

reiteration as a rallying measure is found to be as effective as the famous Slogan war-cry of the Scottish Highland chiefs. The vicissitudes of a century have not yet subdued the harsh language with which Dr. Johnson expressed himself concerning the contemporary tendency of the term "patriotism;" and we apprehend that the erudite historian of another century hence, while directing his researches into the political literature of our time will be no less amazed at the marvellous efficacy of the campaign cry of loyalty than at the credulity of an age that permitted the practice of such imposture.

In political parlance, loyalty, as Thomas Carlyle once observed concerning liberty, requires a new definition. A generation ago Ruskin told a British audience that the meaning of loyalty is faithfulness to law; but to-day we hear a great deal of another sort of loyalty peculiar to our own times, and which is all very well, for loyalty, when wisely indulged in, is under all circumstances a most commendable quality. But loyalty appears to best advantage at home, and with the individual, since whatever tends lawfully to enhance the interests of the individual and the community tends also in degree towards the consummation of national prosperity. It is well to exhort men to be loyal, as it is also to bid them be charitable; but these votaries of loyalty inculcate dogma and doubt before they offer instruction. But when homage to party becomes confounded with devotion to country, and political sophistry has the credulous ear of the masses, we are no longer surprised to find the popular mind possessed of such heresy. This ill-conceived notion of loyalty constitutes the cardinal vice of partyism, and is co-extensive with the length and breadth of the country; and he who has once publicly espoused the principles of a party and afterwards wanders from the faith of its teachings is by its apostles hailed as a turncoat and renegade, and any attempt at independence of choice or of action is likely to win for him the reputation of an imbecile or a coward. As with a Mahommedan dervish the more vehement his declaration and gestures the greater will be his success and renown, so with the other fanatics, the more they extol the reputed merits of their party the greater the distinction they will achieve.