

inspiration. With another who knew them and loved them, who had suffered for them and made them suffer, I say :—

Their tricks and craft hae put me daft,
They've ta'en me in and a' that ;
But clear yer decks, and Here's the sex !
I like the jauds for a' that.

The conditions of life are bad for men, and they must be bad for women also. Indeed the women are the first to feel the pinch of bad times ; but up to now they have shown so little tendency to seek improvement in the municipal sphere—the least tried and the most hopeful of all—that no body of social reformers who put tangible results before academic abstractions will hesitate about the rightness of their exclusion from the sphere of Parliamentary politics. Whereas in local government there is a whole world to win.



In the Face of the Enemy.

LORD LOREBURN'S suggestion of a conference on Home Rule would be deplorable if anything were likely to come of it. Emanating from the Liberal Ex-Lord Chancellor, it will be regarded as a sign of funk among the Liberals at the prospect of Ulster's resistance, though I daresay the Government is not in the least exercised over Ulsterian bluff. The ancestors of the present lot of irreconcilables were even louder in their threats when the old Irish Parliament was abolished ; and nothing came of their bluster. They said they would resist the abolition of the Irish Parliament with the last breath of their bodies and the last drop of their blood, and now they use similar language regarding the giving of the Parliament back. The Government has very properly taken no notice of these vapourings, and it is too bad that they should now be in any way "let down" by an old colleague who might have been expected to be still friendly.

Home Rule, twice carried by the present Parliament, would have automatically become law next year, as I daresay it will anyhow. And if the minority of a minority in Ulster gives trouble, it will just have to be dealt with as recalcitrant minorities have been dealt with elsewhere.

Who would have expected a suggestion of this sort to come from "Bob" Reid, once reputed a stalwart ? Had it been Lord Haldane, Grey, or Asquith, there would have been less room for surprise ; for all three were members of the Rosebery Liberal League, the chief avowed object of which was opposition to Home Rule. How can we be expected to respect the judgment or "principles" of men who play fast and loose with public questions upon which we ourselves have not changed ground in thirty years ? General Trochu, taken to task for having got his army into an *impasse*, said, "My men occupied that position, and, being their general, I had to go with them." That is the kind of leaders that some people are.

Catch the other side sending a flag of truce in the hour of victory !