



"JUSTUM, ET TENACEM PROPOSITI VIRUM, NON CIVIUM ARDOR PRAVA JUVENTUTUM, NON VULGUS INSTANTIS TYRANNI MENIE QUAM SOLIDA."

VOLUME III.

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THE BEE

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December 6.

LORD DURHAM.

From that very clever and popular work, 'Random Recollections of the House of Lords,' we have culled the following description of the Earl of Durham, now Governor General of British America. From the avowed Tory politics of the writer, there can be no suspicion of partiality in favour of the noble Earl.—*Kingston Whig.*

LORD DURHAM is the great and only hope of the movement party. They look forward with confidence to his accession, at no distant day, to the Premiership, and associate with this anticipated event, the political regeneration of the country. His personal appearance and manners are by no means of that kind which one usually pictures out in his mind when endeavouring to form a conception of the genuine Radical. With the "Radicals of the right sort"—I use their own phraseology—one always associates a certain rudeness of manner and a boldness approaching to ferocity of countenance. Lord Durham has neither of these qualities. His countenance has a pleasing, conciliatory, modest expression. There is something indeed feminine in it. You would fancy he was so timid as not to be able to muster courage enough to open his mouth in public; and nothing can be more gentlemanly than his demeanor. He is a good looking man; of dark complexion, and of small and regular features. His eyes assimilate to the deep blue; they are small, but piercing. His eye lashes are prominent, from the jet black colour of his hair. His face is something between the round and oval form. He is of the middle height, and is handsomely formed.

His Lordship's political opinions are of the most liberal and uncompromising kind. I question if there be a member of the Upper House—with the single exception, perhaps, of Lord Radnor—who carries his liberalism to the same extreme.

He had declared himself for household suffrage, triennial Parliaments,* and the vote by ballot. There is not perhaps a single member of either party in the House, whose public life has been more straight forward and consistent throughout. On no occasion has he deviated from the principles with which he committed himself when he appeared, in his twenty-first or twenty-second year, in the House of Commons, as Mr J. George Lambton, and his conduct has always been in accordance with his principles. He has uniformly supported by his votes the opinions which he has maintained in his speeches. He holds there ought to be no such principle in politics as expediency, and disclaims all sympathy with those who recognise that principle. He maintains that whatever is deemed right ought to be done without regard to circumstances or consequences. He is on the liberal side what the dukes of Newcastle and others are on the Tory side,—denouncing all trimming, and contending that his principles ought at once to be carried into full effect.

Without deserving to be regarded as a man of genius, his talents are undoubtedly of a high order. If you look in vain in his speeches for that brilliant eloquence which carries you away with him, as if spell-bound, wherever he chooses to conduct you,—you will never fail to be delighted with him. He is always

* It is understood the noble Lord would prefer annual Parliaments, though he thinks triennial, with household suffrage, and the vote by ballot, would secure cheap and good government.

eloquent in a high, though not the highest, degree. He never becomes dull or heavy; he cannot make a bad speech; at least he never yet has done so. He is, perhaps, one of the most equal men in the matter of his speeches, in either house. Lord Brougham and other distinguished members often make splendid speeches, but then they are comparatively dull on other occasions. Lord Durham scarcely ever varies either way to any perceptible extent, except where the subject of necessity precludes the possibility of an effective speech. Whenever he rises, if the subject will admit of it, you may rest assured you will hear a speech of superior ability, and of considerable eloquence. His matter is always argumentative. I am not sure if there be a more powerful reasoner, taking his speeches on the whole, on either side of the house. He deals little in generalities, and scarcely ever utters a declamatory sentence. With one or two introductory observations, he dashes into the midst of his subject, and at once proceeds, if his speech be not in reply to some opponent, to establish by a course of logical reasoning, some position which he had indicated in the first two or three sentences. If speaking in reply, which he generally does, he loses no time in proceeding to the principal argument of his adversary, with which he grapples with a boldness and success not often to be witnessed. He is a formidable opponent: very few on the opposite side encounter him, if they can help it. Not that they apprehend any thing in the shape of personalities—for in these he does not indulge—but simply because they know he is likely to cause the speeches on which they may have prided themselves and which might otherwise have passed off for happy efforts, to cut a sorry figure,—by the mere force of argument. Of late, however, the Opposition may be said to have had it all their own way in as far as relates to his Lordship. For the last three Sessions he has only made one or two speeches worthy of the name. His absence from the country in the service of his Sovereign, and a depression of spirits, with impaired bodily health, caused in a great measure by family calamities,—have conjointly had the effect of excluding him almost entirely for the last three years. At present there is little prospect of his being in his place in Parliament during the present Session.

His style, though by no means remarkable for its force, is any thing but feeble: It is correct and perspicuous, and has that sort of energy which arises from the ideas rather than from peculiarity in the construction of his sentences. It is always clear: you are never at a loss for a moment to perceive the object the speaker has in view; nor can you fail to see the means which appear to him most likely to accomplish it. Every argument he uses is felt by you in all its cogency; and not only do you perceive the force of the argument itself, but you cannot withhold from him your admiration of the way in which he has enforced it.

His extemporaneous resources are ample, and he trusts entirely to them, except in those cases in which the duty may devolve on him of introducing a measure embracing various details and involving some important principle. In that case he takes, as almost all members of either house do, notes of the leading points to which he means to advert in the course of his speech. It is only in these cases, and to this ex-