

sound reasoning mean. The right hon. gentleman, whatever were his implied and secret conditions, led the people of this country to believe everywhere, that he was honest and frank with them, and that when the will of the people—such a will of the people as put him where he is, 28 per cent. of the total electorate, the will of the people that has put men behind him with 20 per cent. of the vote of the electorate—to make criminal and civil laws which shall be binding on every section of this country, to sustain an administration which shall administer millions of dollars and untold millions of the resources of this country, to give the power that belongs to all legislation and all administration as well—the right hon. gentleman led the people of this country to believe—whatever he may have whispered to his interested friends—that if they voted and obtained a majority vote, it would be followed by their will being carried out, and his Government would carry out their will. Sir, it is not necessary for me to read the vote; it is not necessary for me to take the voters' list of every member who sits behind my right hon. friend, with the percentage of the vote which he got, and to show him that it sums up to about 28 per cent. of the total votes on the list. This plebiscite vote is 23 per cent.; but oh! the cruelty of it, and the unmanliness of it, and the lack of anything like public frankness of it, to bring the two sections of the people of this country together in a heated contest over a great principle, and to keep secret from one section the conditions which he knew would dash down irreparably every hope they had of carrying that which they believed to be good for this country. You, Sir, may be an anti-prohibi-

tionist, and I may be a prohibitionist, and we both may be honest in our beliefs. Neither of us would impugn the honesty of the other; and neither of us, if he had a spark of manliness within him, would think it was proper or manly to gain an advantage by entering upon the decisive struggle under secret and implied conditions which utterly handicapped one of us and gave the victory without a shadow of doubt to the other before one blow of the battle was struck. Such, Sir, is unfair in the rules of the ring; such is equally unfair and unmanly in public politics; but it is characteristic of my right hon. friend. It is characteristic of his Government; they seem to have lost any feeling of honorable men that they are bound by their pledges, and bound to be frank and manly with the people, bound to do what they said they would do, when they were seeking for power, and for place, and for position.

The churches and the unions, and the earnest men and women of this country demanded that this manly and frank treatment should have been given to them; they have not had it. My own opinion is, that they will think about this matter, and think about it very seriously, and, above all, will hold this in view; that the question at this present moment is not as to what should constitute a requisite majority, but the question is, as to the peculiar conduct of a Government which led earnest men and women on for years with heightened hopes and then plunged them into the final contest where, as I have said, they were hopelessly handicapped by a secret engagement and a condition which effectually barred all possibility of success to them and just as effectually delivered them over to certain defeat.