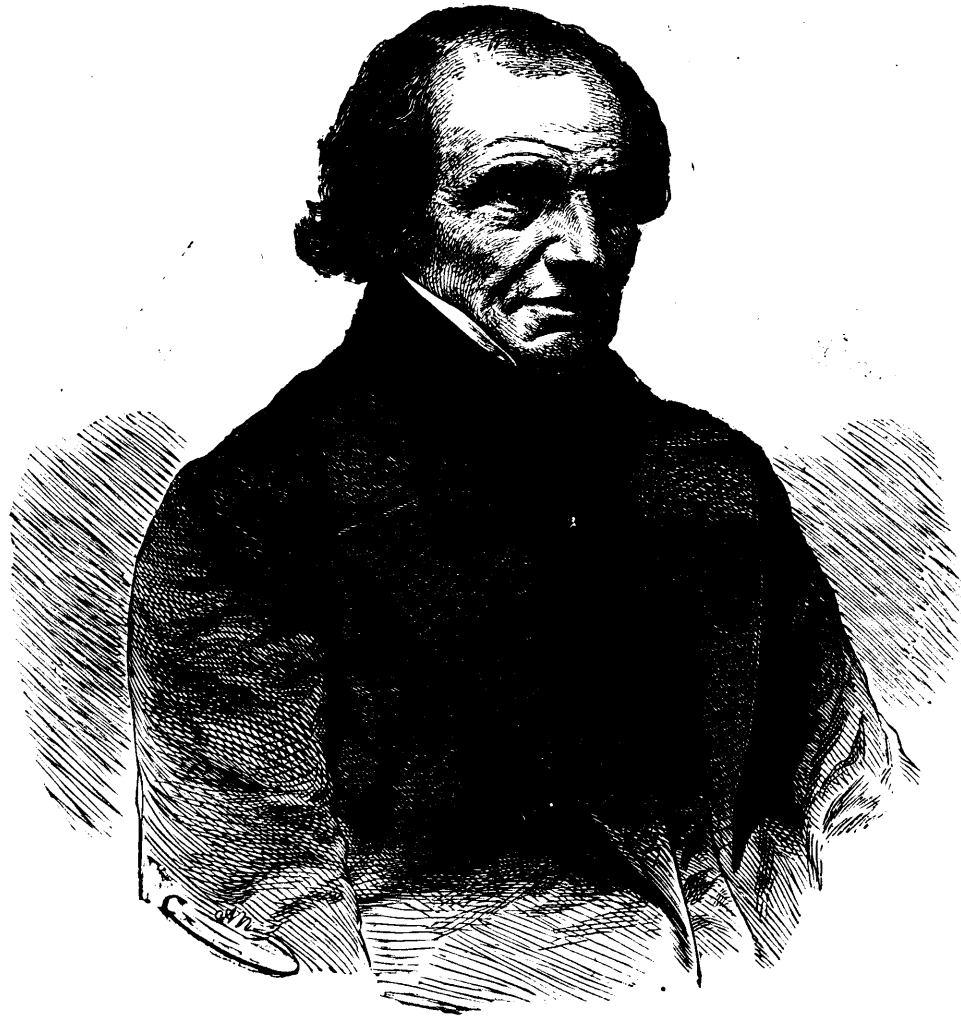


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EARL RUSSELL.

THIS nobleman, more commonly known as Lord John Russell, is son of the sixth Duke of Bedford, and was born in London on the 18th August, 1792; he was educated at Westminster School, from where he went to the University of Edinburgh. His university career was not very brilliant; and judging from his literary works—the life of the celebrated Lord William Russell; a tragedy, known as *Don Carlos*; a novel, which has long been forgotten; an *Essay on the British Constitution*; *Diaries and Memoirs of Thomas Moore*; and a *History of Europe since the Peace of Utrecht*—this scion of the House of Bedford will not enrol his name in the annals of England as an author.

He first entered Parliament in 1813, as member for Tavistock, and associated himself with the liberal party. In 1819 he submitted to the House of Commons resolutions, with a view to

bring about a Reform of Parliament. In 1822 he introduced another measure of reform, and attempted to disarm the hostility of the owners of rotten boroughs by holding out to them the prospect of compensation. In 1826 he again brought forward the question of Parliamentary Reform, and succeeded in carrying the second reading of a bill for transferring the electoral privileges from petty boroughs to populous manufacturing towns. In 1828 he carried a measure for the Repeal of the Test Acts, and returning to the charge in 1830, moved for leave to bring in a bill to confer on Leeds, Manchester, and Birmingham, the privilege of returning members to Parliament, but was defeated in this very reasonable object by the uncompromising hostility of the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel to all reform. Their determined hostility drove many statesmen of spirit and intelligence into the opposition ranks, presided over by Earl Grey, and eventually the Duke and Sir Robert had to beat a retreat from the position they had

occupied with so much confidence. Earl Grey, nothing daunted by the difficulty of his position, formed the celebrated Reform Ministry; Lord Brougham on the Woolsack; Lord Althorp as Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the House of Commons; Lord John Russell, Paymaster of the Forces, but not a member of the Cabinet. The policy of the new Government was—Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform; and they proceeded with vigour to execute their mission. To Lord John was entrusted the submittal to Parliament in 1831 the outline of the ministerial scheme of Reform; and he was successful in securing the second reading of the bill. At this stage a motion was carried to the effect that the number of members of the House should not be increased, and Earl Grey, declining to accept the decision, appealed to the country. Lord John was returned for Devon, and in the new Parliament returned to the charge, and in spite of much opposition, passed the first measure of Reform in the House of