

thirty years, after frequent executions for high treason, a new coalition was formed, and one to which the people of England owe their civil and religious liberties. That great coalition effected the Revolution of 1688, which eventually brought about the change of dynasty, which substituted the House of Hanover for the House of Stuart. Will it be denied that there were then three parties? The high Tories, who adhered to King James the II.; the more patriotic Tories, who joined the third party of Whigs in inviting the Prince of Orange to deliver England from despotism. But was party extinguished? Far from it. Never was there greater party virulence than during the next sixty years, during which two formidable rebellions occurred, to say nothing of plots to assassinate King William, and to effect another restoration of the doomed race which had been dethroned. The next coalition to which he would refer, was that memorable one of Lord North and Mr. Fox, which was very generally condemned at the time, though the student of the history of the reign of King George the Third may easily find excuses for a coalition, intended chiefly to check the undue influence of the Crown. But how was that coalition brought about? On Lord North's resignation, owing to the disastrous results of the American revolutionary war, a Whig Government had been formed by Lord Rockingham, in which Mr. Fox and the Earl of Shelburne were Secretaries of State. Lord Rockingham died suddenly, and shortly after the formation of the Government, and Mr. Fox became the recognized chief of the Whig party, and expected the premiership. The king sent for Lord Shelburne, with whom Mr. Fox refused to act, and the ministerial party became divided. Then was formed a coalition between the Tories, under Lord North, and the Whigs under Mr. Fox, to oppose Lord Shelburne's Government, which coalition was generally denounced as a factious one on the part of the Whigs. It was not more factious however, than Mr. Brown's combination with the Conservative opposition in 1854, to defeat the Government of that day. The regular opposition is justified in availing itself of any support it can obtain on such occasions, but the minority of a party which acts from factious motives generally comes to grief, as did Mr. Fox and Mr. Brown. The two parties, led respectively by Lord North and Mr. Fox, succeeded in defeating Lord Shelburne's Government, and in forming a coalition, which was soon replaced by Mr. Pitt's Government, which lasted many years, and which, after a short interval obtained the support of the Tory followers of Lord North. The next coalition to which he would refer was one in our own time. The Conservative party was split asunder by the adoption of Free Trade by Sir Robert Peel and