

not less to do than his statesmanship with the impulse to which he gave way.

Not that female suffrage is out of the line of Tory policy, as Tory policy is now understood by a portion of the Tory Party. The strategy which Lord Beaconsfield practiced and with which he inoculated a section of his followers, was that which, instead of resisting the democratic extension of the suffrage, seeks to outbid and outflank it, by enfranchising classes over which it is supposed the Crown, the aristocracy, and the church will be able to exercise a special influence. This is Tory democracy, and akin to it is Tory acceptance of female suffrage. Lord Beaconsfield himself was known to be favorable to the measure, though he never made it a plank in his platform, fearing probably that the bulk of his party was not educated up to the mark. It was his belief, and is the belief of many Tories, that the women, under clerical or sentimental influences, would vote on the Tory side, and, especially, that their religious and ritualistic feeling would lead them to uphold the established church. Whether this belief would in the long run prove well founded, may be doubted, since in the bosom of the female politician Conservative sentiment would have a potent rival in revolutionary excitement, and while the Conservative women would be inclined to stay at home, the revolutionary women would always go to the poll. Such, however, is the game. It is the game of the Tory leader in Canada as well as in England. The Canadian Tory leader gives votes to the Indians because the Indian will follow the meal-bag; and he tries to give votes to the women because he thinks that the sex is Tory by nature, though in the last move he has hitherto not been able to carry the body of his followers with him. No great compliment is paid to woman by thus using her for the purposes of party tactics.

Lord Salisbury guarded his avowal by saying that he spoke for himself alone. But a leader of a party and a prime minister cannot speak for himself alone. Mr. Gladstone, or whoever may be leader of the opposition, seeing Lord Salisbury bidding for the women's vote, is sure to bid against him, whatever his own convictions may hitherto have been. The demagogic system is a perpetual Dutch auction, the last bid in which it is difficult to