

~~Copy~~

35857

38.

The Committee of Cabinet to Lord Grey

The Earl Grey

~~B 65~~

do do do

In compliance with
your directions we have
carefully examined into
the state of the Representation,
with a view to its thorough
and effective Reform, and
we now present to you, as
the result of our labours,
Three Bills, amending the
Representation of England,
Scotland, and Ireland.

In framing them we
have been actuated by the
belief that it is not the
wish or intention of His
Majesty's Government to
concede only as much, as
might for the moment
evade or stifle the general
demand for a complete
alteration of the existing
system - or to propose the

adoption of such a measure,
as could merely be considered
a bare redemption of their
pledges to their Sovereigns
and their Country.

We have been on the
contrary convinced that it
is their desire to effect such
a permanent settlement of
this great and important
question, as will no longer
render it a agitation
subservient to the designs of
the factions and disaffected;
but, by its wise & comprehensive
provisions, inspire all classes
of the Community with a
conviction, that their rights
and privileges are at
length duly secured and
consolidated.

We have not been
insensible to the great and
appalling dangers which
attend any further delay
in effecting this settlement,
or to the notorious fact that
obstinate resistance to
claims, just in themselves,
leads not to their suppression,
but to the advancement of
others, infinitely larger, a

joined compliance with
 which would produce
 consequences, never contemplated
 by the Petitioners in the first
 instance. We have therefore
 been of opinion, that the Plan
 of Reform proposed by His
 Majesty's Ministers, ought to
 be of such a scope & description,
 as to satisfy all reasonable
 demands, and remove at
 once, ^{and} for ever, all rational
 grounds of complaint from
 the minds of the intelligent
 and independent portion
 of the Community.

By pursuing such a course
 we conceive that the surest
 and most effectual check will
 be opposed to that restless
 spirit of innovation, which
 founding its open claims to
 public support on the
 impossibility, and hopelessness
 of obtaining any redress of
 acknowledged abuses, aims
 in secret at nothing less
 than the overthrow of all our
 Institutions, and even of
 the Throne itself.

We propose in one instance
 to make this a measure

of disfranchisement - in the
case of the nomination -
boroughs. That system is
one so entirely at variance
with the spirit of the
Constitution - so indefensible
in practice - and so justly
odious to the whole Empire,
that we could not consider
any measure of Reform as
otherwise than trifling and
regulatory, which did not
include the abolition, or
purification of these Boroughs.
We propose therefore to
disfranchise all Boroughs,
the Population of which
amounts to less than 2000
Inhabitants. This will effect
the extinction of the worst
class - and we propose to
deprive of one Member all
those, whose Population
amounts to less than 4000.
The purification of this latter
class of Boroughs, as well as
of those Cities & Boroughs,
where the right of voting
is enjoyed by Close
Corporations, we think will
be insured by the extension
of the Election Franchise

in them to all Householders ^{40.}
 within the Town or Borough & Parishes
 entitled by the late Act to
 serve on Juries - those who
 are rated to the relief of the
 Poor, or to the inhabited
 House Tax, at £20 per ann^m.

We propose to grant
 Representatives to all large
 and populous Towns of more
 than 10,000 Inhabitants - of
 which there are unrepresented
 in England about Thirty.
 The right of voting to be
 vested (as in the case of
 the purified Boroughs in
 Householders of £20 per ann^m.
 In adopting this vote, we
 have considered that we
 have granted the Elective
 Franchise to a constituent
 body, including all the
 Intelligence & respectability
 of the independent classes
 of Society.

If we had not felt ourselves
 called upon rather to extend
 than limit the Elective
 Franchise, we might
 perhaps have recommended
 the propriety of rendering
 it uniform, by immediately
 merging in it all the

Multiple and inconvenient
rights of voting now in
existence. We have however
provided for their eventual
extinction, and, in the
mean time, we trust, by the
addition of an independent
constituency, and other
arrangements, we shall
effectually prevent the
recurrence of those scenes of
corruption and political
profligacy, which too often
occur, where the right of
voting is vested in those
whom want of education,
and state of dependence,
render them quite unfitted
for its exercise.

We propose to give
additional members to
counties whose population
amounts to more than
150,000 inhabitants—
dividing them into districts—
leaving the forty shilling
franchise as it now exists,
but enfranchising.

Leaseholders of $\text{£}50$ per ann., for 20 years
and copyholders of $\text{£}10$
per ann.

Having adopted the Principle⁴¹ of the amount of Population, as the surest proof of the necessity of disfranchisement in some cases, and an increase in the number of members in others, we could discover no Test, more fixed & recognized than that of the last Parliamentary Census of 1821. Upon which therefore our Measure, both with regard to Cities & Counties, is founded.

We next turned our attention to the necessity of diminishing the Expenses of Elections, and we propose to accomplish this,

by
The Enforcement of Residence,

The Registration of Votes,

The adoption of Ballot,

The increase of the number of Polling Booths,

The shortening the duration of the Poll,

but to form a part of
of the Bill

and the taking the Poll
(in Counties) in Hundreds
or divisions.

We finally propose that
the duration of Parliament
should be limited to
Five Years.

We have embodied
these arrangements, and
other measures of detail,
connected with them, in
Three Bills, the Heads of
which we annex to this
Report

Durham

James P. G. Graham
John Russell
Duncannon

Durham

Jan^y 14. 18.

Report
on the
State of the Representatives