

was then proposed and carried by acclamation in favour of such terms of settlement "as shall include the complete independence of the two Republics."

It might have been thought after this that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman would see the danger before him. On the contrary, he rushed more violently down the steep place, and upon an occasion which made his action more marked than before. Coming late into the House on July 4, and hearing only the conclusion of a speech by Mr. Lloyd-George, he endorsed it blindfold as "a moderate statement of those common-sense views which . . . are the views of the great majority of the people of this country." He went on to deliver a speech himself, which was rightly described as "frankly pro-Boer." The phrase has been warmly repudiated by Sir William Harcourt, but Mr. Balfour, who used it, had already set out the indictment more fully, and we think unanswerably. "Though the party of which Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman regards himself as the representative has done great things for the Empire in the past, it is open to the charge, on more than one occasion, of having had certain members who have sometimes openly ranged themselves with the enemies of their country, and at other times, without ranging themselves with the enemies of their country, have done all they could to blacken the character of their country in the face of the world and to encourage by their opposition and their criticisms those who were fighting against us in the field." That has been true all along; but it was now necessary to add that the leader of that party himself had adopted methods and used language which "would be shocking in the most irresponsible politician."

It is this condition of things, now definitely ascertained, that was left entirely untouched by the meeting at the Reform Club. With much energy and goodwill, that good ship, the Liberal Party, was then overhauled in mid-ocean and reported still seaworthy; but no one pointed out the vital fact that instead of holding a straight course through the rough water,