

## THE MAIN STREAM

WE have no sympathy with those who seek only to find amusement for themselves and others in the present troubles of the Liberal party. Our feelings, like those we believe of nine-tenths of the people of this country, are ranged on the side of the Government and not on that of their opponents, so far as the South African War and the questions arising out of it are concerned; but that is no reason for hailing with delight the possible destruction of one of the two parts of our constitutional machine. If the Admiral commanding one fleet in our Naval Manœuvres should find himself unopposed wherever he sailed, he would regard the contest as a failure rather than a triumph; and if the non-appearance of his opponents proved to have been caused by a fatal accident he would hardly care to be received home by his friends with boisterous acclamations.

We cannot, therefore, agree with that section of the Press which has been pouring ridicule upon the meeting lately held at the Reform Club. The proceedings were in no respect ridiculous; on the contrary, good feeling and self-restraint were shown to a remarkable degree, the Party gave the impression of being a loyal and courageous party, and some of the speeches showed that the finest elements of our political life are not wanting in the ranks of the Opposition. It is said that nothing was accomplished: that the wound was merely covered with a poultice. This may be a witty description, but it is hardly a