

King's Heath Local History Society



**What the Journals Said
About
The Chamberlains of Highbury
Number One
Joseph and Mary Chamberlain
Edited with Linking Commentary
By
Ivor Davies**

75p

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KINGS HEATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

1993

INTRODUCTION

The Journals of the title came out monthly and were:

1. The Moseley and Kings Heath Journal which ran from June 1892 to September 1907. All issues of this paper are on file.
2. A publication which began as the Moseley Society Journal. It was later called, in turn, the Birmingham and Moseley Society Journal, the Birmingham, Moseley and Kings Heath Society Journal, the Birmingham, Moseley and Kings Heath Journal, and, finally, the Moseley and Kings Heath Journal. It first appeared in January 1894 and continued until July 1933. Many copies are missing before January 1909. From that date, it is complete except for one issue (January 1917).

In September 1907, the Moseley and Kings Heath Journal ceased separate publication and was incorporated in the Birmingham, Moseley and Kings Heath Society Journal (as it was then called).

After quotations, I have abbreviated the names of the Journals as follows:

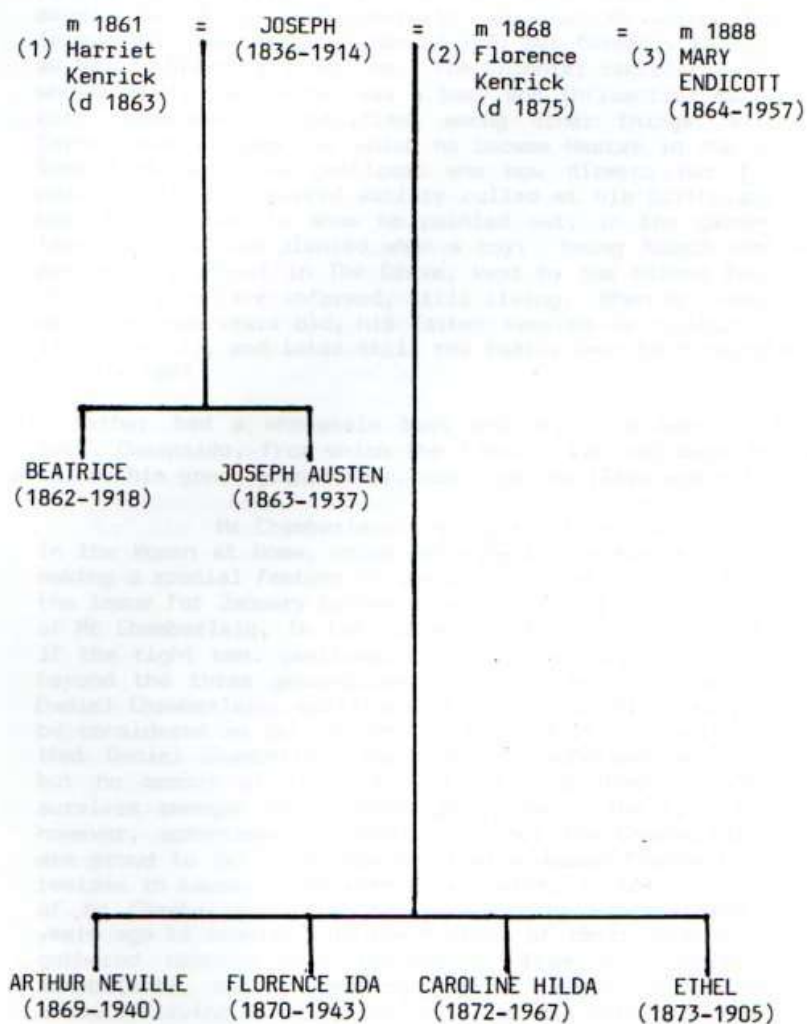
Moseley and Kings Heath Journal	- J
Birmingham, Moseley and Kings Heath Society Journal	- B, M & KH S J
Birmingham, Moseley and Kings Heath Journal	- B, M & KH J

Quotations are indented two spaces from each margin so that they can be easily picked out from the commentary.

I have set out to give a brief chronological account of the life of Joseph Chamberlain illustrated by pieces from the Journals, where appropriate, together with some references to his third wife, Mary Endicott. Where originals have been edited, I have used dashes ----- to indicate omissions.

The Journals began just before Joseph Chamberlain became Colonial Secretary in 1895 and, within the next few years, was arguably the best-known politician in the United Kingdom. Much was then written about him. It should be remembered that the Journals gave him uncritical support and their views are, therefore, biased. In addition, they sometimes got their facts wrong. I have corrected verifiable errors in footnotes and have used the same device to amplify points mentioned in both quotations and commentary. Finally, mistakes in the latter are all my own and I apologise if I have made any.

THE CHAMBERLAINS OF HIGHBURY



Those who lived at Highbury are shown in capital letters

m = married

Joseph Chamberlain was born on Friday, 8th July 1836, in London. His birth and early years are thus described.

Apropos of Mr Chamberlain's birthday, a London contemporary, publishing an illustration of Mr Chamberlain's birthplace, says: "In The Grove (Camberwell) was born Mr Joseph Chamberlain. The house is now numbered 188, but formerly it was known as No. 3, Grove Hill Terrace. The Colonial Secretary's father, who bore the same name, was a busy and influential man in the city, prominently identified, among other things, with the Cordwainers Company, of which he became Master in due course. Some time ago, the gentleman who now directs our Colonial policy with such marked ability called at his birthplace with one of his sons, to whom he pointed out, in the garden, two trees that he had planted when a boy. Young Joseph went to a preparatory school in The Grove, kept by the Misses Pace, one of whom is, we are informed, still living. When Mr Chamberlain was about ten years old, his father removed to Highbury Place, Islington (1), and later still the family went to Birmingham." J July 1897

His father had a wholesale boot and shoe business at 36 Milk Street, Cheapside, from which the family firm had been run since William, his great-grandfather, acquired the lease about 1745.

Mr Chamberlain's Wiltshire Ancestry

In the Woman at Home, which for some little time past has been making a special feature of gossip biographies of public men, the issue for January begins a series of chapters from the life of Mr Chamberlain, in the course of which it is remarked that if the right hon. gentleman's line of ancestry is traced back beyond the three generations of London merchants we come to Daniel Chamberlain, maltster, of Lacock, in Wiltshire, who may be considered as the founder of the family. Tradition tells that Daniel Chamberlain was a man of substance and standing, but no memory of the old maltster, who died in 1790 (2), survives amongst the present generation. The villagers are, however, accustomed to inquiries about the Chamberlains, and are proud to tell the stranger that a Joseph Chamberlain still resides in Lacock. An interesting story is told of the visit of Mr Chamberlain's two brothers to the village some twenty years ago to inquire into the history of their ancestor. They gathered nothing from records or from the gossip of old inhabitants, but on hearing that a Joseph Chamberlain was actually living in the place called at his cottage, which is of great age and picturesque construction, with black beams visible in the outer wall. The mother of the Lacock Joseph, while acknowledging that "she does not come of the Chamberlains herself, thinks that her boy has the same cast of face."

J January 1901

His mother was Caroline Harben. Both sides of the family were religious nonconformists.

(1) The family moved from 188 Camberwell Grove to 25 Highbury Place in 1846.

(2) 1757 is a more likely date for his death.

After the family moved in 1846, Joseph was sent to a school in Canonbury Square run by the Reverend Arthur Johnson. There he stayed until moving to University College School in 1850. His education ended in 1852 and he entered the family business.

The family worshipped at a Unitarian chapel in Little Carter Lane, where he first became a Sunday school teacher between the ages of 16 and 18.

The event which shaped his future life took place in 1854. On show at the Great Exhibition of 1851 was an American patent for making a wood screw with a pointed end by steam machinery. His uncle, John Sutton Nettlefold (3), made the conventional blunt-ended iron screw in Birmingham. This needed a hole to be drilled in the wood by a gimlet before it could be screwed in. Nettlefold saw the American patent and wished to purchase it but lacked the money to start production. So he asked Joseph Chamberlain senior to invest in the project. Eventually, the latter agreed. Thus, the firm of Nettlefold and Chamberlain began and Joseph Chamberlain, aged 18, was sent to Birmingham to look after the family's interest in the new enterprise.

Very soon, he and his cousin, Joseph Nettlefold (4), were running the firm. Joseph Nettlefold was mechanical engineer and factory organiser and Joseph Chamberlain took control of management and sales. In time, Joseph Chamberlain bought out most of their competitors and made Nettlefold and Chamberlain a success on a world scale.

He still had time for other activities.

The Man of the Hour (5)

Some thirty years ago ----- Mr Chamberlain used to conduct a class in connection with the Sunday School at the Church of the Messiah (6). ----- He was then a partner in Nettlefold's firm, and was mainly concerned with making money, with extraordinary rapidity, out of screws. Although a prominent member of a local debating society (7), he had at that time taken no very conspicuous part in the public life of the town. In appearance, he was much what he is at the present day: he had the same surprisingly youthful look, the same sallow face, the same alertness of manner, even in repose; but at that time he affected a pair of mutton-chop whiskers - which he discarded, if I recollect rightly, about the time he became a member of the House of Commons (8).

(3) He was married to Martha, the sister of Joseph Chamberlain senior.

(4) He was the son of John Sutton Nettlefold.

(5) Joseph Chamberlain was engaged in negotiations with President Paul Kruger of the South African Republic (Transvaal). These failed, however, and the Boer War began on 12th October 1899.

(6) The Church of the Messiah was in Broad Street, Birmingham.

(7) This was the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society. He filled all its offices in turn from 1858 onwards.

(8) He first became MP for West Birmingham in 1876.

His methods as a teacher were original, to say the least. Though the class usually read a chapter of Scripture and afterwards discussed its contents, the greater part of the time was spent in reading and threshing out a topic in natural science, or a period of historical interest, for which a textbook had been selected at the beginning of each term. The religious instruction was not characterised by any excess of devotional fervour. In fact, it was mainly exegetical.

In his treatment of the secular subjects he was above all things, thorough. He loved the leisurely Socratic disputation. Fixing his eye-glass and lounging in his chair, he would contradict the most obvious axioms for the sake of an argument. "But why, my dear fellow?" and "What do you mean by that, my dear sir?" were phrases that constantly recurred upon his lips; and his delight when he had completely befogged a man who had sought to prove the absurd proposition that two and two make four and not five, or that black was black and not white or yellow ochre, was very evident.

His interest in theology was, as I have hinted, too evidently assumed; party politics he scarcely ever mentioned, but he was insistent in impressing upon the class their many duties as citizens; and a favourite saying of his at that time was that his religion consisted in doing his duty to his fellow men, and particularly in alleviating the lot of the poor - a definition I heard him repeat many years after in a Nonconformist Chapel.
J August 1899

He entered politics with the formation of the Liberal Association in Birmingham in 1865. As a rank and file member, he took part in the great reform meeting in 1866. He joined the Birmingham Education Society when it began in 1867 and became the leading spirit of the National Education League from its launch in 1869 to campaign for universal, compulsory, free, unsectarian education.

He was elected to the City Council for St Paul's Ward in November 1869 and was Mayor of Birmingham from 1873 to 1876. Under his leadership, the Council carried through sweeping reforms which laid the foundations of the modern city.

In 1874, the Chamberlains sold their interest in Nettlefold and Chamberlain for £600,000 and, henceforth, Joseph Chamberlain devoted himself to a political career. On 17th June 1876, he was elected unopposed as MP for West Birmingham.

When the Liberals won the 1880 election, he became President of the Board of Trade in Gladstone's 2nd cabinet. On 16th May, he acquired a London home at Prince's Gate and in November moved from Southbourne, his Birmingham home in Edgbaston, to the house he had built in Moseley. This was Highbury, so called from the London suburb to which the family moved in 1846.

The exterior of Highbury, Moor Green, Mr Chamberlain's residence is familiar to the dwellers of Moseley and Kings Heath, and it would be superfluous to attempt to more than allude to it. It is a handsome and spacious mansion, which will be handsomer still when time has a little toned down the newness

and redness of the bricks. Highbury commands a fine view of the surrounding country, and is sufficiently near Birmingham for Mr Chamberlain's constituents to feel that he likes to be within easy call of them and does not despise the city he represents. Thanks to his frequent and generous hospitality there are not many people in the neighbourhood who have not on some occasion or another had a glimpse of the interior of Highbury. Here everything speaks of the large-mindedness and wide interests of the owner. There is nothing vulgar, gaudy, or ostentatious. All tells a tale of cultivated taste and a liberal patronage of the fine arts. The most interesting feature of the visit is of course the orchid houses, Mr Chamberlain's peculiar pride and hobby. It would be difficult to estimate the care and expense he has bestowed upon his collection of this rare plant, but he undoubtedly has one of the finest in the kingdom. Wherever a fine orchid is to be bought Mr Chamberlain's emissary is on the spot, and day by day the gorgeous show increases in beauty and value. Most wealthy men have hobbies of some sort or another, and surely Mr Chamberlain's is one of the simplest and least harmful a man could have.

In London Mr Chamberlain has a noble mansion in Prince's Gate, overlooking the Park (9) ----- .
J March 1893

Highbury was to be a family home for his children as well as a suitable country residence for a rising politician. The following emphasises this aspect of the house.

An American View of Mr Chamberlain
(Ex-attache to New York Tribune)

I doubt whether there is any one of the Ministers who is happier in his home life than the statesman whom every man, woman, and child in England refers to familiarly as 'Joe'. His lovely country seat at Highbury is literally crowded with valuable works of art, comprising the masterpieces of Leighton, of Marcus Stone, and of Turner. But in his own library the places of honour on the walls are occupied by a large collection of childish sketches and blotchy paintings bearing very necessary labels, to the effect that 'This is a Robbin', 'This is a tree', &c. These are Christmas cards drawn by his children - their earliest attempts - when chubby hands found it hard to hold a pencil and a paint-brush. They were a labour of love, these Christmas cards, because 'father always likes so much what the little ones had drawn their very own selves' (10). So there they have remained, after many years, in the place of honour, bearing silent witness to that side of Mr Chamberlain's character which always excites the admiration of those who have the privilege of knowing him 'at home'.
J November 1899

After the Liberal election victory in 1885, Chamberlain became

(9) This was Hyde Park.

(10) This quote is not attributed to anyone in particular.

President of the Local Government Board but quit the Party in 1886, taking a number of members with him (11), because he opposed Gladstone's Irish Home Rule Bill, which he managed to defeat. With the Conservatives back in power, the Prime Minister, the Marquess of Salisbury, invited him in 1887 to lead the British delegation on a joint commission to try to settle a dispute between the United States and Canada over fishing rights off the coast of north-east Canada and New England. On that trip he met his third wife.

How Mr Chamberlain Met His Wife

In an illustrated character sketch of Mrs Joseph Chamberlain in The Young Woman for April, we are told that many stories are current in America as to how Mr Chamberlain and Mary Endicott became acquainted ----- the first meeting took place at the Washington mansion of Mr Cleveland's Secretary for War - Mary Endicott's father (12). Mr Endicott had invited Mr Chamberlain, as a distinguished English statesman then visiting America, to dine with him, and there the future Colonial Secretary - at that time a widower; indeed twice a widower (13) - met the lady who was fated to become his third wife. It was said he was immediately attracted to her by her brilliant conversation and evident intellectual capacity, and the esteem being mutual, the friendship thus formed quickly ripened into matrimony, so that on December 15th, 1888, at a pretty ivy-covered, old-fashioned church in Washington (14), Mr Chamberlain led Mary Endicott to the altar, the bride being at that time just 24 years of age and the bridegroom 52.

J April 1900

The new marriage was a happy one and the 3rd Mrs Chamberlain was also a considerable social asset, well able to hold her own in the social circles in which Chamberlain moved after 1895.

About Mrs Chamberlain

The wife of the Colonial Secretary has a much greater influence in the world of politics than is commonly supposed, says Woman's Weekly. Mrs Chamberlain is by no means one of the usual type of American women, and her stately mien and gentle dignity have enabled her to hold her own with ease among the titled daughters of Britain. It is no secret that the Minister's wife is a particular favourite of the Queen, who is by no means a lover of the too forward or up-to-date American girl. Mrs Chamberlain shares her husband's enthusiasm for flowers, but her special preference is for carnations. Mr

(11) These defectors became the nucleus of the Liberal Unionist Party led by Joseph Chamberlain.

(12) He first met her at a reception in his honour at the British Legation in Washington.

(13) He had previously been married to Harriet Kenrick in 1861 and then to her cousin, Florence Kenrick, in 1868. Both died following childbirth. For the children of the two marriages see the table opposite page 1.

(14) This was St John's Church on the other side of the Park from the White House. President Cleveland and most of his cabinet were present.

Chamberlain had a special conservatory built for his wife, and now she cultivates her particular blooms as assiduously as he does his orchids. The husband and wife then escort each other to view the flowers and pronounce judgement on their respective merits. Mr Chamberlain is in reality one of the most domesticated of men. In his private life he is as pronounced in his likes and dislikes as he is in public. He never by any chance wears slippers if he can avoid it, and he has an inveterate dislike to much physical exercise. He never had any liking for any kind of sport, even in his youth, and the one amusement which appealed to him was dancing.
J October 1900

An American View of Mr Chamberlain
(Ex-attache to New York Tribune)

Singularly happy, too, is Mr Chamberlain in his present wife. ----- Mrs Chamberlain is a particular favourite of the Queen ----- . The favour of the aged sovereign was shown when, at the time of her Jubilee (15), she conferred upon Mrs Chamberlain not the silver but the golden Jubilee Medal. Mrs Chamberlain is one of the very few non-Royal ladies to have been thus distinguished, the gold medal having been reserved for members of the reigning house and of foreign sovereign families ----- .
J November 1899

In 1895, Joseph Chamberlain became Secretary of State for the Colonies in Lord Salisbury's 3rd Cabinet - a coalition of Conservatives and Liberal Unionists - and, later, in the Cabinet of A.J. Balfour.

It was an accepted principle of government that crown colonies should raise their own capital for local development but Chamberlain thought otherwise. He strongly favoured investment in the Empire, both private and public, despite the disastrous outcome of his own imperial venture. This was sisal growing in the Bahamas, between 1891 and 1897, run by his son Neville. It ended in complete failure with great financial loss.

Mr Joseph Chamberlain and the West Indies

It will be remembered that some years ago an agitation arose in the West Indies to break off from English rule on account of the lack of interest shown to them by the Mother Country. The United States was approached on the matter, but nothing came of it. When Mr Chamberlain became Colonial Secretary he improved the situation. He showed his personal interest by going in for the speculative growing of Esparto grass (16), used on account of its strength and toughness - for making baskets, cordage, paper, etc. Mr Neville Chamberlain had charge of the estate from its initiation. Unfortunately the island, on which the estate was located, was visited by a hurricane of the worst kind, with the result that the labour of some years was ruined in less time than it has taken to write these lines. Any of my readers who have been to the West Indies and experienced the

(15) The Queen's Diamond Jubilee was in 1897.

(16) It was sisal and not esparto grass.

sudden visit of a hurricane will testify to its devastating effects (17). Mr Chamberlain cut his losses amounting to upwards of £70,000 (18) and gave up the Esparto grass "line".
B, M & KH J November 1917

Chamberlain explored various avenues for bringing about closer union between the white self-governing colonies and Great Britain, such as imperial federation, a co-ordinated defence system and a common market. However, these colonies preferred any ties to be voluntary and informal. True, in times of crisis, they tended to rally to the Mother Country but the decision lay with each individual colony. The following recognises this aid but might be thought to suggest a closer political and military bond than was, in fact, present. Actually, Chamberlain's policy achieved little.

Mr Joseph Chamberlain's Foresight

In January, 1896, Mr Chamberlain, in one of his great speeches, uttered the following prophetic words:- "And the time to come - and the time must come - when these colonies of ours have grown in population and strength, this league of kindred nations, this federation of Greater Britain will not only provide for its own security, but will be a potent factor in maintaining the peace of the world." The Great War has shown the truth of that great statesman's prediction.
B, M & KH J October 1918

Hardly had he taken office than he was embroiled in South African affairs. The Jameson Raid soon found him fighting for his political life. These two pieces give a pro-Chamberlain view of that event. The first was written many years later, but the second reflects the strong emotions Joseph Chamberlain always aroused in both friend and foe during his career.

Memories of Highbury

The "closing down" party at Highbury Hospital was naturally an occasion provocative of memories and reminiscence. One of the most interesting was that of Sir Gilbert Barling, the consulting surgeon from the earliest days of Highbury Hospital, who remarked that he probably had known Highbury longer than anyone present at the farewell party.

He was referring, of course, to its pre-war days when it was Mr Joseph Chamberlain's home, and he recalled how, a quarter of a century ago, when he used to visit Highbury to dine, he walked in the beautiful glasshouses filled with choice flowers, and inspected the library with its interesting books.

"I remember on one occasion," added Sir Gilbert, "Mrs Chamberlain told me of an incident in connection with the South African War. Mr Chamberlain was at home at Highbury when, to his great consternation and grief, he had a message to say the Jameson Raid had occurred. In five minutes he jumped into

(17) This is too simple an explanation. The project failed for a number of reasons.

(18) There was a loss of about £50,000.

a hansom, dashed off to New Street Station and caught the train to London - the last train for that night."

"I know some people have said (added Sir Gilbert) that he knew all about the raid, and I tell this to-night to give the lie on that particular point."

B, M & KH J January 1932

Since Mr Chamberlain entered Parliament in 1876 his experience has been not only varied and exciting but highly honourable, and to his unwearying and inexhaustible energy was largely due the final and irretrievable defeat of the Separation Bill (19). He is one of the few men who suddenly leaped from the position of an unofficial representative to be a Minister of Cabinet rank. Few have passed through a thicker cloud of calumny and "detraction rude", and fewer still have issued from it like Mr Chamberlain, unscathed and unsullied. His birthday this year coincides with the complete vindication of the right honourable gentleman's action in the South African imbroglio (20).
J July 1897

Chamberlain survived to dominate the Government between 1895 and 1903.

After the Raid, relations between Great Britain and the Transvaal continued to deteriorate and, on 12th October 1899, the South African War began. At the outset, British troops lacked imaginative leadership at the highest level and were poorly trained and equipped to deal with the type of mobile campaign waged by the Boers. After a series of defeats, the War Office became the target for much criticism.

The feeling in London, in the country, and indeed throughout the Empire is very bitter against the War Office. Our unfortunate disasters in South Africa (21) are laid at the door of the Pall Mall red-tapeists. The country has awakened to the fact that it has been grossly deceived by the jacks-in-office.

(19) This was Gladstone's Irish Home Rule Bill of 1886.

(20) This refers to the Report, in July 1897, of the Select Committee of the House of Commons set up to enquire into the circumstances surrounding the Jameson Raid of December 1895. It cleared Joseph Chamberlain of any blame in the matter. However, recent opinion tends to take a different view. For example, see Jameson's Raid: The Prelude to the Boer War by Elizabeth Longford. New Edition 1982.

Radical Joe: A Life of Joseph Chamberlain by Denis Judd. 1977. Pages 192 to 201.

Joseph Chamberlain: A Political Study by Richard Jay. 1981. Pages 202 to 208.

Joseph Chamberlain by Enoch Powell. 1977. Pages 106 to 112. These works are available at Kings Heath Library.

(21) The writer is referring to the shattering defeats inflicted on the British Army by the Boers at Stormberg, Magersfontein and Colenso during 'Black Week' - Monday, 11th to Saturday, 16th December 1899.

That there will be a clean sweep of the well-paid permanent officials, those by whom the War Minister is advised, is a foregone conclusion. It is a rascally shame that the War Office officials should have been so indifferent - so unpatriotic - regarding the equipment of the army ----- . It will no doubt occur to most people that a strong man is required for the post of War Minister and the man for that post is Mr Chamberlain.

J January 1900

However, in February 1900, mainly through Chamberlain's efforts, the Government managed to defeat a motion of censure in the House of Commons on their handling of the war.

Mr Chamberlain is admitted on all hands to be the one man in the Cabinet who has gained the confidence of the country during the great national crisis. The Colonial Minister's great speech in the House (22) was worthy of the occasion, and did more to restore the confidence throughout the Empire than the speeches of all the other members of the Cabinet put together.

J February 1900

In January 1900, Lord Roberts was put in command in South Africa, with Kitchener as his Chief of Staff. Soon after that, the tide of war began to turn.

The general election of October - the 'Khaki' election - arose from Chamberlain's desire to capitalise on apparent victory in South Africa. Roberts overran the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, capturing Bloemfontein in March and Pretoria in June. British celebrations were premature, however, for Boer guerilla tactics kept the war going for two more years.

At the election, the Unionists kept power but made only small gains and the electorate may have been influenced as much by Liberal divisions as by any positive enthusiasm for the Government.

Chamberlain himself had been accused of profiting from the war by having connections with companies like B.S.A. and Kynoch which had Government contracts.

----- Mr Lloyd George has been making himself ridiculous by his attack on Mr Chamberlain because of the fact that his brother, Mr Arthur Chamberlain, is Chairman of Kynoch and Co., Birmingham. Of course, the Colonial Secretary has "bossed" the Cabinet - or at all events the War Office - and threatened to resign unless all the ammunition required for the war in South Africa was supplied by Kynoch's, so that he himself, his brother, and all the Chamberlain family - including his sisters, his cousins, and his aunts - may get a good pull out of the contract. What the right hon. gentleman's commission

(22) Chamberlain's speech, on 5th February 1900, was in reply to an opposition (Liberal) motion of censure on the Government. However, he himself was the real target. His speech turned a likely defeat into a Government majority of 213.

will amount to it is impossible to say, but of this "there is no possible doubt whatever" that it would enable him to start a liver pill factory, worked on philanthropic lines, for the special benefit of his uncompromising political enemies. No great statesman has been so unscrupulously and maliciously attacked and vilified - privately as well as politically - as Mr Chamberlain. One is reminded of Landseer's picture "Dignity and Impudence" when referring to Mr Lloyd George. As a matter of fact the member for West Birmingham is in no way connected with Kynoch and Co.

J August 1900

On 7th July 1902, Joseph Chamberlain was involved in a cab accident and sustained a severe cut to the head. He was ordered to stay in bed for a fortnight. Lord Salisbury chose this moment to resign as Prime Minister and was succeeded by his nephew, Arthur Balfour, on 11th July. Chamberlain continued at the Colonial Office. His injury was marked by these verses.

To Tune of Poor Old Joe - students at Birmingham University at Degree Day. Chancellor Joseph Chamberlain unable to attend because of an accident.

Poor Old Joe

Gone are my chances of seeing Brum today,
Gone are my hopes of giving degrees away,
Shatter'd in a hansom cab a short time ago,
Though I hear gentle voices saying, "Poor old Joe".

I'm not coming, I'm not coming,
For my head is bandaged so;
Though I hear kindly voices calling,
"Poor old Joe".

Why should I weep when my head doth feel no pain?
Why do I sigh, that I may not come again?
Why am I absent from that great festive show,
Where my dear Undergrads are singing, "Poor old Joe"?

I'm not coming, I'm not coming,
For my head is bandaged so;
Though I hear Undergrads all singing,
"Poor old Joe".

J August 1902

By the turn of the century, Chamberlain was the best-known and most controversial politician in the country. Earlier, his appearance and manner of speaking in public were thus described.

In personal appearance Mr Chamberlain is tall and somewhat slightly built, and looks very considerably younger than his years. In repose his face suggests a calmness almost amounting to cynicism, but when his mouth moves and his eyes twinkle one detects at once a keen sense of humour and a ready appreciation of the ridiculous. It is a powerful thoughtful face, the face of a man who has always considered and considered well before he has spoken.

Mr Chamberlain's most brilliant speeches have ever been heightened and his most scathing sarcasms relieved by his happy wit. He has a wonderful knack of applying quotation and well-known anecdotes to the question at issue. He can enlist the sympathies of his audience in one of his highest flights of oratory by a sudden swoop down to some common place everyday incident which strikes right home to them, and even when he is shooting the arrow of his bitterest and most withering irony he can tip the point with a touch of humour which takes half the poison from the barb.

J March 1893

Later, much was written about him of which the following are examples.

An American View of Mr Chamberlain
(Ex-attache to New York Tribune)

----- Although Mr Chamberlain has plenty of 'nerve', more so than any of his colleagues, there is not one in the Cabinet, with the possible exception of the Duke of Devonshire, who is more entirely devoid of what is known as 'nerves'. He is the most self-possessed man it has ever been my lot to meet, and gives at no time stronger evidence thereof than when making a public speech. True, he does not, like his friend and ally, the Duke, pause in the middle of his discourse to yawn, and then explain, by way of apology, that the speech is so dreadfully dreary: but his utter absence of nervousness is displayed in the most amusing manner by the management of his cigar. When making an after-dinner speech most men become quite oblivious of the fact that at the moment of rising they are smoking, and they permit their cigars to go out. Not so Mr Chamberlain, whose weed is still alight at the close of even his longest speech. He manages this in a wily and even effective way by employing the intervals occasioned by applause in attending to his cigar. It is an edifying thing to see him reviving his half-extinguished weed while the applause is ringing, and malicious persons have been heard to say 'Joe makes his best point when he sees that his cigar needs attention'. It may be added that Mr Chamberlain has exceptional advantages, inasmuch as his speeches are always plentifully broken in this way. But all the same, the feat is indicative of the clear-headedness, coolness and absence of all nervousness on the part of the man.

J November 1899

Mr Chamberlain's Parliamentary Methods

Full of distinctive characteristics (says Chambers Journal) is Mr Joseph Chamberlain - unquestionably the most interesting personality in Parliament. Watch him as he enters the House from behind the Speaker's chair. His head is jerked forward, and on his face a frown. He makes his way to his place, and, before sitting beside the Leader of the House, takes from the table an order-paper of the day. This, as is generally known, contains a programme of the business to be transacted at that evening's sitting. Having seated himself, he studies the paper intently for a few seconds, and, having apparently mastered its contents, throws it from him with an impatient gesture. Mr Chamberlain then readjusts his eyeglass, thrusts his legs

straight out before him, and looks round the House. On rising to speak he places his neatly-written notes on the brass-bound box before him, and having put the edges straight, fires away. Mr Chamberlain speaks slowly and uses scarcely any gesture. Most dangerous when most polite, his face becomes like a piece of parchment when roused to anger. In the art of crushing an adversary by an inconvenient quotation or by some personal thrust Mr Chamberlain is unequalled. It is this gift which makes him as formidable on the platform as he is in the House of Commons. At public meetings he always seems to expect a few of his old Radical friends (23) among the audience. But woe be to the interrupter! Led on by the orator with a seductive question, his opponent gives just the reply expected. Back like lightning comes a crushing retort, and thenceforth all is smooth sailing. His perorations are invariably written out in full in his study, and frequently committed to memory. His voice is firm and clear, but not very musical; his enunciation perfect. Mr Chamberlain's chief recreation is the gout, and many of those friends who prophesied he must, of necessity, die twenty years ago, the Colonial Secretary has helped to bury. Everybody ought to know him from the multiplicity of his portraits and caricatures; but, as a matter of fact, comparatively few people recognise the real man as he appears in the street. He always walks from Downing Street to the House - which is about the only exercise he takes - but what with his stunted figure, his ungainly stride, his protruding head, his concentrated look and the eternal big cigar in his mouth, he is little or nothing like the conventional caricature or photograph, and it is only an occasional onlooker who murmurs "Joe" as he passes. He has an excellent taste in waistcoats, ties, and orchids, and is made much of by those who, in his socialistic days, screamed at the mere mention of his name.

J January 1902

Taxes had been increased to finance the South African War and the budget of 1902 included a small duty on imported corn. Chamberlain sought to retain it for other countries while allowing free entry to Empire produce. He saw this as a small step towards meeting the wishes of the Colonial Conference of 1902 which had urged the United Kingdom to adopt imperial preference in trade. However, the Cabinet decided to drop the duty altogether in the 1903 budget.

Chamberlain's answer was to make the disagreement public. In a Birmingham speech on 15th May 1903, he strongly advocated imperial preference and retaliation against foreign tariffs. A Tariff Reform campaign now developed in which the emphasis soon shifted from preferential treatment for the Empire to protection for British goods.

He was supported by many manufacturers and a large section of the Conservative and Liberal Unionist rank and file but opposed by most of the leadership. Balfour tried to keep the Unionists together. In September he accepted Chamberlain's resignation - to campaign in

(23) These were members of the radical wing of the Liberal Party, to which he once belonged.

the country for Tariff Reform - but also rid the Cabinet of the Colonial Secretary's hard-line critics.

Chamberlain's political significance is, perhaps, best illustrated by the fact that this jingle could still appear more than a year after his resignation from the Government.

Another "Line and Rhyme"

To Balfour says Joe, "You're the greatest of men;
I've said it before, and I'll say it again."
Says Balfour to Joseph, "It's perfectly true,
No couple are equal to me and to you;
And the country we govern is safe as can be,
So long as it's governed by you and by me."
From "Cartoons in Rhyme and Line"
J December 1904

After reconstructing his Cabinet, Balfour published a compromise document on Tariff Reform which pleased neither side. Much public discussion of Chamberlain's proposals followed.

A London barber displays the following notice in his window:-
"Silence is our golden rule. A patron may rest assured that neither the proprietor of this establishment nor his assistant will air his views on Mr Chamberlain's Tariff proposal; nor will a customer be asked what he thinks of it."
J August 1903

The Unionists were irreparably split. Their disarray helped to pave the way for the return of the last Liberal Government, thus ensuring the failure of Chamberlain's crusade for Tariff Reform. This comment came more than a decade later.

The Free Trade Fetish

The country appears at last to have awakened to the folly of studying the economic interests of other nations in preference to its own. Mr Chamberlain killed himself by an overstrain of work, extending over some years, in trying to drive out the antiquated and one-sided Cobden theory (24). The idea of getting hold of things cheap is not of much use if you have not the money to buy with. Germany was very considerably helped in building up her fleet by her vast exports to this country. Many staple Birmingham trades were badly hit - notably brass-foundry. We used to be told by Free Traders that if a certain trade was lost, or fell away, we must make up by embarking in some other line! A nice consolation to anyone who had invested his all. Well do I remember a cutting remark in reference to this by Mr Chamberlain in one of his great tariff reform speeches at the Town Hall. He had pointed out the absurdity of suggesting such a business remedy, adding, after a pause,

(24) Richard Cobden (1804-65) was the foremost advocate of Free Trade and the most influential member of the Anti-Corn Law League which mobilised public opinion against the duty on corn. The agitation was ultimately successful and the Corn Laws were repealed in June 1846.

"Well, if you lose the iron trade, you can make mouse traps!"
The crowded audience greeted this sally with loud laughter.

Sugar Cards

The Free Trade fetish is brought home to us in a marked manner by the shortage of sugar. There is nothing like experience to teach us wisdom! For many, many years the British West Indies practically supplied us with all the sugar we needed - and at a price we shall never see again!

What Free Trade has done

The Austrian Government grant a bounty to the beet growers, consequently the West Indian sugar-cane planters suffered.

B, M & KH J November 1917

In December 1905, Balfour resigned. Campbell-Bannerman formed a Liberal Government and his party was returned with a large majority at the election of January 1906.

Chamberlain held Birmingham for the Unionists but Balfour lost his seat. Unionist representation was cut to 157 seats - about two-thirds of whom supported Chamberlain's policy. He might now have wrested the leadership from Balfour but fate took a hand.

In July 1906, Chamberlain was 70 and was feted by Birmingham to celebrate his 30 years as an MP. A week later, he suffered a stroke which paralysed his right side and ended his political career. He remained an MP in name only until his death on 2nd July 1914.

No mention of his disability appeared in the Moseley and Kings Heath Journal at the time and the relevant copies of the Birmingham, Moseley and Kings Heath Society Journal are missing. However, this appeared five years later.

Highbury

Saturday, 8th July, was the seventy-fifth birthday of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, it was spent by him at Highbury with his family. Mr Chamberlain's health is much better than at the time of his return from Cannes, and the weather being fine he was able to spend the greater part of the day in the garden. In the early evening he received a visit from the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Ward, K.C.M.G., Prime Minister of New Zealand. He was also the recipient of a large number of letters and telegrams of congratulation.

B, M & KH S J August 1911

His death and funeral at Key Hill Cemetery also went unreported by the Birmingham, Moseley and Kings Heath Society Journal. In September 1914, his passing was indirectly touched on when a toast to his memory was mentioned in an account of the 35th Annual Show of the Moseley and Kings Heath Horticultural Society at Highbury.

Highbury was used as a hospital in the 1914-18 War and, later, as a home for disabled ex-servicemen. In 1932, it was presented to Birmingham Corporation.

Mary Chamberlain subsequently remarried as noted in the following

items.

No. 40 Prince's Gardens

The announcement is made that the late Mr Joseph Chamberlain's house, 40, Prince's Gardens, South Kensington, is to be sold next month. No doubt some of my readers, when visiting London, have taken the opportunity of having a passing look at the residence of the great statesman. It was here that he passed away after some years of affliction. Prince's Gardens is a quiet secluded spot, leading out of that fine thoroughfare Exhibition Road. It will be remembered that the residence was left by Mr Chamberlain to his widow, who resided there until her marriage, and a little time after, to Canon Carnegie, Rector of St Margaret's, Sub-dean of Westminster, and Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons. Canon and Mrs Carnegie eventually removed to Dean's Yard, Westminster.

B, M & KH J June 1920

Death of Mrs Endicott

The death of Mrs Endicott, which took place at her home at Boston (Mass.) on the 20th ult., removes another link with the late Mr Joseph Chamberlain, whose third wife was her daughter, Miss Mary Endicott.

In 1916 Mrs Chamberlain, who had been a widow for some years, married Canon Carnegie, Rector of St Margaret's, Westminster, and Chaplain of the House of Commons.

Previous to being appointed to St Margaret's, Canon Carnegie was Rector of Birmingham Cathedral.

B, M & KH J September 1927

Finally, as Joseph Chamberlain's ancestry was mentioned on page 1, it seems apt to end with this piece about his wife's family.

The death was announced, on the 6th inst., at Boston, of Mr Endicott, Mr Chamberlain's father-in-law, of pneumonia. Mr William C. Endicott, who was born in ----- Salem, Massachusetts, ----- was Secretary for War in President Cleveland's Government. He belonged to a good old English stock, having as an ancestor John Endecott (25) one of the original patentees of the Plymouth grant, and the only one of them who sailed with the expedition which started from Weymouth in May, 1628, landed at Salem in New England in September. Mr Endicott married a grand-daughter of the great philanthropist, George Peabody. By this marriage, in addition to a son, he had an only daughter, who married in 1888, as his third wife, the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

J May 1900

Widowed twice during a long life, Mary Carnegie died in 1957.

(25) John Endecott (ENDECOTT) (1588?-1665) was probably born at Dorchester. He went on the Abigail to Salem as Governor in 1628. Later, he was Deputy-Governor of Massachusetts, 1641-44, 1650 and 1654, and Governor six times between 1644 and 1665.