

man broke down in this sphere—the late Francis Jeffrey. It is impossible indeed for any individual to do his duty to the country, placed as the Lord Advocate is. He is at once the head of the Executive Government in Scotland, and the principal law officer of the Crown in all causes, civil and criminal. These functions are too onerous for one person, and ought to be disjoined, on the principle of the division of labour inculcated by Adam Smith. The Executive Department should be confided to a Secretary of State, and the legal business should be shared equally by the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor General. On the Secretary should devolve the duty and responsibility of initiating and carrying through measures for the political and social melioration of Scotland, and the Secretary should not be connected with the law, for a lawyer is commonly a bad legislator, because his mind is so cramped by the dry routine of his formal profession, that he cannot consult the exigencies of the country, and therefore, instead of advancing with the “spirit of the age” he obstructs its progress.

*Extend the Franchise.* When the Reform Bill was projected by Lord John Russell and his colleagues, they deemed it proper to lower the franchise to £10. It should now be reduced to £5, and this should be done at once, without platform or parliamentary oratory. It is unfortunate that no great act of political justice is done by the British Government, till it be extorted by an agitation organised for the purpose. This is as ungenerous as it is unwise, for a prudent statesman should anticipate public opinion, and not be forced to yield to sheer clamour, because a concession wrung by the “pressure from without” deprives it of the grace of a boon spontaneously conferred. Many men well worthy of the franchise are now deprived of it, and no logic can shew why they should longer lack a privilege which they are perfectly qualified to exercise. The Russell Government can devise a Reform Bill of this sort, and Lord John seems bound to do so. When Toryism was so firmly seated in Downing Street that nothing could eject it but the Reform Bill, that Bill would not have been carried except by the aid of the masses. Considering this, and that many of the men most strenuous in carrying the Bill were left in “Schedule A,” and still continue so, now that Lord John Russell is possessed of place, power, and pay, he should enfranchise them by way of gratitude, which, by the bye, is a virtue little practised by the Whigs. Lord John talks much about the British Constitution, but he does not carry it fairly out. He knows that it does not sanction taxation without representation, and therefore he should