

Bill, on the Regency Question, on the French Revolution, or on the commencement of the war with the French Republic, which he lived to see.

He seems only to have spoken once after his retirement from office—in opposing a bill for the relief of insolvent debtors; which, according to his narrow views; he considered unjust to creditors and ruinous to trade.¹ But it should be recollected that such notions were then very generally entertained, and that Mr. Burke, by condemning imprisonment for debt, was so far in advance of his age, that he was considered a dangerous innovator, and on this ground chiefly lost his election for the city of Bristol.²

Lord Bathurst spent his last years entirely in the country, and, after a gradual decay, expired at Oakley Grove, near Cirencester, on the 6th day of August, 1794, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. His remains were interred in the family vault there, and a monument to his memory was erected in the parish church, with this simple and touching inscription, which he himself had composed:—

"In Memory of HENRY, EARL BATHURST, Son and Heir of Allen, Earl Bathurst, and Dame Catherine, his wife.

"His ambition was to render himself not unworthy of such Parents."

Although of very moderate capacity, he always acted a consistent and honorable part; and, never having deserted his principles or his party, or engaged in any unworthy intrigue to aggrandize himself, the blame can not rest upon him that he was placed in situations for which he was incompetent.

I hope I shall not be expected to enter into any analysis of his character as a judge, as a statesman, or an orator, for in his mental qualities and accomplishments he is really not to be distinguished from the great mass of worthy men who, when alive, are only known to their families and a small circle of friends, and who are forgotten as soon as the grave has closed over them. He is praised for his temperate and regular habits, and for the dignity and politeness of his manners. In public

¹ 23 Parl. Hist. 1100.

² Even when I was Attorney General, and brought in a bill to abolish imprisonment for debt, I was only able to carry it as to *mesne process*, leaving cases *after judgment* for subsequent legislation.