

And you have already seen Lord Randolph Churchill's boasts belied by events, and great progress made by our allies in several of their large measures, though obstruction threatened sometimes to prevail.

Reasons against Immediate Dissolution of Parliament.

But you may say: If it is useless to introduce the Home Rule bill in this Parliament, why not dissolve at once? Well, gentlemen, there is an old proverb that "It is useful to learn from the enemy." What the enemy want is an immediate dissolution. I do not think that it is a very good reason why we should give it. They want it because they think it will be to their advantage, and I agree with them. Therefore I am indisposed to give it. Why would it be to their advantage? For this obvious reason: At the last election the Liberals and Radicals, true to their pledges made nearly eight years ago, made Home Rule the very front plank in their platform, and they have kept it there ever since. If Home Rule is not law, it is not their fault. But they did not make it the only plank in their platform. They added important, popular, and democratic proposals which are pressing for solution. They have obtained a majority. They have kept their pledges to Irish Nationalists so far, and they intend to keep them to the end; and they invite Irish Nationalists to enable them to use the majority so obtained to press forward, during this year, those other Liberal and Radical and Democratic measures which they promised the people in case they obtained power. If we refused; if we declined to reciprocate sacrifice for sacrifice, to give help for help; if we showed ourselves unconcerned for the interests and wishes of the allies upon whose good-will and strength we depend for our ultimate success, what right would we have to expect to triumph? But with even still greater force I may ask, if we sent the Government back to the polls without having made even an effort to carry through the House of Commons the measures which they promised, what right would we have to expect a majority next time?

The Objects of Some Delay.

It is not to an American audience, versed in popular elections and the play of parties, that I need enlarge upon this topic. You all apprehend the situation. The truth is that with that prescience which distinguished him, as long ago as 1881, more than five years before the formation of the happy alliance between the Irish Nationalists and the Liberals, Charles Stewart Parnell pointed out one road to victory, when he used, in a letter to the Irish National League, these words:—

"The second and only other alternative appeared to be that we should steadfastly labor on, deepening the lines and widening the area of our agitation, appealing to the masses of the population of England and Scotland, who are much less represented in the House of Commons than are the masses of Ireland; appealing, I say, against territorialism and shop-ocracy, which