

puppet-show serves for Punch, Judy, and the Constable. And thus it is not men, but things, that select the lawmakers of the country. Such seems to be the objection, in point of principle, to a provision in Earl Grey's second scheme of reform, which his first scheme repudiated; and in practice we find this provision more objectionable still. It forms the basis of the whole corrupt machinery of fictitious votes, and these, in turn, the support of not a little of the profligacy in public life that can indulge in the eye of day in its true colours, despising the wholesome restraints of general opinion, because altogether independent of them. It is at once a copious source of corruption among the representatives of the country, and of legalized perjuries among the represented. We know of no defect in the measure at all deserving of being placed in the same class with this grand one, save, perhaps, the provision that extends the political franchise to tenants-at-will. Legislation cannot give independence to the mind of a voter; but it should at least provide, in every possible case, that independence should be communicated to his circumstances.

There is another interesting point illustrated by the long political life of Earl Grey. His Lordship was unquestionably a very able man, but he did not possess one of those gigantic minds which mould and fashion the destinies of nations. He resembled rather an index-hand attached to the great political machine, than its moving power. No one can say how the civil war would have terminated in England in the seventeenth century had there been no Cromwell, or what complexion the present politics of France and the Continent generally would wear had there been no Napoleon. Had the one great man never been called into existence, it is probable that on the death of Hampden prerogative would have triumphed, and Britain have sunk to the level of the contemporary despotisms of the Continent. It is possible