

Theology on the *Web*.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

[PayPal](#)

<https://paypal.me/robbadshaw>

A table of contents for *The Churchman* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_churchman_os.php

and trust that with the blessing of God it will be even more useful to the Church of America than the similar Society at home has been to us in England. "We are boiling over with enthusiasm," says one of the Committee, "and yet at the same time we are weighted with discretion, so I think we ought to do!" I hope they won't be *too discreet*! Already I have received a most cheering account of the first Mission held at Philadelphia, under the auspices of the new Society, by Dr. MacKimm, of New York, and I trust that the evident blessing attending that effort is an earnest of great things in store for that Society, for the Church, and for the land. I have no doubt but that the winter of 1885-86 will ever be regarded as marking an epoch in the spiritual history of the Episcopal Church of America.

W. HAY M. H. AITKEN.



ART. VI.—AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THERE is a very natural but very erroneous idea prevalent just now, that the struggle of the Elections has ended in victory, and that after victory we enter on well-earned repose. Only in the most limited sense is this idea correct. The defeat of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Scheme in the House of Commons was, it is true a protest of the House against a mischievous, uncalled-for, and extravagant measure; and it was also, and even more directly, a challenge of Mr. Gladstone's supremacy. Had the constituencies gone in favour of Mr. Gladstone, we might or might not have had to pass his Irish Bills in their old shape; but we should certainly have had his yoke firmly fixed upon our necks for the duration of another Parliament. From Mr. Gladstone and his schemes we are happily delivered. What the Elections have done for us most effectually is to thrust Mr. Gladstone from power, and from the possibility of regaining it without another Dissolution. Setting aside the Unionist Liberals, the Conservative reaction—amounting to a gain of some sixty seats—has been so considerable as to give the Party the possession of nearly half the House, and to make any Government impossible without their acquiescence. The other gain secured by the Elections is that whatever course may be taken with regard to the Irish Question, we shall not have to accept a measure imposed upon us by Mr. Parnell, paying for his political support by a surrender to his wishes. By the union of Conservatives with the revolted Liberals the balance of power has been taken from the hands of the Par-

nellite Party. They may take their eighty-six votes where they please. The Constitutionalists do not want them, whilst their allies of last Session, having a bare two hundred votes of their own, must, whether with their help or without it, be alike impotent. All this is clear gain, but the Irish difficulty still presses for settlement.

The course of the Elections has not widely diverged from that which last month seemed to us probable. The Conservative recovery, especially in England, has been even more remarkable than was expected, and our prediction of a gain of forty seats has been largely exceeded. On the other hand, the Unionist Liberals have lost rather than gained, mainly owing to the personal following of Mr. Gladstone in Scotland. Nowhere was this more remarkable than in Edinburgh, where a man of the power and ability of Mr. Goschen has been displaced by a barely respectable mediocrity. So, too, in the Hawick Burghs, Mr. G. O. Trevelyan, after eighteen years of Parliamentary service, has been superseded by a local nobody, whose principles are understood to be in accordance with any that it may suit Mr. Gladstone at any moment to take up. The Parnellite vote remains practically the same as before, having, indeed, been hardly challenged anywhere in Ireland. The only Party, then, that has lost heavily is that of Mr. Gladstone's immediate supporters. In the last Parliament, even after the desertion of the ninety-two, he could still muster some two hundred and forty followers, exclusive of the Irish vote; but now, notwithstanding his most passionate appeals to national prejudices, to the masses against the classes, and to the sacred principles of right and justice; in spite, too, of his use of all the arts at his command as an "Old Parliamentary Hand," to bewilder the ignorant, and to cajole the uncertain, the two hundred and forty are reduced to less than two hundred. Indeed, in the Metropolis and the adjoining counties, "Gladstonism" is all but blotted out. Another sign of a better mind among the English constituencies is that they are beginning to see the absurdity of sending to Parliament wholly illiterate agitators like Mr. Arch and Mr. Leicester, who at best can but represent the ignorance and intolerance of a part of their constituents. Both of these members have been replaced by better men.

Such, then, is the Parliament which has been sent up by the country to settle the Irish Question. Until this question has been disposed of, nothing can be said to have been settled. The Elections turned upon that question alone—no other topic was discussed or even thought of. No one denied that a policy for Ireland, definite, practical, firm, and yet, so far as may be possible, conciliatory, is the first thing needful. The next

thing is that such a policy when once adopted should be adhered to. England's Irish policy must be as continuous and stable as her foreign policy. After the recent examples of the deadly mischief that may arise from using the Irish difficulty for personal or Party purposes, it is to be hoped that the people of this country will insist that, whatever may happen, it shall not be so used again. How then is Parliament to arrive at a policy for Ireland, and give it a start independently of Party politics? The exigencies of publication compel us to write at a moment when decisions on the question are being taken, and any prediction may be falsified by the event before these words see the light. But it is safe to say that, unless the work of the recent Elections is to be wholly wasted, certain broad lines of action must be followed. First of all, Mr. Gladstone and his Government must disappear. The members pledged to oppose his Irish policy number more than four to every three of his supporters, even if we give him the whole strength of the Parnellite faction. His most dignified course would be resignation—and this is probably being determined on as we write—but whether he takes that course or waits for a vote of "no confidence," the result must be the same. His dismissal is the necessary preliminary to the formation of a strong Ministry. As to what that Ministry should be, there cannot surely be a moment's doubt.

The Conservatives and Unionist Liberals have fought the battle so far side by side, but they have fought as yet only for position. Having together achieved a position from which a victory for those united forces is possible, we cannot believe that they will now separate those forces. To do so would be to lose all the reward of past efforts, for it is a matter of plain arithmetical demonstration that neither division can by itself command success. And if the Unionist Liberals—leaders as well as rank and file—do not intend to co-operate with the Conservatives in carrying on the ordinary business of Government, it is hard to see what place they have in Parliament at all. To suppose them to contemplate a junction with the Gladstonian Liberals as soon as Mr. Gladstone goes out of power or alters his plans, is to accuse them of having procured Conservative assistance by means of false pretences, a thing incredible of a body of men who have just quarrelled with their Party rather than forfeit the approval of their own consciences. Besides, as we have said, it is specially desirable that the solution of the Irish question should not be left to one Party alone. As the work of Liberals as well as Conservatives it will have twice the stability it could otherwise possess; for the credit of both will be bound up in maintaining it, while neither will be concerned to upset it. Everything, therefore, points, in

the interest of the nation, to a Coalition Government in which both Parties shall be adequately represented, and a future Cabinet should certainly include the Marquis of Hartington and Mr. Goschen. Such a Government would have the nation at its back, and would command a strong majority in the House of Commons. There are very few questions of general policy on which the Conservatives would find much difficulty in agreeing with the Moderate Liberals, whilst on points of administration there need be no difference between them. It is urged that the personal difficulties of co-operation in this way are too many, and that Lord Hartington cannot, by joining the Conservatives, forfeit his reversion of the future leadership of the Liberals. If so, the Whigs have not yet learnt on which side their future lies ; and this is nothing short of a public misfortune. If the Conservatives alone come into power with assurances of support from the Hartingtonian Liberals, we do not believe that such a mere combination—uncemented by any kind of partnership of responsibility—will last for any length of time, or do really good work while it lasts.

Supposing, however, that all things go well, and that Lord Hartington's followers prove as staunch in the future as they have in the past, Churchmen may fairly expect a year or two of rest from external foes. Among the many welcome defeats of the elections was that of Mr. Carvell Williams ; and though this gentleman's power for mischief is not greatly lessened by his exclusion from the House of Commons, he is not the only enemy to the Church who is shut out of Parliament by the recent voting. A Coalition Ministry will certainly not be anxious to bring forward Church questions, nor will the Radical Opposition be in a position for some time to come to raise with any chance of success a cry in which the Irish Members would very likely not follow them, and which might even cause division among themselves. But what use will Churchmen make of the respite afforded them ? We were told a year ago that the sudden outburst of Church zeal for inculcating on the masses the principles of Church Defence—teaching them the history of the Church, her claims to their love and gratitude, her title to her property—was no mere outcome of sudden panic, but would be steadily carried on long after the panic had abated. But what do we see now ? Is there any sign that we are looking upon our present peace as only a temporary respite—a pause in an attack which will certainly be renewed ? Is anything being done to render us one whit better prepared for the next emergency than we were for the last ? Last year there were weeks and even months of warning. Who will promise us time for organizing resistance on

the next occasion? We may depend upon it that if the steady work of strengthening the hold of the Church upon the people—by correcting abuses, answering calumnies, solving perplexities, and all the other work that has to be done over and above that of evangelization—is not done in time of peace, we shall bitterly rue our neglect when once more the stress of the storm is upon us.

GILBERT VENABLES.

SOUS TON VOILE D'IGNOMINIE.

1

THOUGH Shame is on Thee as a veil.
And thorny Sorrow crowns Thy brow,
Think not, my Saviour, I shall fail
To own Thy kingly presence now.
Within the cloud, whose blood-red
stain
Has hid Thy beauty, I can trace
Th' indwelling majesty again
Which nought can banish from Thy
face.

2

To Thy immortal forehead bright
A mould as heavenly here is given
As ever in the sacred light,
As ever in the calm of heaven.
Never in Beauty's native home
So vivid was Thy beauty's glow
As when, to-day, in solemn doom,
Up Calvary Thy feet must go.

3

Ye whose glad days, that ne'er are
done,
In rapturous worship always move,
Who in the Father praise the Son,
And in the Son the Father love—
Angels! in those blest courts did He
E'er seem more radiant to your eyes
Than here upon th' atoning tree,
And underneath the wrathful skies!

4

That greatness, which in heaven began,
Now in His death shall perfect be;
Thy degradation, Son of Man,
Is glory, Son of God, to Thee.
The Father's word was "I am Love;"
Then Jesus left the home on high,
To make this earth the message prove,
"I am His Son, and Love am I."

5

Yes, Love He is; true God is He,
The God thro' Whom God's goodness
showers;
The God we love, the God we see,
God Who unites God's life with ours.
Where, then, can glory higher rise?
For in this dreadful place I find
My God become my sacrifice,—
My God appear a brother kind.

6

Love is the greatness past compare;
Love is the glory of the sky;
Love is the very diadem fair
Of God-with-us and God-most-high.
Far from my sight the vision base
Of dignities and greatness be!
On earth, as in the Holy Place,
Nothing is great save Charity.

7

Thee I adore, O Love divine!
What skill can sound Thy deepness
through?
But ah! this lukewarm heart must pine
Unless Thou fill it and renew.
Thou, the soul's glory, joy, and noon—
Thou present heaven where'er we
fare,
This heart demands Thee; enter soon,
And bloom, beneath God's sunshine,
there!

8

Oh, may these eyes be, day and night,
Fixed, heavenly Brother, on Thine
eyes;
And drink the rays of fire and light
Which there from Love's sweet foun-
tain rise!
Blend evermore Thy life with mine;
Pour Thy whole heart within my
heart;
Make longings for all bliss but Thine
From this impassion'd soul depart!

C. W. MOULE.