WHAT WILL BE DONE

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SECOND EDITION.

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LONDON:
JAMES RIDGWAY, PICCADILLY.

M.DCCC.XXXI.
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The question, "What will the Lords do?" so lately in everybody's mouth, has been answered in a way, which cannot fail to excite apprehensions and dark forebodings of the future, in the breast of every one, who feels an interest in the prosperity and tranquillity of England. The Lords have dashed the cup of expectation from the people's lips, and have interposed between them and their long-sought rights. They have said to the King, the Ministers, the House of Commons, and the Country, who all approached them as suppliants, with one united feeling; "You shall not have what you wish—you shall not be indulged in your views of getting rid of old corruptions, and old abuses. We, a narrow majority of the
Peers of England, will stem the tide of Reform!" The collision is an awful one—the odds are fearful! It is the few, against the many!—it is the "Eleven, against all England," of the Cricketers. Under such circumstances, the eventual result of the contest cannot be doubtful. Though the Eleven may struggle, and thus increase their own dangers and difficulties, they must, in the end, be beaten.

But another question is now asked. It is no longer, "What will the Lords do?" but "What will be done with the Lords?" It is to this latter question that we must now apply ourselves; and a more important one, or one involving more serious considerations and consequences, never was discussed in our days.

With regard to the past conduct of the Lords, though we must deplore it, we must admit that some excuse, (not a sufficient one, indeed,) but that some excuse may be found for it. The majority of the Lords were afraid of being thought to be afraid. This is, perhaps, the most dangerous of all kinds of fear; because it leads people, more than any other, to rush blindly upon rash and dangerous resolutions. But it is not an unnatural fear, for men of high spirit, and who have been accustomed, till now, to have things pretty much their own way.

In public, or in private life, there are few
animals so little contradicted as British Peers. Hence, they naturally cannot brook contradiction. Other men work their way onward in the world, through crosses of various kinds; but this is not the case with the English Peer. Born, for the most part, to an ample fortune—the hope of his family—the idol of his parents—nurtured in aristocratic prejudices, and trained in all the foolish vanities of high and ancient blood—and then ushered into that polite assembly, the House of Lords, he passes through life without contradiction—and hence arrives, in his old age, at a degree of obstinacy and inveteracy of prejudice, to which the meaner sons of earth cannot aspire. Unless contradicted by his wife, which, fortunately, sometimes happens, the British Peer sinks into his grave, uncrossed, and unthwarted.

That men so educated, and so circumstanced, should entertain, with willingness, ideas of change, is impossible. Even that true, and forcible, and naturally expressed argument of Lord Radnor, when he said, "that those who remained obstinately stationary, while everything else was changing and improving around them, would still continue the same poor foolish creatures as ever!" failed of its effect on the persons, to whom it was more peculiarly addressed; though the truth of the sentiment, and of its
application, is universally acknowledged by the rest of the world. Is it, then, we would ask, surprising, that when a proposition was made to the Peers, to surrender their nomination Boroughs, and to reform the system, which, whatever it had done for others, had worked so well for them, they should have met the proposal with horror, mingled with contempt?

With these feelings, were doubtless, also, joined others, of a higher nature;—that of shewing they did not regard clamour out of doors—that of preserving their own Anti-Reform consistency. And yet this could hardly be supposed to weigh much with persons, who acknowledge the Duke of Wellington as their leader! There are various other reasons, which conspired to induce a majority of the Temporal Peers, to come to the deplorable result of rejecting the Reform Bill.

With regard to the Bishops,—

"Those reverend Prelates, robed in sleeves of lawn,
Too meek to murmur, and too proud to fawn;
Who still subservient to their Maker's nod,
Adore their Sovereign, and respect their God;
And wait, good men! all worldly things forgot,
In humble hope of Enoch's happy lot—"*  

* The Rolliad.
—Their motive cannot be doubtful. They hoped, as the Chancellor (notoriously no enemy of the Right Reverend Bench) happily expressed it, "To trip up the Government." "Verily they have their reward;" for, by the common consent of all men, their doom seems sealed—at least, so far as political power is concerned. How soon they will be bowed out of the House of Lords, no man can say; but that, "to this complexion, they must come at last," appears no longer dubious. To waste time or argument upon them, or their votes, would be, therefore, superfluous. Let us only hope, in the meanwhile, that the fate of Enoch may no longer await those, at least, among them, who preferred a factious vote, to timely concession to the unanimously-expressed wishes of their fellow-countrymen.

To return to the Temporal Peers, we again repeat, that excuses may be found for their conduct. They have, undoubtedly, given proof of their courage—they have preserved their own consistency. They have done so at the risk of some peril to themselves, and of much to the public weal. But the people of England, confiding in their King, in their Ministers, and in their Representatives, have borne the conduct of the Lords with more patience than was expected. They are orderly—they are resigned; because they feel, to use the old French pro-
verb, that, "ce qui est différé n’est pas perdu." It is this, and this alone, which restrains them from louder, and more stormy expressions of their zeal for Reform.

But let not any Anti-reforming Peer be, therefore, so deluded, as to imagine, that this calmness of the people proceeds from indifference. There are interested persons, there are Tory Newspapers, (it is just possible to speak in the plural,) that will tell him so; but if he will only use his own eyes and ears, he will be enabled to perceive the utter fallacy of these statements. He will hear the "curses, not loud, but deep," which, from one end of the country to the other, are muttered against those, who wish to withhold their rights from the great body of the population. He will see, that it is the conviction—the intimate conviction, of the certainty of success for the popular cause, which has thus far kept within due bounds, the anxiety of the country upon the subject. Nay, he will see, that so great is this anxiety, that, for one little moment, it almost made the people distrust their favourite Ministers, because they asked for the respite of a few weeks, from the fatigues of Parliament, to recruit their bodily strength, exhausted by a Session of unparalleled length and labour.

It is true, the people are encouraged to their suspicions, which they have now shaken off,
by men, who are either Anti-Reformers in disguise—or, at all events, clearly no friends to Reform. These persons endeavour to incite them to treat the Government in the most unfair and captious manner. That the open enemies of Reform should attack all that the reforming Ministers did, and ascribe their actions to the worst motives, was natural, and no one had any right to complain of it. But far, very far, less candour has been shewn by some, who professed to be Reformers, towards a reforming Ministry, than by their adversaries. The folly, the madness of such conduct, is obvious. It is treachery and division in an army, which is in sight of its enemy. It is "a House divided against itself"—and which, we are informed, on the highest authority, "cannot stand!"

For the first time, in the history of England, we have a Ministry, staking its very existence upon the question of Reform. What has been the return of the persons, we have alluded to, to the Government? They have given it credit for no one good quality; they have attacked it, whenever they had the least opportunity. Every thing, that might, by the most strained interpretation, make against it, was taken up. They never even abstained from abusing it, unless when its good intentions were crowned
with complete success. All failures were ascribed to it; all things, not demonstrating in its favour, were combined against it. Such was the conduct of certain obscure and disreputable individuals at the Hull Meeting, and at one or two other places. But the enlightened part of the English population has seen through these foolish and mischievous sophistries, and the delusion is now completely at an end. We only, therefore, mention the subject, to warn them against falling into similar errors in future, as well as to prove to the anti-reforming sceptic, how all-powerful is the reform feeling among the people of this country.

Away then with the fable of re-action. Let not the Peers trust to this—or, like a broken reed, it will pierce them. But let them weigh and consider, what now remains for them, as good legislators, and good citizens, to do; and, in so doing, let them ever bear in mind, that, to use a school phrase, "they have had their first fault," and that the country will not tamely brook the commission of a second.

The Peers have, as we before observed, given proofs of boldness—they have, also, vindicated their consistency; and they can, therefore, now the better afford, to concede something to the wishes of their countrymen. In asserting these their undoubted privileges, they
have, for the moment, estranged from them the feelings and sympathies of the many; who are inclined to consider them (since their vote) as composing a caste apart from them, and possessed of different interests, and different views. Now is the time, by a well-judged and prudent alteration in their course, to recover their lost station, and to place themselves again by the side of the people, and at their head, instead of continuing to meet them in battle array with unequal forces. Such a conduct would be worthy of the position, which the Peers of England have ever held in the history of their country; and which we trust, for their own selves, as well as for ours, they will, in future, again hold. But let them walk warily; another false step would plunge them "deep into the mire and clay, where no footing is."

It is undoubtedly our confident expectation, as well as our earnest hope, that the Peers, that is a majority of them, will act in the way we have pointed out. But as it is always possible, we trust not probable, that they may hold a contrary course, it is necessary that we should take a view, of what would be likely to occur, if they did so. For then would be asked, but in a very different tone, from the
one, in which we ask it—"What will be done with the Lords?"

And here we must beg those, who do us the honour to read these pages, not to be led away from the fair consideration of our arguments and views, by the senseless cry of intimidation. Nothing is so easy as to raise a cry of that sort—and to say, "You wish to frighten us, but we will not be bullied—we will not alter our course on account of your threats," &c. And why is it so easy to raise a plausible cry of this kind? Simply, because it may equally be raised, against all arguments and reasonings of a dissuasive kind. For what are the arguments by which any man is prevented (if he be prevented) from doing a foolish or a wrong thing, but intimidation? All dissuasives resolve themselves into this—either his intended course will do him harm physically, or morally. And how do his friends dissuade him from it? Why, by explaining to him the consequences of it—by frightening him—by shewing the precipice on which he stands—and by warning him against it. All debate, also, in the Houses of Parliament, where the Speakers wish to dissuade from an intended course of proceeding, is intimidation. Nay, what are the arguments and invectives
of the Anti-Reformers themselves, but intimidation; "Revolution, anarchy, subversion, mob-government," &c., "dance," to use the expression of Junius, "through their periods in all the mazes of metaphorical confusion."

It is, therefore, surely ridiculously unjust, to make it a ground of complaint against the Reformers, that they endeavour to intimidate their opponents, by representing to them the consequences of their blind and prejudiced conduct—when every other dissuasive reasoner, in public, and in private—within the walls of Parliament, and without them—and on every given subject, is pursuing exactly the same course.

"My dear Sir," said Johnson to Boswell, "clear your mind of cant"—and we re-echo the sentiment—and entreat persons, who interest themselves upon these matters, to clear their minds of the cant of intimidation, which will only blind their eyes, and obscure their understandings.

We, therefore, now come again to the question, "What will be done with the Lords?" And in answering it, we will first endeavour to state, what, if they continue refractory, will probably be done with them, by the Government of the country—and, secondly, by the country itself. If the House of Lords
manifest an intention of again rejecting the Reform Bill, it is quite clear that the Ministers must create a large batch of Peers. The evils of such a proceeding are manifest; but they are as dust in the balance, compared with the evils, which would result from any further delay in the passing of that great measure. If the Peers, therefore, are obstinate, and shew a continued determination to reject it, a creation of Peers is the only method left for the Government, to enable them to carry, to a successful conclusion, the Bill, upon which the tranquillity, the happiness, almost the existence of the country depend.

The creation of Peers then becomes not only a justifiable act, but an imperative duty upon the Government; and if the House of Lords dislike being sluiced with fifty or a hundred new ones, they must remember that it is their own conduct, which has brought it upon them. That such a creation would materially damage the House of Lords; that it would lower it greatly in public estimation; that it would render it so numerous, as probably, eventually, to necessitate the choosing of a representative body out of it, for the purposes of legislation; who can doubt? Nay, such a creation might almost occasion the extinction of the House of Lords, as one of the estates of the realm. But, let it
be ever borne in mind, that if such a measure must be resorted to, it is the Peers themselves, who are the cause of it.

They can no longer plead in excuse for their resistance, that the feeling of the country in favour of Reform, is a passing excitement—they can no longer, with any pretence, even of firmness, resist the wishes of the nation—such tyranny would be insupportable. For it never could have been intended, that one rank of the State should be suffered to domineer over all the rest, and to act against their united wishes. If such a proceeding were endured, there would be an end of the balance and equipoise of the different powers of the realm, of which we hear so much. A small majority of one branch of the Legislature would be enabled, “for ever and a day,” to defeat the good intentions and the high resolves of the other two.

It becomes, in truth, a question, whether or not the Constitution has not already received a most serious shock. But that it would be utterly at an end, were the whole country, with their whole present Representatives, to yield up their opinions and their wishes, upon the most important of questions, to a narrow majority of the Peers—not, in fact, to the Aristocracy at large, but to the Peers made by Mr. Pitt, and Lord Liverpool,* is perfectly clear.

* Of these, 113 divided in the Majority!
Let any man calmly reflect on this, and he will see the absolute necessity of the King and the Country having some resource against such an overthrow of the Constitution. Are those Lords, who cannot be changed—who cannot go back to any constituents—who are for life, and hereditary too—are they, a handful of the State, with 28 or 30 Bishops, to dictate or domineer among us? What right have they to humour their caprices at our expense? Mr. Pitt himself, in 1789, distinctly admitted, that the Constitution gave the Crown the power of making Peers, expressly to frustrate such designs as this; and never was such a case for exercising that power as now exists.

There are, also, in addition to the inconveniences we have mentioned, other difficulties of no slight kind, which must attend a numerous creation of Peers. In the first place the question arises, how many should the batch consist of? It is quite clear that more would be wanted, than at first sight might be imagined. You must, of course, make assurance doubly sure as to numbers, when you are once about it—and you must allow for the defection of some of your present supporters, who might, perhaps, think more of the interests of their particular body, than of the country. But there is yet a greater difficulty than this, and
that is, where to find your new Peers? Would you deprive the House of Commons of all the wealth, and all the talent it possesses? Yet, you must do so in a great degree, if you are to call from it some fifty or a hundred new Peers.

And these considerations, by the way, should restrain those who clamour against Ministers, because they have not already created Peers enough, to carry the Reform question by force. They must see, if they will attend to our arguments, that the creation of Peers upon such an occasion, is no light matter, either from the difficulties attending it, or the consequences that may result from it. It is only to be resorted to as a last resource, and when all means of persuasion have failed. If the Lords are again obdurate—then ought this to be their fate: for all these evils which we have enumerated, and they are certainly evils of great magnitude, sink into insignificance, when compared with those that would result, from the continued and successful resistance of one branch of the Legislature to the Reform Bill.

An acute Scotchman said, at a late meeting, "The Peers cannot do without the people, but the people can do without the Peers;" and the saying has spread, and has become popular, as all sayings, which are founded on truth, will. The question then, with regard even to the
Peers themselves, lies between the lowering the respectability, and impairing the position of the House of Peers, by a numerous creation; or their probable annihilation from the indignation of their countrymen, which might draw along with it the ruin of our Constitution, and the actual dissolution of the whole frame of society. Between such disproportionate inconveniences and evils, it is impossible to hesitate.

This last consideration naturally leads us to the second part of our question—namely, What will be done with the Lords, by the Country? always supposing, that they continue at issue with them upon the great question of Reform. We answer, the Country will endeavour to break their yoke from off their necks. How they will do this, remains in the womb of time; but it may, at least, be permitted to hazard conjectures, as to the line they will probably pursue, in furtherance of this object. In the first place, they will probably endeavour to upset them collectively—and in the second, they will undoubtedly endeavour to annoy them individually as much as possible.

The state of discomfort and even of danger, to which the Tories are reducing themselves by their insane conduct, is very remarkable; and may be taken, both by themselves and others, as a slight, a very slight earnest of what awaits
them, if they persevere in their ill-judged course. Already has the public feeling, respecting them, been so strongly declared, that they are obliged to live in barricaded houses, and to walk about, defended by troops of Police.

Like the feudal banditti of other times, their habitations are become fortresses. In the middle ages at Rome, the Colonna's, the Orsini, the Frangipani, &c. had each their castle in the midst of the city—one fortified the top of the arch of Titus—another that of Janus Quadri- frons. It was the same thing at Paris during the civil wars; but since those days, we are not aware that any capital has exhibited such a spectacle, as is now to be witnessed in the outward appearance of the houses of the principal Anti-Reformers. The Duke of Wellington's mansion, Apsley House, is boarded up on all sides—so is Mr. Alexander Baring's—as for His Highness of Gloucester's, it is an absolute fortification—every chink and cranny is boarded over, while the spikes and chevaux de frises on the wall towards Piccadilly, give it quite the appearance of a fortified position. Lord Wharncliffe, we are informed, is strongly entrenched in Curzon Street; and Lord Londonderry, who prefers fortifying his person to his house, as we know, carries, and threatens to
fire loaded pistols; while that temple of the winds, his habitation, exhibits all the marks of popular fury.

Then, when they stir out of these feudal castles, the Anti-Reformers are forced to be escorted by bands, either of soldiers or policemen. With the assistance of the latter, His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland was so fortunate as to get down to the House of Lords; but poor Lord Londonderry was driven back by a shower of missiles; and had the Noble Lord been hit any where but on the head, the blow might have had serious consequences.

But if the Anti-Reformer leaves London, and seeks the rural shades of his country seat, is his condition there the more gracious.—On his journey he is groaned at and pelted in every market town, where he is known (e.g. Lord Tankerville at Darlington, Lord Bute at Banbury, Lord Londonderry at Thirsk); and when he arrives, at length, at his own domain, he is only enabled to take and keep possession of it, by means of troops of Yeomanry, and Special Constables. See the account in all the newspapers, of the manner, in which the Duke of Newcastle is about to keep his Christmas at Clumber. Four hundred Yeomanry partaking of his hospitality, and eating him out of house
and home—cannon planted round the house—
videttes all about the Park, to take up sus-
picious characters, &c.

We have hardly done wondering at this state
of things, when our attention is called to another
part of the newspaper, where we find, that two
troops of Dragoons have been ordered to be in
readiness, to escort Sir Charles Wetherell into
Bristol, to discharge the duties of Recorder of
that City. The following days bring the ac-
counts of the frightful riots, occasioned by the
presence of the anti-reforming Knight. The
records of his calamitous visit to that city, are,
indeed, written in blood and flame. Nor can
we help remarking, that he might as well have
avoided going to a place, where he must have
been aware, (for we believe he was duly
warned of the consequences) his presence was
likely to cause bloodshed and tumult. But
we think, if we remember right, Sir Charles
was one of the loudest in his prophecies, with
regard to the anarchy and confusion, which the
excitement upon Reform was sure to cause.
And as he found the people of England were,
on the contrary, very patient and long suffering,
he, perhaps, wished to assist in furthering the
accomplishment of his own predictions.

It is said, that he also considered himself in
the light of a martyr; and gloried, before
hand, in the sufferings he was about to undergo. If this were so, he appears to have thought better of it, when the danger was really imminent. For his sudden retreat from Bristol, in the very midst of the riots he had occasioned, remind us of that of Jean Bon St. André, in Lord Howe's battle, as celebrated in the Anti-Jacobin:

"Good John was a gallant Captain,
In battles much delighting;
He fled full soon
On the first of June,
But he bade the rest keep fighting!"

It is evident, from all these things, that the prophecy of the ingenious author of "Mr. Dyson's Speech to the Freeholders" is on the eve of fulfilment; where he says, that if the Reform Bill does not pass, the Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel, &c., will have to pass their lives in hollow squares of troops—happy, if even these, their hired defenders, do not fail them in their need.

In laying before the eyes of the Anti-reforming Peers this picture of their present state, we beg them to remember, that it is probably only the beginning of troubles. That a second rejection of the Reform Bill will render the people almost desperate; that then, perhaps, even
their fortresses, and their soldiers, and their police, will hardly defend them; and we beseech them, when they ponder on these things, to reflect what peril they are bringing on themselves individually, and on their families, by a continuance of their rash and violent proceedings. Thus far the people have, for the most part, contented themselves with hissing, and groaning, and breaking windows, and burning in effigy—perhaps considering, with regard to the latter proceeding, like Frederic the Great, "Que les copies ne valent pas mieux que les originaux." But will they continue so moderate under a fresh disappointment?—We fear not.

But even if the Peers were so fortunate, as to escape individually the wrath of their countrymen—how can they politically and collectively expect to bear up against it? If the Peers continue to resist the changes, which the rest of the nation so loudly demand, it is quite clear that the people will call to mind the apothegm of Mr. Gibson Craig, that "the people can do without the Peers." That the House of Lords is an essential part of the Constitution, and one of the three estates of the realm; and that, therefore, their annihilation would be a great, and perhaps irreparable calamity, is certain. But will the many think so, when they are goaded almost to madness, by
the pertinacious obstinacy and resistance of that body; and when they find their wishes—wishes, too, sanctioned by the approval of the King, his Ministers, and the House of Commons,—crossed and defeated only by them? It is absurd to suppose that they will then stop to weigh with nicety abstruse constitutional questions. They will consider the Aristocracy as their enemies; and so considering, they will use the means they possess—and these means, if they once know them, and bring them into action, are means of terrific power,—to be rid of them. It will then be in vain, that the moderate of all parties, will strive to arrest the torrent of popular indignation and popular vengeance.

Deeply shall we deplore that day, if it do come; and anxiously would we endeavour, were it in our power, to avert it. But that power rests not with us—it rests with the Peers themselves; and we implore them, if they value their honours, their stations, and the good of their country, to hesitate, before they again venture to dash the cup of promise, from the lips of an expecting people. Another vote similar to the one they have already given, may render conciliation too late, and concession useless.

Let them pause, then, e’re they give it—and let them take counsel upon the subject, of their
own excellent understandings; and not of a few factious men, who, untaught by the past and reckless of the future, are only anxious to see themselves again in place. These persons, whose whole souls are in the offices they have lost, (we hope we may say irrecoverably lost,) believe, or affect to believe, that the present struggle, like the many that took place during the last century, is merely a contest between the two parties of Whig and Tory. Let them disabuse themselves, before it be too late, of this vain delusion. It is not now a question between two factions; but between the people and the Boroughmongers—between a nation seeking its rights, and the few who wish to withhold those rights from them.

Again, there are others among the Anti-Reformers, who go into the other extreme—who profess to expect, that revolution and anarchy will be the consequences of the perilous contest they are waging with the country—and who are ready, nay anxious for these calamities, if, by their means, they can get rid of the present Ministry and the present Reform Bill. It is said of the Great Captain, we know not whether truly, that his remark upon the state of things is, "We must come to a fight; and therefore the sooner we do so, the better." But all these are but the wild incoherencies of mortified vanity.
and frustrated ambition. They speak for themselves, and will deceive nobody; and it is not therefore necessary or adviseable, to waste time in confuting them, or in warning others against them. Besides, it is a truly remarkable thing, and worth the attention of the conscientious Anti-reforming Peers, that the Duke has ended by advertising himself as ready to bring in a Reform Bill, if he can only once more get into place. We believe no considerable man’s friends ever held down their heads more than did the Duke’s, upon hearing this most wonderful declaration. It really exceeded all belief, and shows how sweet a thing office must be when lost!

And here we would fain call the attention of the Anti-reforming Peers to a higher subject than themselves—we mean the country, and the state to which they are themselves bringing it by their conduct. For if dangers and difficulties arise, they may rest assured, that it is in a great measure their rancorous opposition to the wishes of their countrymen, that has caused them. What they are heaping upon their own devoted heads, we have endeavoured to lay before them—or, in other words, to explain to them, what will probably be done with them.

The possible fate of the country is a more serious matter—and what is the most serious
part of it is, that that fate would appear, in a considerable degree, to depend on the Anti-Reformers. That the 199 Anti-reforming Peers are powerless to do good, except by resigning themselves to the Bill, and allowing it to pass, is evident; but though powerless to a good purpose, they may be powerful to a bad one: like the evil Genii of the fairy tales, whose attributes restrained them from conferring benefits, but left them free to work mischief.—Their ill-timed resistance may kindle a flame in the nation, which no wisdom can quench.—The prolonged struggle occasioned by them, may irritate the people against all rule.—They may excite universal discontent, and even widespread rebellion; and if the latter, once excited, were successful, the whole frame of government might be destroyed, and the very elements of society be again resolved into chaos—And all by their means. They may think this picture an overcharged one—we fear it is not so.

Already, had they almost driven the people into a resolution not to pay Taxes; and from such a determination, (against which, if generally taken, there can be no remedy,) there is but one step to universal anarchy. The people, as it is, have been led to form political unions; and were on the eve of turning themselves into National Guards. The first of those insti-
tutions, if carried to their full extent, would take the trouble of governing the country out of the hands of the Executive; and the latter would terrify into obedience those, who seemed disposed to resist such a tremendous tyranny. These are, indeed, the natural consequences of a prolonged struggle between a portion of the Higher Orders, and the whole of the lower and middling classes. The latter are indignant at being thwarted by a miserable Oligarchy—by a handful of pensioners; they throw the blame indiscriminately upon all those, who are above them, and determine at once to take the government into their own hands.

Thus far the unparalleled good sense of the people of England has preserved us from the greater portion of the evils, of which we have here presented a slight sketch. But we are evidently upon the brink of them. Another disappointment on the part of the people, will probably urge us involuntarily upon them. We trust the Anti-Reformers have led us and themselves to the point, where we all now stand, in ignorance of the danger of the course they are pursuing. We trust so, we say; and yet Sir Charles Wetherell's volunteer excitement of the people of Bristol, (for he might have avoided going there—and he went there, knowing and anticipating what was to hap-
pen)—and Mr. George Dawson's inflammatory Speech to the Sussex Meeting, do not look like it.* But these, it may be said, are political adventurers. The Anti-reforming Peers, who have a station in society, who have fortunes to lose, and honours to forfeit, cannot mean to bring their country into a condition, which must so peculiarly endanger all that they themselves hold most dear. And it is from the conviction of their ignorance of the course they are running, that we have ventured to address this warning to them. We do it in sincere good will towards them, and in the hope, by saving them, of benefiting ourselves.

In conclusion, we would remark, that Parliament is about, very soon, to re-assemble; and that upon the result of its deliberations hangs the fate of the nation—to a degree, which has not occurred since the meeting of the Convention Parliament in 1689, by whose labours our liberties and religion were secured

* The article in the last number of the Quarterly Review, upon the orders issued by the Privy Council, on the subject of Cholera, would seem to be written with a similar intention—namely, to disorganize the people, by giving them exaggerated fears of the malady—and by making them suspicious of their rulers, and of the measures adopted by them for the common security.
to us. The House of Commons has already ranged itself upon the side of the people, which is also the side of good government; we trust, the hitherto recusant Lords will do the same. Whether, however, they do, or not, of this let them rest assured, that the people will have Reform. We say this not in the language or spirit of intimidation; but we announce it as a fact—of which, we think, even the most blinded and bigotted of the opponents of Reform must be, by this time, aware. If the Lords make the concession with a good grace, so much the better for them, and for the peace and prosperity of the country; if they continue to resist, we fear the calamities we have announced in the preceding pages, are inevitable. We shall still, however, pray earnestly that they may be averted; and we shall, at all events, feel, that we have done our duty in giving warning of them beforehand, and shewing how they might be avoided; though, Cassandra-like, our predictions may not have been attended to, till they are, unfortunately, verified.