

British history have been so ready and willing to concede everything to public opinion, and march with it in any direction to power. When a statesman has arrived at a state wherein his conscience and that of the public are sure to be harmonious, he may be considered fully equipped for modern politics. It appears that he is to abolish tests in all universities, promote the ballot, reduce the army and navy, and disendow the Irish Church—all which are remarkable aims for one who began political life as “the rising hope” of the most uncompromising Tories.—Mr. Bright’s great theme has lately been Retrenchment. He suggested, some time ago, a new political Shibboleth—“a free breakfast table,” that is, free sugar and tea, in addition to the free bread gained about twenty-two years ago; but it does not seem to have made much impression upon the public mind. The common people pay scarcely any taxes in England, and now, which seems rather unfair, they possess the sovereignty.

In foreign politics, things are much more quiet and hopeful. The Greek difficulty has received a peaceable solution. Russia is again plotting in Persia, and the Turks are fighting with their natural allies, the Persians. Russia is the “irrepressible” power in Europe. In the old world of Asia and Europe it is a despotism, while in the new it is a republic. Such movements result from natural laws which are independent of forms of government. Vigorous nations want room. The United States presses upon Mexico, Russia upon Turkey. Garments become too small for growing and vigorous youth.—The Alabama treaty has been a failure. The United States don’t wish the dispute settled. If Britain goes to war with any other nation, they intend to be corsairs.—Grant has announced his policy as retrenchment, and a rigid collection of revenue. He is to summon to his councils those who will aid him in his work, and none other.—The Spanish Cortes has met, and turns out to be in favour of regal government. A strong feeling has sprung up against the priests, on account of the murder of the Governor of Burgos by a Jesuit.

THE Pope’s invitation to the Patriarch of Constantinople, the head of the Greek Church, was treated with great contempt. The Patriarch does not think that any one of the Apostles received grace or authority above the rest.—The Romish organization is now complete in England. The published intention to extend it to Scotland has been departed from. Popery has suffered tremendously during the last few years; and it is proof of its artfulness, that, at this particular time, it makes most noise about its successes.—The perversion of the Marquis of Bute has attracted much attention, and it is a serious matter as regards himself, and, to some extent, our country. It is a pity to see one of our hereditary rulers leaguely himself with those who have been the friends of personal, social, and political darkness. His cousin, the Marquis of Hastings, ruined his body, and he has placed under a cloud of night his soul. Let us hope, however, that he may employ his wealth and powers in a useful and benevolent manner, and falsify our fears.—Some of the Ritualists in England persevere with their candles in spite of the late decision. The mass of them declare that they will hold the doctrines, though they be not allowed to give them expression in their ceremonies. To every one who values true religion, as it is delineated in the Word of God—to every one who believes with the Apostle that “true and undefiled religion before God is to visit the widow and the fatherless, and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world,” it must appear sad to see such a fuss about candles. What a glorious *casus belli*! What a novelty in the way of a principle of “a standing or falling Church!” Could “lighted candles ever be worked up into a theme of rebellion and sacred oratory?” Maconochie now calls the union between Church and State “adultery,” and advocates separation. His plea is, “spiritual independence”—precisely that of the Free Church—between whom and the Puseyites in church politics, there is a close resemblance. He puts the Church above the State.