

Chapter 1 : A few words about Lord George Bentinck | The History Guide

Lord William George Frederick Cavendish-Scott-Bentinck (27 February - 21 September), better known as Lord George Bentinck, was an English Conservative politician and racehorse owner, noted for his role (with Benjamin Disraeli) in unseating Sir Robert Peel over the Corn Laws.

Bentinck was known by the name George, as at the time all the men in his family were given the first name William. As an officer in the 9th Lancers , he called his superior officer, Captain John Ker, a " poltroon ", in February Ker levelled charges against Bentinck of "inattention to duty and contemptuous, insubordinate and disrespectful behaviour. However, the incident would not die and in May , in Paris, Bentinck and Ker were prepared to duel. In May , he was assigned as aide-de-camp to Canning, who had accepted the position of Governor-General of India. Instead, Canning became foreign secretary after The Marquess of Londonderry committed suicide. Canning requested both George and John be his non-stipendiary private secretaries "to wean them from their too great zeal in the chase and too great idleness in every other respect. Bentinck then left the regiment and took half-pay with the rank of major. Horse racing[edit] Before his interest in active politics in the s, Bentinck was far better known for his interest in " the Turf. Bentinck owned several successful racehorses and his stable, which he established at Goodwood , was renowned for its quality. In , having exposed the winner of the Derby as a fraud, [4] he proposed a set of rules to cover horse racing. By a series of legal actions he also limited the corruption involved in making and settlement of bets, deriving from outdated legislation. Prior to that races had been started by the starter shouting. He nearly lost his life in a duel over an unpaid debt. He fired his pistol in the air as his opponent, Squire Osbaldeston , an expert marksman, was flustered and missed, shooting Bentinck cleanly through the hat. Until he rose to speak against their repeal, he had not spoken a word in 18 years in Parliament. Bentinck became leader of the party in the House of Commons. A search party was sent to look for him when he did not arrive at Thoresby, and his body was ultimately found at 9 p. He was aged Initial reports stated it appeared he died of " apoplexy ," [1] but it is believed he died of a heart attack. Although there were rumours of suicide or even murder , [7] his autopsy clearly showed emphysema and congestion of the lungs.

Chapter 2 : Lord George Bentinck: A Political Biography by Benjamin Disraeli

Lord George Bentinck: Lord George Bentinck, British politician who articulately led the protective-tariff advocates who opposed the free-trade policy of Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel. The second son of the 4th Duke of Portland, Bentinck served in the army before entering the House of Commons.

He was known by George, as all the males in his family were given the first name William. He was educated privately and grew up at the family estate of Welbeck Abbey in Nottinghamshire, and at Fullarton House, near Troon, Ayrshire, where his father was developing the docks. As an officer in the 9th Lancers, he called his superior officer, Captain John Ker, a "poltroon", in February. Ker levelled charges against Bentinck of "inattention to duty and contemptuous, insubordinate and disrespectful behaviour. However, the incident would not die and in May, in Paris, Bentinck and Ker were prepared to duel. In May, he was assigned as aide-de-camp to Canning, who had accepted the position of Governor-General of India. Instead, Canning became foreign secretary after The Marquess of Londonderry committed suicide. Canning requested both George and John be his non-stipendiary private secretaries "to wean them from their too great zeal in the chase and too great idleness in every other respect. Bentinck then left the regiment and took half-pay with the rank of major. Horse racing Before his interest in active politics in the s, Bentinck was far better known for his interest in "the Turf. Bentinck owned several successful racehorses and his stable, which he established at Goodwood, was renowned for its quality. In, he proposed a set of rules to cover horse racing. By a series of legal actions he also limited the corruption involved in making and settlement of bets, deriving from outdated legislation. Prior to that races had been started by the starter shouting. He nearly lost his life in a duel over an unpaid debt. He fired his pistol in the air as his opponent, Squire Osbaldeston, an expert marksman, was flustered and missed, shooting Bentinck cleanly through the hat. Until he rose to speak against their repeal, he had not spoken a word in 18 years in Parliament. The Conservative Party broke in half; some hundred free-trade Peelites followed Peel, while protectionists formed the new Conservative Party, with Stanley later the Earl of Derby as overall leader. Bentinck became leader of the party in the House of Commons. Bentinck resigned the leadership in, his support of Jewish emancipation being unpopular with the bulk of the party, and was succeeded by the Marquess of Granby. Death and legacy File: Memorial to Lord George Bentinck, M. A search party was sent to look for him when he did not arrive at Thoresby, and his body was ultimately found at 9 p. He was aged Initial reports stated it appeared he died of "apoplexy," [1] but it is believed he died of a heart attack. Although there were rumours of suicide or even murder, [5] his autopsy clearly showed emphysema and congestion of the lungs.

Chapter 3 : Lord George Bentinck - Infogalactic: the planetary knowledge core

*Lord George Bentinck [Benjamin Disraeli] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This is a pre historical reproduction that was curated for quality. Quality assurance was conducted on each of these books in an attempt to remove books with imperfections introduced by the digitization process.*

Fife, was born at Welbeck Abbey on 27 Feb. He seems to have been educated at home, and to have entered the 10th hussars as cornet as early as . Although he was a younger son, the great wealth of the house of Bentinck, augmented as it was by the marriage of his father, made him a rich man. The sudden death of Lord Londonderry, however, gave Mr. Canning the post of foreign secretary and leader of the House of Commons. For three years Lord George Bentinck was the private secretary of his uncle, and a strong attachment existed between them. During this period he seems to have been on half-pay. Tall and well-made, both in face and figure a model of manly beauty, quick of eye and of action, he was distinguished by his skill in every kind of sport. He was also good as a cricketer and oarsman. It was, however, on the turf that he chiefly excelled. Inheriting a taste for racing, he inherited with that taste a fine sense of honour which made his patronage of the sport a benefit to racing society. He rode his first public match at Goodwood in , winning it on Mr. Canning he again joined the army. As he chanced, in , to ride off Newmarket Heath with the Duke of York, the duke, who keenly loved racing, offered him an unattached majority which happened to be vacant. Lord George accepted the offer, and joined the 2nd life guards. In he was returned as M. He soon withdrew from any active pursuit of his profession, though his name remained in the army list for some years. He was well fitted for the pursuit. He betted heavily and with good judgment. His most remarkable successes were gained for him by his famous mare Crucifix by Priam , who, in , won the Oaks, the Thousand, and the Two Thousand Guineas. In he again won the Thousand Guineas with Firebrand. More important than these successes are the reforms worked by Lord George Bentinck in the practices of the turf. The Goodwood meeting, at which, in , the whole amount of public money was only l. He dealt sternly with every man whom he believed to be dishonest, and insisted on the rigid exclusion of every defaulter. One such man who owed him a bet of 4,l. Lord George indignantly refused the offer, and declared the man excluded until he should pay all his debts in full. He was peremptory both in his words and actions. I won of you at Heaton Park. Lord George fired first and missed. In he sued one Connop for l. Both parties in this often-quoted case Bentinck v. Connop entered three horses, and, when Lord George as winner claimed the stakes, refused to pay under the plea that, by an act of 16 Car. II, it was provided that no stakes should exceed l. The case was heard by Lord Denman, C. As the chief man on the turf, Lord George was much harassed by threats of legal proceedings, called qui tam actions, which, by an interpretation of 9 Anne, c. As the informer received a large reward on conviction, these actions were looked on as an easy means of gaining money. By a return made by order of parliament it was found that no fewer than thirty-four writs had been issued against Lord George Bentinck between 1 July and 31 Dec. In order to put an end to this disgraceful trade, parliament, after some discussion in which Lord George Bentinck took part, passed the Gaming Acts Suspension Continuation Bill. As, however, this bill had no retrospective force, an action, Russell and others v. Bentinck, came on for trial, and was heard at Guildford before Baron Parke and a jury. By this action 12,l. Of this sum 3,l. Baron Parke considered that the action could scarcely lie in the face of the recent act to stay proceedings. Lord George, however, waived that question, as he was anxious for the sake of others to have the case decided on its merits, and his success in this trial put an end to actions of a like nature. In he took an active part in detecting a daring attempt at imposition. On 22 May the Derby was won by a horse called Running Rein, which was said to be over age, and the stakes were accordingly claimed by General Peel, whose horse Orlando came in second. Lord George did good service to public morality by the skill and energy he devoted to discovering the truth in this difficult case. The trial took place on 1 July before Baron Alderson and a special jury, and, chiefly owing to the exertions of Lord George, the solicitor-general was able to prove that the horse was not Running Rein, but a four-year-old horse originally called Maccabeus by Gladiator , and entered for certain stakes under that name. In recognition of the part Lord George had taken in this case, and of the good work he had done in raising the tone of the racing community,

it was proposed on the night after the trial to present him with a testimonial, and 2,1. At his request this sum was made the nucleus of the Bentinck Benevolent and Provident Fund for trainers and jockeys. During these years Lord George was not a regular attendant of the house, though he might be counted on for a party division. His admiration for Canning exercised considerable influence on his political career. When, in , Mr. Huskisson and the other Canningites left the administration of the Duke of Wellington, Lord George ceased to support the government. He voted for the Catholic Emancipation Bill, the cause for which Canning had manfully contended. Upholding the general principle of the Reform Bill, he nevertheless opposed some of its details. Stanley Lord Derby and others seceded from the ministry on the question of the appropriation of the funds of the church in Ireland to secular purposes, Lord George, who had a strong personal as well as political attachment to Mr. Stanley, ceased to support the whigs, and soon became a member of the conservative opposition. On the overthrow of the Melbourne administration in , he was again offered an administrative post, and, in order to make the offer especially acceptable, Sir R. Peel caused it to be conveyed to him through his friend Lord Stanley. Lord George, however, declined the offer, because he was unwilling to spare the time he devoted to the turf. Up to the end of the session of he warmly upheld the ministry of Sir R. In the last weeks of Lord George Bentinck entered on a new life. The proposal of Sir R. Peel to meet the failure of the potato crop in Ireland, and the danger of an insufficient supply of corn in this country, by an order in council suspending the restrictions placed upon the importation of corn, and the avowal of his opinion that after such a suspension it would be inexpedient to re-enact the existing laws, the secession of Lord Stanley from the cabinet, and the ministerial crisis which followed Lord J. Believing that Sir R. Peel was basely betraying the confidence placed in him. Lord George resolved to make a fight for the maintenance of protective duties. His indignation at finding his party betrayed, as he thought, by the leader he once used to follow, had at least as much effect in first rousing him to active opposition as any well-founded political convictions. As he walked from the house one night in company with a member of the league, his companion said that he wondered that he was amidst of the consequences of free trade. The answer exhibits somewhat of the same spirit that led him to sue Connop. Unskilled as he was in party tactics, he had an able adviser in Mr. If Lord George took up the cause of protection lightly, he did so honestly, believing that the ministerial policy would injure the country. He worked diligently at the materials for his case, applying to economic statistics those mental powers which had done him good service in the calculations of the turf. Early in the next year he took an active share in organising the protectionist as a third political party. For a while it was a party without a head. Lord George had no desire to accept the leadership. It was advisable for party purposes to prolong the debate on the order, read 9 Feb. Lord George for the first time addressed the house in a great debate. Although before this he had taken little part in public business, his personal qualities, his family, and, not least, his preeminence in sport, gave him considerable influence in the house. If, however, his speeches sometimes sounded ill, they were excellent when read. Full of figures and calculations, given out, as we are assured by his biographer Lord Beaconsfield, without the help of notes, his arguments needed to be read rather than to be heard, and therefore appealed to the country rather than to the house. He also reproached Sir R. Peel with the presence of Prince Albert in the house on the first night of the discussion. The disturbed state of Ireland seemed to promise the success of their policy of obstruction, as it necessitated the introduction of a Coercion Bill. Lord George saw the advantage to be gained from this measure. If the ministers pressed their Coercion Bill, they would be forced to relax their effort to pass the Corn Bill. If, on the other hand, they made the free-trade question of the first importance, then, he argued, they would show that they believed that Irish affairs were not urgent, and would declare by their own conduct that their Coercion Bill was needless. On behalf of his party he agreed with the secretary of the treasury that he would support the new bill on the understanding that the repeal of the corn laws should be put off until after Easter. Peel disavowed this compact, and refused to give up the attempt to advance both bills before the holidays. During the Easter recess Lord George accepted the leadership of the protectionist party on condition that he should relinquish it whenever he discovered a better man for the post, and that he should be free to act as he thought right on religious questions, When parliament reassembled, Sir R. Peel devoted all his strength to pressing on the repeal of the corn laws. Lord George, however, was still able to delay for a while the final decision of the commons. Warning the house on 4 May against believing

that English free trade would be met by reciprocity, and quoting the opinion of M. Guizot against our new policy, he declared that there was at that time no potato famine in Ireland, and that no reason existed for doing away with protective duties. Even before that day Lord George made a fresh attack on the government on the subject of the effect of the new commercial policy on our relations with Canada, laying down the axioms that excise duties should be remitted before customs, and that our commercial policy should be regulated by reciprocity. The position of Sir R. At last Lord George decided on joining the whigs in opposing the second reading of the Coercion Bill. On the motion, made on 8 June, that the bill be read a second time, he explained his opposition by declaring that if the government had thought the bill really necessary, they would not have postponed the second reading, and compared their slackness in this matter with the earnestness with which they had pressed on the Corn Bill.

Chapter 4 : Lord George Bentinck - Wikidata

Lord George Bentinck, as he was commonly known, claimed to have 'sat in eight Parliaments without having taken part in any great debate' when he assumed the leadership of the Protectionists in the Commons in The third of the four sons of the 4th duke of Portland and his wife, coheiress with her sisters the countess of Moray and the.

Early career[edit] In , at the age of 9, he was given the sinecure of Clerk of the Pipe for life. Only after serious violence was order restored and the offending policy rescinded, and Bentinck was recalled in He was brevetted to lieutenant-general on 3 March In , Bentinck landed with British and Sicilian troops at Genoa , and commenced to make liberal proclamations of a new order in Italy which embarrassed the British government which intended to give much of Italy to Austria , and led, once again, to his recall in Bentinck in Sicily[edit] As conditions in Sicily began to deteriorate at the beginning of the 19th century, England began worrying about its interests in the Mediterranean. Internal dissensions in the Sicilian government and an ever-increasing suspicion that Queen Maria Carolina was in correspondence with the French Occupation of Sicily as its object led to the appointment of Bentinck as British representative to the Court of Palermo in July Bentinck saw this as the perfect opportunity to insert his ideas of a Sicilian constitution. Opposition to the establishment of a constitution continued to surface, Maria Carolina proving to be one of the toughest. Her relationship with Bentinck can be summed up in the nickname that she gave him: La bestia feroce the ferocious beast. On 18 June the Parliament assembled in Palermo and, about a month later, on 20 July the constitution was accepted and written on the basis of 15 articles, on the drafts prepared by Prince Belmonte and other Sicilian noblemen. With the establishment of the constitution the Sicilians had now gained an autonomy they had never experienced before. The constitution set up the separation of the legislative and executive powers and abolished the feudalistic practices that had been established and recognised for the past years. On 8 December , a year after Ferdinand IV returned to the throne of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies , the constitution was abolished and Sicily was reunited with Naples. The constitutional experiment was deemed a failure although it cannot be said to be his alone. The British no longer had an invested interest in the internal affairs of Sicily now that the threat of French invasion had been removed. The establishment of a Sicilian constitution that was facilitated by Bentinck was not to be soon forgotten. The ideas found therein and the small taste of freedom lingered in the memories of the Sicilians and had an influence on the desire for autonomy that was at the base of the Sicilian revolutions of and Portrait of Napoleon as King of Italy. He renounced the Italian throne, along with the French , on 11 April Sailing from Sicily on 30 January , Bentinck first made for Naples. There he reluctantly signed an armistice with Joachim Murat ; whom he personally detested as being a man whose "whole life had been a crime," yet whom Britain found it expedient to detach from his brother-in-law, Napoleon , by guaranteeing his Kingdom of Naples in return for an alliance. Bentinck replied that it would not. If she did not depart immediately, he said, she would arrested. With 2, British troops dispatched towards the city to carry out this threat, the heavily pregnant Elisa had no choice but to abandon the last of her territories and flee north, where she eventually fell into allied hands at Bologna. The next day, Bentinck issued a proclamation from Livorno calling on the Italian nation to rise in a movement of liberation. Call us, and we will hasten to you, and then, our forces joined, will effect that Italy may become what in the best times she was". For the next month, Bentinck was therefore operating as effectively an independent actor representative of Britain only, as Rosselli says, in the widest sense: At this conference on the 15th, he brazenly demanded that Tuscany be handed over to himself and evacuated by the Neapolitan forces then in possession of it. It was necessary, he argued, that Tuscany be under British jurisdiction, as otherwise he would have no logistical base from which to conduct future operations - to which Murat replied that it was the same argument on his side which dictated his own necessary possession of it. At which he reluctantly withdrew his bid for Tuscany - which he had likely been hoping to turn into the nucleus of a free Italian state under his own aegis - and left for Genoa. His erratic behaviour over the recent months had led the Prime Minister Lord Liverpool to brand him simply "mad", and his scope of authority was sharply reduced; though he was not finally dismissed from his grand post as Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean until April the following year. Everyone

else before him was the governor of Bengal Fort William. On his return to England, Bentinck served in the House of Commons for some years before being appointed Governor-General of Bengal in 1800. His principal concern was to turn around the loss-making East India Company, to ensure that its charter would be renewed by the British government. Lady William Cavendish-Bentinck c. 1800 Ellen Sharples Bentinck engaged in an extensive range of cost-cutting measures, earning the lasting enmity of many military men whose wages were cut. Although historians emphasise his more efficient financial management, his modernising projects also included a policy of westernisation, influenced by the Utilitarianism of Jeremy Bentham and James Mill, which was more controversial. He reformed the court system Bentinck made major educational reforms he made English the medium of instruction after passing the English Education Act, 1800, English replaced Persian, as the language of the higher courts and encouraged western-style education for Indians to provide more educated Indians for service in the British bureaucracy. It was the first western medical college in Asia and it was open to all without distinction of caste or creed. He also targeted other customs that offended Western sensibilities, often with the help of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, who was not only a social reformer but also known as "Maker of Modern India" or "Father of Modern India". Bentinck removed flogging as a punishment in the Indian Army. This Act added a law member to the executive council of the governor general. Bishops of Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta were to be appointed for the benefit of the Christians in India. Bentinck returned to the UK in 1805 and refused a peerage, partly because he had no children and partly because he wanted to stand for Parliament again. He again entered the House of Commons as a Member for Glasgow.

Chapter 5 : Lord George Bentinck - Wikipedia

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Offices Held Ensign and Lt. In February he was cleared by the inquiry he had requested into charges of inattention to duty and contemptuous, insubordinate and disrespectful behaviour brought against him for calling his superior officer Captain John Ker a poltroon. A second exchange was effected in May to enable him to go out as an aide-de-camp to Canning as governor-general. I was prepared for the quickness and the good sense which I have found in him; and for his docility, diligence and excessive desire to do his duty, and more than his duty, I was not prepared. I am serious when I say that he has been of great use as well as comfort and pleasure to me, and hope I have done him some good, but not more than he deserves. Leger, and gave him the Muirkirk estate in Ayrshire to keep him occupied. Lord George, though wishing well to government of course, appeared to me rather a frondeur, complained of the want of activity in ministers by the bye the duke is certainly rather an inefficient member and told me that the others even talk of beating us in the House of Commons, and that many are violent. He voted with opposition for reductions in expenditure, 20 June, 4, 7 July, and inquiry into the Irish church, 24 June, and against the additional churches bill, 30 June, and the silk manufacture bill, 14 July His main concern was the attendant Irish franchise bill, which he voted against, 19 Mar. He was a minority teller that day for amending it to perpetuate the 40s. He divided for information on British involvement in Portugal, 10 Mar. He qualified his vote for inquiry into the management of crown land revenues, 30 Mar. He voted to make forgery a non-capital offence, 24 May, 7 June, having presented a petition to this effect, 14 May. He voted against the administration of justice bill, 18 June, and to modify the libel law amendment bill, 6 July For myself, I am disposed to trust with perfect confidence in the wisdom, prudence, and honourable intentions of ministers on this subject; I am satisfied that the measure they will produce will be such as to redeem the promise made by He presented petitions for, 19 Mar. He promised to ensure that the Eau Brink commissioners maintained the free bridge over the cut and paid compensation for the damage sustained to the river and harbour. On Dorchester, 28 July, his name was included in both lists. He spoke for the proposal to give Brighton a second Member, 5 Aug. He voted against preserving the voting rights of all freemen, 30 Aug. In January he was foreman of the grand jury which tried the Nottingham rioters, and bravely resisted being detained by a mob on the road to Mansfield. He left the House without voting on the address requesting the king to appoint only ministers who would carry the bill unimpaired, 10 May. It is no argument to state that, because we preserved the old 40s. I was one of the individuals who opposed the disfranchisement of the 40s. He supported the proposed inclusion of Kilmarnock in the Ayr district under the Scottish measure, 15 June He divided with government in both divisions on the Dublin election controversy, 23 Aug. He opposed the malt drawback bill, claiming that it inflicted a new five-and-a-half per cent tax on Scotland, and before voting to amend it, 30 Mar. I spent the whole of the earlier part of my life in Scotland, and well remember that, fifteen years ago, there was not a single sailor on the Firth of Clyde, where I resided, who was not engaged in smuggling, as well as every other person along the coast. They did not look upon it as a crime, but followed it as an ordinary occupation, in which large profits were to be got. Now none of them are smugglers, and not one-tenth part of the revenue officers that used to be maintained are now kept up. He divided against its third reading, 2 Apr. I have no disposition to crouch in servile obedience to any ministry, nor, on the other hand, to bend to the excitement of wild popular fury, but will endeavour to support such measures as may conduce to the welfare and happiness of the greatest number of people. His obituary in *The Times*, 23 Sept. He died intestate and without issue and administration of his estate, at an undisclosed sum, was granted, 29 Dec. Margaret Escott Notes No comprehensive biography has been published. His later political career as a Protectionist is covered in B. Disraeli, *Lord George Bentinck: A Political Biography*, which draws on material not subsequently available; N. Gash, *Pillars of Government*, ; and A. His career on the Turf is covered in J.

Chapter 6 : Lord William Bentinck - Wikipedia

Lord George Bentinck A Political Biography and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.

Biography I am happy that you are using this web site and hope that you found it useful. Unfortunately, the cost of making this material freely available is increasing, so if you have found the site useful and would like to contribute towards its continuation, I would greatly appreciate it. Click the button to go to Paypal and make a donation. Fife, was born at Welbeck Abbey on 27 February Although it has been frequently asserted that he was sent to Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, his name does not appear in the lists of either the college or the house. He seems to have been educated at home, and to have entered the 10th hussars as cornet as early as 1763. Although he was a younger son, the great wealth of the house of Bentinck, augmented as it was by the marriage of his father, made him a rich man. Canning ; and when, in 1793, that statesman accepted the office of governor-general of Bengal, Lord George Bentinck exchanged into the 41st regiment, intending to accompany him as his military secretary. The sudden death of Lord Londonderry , however, gave Mr. Canning the post of foreign secretary and leader of the House of Commons. For three years Lord George Bentinck was the private secretary of his uncle, and a strong attachment existed between them. During this period he seems to have been on half-pay. Tall and well-made, both in face and figure a model of manly beauty, quick of eye and of action, he was distinguished by his skill in every kind of sport. He was also good as a cricketer and as an oarsman. It was, however, on the turf that he chiefly excelled. Inheriting a taste for racing, he inherited with that taste a fine sense of honour which made his patronage of the sport a benefit to racing society. He rode his first public match at Goodwood in 1768, winning it on Mr. Canning he again joined the army. As he chanced, in 1771, to ride off Newmarket Heath with the Duke of York , the duke, who keenly loved racing, offered him an unattached majority which happened to be vacant. Lord George accepted the offer, and joined the 2nd life guards. From in succession to his brother, appointed governor-general of India until his death he was M. He soon withdrew from any active pursuit of his profession, though his name remained in the army list for some years. He was well fitted for the pursuit. Although never fortunate enough to win the Derby, he is said to have made considerable profits on the turf. He betted heavily and with good judgment. His most remarkable successes were gained for him by his famous mare Crucifix by Priam , who, in 1774, won the Oaks, the Thousand, and the Two Thousand Guineas. In he again won the Thousand Guineas with Firebrand. More important than these successes are the reforms worked by Lord George Bentinck in the practices of the turf. He dealt sternly with every man whom he believed to be dishonest, and insisted on the rigid exclusion of every defaulter. Lord George indignantly refused the offer, and declared the man excluded until he should pay all his debts in full. He was peremptory both in his words and actions. Lord George fired first and missed. Connop entered three horses, and, when Lord George as winner claimed the stakes, refused to pay under the plea that, by an act of 16 Car. The case was heard by Lord Denman, C. As the chief man on the turf, Lord George was much harassed by threats of legal proceedings, called qui tam actions, which, by an interpretation of 9 Anne, c. As the informer received a large reward on conviction, these actions were looked on as an easy means of gaining money. By a return made by order of parliament it was found that no fewer than thirty-four writs had been issued against Lord George Bentinck between 1 July and 31 December , at the instance of one attorney named Russell. In order to put an end to this disgraceful trade, parliament, after some discussion in which Lord George Bentinck took part, passed the Gaming Acts Suspension Continuation Bill. As, however, this bill had no retrospective force, an action, Russell and others v. Bentinck, came on for trial, and was heard at Guildford before Baron Parke and a jury. Baron Parke considered that the action could scarcely lie in the face of the recent act to stay proceedings. Lord George, however, waived that question, as he was anxious for the sake of others to have the case decided on its merits, and his success in this trial put an end to actions of a like nature. In he took an active part in detecting a daring attempt at imposition. On 22 May the Derby was won by a horse called Running Rein, which was said to be over age, and the stakes were accordingly claimed by General Peel, whose horse Orlando came in second. Lord George did good service to public morality by the skill and energy

he devoted to discovering the truth in this difficult case. The trial took place on 1 July before Baron Alderson and a special jury, and, chiefly owing to the exertions of Lord George, the solicitor-general was able to prove that the horse was not Running Rein, but a four-year-old horse originally called Maccabeus by Gladiator, and entered for certain stakes under that name. At his request this sum was made the nucleus of the Bentinck Benevolent and Provident Fund for trainers and jockeys. During these years Lord George was not a regular attendant of the house, though he might be counted on for a party division. His admiration for Canning exercised considerable influence on his political career. When, in , Mr. Huskisson and the other Canningites left the administration of the Duke of Wellington, Lord George ceased to support the government. He voted for the Catholic Emancipation Bill, the cause for which Canning had manfully contended. Upholding the general principle of the Reform Bill, he nevertheless opposed some of its details. Stanley Lord Derby and others seceded from the ministry on the question of the appropriation of the funds of the church in Ireland to secular purposes, Lord George, who had a strong personal as well as political attachment to Mr. Stanley, ceased to support the whigs, and soon became a member of the conservative opposition. On the overthrow of the Melbourne administration in , he was again offered an administrative post, and, in order to make the offer especially acceptable, Sir R. Peel caused it to be conveyed to him through his friend Lord Stanley. Lord George, however, declined the offer, because he was unwilling to spare the time he devoted to the turf. Up to the end of the session of he warmly upheld the ministry of Sir R. In the last weeks of Lord George Bentinck entered on a new life. The proposal of Sir R. Peel to meet the failure of the potato crop in Ireland, and the danger of an insufficient supply of corn in this country, by an order in council suspending the restrictions placed upon the importation of corn, and the avowal of his opinion that after such a suspension it would be inexpedient to re-enact the existing laws, the secession of Lord Stanley from the cabinet, and the ministerial crisis which followed Lord J. Believing that Sir R. Peel was basely betraying the confidence placed in him, Lord George resolved to make a fight for the maintenance of protective duties. His indignation at finding his party betrayed, as he thought, by the leader he once used to follow, had at least as much effect in first rousing him to active opposition as any well-founded political convictions. As he walked from the house one night in company with a member of the league, his companion said that he wondered that he was afraid of the consequences of free trade. The answer exhibits somewhat of the same spirit that led him to sue Connop. Unskilled as he was in party tactics, he had an able adviser in Mr. Disraeli; and though there was little likeness between the characters of Lord George and of his ally and future panegyrist, each supplied the other with what he lacked, and the connection between them was not without its influence on the career of the more famous statesman. If Lord George took up the cause of protection lightly, he did so honestly, believing that the ministerial policy would injure the country. He worked diligently at the materials for his case, applying to economic statistics those mental powers which had done him good service in the calculations of the turf. Early in the next year he took an active share in organising the protectionists as a third political party. For a while it was a party without a head. Lord George had no desire to accept the leadership. It was advisable for party purposes to prolong the debate on the order, read 9 February, for going into committee on the corn laws, and on 27 February Lord George for the first time addressed the house in a great debate. Although before this he had taken little part in public business, his personal qualities, his family, and, not least, his preeminence in sport, gave him considerable influence in the house. His early manner of speaking was unattractive, his voice was forced, his action was overdone, and his sentences were often repeated; and, though he succeeded to some extent in improving his style, he did not become a first-rate speaker. If, however, his speeches sometimes sounded ill, they were excellent when read. Full of figures and calculations, given out, as we are assured by his biographer Lord Beaconsfield, without the help of notes, his arguments needed to be read rather than to be heard, and therefore appealed to the country rather than to the house. He also reproached Sir R. Peel with the presence of Prince Albert in the house on the first night of the discussion. The disturbed state of Ireland seemed to promise the success of their policy of obstruction, as it necessitated the introduction of a Coercion Bill. Lord George saw the advantage to be gained from this measure. If the ministers pressed their Coercion Bill, they would be forced to relax their efforts to pass the Corn Bill. If, on the other hand, they made the free-trade question of the first importance, then, he argued, they would show that they believed that Irish

affairs were not urgent, and would declare by their own conduct that their Coercion Bill was needless. On behalf of his party he agreed with the secretary of the treasury that he would support the new bill on the understanding that the repeal of the corn laws should be put off until after Easter. Peel disavowed this compact, and refused to give up the attempt to advance both bills before the holidays. During the Easter recess Lord George accepted the leadership of the protectionist party on condition that he should relinquish it whenever he discovered a better man for the post, and that he should be free to act as he thought right on religious questions. When parliament reassembled, Sir R. Peel devoted all his strength to pressing on the repeal of the corn laws. Lord George, however, was still able to delay for a while the final decision of the commons. Warning the house on 4 May against believing that English free trade would be met by reciprocity, and quoting the opinion of M. Guizot against our new policy, he declared that there was at that time no potato famine in Ireland, and that no reason existed for doing away with protective duties. Even before that day Lord George made a fresh attack on the government on the subject of the effect of the new commercial policy on our relations with Canada, laying down the axioms that excise duties should be remitted before customs, and that our commercial policy should be regulated by reciprocity. The position of Sir R. Peel was weakened by repeated attacks, and, though their defeat was complete, the protectionists hoped for vengeance. Any schemes for a new cabinet on a broad basis were rendered futile by the refusal of Lord J. Russell to retreat from the Edinburgh letter, and of Lord George Bentinck to enter a government pledged to free trade in corn. Nor was it easy to find a common basis for attack. At last Lord George decided on joining the whigs in opposing the second reading of the Coercion Bill.

Chapter 7 : Lord George Bentinck | Open Library

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Chapter 8 : William George Frederic Cavendish Bentinck ()

William George Frederic Cavendish Bentinck, commonly called Lord George Bentinck, fifth child and second surviving son of the fourth duke of Portland, by Henrietta, daughter of Major-general Scott, of Balcomie, co. Fife, was born at Welbeck Abbey on 27 February Although it has been frequently asserted that he was sent to Eton and Christ Church.

Chapter 9 : CAVENDISH BENTINCK, Lord William George Frederick (). | History of Parliament Online

Read "Lord George Bentinck" by Benjamin Disraeli with Rakuten Kobo. According to Wikipedia: "Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, born Benjamin D'Israeli, (21 December 19 Apr.