Bryce in Australia.

**Scholar, Author, and
Ambassador.**

The visit to Australia of the Right Hon. James Bryce, the British Ambassador at Washington, who will arrive in Adelaide this morning, is an event of importance. The attainments and character of the man himself make his appearance in our midst noteworthy. His standing in relation to the two great English-speaking countries of the world also indicates the practical bearing that his observations may possibly have in influencing the development of closer commercial and general relations between the new lands of the southern continent and the great American nation, as well as, perhaps, in strengthening the ties that bind the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand to the motherland. Just when the fresh conditions of the awakening Orient are filling the minds of thinking men in England and America, as well as in Australasia, with perplexing



THE RIGHT HON. J. BRYCE.

problems, it is fitting that one who has mixed with the leaders of public opinion in the English-speaking countries of the New World and the Old, should come to this isolated part of the Empire and ascertain on the spot the questions that agitate the local authorities in reference to the best means to be taken for the security and the preservation of peace in the years to come. Mr. Bryce is in Australia for a holiday tour; but he is a man who keeps his eyes open and his mind receptive in relation to every matter that affects his public capacity; and the notes which he may make in his journeyings should prove valuable in connection with his future work.

—Ministerial Positions.—

He is the son of a Scottish father and an Irish mother, and is 74 years of age. It is 32 years since, even then in maturity, he entered the British Parliament, and more than a quarter of a century ago, in 1886, he came into the councils of the Empire as Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Since the latter date, Ministerial honours have been his on several occasions, culminating in a term as Chief Secretary for Ireland in 1905-6. He is a member of His Majesty's Privy Council, and wears the rare decoration of the Order of Merit. According to Justin McCarthy, Mr. Bryce, when a member of Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet, became a great favourite with Queen Victoria, because of his remarkable fluency of speech. Whenever he rose to speak in the House of Commons there was a general hurry of members who had left the Chamber to get back to their seats. "I have often noticed the effect which is produced in the libraries and committee rooms, in the rooms assigned to those who dine and those who smoke," wrote McCarthy, "when it is announced 'Bryce is up.' A member who is reading on some subject in the library or writing his letters in one of the lobbies, or enjoying himself in a dining room or smoking room, is not likely to hurry away from his occupation except for most urgent reasons. Yet, he does this when he learns

that Mr. Bryce has risen to speak. It is because the member for Aberdeen invariably has something to say that is important, something that must be reckoned with. It is to learn rather than to hear, because the member for Aberdeen is not one of the showy and fascinating debaters whom every one wants to listen to for the mere eloquence and fascination of their oratory."

—University Attainments.—

One of the most distinguished Oxonians is Mr. Bryce, who for 23 years occupied the chair of Regius Professor of Civil Law in the oldest university in the world, for Oxford University knows no beginning, and before the British law was, as we know it, that great shrine of learning existed without charter of king or statute of Parliament. In 1870 he had conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Common Law at Oxford, and since then a similar distinction has been accorded him by the Universities of Toronto and Harvard; he holds the Honorary LL.D. of Edinburgh, the degree of Doctor of Laws from Jena, California, and Leipzig, besides many other scholastic honours, one addition to which will be made by the Adelaide University. Mr. Bryce is a strong believer in university training as a potent factor in building up a high type of manhood and in elevating a nation by fitting its sons for conquest in the intellectual realm that shall be reflected in scientific and technical achievements for the general benefit. He contends, too, for the retention of the study of languages and philosophy on as high a plane as the following of the sciences; for the reasons that man is nearer to us than Nature, and that any scheme of education is narrow which does not reserve an important place for the study of the human subject.

—Literature.—

Mr. Bryce gained his first literary laurels more than half a century ago by the publication of a botanical treatise, "The Flora on the Island of Arran." He next delved into the mines of antiquity, and wrote the "History of the Holy Roman Empire" in 1862. Education, the law relating to trades marks, and geographical research have all been the subjects of works from his pen. In 1888 he published his magnum opus, "The American Commonwealth," which made him the founder of a whole school of American political enquiry; and he has recently brought it up to date. He wrote his "Impressions of South Africa" in 1897, and he will possibly take the same course of expressing his views on Australia as the result of his present tour. "Studies in History and Jurisprudence" and "Studies in Contemporary Biography" help to indicate the wideness of his purview. A man with Mr. Bryce's learning and reputation does not enter upon an enquiry without much preliminary reading and thought, and if the visitor should give his opinions on Australia and New Zealand to the world in literary form it may be predicted that the work will represent the corrected impressions of an already more than usually profound acquaintance with the affairs of these new lands, and not the hasty generalizations of the common globetrotter, who

learns in a fortnight all he knows, or cares to know, about Australia, and on the basis of that information condemns or lauds the Commonwealth, as seems to him meet, to the extent of his little powers.

—Recreations.—

Though now in the white winter of his years, Mr. Bryce is finding his interest in cricket, football, and athletics a passport to the heart of the average Australian. He has also been a noted climber of the Alpine steps, and during his travels in the Dominion and in the eastern States could not resist the opportunity to inspect the mountains of the Sunny South, including the snowclad summit of the Australian Alps at Kosciusko. He is, too, a follower of the less active sport of Izaak Walton, which, proportionately to the population, has not so many votaries in South Australia as in New South Wales and Victoria.

—A Successful Ambassador.—

Five years ago Mr. James Bryce received the appointment of His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Washington. He is the only recent British Agent to the White House who has not been dignified with a peerage; but at the time of his appointment it was officially announced that the usual honour had been offered and had been respectfully declined. During his occupancy of his present post he has maintained its high traditions in respect to his own country, and also secured the full confidence of the American people and their Government. His connection with the life of the United States has not been confined to the Embassy, but in nearly every State of the Union he has given lectures, or has addressed meetings, universities, and congresses. No other Briton is better known in the United States, and perhaps none has

exerted a wider influence there. One feature of his connection with the land of the Stars and Stripes has been that he has brought that country into more intimate relation with the great Dominion of Canada, and helped the people on both sides of the border to understand one another better. Mrs. Bryce, who is accompanying her husband in his holiday tour in Australia, has proved a successful hostess at the American seat of government, and has adapted herself well to the conditions of social life at Washington, which imply "an environment that is all the more difficult to gauge because of its similarity in general outline and its dissimilarity in detail" to what she had been used to in England.

—A Prophet of Peace.—

In a recent public address, Mr. Bryce urged that Australians should constantly visit the United Kingdom, for each country had something to learn from the other. The ties binding the Empire were light as air, but strong as steel. One of the things that drew them closer was the problem of Imperial defence. He took a more hopeful view of peace prospects than some European newspapers, but it was necessary to present a strong and united front in every possible quarter. All the British nations with their territories bounded by sea must make themselves safe from invasion. If England were not safe from invasion, she would have to maintain large forces on land. He was glad that these facts were recognised by the people of New Zealand and Australia. Although the Empire was held together by the common need of defence, yet it was also held together by the great traditions which had been maintained for many of the centuries; by the love of liberty, and by what he might call their mission to open up the world, and establish lines of communication all over the world. They had done more to spread civilization over the world than any other people, and had done something to lead on the backward races. It was one of the highest parts of the mission of the British people to maintain peace in the world. The Empire had enough territory, and the world knew that peace was essential to the prosperity of the Empire. Being spread over the world as a great industrial and commercial race, it was essential for the British to maintain peace. It was pretty certain that if the British kept peace the rest of the world would keep it too.

University Honours.

Distinction for Mr. Bryce.

In the presence of a distinguished assemblage on Friday evening at the Elder Hall, the University of Adelaide will confer on Mr. James Bryce (British Ambassador at Washington) the degree of LL.D. The ceremony will be conducted by the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way), and among those who intend to witness the proceedings are His Excellency the Governor (Sir Day Bosanquet), members of both Houses of Parliament, and other prominent citizens.

It is interesting to recall the names of those whom the University has similarly honoured. There are 18 LL.D.'s in the list. Twelve have been admitted ad eundem gradem, and one, Dr. Francis Leslie Stow, a son of the late Judge Stow, is a graduate of the University. He was the first in the history of the institution to win the degree. The list, with the universities where the degrees were originally conferred, and the years when they were bestowed in Adelaide, is:—

- Dr. James Walter Smith, London, 1882.
- The late Archdeacon Farr, Cambridge, 1883.
- Earl of Kintore, Aberdeen, 1885.
- Dr. Barlow (Vice-Chancellor of Adelaide University), Dublin, 1885.
- The late Sir Samuel Davenport, Cambridge, 1888.
- Bishop Barry, Oxford, 1889.
- The late Rt. Hon. C. C. Kingston, Oxford, 1889.
- Dr. W. G. Torr, Dublin, 1892.
- Sir Samuel Way (Chief Justice), Oxford, 1892.
- The Rev. Dr. Jefferis, Sydney, 1895.
- Dr. F. W. Richards, London, 1897.
- Lord Tennyson, Cambridge, 1900.
- His Majesty the King, Oxford, 1901.
- Sir John Madden (Chief Justice of Victoria), Cambridge, 1901.
- The Rt. Hon. Sir John Forrest, Cambridge, 1902.
- Dr. G. R. Parkin (of Rhodes scholarship fame), McGill, Canada, 1903.
- Professor Jethro Brown, Cambridge, 1906.
- Dr. F. L. Stow, Adelaide, 1909.

Several other distinctions will be conferred on Friday evening—the honours degree of B.Sc. on Mr. Eric Jauncey, and, in absentia, B.A., on the Rev. Absalom Deans, who took his course in Western Australia, and LL.B. on Mr. Edgar Robinson, who also graduated in the western State.