

the attendance of the whole body upon their chief at 10 o'clock next morning, arrayed in full-dress uniform. Now it so happened that among these boys there were several who had never taken the trouble to provide themselves with full-dress uniforms. They had their frocks, which they put on when following the Duke to reviews, and they always dressed, as indeed he did himself, in plain clothes, to receive his parties at home. Great, therefore, was the consternation of the conclave, and vast the exertions made to beg or borrow the necessary habiliments in which to meet their chief. At last the dreaded moment came, and the Duke, looking somewhat sternly round, spoke his mind. He had been surprised and indignant that the gentlemen of his staff should show themselves inattentive to his guests. It was their duty to serve him as well in the domestic circle as elsewhere, and he expected that for the future they would conduct themselves as they knew that he wished them to do.

The young men looked very foolish, but took, as they were bound to do, his reproof in good part, and it is fair to add, that from that day forth no one, not even the most sensitive individual who had the honour of sitting at the Duke's table, found reason to consider himself slighted by the members of the Duke's family.

Though cured of behaving rudely, these lads were by no means cured of playing practical jokes upon all persons, high and low, who seemed to present fair butts to their wit. Among others, they tried to get Sir Sidney Smith into a scrape, and but for the Duke they would have succeeded. The gallant Admiral, as is well known, though one of the bravest, was one of the vainest men of the age. He was in Paris, and received an invitation to a ball which the Duke was about to give; and he received more. A letter reached him the same day, professing to come from the Sublime Porte, in which it was announced that in consideration of his eminent services at Acre, the Sultan had been pleased to confer upon him the order of the Key. By and by a box arrived, containing a key carefully wrapped up in gilded paper, and having a broad ribbon attached. The key happened to be very rusty, and the circumstance was accounted

for by a statement in writing, that the box had unfortunately been wetted with sea water in its passage from Constantinople.

The gallant Admiral received the present, as it was anticipated that he would ; and being desirous of obtaining some other authority than his own for wearing the order, he proceeded to the Duke's house and asked his advice. The Duke saw at once into the whole matter ; and a sore trial it was to a man endowed with a keen sense of the ridiculous, to keep his gravity. But he put a restraint upon his feelings, pretended to be exceedingly angry, and advised Sir Sidney not to wear the key. He was convulsed with laughter when he met the culprits at dinner, and often told the story afterwards with admirable humour.

The Duke had his hunting days at and near Cambray, as regularly as he used to have them on the banks of the Agueda. The meets were well attended, and often led to excellent sport. He gave every encouragement likewise to the theatrical performances which were got up in Cambray itself, chiefly under the management of Mr Commissioner Fonblanque, then an officer in the 21st Fusiliers. But all this came to an end in due time. The army of occupation broke up as I have stated ; the Duke took leave of it in a valedictory address, and never again assumed the direction of troops in the immediate presence of an enemy.

CHAPTER XXIX.

TROUBLESOME TIMES—CATO STREET—QUEEN CAROLINE.

WE turn a page in the biography of this great man, and find ourselves called upon to follow him through long years spent in the struggles of party, and amid the anxieties and disappointments of political life.

There are those among the most ardent of his admirers who conceive, that for his own sake, if not for the sake of the country, it would have been well had that course been avoided. His habits, they assert, were formed out of England, and in a condition of things essentially un-English. He had undergone no training worthy of the name in the House of Commons, and never could have found leisure to study, as they require to be studied, the laws and constitution of his country. Perhaps this is in the main true. But how was it possible for the Duke of Wellington, so long the referee to the King's ministers in questions of foreign policy, to withdraw into private life while yet in the vigour of his days? That the Duke should have become a party politician may be a subject of regret. Able men, entertaining the same views with himself, thought so when he first fell into that category. They considered the position unworthy of one who for a quarter of a century had stood far above party and its claims. But the great question to be answered is, could the thing be avoided? I think not. A ministry so feeble as that of which Lord Liverpool was the head threw itself for support upon the prestige of the Duke's great name. They gave him no time to consider what course

would be best, either for himself or for the country, but inveigled him, if I may so express myself, into the Cabinet, under the pretext of securing to it the best opinion which Europe could supply on military subjects. He was still commander-in-chief of the army of occupation, when the Master-generalship of the Ordnance was pressed upon him, in a manner which, as they well knew, precluded the possibility of refusal. And so, on his return home, he found himself wrapped round in a net from which he never afterwards broke away; and from which, use having reconciled him to the position, he never perhaps desired to break away, till disappointment and the increasing infirmities of age warned him that his day of labour was done.

The interval between 1818 and 1820 is one on which no lover of his country now looks back except with regret. It was a season of change from war with its profuse expenditure to peace, bringing not plenty, but forced public economy in its train; and in the manipulation of that interval all parties in the state, Tories and Whigs, the friends of Government and its enemies, committed grievous blunders. The people entirely uneducated, and goaded on by want, and by the harangues of demagogues, plotted and schemed for the overthrow of the monarchy, and were restrained from carrying their designs into execution only by measures of the harshest repression. Columns of regular troops traversed the manufacturing and mining districts to disperse nightly drillings and over-awe disaffection. And mobs, being charged by yeomanry cavalry, offered resistance, and were cut down. It would not be fair to try by the standard of our own times and ideas the proceedings either of rulers or of subjects 40 years ago. The statesmen of that day had been eye-witnesses, so to speak, of the first French Revolution, and were too much afraid of the recurrence of its atrocities to shrink from any measures, however stern, which promised to avert them. The masses, never having heard of the term "moral power," and being ignorant how to exercise the thing itself, thought only amid their sufferings, real or imaginary, of appealing to brute force. Hence the struggle between order and confusion, rudely

conducted on both sides, and leading to the enactments of laws such as no Parliament in these days could be persuaded to pass, nor any magistrates to carry into effect. Why should I go, even shortly, over ground which has so little to attract? Rather let me content myself with saying, that the Duke, as was natural, adopted the views of his colleagues throughout these years of trouble; that whether agreeing with them or dissenting from them while points were discussed in the Cabinet, he stood by them manfully when they came to a decision; and that he gave them the benefit of his counsel, in so marshalling and directing the military force at their disposal, that no serious risings anywhere took place, and very few lives were sacrificed.

The troubles of 1818 and 1819 were incident mainly to commercial depression. With increasing prosperity in the manufacturing districts came a respite from such troubles. But the people had been too carefully taught to connect their own sufferings with abuses in the machinery of the Government to be reconciled, in prosperity, to the constitution as it was; and the Prince Regent was personally odious to them. The death of George III. brought this latter feeling strongly to light.

George III. died on the 28th of December, 1820; George IV. was immediately proclaimed; and in less than three weeks dangers threatened the state from two very different quarters. It was discovered that for some time back a band of desperate men had met nightly in a garret in Cato Street, and that they were plotting the assassination of the King and of all the members of his Cabinet. At first they made a distribution of the bloody work, each conspirator undertaking to make away with a particular victim; and this circumstance it is which induces me to dwell at all upon the insane project. For the Duke had a narrow escape. "It came out upon the examination," said the Duke, telling the story at Walmer Castle, "that I was to be taken care of by Mr Ings. Mr Ings, it seems, had watched me often, but never caught me alone, till one afternoon in the beginning of February he saw me leave the Ordnance Office. He crossed the street and walked after me, intending, when

I got into the Green Park, to stab me from behind. But before reaching St James's Palace, a gentleman with only one arm met me, and turning round, walked with me through the Park to Apsley House. Mr Ings was afraid, in the circumstances, to go on with his job, and I escaped. And all this I quite believe, for I recollect meeting Lord Fitzroy Somerset that day; and just as we resumed our walk, I saw a suspicious-looking person pass us and go up St James's Street."

"And what about the conspiracy itself, Duke?"

"You all know how it went on, and by what process it was stopped. I proposed a different plan, but my colleagues did not like it. We were masters, by this time, of all their secrets, and knew that they intended to break in upon us at a Cabinet dinner at Lord Harrowby's, and put us all to death. My proposal was to get a body of police quietly into the house, to send our despatch-boxes there, each containing a brace of pistols, and to let them come. I thought it the readiest way of catching them in a trap, without creating alarm elsewhere. My colleagues, however, were of a different opinion, and perhaps they were right."

The other peril, if a peril it deserves to be called, arose immediately out of the domestic differences between George IV. and Queen Caroline. Time has long since settled the merits of that quarrel. A profligate and selfish Prince, prevented by circumstances from ridding himself by legitimate means of a profligate and violent Princess, endeavoured by means which were not legitimate to crush her; and his ministers, weakly lending themselves to his humours, stretched the law to the verge of injustice, and failed. The Duke's part in that wretched drama was a subordinate one. He met the Queen's Attorney-General, Mr, now Lord, Brougham, and proposed terms of a compromise, which were rejected; and he drew round London the cordon of troops, which were to put down violence, should serious violence be attempted. But disapproving, as he did, the whole of the King's proceedings, he held as much as possible aloof from discussing them. An expression dropped in the course of debate in the House of Lords, brought

down upon him, it is true, a sudden burst of obloquy. The Queen was of course the idol of the mob; many petitions came in, in her favour, and among the rest, one from Hampshire, containing 9000 signatures. Now the Duke had recently been appointed to the Lieutenancy of Hampshire, and it was charged against him by an opposition peer, that he discountenanced the getting up of a county petition. His answer, though very characteristic, was not perhaps very prudent. After showing that the House was already in possession of a petition numerous and respectably signed, he added, that he did not see what purpose could be served after that, by going through the farce of a county meeting. It was by mistakes like this, trifling in themselves, yet offering a ready handle to the ill-disposed, that the Duke sometimes showed his lack of training in what may be called Parliamentary tactics. The words were much commented upon at the time, and were often afterwards recalled, to prove either that the speaker did not know what the rights of the people were, or else knowing held them in entire disrespect.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE DUKE IN THE CABINET—AT VERONA.

THE larger edition of this work has told how the questions of Parliamentary reform and free trade assumed about this time a tangible shape; and how the claims of Roman Catholics to be admitted to the rights of citizenship, independently of religious opinion, acquired day by day an increasing number of advocates.

What the Duke's real sentiments were in 1821 regarding Parliamentary reform and Catholic emancipation, it would perhaps be difficult to determine. He did not leave the Cabinet when Lord John Russell's proposal was resisted; and the franchise forfeited at Grampound was transferred not to Leeds, but to Yorkshire. Neither did he vote in the Cabinet, or in the House of Lords, with those of his colleagues who approved of the entire removal of Roman Catholic disabilities. But on the other hand, as he declined a proposal to assume the chief direction of affairs in Ireland, with a view to put down sedition there, and to maintain the supremacy of the laws as they stood, so on the subject of gradually extending the franchise to large towns, he never uttered a word to show that he disapproved of the project. Putting these two circumstances together, and looking to the tone of his correspondence in earlier years, the fair inference is that his mind was by no means made up on either point. With respect to free trade the case is different. He opposed the abolition of the Company's monopoly in China, for reasons which were rather

political than commercial, and every successive year seemed only more and more to confirm his predilections in favour of protection to British agriculture. It must be admitted, however, that up to 1822, and beyond it, the Duke appears scarcely to have bestowed much attention upon questions purely fiscal. His politics were still those of the Foreign Office, and he became in consequence a frequent medium of communication between his own and Continental Governments. He was not indeed present at the Congress of Trappau. The English Government was little desirous of taking part in that conclave, which met to consider how the revolutionary spirit could best be put down in Europe. For the revolutionary spirit was charged with having brought about in Spain and Portugal, that impatience under absolute rule which soon extended into Italy, and which, like most feelings long pent up and suddenly triumphant, became the cause in both countries of many abuses. By and by, however, when Louis XVIII. was assembling an army on the Spanish frontier, the Duke took advantage of an official visit to the fortresses in the Netherlands, and passed on to Paris. He had there some interesting conversation with the French King and his ministers, and prevailed so far as to induce the King to make a statement of the minimum of his demands. "If you can get the Spaniards to accept their constitution as a gift from the Crown, instead of forcing it upon the Crown as the will of the people, we may come to terms. Neither shall we withdraw our ambassador from Madrid as the other powers threaten to do." This was something; time at least was gained by it, and the reason of the concession M. Guizot has assigned. "Louis XVIII.," he says in his political reminiscences, "placed entire confidence in the judgment and friendly feeling of the Duke of Wellington." Yet Louis the XVIII. did not let the Duke go without giving utterance to words of which the meaning was pretty obvious. "Louis XIV.," he said, levelled the Pyrenees; I shall not allow them to be raised again. He placed my family on the throne of Spain, I cannot let them fall. The other sovereigns have not the same duties to fulfil. My ambassador ought not to quit Madrid

until the day when 100,000 Frenchmen are on their march to replace him."

The Duke's visit to Paris at this time was followed by an incident which is interesting only so far as it furnished him, in after life, with an opportunity of telling a story to which his peculiar manner of expressing himself gave remarkable zest. George IV., after a brief sojourn among his Irish subjects, proceeded to Hanover; and passing through Brussels was there met by the Duke, who conducted him over the Field of Waterloo. The Duke explained to the King all the movements in the battle, and pointed out to him the spots where men of note had fallen on both sides. "His Majesty took it very coolly," he used to say; "he never asked me a single question, nor said one word, until I showed him where Lord Anglesea's leg was buried, and then he burst into tears."

Though holding an inferior place in the Cabinet, and exhibiting little desire to take the lead in its deliberations, the Duke's influence with the King was by this time very great. It was for him or for Lord Castlereagh, not for Lord Liverpool, that his Majesty, when he had any important communication to make, usually sent; and on most subjects, particularly on those affecting the Foreign relations of the country, the Duke and Lord Castlereagh thought alike. The time was come, however, when circumstances were about to force the Duke into a more prominent place as a politician. The Session of 1822 appeared to have overtaxed Lord Castlereagh's powers of mind. The internal condition of the British Empire troubled him, as did the state of Continental Europe, and indeed of the world at large. He had agreed to attend a Congress at Vienna in the autumn, at which many important subjects should be discussed. But as the moment approached for setting out upon the journey, his courage failed him. At last the whole country was horrified by learning that he had destroyed himself in his house at Foot's Cray. No man felt the shock of that blow more severely than the Duke. He seems to have been apprehensive for some time back that a catastrophe of the kind was possible, for he warned Lord Castlereagh's medical adviser

to be upon his guard, and tried to soothe the anxieties of his friend, by proposing to become himself Lord Castlereagh's substitute at the Congress. The crash came however, and its immediate effect was to place the Duke, somewhat against his will, in the front rank of the administration. He became from that time forth a leading statesman, and the first use which he made of the authority thereby conceded to him, was to support Lord Liverpool in bringing back to the Cabinet Mr Canning, who at the period of the Queen's trial had retired from it.

Mr Canning was not in all respects a favourite with the Duke, who admired his talents, but distrusted his political honesty. The terms of intimacy in which he lived with many of the leaders of the Opposition offended the Duke's notions of what party fidelity ought to be. But aware of the need that there was of eloquence in the Cabinet, and not desiring to see Canning either shelved in India, or thrust into the Opposition, he approved of Lord Liverpool's inviting him to become Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and the invitation was accepted. The Duke, therefore, when he quitted London in September, 1822, carried with him a letter of instructions which Mr Canning had signed, but which had been drawn up by Lord Castlereagh, and accepted word for word by Lord Castlereagh's successor. I have thought it necessary to make these statements, because Mr Canning, at a later period, took credit to himself in the House of Commons for a policy which was in point of fact that of Lord Castlereagh and the Duke of Wellington. Indeed there never was a time throughout his long life, when the Duke was not entirely opposed to interference in the internal affairs of other nations. He was no admirer, certainly, of revolutions, and entertained a fixed dread of democracy; but as he always objected either to promote or to stop a revolution elsewhere, so he was always ready to enter into relations with the *de facto* Governments of foreign states;—whether, as in Portugal under Don Miguel, these took the form of Absolutism, or assumed, as in the Spanish colonies of South America, a purely republican shape.

The reader who is curious to know what the Duke, as the representative of Great Britain, did at Paris, in Vienna, and subsequently at Verona, must consult the larger edition of this work, where alone, I believe, among existing publications the tale has been told correctly and at length. For the present I content myself with saying that he laboured when in Paris to stop the invasion of Spain, that failing in that object, he obtained an assurance that France would not call upon the northern powers to help her, and that he thereby confined the war which followed within the limits of the Peninsula, where it soon came to an end. In Vienna he discussed with the Emperor of Russia the Greek question then rising into importance, and prevailed upon him to refrain from taking part with the insurgents by attacking Turkey. As to the Spanish colonies then in the depth of their struggle for independence, he contented himself with explaining clearly what England proposed to do. And finally on the subject of the slave-trade, for the abolition of which the English people were then clamorous, he was obliged to accept the personal assurance of the Sovereigns of Russia, Prussia, and even of France, that they abhorred it, and were ready to reissue the joint proclamation, which in 1815 had pronounced it to be "a disgrace to humanity."

A great deal of what I have in substance stated occurred in Paris and at Vienna. In the latter city the Duke met Kings and Emperors in semi-private interviews, and the arguments which he addressed to them were repeated more at length when the Congress assembled formally at Verona. Into the discussion of one not unimportant point, however, the Duke steadily refused to be drawn. Italy was then occupied by Austrian troops, and the Sovereigns, wishing to withdraw them, desired to consult the Duke as to the best mode of doing so. Now, as England had never consented to the overthrow by foreign bayonets of liberal institutions in Italy, so the Duke declined to give an opinion, or even to be present, when the subject of the return of these troops to their own homes was discussed. The Duke incurred great odium amongst the Continental powers by thus holding back; indeed they did not hesitate to accuse

constitutional England, of making common cause through him with the revolutionists all over the world.

A story is told of the Duke's journey from Vienna to Verona, which is curious if it be true. At first he hesitated whether, having been invited to meet the Sovereigns in the former city, it would be becoming in him to attend them to the latter. But a little reflection seems to have reassured him on that head, and he announced to the home Government his determination; of which they approved. He was in the midst of his preparations when Mr William Allen, a Quaker gentleman of great notoriety, walked into his apartment. Mr Allen had for years written and spoken on the subject of the slave-trade. Every public man in England knew him, and he was a correspondent of most of the princes and statesmen of the Continent. "Well, Mr Allen," asked the Duke, "what can I do for you?" "I must go to Verona," was the answer. "But you can't do that. Haven't you read the proclamation, that only persons attached to one or other of the embassies will be admitted into the city." "Friend, I must go to Verona, and thou must take me." "Very well, if I must I must; but the only way in which I can help you, is to make you one of my couriers. If you like to ride forward in that capacity, you may do so." The story goes on to say, that the Quaker closed with the proposal, that he rode a stage in front of the Duke all the way to Verona, and that having gained the *entrée*, he lectured Kings and Emperors, and their ministers, daily on the iniquity of the slave-trade.

One other fact well deserves to be recorded, because it is characteristic not only of the man, but of the age in which he lived. A dead-set was made at the Duke throughout his residence in Verona, to win him by the blandishments of women, as well as by the not very creditable proposals of men, to yield certain points on which his mind was made up. "Do these people know me?" he exclaimed indignantly one day, bursting into the room of one of his attachés; "what do they take me for, that they insult me with such a proposal as that?" throwing down a note, marked confi-

dential in the hand-writing of an eminent statesman. And so it was with the ladies. Some of the most beautiful and fascinating women in Europe made Verona glad with their presence, and all beset the Duke, but to no purpose. He met their advances half way, played with them to his heart's content, but kept his own counsel. They got nothing out of him, except what he was free to give without the slightest approach to a breach of the confidence reposed in him elsewhere.

The point of all others on which the Duke was most pressed had reference to Spain, and the proper mode of dealing with her. France took the lead in this discussion, and submitted to her allies three proposals, to each of which she requested a categorical reply. They all tended to war, and Austria, Prussia, and Russia assented to them each after its own fashion. But the Duke was entirely opposed to war. He showed in a well-written state-paper, that so long as Spain and Portugal refrained from molesting or threatening their neighbours, it would be an act not only unjust but unwise to compel them by force of arms to change their form of government. He might as well have reasoned with the winds. The Bourbons were bent on maintaining what they held to be the dignity of their family. Austria, Prussia, and Russia were beside themselves with fear of liberalism. The Duke and the country which he represented were denounced as the abettors of anarchy, because they refused to join in a crusade against free institutions everywhere.

Of the temper of the continental powers at that time towards England some idea will be formed, if we observe the eagerness with which their representatives took up and circulated among themselves reports injurious to her honour. One of these reports, which proved a frequent subject of conversation in Verona, deserves, from its very absurdity, to be specified. There was a Spanish gentleman, a M. Carnacero, with whom the Duke had formed an acquaintance in Paris, and who, happening to arrive at Vienna while he was there, called upon him, and not unnaturally discussed with him the state and prospects of his own country.

The visits of that gentleman to the Duke's hotel had not passed unobserved, and now finding how determined the Duke was not to commit his Government to a policy of intervention, a story was got up in Verona, that M. Carnacero had been employed to conclude with him a convention, whereby England engaged in return for certain commercial and other privileges to support the cause of Spain against France at the Congress. The tale, as I need scarcely stop to observe, had no foundation whatever in fact, though the English newspapers would appear to have given some countenance to it.

Such was one of the silly rumours in spreading which ministers and attachés sought to avenge themselves on the integrity of the Duke and the ultra-liberalism of the Government which he represented. Another, of a graver nature, scarcely admits of so clear an explanation. There had been some correspondence of late between the Portuguese Government and Mr Canning on the subject of the treaty by which England was bound to defend Portugal against foreign invasion. In the course of this correspondence the Portuguese minister informed Mr Canning that he was about to conclude an alliance offensive and defensive with Spain, and requested to be informed how far such alliance would effect the guarantee. But before any answer could be sent to the question, he communicated the fact that the alliance had actually been concluded. The peninsular nations, equally with the Allies, made as much of this correspondence as its terms would warrant. They arrived at the same conclusion—that Mr Canning had pledged his Government to defend Portugal against invasion from France, even if by joining Spain in a war of aggression she should bring the evil on herself. The Duke, of course, declared that he did not so read Mr Canning's assurances; nevertheless he considered the matter to be so important that he wrote home about it, and advised Mr Canning to embrace the earliest opportunity of putting himself and the British Cabinet right before the rest of Europe.

Before bringing this brief sketch of the Congress of Verona to an end, I may be allowed to state that the minds of the conti-

mental Sovereigns and their ministers were too much engrossed with schemes for the repression of revolutionary principles in Europe, to admit of their paying the slightest attention to the Duke's proposals in regard to the Spanish South-American colonies. They read his paper, which was drawn up in the spirit of his instructions, and which he handed in at the meeting of the 26th of November; but they declined to take it into consideration, contenting themselves with the remark, "That it was a subject of deep regret to them that England should stand forth as the protector of Jacobins in all parts of the world; and that they (the Allies) had neither the power nor the inclination to prevent it." It is scarcely necessary to add that the coolness which was already apparent on their side suffered no abatement in consequence of this communication, and that the Duke withdrew from among them more dissatisfied than ever with the turn which affairs had taken, and more distrustful of its issues.

Satisfied that he could do no more good at Verona, the Duke took his leave of the Emperors of Russia and of Austria, the former on the 27th, the latter on the 28th of November. They parted excellent friends personally, but just as widely separated on public questions as they had been when they met. He made, however, one effort more to avert the danger with which the peace of Europe was threatened, by appealing again to the French Government as he passed through Paris, and by communicating privately, soon after his return to London, with General Alava and others of his friends in Spain. But both the French and the Spanish Governments proved obstinate. France, indeed, indicated something more than a fixed resolution to coerce Spain. She spoke in a tone of suspicion of the extraordinary zeal of the English in hunting down pirates in the Caribbean seas, and warned the Duke that she would never consent to an increase of British territory in that direction, even if it were made over as the price of the English alliance with Spain. To this line of argument the Duke replied by assuring the French minister that for accessions of territory in the Caribbean seas, or elsewhere, England had no wish; that she

would not accept Cuba as a gift, if it were offered; and that the project of selling her support to the Spanish Government for such a price had been entertained neither by England nor by Spain. With respect to Spain, all that he could offer was advice, which he conveyed in a friendly letter, of which Lord Fitzroy Somerset was the bearer. But Spanish pride could not consent to yield even to the Duke's entreaties what France had demanded with arms in her hand. The results are well known. A French army entered Spain, the Spanish liberals found themselves unsupported by the bulk of the nation, and Ferdinand was reinstated in absolute power, which he subsequently used to abrogate the Salique law, and to change the succession in favour of his daughter.

CHAPTER XXXI.

LORD LIVERPOOL'S ADMINISTRATION.

Two not unimportant results, so far as the Duke was personally concerned, ensued upon his mission to Verona. He was furiously attacked in the House of Lords for having betrayed the liberties of Europe, and defended himself in a speech which, both because of its length and because of the logical tenor of its arguments, gained for him great applause, and encouraged him to speak again. On the other hand the divergence of his general policy from that of Mr Canning became every day more marked. The Duke, having failed to avert the invasion of Spain and the subsequent revolution in Portugal, which restored absolutism, was indisposed to move further. Mr Canning, accepting both incidents as personal wrongs to himself, threatened war, or at all events the non-recognition of things as they were. It was under the pressure of this feeling, indeed, that he made in the House of Commons his famous announcement, which had really nothing to recommend it except the eloquence with which it was uttered. It was not Mr Canning who "called the New World into existence to redress the balance of the Old," for the Spanish colonies had achieved their own independence without him; and whether Spain had been overrun by France or not, the establishment in these colonies of consular agents by Great Britain had long been determined upon. But the announcement itself, and still more the tone in which it was delivered, offended the Duke; and the Duke, once seriously offended, was not



easily reconciled. He had somewhat distrusted Mr Canning before; he distrusted him to a much greater degree now. And circumstances continually occurred to deepen this feeling. It appeared to the Duke that a minister has no business to exchange ideas, on questions still under consideration in the Cabinet, with the leaders of the opposite party, and, rightly or wrongly, he came to the conclusion that such was Mr Canning's practice.

It is no business of mine to determine how far the Duke's suspicions were or were not well founded. There cannot be a doubt, however, that the condition of the Cabinet itself was very little satisfactory to one trained as he had been. It was divided into three sections, not one of which reposed entire confidence in any other. Mr Canning, Mr Huskisson, Mr Robinson, and their followers, advocated liberalism at home and abroad. They were supporters of the Catholic claims, favoured the entire repeal of restrictions upon commerce, and were desirous of pressing constitutional governments upon all the nations of the world. Diametrically opposed to the Canningites, were the ministers of what may be called the old Tory party; viz., Lord Eldon, Lord Westmoreland, Lord Bathurst, and perhaps Mr Peel. I say, perhaps, because, whatever Mr Peel's opinions might have been in 1822-23, they underwent before long great modification. These statesmen were opposed to any further concessions to the Roman Catholics. They deprecated interference with the established laws affecting trade and navigation; and they looked with disfavour on every attempt on the continent of Europe to give to the people a voice in the management of their own affairs. And lastly, there were the Grenvillites, liberal as regarded the laws against Roman Catholics, but indifferent, to say the least, on questions of commercial policy, and by no means disposed to risk old alliances for the sake of giving constitutions to foreign states.

It has been commonly supposed that the Duke of Wellington threw the weight of his influence into the scale of the old Tories. This is a great mistake. The Duke had no objection on principle, provided the way was made plain