BRITISH NEWS.

Highly Important Intelligence!

LOSS OF THE REFORM BILL—PROROGATION AND DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT--CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE POLES, &c.

HOUSE OF LORDS—April 21.

After some preliminary business—

Lord WHARNCLIFFE, in consequence of the allusions made to.night by a noble peer (Farnham) to certain reports that were in circulation, wished to ask his Majesty's Ministers whether there was any intention of dissolving Parliament. They would, of course, give him such answer as they thought proper. He asked it for the convenience of himself and the house, as it was his intention, and that very soon, to bring before their Lordships some specific measure on the subject.

Earl GREY—My Lords. I think the noble lord will admit to me that the question which he has just put to this house is one of an extremely personal nature, and I can hardly bring myself to believe that the noble lord expected I should answer him. Whatever his expectations may have been, or those of any other noble peer, I beg to say that I decline to give him any answer whatever. As to any measure which he may think it necessary to bring before the house, he must use his own discretion. I can give him no advice whatever upon the subject.

Lord WHARNCLIFFE—Then, my lords, under present circumstances, I shall give notice now, that I shall to-morrow move an humble address to his Majesty, praying that he will not exercise his undoubted prerogative of dissolving the present Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS--April 18.

LOSS OF THE REFORM BILL.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL being called upon by the Speaker, proceeded to address the house, and after referring to the decided proofs of the popularity of the measure, detailed the alterations which had been made in the Bill.—The measure had been stamped and sealed by the approbation of that people for whose benefit and advantage it is solely intended.—What they proposed was; Five boroughs are to be taken out of schedule A and added to schedule B, viz. Aldborough, Buckingham, Okehampton, Malmesbury, and Reigate. Eight are to be taken out of schedule B. viz. Chippenham, Leominster, Northallerton, Tamworth, Truro, Morpeth, Westbury, and Wycombe. These boroughs have established their right to exemption (as will be seen by the corrected return presented to Parliament) under the rule laid down on the introduction of the bill, by having proved that they respectively contained within the parish of their name, more than 2000 and 4000 inhabitants in 1821. Eight members are to be added to the following counties, having a population from 100 000 to 150,000 inhabitants;—Bucks, Berks, Cambridge, Dorset, Hereford, Hertford, Oxford, Glamorgan. As, however, by the new arrangements several small boroughs had been saved from disfranchisement, it was proposed by way of counterbalance, that certain populous places should also be given the privilege of returning members. Those which had been chosen for this purpose were Bury, Oldham, and Rochdale, in Lancashire. Salford also, with two adjacent townships, making a population of 50,000 inhabitants, was to be allowed a member independently of Manchester, which in itself contained a population of 160,000 inhabitants, and would therefore be given two members to itself, which amounted to three members for this populous town in the aggregate. The district in Staffordshire, commonly called the Potteries, of which Stoke-upon-Trent was recognized as the principal town, was also to have a representative, and the same privilege was to be extended to Wakefield and to Whitby. The case of Halifax had likewise been taken into consideration, but in consequence of the extent of wild and thinly peopled land which adjoined it, it was conceived that one member for it would be sufficient. The effect of the whole alteration would be a diminution in the present number of members to the amount of 31, which were to be deducted from 658, leaving 627. Wales was to be allowed a county and a borough member additional, and Scotland and Ireland were given an increase of 5. Some other alterations had also been made in minor details of the bill, which he should now proceed briefly to explain. In the first place, complaints had been made that the right of voting in counties should be given to leaseholders and copyholders, while those who had leases for 99 years were to be excluded. These complaints, he must confess, appeared very just, and it was accordingly decided that those who had enjoyed a lease of £10 a year for sixty years, should have a right of voting, and that leaseholders who had paid a fine of a certain amount for their leases should participate in the privilege, as their interest was presumed to be sufficiently legitimate to entitle them to a voice in the election of the representative. (Hear.) Then, in towns occupation was always to be taken as the test of residence, and occupiers, not only of houses, but of counting houses and warehouses, should be permitted to exercise their franchise. (Hear.) It was found that had the original clause as it affected persons so circumstanced been strictly observed, it would have precluded many who carried on business in counting houses and warehouses in Manchester, Liverpool, and Plymouth, from exercising their right of voting. Sons of freemen, who will have been entitled to the privilege of freemen, on their coming of age, born before the introduction of the bill, and apprentices, having entered into indentures, in the same manner, will be entitled to it, if they take out their freedom, are resident, and registered under the provisions of the bill. These alterations, his Lordship contended, did not interfere with the principle of the bill.—THIS WAS THE BILL, THE WHOLE BILL, AND NOTHING BUT THE BILL.—This was the very Bill that had been, by the Sanction of His MAJESTY, submitted by his Cabinet to that House.—After deprecating the opposition, he concluded by moving the order of the day for going into a committee on the bill.

General GASCOYNE said the bill now before the house was a new bill, and that time ought to be given to discuss the principle before they went into details. His motion was directed against the proposed reduction of the members of that house, and it was not founded on any superstitious attachment to a particular number, but to the principle of such a reduction. If ministers would persist, he had no alternative but to press his motion,—not that he wished it to be understood, in a spirit of hostility to the Irish representation, but from an anxiety to prevent the aggrandizement of the Irish and Scotch, at the expense of the English representation. He contended that the spoliation of the English representation was undefendable on any principle of justice or expediency. It could not be defended on the ground of the population of Ireland having increased so much as to warrant such an increase of the relative number of its representatives in that house; for if population, concerning which, by the way, they had very exaggerated statements, were taken as the basis of the Irish representation, it ought also to be taken as that of the Irish taxation. (Hear.) The Irish and Scotch members had always voted so as to throw the weight of taxation on England. Did they forget that ministers were compelled to exempt Scotland and Ireland from the operations of the metallic currency bill, in consequence of the opposition of the members of those countries?--that 83 out of 100 Irish members came to a resolution to oppose ministers altogether if they persisted in depriving Ireland of its small note currency, and that they succeeded in their object? (Hear.) Look how the Irish members contrived to throw the burden of supporting their own poor on this country, as indeed they would every other burden, if the relative superiority of the representation of this country were destroyed, as the bill intended. (Hear, hear.) On the other hand, let them consider the dangerous influence which the Irish representation placed in the hands of any minister who chose to court it at the expense of this country. By conciliating it they might carry any measure they pleased, no matter how it might affect the interests of the people of England, and such a conciliation was the boon held out to Ireland by the present bill. It was on this ground, therefore, that he proposed "that the number of English members should not be reduced."

Mr. SADDLER seconded the resolution.

Lord ALTHORP was quite sure that the object of this amendment was to destroy the bill. (Cheers).—The object of the hon. Gentleman was not only to uphold the present number of Members, but to deprive Ireland and Scotland of that additional number which it was proposed to allot to them.—After some further debate, the house adjourned.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19—*Adjourned Debate.*

Lord JOHN RUSSELL moved that the order of the day for the adj'd debate on Parliamentary Reform be read.

Mr. WILBRAHAM gave his decided negative to the motion of the Gallant General.

Mr. HAWKINS (himself a borough proprietor) also opposed the measure in one of the most eloquent and powerful speeches of the whole session, and concluded in the following terms:--"For the honour of this ancient Monarchy, whose perils and whose triumphs for so many generations are chronicled in the proceedings of this House; for the sake of this faithful people who have stood by us in the hour of our trial, and borne with us in the hour of our pride, let us seize the opportunity which now presents itself, to inscribe ourselves on the page of history as the first recorded example of "power correcting its own usurpation." The hon. Gentleman resumed his seat amidst loud and general cheering

Sir G. WARRENDER was opposed to the Reform Bill, but being resolved not to throw away the opportunity of giving additional members to Scotland in the event of certain of the English boroughs being disfranchised, he should sincerely vote against the amendment. If the franchise were justly forfeited, he thought it but fair that Scotland should have the benefit of such transfer. If, for instance, Liverpool, which he considered the most corrupt of boroughs, should be disfranchised, he would propose that the franchise should be transferred to Glasgow. (Hear and laughter.)

Sir ROBERT WILSON said that he rose with the most painful feelings to explain the course which he meant to pursue on the present occasion. He felt an insuperable objection to the reduction of members proposed by Ministers; he had been sent there to advocate reform, and he therefore felt himself compelled to dissent from a proposition which, instead of extending the representation of the people of England, went in fact to decimate the number of their representatives.—(Hear, hear.)—He had been assured by Ministers that they did not consider the proposed reduction as an essential portion of their measure of reform: and since then he had had a conversation with the member for Liverpool, and being assured by the gallant General that the resolution was not projected in a spirit of hostility to the plan of Ministers, he had promised a vote for the resolution. (Hear, hear! and Oh, oh!)—He was a reformer--(Oh, oh! and hear)—a consistent, but not a vague reformer—(Hear, and oh!)—and as such he was prepared to vote for the principle of the bill, though objecting to some of its provisions: for instance, that of disfranchising the pot.walloping boroughs, which he conceived to be most efficacious safety valves of the democratic tendencies of the constitution. The fluctuating conduct of Ministers, with regard to the amendment, had placed him in a most embarrassing dilemma; for on the one hand he could not, consistently with his duty to his constituents, vote for a proposition which would endanger the success of the bill—(Hear, hear); and on the other, he could not consistently vote against the resolution to which he had promised his support, relying on the previous declaration of Ministers, that they did not consider it material.—(Hear, hear.)--If the vote he now gave should be displeasing to his constituents, he was ready to resign the trust they had deputed to him.

Mr. STANLEY supported the bill, and severely animadverted on the inconsistency displayed by the member for Southwark.

Lord J. RUSSELL made some observations in reply to General Gascoyne; and in conclusion said—the motion of the gallant General was one of those insidious attempts to throw a bar in the way of the measure; he therefore called upon all true friends of the bill to join in giving their decided opposition to it. (Cheers.)

The House then divided. The numbers were—

For General Gascoyne's motion..... 299
Against it..... 291

Majority against Ministers..... 8

THURSDAY, APRIL 21.

Sir R. VYVYAN addressed the House at great length on the Reform Bill, and concluded by asking—is it the intention of His Majesty's Ministers to proceed with this bill, or will they advise his Majesty to dissolve his Parliament, because they will not consent to lessen the number of English representatives?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, I have no hesitation, in answer to the hon. Baronet, to state that having taken into consideration the necessary consequence of the division the other night, it is not the intention of His Majesty's government to proceed with the bill. —(Loud and continued cheers.)—I do not consider it consistent with my duty to answer the other question of the hon. Baronet.

A long discussion ensued, and Mr. W. BANKES said, that as he knew there were many members who wished to speak upon the question, he should move that the House do then adjourn.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, that as the adjournment was only moved in order that hon. Members might have an opportunity of delivering their sentiments on the question of reform, and, as during the whole debate on the Bill, not an hon. Member had confined himself to, or spoken on the question before the House, he should feel it to be his duty to resist the proposed adjournment to the utmost of his power.

Strangers were then ordered to withdraw, and on division there appeared to be—

For the adjournment.....164
Against it.....142
Majority against Ministers..... ——22

The House then adjourned at a ¼ past One.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS—FRIDAY, APRIL 22.

THE SCENE AT THE PROROGATION.

His Majesty's determination to prorogue the Houses of Parliament in person, was not communicated to the officers of the House of Peers until near 1 o'clock today; and soon after that hour, a report of the Royal intention having got abroad, a considerable concourse of persons was assembled near the doors; and those who had succeeded in procuring Peers' orders of admission, occupied all the space allotted to strangers below the bar. About two o'clock several Peers, in their robes, and many in their ordinary costume, took their places in the House. Some Peeresses, in full dresses, were accommodated with seats. There were about 120 Peers assembled soon after two o'clock.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the Woolsack at a quarter before three, and the House proceeded to its usual business.

The Duke of GORDON presented a petition from the Royal burgh of Forres against reform; and another Noble Lord presented a petition against the Beer Bill

An intimation having then been given to the Lord Chancellor that his Majesty was expected immediately to arrive, the Noble and Learned Lord quitted his place, and retired from the House; and, in consequence of a general call to that effect,

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY occupied the Woolsack.

Lord WHARNCLIFFE then rose, and said that the duty he had to discharge in consequence of the notice he had yesterday given—

The Duke of RICHMOND immediately rose to order, and said that he should move that the Standing Order of the House be read, that Noble Lords should be seated in their proper places—(Cries of "Hear, hear," and "Order, order"), for he observed Noble Earls sitting next to one of the benches of junior Barons.

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY rose to order.

The Marquis of CLANCARDE rose to order at the same time.

A Noble LORD stated something in the confusion then beginning to prevail in the House, to which Lord Lyndhurst (but of which we are not assured), made some remark which did not reach the bar; but, in consequence of it,

The Duke of RICHMOND rose and declared, if such language was made use of, he should also move that the Standing Order be read that no offensive language should be used by Noble Lords in that House—(hear, hear, and great confusion; amidst which the Marquis of Londonderry's voice was uppermost, calling out that he rose to order).

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY would be glad to know from the Noble Duke opposite what offensive language had been made use of by the Noble Baron.

The Marquis of CLANRICADE exclaimed that the Noble Duke under him had not said the Noble Baron had used offensive language.

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY observed that, if the Noble Duke thought he was to be the only hero in this *coup d'etat*, he would find himself very much mistaken—(loud cries of "Order of the Day," Lord Wharncliffe standing on the floor).

Several other Noble Lords here started from their seats, all demanding to be heard, and the House presented a scene of the most extraordinary confusion; and those who have been longest acquainted with the proceedings of their Lordships, have never witnessed so much excitement amongst them. It was quite impossible to reduce to order any thing that was said. Peers were seen at every side, uttering strong expressions and using almost violent gestures; and at one moment the confusion prevailed to so great an extent, that some of the Peeresses became visibly alarmed. At length, after many calls to order, silence being in some degree restored,

Lord WHARNCLIFFE said he was in his situation as a Peer of that House; and he should take the liberty of demanding to be heard. He had given notice of a motion which he should not now preface, but which he should, according to the notice, take leave to read. The terms of the motion were to the effect that an humble Address be presensed to his Majesty, humbly representing to his Majesty, that his loyal subjects the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, had heard with anxiety the report that a dissolution of Parliament was about to take place, and imploring his Majesty not to prorogue or dissolve Parliament at the present juncture, as, under the present excitement which prevailed in Ireland, and throughout Great Britain, it would be likely to lead to great danger to the Crown, and prevent that calm and deliberate discussion of the subject, which its importance demanded.

Just as Lord WHARNCLIFFE had concluded reading his address,

The LORD CHANCELLOR again appeared in the House, and addressed their Lordships, saying, with peculiar emphasis, my Lords, I never until now have heard that the Sovereign ought not to dissolve Parliament when he thought proper to do so; and I cannot understand why his Majesty should not now exercise that prerogative, at a momont when the House of Commons has thought fit to make the extreme and unprecedented step of stopping the supplies. —(Loud cries of "Order," cheers, and cries of "The King!")

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY (with much warmth).—As long as I have the honour to hold a seat in this House, I never will submit to—(A tremendous uproar prevented the Noble Marquis from proceeding).

Lord MANSFIELD alluded with pain to the intemperate language that had been used, and said it cast an indignity upon the proceedings of the House. (Cheers.) He did not dispute the undoubted right of the King to dissolve the Parliament. (Hear.) He would not accuse his Majesty's Ministers with any thing like a want of charity; but he did accuse them of weakness, and of conspiring together against the safety of the state, and of making the Sovereign the instrument of his own destruction. (Hear, and great confusion.)—His Lordship continued at some length in a similar strain, when he was interrupted by cries of "the King, the King, the King," and a loud voice sounding out—"God save the King." At that instant the large doors were thrown open on the right-handside of the throne, and silence having been instantly obtained, his Majesty, accompanied by his attendants, entered the House. His Majesty mounted the throne with a firm step, seated himself, and immediately bowed to those on the right and left, saying he begged their Lordships to be seated.

Several bills received the Royal assent; amongst which was the Civil List Bill.

The Members of the House of Commons being then summoned, the SPEAKER, attended by a great crowd of Members, appeared at the bar. His Majesty then delivered the following speech, in a firm, distinct, and emphatic tone:

"*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

"I have come to meet you for the purpose of proroguing this Parliament, with a view to its immediate dissolution.

"I have been induced to resort to this measure for the purpose of ascertaining the sense of my people, in the way in which it can be most constitutionally and authentically expressed, on the expediency of making such changes in the Representation as circumstances may appear to require, and which, founded upon the acknowledged principles of the Constitution, may tend at once to uphold the just rights and prerogatives of the Crown, and to give security to the liberties of the people.

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

"I thank you for the provision you have made for the maintenance of the honour and dignity of the Crown, and I offer you my special acknowledgments for the arrangements you have made for the state and comfort of my Royal Consort. I have also to thank you for the Supplies which you have furnished for the public service. I have observed with satisfaction your endeavours to introduce a strict economy into every branch of that service; and I trust that the early attention of a new Parliament, which I shall forthwith direct to be called, will be applied to the prosecution of that important subject.

"*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

"I am happy to inform you that the friendly intercourse which subsist between myself and foreign Powers affords the best hopes of the continuance of peace, to the preservation of which my most anxious endeavours will be constantly directed.

"*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

"In resolving to recur to the sense of my people in the present circumstances of the country, I have been influenced only by a paternal anxiety for the contentment and happiness of my subjects; to promote which, I rely with confidence on your continued and zealous assistance."

[The Lord Chancellor repeated the words of the Prorogation, after which his Majesty left the house.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS—April 22.

ANOTHER TURBULENT SCENE.

The Speaker, dressed in his robes, entered the house and took the chair at half past two o'clock. There was an unusually great number of members in attendance.

Sir R. VYVYAN rose, amidst tremendous confusion, and said, that the appearance of the Speaker in his robes solved the question which he had asked last night. He addressed the House. He exclaimed, in a tone of rage at the highest pitch of his voice, "It is folly to disguise from ourselves that we are on the eve of a revolution." (Loud cries of hear, hear.)—For two centuries the constitution of Parliament has remained the same as it is now. A change, however, is about to take place, and, strange to say, the funds were rising. (Hear, hear, hear.)—Little, sir, do the fundholders know of the effects of a Reformed Parliament. (Tremendous shouts of hear, hear.)—They ought to know that no new government had much regard for the debts of an old one.—(Hear.)—Let, sir, the fundholders not deceive themselves. Let them not lay the flattering unction to their souls, that their property was safe, or that the funds would not be touched. (Hear.)—Why, sir, the very men now in power, those who have advised the King to dissolve, in order to keep their places; those very men have always contended that the money was to carry on an unnecessary and useless war.—(Loud cries of "question.")—Sir, the question before the House is, whether we are to be dissolved or not. (Cries of "no, no; that is no longer a question;" and laughter.)—Well, then, the question is, are we to be dissolved because we have voted the number of the English members should not be reduced?

During the address of the hon. baronet, he was repeatedly called to order by Sir Frances Burdett and Mr. Tennyson, but the Speaker as repeatedly decided in favour of hearing Sir Richard Vivyan.

At the conclusion of his speech, Sir Robert Peel and Lord Althorp rose, and were loudly called on from the different sides of the house. They continued standing for some minutes, without either of them being able to obtain a hearing, such was the confusion that prevailed.

The SPEAKER at length interposed, and said, that Sir Robert first caught his eye.

After the hon. baronet had thus obtained possession of the house, but before he had actually commenced his address,

Lord ALTHORP moved that Sir F. Burdett be heard.

The question, said the Speaker, is, therefore, that Sir Francis Burdett be now heard, and I now call on Sir Robert Peel.

Sir ROBERT PEEL then proceeded to complain in a vehement manner of the attempt made to set at defiance the authority of the Speaker by his majesty's ministers. With reference to the result of a general election, he did not, he said, share in that feeling of despondency which seemed to be entertained by his hon. friend (Sir R. Vivyan), neither would he advise the people to sit with their hands before them, whilst the fundholders were assailed, and the tithes were in danger. (Hear.) He had that confidence in the combination of intelligence and property, united in a just cause. Cheers.) He did not despair of the successful issue. Considerable interruption was offered to the Right Hon. Baronet.) Is this decent, he asked? Is this the way in which this House is to be treated? It is a specimen of what is to take place in a reformed Parliament. If the bill, and nothing but the bill is to pass, I declare my firm conviction, that the worst species of despotism will ensue—the despotism of democracy.—(Loud cheers.) Yes, a despotism of that description, accompanied by the despotism of journalism, as it is called—to borrow a foreign word—that journalism which has brought other happy countries to anarchy and destruction. (Loud cheers) In the present state of Ireland, the Government has run the hazard of dissolving Parliament. In the west of Ireland society is completely disorganized, and the evil is very rapidly spreading towards the east. In that country persons well affected to the King, and desirous of showing their observance of the laws, are leaving their houses and taking shelter in the towns, abandoning their property and possessions in the country. Instead of rallying, and exerting themselves to put down the lawless turbulence, instead of endeavouring to restore and secure the peace of the country, government has thought fit to dissolve Parliament, in order that they might protect themselves from expulsion from office, during their continuance in which they had shewn more incapacity, and more unfitness, for the conduct of public business, than had ever been exhibited by any body of men to whom the destinies of this country had been intrusted. The hon. baronet proceeded in this strain of attack, and said, "If we are dissolved"—when the appearance of Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt spared the hon. baronet the necessity of concluding his sentence.

Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt then summoned the members in the usual way to attend the House of Lords.

After an absence of about half an hour, the Speaker returned, and in the usual manner read the King's speech, but did not take the chair.

During the whole of the discussion the house was a scene of the greatest confusion and uproar.

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

[From the London Gazette Extraordinary, April 23.]

BY THE KING.

A Proclamation for Dissolving this present Parliament, and declaring the calling of another.

WILLIAM R.—Whereas, we have thought fit by and with the advice of our Privy Council, to dissolve this present Parliament, which stands prorogued to Tuesday the 10th day of May next: We do for that end publish this our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby dissolve the said Parliament accordingly; and the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses, and the Commissioners for Shires and Burghs of the House of Commons, are discharged from their meeting and attendance, on the said Tuesday the 10th day of May next: and we being desirous and resolved, as soon as may be, to meet our people, and to have their advice in Parliament, do hereby make known to all our loving subjects our Royal will and pleasure to call a new Parliament. And do hereby further declare, that with the advice of our Privy Council, we have given orders to our Chancellor of that part of our United Kingdom called Great Britain, and our Chancellor of Ireland, that they do respectively, upon notice thereof, forthwith to issue out writs in due form, and according to law, for calling a new Parliament: and we do hereby also, by this our Royal Proclamation, under our Great Seal of our United Kingdom, require writs forthwith to be issued accordingly by our said Chancellors respectively, for causing the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, who are to serve in the said Parliament, to be duly returned to and give their attendance in our said Parliament; which writs are to be returnable on Tuesday the 14th day of June next.

Given at our Court at St. James's, the 23d day of April, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-One, and in the First year of our Reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

[This Proclamation is followed by another for the election of sixteen Peers to represent Scotland in the ensuing Parliament. The Peers on whom the right of election devolves are commanded to assemble at Holyrood-house, on the 3d of June, between twelve and two, and then and there to make their return.]

We have received from all parts letters of approbation of the proposal for a national subscription to erect a monument to our patriot KING. As soon as a committee is formed, subscriptions will pour in.—*Times.*

Death of Mr. Abernethy.—This celebrated Surgeon, who had long been seriously indisposed, died, at his seat at Enfield, the 20th April.

SPIRIT OF THE JOURNALS.

The King, in exercising his just prerogative to dissolve Parliament, has given an unquestionable proof of his sincerity in the cause of reform. Had he been contented to prorogue the Houses by Commission, the act would have refuted the slanderous reports which the supporters and advocates of a corrupt system of representation disseminated to his prejudice, as being a Monarch capable of disappointing, at the most eventful crisis of the country's destinies, the reasonable expectation of his subjects. His going in person to execute that most important office is more than a *refutation* of such calumnious assertions—it is a *rebuke* to their authors. It is also a renewed pledge to his faithful people, of his Majesty's earnest determination to consummate the great work of political regeneration, which, under his Royal auspices, has been so happily begun.

His Majesty has not only vindicated the honour and dignity of the Crown—he has done his duty to the country. It remains for the country to give effect to the wishes of a patriot King, by *doing his duty to itself.* Its destinies, as far as they depend on human efforts, are now in its own hands. The people are now called upon, wherever they have a voice in the return of Representatives, to exercise with wisdom, discernment, and integrity, that great privilege. They are called upon, by every sense of duty which they owe themselves and their children, to seize the present opportunity of securing the peaceable triumph of their Constitutional rights, by sending men into Parliament who shall stand pledged to the great measure of reform, which is calculated to fix the throne upon a firmer basis than ever, while it restores the energies of a free Constitution. If they lose the present opportunity, it may be long, indeed, until such another occurs. With a most popular King, and his Ministers favourable to an extensive and efficient plan of reform, nothing can prevent the complete success of the people but their being false to themselves. Let each man exert himself as if the fate of the country were involved in his individual exertions; for on the ensuing elections depend the future fame, happiness, strength, and prosperity of this great empire.

As in many places the people have no share in the choice of those who obtain seats in the great Council of the nation, it becomes the more necessary for them to be zealous and indefatigable in securing the return of enlightened and honest men in all places, where the monopoly of the few has not absorbed the privileges of the many, and where long usurpation has not turned the elective franchise into a mockery.

It has often happened that the people, in asserting their own just rights in this country, have been under the unpleasant necessity of opposing the wishes of the Sovereign, or of coming into adverse collision with the Ministers of the Crown. If the present crisis has its anxieties, it has also the peculiar felicity of presenting the interesting and sublime spectable of a people and a Ministry making a united assault upon the strong holds of corruption, under the guidance of the Monarch himself. How different from the scenes presented at this moment in many nations of the Continent, where the Sovereign and the people are in a state of mutual jealousy or open conflict; and where the advisers of the Crown continually inculcate the disastrous doctrine, that there is no security for the Royal prerogative but in the destruction of popular rights.

Great will be the moral impression that will pervade the country, from the prompt and energetic act of William the Fourth, in dissolving a Parliament hostile to reform, and elected under the auspices of the late Administration. The Royal motto, "Dieu et mon droit" is applicable to the contest in which the people are now engaged, and should be inscribed on their banners. By establishing the *right of a free representation*, they will save the Crown as well as the country, from the power of an oligarchy that has equally domineered over the prerogative of the one and the liberties of the other.—*Morning Herald, April 23.*

The Ministers were pressed to resort to immediate dissolution (if dissolution were to take place at all), instead of waiting a few days to get through the remaining Estimates. This being their new position, it is stated that the Ministers assembled, and came to the determination of forthwith proceeding to the King, and of stating to his Majesty the impossibility of proceeding, even for another day, with the present Parliament; and that, unless there were an immediate prorogation, with the view to early dissolution, they must tender their resignations! and, it is added, they tendered their resignations accordingly. The King, we understand, then declared himself to the following effect:—"I see the difficulties with which you are beset. I approved of your bringing in the Reform Bill--and I am desirous that THE COUNTRY, as well as the present House of Commons, should have the opportunity of expressing its opinion on this important measure: it is only fair—fair to myself, to you, and to the people, that it should be so. I say, then, dissolve the Parliament immediately, and shoot as the notice is; but, to set at rest all surmises as to my feelings on the subject, *I will go and prorogue the Parliament in person.*"

Perhaps a more remarkable instance of decision never characterized the conduct of any of our Kings. It was, however, altogether his Majesty's own act. Circumstances show the accuracy of our information. The *etiquette* is, that the King should not prorogue the Parliament, with the view to dissolution, *in person.* It is deemed an ungracious act to dissolve a Parliament, and, therefore, that is a proceeding performed "by Commission." No Minister could have proposed such a proceeding to his Majesty; it was so contrary to all former proceedings that none could have thought of suggesting it: the bare statement of the mode of proceeding in such cases is sufficient to show that the merit of it rests with his Majesty ALONE.—*Ibid.*

CITY.—*Friday Evening.*—It is impossible to give any thing like an adequate idea of the feelings of intense delight with which the news of the prorogation of Parliament has been received in the City by the great majority of the people on the one hand, and the chagrin and disappointment which it has excited among the few adherents of the boroughmongers on the other. It is not surprising that these latter persons should feel thus, for the dissolution does, in fact, amount to a sentence of death on their political existence. But in what terms shall we express the feelings of gratitude and admiration which the conduct of His Majesty has called forth? The truth is, language is too poor to do any thing like justice to the greatest and most patriotic King who has sat upon the throne of England for many centuries. William the Fourth, the restorer of English liberty, will occupy the same rank in the records of history as Alfred the Great, its immortal founder. It is probable that the people of England will never understand the full extent of the obligations which they owe to His Majesty. The persecutions and annoyances (we speak it advisedly) to which he has been subjected for the last three weeks, would have shaken the purpose of any but the most decidedly consistent man, while they would have been sufficient to have driven to madness a weak one. We understand that on the evening of his Majesty's return from the Opera, a dead set, to use a vulgar phrase, was made at him by a party whom it is not necessary to describe. He met all their remonstrances with the greatest firmness. They represented to him the revolutionary views of the Whigs and the loyalty of the Tories. "Don't talk to me," was his Majesty's patriotic reply, "about the views of parties—I care nothing for either of the two parties; the PEOPLE is the party to whom I must look for support, on whom I must rely—they call aloud for reform —I know they are loyal—how have they received me to-night? I WILL NOT DESERT THE PEOPLE." We do not pretend to say that these are the exact words which His Majesty used, but we have every reason to believe that he did employ similar expressions, and from that moment the boroughmongers considered that their death-warrant was sealed. We ought to add that her Majesty took no part in this scene. We wish we could say as much for other illustrious ladies.—*Ibid.*

LONDON, APRIL 25.—*With the people of England now rests the cause of Reform: their Gracious SOVEREIGN has delivered it into their hands, and whatever use they may make of it,—whether it suffer and sink with them, or increase in strength, and pass on to victory, the obligation to the Sovereign is the same—he is entitled to the eternal gratitude of the People. There is no question but the struggle will be a fierce one; the conflict on the dissolution in the House of Commons, and the tumult in that other more orderly body, the House of Lords, are preludes of the more tempestuous scenes which will take place in the kingdom at large on the present general election. Who would have thought that, in support of a cause so manifestly unjust as that of nominating mock members to sit in the House of Commons, under the*