

the case of more recent *émeutes*, the mass meetings assumed more of a burlesque than of a serious character. In the provinces, however, and especially at Glasgow, the riots bore a different complexion. Shops were sacked, and at length the military were compelled to fire with fatal effect upon the mob. There were risings of a less formidable nature at Manchester, Edinburgh, Newcastle, and other places. On the 13th a Chartist meeting was held on Kennington Common; but although this meeting had been looked forward to with grave apprehensions by all lovers of law and order, it proved by no means so serious an affair as had been anticipated. Great preparations were made in view of the demonstration, which fortunately passed off without loss of life. Those who were politically concerned in it were few in number, but, as is usual in such cases, the meeting had furnished a pretext for the assembling of a lawless mob. Special constables in great numbers were sworn in previous to this notorious demonstration; and it is interesting to note that amongst those who hastened in London to enrol themselves as preservers of the public peace were Prince Louis Napoleon, the Duke of Norfolk, Edward Geoffrey Stanley (Earl of Derby), and William Ewart Gladstone.

Meanwhile, the Government of the country was becoming unpopular—not, it must fairly be said, from any grave faults of its own, apart from the nature of its financial measures. There was a deficiency in the national accounts of upwards of two millions. The Chan-

cellor of the Exchequer, in introducing his budget, said that although they might expect an improvement in income and a diminution of the expenditure caused by the Caffre War, a temporary increase of taxation would be necessary. He therefore proposed that they should continue the income-tax, which would expire in the following April, for five years, and increase its amount from sevenpence to one shilling in the pound. In consequence of the distress in Ireland, he did not propose to extend this proposition to that branch of the United Kingdom. The property tax he proposed on exactly the same principles as Mr. Pitt—principles upon which it was also imposed and defended in 1842 by Sir Robert Peel. The Ministerial scheme was severely criticised, and the depressed state of the finances was attributed by many members to the operations of Free Trade. In the course of the debate which followed, Sir Robert Peel recapitulated the circumstances under which his income-tax had originated, and said he should give his decided support to the Ministerial proposition for three years. He had been alarmed by the great increase of expenditure, and, while assenting to this proposal, he trusted that there would be no relaxation in conducting the most searching investigations. Mr. Disraeli denied the success of Sir Robert Peel's policy, and described himself as 'a Free-trader, but not a freebooter of the Manchester school.' In a clever phrase, he dubbed the blue-book of the Import Duties Committee 'the greatest work of ima-