

that, had the other great man never lived, an allied army would have marched to Paris ere the present century began, and that humbled France, restored to the despotic sway of the Bourbons, and with no proud recollections of victory to re-invigorate her, would have witnessed no second Revolution. Cromwell and Napoleon belonged to the class of men to whom the destinies of their age seem entrusted ; but in the career of Earl Grey we see rather the movements of an intelligent index of the course of things, than the operations of a power originating and setting them in motion. And hence an interest of a particular kind in contemplating his history. We see in it the growth of popular opinion, like that of vegetation in a backward spring, now shooting forth in green vigour, now checked and prostrated by the chilling influence of great political storms, now yet again recovering itself, now again thrown back, and finally reaching, in the decline of the year, a late and somewhat blighted maturity. First come the terrors of the French Revolution ; then the untoward influences of the long French war ; then an intermediate period, in which the power acquired during the two previous seasons by the antagonists of all political change is employed in depressing their opponents ; and then, when opinion, long cherished in its growth, and often thrown back, has arrived at the necessary degree of ripeness, a reaping-time arrives, and Earl Grey, as little able previously to control the heats and chills of the political atmosphere as the husbandman to control the weather, on which all his interests depend, reaps the harvest of his political life. It is not our present purpose to speak of the great measure which will be ever associated with his name in the history of our country. With all its defects, it indisputably did much for the *letter* of the Constitution, and nowhere so much as in Scotland. It everywhere extended the basis on which the liberty of the subject rests ; and nowhere else had that basis been so narrow