Charles Jameson Grant, *Findings, Keepings* (London, c.1831)
Fagan Collection of Political Prints and Caricatures, Pol P 37

On the right, a fat gentleman (representing John Bull) holds the Reform Bill tucked under his arm while searching the pavements with a torch. On the left, Grey asks whether he has lost the Bill. Bull replies that he has not but is searching for the "Benefits of it". The cartoon represents the misgivings that many people had about reforming the political process.

Reform

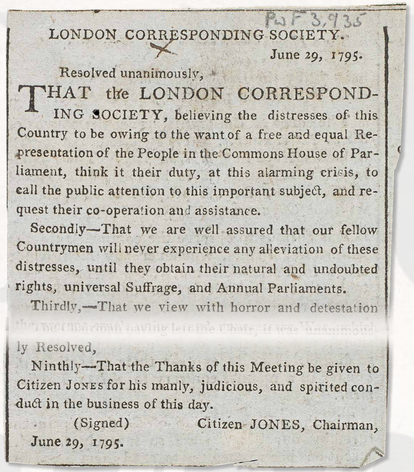
The Representation of the People Act 1832 (known as the Great Reform Act) was steered through the Houses of Parliament by the Whig Prime Minister, Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey (1764-1845).

The Bill was defeated in the House of Lords in October 1831. Anger spilled over into riots in various English towns, including Nottingham. The government feared revolution if the reforms were not passed. In May 1832 King William IV agreed to create new Whig peers who would vote it through. The Lords abstained and the Act was passed.

The Act dealt with the unfair distribution of parliamentary seats by abolishing 56 'rotten' or 'pocket' boroughs where only a few voters were able to elect an MP. At the same time, 67 new constituencies were created to give representation to booming industrial towns such as Manchester and Birmingham.

A greater proportion of men were allowed to vote after 1832, although they were still a minority (around one in five men). The franchise was extended in the county seats, and borough franchises were all made consistent.

1832 was not the end of the story. Rather, it proved that reform could be achieved, and encouraged activists to press for more.



LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY.

June 29, 1795.

Resolved unanimously,

THAT the LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY, believing the distresses of this Country to be owing to the want of a free and equal Representation of the People in the Commons House of Parliament, think it their duty, at this alarming crisis, to call the public attention to this important subject, and request their co-operation and assistance.

Secondly—That we are well assured that our fellow Countrymen will never experience any alleviation of these distresses, until they obtain their natural and undoubted rights, universal Suffrage, and Annual Parliaments.

Thirdly,—That we view with horror and detestation

[illegible]

ly Resolved,

Ninthly—That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Citizen JONES for his manly, judicious, and spirited conduct in the business of this day.

(Signed) Citizen JONES, Chairman,

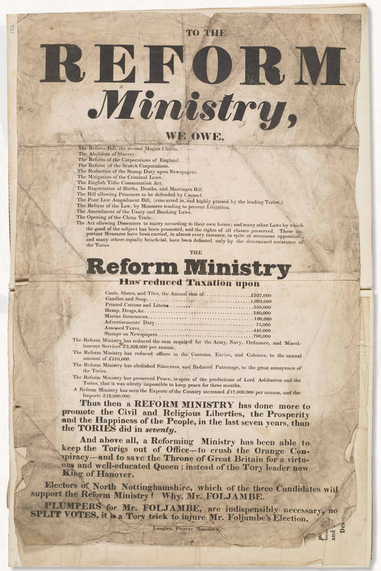
June 29, 1795.

London Corresponding Society demands for universal suffrage and annual parliament, 1795
Portland (Welbeck) Collection, Pw F 3935

The London Corresponding Society was a Radical organisation dedicated to campaigning for political reform. Its leaders were put on trial for treason in 1794 but acquitted. Its call for all men to be allowed to vote (universal suffrage) was not to be heeded until 1918.

Poster in praise of the achievements of the Reform Ministry, c.1837
East Midlands Special Collection, Oversize Not 1.F19 NOT, no. 122 barcode 6001692771

George Savile Foljambe (1800-1869) of Osberton Hall was the unsuccessful Whig candidate for one of the two county seats in the North Nottinghamshire general election in 1837, and a supporter of the achievements of Grey and Melbourne's governments.



TO THE

REFORM

Ministry,

WE OWE.

The Reform Bill, for several Magna Charts.
The Abolition of Slavery.
The Reform of the Corporations of England.
The Reform of the Scotch Corporations.
The Reduction of the Stamp Duty upon Newspapers.
The Mitigation of the Criminal Laws.
The Poor Law Amendment Act.
The Regeneration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Bill.
The Bill allowing Prisoners to be defended by Counsel.
The Poor Law Amendment Bill, (concerned in, and highly praised by the leading Tories.)
The Reform of the Law, by Measures tending to prevent Litigation.
The Abolition of the Slave Trade, and Banking Laws.
The Opening of the China Trade.
The Act allowing Dissenters to marry according to their own forms; and many other Laws by which the good of the subject has been promoted, and the rights of all classes preserved. These important Measures have been carried, in almost every instance, in spite of strenuous opposition; and many others equally beneficial, have been defeated only by the determined resistance of the Tories.

THE

Reform Ministry

Has reduced Taxation upon

Coals, Slates, and Tiles, the Annual sum of	£527,000
Candles and Soap	1,000,000
Printed Cottons and Linens	550,000
Hemp, Drugs, &c.	140,000
Marine Insurances	100,000
Assessed Taxes,	75,000
Assessed Taxes,	440,000
Stamps on Newspapers	500,000

The Reform Ministry has reduced the sum required for the Army, Navy, Ordnance, and Miscellaneous Services £3,500,000 per annum.

The Reform Ministry has reduced offices in the Customs, Excise, and Colonies, to the annual amount of £350,000.

The Reform Ministry has abolished Sinecures, and Reduced Patronage, to the great annoyance of the Tories.

The Reform Ministry has preserved Peace, in spite of the predictions of Lord Ashburton and the Tories, that it was utterly impossible to keep peace for three months.

A Reform Ministry has seen the Exports of the Country increased £17,000,000 per annum, and the Imports £18,000,000.

Thus then a REFORM MINISTRY has done more to promote the Civil and Religious Liberties, the Prosperity and the Happiness of the People, in the last seven years, than the TORIES did in *seventy*.

And above all, a Reforming Ministry has been able to keep the Torigs out of Office—to crush the Orange Conspiracy—and to save the Throne of Great Britain for a virtuous and well-educated Queen: instead of the Tory leader now King of Hanover.

Electors of North Nottinghamshire, which of the three Candidates will support the Reform Ministry? Why, Mr. FOLJAMBE.

PLUMPERS for Mr. FOLJAMBE, are indispensibly necessary, no SPLIT VOTES, it is a Tory trick to injure Mr. Foljambe's Election.

Langton, Printer, Mansfield.