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. ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR

39  
BRITISH POLITICAL

PORTRAITS

*J. Chase-Casparian  
Munich.*

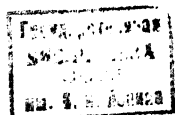
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### MR. BALFOUR AS A SPEAKER.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

Mr. Balfour is a great speaker and a great debater, but a great orator, in the sense in which oratory is commonly defined, he certainly is not. And this for one excellent reason, namely, that he despises oratory. It would be quite impossible to imagine him getting upon his feet, in the House of Commons, and pouring out the rounded periods of a John Bright. He is, indeed, credited with never having descended to a peroration in his life. To him the form of a speech, provided always that it is artistic, in the sense you expect artistry from a scholar, is quite immaterial, the argument is everything. Consequently he is never at his best until he is leading an attack upon a difficult position, or defending an untenable one, whilst it is, therefore, naturally as a debater that he puts forward his greatest efforts. The orator composing a speech on paper, learning it by heart, and then thundering it out to an applauding audience, would at all times be sure of Mr. Balfour's sincerest sympathy. For he has never made any particular secret of his opinion of what may be termed eloquence by rote.

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