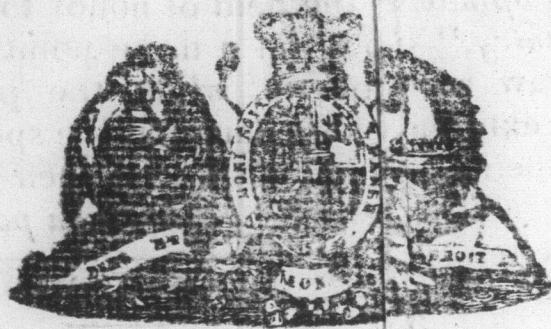


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MINISTERIAL PROSPECTS.

(From the Times.)

Since Lord John Russell's declaration, that unless ministers, immediately after Easter, obtain a vote of confidence from the House of Commons, they will consider themselves obliged to resign, their radical taskmasters have been speaking out more plainly than ever. The time is now come, say these theorists, when the doctrine of finality must be abandoned, the reform bill reformed, and the multitude conciliated by ballot and household suffrage.

On the other hand, the aristocratical supporters of the whigs, the gentlemen, par excellence, who disapprove the tendency of their proceedings, but continue to support them from fear of the obloquy that attaches to any dereliction of party, are talking the softest sort of language, and asking why, when so little or real difference subsists between the moderate whigs and the liberal conservatives, there should not be a union of these two respectable parties against the disturbers of our common constitution?

When Mr. Canning formed his administration he suffered not a little in the estimation of many conservatives from the ostentations backing which the whigs bestowed upon them. "How can you expect," said one of his old constitutional friends to this high-spirited minister, "that we can support you when you have joined the whigs?" "Nay," answered he, in one of his pregnant epigrams, "I never joined the whigs; the whigs joined me." And it was perfectly true: the whigs did not join they followed Mr. Canning. They saw that if any circumstances, untoward for the country, but helpful to selfish adventurers, should widen much further the breach between the two great divisions of the conservatives, headed by Mr. Canning on one side, and by the Duke and Sir Robert Peel on the other, some conjecture might arise in which their votes would tell; and, excited by this distant hope, the first pale gleam that had glanced on their fortunes for a quarter of a century, their hurried into the rear of Mr. Canning's march:—

"As when a flock
Of ravenous fowl—though many a league
Remove—
Against the day of battle, to a field
Where armies lie encamp'd come flying."

The minister gave them nothing, promised them nothing; they were rated upon his books, but they were content to serve as supernumeraries, for the chance that by sufficient forwardness and suppleness, by an abandonment of all their turbulent theories, and an object adaptation of their politics to his principles, they might induce

him to fill up his future vacancies from their ranks. For this chance they licked the feet of the man whom through more than twenty bitter years they had hated, hooted, and trembled at, whose argument had overthrown, whose wit had scorched, whose sarcasm had withered them. They swelled the crowd behind his chariot, too happy to be fanned by the whiff and wind from its wheels. He forbore to shake them from his train; but he never admitted their taint into his councils. Thus he moved erect and unretted, while they were fain to drag their bellies in the dust at his heels.

It is only in a spirit like that of Mr. Canning that any honourable man can derive any advantage from the dishonest or the perverse. Of the whigs, such as they are in their present fallen and unredeemed state, a considerable proportion are condemned to the former of these two dangerous denominations, and almost the whole of them to the latter. Any present negotiation with such persons for a partnership with them in their offices is morally impossible—impossible in any way but by some such shameful sacrifice of principle as that which the whigs stooped to, when they made their "compact alliance" with the Irish tail. To be sure, at this very moment, whenever the ministers do make head against radical encroachment, their resistance derives its efficacy from the conservatives, without whose aid indeed any constitutional manifestation from this government would be utterly powerless and unavailing. Therein the conservatives, while they are protecting their country's institutions, are upholding their own character. But imagine them, for a moment, making a treaty for office with the whigs! A treaty for office with the men who opened one session by a request for power to crush Mr. O'Connell, and began the next by contriving powers to be tow upon him, the men who pledged their honour in one session to uphold the royal pension list, and in the next let in the swine to grub up their Sovereign's bounty, the men who vowed their would defend the church against the dissenters, and then, to get the support of that restless body, built them a platform to batter the fabric, the men who promised appropriation, as they would have promised any other plunder, that they might mount into place on the brawny shoulders of the Irish papists, and having clattered up over the necks of their dupes, rewarded them with a horse-laugh; imagine a treaty, a mutual engagement of faith, with men whose mainspring and staple is their utter faithlessness! He who talks of

any arrangement by which conservatives are to join whigs for office has little knowledge of the principle in which the conservatives stand and on which alone they can be useful to their country. To the conservatives character is everything. They form the rallying point for the sound principle and the sound sense of the country; and they will not enrol themselves under a sullied banner, nor bow the knee before Bael. The day which should see the conservatives take office through the hands of the whigs would hopelessly overcloud their reputation, and wuth all confidence in public men.

Do we speak, then, of every whig as a being so irredeemably lost by the intrigues of his party with the radicals, that even if he repent and turn to honest councils, he is to be cut off for ever from all reputable communion? Not so; but we say, that the first proof of sincerity in such a penitence, disconnection from dangerous doctrine must be the relinquishment of office, obtained only through that doctrine and through its radical apostles. If you really repent of the sin, begin by surrendering its wages, let an upright administration, liberally conservative, unswayed by breaches of faith, and unentangled with plans of revolution, come fairly and fully into possession of the powers of the state, with a cordial desire to improve what lacks improvement, but a no less firm resolve to resist unnecessary, and therefore mischievous, experiments, upon the foundations of politics and religion, society and morals; and then the whigs being out of office, let those individuals of them, if such there be, who wish not place for themselves or their clique, but good and stable government for their country give an unbought, unbargained support, to that conservative government.—We shall be told it would easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for whigs to endure such a quarantine. Very probably; but on no other terms can conservatives ever be mingled with whigs, or whigs work out a character sufficiently good, nay, sufficiently marketable, to justify an infusion of them into future office.

Now a word or two touching the radicals. Between them and the conservatives a partnership in office would be obviously impossible. There is no common object. What the radicals must affect the conservatives must abhor.—Nor, in general, have the habits or training of the radicals been such as to make them useful colleagues in the transaction of government business.—Neither in design or in execution can there be any official harmony between two such parties. But though, for these reasons, coalition for office is out of the

question, yet, if the radicals had the gift of common sense, co-operation to a certain extent, and to a good public purpose, might not be impossible. If they had understanding enough to discern, as a very moderate share of observation might satisfy them, that even those of the whigs who profess a desire to accomplish organic changes are disabled from achieving them by a power mightier than their own—by a conservative principle prevailing, not merely with those who bear the name of conservatives as a party, but throughout the great mass of the respectable community of this island, and that radical revolutions are, therefore, alike impracticable, whether conservatives be in office, or whether official whigs be held in check by a conservative opposition—it might possibly occur to the more honest of the radical body, that in the equal hopelessness of extorting their own objects from either kind of government, they duty would lead them to confer their general support upon that set of public men who have the best character for integrity, the most extensive knowledge, the longest experience, and the most accurate habits of business—those, in short, who are likely to make the British government most servicable at home and most respectable abroad.—On such a principle even radicals, when they happened to be honest men, might give some general support to a conservative administration; and in such circumstances a conservative administration might receive the support of honest men, even though they should happen to be radicals.

NEW LIGHT FOR LIGHTHOUSES.—A letter of the 10th instant from Trieste states that a new system of producing light for lighthouses has been invented by a sergeant-major in the Austrian artillery, named Selckonsky. The apparatus consists of a parabolic mirror, 62 inches by 30, with a 12 inch focus, and the light is produced by a new kind of wax candle, invented by M. Selckonsky. It has been tried under the inspection of the Austrian Lloyd's Company in the port of Trieste, by being erected on the mast of a vessel. The light is said to have illuminated the whole of the port and the surrounding parts of the town equal to the moon at full (☾); and at the distance of 600 yards the finest writing could be read. A second trial has been made in bad weather, and the result was proportionally favourable.

LATE DEFEAT OF THE PHYSICAL-FORCE CHARTISTS AT DEVIZES.

(From the Devizes Gazette.)

Our readers know something of a man named Carrier (a delegate from Trowbridge to London,) who, whilst the assizes were holding in Salisbury, had the impudence (in his harangue to some of the lower classes in that city) to tell them that Baron Gurney had been a robber all his life, and was more deserving of punishment than some of the prisoners he had that day sentenced for theft; and who, in the yard of the Nag's Head, in this town, a short time since, openly told the labourers that, if they had no money in their pockets, they were justified in going into a baker's shop, or to a butcher's stall, and helping themselves; or, indeed, in parceling out their masters' property. This worthy and respectable personage (with the notorious Vincent and a Citizen Roberts, a lawyer of Bath) had the temerity to come to Devizes again on Friday evening, agreeably to public announcement.

The meeting was advertised for six o'clock; and shortly before that hour, about 150 weavers and others, with a band of music and some flags, with incendiary inscriptions, entered the town. Soon afterwards the orators arrived. A wagon having been placed in the centre of the market-place, they were speedily mounted, and alongside of them the flags

NOTICES

BAY PACKETS
Harbour Grace Packets
SS Packet being now
having undergone such
improvements in her accom-
modation, as the safety, com-
fort of Passengers can
experience suggest, a cer-
tain Master having also
with resume her usual
route, leaving Harbour
Grace, WEDNESDAY, and
returning at 9 o'clock, and for
the following days.

FARES.
Passengers 7s. 6d.
Children 5s.
..... 6d.
..... 1s.
In proportion
Packages will be care-
fully packed, and no accounts can be
settled for Passages, nor will the
Company be responsible for any Species or
loss by this conveyance.
NEW DRYSDALE,
Agent, HARBOUR GRACE
CHARD & BOAG,
Agents, St. John's
May 4, 1839

Crema
between Carbonear and
Loyal Cove.

Returning his best
thanks for the patronage
uniformly received, begs
to announce the same fa-
vourable will, until further no-
tice, on the mornings
TUESDAY and FRIDAY, posi-
tively, and the Packet Man
on the Mornings of
THURSDAY, and SATURDAY, at 9
o'clock, the Boat may sail from
Harbour Grace on each of those

FARES.
Passengers 7s. 6d.
Children 5s.
..... 6d.
..... 1s.

In proportion
DOYLE will hold
for all LETTERS
seen him.

PATRICK

begs most respect-
fully to the Public, that the
and commodious Boat
and expense, he has fit-
ted up between CARBONEAR
and Loyal Cove, as a PACKET
Boat, (part of the after
cabin, with two sleeping
berths, and the fore-
cabin fitted up for Gentle-
men's berths, which will
afford satisfaction. He now
fronage of this respect-
ful he assures them it
deavour to give them
possible.

will leave CARBONEAR,
on Wednesdays, and
lock in the Morning
at 8 o'clock, on Mondays,
Fridays, the Packet,
at 8 o'clock on those
days.
Passengers 7s. 6d.
Children 5s.
..... 6d.
..... 1s.

In proportion to their size or
weight, to be accountable for

St. John's, &c., &c.
in Carbonear, and in
Harbour Grace, at Mr. Patrick
and Tatem) and at

LET
for a Term of
years.

AND, situated on the
High Street, bounded on
the east by the late captain
of the Subscriber's.

MARY TAYLOR,
Widow.

339.
books
Sale at this Office of