scheme was flimsy and ill-thought-out, built by one young man in a hurry, and destroyed by another young man also in a hurry. As I have said, I am no partisan of A. or B. Both are able men. I am convinced that both are sincere and patriotic; but the fact—the damning fact in the eyes of the constituencies—remains, that while there has been a general overturn, there has been little of the necessary new creation. The phœnix has been burnt, but out of the ashes no new phœnix has arisen; and the country regards with something nearer anger than indignation the fact of the Army being more expensive than ever, while its efficiency is not nearly proportionate to the cost. The continued scarcity of recruits, the delay in re-arming the artillery with up-to-date guns, revelations of extravagance in administration, as well as of want of consideration for officers of proved worth who happen not to be possessors of private means, the mistaken treatment of the Volunteers, are all much in the minds of voters at by-elections. At once there should be root-and-branch reform, that is what efficiency means in connection with our War Department; and the work should not be beyond the powers of the present Cabinet. Why have the recommendations of the Esher Commission been ignored? The way reports are received and neglected is one of the amazing mysteries of latter-day government. Expensive parliamentary committees or commissions are appointed to inquire into some great glaring question of the day. Evidence is procured at large cost to the State. Witnesses come from all parts at the nation's expense to give the benefit of their experience and opinions to the commission. An elaborate report is prepared, written, printed, circulated. It creates a furore for nine days. The Press, with head-line, special article, and leader, drives its teachings home; and then—and then, it is forgotten; the report is made waste paper of, or allowed to collect dust on ministerial shelves; while the old evils continue unabated. The special mischief connected with the neglect of the Esher report is that it was half-followed, half ignored. Better far to have been consistent one way or the