

partial and local, though in the aggregate it added not a little to the general value of the country ; and this peculiar character was altogether a result of the previous form of the surface. We have witnessed something similar in the effects of those great upheavals which occasionally take place in the political world. The Reform Bill effected a wonderful upheaval of this kind. It raised over the sea-level, in certain districts, vast tracts that had been previously submerged ; while in other districts it left the old limits unchanged. The high lands of Toryism received no new accessions ; while those of Liberalism it greatly enlarged. By elevating the long-buried heads of the people above water in the character of ten-pound franchise-holders, it strengthened the trading interests, or—to carry out our parallel—gave new standing-room to the trading towns ; while the agricultural interests, located, if we may so speak, on the high table-lands of the country, remained no broader or stronger than they had been before. And so, in the great struggle which ensued between the two interests, the agricultural one went down, without, however, catching any harm in the fall, and free trade won the day. Party in general was not a little affected by this great upheaval. The new accessions were chiefly accessions made to the cause of Liberalism in general ; but it did quite as little for hereditary Whiggism as for hereditary Toryism ; and either party feel, when in office, that it has had but the effect of making their position more precarious and less desirable than of old. Or—to carry out to a meet termination our somewhat lengthened comparison—while the upheaval has done much for those lower regions which it fairly raised over water, it has had but the effect of elevating the high official peaks on which each succeeding Ministry takes its stand, into a less genial and more exposed region of the atmosphere than that which they had previously occupied. It has thrown them up nearer than of old to the chill line of perpetual ice and snow, and exposed