

Aberdeen, George Hamilton Gordon, 4th Earl of (b. 1784, d. 1860), statesman, an accomplished scholar and man of taste, educated at Harrow and Cambridge. He was early chosen a representative peer of Scotland and rewarded for important political services by being made a British peer, with the title of Lord Gordon. Under Tory administration he occupied successively the office of Foreign Secretary and of Secretary to the Colonies, and while in the latter post established the *entente cordiale* between England and France. In 1852, as head of the Peel Party, he became Prime Minister. The Eastern question came into prominence, Lord Palmerston retired from the Ministry, and Lord Aberdeen allowed the country to "drift" into the Crimean war. The war was mismanaged, and he resigned upon what was practically a vote of want of confidence, and spent the remainder of his life in retirement.