

THE EXAMINER.

No 173 SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 1811.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 169.

PROCLAMATION OF THE PORTUGUESE REGENCY.

A SUBSCRIPTION is about to be commenced in this country for the relief of the inhabitants of Portugal; and they who have felt, seen, or read any thing of the miseries of war, will not be slow to contribute what they can to the alleviation of that most dreadful of visitations. In this, as in all other exercises of charity, people will do good to themselves as well as to others; and the contemplation of the case, both before the charity, for the sake of regulating it, —and after it, for the sake of enjoying it's reward in the consciousness of that good action—may help to turn some minds to the consideration of a subject, which on account of the worldly gloss spread over it by the interest of "the great" and the admiring ignorance of the little, is seldom or never viewed as it ought to be, even by the most thinking and most feeling of mankind. Not however to enter at present upon so large a view of the subject, as might tend in any way to divert people from the case before them, or as some persons might insinuate, to make them feel rather *too much* upon it, it is sufficient to recommend to the reader's attention the great difference which exists between war considered in a passing way as a kind of brilliant fever necessary to throw off the humours of our nature, and adorned with fine motives to patience and finer looks, and war considered as it really is, a complication of all the evils, physical and moral, that folly and bad passion can bring together,—a compound, not of parades and prancings of horses, of glorious sights and sounds, of exploits, victories, and elevated sensations,—all which are nothing but it's external dress or the flushing of it's drunkenness,—but of toils and drooping wants, of loathsome spectacles and afflicting cries,—of agonies and humiliations,—in short, as the provider of hospitals and graves, the bereaver of families, the indiscriminate desolator of human comfort. Anecdotes are told us sometimes of the barbarities inflicted by the French on the Portuguese,—of peasants left to die in the corruption of their wounds, of women hung up, and children burnt in the smoking cottages; but these are not a thousandth part of the aggregate evils of war,—a mere list of which, confined to the closeness of a vocabulary, would fill this Paper from beginning to end, and rouse the most thoughtless reader to exclamations of horror.—"All the crimes," says an illustrious Frenchman, "of all times and places collected together, do not amount

to the enormities produced by a single campaign."* This writer is the delight of his countrymen, who extol his humane hatred of prejudices, and then with flags consecrated by Christian Ministers, rush over Europe to perpetrate every species of outrage.

It is just then that our indignation should be bitter against this people, who in proportion as they have such writers and are more enlightened than their continental neighbours, ought to be more free from barbarisms of every kind: it is just that we should deny them, *latterly*, all excuse for their sanguinary spirit of conquest, and it is fair that we should regard them as the *immediate* cause of the miseries that at present fill the Peninsula. But while we enter with a lively sympathy into those miseries, it is highly desirable that we should penetrate into their first as well as second causes; and understand the source of that imbecility, which thus lays open whole nations to the knife of their piecemeal destroyer. These causes are to be found in the nations themselves; and if we would have our indignation a wholesome one,—one that shall excite us to detest the crimes and enable us to avoid the misfortunes that produce and are produced by war,—it is fit that as often as we mention the evils, we should denounce the first causes, the original sins, that produced them,—*Bigotry and bad Government*. By many of us these causes are well known and properly deplored; by many others they are equally well known, but studiously kept in the back-ground, in order that they may not injure the effect of the immediate causes, or from that short-sighted, unpatriotic and despicable spirit of accommodation, into which regal governments, though of the most opposite constitutions, are too apt to enter with one another. No person, with a decent respect for his nature or for truth, will deny that the conduct of the French in Portugal has been atrocious; and if our ministerialists, who approve of their rulers in India and in *Ireland*, can talk against it without blushing, let them do so: it is lucky for them that ambition and inhumanity happen, in this instance, not to be on their side of the question; and that for once, to suit their personal quarrels, they can borrow, with a shew of propriety, the language of virtuous indignation. But when they not only endeavour to fix the whole stigma on the infuriated soldiery of their enemy—when they are not content with affecting to consider that resplendent ruffian as the sole author of the evils inflicted on Portugal, but proceed to panegyricize the Portuguese monarchy, and to represent it as a suffering innocent, guiltless of any of the misfortunes of its people, and deserving their attachment and confidence, they instantly betray the shallowness both of their reasoning and their benevolence, and become the advo-

* Dict. Philosophique. Art. Guerre. Tom. 5. p. 172.

cates of the very miseries they would denounce. What! would the French have dared to set a foot in Spain and Portugal if the governments of those countries had been what they ought? or granting they had set a foot, would they have kept it there so long and printed every path with blood, had those governments been what they ought? or, granting that they would both have kept their footing there, and ravaged the Peninsula as the Danes did England in the days of ALFRED, would Spain and Portugal have been alike deserted by their Princes, had these governments been what they ought? Let it be treachery, stupidity, or insanity, or what it will, that took away CHARLES and FERDINAND, what sort of education and government was it that made them so credulous, so stupid, or so insane? and above all, what excuse is to be found for that premature detard, that Prince of Monks and Wax-tapers, the Regent of Portugal, who at the first appearance of an enemy near his capital—at the very moment when he ought to have shewn his fitness for the throne, and his greatest love for the people, took to the water like a spaniel, and darted away, shaking in every limb? This flight too, has been called “*magnanimous!*” *Dii factiores!* Magnanimous in a Chief to desert his soldiers, in a father to desert his children! Yet the resident Governors of Portugal, in a late congratulatory paper which they have sent forth, respecting the “disgraceful flight” of the enemy, do not scruple, “after humbling themselves in the presence of the Almighty, the first and sovereign author of all good,” to “*render due thanks to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent their Lord, whose wisdom established the basis of their defence!*” which said Prince Regent, their Lord, whose wisdom consisted in leaving others to fight for them, betook himself, at the first approach of that enemy, to a flight a thousand times more disgraceful. In this same paper the Portuguese are desired to “confide in their government, as their government confides in them.” They should rather be told to confide in those who wage their battles, and who do not jump into the water at sight of a musket. Their Prince is convicted out of the mouths of his slayers. If his wisdom had established a good basis for their defence, why did not he stay with them and prove it? If his subjects are to confide in his government, why did he shew them that they were not to confide in him? And if his government confides in them, why did he shew that he had no sort of reliance upon them himself? Was it in this way that our glorious ALFRED shewed confidence in his Englishmen? Was it by cowardice that he preserved his throne; by desertion that he won the hearts of his people; by deputy that he fought their battles and participated in their patriotism? No; for his throne was not founded on an impotent bigotry; the hearts of his people were not turned from him by selfishness and corruption. His patriotism was not that of the soil only, but of the interests, of conscious dignity in their possessions. Such Princes as

he have made England what it is; such Princes as the other have made Portugal what it is. These are truths which are certified by all history, experience, and common reason. Let us well mark the difference, whenever we talk of nations and their distresses; and while we think of our fellow creatures as becomes men, never forget to think of Princes and Governments as becomes Englishmen.



FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

INTELLIGENCE FROM THE ARMY OF PORTUGAL.

Paris, April, 9.

An Aid-de-Camp of Marshal the Prince of Essling has arrived at Paris. He set out on the 23d of March from Celerico, which was the head-quarters. All the magazines which the army had formed, were entirely exhausted on the 28th of February. The foragers, who were sent twenty leagues from head-quarters, no longer brought in any thing.

On the 1st of March they were reduced to subsist on the reserve of biscuit, which could only furnish fifteen days food; and it was impossible to wait for the harvest, as no resource could be expected from it before June. There remained, therefore, to the Prince of Essling, only three measures to adopt.—One was to attack the English in their lines before Lisbon: but the principles of Military tactics forbade this, inasmuch as his heavy artillery could not be brought up.

Another was to pass the Tagus, to form a junction with the army of Andalusia, and by that means opening a communication by the great road with Seville and Madrid, finding his artillery in Badajoz, drawing his provisions from the Alentejo, changing his line of operation, and maintaining the double *tête-de-pont*, which the army had constructed on the right and left banks of the Zezere, at Punhete.

General Eble, with an activity and a true knowledge of all the resources of his art, which did him the greatest honour as well as the artillery, was preparing to construct 200 boats. We might then, by throwing at once two bridges over the Tagus, menacing a passage in front of Punhete, effecting one lower down opposite Santarem, bearing then upon the rear of the division of General Hill, which the English kept before Punhete, of leaving the English army at Lisbon, and by a movement upon Leyria, obliging them to recall the division of Gen. Hill in order to succour Lisbon; profiting by this movement to throw over a bridge in the environs of Punhete. The Tagus being passed by one or the other of these operations, a communication would have been opened with Seville and Madrid, and we might have been reinforced with all the resources of the army of Andalusia.—The third measure which presented itself was to re-pass the Mondego, bearing upon Guarda, and opening a communication with Ciudad Rodrigo, where there were shoes, clothing, ammunition, artillery, magazines and money for the army, which had not been paid for six months.—On the 3d of March, the Prince of Essling decided on the last measure. On the 4th, all the baggage and the sick were placed on a great number of mules and asses which were with the army; they were sent forward on the road, and gained two marches. The rear-guard was confined to the Duke of Elchingen, who advanced from Leyria to Mollana, threatening to turn the position of Cartaxa. On the 10th the rear-guard was at Pombal.

Our sharp-shooters, who remained in front of the town, and the English advanced guard, were engaged; which gave rise to the combat of Pombal. Our advanced posts retired, and the English advanced guard entered the town. The first brigade of the first division of the Duke of Elchingen charged the enemy with the bayonet, and killed and wounded 4 or 500 men. Our loss in this combat amounted to five killed and 18 wounded. The English advanced guard had no artillery; the artillery of



our rear-guard was in battery, and played constantly upon them.

On the 11th the French rear-guard was on the heights of Redinha. The English General advanced with his whole army. At two in the afternoon he deployed about 25,000 men under the fire of 40 of our pieces of artillery, which played with great activity. All the shot bore upon the mass of the enemy, they being unmasked by any battery. Disorder manifested itself several times in their columns. About five their artillery arrived, and they mounted some batteries. We saw with pleasure that one of their divisions manœuvred on their right to turn our left, by the valley of Redinha. We let them do it. As soon as they were sufficiently engaged, the 50th and 27th of the line charged them with the bayonet, and put them completely to the rout. The English officer who commanded was killed. The 3d Hussars made a fine charge. The loss of the English, who were several hours under the fire of our artillery, was considerable. Our loss amounted to 89 killed and wounded.

On the 15th the advanced guard was at Foz de Arome.—Our artillery was in a position on the right bank of the Ceira, which commanded much of the left bank. We engaged the enemy very adroitly in an affair of advanced posts, which embarrassed him. We drew him under the fire of the artillery on the right bank; whilst the 39th and 69th charged him. The village was taken and retaken several times. The English were exposed to all the fire of our batteries; disorder prevailed in their ranks; and soon communicated itself to the whole of the enemy's line; fatigued with the inconveniencies of such a position, some fugitive English arrived at Louza and Pinhetos.—The village of Foz de Arome remained with the French rear-guard. Our loss amounted to 200 men; that of the enemy to 1200. An English General Officer was killed. This was the moment to march against the English army, and to ruin it. This resolution was for a moment agitated in the French army, but it was the 15th; and the retreat had commenced on the 5th. We had only marched one and a half or two leagues per day, and there only remained provisions for two or three days at a half ration. It was, therefore, impossible to stop; there was not a day to lose, and the army continued its movement.

On the 17th the rear-guard had wholly passed the Alva.—Instructed by the combats of Pombal, of Redinha, and of Foz de Arome, the enemy no longer shewed himself. These three combats were advantageous to the French army. Not a single caisson, not a carriage with baggage, not one sick man was left behind. It took twelve days to march from Santarem to the banks of the Alva. All the movements of the retreat were calculated, not upon the movements of the English, but upon the necessity of subsistence.—At length, on the 22d, the army was in the best position, and the soldiers in the best spirits.—Convoys had set out from Salamanca and Ciudad Rodrigo, and every day the army received clothing, shoes, and every thing that was necessary for their refreshment.

Thus the Army of Portugal has lived six months upon the resources of the country; it has changed its place when all those resources were exhausted; and when the difficulties of transport and of roads left no hope of drawing any thing from the depots. The months which precede the harvest are in general the most difficult for subsistence, because then the granaries are empty; these difficulties have of course existed in a much stronger degree in an enemy's country already laid waste.

PORTUGAL.

PROCLAMATION of the GOVERNORS of the KINGDOM of PORTUGAL and of the ALGARVES.

Lisbon, April 3.

“**PORTUGUESE!**—The day of our glory is at last arrived; the troops of the enemy, in disgraceful flight, and routed on all points, rapidly disappear from the Portuguese territory; which they have infected with their presence. The Governors of Portugal rejoice with you on this happy event; and after humbling themselves in the presence of the Almighty, the first and sovereign Author of all good, they render due thanks to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent our Lord, whose wisdom establishes the bases of our defence; to his British Majesty, to his enlightened Ministry, and to the whole British nation, in whom

we have found powerful and liberal Allies; the most constant co-operation in repelling the common enemy, and that honour, probity, and steadiness of principle which particularly characterise that great nation; to the illustrious Wellington; whose sagacity and consummate military knowledge enabled him to penetrate the plans of the enemy, to take the most effectual precautions for frustrating them; and compelled them at last to fly with the remains of their numerous army, diminished by famine, by the most severe privations, and by the incessant pursuit of the allied forces; to the zealous and indefatigable Beresford; the restorer of discipline and organization to the Portuguese troops; to the brave and skilful Generals and Officers of both nations; to their brave comrades in arms, who, with generous emulation, never fought that they did not triumph; and; in fine, to the whole Portuguese people, whose loyalty, patriotism, constancy, and humanity, have been so gloriously distinguished amidst the tribulations which have afflicted us.

“A nation possessed of such qualities can never be subdued; and the calamities of war, instead of disheartening, serve only to augment its enthusiasm; and to make it feel all the horror of the slavery with which it was threatened.

“But, Portuguese, the lamentable effects of the invasion of those barbarians; the yet smoking remains of the humble cottage of the poor, of the palace of the man of opulence, of the cell of the religious, of the hospital which afforded shelter and relief to the poor and infirm, of the temples dedicated to the worship of the Most High; the innocent blood of so many peaceful citizens of both sexes, and of all ages; with which those heaps of ruins are still tinged; the insults of every kind heaped upon those whom the Vandals did not deprive of life—insults many times more cruel than death itself; the universal devastation of the fields, of plantations; of cattle, and of the instruments of agriculture; the robbery and destruction of every thing that the unhappy inhabitants of the invaded districts possessed;—this atrocious crime, which makes humanity shudder; affords a terrible lesson, which you ought deeply to engrave on your memory, in order fully to know that degenerate nation; who retain only the figure of men; and who in every respect are worse than wild beasts, and more blood-thirsty than tigers or lions. Wretched are they who trust in their deceitful promises! Victims of a foolish credulity, a thousand times will they repent, but without avail, of the levity with which they have trusted to the promises of a nation without faith and without law; of men who acknowledge neither the rights of humanity, nor respect the sacred tie of an oath. Opposed to such an enemy, the only alternatives which remained to us were resistance or retreat; the former depended on a competent armed force, the latter is a law which the duty of preserving life and property imposes on all peaceful citizens. These evacuating the towns where they dwell; transporting the effects which they can carry off, destroying those which they are obliged to abandon, and which might serve for the subsistence of the enemy, escape the horrors of the most infamous slavery, throw themselves into the arms of their fellow-countrymen; who receive them as brothers; assist the military operations, depriving the invaders of the means of maintaining themselves in the territory which they occupied; and in this way they are so far useful to themselves; because the enemy, not being able to support himself for a long time in positions where he is in want of subsistence, will soon be obliged to evacuate them; and the inhabitants returning immediately to their homes, neither suffer the inconveniences of a lengthened absence, nor find their houses and fields in that state of total devastation, in which the enemy's army would have left them, had he remained for a longer period.

“Such, Portuguese, are the lessons of experience which we ought never to forget.

“But amidst such great disasters, Providence is pleased to give us sources of consolation which will make them less sensibly felt.

“The unfortunate people who fled from the fury of their cruel oppressors have experienced the greatest kindness in the humanity of their fellow-citizens. In all the districts to which they have fled, they were received with open arms; the inhab-

bitants eagerly pressed to afford them all that succour which they could individually bestow; they filled their houses with emigrants; and many times have we perceived with tears of joy the generous emulation of those who disputed with one another who should afford the rights of hospitality to those unknown families who arrived in this capital without shelter or the means of subsistence.

"It is the duty of the Government to take immediate measures for the relief of these necessitous persons; but the want of public funds, which are not even sufficient to provide for our defence, must make these measures less effectual, unless individuals liberally concur in a proceeding as much recommended by humanity as by patriotism.

"Under the inspection of an illustrious tribunal, which has advanced part of these succours, by the wise and economical measures of a member of that tribunal, executed by zealous and intelligent officers, the wretched fugitives have been fed, and numberless unfortunate persons have been rescued from the jaws of death. This great expence has been supported, not only by the resources which were at the disposal of Government, but, still more, by voluntary donations presented by natives and foreigners; among whom we ought to mention with particular distinction the subjects of his Britannic Majesty, both those who are employed in the army, those who are attached to the legation, and those who are comprehended in the class of merchants. Those acts of patriotism and of Christian charity were not confined to the capital and its vicinity. In all the districts of the kingdom, whither the fugitives resorted, they met the same reception, and experienced the kindness and liberal aid, as far as the ability of the inhabitants enabled them to extend it.

"The Governors of the Kingdom, in the name of the Prince Regent, return thanks to all for such distinguished services, by which the lives of so many of his subjects have been saved, and those calamities softened which were caused by the scourge of a destructive war. His Royal Highness will rejoice in being the sovereign of a people so loyal, patriotic, generous, and Christian.

"It now only remains to complete the work, to promote the restoration of the fugitives to their homes, to render habitable the towns which the barbarism of these spoilers has left covered with filth and unburied carcases; to relieve with medicine and food the sick who are perishing for want of such assistance; to give life to agriculture, by supplying the husbandman with seed-corn, as well as a little bread for his consumption for some time, and facilitating his means of purchasing cattle and acquiring the instruments of agriculture.

"Such have been and are the constant cares of the Governors of the Kingdom.

"Portuguese tribulations are the crucible in which the merit of men is purified. You have passed through this ordeal, and the result has been glorious. You are become a great nation, — a nation worthy of those heroic progenitors who illustrated the cradle of the Monarchy. Preserve unalterable these sentiments; confide in your Government, as your Government confides in you; draw every day more closely the bonds of union among yourselves, with other nations, and with our generous Allies, who are our true brothers. Let one soul, one will, direct our common efforts; and if any one attempt to sow discord, let us tear from our bosom the venomous viper, and let us seal with his blood the ratification of our indissoluble alliance.

"Practise these maxims with the same constancy with which you have hitherto followed them, and you will be invincible.

"Palace of the Government, March 30, 1811.

"The Bishop Cardinal Elect, | Marquis MONTEIRO MOR,
P. SOUZA, | Conde de REDONDO,
CHARLES STUART, | RIC. RAIMUNDO NOGUEIRA."

GERMANY.

HAMBURG, APRIL 1.—By letters from the neighbourhood of Antwerp, we are informed that 1000 seamen had arrived there, raised in the Netherlands to man the Scheldt fleet. A few mariners from Sweden, and the crews of some Russian ships in Toulon, will complete the armament for

sea. The English Government is repairing a large fleet to act against the Baltic this year. What attempts is to be made we do not learn, but its magnitude (25 sail of the line) indicates something more than the impotent show of last season. They cannot keep up trade, as every port will be shut against them.

SWEDEN.

STOCKHOLM, MARCH 26.—The illness and imbecility of the King daily increase. The idea that he will ever be able to resume the reins of government is completely abandoned. There is a remarkable similarity between the state of this country and England, in that respect. Their lawful Monarchs are both, from disease, unable to perform their duties; and the Government is confided to a Prince in whom the utmost reliance is placed. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince has but one object—his people's happiness; and perhaps the sooner he receives the full power of royalty, the more advantageous it will be to the subjects of the Swedish Crown.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Last week, a woman at Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, actuated by motives of jealousy, formed the resolution of murdering her husband. For this purpose she heated a quantity of lead in a tobacco-pipe, and while he was asleep poured some of the liquid into his ear, but it had not the intended effect. The sufferer, however, has since laboured under violent mental derangement.

At Haverfordwest Assizes, on Thursday week, John Griffith was found guilty of having poisoned his wife, and was executed on Saturday. It is asserted, that this criminal had poisoned a former wife, and was preparing himself for the ensnaring of a third into a fatal union.

The house of Mr. Bisset, a gentlemen farmer, at Loddon Bridge on the road from Beaconsfield to Colnbrooke, was entered by four villains, on Saturday se'night. The first alarm Mr. Bisset received, was the forcing of his bed-room-door, when a pistol was presented, and his money demanded. Some resistance was attempted, as two men-servants slept in a different part of the house, and the thieves stunned Mr. Bisset by a blow with a bludgeon, and with shocking imprecations, demanded silence of his wife, whom they bound to the bedstead. The robbers next ransacked the house, and got notes and cash to the amount of 90*l*. Not content with this booty, they carried off plate and light articles to a similar amount. The thieves had crapes over their faces, but some of the property has been traced, and hopes are entertained that the villains will be brought to justice.

On Friday week, about eleven o'clock, 49 French prisoners, among whom was a Captain, escaped from the S. W. corner of their prison, in Edinburgh Castle. They had cut out a hole through the bottom of the parapet wall, below the place commonly called the Devil's Elbow, and let themselves down by a rope. One of the prisoners, losing his hold, fell from a considerable height, and was so dreadfully bruised that he is not expected to live.—Five of them were retaken, and 14 were seen on the road to Glasgow. The night being dark, the operations of the prisoners were not observable; but the sentinel, on hearing some noise, became suspicious of the cause, and firing immediately, gave the alarm to the guard; otherwise, it is probable the whole might have effected their escape.

The desperate gang of robbers, who have been committing a variety of depredations in Shropshire, particularly breaking open the house of W. C. Norcop, Esq. are apprehended. The gang consisted of eight men. One of them made a desperate resistance, and attempted to shoot the person. Another of the name of Taylor, alias Smith, is supposed to have committed many robberies, and to be a convict lately escaped from the jail of Liverpool, he being then under sentence of transportation.

On the 6th inst. about one in the morning, the master of a foreign vessel, who had come from Edinburgh to Falkirk in the mail, when proceeding to Grangemouth, was attacked by three ruffians, who, after having robbed him of sixteen pounds, beat him in a most outrageous manner, leaving him covered with wounds, and in a state of insensibility. His groans, however, attracted the attention of some humane persons; they conducted him to the Red Lion Inn, Falkirk, where he now lies dangerously ill.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

J. Shaw, Rochdale, Lancashire, hatter.
W. Wright and Co. Watling-street, dealers.

BANKRUPTS.

T. Arlesbrook, Rolleston, Nottingham, miller.
W. Barker, Wigton, manufacturer.
P. Dunn, Liverpool, saddler.
M. and J. De Jongh, Hart-street, Crutched-friars, merchants.
A. Johnson, Manchester, draper.
J. Ligard, Manchester, cotton-merchant.
T. K. Mildrum, Totness, linen-draper.
W. Oddie, Liverpool, merchant.
J. Reed, Prendwick.
W. Shuttleworth, Dartford, Kent, victualler.
J. Shoosmith, Petworth, Sussex, saddler.
W. Whitworth, Sowerby, Yorkshire, cotton-manufacturer.
C. Wright, Wolverhampton, maltster.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Downing-street, April 19, 1811.

A Dispatch, of which the following is a Copy, was on the evening of the 17th instant received at Lord Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by Lieut.-Gen. Viscount Wellington, dated Marmoleiro, 2d April 1811.

My Lord,—The Allied Army were collected in the neighbourhood and in front of Celorico on the 28th of March, with a view to dislodge the enemy from the position which they had taken upon Guarda, which they still occupied in force, and of which they apparently intended to retain possession. On that day a patrol of light infantry from Major-Gen. Alexander Campbell's division, commanded by the Hon. Col. Ramsay, had some success against a detachment of the enemy at Avelaus; and a patrol of the light cavalry, with a detachment of the 95th, with which was Major-Gen. Slade, obliged the enemy to retire from Eraxedas; both took many prisoners; and I am concerned to add that Brigade-Major Stuart of the 95th was killed with the last.

On the morning of the 29th, the 3d, 6th, and light divisions, and the 16th light dragoons and hussars, under the command of Major-General Picton, Major-General Alexander Campbell, and Major-General Sir William Erskine, moved upon Guarda in five columns, which were supported by the 5th division in the valley of the Mondego, and by the 1st and 7th from Celorico. And the Militia, under General Trant and Colonel Wilson, covered the movement at Alverca against any attempt that might have been made on that side to disturb it.

The enemy abandoned the position of Guarda without firing a shot, and retired upon Sabugal, on the Coa. They were followed by our cavalry, who took some prisoners from them.

On the 30th, Sir William Erskine, with the cavalry and horse-artillery, fell upon the rear-guard of the 2d corps, which had been near Belmonte, and had marched for the Coa during the night, and he killed and wounded several and took some prisoners. The enemy have since taken a position upon the Coa, having an advanced guard on this side; and the allied troops have this day been collected on the left of that river.

I have the honour to inclose the copy of a letter which I have received from Marshal Sir William Beresford, containing the terms of the Capitulation of Campo Mayor; and I have likewise the honour of enclosing his Report of his first operations against the enemy, from which your Lordship will ob-

serve, that he has got possession of that place again, and has had considerable success against the enemy's cavalry.

This success would have been more compleat, and would have been attended with less loss, if the ardour of the 13th light dragoons and 7th Portuguese regiment of cavalry in the pursuit of the enemy could have been kept within reasonable bounds. Some of the men missing of both these regiments were made prisoners on the bridge of Badajoz.

The enemy have likewise abandoned Albuquerque.

I have received no accounts from Cadiz or from the North since I addressed your Lordship on the 27th March.

I have, &c.

WELLINGTON.

Marshal Beresford reports, under date of Campo Mayor, 26th March, that he had moved on the preceding morning from Arronches, and upon approaching Campo Mayor had found the enemy's corps (consisting of four regiments of cavalry, three battalions of infantry, and some horse-artillery) drawn up on the outside of the town.

Brig.-Gen. Long being sent with the allied cavalry to turn the enemy's right, found an opportunity of ordering a charge to be made by two squadrons of the 13th light dragoons under Lieut.-Col. Head, and two squadrons of Portuguese dragoons under Col. Otway, supported by the remainder of the cavalry. By this charge the enemy's horse were completely routed and chased by the four squadrons above-mentioned into the town of Badajoz. A great number of the French were sabred, as were the gunners belonging to 16 pieces of cannon that were taken upon the road, but afterwards abandoned.

The pursuit of the enemy's cavalry having led a great proportion of the allied dragoons to a distance of several miles before the infantry of Marshal Beresford's army could come up, the French infantry availed themselves of the opportunity to retreat in solid column, and thus effected their escape.

The enemy's loss is estimated at not less than five or six hundred men killed, wounded, or prisoners; great numbers of horses and mules were taken, together with one howitzer and some ammunition waggons.

Marshal Beresford speaks highly of the steadiness of Col. De Grey's brigade of heavy cavalry, and of the gallantry displayed by all the troops that were engaged.

The enemy abandoned the town of Campo Mayor without resistance, leaving there a considerable supply of corn and provisions, and eight thousand rations of biscuit.

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing, in the Corps of the Allied Army under the orders of Marshal Sir C. W. Beresford, K. B., on the 25th of March, 1811:—

Total—1 Cornet, 23 rank and file, 20 horses, killed; 2 Lieutenants, 1 Staff, 1 Quarter-master, 1 Serjeant, 65 rank and file, 35 horses, wounded; 1 Serjeant, 76 rank and file, 108 horses, missing.

Names of Officers wounded.

13th Light Dragoons—Lieutenant Smith, badly; Lieutenant Gale, Adjutant Holmes, and Quarter-Master Greenham, slightly.

BANKRUPTS.

G. Jones, Rotherhithe, Surrey, tobacconist.
S. Jones, Lanbiddel, Monmouth, shopkeeper.
T. Powell, Malpas, Monmouth, timber-merchant.
J. Bramley, Halifax, merchant.
N. Gibborn, Judd-street, Brunswick-square, grocer.
W. Field, Oxford-street, fringe-manufacturer.
T. Chadwick, Rochdale, woollen-manufacturer.
J. Pyer and J. Payne, Bristol, druggists.
R. Fitton, Manchester, dyer.
T. Parry, Salford, Lancaster, cotton-spinner.
W. Wells, jun. Bradford, grocer.
J. Hicks, Worthing, draper.
W. Raworth, Birmingham, grocer.
J. Spencer, Manchester, brewer.
W. Delamore, Liverpool, corn-dealer.
D. Coley, John-street, Adelphi, druggist.

J. Hark, Broad-street, St. George's in the East, carpenter.
H. Prusser, City of London, master and painter.
H. Cormack, Watling-street, underwriter.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.
3 per Cent. Consols.....64 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Consols for May 61 $\frac{3}{4}$

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, APRIL 21.

At the close of the last month, MASSENA, it appears, had taken breath, and made a stand on the right bank of the Coa, the left of which was occupied on the 2d inst. by Lord WELLINGTON. It is said, that when he was forced from Guarda, and took his road to this river, he "obstinately refused battle;" but it does not appear that battle was offered him, or that it has ever been Lord WELLINGTON's intention to offer it. In truth, if it be considered, that want of provisions was the sole cause of the enemy's retreat, and that he had previously proved himself strong enough in the field to force us into our last, close quarters, it is not likely that we should have changed our harassing mode of warfare to give him so good a chance of recovering his ground.

"There is in the *Corunna Gazette* an article dated from Salamanca, which, if true, would render the idea of a rupture between France and Russia no longer doubtful. It is there said, that the French General in that town had received a communication from BESSIERES, stating the march of troops to the frontiers of Poland, and that BONAPARTE is going to war against Russia, Prussia, and the Porte—that he will be assisted by Austria, and that all Spain will be evacuated South of the Ebro. It is mentioned also in this article, that the Imperial Guard is to return to France. This would explain the movement of BESSIERES, the Colonel of the Imperial Guard, to Valladolid, which is nearer the direct road to Bayonne than Salamanca or Zamora."—*Courier*.

"We understand that Government have received a confirmation of the report which has been circulated some days, of the arrest of Marshal Ney by MASSENA, who has sent him to Paris."—*Courier*.

A private letter from Guarda states, that 800 French prisoners having fallen into the hands of the Portuguese troops, the Frenchmen were immediately massacred, in revenge for the horrid outrages they and their countrymen had committed in their retreat. It is to be hoped, and indeed there cannot be much doubt, that these private letters contain very exaggerated statements of the events. Soldiers of every nation, in a retreat, will doubtless be guilty of great disorder, particularly French soldiers; but the details of such scenes, coming as they do from a naturally indignant people, should be received with peculiar caution.

A dreadful storm, which lasted three days, viz. the 27th, 28th, and 29th ult, took place at Cadiz. The men of war rode it out; but of the merchantmen and other vessels, 150 were driven on shore, and one-third of them totally wrecked. Of those that were driven to sea, few had returned, and it is feared many of them have been lost.

Extract of a Letter from Dover, dated April 10:—

"About half-past four o'clock this afternoon a very heavy firing was heard from the French shore; the guns were so heavy as to jar the windows in the town. A great number of people collected on the Pier to see what was the occasion, but nothing was to be seen, as the weather was rather thick on the French shore; a number of soldiers were assembled along the heights, eagerly looking for the cause of the firing, as it was heard very plain at the Barracks; it is now five o'clock, and the weather rather clearer; three men-of-war brigs are discovered by the help of the glass, but we cannot tell where the firing was; as a large convoy passed down Chappel this morning, some of which were obliged to bear up, possibly a privateer may have got in among the remainder, and the firing might be from the convoy. Some think the firing was for a rejoicing, but the guns did not appear to be regular enough for that."

A Memorial has been addressed by General LAPEÑA to the Cortes, in which he calls upon them to suspend their opinion upon his conduct, until he shall have been examined. He complains of the neglect of co-operation from the Isla by Gen. ZAVAS, and imputes that neglect to the detention, for two days, at sea, by an English brig, of a *felicca*, in which was a Spanish officer charged with dispatches for Gen. ZAVAS. But what will excite astonishment, is the terms in which General LAPEÑA expresses himself respecting the retreat of the English after the battle of Barrasa. He says that—

"He felt extreme surprise at the retreat of the English troops on the night of the 5th, without his knowledge, when on the evening of the same day he had assured their General that the troops which were in the Isla should come out, and also that provisions should be sent to the English; that having written on this subject to the Government, and to General Graham, the former replied, that they had written to the British Ambassador, whose answer they waited for, and the latter had replied that he could not come out of the Isla, not being in a condition to do so, but that he would cover the points of the line of defence, from which he would co-operate."—La Peña laments that he had not gathered the fruits of so complete a victory, and says, that "had he acted from himself, without being under the necessity of consulting the Government which was in his vicinity, he would have pursued the enemy with the Spanish troops alone."

Extract of a Letter from Dartmouth, dated April 16:—

"Two days ago, arrived the *Adelaide* cartel from Morlaix. By a French Merchant who arrived in her, we are informed that before he left France, an account had been received of the taking of two French frigates in the Mediterranean, after a desperate action, in which both their Captains were killed, and a great many Officers and men."

"We are rejoiced to hear that a declaration of his Majesty's perfect recovery is very shortly expected to be made."—*Courier*.

The people of Buenos Ayres, it is said, have thrown off all connexion with the mother country. A Congress is about to be held, the first act of which is expected to be a declaration of independance. Nothing can be more natural or proper. Spain has ever been a step-mother to America, not a natural and affectionate parent.

The son of Judge NELLO, a Portuguese, was recently executed by order of the Regency, for having served in the French army. He was taken near Badajos w. some French prisoners, and, being recognised, was ordered for trial. The young man is stated to have died with fortitude.

MASCARENHAS, the traitor, JUNOT's Aid-de-Camp, and a Count, has been shot on the public quay at Lisbon.

“ There are scattered over the country, various noblemen and others, who have what is called *great parliamentary influence*; which means neither more nor less than that they put a certain number of persons into the House of Commons, who call themselves *Representatives of the People*. Lord LONSDALE influences the return of fourteen or fifteen *Representatives of the People*; and the Marquis WELLESLEY influences the return of about the same number of *Representatives of the People*; and the Duke of NEWCASTLE'S influence, I presume, goes to a still greater extent. Then there are a variety of other Peers, who send up their two or four *Representatives of the People*. Yes, Gentlemen, all of them are REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE, FULLY, FAIRLY, and FREELY ELECTED!—These are the words by which they describe themselves. If a Peer, who possesses this influence, should have a father-in-law, or a brother, or any other connection—a man of great merit—of wonderful merit, and should a place happen to be vacant that would just suit him, it is very natural for his Lordship or his Grace to jog Mr. PERCEVAL'S memory: “ I say, you remember that Walcheren business—a very bad job:—and before that, there was the seat-selling affair, you know:—*pray recollect what a support I am to his Majesty's administration.*” The conversation between the PRINCE REGENT and his Minister, relative to General CRAUFORD, will supply the sequel.”—*Stamford News.*—*Letter to the Electors of Boston.*

The Westminster Committee have published a statement of their accounts, by which it appears, that all the expences of Sir F. BURDETT'S election, and of the different Public Meetings in Palace Yard, and at the Crown and Anchor, have been nearly defrayed by voluntary subscriptions. The total of the expences amounts to 2,682l. 14s. 8d.; the subscription to 2,496l. 0s. 10d. and 186l. 13s. 10d. remain due to the Treasurer.

A Correspondent in the *Morning Chronicle* recommends, in the present scarcity of gold, a coinage of Platina;—“ this valuable metal,” he says, “ is more ponderous than gold, and very nearly as ductile; its superiority in weight I have estimated by a series of interesting experiments, and find it exactly equal to the excess in heaviness of Mr. GLOUCESTER WILSON'S pamphlet over Sir JOHN SINCLAIR'S.”

Magdelaine Albert, the wretched female who some time ago murdered her father, mother, and her two sisters, was executed in March, at Moulins. She was conveyed to the place of execution clothed in a red chemise, and having her head and face covered with a black veil, which was not removed till the executioner was about to sever her head from her body.

The Prince of WALES has not only subscribed for the purchase of Mr. WEST'S grand Picture, but has also sent 100 guineas to the British Institution, to be devoted to the general objects of that excellent Establishment.

Mr. WILKIE will have two small Pictures in the ensuing Exhibition of the Royal Academy. A Painting of a larger size than he has hitherto produced, which is said to be a work of infinite merit, he was not enabled to finish in time, owing to a severe indisposition, from which this inimitable Artist has not long recovered.

The Monument lately erected in Guildhall to the memory of NELSON, will be opened for public inspection on Saturday next.—A critical account of it will appear in a future number.

Mr. CHANTRY has been fixed upon to furnish the Marble Statue of the King, which is to grace the Council Chamber of Guildhall. According to the model, the King is to be represented in the act of replying to a City Address.

Yesterday morning about three o'clock, a dreadful fire broke out at GOULLEE'S Pork-shop, corner of Half-moon street, Bishopsgate. The family, consisting of himself, his wife, three children, the nurse, a maid-servant, and a boy, are said to have been burnt. A waiter of the City of London Tavern, who lodged in the house, threw the bed out of the window, and he and his wife jumped upon it, by which means they saved themselves. It is said to have originated by the fire being left in the copper ready for morning.

On Monday, Mr. ISAAC BIRD, late a horse boiler, exhibited a complaint against Mr. SAMUEL MONK, the inspector of St. Mary, Whitechapel, before the officers of that parish, assembled in the Vestry. On investigation, the charge appearing to originate in malice, as Mr. MONK had been summoned to the Old Bailey as a witness against the said ISAAC BIRD, it was dismissed with contempt.

A constant reader remarks, that “ it may be worth the observation of the public, and particularly those who argue for keeping the lower classes of people uneducated, that in the riot raised at Alcester against the Wesleyan Methodists, of those who advertise their contrition for that offence, but one person out of seven could write his name.”

The Parish Officers of St. Martin's have preferred bills of indictment against a number of brothels in that parish. We recommend to their notice the place where the *spar-ring matches* are constantly held. Such at present is the rage for these *contemptible* exhibitions, that St. Martin's-street, on the days they take place, is completely blockaded by a large mob of *pickpockets* and black-legs, anxiously waiting for the opening of the doors.

A CAUTION.—Persons labouring under pecuniary difficulty should studiously avoid making application to *Advertising Money Lenders*, as they are in general a set of needy adventurers, who have a great stock of *impudence*, but very little *cash*.

COCKFIGHTING BRUTALITY.—The *Welch Main*, as it is technically termed, consists of sixteen pair of cocks; of these the sixteen conquerors are pitted a second time, the eight conquerors a third time, the four conquerors a fourth time, and lastly, the two conquerors a fifth time; so that, by incredible barbarity, 31 cocks are sure to be most inhumanly murdered for the sport and pleasure, the noise and nonsense, the profane cursing and swearing, of those who have the effrontery to call themselves, with all these bloody doings, and with all this impiety about them, *Christians*, to the disgrace of some of our *example-setting* nobility and gentry. A new cockpit has been erected in Westminster, where this *humane* amusement may be enjoyed in the highest perfection.

Sittings appointed in Middlesex and London before Sir J. MANSFIELD, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, in and after Easter Term, 1811:—

MIDDLESEX.		LONDON.	
Thursday,	May 2.	Friday,	May 3.
Thursday,	9.	Friday,	10.
Thursday,	16.	Friday,	17.
Tuesday,	21.	Wednesday,	22.
AFTER TERM.			
Thursday,	28.	Wednesday,	29.

A paper has been handed to the *Examiner* respecting a Concert which is to take place this week at Willis's Rooms for the benefit of "Mr. PLATT, an artist, who having in the prime of life lost his sight, is compelled to change his profession for that of music." The Editor has made such inquiry respecting Mr. PLATT's private character, as his time would allow; and has found nothing to prevent him from recommending the case to such of his readers as have a taste for music, or what is a still better mark of sensibility, a feeling for the unfortunate. Among other pieces, there are two compositions of Mr. HORLEY to be sung; one of the singers is Mrs. BLAND; and among the instrumental performers are Messrs. LINDLEY, KUSSEL, GRIEBACH, the PERRIDES, &c.; so that the entertainment will want nothing to render it one of those rare enjoyments, which at once charm the senses and exalt the heart. The loss of sight, under any circumstances, is one of the heaviest afflictions a social being can undergo; but in the present instance, its whole weight is brought together upon the sufferer. He is shut out from the face of things at a time of life, when their enjoyment is most lively; the habits of his late profession are of a nature to give a peculiar strength to this enjoyment, and to interweave it, like a necessary of life, with the most common pleasures of existence; and lastly, the profession itself depends for its subsistence on the possession of eye-sight; and what dumbness would be in a singer, or deafness to a musician, blindness is to an artist—with this aggravation of evil, that a blind man is more dependant upon society for enjoyment than either the dumb person or the deaf; and every new accession of knowledge is denied him, but what those who can see and read for themselves may choose to supply. But persons disposed to sympathize with misfortunes like these, can want no enlargement on a subject which has ever awakened the tears and the helping hands of the young and the good; and which the readers of the paper before them have only to shut their eyes for a minute or two and fancy they have taken a last look of their books, their friends, and their native skies, to feel in all its eloquence—in all its helpless and its hopeless blank.

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

MEDICAL BULLETINS.

"Windsor Castle, April 12.
"His Majesty continues to go on favourably."

"Windsor Castle, April 17.
"His Majesty is advancing favourably to his recovery."

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP.

SIR,—I am inclined to think that you will be good enough to give publicity to the lines which I shall have the honour to address to you.—It has appeared rather strange to me, and I dare say to many others, that the name of Mr. Granville Sharp has been so little noticed during the passing of the Bill for the Abolition of that most infamous traffic, viz. the *Slave Trade*:—in truth, it looks to me something like national ingratitude, for Mr. Sharp was the first person who espoused with so much energy the cause of the poor Slave,—and to his eternal honour be it spoken. In the year 1763, Mr. Sharp, coming from his brother's door, (an eminent Surgeon in the Old Jewry) saw a poor Negro Boy sitting on the steps in the most wretched con-

dition:—this truly benevolent gentleman immediately took the lad into his brother's house, who, being in an extreme bad state of health, got him into St. Bartholomew's Hospital. There he remained some time; however, the youth came from the Hospital quite recovered. Mr. Sharp afterwards procured a place, as servant, for the boy, at a Mr. Brown's, some where in the City; and it chanced that in his occupation as a domestic, attending some of the family behind a hackney coach, his former master, or owner, recognised him, and traced him to his peaceable abode.—This person was David Lisle, Esq. a Lawyer, from Virginia, who brought the boy to England as his Slave; but being very sickly, he was, it seems, neglected and deserted, as, perhaps, he might not have been expected to live. Yet, as soon as Mr. Lisle saw his Slave in good health and grown stout, he was anxious to have him again.—For this purpose (having found where Mr. Brown lived, in whose service the boy was) he sent clandestinely for him, and the unsuspecting Child of Fortune came—to be sent terrified to the Poorty Counter.—In this situation he applied to his first friend and benefactor, Mr. Granville Sharp. It appeared that he had been sold by Mr. Lisle to a Mr. Carr, for thirty pounds.—Mr. Sharp had the Negro Boy brought before the Lord Mayor, Sir R. Kite, (though not without some trouble) and after a hearing on both sides the question, the Slave (whose name turned out to be Jonathan Strong) was discharged out of custody; whereupon Mr. Lisle seized him, and claimed him as his property and slave, in the presence of the Lord Mayor; happily, also, Mr. Sharp was present, who directly gave charge of an assault; and he himself took the boy away, and, I presume, with those feelings of triumph, upon such an occasion, which are much easier to be conceived than described.—I have been thus tediously minute in stating the origin of the bringing about the Abolition of Slavery, because I am convinced 'tis not generally known.—In consequence of the exertions of Mr. Sharp in the cause of humanity, of justice, and of liberty, an action was brought against him at the suit of Mr. Lisle, the owner of Jonathan Strong, the slave, in the year 1767.—This by no means, it would appear, intimidated Mr. Sharp, for he retained for his Counsel, Dr. Blackstone (afterwards the great Judge), Sir James Ains, Mr. Dunning, and by his very able writings at the time, exposing the horrid oppression of subjecting a whole race of men to be slaves, for the sordid avarice of a few,—he roused all those that were not deaf to the voice of nature. His writings were read with the greatest avidity. They soon found their way to America, and no wonder, for they declared the profound scholar, and were indeed written in the pure spirit of christianity; so that the friends of humanity, and the thinking part of the world, did in earnest see the cruelty of perpetual slavery. The advocates of slavery began to be alarmed, and the trial pending against Mr. Sharp, relative to Jonathan Strong, the slave, was put off until judgment went by default, and treble costs, in 1769. To go through the different cases that happened prior to the passing of the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery, is by no means my intention, for, if I had inclination, I should want ability. What I have to say (having already gone to some length), shall, with your indulgence, Sir, be hereafter submitted. In the mean while, remain your very humble servant,

Feb. 1, 1811.

ON TRIALS FOR LIBEL.

Can there be a greater violation of order, or a more abominable insult to morality, than to see a man sitting in the judgment-seat, officially sworn to justice and truth, then causing a jury and witnesses to be sworn to the same, then causing to be read an accusation against a man for having wickedly and maliciously written and published a certain false, wicked, &c. book; and then, having gone through these forms with the utmost solemnity, turn the whole into a farce, by telling the same jury that the charge of falsehood meant nothing,—that truth was out of the question; and that whether the defendant wrote truth or falsehood, virtuously or wickedly, was all the same; and finally conclude this inquisitorial scene, by stating an antiquated precedent that deserves rather to be avoided as a beacon than followed as an example, and by giving some opinion of his own, which he calls the law of the case? So much for this legal mockery. But if the press be free only to flatter governments, or extol existing systems, to cry up what sycophants are pleased to call a "glorious constitution," and be not free to examine into its errors, defects, or abuses, in theory or practice,—or, in fact, whether this glorious constitution really exists or not, except as a dead-letter,—such freedom is no other than that of Turkey, Russia, or Spain; and a jury, in such a case, and so dictated to, is not a tribunal to try, but an inquisition to condemn.

Yours, &c. FABER.

THEATRICAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. Editor,—Sharing in the satisfaction which you expressed at the steps lately made by the Lyceum Theatre towards the introduction of a better taste in Comedy, I have witnessed the performance of the popular Farce, the *Bee Hive*, with some pleasure. To be candid, however, I must say that it was principally owing to that kind of feeling which we always experience when accidentally meeting with an old and pleasant acquaintance. We are suddenly reminded and cheerfully indulge in the renewal of some agreeable sensation, before our eyes have had time to discover the prejudicial change which its manners and appearance may happen to have undergone since we parted. This certainly was my case, for I soon had occasion to wish,—“May we never see an old friend with a new face!” Indeed, before the performance was at an end, I could not help thinking that the individual whom I had once known to be a gentleman, now had become a very vulgar fellow. In No. 86, of your Theatrical Examiner, you give the author credit for not having rendered himself guilty of “the common wretched style of borrowing.” Whatever may be his merits, that of originality he certainly cannot claim. His Farce, in general, is a poor imitation, in some parts almost a literal translation, of a favourite After-piece on the French stage, called *Les Rivaux d’eux mêmes*, by Pigault Le Brun, a celebrated dramatist and writer of novels. It has also been introduced on the German stage by Kotzebue, and will be found in one of his late Theatrical Almanacks, under the title, *The Inn (der Fasthof)*.—Unfortunately for the author of the *Bee Hive*, it so happens, that the faults which you censure are his alone,—the praises which you bestow he is not entitled to. The plot and the best part of the dialogue are Pigault Le Brun’s; the two caricatures, the Innkeeper and *Baltan*, the superfluous personage of the landlady, and the introduction of “lots of nonsense,” are the production of the

poet, whose rich imagination dictated the spirited verses, Rice, spice, pease, cheese, &c. He will pardon me for having been compelled, by a love of justice, to strip him of his borrowed feathers; and allow me, before we part, to offer him a small piece of advice in the shape of an old epigram:—

Your Comedy I've seen, my friend,
And like the pill you've piller'd best;
But sure the piece you yet may mend;
Take courage, then, and steal the rest,
I am, Sir, your's,

Y. N.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION EXHIBITION.

Christ healing the Sick. B. West, P. R. A.—One of the main causes of the perfection attained by the imitative Arts in ancient Greece and in Italy, was their constant exhibition in the public edifices and places of public resort. An ardent and refined relish was thus created, which was not to be satisfied by mediocrity, and the applause bestowed by a taste so prevalent and so exalted, stimulated the aspiring Artist to exertions productive of the highest degrees of excellence. Those, therefore, who duly appreciate the intellectual, ornamental, and commercial advantages resulting from an accomplished state of the elegant Arts, will hail with lively emotions the deposit of Mr. West's picture in the Gallery of the British Institution, at the expense of the Subscribers to that Institution, who have thus commenced in the metropolis the establishment of a National Gallery of indigenous Art, a depository of the productions of pictorial genius, and the fosterer of public taste. This deposit is therefore an auspicious epoch of Art, and is one out of a few of those public blessings which have occasionally soothed our feelings in a reign of national dismemberment, discomfiture, financial waste, and of bloodshed.

The picture exemplifies the incidents mentioned in the 21st chap. of Matthew:—

“And the blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them.

“And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the Temple, Hosanna to the son of David, they were sore displeas'd.”

The picture consists of three principal groups occupying the fore ground and two secondary in the middle-ground. They are ranged in three lines of composition. One line runs diagonally from the right and lower corner of the canvass to the upper and left, while the two others take generally a horizontal direction—one of them on the fore and middle ground; the three thus producing simplicity with variety of arrangement. The canvass is occupied by fifty-five figures, the three chief groups of which are as large as life. Though so large an assembly, there is not the least appearance of a crowd,—but yet the nearness to Christ of the contiguous figures somewhat detracts from his dignity, as it conveys the idea of a want of due reverence for the sacred person. Aware of this, Raffaele always placed his chief figure, if distinguished by reverence of character, at as great a distance as was consistent with agreeable composition, as is evident in his Cartoons of *Paul preaching at Athens*, *Christ's Charge to Peter*, &c. This repose to the eye is effected, not only by the masterly direction of the great lines of the picture, and the compactness of the groups, but by the equally judicious distribution of the

chiaro-scuro, by which the line of figures in the middle ground is mostly seen in the solemnity of shade, and the principal figures in the fore ground relieve with the combined force of splendid lights and deep-toned shadows; all the figures distinctly relieving from the tender-toned background of columns and an arch. Thus the vivacity of strong lights necessary to an animated exhibition of the important subject, has a due balance of deep and intermediate shades, which produce a vigour and sobriety of effect suitable to the elevated character of the Saviour and the pathos of the incidents.

To colour a piece of such dimensions, and so various and comprehensive in its nature, in a style of appropriate richness, character, and harmony, is of itself sufficient to stamp the celebrity of a painter. This Mr. West has effected with a truth of sentiment and of complexion that would gratify the highest admirers of Titian. The healthy, the sick, the old, and the young, the virtuous and the vicious, are imbued with their peculiar tints. In the parts that should be least conspicuous, neutral, subdued, and cool colours prevail. A brighter glow animates those that ought to be more distinguished. Fine contrasts of characteristic colour appear in the livid hue of an apoplectic woman and the roseate hues of health that glow on faces that are in immediate and most judicious contact with the woman's. The murky complexions of malignant Jews are also contrasted with the lively carnations of the beautiful and innocent;

"For the roses will bloom when there's peace in the breast."

But it is the drawing and the expression which constitute the highest praise of the painter. It is the elevated nature and the truth of these which have rendered the name of RAFAELLE more illustrious than that of the rest of the old masters, among whom he deservedly bears the august title of the Prince of Painters. The anatomist and the physiologist will be as much gratified in the science here exhibited, as the pictorial amateur will be with the consummate excellence of character that shines in the forms and colour, which unite their best energies to fix the observant eye, and awaken the heartfelt emotions of the spectator in the admirable delineation of passion, of mental and bodily disease, and of dignity and degradation of soul. The Saviour is attended by his twelve Disciples. These are very judiciously represented nearly in a passive state as spectators, habituated, and therefore not surprised to witness the miraculous effect of his supernatural power.—A noble expression, however, as well as a close attendance on their master, designates eleven of them as his chosen apostles, while Judas is readily distinguished from the rest by his scowling and vicious countenance. The most prominent group is that of a wan and nearly exhausted sufferer from a decline, and two slaves who have brought him in their arms to be healed. As they are half naked, and in considerable action, they display Mr. West's muscular and osteological science to great advantage, especially as the bearers are, of course, athletic, and the sick wasted to the bone. His hands are united in the act of a petitioner for relief. His heretofore dimmed eye sparkles with the happy prospect of renewed health, while he looks with exulting confidence at the great Restorer. He is accompanied by his child and wife, whose beautiful face is rendered doubly interesting by its affectionate mournfulness, and by the earnestness with which it sues for her husband's relief, as she gracefully bends towards Christ. In the

group on the left of the fore-ground is a venerable old woman and her daughter, whose lap contains an infant, livid and gasping with disease; a mother with a child, whose face and attitude present the most pitiable aspect of fatuity, and a blind girl led on by her father and sister. I recollect no instance in which youthful blindness has been so interestedly rendered, by beauty and pathos of face and action. Above these, in the back-ground, appears a group of the Saviour's enemies, the priests and scribes, headed by the High Priest. The bad passions are at work on his face; the working of hatred at the merits and popularity of the sacred Reformist, and at hearing "the children cry in the Temple, Hosanna to the son of David." These are depicted in infantine beauty in a distant group, with the pleasing and natural incident of a mother lifting her child up that it may have a view of the Saviour. Beyond the group of chief priests and scribes, two graceful females are carrying on their heads baskets with doves for sacred offerings. On the right of the fore-ground is an admirably drawn athletic man, in an attitude energetically depictive of admiration of the Saviour's goodness and power. Close by him is a paralytic woman, supported by two soldiers. Her disease is palpably shewn in her pallid complexion, and her distorted mouth, hands, and head. The daughter of the paralytic is an exquisite specimen of female beauty and sensibility. She appears pensive and pale, with dejection at her parent's affliction, while she bends on Christ an eye of meek reverence and pious-confidence. Near the Saviour is an admirable representation of a blind youth moving forward with an intermixed feeling of eagerness and fear.—But if any single part of the performance claims a higher portion of praise than the rest, it is, in my humble judgment, the figure of Christ; the appropriate expression of which, is one of the surest tests of superior talent; for nothing but what is highly excellent in form and expression will at all meet our conceptions of so divine a person. Here Mr. West has almost wholly gratified us. The high perfections of sanctity and wisdom grace an exterior, fashioned in the best mould of a refined, manly beauty.

The dignity of his port does not in the least detract from his benignity, an expression which Mr. West has rendered fully adequate to the high conception which we entertain of it in a Being who "went about doing good," and who, in sacrificing his very life in the service of mankind, prayed for his murderers. His appropriate dignity of demeanour is, however, in some degree deteriorated by his being rather too short. His readiness to relieve the afflicted, and his divine beneficence, is admirably expressed by the extension of his arms and hands, and by the general aspect of his countenance and form.—The dresses throughout are admirably suited to their respective wearers, and are distinguished by their historic truth, grace, and dignity. The breadth and characteristic sobriety and beauty of the drapery on the Saviour has not been surpassed by the noblest specimens of the antique. The middle and back-ground accord with the brilliancy, the beauty, and grandeur, of the composition, consisting of an altar with seven lighted candlesticks, colonades, the noble sweep of an arch, and volumes of silvery clouds. The picture abounds in beautiful tones and gradations.

In making these observations, I regret their inadequacy to convey a just conception of the superlative merits of

this noble work. It is already enrolled by Fame among the best productions of Art, and will convey the name of West down to posterity among the most distinguished of its votaries.

R. H.

WHY ARE WE NOW AT WAR?

LETTER IV.

TO W. WILBERFORCE, Esq. M.P.

SIR,—From the view taken in my last letter of the situation of Europe, it must be apparent that no effectual assistance ought to have been expected from the continental powers in our endeavours to check the encroachments of France; nothing short of infatuation could have looked for success under such circumstances. Our ministers have been too bigotted to a fatal political creed, to consider the moral as well as the physical strength of nations; they could not be blind to the increasing power of France; but they measured its growth by the acres it acquired, not by the energy of the government or the spirit of the people. By the same standard they judged of the weakness of other states, and thought every calamity of the last war amply counterbalanced by the increased interest which Russia was taking in the continental politics. The same want of discernment has marked the whole manner of conducting the war: Bonaparte is often very candid in pointing out to our ministers their errors:—"The British Cabinet," said his official journal lately, "has not yet been able to appreciate actual circumstances. The times are changed; the whole world knows it: the English alone remain in blindness." This is most true; our measures have been concerted upon the presumption, that the last thirty years have produced no alteration. The *ab hoste doceri* is, however, a maxim adopted by our Cabinet only when lessons of pillage are to be taken, or examples of iniquity to be followed. But how can we expect comprehensive views of national affairs, or a vigilant attention to the moral effects of great events, from men who appear to have sent out a most formidable expedition, relying upon the accounts they had of the fortifications of a town ten years back, and ignorant of any subsequent additions to its strength? From minds unable or unequalled to ascertain the actual situation of a fortress, against which they are directing their military efforts, it is impossible to look for that wider range of observation, enquiry, and acute discrimination, without which the foreign relations of a country can never be thoroughly understood. Thus blindly and rashly managed, no state is safe; its alliance can never be sought, or its hostility feared; and its whole policy must be vague, feeble, and vacillating.

It may be asked, were we to submit tamely to insult—to take no notice whatever of the alarming progress of French influence? If there had been no middle path between supineness and hostility, little doubt can be entertained as to the choice that ought to have been made. Contumelious arrogance is most effectually repelled by a dignified calmness and unaltered tone; firmness and moderation turn back the sting of insult, and fix it in the bosom of its author. The proposals of Bonaparte to curb our press, and to send the emigrants out of the country, were insulting; we refused; and in the negotiations these points appear to have been insisted on no longer. From the conduct of France towards Switzerland, and from all the symptoms

of her growing influence and ambitious views, her continental neighbours had by far the most to fear. England must always be sufficient to her own defence, so long as her inhabitants know how to use the means which Providence has granted to them, and are stimulated to exertion by the possession of blessings worth protecting. Our national independence cannot be endangered by changes on the Continent, so long as the immediate sources of our prosperity, and our peculiar means of defence, are not neglected. An attention to the proceedings of neighbouring powers, and a regard to the interests of minor states, are indispensable traits in the government of a great nation. This vigilance we might have shown without having recourse to arms, and might have rendered it more availing than the last resource, to which we so hastily resorted. More fatal it could not have proved! From seeing that England observed all his measures with a watchful and jealous eye, Bonaparte would have felt a controul, in the place of which our declaration of war substituted the spirit of defiance. We might, at the same time, have improved our finances, lessened the heavy burdens of the people, and diminished by a flourishing commerce even the weight of unavoidable taxes. We might have attained to a proud elevation, and the nations of the Continent might have gradually revived. While they saw no danger, or did not feel themselves strong enough to oppose it, our wisest policy would have been to prolong the repose they were enjoying. They must have been the best judges of the propriety of resistance—the cause was principally theirs—and can it be doubted that they would have stood forward, when convinced that war was no longer to be avoided, or that their improved resources enabled them to enter upon it with a rational prospect of success? If danger really existed, the consciousness of it would have formed a bond of mutual union among the states whose independence was threatened, and would have overcome their sordid views and little jealousies. Then might England have stood forward to mediate between the parties; or, if on the side of France injustice was too palpable and outrage too violent, our assistance to the injured might have raised our national character, and contributed effectually to controul the turbulent spirit of lawless ambition. From such prospects I turn with sorrow to view the calamitous effects of the opposite system.

There are but few instances of a measure so precipitate and short-sighted as the breaking of the treaty of Amiens; of a war more rashly conducted, no examples are recorded. Instead of counteracting the influence of France, we have caused it to extend over countries to which it had never before reached. Regardless both of the character and the means of our enemy, we have so concerted all our plans as uniformly to increase his dominions or his authority. Every step we have taken has lowered our character either for national honour or political sagacity: by a selfish policy, by evincing views of mere national aggrandizement, while boasting of our zeal for "the deliverance of Europe," we have justified all the accusations of our enemy, disgusted our allies, and afforded Bonaparte both opportunities of fresh aggression, and new pleas for the justification of his conduct. Unable to deny the calamities that have resulted from their measures, our ministers most wisely ascribe every disaster to the misconduct of other powers. Their own plans, they say, were well concerted, and must have succeeded, had they not been

rendered abortive in one instance by the treachery of generals; in another, by the cowardice of an army; in another, by the pusillanimity of a sovereign; and in another, by the weakness and depravity of a government. Thus they have stigmatized those whom but just before they had eulogized so warmly: thus they have calumniated whole countries, to save themselves from shame and disgrace. Either these imputations are groundless or our ministers have shewn blindness and incapacity, by allowing themselves in every instance to be deceived. Can vigilant and enlightened statesmen be ignorant of the strength, or inattentive to the bearings, of other nations, particularly of those whose alliance they are courting, whose assistance they are seeking? Had our Ministers weighed well the relative situations of the different continental powers—had they duly estimated the past losses of Austria—carefully watched the character and policy of Prussia—or considered the effects of the local situation of Russia upon any aid its government might be inclined to bring forward in opposition to France—had they understood the character, the resources, and the system of Bonaparte—must they not have foreseen the consequences of urging Austria, enfeebled and exhausted by recent misfortunes, to make those hostile preparations which led to the battles of Ulm and Austerlitz? To this rash measure are to be ascribed all the evils which preceded the Treaty of Tilsit, and all the changes which that event sanctioned and confirmed—the overthrow of the Germanic Constitution, and the establishment of the League of the Rhine—the destruction of the bulwarks of Austria—the alienation of the most flourishing provinces of Prussia—and the ruin of all the lesser Princes connected with the House of Brandenburg—but above all, the erection of those new thrones for the brothers, the satellites, or the allies of Bonaparte, by which he has environed France with new barriers, subsisting his armies and planting his outposts in territories but lately armed against him, while his own subjects behold no other proofs of the war in which they are engaged than the trophies he sends to adorn their cities, and the captives he employs in tilling their fields. Of the fate of Prussia our Government may wish to make itself appear innocent, because we were engaged in war with that Court when they entered upon the contest with France. This is a plausible argument. But it was sufficiently obvious that Prussia was concerned in the Coalition which the Treaty of Presburgh terminated, and of this Bonaparte was perfectly aware.—The seizure of Hanover and the rupture with this country were attempts to appease his resentment, or deceive his vigilance. Mr. Fox understood these proceedings, but he was also satisfied that this apparently ready submission on the part of Prussia could not succeed in eventually arresting the progress of the Conqueror, unless speedily supported by a general pacification that should avert the dangers to which all Europe was exposed. By the death of that excellent statesman these benignant plans were frustrated. The failure of the negotiations Mr. Fox had begun overthrew the artifice of Prussia, and afforded to Bonaparte an opportunity of wreaking his vengeance on that power, and executing the ambitious schemes which he grounded upon the probability of his farther successes. So long as England evinced a spirit of persevering animosity, he saw that every occasion would be seized for forming against him new coalitions; the equivocal disposi-

tions manifested on the part of Prussia, and the suspicious behaviour of that power just previous to the battle of Austerlitz, proved that he could not rely upon her friendship, and supplied him at the same time with grounds of quarrel as fair as are usually urged in justification of war. He felt himself too at that moment far superior to Prussia; he felt that the old school tactics of Frederic could not withstand the celerity of manœuvre and rapidity of attack to which he had trained his armies; he knew the effect of his recent exploits upon the minds of men; and resolved to avail himself of his advantages before any plans of opposition could be matured.

The next error of which our Government was guilty, and perhaps the most disgraceful act it ever perpetrated, was the attack upon Copenhagen. Granting that there was a disposition on the part of Denmark to sell or otherwise dispose of its fleet and naval stores to France (of which however no satisfactory evidence has been adduced), the ulterior consequences of that outrage have been more injurious to this country, and have added more to the power of Bonaparte, than all his victories. The sufferings of Copenhagen have been avenged by the public opinion of Europe, by the acquiescence of the whole Continent in a system that excludes from all friendly intercourse the degraded nation, whose fleets and armies were directed to steal upon the security of a friendly city, offering in one hand proposals which no independent people could accept, and in the other, the dreadful alternative of violence and devastation. I will say nothing of the inveterate rancour which this event called forth in every Danish subject, and of the readiness with which the whole nation threw itself into the arms of France. Such consequences must have been naturally expected. That this cause contributed materially to the change of policy in the Russian Court cannot be seriously doubted: the testimony of Lord Hutchinson corroborated every other evidence of the fact. We not only lost the alliance of Alexander, but made him an active party in the war against us: we turned his arms against our only remaining friend the King of Sweden, who, by his situation, was secure from the attacks of France, and could only be injured by hostilities on the side of Russia. In the deposition of that unfortunate Monarch, the surrender of his Crown to a French General, and the subsequent declaration of war against this country, we may trace still farther the consequences of a measure which has tarnished the once fair fame of England more indelibly than any other transaction upon record. The Baltic has thus been closed against us and we have hitherto experienced only a part of the difficulties that must arise from losing the various supplies drawn from the forests of Norway, the mines of Sweden, and the valuable productions of the different climates of Russia.

Our seizure of the Danish fleet afforded Bonaparte a pretext for justifying his meditated attack upon Portugal, and not only a plea for introducing his armies into the very heart of Spain, but also assistance in his atrocious attack upon the independence of the latter kingdom. This measure may vie in perfidy with our attack upon Copenhagen; but the Tyrant of the Continent was even here superior to the Ministry of England—he paid some attention to the forms of justice, and by the appearance of a solemn national deliberation, endeavoured to conceal or palliate the violent outrage he was committing. The re-

assistance of the Spanish people offered a fairer prospect of success than any event which had before occurred to thwart the designs of Bonaparte. That its failure may be principally ascribed to the policy, character, and conduct of the British Cabinet, I shall endeavour to prove in my next letter. I do not intend to enter into the minor details of expeditions, battles, and campaigns, but will briefly point out the influence of preceding occurrences upon the feelings, and the effect of existing circumstances upon the exertions, of the Spanish people. R.

SCARCITY OF SPECIE.

Sir,—From the inconvenience which still exists in the circulating medium of this country, and the different points in which the subject is viewed by a host of writers, it is evident that the evil is not of so local and temporary a nature as the *enterprising* gentlemen of the day would fain make us believe:—nor is the difficulty, it appears, to be immediately obviated by any of the measures which have been recommended. To attempt to review the premature pamphlets which have appeared on this subject, would be both uninteresting and unprofitable:—when a malady is felt, every man imagines himself capable of discovering a remedy, however complicated may be the disease.

With regard to the cause of the present embarrassments, it would be necessary for us to go back to the history of this country for the last 15 or 20 years, in order to sift the question to its basis; but I shall simply confine myself to the more immediate and palpable causes.

Public credit, like individual credit, is of that delicate texture, that mere report is sufficient to shake its fabric; the moment an evil is apprehended, it becomes an evil *sui generis*:—but unfortunately for this country, the present evil is not an imaginary one; the confidence of the English people is such, that the inconvenience was felt, before the alarm was created.

Public credit must be allowed to have a material influence on the circulating medium of a country;—it is literally that which regulates the value of every thing. Its influence on the funds is nothing more than an effect on the general property of a country, only acting most immediately on the funds as being the most easily convertible property: for even landed property, in this country, we find is regulated in its value by the price of stocks. In short, Sir, the radical evil seems to arise from the public funds, or National Debt, being considered as the grand emporium for the investment of property, in lieu of that inextinguishable security, the soil. Hence it leads us to the reflection, that the National Debt, by continually increasing in an increasing ratio, together with the manner in which the interest of it is paid, must contribute materially to the present embarrassments.

It is not a small part of the community who entertain apprehensions as to the stability both of Government Securities and Bank Paper;—and no sophistry of the gentlemen interested, can prevail on a wary, plain-thinking man, to prefer a piece of paper to a piece of gold. It is only within the last 10 or 15 years (since the Banking System has become so general), that the Farmer could be induced to receive Promissory Notes in payment for his produce, in lieu of cash; but having so done, he finds he is now compelled to accept of that which he formerly had the option of refusing.

It appears to be a part of the policy of the Bank of England to induce a scarcity of specie, which necessarily occasions a greater circulation of their notes. As to the question so much argued, whether Specie has risen in value or Bank Paper fallen?—there seems no doubt as to the fact. Specie, or Bullion, like any other *real* article of universal demand, will always find its level of value, or equilibrium, by the demand for it. Paper, having only a very limited circulation, will not be sought after nor received by one-tenth part of Europe, consequently its value must be very precarious. If I issue a Promissory Note, and no person will receive or discount it, it is of no value; such would be the fate of the Notes of the Bank, if the confidence of the country ceased; it is the case at the present moment to a certain extent, the one pound note being intrinsically three shillings below par. In fact, the Bank Company stands precisely in the same situation as any other mercantile company;—they have issued a greater quantity of Promissory Paper than they can (on demand) convert into specie, land, corn, or any other article of *bona fide* value:—in the language of the day, they have “*overtraded*.”

In following up the consequences arising from this general substitution of Paper for Specie, it is natural to infer that a large proportion of the community will dislike being compelled to receive any fictitious medium in payment, and will therefore secure to themselves as much as possible of that medium which is least subject to change its value;—namely, Specie.

But there is another cause which, alone, would be sufficient to account for the present scarcity of Specie in this country.

When the Continent was open to us, a very large majority of the payments made by our Merchants was made either by Bills of Exchange or by goods, thereby saving the employment of Specie for that purpose, and permitting it to remain in this country.—Now, however, when our commerce with the Continent is so very limited, and what imports we have are obliged to be paid for in Cash, we need not be surprised at the present scarcity of Specie.

There is also another cause which may contribute in no small degree to the scarcity of cash—the very extensive armaments kept up by the different powers of Europe. Bank Notes, Exchequer Bills, Assignats, or Government Paper of any denomination, having only a local circulation (never beyond the territory of its creation, and frequently not nearly that extent), will not apply to the payments of armies or fleets on foreign stations; and to our cost at present we find that the cash paid by us on the Continent loses 30 per cent. of its value before it goes out of our hands.

It appears, Sir, on investigation, we have many ways of accounting for the present evil; but our situation is very similar to that of a man who has by riot and excess broken down the stamina of his constitution, and brought on a pulmonary consumption, and then, when too late, consults his physician.

I have not pretensions to propose an effectual remedy for this great national disorder, which it seems puzzles the heads of some of our best political *Doctors*; but I must observe, without any party views of these men or those men, that if the sapient sages at our helm had only possessed, in a slight degree, the power of reasoning, they would have foreseen the present evil to have been a natural consequence of their gambling *nil desperandum* system;

but these worthies, like dull school-boys, tremble at the prospect of the future, and, like their grandmothers, act solely "by precedent."—I shall only observe, by the way, that it appears to me the first thing to be done for the nation is to *compel* the Bank to make, at least, a limited payment in specie, in return for the enormous profits they have for some years past been sharing at the expence of the country; by which means public confidence may perhaps be restored, and the specie, which is now withheld from circulation, return to its proper channel.

Perhaps, Sir, at some future opportunity, I may trouble you with some remarks on the impolicy of granting exclusive charters to commercial companies. I shall at present conclude by observing, that their profits are always in a direct ratio with the necessities and distress of the community.

G. A.

April 18, 1811.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

MR. EXAMINER,—Attempts having been made to impede the progress of the Debtor and Creditor Bill now pending in the House of Lords, I would submit to the public a few observations on the subject, which I hope you will not refuse to communicate through the medium of your paper.

If any strength could be added to the nervous and conclusive reasoning of Dr. Johnson, on the harshness, not to say absurdity, of the existing laws of Debtor and Creditor, I think it might be found in the strenuous effort that is now making to prevent the proposed Bill from passing into a law. As long as avarice holds its rule in bad minds, and suffers by disappointed speculation, which, as all credit is speculation in the hope of inordinate gain, must often be its lot, I am afraid there are few characters proof against the goads of malice and revenge; and that, unless the fear of losing more money lend its influence, the intolerable misery caused by immolating the sacred liberty of man, will weigh but light against the pleasure felt in gratifying those lamentable propensities.

Let not the upright tradesman suppose I wish to degrade his general character. The name of the British merchant has only to be mentioned to excite ideas of justice and liberality; but, Sir, can we wonder if the unbounded monopoly that has for years pervaded every branch of commerce, by superinducing artifice and fraud, should have stripped it of those most amiable qualities, and left it the mere shadow of its former self? I am afraid, if we acknowledge the existence of monopoly, we must grant all the rest. It is therefore, idle to rely on the benevolence and forbearance of the Petitioners against the Bill. If we would really befriend the *honest debtor*, let us not leave his creditor the power to oppress him at will.

It certainly must be optional with every tradesman to give or refuse credit; which, in fact, except to those whose incomes are paid periodically, or who subsist by mutual accommodation, is entirely useless: and even as a mutual accommodation, it ought in many instances to be dispensed with, as inimical to the best interests of society.

I have long deprecated the facility of obtaining credit in this country, as holding out allurements to acts of fraud, which otherwise would not have been thought of. I have known a person on his first setting-up in trade act

very conscientiously in making good his payments, till drawn into speculations far beyond his means by the ease he felt of obtaining goods on trust, the temptation to fraud has become too great, and he has withdrawn himself: when, had his creditors known where to stop, they might have remained undefrauded, and he respectable and uncorrupted. Surely the advocates for quashing the intended benevolence of the legislature, are convinced that the inducements to give credit ought to be lessened—if not, to what shall we impute their incredulity? I am afraid, to causes very remote from those held out to the world.

Men of generous and feeling minds are unwilling to libel human nature, by supposing that any person could persecute another without stronger stimuli than his own bad passions; and, therefore, to avoid what they suppose a positive evil, are willing to lend their sanction to measures, which, if all men were like them, certainly would have no had effect, and the law of arrest might remain unaltered, because it would never be abused; but daily experience convinces us how little dependance is to be placed on the forbearance of most men when passion and prejudice interfere; and, certainly, as the enormous speculations practised in this country are highly prejudicial to national interest, it behoves us all, as patriots as well as philanthropists, to be careful how we oppose a Bill that tends to check the facility of that credit which gives them rise, as well as to guard the poor from his oppressor, and the needy from the hand of him who would annihilate his liberty.

I was the more induced to trouble you with this letter, as an instance of wanton oppression in the abuse of the law of arrest has lately fallen under my own observation, which, though it is by no means solitary, I shall not apologize for relating:—

A London tradesman having received many friendly offices from a gentleman in a respectable public situation, courted an intimacy with him, which ended in the latter's agreeing that the said tradesman, who earnestly solicited his custom, should serve his family with meat. This agreement, it appears, was made in an evil hour for the gentleman. An account was speedily run up to 20l. or upwards, and when it was brought in, the unfortunate debtor, owing to a pecuniary disappointment he had met with, did not happen to be provided; but the creditor, for some reason or other, threatening to arrest him, security was offered for payment, and even half of the amount tendered down, by a gentleman well known to be respectable by all parties concerned: this the creditor refused, purposely, as it appears, to have the sublime pleasure of doubling the debt by costs; of destroying the credit of his upright but unwary victim, and of piercing the bosom of an innocent woman with misery; for having procured a writ, he himself, like Shylock, to gratify his spite with human woe, insisted on immediate payment, accompanying the officer to the house of his debtor, dragged him from his distracted family at midnight. Bail was soon procured, and the debt ultimately paid, but not before the business had got air, and given the creditor of the sufferer an irreparable wound, besides loading him with fifteen pounds costs, which he was compelled to discharge in exoneration of his bail.

This is indeed the wantonness of revenge. It is no wonder, that such a tradesman should be the foremost on the list at the Crown and Anchor: it is no wonder that such a he combine to support a law, which, whatever men may

say in its favour, is a scandal to the constitution, and ought to be modified. I am, Sir, respectfully, your's,
R. T.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

MR. EXAMINER,—I wish to call your attention to a circumstance to which I was an eye witness, on Thursday the 11th instant, in the Marshalsea Prison, and which, if constantly repeated, would be the means of meliorating the situation of a number of miserable fellow creatures, by merely foregoing a trifling gratification. It is scarcely necessary for me to state, that the Palace Court, Marshalsea, in the Borough of Southwark, is for the recovery of small debts; that the Juries are composed of housekeepers, selected from the five counties, to ascertain the validity and amount of such debts; and for every cause that comes before them they are entitled to six shillings. The trials being numerous, and the Juries attending for two successive Fridays, it amounts to six, seven, and eight pounds, which is too frequently expended for a dinner, thereby adding farther loss of time to that which every one so chosen complains he has sustained—to say nothing of additional expense and sometimes intemperance. But to the immediate object of my addressing you:—The Jury chosen for the two last Fridays were selected from the inhabitants of the Strand (many of whom I doubt not are personally known by you), and who, I trust, have set such an example, as will be followed by successive Juries, that of personally visiting the prison, and distributing the money allowed among the most deserving and distressed; and should they be so induced, I am well convinced it will afford them more real pleasure than any transient gratification they may derive from the usual method of expending the money. Let them but ask the miserable inmates of one of the most miserable receptacles the human mind can conceive (rendered doubly so from wretched accommodation and scanty allowance), what family he has depending on him for support? what sum he is confined for, more particularly the length of time he has been confined, and what his allowance? That man must be stoic indeed who would not heartily rejoice that he had been the means, though in a small degree, of relieving their sufferings. At the same time let it not be supposed I am recommending an indiscriminate distribution, thereby likely to assist those who have taken such an asylum to avoid their creditors; but let it be particularly remembered that in every prison there must be a great portion of unfortunate debtors, whom the pressure of the times, perfidy of friends, and incidental misfortunes (from which no one is exempt), have unavoidably reduced them. Should the above merit insertion, and any occurrence fall under my observation, sufficiently interesting to the cause of humanity to meet publicity, it shall be forwarded by

ONE OF THE STRAND JURY.

April 17, 1811.

CARD-PLAYING.

Holt, April 5, 1811.

SIR,—The great prevalence of Card-playing at this present time, amongst the different classes of society, has induced me to trouble you with a few remarks on the subject.—It may perhaps appear presumptuous in any individual to call in question what has not only the sanction and approbation, but form-

a considerable part of the amusements of a number of respectable, and, certainly in other respects, sensible people. If Card-players however are to be judged of by the eagerness and avidity with which they pursue the game, I should be inclined to think the chief causes of such an apparent anxiety for it's event, must proceed from the desire of winning and the fear of losing. If this is not the case, why do they play for any thing, or for what makes the result of so much importance?—The famous card-players themselves will tell you, that if they do not play for money, they play without any degree of spirit.—Does not this prove that the hope of winning forms the basis of their wishes? I fear if this is once admitted, it would be difficult to defend them from being influenced by principles that proceed from and are in themselves little better than avarice. Many of them will probably be shocked even at the idea.—But what better motives can be thought to belong to card-playing, when followed up in the manner it so often is, 'till some proofs are given of it's utility, suitableness, and rationality? I cannot suppose, nor will I for one moment imagine, that a set of grave old ladies and gentlemen can have any delight in sorting and shuffling a pack of cards, much less can I imagine, that such grave and elderly gentry can feel any great degree of pleasure in viewing the different spots with which they are marked. They must not then be angry with me for having attributed to them the motives I have.—Surely, if people would reflect upon the opportunities a card-table affords to others of judging of the characters of those present, and the unfavourable opinion it is likely to convey from the alternate hopes, fears, joys, anxieties, and expectations visible in their countenances, they would cease to frequent scenes which must, if duly considered, confer little pleasure and still less credit. Another very material objection against card-playing is, that it often proves a means of initiating many people to the gaming-house and giving them a taste for gambling, which, when once acquired, proves not only injurious to their fortunes, reputation, health, and peace of mind, but it very frequently happens that they who have begun with being dupes, have ended in being sharpers. These, I think, amongst many others that might be advanced, are material objections against the species of gaming I have just described; and which, I think, they from whom something better might be expected than the personal countenance and encouragement they give thereto, would do well to take into consideration.—I am, Sir, with great respect, your very obedient Servant,

AN OBSERVER.

LUCIEN BONAPARTE.

The following is an extract of a letter from Ludlow, 12th April:—

“ Our illustrious exile, Lucien Bonaparte, seems not to have brought one political wish from the Continent. He has forgot that his brother is struggling for the dominion of the world, and lingers among woods and by river banks, measuring out language into poetical quantities, while his brother is balancing the sheers of fate, with which he shreds asunder empires, and clips the dominions of the Continental Princes into paltry dukedoms, and still more paltry lordships. Who would think that warlike and political infamy were akin to poetical inspiration! They are certainly related without the forbidden degrees of kindred. Napoleon rising, like a phoenix, from the glowing ashes of ancient Government, strong but not stable; terrible but not long to be dreaded, Lucien, in sweet bard-like retirement, actually composing a poem in choice Italian on the exploits of Charlemagne. 'Tis a most ambitious family. The elder brother already on the pinnacle of renown for warlike endowments and legislative interference; and the younger almost at the top of the heaven-related Parnassus, in a path of equal celebrity: that one brother should furnish exploits for the other to sing is a dangerous monopoly, and worthy of being admonished from the Presbyterian cat o' nine tails of the Scottish Reviewers.

“ It is a curious circumstance that our water-walled garden of Britain should be the only place in the world where the dove

of poetry could find rest for the sole of her foot. It is triumph for Britain, and concern to her enemies, that even a poet cannot sing a harmless song in his brother's ear without being proscribed. The turbulence of restless ambition marred and disturbed the soarings of peaceful genius, and drove him to sue for shelter in the only nook in Christendom where the sound and tumult of war could not assail him. I do not know whether his poem (which I am informed will be soon ready for publication) will be equal to the power of niching him in the everdaring temple of renown; but certainly it is an honest attempt at celebrity, than the quartering of limbs, and the squaring of kingdoms! It is better to be the author of a ballad which nobody will sing, than to be the object raised to that "bad eminence" of imperial dominion, which enables it to spread desolation over the surrounding nations."

POLICE:

GUILDHALL:

On Thursday last, *Anne Jakes*, who had been remanded on a charge of wounding with intent to maim or disfigure a boy named *Bidwell*, who was committed by his father to her care, was again brought up for further examination.

Charles Jakes, son of the prisoner, who had been present when the wound was given, was now brought forward, and stated in explanation of the desperate act, that on the night of Sunday, about nine o'clock, he went to bed with the child in question, and with intent to rise early next morning to go to his work; that about eleven o'clock his mother came in, and he remonstrated with her about staying out so late, and disturbing him out of his sleep. Some words of altercation ensued; when his mother, in a violent passion, took up the poker and struck at him. He jumped up, and wrested the poker out of her hand; upon which, in her rage, she caught up a large knife, and darted it at him; which, missing its aim, struck the child, and wounded him in the thigh.

The Magistrate, supposing the evidence to be a fair statement of the occurrence, remanded the prisoner until the final report of the Surgeon, respecting the boy's danger of safety, shall be given:

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

MR. EXAMINER.—Seeing in your Paper of Sunday last an account of the accident in *Winnonget-row*, I beg leave to give you a true statement:—One family escaped; the other was buried in the ruins,—nine in number,—four of which died the same day, viz. the wife and three children. There is a boy in the Hospital with a broken thigh; the others are doing well. What adds to the misfortune, the fire has destroyed the whole of their property, so that they are now destitute. A subscription is opened for them, and the only motive I have in troubling you with this is, that feeling and generous minds may be excited to contribute to their relief.

R. TAYLOR.

No. 4, *Richmond-street*, *St. Luke's*.

A boat, in which there were four men and five women, was stove and sunk below *Chelsea College*, at eleven o'clock on Monday night, whilst returning from *Battersea Fair*, by running foul of a barge. Two of the women, the one of the name of *Smith*, who resided in *Hogg-lane*, *Lambeth*, and the other, servant to *Mr. Shore*, timber-merchant, in *Blackfriars-road*, were drowned. The night was wet and dark, and the party had been drinking freely. Those who were saved got on board the barge.

A singular, but dreadful accident, occurred a few days ago, on board his Majesty's ship *Menelaus*. A sailor having over-reached himself, fell from the main-top, just as the sentinel was passing beneath, pitched directly on the point of the bayonet, and was literally empaled. The violence of the shock wrested the piece from the arms of the sentinel, and threw it, with its wretched burthen, over the gunwale: thus the poor fellow found, in one instant, a death-blow and a grave.

During the time of the Prince Regent being with the Duke of Cumberland at *Kew*, on Sunday last, one of the spectators, *Mr. Wall*, of *Richmond*, suddenly fell down, and instantly died. *Mr. Wall* had come from *Richmond* with two of his young children and a female servant, purposely to see the Prince. He fell down between his children, and was carried lifeless into a neighbouring public-house. *Mr. Wall* has left a widow and nine children to lament his premature death. His family has been known at *Richmond* for upwards of 120 years; as booksellers, stationers, and newsmen, and keepers of the circulating library.

An alarming fire broke out on Wednesday night, about 12 o'clock, at *Lady Montague's house*, in *Portman-square*, which raged with such fury as to preclude all hopes of getting it under until the building was burnt to the ground.

About five o'clock on Thursday morning, a house in *Red-Lion-square*, lately occupied by *Mr. Lawes*, the Barrister, fell down with a tremendous crash. The house adjoining had been pulled down a short time since, and a new one was erecting on its site; and it is supposed the workmen had injured the foundation of *Mr. Lawes's house*.

During the height of the holiday games in *Greenwich Park*, on Monday, a young woman of very interesting figure and respectable appearance; who had been conspicuous for the spirit with which she had entered into the fun of the fair, at the end of a rapid race down the steep descent of *Oak Tree Hill*, unfortunately lost her balance, and fell with dreadful violence against the gravelled walk. Her face was much scratched, by coming in contact with the pebbles, and her left leg was broken near the ankle. She was conveyed to the Infirmary.

Early on Friday morning the *Guildford waggan* was attacked by three footpads, who proceeded to plunder the waggan, when the waggoner made a spirited resistance, upon which one of the robbers fired a pistol at him, a ball from which went through his cheek, after which the villains made their escape. The waggoner was taken to *St. Thomas's Hospital*, where he lies dangerously wounded.

COMBINATION.—Three men of the names of *Harvey*, *Castor*, and *Monks*, servants of lost character, were taken into custody, on Thursday afternoon, on charges of having combined together in instituting an Office for the purpose of giving fictitious characters to servants and others, who have lost their characters; and by means of which many families have been robbed. These characters are issued at three half crowns each, at the Office, as appeared by the books taken possession of, and the firm consists of 14.

BIRTHS:

On the 16th instant, *Mrs. Bishop*, of the *Lyceum Theatre*, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On Friday, the 12th inst. at *Chatham*, *Mr. W. Matthews* to *Miss Cony*, of the same place.

On Thursday, the 18th inst. at *Croydon*, *George Lane*, Esq. of *Croydon Common*, to *Mrs. Marsh*, of the same place.

DEATHS.

On Tuesday, in *New Norfolk-street*, *Park-lane*, *J. Hammett*, Esq. M. P. for *Taunton*.

On the 13th inst. aged 80, the *Rev. J. Houghton*, B. A. of *Hatfield*, *Essex*.—He was upwards of fifty years Vicar of *Wane Colne*, in that county.

On Monday, at *St. James's Hotel*, *G. Earl*, Esq. of *Bevinghrough Hall*, *York*, aged 78.

On the 7th inst. in *Newport*, *Isle of Wight*, the *Rev. Sir Henry Worsley Holmes*, L.L.D. Bart. aged 56.

On Monday, *John Nicholl*, sen. Esq. of *Hutton-garden*, in his 8th year.

On the 30th ult. the infant son of *Mr. William Robinson*, *Prospect-place*, *West-square*.

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