

rain, if having obtained it, she should dare to enter upon a second marriage, it matters not whether with a rich partner or a poor—her annuity will instantly cease. Why should the rule which is applied to the widow of a miserable subaltern, by Sir John Hobhouse, not be extended to the lady pensioner, by Lord Althorpe.

Was it not a burning shame, that when great and general distress prevailed in the land—when the resources of the merchant and the manufacturer, and the tradesman and the artisan, were daily drying up—when shops were emptying and gaoles filling, from beggary in despair; was it not infamous that undeserved and unrequited thousands should be squandered on the titled mothers of men like the Dukes of Wellington and Newcastle, already gorged with wealth? If the late Secretary of the Admiralty, from his poverty or from hatred of his own flesh, was unable or unwilling to provide for his niece does it follow, either by the law of charity or the law of honour, that the nation shall continue to Mrs. G. Borrow the 300*l.* a year with which they were burdened for the lady-like maintenance of Miss Rosa Matilda Croker?—*London Spectator.*

From the *London Spectator.*

The last Unreformed Parliament of England at an end. On Thursday it was prorogued by the King in person, as a preliminary to dissolution.

The session of Parliament that has thus terminated will be remembered for ever; and yet not many sessions have brought to completion so few legislative acts. But their greatness may well excuse their paucity. Had no means been considered, but Reform, and for the sake of its originators, it would have been well that none else had been,—that measure alone, vast in itself, and in its yet dimly-discovered consequences, would have sufficed to give to any session eternal fame. But the late session as often claims to respect than the Reform bills.

The much-opposed and much-misrepresented bill of Ireland, though local in its present operation, has let in a principle hardly less important than that which the Reform bill established.

The purification of the Representative system, and the inchoate amelioration of the Ecclesiastical system, have been accompanied by measures of great improvement in the Criminal Law,—the Cattle-stealing and the Forger Acts; which, though maimed in their progress by the Aristocratic branch of the Legislature, afford satisfactory evidence of that change to the progress of humanity which the best feeling are now content to offer.

In the Attorney Bill, again the triumph of reason over long-cherished prejudices, is not to be denied.

As to the most important object of a statesman's study—the Education of the People—no considerable portion of the session has been profitably devoted. For though the Ministerial plan of Education in Ireland did not originate with Parliament, it has been wonderfully strengthened by the discussion that it received here.

In the management of public business, an important step has been made towards a more simple and effective system, by the consolidation of the Naval Boards.

And though the abolition of the Scotch Exchequer be a matter considered in itself of small importance, yet as an acknowledgment of the necessity and propriety of loosing off in every department of the State, not merely

what is injurious, but what is inefficient, the precedent is a valuable one.

Such have been the positive good deeds of the past session. The way to others has been opened, if not finished.

The evidence taken on the Bank Charter will add greatly to our knowledge on a subject of equal interest and perplexity.

Though the Taxes on Knowledge still remain, their death warrant may be looked on as drawn and soon to be executed.

Two bills of great utility, the one public, the other private, have been delayed, we trust only to be brought forward in such a form as will insure their success. We allude to the General Registry Bill and the London and Birmingham Railway Bills.

The Law improvements of the Chancellor have proceeded slowly; but those which have been effected or not without their value; and for those which he has indicated, more especially that great one, the separation of the political and judicial functions of the Chancellor, it is to be hoped next session will afford him ample leisure and opportunity.

Much has been effected, much remains to do. The speech of the 6th of last December, commended to our serious consideration the question of Reform; it deplored the general distress—it spoke of Cholera, of opposition to Tithes, of the unsettled state of Portugal, of the disputes in Belgium. Reform has received its due share of our attention, but the cry of distress has not ceased; the Cholera still remains, Tithes are as vehemently opposed as ever; Portugal is the theatre of a civil war; the discussions respecting Belgium are yet unfinished.

Of the future, we entertain, however, no fear. It may be that the registry clauses, with which, in case of necessity, it is in the power of Ministers to dispense, from being indifferently understood and acted upon, will render the new Parliament less effective than it otherwise would be. But the machinery is now in our hands, and in order to turn out good work, we have only to use it wisely and honestly. Our endeavors after improvement will no longer be neutralized by influences beyond our control. If the next House of Commons be not unwisely the People's House it must be the People's fault; they can make it so if they please.

We turn from the contemplation of the late Parliament, to consider for a moment the position of the parties that composed it. The Tories are annihilated. The place that once knew them knows them no more. From a combination of the more vivacious portion of that long dominant sect with the less energetic and honest of the Whig party, we may in future construct an opposition, they may still hang in that capacity as a drag-chain on the wheels of our victorious cars, but the prospect of again directing it, they must resign for ever. The Whigs, as a party, cannot long survive their opponents. Henceforth the regulation of our affairs will require a larger admixture of the Democratic spirit than their Aristocratic *morque* will be inclined to tolerate.

The Ministry, which already exhibits signs of decay, must be reformed or charged, as the Parliament of which it has been the remodeller is about to be. The head and body, like the image of the King of Babylon, are composed of precious metal: but the inferior parts are iron and brass alloy. Such heterogeneous materials could only be held together by external pressure; they had no intrinsic bond of union.

When the may cease to rave, party, which lived on their madness, must cease to exist.

Tories may depart, Whigs may depart, Cabinets may be changed; but the cause of the People abideth; and if it change, it must be the People's fault if it change not from good to better. The full cup is before them; may they drain it with gratitude and discretion, and Heaven bless the draught.

AGE.—Parliament, it is said, will be prorogued in the course of the week; and Althorpe has said that the condemned House will not be called together again. We may have an election in all probability about January.

In the mean time, the story of the split among the Ministers is revived. As nothing held them together but Reform, and that being passed, we do not see what they have now to knit them to one another. Cautious observers have noticed that the Duke of Wellington and the Chancellor are coquetting, and it is supposed there may be some reason for it. We say nothing.

However commend us to old Gaffer Grey. He is the boy to make hay while the sun shines. As old Sherry said in one of his songs in the *Forty Thieves*—

And we'll be merry here, boys,

And we'll be merry here,

For who does know where we may go

To be merry another year.

So, in the Times of yesterday, we find the following: "We are sorry to learn that Mr. Ellice has resigned his situation as Secretary to the Treasury. His vigour, his straightforward conduct, his good sense, and his good humour!! will not easily be replaced. He knew how to spur the reluctant, and to check the petulant—(Spring Rice is meant).—His loss we think will be severely felt. Mr. Charles Wood, a son in law of Lord Grey, will succeed him, of whom we can at least say, that he has the character of an active and diligent man of business. Colonel Grey will succeed *pro tempore* Mr. Wood, as private Secretary of the Premier.

Ellice commonly called from the urbanity of his manners, Bear Ellice, was brother-in-law to old Grey; and that relation having ceased, he is turned off to be replaced by a son-in-law. Of course Col. Grey, who beat D'Israeli the other day at Wycombe, succeeds as private Secretary—for son should follow son-in-law, as son-in-law follows brother-in-law. Keep it all in the family! It went last long.

One of the family, Howick, we perceive, is taking care of himself. Hume complained, on Thursday night, in the House of Commons, that the Under Secretary to the Colonies was not in his place. As this complaint happened to be made on Howick's wedding night, about 12 o'clock, we hope Joseph was mistaken.

*Popularity of the House of Austria.*—The princes of the Austrian family are generally beloved at home, notwithstanding the sinister aspect of Austrian politics to foreign nations. The Emperor himself receives the petitions of his aggrieved subjects in his cabinet, with the apparent interest of a father of a family listening to the complaints of his children; he rides out in the public promenades among his people, without guards or state ceremony, as if he enjoyed their confidence; and even reckoned a tyrant in Lombardy, Venice, or along Hungary, he is esteemed a kind patriarchal ruler at Vienna. It is not likely, therefore, that the arm of an assassin would have been raised against his Imperial Majesty, or any of his family, on account of their resistance to political improvement, in a country so little disposed to advance in the career of civilization, and so contented with their present position.—*Times.*