

prostitute voter, whilst he perhaps is glorying, and making it a part of patriotism that he is assisting to ruin an aristocrat. Far better that such voters were paid directly by the public, for in that case the expence of agency would be saved, and the country would be a gainer by having nothing to do with the Lord Johns and Lady Augustas, and the whole tribe of sons, daughters, aunts, nieces, nurses, tutors, and other poor dependents, who are sure to have more than was lost by their relative or patron.

It is one of the greatest merits of the ballot, that it would put an end to bribery and corruption, and consequently to porter and expences. The mere want of wealth would no longer keep an able man from getting a seat in the Commons' House, and a rich and titled idiot would no longer be carried into that House by riot, drunkenness, and the most shameless and barefaced perjury. Such is the moral degradation seen at the greater number of English elections, that it is absolutely necessary either that the poor be deprived of the franchise, or that the ballot be introduced for the sake of public decency.

VI. The last argument against the ballot, is one that we owe to the Duke of Newcastle, in answer to the Attorney General's Nottingham election harrangue. His Grace was pleased to observe, that the ballot would destroy the "common tie of feeling between the two Houses of Parliament." Aye, my Lord Duke! nothing like your plain speaking, and equally plain actions. Your Newark affair made Parliamentary Reform a State question, and your argument against the ballot will convince every man of its necessity. The tie is very close where the majority of one house is nominated by the other.

These are the arguments brought

forward against secret voting, and the views held by the friends of the ballot with regard to these arguments. The principal object of the friends of the ballot, has been to rebut the arguments of its opponents; but they have one argument of their own which they refer to most triumphantly, and it is this: In every club, in every society in high life, members are admitted by the ballot. My Lord John will not stand up in Brookes', and give his vote openly like an Englishman, against Sir Something Somebody, who has been proposed as a member, because he very well knows that such independence would be rewarded with an application to honour's seat the first time his Lordship met his Knightship in St. James' Street. His Lordship very well knows that a black-ball is the best preventative against the chance of a bullet in his body, in a morning's visit to some quiet spot in the neighbourhood of the metropolis. Let the opponents of the ballot point out if they can, why secret voting is applicable to the election of a member of a club, and not to the election of a member of the Commons' House.

I have something to say of the lies and nonsense set forth about the ballot in America and France, but must defer it until next number. I will there speak of the inapplicability of the ballot to the divisions in the House of Commons; and as I find many, even Journalists, labouring under a mistake on this point, I would beg leave to refer them to the study of that noble newspaper, and zealous advocate of the ballot, the Examiner. To it, and to the last number of the Westminster Review, I am mainly indebted for the grounds of conviction as to the necessity of the ballot.

L. M. N.

[As we differ, although slightly, from our correspondent, on some few points, and as his communication did not come to hand in time to allow us to explain our views at sufficient length in this number, we shall take an early opportunity of resuming the consideration of this important subject.—Ed.]