

formist minister; Mr. Stead published, under the sensational heading "Has the Army broken in our Hand?" a garbled letter taken without inquiry by another paper from yet another in America; inferring to the satisfaction of himself and our worst enemies that our soldiers were mutinying against orders of policy, and this from a single unsifted piece of what would have been third-hand evidence if it had not been practically a forgery. It is unnecessary to speak of Mr. Frederic Harrison's intemperate manifesto or to do more than mention the visit of Messrs. Sauer and Merriman; their mission now looks childish in view of subsequent disclosures, but it was the occasion of some disgraceful proceedings and ended in a farewell banquet at which, to our profound regret, Mr. Courtney is reported to have again spoken of Lord Milner in a manner unworthy of his better self.

So far we have not attempted to be exhaustive in any way; we have merely set down a few phrases and events which have remained in our memory and seem sufficiently typical for our purpose. They show that up to the moment of the outbreak of war the Liberal Party had on the whole fulfilled honourably and without excesses its legitimate function of criticism. They do not show that during the first eighteen months of the war, while the pro-Boers were giving lamentable proofs of passion and unreason, they were receiving from the responsible chiefs of the Liberal Party any open countenance or support; the programme of hatred and unscrupulousness had not become official; the Party might be weakened by inconsistent leading, and discredited by some of its associates, but its honour as a whole was uncompromised.

Suddenly, however, without any warning, the situation was entirely changed. By a succession of blows which had almost the appearance of being concerted, Mr. Morley and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman shattered the mosaic which they had been hitherto so careful to put together and keep undisturbed, and cast into the deepest doubt the Party's hopes of future usefulness. On June 14, at a banquet given by the National