

SECTION XII.

The EARL of MINTO.

Sept. 19, 1835—May 22, 1841.

Admiral Sir CHARLES ADAM First Naval Lord.
 CHAS. WOOD (now Rt. Hon. Sir C. WOOD) . First Secretary.

IN the same year (1835) in which Lord Auckland's second administration of the affairs of the Admiralty commenced, and terminated, the Earl of Minto became First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir P. Malcolm and Sir William Parker being appointed the two chief Naval Lords; but Sir P. Malcolm never took his seat, and the other eventually was replaced by Sir Charles Adam, and Mr. Charles Wood was Secretary—an able and active man, and no mean debater in the House of Commons. Notwithstanding the frequent changes and the short reigns of the last three or four First Lords of the Admiralty, the affairs of the Navy, under the new arrangement made and completed by Sir James Graham, went on so smoothly and with such regularity that the short-lived Boards had no occasion to trouble themselves with studying the details of the civil departments, or of making any new ones. No alteration whatever had been made or proposed; but, before Lord Minto had been long in office, a Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to inquire into

the working of the consolidation of the civil departments of the Navy, according to the new plan, with the view, as I understood, of seeing how far such a plan could be applied to the consolidation of the civil affairs of the Army.

The Committee consisted of Lord Howick, Sir Henry Hardinge, Lord Palmerston, and three or four others. I believe that I was the only person examined, and the examination was rather long and particular. Not a point in the plan of arrangement was omitted to be called in question; but, having drawn it up myself and witnessed its execution, and two years only having expired, I was prepared to give full information on every point, and I believe they were perfectly satisfied. As Lord Grey had suggested the measure, and during its progress a considerable opposition in the House of Commons was exhibited by certain Conservative members; and, moreover, as Lord Howick took an active share in the examination, it struck me, at the time, that Lord Grey was desirous the success of the measure should be made more public than it had hitherto been; it was, in fact, his Lordship's own measure—at least, it originated with him.

Another Committee, about the same time, was appointed to examine into the several sinecure places, with the view of abolishing them; and I was also examined on this subject, as far as the naval service was concerned. I told them I was not aware of the existence of any sinecures in the Navy, except they might be disposed to consider the two appointments, of ancient date, the Vice-Admiral and the Rear-Admiral of England, to come under that denomination; strictly speaking, they might, perhaps, fall within that description; but

I would beg leave to observe, that they had efficient duties to perform, when first created, and might be again called upon to carry them into execution. Even in our time, it might have happened that their services were required. These two officers were originally intended to be the Lieutenants of the Lord High Admiral; and if anything had happened to deprive the nation of the late Lord High Admiral, while holding that office, or that had disqualified him from performing certain duties of it, one or both of these officers would immediately have been summoned to perform such duties, to prevent the office of Admiralty from becoming useless; for the Council would then have been reduced to such an emergency, that they could neither order a ship to be built, to be commissioned, or to proceed to sea; they could not attach their names to any public document.

It may also be looked on as a circumstance in favour of their continuance, that these appointments are considered as honorary distinctions, that have always been given to Admirals of high rank and good service; and the saving to be effected, by depriving them of the pittance of day-pay they receive is too paltry to be regarded. The Committee would appear to have been satisfied with this statement, as the Vice and Rear-Admirals of England still remain to be voted on the Estimate of the Navy.

During Lord Minto's administration a great clamour was raised, mostly by naval partisans, about the inefficient state of the Navy, particularly on the want of naval stores in the Dock-Yards: and, as usual, the flourishing state of the continental navies was contrasted with the declining condition of ours; and,

among other matters, the mode of manning the Navy was, perhaps not undeservedly, reprov'd; and it was stated also that the men were dissatisfied by being put to unnecessary and degrading work. An instance was related, that the Duke of Wellington, "on his being shown over a man-of-war, in which the *polishing* system was established in full force, his Grace observed, that it was pretty to look at, but that it was probably the cause of discontent, as he had not seen a smile on the countenance of any one man in the ship."

Satisfied of the falsehood of the story, but being stated in a publication generally read, I took the liberty of asking the question of his Grace, who immediately returned the following reply:—

"Walmer Castle, September 29th.

"My dear Sir,

"I have received your letter of the 27th. I have no recollection of having used the expression to which you refer. I have sailed in many ships of war, of all sizes and descriptions—probably more than some officers of the Navy of my time of life, certainly more than any officer of the Army. The Captains of all these ships were the most distinguished men of their rank at the time. I do not recollect to have had occasion to make such a remark upon any of them, or on the discipline maintained by any of them.

"That which I always felt was, admiration for the professional science and seamanship displayed by all the officers, without exception, in every ship in which I ever sailed. I firmly believe, and I have frequently stated my conviction, that I had not seen one who could not, at any time, lay his ship in any situation which he might be ordered to take, in relation

to any other ships, be the strength of the wind or the violence of the sea what it might; and I have founded upon this superior knowledge and seamanship of our officers, the confidence that the naval superiority of this country would be permanent.

“Entertaining this opinion, I might have made remarks upon other matters; but I certainly do not recollect that I ever had occasion to make such a remark on the discipline of any ship in which I have sailed.

“Believe me, &c., &c.,

(Signed)

“WELLINGTON.”

This high compliment, from such authority, settles that part which relates to the science and seamanship of the officers, and negatives the other charge; and Lord Minto in the Lords, and Mr. Wood in the Commons, proved the charge of a scarcity of stores to be utterly unfounded. The charge originated, as regarded the want of timber, on a most ridiculous basis; a certain gentleman-yachtsman could not procure, in our first dock-yard, a spar of Riga timber for a mast to his yacht!

Lord Minto was a nobleman of first-rate abilities; and, among other qualifications, he had a competent knowledge of the mechanical powers and of the various modes of their application, which, in these days of inventions, is no mean acquirement in a First Lord of the Admiralty, beset, as he is sure to be, by a host of speculative inventors, whom it is not easy to satisfy or to get rid of, especially when they happen to be naval officers of high rank, who may fancy themselves capable of making improvements in naval constructions, principally in steamers, of which they can have but a very imperfect knowledge. Two or three of this kind

of craft have just now been placed under trial, but, as I understand, with small chance of success. The only successful amateur builder appears to be Captain, now Admiral, George Elliot, who planned the 'Eurydice,' avowedly one of the best—if not the very best—ship of her class in our fleet; he having previously built the 'Modeste,' of a smaller class, which is also much praised for her good qualities.

A dangerous set of projectors appear to have recently found their way into the good graces of the Admiralty, and supplied their Lordships with a whole fleet of *iron* steam-vessels, altogether useless, it would seem, as ships of war. I very much doubt whether, had the proposal of building such vessels been submitted to Lord Minto, while he presided at the Board, the serious objection would not have occurred to him, that a shot, passing through a plate of iron, must leave on the opposite or inner side of the plate such a jagged margin round the hole, as would have suggested at once the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of plugging it up in sufficient time to prevent a rush of water pouring in. He would, at least, have satisfied himself, by direct experiment, whether the objection was removable and without inconvenience. As far as I have seen in the public papers, the inventions hitherto tried to obviate the evil have been unsatisfactory; but the vessels have been built and the expense has been incurred.

I do not recollect that anything material took place during the remaining period of Lord Minto's administration, beyond the general and usual occurrences that daily occupy the attention of the Board of Admiralty. The Navy is indebted to him for the extension and improvement of the seamen's libraries: and I may add,

also, to that excellent and charitable lady, the late Elizabeth Fry, of whose unceasing solicitude for an improvement in the morals and comforts of all in the naval service, I had frequent and abundant proofs. We are indebted to her admirably well-chosen selection of books, for the completion of the seamen's libraries. She told me, one day, she had just completed a tour round the sea-coast of Great Britain, to visit all the coast-guard stations, with a view to succeed, if practicable, in obtaining books for the perusal of the poor fellows that had attracted her notice and commiseration, as she regarded their solitary walks along the sea-shore, looking out for smugglers. I could only refer her to the Commissioners of Customs, under whom the coast-guard is placed.

I was much gratified by the frequent visits of the good Mrs. Fry, and with her correspondence, which always had relation to some humane and charitable purpose; as a specimen I annex the copy of a letter I find at hand:—

“Upton Lane, 1st month 12th, 1836.

“Esteemed Friend,

“According to thy request I ordered a list to be sent to thee of our libraries; first, the one that is gone to 498 stations: and secondly, one of our large District libraries; there will be 74 of these, and all the larger ones will have considerable variety in them. My daughter and myself also hope soon to send thee our list of books, that we have sent for the use of the Government packets, but we have it not by us just now.

“I long to have the great hospital libraries increased and renewed. I believe it would do much good and prevent much harm; for the human mind, if not

properly occupied, is sure to suffer; and there are many hours, particularly in recovery from illness, that may be spent pleasantly and profitably in reading.

“The officers at Plymouth complained of the smallness of their library there; and, as a very few pounds would greatly increase it, I should be very much gratified in hearing that this request was granted. I feel more free in pressing this subject because I know that Sir William Burnett approves the officers and sailors having the books. I have had much experience in visiting the sick, and I am sure that persons are much mistaken who are disposed to preclude religious books from them; because I am sure, if able to read the Bible and works of simple Christian truth, they tend to calm, support, and comfort them in their affliction, and consequently frequently promote recovery. I should be careful, certainly, what books I introduced.

“I thought it better, as it respects the articles in the Irish ships, to write to thee, and, if thou think proper, pray represent it to the Board. I fear thou wilt think me rather a troublesome correspondent, but my motive for writing must plead my excuse. I hope that thou wast so kind as to present my respects to Lord Minto, and to inform him, how very much obliged I feel for his great kindness in nominating Captain Prynne’s son to the upper school at Greenwich.

“My hands are so very cold that I fear part of my letter is hardly legible.

“I remain, with esteem and regard,

“Thy obliged friend,

“ELIZABETH FRY.

“To Sir John Barrow, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.”

Mr. Secretary Wood left the Admiralty on the 4th October, 1839, greatly respected by his colleagues, and by all who had served under him, for his uniform kindness and good feeling towards them, having accepted the Secretaryship of the Treasury; and Mr. M. O'Ferrall succeeded to his place in the Admiralty, which he retained till the 9th June, 1841: when he removed to the Treasury, and was replaced by Mr. John Parker, in the Admiralty, on the 9th June; and went out on the 10th September following, with the Earl of Minto, after a short service of three months. The Whig administration was in fact dissolved, in consequence of the dissolution of Parliament, and the result of the new one being decidedly against that party; Sir Robert Peel was appointed First Lord of the Treasury, and the Earl of Haddington First Lord of the Admiralty.

SECTION XIII.

The EARL of HADDINGTON.

May 22, 1841—January, 1846.

Rt. Hon. Sir GEORGE COCKBURNFirst Naval Lord.
 Hon. SIDNEY HERBERTFirst Secretary.

WHEN the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel had declined, on a former occasion, to accept office on the terms proposed, Lord Melbourne consented to remain at the head of the Treasury, and Lord Minto accepted the Admiralty, and conducted it with great credit till the commencement of the year 1841, under that tottering administration. Parliament was dissolved, and the returns went so much against the Whigs, as already stated, that Sir Robert Peel was sent for, who accepted the seals, and his early friend the Earl of Haddington was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty.

A letter from Sir Robert introduced me to his Lordship, to whom I had the honour of being well known in his early life. This change, and the return of Sir George Cockburn to the Admiralty, together with the appointment of Mr. Sidney Herbert as Secretary, whom I also had known as a boy, when I was not unknown to Lord and Lady Pembroke, induced me to give up all thought for the present of resigning my situation,

which I had been revolving in my mind to do on the breaking up of the last Board.

Lord Haddington came into the Admiralty at a time of profound peace, and when the new system of management in the Admiralty departments had undergone a full trial and was completely established. One thing, however, was still wanting in the naval service, and that was a new and improved code of regulations and instructions for the government of the naval service, the date of the last edition of the old ones being 1833, and many alterations, additions, and improvements having been introduced since that period. A trial was made under Lord Minto's administration to get up a new edition, which was printed, and reprinted, a gentleman, who was not in the Admiralty, having been employed to dress them up, for which he received a sum of money; but the volume was strangled in its birth, and never left the Admiralty Board-room. It was shown to Sir George Cockburn, he having previously intimated an intention of undertaking the task of altering, amending, and extending the existing code, which had long been denounced as extremely defective and out of date. Sir George Cockburn went carefully over what the late Board had done, pronounced the production incomplete and incorrect, and forthwith set about his intended new edition.

As this undertaking was likely to be attended with great labour and expenditure of time, which, in his arduous situation, he could not well spare, he applied to my son for his assistance in preparing, arranging, and putting through the press, the work in question, which when completed was found to extend to upwards of six hundred pages, and which, with that "constant

and untiring attention," as expressed by Sir George, he accomplished in due time, to take upon himself the far more extensive and arduous task of extending and improving the record department of the Admiralty. When Sir George Cockburn retired from the office of Admiralty, he wrote my son the following letter:—

“ Admiralty, July 9, 1846.

“ Dear Sir,

“ I deem it to be right and fully due to you, previous to my quitting this office, to express how greatly I felt indebted to you for the able, willing, and indefatigable assistance I received from you, in compiling the existing book of regulations and instructions for the government of the naval service. I attribute to your constant and untiring attention the truly satisfactory result that, in a work of such extensive professional detail, not one error or doubtful point has been discovered, though issued to the fleet more than two years back.

“ I therefore request you to receive from me this record of your valuable services on the occasion in question.

“ I remain, dear Sir,

“ Your very faithful servant,
(Signed) “ G. COCKBURN.

“ John Barrow, Esq.”

Sir George Cockburn did not retire at the termination of Lord Haddington's administration, but consented to continue during the short one of the Earl of

Ellenborough, for reasons which his friends can well appreciate.

When, in the usual course of service, my son arrived at the situation of one of the seniors of the office, and received his promotion, having originally entered the Admiralty under the patronage of Mr. Croker, he deemed it right and a proper point of duty, as well as of respect, to acquaint him thereof, and in return received a kind reply, of which the following is an extract, dated West Molesey, 10th May, 1844:—

* * * *

“It has been my good fortune that all my *protégés* (with one or two very inconsiderable exceptions) have done credit to my selection, and no one, my dear John, more than yourself. I appointed you to mark my respect for my old and valued friend, your father, whose public service and private kindness to me made this small favour a mere instalment of a debt which neither the public nor I could altogether repay. But since my first nomination it has been your own merit which has justified every step of your advancement.”

The kind and most flattering manner in which Mr. Croker has taken the occasion to introduce my name, is most gratifying, knowing it as I do to have been penned in sincerity and truth. A daily intercourse, with a few occasional exceptions, for more than twenty years, acting together in concert under the same roof for the public service during that period, added to the intimacy that subsisted between our two families, which led to a connection of a closer nature—these are contingencies that require no further test or evidence of the fidelity of my Right Honourable friend John Wilson

Croker, whose loss, by his retirement from the Admiralty at the time he deemed it fit to do so, and I may add, that also of Admiral Sir George Cockburn, occasioned me a more deep concern than the loss of any other two, in similar situations, that ever occurred among the many changes which took place subsequent to their departure; not altogether, perhaps, though mainly, on personal considerations, but also from a firm conviction, that their places would not and could not be adequately supplied; and I think I may be permitted to add, without the imputation of vanity, the fear of contradiction, or the disparagement of any one of our successors, that however great their talents for business may have been found, no two secretaries of the Admiralty, either before or since our time, have performed the duties of that office more honestly, more zealously, and more efficiently than Mr. Croker and myself.

The Admiralty at a future period, as already stated, had the good fortune once more to reap the advantage of the splendid and inexhaustible talents of the Right Hon. Sir George Cockburn, whose zeal for the service and whose indefatigable labours in the multifarious duties of the office of Admiralty, it is much to be feared, have proved injurious to his health.

A little time previous to my retirement from office, on the death of Mr. Bedford, late keeper of the records, my son was appointed to that office, none of the senior chief clerks being desirous of succeeding to it on account of the constant and personally laborious duties attached to it, independent of the exercise of judgment in the arrangement of the records, and the correctness of the digest or *précis* of them, on which part a reliance

must be placed on others; so that when any transaction is called for, that happened at a recent or distant period of time, the details of it may at once be produced. For this purpose there is kept in the record-office a digest of the whole correspondence, from and to the Admiralty, consisting of about forty thousand letters annually received; which digest occupies four immense volumes, unequalled, I believe, in point of weight and magnitude, so as to require, when moved, the use of rollers. In two of these volumes are digested alphabetically every *subject* mentioned in the correspondence, and in two other similar ones, indexes in which every *name* is entered that occurs. The synoptical table, originally constructed by Mr. Finlayson, has recently been extended and improved, to afford every facility in reference either to subject or name, so that any information required by the Board or the secretaries can at once be given.

For the due management of the record-office four clerks of the third class are required, two for entering the digest and two for the index. For the sorting, marking, and classing, three others are required, one chief, one second, and one of the seniors of the third class; and these operations and the searchings constantly called for, give full occupation to the whole. The office itself, or the working part, consists of two rooms.

Thus it stood when I retired from the Admiralty. A discovery had shortly before this been made of a most important nature. It was nothing less than that of a series of Admiralty records, commencing with James II. Duke of York, when Lord High Admiral, that had been crowded into the very highest and extensive

garrets of the Admiralty building, some in half-bound volumes, others in bundles, rolls, and loose papers, piled up in whole streets or lanes of shelves or pigeon-holes, stuffed in without arrangement or any kind of order; the ground-floors of these lanes also strewed with documents of various descriptions. These extensive alleys, thus crammed and blocked up, required no little experience even to become master of their geography.

When taken up to view them, by my son, I blushed with shame to have been nearly forty years in the building and never to have known, or even suspected, the existence of these regions, or of the valuable treasures they contained. My son was quite ready and desirous to overhaul them, and to arrange them, or the most important of them, in tangible order, provided a suitable place could be found to contain them. Lord Haddington and the Board visited the den; being, I believe, the first Board in modern times that had done so; and it so happened that, just at this time, the Secretary (Mr. Sidney Herbert) had given up his large dwelling-house to be thrown into the office, and in the new arrangement that was made in the distribution of the apartments, four office-rooms *en suite* were added to the record-office, for the reception of these valuable papers, well fitted with suitable shelves, which are already well filled, yet the garret-alleys not one-third exhausted.

I am not sure whether Lord Auckland and his Board visited the garrets with the old lumber still remaining in the closets and corners of the narrow alleys; but I believe Mr. Ward inspected them; and his

Lordship and the Board visited the new rooms, set apart by the late arrangements, in which the valuable records have now been deposited, after being cleaned and neatly bound; and their Lordships expressed their satisfaction at the change; and the two secretaries, Mr. Ward and Captain Hamilton, drew up a report, to be read at the Board, which thus concludes:—

“ We cannot close this report without expressing our sense of the merits and exertions of Mr. Barrow, now at the head of the Record-Office, by whose efforts the whole of the valuable documents connected with the department since the year 1688 have been brought into the most perfect order, and so arranged as to be accessible whenever required. The Board minutes—the orders in council—the proceedings of courts martial—the opinions of the law-officers of the crown upon naval matters since the year 1733*—the dispatches of officers whose names and exploits must ever be associated with the most brilliant periods of English history—have been saved from impending destruction in the garrets to which they were formerly consigned, and now present a model of symmetrical arrangement, most creditable to the Admiralty, and to the officer by whose labours and under whose personal superintendence this most desirable change has been effected in the short space of two years.

“ We trust that their Lordships will feel it due to Mr. Barrow to place upon record their sense of his

* A whole century of the law-officers' opinions, prior to this, were carried off, with a mass of other documents of all sorts, by a messenger of the name of Somerville, who was transported some thirty years ago.

exertions, which have not hitherto been rewarded by that expression of their Lordships' satisfaction to which we think him most fully entitled." *

But to resume. Lord Haddington was determined not to let me take my departure from the Admiralty unaccompanied by a "venerable relic," that might keep in my recollection the many years it had been my daily, I might almost say hourly, companion. His Lordship's jocular note will explain the "relic," and is at the same time characteristic of his playful good-humour.

" Monday, Feb. 3, 1845.

" My dear Sir John,

" There is 'a venerable relic' here that I thought you might like to possess, as you are an anti-quary. It has not the recommendation of *rust*, but it is very *inky* indeed; and I have directed that no sacrilegious hand should be applied to it for the purpose of removing the venerable stains.

" Your old friends here beg your acceptance of the huge and time-honoured desk you wot of.

" Believe me, with much truth and regard,

" Ever yours,

" HADDINGTON."

And now, my Lord, I take my last official leave of you and your good colleagues, with thanks for all your and their kindnesses, including the possession of the old desk, which you have now placed in a fair way of

* This paper was read and placed in my son's hands by Mr. Ward, at a full meeting of the Board.

descending in my family till it becomes a relic of a more venerable antiquity than when I received it.

I cannot, however, conclude this Memoir without an expression of the gratitude I entertain, and the affectionate regard I feel, for one of my own family—my daughter Mary Jane—for the attention and ability she cheerfully bestowed on the revision and correction of the press, not only for the present volume, but also for two or three former ones—a species of literary labour, which I am as little qualified to perform myself as I believe most rapid writers are, especially of their own works: and for the relief thus cordially afforded me, I am desirous to record this tribute of praise, to which I consider her so justly entitled.

CHAPTER V.—SUPPLEMENTARY.

SECTION I.

RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC LIFE.

Various Complimentary Letters on the Occasion—Employment of Leisure Time after a Busy Life—How my own has been occupied.

Forty years having transpired since my original entry into the Admiralty as Second Secretary, and having attained the 81st year of my age, I thought it right and proper—though in robust health, strength, and my usual activity of mind—to retire from the situation I had so long held, and to give place to a successor. Though I felt some regret in taking leave of those with many of whom I had been in daily intercourse, yet the numerous changes towards the latter part of the period, and the new faces brought with them, had, in some degree, made my parting with the old ones more a matter of course. I therefore wrote an official letter to the Board, having first communicated my intention to Lord Haddington, requesting their Lordships' permission to resign my office, to which I received the following official reply :—

“ Admiralty, January 28th, 1845.

“ Sir,

“ I have received and laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of this date, requesting permission to resign your situation of

Second Secretary to their Lordships; and I am commanded by my Lords to acquaint you that, in accepting your resignation, the Board beg to assure you of their best wishes for your health and happiness in a retirement honourably earned and naturally sought for, at your advanced age, after half a century of laborious public life.

“During the many years of your connection with this department you have served the public usefully, no less by the zeal with which you have endeavoured to render science subservient to our naval and commercial interests, than by your assiduous attention to the arduous duties of your important office.

“My Lords also desire me to acquaint you that your request that your resignation should be made known to the Treasury shall be forthwith complied with.

“I have the honour to be, &c., &c.,

“SIDNEY HERBERT.”

I had previously, as I felt it a duty, acquainted Sir Robert Peel with my intention; and not merely as a duty, but as a mark of respect and gratitude in the opportunity it afforded me of acknowledging the many favours and acts of kindness he had bestowed on me during a very long acquaintance. On this occasion I received from him the following gratifying reply:—

“Whitehall, January 10th, 1845.

“My dear Sir,

“I cannot allow you to retire from the public service without conveying to you my high

sense of the services which you have rendered to the public during a long and honourable career, and expressing my cordial wishes that you may long enjoy, in a private station, health and happiness.

“ Believe me, my dear Sir, with sincere regard,

“ Most faithfully yours,

“ ROBERT PEEL.

“ Sir John Barrow, Bart.”

I also thought it right and becoming to let my excellent old master, Lord Melville, know of my intention, and received from him the following:—

“ Melville Castle, January 1st, 1845.

“ My dear Barrow,

“ I am not surprised on receiving your letter to-day, though very much obliged by your recollection of my former communication. I must say that you have had to undergo your full share of official labour; and most assuredly the public have no further claim upon you if it be agreeable to you to retire.

“ With the strongest wishes for your still seeing the return of many new years' days, with the same good health and sound constitution, I remain

“ Yours most truly and sincerely,

“ MELVILLE.”

The following, from my esteemed colleague the Right Honourable Sidney Herbert, alludes to a promise I had made to him, while in the Admiralty, that I would sit for my portrait, which he wished to present to the Admiralty, to be hung up in the Secretary's

“ War-Office, April 23rd, 1846.

“ My dear Sir John,

“ When we left the Admiralty, you kindly promised to sit to Mr. Lucas for your portrait, with which I wished to enrich the collection in the Secretary’s dining-room.

“ Mr. Lucas informs me that he is now at your disposal, and ready to fix any hour for a sitting that may be convenient to you.

“ May I, therefore, claim the execution of your promise, and ask you to arrange a time with Mr. Lucas, whose direction is 3, St. John’s Wood Road ?

“ I would ask your pardon for this attempt to inflict on you the most wearisome of all occupations ; but it is one of the taxes on eminence, which you have no right to escape. Pray believe me

“ Most faithfully yours,

“ SIDNEY HERBERT.

“ Sir John Barrow, Bart.”

Among the many kind leave-takings I received, none gave me more sincere pleasure than the following, from a very old colleague and one of the ablest men that this country affords ; not only in a professional point of view, but in general science and sound judgment : and who, whenever he thinks fit to retire from the very arduous situation of Hydrographer to the Admiralty, I trust will receive, in acknowledgment of his long and eminent services, that reward which is so justly his due, with such proper distinguishing marks of honour as he may desire, and the Board of Admiralty has the power—as it must have the inclination—to recommend :—

“ Admiralty, January 29th, 1845.

“ My dear Sir John,

“ I might have been contented with my share of the sentiments which were so well expressed by Mr. Amedroz, in his letter to you of last Monday ; and I might have rested equally contented and flattered by appropriating to myself a small share of those kind and cheering sentiments which filled your reply to him.

“ Yet, after having been for so many years in daily communication with you, so long worked under your directions, and so continually profited by your experience and judgment, I cannot forego the opportunity of saying, in a more direct form, how deeply I regret the separation that has this day taken place, and the consequent loss to the office in every point of view, whether public or personal ; individually, to me greater than to any one, from your extensive knowledge on all those subjects which it is my duty to cultivate. Indeed, when I look back at the many remarkable men with whom I have served afloat or ashore, I can safely say that there are very few of them that will come to my remembrance more frequently, more strongly, or more pleasingly than you ; and none that will be so usefully and *stimulatingly* associated with all the best of my pursuits.

“ Among the painful impressions, however, which your withdrawal has produced, I feel it to be a source of great pleasure and consolation that, before it took place, you had succeeded in providing for a finishing (and, I trust, crowning) voyage of discovery to those regions from which you have derived so much fame,

and with which your name will be bound up for ever.

“I am, my dear Sir John,

“Faithfully and gratefully yours,

“F. BEAUFORT.”

The letter of Mr. Amedroz, to which that too flattering epistle of Captain (now Admiral) Beaufort alludes, is from the Chief Clerk of the Admiralty, who is much my senior in that office, though not in age, and who writes at the request of the gentlemen of the Admiralty. This is to me the more gratifying, as, with every endeavour on all fit occasions, I have been able to accomplish but very little to their advantage individually or collectively, though I have considered and represented them to be most deserving of it; for a more attentive, efficient, and well-conducted class of gentlemen (mostly of a middle age) it has not been my good fortune to meet with; and they may be assured I take leave of them with regret.

“Admiralty, 27th January, 1845.

“My dear Sir John,

“I have been requested by many of the gentlemen of the office to convey to you the expression of the deep regret which we feel in seeing the termination of a long intercourse with a chief from whom we have ever met with uniform kindness.

“In those who have been the longest in the Admiralty, as in those who have more recently entered it, there is but one sentiment as to the manner in which you have exercised your office. Throughout a period of forty-one years our interests have always found in you a generous supporter; you have always shown us

the good-will and indulgence of a kind friend, and we intreat you to be assured that, in leaving us, you carry with you the sincerest respect and gratitude, and the warmest good wishes of all who have had the pleasure and the advantage of serving under you.

“ I have the honour to be, my dear Sir John,

“ Your much obliged, &c.,

“ H. F. AMEDROZ.

“ Sir John Barrow, Bart.”

“ Admiralty, 27th January, 1845.

“ My dear Mr. Amedroz,

“ After a public service of forty years, passed under the same roof with yourself, and a period not far short of it with several others, and a great length of time with more of the gentlemen employed in the same service of the Admiralty, I cannot permit myself to take a final leave of you and them, without wishing to express the strong sense I entertain and the obligation I feel for the ready and constant attention I experienced from yourself and all the others, to the manifold requisitions which our respective situations compelled me frequently to make, and which, it is due to all of you to say, were on all occasions responded to with cheerfulness and alacrity.

“ I feel it also due to all to state what my long experience enables me to do—that there cannot be, and I am satisfied there is not any one department of the Government in which so great a quantity of labour is required and executed with such limited means to perform it, as exists in the office of Admiralty, a labour embracing, moreover, every variety of subject, or that is performed with more correctness, dispatch, and

good-will than is done by the gentlemen of the respective departments of the Admiralty-office.

“I am the more solicitous to leave at my departure this testimony to the merits of those it is intended to concern, for occasions may arise to render it of some little service, as I sincerely wish it to do : and in this view, should you think proper, you may place it on the records of the office as the last act of your secretary ; and I will further request that you will communicate this note of my sentiments to all your colleagues, and with every good wish for the continuance of health and happiness to you and all,

“ I remain, with sincerity, &c.,

“ Yours,

“ JOHN BARROW.”

All these testimonies of kind feeling, accompanied by many others from various quarters, expressed at a time when the little influence I might have been supposed to possess, while in office, had finally ceased, could not be otherwise than highly flattering and most satisfactory to the receiver of them ; but none could be more gratifying and heartfelt than the following from a different class of gentlemen, all of them officers of high distinction in the British Navy, and whose conduct throughout a most arduous employment of a series of years may safely be said to have no parallel. I allude to our recent Arctic voyagers, who have so nobly sustained the high and unflinching character of British naval officers by their persevering and adventurous spirit in exploring unknown frozen seas, making new discoveries in geography, in objects of scientific research, in experiments in meteorology and

natural history, and, in short, by extending the limits of human knowledge ; and, moreover, what is above all praise and most worthy of admiration, by the uncomplaining and quiet resignation to the Divine will on the part of those whose sufferings from intense cold and the extremity of famine were far beyond any known example. It was in honour of these brave and talented men that, in my leisure hours, I sat down to record, in a more accessible form than the official narratives are conveyed, an account of their exploits and sufferings in the Arctic regions. Indeed, I am not sure that the following most gratifying letter, accompanied with an elegant testimonial in the shape of a candelabrum, did not contribute, as it ought, to expedite on my part the completion of that small volume, which had but then been faintly conceived :—

“ London, 20th March, 1845.

“ Dear Sir John Barrow,

“ We are deputed by several officers, who have had the honour of being employed on the various Arctic expeditions, by sea and land, to request your acceptance of the accompanying piece of plate, as a testimony of their personal esteem, and of the high sense they entertain of the talent, zeal, and energy which you have unceasingly displayed in the promotion of Arctic discovery.

“ We are sincerely gratified in being made the medium of this communication, and gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity thus afforded to us, of expressing to you our own cordial regard and obligation, together with our earnest hope that, in retiring from a long and honourable course of public service, you may

be permitted to enjoy, in private life and in the bosom of your family, many years of health, happiness, and prosperity.

“ We have the honour to be,
 “ Dear Sir John Barrow,
 “ Your obliged friends and faithful servants,
 (Signed) “ E. W. PARRY,
 “ JOHN FRANKLIN,
 “ JAMES ROSS,
 “ GEO. BACK,
 “ Captains of the Royal Navy.

“ Sir John Barrow, Bart.,
 LL.D., F.R.S.”

List of Officers referred to in the foregoing Letter.

Names and Rank.	Names and Rank.
Captain Sir W. E. Parry, Sir John Franklin, Fred. W. Beechey, Sir Jas. C. Ross, Sir Geo. Back, Horatio J. Austin, F. R. M. Crozier, Jos. Sherer, Edward J. Bird, Wm. Smith, Owen Stanley,	Commander Arch. M'Murdo, Lieutenant Andrew Reid, Wm. J. Dealy, Chas. Palmer, Berkeley West- ropp, Edw. N. Kendal, Graham Gore, Chaplain, Rev. Geo. Fisher, Surgeon, John Edwards, C. J. Beverley, G. M'Diarmid, M.D. Allan M'Laren, Purser, James Halse.
Col. Sabine, Dr. J. Richardson, M.D. Commander Matthew Liddon, Peter Fisher,	

The inscription on the pedestal of the candelabrum corresponds with the terms of the letter.

One of the oldest and the ablest of my surviving friends, and my senior by five years, but who departed this life in October, 1846, was sure not to fail in his

congratulations on any subject interesting or gratifying to me. Few men possessed such a fund of knowledge, so clear an intellect, and so perfect a memory to communicate it to others, as Mr. Murdoch, and he had the happiness to retain his faculties to the last day of his life. Up to that period, scarcely a week passed in which I did not spend a couple of hours in his company, and I never left it without a new acquisition of knowledge, more particularly in any curious circumstance drawn out of the old Spanish and Portuguese voyages, in which his recollection of details was quite wonderful.

“ 8, Portland Place, 26th March, 1845.

“ My dear Sir John Barrow,

“ My daughter has just informed me that the Arctic committee have presented you with a beautiful testimonial for your great services in promoting voyages of discovery. The gift is rendered doubly valuable from the character of the donors, so capable of appreciating the merit of the man, to whom they have given this mark of their esteem; long may he live to enjoy it.

“ During forty years that you were a secretary of the Admiralty you were the constant and the successful advocate of those voyages of discovery, which have enlarged the bounds of science and done so much honour to the British navy and nation. The enduring fortitude and untiring enterprise with which Parry and Ross and Franklin and Back braved the rigours of a Polar winter and the perils of a frozen sea, will render their names for ever famous in the annals of navigation, and the name of Barrow will be associated with them by posterity.

“ This is perhaps the last letter that I shall attempt to write, for even with the sun shining on my paper it is but imperfectly visible.

“ Yours, ever faithfully,

“ THOS. MURDOCH.

“ Sir John Barrow, Bart.,

“ New Street, Spring Gardens.”

There was one of the Arctic officers most highly esteemed for his extensive acquirements in natural history, and still more so for his humanity and amiable disposition, who, by some unaccountable oversight, was not rewarded as he ought to have been ; it might have arisen from a great portion of his time and attention having been for five or six years employed in bringing out the *Fauna Borealis*, or ‘ Natural History of the Arctic Regions,’ in the four departments of mammalia, birds, fishes, and insects, with plates and descriptions, in as many folio volumes. The gentleman to whom I allude, it is almost unnecessary to say, is Dr. (now Sir John) Richardson, whose case I determined in the last year of my service to bring forward in such a manner as to be irresistible, and I succeeded in prevailing on Lord Haddington to make application to Sir James Graham to obtain for him the honour of knighthood. I may mention an incident which marks an amiable stamp on the character of the individual in question. While the title was in progress intimation was conveyed to me that Dr. Richardson had been attacked with severe paralysis. I wrote instantly to Haslar Hospital to inquire after him ; the answer was that it was only a fainting fit, occasioned by stooping too long, and that he was then quite well. It turned out, that he was employing himself in stooping to plant

flowers and evergreens round the grave of his late wife, whom he had recently lost. Another trait may be mentioned. Having himself made no application nor expressed any desire to be knighted, Lord Haddington asked me if I was sure it would be acceptable. "That," I said, "shall be ascertained." On seeing him, I asked him if knighthood would be agreeable, provided it could be obtained. His answer to me was, "As a mark of approbation from the Government for my services, it could not be otherwise, but it would have been much more so, had it been granted in the life-time of my beloved wife." These are pleasing traits of strong domestic affection, and correspond, as I have been informed, with the whole tenor of his life.

There is another brave officer in whose behalf I was so greatly interested that, after my retirement, I strongly urged the Board to grant his promotion. The officer in question is Commander Fitzjames, who accompanies Franklin on his present voyage, and on whom the Board has been pleased to confer the rank of Captain. These are the only favours I asked on my retiring from office, and they will not be considered as unworthily bestowed when conferred on meritorious officers like these. I asked nothing and obtained nothing for myself or for any part of my family. It has been my good fortune through life never to have solicited a single favour, yet to have received many.

It may not perhaps be considered unreasonable should friends apprehend that, when an individual on the verge of life has given up an office of labour unabated during a period of forty years, he will be apt to pine away and become desponding, for want of something to

employ the mind, which indeed was surmised in 1806, when I was forty years younger than in the latter case, and had only been in office at home about two years, at the termination of which Mr. Grey dispensed with my further services. I then laughed at such nonsense, went down with my family to Hastings, where I wrote the 'Life of Lord Macartney,' in two vols., 4to., made the acquaintance of old Mr. Planta, of Mr. Milward, his son and two daughters, the principal inhabitants of the place, and of Sir James Bland Burgess, of Beauport, who, on seeing my immense MSS., took for granted I must be a literary character, and said he belonged to the Literary Society, of which Dr. Vincent the Dean of Westminster was President; that Sir William Scott, Archdeacon Nares, Anstie, Sotheby, John Kemble, &c., were members, and John Reeves their treasurer; and that he should write up to town and propose me as a candidate, observing that though one black ball excluded, I was already sufficiently known to prevent anything of the kind happening to me. I told him that he should be held responsible should such a mishap occur. I was fortunate enough to be elected; and until last year was still a member, and I believe had continued till I became father of the club, of which Sir Robert Inglis is now President; and I may venture to say that, without any exception, it is the best and most varied intellectual dining club in London, containing the most eminent men in the highest station of divinity, law, and physic, together with artists equally eminent, poets, historians, and philosophers.

Being deeply, however, impressed with the truth of the maxim of one of the wisest of men, that "there is a time for all things," and that mine was drawing towards

its conclusion, I requested our excellent president to present my resignation to the members of the club, and I need not say with what gratification I received the answer which follows:—

“7, Bedford Square, July 6, 1846.

“My dear Sir John Barrow,

“I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd, addressed to myself individually, and of that also therein enclosed which you addressed to me more immediately, as in the chair of the Literary Society. Even that, however, contained so much too flattering a reference to me, that I was unable to read the whole to the friends assembled; but I read too much when I read the mere fact of your resignation. I added, indeed, all that you said about the pleasure of your past intercourse with the society; and I am instructed to inform you that while they feel bound, though with great regret, to accept the tender of your resignation, they have indulged themselves in retaining your name on their list by transferring it to the section of the ten honorary members, in which there was a vacancy. Without feeling the burthen of attendance, you will thus, we hope, if God shall spare you in the enjoyment of your average health, sometimes in the season again present yourself among us; but lest this, even thus shadowed forth, should seem to impose any obligation upon you, as to personal suit and service, I must add that while we shall always value your appearance we are content to keep your name alone—a name so long and valuably associated with us.

“Believe me, my dear Sir John Barrow,

“Most truly yours,

“ROBERT H. INGLIS.”

I am now also father of the Royal Society, and within one of the Royal Society Club, having punctually attended the latter from the days of Sir Joseph Banks, Doctor Blagdon, Doctor Wollaston, Mr. Davies Gilbert, Sir Everard Home, the hydrographer Dalrymple, Cavendish, Sir Humphry Davy, and many other cultivators of science and philosophy, all of whom have long since departed this life. It is the last society I shall relinquish.

It was proposed to me to assist in establishing, while still in the Admiralty, a Royal Geographical Society. This proposition was made at the table of my late esteemed friend, Mr. Sotheby, with whom I believe it originated, when the subject was discussed, and a general wish expressed that some one could be found who had energy and zeal sufficient to propose and carry through the formation of such a society; and the unanimous opinion was that if I would undertake it, there was no doubt of its success. After much pressing I consented to make the proposal at the Raleigh Club, in the establishment of which I had been one of three, and which had become very flourishing. Notice was given that such a proposition would be made on the 24th of May, 1830. The meeting was large, and I addressed it from the chair, stating the objects of the proposed society, and that its progress would very much depend on the encouragement received from a society of travellers like that of the Raleigh. Paper was called for, and two-thirds at least put down their names, willing to abide by the regulations to be made. In the first place, I had the approbation of Sir Robert Peel, through him King William IV. became our patron, the Duke of Sussex vice-patron, and Lord Goderich was appointed presi-

dent. The King gave an annual medal of fifty guineas for the promotion of discovery; and, in short, the publication of the first volume of the Journal comprehended a list of 535 names, most of them eminent in arts, sciences, and literature. The following is Sir Robert Peel's letter on the subject:—

“ Whitehall, October 25, 1830.

“ My dear Sir,

“ I have the satisfaction of informing you that the King has notified to me his ready acquiescence in the wish which you expressed on behalf of the Geographical Society that His Majesty would consent to be Patron of the Society.

“ His Majesty has also desired me to inform you that he proposes to place fifty guineas annually at the disposal of the Society, as a Royal premium for the encouragement of geographical science and discovery.

“ I am, my dear Sir,

“ Faithfully yours,

“ ROBERT PEEL.

“ John Barrow, Esq., Admiralty.”

I cannot imagine the nature of the constitutions of those who feel miserable in retirement for want of employment. To such I would recommend a page of the amiable Cowper, who says,—

“ Friends, books, a garden, and perhaps his pen,
Delightful industry enjoy'd at home,
Can *he* want occupation who has these?”

For my own part, I have them all except the garden, and that is supplied, as far as London admits, by my daughter. I have also the unrestrained use of the beautiful public gardens; and when I add that the *pen* is, this 16th day

of April, 1847, employed in writing the present page, it may be concluded that I am not passing the day in idleness. I had already prepared and published, within twelve months of my resignation of the Admiralty, a volume from the Voyages of Discovery in the Arctic Regions, which I do not regret, as it afforded me not only employment, but a six months' pleasing recreation; and, what is of more importance and a higher gratification to myself, it has received the approbation of those brave fellows who are the main objects of my labours in that production—to set forth more generally their excellent characters and conduct—their unflinching perseverance in difficulties of no ordinary kind—their patient endurance of extreme suffering, borne without complaint or murmur, and with an equanimity and fortitude of mind, under the most appalling distress, such, perhaps, as was never equalled—affording rare and splendid examples of moral courage and mental triumph over fatigue, famine, and starvation, which nothing but a firm reliance on a merciful Protector and resignation to His Divine will could have supported. But they had within themselves powers of body and mind not inferior to those ascribed by Dr. Johnson to the Swedish Charles:—

“ A frame of adamant, a soul of fire,
No dangers fright them, and no labours tire.”

I have felt, and have so expressed myself in the preface of the work alluded to, a most gratifying reflection that few lives (in some of the ships none) have been lost; that those who survived have been advanced in their professional career, or have received some honourable distinction in reward of their services; and that few

of those in the inferior ranks remain without having improved their condition in life, in consequence of their good conduct on very trying occasions. In fact, these voyages have held out such fine examples of strict discipline without corporal punishment, of kind treatment and wholesome indulgence on the part of the officers, and, in consequence thereof, of cheerful obedience, exertion, and alacrity on that of the men, that I am inclined to believe that a consideration of the great benefit likely to be derived from the knowledge of such examples being extended to the Navy at large, may have induced the Board of Admiralty, as I understand it has done, to order the publisher to prepare 300 copies of the work in question, to be added to the officers' and seamen's library in ships of war—an order which is the more gratifying to me, as it has been done entirely without my knowledge, and without my having the least pecuniary interest in the sale of the book, or any other interest except that of thus proving to the world, that the Arctic voyages have not been made in vain.

I am not insensible of praise, but always grateful "*laudari a laudato.*" The following is from Admiral the Baron Wrangel, no mean judge of the subject:—

“Sir John Barrow's interesting work has found its way hither (St. Petersburg), and has been highly approved of by all who have read it. It was precisely such a collected account of the Arctic voyages as we were in want of, particularly just now, when all who are interested in the progress of Arctic discovery are looking forward with great interest to the result of the late expedition of the 'Erebus' and 'Terror.'

“5th September, 1846.”

What the fate of this present volume may be, I probably must leave to my survivors to experience. To trace my progress through the vicissitudes of a life extended beyond the general period of human existence, and, by the mercy of God, without any painful suffering from accident or disease, has been my object; more with a view of benefiting my children and theirs, by the example it holds forth of industrious habits, than with any other. But as mine may be considered a peculiar—or, at least, an unusual—case as regards the state of bodily health, I may here venture to take a special notice of it. The medical gentleman—an honest Quaker—who brought me into the world, inoculated me when very young for the small-pox, and gave me, no doubt, a dose or two for the measles; but I am not conscious of ever having had my pulse felt from that period, except by the Chinese physician at Chusan, already mentioned. On noticing this to Sir Henry Halford, at the Club, who had asked me how I contrived to preserve such uniform good health without medical advice, my reply was, “Probably for that very reason, as I am not aware of any other.” He laughed, and said, he knew not what would become of *his* profession if all men followed my example. Since writing this, in December, 1846, being somewhat indisposed, I was entreated to consult my old and kind friend Sir Benjamin Brodie, who set me right in twenty-four hours.

In early life, and up to my fortieth year, my days were mostly spent in out-door exercise on land, and in all climates from 80° north to 40° south latitude by sea. As a pedestrian I travelled several thousand miles, chiefly in South Africa, and a full

thousand in China. During the last forty years of my life I scarcely took any exercise, except in the summer evenings when not occupied at my desk; and for a month or six weeks each summer in some part of the country—chiefly at my friend Sir George Staunton's beautiful place, Leigh Park; except twice or thrice I had a run on the Continent. I have always been a moderate eater of plain food, and a moderate drinker, mostly of port-wine. From invariable habit I seldom if ever require to have recourse to any kind of medicine. I have either read or heard that the child inherits mostly the constitution of body and mind from the female parent. I can say that my mother never ailed anything while I was with her, nor to her last illness, which was that of old age, for she died in her ninetieth year; and *her* mother had completed ninety at her death. I am now writing this trifle in my eighty-third year, which will be completed, should my life be extended to the 19th of June, 1847.

It is a common observation that air and exercise are the best promoters or preservers of health: but perhaps its stability may mostly be ascribed to constitutional habit. For the first forty years of my life, as I have before said, no one could be more exposed to good air and plenty of exercise than myself; for the last forty years I was doomed almost entirely to a sedentary life; yet in neither case, as already observed, had I occasion to call in the doctor; nor could I perceive any change in the habit of body, except that of being somewhat less active—yet not much so—during the last two or three years; my weight has never varied more than from ten to eleven stone. After all, much may be ascribed to

a regular and systematic course of life, to moderation in eating and drinking, and avoiding excess in both.

In this portion of my Memoir I feel I am too *autobiographical*; which is, perhaps, excusable, as it is intended chiefly for the edification of my own family, and I shall conclude, therefore, with an anecdote for the physiologist, though not very creditable to myself, as it must exhibit me in a state of unconsciousness for once and only once in the course of my life.

One of the principal gentlemen of the Cape of Good Hope gave a sumptuous entertainment on the west slope of the Table Mountain, as high up the sloping part as where it is terminated by the wall of stone that forms the cap of the mountain. Here, at the height of about 3500 feet or more, was our repast; and the champagne passed briskly round among a party of between forty and fifty gentlemen. When the night was setting in I was anxious to get away; and with some difficulty succeeded in finding my Spanish pony, and contrived to steal away and cautiously and slowly to get down the steep, rocky, and shrubby slope into the Cape Town road, perfectly steady and sober; but all at once a giddiness came over me, and increased so far as to deprive me of all self-control. What happened to me during the three or four miles I had to ride I know nothing; but when the little pony arrived at its home, in a full gallop, down I fell upon the ground, and from the shock I suppose I felt myself sober enough. On the next day I was complimented by many of those whom I had met or passed on the road in a full gallop, "That John Gilpin himself could not have done better." The pony, it seems, being well

acquainted with the road, had galloped the whole way at its full pace. I had taken only a moderate quantity of champagne, and nothing else ; I felt no effect from it on leaving the mountain, or on arriving at its foot : the after effect could have been caused only by the sudden transition from an atmospherical density, at the probable height of nearly 4000 feet, to the general level of the country.

CHAPTER V.—SUPPLEMENTARY.

SECTION II.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE QUARTERLY REVIEW.

The Origin of the Quarterly Review—The Supporters of it—The Editor, Mr. W. Gifford—My Introduction to him—My Share in the Progress of the Review—Its Success.

THE origin and the history of that most useful, able, and generally well-conducted work *The Quarterly Review*, is worthy of the man who first conceived it, of the patronage under which it was brought forward, and of the principles it advocated. Those principles, which were adopted from its commencement, are founded on religion and morality, on loyalty to the throne, and patriotism to the country. To all of these and to their strict observance, under the able superintendence of William Gifford, must be ascribed its extraordinary success through a long series of years. Its author and its origin will at once be seen from the following letter, which undoubtedly gave rise to the work, and the sound good sense and ability which it displays are highly creditable to the writer :—

“ September 25, 1807.

“ To the Right Hon. George Canning.

“ Sir, — I venture to address you upon a subject that is not perhaps undeserving of one moment of your attention.

“There is a work, entitled ‘The Edinburgh Review,’ written with such unquestionable talent that it has already attained an extent of circulation not equalled by any similar publication. The principles of this work are, however, so radically bad that I have been led to consider the effect which such sentiments, so generally diffused, are likely to produce, and to think that some means equally popular ought to be adopted to counteract their dangerous tendency. But the publication in question is conducted with so much ability and is sanctioned and circulated with such high and decisive authority by the party of whose opinions it is the organ, that there is little hope of producing against it any effectual opposition, unless it arise from you, Sir, and your friends. Should you, Sir, think the idea worthy of encouragement, I should with equal pride and willingness engage my arduous exertions to promote its success; but as my object is nothing short of producing a work of the greatest talent and importance, I shall entertain it no longer if it be not so fortunate as to obtain the high patronage which I have thus, Sir, taken the liberty to solicit.

“Permit me, Sir, to add, that the person who thus addresses you is no adventurer, but a man of some property, inheriting a business that has been established for nearly a century. I therefore trust that my application will be attributed to its proper motives, and that your goodness will at least pardon its intrusion.

“I have the honour to be, Sir,

“Your most humble and most obedient servant,
(Signed) “JOHN MURRAY.”

It does not appear that Mr. Canning gave any direct

reply to this letter. Holding, as he then did, the high and responsible office of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, it could not be expected that he would commit himself in a matter of this kind, more especially one meant to embrace political subjects. At the same time it is not likely that one of the principal directors and the most spirited writer of that clever and effective paper the 'Anti-Jacobin Journal,' instituted for a similar purpose to that proposed by Mr. Murray, would disregard so plausible an offer for the establishment of a permanent Review, with the design of counteracting the more than Jacobinical poison scattered most industriously through the pages of the 'Edinburgh Review;' for we shall see that Mr. Canning at once communicated with his friend William Gifford, with the view of securing him as the editor, provided the work should go forward. Gifford was well known to all the talented men of the day, by his translation of 'Juvenal,' his 'Baviad and Mæviad,' his editions of the plays of Massinger, Ben Jonson, and Ford; but more especially to Mr. Canning, by his having been the editor of the celebrated 'Anti-Jacobin Journal,' to which he contributed largely and effectually by exposing to ridicule the mischievous doctrines of the disaffected Jacobins, in some of the most satirical and biting articles, and by creating indignation in those whose trade was to inculcate principles of profanity, immorality, and disloyalty to the crown and the country. The *lies* and *mistakes* and *misrepresentations* (so headed) were in Gifford's department to expose and correct, and he did so effectually.

Murray's letter was written at a most fortunate

moment. The 'Edinburgh Review,' by mistake it was supposed, contained a very severe fault-finding and unjust article by Mr. Jeffrey on 'Marmion,' the most popular poem of his friend Sir Walter Scott—so popular, indeed, we were told, that 50,000 copies of it were sold. From this moment Scott determined, and no wonder he should, to break off all connexion with Constable's Review, and an article shortly after appeared (in the 26th number of that Review) under the title of 'Don Cevallos on the Usurpation of Spain,' known to have been written by Mr. (now Lord) Brougham, the tone of which was so highly resented by Scott that he decided at once to go a step further, and to discontinue his name on the list of subscribers; in the execution of which he is said to have written to Constable in these terms—that "The Edinburgh Review *had* become such as to render it impossible for me to continue a contributor to it; *now* it is such as I can no longer continue to receive or read it;" and it is also said that the list of subscribers exhibits in an indignant dash of Constable's pen, opposite Scott's name, the word "STOP!!!"*

Mr. Murray, when he wrote to Mr. Canning, could not have obtained any information of what had occurred; but being desirous of establishing an interest in Edinburgh, in conjunction with the Ballantynes, he made up his mind to take a trip to Scotland. He had also a concern of some moment with Mr. Constable, who having agreed with Scott to give him one thousand guineas for his 'Marmion' before it was written, the bookseller thought it prudent to divide the concern by

* Lockhart's 'Life of Sir Walter Scott.'

allowing Miller of Albemarle Street, and Murray of Fleet Street, each one quarter, which, from its enormous sale, proved a little fortune. These concerns, therefore, carried him to Scotland, where he took the opportunity of paying a visit to Sir Walter Scott, at his residence of Ashiestiel, from whence, in a letter to George Ellis, Esq., of Claremont, Sir Walter says, "John Murray, the bookseller of Fleet Street, who has more real knowledge of what concerns his business than any of his brethren, came to canvass a most important plan," &c.; and he tells him that the plan of instituting a Review in London, conducted totally independent of bookselling influence, its literature well supported, and its principles English and constitutional, would be the best cure to counteract the mischievous doctrines and forebodings which he thinks that for these two years past have done their utmost to hasten the accomplishment of their own prophecy, "of a speedy revolution in this country."

Sir Walter Scott seemed to be much pleased with Mr. Murray, and the offence given to the former by the 'Edinburgh Review,' no doubt, made the latter with his scheme a most acceptable visitor. "He found," he says, "John Murray a young bookseller of capital and enterprise with more good sense and propriety of sentiment than fall to the share of most of the trade." And Mr. Lockhart (who in Scott's 'Life' gives the best history of the origin of the 'Quarterly Review') notices a striking proof of John Murray's sagacity. "He has told me that when he read the article on 'Marmion' and another on general politics in the same number of the 'Edinburgh Review,' he said to himself, 'Walter Scott has feelings both as a gentleman and a

Tory, which these people must now have wounded; the alliance between him and the whole clique of the 'Edinburgh Review,' its proprietor included, is shaken.' This sagacious inference and his share in the adventure of 'Marmion' were ample motives for a journey to Scotland."

Walter Scott tells Mr. Ellis, moreover, that he has been given to understand that Mr. William Gifford is willing to become the conductor of such a work, and that he had himself written to Gifford a very voluminous letter on the subject at the Lord Advocate's desire. That letter contains a few observations on the details of the scheme, in which he says, "I only obey the commands of our distinguished friends without having the vanity to hope that I can point out anything which was not likely to have at once occurred to a person of Mr. Gifford's literary experience and eminence." He tells him the reputation of the 'Edinburgh Review' is chiefly owing, first, to its being entirely uninfluenced by the booksellers; and, secondly, to the very handsome recompense which the editor not only holds forth to his regular assistants, but actually forces upon those whose circumstances and rank make it a matter of total indifference. "I know," he says, "that the editor makes a point that every contributor shall receive this *bonus*, saying that Czar Peter, when working in the trenches, received pay as a common soldier." The control, of course, must be vested in the editor for selecting, curtailing, and correcting the contributions. "If the books criticised be understood, though often written with stupid mediocrity, a lively paragraph or entertaining illustration may render them palatable—access to the best sources of political information,

but the Review should not assume (at first) a political character—articles on science and miscellaneous literature are desirable—a most delicate part, and the most essential, will be the management of the disgusting and deleterious doctrines with which the most popular of our Reviews disgraces its pages—the choice of subject an important one—going into a state of hostility with the ‘Edinburgh Review,’ but without any formal declaration of war”—these and some others are the mere heads of what he recommends, and he concludes by naming a number of gentlemen who are likely to be contributors. He sends a copy of this letter to Mr. Ellis, and tells him “it has been received in a most favourable manner by Mr. Gifford, who approves of its contents in all respects, and that Mr. Canning has looked it over and promised such aid as is therein required.” And he observes on the latter point, “As our start is of such immense consequence, don’t you think Mr. Canning, though unquestionably our Atlas, might for a day find a Hercules on whom to devolve the burthen of the globe, while he writes us a Review?” He did write for it, more than one article, as I had occasion to know.

It would appear from what has been stated that Mr. Canning had already taken measures respecting this new Review, for in the letter of advice which Scott writes to Gifford he tells him it is in consequence of a communication between the Lord Advocate and Mr. Canning. There can be no doubt that Scott communicated all he knew of these matters to Murray, who hastened home; and, towards the end of 1808, such progress had been made that the first number of the ‘Quarterly Review’ appeared in February, 1809,

in which Mr. Scott had several articles, Mr. Canning contributed one, Messrs. Ellis, Frere, Rose, Southey, and some others; and it took so well that a second edition was speedily called for.

At that time, little did I think that *I* should ever be considered as deserving a place in that Review, much less that I should become one of its most frequent contributors, perhaps the most, with the exception of a brother secretary. One morning, in the summer of the year 1809, Mr. Canning looked in upon me at the Admiralty, said he had often troubled me on business, but he was now about to ask a favour. "I believe you are acquainted with my friend William Gifford?" "By reputation," I said, "but not personally." "Then," says he, "I must make you personally acquainted; will you come and dine with me at Gloucester Lodge any day, the sooner the more agreeable—say to-morrow, if you are disengaged?" On accepting, he said, "I will send to Gifford to meet you; I know he will be too glad to come."

"Now," he continued, "it is right I should tell you that, in the new Review of which two numbers have appeared under the name of the *Quarterly*, I am deeply, both publicly and personally, interested, and have taken a leading part with Mr. George Ellis, Hookham Frere, Walter Scott, Rose, Southey, and some others; our object in that work being to counteract the *virus* scattered among His Majesty's subjects through the pages of the 'Edinburgh Review.' Now, I wish to enlist you into our corps, not as a mere advising idler, but as an efficient labourer in our friend Gifford's vineyard." My reply was, "I am afraid you