

fasting for it nearly a hundred and ninety years. She should now by all means try to get a glimpse of it on the other side, and, like the worthy New England Puritans, convert her fast into a thanksgiving. We are pretty much assured the country would be none the worse for the change. There are weightier national sins for which to fast than the sin of the martyrdom ; and, were we but grateful enough for its benefits, we might avoid, among other perils, all danger of committing the great national folly of excluding from our marble records the name of our greatest ruler.

The question at issue in this case is unquestionably a British one,—Scotch as well as English ; but it strikes us that the Scotch are in more favourable circumstances for arriving at an impartial decision regarding it than their neighbours in the south. In England the two great parties still exist, with many of their old predilections and antipathies undiluted and unchanged ; the one of which Cromwell led on to victory, and the other of which he defeated and threw down. The question regarding him is still a party question there, argued on the one side in many a goodly volume, and sung once every year in their churches by the other, in music set to the organ. Scotland, on the other hand, dealt more with Cromwell as a nation : the Protesters stood widely aloof, and did not take up arms ; but the great bulk of the nation,—all its Resolutioners and all its Cavaliers,—joined issue against him on behalf of Charles II., and got heartily drubbed for their pains. We are nearly in such circumstances as the English themselves would be, were the question, not whether Cromwell should have a statue in the British House of Commons among the other supreme rulers of England, but whether Napoleon should have a statue in the French Chamber of Deputies, among the other supreme rulers of France. True, Cromwell beat us,—and we don't much like the memory of our defeats ; but we flatter ourselves that it was only because