

connection with the town gave him a considerable local advantage; and as an old though backsliding Tory he was elected by the Conservatives to fight their game on the recent occasion against Sir John Campbell. This contest has been conducted under many peculiar circumstances, varying from those of the preceding election. Some addition had been subsequently made to the register. After the election of 1832, the Tories in their malignity commenced a grievous persecution of the lower class of electors. "Notice to quit" were notoriously given; rents were raised; even Charities were perverted to political purpose, and *exclusive dealing* was brought to bear, to coerce the electors hostile to Conservatism. We record this particular narrative of facts, because it is right that the public should be disabused of false impressions and fully informed on this subject. We have seen letters in which the canvas of Sir John Campbell is described as "a practical commentary on open voting." That there can be any real independence of action in 700 electors, in such a community—where the property classes and magistrates of the town are Ultra-Tory—will not be expected by any sane person. And we know that the most intelligent inhabitants of Dudley curse their enfranchisement without the ballot. But were these circumstances the only impediments to the success of Sir John Campbell? No—the *truth* must be told, however unpalatable. Sir John Campbell found favour at Dudley in December, 1832, as a "ministerial candidate." His connection with ministers in 1834 was detrimental to his success. It is impossible to conceal our regret at the palpable state of public opinion. An impression, almost universal, prevails among the liberal party, that the reform of the representation has not been allowed its full effect. Many practical questions of vital importance to the social condition of the people have been wholly neglected. The just political claims of many classes of society have been overlooked and abandoned. In fact, the reformers have been disgusted with some of the temporising and *juste milieu* acts of Ministers. The reaction has been not in favour of Toryism but against the Tories. The King's speech gave little satisfaction; the practical propositions of reform "were few and far between." The towns had almost unanimously expressed their determination to resist the imposition of church rates. It was a manifest injustice that Dissenters should be taxed for the maintenance of the established church. The church rates of England and Wales were £587,705 by the Commons' returns of 1830. Was this no heavy charge on the pockets of the community—no grievance requiring immediate redress? And yet the Protestant Dissenters are at this moment uninformed of any ministerial intention of relief! A substitute may be difficult, but is not impossible; and the public at least expected an admission of the injustice of the tax, and the promise of some ultimate release from the burden. The Dissenters justly claimed a legal registration of births, marriages, and deaths. Lord John Russell, only two days since, proposed a measure of relief in respect of the celebration of the rites of mar-

riage only; on the other two grievances not a word of promise is vouchsafed! The Protestant Dissenters remonstrate against their exclusion from the privileges of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. On this vital point of sectarian grievance the Dissenters are without any ministerial satisfaction. And that is the universal complaint on the subject of political patronage—the army—the navy—the church—the law—the diplomacy—the colonies; all these departments of the State, with rare exceptions, are administered for the benefit of the Tories: Few Liberals appear to have a chance of appointment or promotion. Lord Ingestrie (the opponent of Mr Littleton in Staffordshire), who coalesced with the currency Radicals last year, for the purpose of opposing the re-election of the Ministerial Irish Secretary, receives a ship from Sir James Graham, under circumstances of such peculiar favour as render the transaction the subject of special remark in all naval circles. In the church we see Mr Gleig, the *Blackwood* contributor and *Kent Gazette* editor—the guest of the Duke of Wellington at Walmer Castle, and the literary dry nurse of Lord Londonderry—appointed by Lord John Russell, *proli prudor!* to the valuable preferment of Chelsea Hospital; while the majority of honest and deserving liberal clergymen are suffered to pine in poverty and neglect. In the meanwhile no reduction is made or promised in the duration of Parliament—no improvements in the mechanical details of the Reform Bill have been adventured—Mr O'Connell is allowed to originate the important measure of a libel bill—members are dragged through the dirt on the pension list, when some days afterwards, the ministers themselves give notice of select committees on the state of civil sinecure offices—and this extraordinary and paralytic state of the government is considered satisfactory to the public. These are strong observations, but it is the duty of the *Morning Chronicle*, which has honestly and zealously upheld the Whig Ministers, to put them forth. It is better that the truth should be known, and that ministers should be informed of the real and adverse state of public opinion. There is a very hostile and altered feeling in the public mind with regard to them. The desire is loudly and generally expressed to engage in an open and manly contest with our armed enemies the Tories, and no longer suffer the strength and resources of the people to be frittered away by pretended or timid friends. Much may be unreasonably required of ministers, and much just allowance for their difficulties may be denied them, but there is yet time and space for a more decided and liberal action. The people are not ungrateful for past benefits. Satisfy the Dissenters in their reasonable demands—reduce the duration of Parliament—fearlessly face the Tory aristocracy, and uphold the liberal majority of the House of Commons—openly countenance the Bills for the reformation and extension of the rotten constituencies of Liverpool, Carrickfergus, Stafford, Hertford and Warwick—in fact *act* on liberal principles, as well as profess them, and all may yet be well. But it requires not the gift of prophecy to foretell that a perseverance in a

vacillating and obnoxious policy may temporarily vest the government of the country in the hands of the Tories, but will ultimately terminate in a complete dissolution of the present social system and political institutions of the country. Any government of the Tories of six months' duration is absurd, as no man better seems to know than Sir Robert Peel; and if ministers will stand by the reformers, the latter will support them, and the Leeds and Dudley elections are bitter lessons, which we hope and trust will not be thrown away on the present cabinet.

THE STAR.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1834.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—*Demonstrator* must excuse us for not giving insertion to his communication, as, upon perusal, we find it tinged with personality, which, our co respondent well knows, we wish to avoid as much as possible. We must however admit, that the subject is a grave one, the Quarantine Laws being the greatest security (under Divine Providence) we have against the visitation of disease.

It will be seen, on reference to our summary of the transactions in the House of Assembly, that the Bill for forming roads, by the application of Statute labour, has passed its third reading.

That no country can make rapid strides in civilization, without possessing a means of easy communication, from one part of it to the other, is as certain as, that a straight line is the shortest distance from point to point; and, that the necessity for forming roads to make that easy communication should be disputed, by any rational being, was, until lately, a fact, which we had never expected to be verified. Roads are to a country what veins and arteries are to the human body; by means of them life and vigour is equally distributed to the more remote settlements from, as well as to those more adjacent to, the capital. The prosperity of one part of the Island, if there be good roads, will add to the prosperity of the whole; without them, each settlement is as though it were a separate island, the unaided efforts of the inhabitants of which, isolated as they are from the rest of their countrymen, can avail little towards advancing the importance of the colony in a ratio which its valuable resources give a right to expect.

One of the principal causes (and perhaps the principal cause) of the present wonderful prosperity of England (for prosperous England really is, although some classes of the people are very distressed) is the rapidity with which communication can be held with every part of the kingdom, from any given point; thereby rendering the Island almost as though it were one town. So impressed indeed are the English (and their neighbours the French, have begun to open their eyes to the same truth) with the advantages of rapid communication, that, by means