

pose his Administration; and he somewhat lamely settles the question by intimating that he could not possibly have united with certain of his colleagues, unless he and they had been the same at heart. "The in-coming Whigs," says his Lordship, "are Conservative-Liberals; I myself am a Liberal-Conservative—so there's an end of the matter." Unanimity as regards a commercial tariff is to take the place of all other bonds of sympathy; and unpleasant souvenirs of former acts and speeches are to be obviated by a dexterous shifting of place. This seems to us but a poor expedient. Men of ability will indeed easily fall into the routine of duties attendant on the holding of any appointment; but the value of their precious experience must be deteriorated by the abandonment of one office and the acceptance of another. Who, for instance, can avoid a smile, on finding Viscount Palmerston nominated to the Home Office. It absolutely makes one laugh, to think of the man who has stood before the world for so many years as the exponent of England's foreign policy settling himself down to the affairs of the magistracy, the militia, or the police? Imagine him whose thought has been of the balance of power, of the adjustment of treaties, and of the rise and fall of nations, pondering over a sentence pronounced at the Court of Sessions, and denounced per chance in the *Times*, or gravely considering the allotted diet of a convict-ship! What moreover will be said of us abroad, when it is found that the Earl of Aberdeen and Lord Palmerston, who have been looked upon as rivals in the Foreign Office, have consented to sit at the same Council Board, and that associated with them is that same Lord John Russell, who ejected from his ministry that same Lord Palmerston, so short a time ago, and who has now the temerity to take possession of the Foreign Office himself? The best that they can say will be that we Englishmen are very incomprehensible fellows. Beyond a certain degree of fitness for any civil duty, Lord John has so little to recommend him as the director of our international affairs, that we trust there is truth in the rumour that he is but keeping the place warm for Lord Clarendon.—Sir James Graham, again, when he vacated the Home Office left certain unpleasant reminiscences behind him. These ought to be forgotten, now that we have him once more at the head of the Admiralty, for which place he has many qualifications, although in him is renewed the monstrous absurdity of a civilian heading such a department.—As Secretary of the Admiralty, Mr. Sidney Herbert stood well before the public; in the general shuffle he now comes forth as Secretary at War, in order that he may have a seat in the Cabinet. Here again is experience misapplied; for although he has served in his present capacity, it was but for a brief period.—It has been erroneously said that the Greys are excluded; for we find them here represented in the person of Sir Charles Wood, Earl Grey's brother-in-law, the infelicitous Chancellor of the Exchequer under the Russell-Grey régime. In this case, no one can regret his transfer to another post; although why the East India Department should be saddled with such a supervisor, it were hard to say. This is the weakest appointment made; though from it we learn that the very fortunate family above-named has still a political

existence. They deserve some commiseration, however; Sir Charles's patronage in his new position is very limited.—No Post-Master-General appears yet in the list. No wonder; it must be hard to satisfy the claimants from so many sections of party.—Mr. Cardwell, the new President of the Board of Trade, is excluded from the Cabinet, being without a seat in Parliament.—But the most remarkable of all the new appointments seems to us to be that of Sir William Molesworth, a man of brilliant talents, but hitherto regarded as an uncompromising Radical. This effort to appease the ultra-Liberals can scarcely win their good-will, nor can it escape remark, that Sir William's duties lie more apart from political movements than those of any of his associates. Still, his constituents will complain, if he smother his well-known tendencies; and these have nothing in common with the Government of which he has become a member.—The new Lord Chancellor was known as Solicitor-General, when Mr. Rolfe, and has subsequently, as Vice-Chancellor, acquired a fair degree of favor with his brethren. He is not, however, a Lyndhurst in debate, nor a Sugden in legal knowledge.—The new Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, the Earl of St. Germain's, came into public life as Lord Eliot. He was Secretary for Ireland under Sir Robert Peel. When it was surmised that Lord Palmerston was probably balancing between the Conservatives and the Radicals, who could have foreseen an alliance with both at the same time? We trusted also that Lord Aberdeen would take our foreign policy under his immediate supervision. Who could have dreamed that it would be entrusted to Lord John Russell; or that the latter could have sunk from the office of Prime Minister to that of Secretary of State? He has certainly an example in Lord Goderich, the present Earl of Ripon; but that nobleman, if we remember rightly, was much quicker in discovering his own unfitness to rule the State, than the country was in finding out Lord John's.

Few events in "the old country" of stirring import have lately occurred; though with more time at our disposal we might extract a little pith from the leading articles of the London papers.—The *Times* has been loud, and deservedly so, in its reprobation of the appointment of Sir Fleetwood Pellew, as successor to the late Rear Admiral Austen in the command of our East India Squadron. Sir Fleetwood is a veteran; and not having been at sea for many years, it is fairly presumed that he will be unfit to contend against the enervating effects of the Indian climate. General Godwin's dilatory proceedings in the Rangoon war give additional effect to this appeal to the new Lord of the Admiralty. The Duke of Northumberland, hitherto much commended, made the objectionable nomination.—Lord Malmesbury also has come in for a share of the Thunderer's ire, for having given to his brother and his cousin respectively two lucrative diplomatic offices.

THE ABERDEEN ADMINISTRATION.

First Lord of the Treasury The Earl of Aberdeen.
Lord Chancellor Lord Cranworth.
Chancellor of Exchequer, Mr. Gladstone.