

bitter past are fading; glorious recollections of the days when we were all brothers in heart are freshening; true patriotism and a passionate longing once again to co-operate for the good of the nation are filling the souls of men. Reconciliation is their watchword.

LEADERS' POWER TO PROMOTE UNION.

But the people are not organised for this work, and without the help of their leaders they must labour under the greatest difficulties. It is evidently a case for these leaders. They could not make a union without the people, but they can set the seal to that union for which the people crave. If but three men whose names are on every lip would shake hands with a good heart the work would be done. Why? Because the people are prepared. The leaders have but to crystallise the sentiment now fluid and pervasive of the mass; they have but to solemnise the union for which all are ready. Who shall forbid the banns?

LEADERS' POWER TO OBSTRUCT UNION.

On the other hand, for the very reason I have named, the leaders can do much to delay and obstruct union. If they be indifferent or averse, captious or languid, seek excuses to differ instead of methods to agree, we may fail of our noble end. Therefore there is on these men a great load of responsibility to-day.

IS REUNION EASY ON PUBLIC ISSUES?

Now, gentlemen, postponing, as beneath contempt in this great debate, all personal questions, let me briefly glance in a practical spirit at the public issues of the day, so as to see where there be any serious difficulty in reunion. Defer for a little the dominating question of Home Rule, adjourned by the fortune of war to the next election; and take the matters which press even in this anti-Home Rule Parliament. Let us see how we stand.

LOCAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS.

First, there are the elections under the Local Government Act—a great Act, though with great blemishes, on whose