

sion. If the members of either party have assumed their ground boldly, and openly and conscientiously defended either side, there can be neither merit nor demerit to the victors or the vanquished. It ought not to be allowed as a merit in any man that he has been the champion of opinions which we happened to hold in common with him ; nor ought it to be deemed a fault should he advocate measures directly opposed to our views. If he has done so conscientiously we cannot, with justice, impute any blame to him. It is the duty of every one to do what he can for the good of his country ; and no modest man will arrogate to himself merit for having used his best endeavours to attain the object which he honestly considered would tend to the advantage of the community. Nor, farther, ought we to consider any man criminal, although, in pursuit of this most laudable object, he should have pursued a course different from our own. Nor are we to conclude, because he opposed us, that he is unworthy of our confidence, and unqualified for any situation of trust or importance. Most certainly we are not. Such a conclusion would be the grossest injustice. Should two individuals solicit to be employed at any undertaking we may have in contemplation, would it be wise in us to dismiss the most experienced and most able, merely because he held, on some point relating to the past—(but which is now settled, and can no longer be a legitimate subject of dispute)—an opinion different from the one we had formed ? Such a proceeding would not have a shadow of wisdom. But farther, would we consult our interest if, in making choice of the other, we required no other qualification to fit him for the undertaking, but merely that on the point, on which his rival held a different opinion from ourselves, his views coincided with our own ? We certainly would not. Other qualifications are absolutely necessary, and we would expose ourselves to be taxed with folly should we dismiss the able and experienced workman, to make room for one less able, and less experienced, merely because the former, on a point which no longer admits of dispute, happened to