

in him the real and solid elements of greatness. Let him only do justice to himself?

Of all species of oratory that of conciliation is the most successful in the long run. In the excitement of party, the violent speaker may be enthusiastically welcomed for the moment : but every cheer he receives is often a seal on the fate of his permanent reputation. The epithet "statesman-like" is generally applied to the moderate tone. The House never long forgets that it is an assembly of men accustomed to good-breeding ; and courtesy wins its way to favour in that public circle no less than it would do in a private. Had Brougham been the leader of the House of Commons, instead of Lord Althorpe, the Reform Bill would have been at least six weeks longer in the Committee. To be sure ; every night there would have been much finer speaking : there would have been "bitter words, Master Shallow ;" much excellent invective and crushing irony ; and the Reformers would have gone to bed in higher spirits ; and the newspapers next day would have been full of eulogy on "Mr. Brougham's most cutting attack." But when the Bill again went into the Committee, the Anti-Reformers would have flocked down with new amendments, new retorts, new speeches, new delays. They could easily have been stung into the most vexatious opposition by a great orator. They were literally shamed into discretion by a mild and good-tempered man of sense. This is what out of the House can scarcely be understood, but it is very easy of comprehension to any experienced member in it. This spirit of conciliation, this rhetoric of temper, was eminently possessed by Lord Castlereagh. It was by this, despite his bad reasoning and bad grammar, that he governed his assembly, and was confessedly one of the adroitest and most admirable leaders that the House ever knew. Thus the talent of leading, is one in which the Country can never sympathise with the House. The outward and visible signs of sense, knowledge and eloquence are what the Country can alone judge its representatives by. The fine, subtle, almost imperceptible arts of guiding the House and harmonizing a party, are only for the House and for a party to appreciate. This is one main reason why the House and the Country are so often at variance respecting the degree of consideration to be paid to individual members. Few great orators make great leaders. The art of eloquence, so invaluable in attack, is often dangerous in defence. In opposition, the art is to expose your antagonist : in office, the danger is least you expose yourself.

The life of the regular House of Commons man is not a bed of roses. It is scarcely possible, at the first sight, to conceive any existence more wearisome. At half past three he goes down to prayers ; he takes his seat among cold, and desolate benches ; petitions come on ; long unseasonable speeches ensue ; then, perhaps, the question is hunted down into the corner of a detail, where it is worried, mouthed, mumbled for three or four hours, and fi-