

My first interest in Politics began when I was three ^{3½} and a half years old, I was born in 1862. We were staying at Lytham and my father, the late Henry Arthur Bright showed me a flag flying half mast for the death of Lord Palmeston the Prime Minister. I did not know who Lord Palmeston was, or what the word Prime Minister meant, but the incident made a great impression on me.

When I was at Harrow 1876 to 1879 I became a strong Radical, following Mr Gladstone in his views on the Eastern question and intensely disliking the Imperialism of Lord Beaconsfield. I followed Mr Gladstone when he declared for Home Rule for Ireland.

I never thought of politics as a career having always the greatest distaste for professional politics and professional politicians.

My life in Liverpool was that of a Merchant and Shipowner. When the Boer War came I strongly opposed the policy which led to it. In the Autumn of 1899 I contested Exeter and although the war was raging I increased the Liberal poll.

When the General Election came I again contested Exeter ¹⁹⁰⁰. In 1901 at the request of the late Herbert Gladstone I fought a bye-election at Oswestry. Although I was called "pro-Boer" I again polled the full Liberal vote. I believe

I have addressed more turbulent meetings than any man living except Lloyd George.

In 1904 there was again a bye-election in Oswestry and this time I won the seat. The contest was mainly on protection, a policy I ~~have always opposed~~ and still oppose. My political interests and my speeches in the House of Commons were confined to two points, Personal freedom and sound finance.

I was defeated in Oswestry in 1906. At the request of my old friend John Frederick Cheetham I unsuccessfully contested Stalybridge twice in 1910.

Altogether I fought seven elections in little more than ten years. My object in each case however, was to further certain views which I considered right. I suppose each contest cost me about £1,000- but I had help from friends and sometimes from the Liberal Party. I think, however, I spent in one way or another out of my own pocket, about £10,000: in politics. The ten years I gave up to Politics diminished my income as it took my attention from business. For a short time I was Chairman of the Liberal Party in Liverpool.

The Statesmen ~~in the past who most affected me and~~ with whom I had most sympathy were ~~Charles James~~ Fox, Cobden, and ^{John} ~~John~~ Bright, who was no relation, and in my own time Campbell Bannerman;

[Parliament did not modify my views and] the best speech I ever heard was made by Gladstone in Liverpool during the Home Rule campaign; ~~As to~~ my best piece of work in Parliament, it was that I was largely instrumental in abolishing flogging in Military Prisons, ^{see} ~~for~~ particulars of which I refer to Hansard (1905)

In 1885 I married Edith, youngest daughter of the late Alfred Turner, J.P. of Liverpool. She died in 1929. I have one daughter by this marriage, Edith Honora born in 1890. In 1929 I married Kelburn Milroy, daughter of the late James Ramsay of Auchencairn and have one daughter, Elizabeth Mary born in 1930.

I was put into the Commission of the Peace for Liverpool in 1901 and resigned in 1923 when I was appointed into the Commission of the Peace for Herefordshire.

I am a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and have written a book on Piers Plowman. ←

I left Liverpool in 1920 when I came to reside at Barton Court, Colwall, *Hamp.*