

divides. **And despite that opposition a Constitution is established, under which Louis Botha, once perpetually banished from South Africa, becomes Prime Minister of the Transvaal.**

### The Third Day—A Liberal Vindication.

The third evening is that of July 14th, 1915. Seven more years have passed. Freedom in the Transvaal has produced a federated South Africa, with Louis Botha as (seemingly perpetual) Prime Minister. Milner, Milnerism, Prussianism, all its unclean theories of life and conquest, have vanished into the darkness. The 'opportunity' of a great European war, which Mr. Balfour foresaw, has come—and gone. **General Botha has just suppressed rebellion in his own country; then gone forth to lead a Dutch and English force with the skill by which he was enabled for three years to defy—fifteen years before—all the armies of the Empire.** He has occupied town after town. He has traversed great wastes and territories. He has encompassed around his enemies in a manner that has proved him a master of war. He has conducted operations in a country described as 'deserts of shifting sand, waterholes rare and often poisoned by the enemy, mines thickly strewed, no pasture for the baggage trains, railways torn up and destroyed.' And he has finally effected the peaceful surrender of the force defending a country nearly as large as England and Germany combined. And—remembering no doubt the story fifteen years ago—he has given to the vanquished generous terms of peace. **So in the same House of Commons in which he had been declared by proclamation a perpetual outlaw, a Prime Minister of the British Parliament, Right Hon. Mr. Asquith, amid the enthusiastic plaudits of all parties combined, asks the House 'at this earliest opportunity to testify the admiration and gratitude of the whole Empire to the illustrious General who is also Prime Minister of the Union.'** And the words are re-echoed by the Tory leader, who mocks at Germany for thinking that 'a brave foe who had pledged his word would not keep his word,' and asserts that **'no resolution ever submitted to this House will secure greater support than will be given to this resolution by every section of the House.'**

So the world passes on its way, with its amazing vicissitudes of fortune. And those who look on observe events which carry with them lessons which will be forgotten, and verdicts of political wisdom which each generation is compelled to learn anew. The irony of history only required for completion the presence there last Tuesday of Sir William Harcourt, who had protested against perpetual banishment of General Botha from South Africa, and of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who had given the constitution which had made him Prime Minister, with the power to aid us in the day of trial. It would have been good to see, amid the sonorous laudation of the orators and the crashing cheers of the audience, the presence in the same Chamber of the one, who had been mocked at for his protest,

and the other who had been shouted down for his policy; of those whose protest and policy had alone made that oratory possible and created the conditions of that applause.

### The Triumph of Liberalism.

The tale is worth the telling. It should be remembered and recorded in some such memorial as that erected out of the twelve stones of Jordan for the instruction of the Children of Israel; as a lesson of the laws of how great nations can be established, and how destroyed. It is worth the telling, not only for the romance of its historical setting, a romance which will remain undimmed by time; and not certainly for any desire to revive the memory of old, unhappy, far-off things, and battles long ago. **It is worth the telling because Liberalism is always in danger; because, to those who never learn and never forget, its principles are always hazardous, risky, doubtful; because it is so much easier to use force and compulsion to crush down opposition, to abolish choice and conviction, than to trust to loyalty, and the free determination of free men, and patience, and generosity, and response to generosity, and all the healing influences of liberty and time.** If Liberalism had failed fourteen years ago in its protest or seven years ago in its performance, General Botha would have suffered 'perpetual banishment'—perhaps to South-West Africa. And to-day the British Empire in South Africa would have been lost to the British Crown. But because Liberalism was true to its traditions, this man has indeed visited South-West Africa, and is to-day returning 'bringing his sheaves with him.'

### THE AUSTRALIAN NAVY.

The triumphant successes of the Australian Navy in the first year of the War have so completely proved the wisdom of the Commonwealth Government in equipping and maintaining a navy of their own that work is now far under way on a permanent naval base at Fremantle, West Australia. Extensive tracts of what was virgin bush but a year ago are now covered with roads, railway lines, store-rooms and offices, while jetties, docks, work-rooms, etc., are in course of construction. This base is designed to be the permanent home of the Australian Navy, and recent advices indicate that when it is completed, Fremantle will rank second only to Sydney among the ports of the Island continent. Little has been heard of late regarding the movements of the ships of the Australian Navy, this no doubt being due to the strict censorship in Canada. When the truth may be known, however, it is certain that Canadians will be surprised if not humiliated to learn just what Australian warships have been doing in these days of need when Canada is without a navy of her own.