

are pointed out and lamented. Scotland is described as the extreme of subserviency and corruption at elections, and Ireland as the extreme of fearless freedom, yet both from unfortunate causes and universal blindness of electors, return members alike unfit, incapable or dishonest. Looking at a House of Commons so elected, and thinly sprinkled with able and patriotic men, who are powerless in divisions, it is said—

“No one can feel surprised if such a House do not work well; on the contrary, sensible people may exclaim, ‘how can it be prevented from destroying the Empire?’ * * * Now comes an admirable part of the matter. The House of Commons assembles, and lo! the worthy electors are horror-struck at its conduct; they cannot sufficiently marvel at its ignorance and incapacity, its corruption and profligacy, its destitution of sympathy with public feeling, and its abandoned scorn of the public voice. They complain, and it laughs at them; they petition, and it covers them with insult. They get mightily angered, and make a display of virtuous, patriotic words, quite enchanting. The men who will not make the smallest effort to obtain proper representatives—those who will support none but servile tools of party—those who compel their dependants to vote for such tools—those who support the brainless, profligate candidate against the wise and virtuous one—the knave who uses the franchise only to extract the greatest portion of criminal gain from it—and the traitors who sell themselves in the lump, like a drove of cattle, to the highest bidder—all join in vituperating the House, and calling for its Reform.”

“Let Parliament be dissolved and these free independent patriotic electors will all act precisely in the same manner at the election. Remedy! yes, for the sake of human nature, let it be granted! Reform—radical reform!—yes, for the salvation of our beloved country, let it be no longer delayed. But what radical reform? *That of the Electors.* Without this, the House of Commons, however it may be changed, will not be reformed. * * Give us intelligent, virtuous, independent, patriotic electors; and we shall find in them a House of Commons of a similar character. They will reform the House, not only in effect but in construction; they will work the miracle of compelling it to reform itself. If this be denied us we must make the best of a bad matter, and exclaim in the delirious merriment of a General Election—*Hurrah! for a House of Commons incapable and corrupt; severed from the feelings of the community, and contemptuously hostile to its prayers! Hurrah for the fall of the British Empire!*”

This satire is just, and perhaps nothing gives a man of correct feeling more pain of mind, than to find noble institutions render-