

excellent example to be followed. In the same year Lord Rockingham's death caused a new coalition ministry to be formed under Fox and North. Burke was again made paymaster-general; and held this position to the time of the defeat of the administration on the India Bill. In the following year he commenced his famous attack on Warren Hastings. He had, for a long time previously, carefully studied the history of proceedings in India, and was consequently well prepared to deal with this question. Adding to this his eloquence, one may imagine what a wonderful effect his speeches produced. The great trial opened in February 1788, and lasted for six years. Great odds had Burke to contend against in this trial, and notwithstanding the justice of his cause and the powerful support he gave it, the great culprit, as too often happens in the case of political culprits when they belong to the party in power, was acquitted. In such vivid colors did Burke picture the sufferings of the poor Indians, in his description of the ruin wrought by Hastings, that women in the galleries shed tears, and men, friend and foe alike, found it difficult to restrain their feelings stirred by the powers of eloquence and truth.

The next great movement that called for his attention was the French Revolution. He vigorously opposed its principles by voice and pen. His first pamphlet on this question, *Reflections on the French Revolution*, brought forth many opposing views from the friends of the Revolutionists in England. In fact the stand he took on this question was destined to estrange him from many of his old and life-long friends. His other papers on the Revolution were: *A letter to a member of the National Assembly*, *An Appeal from the New Whigs to the Old*, and *Letters on a Rescinded Peace*.

His letter to Sir Hercules Lamgrish, on the "*Propriety of Admitting Catholics to the Elective Franchise*," shows how deeply interested this noble patriot was in the welfare of his Catholic countrymen. His endeavors in behalf of Catholics were indeed productive of much good. He fought manfully against all the bigotry of those days and made the accomplishment of greater reforms in after times a less difficult task. At last in 1794 he with-

drew from parliament, and was succeeded in the representations of Malton by his son Richard. This son, a very promising young man, died of consumption the same year. Burke never fully recovered from the shock. He retired to his old home at Beaconsfield to spend the remaining days of his life. The king in recognition of his many services to the country, conferred on the veteran orator and statesman a well-merited pension. The Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lauderdale opened on him a cowardly attack because of his accepting of this grant. The attack was resented in a manner worthy of the great Burke in his *Letter to a Noble Lord*. On the 8th of July, 1797, he peacefully passed away.

Though never Prime Minister, Burke probably did more to control the political tide of the times than any of his contemporaries. He excelled all of them as a writer and as an orator. Lord Brougham says of him: "In respect to argument we are reminded of Bacon's multifarious knowledge and the exuberance of his learned fancy, while the many lettered diction calls to mind the first English poet and his immortal verse rich with the spoils of all science and of all times." Fox had this to say: "More knowledge flowed to me from Burke than from any other source."

Though Burke spent most of his public life as a member of the British parliament, and as a representative of English constituencies, he never was forgetful of his native land. He fought well for his persecuted country whenever any opportunity presented itself, and succeeded in gaining for her a few temporary advantages. He championed her cause in England when it was considered almost criminal to call oneself her friend. Alas! the few small advantages, which his hard work won for her, were of short duration. Only a few years after his death, came the Act of Union or Act of Robbery by which England deprived Ireland of her national rights.

Burke was a true philanthropist. He was one of those great men who thought little of his own troubles but sorrowed much for the pains and sorrows of mankind. His stand on the French Revolution, to many, seems inconsistent with other