

conferred since Her Majesty's accession. On the 21st day of June, 1837, Queen Victoria, on coming to the throne, found the house of peers composed of about 450 members, exclusive of the spiritual lords and the Scotch and Irish representatives. Her Majesty's first act was to give an English title to the Scottish Duke of Roxburghe, then just of age, by creating him Earl Innes; and to elevate to the earldom of Leicester the late father of the House of Commons and the friend of her royal father, Mr. T. W. Coke, of Holkham, who had often refused the inferior dignity of a baron. At the coronation, in June, 1838, Mr. Ponsonby, the ex-member for Dorsetshire; Mr. Hanbury-Tracy, for Tewkesbury; Sir John Wrottesley, for Staffordshire; and Mr. Paul Methuen, for Wiltshire—all of whom had lost their seats at the previous general election—were advanced to the English baronies of De Mauley, Sudeley, Wrottesley, and Methuen. At the same time, Her Majesty conferred English baronies on the Irish Lords Lismore and Carew, and on the Scottish Earl of Kintore; advancing Lords King and Dundas to the earldoms of Lovelace and Zetland, and the Earl of Mulgrave to the Marquisate of Normanby, and summoning the present Duke of Leeds to the upper house as Lord Osborne. In the course of the same year, the title of Lord Vaux of Harrowden was revived in the person of Mr. G. Mostyn. In the course of the following year, Lord Melbourne elevated to the peerage a "batch" of his own more immediate friends and supporters, including his own brother Frederick, long ambassador at Vienna, who became Lord Beauvale; Colonel Talbot, many years the liberal member for the county of Dublin, as Lord Furnival; Sir John T. Stanley, as Lord Stanley of Alderley; Mr. Villiers Stuart, as Lord Stuart de Decies; Mr. Charles Brownlow, who had long sat for the county of Armagh, as Lord Lurgan; and Mr. Beilby-Thompson, as Lord Wenlock—a title which had for a short time been enjoyed by his brother, the late Sir Francis Lawley; while Mr. A. French, the veteran M.P. for Roscommon, accepted the title of De Freyne. At the same time, in Mr. Chandos Lee, the ancient barony of Leigh was revived; and Mr. Ridley Colborne, who had sat for many years for Wells and other places, became Lord Colborne—the first and the last of that title. In the same year, the late Lord Ponsonby, then ambassador at Constantinople, was promoted to a viscounty, which has since expired with him; Mr. Abercromby, after a four years' tenure of the Speakership, was advanced to the title of Lord Dunfermline; the ancient Camoys title was also revived in the person of Mr. Thomas Stoner, who had sat for Oxford for a few weeks in the first reform parliament. About the same time, Mr. Spring Rice, on resigning the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, became Lord Monteagle of Brandon; Lord Auckland, the Governor General of India, was advanced to an earldom; while the titles of Lord Keane and Lord Seaton were conferred on two general officers, who had seen more than the ordinary share of foreign military service. In 1840, Mr. Miles Stapleton obtained in his favour the revival of the ancient barony of Beaumont; and Sir Jacob Astley, the ex-member for Norfolk, that of Hastings. In 1841, another "batch" of elevations were gazetted just before the retirement of the Melbourne ministry. English baronies were then conferred on the Scotch Earl of Stair and the Irish Earl of Kenmare; while Sir John Campbell became at a leap Lord Campbell and Lord Chancellor of Ireland; Sir Hussey Vivian and Sir Henry Parnell were made respectively Lords Vivian and Congleton; the late Duke of Norfolk and the present Earl of Gosford at the same time being called to the upper house in their fathers' baronies; and Lords Barham and Segrave being advanced to the earldoms of Gainsborough and Fitz Hardinge. Not long afterwards, Mr. Poulett Thompson, then Governor General of Canada, was created Lord Sydenham—but the title, we believe, became extinct within the year. In August, 1841, Lord Melbourne resigned, having conferred no less than forty-two coronets in four years. It is but justice to his successor, the late Sir R. Peel, to state that he discontinued the established practice of conferring the honours of the peerage with a lavish hand. On taking office, he found that there were two gentlemen whose services he required in the upper house. They were the eldest sons of peers, and had long enjoyed seats in the commons. These noblemen Her Majesty was pleased at once to call to the upper house in their fathers' baronies, and they are now the Earls of Derby and Lonsdale. At the same time, the late Lord Hill, the Commander-in-Chief at the Horse Guards, was advanced from a barony to a viscounty. Sir Robert Peel remained in office till the close of the summer of 1846, just five years, but during that time the only other English peerages conferred were the barony of Metcalfe (since extinct) on the late Sir C. T. Metcalfe, the earldom of Ellesmere on Lord Francis Egerton, and the viscounty of Hardinge on Sir Henry Hardinge, besides the advancement of General Gough to a barony, and of Lord Ellenborough to an earldom, for their Indian careers. On their return to office, in September, 1846, the whig party renewed their practice of increasing the peerage. In the five years during which Lord John Russell held office, we find the Earl of Dalhousie advanced to a marquisate, Lords Stratford and Cottenham to earldoms, and Lord Gough to a vis-

county; while the baronies of Dartrey, Milford, Elgin, Clandeboys, Eddisbury, Londesborough, Overstone, Truro, Cranworth, and Broughton, were conferred respectively upon Lord Cremorne, Sir R. B. Philipps, the Earl of Elgin, Lord Dufferin, Mr. E. J. Stanley, Lord Albert Conyngham, Mr. Jones-Loyd, Sir Thomas Wilde, Sir P. M. Rolfe, and Sir John Cam Hobhouse. Mr. Byng, too, was called to the upper house as Lord Stratford. It was the boast of Lord Derby, that during his brief ministry of 1852, he had advised Her Majesty to raise to the peerage three individuals, and three only—Sir Edward Sugden, Lord Fitzroy Somerset, and Sir Stratford Canning, since better known to the world as Lords St. Leonards, Raglan, and Stratford de Redcliffe. Lord Aberdeen did not avail himself of his premiership, from 1852 to 1855, to confer a single peerage on his friends. The first English coronet bestowed by Lord Palmerston was the unhappy life peerage which lit upon the head of Baron Parke, but subsequently exchanged for one with a less questionable title. Since then, Sir Gilbert Heathcote has been made Lord Aveland; Sir E. Lyons, Lord Lyons; Mr. E. Strutt, Lord Belper; and the late Speaker, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, Viscount Eversley. Lords Kenmare and Talbot de Malahide have been honoured with English baronies, and Lord Shelburne has been called to the upper house in his father's barony of Wycombe; and now, last of all, we chronicle the elevation of Lord Robert Grosvenor and Mr. Macaulay to the coronets of English barons.—*Times*.

4. THE HIGHLANDERS AND THE RELIEF OF LUCKNOW.

Scarcely out of Scott's novels can a scene be found more dramatic, touching and picturesque, than that described by a lady, the wife of an officer at Lucknow, in a letter published in the *London Times*.

To give it its due effect, it should be remembered that General Havelock was not an hour too soon in his relief, as the advance of the enemy's batteries and mines had settled the fate of the garrison; and it should be known that in the continual uproar of the cannonade, and the obstructions of military works and buildings, the beleaguered and devoted garrison did not hear nor see anything of the advancing relief until the battle had been fought outside, and the relieving force was marching up to the gates.

"On every side death stared us in the face; no human skill could avert it any longer. We saw the moment approach when we must bid farewell to earth, yet without feeling that unutterable horror which must have been experienced by the unhappy victims of Cawnpore. We were resolved rather to die than to yield, and were fully persuaded that in 24 hours all would be over. The engineers had said so, and all knew the worst. We women strove to encourage each other, and to perform the light duties which had been assigned to us, such as conveying orders to the batteries and supplying the men with provisions, especially cups of coffee, which we prepared day and night.

I had gone out to try and make myself useful, in company with Jessie Brown, the wife of a corporal in my husband's regiment. Poor Jessie had been in a state of restless excitement all through the siege, and had fallen away visibly within the last few days. A constant fever consumed her, and her mind wandered occasionally, especially that day, when the recollections of home seemed present to her. At last overcome with fatigue, she lay down on the ground wrapped up in her plaid. I sat beside her when, as she said, I should awake her when "her father should return from the ploughing." She fell at length into a profound slumber, motionless and apparently breathless, her head resting in my lap. I myself could no longer resist the inclination to sleep, in spite of the continual roar of the cannon. Suddenly I was aroused by a wild unearthly scream close to my ear; my companion stood upright beside me, her arms raised and her head bent forward in the attitude of listening. A look of intense delight broke over her countenance, she grasped my hand, drew me towards her, and exclaimed, 'Dinna ye hear it? dinna ye hear it? Ay, I'm no dreaming, its the slogan o' the Highlanders! We're saved! We're saved!' Then flinging herself on her knees, she thanked God with passionate fervor. I felt utterly bewildered; my English ears heard only the roar of artillery, and I thought my poor Jessie was still raving; but she darted to the batteries, and I heard her cry incessantly to the men, 'Courage! courage! hark to the slogan,—to the Macgregor, the grandest o' them a'. Here's help at last!' To describe the effect of these words upon the soldiers would be impossible. For a moment they ceased firing, and every soul listened in intense anxiety. Gradually, however, there arose a murmur of bitter disappointment, and the wailing of the women who had flocked to the spot burst out anew as the Colonel shook his head. Our dull lowland ears heard nothing but the rattle of the musketry. A few moments more of this death-like suspense, of this agonising hope, and Jessie who had again sunk on the ground sprang to her feet, and cried in a voice so clear and piercing that it was heard along the whole line—'Will ye no believe it noo? The slogan has ceased indeed, but the Campbells