

sources) fairly and squarely and presents eminently sensible and scrupulously fair assessments. The reader is allowed to come to his own conclusions.

The accuracy of the factual material is very high indeed. But the premature death from cancer of Lloyd George's only sister Mrs Mary Ellen Davies in 1909 is rather glossed over (p. 187) without a full exegesis of the nature of the relationship between brother and elder sister, although the source materials do exist. LG's prostate operation actually took place in August 1931, not 1932 (p. 253). There are occasional references to a 'Welsh Liberal Party' (see, for example, p. 541), but such an entity did not exist officially until March 1967, by which time Lady Megan Lloyd George was in her grave.

The volume has a large number of highly evocative photographs, some fresh and never published before, some familiar, well-worn and published many times previously. A striking, highly contemporary note is struck with the inclusion of a photograph of the statue of Lloyd George in Parliament Square unveiled only last autumn – a bridge between the past and the present. There is a helpful bibliography of source materials and useful (if somewhat selective) endnote references. (There are some occasions where the curious reader is left craving to know the source of the information presented.) The index is extremely detailed, and in many instances Mrs Hague provides her readership with most helpful pieces of additional (or parallel) information in asterisked footnotes. These are a great asset to readers less familiar with the complex, often frenzied, course of events in Lloyd George's personal and political life.

This book deserves to be read alongside John Campbell's equally informative and revealing *If Love Were All ...*

The Story of Lloyd George and Frances Stevenson (Jonathan Cape, 2006) to which it is an admirable companion volume. One hopes that Mrs Hague will now continue her pioneering researches. With the publication of the present volume (together with some other publications), one feels that Dame Margaret Lloyd George has been given the recognition and prominence she genuinely deserves. The traditional image of the dumpy, dowdy Welsh woman tied by

choice to the kitchen sink at Brynawelon, Criccieth has been dispelled once and for all. Might one suggest that a full biography of this remarkable lady (for which the sources certainly exist) might now be a most worthy second project for this talented researcher and author?

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Women and Gladstone

Anne Isba, *Gladstone and Women* (Hambledon Continuum, 2006)

Reviewed by **Gillian Sutherland**

With the publication of the present volume (together with some other publications), one feels that Dame Margaret Lloyd George has been given the recognition and prominence she genuinely deserves.

IT IS difficult to be certain as to the audience for whom this book is intended. It is set up as a series of linked essays, each dealing with a stage in Gladstone's relationships with a woman or group of women. With footnotes all at the end, perhaps it is meant to appeal to that mythical beast, the general reader. Yet the readers who will get most out of it are social and political historians. They will have the background to supply the full resonances to the stories that are told and can use them as case studies to illuminate larger themes. (Although it should be added that all audiences would have benefited from more careful proofreading of the text.)

The account of Gladstone's childhood and education shows the often crippling effects on young men of the middle and upper classes in early nineteenth century England of a largely homosocial world. In Gladstone's case these were dramatised and enhanced by the chronic ill health of his mother and elder sister and their powerful Evangelical beliefs. The result was that when he

reached adulthood, he had no idea how to behave naturally towards young women of his own class and age and narrowly escaped several unfortunate and ill-assorted alliances. It was sheer good fortune that brought him into extended contact with Catherine Glynne in Italy and led to an exceptionally strong and happy marriage. In this version of *Amours de Voyage*, Claude and Mary Trevellyn did get married.

The whole family's treatment of Gladstone's sister Helen, who took to opium and the Roman Catholic Church, is a shabby episode. Undoubtedly she was difficult, starved of affection and resorted to self-dramatisation to compensate. At least part of the problem was that she had energies and a mind which were woefully under-used; and a less affluent family might have found relief for themselves and for her in encouraging her to make an economic contribution to the household through teaching or nursing. Her most tranquil and effective period was when she cared for her failing father. Otherwise, she was

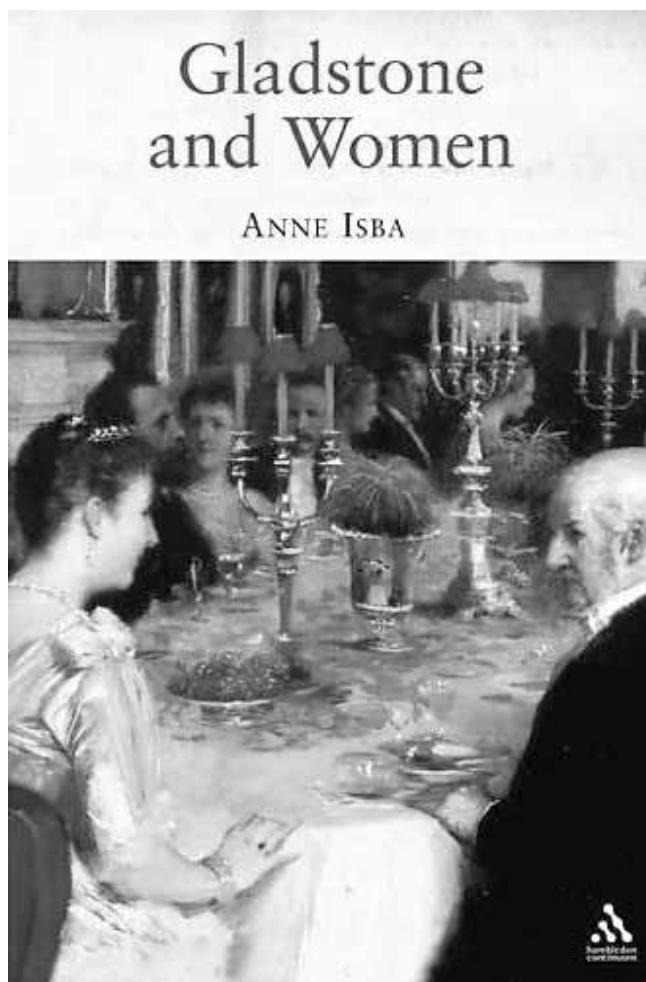
simply expected to be – an example of how crippling the Victorian doctrine of separate spheres could be for middle and upper-class women.

That part of the book which might be thought to pull in the ‘general reader’ is the chapter, ‘Fallen Women’, on Gladstone’s efforts to rescue prostitutes. Paradoxically this is one of the less effective chapters. Since the publication of his *Diaries* we have known that Gladstone engaged in this; and that, finding some part of it sexually exciting, would on occasion scourge himself. What is desperately needed is context. We need to know far more about rescue work engaged in by other men of his age and class, and with comparable religious beliefs. The proliferation of refugees for fallen women suggests that Gladstone wasn’t wholly alone in his concern. What we need to know was not that he engaged in rescue work but to what extent he was exceptional in roaming the streets personally, in testing his faith, his moral sense and self-control in these ways.

For the political historian the meat in this book is the discussion of Gladstone’s relationship with Queen Victoria. It shows just how wayward and difficult a monarch she was and how far she attempted to push the royal prerogative, for example trying but consistently failing to make Gladstone give the Prince of Wales a minor government post. Comparison of Victoria’s treatment of Gladstone after 1880 with that before 1874 also makes it clear how outrageously Disraeli flattered her. Plainly this made it easier for him to manage his sovereign. But did he also realise how difficult he would make life for the premiers who followed him? Perhaps he did – and didn’t care.

The reader already well versed in the history of nineteenth-century England will find the material for some interesting case studies in this book. The lack of such a background may make the going harder for anyone else.

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is among those teaching a final-year paper called ‘The Politics of Gender: Great Britain and Ireland 1790–1990’.

John Stuart Mill: Liberal Father of Feminism (concluded from p. 15)

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| <p>1 John Stuart Mill, <i>The Subjection of Women</i> (London: Longmans, 1869). <i>Collected Works of John Stuart Mill</i>, University of Toronto Press, 33 vols., Vol. XXI, p. 261. Hereafter all references to the <i>Collected Works</i> will appear as <i>CW</i>.</p> <p>2 <i>Female Suffrage. A letter from the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., to Samuel Smith, M.P.</i> Pamphlet (pub. John Murray, London, 1892). Quoted in Constance Rover, <i>Women’s Suffrage and Party Politics in Britain,</i></p> | <p>1866–1914 (London: Routledge, 1967), p. 119.</p> <p>3 <i>Autobiography</i>, <i>CW</i> I, p. 107.</p> <p>4 <i>Parl. Deb.</i> 4 S. vol 3, c.1513 quoted in Rover p.123.</p> <p>5 ‘The Admission of Women to the Electoral Franchise’, <i>CW</i>, XXVIII, pp. 158–9.</p> <p>6 <i>Ibid.</i>, p. 157.</p> <p>7 <i>Female Suffrage. A letter from the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., to Samuel Smith, M.P.</i> Pamphlet (pub. John Murray, London, 1892). Quoted in Constance Rover, <i>Women’s Suffrage and</i></p> | <p><i>Party Politics in Britain, 1866–1914</i> (London: Routledge, 1967), p. 120.</p> <p>8 <i>Parl. Deb.</i> 4 S. vol. 3, c.1513 quoted in Rover p. 123.</p> <p>9 <i>Subjection</i>, <i>CW</i>, XXI, p. 276.</p> <p>10 <i>Representative Government</i>. <i>CW</i>, XIX p. 479.</p> <p>11 <i>Subjection</i>, <i>CW</i>, XXI, p. 323.</p> <p>12 <i>Ibid.</i> p. 323</p> <p>13 <i>Ibid.</i> p. 325.</p> <p>14 Jose Harris, <i>Private Lives, Public Spirit: Britain 1870–1914</i>. London: Penguin, 1993, p. 28.</p> <p>15 M O N C U R E C O N W A Y ,</p> | <p><i>Autobiography</i> (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 2 vols, 1904), vol. 2, p. 165.</p> <p>16 Millicent Fawcett in H. R. Fox Bourne, <i>John Stuart Mill: Notices of his Life and Works</i>, London: Dallow, 1873, pp. 60–61.</p> <p>17 Letter to Charles Dilke, 28 May 1870, <i>CW</i>, XVII p. 1728.</p> <p>18 Letter to Charles Kingsley, 9 July 1870, <i>CW</i>, XVII, p. 1744.</p> <p>19 Letter to George Croom Robertson, 5 November 1872, Charles Kingsley, 9 July 1870, <i>CW</i>, XVII p. 1917.</p> |
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