

the Ordeal of a contested Election,
as they would think they saw
their way to reputation and
power without it.

The subject is a very large one,
and anyhow is not one which
can be dealt with in a bye-law
of the Seats Bill.

Thanks for what you say as
to the question of a declaration
of policy. It is a matter on
which I often think. I hope we
shall have several openings next
session. How do your friends
like the new Boundary schemes?
We are fairly satisfied here.

Believe me
Faithfully Yours
Stafford H. Mordaunt

Private

Hynes,
Exeter.

Dec. 19. 1854

Dear Sir Balwyn

I have been thinking over
your suggestion, which has
obviously something to recommend
it; but I do not think it would
be possible to adopt it. The
innovation on the Representative
character of the House of Commons
would be too startling.

Of course, if anything in this
direction were tried, it would
lead to great changes, among
which might not improbably
be, the admission of Ministers

to sit in Parliament without being elected by any constituency. No doubt, there would be some administrative convenience in this. We should escape the difficulties which occasionally interfere with the selection of a desirable Minister for a particular department. But the practical severance of our Ministers from the constituencies of the country would, I think, be a greater evil than that which it is to cure.

I do not think the American

system works well. The Minister who is prevented from coming into Congress, and explaining his own measures, is in a thoroughly false position. You do not recommend this. But your plan would be attended with some of the ^{same} inconveniences.

If one Minister were thus placed, we should find others claiming the same privilege, till at last we should have all the Ministry sitting, and speaking, though not voting, without having been elected. This would tend to discourage our best men from going through