bring it to perfection. His calling himself the father of a project, which has since been so often employed to other purposes than were at first declared, gave his enemies fre­quent opportunity for satire and ridicule ; and it has been sarcastically observed, that the father of this fund appeared in a very bad light when viewed in the capacity of a nurse. In the next session of parliament, Walpole opposed the mi­nistry in every thing; and even Wyndham or Shippen did not exceed him in patriotism. Upon a motion in the house for continuing the army, he made a speech of above an hour long, and displayed the danger of a standing army in a free country, with all the powers of eloquence. Early in 1720 thc ri­gour of the patriot began to soften, and the complaisance of the courtier to appear ; and he was again appointed pay­master of the forces, and several of his friends were found soon after in the list of promotions. No doubt now re­mained of his entire conversion to court-measures ; for be­fore the end of the year, we find him pleading as strongly for the forces required by the war-office as he had before declaimed against them, even though at this time the same pretences for keeping them on foot did not exist.

It was not long before he acquired full ministerial power, being appointed first lord commissioner of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer ; and when the king went abroad in 1723, he was nominated one of the lords justices for the administration of government, and was sworn sole secretary of state. About this time he received another distinguished mark of the royal favour ; his eldest son, then on his travels, being created a peer, by the title of Baron Walpole of Walpole. In 1725 he was made knight of the Bath, and the year after knight of the Garter. The mea­sures of his administration, during the long time he remain­ed prime or rather sole minister, have been often canvassed with all the severity of critical inquiry. It is difficult to discern the truth through the exaggerations and misrepre­sentations of party. He has indeed been accused of em­ploying the sinking fund for the purposes of corruption, of which it was long the fashion to call him the father; but the man who reflects on thc transactions of Charles II. and his infamous cabal, will acquit him of the latter part of this charge. He was an enemy to war, and the friend of com­merce ; and because he did not resent some petty insults of the court of Spain so suddenly as the fiery part of the na­tion thought he should have done, a formidable opposition was formed against him in the house, which had influence enough to employ in its cause almost all the wit of the na­tion. Pulteney and Pitt were the great leaders of the party in the House of Commons ; while Bolingbroke, and Pope, and Johnson, and almost every man of genius, ex­erted themselves without doors to enlighten, by pamphlets in prose and verse, the minds of the people, and show the necessity of a Spanish war. This he strenuously opposed, because he knew that the foreign settlements of that power are very remote, and in a climate destructive to Englishmen ; and that such of them as we might be able to take, we could not possibly retain. The opposition however prevailed. The nation was indulged in a war. of which it surely had no cause to boast of the success ; and it is now universally known, that the greater part of those who with honest intentions had, either in parliament or out of it, been engaged to run down the minister, lived to repent of their conduct, and do justice to the man whom they had so pertinaciously vilified.

In order to encourage commerce and improve the revenue, Walpole projected a scheme for an extension of the ex­cise, as the only means of putting a stop to the frauds of merchants and illicit traders. This was another ground of clamour to the orators within and the wits without doors; and while the opposition represented it as a measure big with public mischief, Swift and Pope occasionally alluded to it as an oppression calculated to deprive private life of all its comforts. The minister was therefore obliged to aban­don the scheme ; but in a succeeding administration it was partly carried into execution, at the express solicitation of the principal persons concerned in that article of trade which it was suggested would be most affected by it ; and afterwards the most popular minister that ever directed the councils of this country declared in full senate, that if a time should ever arrive which was likely to render the project feasible, he would himself recommend an extension of the excise laws, as a measure of the greatest advantage to commerce, to the revenue, and to the general interests of the kingdom.

In 1742 the opposition prevailed ; and Walpole, being no longer able to carry a majority in the House of Com­mons, resigned all his places, and fled for shelter behind the throne. He was soon afterwards created earl of Or­ford ; and the king, in consideration of his long and faithful services, granted him a pension of L.4000 per annum. The remainder of bis life he spent in tranquillity and retirement, and died in 1745, in the 71st year of his age.@@1

He wrote the following pamphlets. 1. The Sovereign’s Answer to the Gloucestershire Address. The sovereign meant Charles duke of Somerset, so nicknamed by the Whigs. 2. Answer to the Representation of the House of Lords on the State of the Navy, 1709. 3. The Debts of the Nation stated and considered, in four Papers, 1710. 4. The thirty-five Millions accounted for, 1710. 5. A

Letter from a Foreign Minister in England to Monsieur Pettecum, 1710. 6. Four Letters to a Friend in Scot­

land upon Sacheverell's Trial ; falsely attributed in the General Dictionary to Mr Maynwaring. 7. A short His­tory of the Parliament. It is an account of the last session of the queen. 8. The South Sea Scheme considered. 9. A pamphlet against the Peerage Bill, 1719. 10. The

Report of the Secret Committee, June 9th, 1715.

Walpole, *Horace,* the third son of Sir Robert, was bom in 1717, became fourth earl of Orford in 1791, and died on the 2d of March 1797, in the eightieth year of his age.

After having been educated at Eton and Cambridge, Horace Walpole passed two years on the continent, the greater part of the time being devoted to Italy, where he acquired that taste for art which afterwards furnished the main employment of his life. In the autumn of 1741, he returned to England ; and he took his seat in the parliament which, meeting in the end of that year, drove his father from power before the close of its first ses­sion. He continued to be a member of the House of Commons for twenty-six years, retiring at the age of fifty- one. His political career was by no means distinguished. We do not hear of his having delivered more than three speeches in all, and of these the two that have been pre­served exhibit no great talent for oratory. For political business he possessed neither industry nor ambition ; and the character in which he appeared throughout was little more than that of a spectator, who took greater pleasure in watching the acts of others, and recording his own im­pressions in regard to them, than in endeavouring himself to act either for his own benefit or for that of others.

As an observer of public men, however, he never allowed his attention to flag ; and his observations were most dili­gently set down in a multifarious correspondence with friends, and, for a part of his life, in political memoirs, avowedly intended for publication when the writer and his contemporaries should have quitted the scene. Politics, however, like all things else, were for Horace Walpole no-

@@@1 Coxe's Memoirs of the Life and Administration of Sir Robert Walpole, Earl of Orford. Lond. 1798, 3 vols. 4to. An admirable view of the character and policy of thia illustrious statesman will be found in the Edinburgh Review, No. cxliii.