

affairs. James, Duke of York, was also compelled to resign his post as Lord High Admiral. Thus ended the Cabal, whose existence, although it was so odious to the nation, records a step in Constitutional History as being the "*germ of the Modern Cabinet.*"

The dismissal of the Cabal Ministry was followed by a reversal of foreign policy. Peace was concluded with Holland by the **Treaty of Westminster, 1674**. By this Treaty, it was agreed that : (1) The Dutch should lower their flags and topsails to English ships of war in the narrow seas as a matter of right and not of compliment, and concede the island of St. Helena to England; (2) That the disputes between the two East India Companies should be settled by arbitration. But Louis was afraid lest the "Opposition" should compel Charles to join the Dutch against him, and so it was arranged that Charles should prorogue Parliament, and that Louis should grant him a pension of £100,000 a year, and so render him independent of his subjects. Charles agreed to this arrangement, and Parliament was prorogued for fifteen months.

NOTE.—Formation of the Country Party. The double victory of the Parliament in the matter of the Declaration of Indulgence and the Test Act led to the formation of a systematic opposition against the King and his Ministry. This "Opposition" was known as the "Country Party" to distinguish it from the Court Party, who supported the King, and was the beginning of the "Ministry and Opposition" of our day.

SECTION IV.—THE DANBY ADMINISTRATION AND THE THREE SHORT PARLIAMENTS.

1. **The Danby Administration, 1673-79.** On the breaking up of the Cabal, Sir Thomas Osborne (Lord Danby) became Lord High Treasurer, and the King's chief minister. He was a gentleman of Yorkshire and a man of "great political skill," and since the fall of Clarendon had been the leader of the Church party in Parliament. His home policy was a revival of that of Clarendon's, which was *to support the Church of England and increase the Royal Prerogative*; his foreign policy was just the reverse of that of Clarendon's, in that *he was friendly to the Dutch and opposed to France*. Like other leading men of his time he was in the pay of Louis, and