

humourist. "Certainly, my friend," was the reply; "I always like to hear a man stand up for his own country."

Sir John Rigby's plan with hecklers was to get half a dozen questions asked before he answered. Then he arranged them in order, and polished off the lot in one comprehensive sentence, like this: "To the first I answer, No. The second, Yes. The third, No. The fourth I do not comprehend, and I do not suppose the questioner does either. The fifth I will consider when I have seen the Bill. As to the sixth, Certainly not."

A weak candidate answered all questions after a mumbled consultation with his agent. To outwit him, one alert heckler jumped up at the conclusion of one answer and put the question: "Before the honourable candidate sits down, I would ask him if he is in favour of the Decalogue." After a long and painful period of cogitation the candidate replied to this poser: "Well, Mr Chairman, I am bound to say that the subject is new to me, but this I will add, that if I am returned, it shall have my most earnest and favourable consideration."

Lord Desborough, we are told, had a short and decisive way of dealing with opposition. Someone in the crowd accused him of lying. In a moment his coat was off, he had leaped from the platform, administered a sound thrashing to the hooligan, and, resuming his place, he took up his parable exactly where he left it off. It is hardly necessary to add that for the rest of the meeting he was doubly the hero of the evening.

Looking back upon my own early political days of stress and strain, of hard work and anxiety, I cherish in affectionate memory the friends who cheered and encouraged me, who showed kindness and hospitality when it was most needed and keenly appreciated. First and foremost I must place Sir John Clark, a Scottish county gentleman of the best and