

rate in times of peace. It happens to hit the middle classes hardest. There is no reason why the Liberals should cherish people who have kept them out of power for twenty years; but five years punishment will probably be found sufficient for the defection. Moreover, the rally over Redistribution will have started the movement towards the Liberal flag. Five years devoted to reducing the income tax from 1s. to 2d., and to discovering "new sources of revenue" (a pretty euphemism which we all understand) will complete the middle-class conversion. Sir Henry dissolves again: and what, again, can the Tory agents say to the country? To any appeal, the voters will say: "We backed you silently and uncomplainingly for twenty years; and for twenty years you trampled on us. We vote for Sir Henry, who has done more for us who were his enemies than you did while we were your best friends." So Sir Henry will come back for a third term, stronger than ever.

The Tories can only move on certain lines; and wherever they move they will find the ground cut from under their feet—if the Liberals follow Liberal traditions. What, then, is the limit to this idyll of perpetual power? None, at present discoverable, except the mistakes which Sir Henry's party may be obliging enough to make. As the mistakes of the enemy are absolutely the only source of consolation remaining to the Tories let us look those possible mistakes in the face.

1. *The Church*.—This is the most likely mistake for the Liberals to commit. Disestablishment is in line with the trickiness into which the policy of expediency always tends to degenerate. It answers to the more ignoble side of that policy; the fondness for fishing in troubled waters and of setting class against class.

There is no step that the Liberals could take which would more quickly and effectually check the recrudescence of sympathies of the middle classes.

2. *The Army*.—The last word on the British Army was said forty-five years ago when Lord Palmerston's military adviser thus summed up: