

bearing violence of the war party, opinion on the other side continued active and found expression. The national conscience asserted itself in the elections, in Parliamentary divisions, in the press. In the British Parliament, though the war party had an overwhelming majority, there was still freedom of debate. Nor was the influence of the minority unfelt. It put some restraint on sanguinary excesses; it tempered violent counsels; it helped to hold open the door of ultimate peace with foemen of whom a Tory Minister now speaks, not as bandits to be exterminated, but as honest enemies, presently to be our good friends. But Canada, on the other hand, has been simply swept in the train of the dominant party in the Imperial country. In our Parliament free speech has been drowned in clamour. Our public press almost universally has been a transcript of the jingo press of England. Thus the main facts of the case have never been allowed to come before the Canadian people. How many of our people have ever heard of the Conventions; ever heard that self-government as to internal affairs had been guaranteed to the people of the Transvaal, or that British Ministers, Mr. Chamberlain among them, had emphatically recognized the right; ever heard that the claim of