

of government an Opposition have at all times an important part to play. In our present circumstances that part is more than usually important. The Government of the day, by whatever name it may be called, should, I think, receive from all sides a cordial support in measures necessary for the prosecution of the war. Even where there is doubt as to the wisdom of some of the methods employed, the Government might well have the benefit of the doubt, for their knowledge of the situation ought to be much greater than that possessed by others. If there is a proper recognition of these things in the present Parliament, if the Opposition are content to employ temperate criticism, they will do much to win public confidence. This does not mean an abstention from inquiry and criticism. These are the special functions of an Opposition — functions which, when properly exercised, make for good government. The public at a time like this will have little sympathy with criticism that clearly has a partisan aim. But inquiry and criticism from a higher viewpoint;—reasonable inquiry into public affairs, and criticism that is keen while still moderate, criticism designed to expose and correct whatever is wrong rather than to win a party victory — will gain public confidence in a degree that will in due course bear the fruit of victory.

To defeat the Union Government now, to bring about a change of Government at this time, is, in my judgment, the last object for which Liberals should strive. A change of Government has not seemed to me desirable at any time since the war began. In my mind the old proverb about not swapping horses while crossing a stream held good. So strongly