In the last months of James’s reign he was obviously uncomfort­able. Although he had in 1687 openly embraced the Roman Catholic faith, he hesitated to commit himself entirely to the acts of the fierce devotees who surrounded the king, whom he advised to reverse the arbitrary acts of the last year or two, and in October 1688 he was dismissed by James with the remark “ I hope you will be more faithful to your next master than you have been to me.”

Sunderland now took refuge in Holland, and from Utrecht he sought to justify his recent actions in *A letter to a friend in the country.* He had been too deeply involved in the arbitrary acts of James II. to find a place at once among the advisers of William and Mary, and he was excepted from the act of indemnity of 1690. However, in 1691, he was permitted to return to Eng­land, and he declared himself a Protestant and began to attend the sittings of parliament. But his experience was invaluable and soon he became prominent in public affairs, a visit which William III. paid him at Althorp, his Northamptonshire seat, in 1691, being the prelude to his recall into the royal counsels. It was his advice which led the king to choose all his ministers from one political party, to adopt the modern system, and he managed to effect a reconciliation between William and his sister-in-law, the princess Anne. From April to December 1697 he discharged the duties of lord chamberlain, and for part of this time he was one of the lords justices, but the general suspicion with which he was regarded terrified him, and in December he resigned. The rest of his fife was passed in seclusion at Althorp, where he died on the 28th of September 1702. The earl was a great gambler, but he was wealthy enough also to spend money on improving his house at Althorp, which he beautified both within and without. His only surviving son was Charles Spencer, 3rd earl of Sunderland (*q.v*..).

Lord Sunderland possessed a keen intellect and was consumed by intense restlessness; but his character was wanting in stead­fastness, and he yielded too easily to opposition. His adroitness in intrigue and his fascinating manners were exceptional even in an age when such qualities formed part of every statesman’s education; but the characteristics which ensured him success in the House of Lords and in the royal closet led to failure in his attempts to understand the feelings of the mass of his country­men. Consistency of conduct was not among the objects which he aimed at, nor did he shrink from thwarting in secret a policy which he supported in public. A large share of the discredit attaching to the measures of James II. must be assigned to the earl of Sunderland.

The best account of Sunderland is the article by T. Seccombe in the *Diet. Nat. Biog.,* which gives a full bibliography.

**SUNDERLAND,** a seaport and municipal, county and parlia­mentary borough of Durham, England, at the mouth of the river Wear, on the North-Eastern railway, 261 m. N. by W. from London. Pop. (1891), 131,686; (1901) 146,077. The borough includes the township of Bishopwearmouth, to the south of Sunderland proper, which lies on the south bank of the river; and that of Monkwearmouth, on the north bank. Adjacent to Monkwearmouth on the north-west is the exten­sive urban district of Southwick, within the parliamentary borough. A great cast-iron bridge crosses the river with a single span of 236 ft. and a height of 100 ft. above low water. It was designed by Rowland Burdon, opened in 1796, and widened under the direction of Robert Stephenson in 1858. The only building of antiquarian interest is the church of St Peter, Monkwearmouth, in which part of the tower and other portions belong to the Saxon building attached to the monastery founded by Benedict Biscop in 674. The church of St Michael, Bishopwearmouth, is on an ancient site, but is a rebuilding of the 19th century. There is a large park at Roker on the north-east of the town, a favourite seaside resort, and (among other parks) that at Bishopwearmouth contains a bronze statue of Sir Henry Havelock, who was born (1795) at Ford Hall in the neighbourhood.

The prosperity of Sunderland rests on the coalfields of the neigh­bourhood, the existence of which gave rise to an export trade in the reign of Henry VII., which has grown to great importance. Manu­facturing industries include shipbuilding, iron and steel works, engineering, anchor and chain cable, glass and bottle and chemical works and paper mills. Limestone is largely worked. For 5 m. above its mouth the Wear resembles on a reduced scale the Tyne in its lower course. The harbour is constantly undergoing improve­ment. The docks cover an area of upwards of *200* acres, and there are several graving docks up to 441 ft. in length. The parliamentary borough returns two members. The municipal borough is under a mayor, 16 aldermen and 42 councillors, and has an area of 3357 acres.

The history of Sunderland is complicated by the name Wear­mouth *(Wiramuth, Wermuth)* being applied impartially to the Monk’s town on the north bank of the Wear; the Bishop’s town on the south and the neighbouring port now known as Sunderland. In both Monk’s and Bishop’s Wearmouth the settlement was connected with the church. Benedict Biscop in 674 obtained from Ecgfrith king of Northumbria seventy hides of land on the north bank of the river, on which he founded the Benedictine monastery of St Peter. Not more than a year after the foundation Benedict brought over skilled masons and glass-workers from Gaul who wrought his church in the Roman fashion, the work being so speedily done that Mass was celebrated there within the year. A subsequent visit to Rome resulted in a letter from Pope Agatho exempting his monastery from all external control. Later Benedict acquired three hides on the south side of the river. The abbey, where Bede was educated, was destroyed by the Danes and probably not rebuilt until Bishop Walcher (1071-1081) settled Aidwin and his companions there. They found the walls in ruins from the neglect of 208 years, but the church was soon rebuilt. Bishop William of St Carileph (1081-1099), desiring to acquire the possessions of the house for his new foundation of Durham, transferred the monks there, Wearmouth becoming henceforward a cell of the larger house. Meanwhile Bishop’s Wearmouth was becoming important, having been granted to the bishops by Æthelstan in 930. As a possession of the see it is mentioned in Boldon Book in conjunction with Tunstall as an ordinary rural vill rendering one milch cow to the bishop, while the demesne and its mill rendered £20, the fisheries £6 and the borough of Wearmouth 20s. There seems no doubt but that the borough, identical with that to which Bishop Robert de Pinset granted his charter, was in reality Sunderland, the name Wcarmouth beirig used to cover Bishop’s and Monk’s Wearmouth and the modern Sunderland. It was from Wearmouth that Edgar Ætheling set sail for Scotland, the account implying that this was a frequented port. In 1197 the town of Wearmouth Tendered 37s. 4d. tallage during the vacancy of the see, and in 1306-1307 the assessment of a tenth for Bishop’s Wearmouth was £5, 5s. 4d., while that of Monk’s Wearmouth was £1, 6s. 8d. Probably the northern town remained entirely agricultural, while the shipping trade of Bishop’s Wearmouth was steadily increasing. In 1382 what was probably a dock there rendered 2s., and in 1385 the issues of the town were worth £45, 9s. 2d. annually. In 1431 the rent of assize from the demesne lands of Monk’s Wearmouth was £5, is. od. A further contrast is shown by the number of houseling persons, or those who received the sacrament, returned in 1548: Bishop’s Wearmouth had 700 and Monk’s Wearmouth 300. From this time, at least, Bishop’s Wearmouth seems to have been completely identified with Sunderland; in 1567 Wearmouth was one of the three ports in Durham where pre­cautions were to be taken against pirates, while no mention is made of Sunderland. Monk’s Wearmouth remained purely agricultural until 1775, when a shipbuilding yard was estab­lished and prospered to such an extent that by 1795 five similar yards were at work.

The Boldon Book states that Sunderland was at farm in 1183 and rendered 100 shillings and the town of Sunderland rendered 58 shillings tallage in 1197 during the vacancy of the see. In 1382 Thomas Menvill held the borough, which with its yearly free rent, courts and tolls was worth £1, 12s. 8d. Edward IV. in 1464, sede vacante, granted a lease of the borough, and in 1507, Cardinal Bainbridge granted it by copyhold at a rent of £6,