

sanction) to oblige the King to coerce the House of Peers, and utterly to destroy its efficiency as one of the estates of the constitution. Why not then petition to abolish it at once? since the whole matter comes to this; for if, at any time, when the House of Lords does not agree with the Commons, the supplies are to be stopped, that house becomes a thing wholly dependant upon the popular will, and only exists as a mere pageant of state—a splendid, but useless incumbrance. Is there any man of principles higher than the lowest Radical, who can make himself a party to this? If so, we can only wonder at the ease with which men surrender their judgments, and their principles too, to a temporary excitement. Besides, there is in the proceedings of the day not only a revolutionary attack upon the house of peers, but upon the monarchy itself: the whole is an attempt at popular dictation to the King as to the choice of his Ministers: the object is to force back the old Ministry, and prevent the forming of a new one, by mere terror; by vast assemblages of men banded in political unions; by resolutions not to pay taxes, but by restraint; and urging the House of Commons to storm the King in submission to their will. Who can view this without alarm, and especially when it is not confined to the rabble, but embraces the Whigs as well as the Radicals throughout the country. It would be perfectly legitimate to petition the King to form no administration but upon the basis of a Reform in Parliament. Nobody disputes that right. Let it be but peaceably and temperately exercised, and no error is committed. But, when it goes further than this, it is as much to be condemned by prejudice as by patriotism, and shunned by all who wish to preserve the essential principles of the constitution, and not to subvert them. In the present juncture, then, let the moderate and influential part of the society unite with firmness, and show an activity proportioned to the energy. The effects will then be, that the present ebullition will subside, and that the great and important question now before the House of Lords, will be discussed and determined upon its own merits, without menace and without violence. May 16.

CITY—Monday Evening.—The accounts from most parts of the country represent the state of public feeling to be less disturbed and alarming than most persons in London had anticipated. It appears that the people, generally, in the manufacturing districts, are at present disposed to rely on the effect of public meetings and petitions, and manifest but little disposition for tumult. This has contributed to give firmness to the Stock Market, and prices, contrary to the expectation of most old frequenters of the Exchange, have not fallen. There is obviously greater firmness in the market altogether, as far as the great holders in London are concerned. The members of the Stock Exchange who may be supposed to have great influence upon prices were at their posts early, watching with great attention every indication of unfavourable news from the country; and it is probable, if such had arrived from many quarters, a considerable fall of prices would have taken place. This, therefore, is the cause of the contradiction which the event has given to the gloomy anticipations with which the dealers closed their operations on Saturday.

The amount of Stock sold for correspondents in the country was great; more bustle was seen among the brokers in their operations for these parties, than we have observed for a long period; but the more tranquil, or rather the less disturbed, aspect of public affairs caused the impression made by sales from the country to be less felt on the market. On the whole, business closed with a more firm and cheerful appearance.

The drain for gold at the Bank has not diminished to-day; orders from the country for sovereigns come in a manner that was not expected by the bankers and stock-brokers; and the crowd at the Bank to get change for notes during the throng of business hours, was as dense as on any of the preceding days. We observed that, when large sums were taken, some of the bags were marked 1823 and 1827, which is admitted to be a proof that considerable quantities had been taken out. If agitation should increase, the demand for payments of deposits in Savings Banks will be multiplied and augmented. Many of these Savings Banks have already found the necessity of preparing for a drain of this sort, and considerable sums have been ordered into the country to meet it. There is, however, no deficiency of gold in the country—the bullion market is full, and the bankers, generally, have an abundance of sovereigns. Of silver, there is an unusual quantity, and, consequently, when the effect of alarm begins to abate, the bulky hoards of gold and silver will be brought back to the Bank for safety.

The arrivals from the Continent bring no commercial news of importance. The great failures that had taken place in many of the principal cities, had caused

great stagnation in business and distrust among those who deal much on credit.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MAY 9.

RESIGNATION OF MINISTERS.

At five o'clock Lord Althorp entered the House, which was crowded, and his appearance was instantly hailed with enthusiastic cheers and cries of 'Hear!' accompanied with plaudits both from hands and feet, in which some of the strangers in the gallery joined most cordially. As soon as order was obtained,

Lord Althorp rose and said—'I feel it to be my duty to state to the House, that in consequence of what occurred at another place on Monday last, it appeared to his Majesty's government that it would be quite impossible to carry the Reform Bill in such a manner as they deemed it their duty to carry it in, or without such alteration as would render it inefficient and inconsistent with the pledges they had given for carrying it forward. (Loud cheers.) Under these circumstances, there remained for them only this alternative—to tender their resignation to his Majesty, or to advise his Majesty to take such measures as would enable them to carry the reform bill efficiently, and in case that advice should not be taken, then to tender their resignations.—The latter course was adopted, and I have now to state to the House that we did tender advice such as I have mentioned, which not being received, we then tendered our resignations, and that his Majesty was graciously pleased to receive them. At present, therefore, we only hold office until our successors are appointed. It is impossible for me, in making this statement, not to express for myself, and I may confidently speak also for my colleagues, our sense of the flattering kindness and condescension with which we have been treated by his Majesty ever since we came into office. For myself, I can only say that the manner in which I have been treated by his Majesty has been such as to ensure my warm gratitude to him so long as I shall live. This is all I feel it necessary to state at present, and I believe the best mode in which I can now proceed is to move that the order of the day for the second reading of the Scotch Reform Bill be read, for the purpose of postponing it.' The noble Lord sat down amidst long continued cheering.

Lord Ebrington then rose and said, that he could not refrain, after the confidence which had been reposed by the House in the noble Lord and his colleagues, from expressing the deep regret he felt at the announcement which had then been made, as well as at the failure of the measure which had been carried through the House by so great a majority. (Loud Cheers.)—Under these circumstances, he should feel it his duty, though he wished the task had fallen upon one better qualified than himself, to give notice, that to-morrow he would move an address to his Majesty on the present state of public affairs. (Loud Cheers.—Whatever might be the opinions entertained by hon. members, he was sure that every one who had a seat in that House would feel it his duty to attend and in order to that end he would follow up his first notice with another,—viz. that he would move that the House be called over.—(Loud cheers.)

Mr. Hume said, that it was impossible he could abstain from expressing his opinion on the event that had occurred, and on the course which had been pursued by his Majesty's ministers. (Hear, hear.)—He felt bound in justice to say, that the noble Lord and his colleagues, placed in the position they had been by the other house, had, as men of honour, no other course left them to pursue, except the one which they had taken (loud cheers); and he would further say, that they had acted with honour to themselves, not only in the opinion of that House, but he was sure in that of the nation. (Loud cries of 'hear!')

Lord Althorp said that his noble Friend (the Member for Devon) had given a notice which he (Lord Althorp) would wish a few moments time to consider. He would submit that in the present state of affairs, and in the present crisis, any course which might throw embarrassment in the way of the formation of a new administration ought not to be taken (loud cries of 'No, no,') and he would therefore wish that his noble friend would for a short time postpone his notice. [Cries of 'No,' repeated.]

Sir J. Newport differed altogether from his noble friend who had just spoken [hear, hear.] and he hoped that the noble member for Devon would persevere in his motion; for in times like the present it became absolutely necessary to know what course would be taken by the majority of this house. [Loud Cheers.]

Mr. Baring maintained, that if there was any agitation in the country, it would be occasioned by the House. [Cheers from the opposition.]—If they ought not to be cravens to the people, they ought not to behave like bullies to the Lords. [Hear, hear.]—For any thing he knew to the contrary, the advice offered by Ministers might have been to create sixty, seventy, or more new Peers, and in that case they ought to feel grateful to the crown for resisting so unheard-of a violation of the constitution. [Cheers from the opposition.]

Mr. James thought that Ministers ought to have advised the creation of 100 Peers, or more, if more were necessary to carry the Reform Bill, and prevent a collision between the two Houses. [Cheers.]

Mr. T. Dancombe said, the motion of the noble Lord [Ebrington] was highly necessary, to show whether there was any wavering in the House, and who they were. Hear—The hon. member, Mr. Baring, might be assured that the agitation which he deprecated would be continued until the government was replaced in those hands from which it had been wrested by the grossest treachery and hypocrisy. [Loud Cheers.]

After a few words in support of the motion from Mr. Macaulay and Lord Milton, Lord Ebrington said that after what had passed he should certainly feel it his duty to persevere, in order to show to the country the real state of feeling in the House. [Loud cheers.]—The House shortly after adjourned.

MAY 10.

Lord Ebrington in bringing forward his promised motion, said he did not desire to throw any obstacles in the way of the formation of a new administration; but he contended that they owed it to themselves, to the country, and, above all to the authors of the Bill, to let the Crown know what were the real sentiments of the House at this crisis. He added that he had heard rumours extraordinary and sudden changes of opinion in a particular quarter on the subject of the Reform Bill; and there might be similar changes of opinion in that house. He did not believe that this change had not yet taken place; but after what had passed, after they had sent a reform bill to the other house, and when a new

administration was about to be formed, he thought it was only just that the Crown and the country should know what the sentiments of that house was now—whether they still had unabated confidence in the authors of the bill—and whether they still adhered to the great principles of that bill. He concluded by moving an address to the king, the points of which were.—1. To express regret at the retirement of the ministers, and to state that the house continued to repose unabated confidence in the authors of the reform bill. 2. That, in compliance with the recommendation of his Majesty's speech, they had proposed a bill to amend the representation of the people, but that it had experienced resistance in the other house, which had led to the resignation of the ministers, the authors of the bill. 3. That the people were looking with intense anxiety for the passing of that bill; so much so, that the adoption of any proceedings that would impair the efficiency of the bill, would create the most serious disappointment; and 4. In consequence of such opinions, to implore his Majesty to call to his counsels such persons only as would carry into effect unimpaired in all its essential provisions that bill for the reform of the representation which had recently passed the House of Commons.

Mr. Strutt seconded the motion, and spoke strongly in its favour.

Mr. Baring contended that they ought to know the causes that had led to the resignation of ministers—maintained that the parties adverse to the great and sweeping change contemplated by the bill had been actuated by as pure motives as its proposers and supporters, and declared his intention to meet the motion with a direct negative, except an amendment were proposed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer afterwards stated that he had no hesitation in repeating, though more explicitly, that the advice given by the ministers to the Crown was, that there should be such a creation of peers as would secure the passing of the bill through the other house; and that, on the rejection of such advice, the ministers had tendered their resignations.

Mr. Hume supported the address, but submitted that it did not go far enough—that it ought to implore his Majesty to reinstate in office the authors of the reform bill, for the purpose of carrying that bill. It was afterwards suggested that the usual mode of proceeding was to move resolutions, and in the event of their being adopted, to refer them to a committee to draw up the address. Resolutions were then proposed, and the debate continued till two o'clock. Sir R. Peel, Sir C. Wetherell, &c. strongly opposed the motion, which Mr. Macaulay supported at considerable length. The House divided, after loud and repeated calls for question, when the numbers were—Ayes, 288; Noes, 203; Majority 85. The result was received with immense cheering; and after some spirited skirmishing, the address was ordered to be presented by such members as were of the Privy Council.—Adjourned at a quarter to three o'clock.

LONDON MORNING HERALD.

A general impression prevailed, through the greater part of yesterday, that Parliament would be prorogued at once, preparatory to a dissolution. Though the course was an extreme—a desperate one, and though it was not easy to comprehend what the new Administration, or rather the new Minister, could propose to himself, by appealing to the sense of the people at such a period of excitement, the fact that it was impossible for him to carry on the government with the present House of Commons, and in the teeth of the recent resolution, gave the rumour a degree of currency which it could not otherwise have possessed. The result, however, has proved that the rumour was unfounded. Both Houses met; both houses adjourned by their own act, but not before an impression was made in the House of Commons which, if it did not render the formation of a new Ministry by the Duke of Wellington absolutely impossible, has thrown fresh impediments in the way of its arrangement. The tone of the debate which took place in the House of Commons last night, on the presentation of the city petition for reform, and for the refusal of the supplies in case the Reform Bill should be rejected, was highly creditable to the spirit of that Assembly. It amounted to a declaration that the acceptance of office by the Duke of Wellington, on the principle of carrying reform, would be, after his declarations in Parliament, both in speeches and by protest, a breach of public morality such as ought to deprive him of all support. This declaration acquired considerable force from the acknowledgements that fell from some of the anti-reformers themselves, and particularly from Sir Robert Peel and Mr. A. Baring. How desperate must the circumstances of any Administration be with which Sir Robert Peel, notwithstanding his well known anxiety for office, dares not coalesce! Sir Robert again repeated his determination to refuse office, and it was evident the Duke had not succeeded in forming a Cabinet, though so many had been formed for him on paper in the course of the day. We decline publishing any of the numerous Ministerial lies at our command, as it is now more certain than ever that such productions are the work of the imagination alone.—Meetings are in progress every where; not a post arrives in town without an account of some fresh manifestation on the part of the people, conducted, at the same time, with moderation and firmness. The great meeting of St. John's Wood requires no comment from us. It was, like the rest, a conclusive answer to the charge of reaction. All that has passed, all that is now passing, convinces us more and more of the ultimate success of reform.—May 15.