

churchyard by seeing a sheet on the top of a pitchfork, and a light inside of a turnip. We do not look to shams and nick-names; we look to realities. Well, I say I am on the side of those who opposed prescription and privilege, on the side of those who are in favour of the freedom and self-action of England. (Loud cheers.)

Now, I think it is a healthy thing in an independent borough that we should analyze these questions of parties a little further. At present, on the Conservative side of the House, there is a bench on which thirteen gentlemen nightly sit—that is when they do not feel too much distressed and fatigued or too idle to sit—and they look, I am bound to say, quite as wise as they are. (Laughter.) Then, on the Opposition or Liberal side of the House, there are, I think, thirteen gentlemen who look about as wise as the people on the other side. (Laughter.) Now, am I to be told, as one of the 35,000,000 of England, Ireland, and Scotland, that these twenty-six gentlemen absorb all the talent, all the genius, all the patriotism of the country? Am I to be told that because something that I call a good measure comes either from the Government side or the Opposition side, if I sit on the Opposition side I must not vote for what I believe to be a great measure because it came from those thirteen gentlemen who look so wise on the Government side. (Cheers.) My idea of my duty as your representative is this, that if I see a measure that will promote in any way the freedom and happiness of the people and the glory and honour of the country, from whichever side of the House it comes, I ought to support it. (Cheers.)

Now we do not exactly know what those thirteen gentlemen on the Government side do, but I am bound to say with regard to the thirteen upon the other side, that in the last six years, so far as I know, with regard to the momentous questions, when a unity of action amongst the party was clearly most important, there has never been a meeting of the Liberal Members of Parliament to consider any question whatever. I mention this, not in any way to weaken the Liberal party, not in any way to sow dissension,—for I have never been a party to dissension; I have always been desirous to make any and every sacrifice to prevent dissension,—but I say it because I think the time has come when, if the Liberal party is ever again to be a great power in the State—