

he is most at home. Had he felt himself strong on the main issue, he would scarcely have sought adventitious strength by a convulsive clutch at the Home Rule vote. Moreover, the party still suffers in some degree from the effects of the late management. In England the Liberal party owes its long ascendancy to the wisdom of its great leaders in making room within its pale for all the shades of opinion which, so long as it corresponds to its name, it will be certain to contain. Here, before the change of leadership, exclusion instead of comprehension was the rule; and uniformity was enforced by coercion exercised in a way which no man of spirit ever forgives. Whipping independent minds into the traces is an operation which, when the horses are of British blood, is more likely to end in the upsetting of the coach than in the submission of the team.

Meanwhile, in the fiscal sphere, a serious change has come over the scene. In 1878, Adjustment was the word. To Adjustment Sir John Macdonald and his colleagues carefully confined their manifestoes. Now carried away by financial success, partly mistaking its sources, and urged forwards by their manufacturing supporters, they have openly declared for Protection; and the Finance Minister has apparently surrendered himself to the fond belief that he can create prosperity by taxation. A momentous question is thus brought before the country, and the people will have to make up their minds upon it without delay, for if a Protectionist Ring forms and gets possession of the Government, the power of deliberation will be lost. The BYSTANDER'S conviction on this subject has been avowed before; it is that not of a purist in Free Trade, but of one who takes the rule of political economy to be expediency, in the broadest sense of the term, embracing the future as well as the present, sanctioning the special fostering of infant industries, if it can be profitably done, and anything else that will sooner or later and through one channel or another bring wealth to the nation as a whole. But it is necessary to hold fast the distinction between that which brings wealth to the nation as a whole and that which suits the interest of a class. The advantage of internal free trade no one is insane enough to deny: no one proposes to run a Customs line across any terri-