

to attack by name the author of unsigned articles. The Knight is sorrowful because Conservative journals will not follow the bright example of the *Globe*, which he holds up for their imitation, in pursuing with calumny and insult a literary brother who has the honour to be the object of his hatred. The journals in question have only said that, however much they might dislike a man's opinions, they did not want anybody to be hounded down. Sir Francis does want somebody to be hounded down, and therefore mere forbearance seems to him "systematic toadying." Was it "systematic toadying" when, on a recent legal occasion, affecting his personal character and feelings, he received equitable treatment at the hands of writers whose political opinions are opposed to his own? Those whom he chides for their lukewarmness may feel that they are above all things members of an honourable profession, the privileges and courtesies of which they are bound to regard. They may also, on general grounds, have been unwilling to join a ring of assailants whose motives were manifestly personal, and who, with powerful organs at their command, were setting on a defenceless man. We believe Sir Francis when he intimates that no insult is gross enough if aimed at the right object, to seem to him libellous, and that he is unable to conceive how the use of such weapons can be deemed an interference with the freedom of discussion. He has succeeded, at all events, in proving that modern knighthood is an institution, adapted to the requirements of a practical age, and has no connection with the fantastic chivalry of the past.

Sir Francis Hincks avers that we have "imputed to the party of which the *Mail* is an organ that, openly professing loyalty its members are consummate hypocrites and secret advocates of annexation." We beg leave most respectfully to intimate that he must himself be aware of the character of his statement. "A moral reunion of all who own Great Britain as their parent and speak the tongue of Shakespeare" is turned by his plastic fancy into a political annexation of Canada to the United States. Who talked or thought of hypocrisy? Mr.