

do, or as to what coalition or what course the Opposition may make or take. Recording only two or three items, we are content to leave the subject for the present; there will be no lack of opportunity for returning to it.—

THE NEWLY ELECTED COMMONERS.

The job of manufacturing a new House of Commons is finished. The workmen have put their article out of hands. They cannot now alter the nature of the thing they have made; but must make the best of it till it will be broken up again. The kind of stuff it is made of—how it will wear and work—can only be learned by the test of experiment. Qualities and capabilities—good, bad, or indifferent—it has inherent in its nature, which washing or tinkering cannot alter; but what they are must be left to time to show.

The aptitude of this new machine to subserve the purpose of any party or party leaders is very uncertain. If any reliance can be placed on professions, or trustworthy inferences drawn from antecedents, there will be about 310 Ministerialists and 344 Non-Ministerialists in the House of Commons. But many Non-Ministerialists are suspiciously ostentatious in professions of anxiety to eschew factious opposition; and some Ministerialists, hampered by previous declarations, may not always be able to offer Lord Derby a thorough-going support. Ministers, however, it appears on the surface, having failed to obtain an absolute majority. But their supporters maintain that the incompatible views of the different sections of Opposition render it impossible to combine them for any effective assault upon Ministers or their policy. *Is the Ministerial phalanx less obnoxious to internal dissensions than the Opposition?* Mr. Disraeli, since the Buckinghamshire nomination, has disappeared from public view. He is understood to be, like the adepts or thaumaturgi of old, labouring in mystic seclusion at the concoction of his grand panacea—or like Mahomet in his cave, devising a new chapter of the Koran to meet some unforeseen exigency—or like Friar Bacon, elaborating by word and spell his brazen head. But when the great work is completed, what chance has it of the unanimous approval of Mr. Disraeli's party? Will that which meets the wishes of converts bent on crossing the Free-trade prairies into which they have been led, satisfy those who still hanker after the flesh pots of protection? Mr. Disraeli is prepared to conform to "the spirit of the age," but will he be able to persuade, not merely his bucolical supporters, but even some of his fellow-placemen, to follow his example?

The showy or substantially useful qualities likely to be brought into play by the new House of Commons are not less problematical. The number of unknown, or at least untried Members, is very great—nearly one-third of the whole House. In a good many instances it will be found that one cipher has taken the place of another; and the only use of ciphers is to make up sums in notation. But there have been also changes among the more restless and pushing spirits whose doings and sayings determine the action of the Legislature, or at least impart a characteristic tone to its proceedings.

In all its essentials, the House of Commons seems little changed by the recent elections, except in a slightly increased torpidity and feebleness, the inevitable work of time on men and their works. A general election is supposed to be for the House of Commons what Medea's kettle was for old Æson; but in the present instance the venerable gentleman appears to have passed through the process not merely without having his youth restored, but positively without having the insidious progress of old age arrested.

Evidences unfortunately are multiplied as to the existence of potato blight in Ireland. One feels reluctant to confess this appalling fact to oneself; but its truth can scarcely be doubted. This additional grievance must give fresh impulse to emigration.—The influx of gold from Australia, and the exodus of adventurers to the various Colonies comprised under that general heading, continue to be enormous. Mr. Macaulay, M. P. for Edinburgh, is said to be convalescent. So much the better for our chance of more English history from his pen. His parliamentary tongue may remain silent, without any grave loss to the nation.

No news from India or from the Cape, of a very important nature, success, so far, seems to attend the British movements.

GOLD IN THE WEST INDIES.

The following is an extract of a letter from Trinidad, Port Spain, August 1st:—The gold diggings of Demerara are causing as great a revolution in this island as the Australian and California diggings have both in Europe and America. Our planters, with several agricultural labourers, have already started, some of whom are realizing their most sanguine expectations. Lord Harris, (the Governor,) his family and suite will shortly visit the West India Eldorado.

We cannot congratulate the good people of the West Indies on the discovery of that which no doubt they consider to be a source of immense wealth. At the present moment some of the smaller Islands, as Barbadoes, St. Vincent, and Antigua, are nobly rising from out of the depression under which they laboured. They have by a wise and judicious policy, settled their emancipated population comfortably under equitable laws, and have been working harmoniously and in a Christian temper for some time past. If Gold be so close within their reach, may we not fear an abandonment of their legitimate pursuits, and, as a consequence, a sacrifice of the cultivation of their great staple—the sugar-cane?

Wise people say that every man has his hobby; and thoughtful readers very soon discover what are the hobbies editorial. We acknowledge then frankly that one of ours is an unconquerable antipathy to the present occupant of supreme power in France. With every desire to record honestly the prominent events that occur in that country, on whose condition the welfare of Europe so greatly depends, and with a wish to be guarded against individual prejudice, we find ourselves