

## John Bright and the Carpet.

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Before the Laboucheres lived in Old Palace Yard, various interesting people had owned the house, and a certain lady who was at one time *Châtelaine* there, had very high political aspirations, and a desire to be exclusive. Her husband, on the contrary, a Member of Parliament, was most democratic in his tendencies, so there was often a great mixture in their entertainments. One night at dinner, John Bright was sitting near his hostess, and she was rather annoyed at having him among her smart guests, and thought to give him a direct snub, so she said during a pause in the conversation: "Mr. Bright, this rug, I understand, was made by you, and I am very dissatisfied with it. I have only had it a short time, and it is very shabby, and badly made." "Is it?" said Mr. Bright, getting up deliberately from the table and taking a silver candelabrum, which he put down upon the floor, and getting on his knees, closely examined the carpet. "You are quite right," he said, blithely getting up, "it is a bad carpet, and I will order my firm to send you another in its place;" and then he calmly resumed his political conversation and the dinner went on.

From *I Myself*, by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, second edition, 1910.

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A short life of Sir David Dale (1829-1906) has been written by Howard Pease, the author of various sketches of life in Northumberland, (London: Murray, 7½ by 5, pp. 97, 3s. 6d. net, with portrait). Sir David, first Baronet, was of Scotch descent, but born in India, and resident most of his life in Darlington, co. Durham. His mother, Ann Eliza Dale, joined Friends in 1841 and soon became a Minister (see *The Diaries of Edward Pease*, 1907). Her son also became a Friend. David Dale was well known for many years as an iron-master and head of numerous business concerns. He had the confidence of both masters and men, and often adjudicated between them.

"He was, as we have seen, originally a Quaker, and no doubt in the quiet of a Quaker meeting there would be much that was congenial to his soul: but later developments, the Pietism and politics which seem to have invaded the former quietude of the Society, were uncongenial, and he resigned his membership shortly after his second marriage" to the eldest daughter of the late Sir Frederick Milbank, of Yorkshire (p. 56).

But doubtless there were connections outside the Society as well as circumstances within, which caused Sir David to leave Friends. The writer is hardly fair in making the Society alone responsible for the defection.

Following the memoir is an Appreciation by Sir Edward Grey, spoken in 1910.