

THE NEW APPOINTMENTS.

From the London Spectator, Radical Newspaper. Well, the ministry has been "reconstructed." The seed sown in May fruitifies in August. When Lord Melbourne returned to office on the shoulders of the Bedchamber-women no change in the personnel of his Cabinet, or what by courtesy is called the policy of his government, was announced; but "wait till the close of the session," and then you shall see all the fine things Lord Melbourne will do. The session has closed, and the days of expectancy are succeeded by the season of fruition. The arrangements which were to revive the hopes of the Reformers and strengthen the Liberal government, have been completed in their essential parts. The remodelled ministry stands before the country challenging its verdict.

To considering the new appointments, the first question that occurs is—on what principle have they been made? With what intention did Lord Melbourne go to work? No doubt, the good of his country was the thought uppermost in his mind. Conscious of weakness, he sought strength where alone it could be found—in the selection of colleagues possessing the confidence of the public, and distinguished by their talent and knowledge of affairs. From an honest and sagacious minister, in his circumstances, what different course could be expected?

But has Lord Melbourne acted on this principle? No. His aim, as usual, was to save himself trouble. "Rice goes out—ah, well, who comes next?" Baring of the Treasury. "Then let Baring be Chancellor of the Exchequer. Who follows Baring?" Robert Gordon. "Then Robert Gordon shall go to the Treasury, fill the stool capitolary." Notoriously is the Lord Chancellor's "Don't wonder at that—Colonies are sick of Normanby. Let him have John Russell's place—and Russell, his. Can anything be more snugly arranged—all within ourselves?" And upon this plan of chopping and changing—this clerical principle of promotion—has Lord Melbourne reconstructed his Cabinet.

Most of these changes are not merely impotent for good—they are positively injurious to the public service. Not one of the underlings twirled out of this place into that possessed an advantage over any other decently-educated person, save the experience derived from the performance of routine duties; and by change of office they lose even this.

But there are some new men—some fresh blood has been infused into the government. Yes, Irish blood; and O'Connell, troublesome in the recess, though pliant in parliament, is soothed. He approves of the direction in which Lord Melbourne looked for his minute supply of new materials. The "Irish interest" has been strengthened, if the government is weak as before.

Let us now glance at the puppets in this game of "wheel-about and turn-about." 1. Thomas Spring Rice, Lord Montague, is, as yet, Lord Montague and nothing more. Sir John Newport will neither die nor resign. Who would have thought the old man had so much blood in him? But there he is, at the Exchequer; and as no retiring pension is vacant (after all, Lord Glenelg played his cards like a canny Scot.). Mr. Rice takes nothing from the Cabinet but his blushing honours. Men laugh at the trifling title which Mr. Rice flings from the Marquis of Sligo—who also is Baron Montague, and votes and franks in virtue of that barony.

2. Lord John Russell and the Marquis of Normanby. These noble lords change places. The Marquis's conspicuous failure at the Colonial Office rendered his removal absolutely necessary—and yet he must be provided for. Lady Normanby is the Queen's friend, and Lord Melbourne shrinks from a breach at Court. So Normanby goes to the Home Office, because, with all the instruction he can obtain, incapable of making a decent appearance in the House of Lords as Colonial Secretary. Not that he is the fittest man for the Home Office, but most unfit for the other place, which his consummate vanity tempted him to take from Lord Glenelg.

Lord John Russell is, beyond question, the cleverest man in the ministry. Moreover, he has a will of his own. The Under Secretaries will not be Viceroys over him. Date the downfall of your power, Mr. Stephen, from the hour Lord John Russell crosses your threshold. Lord John, as the ministerial leader in the Commons, was necessarily, in some degree, acquainted with every department of the government, and therefore will not be an entire novice in the Colonial Office. The colonies have, at least, a responsible ruler, and we believe, the best which the Whig official staff could furnish, though the colonies must not imagine that arrangement was made with a view to their benefit, being merely the result of another shuffle of the cards.

3. Lord Howick goes out, and with him, apparently, Mr. Charles Wood, his brother-in-law. It is understood that Lord Howick claimed the Colonies, and meeting with a refusal, resigned. The Secretary at War has been offered to Mr. Macaulay, who had declined office without a seat in the Cabinet.

4. Poulett Thomson—"Pow," goes to Canada, as the Morning Chronicle said he would, though the Globe, Courier, Sun & Advertiser had "authority" from Downing-street to declare that he would not. The Morning Chronicle pets "Pow," and reminds us that he is "a morose homo," for which reminiscence, however, the Governor-General will not thank our contemporary—and "created for himself in

the House of Commons, by great acuteness and extensive information, the reputation which introduced him to office." True—Mr. Thomson did create a reputation; but what has become of it? It gained him a seat in Manchester, and the seat for Manchester placed him in the Cabinet. But if Mr. Thomson were a candidate now for Manchester, we believe his friends would find it a more arduous task to gratify his vanity than to carry his return. Constituents cannot recognise, in the assiduous ruffian-hunter and somewhat supercilious minister, the vigorous advocate of a free trade and the attentive man of business. Mr. Thomson goes to Canada to redeem a lost reputation. The Chronicle says that "he is at a time of life when the bodily powers are equal to any exertion," but Mr. Thomson himself, addressing the electors of Manchester, alleges *ill health* as a reason for resigning his office at the Board of Trade, and accepting the government of Canada! Lord Melbourne guarantees his fitness again pleads the Chronicle. To be sure he does! The Premier is guarantee for the whole batch!

5. Francis Thornhill Baring.—The new Chancellor of the Exchequer reminded his constituents that he had represented Portsmouth for 14 years—a sufficiently long period to enable a man of superior talent to shine forth upon the world. But Mr. Baring is a common-place, not a brilliant person, exact in figures, not very agreeable in manners, and a foe to "blarney" in which last respect he is the opposite of his predecessors, and will be liked all the better for the difference.—The general impression is, that Mr. Baring will commit few blunders, and manage the finances respectably. Lord Melbourne could not have picked a better Chancellor of the Exchequer out of his bundle of clerks.

6. Henry Labouchere.—Everybody speaks well of Mr. Labouchere, an accomplished gentleman, of Liberal tendencies, averaged talent, and laudable activity. Possessing those recommendations, however, Mr. Labouchere is scarcely qualified for the ministry of commerce in times like the present, when to revive the trade of the country, and buoy it up against foreign competition, a series of important measures are required, which would tax the knowledge, experience, and above all the firmness of a Huskisson to mature and execute.

7. Richard Lalor Sheil.—Behold the assistance Lord Melbourne has provided for Mr. Labouchere: Mr. Sheil is to be Vice President of the Board of Trade! Never surely was a clever man more ridiculously misplaced. What single qualification for his new office does Mr. Sheil possess? Imaginative, poetical, sarcastic, epigrammatic. Mr. Sheil can expect "the Ministerial Boy" to meditate on molasses, or to explain the terms of a treaty on tallow! Fancy a deputation from Minezinge-lane in conference with the author of *Evadne* on a point affecting "low greivisid midding," or "P.V.C."

Morover, Mr. Sheil, M.P., for Tipperary, is a supporter of the corn-laws, which he refuses to relax in the slightest degree. He even opposed the paltry "grinding" concession. And he is a confirmed interest of the country are commended! If inexperience and ignorance of the duties of his office were not a sufficient disqualification, his opinion—at least his pledges—on the corn question surely ought to have kept him from the Board of Trade.

8. Vernon Smith.—This gentleman's appointment to the Under Secretaryship of the Colonies was announced before Lord John Russell's exchange of places with Lord Normanby was arranged.—"Why," said the venerable Whigs at Brook's, "is not some person of weight and influence in the country—some statesman of commanding talents and address, who would win back the affections of the colonies—introduced to the Colonial Office? Cannot Lord Melbourne secure the services of Mr. Vernon Smith?" These sayings of the wise being, it is thought reported to the Premier, led to a negotiation with Mr. Smith, the happy result of which is or will be recorded in the *Gazette*. Bustling, voluble, and self-confident, Mr. Vernon Smith will be a bore in the House, and prove a troublesome colleague to Mr. Stephen.

9. Sir George Grey retains the office of Judge Advocate, and is promoted to a seat in the Cabinet. He is one of the "cousins" who pulled with the premier against Lord Howick and his clique of "cousins," and receives his reward from the dispenser of power and places.

10. Robert Gordon stops up the gap which would win back the affections of the Colonies—introduced to the Colonial Office? Cannot Lord Melbourne secure the services of Mr. Vernon Smith?" These sayings of the wise being, it is thought reported to the Premier, led to a negotiation with Mr. Smith, the happy result of which is or will be recorded in the *Gazette*.

11. Thomas Wyse and More O'Ferrall.—Mr. Wyse takes the Treasury Lordship relinquished by Mr. O'Ferrall; who, it is said, will succeed Mr. Charles Wood at the Admiralty. The appointments of Mr. Wyse and Mr. Sheil reward the "Tail" for indispensable support, and secure its continuance to grateful masters. Time was when O'Connell sneered at Mr. Wyse as a "dilettante;" but now he is among the most eminent men of his age—"no man more highly gifted"—"a sterling patriot and a distinguished individual."

Mr. Wyse, without Irish exaggeration, is a most respectable man, of useful talents. He has been for some time known as a candidate for office; and we are glad to see him in the public service, though a Treasury Lordship is not exactly his *metier*.

We believe the list is exhausted.—The details of the new arrangements bear out our opening remark, that Lord Melbourne's reconstruction of his government involves little more than the promotion of

some clerks and a change in the department of others. To say that he has strengthened his ministry, would be an abuse of language. Perhaps, however, the removal of Lord Howick may tend in some slight degree to liberate it.

From the *John Bull*, August 19th. A free press is the contempt into which England has fallen, and how, we are told, the interests are injured and endangered by her deplorable helplessness under the management of the present Cabinet, as he is found in the *delinquency* of the real state of the *Portuguese blockade* affairs, brought about by Lord Strangford, on Thursday, in the House of Commons.

The noble Viscount presented a petition from certain merchants, who have been for many years engaged in carrying on the *Guin trade* at the British port of *Porto*, in the *Western coast of Africa*, but who have been interrupted in that trade by the *French Government*, which interruption continues and for which no reparation can be obtained. Lord Strangford considered this matter of so much importance, (and so must every body else consider it,) that he stated that nothing but the *most efficacious measures* could be adopted to secure the *restoration* of the *Guin trade* to the British port, by a *French armed force*, for the last five years.

Perhaps the matter will be more clearly understood if a *summary* of the *petition* which Lord Strangford presented. We accordingly submit it. To the Right Honorable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled. The Petition of the undersigned British Merchants humbly sheweth—That your petitioners have been for some years engaged in carrying on a trade in *Guin* at the British port of *Porto*, on the western coast of Africa. That the article is one of great importance to the welfare of the said British port, and that the English trade therein at the said port of *Porto* has been obstructed for more than five years by a *French armed force*, for the last five years.

That a *tribe of Moors*, denominated the *Truzas*, is supposed to exercise considerable influence over the *operation* of this trade in the interior of that part of Africa where the *guin* is principally produced—that the French thought fit to declare war against this tribe in the year 1832, and that, in consequence of carrying on the said war, the Government of the Senegal caused a report to be circulated towards the close of the year 1832, that the *French* had taken possession of the said port of *Porto*, and that your petitioners, astounded at an extraordinary invasion, sought for protection against the *French* by the *British* Government, in consequence of which, the *British* Government (Lord Granville) was intreated to enquire whether any such intention existed on the part of the Government, and a reply was given, that they had no such intention.

That, notwithstanding the *admonition* of the *Chancellor of the Exchequer* despatched two ships of war, in July, 1834, to the said port of *Porto*, and that your petitioners, who were English merchant vessels, the *Queen's Temple* and the *Industry*, chartered by your petitioners, were ordered to *quit* the said port, and to *return* to the *Guin trade* with the *Moors*—that these two vessels were ordered by the *French* commandant to *quit* the said port, and to *return* to the *Guin trade* with the *Moors*—that your petitioners, who were English merchant vessels, the *Queen's Temple* and the *Industry*, chartered by your petitioners, were ordered to *quit* the said port, and to *return* to the *Guin trade* with the *Moors*—that these two vessels were ordered by the *French* commandant to *quit* the said port, and to *return* to the *Guin trade* with the *Moors*—that your petitioners, who were English merchant vessels, the *Queen's Temple* and the *Industry*, chartered by your 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