

Lord Acton to Mary Gladstone

FROM the "Letters of Lord Acton to Mary Gladstone," daughter of William E. Gladstone, a correspondent of the REVIEW sends us two interesting extracts. Lord Acton was one of the greatest scholars of the age, but there is some confusion of thought in his comments. It is clear, however, that Mary Gladstone was much impressed by George's writings:

"Of George, in the sixpenny edition, I had a glimpse at Cannes. The better part of him, with more moderation and philosophy, and a wider induction, may be found in the writings of the academic Socialists, who, in the last ten years, have occupied almost all the Chairs of Germany, and who have been the warmest admirers of the Irish policy."—Page 282.

"George did not catch me at Marienbad, and came from Munich in a big box, only the other day. I had partly read him, but I was in a difficulty about thanking you for it with full honesty as long as I only knew it casually, by unhallowed copies. But I do thank you, if I may do so even now, most gratefully for your kindness of it altogether, and particularly for your belief that I should understand it, and care for it apart from the sender. Although in this you have flattered me; for there are points in which I dare say I do not like him as much as you do.

Do not think ill of the people they call academic Socialists. It is only a nickname for the school that is prevailing now in the German universities, with a branch in France and another in Italy, a school whose most illustrious representative in England, whose most eminent practical teacher in the world, is Mr. Gladstone. In their writings, inspired by the disinterested study of all classic economists, one finds most of the ideas and illustrations of Mr. George, though not, indeed, his argument against Malthus. This makes him less new to one; but nobody writes with that plain, vigorous directness, and I do believe that he has, in a large measure, the ideas of the age that is to come."—Page 287.

LET the comfortable readers of this paper reflect that, what to the vast majority is more worth demonstrating, is "No more Economic War."—that, as the common people have seen one sequence, so they may gradually see another.

Bombs and bayonets are beastly, but how to raise the money for the Bovril and the Glaxo for sick wife or child is a matter that comes more home to those demonstrators. The bread-winner is blown to bits in real war; he is smashed slowly, by weeks and weeks of unemployment, in the economic war. If there is anything more horrible, more deadly, more mean, more unchristian than war, it is a peace like this.—COL. J. C. WEDGEWOOD, D.S.O., M.P., in the *Daily News*, 22nd July.