

By the side of this speech we may set the following extract from Mr. Morley's address to the electors of Montrose :

There is not a man versed in our national affairs who does not see and know that we are expanding our responsibilities beyond the limits of our resources . . . profligately squandering the treasure that we should be diligently husbanding. . . . The tax-payer is finding out that you do not expand your frontier in two continents for nothing . . . As for the war, I have not one word to withdraw. . . . I regard it as a hateful incident in the retrograde policy. . . . I regard the incorporation of the two Boer States as the consummation of one of the most evil blunders in our history.

And in the same speaker's Oxford oration we find him answering by anticipation Mr. Asquith's words on freedom :

Political liberty and real liberty? I distrust that distinction. . . . When we consider the dogged tenacity with which those men have flung themselves into this bloody struggle for the independence of their own community and country—aye, and even in this case twelve months ago we should all have declared it to be the most noble object for which a man could sacrifice himself and die—we can judge how likely men of this kind are to subside into quiescence under the rule which you have started under the most hateful circumstances that can possibly by human imagination be conceived.

In the face of differences such as these it is idle to remind us that upon questions of domestic policy all Liberals are at one. Even that is no longer true : while Manchester has been dreaming, man has grown : his fatherland is now the habitable globe and his domestic policy the welfare of the world. To do our duty under this "expanding responsibility" may be costly, even to the limit of our resources, and painful beyond even the experience of this South African war : it is certainly no work for boasting or for gold and scarlet trappings ; it must be done by men of good will in sober khaki. There is no lack of these in England ; it is of vital importance that they should dominate her councils, whether as members of a Liberal or a Conservative party.