

majority as by representing Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Milner as the authors of this war, as agents who exceeded the authority of their principals. Again and again they have offered us this golden bridge for retreat: "You need not recant or humiliate yourselves; you have but to disavow Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Milner; free yourselves from the infatuation they have cast upon you; drive them forth as scapegoats, and you can make peace with honour." We need say nothing about the honour, but such a peace is impossible, for the country is under no illusion as to whose war this is. When Mr. Kruger rejected the Garibaldian prescription "Try Liberty," and defied the progress of the world, it was no Minister but a nation and an Empire that accepted his challenge.

The responsibility of the Government then, in our opinion, is not for the making of the war but for the conduct of it; and they are responsible not to that section of the Opposition which has with incredible folly put itself out of court by disclaiming its share in the national responsibility, but to the great bulk of the people who, having taken in hand a just and probably inevitable war wish to see it brought to an early and successful end. Ministers are responsible, in brief, not to their enemies but to their backers; and this fact, which is the key to the present situation, they continue to ignore or to deal with on principles which have long been obsolete. Whether they approve or disapprove, their critics in this country, which is not under martial law, will speak outside Parliament when they have no Parliament in which to speak. On the subject of the war, on which these critics are all more or less ignorant, and some of them entirely malevolent, much will no doubt be said that is unnecessary and even dangerous; but the old remedy, the remedy to which the Government clings, is worse than useless. If your head is aching from John's assault it will not be cured because Joe batters John in turn still more severely. Such a proceeding may be just and possibly salutary to John; it is certain to cause pleasure to some at least of the bystanders, but it will not give you back your wits; in the