

great majority given him, not by party machinery, but by a national movement, there were those who hoped that he would show his sense of his position by widening the basis of government. Old ties and old habits were too much for him ; the only instance in which he has responded to our hopes is the renewal of his connection with Sir Alexander Galt. But if he will carry a good Civil Service Bill, we shall owe to him no inconsiderable step towards our final deliverance from the reign of faction and corruption.

The mention of Civil Service Reform always sets going a debate on the subject of competitive examinations. In the case of India that system seems to have answered well ; the late Lord Lawrence, a man of action if ever there was one, pronounced its results good. But it has its weak points. It is apt to lead to overstraining and cramming. It is apt, also, by the attraction of a prize, which to a boy and his parents seems at the moment great, to draw into a clerk's place a youth who has abilities above it and who presently grows discontented. It would be invidious to dwell on the superior securities which England has for the absolute integrity of the examinations and awards. China has a perfect system of competitive examination which is said to be a screen for corruption from top to bottom. Responsible appointment, with sufficient test examinations, entire immunity from removal on party grounds, and promotion by merit within the office, seem Civil Service Reform enough for a community such as ours.

—As both the leaders of the Opposition have declared for a reform of the Senate and neither of them has been court-martialed, ground will probably be broken on that question. "Reform" is a wrong word, because it implies abuse ; there is no abuse, except in the case of any senators who may have taken the honour and the pay without doing their duty ; there is only an experiment in constitution building which has failed, and the failure of which, in general opinion, calls for a change.