

throw himself upon the people, pledged to such measures as the people demand, and he would obtain such a triumph as minister never had. The wave that floated him into power in 1841, were but a ripple compared to the swell of popular sentiment that would carry him in safety over rock and quicksands, high upon the firm land. But Sir Robert is not the man to do any thing of this sort. He has neither the proper knowledge of the masses, nor sufficient integrity, to avail himself of the rare opportunity presented to him.

Thus he goes on from day to day, floundering out of one difficulty into another, only to be caught inextricably at last. Meanwhile the friends of Ireland stand by, looking on, ready to bestir themselves at the first prospect of "justice for Ireland."

As evidences of the popular sentiment towards Peel, the subjoined extracts from Journals of every hue in politics, will be read with interest.—*Fretman's Journal*.

POSITION OF SIR ROBERT PEEL.

As the session progresses, the position of Sir Robert Peel becomes more and more equivocal. We have in another article alluded to some of the Premier's sources of embarrassment. There are others, the mortification arising from which cannot be denied. In Ireland, the party which strained every nerve to place him in power, now unequivocally call upon his law officers to resign as unfit for the posts they occupy. In England, the fidelity of the *Post* is shaken. The superior claims of mutton and potatoes to the allegiance of the journal of the aristocracy, have induced it to declare against Sir R. Peel, who, in the opinion of that organ of the Government, is evidently prepared to consummate his treachery to landowners by an early abandonment of protection to corn.

"*Nurquam tuta fides!*" exclaimed Sir E. Knatchbull, when Sir Robert Peel avowed the change which had been effected in his views with respect to Catholic Emancipation. The same reproach, in phraseology less classical, but not less cutting, has been applied by "Conservative Kent" to its idol Knatchbull. His name was received and letter read, and yells and execrations from the enraged hop growers, whose protection Sir Edward Knatchbull had, as a Cabinet minister, consented to take away. "There is a worse devil than Lord John!" was heard the other night in the House of Commons from the lips of the honorable member for Berke. The *Times* is looking out for some yet undiscovered Titan, who can hurl, with the strength of her departed giant, new thunderbolts against Graham. The *Age* sees rising upon the horizon a cloud, though small as a human hand, yet big with premonitions of the coming storm, and warns Sir Robert Peel against perpetrating new perfidies. The *Britannia* vows that "Britons never shall be slaves!" The *Herald* grumbles about Ipswich: and St. James street is vocal from "morn to dewy eve" with abuse of Sir Robert Peel. If you walk under *Boodle's* it meets you there. From the windows of the *Carit*, rights and scunds indica-

live of dislike to the government; his members are slated, for the time, to uphold, are too expressive to be mistaken. The bold invasions of Lord John have been forgotten in the perfidy of the pledge-violating Peel. The much abused Whigs have ceased to wear the laurel of squirearchical suspicion; and in dishonorable disregard of party ties, and ungrateful obliviousness of party services, Peel is all in all! Yet have they been only eight months married; and such a maturity of hatred! Who, between the brief space of September and May, can have caused such fatal alienation? Oxen, and potatoes gone!—Maynooth sustained!—The Poor Laws revived!—Dr. Hampden re-consecrated!—The Irish Law officers in mutiny!—Eliot a copyist of Morpeth!—Aberdeen doing homage to the genius of Palmerston!—Stanley imitating a Russell in the Colonies!—The Premier doing nothing after the manner of Melbourne, with Scotch intrusion!—and Lord Warcliffe, in worse English and less emphatic justice, teaching the Tipperary landlords that he and his servile colleagues, are floundering in the footsteps of the lamented Drummond!

We will not believe that a high spirited people will long endure these open manifestations of disregard to even the semblance of consistency, in the members of the administration. We do not believe that the people of England, ever jealous of their national honor, will much longer consent to be governed by men who are every day convicted by some new act of having obtained their power by false pretences.—*London Globe*.

THE PRIME MINISTER.

If Sir Robert Peel is not simply to be regarded as a great humbug, which it would be painful to think, and disrespectful to predicate of a Prime Minister, he must pretend [after tripping up the Whigs for proposing too much] to do more than he dares as yet distinctly to announce, with his present party behind him. It has even penetrated the obtuseness of the horned cattle interest at his back, that the principles which Sir Robert Peel propounds, take a wider range than the measures which at present he professes to found upon those principles. If, therefore, he is not simply parroting "wise saws" which are no novelties, as they are familiar to every one who has read the books and heard the speeches of the last twenty years, he is laying grounds for ulterior action, and driving piles for future superstructure in a soil which (like those of the Houses of Parliament) would not otherwise bear its weight. This may be so; and we hope it is so; Sir Robert Peel may mean, and we hope that he does mean, to bid high for independent support, and place himself (no matter for how long or short a period—until he has done his work at least) at the head of a sort of third party in the state, careless of the intermediate ascendancy of either one or the other of the ordinary rivals for power. Or Sir Robert Peel, in his general professions of enlarged policy, may be merely exciting expectations, and angling for applause, without any further object than the Machiavellism of the moment—

the sowing division in the opposite ranks—the conciliation of those who "go further" than the propositions of the late ministry, and the obtaining of a cheap advantage in debate, by contrasting skillfully the doctrines of absolute freedom with the limited practical measures of the Whigs, by giving the preference to the unrestricted adoption of free principles, and by thus leading his hearers to forget for the moment that, with all his promising disposition for unlimited liberality, he falls short of Whig practice on the vital point, while seeming to outbid the Whig doctrine.—*London Times*.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S POSITION.

We have said, over and over, that, notwithstanding Sir Robert Peel was carrying all his measures with a high hand and large majorities in the Commons; so far from being over his difficulties, his situation is a very precarious one, and was likely to become more so. He had caused great dissatisfaction and discontent among various sections of his own party—the Agriculturists—the Anti-Free-Trade men—the Anti-Poor Law people, and, not least, the Bigots and Intolerants. The division on Mr. Miles's amendment proclaimed a palpable defection of Ninety-seven Conservatives from their own leader; and were it not that the opposition, to the number of one hundred and sixty-two, fled to the rescue, there was an end to the Peel Administration. In fact there is not a point in the policy of government which has not been assailed within and without the House, while the Rt. Hon. Bart. has been roundly accused of having practised the grossest treachery in attaining his object of putting out the Melbourne Ministry. So fierce is the feeling against him in the Agricultural Counties, and against those Members who have voted with him on the Corn Duties and other matters in which their interest was involved, that if an election were to take place within any near time, it is doubtful whether one half of the present Conservative members would be returned.

As to the press—if it has not altogether abandoned him, it may be said that there is not a single journal which is not, upon some point or other, against him. The *Post* declares that all the principles upon which he has prepared his tariff are "utterly unsound" and that "they will prove destructive to an extent unimagined." The *Times* is reviving the cry against the poor law with great effect, and meetings are held throughout the county denouncing it, and the faithless Tories, who joined in the cry against the Whigs in the late parliament for not consenting to alter it, they themselves, now that they have an opportunity, refusing to do so. The next is the *Herald*, which prophesies confidently, that, such is the inequality, and will be the unjust operation of the income tax, that in one year it must be abandoned, and the minister who proposed it, dismissed at the unanimous call of the country.

In the provinces the feeling of hostility is expressed still stronger than in the Capital. A newly established journal, "the *Leeds Conservative Journal*," has opened

upon the administration for its conduct in respect to the poor law with unexampled bitterness.

Another strong Tory journal, the *Liverpool Mail*, in Tuesday's number, received this morning, after dwelling upon the many mistakes made by Sir Robert Peel—the greatest of which, it says, was his associating himself with Sir Jas. Graham, tells the following tale of Mr. Stuart Wortley's return for Yorkshire in place of Lord Morpeth.

"Under those circumstances, had not every Tory and Conservative in England a right to expect that the next Poor Law Bill would be a very different one from the present, and that the government of Sir Robert Peel would prepare such a measure, founded on Christian principles, as should meet the expectations of all parties? That was the prevailing belief—that was the anxious hope of the nation. The great West Riding of Yorkshire declared itself Conservative on this very point. It never would have discarded Lord Morpeth and returned Mr. Wortley had there not been a strong and overwhelming feeling against the tyrannical Whigs in reference to the Poor Law Bill. But no sooner is Sir Robert Peel's government fairly consolidated, what is proposed? Not a bill having the government seal—not a measure having the sanction of the Cabinet—but a bill prepared by the wily Secretary of the Home Department, which he presents as a House Bill, and calls upon the House to concur in this, or propound some measure of their own, so that the House and not the Government should be held responsible for all its wicked and abominable enactments."

But the mutiny against the ministry is not confined to England. The *Dublin Evening Mail* is in arms against the present Irish Executive, with more bitter hostility than it displayed when Lord Normanby was Viceroy. An organ, however, to which more respect is paid because its opposition is much less influenced by factious views—we mean the *Dublin University Magazine*—is in the same spirit of complaint against the courses of Sir Robert Peel, and exposes very quietly, but certainly very fully, the duplicity which was practised to give him a majority of ninety in the present parliament.

Among other things it says:

"There is now some reason to apprehend that something may happen in the way of breaking up parties, similar to that which happened after the concession of the Roman Catholic claims. It may be that men are voting with the government who cannot well help doing so for the present, but who are nevertheless so much disappointed, not to say disguised, that they will readily avail themselves of a pretext for showing their feeling when an opportunity arises. It cannot be said with truth that any thing like a cordial feeling subsists between the able Conservative minister and the great body of county members by whom he has hitherto been supported."

That the "break up" alluded to in the magazine will take place we think very likely, and as the "pretext" for it already exists, it is not perhaps so remote as may at first be imagined.—*Cork Southern Reporter*, June 3d.