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# THE REACTION IN ENGLAND.

The defeat of Rosebery's government and the subsequent appeal to the people has shown a marvellous change in the opinions of the British public. Not only have the Tory party, combined with the Unionists, gained the victory, but they have rolled up such an immense majority as to make them masters of the situation, and dictators of the United Kingdom for years to come.

This is indeed a painful surprise to all lovers of freedom and well-wishers of the British people throughout the world, for while the Liberal party with all its faults might always be safely considered as on the side of popular treedom and reform, and had some respect for the wishes and rights of the people, the conservative or Tory party stands for principles vastly different.

It stands for the classes as opposed to the masses; hoaryheaded custom to free and equitable government; caste and creed to liberty and equality, and imperialism and aristocracy to the popular will. Privilege against merit, idleness against industry and insolent assumption and tyranny against intelligent and well-ordered popular government.

selves should unite to bring sidering their intelligence, some- even now seeking for Canadian won and the Lords, the privileg- refuse it. ed classes and even the throne itself were figuratively speaking shaking in their shoes and begging the democracy to "let clothing is the latest and prices all as them down easy" and promising in addition a curtailment of They are always pleased to show goods their privileges and the granting of the mostsweeping popular and even socialistic reforms. But the vacillating policy of Rosebery, who feared to carry out the popular uprising against the lords when it was at the flood tide dampened the spirits of the Radicals, and the unseemly dissensions and quarrels of the Irish factions disgusted the friends of Home Rule in England; while the Tory party, the hereditary enemies of the Irish would be glad to promise anything to get the Irish once more under their feet.

They have gained the dearest wishes of their hearts and the English people, well knowing the spirit of Toryism have only us on the Tuesday previous to the themselves to thank, if where the Liberals scourged them with whips, the Tories scourge them with scorpions.

> And Ireland—what she do? What can she do? If her members have no more spirit than to sit in the house of her enemies and witness the complete humiliation of their country let them do it. And if her sons in the ranks of the British army can not strike an effective blow for her emancipation they can at least refrain from adding to the glory and dominion of a country that keeps their motherland in chains. Resistance is useless. Home Rule or any other measure of freedom or reform cannot be wrung from an alien and hostile parliament and the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" on the soil on which they were born and which has been enriched by the blood of their ancestors is a boon which they can no more hope to crave.

But although the Saxon may seize the soil of Ireland-may overturn the poor mud cabins and turn the inmates out on the roadside he cannot make slaves of their bodies or quench that indomitable spirit of liberty which has shone like a star through the darkness of famine and oppression, and which in some more favored land may be relighted and show a beacon to the oppressed and down-trodden nations of the earth.

while under the same flag they will achieve the prosperity, honor and distinction denied

will constitute the bulwark of about this state of affairs is, con- that stalwart democracy that is thing that passes the bounds of independence, and when the time ordinary belief, particularly at is ripe and the decree goes forth it a time when the battle was half will not be safe for England to

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