

Aberdeen Shaver.

SHAVING
PERPETRATED
HERE
ON THE MOST APPROVED
PRINCIPLES.



LADIES'
MATTERS
TRIMMED
WITH PRECISION AND
DISPATCH.

"'Tis my vocation, Hal—every man must labour in his vocation."—FALSTAFF.

No. X.]

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THINGS IN GENERAL.

ALAS, alas, for the days that are gone by; alas, alas, for the days in which we now live, when materials, on all subjects, are so scarce, that we have not wherewithal to make us an "Article"—we must make bricks, and we have no straw. Had it not been the Reform Bill and all its circumstances, we might have tossed up a readable article on any subject, and the thing would have done—but the Bill and the movements anent it were so rich, that it gave a new tone to the stomachs of the reading folks, and now they snuff at a moderate morsel. Without all question the Bill was the thing—we are old enough to recollect several local movements on general and local subjects, but we fail in recollecting any thing like it. In fact, with the exception of a victory now and then, and a rejoicing of bells and by candles, we literally lived, during the early part of this century, under our vine, praying for the covering of the heads of our soldiers and sailors, but living in all the splendour of ease in body, mind, and estate. Times were good, there was plenty of work and of money, the bubble was kept up for a while by the war, until it burst in 1814, and ere a few months had elapsed, the country found that it had been living in a false prosperity. So long as those wot managed the affairs of the nation, found that, as respected the "good things" of this life, all was right—the country for them might have been one continued Old Sarum—they would have heeded not; but then came the cry that all was wrong, and as a public character here says, they "roared Reform." Much excitation was produced at the failure of the town in 1817, but it equalled not the Bill; nor did that of the subsequent attempt to procure Burgh Reform. We had great men, however, even in those days, and the Chronicle speaketh of them to this day—we had Mr.

John Innes, who *cut* a pretty respectable figure, and Mr. Peter Taylor, the Town Council Reporter. These had their say, but it was for a day—the impress of the question was never made universal—the feeling was as unlike that produced by Lord John Russell's Bill, as is a bottle of Shuttle-Lane swipes to a ditto of Barelay & Perkin's Imperial! The Burgh Reform affair, however, passed over, the good old plan and individuals were restored, and things jogged on again in their old way, until the fortunate declaration of the Duke of Wellington refusing to enfranchise Birmingham or Manchester, when reform re-commenced. We have always thought this a most fortunate declaration for the nation, for had his Great Captainship conceded this point, it might have acted as well as the giving a child a piece of barley-sugar, to stave off its attention from food of another nature. But this partial reform was refused, and the people proceeded to seek for more extensive reform. On the subsequent dissolution of the Wellington Ministry, the triumph of the Whig party was complete. When the movement began, we in this "Northern city cold," were not among the last to join, being as "true" to the "Bill" as to "him" (the King) rallying around it until its glorious consummation. In those days there arose several great and notable men, whose names will be emblazoned on the page of Reform History—men whose station in society could not perhaps give that influential hitch to Reform, which those of the "higher classes" were enabled to do—men who although they had not pound notes to dedicate to the cause, yet could spin a long yarn in the way of speeches, and head a procession as well as any in the empire. Why need we deny them the benefit of second immortalization—they have had it before, and they deserve it. There was first John Cant of "Corn-Law Meeting" and every meeting notoriety—the great champion of the cause, who had mind, voice, and body for the enterprise, and who