

MR. KINGSFORD

AND

SIR H. LANGEVIN, C. B.

I am aware that what is known as individual wrong seldom obtains either sympathy or consideration with the great mass of men. A momentary feeling of regret, a passing spasm of indignation that injustice should have been committed may be experienced. But such a sentiment is evanescent ; and when the novelty of the event has passed away, it ceases to attract even the limited attention it has obtained and soon falls into oblivion. It is this result which is calculated by the politician when he contemplates a line of conduct which his interest or his vanity may dictate, and which his conscience or his experience may tell him will call forth stern criticism when it is first made public. He reasons that all phases of opinion pass away, or are modulated ; and if he can but see before him, so that he can right himself by the purchased support which he can command, he conceives that the impression, however hostile to him, will fade away or will be remembered only with some cynical apology, or accounted for only by some coarse jest. In public life there are always many inferior agents to do the bidding of their masters, who are only too willing to earn the wage of sycophancy and subserviency. The scruples of this class are slight. Their anxiety is rather to testify that they merit the patronage which they receive by abject submission. It is therefore found that men in a position to be mischievous, with no principle to guide or restrain them, seldom hesitate to carry out their purpose, when the interval of being called to account is long and when there are defenders in the House of Commons and elsewhere to justify their conduct or to turn aside the debate in any awkward investigation. They know, however flagrant the injustice, their supporters can be relied on to defend it, and the more disgraceful the abuse of power, the greater the claim for future consideration with those who defend the trespasser. With such as these there can be no wrong. The Ministerial portfolio is with them as immaculate as the