

**OUR RADICALS: A TALE
OF LOVE AND POLITICS.
IN TWO VOLUMES, VOL. II**

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Our Radicals: A Tale of Love and Politics. In Two Volumes, Vol. II by Fred. Burnaby

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FRED. BURNABY

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IN TWO VOLUMES, VOL. II**

Westminster

THE LAST WORK OF COLONEL BURNABY.

OUR RADICALS.

A Tale of Love and Politics.

BY

FRED. BURNABY.

EDITED, WITH PREFACE,

BY

His Private Secretary,

J. PERCIVAL HUGHES.

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OUR RADICALS.

CHAPTER I.

ALL the Members of the Cabinet assembled at the council-meeting held in the Foreign Office.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by Lord O'Hagan Harton and Lord Hartigig, were the first to arrive. Mr. Buttertongue and Sir Charles Able, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, had later on put in an appearance. Sir Charles was the only man in the Cabinet who was respected by friends and foes alike. From his singular talents and undoubted veracity,

he ought certainly to have been Prime Minister. An advanced Radical, he was yet a patriot in the truest sense of the word, and it bitterly mortified him to feel that the party to which he belonged had carried out policies at home and abroad so utterly contrary to his own ideas. However, much as he was opposed to the principles of his colleagues, he would not give in his resignation, lest he should be the first to break up the party. He could have been a member of the Coalition Government had he wished, but, sore as the temptation had been, he had nevertheless stood firm to his side.

‘I think we are all assembled,’ observed the Prime Minister, looking round. ‘Let me see, Mr. Steadyfile and Lord Camberwell are not here.’

In a few minutes the Earl of Camberwell and Mr. Steadyfile entered the room.

‘Capital!’ said Mr. Cumbermore; ‘and now to business.’

Later on the Prime Minister said :

‘It would be fatal to our party to dissolve at the present time.’

‘There can be no doubt about that,’ said Mr. Steadyfile.

‘We must remain in office at all hazards,’ said Sir Poplar Burlyman.

‘Now with reference to Lord Cromer,’ said the Prime Minister. ‘You have heard the reports, which are unfortunately too well founded. Here is a copy of the speech he is said to have made, and it justifies me in having his lordship arrested on a charge of high treason.’

‘Certainly,’ said Sir Poplar Burlyman ; ‘but who is to arrest him ? His position is strong.’

‘Metrale will see that it is done,’ answered Mr. Cumbermore, ‘and I am sure that you are all agreed as to the advisability of the thing.’

No dissenting voice being heard, the Prime Minister continued :

‘ Our troops have again been defeated in Ireland ; we must remember that it will be impossible to conceal that fact from the public many more hours. When it is announced, there will be terrible excitement in the City and throughout the country.’

‘ Have you full particulars ?’ said Sir Poplar Burlyman.

‘ The details at present are as follow : Lord Saxborough, in whom we placed implicit confidence, encountered the rebels near Tallaght. Saxborough’s despatch says that all went well at the commencement of the engagement ; but after a time two of his Irish regiments, that had been sent to support an attack on the enemy’s left, suddenly deserted. Seeing this, he despatched two cavalry regiments with orders to attack the American contingent from the

rear, as their General had neglected to support his left wing. Our cavalry had nearly succeeded in effecting this movement, when they were assailed by an overpowering number of the rebels, and prevented from carrying out their orders. The day would have been ours, had Lord Saxborough had one more regiment at his command ; but the loss of the 21st Dragoon Guards turned the scale in the Fenians' favour, and he had to retire, leaving Dublin in the possession of the rebel forces. He has entrenched himself at the mouth of the Tunnel, and if we can only supply him with reinforcements he is confident of ultimate success. Our losses are heavy, but the actual number is unknown at present. The enemy suffered terribly, but their force is still great in numbers. At present,' continued the Prime Minister, ' Lord Saxborough must remain quiet, for

every man I can rely upon will be required to defend London should Lord Cromer advance.'

'Do not let any more go at present,' said Lord O'Hagan Harton; 'we must be protected.'

'If it were not for the strong public feeling in England, I should say let the United States annex Ireland,' remarked Sir Poplar Burlyman.

'That is all very well,' said Mr. Steadyfile; 'but what a cry there would be from people who have property there!'

'Property be d——d!' said Sir Poplar Burlyman.

'So it is nearly,' said Lord Camberwell.

'What is this trickling from the ceiling?' said the Lord Chancellor, as some liquid fell upon his hand; 'it is not water!'

He shook the drops from his hand into the fire, and it was at once clear that the