

It is one of the peculiarities of the English Constitution and its primary mainstay, that all the great political changes in the Laws, Fiscal or Elective, are preceded by years of patient, indefatigable and laborious discussion ; hence it is that the body politic is duly prepared for these changes, which at maturity are silently incorporated by Parliament among the institutions of the country.

We have seen this course prevail in a remarkable degree, in the several Constitutional questions of Negro Emancipation, of Catholic Emancipation, and of the Reform Bill ; in each and all of them, adverse interests and prejudices were arrayed and pitted against each other, years previously, with all the tactics and regularity of a Peninsular campaign, until popular rights and human freedom gained the ascendancy, and recorded their victories in the pages of the Statute Book.

The People of England seem to wage the WAR of WORDS and OPINIONS with the same vehemency and indomitable courage they pursued in the Field, by which means their fearless independence of character is preserved, and their confidence in the adaptation of their well tried Institutions, to meet every popular exigency, remains unshaken and unshakeable.

To attempt, in England, to abrogate Statutes, that have passed through this popular ordeal, in order to restore Slavery, Catholic disabilities and limited suffrage, would be a moral, not to say a physical impracticability.