

return, of putting in a word for the mighty British Empire in general, and little New Zealand in particular. Wherever in the course of his travels, with his keen eye for the advancement of the nation which gave him birth, he saw aught that he judged defective in any particular of administration, he denounced it with no uncertain sound. And on the other hand, whenever he encountered anything worthy of praise he accorded it with as free a hand. It was this blunt outspokenness, this genuine and laudable desire to give all and sundry the

has not had some of his motives or actions misconstrued? It goes without saying that there have been some slight rifts in the lute on which our Premier accompanied his Song of Empire—some few flies in the pot of ointment with which he sought to assist to grease the wheels of State, but what after all were these compared with the results attained? Nought—very nought. For instance, the Colonial Conference disappointed him. Of it he had hoped much—too much, perhaps. His compeers were not prepared to ascend the heights to



Lewis H. Chesterton, The House in which the Premier was born.

Photo. 2338 ]

benefit of his experience, this absence of all considerations of secretive diplomacy, which caused our Premier to receive, perhaps, more attention from that resounding echo of public opinion, the World's Press, than any other royal guest of them all, King or Kaiser though he might be. It is true that much that was written of him could by no stretch of imagination be termed complimentary, but this is merely one of the penalties of the position. What great statesman

which he aspired, but after all, a great point has been gained. The Colonial Conference is an established fact; the rest will undoubtedly come in its own good time, as everything does to he who not only waits, but works for it with the pertinacity of our persistent Premier. Amid all the pomp and ceremony of the occasion, if we judge our Premier rightly, we believe the visit to the home of his childhood will be one of the pleasantest of his memories.