

No matter whether fitted for the task,
 The best must step aside when princes ask ;
 Field Marshal or Archbishop if they choose,
 Or Lord High Admiral near land to cruise,
 And then to help some of them on their way.
 As Colonels of ten regiments get the pay,*
 What signifies the little we must give,
 To have such pompous grandees with us live.
 To misery round us we can shut our eyes,
 Nor list to widow's wail or orphan's cries,
 But without regal splendor we should be,
 Obligated to mix with low society.
 It only costs one million pounds each year,
 To keep our semi-German rulers here.
 Besides we give them palaces and yachts,
 Grand robes of state, knee breeches, and cocked-hats.
 Yet some will call this wanton waste and more,
 While shivering paupers beg from door to door :
 While British workmen seek in vain for work,
 And envy the condition of the Turk
 The royal family is ever our first care,
 What crumbs they leave among the poor we share.
 If paupers then will grumble at their fate,
 We would be glad to see them all migrate.
 Compelled by want they learn to cringe and bow
 Still they're a wretched nuisance any how.
 About them Radicals have much to say,
 But still we cry—"God save the Queen"—Hurrah!

The nation too supports a courtly train,
 Of this the croakers also will complain.
 Of dukes and lordlings we have quite a crowd,
 These are state pensioners of whom we're proud.
 To find good paying places they're intent,
 And get fat offices from government.†
 They watch that no enactment shall intrude,
 Upon their rights, though said for public good
 Should some low patriot demand reform,

* The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge, besides having other official pickings, are each Colonels of several regiments for which they get full pay. The Prince of Wales is a Field Marshal and is also Colonel of the First Life Guards, the Second Life Guards, the Royal Horse Guards, the 10th Hussars, the 3rd Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and the 3rd Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, etc., etc. The Duke of Cambridge, besides being Field Marshal and Commander-in-Chief, commands as Colonel the Royal Regiment of Artillery, the Corps of Royal Engineers, the Grenadier Guards, the Scots Guards, the King's Royal Rifle Corps, the 17th Lancers, etc., etc., etc.

† According to *The Reform Almanac* "There are 7,991 peers or relations of peers who are in the public service and take public pay. Among those we do not refuse to confess that there is *some* real ability. We will be generous and admit that perhaps the 900 give some value in return for the wages they receive. But what of the 7000? Does any one pretend that they are of the remotest use to the country?"