

extended to the wholly different circumstances of England and Scotland. It was not, indeed, in the power of Ministers to restrain the capidity of private projectors who might hope to apply to their own ends a vicious principle; but predatory associations, such as the Farmers' Alliance, would scarcely have ventured to possess themselves with their undignified schemes of plunder if they had not received official encouragement. Mr. GLADSTONE, though he has declared that the Irish Land Act is not suited to the case of Great Britain, has since, on more than one occasion, intimated his concurrence with some of the doctrines of the Farmers' Alliance, and he has announced that occupiers of land are to be protected to the utmost extent of their tenure. As no tenant can be disturbed during the term of his holding, additional security must consist in the creation of some right or privilege which has at present no existence. In the last century liberty and property were connected in proverbial phrase which implied that they were inseparable. It was chiefly by the enjoyment of liberty and property that Englishmen believed themselves to be distinguished from the French, who were popularly supposed to hold their lands and goods subject to the arbitrary will of the Crown. It is still true that encroachments on the free disposal of property are incompatible with liberty.

Another truism which no longer finds acceptance with Liberal theorists is the old-fashioned proposition that taxation and representation ought to go together. The avowed reason of the secession of the American Colonies was the imposition of taxes by a Parliament in which they were not represented; and none of their arguments produced so strong an impression on their friends, and even on their opponents, in England. The tendency of English fiscal legislation is now in the opposite direction. Mr. BAXTER's free breakfast-table, which will probably be established before many years are over, will enable the ratepayer who will possess absolute power under a reformed Constitution to escape all public burdens, if he thinks fit to abstain from intoxicating liquors and tobacco. The new county governments, which will perhaps be instituted during the term of the present Parliament, will officially separate local taxation from provincial representation. For other purposes Liberal agitators are frequently in the habit of explaining that the rates of which tenant-farmers complain really fall on the landlords. This statement is perfectly true, except in the cases where some new charge on the rates has been imposed by Parliament during the current term of a tenancy. The justices who now assess and administer the county rates are selected from the ranks of the landowners. It is perhaps because they are dealing with funds provided by themselves that their vigilance and fragility are recognised by their bitterest assailants. Their functions will hereafter be discharged by bodies elected by the nominal ratepayers, while the real contributors will be excluded from all share in the administration. The coming generation of Conservative politicians will, as Lord SALISBURY said, be compelled to dispense with the use of many arguments which were deemed by their predecessors conclusive. The doctrines which they will themselves hold will no longer be admitted as common to all parties. It will tax their ingenuity to encounter new-fangled paradoxes; nor will their task be facilitated by the rapid conversion of all owners of property to the cause of tradition and of order. The antipathy of Liberals to radicalism and its professors has grown with unprecedented rapidity. At the last election almost all Liberals adhered to their own party. At the next election they will secceed by themselves. There is too much reason to fear that the majority will nevertheless be on the side of the present Government. It is with theories which will then become prevalent that Lord SALISBURY's young generation will have to contend.

MR. DARWIN.

WHEN a great man like Mr. DARWIN passes away, we naturally ask ourselves what has been his life, what his method, what his work. Of Mr. DARWIN it may be said that his life was happy, his method fruitful, his work masterly. It is not much to say that there is any one ideal form of a happy life for a man of science. The circumstances in which NEWTON and HUMBOLDT were placed were in many respects different from the surroundings of Mr. Darwin; but all in various ways permitted genius to reach

the highest limits attainable by its possessor. The shelter of a college, the modest pomp of a Prussian Court, or a well-ordered country home in England, may equally give the man of scientific genius the two things he needs, time and peace. But in its own way the life of Mr. DARWIN was an ideal life. He compassed in youth such advantages of a mixed education as the training of a public school, of the University of Edinburgh, and of Cambridge could give him. He had never to face the problem which so often erases ability, if it seldom represses genius, how to live while learning. Mr. DARWIN could wait and work, could think or travel, free from the presence of pecuniary anxiety. When the great opportunity of his life fell in his way, and he was allowed to join the Beagle expedition, the ardour with which he volunteered to fill the post of travelling naturalist was not chilled by the thought that he might be ruining his prospects in life. During the five years which the expedition occupied, Mr. Darwin suffered from almost constant sea-sickness, and his constitution was so shaken by his sufferings that during the rest of his long life he could only preserve a delicate health by unremitting care. But the quiet and solitude to which he was condemned not only fell in with his tastes, but permitted him to pursue his special studies without a pause and without distraction. Happy in his fortune and happy in his marriage, he also had the unusual happiness of finding among his own children the best and most zealous of coadjutors. Under these conditions a sweet and gentle nature blossomed into perfection. Arrogance, irritability, and envy, the faults that ordinarily beset men of genius, were not so much conquered as non-existent in a singularly simple and generous mind. It never occurred to him that it would be to his gain to show that he and not some one else was the author of a discovery. If he was appealed to for help by a fellow-worker, the thought never passed into his mind that he had secrets to divulge which would lessen his importance. It was science, not the fame of science, that he loved, and he helped science by the temper in which he approached it. He had to say things which were distasteful to a large portion of the public; but he won the ear even of his most adverse critics by his manifest absence of a mere desire to shine, by his modesty, and by his courtesy. He told honestly what he thought to be the truth, but he told it without a wish to triumph or to wound. There is an arrogance of unorthodoxy as well as an arrogance of orthodoxy, and if ideas that a quarter of a century ago were regarded with dread are now accepted without a pang, the rapidity of the change of opinion, if not the change itself, is largely due to the fact that the leading exponent of those ideas was the least arrogant of men.

The method of Mr. DARWIN was substantially the method of all great labourers in the field of science. There cannot be two methods of making nature unlock her secrets, and all scientific discoveries proceed by a combination of hypothesis and experiment. What was most original in Mr. DARWIN was the character of the experiments he made. The hypothesis of the unity of species, which in different forms is as old as the activity of the human intellect, directed his experiments. He himself added the subordinate hypotheses of sexual attractions and the struggle for existence being the chief causes of the differentiation of species. But he could never have done more than vaguely formulate these hypotheses in his own mind if his genius, favoured by very special circumstances, had not led him to invent a class of experiments which were new in the shape he gave them. He set himself to work to study animal and vegetable life as it is lived. He allowed nature to work in its own way, and superintended the process. He did not take life at any one point and describe what he saw, but let life go on and described the stages of existence. In order to see how worms change the surface of the earth, he watched the ways of worms for forty years. He was always doing something with his worms—weighing their secretions, trying how they liked a candle or a piano. How pigeons varied under crossing, how plants climbed, what insects fertilised, what plants fed on extraneous substances and how they did it, were only a few of the suggestive experiments which Mr. DARWIN made by the agency of very slow and minute watching. It has long ago been said that genius and patience are identical. Like most epigrammatic sayings, this is only partially true, for genius is not merely patience—it is patience coupled with divination. But patience is so large a part of genius that

the special characteristic of a new scientific genius is almost always some new form of patience. Mr. DARWIN's form of patience was new, but it was a form of patience which could only lead to great results under very special circumstances. To make experiments by watching the minute processes of life year after year demands leisure, means absence of interruption and freedom from anxiety. Mr. DARWIN was not only a man of genius, with the patience and divination of genius, he was also a man of genius so placed that his genius had the freest possible play in its own special line.

The work of Mr. DARWIN consisted in making it probable to civilised man that the history of animated nature on our globe had been different from that which it had been previously supposed to be—that it had been a history of very slow and very gradual change, and not a history of abrupt transition. Exactly the same lesson was being taught by contemporaneous labourers in the fields of geology, anthropology, and even astronomy. That the order of the universe is the order of a supreme mind working silently and slowly through ages, and not spasmodically through centuries, is now as much an accepted idea of civilised man as the theory of gravitation. To the general acceptance of this idea no one contributed so powerfully as Mr. DARWIN, although he contributed to it in a much less exclusive way than the way in which NEWTON contributed to the acceptance of the theory of gravitation. The idea of which Mr. DARWIN was the chief exponent has commanded itself as probable to the generation he addressed, not merely because he gave it shape and consistency, but because it is an idea which forces itself on all who apply the modern method of investigation to the explication of nature. The method itself is not modern, for there is only one method of investigation, but it may be called modern in the sense that it is only in modern times that civilised man has been able to make adequate experiments by having entered into possession of the whole globe, and by having at his command something like adequate mechanical aids. The idea therefore with which the name of Mr. DARWIN is associated is made probable, not only because he made it probable, but because all scientific investigation makes it probable. He, however, did much more than any one man to bring home its probability. In the first place, he thought it out more fully, and presented it in a more compact and intelligible form than any one else. In the next place his divination led him to originate the subordinate hypothesis of the chief instruments of change in animated nature. The value of the solution he gave of the problem of gradual change consists, not in its completeness, but in its suggestiveness. If it does not show how all the changes to be accounted for occurred, it shows an unexpected way in which some or most of them may probably have occurred. An hypothesis of this sort may start the scientific traveller on the right road, although it may not at once carry him to the end of his journey. Lastly, the solution given by Mr. DARWIN was unexpected because the experiments on which it was based were new, and it was made probable by those experiments being seen to be pertinent within their range and to have been most minutely and carefully conducted. To future generations it is probable that Mr. DARWIN will appear to have been great as a theorist, but still greater as an experimentalist. His immediate survivors will cherish his memory with as much of love as of reverence.

THE TRIAL OF MACLEAN.

THE State trial which took place at Reading on Wednesday was honourably distinguished from not a few recent trials in that it certainly did not exhibit the law's delay. Without any huddling over of the proceedings, with a full charge and summing-up, with the hearing of a considerable body of evidence, and with speeches of reasonable length from counsel, the whole business before both grand and petty jury was concluded between ten and five o'clock, or exactly within the limits of an ordinary day's work. It is impossible to sympathise in any way with the wishes which have been expressed that the formality of a special Commission and a State trial had been dispensed with. In the first place, it is more than doubtful whether the authorities would have been technically justified in taking the case out of the category to

which it closely belonged—that of high treason. But there is much more than this technical reason for the form of proceedings actually adopted. It is quite conceivable that those to whom monarchy is distasteful, and who like to regard the QUEEN as nothing but a titular chief of the State, should view with displeasure proceedings which imply a different conception of her position. That conception, however, happens to be the conception of the vast majority of the English people; and it is by such differences of treatment as that which distinguished the trial of MACLEAN from the trial of an ordinary malefactor that it is recognised and perpetuated. The occasion for the particular form of recognition may be, and must be, deplored. But the majority of men are influenced by nothing so much as by form; and for the law to declare in the way most intelligible to them that there is no difference between the QUEEN and her subjects is an excellent way of producing a general belief to that effect.

For once it may be acknowledged that the often unsatisfactory defence of insanity was not strained or misapplied. Unluckily in these days it is impossible to argue from the general to the particular, and to declare that MACLEAN must be mad because no subject of the QUEEN who was not insane could possibly attempt her life. But the minor satisfaction of thinking that no person who is not insane has actually done so is at least possible. Of MACLEAN's insanity the most sceptical person can have no doubt. It was not only proved by a formidable chain of professional testimony, but by what some critics may think less dubious—expressions and conduct of the prisoner himself which were open to no suspicion as simulated, and which undoubtedly sprang from weakness of intellect. The singular coincidence—too improbable for anything but fact—of the presence at Windsor of the clergyman who had actually picked up MACLEAN in an epileptic fit at his own door in Hampshire some time before was a striking, if not a material, incident of the trial. There can be no doubt that Mr. MORTON WILLIAMS followed the only line of defence possible by frankly admitting the facts and devoting himself entirely to showing the irresponsibility of the prisoner. Under a less humane system of legal administration, it might still have gone very hard with MACLEAN. For the expressions in his letters showed pretty clearly that, having taken an aversion—irrational indeed—to "the English people," he had had the sense to select HIS MAJESTY as the representative of that people, and to attempt her life very deliberately. In his case the celebrated wish of the Roman tyrant was whimsically fulfilled in a sense the danger of which, no doubt, never occurred to Nero, owing to the difference of ancient and modern theories of sovereignty. The English people had one single vital point for MACLEAN, and he aimed at it, fortunately without success. Not merely our own jurists up to the seventeenth century, but those of almost any country but England in the eighteenth, would probably have seen in this quite sufficient evidence of understanding of the act committed to justify the utmost severity of the law. But the second of the two points which Lord COLQUHOUN put to the jury was sufficient to save MACLEAN. The first was, did he know the nature and quality of the act he was doing? And the answer to this, there can be little doubt, despite the prisoner's disclaimers, must have been in the affirmative. The second—did he know that the act was wrong?—could hardly be answered otherwise than in the negative. This being the case, the terms of MACLEAN's own excuse for his act require no examination. They show, however, undoubted madness, and madness of a kind not very easy to simulate. The argument that, as the Princess BEATRICE was in the carriage, it would be as reasonable to charge him with attempting to shoot the Princess BEATRICE as the ring of a disordered brain. There is a kind of whimsical cunning and chicanery in it which is characteristic of the insane, and there is the equally characteristic forgetfulness that the two intentions are by no means necessarily exclusive, and that he might very well, had it been worth while, have been charged with the lesser crime as well as with the greater.

The lifelong incarceration which (his crime being taken in connexion with a previous history clearly proving him to be suffering from homicidal mania) it can hardly be doubted that MACLEAN will undergo has an obvious advantage over the one severer punishment that the law provides. It is probably not so immediately terrible to the criminal himself (for, though not in the strict legal sense,