

political assembly in the world is disgraced night after night by low brawls which the Speaker is unable to control. The hope of the Opposition is that by stopping the wheels of legislation and government it will force on a dissolution which, guided by the rather deceptive evidence of the bye-elections, it has persuaded itself will go in its own favour. In the meantime it does its utmost to inflame the worst passions of the people and to stir up Provincial hatred, not in Ireland only, but in Scotland and Wales, against the Union. The very idea of Parliament as a deliberative assembly has ceased to exist. In fact this state of things may be described morally as a civil war; people are beginning to say in their despair that civil war itself would hardly be a greater evil; it would at all events make genuine force and courage, instead of mob oratory and cowardly incendiarism, the arbiters of the national destiny. It has long appeared to us indeed that the nation could hardly be delivered from its peril except by a man who was willing to brave extremities, though it is in the last degree unlikely that he would have to encounter them, since the Continental and Revolutionary party, unless it can get hold of the Government, has not a particle of military force. The Government ought by this time to be aware that there is little use in attempting legislation while the legislative machinery is totally out of gear. Measures must first be taken to re-organize the legislature and make it capable of performing its functions. Strong measures they will need to be and strong measures are always objectionable, but they cannot be avoided in extremity. Lord Salisbury is rather too much of a grandee to fill the present bill. What is needed is a patriotic leader unencumbered by acres or by buckram, who would be willing to take his political life in his hand and try, before it is too late, to save the nation from Dismemberment and Socialistic Revolution.

—The cession of Heligoland to Germany, to which it naturally belongs, will oblige the Imperial Federationists to revise