

the wearer, and rags of every colour in the rainbow, fluttering in the wind, met the eye on all sides. But the countenance of the fellehs exhibit little variety, excepting such as results from sex or age, or different stages of famine or disease. Hungry dogs, the universal scavengers of Egypt, prowled above the bazaar, ravenously snatching up whatever was thrown to them, and seeming quite prepared, if occasion were offered, to rend and devour the donors.—*St. John's Travels in Egypt.*

POLITICAL EXTRACTS. SPIRIT OF THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

LONDON ATLAS.—*Earl Grey and his Order.*—While we feel the danger of drawing public attention to the unpopular opinions entertained by a majority of the House of Peers, we are not insensible to the necessity of pointing out the true position in which that antagonist power places the party who are labouring for the public good; the more especially when it is attempted to make the existence of that bad ascendancy an argument against the ministry to which it is opposed. The Times reproves Lord Grey for having recognized a few nights ago the majority which is arrayed against him in the Upper House, and calls upon him to resign office before, to use one of the idioms of the leading journal, he is 'literally kicked out.' It is no longer a novelty to find our contemporary misrepresenting simple facts for sinister purposes, and we are, therefore, not surprised that, in the rabid desire to cast idium upon the government, it should blink the real question at issue, and interpret Lord Grey's declaration agreeably to its own disingenuous views. The spirit of his lordship's observations was this—That he was aware the House could command a majority against him, but that while he possessed the suffrages of the country and the House of Commons, he was not apprehensive of any consequences which such a majority could produce: that if their lordship's thought it necessary or prudent, to combine against the government, they could unquestionably defeat any measure he introduced, but that the peril of such a proceeding must rest with themselves: that he would persevere in the promotion of measures which he believed to be beneficial to the people; and he warned them how they embarked in the dangerous experiment of resisting, by the exercise of their exclusive privileges, the demands of universal opinion: that he was fortified by the support of the great bulk of the people and their representatives, and that a numerical majority of the House of Lords could not be brought to bear against him without calling into action a force which, in its nature would be as powerful as the contest it must provoke would be calamitous. Such was the spirit of his Lordship's observations; which, instead of being, as the Times would have us believe, 'a proof of weakness, and even low mindedness,' acknowledged the existence of the majority only to defy its exercise.

What is the real state of the case? The Times says, that if Lord Grey were 'a wise and resolute minister he would invoke a collision as the best of consummations.' Upon what ground would Lord Grey be justified in invoking, as the Times terms it, a collision? The country is, at this moment, in a state of perfect tranquility; there is no great question immediately before Parliament to render a collision between the two Houses necessary; and there are no circumstances contingent upon the state of public affairs to render such a collision advisable. Why, then, should Lord Grey force a collision between the two Houses? Does the Times advise this insane movement with a view to make way for Lord Durham, its representative of the ideal of perfection? Is it not evident that such a collision would precipitate a result hazardous to the peace of the country, and that, if the House of Lords escaped, in the ensuing confusion, from the vengeance which its obstinacy would so justly provoke, it is almost certain that changes subversive of the well-being of society would be rapidly accomplished. The last resource of a wise government is to try the strength of the two orders—the aristocratical and the democratical. For upon the issue must rest, not only the decision of pending questions, but in all probability the safety of existing institutions. It will be time enough for such a collision when the House of Commons shall have decided upon the report of the commission of enquiry into the state of the Irish church, and sent forward to the House of Peers a bill founded upon that report, and opposed to the views of the majority. Until such an event, in which the opposition shall be fairly brought into play, shall take place, it would not only be impolitic, but extravagant to force the two Houses into a contest. In the mean time, while this controverted measure is in progress, who knows what salutary alterations of opinion may not take place in the House of Peers. We know that their Lordships, although they were pledged with a large majority against Catholic Emancipation and Reform, nevertheless, in deference to a power stronger than their own, and which they felt could not be treated with impunity, yielded sensibly to an influence which they felt must sooner or later triumph. Why may we not hope that their Lordships, who are excellent judges of the signs of the times, may not again abandon their own scruples of conscience, and defer to the same public opinion which, on those two memorable occasions, exercised so remarkable a sovereignty over them? And why should Lord Grey, with this likelihood, compromise the public interests by forcing a collision which may ultimately prove to be superfluous?

But the Times willfully mistakes the argument. It is not Lord Grey who is at the mercy of the House of Peers, but the House of Peers that is at the mercy of Lord Grey. If Lord Grey were to bring matters to the conclusion suggested by the Times, the result would be that the moral and physical strength of the country would instantly take up arms against the aristocracy,

which would thus be placed in the most invidious position in relation to the people. Were Lord Grey desirous to propitiate popular favor, instead of seeking to advance the public interests, he would produce such a crisis, which must inevitably terminate in the discomfiture of his opponents; but his Lordship forbears to wield the instruments which the obstinacy of the Peers has placed in his hands. He, on the contrary, warns them against extremities, and openly tells them that whenever their resistance to the spirit of the age shall produce a collision, it will not be against him and his colleagues they will have to wage a war of principles, but against the whole empire. This is the literal case of the administration. The Tories know very well that their situation is hopeless, but they also know that any act which would demonstrate that fact to the world, would terminate their existence as a party, for ever. They are too sagacious to risk such a disclosure, and Lord Grey—fearless of their majority in the Lords—proceeds calmly in the labours of the government, as if no such majority existed.

FROM THE LONDON TIMES.

A CHARACTER.

Intended for Mr Stanley.

Half Whig, half Tory, like those midway things,
'Twixt bird and beast, that by mistake have wings;
A mongrel Statesman, 'twixt two factions worst,
Who of the faults of each combines the worst,—
The Tory's leftness, the Whigling's sneer,
The leveller's rashness, and the bigot's fear;
The thirst for meddling, restless still to show
How Freedom's clock, repaired by them, will go;
Th' alarm when others, more sincere than they,
Advance the hands to the true time of day.

By Mother Church, high-fed and haughty dame,
The boy was dandied, in his dawn of fame;
Listening, she smiled, and bless'd the flippant tongue
On which the fate of unborn title pigs hung.
Ah! who shall paint the Grandam's grim dismay,
When 'loose Reform enticed her boy away;
When shock'd she heard him ape the rabble's tone,
And, in Old Sarum's fate, foredoom'd her own!
Groaning she cried, while tears roll'd down her cheeks,
'Poor, glib-tongued youth, he means not what he speaks.
Like oil at the top, these Whig professions flow,
But, as pure as lymph, runs Toryism below.
Alas, that Tongue should start thus, in the race,
Ere mind can reach and regulate its pace!
For, once outstripp'd by Tongue, poor, lagging Mind,
At every step, still further limps behind.
But bless the boy! whatever his wanderings be,
Still turns his heart to Toryism and me.
Like those odd shapes, portray'd in Dante's lay,
With heads fixed on, the wrong and backward way,
His feet and eyes pursue a diverse track,
While those march onward, these look fondly back.
And while she knew him,—well forsook the day,
Which now hath come, when, snatch'd from Whigs away,
The self-made changeling drops the mask he wore,
And rests, restor'd, in Granny's arms once more.

But whether now, mixt brood of modern light
And ancient darkness, can'st thou bend thy flight?
Tried by both fictions, and to neither true,
Feared by the old school, laugh'd at by the new;
This wanting more of fire, that less of flash,
Long shaft thou stand, in isolation cold,
Betwixt two worlds, the new one and the old,
A small and 'vex'd Bermoothes,' which the eye
Of venturous Commerce sees—and passes by.

LONDON MORNING HERALD.—*Ireland.*—The charge of blundering, which used to be brought against Ireland, and brought with some appearance of truth, seems now in a fair way to be transferred to the Whig Government, who, if they understand what they are about, when they attempt to legislate for that country, have certainly a most clumsy mode of explaining themselves. The Irish Tithes Bill, which was under discussion in the House of Commons last night, may be referred to as an instance of the blundering faculty to which we allude. It was introduced as a measure of conciliation; but, instead of conciliating either party, the tithe-owner or the tithe-payer, or rather the tithe-refuser, both parties exclaim against it as an infringement of their rights, and a disappointment to their hopes. It was intended as a peace-offering, and, lo and behold, it is received as a declaration of war! This, it may be said, arises from the blundering imaginations of the Irish. But the English House of Commons seem quite as much puzzled as the Irish people, and the Ministers themselves as much puzzled, if not more puzzled, than either of them, to make out the real nature of their own incomprehensible bill. Well did Mr O'Connell describe, in his forcible speech of last night, the wretched shiftings to which the ministry have been driven in their weak and vacillating policy towards Ireland. Indeed every thing seems to portend a struggle upon the question of the Irish Church, and we shall not be surprised to find the Radicals and the Tories, the Irish members and the ex-ministers, all uniting together against this metamorphosed bill, which its parents can scarcely recognize for their own offspring. The significant intimation given by Mr Stanley to the ministers, that he might possibly be driven to vote with Mr O'Connell if they did not give the house time to understand the measure, had a visible effect upon their nerves. The proposition for delay was acquiesced in, and the result will probably be to metamorphose the bill again into some other shape. It is, of course, impossible to pronounce any opinion upon the measure at present, or until it shall have settled into its final form; but we may notice in addition to the symptoms of dissolution already mentioned, as indicating an approach-

ing crisis in the Ministry, that the Lord Chancellor and the Marquis of Lansdowne appear to differ as much from each other on the bribery bill as they differed from their seceding colleagues on the appropriation question. Taking all things into account, it is quite clear that, unless the Tories shrink from the responsibility of accepting office, the date of the Whig Ministry is not likely to be very remote. Vacillation is a course which cannot be for ever persisted in. Do what they will, they must make a stand somewhere, and then will come the inquiry, the decision—whether they have strength enough to stand at all, or whether the mere impulse of change is not the only power which keeps them from falling. July 1.

LONDON MORNING CHRONICLE.—*Irish Tithe Bill.*—Mr Littleton announced last night a most important and salutary alteration in the Irish Tithe Bill. By this alteration the Government, after having vindicated the authority of the Law by enforcing payment from a refractory tenant, proposes to allow any landlord, who will undertake the payment for his tenants, and settle the account with them, a bonus varying from twenty to forty per cent. This bonus, if we understand it, is to be calculated in the following manner. The number of years' purchase of the yearly rental at which the land in each county of Ireland would sell, is to be ascertained. Four fifths of that number is to be taken as the proper rate of redemption for the tithe; but, instead of the redemption money being raised, it is to remain as a rent-charge upon the land, yielding an interest of three and a half per cent. As the deduction to be made from the payments to the tithe owners in lieu of tithes, is in no case to exceed twenty per cent, and the bonus afforded to the landlords will vary from twenty to forty per cent., the fund applicable to the payment of the tithe owners, must necessarily be defective by the amount of the difference. That difference it is proposed to make good out of the Perpetuity Purchase Fund, arising out of the Church Temporalities Act of last year, and in reference to which the important division of the 147th clause will be remembered. Mr Stanley considered that fund as not being a part of the property of the Church, never having been enjoyed by the Church, and only brought into existence by the intervention of the Legislature. This fund is now to be made applicable to pay the price justly due for the transmutation of the tithes from an occupation tax, payable by the tiller of the soil, into a tax upon the inheritor, payable by the lord of the soil. Mr Stanley was, therefore wrong when he said that this deduction of from twenty to forty per cent was a gratuitous bonus to the landlords of Ireland; and Lord Althorp was right when he said that the landlords of Ireland gave an adequate consideration for it. The Church ought surely to make some allowance for the security and certainty of payment, and that allowance is to be taken out of a fund, which Mr Stanley himself contended, last year, was not necessarily to be regarded as the property of the Church. Mr Stanley's new ally, Mr O'Connell, seemed to labour under some misapprehension of the nature of the plan: the tenants are not to be excluded from the benefit of the bonus afforded to the landlords, nor is the tithe to be collected for five years in its full amount as he seemed to apprehend. The Landlord may, by coming forward at any time before 1836, reduce the levy by thirty or forty per cent. This will appear by reference to the above rule, as stated by Mr Littleton, for calculating the rent-charge. That rule is, that the land-tax is to be multiplied by 4-5ths of the number of years' purchase which the land may be worth, and that the rent-charge shall be a sum equal to three and a half per cent. on that product. The effect of this rule is, that the landlords will get a bonus of from 20 to 40 per cent. and the tenants the same.

LONDON MORNING CHRONICLE.—*Suppression of the Convents in Portugal.*—The decree for the total suppression of the monastic orders, and for the incorporation of their estates with the national domains of Portugal, is perhaps, under all the circumstances, perfectly justifiable. It cannot be doubted that those establishments furnished the principal resources, both in arms and money, by which the usurper was enabled to seize the throne, and protract the contest into which he entered for its preservation. It is equally clear that by thus involving themselves in the vicissitudes of secular affairs, those institutions, originally intended exclusively for the cultivation of religion and learning, desecrated their own altars, and surrendered their property to the chances of a civil war. We know that it was from the recesses of those cloistered abodes that emanated the thousand abominable sophistries by which the advisers of Miguel at Lisbon and his friends in this country endeavoured to give an innocent character to his treason, and an appearance of legitimacy to his assumption of the crown. If monks will throw off their cowls and put on the helmet, they must take the consequences. But it may be doubted whether a law affecting so large a mass of property as that held by the Portuguese monasteries, ought to have been passed by a mere provisional government. The subject will be considered by some persons as too vast for such hurried and undiscussed legislation; and it may be said that, coming out as it does at this moment, it wears a complexion rather of anger than of policy. Let us not be misunderstood. Our settled opinion is, that Christianity never can prevail in the world, in all its purity, until the churches of every country shall be effectually separated from their concubinage with the state. The voluntary principal is the only one that can bind mankind to the cheerful and sincere observance of the precepts of religion, and bring home to their bosoms a