

which followed, the Abbé Lacordaire, elected to the Chamber of Deputies, entered the tribune in his Dominican's frock. The populace believed, rightly or wrongly, that the Government was frankly Liberal, and they were, therefore, without suspicion.

In the same way, it is highly probable that the triumph of the revolution in 1689 may have hastened the liberties of Roman Catholics and placed them on a sounder basis. Had the Stuarts remained on the throne there could have been, on the part of their Protestant subjects, no sense of security; and we know how this would have acted in regard to their fellow subjects who were members of the Church of Rome. How has it fared with the Roman Catholics under the House of Hanover? Undoubtedly it was a considerable time before the Test and Corporation Acts were abolished. Yet the fault was not altogether with the men of the revolution. A rebellion in 1715 and another in 1745 warned the friends of the Reformation that the victory of religious liberty was not yet finally won. But when these dangers had passed away, it became possible to extend this privilege to all; and under no system of things has it ever been more complete. Roman Catholics themselves are ready to confess that nowhere in the world have they more complete liberty for the exercise of their faith and worship and discipline than in England.

Surely then it is possible for us all, by whatever political or religious designations we may be known, to look back with satisfaction to the revolution settlement under Dutch William and the first of the Georges. The first of them might claim the name of heroic, the second could not; but both the one and the other were the representatives of principles apart from which there can be no free and full development of human nature and life.

Let the Orangemen thus keep their day joyfully, thankfully; but also peaceably and benevolently. The orange and blue may float over their heads and adorn their persons without awaking bitter memories of the white cockade of the fallen dynasty. The pious, glorious, and immortal memory of the great hero of the Protestant cause may be celebrated without angry thoughts towards the maintainers of the papal reign. We have come to understand that we may contend earnestly for the faith which we hold without denying to others their right to uphold their own convictions. And so these days, once days of strife and conflict, may become seasons of peace and good will.

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The Situation in England.

WE mean, of course, the situation in Great Britain and Ireland. The full expression is so cumbersome that one finds himself, however reluctantly, falling in with the growing though rather indefensible custom of using the name of the predominant partner as that of the whole firm.

Now that Parliament is actually dissolved and the writs for a new House made returnable in so short a period, it would be risking one's reputation as a prophet or his chances of making such, too rashly to indulge in too confident predictions with reference to the relative strength of parties in the new Parliament. If any reliance can be placed upon the consensus of cable correspondents, and the greatly preponderant opinion of the British press, the only thing at all likely to prevent the return of the Unionists, or Conservatives, as we should, perhaps, now call the Government party, with an overwhelming majority, will be the blunders or worse than blunders of Lord Salisbury himself. That such a result is not altogether inconceivable is pretty clear from what has already occurred. Events which have already

taken place seem to indicate that he has a greater facility than even Lord Rosebery for saying and doing the wrong thing or the right thing at the wrong time. A formidable heap of damaging mistakes lies already at his door. In illustration it is not necessary to do more than allude to his treatment of Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, in sending his secretary with a verbal demand for the seals of office—a mistake for which he, to his credit, it is true, apologized in the House of Lords, but the sting of which remains, nevertheless; his blunt disregard for public sentiment, both in and out of the House, in virtually pronouncing against any effort to reform the present liquor laws; his causing to be thrown out of the Upper House the Irish Municipal Act, which had already passed its second reading, and the justice of which, as simply conceding to Irish municipalities certain rights and privileges which England has long possessed, was conceded by a large majority made up of both parties. In short; had Lord Salisbury been anxious to play into the hands of his defeated opponents, he could hardly have done so more effectively than by setting out in so arbitrary and unpopular a fashion to reject measures on which the hearts of large numbers of the people are unquestionably set. We say nothing just now of other actions of a somewhat different kind, but which are similarly opposed to the public sentiment of a large and growing section of the people, such as his most injudicious course in not only putting into high office no less than three or four of his own near relatives, but permitting other members of the Government to do the same, until about half the members of his administration are now members of three or four families. A series of such mistakes as these, coupled with his somewhat cynical intimations of the intention of the new Government to drop consideration of most of the great measures which have been held before the country by the retiring Administration, especially those intended for the conciliation of Ireland, without regard to what may or may not be just and worthy in each case, and to adopt a paternal attitude in legislation, somewhat after the German fashion, can hardly fail to have considerable effect in checking the tide of popularity which has of late been setting so strongly away from the defeated Government and in the direction of Unionism. Indeed, according to some of the press correspondents, signs of re-action are already visible in many of the constituencies, insomuch that the Liberal workers are said to be, in some cases, changing their tone of despondency for one of hopefulness.

But the probability is that any tendency to revulsion of feeling in the constituencies which may have arisen from such causes as those indicated, is fully offset by the not less objectionable sayings and doings of the Leader of what is now the Opposition. Lord Rosebery's fatal proclivity for embarrassing his party has not been cured by adversity. His speech before the Eighty Club, which was probably intended to inspirit his party and give the watchword for the coming struggle, seems to have had, so far as it went, precisely the opposite effect. His proposal to drop Home-Rule, Local Option, Welsh Disestablishment, the One-Man One Vote scheme of electoral reform, and, in a word, the whole programme of the Party, with the single exception of the abolition of the veto-power of the House of Lords, is, as he puts it, not without some logical force. It is probable that none of these radical measures can be carried into effect so long as the Lords have the power to veto them one by one, summarily, on their appearance in that chamber. But it would not seem to require any very profound political wisdom to perceive that to expect the people who are intent on what they regard as some great reform, desirable for its own sake and in the interests of justice, equality or morality