

BRITISH NEWS.

HOUSE OF LORDS—April 13.

The order of the day for the resumption of the adjourned debate on the Reform Bill having been read, Lord Wellington rose to move the adjournment of the House in a speech which was listened to with great interest.

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ment, for the purpose of promoting its passing; then it was that the whole country became excited, and that it was increased by the public press. (Hear, hear.)

After this statement, which could not be contradicted, must it not be admitted that the Government proposed to the present House for Reform?—(Hear, hear.)

The Noble Earl, who had before opposed the second reading of the Bill, now supported his voting for the present Bill by those arguments that were then used in favour of the Bill he opposed.

The Noble Earl said no great change had taken place in the Bill since the rejection of the former Bill.—He could not agree in that opinion, but would refer to the addresses presented to the Crown against the measure, but conceded as much as possible to the public.—(Hear, hear.)

If the main principles of the Bill were to be retained, he cared not to see the Bill rejected. (Hear, hear.)

Something had been observed by the noble Earl, but he would refer to the addresses presented to the Crown against the measure, but conceded as much as possible to the public.—(Hear, hear.)

He did not think any Minister could resort to such a measure, least of all could he suppose it of the Noble Earl.—(Hear, hear, hear.)

The Noble Earl (Cobden) had declared that the Bill would be the "Bill of the Bill" in the representation in the sense applied—because he answered unhesitatingly that there never was a representative Government in this country in the sense in which the Noble Lord spoke of a representative Government.

He referred to the fact that which never yet had existed in this country. His objection to the Bill still was what it ever had been, that if the Bill passed, if there ever existed such a House of Commons as that contemplated by the Bill, the present form of Government cannot continue.

Lord Grey rose to reply. He said that the feeling of the public, in favour of reform, had been expressed long before he attained power.

He declared that nothing could be done, that reform was inevitable. The only question, then, was as to the nature of that reform.—(Hear, hear.)

The feeling had been sometimes dormant, sometimes loudly expressed, but it never ceased to exist. It was equally necessary, for the safety and peace of the country, that the measure of reform should have been satisfactory, and that it should have been specifically provided.

He denied that the production of the measure had produced the agitation in the country. The political unions had been in existence before he came into power.

He lamented the tone of personal abuse which had been pursued in the course of the debate, and he hoped that the noble Earl would be more moderate in his conduct.

into the committee, he should certainly feel his duty to resist any alterations which he might think inconsistent with the main objects which the Bill proposed to carry into effect.

But if it could be shown, that any alterations had inadvertently crept into any of the schedules—if it could be shown, that any qualification, not so small as £10, would be less open to fraud and abuse, he would not resist the correction of such circumstances.

It was at the same time, perfectly true, that the noble Earl was in favour of the measure of fifty-six boroughs which it was proposed to disfranchise, and any increase of the £10 which it was proposed to fix as the minimum of qualification.

But the decision on those points would depend on the House, and not on him. His opinions were as he had stated them to be, but it was the power of the House to make such alterations as might, in their opinion, render the provisions of the Bill more accordant with the principles of it.

Upon the whole, he saw no danger in any position of what was proposed to be placed in competition with the danger of rejecting the Bill, and his appointing the noble Earl to the committee.—(Hear, hear.)

With respect to the probability of the consequences of that rejection, he would say, that every Minister of the Crown was bound to use all the constitutional means placed in his power for the preservation of the public tranquillity; but the danger of disturbance to the peace of the country, and the danger of the loss of the confidence which they had been taught to reposit in the Legislature.

It was for this reason that he now implored their Lordships to pass that Bill which he hoped and trusted would pass, and which he believed, must pass, however they might be disposed to differ.—(Hear, hear, hear.)

Having already trespassed too much on their Lordships' attention, he would merely take leave to say one word on a question which had been frequently discussed of late, and in which he was, in some degree, personally concerned.

He alluded to the constitutional writers had admitted, that although the creation of a large number of peers, for a particular object was a measure which should rarely be resorted to, yet, that in some cases such as to avoid a collision between the two Houses.

Lord Grey was for the measure, and he believed it would be found, that in cases of necessity, such as he had stated, a creation of peers would be perfectly justifiable, and in accordance with the best and most acknowledged principles of the constitution.—(Hear, hear.)

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House of Lords, April 17. Many of the friends of the reform bill, who voted for the second reading by proxy, will not be present at the meeting of the committee.

In truth, the King and the ministry being firm, it is scarcely to be supposed that they can want power to carry the bill into a law.

Lord Grey said, he had given much attention to this subject, and he owned he could not see the necessity of an inquiry into what was already known.

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In the city, no less than 70,000 copies of the Bill were distributed.

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