

Why should the Tories throughout the country commit themselves to any such arduous enterprise as that of rivalling, in their party works, the organisation of a cricket club? The question is pertinent; for the Tory mind, resting as it does on principle, tends to indolence, just as the nimbler mind, devoted to expediency, is always in danger of committing itself to insane adventures. For example, supporters of the present government are already "ventilating," and not disdaining to entertain, schemes of plunder for class advantages which may well call for all the strength of the reorganised Tory party to battle.

The best reason for taking this trouble is that it is not only the affairs of England that are at stake on the individual vote: it is the peace of Asia, the progress of Africa, the salvation of Australia, and the future of half of the continent of North America. This is commonplace to those who have travelled, and observed. What was wanting was that this invaluable experience should be handed on to those who could not afford to acquire it at first hand. This is where the aristocracy has as a whole lamentably failed; and at this point the party must begin if it is to do any good in the future. The natural allies of the nobility in this indispensable work are the middle classes, on whom the nobility have cheerfully trampled for twenty years. As a result they find themselves face to face with Socialism, and it is to be hoped that they like the prospect.

Hitherto it has been assumed that the Tory leader could have the middle-class alliance for the asking. They might have done so, any time this twenty years; but it does not follow that they can have it to-day at any price. It must never be forgotten that the sentiments of the middle class were, for a century, strongly Liberal. Nothing but the wild adventures of 1886 and 1892 drove them to, and kept them in, the Tory camp. They have not been so well received there that they should be expected to resist an invitation to return to their allegiance. Many such invitations are possible; but these we may consider later.