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RECENT ELECTIONS IN ENGLAND.—TRIUMPH OF REFORM.

From the Dublin Monitor.

Great and decided has been the triumph of reform in the recent elections. The Tories boasted that they would fill every vacant seat with a member of their own, and how does the result justify their empty vauntings? Why, Toryism has been beaten—triumphed over—trampled on and scouted everywhere, despite the "No-Popery" howl—the Chartist insurrections—the distress of the country—every unfavourable circumstance of the times, which of course, the Tories recklessly ascribed to the ascendancy of Reform principle, and the existence of the Melbourne Ministry—despite all this, the people have rallied round the Ministry, scouted the Tory candidates, and returned Liberals by triumphant majorities.

1. In Edinburgh no Tory could be found foolish enough to oppose the Secretary at War, and Mr. Macaulay was unanimously re-elected.

2. Devonport was contested. Mr. Tuftnell appeared on the Reform interests, and was opposed by the Right Hon. G. R. Dawson, the brother-in-law of Sir R. Peel. This was a favourable opportunity for the Tories to testify their regard for Sir R. Peel's principles, by returning his brother-in-law. But they did no such thing—the Peelite was sent about his business, and the Reformer returned by a majority of 231.

3. In Newark, Toryism was certain of a victory. The Duke of Newcastle, who can do what he likes with his own, found that there are exceptions to the rule. Newark before the Reform Bill, was his own pocket borough. He yet possesses great influence as lord of the soil, and bets were taken to a large amount that the Solicitor General would be defeated by a large majority. But again were Tory hopes doomed to disappointment. The contest took place, and in the face of the most glaring intimidation, violence and corruption, Wilde was returned by a majority of nine over the Tory candidate, Mr. Thesiger. This is decisive.

4. Birmingham was contested by Sir C. Wetherell on the Tory side, and Mr. Muntz on the Liberal interest. Mr. Sturge also started on the Liberal interest, but honorably withdrew when he found a Tory antagonist in the field. Thus cleverly pitted, the battle was fought, and victory crowned the Reform cause—Muntz being returned by a majority of 546!

5. Southwark, as we published on Saturday, also returned a reformer. The notorious Walter of the Times, started on the Tory interest—bribery and corruption were, as usual unsparingly resorted to, yet Reform triumphed in the return of Mr. Wood, by a majority of 544.

6. In Falmouth and Penryn the Tories had the effrontery to get up the contest, and consequently the Tories have been most unmercifully beaten—Mr. Hutchins, the Reform Candidate, being returned by a majority of 224 over the Tory nominee, Mr. Crane. The numbers polled were, Reform 462; Tory, 938. This looks very like two to one in favour of the principles of Liberalism.

7. Rutland has returned a Reformer without a contest. Charles George Noel, eldest son of Lord Barham, is the gentleman who has been returned. He took his seat in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

8. The Tories have succeeded in returning a member for Beverley. If this is any consolation for the repeated defeats they were doomed to endure in every other quarter where they had the rashness to hazard a contest, all we can say is, that they are easily pleased, and should make the most of this solitary instance of success. On the election, the Morning Advertiser remarks:—

"It is true that the Reform candidate, T. L. Murray, lost his election; but then on the other hand it must be allowed, that Beverley has always been a Tory borough, and that those who have represented it have almost invariably been bled to the tune of £5,000 for each election. The Reform candidate in the present instance, almost unknown to the constituency, polled no fewer than 410 votes in the teeth of the grossest bribery that was ever practised, and

of an unexampled family influence. He was defeated by a majority of 146—the number polled by his opponent being 556; but, under all the circumstances, his defeat must be considered as a triumph. He has only to appear again upon the hustings when a vacancy occurs, and there can be no doubt of his success.

It is remarkable that in all the above contests, excepting Beverley, the Reformers triumphed. Out of six contested elections the Tories only succeeded in returning one member, while in Edinburgh and Rutlandshire they could not get up an opposition candidate, and the Reformers walked over the course. Thus the feeling of the country is in a ratio of 7 to 1 against Toryism, and in favour of Reform principles!

Where now, we ask, is the boasted re-action in favour of Toryism?

PRINCE ALBERT, AND THE HOUSE OF SAXONY.

WITH A PARTICULAR MEMOIR OF THE
REIGNING FAMILY OF SAXE-COBURG-GOTHA.

By Frederick Shoberl, Esq.

The appearance of this work is well timed, and the information it conveys is so ample and authentic as to insure it a cordial reception amongst readers of all classes and parties. At the time of the marriage of Prince Leopold with the Princess Charlotte, Mr. Shoberl published an historical account of the House of Saxony, which furnished a very complete view of the ancestry and progress of that heroic race. In the work before us, he has availed himself of the materials amassed in his former volume, and enriched the narrative with new facts which carry it down to the present time, exhibiting all the changes that have subsequently taken place in the various branches of the family.

The work is divided into a variety of sections, dedicated individually to the different collateral lines of the Saxony dynasty—the Margraves of Meissen, the Landgraves of Thuringia, the Electors of Saxony, the Albertine and Ernestine lines, and the several small German houses reigning over separate principalities, the whole being prefaced by a very able historical introduction, and closing with a distinct memoir of Prince Albert. In the execution of this somewhat laborious task, Mr. Shoberl has spared no pains of research, and has evidently had recourse to records that are beyond the reach of general readers.

The memoirs are written with considerable ability, and are deeply interesting on a variety of accounts, but especially in the complete vindication which they afford of the attachment of the Saxe-Coburg family to the principles of the Reformation. Indeed that attachment has been so frequently proved by the most disinterested sacrifices, that we ought not to be a little ashamed, as Englishmen, of the doubts that were so recently expressed—we will not say entertained—of Prince Albert's Protestantism.

The first chapter to which the curious reader will probably turn in this volume is the last, which gives a sketch of the life of his Royal Highness. Of course the incidents are too few to afford much room for a lengthened biography, but Mr. Shoberl appears to have collected all the material facts that are necessary to the illustration of his character. From this memoir we will make an extract that we are sure will gratify our readers:—

Born, as we have seen, in 1819, a very few months after his royal cousin, to whom he has just been united, he received the rudiments of instruction at the ducal palace of Ehrenburg, where he was daily attended by eminent professors of the College of Coburg, and other masters. His father who even in a private station, would be considered a highly accomplished man, himself superintended with affectionate anxiety the education of his sons; and on his separation from his consort, he was induced to place Prince Albert the younger, under the care of his aunt, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent. The young prince then resided for some time at Kensington, and at Claremont with his uncle Leopold, sharing the lessons given to his cousin, the princess, in music and other sciences. An early attachment was thus insensibly formed; each had abundant opportunity of gaining an acquaintance with the other's character and qualities; and that bond of affection, which links together so closely all the members of the House of Coburg,—a house to which through her mother, the Queen in fact belongs—may well be supposed to have strengthened the predilection which she is said to have entertained for the Prince, ever since maturing years and judgment have led to the serious consideration of a matrimonial alliance.

On the marriage of his father to the Princess Mary of Wirttemberg in December 1822, Prince Albert returned home, and resumed his studies agreeably to the plan of education laid down by the Duke. Such was the progress he made that before he had completed his seventeenth year, he was deemed qualified to remove with his brother to the Prussian university of Bonn, where these princes not only attended the public lectures on the classics and classical literature, moral philosophy, mathematics, politics, and political economy, history, and statistics, but were attended by several private teachers of the ornamental accomplishments. Here too he had a most desirable opportunity for improving himself in English, the correct accent of which he had already acquired during his previous residence in this country.

While at the university, Prince Albert was a general favorite, for his amiable manners, his engaging conversation, and the propriety of his conduct. It was during his stay at Bonn too, that he published for the benefit of the poor a collection of poems, some of which have been set to music by his brother, Prince Ernest. We are assured that these productions are equally creditable to the head and the heart of the youthful poet; and the object to which they were dedicated affords sufficient proof of the benevolence of his nature.

In July 1828, the brothers accompanied their father to England to attend the coronation of her Majesty, and at Michaelmas in the same year having completed their studies at Bonn, they returned to Coburg, where they were received with universal demonstrations of joy. Preparations were soon made for a tour to Italy, and in December the princes set out, attended by Baron Stockmar, who has been for many years consistently employed in the affairs of the house

of Coburg. The travellers were accompanied by the duke to Munich, where the most marked honors were paid to them, public rumour having already proclaimed the brilliant destinies that awaited Prince Albert.

The rest of the winter was spent in Italy, and on their way home the princes visited Vienna. The first object that met Albert's eye on entering his apartments in the Palace of Ehrenburg, was the portrait of Queen Victoria, arrayed in the robes and decorated with the insignia of royalty, worn on the first prorogation of the British Parliament, painted at the express command of her Majesty, by Chalon, and engraved by Cousins. This present, transmitted to Coburg by the Queen during his absence, produced a surprise the more agreeable, as his highness had received no previous intimation of its arrival.

In England rumour had for some time pointed out Prince Albert as her Majesty's consort; and the belief in the accuracy of the report, altho' it was positively denied by the ministerial newspapers, was strengthened by a visit paid to this country by the King of Belgium, and the subsequent arrival of the young prince himself, during the autumn of 1839. Immediately after the departure of his highness, this question was set at rest. The Queen caused all the members of her privy council to be summoned for the 23d of November; and, eighty-five of them having assembled on that day at Buckingham Palace, her Majesty was pleased to make a communication of her intentions.

The following observations on the Prince will be read with interest:

Every trait that has hitherto developed itself in the character of Prince Albert proclaims him to be peculiarly fitted for the high destinies to which he is called. All accounts concur in describing him as of gentle and unassuming demeanor, of uncorrupted morals, frank, kindhearted, and benevolent; in short, as possessing all those qualities that constitute an amiable man. His character and his tastes are represented as being so peculiarly in accordance with those of the people of his adopted country, that he cannot fail to render himself acceptable for his own sake. By the free selection of such a consort, the domestic happiness of our young and gracious Queen, in which the whole nation takes so profound an interest, is assured, so far as by human means it can be assured. Descended in a direct line from the elder branch of the house of Saxony, whose representative, in the time of the Emperor Charles V. chose rather to sacrifice his dominions, or even life itself, than abandon the Protestant religion as taught by Luther, of whom he and his immediate predecessors were the zealous protectors. Prince Albert it is said, has often declared himself prouder of this distinction than of any personal advantage that he enjoys.

This warm attachment to the Protestant faith must be deemed a subject of particular congratulation, when we consider the close connection into which the Prince is about to enter with the British Crown and nation—a nation so justly jealous of the preservation of its established religion, which may confidently reckon upon finding in him, in time of need, a staunch and steady supporter. From the alliance of the house of Coburg with several of the sovereigns of Europe, we may further deduce a favourable augury for the maintenance of that peace and good understanding which it is so much the interest of all to cultivate. In short, under whatever aspect it may be viewed, the union of a highborn, amiable, and accomplished prince, with her who is universally looked up to as

The expectancy and rose of the fair state—a union so fruitful of promise both to her Majesty and to the country at large—cannot but be celebrated as an event for general jubilee and rejoicing by the loyal people of her united empire.

From the London Atlas.

The Tories are a mean, sneaking party; and they are more faithfully represented by their press than any other class we have knowledge of.

They have moved every engine first of all to prevent the late royal marriage; and when that was found impossible, to thwart, vex, and annoy the young Queen. They were sufficiently adepts in tormenting to know that the surest way to torture a girl is to slight and condemn her lover; and they have indulged themselves in this sport until they must have wrung Victoria's bosom with many a pang. They have watched, they have marked, they have obstructed every measure, however minute or unimportant, which was intended to facilitate the marriage. They have so changed their natures as to become even economists to give pungency to their opposition; and they have so utterly forgotten their outcry against separating husband and wife in poor houses, that they have actually attempted to separate the Queen from her husband, even in her own palace. The Duke of Wellington has decreed, and his Peers have assented, that the terrible form of the Duke of Cumberland must stand between the Queen and her husband upon all state occasions; and that the husband of Victoria must stand further from her person than the heir-presumptive to her Crown. It is true that the Queen will be able by contrivance, and by keeping out of the House of Lords, to avoid this indignity; but she also must "watch," she also must "mark," she also must "obstruct," or she will find it suddenly inflicted upon her.

The pain of these attacks has probably been felt only by Victoria. The Prince in all probability hardly knew of them. Notwithstanding his naturalization, he is not likely to be yet sufficiently an Englishman to ransack the papers in search of scurrilous articles against himself. If the current anecdotes are true, he is also too well satisfied with his wife, and too moderate in his expectations to entertain the slightest dissatisfaction at the amount of the parliamentary grant. It is said that when the question was asked by the minister as to what he thought would be a sufficient provision for him, he, in ignorance of the expenses to which his station in this country would compel him, replied that he thought 4,000l. a-year would be enough. When he heard of the vote of 30,000l. far from expressing disappointment, he smiled and remarked that it was a noble and most ample allowance. The Prince therefore is in all probability ignorant that the Tory papers have called him a beggar and a gambler; perhaps he does not even know that the Tory party sought to mortify him by curtailing the proposed ministerial allowance. He is most likely also ignorant that the Standard said that when the Naturalization Bill made him a private gentleman in this

country, he acquired a higher title than he had ever before held, or that the Times had declared that he would spend his annuity in electioneering and corruption.

The paragraph in the Times is worth recalling to the memory of our readers:—

"In fine," said that paper, "the grant of 30,000l. a-year, of which more than four-fifths are absolute waste, so far as concerns the illustrious protege of the O'Connell cabinet, is neither more nor less than a fund applicable to election purposes and other ends of corruption, in aid of that secret service money which Lord John Russell has taken so much credit on himself for reducing."

The sneer at the illustrious protege of the O'Connell cabinet is probably prompted only by hatred of his wife; the supposition as to the manner in which the grant will be applied may have a more specific foundation, in the general and uncontradicted report that the pension which the King of Hanover receives is regularly handed over to the Carlton Club for electioneering purposes.

But if the Prince is ignorant, as we would wish him to be, of these unwholesome and un-English insults, the Queen is not ignorant of them, nor are the English public. With what contempt then, must they observe these Tories, now that they have shot their last arrow and exhausted their whole stock of malignant invention, coming to the Prince with lowly bow and bated breath, and assuring him that they are his very good and excellent friends, his most obsequious sycophants, and most humble servants.

On the morning of the marriage the Times hid the tomahawk and extended the olive branch; and having shown how far the power of calumny could go, promised to defend him from all calumny in future if he would only become an obedient instrument in the hands of the revilers of his wife. The Standard followed upon the same tack. It professed a sudden conviction that the Tories were acting imprudently in this matter, and cited the authority of Bolingbroke to confirm it in the enunciation of the trite truism, that to treat a man as an enemy was the most certain way to make him one. The Standard also is ready to fall down and worship the Prince as an idol, but only in case he will appoint the friends of the Standard as his priests, and suffer them to juggle in his name.

We offer no such homage and we require no such return. If the Prince will discharge the duties of an affectionate husband to the Queen, and if he will avoid compromising himself with any political party, it is all that we require or expect. We have no wish to make him a political tool in any hands. When he becomes better acquainted with the state of parties in this kingdom he cannot avoid forming opinions, and he will have a right to exercise the privilege of every British citizen by expressing them. We would not have him cabal for us, and we should remonstrate if we found him caballing against us. But let him form and express his sentiments in a manly, single, and independent character, and whichever side those sentiments may favour, we can promise him that the nation will respect both him and them.

These and these only are the expectations which the Liberal party entertain of the Prince consort. Need we tell to Europe the scorn with which, as honorable and upright men, we behold the conduct of our opponents? Need we declare, in defence of our national character, that it is not our habit to attempt to stab, and when we find the blow parried, to drop upon our knees before our intended victim, and to attempt, by protestations of friendship, by slavish flattery, and by the offer of bribes, to convert him into a disordered agent for a dishonest purpose? If neighboring nations see such conduct openly pursued here, let them be assured that it is the conduct of a small and desperate faction, not of a national party—that it is the working of a few hungry adventurers of Hanoverian and not English sympathies—that is the policy only of a few men who look continually beyond the present reign, whose head is always occupied with the idea of one contingency, and who chuckle with the Times newspaper, that certain acts of the Queen will only be in force during her own life.

The news from China is at length of a decisive character. The celestial people, notwithstanding the heroic special proclamation of the Admiral of the ocean, have found that a few broadsides from a small frigate were enough to sink a whole fleet of their junks, and to destroy (what we suppose we must call) their sailors.

We strongly suspect that this Chinese question is very much misunderstood in England. Shallow Philanthropists become infected with the notion that the Tartar monarchs of China, whom the Chinese hate with such a holy hatred, are a most wise and paternal race of sovereigns; they acquire an enthusiasm in favour of these most cunning of savages, and they look upon their manifestos and believe them. They soon begin to think, with Rousseau, that virtue and manliness cannot exist in civilization, and they run about spreading the infection, and telling every one they meet how horrible it is to import opium into China, and how virtuous the Chinese monarchs are in excluding it.

It is something rather against the credit of these mighty professions of regard for the people, that the practice has been openly going on for the last forty years, and that the drug has been as openly landed at Canton as it has at the London Docks. It is something rather against them that the Imperial horror of opium has always increased in exact proportion to the scarcity of Sycee silver which this opium trade drains. It is something also against them that Russia has at this moment an establishment at Peking, and also an army in the Chinese territory; and that she is alternately threatening, bullying, and cajoling the unhappy celestial Emperor, who is not without reason considerably alarmed at this Northern Bear.

It is a cheap way of being philanthropic to indulge a sickly sentimentality at the expense of the commerce of India and the wealth of a distant class of merchants; but those who are neither saints nor fanatics can judge by the light of common sense, that all this opium fever is a transparent artifice to cover a Russian intrigue, and to bring that restless and insatiable power to the threshold of our Indian possessions.

The crisis is now arrived. China is grandiloquent, pompous, and impotent, and she lies between England and Russia. The event seems to us to be pretty evident.

The first thing for England to do is—not to import her opium under the cover of her cannon—for that we admit, may we assert that she has no right whatever to do—but to revenge the cruelties inflicted upon our merchants, and the insults offered to our officer, in a manner which

will make the Pekin Mandarins tremble in their slippers whenever they hear the name of England mentioned. We must establish a wholesome terror among these people, and make them fear us more than they fear Russia.

When we have done this it will be to retain our hold over them by turning the Portuguese out of Macao, where they have conducted themselves towards us in a manner which would justify any retaliation, and also by getting and keeping possession of the Bogue forts. These matters effected, we shall have put things upon a proper footing in that part of the world.

As to the opium trade we do not defend it. We would not protect it, neither would we take any steps against it, for our officers are not mandarins or employees of the Chinese customs. The opium business may be very well left to be settled between the Chinese and the smugglers. A vessel that mounts half a dozen guns, can run her cargo when and where she likes, in spite of all the war junks of China; and can bring back a very good collection of mandarins' tails into the bargain, if she should happen to fall in with them. Just now the British merchants are suffering, and the opium smugglers are making fortunes.

From the London Spectator.

THE CORN-LAWS TRIED IN 1839.

Members of Parliament will come to the session of 1840 with another year's experience of the Corn-laws. That experience is satisfactory to one class—the authors and upholders of the existing system. The most distinguished landowners have publicly avowed as much, together with their determination to resist all attempts at opening the trade. It cannot therefore be alleged that last year's trial of the Duke of Wellington's Corn Bill was unfair. For the circumstances of 1839 and 39—for seasons of deficiency—that measure was intended; being practically inoperative, when in consequence of a abundant harvests, wheat is low-priced in England.

Here there is ground from which opponents and supporters of the law, may start in the approaching discussion. The law of 1827 fulfils its purpose. Then let us see what it has done—enquire into the state of the country under its operation; remembering that the landed interest, the mercantile interest, and men of all classes and opinions, differing on other points, agree in considering the maintenance or repeal of the Corn-laws as the great practical question of the day, more nearly and extensively affecting the public welfare than any other.

1. The high duty on foreign wheat has made wheat dear in England. On this head there can be no difference of opinion. The sole value of the law for its supporters consists in its effect on prices, while a chief objection to it arises from the same cause.

2. Prevention of a profitable trade with foreign countries. Note the word "profitable." We are aware that the aggregate of exports in 1839 may exceed those of the previous, perhaps of any year since 1836; but the trade has been forced. The Morning Chronicle's Philadelphia correspondent states facts confirmed by our private information, that large quantities of British manufactures have been thrust upon the American market and sold at two-thirds of their prime cost and charges, in order to raise money. If the Americans had been permitted to supply the deficiency of English harvests, that sacrifice would have been avoided. As it was, a struggle ensued—an eager competition for the bullion which the United States wished to keep, as much as England desired to obtain. The result has been a losing trade to an immense amount.

3. Drain of Specie. It is admitted that several millions of pounds sterling, sufficient to drain the coffers of the Bank of England, have been paid to Continental growers of wheat, the equivalent for which would have been British manufacturers, but that we have taught the foreigners independence by compelling them to become manufacturers themselves.

4. Consequences of a drain of Specie. These are felt more or less by all classes. In London, one effect has been the high rate of discount—the pressure on the money-market; for the recurrence of which, Lord Montague truly said English traders must be prepared, until foreign wheat could be bought with manufactures instead of gold. It appears that in the provinces, where money has hitherto been comparatively "easy," the "screw" is now applied.

"The long list of bankruptcies in the Gazette, and the increased gloom which pervades the accounts of the state of trade throughout the manufacturing districts, attract much attention throughout the City. The woollen and yarn trades seem to be most severely affected; but all descriptions are suffering, and prices continue to fall. In Huddersfield and Bradford every thing is depicted despondingly; and in the former a fact is stated which we formerly noticed—that what with failures and the sacrifices made in getting rid of stock, both in the raw material and manufactured goods, there has been no parallel since 1826; while at the same time the pressure has been increased during the last month, in consequence of the different banks having been compelled to draw the reins tighter and tighter every week."

This is the Morning Chronicle's report, confirmed from numerous quarters. Lying before us are reports from Manchester, Leeds, Preston, Bradford, Halifax, Nottingham, Leicester, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and other places, telling the same story.

5. State of the manufacturing population.—Many of the largest manufacturing establishments in the country are "working half-time." With full time and average wages the life of an artist and operative in England is, Heaven knows, arduous enough: deprive him of half his usual wages, and his condition becomes deplorable—he is pauperized. This is now the condition of a large majority of the inhabitants of manufacturing towns. Read our extracts from the address of the Sheffield workmen to their brethren in want. There is nothing canting in their tone—no exaggeration in their statements; but how distressing the description of their condition! Their plea is for full employment, and a free trade in corn, by which alone full employment can be secured.

6. Rate of the agricultural population.—In some English counties the wages of labour are only 8s. or 9s. a-week; when the peasant earns 12s. he is presumed to be marvellously well off. But our readers know, from former calculations in the Spectator, or from facts which any inquirer may ascertain, that wages of 9s. a-week, with wheat at 40s. or 50s. a quarter, afford the means of more comfort to the agricultural labourer, than wages at 12s. with wheat at 70s. a