CENTURY. (From the "Merchant and Friar," by Sir Francis Palgrave.)

magical. Parliament! Even before the second syllable of the word had been uttered, visions of aids you will in no wise omit, as you will answer at your resign his seat in violation of the principle of the and subsidies instantly rose before the appalled multi- peril." tude:—grim shadows of assessors and collectors flitted A momentary pause ensued. The main body of Parliament and the political independence of the indiin the ambient air. Whilst the sheriff and the other the Suitors retreated from the High Sheriff, as though vidual. But, it is not so generally known, that this functionaries preserved a tranquil, but not a cheerful he had been a centre of repulsion. After a short but ancient domain, which now affords the means of regravity, every one else present, high or low, earl or vehement conversation amongst themselves, one of the treating out of the House of Commons, was, in the churl, as the Anglo-Saxon rhyme has it, seemed impressed with the common fear of the impending visita- may use the modern term, stepped forward and ad- the Knight of the Shire took refuge, in order to avoid evading the blow. Sir Gilbert de Hastings instituc- we, poor Commons, are not bound to proceed to the a distinct jurisdiction, in which the Sheriff had no contively plucked his purse out of his sleeve: drawing election. You have no right to call upon us to inter- troul, and where he could not capture the county memthe strings together, he twirled, twisted and tied them, fere. So many of the Earls and Barons of the Shire, ber, it enabled the recusant to baffle the process, at into a Gordian knot, apparently defying any attempt burthen, and business of the choice of the Knights As soon as the excitement occasioned by the chase to undo it, except by the means practised by the son upon themselves, are absent now in the King's service, had in some degree subsided, Sir Giles de Argentein of Ammon: but which, as the owner well knew by that we neither can nor dare proceed to nominate commanded the Suitors to proceed to the election of a

Hastings tarried in the field. Not so the Abbot of serve?" Sheriff in a voice of thunder. My Lord heard no- King's name,"

the Abbot of Oseney liable to the very disagreeable "So be it, master John," retorted the Sheriff, with forward, and the High Sheriff, with much more particularly the sheriff, with she and these attempts were resisted with singular energy. again, in Yorkshire?" On one very urgent occasion, the Lord Chancellor Fluctuating and uncertain as the elective franchise his manucaptors.

great seal. Before he could recover from his surprise, representatives.

the affront and the process. Such were the reports, whether true or false-Such were the reports, whether the same kind—conthere were very many others of the same kind—conBefore the verbal precept had proceeded from the lips cerning the ability shown by the Abbots of Oseney in of the Sheriff, Sir Richard was galloping away at full defeating the legal process intended to enforce their Parliamentary duties: and during a long period, no further attempts had been made upon them. A learned member of the Society of Antiquaries, the principal contributor (entre nous) to that venerable periodical, the Gentleman's Magazine, and who collects materials for a Supplement to the last splendid, new, and enlarged edition of Dugdale's Monasticon, to be published by subscription, in as many parts as Knight, a result which would give them almost equal the subscribers' resignation will bear, at one guinea delight, by imposing a disagreeable and irksome duty per number, small paper, and two guineas the large, informs me, however, that there are certain entries in the abbatial accounts, now in the Augmentation office, entitled, Largesses and Donations; in which all dates, names, and other particulars, have been carefully erased. But he surmises that they would, if legible, afford a more satisfactory explanation of the cessation of hostilities. Be this as it may, Porte-joye acted like a man determined to do his duty, and seizing the horse's rein with the one hand, he attempted, with the other, to force the writ into the Abbot's

"Gently, gently, gently, Master Porte-joye," quoth the Abbot, "you may e'en put your scrap into your scrip again. My much-lamented predecessor, Richard de Dronebury, to whose station, after he had ruled us in peace and quietness during twenty years, I, all unworthy as I be, was called last Easter, hath set us quite at ease. A blessing be upon his memory! he obtained several most valuable privileges for our Convent, and such as will ever commemorate his name. A grant of twelve fat bucks yearly, and every year, master. Horse and rider were immediately on their from Woodstock Park. A thousand fagots of wood respective legs again: Blaunc-estoyle shook himself. at each fall, to every stick whereof you shall be snorted, and was quite ready to start; but Sir Richard heartily welcome, Master Porte-joye. Lastly, a patent, had to regird his sword, and before he could remount. declaring that the Reverend Abbot of Oseney, and the Bailiffs were close at him; Dick-o'-the-Gyves all his successors for ever thereafter, shall be wholly attempted to trip him up, John Catchpole seized him exempted, exonerated, and discharged from attending by the collar of his pourpoint. A scuffle ensued, du-Parliament, or in any way resorting to the same, or from being held, bound, or obliged to give any advice tunity of emancipating themselves from controll. or counsel to the King, his heirs or successors, upon Distinctly seen from the Moot-hill, the strife began any matter, cause, or thing whatever. Well do I and ended in a moment; in what manner it had ended know how anxious my Lord Chancellor is to fill the was declared without any further explanation, when Parliament House with the like of me; but with this the officers rejoined the assembly, by Dick's limping patent I defy him. Let him do his worst, I wo'nt gait and the closed eye of his companion. In the

Chancellor, my Lord, when the seals are next opened which I translate from the original in my custody, will in Westminster Hall, on the table of marble stone. best elucidate the bearing of the transaction. A commission of rebellion will bring you to your "Sir Richard de Pogeys, Knight, duly elected by

COUNTY ELECTION IN THE FOURTEENTH his Bailiwick two Citizens; and from every Borough unable to make any other execution of the will as far two Burgesses, all of the more discreet and wiser sort, as he is concerned." and to cause them to come before the King in his Parliament at the before-mentioned day and place, a nominal stewardship connected with the biltern with full powers from their respective communities, Parliament! The effect of the announcement was to perform and consent to such matters as by common enables the member, by a species of juggle—if such a

tion, and occupied by the thoughts of averting or dressed Sir Giles: "Your worship well knows that being dragged into Parliament against his will. Being in the course of half a minute of nervous agitation, the great men, who ought to take the main trouble, least until the short session had closed. sad experience, would fail to defend the contents those who are to represent the County. Such slender second Knight, as required by the writ. There was against the dexterous unravelment of the cunning folk as we have no concern with these weighty mat- some doubt whether the Sheriff might not be entitled

Oseney, who forthwith guided his steed to the right- "What of that, John Trafford," said the sheriff, another in his place; but after a tumultuous discusabout, and rode away from the meeting as fast as he "do you think that his Grace will allow his affairs to sion, the question was waived. Indeed, several of the could trot, turning the deafest of all deaf ears to the be delayed by excuses such as these? You, Suitors Shiresmen maintained, that it was of no kind of consemonitions which he received. "My Lord Abbott, we of the Shire, are as much bound and obliged to concur quence whether they returned one Knight or a score, want you!" shouted the Crier: My Lord trotted on. in the choice of the County Members as any Baron of since, whatever the number might be, they believed My Lord Abbot, I want you!" vociferated the the realm. Do your duty; I command ye in the that the Knights of the Shire, like the citizens appear-

thing, but continued his progress until he was inter- "Prove your allegations, sir Sheriff," replied the County-one joint vote amongst them-and not an cepted by the Porte-joye, who, respectfully doffing his sturdy Yeoman, who, as the Reeve, headed the depu- individual suffrage. Yet, though this was asserted, cap, and offering a salutation which the Abbot seemed very unwilling to return, attempted to serve the Pre the statute, cite the law, produce the roll, showing vailing in Parliament, upon a point which one would late with the much-abominated process, the writ of that our concurrence in the Parliamentary elections is think, was of great importance in all times, and most summons, by which he was commanded, all other a part of our suit and service in the Shire. If you vitally so at a period like the present, when, as Marco matters laid aside, to attend in person at the Parlia- succeed in finding that you have any coercive right Polo easily collected from the conversation of the byment, to treat with and give counsel to the King over us in this respect, you shall harness me in the standers there was a strong feeling of opposition upon the affairs which should be then and there pro- team; and know further, sir Sheriff," continued John against the Crown. Trafford; "that I appear in this Shire Court as the A pause ensued, Sir Giles presented himself as if Whether tenure or custom did or did not render Attorney and Steward of Sir Robert de Vere."

duty of taking a seat in Parliament, by which he all the delight of a disputant about to place his adver- tience and forbearance than might have been expected would be taxed amongst the possessors of lay fee or sary between the horns of a dilemma. "Since I have from him, continued apparently waiting for the noniproperty, was a question long agitated, both in fact you, as your master's representative in the Shire Court, nation. At this moment, a hawk which one of the and in law. The name of the Abbot of Oseney I will let you go as a Suitor with all my heart. You followers of Sir Giles bore upon his fist, having broken stood high on the roll of Parliamentary Prelates; yet, have just alleged that the burden and duty of the his leash, soared upwards, and then descended in her years had elapsed since such an Abbot had been seen election falls upon the Earls and Barons. This is flight, attracted by rather an ignoble object, a pigeon, mong the Lords. Many attempts, it is true, had your acknowledgement, in full and open Court, which after whom she winged her way. This spectacle, is the undersigned who have entered into co-partnership. been made to enforce the attendance of the last Abbot you cannot retract, and of which I and the Coroners might be supposed, drew off the attention of the but one, Abbot Peter; who, according to the tradition will all make a record by word of mouth before the crowd. Trafford, indeed, always maintained, to his current amongst the officers of the House of Lords, Exchequer. Deny, now, if you can, that, in all pro- dying day, that it was no accident, but that Matt'-owas what, in the technical language of Carey-street ceedings of this County Court, you are fully empow- the Mews had slipped the leash when nudged by Sr and Bell-vard, would be called a very shy customer. ered by immemorial custom, to answer for Sir Robert, Giles, and during their diversion from the business, the It was almost as difficult to excute a Parliamentary your master, in the same manner as if he were here | Sheriff, after a few minutes' conversation with the writ of summons at Oseney, as it would now be to present. Therefore, under peril of the King's high Knights who were nearest to him, recalled the attereffect the execution of a writ of capies in the county displeasure, as you tender life and limb, proceed at once tion of the Shiresmen, by declaring that Sir Thomss Galway. Every kind of device was resorted to for the election, as you, Sir Robert's attorney, are in the purpose of obtaining a legal hold upon the Abbot, duty bound. Has it not been ruled so, again and the other Knight to serve for the same in Parliament,

did not think it beneath the dignity of Parliament to was, anterior to the creation of the forty-shilling sufdispatch a Master, William de Eyreminne, afterwards frage, the only practice almost, in which much uniforadvanced to the Rolls, and ultimately promoted to the mity can be discovered, or which is defined with clear- They whooped, scolled, groaned, and John Trafford, Bishopric of Norwich, who cunningly gained access to ness and precision in coeval documents, is the usage again acting as spokesman, loudly accused the Sherif the Abbot in the disguise of a penitent. So far he of the Attorneys of the Baronage concurring in the with jobbing and collusion, employing the most uncourwas successful, but as soon as his errand was disclosed, Parliamentary nominations, and on some occasions teous and unmeasured language. "It is a repetition Master Eyreminne received such a salutary discipline electing, or rather making, the members without the from the knotted scourges provided by the Monks assent of any other parties whatever -- a professional last Parliament, when you levied seven pounds sterling for the benefit of the visiters to the strine of Saint arrangement which, as some folks say, is by no means for the wages of your ally and cater-cousin Sir Mar- BARRISTER AND ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Brithwold, as induced him to decamp most speedily, obsolete. John Trafford, therefore, had no help. maduke Vavasour, being at the enormous rate of four adopting with entire sincerity the character which he Like a wise debater, he yielded to the pinch of the shillings and eight-pence a day—two groats above the argument, without confessing that he felt it: and settled allowance-whereas he was never duly elected On another occasion, it was reported that the Mes- having muttered a few words to the Sheriff, which by us, and we could have hired as good a member, aye, senger was agreeably surprised by the unexpected might be considered as an assent, a long conference and a better one, who would have been glad to do all cordiality of his reception. No obstacle was offered; took place between him and some of his brother Stew- the work of the County for five pounds, yea, even five the Abbot, receiving the Parliamentary process with ards, as well as with the other Suitors. During this marks, and who would have agreed in the lump, to uch respect, delivered it to his Seneschal, telling confabulation, several nods and winks of intelligence accept the said sum for all his expenses going and rehim to take care that it should be properly returned. passed between Trafford and a well-mounted Knight: turning, and for all his keep at Westminster, let the The summoning officer was then shewn in a "parloir," and whilst the former appeared to be settling the Parliament sit as long as it might-yea, even for a and kindly requested to take a meal previous to the business with the Suitors, the latter, who had been whole month." Voices were rising louder and louder, resumption of his journey. The dish was brought up close to Sir Giles, continued gradually backing and and there was every appearance of a new storm. But and placed before him. Well did he augur from the sidleing away through the groups of Shiresmen. And the banner of Sir Giles de Argentein emblazoned with amplitude of the cover, but, when the towering dome just as he had got clear of the ring, John Trafford the bearing allusive to his name—the three cups of was removed, it displayed a mess far more novel than declared in a most sonorous voice, that the Suitors silver—was raised, trumpets sounded, horses were in inviting—the parchment writ fried in the wax of the had chosen Sir Richard de Pogeys as one of their motion, spearmen and knights closing round the

the attendants disappeared, the door closed, the key The Sheriff, who, keeping his eye fixed on Sir turned; and amidst the loud shouts of laughter from Richard as he receded, had evidently suspected some without, he heard the voice of the Pitanciary, declar- manceuvre, instantly ordered his Bailiffs to secure the ing that he should never taste a second course until body of the Member-this is rather an Hibernian he had done justice to the first, the dainty dish set phrase, but, as I cannot depart from my authorities, I before him upon the table. Without the slightest miti- do not know it can be amended—"and," continued gation the threat was carried into effect; of no other he with much vehemence, "Sir Richard must be forthfood did he partake, neither bite nor sup could he with committed to custody, unless he gives good bail obtain, until after two endless days of solitude and -two substantial freeholders-that he will duly atabstinence, all-persuasive hunger compelled the unlucky representative of the Chancery to swallow both day of the Session, according to the laws and usage of

All this, however, was more easily said than done. speed across the fields. Off dashed the Bailiffs after the Member, amidst the shouts of the surrounding crowd, who forgot all their grievances in the stimulus of the chase, which they contemplated with the perfect certainty of receiving some satisfaction by its termination: whether by the escape of the fugitive, in which case their common enemy, the Sheriff, would be liable to a heavy amercement; or by the capture of the upon an individual who was universally disliked, in nsequence of his overbearing harshness and domestic

One of the two above-mentioned gratifications might be considered as certain. But besides these, there was a third contingent amusement, by no means to be overlooked; namely, the chance, that, in the contest, those respectable and intelligent functionaries, the Sheriff's Bailiffs, might, somehow or another, come to some kind of harm. In this charitable expectation, the good men of the Shire were not entirely disappointed. Bounding along the open fields, whilst the welkin resounded with the cheers of the spectators, the fleet courser of Sir Richard sliddered on the grass, then stumbled and fell down the sloping side of one of the many ancient British entrenchments by which the WOOLLEN DRAPER AND TAILOR, plain was crossed; and horse and rider rolling over, the latter was deposited quite at the bottom of the fosse,

Blaunc-estoyle had received as little damage as his ring which the nags of the Bailiffs slily took the oppormeanwhile, Sir Richard had wholly disappeared; and "You shall answer for this contempt before the the special return made by the Sheriff to the writ.

senses," exclaimed the Porte-joye, scowling at the the Shire, refused to find bail for his appearance in Abbot. But all further discussion between these Parliament at the day and place within mentioned, parties was prevented by the High Sheriff, who com- and having grievously assaulted my Bailiffs, in conmanded his clerk to read the whole of the writ, by tempt of the King, his crown and dignity, and absconded which he was commanded "to cause two Knights to to the Chiltern Hundreds, into which Liberty, not which he was commanded to cause two Knights to to the Chiltern Hundreds, into which Liberty, not being shire-land or guildable, I cannot enter, I am being shire-land or guildable, I cannot enter, I am MOFFATTS, MURRAY & Co.

Toronto, June 9th, 1847.

Toronto, June 9th, 1847.

My readers are well aware that, at the pres day, Hundreds, called an office of profit under the Crown, constitution, and with some detriment to the fority of

ters. How can we tell who are best qualified to to declare that the election of Sir Richard de Pogeys was void, and that they were therefore bound to choose ing for London, had only a collective voice for the

> to receive the nomination of the Court. No one came and that John att Green and Richard att Wood were

This declaration excited a universal outcry of discontent and indignation amongst the Shiresmen SOLICITOR AND ATTORNEY. Sheriff, pierced through the crowd, and the meeting was dissolved.

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Montreal, August, 1847.

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