

criticism, for a poultice may have been the appropriate remedy, if, as we believe, it is not a wound but something like a gathering, from which the patient has suffered.

Granted, however, that the trouble was skilfully brought to a head and a soothing effect produced, the remedy must be admitted to be a temporary one, and no time should be lost in beginning a radical cure, for the mischief is deep-seated and continuing. Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey have shown both courage and insight in proclaiming openly that the future is here involved in the present and past; but it is doubtful even now whether the full extent to which this is true has been understood: it certainly has not, to our knowledge, been expressed. "An honest difference of view," said Mr. Asquith, "about origins and causes, naturally colours and influences men's judgment of the present and their estimate of the future." Sir Edward Grey put the same point in a more concrete form. "When you come to particular motions in the House of Commons, the view we have taken about the war is sure to colour the view which we take upon that occasion in the House of Commons." These are plain and necessary warnings, given to one section of the party, that they must not expect or require another section to act inconsistently or to shirk the logical obligation of their admissions as to the past. There is, however, a further warning still more plain and necessary, which was not given either by Mr. Asquith or Sir Edward Grey, but which we venture to put forth ourselves, speaking, as we believe, on behalf of a large body of thoughtful and impartial men, who are in a position to take a rather more remote and sedentary view of the political maze in which their friends are hurrying to and fro "not without dust and heat."

The warning is this: the danger which threatens the Liberal Party is not only serious, but it is one not essentially connected with the question of the war or of South Africa; it will therefore not disappear with the cessation of the war or the arrangement of a satisfactory settlement; the present troubles are merely the symptoms of the malady, and will be succeeded