

Beaconsfield and the late Lord Salisbury—need not despair. We have been through a very depressing season of dismay, long drawn out; none the less, it is even yet not too late to learn the lesson and practise the wisdom that experience should have taught us. Lord Randolph Churchill once referred to a defeat at a bye-election as a “blessing in disguise.” It is an opportunity for realising and undoing errors, and escaping from the pathway to disaster. What Brighton said recently when the forces of the Opposition could be concentrated upon it, Brighton may quite possibly unsay when those forces are dispersed amongst the constituencies at a General Election, supposing an effort is made to stop the mischiefs lately at work. There is still an opportunity, during the coming summer and autumn months, for the Unionist party to set its house in order. If that is done, if present weaknesses are eradicated and future splits prevented, there is every reason why we should go into the electoral contest with a good heart and hopefulness. Efficiency—efficiency in administration and in the conduct of business in the Lower House; and Loyalty—loyalty to the Prime Minister—are the essentials. There is time yet for both to be practised in all departments of the Ministry, and for victory at the polls to be achieved.

Some of the Ministers are undoubtedly thoroughly efficient in their present departments. Not only their works, but their freedom from popular censure prove it. Lord Lansdowne, as Foreign Minister, has shown himself a far-seeing statesman of high ideals. The treaty with Japan, the present cordial relations with France, are some of the fruits of his policy. The testimony which Mr. Choate recently paid to his powers and character has only confirmed the opinion already held by Englishmen. His conduct after the North Sea outrage—one of the most difficult episodes in international politics of modern years—was entirely the right one; though few of us—whether Liberals or Conservatives—thought so at the time. Yet we all acknowledge it now. Had the Man in the Street or the Man in the Armchair been at the Foreign Office instead of