

CHENEYS AND THE HOUSE OF RUSSELL.

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THE gardener and his wife,' Mr. Tennyson tells us, 'laugh at the claims of long descent.' If it be so, the laugh is natural, for our first parents were 'novi homines,' and could not appreciate what they did not possess. Nevertheless, in all nations which have achieved any kind of eminence, particular families have stood out conspicuously for generation after generation as representatives of political principles, as soldiers or statesmen, as ruling in their immediate neighbourhoods with delegated authority, and receiving homage voluntarily offered. They have furnished the finer tissues in the corporate body of the national life, and have given to society its unity and coherence. In times of war they have fallen freely on the battle-field. In times of discord and civil strife their most illustrious members have