

first, that the King, in all political matters, must follow the advice of the Cabinet, and, second, that the Cabinet itself can continue to hold office only so long as it can secure a majority in the House of Commons.

' APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE '

Thus was established one great essential of constitutional monarchy, viz. the control by the House of Commons of the policy of the Crown; and, inasmuch as the House of Commons is a representative body, its control may be said, in normal times, to be the control of the people, or, at least, the electors. But it may happen, and not infrequently does, that the House of Commons may be 'out of touch' with the electors, *i.e.* be acting in a manner of which they do not approve. This happened in 1784, in the first Ministry of the younger Pitt. After an obstinate struggle, the House of Commons had defeated the determined attempt of George III to upset the Cabinet System; but its patriotism stopped there, and it factiously opposed the honest and vigorous government of Pitt. Thereupon Pitt turned the tables upon it in a masterly way, by persuading the King to exercise his unquestioned right to dissolve Parliament, and order a General Election. At that election, Pitt's followers were in a great majority; and the precedent thus set establishes the rule, that the ultimate decision, in the event of a quarrel between the Cabinet and the House of Commons, lies with the electors. This is the famous 'appeal to the people,' which is the supreme guarantee of popular government, for it protects the citizen, not only against the King, but against the King's Ministers and even Parliament itself.

HABEAS CORPUS

Not long, however, before the crowning achievement of 1784, the liberty of the citizen (which is, of course,