

the vital influences vigorous in the newer portion of the plant, while the older were imperishably fixed in marble.

There are various deeply interesting aspects in which the political career of his Lordship may be viewed. When he first entered public life, the dissolute Court and infidel literature of France were busily engaged in sowing the seeds which germinated and bore fruit as the first French Revolution. It was a gay winter in Paris, that of 1786, when the Earl, then Mr Grey, was first returned to Parliament for his native county, Northumberland. The Chevalier de Boufflers was engaged in making charming songs on the new fashions; the Queen had just pensioned her milliner, and had got nine hundred thousand livres of the public money to pay some of her own "small debts;" the courtiers, who had been inconsolable for some time,—for the most accomplished opera dancer in the world had sprained her ankle,—had recovered their spirits again, for the ankle had also recovered; and, though thousands of the industrious poor were starving, and speaking ominously, in their distress, of America and its revolution, and though even the ladies had begun to wear bonnets *à la Rodney*, no one could see how trifles such as these should bear with sinister effect on the general hilarity. Nor could the young representative of Northumberland have possibly seen aught in them with which he, as a public man, had anything to do. Nothing more certain, however, than that the emphatically important portion of the history of Earl Grey which so peculiarly belongs to that of his country is entwined with the history of France. We could not better illustrate the influence which, in these times of advanced civilization, the destinies of one great European country exert on those of another, than by instancing what his Lordship at one period of his life attempted, but signally failed to perform, and so completely accomplished at another. The special work of the life of