

EVENTS

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Prime Minister and Premier.

WRITING in the New York Advertiser Mr. Evan Stanton says: "About a year ago the Hon. G. Bowles, M.P., asked Mr. Balfour, if he would say, for the information of the House, whether he was aware of any official recognized by law as a prime minister? The question excited roars of laughter, but it was not answered in parliament."

Nobody ever asserted that the position of prime minister was recognized in law, but call it by whatever name you please the position of the head of the government of the day must be designated by some name. So lately as in 1782, under the Shelburne administration, there appear to have been different gradations of power within the cabinet. They were thus quaintly described by Lord Shelburne himself, in conversation with Jeremy Bentham. First, the cabinet simply, including those who were admitted to that honorable board, but without possessing substantial authority. Next, the cabinet with the circulation, that is with the privilege of a key to the

cabinet boxes wherein the foreign despatches and other papers are sent round for the perusal of ministers; and, highest of all, the cabinet with the circulation and the Post Office, in other words the power of ordering the letters of individuals to be opened at the Post Office, a right which technically belongs only to a secretary of state, and would naturally be limited to the personages of the greatest weight and influence in the administration. And of the younger Pitt it was said that at the cabinets during his ministries he used briefly to discuss with Dundas whatever business they had not previously settled together, then inform his colleagues of his decision and tell them they might go. The defective condition of the cabinet during this period has been attributed chiefly to the fact that as a general rule it did not recognize the supremacy of any common chief. The man with the strongest character would rule. It was not until the accession to office of the younger Pitt in 1783, that the paramount authority of a