

CHAPTER VI

Golden Years at Eton

1872-78

Like most upper-class boys, Curzon went to Eton. It was one surest passport to a successful career, whether in politics, church, diplomacy or civil service. For the English aristocracy, Eton was the symbol of social, political and economic dominance. Those who went to Eton viewed life strictly as comprising a small select aristocracy destined, as it were, to rule a large mass of people born to be ruled. The unspoken rules governing Eton were similar to those of the most exclusive and most influential clubs in the world. Etonians had almost a smug sense of greatness, for Eton was the acknowledged nursery of Britain's Prime Ministers. Gladstone was an Etonian, so were Salisbury, Rosebery¹ and Balfour.²

¹ 5th Earl of Rosebery succeeded Gladstone as Prime Minister in 1894.

² Arthur Balfour, Prime Minister from 1902-5.

Eton was primarily a nursery for Tory statesmen even though Gladstone was at Eton. At Eton Curzon had several prominent Liberals as friends - Master Oscar Browning and Gladstone's nephews, Alfred and Edward Lyttelton. But none could make him change his conservative views.

Eton did little to prepare Curzon for the realities of the competitive 20th century. English public schools were strange ivory towers; Eton was no exception. In an era of revolutionary changes in social, economic and political spheres gathering over Europe, the British public schools took pride in their aloofness. Instead of preparing their students for challenges ahead, they bred among their students a certain smugness about a society whose development was apparently complete. In Eton it was only after 1867, five years before Curzon's enrolment, that the monopoly of the classics had been removed by the Headmaster Dr. J.J.Hornby. It was under him that Modern Languages, Geography and History began partially to displace the classics and to bring Eton into an awareness of the changing world around her. Still as Corelli Barnett said, "The public school was physically as well as spiritually withdrawn from the world behind its high gates and walls, looking inward to its own stretch of lawn and its haphazard and yet harmonious architecture, Gothic and Georgian and neo-Gothic... Here in sombre religious shade, the future rulers of England heard their headmaster preaching about honour and service and sin."¹ The growing threat posed by other great powers to British predominance did not disturb the

¹ Corelli Barnett, The Collapse of British Power, 1919-1945 (London, 1972), p.33.

calm placidity of British public schools which cherished the myth that the English were a people with a special mission. Nor did the public school try to expose its student to the harsh realities at home: "The young aristocrat exchanged the lawns of his own house for equally fine grass of his school quadrangle."¹ Mathew Arnold wrote, "The society of a public school is a world in itself, self-centred, self-satisfied. It takes but slight account of the principles and practices which obtain in the world of men."²

Curzon was also a victim of these influences. Brilliant and industrious as he was, he was not able to look outside or beyond the ivory-tower of Eton. Eton reinforced his belief in the superiority of breeding, tradition and education and perhaps because of this he intended to view with near-contempt "the principles and practices which obtain in the world of men". In the two crises of his political career, the humiliating fight with Kitchener³ and his frustrated aspiration to Britain's premiership, he was outwitted by those whom he had always regarded as men of inferior breeding and education.

Nevertheless, Curzon always maintained that the happiest years of his life were spent at Eton.⁴ He went to Eton soon after his thirteen birthday. His Housemaster, Wolley Dod, was a tall, thin, querulous man with narrow reddish whiskers.⁵ Unfortunately,

¹ Barnett, op.cit., p.34.

² Ibid., p.34.

³ Field Marshal Lord Kitchener (1850-1916), Commander-in-Chief in India, 1902-9, Secretary of State for War, 1914-6.

⁴ Notes on Early Life, CA.20.

⁵ Ibid.

for Curzon, Dod was not prepared to treat him like a great personage. Hitherto, whether it was his parents, uncles, aunts, or the masters at Wixenford, they had all combined to make George Nathaniel Curzon feel that he was a special person. And now, to his anger, he found that at Eton the teachers were not prepared to automatically pay him the homage he had begun to believe was his due. It was an unusual experience and not a pleasant one at that. So he set off to devise his own special way of "scoring off" against the masters. He provoked them to have him thrown out of the class. Once in his room he spent half the night over study in order to win by private exertion the prizes from the cherished pupils and thus experience a kind of "sweet revenge". He boasted, "The vein of devilry on my part and of blunt obfuscation on that of the masters continued throughout my Eton career. They never could realise that I was bent on being first in what I undertook, but that I meant to do it in my way but not theirs."¹ It is generally believed that neglect and cruelty during childhood finds an outlet in rebelliousness later. Curzon's defiance at Eton can, however, be only interpreted as fury at not being made to feel special. Significantly at Wixenford Curzon had felt no need to revolt as the masters had fussed over him with many attentions.

Curzon says the two French masters regarded him as an impossible pupil which whetted him on to winning the coveted Prince Consort's French Prize. He did win the prize, as he put it, "by a larger percentage of marks at an earlier age than had ever been done before."² Curzon says he came to loggerheads with the Italian master Volpe over an irrelevant pun on his name. Curzon was asked to leave the class but, as he says, he applied himself in secret and to the surprise and indignation of the master "won the prize beating his favourite pupil, a boy named Maquay, who was half of Italian extraction and had been

¹ Notes on Early Life, CA.20.

² Ibid.

brought up at Florence."¹ It was the same with the History prize. The master, dissatisfied with Curzon, said that "I would come to nothing." That was sufficient provocation to spur the boy into intense activity. "From that moment I resolved to win the prize in spite of him. I left his class next term, did all my reading by myself in and out of school hours, entered for the prize, much to his and the general astonishment and won it with consummate ease."²

Curzon carried his indiscipline and independence to wild excesses not because he enjoyed it but because of the sense of power he felt at being able to do exactly what he felt like. He indulged in reckless action, often dangerous and foolhardy, for no reason other than the sense of control it gave him. He confessed:

I made it a point of honour to attend Ascot Races every year not because I cared in the least for racing but because it was forbidden and therefore dangerous...Another of my somewhat daring eccentricities was that I had a zinc lining made for the bottom drawer of my oak bureau, in which I used to keep a stock of claret and champagne. It was not that I cared for drinking but that I enjoyed the supreme cheek, as an Eton boy, of giving wine parties in my room.

Curzon was soon one of the most popular boys at school. His contemporaries were awed by his bold, reckless, daredevil defiance of the masters. Wolley Dod complained to Lord Scarsdale: "Being young for his place...and a popular and well-mannered boy, he is in some danger of being spoilt by associating too much with boys older than himself. I believe him to be very well principled, but the notice of older boys is too apt to make

¹ Notes on Early Life, CA.20.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

young one conceited and forward."¹ Strangely, however, the stern Lord Scarsdale seems to have turned a deaf ear to the complaint. Dod was more specific in a later tirade. He said of Curzon, "I cannot let him have his own way in the way he fights for it," adding, "I am as long suffering as most of my colleagues."² It was necessary, Dod had emphasised "to be very peremptory" with Curzon for he had "questioned my order and my authority in what I call an intolerant and unbecoming manner."³

Yet Lord Scarsdale seems to have remained mute. Perhaps he could not bring himself to upbraid the son who was the apple of his eye. This becomes evident when Dod forwards to Lord Scarsdale a letter from another long-suffering master called Mr. H.G.Madan who catalogues his complaints against Curzon:

My dear Wolley Dod, I am afraid I ought to write to complain of Curzon for constant talking and interruption in school. He has an irrepressible habit of asking foolish and what I call 'chaffy' questions. I threatened to send him out of the room, and he said, 'he did not care'. He seems utterly wanting in respectfulness, a pert, restless and sharp little child.

We do not have Lord Scarsdale's reply to Dod but it appears that he preferred to defend rather than condemn his son's behaviour. This is demonstrated by Dod's reply to Lord Scarsdale in which the master sheepishly acknowledges that the failure may have been on the master's side: "I admit that several of the extra

¹ Dod to Lord Scarsdale, Dec.10, 1872, CA.272.

² Ibid, March 19, 1873, CA.272.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Madan to Dod, March 13, 1875, CA.272.

masters not being schoolmen themselves (including Mr. Madan) do not rightly understand the treatment of boys."¹

In putting Dod on the defensive Lord Scarsdale clearly demonstrates his partiality for his eldest son. It was the master who was to blame for he did not,"rightly understand the treatment of boys". There seems to be little that the father found in the boy's behaviour with the master that was worthy of reprimand by him. In the available letters to his son, there is never any admonition for his pert answers or bouts of defiance in class. In his last year in school Curzon was transferred to the tutorial care of another master, Mr. E.D. Stone. In fact, as Curzon boasts in a letter to Oscar Browning, Lord Scarsdale feeling dissatisfied with Dod arranged for the change: "My father saw Dod in the holidays and told him he thought he did hardly enough for me; so he himself effected the exchange."²

Under Stone things were no better. Curzon had soon got embroiled in a headlong clash with him: "Almost immediately afterwards I had a row with Stone who strutted about his pupil room telling me I had not a single gentlemanly feeling in my head".³ Stone was giving vent to his own impression about his new pupil to Wolley Dod. "He has" Stone wrote to Curzon, "marvellous quickness and good memory and if only he could concentrate his faculties, more he would do thoroughly well." But Stone found that Curzon was "far too superficial to do anything which requires deep thought, and energy of purpose," and strongly felt that, "disappointment

¹ Dod to Lord Scarsdale, March 19, 1875, CA.272.

² Curzon to Browning, May 27, 1877, OB.1/445.

³ Ibid, July 9, 1877.

may be the best school for him."¹

The effortless ascent up the ladder of success at a young age would in the long run prove to be his undoing and Stone was wise in pointing it out. But unfortunately the fond father was not able to restrain his son. Lord Scarsdale did little to check young Curzon's provocative waywardness and must therefore share the blame for his son's "swollen head".

Occasionally Lord Scarsdale did preach to his son on the sins of vanity. While congratulating his son for winning the Prince Consort's French Prize, he warned, "do not celebrate your success by wearing your hair long and wrapped round your ears! You know what I mean and I do detest long hair."² From time to time he imposed strict economy. Clothes had to be worn until they were threadbare. Curzon has to beg for a new pair of trousers for "the holidays and next half, as mine are rather shabby now and I have not had a new pair this half."³ He had also to plead for a new Eton jacket. "May I have a new Eton jacket?" he had written to ask his mother. "I have only got two and one of them is so shabby that I cannot wear it. So I have only got one fit to wear; I use that on week days and have none for Sundays. The two jackets which I have now I have had for more than two years so I have worn them well. If I may have a new one please will Papa send me an order or tell me I may as I really want one."⁴

¹ Stone to Dod, July 30, 1877, CA.272.

² Lord Scarsdale to Curzon, Dec.2, 1874, CA.142.

³ Curzon to Lord Scarsdale, March 24, 1873, CA.159.

⁴ Curzon to Lady Scarsdale, undated [1873], CA.159.

But, apart from these instances, Curzon generally lived like an aristocrat at Eton. His room was reported to be one of the more opulent ones there. Gladstone on visiting Curzon in his room in 1878 professed "to be aghast at the luxury of pictures and china, armchairs and flowers, compared with the plain living of his own day."¹ Blanche had helped him decorate the room. She sent him two China pug dogs for his mantelpiece and Curzon had delightedly written back, "I have quite a menagerie now and if I get two black elephants it will be quite a show of Derby China."² Purple damask curtains draped the windows of his study. He had consulted his mother about the colour and the expense asking "would Papa mind paying half of it?"³ Lord Scarsdale obliged.⁴ Earlier Curzon had asked for a new writing table. "...they are 15/-, £1, £1.5.0 here. May I get one or had I better pay for it with my own money?"⁵ Parental generosity had once again prevailed. "Please thank Papa very much," he wrote three days later, "for letting me have a writing table. I have ordered one and they will send you the bill."⁶ Curzon also got his new evening tail-coat though somewhat grudgingly and after he had won the Prince Consort's French Prize. Frugal habits of a country vicarage die hard and Lord Scarsdale wrote "...before ordering an evening tail-coat do tell us if other boys of a similar age and height commonly have them and if you really consider

¹ Kenneth Rose, Superior Person, (London, 1969), p.41.

² Curzon to Lady Scarsdale, Oct. 9, 1873, CA.159.

³ Ibid, Oct.5, 1873.

⁴ Ibid, Oct. 9, 1873.

⁵ Curzon to Lady Scarsdale, Jan. 21, 1873, CA.159.

⁶ Ibid, Jan. 24, 1873.

yourself uncomfortable without one. I quite thought your black first tails would suffice for the present at least..."¹

Blanche was not able to visit her son at Eton but this did not diminish the deep affection between them. Her repeated pregnancies must have taken their toll on her health. Soon after going up to Eton Curzon wrote to her, "I was very glad to see Papa on Thursday but I was so sorry that you couldn't come."² Blanche had her tenth child in 1871 and the eleventh in 1873. She died in 1875, barely 38 years old. Blanche's letters to her son at Eton are few and far between. Nevertheless they do express intense pride in her eldest son's achievements there. Upon Curzon's winning the Prince Consort's French Prize, Blanche writes to him what can only be described as an exuberantly gushing letter:

My dearest George, Papa came into my room at 9.15 or so this morning holding W.Dod's open letter in his hand and saying 'such good news from Eton, G. has taken the French Prize!'

W.Dod has written so very kindly and nicely - I am sure he is as pleased as anyone - and it is a great mark of distinction for you at your early age - and I only hope your shiverings and ailings don't over tacking (Sic) your brain - and consequent depression and bodily langour - It may be partly cold too -

Papa has written off letter to W.Dod - Oscar B, G.Mama C. This is all I think, and I am writing to N.Hall & Bray, it will be in the papers of course. I hope will be rightly spelt - I wonder if the Queen sends for the boys, I hope so. There are 2 prizes, or rather first and second. I suppose - and I fancy only 20 or so compete, and were you not 6 or 8th among that, 20 or so in 1873? I can't think why Smith's name is put above Broderick's in prize men list 1873! In School lists you sent me Michalmas on the 4th leaf

¹ Lord Scarsdale to Curzon, Dec. 2, 1874, CA.142

² Curzon to Lady Scarsdale, Oct.20, 1872, CA.158.

page 8 of the book are the lists.

French	German	Italian
Smith	Sargeant	Crowder
Brodrick	Mundy	Halloway

& page 13 is named at bottom as taking Prince Consort
first French Prize 1873 so he ought to come first.

On the left hand top corner of the letter Curzon has written in pencil, "very very precious". The letter shows that not merely was Blanche proud of her son but she followed his school career with intense interest. She even remembers in detail the progress of his classmates! Young Curzon felt he had to at all costs maintain this high regard of his mother in himself. Even though he was only a young lad, older boys were sitting up and taking notice of him. He had to at all times keep up the high degree of excellence he had set for himself. It was a constant challenge, goading him into extraordinary feats of endeavour.

So great was the pressure to excel that Curzon took shortcuts to maintain his position. In the summer of 1875 Curzon's tutor Wolley Dod wrote to Lord Scarsdale complaining that his son "...was guilty of taking a leaf out of a book into 'Collections' and using it in the examination. I am sorry to say that the standard of morality about copying work 'cribbing' as it is commonly called is not as high as we would wish it but it is treated as being a serious matter..."²

Circumstantial evidence shows that three years later Curzon was again found to be cheating. Oscar Browning came

¹ Lady Scarsdale to Curzon, Dec. 2, 1874, CA.142, Lady Scarsdale probably meant 'taxing' when she said 'tacking'.

² Dod to Lord Scarsdale, July 27, 1875, CA.272.

to hear about it in Cambridge and expressed his sympathies.

Curzon wrote back:

It is very kind of you to say what you do about 'that disgraceful scandal'. It has been a very painful business to me as you may imagine and I am afraid threw me back a place or two in the select. But I am glad it was most satisfactorily settled at Eton(except possibly in the minds of those who haven't heard the whole story) and feel sure that I can satisfy doubts in anybody if they exist. You shall hear the whole history and will I think approve of the action I took. I had a long talk about it with Cornish at Eton and it pained me very much that he did not seem quite to believe me but the strong and unanimous assurance of those to whom the matter was referred to for decision that not the slightest imputation could be cast upon my honour and that my explanation was in every sense a refutation, added to the kind belief of true friends like you and my own confident assurance - tender the somewhat callous to doubts and insinuations."¹

Years later when Browning visited Curzon in India in 1902 he told Walter Lawrence how Curzon "was accused unjustly of being a copyist"² Browning seems to have been referring to this episode. In a letter to Browning, Lord Scarsdale refers to Curzon's disappointing performance in the select. But the father does not seem to be aware of "the disgraceful scandal". He begs the master not to let Curzon know of his disappointment: "I confess to a slight feeling of disappointment at him not standing higher in the list - but you must not say this to him, please as he has worked very hard and seems quite satisfied. The Select were all very close upon each other in ranks, he tells me and I have no doubt his examination was very creditable."³ He

¹ Curzon to Browning, April 20, 1878, OB.1/445.

² Sir, W.Lawrence, Diary, Feb.10,1902, WLP.,Vol.27.
Sir Walter Lawrence(1857-1940) Private Secretary to Curzon as Viceroy and author of The India We Served(London, 1925).

³ Lord Scarsdale to Browning, April 15,[1878], OB.1/437.

was made President of the Literary Society and auditor of Pop, Eton's most exclusive debating society. He invited Gladstone, who was then Prime Minister, to come and address the Literary Society and the acceptance became quite a feather in his cap.¹

While at Eton Curzon's imagination was fired by India after listening to a lecture by Sir James Fitzjames Stephen. Curzon recorded the visit:

Sir James Stephen came down to Eton and told the boys that listened to him, of whom I was one, that there was in the Asian continent an empire more populous, more amazing, more beneficent than that of Rome...Ever since that day, ... the fascination and if I may say so, until I have come to think that it is the highest honour that can be placed upon any subject of the Queen that... he should devote such energies, that he may possess to its service."²

Curzon finished school in a blaze of glory. He was feted at the last fourth of June celebrations and records the heady boost of his ego in proud but vulnerable tones. He warns by saying "this is decidedly egotistical". So it was, but most endearingly:

Jun 4, 1878. The proudest day, I expect of my life. Speeches in the morning. Remarks overheard...

'Where is Curzon? I heard him last year and liked him so much'.

Isn't he splendid?'

'What wouldn't I give to be his sister?'

As soon as they were over, gents, whom I had never previously seen, seized me by the hand: 'Well done, you were best of them all!'

Ponsonby my great friend got up and proposed health of Captain of Oppidans. Drunk with musical honours

¹ Curzon, Eton Scrap Book, CA.290.

² London, Oct.29,1898, Indian Speeches 4 Vols.(Calcutta,1900-6), Vol.I, p.V.

in tent and all down boat tables. Had never been done before. Later my health proposed by Dod. Such fun!

All the above is pure unadulterated conceit, but as the truthful moments of a successful day may suffice in after years to recall the pleasurable emotions which it at the time excited.¹

Lord Scarsdale took pride in the achievements of his eldest son. The Daily Telegraph of June 5, 1877 records his presence at the Annual day celebrations at Eton. The paper proceeded to single out for special praise "Mr. Curzon, who not only speaks with dramatic power, but acted the various characters he assumed to a T, and displayed an intimate acquaintance with French & Italian."² The proud father sent him a cheque for £5 after returning from the celebration at Eton. In his letter he wrote, "thoughts of your darling Mother, were uppermost in my heart, of that she could have been at my side."³ On April 4, 1875 Blanche had died of typhoid. Curzon picked from her deathbed a white camellia flower which he preserved for the rest of his life.⁴

The only other black cloud on Curzon's horizon during his Eton years was a severe injury from a horseback fall during holidays at Kedleston. He was only fifteen then and after a few days of rest in bed forgot all about it. But the injury was to crop up again and again in his life, torturing him and turning him into a high-strung

¹ Eton Scrap Book, CA.290.

² Ibid.

³ Lord Scarsdale to Curzon, June 4, 1877, CA.142.

⁴ Momentoes of Curzon's Early Childhood, CA.490/1.

human being. If one accepts the thesis that all human behaviour emanates from a combination and permutation of the psyche, the body and environmental influences, this physical injury of Curzon's cannot be lightly brushed aside.

On the eve of his entry to Oxford, Curzon was holidaying in France where, he wrote to a friend, "I have felt shooting pains in my side - in the region of hip and noticed the unusual prominence of that member."¹ He saw a physician in London who diagnosed curvature of the spine and told him to abandon all hope of going to Oxford. Curzon however, was determined to find a way out. He went to the Harley Street specialist Paget who held out hope. His report said:

There is strong reason to expect that the increase of curvature which no doubt, so far as any has occurred, has been directly due to overwork - will be corrected through favourable conditions which can now be secured.²

Considerably reassured, Curzon reported to his master Oscar Browning, "Paget I am thankful to say modified the opinion or rather the Decision first expressed. He has given me permission to go to Oxford - mainly on the belief that the year's mental loss (by not going) would perhaps scarcely be compensated for by the year's physical gain (by lying down) but I am to go as an invalid ie I am to wear perpetually steel appliance which is now being made for me - I am to take no active exercise - such as football or lawn tennis - and I am to lie back in a

¹ Curzon to Brett, Oct.9, 1878, CA.144.
Hon. Reginald Brett (1852-1934), later Viscount Esher.

² Paget Report, General Correspondence, CA.259.

specially made chair a large portion of every day..."¹

The incessant throbbing pain drove him to work harder. Curzon said, "Owing to my infirmities - my bad back and my bad leg - during recent years I have been more and more driven to work, which has enabled me to fight the pain which I almost constantly suffer."² But overwork intensified the pain and so the vicious circle began.

The great expectations that his friends - and Curzon himself - had of his career forced him to make a superhuman attempt to overcome this setback. He worked harder and ever to be the superior man people had begun to believe him to be. The curvature of the spine was seen as yet another challenge to be stoically taken in one's stride.

Every morning he had to be fitted up in a steel waistcoat and wear it for every one of his waking hours for the remaining 47 years of his life. The steel cage gave Curzon ramrod-like erectness of stature which added to the general impression of stiff-necked arrogance. Curzon said:

My reputation is due in some measure to the fact that for many years I have been braced up with a girdle to protect my weak back. This gives me a rigid appearance which furnishes point to the reputation of pomposity.³

What is remarkable is that in spite of being in constant pain Curzon took long and hazardous journeys to remote outposts

¹ Curzon to Browning, Oct.6, 1878, OB.1/445.

² Lord Riddell, Lord Riddell's Intimate Diary of the Peace Conference and After (London, 1932), p.411.

³ Ibid.

of the Empire to make himself one of the experts on the East. Both as Viceroy and later as Foreign Secretary he worked fourteen hours a day. The result was damaging to both body and mind. When physical pain increased, he could rarely sleep without drugs at night. When the final prize of Prime Ministership seemed to be coming his way, he was, as detractors were not slow in pointing out, a man sick in mind and body.¹ Any historical study of Curzon, therefore, must also take into account his injury to the spine, which played such a large role in his career as a statesman.

Subsequent to his spinal injury Curzon began to display a masochistic tendency. It was perhaps this tendency which made Curzon seem to seek out, as though deliberately, powerful ruthless characters who would hurt and humiliate him. Being undefined, the craving was not directed specifically to any one in particular. In various stages of his life, Curzon seemed to position himself in such a manner that he invariably, if not in physical, in psychic form, got himself crushed. Despite his spinal injury he insisted on submitting himself to a strenuous workload which brought him on the verge of a physical and nervous breakdown. But strangely he did not seem to mind the pain as it were. The pain gave him a vicarious satisfaction, allowing him the dual pleasure of proving himself superior and to wallow in bouts of self-pity.

In his relationship with his second wife Grace, Curzon seems to be deliberately laying himself open to humiliations. After the

¹ St. John Brodrick, Relations of Lord Curzon as Viceroy of India with the British Government, 1902-5 (Privately printed, London, 1926).

early blissful months, Curzon's second marriage was clouded by Grace's taunts and snubs. Yet this did not prevent Curzon from pathetically and repeatedly begging Grace to be by his side when he fully knew that she had no intention of obliging him. He asked her to come down to Kedleston. His father had died in 1916 and Curzon had become Lord of the Manor. He said, "All ask for Gracie and want to see the beautiful lady," adding that he hoped, "one day you will take up your duties as Chatelaine of this place..."¹ Grace had earlier cruelly written, "Kedleston ... I would so much rather not go at all...after all one's home is where one's heart is."² Yet Curzon could not stop his pathetic entreaties.

Actually masochism in its definite form is too strong a term to apply in our case. Derived from the name of an Australian novelist, Sacher-Masoch, Masochism is in the words of Kraft-Ebing:

a peculiar perversion of the physical 'vita sexualis' in which the individual affected, in sexual feeling and thought is controlled by the idea of being completely and unconditionally subject to the will of a person of the opposite sex, of being treated by this person as by a master, humiliated and abused. This idea is coloured by sexual feeling; the masochist lives in fancies in which he creates situations of this kind, and he often attempts to realize them.³

As Coleman says,

As in the case of the term 'sadism', the meaning

¹ Curzon to Grace, Sept.25, 1921, CA.285.

² Grace to Curzon, Aug.15, 1920, CA.65.

³ Kraft-Ebing, as quoted by Havelock Ellis, Studies in the Psychology of Sex, 2 Vols. (New York, 1942) Vol.I, Part II, p.111.

Dr. Ashit Sheth feels a vague and unpronounced form of masochistic tendency is fairly common and need not be tantamount to a sexual perversion.

of 'masochism' has been broadened beyond sexual connotations, so that it includes the deriving of pleasure from self-denial, expiatory physical suffering such as that of the religious flagellants, and hardships and sufferings in general.¹

We know that Curzon seemed to derive pleasure from a sort of self-flagellation. As we shall see, his determination to return to India to resume his second term is one clear example of it. Curzon was not the calculating genius he has been made out to be.

¹ James C. Coleman, Abnormal Psychology and Modern Life (Bombay, 1918), p.575.