

I hoped we could help one another in the face of the defeat to ask what we ought to do which would prepare us for the responsibility of office when our opportunity came at the end of one, two or three parliaments, as the case might be. I said the party in its chagrin was proclaiming that the Liberal party were usurpers who had entered into a possession which was ours by right; that it was prophesied that at the next election they would be thrown out bag and baggage as a body of incompetents; that for my part I believed this was simply nonsense, and furnished additional evidence of our inherent weakness; that I would be surprised if the Liberal party did not remain in power for at least two parliaments, and that if we were wise we would mend our fences, enter into new constructive plans, win the big boys and young men who were sons of Conservatives, or who had no party affiliations, as well as the incoming immigrants, to the Conservative view of national politics; that this would not come through prayer, or for hope of office and party spoils. Therefore, I suggested that by the formation of clubs, or the addition to the existing Conservative organization of educational work, we would inaugurate the debate of public questions, the free movement of our leaders throughout the constituencies to awaken a new interest in public matters; that for this purpose, money would be required to meet the legitimate expenses. I asked them if they would join with me in creating the basis of a fund by subscribing Fifty Thousand Dollars, with a pledge that neither we nor others who would add to the fund would seek for recognition from the Conservative party because we had contributed these sums. These