

latter department. Latterly he is said to have taken, sensible of his own defect, his opinions and judgments in this walk from the late Sir Robert Peel; and it has been frequently stated that he intermeddled but little with politics since the death of his adviser and friend. But, though immeasurably inferior in this department to Cromwell, and even to Washington,—for to these great men pertains the praise of having been not only warriors, but also statesmen, of the first class,—few indeed of the countrymen, and scarce any of the party, of the deceased Duke, equalled him in the shrewdness of the judgments which he ultimately came to form on the questions brought before him. Even some of his sayings, spoken in bootless opposition, and regarded at the time as mere instances of the testiness natural to a period of life considerably advanced, have had shrewd comments read upon them by the subsequent course of events. It seemed to be in mere fretfulness that he remarked, a good many years since, in opposition to some new scheme for extending the popular power, that he saw not how in such circumstances “the Queen’s Government could be carried on.” But that strange balance of parties in the country which leaves at present scarce any preponderating power on any side to operate as the moving force of “the Executive,” has, we daresay, led many to think that the old man saw more clearly at the time than most of his critics or opponents. Though of an indomitable will, too, he was in reality too strong-minded a man to be an obstinate one. He *could* yield; and the part which he took in emancipating the Roman Catholics, and in abolishing the corn laws, are evidences of the fact. Further, it is not unimportant to know, that had the advice of the Duke of Wellington been acted upon in our ecclesiastical controversy, no Disruption would have taken place in the Scottish Church, and the Scottish Establishment would have survived in all its integrity, as the strongest in Britain.