

Finch & C^o



**VICTORIAN CASED CARVED IVORY PORTRAIT PROFILE OF THE BRITISH POLITICIAN WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE (1809 – 98)
SIGNED 'W HOGH SC'**

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THE FRONT OF THE CASE CARVED WITH IVORY INITIALS; W.E.G

CIRCA 1880

SIZE: 13.5CM HIGH, 10CM WIDE, 3.5CM DEEP – 5¼ INS HIGH, 4 INS WIDE, 1½ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

DISRAELI SAID OF GLADSTONE THAT HE HAD 'NOT A SINGLE REDEEMING DEFECT', AND THIS PARTLY EXPLAINS THE MANY COLLISIONS OVER AFFAIRS OF STATE THAT OCCURRED BETWEEN GLADSTONE AND QUEEN VICTORIA FROM THE 1870'S TO THE 1890'S. 'HE SPEAKS TO ME AS IF I WAS A PUBLIC MEETING' SHE COMPLAINED TO LORD BEACONSFIELD. SHE GREATLY RESISTED HIS ATTEMPTS TO DISESTABLISH THE CHURCH AND DEPLORED HIS HANDLING OF EVENTS IN THE SUDAN THAT CULMINATED IN THE DEATH OF GENERAL GORDON IN 1885. HOWEVER, GLADSTONE SERVED AS PRIME MINISTER FOUR TIMES AND IN 1884 SUCCEEDED IN CARRYING OUT A SCHEME OF PARLIAMENTARY REFORM, WHICH WENT A LONG WAY TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MALE SUFFRAGE. WHEN IN THE MIDDLE OF 1892 QUEEN VICTORIA REALISED THAT IT WAS INEVITABLE GLADSTONE WOULD BE PRIME MINISTER AGAIN FOR THE FOURTH TIME SHE DID NOT MINCE HER WORDS TO SIR HENRY PONSONBY CALLING GLADSTONE 'A DELUDED EXCITED MAN OF 82' AND SAYING THAT SHE DID NOT WANT 'THAT DANGEROUS OLD FANATIC THRUST DOWN HER THROAT'!