

PARLIAMENT AND PARTIES

IT is characteristic of Mr. Winston Churchill, who owes his political career to his employment by the Conservative press and its subsequent paternal partiality, that he should recently have gone out of his way to vilify the patron by whose favour he obtained public notice. There was, however, no grain of truth in his statement that the Unionist press has shown malicious hostility to the Government of which he is so conspicuous an ornament. On the contrary, the leading Unionist newspapers have on the whole been singularly gentle in their criticism. This was especially noticeable when the Ministry was first formed. A disposition was shown to give it a fair trial; and treatment that was nothing short of generous was accorded to politicians who had themselves in Opposition carried the bitterness and mendacity of faction to a pitch not unworthy of Sunderland and Rochester.

One might indeed have supposed from the mild comments of their opponents that there was nothing much to be said against the idea which Radical journals excusably put forward in the hour of their long deferred exultation, that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Government comprised an unparalleled array of political ability. Sir Edward Grey, as amiable as he is over-rated, was held up as a successor to Lord Salisbury and Lord Lansdowne, whose acceptance of the Foreign Office, after some reported hesitation, would be welcomed with relief by the Empire; Mr. Haldane would sweep away cobwebs at the War Office and at last give us an army that would at one and the