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## Editorial Notes.

### THE SHRIEVALTY QUESTION.

MR. MOWAT lost a glorious opportunity to perpetuate his name and fame as a great exemplar to the people of this country when, beguiled by a deputation of party henchmen, he succumbed to the influence of their highly-glossed and apparently well-meant representations. Had he acted the part of the noble Roman, we can suppose him to have replied to the specious arguments of his flatterers somewhat like this: "Gentlemen, I thank you for the great interest you take in my welfare, but none of you has advanced a single reason which would justify me in falsifying my record as a public man. I have always regarded it as my duty to denounce mercenary politicians, whether as direct participants in public emoluments, or as sharers through some medium of relationship. I have invariably claimed that when a man devotes himself to the service of his country, he ought, at all hazards, to maintain a character above the taint of suspicion as a self-seeker. For this reason I have at various times criticized unmercifully the actions of our political opponents as land-grabbers, as holders of blind shares, and as the bestowers of public offices upon relatives. I am proud to occupy this ground. I am proud that no man can say of me: 'He appointed this cousin, or that brother-in-law to certain lucrative positions.' Although I have been sneeringly referred to as a Christian politician, I am not ashamed to be so designated, and it is my earnest purpose to so conduct myself as a servant of the people as to bring no discredit on the name. Were I to adopt the advice you give me, how should I reply to the flouting attacks of our opponents? No man enjoying such an income as I receive has a right to plead poverty. If I am not now so wealthy as I might have been, the public service is no wise to blame. Your nominee has no special qualification for the office; or at all events his relationship to me is none,

and I am determined that when in due course I shall be removed from my place among the living, the Canadian of the future will not be able to say of me 'He promised well, but when the time of trial and temptation arrived, alas! he fell.'" To the everlasting loss of our country, Mr. Mowat said nothing of the kind. What might have been and should have been a grand example to all living as well as to all succeeding public men has proved exactly the reverse. The plea may now be set up by those in office, with Mr. Mowat's example before them, that they have high precedent for following

The good old rule, the simple plan,  
That they should take who have the power,  
And they should keep who can.

### THE LIBERAL DISRUPTION IN ENGLAND.

LORD HARTINGTON'S speech at Edinburgh is ominous. It marks a new departure in the Liberal ranks when he gravely announces that he sees in the conduct of the present Liberal party a toleration of doctrines which are doctrines of revolution and not of reform. It points anew the warning that Mr. Gladstone has not yet taken to heart, even when he sees a former Liberal premier, the former leader of the old Radical school and the present leader of the new Radical school, all in temporary alliance with the Conservatives. There is a great dislocation in the English Liberal party, and no one can tell what may be the end of it. One thing is tolerably evident, the Conservatives will be gainers. The admirers—perhaps we might as well say adorers—of Lord Beaconsfield will probably claim that in making his Reform Bill as broad as he did, he foresaw that a great temporary increase in the Liberal majority would be necessarily followed by the breaking up of a party too unwieldy to hang together. Some years ago the prophets who are versed in the signs of the political sky predicted that the Irish question would be the rock on which the Liberal ship would split. Meanwhile, Mr. Gladstone stands firmly at the helm, and with a courage and enthusiasm to which his opponents grant an unwilling admiration, continues, and apparently will continue, to guide the vessel, as long as her timbers hold together.

### A COLONIAL PEERAGE.

LORD ROSEBERRY'S proposal to give the colonies representation in the House of Lords is remarkable for originality, but singularly deficient in any more practical qualities. To give us representation in such a manner as to render available in an advisory capacity a few of our best statesmen of the most ripened experience, without disturbing the balance of the House of Commons, seems a very brilliant idea, but how would it work in practice? How many of our statesmen are willing to retire on their laurels, and able to com-