

House of Lords the best court to bring such miscreants before, as it can fine as well as imprison, and has broader shoulders to support the odium of so salutary a measure?"

On the 18th of March, the deputy-serjeant-at-arms was desired by the Speaker to give an account of the transactions in the City. It was then moved that Brass Crosby, esq., lord mayor, and a member of parliament, should attend in his place the next day. The lord mayor although he was ill, came amidst the huzzas of a crowd that echoed through the House. He was permitted to sit whilst defending his conduct; and then he desired to go home, having been in his bed-chamber sixteen or seventeen days. The lord mayor was allowed to retire. Charles Fox said "there are two other criminals, alderman Oliver and alderman Wilkes," for which expression "criminals," he was gently reproved by Wedderburn, who had become solicitor-general. Alderman Oliver was then ordered to attend in his place. Wilkes had written a letter to declare that he was the lawful member for Middlesex, and would only appear in the House as a member. Mr. Calcraft writes to lord Chatham, "The ministers avow Wilkes too dangerous to meddle with. He is to do what he pleases; we are to submit. So his majesty orders; he will have 'nothing more to do with that devil Wilkes.'"* On the 25th of March the lord mayor and alderman Oliver were in their places. In the course of the debate upon a proposal to commit them to the Tower, members came in, and reported that they had been insulted on their way to the House. The magistrates of Westminster were called, and were ordered to disperse the mob. The debate proceeded. The lord mayor being again permitted to withdraw, said he should submit himself to whatever the House should do. The populace took the horses from his coach, and drew him in triumph to the Mansion House. After a sitting of nine hours, a motion for adjournment was rejected. When the Speaker asked alderman Oliver what he had to say in his defence, he replied—"I know the punishment I am to receive is determined upon. I have nothing to say, neither in my own defence, nor in defence of the city of London. Do what you please. I defy you." †

Before the motion for committing alderman Oliver to the Tower was carried, colonel Barré left the House, followed by Dunning, and about a dozen other members. He wrote to Chatham, "I spoke to this question about five minutes only, but I believe with great violence." To the Tower was Oliver conducted quietly at

* "Chatham Correspondence," vol. iv. p. 143.

† "Cavendish Debates," vol. ii. p. 461.

seven o'clock on the morning of the 27th. On that day the lord mayor again came to the House to attend in his place. A tremendous riot ensued. Mr. Calcraft described the scene to lord Chatham: "The concourse of people who attended the lord mayor is incredible. They seized lord North, broke his chariot, had got him amongst them, and but for sir William Meredith's interfering, would probably have demolished him. This, with the insults to other members, caused an adjournment of business for some hours. The justice came to the bar to declare they could not read the Riot Act, and that their constables were overpowered. The sheriffs were then called upon: they went into the crowd, attended by many members, and quieted them by five o'clock; when we proceeded on business." Upon the resumption of the debate lord North displayed his anxiety by his tears, and his courage by his words. "I certainly did not come into office at my own desire. Had I my own wish, I would have quitted it a hundred times. My love of ease and retirement urged me to it; but as to my resignation now, look at the situation of the country; look at the transactions of this day, and then say whether it would be possible for any man with a grain of spirit, with a grain of sense, with the least love for his country, to think of withdrawing from the service of his king and his country. . . . There are but two ways in which I can go out now—by the will of my sovereign, which I shall be ready to obey; or the pleasure of the gentlemen now at our doors, when they shall be able to do a little more than they have done this day."*

The lord mayor and alderman Oliver remained prisoners in the Tower, till the Parliament was prorogued on the 8th of May. A prorogation suspends the power under which the privilege of committal is exercised. The House wisely resolved not to renew the perilous dispute with the City in the ensuing session. With equal wisdom the printers of the debates were no more threatened or arrested. On the 1st of May, Chatham told the Peers some wholesome truths, on the subject of the publication of parliamentary proceedings. The dissatisfaction of the people "had made them uncommonly attentive to the proceedings of Parliament. Hence the publication of the parliamentary debates. And where was the injury, if the members acted upon honest principles? For a public assembly to be afraid of having their deliberations published is monstrous, and speaks for itself." It was some years before these principles were completely recognised, in the conviction that a full and impartial report of the debates in Parliament is one of the

* "Cavendish Debates."

best securities for freedom, for a respect for the laws, and for raising up a national tribunal of public opinion in the place of the passions of demagogues and the violence of mobs. The triumph of the "miscreants" of 1771 led the way to the complete establishment of that wonderful system of reporting, which has rendered the newspaper press of this country the clearest mirror of the aggregate thought of a reflecting people.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF STATE FROM THE END OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF SIR ROBERT WALPOLE, 1741, TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THAT OF LORD NORTH, 1770.

[To enable our readers to connect with our narrative a general view of the constitution of a Ministry at any period of change, whether general or partial, we have drawn out the following Table:—

LORD CHANCELLOR.	FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY.	CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.	PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES OF STATE.
1741. Philip, lord Hardwicke (from 1737). "	1741. Sir Robert Walpole.	1741. Sir Robert Walpole.	1741. William, lord Harrington (from 1739). "
1742. "	1742. Spencer, earl of Wilmington.	1742. Samuel Sandys, esq.	1742. (Feb. 12). John, lord Carteret (vice lord Harrington). "
1743. "	1743. Hon. Henry Pelham.	1743. Hon. Henry Pelham.	1743. (Nov. 24). William, earl of Harrington (vice lord Carteret). "
1744. "	1744. "	1744. "	1744. (Nov. 24). William, earl of Harrington (vice lord Carteret). "
1745. "	1745. "	1745. "	1745. (Feb. 10). John, earl Granville (vice earl of Harrington). "
1746. "	1746. "	1746. "	1746. (Feb. 14). Thos. Holles, duke of Newcastle, William, earl of Harrington. "
1747. "	1747. "	1747. "	1747. (Nov. 4). Philip Dormer Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield, (vice earl of Harrington). "
1748. "	1748. "	1748. "	1748. (Feb. 13). John, duke of Bedford (vice earl of Chesterfield). "
1749. "	1749. "	1749. "	1749. (July 12). Robert, earl of Holderness (vice duke of Bedford). "
1750. "	1750. "	1750. "	1750. (April 6). Sir Thos. Robinson (vice duke of Newcastle). "
1751. "	1751. "	1751. "	1751. (Nov.) Henry Fox, esq. (vice sir T. Robinson). "
1752. "	1752. (March 9). J. H. Pelham, duke of Newcastle.	1752. (March 9). Sir William Lee. (April 6). Hon. H. B. Legge.	1752. (Dec.) William Pitt, esq. (vice Mr. Fox. He resigned in April, 1757, and was re-appointed in June). "
1753. "	1753. "	1753. "	1753. "
1754. "	1754. "	1754. "	1754. "
1755. "	1755. "	1755. "	1755. "
1756. The Great Seal in Commission.	1756. (Nov. 16). William, duke of Devonshire.	1756. Hon. H. B. Legge.	1756. "
1757. Sir Robt. Henley—Lord Keeper—(created lord Henley, 1760).	1757. (April 9). W. Murray, lord Mansfield.	1757. (April 9). W. Murray, lord Mansfield.	1757. "

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF STATE (Continued).

LORD CHANCELLOR.	FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY.	CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.	PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES OF STATE.
1757. Sir Robt. Henley—Lord Keeper—(created lord Henley, 1760).	— (July 2). J. H. Pelham; duke of Newcastle.	— (July 2). Hon. H. B. Legge.	1756. (Dec.) William Pitt, esq. (<i>vice</i> Mr. Fox, &c.
1758. " " " "	1758. " " " "	1758. " " " "	1758. " " " "
1759. " " " "	1759. " " " "	1759. " " " "	1759. " " " "
1760. " " " "	1760. " " " "	1760. " " " "	1760. " " " "
1761. " " " "	1761. " " " "	1761. William, viscount Barrington.	1761. (March 25). John, earl of Bute (<i>vice</i> lord Holderness).
1762. " " " "	1762. (May 29). John, lord Bute.	1762. Sir Francis Dashwood.	— (Oct. 9). Charles, lord Egremont (<i>vice</i> Mr. Pitt).
1763. " " " "	1763. Hon. George Grenville.	1763. Hon. George Grenville.	1762. (May 29). Hon. G. Grenville (<i>vice</i> lord Bute).
1764. " " " "	1764. " " " "	1764. " " " "	— (Oct. 14). George, earl of Halifax (<i>vice</i> Mr. Grenville).
1765. " " " "	1765. (July 13). Charles, marquis of Rockingham.	1765. William Dowdeswell, esq.	1763. (Sept. 9). John, earl of Sandwich (<i>vice</i> lord Egremont).
1766. (July 30). Chas., lord Camden.	1766. (August 2). Augustus Henry, duke of Grafton.	1766. Hon. Charles Townshend.	1764. " " " "
1767. " " " "	1767. (Sept. 12). William, lord Mansfield.	1767. (Sept. 12). William, lord Mansfield.	1765. (July 12). A. H., duke of Grafton (<i>vice</i> lord Halifax).
1768. " " " "	— (Dec. 1). A. H., duke of Grafton.	— (Dec. 1). Frederick, lord North.	— Hon. H. S. Conway (<i>vice</i> lord Sandwich).
1769. (Jan. 17). Hon. Chas. Yorke.	1769. (February 10). Frederick, lord North.	1769. " " " "	1766. (May 23). Charles, duke of Richmond (<i>vice</i> duke of Grafton).
1770. (Jan. 20). Great Seal in Commission.	1770. " " " "	1770. " " " "	— (Aug. 2). William, earl of Shelburne (<i>vice</i> duke of Richmond).
			1767. " " " "
			1768. (Jan. 20). Thomas, viscount Weymouth (<i>vice</i> general Conway).
			— Willes, earl of Hillsborough— <i>colonist</i> .
			— (Oct. 21). W. H., earl of Rochford (<i>vice</i> earl of Shelburne).
			1769. (Dec. 19). John, earl of Sandwich (<i>vice</i> lord Weymouth).
			1770. " " " "

CHAPTER VIII.

Foreign affairs.—Cession of Corsica to France.—The Falkland Islands.—First Partition of Poland.—War between Turkey and Russia.—Acquisitions of Russia.—Suppression of the Jesuits.—Home Politics.—Subscription to Thirty-nine Articles.—Test Act.—Thirtieth of January.—Repeal of laws against forestalling.—The queen of Denmark.—Death of the Princess Dowager.—The Royal Marriage Act.—Retrospect of Indian affairs.—East India Company's Regulation Act.—Teas, duty free, to the Colonies.

THE turbulence of home politics, and the threatening aspect of the colonies, left little inclination in the people to think much of foreign affairs. The cession by Genoa, in 1768, of Corsica to France, and the resistance by the Corsican patriot, Paoli, to the occupation of the island by French troops, excited interest in a few who could sympathize with heroic actions. Boswell wrote an account of Corsica. The cold Walpole advises Gray to read it: "What relates to Paoli will amuse you much."* The impressible Gray replies, "It has moved me strangely; all, I mean, that relates to Paoli. He is a man born two thousand years after his time." Corsica was subjugated in 1769, and Paoli became an exile from his country, seeking refuge in England. A month after Corsica was annexed to France, Napoleon Bonaparte was born at Ajaccio. In 1768 England was within a hair's-breadth of making war with France in the matter of Corsica. "Corsica a province of France is terrible to me," said Burke. The duke of Grafton did not go to war; but he sent secret supplies of arms and ammunition to Paoli, who said he could hold out eighteen months. Insurrections continued through 1770 and 1771. The French minister, the duke de Choiseul, who had annexed Corsica, and was anxious for a rupture with England, was dismissed from power in 1770. "My minister wishes for war," said Louis XV., "but I do not." If war had come, Corsica would most probably have been a British possession; Napoleon Bonaparte a subject of the British crown. He might have chosen England for the theatre of his rising ambition; have commanded a company of British grenadiers in the war of the French Revolution; and have won a green ribbon instead of an empire.

In 1770, whilst the influence of the duke de Choiseul was para-

* Feb. 18, 1768.