

several of the Liberal papers of the day ; but it was not until the " Edinburgh Review " had fairly entered on its career, that that general elevation of the newspaper platform took place which is now one of the marked characteristics of periodic literature. Edinburgh has been far, in this respect, behind London ; but a very great change has taken place during the last forty years, even in Edinburgh. There are men still connected with our newspaper printing offices who remember when papers by the management of which fortunes were realized were conducted either without an editor at all, or by some printer or mere man of business, who would be unfitted in the present time to perform the duties of even a sub-editor or reporter. It was mainly through that indirect influence of the labours of Lord Jeffrey and his friends, to which we refer, that Edinburgh has reckoned among its newspaper editors during the last thirty years, writers such as M'Culloch, M'Laren, Buchanan, Dr James Brown, Alexander Sutherland, and John Malcolm. The provincial newspaper press has also caught the general tone. Had there been no " Edinburgh Review," newspapers such as the " Dumfries Courier " and " Inverness Courier " would have been prodigies. No later than the day on which Lord Jeffrey died, a gentleman of business habits, who had been for some time unsuccessfully engaged in looking out for an editor to conduct a weekly paper established in a large town, remarked to us, that of all men, an efficient newspaper editor was perhaps the most difficult to find. It occurred to us not long after, on hearing of his Lordship's death, that in all probability, had *he* never lived, the difficulty would not have existed.

This indirect influence exercised on periodic literature by Lord Jeffrey was perhaps more important in the main than that which he wielded as a political writer or a critic. And yet in both departments he stood very high. His influence