

March

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IN this country the King's Government will always be influenced, if not controlled, by the aristocracy. That is as it should be. On the hustings it may or may not be politic to gild the pill; but for those who do not heed or need gilding there remains only one question, Whig or Tory? The two words are as devoid of significance to-day as chain and plate armour. "Whig" has suffered most from rust and wear; let any man define "Whig" who can; he will be conspicuously able if he can disentangle "Whiggism" from the dozen illicit connections in which it has sought consolation and profit these many years.

"Expediency" in short is the inspiration of the Whig; "principle" of the Tory party. The Whig or—to use one of his dozen *noms d'aventure*—the Liberal, seeks his profit where he can find it. In the name of Liberty he does not even hesitate to set class against class; as witness the unchristian cry of "Classes against Masses." A party that can condescend so far has added one more to the crimes that have been committed in the name of Liberty: minor condescensions are comparatively blameless.

The Tory, on the other hand, contemplates the nation as a whole. He does not believe that "a man's a man for a' that." On the contrary, he sees, and recognises, the obvious fact that men are as various as the trees of the forest; nay, as the leaves on the trees of the forest. According to him the secret of good judgment is to utilise to the best advantage of the State