

extensive than they really are. Forming part of the pleasure-grounds is a little artificial hill, known as King Henry the Eighth's Mount, on which it is said that monarch stood to see the signal gun fired from the Tower of London which announced the execution of Anne Boleyn. Tradition also asserts that it was from this elevated spot that Oliver Cromwell viewed one of the battles between his troops and the Royalists. In 1834, as some of the park labourers were digging gravel near this mound, they discovered the skeletons of three persons, who had been buried side by side, about three feet below the surface. The house itself, or rather, its predecessor, was originally known as Vermin Killer's Lodge, until it became the residence of the Dowager Countess of Pembroke, who was one of the Court favourites of George III. Since that time it has been called Pembroke Lodge. On the death of Lady Pembroke, the house was given by William IV. to one of his daughters by Mrs. Jordan, the Countess of Erroll.

The lodge was, for the last few years of his life, the residence of the distinguished statesman, John, Earl Russell, who died here in 1878. The youngest son of the sixth Duke of Bedford, his lordship—who was better known as Lord John Russell—was born in London in 1792, and was educated at Westminster School and at Edinburgh University. At the age of twenty-one he entered the House of Commons as member for Tavistock, of which borough his father had the disposal; and "faithful to the hereditary Whiggism of the House of Bedford, he attached himself at once to the Opposition, who were then maintaining Whig principles, against the powerful ministry of Liverpool and Castlereagh." He soon acquired a leading position among the Whig politicians, and took a foremost part in bringing about parliamentary reform. Lord Brougham, after speaking of the great services rendered to the cause of reform at that time in Parliament by Lord Grey, Sir Francis Burdett, Lord Durham, and others, says:—"But no one did more lasting and real service to the question than Lord John Russell, whose repeated motions,

backed by the progress of the subject out of doors, had the effect of increasing the minority in its favour, in so much that, when he at last brought it forward in 1826, Mr. Canning [then Castlereagh's successor as Foreign Secretary in the Liverpool Cabinet], finding that he could only defeat it by a comparatively small majority, pronounced the question substantially carried. It was probably from this time that his party perceived the prudence of *staying* a change which they could not *prevent*." The Bill, the proposal of which had this important effect, was one for disfranchising certain rotten boroughs, and for enfranchising large and important towns in their place. At this time Lord John was no longer member for Tavistock, but for Huntingdonshire, which he had represented since 1820.



EARL RUSSELL.

In 1830 Lord John Russell (who had vacated his seat for Huntingdonshire, and now sat for Bandon Bridge) accepted a not very arduous office as Paymaster of the Forces in the ministry of Earl Grey. Parliamentary reform was now the one question of paramount interest, and the new ministry had been formed expressly because the country wished them to carry it, and upon

Lord John Russell devolved the main portion of the work in framing the Bill. This, the first Reform Bill, was introduced in March, 1831. After debates of unparalleled violence, it passed the second reading by a majority of *one*; on going into committee, however, the Bill was thrown out by a majority of eight, and a fresh appeal to the country became necessary. In this general election Lord John Russell was returned for Devon, and with the new Parliament the passage of the Bill through the House of Commons was at once triumphant, but it was rejected by the Lords on its second reading. A vote of confidence in the Commons, however, saved the ministry the necessity of resigning, and this was followed by a sharp conflict between the Lords and Commons; but the former yielded, and on the 7th of June, 1832, the Reform Bill became the law of the land. In 1835 Lord John Russell took office as Home Secretary in the Melbourne Administration, and