

held to his earlier beliefs Mr. GLADSTONE could not have been a Liberal as Liberalism was understood in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. But the beliefs which Mr. GLADSTONE silently or expressly recanted are hardly comparable to the practices for which Mr. HILL was censured through a considerable part of his career. From the beginning of the year 1883, when as Lieutenant Governor Mr. HILL came conspicuously before the public, up to the time when he took his seat in the United States Senate, in 1891, this newspaper was unable to find much to commend in his career, though it found much to condemn. There could be no extenuation or palliation of some of the methods by which he gained his political ends. The scandal of the Aqueduct Commission and of the Canvassing Board juggle with election returns which gave the Democrats control of the Senate in 1891, the "snap" convention scheming of 1892, are faint memories now, but they roused the public resentment against Mr. HILL in their day as was demonstrated by the great Republican majority in 1893.

DAVID B. HILL's ability was never fairly recognized until he took his seat in the Senate. There he surprised his own State, he surprised the country. He not only showed a clear grasp of questions of financial policy, of revenue, and of taxation, subjects in which he had before appeared to take no particular interest, but he exhibited a readiness, a capacity, and a courage in general debate which won the admiration even of his opponents. In 1892 Mr. HILL had caused the "snap" convention to be assembled in order to secure a delegation pledged to support him in the National Democratic Convention of that year. He succeeded in that immediate end, but his political judgment was woefully at fault, as was proved when the delegates from other States, representing the commanding will of the party, rolled over his pledged delegation and made New York ridiculous. In the Senate, however, where during his second term Mr. CLEVELAND had few friends, Mr. HILL became one of the chief defenders of his policies.

Again, in 1896, Mr. HILL justified his famous phrase, "I am a Democrat," by using all his influence and doing everything that lay in his power to resist the overwhelming sweep of Bryanism. "I am a Democrat still—very still," he wrote during that campaign. With the Populistic doctrines and theories that have beswept the country and muddled its political thinking since the rise of Bryanism, Mr. HILL had no sympathy. In his later years, too, he won the respect of the bar and of the community by the ability he displayed as counsel in causes involving important public questions. It is not often that a lawyer returning to the practice of his profession after years spent in politics achieves such distinction as he won by some of his arguments in court, remarkable for their clearness of reasoning and for their grasp of the foundation principles of law. It was a career of remarkable contrasts that has closed with his death, and it is fortunate for his memory that the achievements of the last ten years of his life have so far atoned for what had gone before. In politics Mr. HILL may be said to have belonged to the Tilden school, in that he knew the value of incessant attention to the details of political management. But his methods, of course, were very different from those of Mr. TILDEN. It was a political career which, in the changed conditions of these later days, can hardly be repeated.

#### DAVID B. HILL.

The closing years of DAVID B. HILL's career in politics and in public life wrought a wonderful change in men's judgment of him, and softened, though they could by no means remove, the unfavorable impressions to which his earlier methods had given rise. A change similar in degree, though very different in character, came over Mr. GLADSTONE in middle life. Had he