

ment, and the colleagues who sat with him in the Cabinet. For some reason of this sort, doubtless sufficient, but never fully explained, when the Whig Government was reconstituted after its summary dismissal in 1834, he was not asked to rejoin it, or to re-assume his old position as Lord Chancellor,—a slight which he felt acutely and deeply resented.

The truly glorious and productive period of Henry Brougham's life, the only period which we are specially concerned to remember, was that which elapsed between 1810 and 1834. Before the first of those years, he was chiefly occupied in preparing for and attaining that forensic and literary celebrity and power of which he afterwards made so brilliant a use. After the last of those years much occurred which we would fain forget. But for four and twenty years he was indefatigable in useful works. He was foremost in every beneficial and honorable struggle; and it was then he earned that indefeasible title to the gratitude of his country, which no after lapse or frailty can efface. Those were gloomy days for the Whig party and the liberal cause; every battle was an uphill fight against superior forces; every advantage won for good government or popular rights was painfully and slowly wrung from the reluctant grasp of ascendant and often very stupid Toryism. In 1810, Henry Brougham entered Parliament for the borough of Camelford, having already attained a considerable position on the Northern Circuit, of which he afterwards became the leader. He first distinguished himself by procuring the repeal of those suicidal 'Orders in Council' by which our Government sought to retaliate on Bonaparte for the Milan and Berlin decrees, which he had launched in the hope of crippling British commerce. He took a prominent part in all debates upon the corn laws, and always, of course, on the right side. Some of his finest speeches were made on the question of Catholic emancipation. On all party topics he was, perhaps, the most powerful combatant in the Whig ranks; and his magnificent defence of Queen Caroline (in which he

showed extraordinary tact and sagacity, as well as eloquence and courage) raised him at once to the summit of popularity. But the marked feature of his parliamentary career, and that which most needs and deserves to be brought out into strong relief, was that his chief attention and devotion were given, not to those great party contests which afforded the best opportunities for the display of such brilliant powers as he excelled in, and which therefore might naturally have been most attractive to one so gifted and so vain, but to those questions, many of them till then almost neglected, which most deeply concerned the improvement and the elevation of his poorer countrymen, which involved much dry and obscure labor, and in which practical success was the only reward to be looked for. He preferred philanthropy to mere politics; he chose useful and urgent, rather than showy topics. We believe he was inspired, in his unrelenting toil, by a genuine passion for the well-being of his fellow-men; and his spirit boiled over at the sight of cruelty and oppression. Of all the anti-slavery orators, he was about the most indefatigable and indignant. He contributed, perhaps, as much as any man of his day, even Lord John Russell, to sweep the last vestiges of religious persecution from the statute book. His services in the great cause of parliamentary reform are still fresh in the memory of all of us. His efforts in regard to Chancery and general law reform, though it has been the fashion to speak slightly of them, and though probably his mastery of the subject was by no means thorough, nor his view always sound, have, beyond all question, been among the most effectual aids to the very considerable amendments that have been made in that direction; and though his judgments as Lord Chancellor were not always regarded with confidence or acquiescence, he was able to say, when he left the woolsack, what probably not one of his predecessors could have said, that 'he had not left a single appeal unheard, or a single letter unanswered.'