

his immediate anticipation of events, he nevertheless proceeds with his further prophecy: "It is Disraeli all over, *de l'audace, de l'audace, toujours de l'audace!* To buy a partnership can only be the source of constant embarrassment." What vengeance does the lapse of a quarter of a century bring on men like Hayward; the predicted "source of embarrassment" has proved a constant source of strength and of wealth. But, after an event, nobody could be wiser than Hayward. "Dizzy's peerage was just what I expected," he tells Sir William Stirling-Maxwell in 1876. The Gladstonian majority of one hundred and twenty at the General Election of 1880 brought him delight. He counted with glee the Liberal successes on the first day. "The beginning," he says, "always influences the middle and the end—people like to be on the winning side." The great "moral" victory, which was also a great electoral victory, is thus analysed by one of the men who laboured hardest to obtain it: "People like to be on the winning side!" If Abraham Hayward did but measure the public corn in his own bushel, if Success—the god, we get to believe, of a hundred of his contemporaries—really was his test of eminence, then for him the growing fame of Lord Beaconsfield is Hayward's epitaph as a reader of men and things. Disraeli's unsuspecting phrase, "the delectable," remains, and will outlive all memory of Hayward's rancours.