

THE ENGLISH MINISTRY.

INFLUENCE OF THE APPOINTMENT
OF MR. CANNING ON THE
DESTINIES OF EUROPE.

(From the Constitutional of Saturday.)

It has been said that there are but two principles that influence Europe—the principle of constitutional liberty and the principle of absolute power. The former, in all the vigour of adolescence, is a youthful tree, full of sap, whose boughs are, from year to year, extending and multiplying; the other is nothing but a dried and withered trunk, upheld by its bulk alone. Thus while, by a common law of nature, the former has a tendency to increase in magnitude and in strength, the latter beholds its props, one after another, crumbling from beneath. The career of the one is beginning, that of the other is terminating. The progress of revolutions in society is well known—the offspring of opinion, they are slowly matured in the minds of men, they gain possession first of a few individuals, powerful by their genius, and they gradually descend through all classes of the community. But even after the opinions of the people are changed, it is with infinite difficulty that these principles can penetrate into the thoughts of Governments. Their prejudices are alarmed, their interests are roused, and the struggle, generally a prolonged one, does not terminate until there be found in high office some statesman enlightened enough to comprehend the feelings of the public, patriotic enough to identify himself with them, and sufficiently powerful at the same time to calm down the prejudices of power, and the aspirations of the people, sufficiently sure of his position to maintain himself in it, and to rule—not to be ruled by it. Such an eminent personage, who has long been wanting to constitutional opinion, is at length found.

Mr. Canning, in becoming Prime Minister of Great Britain, has, at the same time become, by that very act combined with the blunders of the French Government, the Prime Minister of Representative Europe. England is, perhaps, the only nation to which can be advantageously confided the guardianship of European liberty. Whatever privileges other parts of the continent may enjoy, we may affirm, without hurting the feelings of any one, that the press and the tribunate are no where so completely free, nor where do the great interests of civilization find more able expositors, or are discussed with greater solemnity; no where is public opinion so powerful; no where, in a word, is the Government more subservient to the regulations of constitutional law, and even if going back to our long indulged recollections of rivalry and discord, we should attempt to attribute the part which Great Britain is acting to interested motives, even then we should say, that in those feelings of interest we have our surest safeguard; we should say that the liberty of the Continent is henceforth the condition by which the prosperity of Great Britain is held, that this condition is one guarantee to the friends of constitutional rule on the Continent, and may we not discover another not less solid in the political life of Mr. Canning? We may, then, without being accused of forcing conclusions, or of giving ourselves up to vain illusions, regard the elevation of that minister as a decisive epoch in the lengthened struggle which has divided the world, it is the climacteric year of liberty. Without seeking to develop the grand designs, the germs of which yet reposed in the mind of Mr. Canning, will not fail very speedily to unfold themselves, we may say, that, the mere news, of his appointment, by its reaction on the whole of the States of Europe, has already influenced the fate of their populations. There is none

so oppressed, that has not now a subject of hope, there is no Government so tyrannical, which does not feel the necessity of setting limits to the flight of its despotism. We say nothing of France. The sudden change which its lot has experienced, speaks energetically enough to justify our silence. But let us cast our eyes on the States that surround us—States still agitated by the throes that accompany the birth of liberty. Already does the Portuguese people feel their courage reassured—good men gain confidence—the rebels are discouraged. The nomination of Mr. Canning is the direct triumph of the constitution of Don Pedro. What must be the feelings of the Spanish Government, which for two years, has been playing a double game with the Cabinet of London, promising without performing, condemning aloud the Portuguese revolt, and secretly supporting its authors? The only hope, which it yet possessed, was founded on the dismissal of Mr. Canning, and, seeing him, as it now does, more powerful than ever, and presaging its approaching humiliation, perhaps it is now pondering on a return to moderate counsels; perhaps, before being compelled to it, it is deliberating on such a return with a good grace, and in the mean while the people breathe. If we cast our eyes towards Italy, towards Germany, towards Russia itself, every where we shall see the power of absolute Government growing weak under the influence of that Moral force, which the constitutional opinion has now gained. Whilst more than one little republic is congratulating itself at entering on the career of Constitutional Rule, Prussia re-animated by this great event hopes at length to obtain the accomplishment of those promises, which have so long been unfulfilled. Vienna itself, reflecting on its position, and, perhaps, the representative of absolute power in Europe, afraid of the struggle which is about to commence, perhaps, M. de Metternich is repeating to himself that remarkable saying, which, it is said, escaped from the despair of one of our statesmen—“Canning is right, Civil and Religious Liberty will make the tour of the world.”

From these, the primary effects of the nomination of the British Minister, it may be conceived how mighty an event that nomination is. Civilization, which had the majority of the people on its side; yet possessed no real power to forward it. Its future destinies are now secure, it remains only that it enjoys with prudence its first conquests, it has need now but of moderation and patience. Heaven grant that it may preserve in success that double virtue which it has so signally displayed in defeat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING
HERALD.

SIR,—I met a clerical friend this morning, who told me that he had dined, yesterday, at a public dinner of the clergy of London, where the Bishops of London, Chester, and Landaff, and about one hundred and fifty clergymen, were present. When the toasts of CHURCH AND KING was given (with great applause) the Bishop of London addressed the meeting, and told them, that, on the occasion of the late ministerial changes, His Majesty had graciously sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury and himself, requesting they would wait on His Majesty.

They accordingly did so; and, in the interview with which the King honoured them, His Majesty stated most explicitly, that he had sent for them, as the heads of the metropolitan clergy, in order, through them, to satisfy their respective clergy, and the public at large, what His Majesty's sentiments were with respect to the much agitated Catholic Question. His Majesty declar-

ed most positively, that he entertained the same sentiments as those of his late revered father, and those, which his Majesty was known to entertain when Prince Regent. His Majesty farther gave, as his reason for these sentiments, that he took precisely the same view of the obligation of the coronation oath which his revered father and his lamented brother, the Duke of York, had taken; and that His Majesty felt convinced, that nothing could shake or alter his opinion on that momentous question. His Majesty then commanded the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London to make these his sentiments known to their respective clergy, in order that no misconception might, by any possibility, exist as to His Majesty's views in the late ministerial arrangements, the result of circumstances equally unforeseen and unpleasant to His Majesty.

BRITANNICUS.

We are enabled from the best authority to state, that in the course of a long and deeply interesting conversation with His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, His Majesty distinctly and repeatedly declared his feelings and opinions on the subject of any further concessions to the Roman Catholics; and stated that his sentiments upon the subject were precisely the same as those of his august Father, and his lamented and illustrious Brother—not only as regarded the spirit, but the literal meaning, of the coronation oath. That his opinions had been formed after long consideration and mature reflection, and that no power on earth should shake or alter them. His Majesty was graciously pleased to add, that in the formation of a new Ministry, a strict regard would be had to the Protestant interests; and that for their security, to which he felt himself bound, not more by duty than inclination, he had required and received from Mr. Canning a pledge not only that the Roman Catholic question should not be considered a Cabinet measure, but the right hon. gentleman should not promote the cause of the Roman Catholics, directly or indirectly. If it should appear that, in making this statement, we transgress the delicacy which should forever keep inviolable that which passes in the King's Chamber, we perhaps may stand exonerated with our readers when we add, that when His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury inquired of His Majesty whether His Majesty would permit His Grace to communicate to his Clergy the gracious and constitutional declaration he had just been honoured with—the King said, “Certainly; I wish every man in England to know my sentiments upon this most important subject.”—John Bull.

There is a curious paragraph in the St. James's Chronicle, the subject of the late changes in the administration in which a minute is professed to be given of a conversation which took place between His Majesty and the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London, it is as follows:—“The King spoke for more than five hours, in part from notes, in part extemporaneously, and throughout with manifest emotion. His Majesty ran over all the transactions in his life in which he took any part in politics; recited at length his conversation with Mr. Fox upon the Roman Catholic question; and concluded almost every period of his long exposition with a solemn and emphatical repetition of the assurance that he had set out in life with a perfect conviction of the danger of confiding power to Roman Catholics in a Protestant State; and every event he had ever witnessed but served to confirm him in that conviction. He added that happen what might, Ireland should have a protestant

Lord Lieutenant, a protestant Lord Chancellor, and a protestant Chief Secretary.”

Supply.—The following votes were moved in the Committee of Supply in the House of Commons, on the 14th of May last, and were respectively agreed to: £5,200 for the relief of the American loyalists.

£112,746 to defray the expense of convicts at home and at Bermuda.

£120,000 to meet the civil contingencies of N. South Wales.

To defray the expense of emigration from the United Kingdom, for the year 1827, £201,180.

To indemnify the proprietors of slaves in the United States of America under the treaty of Ghent, £50,000.

For the civil establishment of the Bahama Islands, £3,040.

For the civil establishment of Nova Scotia, £10,645.

For the civil establishment of New Brunswick, £5,100.

For the civil establishment of Bermuda, £4,000.

For the civil establishment of Prince Edward Island, £2,810.

For the civil establishment at Newfoundland, £12,461.

For the civil establishment of Sierra Leone, £13,874 15.

For the civil and military establishment of the Gold Coast, £34,800 15s 8d.

For certain Colonial expenses formerly paid out of the extraordinary of the army, £2,442 10s.

For the society for the propagation of the gospel in His Majesty's Colonies, £16,182.

£26,000 for improving the water communication between Montreal and the Ottawa.

GREECE.

The Liverpool Commercial Chronicle of the 26th May, gives the following Proclamation of Lord Cochrane, addressed to the Greek nation:

“Greeks.—Your most dangerous enemy Discord, is overcome... what remains to perform is now rendered easy. The people on every side rush to arms... the late of the Acropolis is no longer doubtful... the besiegers in their turn are besieged... the transport of provisions is intercepted... the passes are guarded, and retreat is become impossible. The liberty of the classic soil of Athens is ensured... once more will its arts flourish here.

“Oh Greeks!... Having attained this object, lay not aside your arms so long as the ferocious Mussulman treads the sacred lands of your fathers. Let a noble emulation for glory animate your young seamen and the heroes of the Continent. Let them hasten in a mass to take their stations in the National Fleet. Then, if independence and the possession of all your rights are sufficient to enable you to stop the passage of the Hellespont, and carry the war into the States of the enemy, the haughty Sultan... the sanguinary destroyer of your countrymen... will become the victim of his own subjects. The Mahomedan power will destroy itself! The banner of the cross will again float on the walls of St. Sophia... Greece will again have laws—her cities will rise once more from their ruins... and her future glory will equal that of ages past. But think not, oh Greeks, that your country will be free, unless each of you hasten to her assistance and defence.

“From on board the Greek vessel Hel-las.—The first Admiral, and Commander of the maritime force of Greece.
(Signed)
“14th April, 1817. COCHRANE.”