EUROPE.

ENGLAND.

HOUSE OF LORDS—May 7.

Their Lordships assembled at five o'clock, and after the presentation of several petitions the house resolved itself into a committee on the reform bill.

Earl Grey rose and spoke to the following effect; My Lords, the first motion to be made in the Committee is, that the title of the bill be postponed. The next motion will be, that the preamble of the bill be postponed—to both of which, as matters of course, I trust there will be no objection. We shall then come to the consideration of the clauses; and perhaps it may be necessary for me to state, in now moving that the title be postponed, an alteration which it is my intention to propose in the first clause. The first clause according to the natural course of the proceeding which appears to be intimately connected with the general principle of the measure, is that of disfranchising a certain number of boroughs. In that clause it is stated that each of the 56 boroughs in scheldule A. shall cease hereafter to send members to Parliament. I mean to propose that the introduction of this number be deferred till after the other clauses of the bill have been gone through. But I understand there are persons here who, admitting the principle and necessity of disfranchisement, feel that they would be embarrassed by being called upon in the first instance, to say that the exact number of fifty-six boroughs should be disfranchised.—In order to obviate that, it is my intention, when we come to the first clause of the bill, to which I trust we shall proceed immediately, to propose that the words "fifty-six" should be left out, and that the clause should then proceed to state, that each of the boroughs mentioned in schedule A. shall cease to send members to Parliament. The noble Earl concluded by proposing that the title of the bill be postponed, which having been agreed to, he next moved that the preamble of the bill be postponed

Lord Lyndhurst said, "My Lords, I rise for the purpose of proposing to your lordships that the motion recommended and suggested by the noble Earl at the head of His Majesty's Government should be conceded farther than he has stated. My lords, I rise for the purpose of proposing that the consideration of the question should be altogether postponed; and I beg to state to your lordships, that if I should succeed in prevailing upon your lordships to postpone the consideration of this clause, my proposition is to be followed up by another, which will be, that the clause that immediately follows it should be postponed also. My lords, my intention in doing this is simply for the purpose of submitting to the house the propriety of considering those clauses by which certain places are to be allowed the privilege of sending members to parliament; that that part of the bill should be considered and determined, and resolved upon before we proceed to consider the clause of disfranchisement. I am bound in candour to state, that I consider that those noble lords who voted for the second reading of the bill, intended thereby to establish the principle of enfranchisement, the principle of disfranchisement, and that of the extension of the right of voting. My lords, although you have, by deciding upon the second reading of this bill, acknowledged the principles I have stated, it is equally clear you have not in the slightest degree fettered us as to the extent to which those principles are to be carried. We come, therefore, to the consideration of enfranchisement, of disfranchisement, and of the important question with respect to the extension of elective franchise, entirely free, unfettered, and unlimited by your decision." The noble baron then took a review of the various plans for parliamentary reform which had been brought forward at different periods; contended that the crown never had either the power or right of disfranchisement, and concluded by moving that the clause should be postponed till their lordships had agreed upon the amount of enfranchisement.

The Lord Chancellor said, the noble and learned lord had completely mistaken the noble earl (Grey) in supposing he had abandoned schedule A, because he moved the omission of the words "fifty-six;" the only reason was, that they might more conveniently discuss the different cases of the several boroughs to be inserted in the schedule. Their lordships were now called on to agreed to a measure which had undergone the most full and ample discussion in several sessions of parliament, in two of which it had been adopted by one house, and until he saw some reason to justify him in acceding to such alterations as would be proposed by the other side, he should give it his most cordial support. With regard to the present motion, he should give it his most decided opposition.

The Earl of Harrowby said, he did not think it would be at all difficult to answer the no doubt very able speech which their lordships had just heard from the noble and learned lord on the woolsack, because he had not stated any argument against the proposition which had been made by the noble and learned lord near him (Lyndhurst.) The principal reason of his rising then to address the house was, to state that those who would now postpone this clause, did not object, in the slightest degree, either to the object of the clause itself, or even to the extent to which it went, if after full consideration the house should agree to it. He for one was not abandoning the opinion that the decried boroughs had been and might be of great advantage; but yet, under present circumstances, it had become expedient, for the purpose of securing that satisfaction in the government of the country, without which it was impossible to exercise its functions to the benefit of the people, that these borough, to a certain extent, should be disfranchised. He was prepared, too, to follow the principle of enfranchisement to a liberal extent.

Lord Bexley supported the amendment, because it might be a question hereafter whether any positive disfranchisement would be at all necessary, and whether, by an adjustment and blending of boroughs, they might not be able sufficiently to retrench the members of the House of Commons to make room for the members they they might think it necessary to give it to new boroughs.

The Duke of Wellington disclaimed being influenced by party motives, but he was an enemy of the bill, and his opinion was, that, do what they might with it, it would never be anything but an evil to the country. After they had amended it as far as they could hope to amend it, it would still hang a threatening danger over the country, without conferring upon the government any means of averting it. But when once the bill had been read a second time, when once the majority of the house had agreed to its principle, he considered it his duty, as an honest member of Parliament, to do his best to consider its details, and make it such a measure as it would be fit for the house to pass, and the government to agree to. Neither the noble and learned lord opposite, nor the noble earl at the head of the Government, had said one word in answer to the arguments of his noble and learned friend, who showed that, according to precedent, according to analogy of law, and according to all the principles of the constitution, the first point to be considered in the bill was enfranchisement, and that after that they would consider whether disfranchisement was or was not to follow. The noble and learned lord, great lawyer as he was, and able as he was to give an answer when he had ground to stand upon, had not been able to answer this argument, because it was unanswerable. Would they disfranchise first fifty-six, and then thirty boroughs, without knowing what was to be the extent of enfranchisement, or any of the details of the bill? When they talked of rotten and nomination boroughs, he begged to ask whether none would remain after passing this bill; No doubt there would;—nay more, a nomination borough would actually be created by the bill.

Lord Holland said, it was utterly inconsistent with the decisions to which they had already come. He considered it irreconcileable with all reasonable and constitutional principle, and fraught with the greatest evils, in disappointing the expectation of the Commons of this country—of the people of this country.—He imputed no motives to any man, nor did he mean to say that it was the intention of the noble and learned lord who made the motion, or of the noble duke who supported it, to act contrary to the principle of the bill; but he would say, that the postponement of the disfranchising clause was tantamount to voting against the principle of the bill. Their lordships ought to recollect that this particular part of the bill went to purify the representation of the people—to get rid of the filth and odour under which they had suffered a very considerable time. And yet was it to be said this measure was now to be thrown out—a measure which had twice passed the House of Commons, and the principle of which had once received their lordships sanction? The effect of the noble lord's (Lyndhurst) argument was to prevent any disfranchisement, and he had no doubt that the greater number of those who were for postponing the clause, did so because they either thought they would thereby get rid of disfranchisement, or they would maim and mutilate the bill. They had not certainly avowed that to be their intention, but that such was the secret of their heart, and that they were going a right way about it, there could be no doubt, that was clearly the effect and tendency of the present motion, and although he would acquit noble lords of endeavouring to defeat the bill by any underhanded or dirty way, still he declared that, dirty or clean, that was the effect of the motion, and therefore he would give it his most decided opposition.

The Duke of Newcastle said, he would still continue to vote against the bill, because he believed it to be a revolutionary measure. He would have no objection to extending the right of representation to large and populous towns; but it was to the extensive disfranchisement that he most strongly objected.

Lord Ellenborough said, that whatever feeling there might be in that house respecting the correctness of the opinion of the noble duke who had just sat down, he was sure there was no member of the house who would not do full justice to the candour, spirit, and manliness in which he came forward, on all occasions. He, (Lord Ellenborough,) for one, feeling himself bound to consider the principles of the bill would not support anything that might be inconsistent with those principles, and would consider the best plan of extending them, reserving to himself, upon the report, to consider if it was safe to pass the bill or not. He, therefore, agreed with his noble and learned friend, that it was right, and in accordance with principle, that they should not disfranchise till they most abundant reasons shown them for so doing. He, therefore, gave notice, that immediately on the carrying of his learned friend's motion, he would move as an amendment to the next clause, the names of those large towns which, in his opinion, ought to be enfranchised. There was nothing insidious in his noble and learned friend's amendment, for it would protect what we now had, and what we were still to get.

The Earl of Winchelsea gave his cordial assent to the amendment.

Lord Wharncliffe said, if they meant to reform parliament on a safe principle, they should begin with enfranchisement. If the question had been whether they would pass all schedule A. he would have voted for it, but he thought the postponement of the clause a wise measure. In his opinion, the principle of his learned friend's amendment was right, and therefore he would support it.

Earl Grey trusted that his conduct in the whole course of these discussions on this most important measure had not led any one to believe that he imputed sinister motives or views to the persons who intended to support the present amendment. It has been said, that this amendment was of an innocent nature, but in his opinion if ever there was an amendment calculated to defeat a measure, it was the one now under consideration. If it was carried, he considered it must be nearly fatal to the bill. He should be happy to lend himself to any fair proposition, which should have been offered to him in order to insure the character of the bill in its great leading principles, but there had been none such offered. The principles to which he was pledged was disfranchisement, enfranchisement and the extension of the qualification. There were many of their lordships who were against all disfranchisement. It is said the disfranchisement of these boroughs was to justify the cry which had been raised in the country. He acknowledged that it was so, for how else could such a measure have been brought forward but at the express wish of the whole nation? Those boroughs in schedule A. ought to be abolished to make room for other and sounder places, which was consistent with the constitutional principles of the state. The principle had been introduced in its proper order as the first provision of the bill. It was the natural beginning of a bill of reform. He was afraid noble lords deceived themselves very grossly if they thought the people indifferent to the success of the measure. He was convinced that they were now, as they always had been, fully alive to the necessity of the bill, or something as extensive. He therefore would conclude by giving the amendment the most determined hostility.

Several noble lords rose for the purpose of addressing the house, but the cries of "Question" became so loud and general, that strangers were ordered to withdraw, and the house divided when there appeared for the amendment—

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Lord Lyndhurst then moved that the next clause should be postponed. The question having been put—

Lord Ellenborough rose and stated at some length several amendments which his noble friend and himself had agreed to, the result of which would have been to have disfranchised as many boroughs as were in schedule A with the addition of Weymouth, to a certain extent, so as o occasion a curtailment of the house to the amount of 118 members, which could be given to large manufacturing towns. He objected to the £10 franchise, because of its uniformity; he would propose to add to the £10 householders a description of franchise which would bring in the poorer classes.

After a few words from the Duke of Buckingham, expressive of an opinion in favour of modifying the £10 clause, according to the circumstances of different places.

Earl Grey congratulated the noble baron upon the great progress he had made in the principle of a measure he had so lately denounced as revolutionary. But although he agreed to disfranchisement, to the destruction of schedules B. and D, he must at once declare that he could not give up those schedules, and therefore could not concur in the noble baron's new plan of reform. The motion was then agreed to, and he (Lord Grey) moved the adjournment of the committee till Thursday next, a delay which he was sure the circumstances would make all men excuse him. The house adjourned till to-morrow.

HOUSE OF LORDS—Wednesday, May 9.

RESIGNATION OF MINISTERS.

Earl Grey rose to present petitions in favour of Parliamentary Reform, from Doncaster, Calne, N. Shields, Dumfries, and Wighton; and from the County of Monaghan for the abolition of tithes in Ireland. The noble Earl then observed, that after what had happened in that House on Monday last, in the Committee on the Reform Bill, and after the result of that night's debate, their Lordships were probably prepared for the information which it now became his duty to lay before the House. The result of Monday night's division had reduced him to the necessity, in common with his colleagues, either at once to withdraw from his Majesty's service, or to tender to his Majesty advice which then appeared justified by the peculiar circumstances of the case, with a view to carry into effect the measures of reform, or, finally, in the event of this advice being rejected, most respectfully to tender to his Majesty their resignation of the offices which they held. The last alternative, after much consideration, he and his colleagues had adopted. They offered to his Majesty that advice which they thought the urgency of the case and the circumstance of the times required, and their advice not having been accepted, the alternative which they conceived it their duty to submit to his Majesty, was offered, and had been graciously accepted by his Majesty, who was pleased to receive their resignations; at the same time expressing his thanks for their services during the time they had held office in his Majesty's Councils, and were honoured with his Majesty's support. Under these circumstances they stood before their Lordships and the country: having given in their resignation, and that resignation being accepted, of course they now only held place till their successors should be appointed; and their Lordships would at once see the propriety of not proceeding with any public business in relation to which it was probable that any contest or difference of opinion could arise, until a new administration should be formed. Such being the case, of course it was not his intention to propose going into Committee on the Reform Bill to-morrow.

Lord Ellenborough moved that the order of the day for the further consideration of the Reform Bill, which stood for to-morrow, should be discharged, and its further consideration be postponed.

Lord Grey said it was very proper that the order should be discharged; but as to the consideration of it, it was scarcely worth while to find a day for that. (Laughter.)

The Lord Chancellor, in presenting a petition from Birmingham, spoke in the most respectful tone of the Birmingham meeting, which he said was attended by 200,000 persons, and was perfectly orderly. He made nearly the same statement as to the resignation of Ministers as that made by Lord Grey.

Lord Suffolk said, that the people of Great Britain had gained Catholic Emancipation and the Test Acts Repeal for themselves, by their their firmness, energy, and moderation; and they had nearly accomplished, by the same means, that other great measure of Parliamentary Reform. Let them go on in the same course, and what they were not able to gain by the help of friends, they would *extort* from their enemies.

The Earl of Carnarvon thought that this mode of discharging the order, after their Lordships had intimated their wish to proceed to the consideration of the Bill in the most liberal and conciliatory manner, merely because their Lordships would not proceed in the alphabetical order suggested by Ministers, was most contemptuous and improper. The noble Earl and his colleagues, in making such a proposition to his Majesty, merely on the slight ground of their defeat the preceding evening, had committed one of the most foul and atrocious acts with which subjects had ever dared to insult the ears of their Sovereign; and his Majesty, in acting as he had done, had gained, if possible, an additional claim to the gratitude of his subjects. Whatever the motive of Ministers was, it had not originated in the vital rejection of the Bill, for the bill must be discussed, even if the majority of their Lordships (which he did not believe) were against it. He should therefore move that the order of the Committee should stand for Monday, and if their Lordships were not ready to proceed with it at so early a day, it might then be still further postponed.

Earl Grey said, their Lordships would not think it too much, after the violent—the unparliamentary—(cheers)—and he would say, almost disorderly attack—(cheers)—of the noble Earl who had just sat down, that he should notice the observations which had fallen from him. However it was not, for the purpose of defending himself against the imputations which the noble Earl cast upon him, that he now rose. He trusted that, in the estimation of their Lordships and the public, his character did stand—and he said it without presumption—sufficiently high to guard him from the fear of suffering under any such imputations. (Hear.) The noble Lord was pleased to characterize the advice which he (Earl Grey) had thought it his duty to offer to his sovereign, as a most atrocious insult. (Hear, hear—from the opposition.) There were some persons on the opposite side of the House who, he saw, agreed in that sentiment; all he could say was, that he had deferred offering that advice till the very last moment, when the circumstances of the times and a sense of duty, as appeared to him, imposed upon him the obligation of humbly offering it to his sovereign. Whether that advice was right or wrong, if it should become a matter of discussion, he would be found fully prepared to argue that he had taken the right course, and to defend himself from any imputations cast upon him. Meanwhile, he threw himself on the House and on the public, to determine whether it was likely he had been actuated by other motives than those afforded by a strict sense of duty.—Having, as he before stated, given his conscientious advice on an important subject to his Majesty, and that advice having been rejected, there remained no other course for him to pursue than that which he had taken. It appeared to him, that when the advice of a Minister on such a subject was rejected, he had no other alternative than humbly to tender, with all possible respect (the natural result of his Majesty's unwearied goodness) his resignation to the sovereign. That course Ministers had pursued. The postponement of the two first clauses appeared to him to involve a very material change in the character and principle of the measure. But more than that, consider in what situation the authors of the bill were placed when the question of disfranchisement was carried against them. What right had he to expect that noble Lords opposite would support a measure of disfranchisement, if he gave his consent to the postponement of schedules A and B? By whom was the noble and learned Lord's motion supported? By a noble Duke who deliberately declared his opinion that the present system of representation was not capable of amendment by all the efforts of human ingenuity and wisdom, and who had stated that he was against reform. (Hear, and laughter.)—The motion was also supported by another noble Duke, who was against every disfranchisement whatever, and by a noble Baron, who had stated that he had hoped to get rid of the necessity of disfranchisement altogether. Under those circumstances, was it not childish to say that the subject at issue was a mere question of form or precedence? (Cheers.) He contended that it involved the principle of this bill. Under all the circumstances of the case, Ministers had no alternative but to carry the bill or resign, consistently with what they owed to the public and to the maintenance of their own character and honour. For his own part, he could never consent to remain a shadow of a *M*inister, under the tutelage of noble Lords opposite, nor could he be a party to permitting the bill to be cut, and carved, and mutilated, and destroyed, by the other side of the House. (Cheers.) Nevertheless he trusted, that a great, extensive, effective, and beneficial measure of reform might be brought in and carried; and let him remark, that if the reform were not great and extensive, it would neither be effective nor beneficial, nor would it give satisfaction to the country. If a measure to that extent—an extent which he thought right and necessary—should hereafter be carried, and should have the effect of satisfying the country, and of fully meeting the wishes of the people, it would give him, he begged to assure their Lordships, the most sincere gratification and delight. He had taken the step which he had taken, because he saw that it was absolutely impossible for him to carry on the measure, subject to daily defeats and to the alterations which might be forced upon him by a majority of that House—a majority differing from him so much in opinion—a majority consisting (to the amount of four-fifths) of persons, he believed, who objected to any reform at all. [Hear, hear.] He had thought it right to say thus much to vindicate himself against the ill-timed, unfair, and, he must add, the unprovoked attack of the noble Lord opposite. [Hear]

The Earl of Carnarvon thought that the resignation of *M*inisters ought not to prevent the present bill being proceeded with, as by that means its many defects would be shown to the country. He therefore proposed that the Committee should be fixed for monday.

The motion was agreed to, and their lordships adjourned till *F*riday.

MONDAY,

At a little after five o'clock the Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack.

The Earl of Carnarvon immediately rose and said, "Understanding, my lords, that a new administration is formed, but that it is not completed, I think it my duty to move that the order for our proceeding to night with the committee on the reform bill be discharged, with the view of moving afterwards that this house do resolve itself into the said committee on Thursday next.

The *M*arquis of Westminster presented a petition from Rochdale in favour of the reform bill. Petitions of a similar nature were also presented from several other places.—The Duke of *W*ellington was not present, but up to the last moment, there seemed to be an expectation that something would be said, beyond what had fallen from the Earl of Carnarvon, on the subject of the new administration. As the different peers and bishops drove away, those in favor of reform met the most enthusiastic reception, whilst the opponents of reform were received with perfect yells of execration. The bishops in particular seemed to be the most prominent objects of popular feeling.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Wednesday, 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, is 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 we 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 insure 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 *H*ouse 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 moment's 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. Duncombe said, the motion of the noble Lord [Ebrington] was highly necessary, to show whether there were any waverers 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.

Thursday, 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 of *extraordinary and sudden changes of opinion in a particular quarter on the subject of the reform bill*; and that there might be similar changes of opinion in that house. He did not believe that *this* change had yer 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 were the sentiments of that house *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 *M*ajesty's speech, they had prepared 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 *M*ajesty 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.

*M*r. Strutt seconded the motion, and spoke strongly in its favour.

*M*r. 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. M'Cauley supported at considerable length. The House divided, after loud and repeated calls of question, when the numbers were—Ayes, 288; Noes, 208; Majority, 80. 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.