

items and thus save at least £2000 apiece. We had some difficulty in getting our agents to agree to this, for it was shortly before the election, and a perfect army of clerks had been engaged to be turned loose on the constituency to canvass or cajole, and bring back the result of their investigations in the shape of returns, frequently misleading if derived from people whose timidity or self-interest prescribed a cautious course under cross-examination. In spite of this, however, a bill for £1800 was presented and had to be paid promptly. Somehow I don't think it is possible to undergo a greater mental or bodily strain than the three weeks' ramble over Aberdeenshire I had endured. Two, three, and even four meetings had to be addressed with hardly any time for preparation, or even for thinking over what should be said. Long drives from place to place, hasty and often insufficient meals; the necessity for being what some muddle-headed speaker once said Cæsar's wife ought to be, all things to all men; the worry and irritation of cranks and bores who press their special fad in and out of season, and threaten to withdraw their support if it does not receive immediate if not exclusive attention; tiresome chairmen who perhaps strike a wrong note at the start, and sometimes speak at inordinate length and exhaust the subject and the patience of the meeting before you get on your legs; and then the awful uncertainty lest someone may get up in the audience and put a poser to you, which may bowl you clean over. The art of dealing with hecklers, as they are called, is a difficult and delicate one, and requires much tact and experience. The difficulty is to know the precise object of the questioner in firing off his query at you. He may have an honest desire to help you by enabling you to enlarge on some question of interest or to touch on something which you may have omitted from your speech. In that case he should be treated with courtesy and considera-