

INEFFECTIVENESS OF A CONCERT WITH UNIONISTS.

It is ineffective. Why? Because the pace of a concerted movement is regulated by the gait of the slowest. And, indeed, the concert of Ireland has often reminded me of the concert of Europe. Because, of our Unionist allies, some are naturally more timid, or at any rate more averse to troubling the Government they support than we Nationalists. Because the Unionist hunger is partly satisfied, since it is claimed that the great landlord grant of last session is the fruit of the agitation; and thus out of the continued over-taxation of the masses, for which we have vainly sought redress, the rich, who are not overtaxed, are gratified. This, of course, makes them less hungry, but naturally it has not at all allayed our appetites.

INEFFECTIVENESS OF LIMITED CONCERTS EVEN BETWEEN NATIONALISTS.

Then not merely as to the Unionists, but even as between the Nationalists, the concert is ineffective, as are all temporary and limited alliances between permanent and general opponents. It cannot be otherwise. How can we fight with needful force and vigour, thinking only of the foe, while we feel that in our ranks are men with whom we are at chronic feud, whose weapons will be aimed at our own breasts to-morrow? Each wing is thinking not merely of the joint sally of to-day, but mainly of the long feud of the years past and to come. Each is thinking how, even by the joint operations, he may strengthen himself against his momentary ally in the approaching internecine fight. Cordial and effective co-operation thus becomes impossible. One is reminded of the ancient ceremony of the drinking of the loving cup, which still survives at city dinners. As the great gold cup goes round the table, two neighbours, in turn, together stand, and drink, and pass it. Why do two stand? Because in the old days it was needful that, in the very act of kindness, of drinking the loving cup, the neighbour should stand at the drinker's back to guard him against a stab behind. So here—we require to be guarded and to guard against our temporary allies, even in the moment of our feeble co-operation. No! neither on the Financial Relations,