

From Tait's Magazine.  
THE NATIONAL CRISIS.

After a dreary period of seven years, unmarked by any large and decidedly good measure of reform voluntarily brought forward by the government, we have once again the satisfaction of hailing the dawn of a new era of improvement, the beginning of another struggle, involving consequences as important to the country as the imperfect though great measure of 1830. The present is not to be merely considered a ministerial crisis, as the customary changing from Tory to Whig, or from Whig back to Tory—though the existence of the Whig government may be involved in it—but as a national epoch; as the first authoritative acknowledgment, by the Sovereign and her ministers, of the great principle that there is no longer to be protection of any one class at the price of injustice to all the other classes. This, at least, is the light in which we would fain view the measure proposed by the ministers;—narrow, and perhaps imperfect, in their actual being, but pointing to mighty results. \* \* \* One good effect of the Whig measure is already apparent in rousing the people from torpor and apathy as to their rights, and teaching them to feel that there is still something to strive for, worth obtaining; to strive for, not indeed with the enthusiasm, and unlimited confidence, and cordial union which marked the Reform struggle, but with perhaps better sense, and with more solidly based, if more moderate expectations. There is still materiel for a good fight; perhaps the anti-monopolists may conquer at once at the hustings; but, in the worst event, a powerful phalanx will be found in the next Parliament, pledged, in addition to every former pledge, to stand by the banner of Free Trade. Save for the handle which would be given to the Tories to misrepresent the popular sentiment on that question, if they be brought into power by the results of a general election, the matter except as a question of time, is, to genuine reformers, of small consequence. If the more liberal party be, for a season, excluded from office, the lesson may be useful. They have been long enough in power for all the good they have done, and may be none the worse for a few months of the bracing and discipline of Opposition, ever a quickener of Whig liberality. These are general remarks, and by the by, we give ministers hearty praise for what they have attempted, and, if they adhere to their professions, confidently foresee for them the returning confidence and warm support of the aroused people.

From the Colonial Magazine.  
THE COLONIAL INTERESTS.

When we consider that there are within the British empire more than one hundred and thirty million of inhabitants, situated in every quarter of the globe, and capable of producing in inexhaustible abundance, every article which can minister to the wants, comforts, and luxuries of mankind, we see how imperatively necessary it is that the principle of 'free trade' should be primarily developed to its fullest practicable extent, within these vast and rich realms, before we should give to foreign nations those benefits and advantages which are peculiarly the property of the citizens of the British empire; and who are required to contribute from their revenues (British India alone is taxed £20,000,000 sterling annually) for the support of the state—to admit the manufactures of the mother country at almost nominal rates of duty, and to shed their blood in defence of their Sovereign, and for the maintenance of the integrity of the empire. Our first obligation therefore, is to the numerous and loyal, though distant population, which are under the government of the British crown. \* \* \* The question now absorbing public interest is not really one between free trade and monopoly; it is one of finance, owing to the deficiency of revenue to meet the current expenditure, caused by our mal-government and mis-directed policy in Canada, India, China, &c., and which we stated in several of our previous numbers, must inevitably produce great embarrassment. To meet an annually augmenting deficiency of income as compared with requisite disbursements, her Majesty's ministers proposed to reduce the duty on foreign and slave grown sugar from 63s. per cwt. to 36s., and to leave the present high rate of 24s. on our colonial sugar (amounting to nearly one hundred per cent. duty); to raise the tax on Canadian timber from 10s. to 20s. (that is, 100 per cent.) while the duty of Baltic timber was to be reduced 5s.; and to levy a fixed tax of 8s. per quarter on the importation of foreign wheat. How such propositions can be termed 'free trade,' we are totally at a loss to conceive. \* \* \* The question of 'free trade' does not alone affect the producers or dealers in corn, timber and sugar. It is one deserving the serious consideration of manufacturers, tradesmen, and shopkeepers; of silk-weavers, printers, watchmakers, coach builders, coopers, tallow chandlers, tailors, shoemakers, hatters, shipwrights, ropemakers, sailmakers, book binders, glass blowers, gun-

makers, and the working classes generally. \* \* \* The agricultural labourer in England gets more than five times the wages of the same class labourer in Odessa, and others in proportion. To talk of 'free trade and fair competition,' under such circumstances, is absurd. The whole subject is one of vast and momentous interest; it involves the permanence of the monarchy, the stability of the institutions of the country, and integrity of the empire. We are, and have ever been, the strenuous advocates of rational free trade, beginning first with the domestic industry of the country—extending the application of the principle next to the colonial portion of the empire—and finally, to foreign countries, when it can be effected without injury to those who bear the burdens of the state, and whose capital is vested in various productions on the faith of guaranteed legislative enactments, and the most solemn decrees of the government.

### THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

From the London Times.

The event of Sir Robert Peel's motion has been the happiest possible both for the constitution and for the country. Every one must perceive that, although a trifling majority for Ministers on such an occasion would, as Lord Stanley truly observed, have been (according to all constitutional precedent) equivalent to a defeat, the moral effect is infinitely greater when they are left in an actual minority. A resolution of want of confidence has always been the most difficult point for an opposition, however powerful, to carry; it was a step which even Lord J. Russell did not feel strong enough to propose when Sir Robert Peel held office in 1835. An Opposition which can do what Sir R. Peel has now succeeded in doing, might confidently reckon upon such support as would enable it, when backed by the weight of official influences and the confidence of the Crown, to carry on the government without a dissolution of Parliament.

It may seem, however, a paradox to some that we should call the result the happiest possible; that we should proclaim not only the fact, but the amount of the majority, to be matter of exultation. But so it is, by a singular conjunction of circumstances, that while success upon this question was of the greatest importance, it was nevertheless desirable to succeed by the smallest possible majority. Had the members for Sir R. Peel's motion been greater, the increase must have come from a quarter whose resistance, at the present moment, is of more value to the conservative party than its support. The House of Commons could not have pronounced a clearer or influential decision against ministers, if some half dozen or more agricultural Whigs, who voted for the anti-corn law Government, had ranged themselves on the winning side; nor would the effect of that decision upon the actual Ministerial crisis have been in any degree different from what it must be now. Messrs. Handley & Co., therefore, would have done nothing to promote the success of the conservative cause, if they had voted upon this occasion according to the wishes of their constituents. As it is, they have done the conservative cause if they had voted upon this occasion according to the wishes of their constituents. As it is, they have done the conservative cause excellent service—better service—better service, indeed, than we should have supposed it possible for so small a knot of such inconsiderable persons to do: they have actually made the conservatives a present for eight or ten seats in Parliament, making a difference of 16 or 20 votes upon a division, which, by following a more plausible or independent course, they might themselves have still continued to occupy, to the serious embarrassment of the future government upon all questions in general policy.

From the London Globe.

If there is any mystical power in numbers, 'Number one,' is highly appropriate as that of the monopoly majority of this morning. It will be renowned hereafter as the number one majority; the great vote for 'Number One,' the Tories should make 'Number One' their war cry in the ensuing election. *In hoc signo vinces*; in that number is their whole hope of triumph.

In the mean time, it is rather curious that the ground upon which the Tory leader relied for justification of the unusual form of resolution was exactly contradictory of the ground upon which Lord Stanley accused ministers of unconstitutional conduct in their recent course. Sir R. Peel said that he had no right to infer from the 'quiet' announcements of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lord John Russell, as to the course they should take with reference to the renewal of the sugar duties, and the discussion of the corn laws, that a dissolution was intended; and he had decided on his motion in consequence. Lord Stanley, on the other hand, said that the dissolution of parliament was not a question which could be entertained by the House of

Commons; and complained of ministers for having brought forward that question. Thus we have Sir Robert Peel complaining of ministers for not telling him that they intended to dissolve, and Lord Stanley accusing them of menacing dissolution! The complaint and the accusation are alike unfounded. It was easy for any one to infer, from the announcements above mentioned, that a dissolution was intended, while as Lord John Russell truly stated, no such menace was uttered to influence the discussions of parliament. 'There have been threats and menace uttered, but they have proceeded from the right hon. member for Pembroke and the noble member for North Lancashire. They have threatened my noble and hon. friends the members for Lincolnshire with the consequence of the votes which they are about to give on this question.'

This 'Number One' resolution then has been passed on something like false pretences. Sir Robert Peel would have us believe he had felt no right to infer that ministers would consider any extraordinary decision necessary, after their defeat upon the sugar duties. Undoubtedly, on that supposition, the Number One resolution might be called for; or rather a stronger resolution would have been better and more constitutional. But does it not betray the weakness of the grounds on which this has been passed, that Sir R. Peel was reduced to justify it by alleging such a false supposition? Could the right hon. baronet lay his hand on his left waistcoat pocket, and say that he entertained that supposition a single moment. And yet it was necessary to press that supposition into his service, in order to make out his 'constitutional' case for the resignation of ministers.

Mr. C. Buller, in his able and acute speech, distinguished justly between the position of ministers before and since their late measures. That the confidence of a house where so many class interests are represented, and where the general interest, on the subjects in question, is not strong enough to complete with them, has been lost by ministers—is indubitable; though their opponents' triumph is ominously narrowed to Number One. But that loss might well be anticipated, and there is an appeal from it. The Number One resolution could have no real force, unless ministers had intended to decline that appeal. Then, of course, it would have been 'unconstitutional' to think of remaining in office, and that in the absurd supposition Sir Robert Peel has stooped to put forward to defend a proposition which can only escape from truisms into falsehood.

### European News.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, June 7.

Ministerial Announcements.—Intended Dissolution of Parliament.—At five o'clock the house was crowded in all quarters both by members and by strangers anxious to hear the announcement of the course which ministers intended to pursue.

Lord John Russell said that he had advised his colleagues, that in the event of an adverse decision on Sir R. Peel's motion, it would be inexpedient to bring on the discussion of the corn laws. In this opinion his colleagues concurred. He strongly disclaimed, on the government, bringing forward their present measures for the purpose of mere party agitation. From the division, on Saturday morning, it was evident that neither party could carry on the government. It was better, therefore, to refer the decision of the question to the country itself. Her Majesty's ministers would therefore, only ask vote of credit to the beginning of October, for the necessary civil contingencies. The noble lord concluded by moving that the house resolve itself into a committee of supply.

Sir Robert Peel would express no opinion as to the propriety of dissolution. If the noble lord would give an assurance that the new parliament should assemble, with the least possible delay, he would offer no opposition to the proposed vote of credit.

Lord John Russell explained, that as the vote was proposed to be taken from the 1st of April for six months, it was evidence of the anxiety of the noble lord at the head of the government for the earliest possible reassembling of parliament.

Sir Robert Peel expressed himself satisfied.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of supply, and the remaining estimates were voted on the motion of the chancellor of the exchequer for six months.

June 8.—Sir Charles Grey moved for a Select Committee to consider the fitness of the territory of Labrador, in North America, for the purposes of a penal settlement. The nearness of Labrador to this country, compared with other penal settlements, would cause a saving in the transport of convicts; while

the place furnishes opportunity for their profitable employment; its exports already amount to £500,000; and it abounds with timber, sulphur, nickel, and other valuable produce. There is no population to be contaminated, the few settlers being thinly scattered over the face of the country. And means exist to prevent the escape of convicts in any direction.

Mr. Hindley recorded the motion.

Mr. Fox Maule considered the very proximity of the place to this kingdom and other Colonies an objection. He had himself been in the country, and knew how difficult it was not only to employ convicts, but to find work for any description of labourers.

Lord Mahon thought that Labrador would afford few advantages for a penal settlement, and was open to the strongest objections.

Lord John Russell issued, on Saturday an address to the electors of the city of London, announcing himself a candidate for their suffrages at the ensuing election.

The Morning Post declares a serious defection from the Whig ranks—

'We are happy to have it in power to announce that his Grace the Duke of Roxburgh has at length abandoned the Whig Ministerial faction, and declared his determination henceforward to stand by the great Conservative party. The noble Duke has for some time been dissatisfied with the proceedings of the Melbourne Ministry; and their recent conduct has quite convinced him that no man who cares for the best interests of his country can continue to support so unprincipled a Cabinet. His Grace, we understand, has withdrawn his proxy from Lord Melbourne, and given it to that truly patriotic nobleman the Duke of Buccleugh. One immediate consequence of the Duke of Roxburgh's accession to the Conservative ranks will be a recovery of Roxburghshire at the General Election. We trust there are other noblemen of the old Whig party prepared to follow so good an example.'

To the secessions from the ranks of the Government supporters among the Peers of Earl Grey and the Duke of Roxburgh, we have now to add that of their long tried and consistent friend, Lord Carrington.

The marriage of Lord John Russell with Lady Fanny Elliot, will take place at the close of the present session of Parliament.

Canada and China.—The estimate of the further amount that will probably be required to defray the expenses of the service in Canada, consequent upon the late insurrection, amounts to £108,000; and the estimate of the sum required to be voted this year on account of the expenses of the expedition to China, to £400,000.

The Church.—In addition to the munificent donation of her Majesty the Queen Dowager, of £2,000 to 'The Colonial Bishops' Fund,' we have been informed that her Majesty, hearing of the exhausted state of the funds of 'The Incorporated Society for promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels,' has most graciously announced her intention of contributing to that society the liberal donation of £5000.

Among the on dits of the day it is reported that Lieut.-General Sir H. Vivan, Master General of the Ordnance, will, on the dissolution of Parliament, be raised to the peerage.

In the memory of man, a more abundant crop of all kinds of grain was never seen in Egypt than that of the present year. The Government calculates on being able to dispose of nearly 2,000,000 ardebs of corn. The cotton crop would also considerably exceed that of 1840, which amounted to 140,000 quintals.

The Trafalgar.—The Trafalgar, 120 guns, which has been many years on the stocks, will be launched from Woolwich dock yard on Monday, the 21st of June, being the anniversary of the proclamation of her Majesty as Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and not on the 19th, as formerly named. The Queen, Prince Albert, and many other distinguished and noble personages, will attend the launch of the great ship, which has been named to commemorate the great victory of Nelson and the fleet under his command. The Trafalgar is to be docked on the day of the launch in the new and spacious dock lately built by Mr. Rolt. The launch will take place on the top of high water, which will happen at Woolwich on the 21st at about half past three o'clock in the afternoon.

Barclay, Perkins, and Co.'s brewery covers upwards of eight acres of ground. The average consumption of malt is usually 2200 quarters per day, and 100