

3. *Foreign Politics* is where the Liberals have generally come to grief in recent years. The public can know nothing whatever about them; and criticism is almost absurd. In this case all that the public can know is that no Grey was ever weak-kneed. If he blunders, he blunders consumedly. This Grey will probably not blunder; and if there is a difference of opinion it will not be the Foreign Secretary who will go to the wall.

4. *India*.—No stranger freak of politics was ever known than that which placed the fortunes of the greatest military empire in the world in the control of Mr. John Morley. Nevertheless he wrote, among other things, the *Essay on Compromise*; so the Tories will have no more to hope from India than from Foreign Politics or the War Office. The Colonies are, perhaps, more hopeful: there are many rocks ahead at the Colonial Office.

On the whole it must be confessed that the Tory prospects never looked worse, except, perhaps, in 1714. They are now paying the penalty for neglect of the party, just as they did at the earlier date. For two years before the death of Queen Anne there had been practically no government in England. "The sterility of good and able men is incredible" was said at the time; but perhaps Henry St. John took no pains to bring forward his "good and able men," of whom there must have been many. He counted on the young bloods of the October Club, who corresponded to the guinea-pigs of to-day; and probably reflected that his own genius could be relied upon to remedy any deficiencies. It was a natural blunder; but it ruined his party. He was devoted to sport, and condescended to letters. He loved adulation: especially the adulation of ladies. He was disdainful of the crowd, whom he thought he could always cajole with fine speeches. While he loved power, he loved still more the pretence of despising power. Isolated among his cronies he remained contentedly ignorant of the temper of England; and in his downfall he left his party bankrupt of everything but hope.

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