THE COMMONWEAL
May 29, 1886.

NOR can Mr. Chamberlain be congratulated on any success in keeping his temper. His attack on the meeting of the Liberal and Radical Council seems to show that their hint of censure has been taken as a deep cause of offence; though, perhaps, like the servant-maid in Dickens, he has only been "showing them what kind of a temper he keeps" — a mode of striving for his own highly sufficient to the ex-master of the Caucus. For the rest, his appeal in his letter for political gratitude for past services, to shield him from censure on present blunders, would be a able argument indeed if the rank and file had not got so used to leadership—by the nose.

Quarrelling among once allies has been diversified by a good deal of watering down of strong utterances against enemies when the latter have raised too much of a storm around the speakers—makings. Lord Salisbury having put forward some alternative to Home Rule, found no difficulty in proclaiming the necessary Tory scheme of coercion, carried on, if necessary, to extermination of the rebellious race. But, frightened at the sound of his own words, he has tried to explain all that away into paternal government for Ireland, and the attainment for it of all the blessings which in this island we have for a long time been privileged to enjoy. We landlords and fundolders, it must be supposed, who indeed have had no bad time of it in Ireland either.

Of course there is nothing in this vague nonsense; but that his lordship thinks it necessary to explain away his tall talk does mean something: he is looking towards the Whigs and Whitrigging of Radicals. It is but a part of the same operation as the quarrelling of the Radicals, namely, the tendency for all reaction to run together into the Moderate Party. Sheer Toryism can now only work through hypocrisy—that is, Whiggery, alias they Constitutionalism confronted with young Revolution.

Even the bold Major Sanderson was anxious to "explain," much as if a man using the word "damned" with reference to an adversary, were to point out that he did not intend a theological assertion. Lord R. Churchhill, however, stood to his guns, and asserted the constitution of rebellion in the teeth of the "sacro-sanctity of assemblies" ingeniously enough, whatever may be said about his ingenuousness. Poor Constitutionalism! that has to be supplemented by Revolution!

The respectabilities that followed Lord R. Churchill—Gladstonite and other, including Mr. Gladstone himself—did not accept this view of Constitutionalism; their respectability rang hollow enough since they were driven into using war-like metaphors in the usual unreal and meaningless manner; in spite of which all that was said made clear once more that brute force is the real cement of all sham society, and that it will breed force as a solvent of its tyranny. It is a pity indeed that such a discussion should have had no better occasion than the carrying on on one side of the old habit of refusing the Irish the rights of citizenship, and on the other an attempt to put the Irish landlords in the right, whatever means they may try for the upholding of their masters oppression.

The "negotiations" for patching up that broken jug, the Liberal Party, and all the lies, half-lies, contradictions, evasions, and the rest of the brood of party antics may be passed over in unrespectful silence. Thus the game of "representation" goes on, and outside it the people live and die—live miserably and die before their time, and the veil of words, and sham intentions, and half intentions, and the self-interest of the rich now grown mill and fatherly—in words—dulls the sound of that "lamentation and an ancient tale of wrong.

"Like a tale of little meaning though the words are strong; Chanted from an ill-used race of men that cleave the soil, Saw the seed, and reaped a harvest from all the toil.

How long will it last? "Our time" think our Representatives. Well, some of them are old men, but some scarcely middle-aged, and "he who lives will see." —William Morris.

"Count Samuel Tolycky is organising an expedition for the exploration of Central Africa. The fitting out will be completed by the end of May, and one hundred and twenty men will be made on board the steamer, and the Austrian navy, will take part in the expedition, and two boats will be taken with the course (W. Tolycky, Adventurer)."

"The collar manufacturers at Troy, New York State, have ordered a lock-out owing to the demands of their employees. Eight thousand persons are consequent thrown out of employment." —W. M.