

however keen their anxiety may be to prolong it, can last for any length of time. There is sure to arise some question of foreign or domestic policy that will produce the natural division anyhow. No section of the Liberal party would consent forever to remain outside the Liberal party under the leadership of Mr. Gladstone, and every day will tend to bring them and him together again.

There is only one basis upon which this reconciliation of the Liberal party can take place, and that is the acceptance by the dissidents of Mr. Gladstone's policy of Home Rule for Ireland. For these reasons the Irish members and the Irish people look upon the present aspect of affairs with very equal mind, and regard the general election as a check, perhaps, but only an incident in the great campaign. In a few months governments and parties will once more be brought face to face with the Irish problem, and the one practical settlement for it is the acceptance of the Irish demand for an Irish Parliament. Nothing could better sum up the situation than the following words of the Rev. Stephen E. Gladstone, Mr. Gladstone's son. "Friends may rest assured, in spite of present reverses, that Mr. Gladstone has no more doubt that Ireland's aspirations for self-government will eventually be conceded to her, than that the sun which is hidden to-day will soon shine out splendidly again; and for my part,