

A Thought for Today

Thoughtfulness for others, generosity, modesty and self-respect are the qualities which make a real gentleman or lady, as distinguished from the veneered article which commonly goes by that name.

—Thomas H. Huxley

SWATANTRA'S CAPERS

The Swatantra leaders have still to recover from the trauma of defeat in the assembly elections a year ago and the other setbacks the party has suffered since. Its annual convention at Madras provided them with an excellent opportunity to sort out their ideas and redefine its role in national polity. But instead of doing so, they were obviously carried away by their own rhetoric. Indeed, the party president, Mr. Mody, only exposed himself to ridicule by denouncing socialism in all its forms as an unmitigated "evil" after his predecessor, Mr. Masani, had sternly told the assembled delegates that "labels like right and left are meaningless" and called upon them to show that the party was "more radical than the socialist establishment". Likewise, Mr. Masani made nonsense of Mr. Mody's claim that the party stuck to a superior moral code, in contrast to the Congress which had employed "constitutional double standards in Orissa", when he roundly condemned the Swatantra's state unit for joining hands with discredited politicians to topple the Satpathy ministry in Cuttack. That is

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