

THE EXAMINER.

No. 52. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1808.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

No. 52.

RETROSPECT OF THE YEAR.

ANOTHER year is past, and neither has England replenished her renown, nor the world obtained its repose. The spirit of freedom, which nations conspired to crush in France, and which converted itself first into a spirit of horror and next into a spirit of vengeance, has long become the very soul of a tyrannical ambition;—an awful proof how easily obstructed virtue is changed into the mischievous passions, and how fearfully these passions grow powerful from gratification. The greatest misfortune of the age is, that the causes which first gave opportunity to the rising ambition of France are still existing in the full facility of their corruption to make way for it; and if we just cast our eyes from one nation to another, we shall behold the same host of feeble princes, corrupt courts, and unwilling subjects, that have done so much for the great enemy, and that will do still more, until some of his opposers shall begin the great work of self-reformation, until resources are cleared from the obstructions of the interested, and councils from the corruptions of the place-hunting.

The first object of interest in the retrospect of the year is Spain. There our hopes were destined to brighten beyond any former promise, and there to be darkened beyond recovery by the very holders of the sunshine. It is certain that we have been grossly deceived in the patriotism of Spaniards, and even had we not been deceived, we have pursued measures, or rather have exhibited a want of pursuit, which was sufficient to betray the best cause in the world. We hesitate, our enemies determine; we delay and make flourish about the edges, they dash to the heart of things; lastly, we are heretics, and they tell the Spaniards they are Papists, and we shall soon hear how much this single distinction has achieved for our enemies and ruined for us. Of all corruptions, a corrupt superstition is the most inimical to political good; for men who are slaves to shadows will be slaves to any thing. The chance of Spain is gone, and England has now no chance remaining but that of sound reformation, of stripping its constitution of its gewgaws and gilt fetters, and restoring it to that vigorous and naked truth, in which its faculties shall be refreshed, its arm

unshackled, its heart unrepressed, and it shall bound forth, like the ancient young warrior out of his bath, to beat down a host of invading enemies.

The EMPEROR of RUSSIA, from a frightened ally, has become a fond slave of the Frenchman. BONAPARTE says—"Come,"—"and he cometh." He says, "Go,"—"and he goeth." This stupid Russian does not see that he is a mere tool of France, even in his war with Sweden; and that BONAPARTE in that war is at once sowing discord all over the North, and weakening the Powers who ought to be most united in strength. He thinks, perhaps, that he has gained Finland;—as if a slave of France had any possessions of its own!

The KING of SWEDEN, though as superior to ALEXANDER as manhood to childhood, has talked in too high a tone, and relied too much upon English expeditions, to give us any great idea of his good sense. What he has lost to Russia, he will never recover; for BONAPARTE would prevent it, were it only to mortify a young King who has opposed him. In his unequal contest with Russia, a mortal blow has been given to his influence in Europe; and Sweden will be another proof how little real strength there is in a military monarchy, when the ruler is not a man of genius. The Great GUSTAVUS made Sweden powerful, as the Great FREDERICK made Prussia; but what are Sweden and Prussia without a Great GUSTAVUS and a Great FREDERICK? The latter country, we see, has become a mere house of call for BONAPARTE's soldiers and politicians; and the poor feeble King, who could keep neither his word with us, nor the secret of his country's weakness from France, has at last nothing to keep at all.

Austria is thus surrounded by the vassals of her greatest enemy. She cannot move against France, and yet every delay brings her nearer to bondage; for there is little doubt, if Spain becomes entirely French, that he could overwhelm her in an instant, unless a new tone has been given to the Austrian military character, a circumstance that is rarely compassed by one man or by the most ardent desire of military revenge, unless the civil character of the state has been altered before it. The petty states of Germany would attack the Emperor FRANCIS from fear of BONAPARTE, and the more important ones, which have lately become monarchies, from ambition. BAVARIA would have a double motive; the pride of her new greatness, and the old hereditary jealousy against the House of AUSTRIA, which has deprived her so often of the Empire.

The last shew of independence has vanished from Italy in the annihilation of the Papal power, which has fallen with hardly the notice of a newspaper. So different is modern from ancient Rome, which

With heaviest sound, a giant statue fell; and so much worse is the corruption of a good religion than the philosophical use of a bad one.—As to Sicily, the last retreat of the Bourbon Monarchy, it can hardly be preserved, when our resources are so distracted and divided, from the ambition of such a man as MURAT.

In short, throughout the whole Continent, only one Government appears to have become sensible of the necessity of its own reformation; and that the age may lose nothing of its novelty, this Government is Turkey. MUSTAPHA BAI RACTAR, undaunted at the fate of Sultan SELIM, who lost his life in attempting reform, has had the boldness not only to disband the Turkish Pretorian bands, the Janissaries, but to aim a direct blow at the Mussulman superstition by declaring that difference of faith has nothing to do with good soldiership. In consequence of these enlightened measures the downfall of Turkey may yet be delayed or at any rate may deserve pity. BAI RACTAR has an excellent opportunity just now, during the employment of BONAPARTE in Spain, to pursue his vigorous designs; and it is not the Emperor's policy to quarrel with such men, however it may be his passion to conquer them. He may easily indeed get over his pretended scruples about attacking a State not entirely corrupt, either by involving Russia in a war with Turkey as he has involved her with Sweden, or by exciting the Greeks to revolt, as they may certainly do with the utmost justice. The Seven Islands are already his vassals, and the Greeks are a shrewd enterprising people, with something of their ancient soul about them in their very slavery.

God grant that the continued, the unchanging proofs of the wretched effects of corruption, may teach us all to philosophise a little better in politics; and that an Englishman may not have the shame of recording another such a year as 1808.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

SWEDEN.

STOCKHOLM, DEC. 5.—The following Report has been received from Gen. Klercker, Commander in Chief of the Northern Finnish Army:—

“ My last Report was on the 10th of November, and was dispatched from Brahestad by Capt. Kuhfeldt.

“ Your Majesty's army under my command has since retreated to Pyhajocki and Yppiri, where the Russians made an attack on our rear, turned the left flank near Merrijarive, advanced against Pelliskaski to take the army in the rear, and thus compelled the army to fall back to Patjocki, and on the 17th a position near Sykajocki, Ruvasa, and Paisola, was occupied by our troops; but in

consequence of the enemy's corps having been reinforced to 20,000 men, furnished with 60 pieces of heavy ordnance, and your Majesty's army having been reduced to 7000 men, by losses in the field and sickness, it became impossible to maintain our position, and I thought it advisable to open again a negotiation for an Armistice, the result of which was the Convention which I hereby have the honour to lay at your Majesty's feet.

“ C. N. KLERCKER,
Gen. in Chief of the Northern Finnish Army,
Memborg, Nov. 24, 1808.

CONVENTION

BETWEEN THE ROYAL FINNISH ARMY IN NORTH FINLAND, AND THE IMPERIAL RUSSIAN ARMY.

By virtue of the powers vested in us, we, the undersigned, have agreed and stipulated the following articles:—

1. The Royal Swedish Army is, immediately after the notification of this Convention, to take up a position along the frontiers of the district of Uleaborg, from Kerni to Porkawara. Kerni, in consequence, remains in the hands of the Russians.

2. The Swedish Army is to evacuate the town of Uleaborg within ten days next ensuing the date of this Convention, and the Russian troops are to take possession of the said town on the 30th of November. The other parts of the country which are to be given up to the Russians, shall be evacuated according to the agreement yet to be concluded between the Contracting Parties.

3. The rear of the Swedish Army shall retreat by the route agreed upon, and whatever cannot be removed by the Swedish troops in their retreat, shall be considered as a good and lawful prize.

4. The Swedish Army binds itself neither to destroy, distribute among the inhabitants, nor sell the magazines which they shall be necessitated to surrender.

5. The Swedish troops are not to take them from Uleaborg, or other places to be surrendered, any Civil Officers, nor any articles or goods belonging to the provinces.

6. The Swedish Army is to send back all Civil Officers, and inhabitants of the places evacuated by their troops, provided it be done by the desire or with the consent of the said persons.

7. This Convention shall be ratified by the respective Generals in Chief of both armies, and the ratifications exchanged to-morrow night.

Baron ALDERCRUTZ, Maj. Gen.
Count KAMENSKI, Lieut. Gen.

Oljocki, 7-18th Nov. 1808.

[Ratified 8-20 Nov. 1808.]

Count Buxhoevden, General in Chief of the Imperial Russian Army, proposed additional articles of the Convention, concluded between the Royal Swedish Army in North Finland, and the Imperial Russian Army.

Art. 1. The Armistice concluded between the two armies is to continue one month next ensuing the day on which the Swedish Army crosses the district of the frontiers of Uleaborg, or until the 12th of January, 1809, and notice of the cessation of the Armistice shall be given at least 15 days before hostilities are recommenced.

Art. 2. During the Armistice, the Imperial Russian troops are not to cross the river Kerni.

C. N. KLERCKER,
General of Infantry and Gen. in Chief of the Royal Swedish Army in Finland.

Head-quarters, Linnugo, Nov. 20.

GENERAL.—I have the honour to inform you, that the Convention, which was yesterday concluded, has been ratified by his Excellency General Count Buxhoevden, and I shall now transmit it to Count Potemkin, in order that the exchange of the ratification may be effected. With

regard to the Armistice in question, I have his Excellency's command to acquaint you, that although he must decline the conclusion of a formal Armistice, yet he engages his word of honour, that he will not recommence hostile operations against the Swedish army, before the expiration of 14 days after the Swedish army shall have taken up the position stipulated in the above Convention, in hopes that no operations will be commenced on your part within the said time.—I have the honour, &c.

Brahesta, 8-20th Nov.

COUNT KAMENSKI.

(Stockholm, Dec. 6.)

SPAIN.

[FROM THE PATRIOTIC PAPERS.]

ARANJUEZ, Nov. 29.—Gen. Don Francisco Xavier de Castanos, under date of the 26th inst. from Catalayud, makes the following Report:—

“On the 21st he received intelligence of the enemy having advancing by Coma, with 12,000 infantry, and 4000 horse. He gave orders for the army to fall back the same night to a position extending from Tarragona to Tudela, the last point to be occupied by the army of Arragon, and the fifth division of the centre, which was in Caparossa. Notwithstanding this movement, the army continued to retreat, in the darkness of the night, with considerable trouble, and the division reached their respective points, by marching that night and the following day, for some detention arose from the removal of the artillery from Cintruenigo, and on the 22d the four divisions of the army were in the position which they had to occupy, without having sustained any loss. On the 23d the advanced parties reported that three columns of the enemy were marching in the direction of Tudela; the *generale* was beaten, and while troops of dragoons were passing the bridge, the enemy occupied the points of attack, which began at eight o'clock in the morning: at ten o'clock the whole line was engaged. Our troops maintained their position with the utmost valour, and the enemy was repulsed on all sides. He renewed the attack, and rendered himself master of an olive grove on the left, whence he descended with a tremendous fire, but was so well received by our gallant troops, that after a most obstinate conflict he was compelled to retreat. While our troops were pursuing the defeated enemy on our left, another division of the enemy penetrated through Tudela on the right, and took our pursuing troops in the rear: this decided the fate of the day, and nothing was left for our army but to retreat to Borja. While this was going forward in Tudela, the fourth division, commanded by Gen. Lapena, which was in Cascante, two hours march from the field of battle, which had received orders to attack the right flank of the enemy, found 3000 French infantry and 1000 cavalry opposed to them, in the act of offering battle; Lapena immediately engaged, defeated, and pursued them to the heights of Tudela, whence he was attacked by the enemy's troops, who occupied the heights. Lapena retreated to the position of Cascante, where he defeated the enemy, and at the fall of night, began to fall back to Borja, according to the last order he received. On his retreat he was again attacked by the enemy, but our troops checked his progress, and the four divisions reached Borja, whence they marched to Catalayud. The forces of the enemy in these actions of Tudela and Cascante, amounted to from 36 to 40,000, and from 6 to 7000 cavalry. Their loss has been very considerable, as has been ours in missing and prisoners.”

In a letter of the 27th, Gen. Castanos sends advice, that not having in Catalayud the means of subsistence, and having received notice, that the enemy threatened to attack Samosierra, for these reasons, and wishing to be near the capital in case the French should endeavour to advance to it, he had determined to go to Seguenza. The Major General, Don Benito St. Juan, posted in the Puerte (post

of Samosierra), sends advice in a letter of the 28th of this month, that at break of day that morning the division of troops under his command were alarmed, and immediately under arms, expecting to be attacked in force by the enemy, as all the advices received during the night concurred in stating, that on the morning on the preceding day great numbers of the enemy's troops had debiled by Aranda de Duero, directing their march to the encampments of Bocuiguillas and La Grange, with many pieces of artillery and other ordinary stores. Accordingly, a little after six in the morning, were heard in the heights of Samosierra, various discharges of artillery and small arms continually increasing, and were in the direction of the pass of Sepulveda, which left no doubt that an attack would be made, and though he could confide in the resistance of the brave garrison, which had been reinforced the day before (the 27th), with 1000 fusileers of the regiment of Jaen, the numbers of the enemy could not but excite solicitude, and from the moment of the attack proper measures were taken to send succours of infantry, artillery, and ammunition; but without the assistance of these he effected the complete defence of this point, notwithstanding the attack lasted more than four hours; the enemy having attacked with 4000 infantry, 1600 cavalry, and four pieces of cannon, besides the reinforcements which were at hand to support their troops.

Brigadier Don Juan Josef Sarden, Colonel of the regiment of Cavalry of Mantua, who commanded at the post of Sepulveda, writes that he was attacked, at break of day, by the enemy, with from 1500 to 4000 infantry, 1500 cavalry, and four pieces of artillery, and that he had repulsed them with glory to the arms of the king and country. He proposes soon to send the circumstantial details of the action, in which he says, we have suffered some loss, but he supposes that of the enemy must have been double, the firing having continued till ten o'clock.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Oct. 20.—According to the last advices from Persia, the Court still continued at Sultania, where it was encamped in tents. The French Ambassador, Gen. Gardanne, is treated by the Emperor with the highest distinction, and accompanies him in all his hunting parties. All the efforts of the English to recover their influence over this Sovereign have failed.

FROM THE AMERICAN PAPERS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8.—This day the following Message, with the several documents accompanying it, was presented to both Houses:—

MESSAGE TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

“It would have been a source, fellow-citizens, of much gratification, if our last communications from Europe had enabled me to inform you, that the Belligerent Nations, whose disregard of neutral right has been so destructive to our commerce, had become awakened to the duty and the policy of revoking their unrighteous edicts. That no means might be omitted to produce this salutary effect, I lost no time in availing myself of the Act authorising a suspension, in whole, or in part, of the several Embargo Laws. Our Ministers at London and Paris were instructed to explain to the respective Governments there, our disposition to exercise the authority in such manner as would withdraw the pretext on which the aggressions were originally founded, and open the way for a renewal of that commercial intercourse, which it was alleged on all sides had been reluctantly obstructed. As each of these Governments had pledged its readiness to concur in renouncing a measure, which reached its adversary through the incontestible rights of neutrals only, and

as the measure had been assumed by each as a retaliation for an asserted acquiescence in the aggressions of the other, it was reasonably expected that the occasion would have been seized by both, for evincing the sincerity of their professions, and for restoring to the United States its legitimate freedom. The instructions to our Ministers, with respect to the different Belligerents, were necessarily modified with a reference to their different circumstances, and to the condition annexed by law to the executive power of suspension, requiring a degree of security to our commerce, which would not result from a repeal of the decrees of France. Instead of a pledge, therefore, for a suspension of the Embargo as to her, in case of such a repeal, it was presumed that a sufficient inducement might be found in other considerations, and particularly in the change produced by a compliance with our just demands, by one Belligerent, and a refusal by the other, in the relations between this other and the United States. To Great Britain, whose power on the ocean is so ascendant, it was deemed not inconsistent with that condition, to state, explicitly, that on her rescinding her Orders in relation to the commerce of the United States, their trade would be opened with her, and remain shut to her enemy, in case of his failure to rescind his Decrees also. From France no answer has been received, nor any indication that the requisite change in her Decrees is contemplated. The favourable reception of the proposition to Great Britain was the less to be doubted, as her Orders of Council had not only been referred for their vindication to an acquiescence on the part of the United States, no longer to be pretended; but as the arrangement proposed, whilst it resisted the illegal Decrees of France, involved, moreover, substantially the precise advantages professedly aimed at by the British Orders. The arrangement has nevertheless been rejected.

"This candid and liberal experiment having thus failed, and no other event having occurred on which a suspension of the Embargo by the Executive was authorised, it necessarily remains in the extent originally given to it. We have the satisfaction, however, to reflect, that in return for the privations imposed by the measure, and which our fellow-citizens in general have borne with patriotism, it has had the important effects of saving our mariners and our vast mercantile property, as well as of affording time for prosecuting the defensive and provisional measures called for by the occasion. It has demonstrated to foreign nations the moderation and firmness which govern our councils, and to our citizens the necessity of uniting in support of the laws and the rights of their country; and has thus long frustrated those usurpations and spoliations which, if resisted, involved war; if submitted to, sacrificed a vital principle of our national independence.

"Under a continuance of the belligerent measures, which, in defiance of laws which consecrate the rights of neutrals, overspread the ocean with danger, it will rest with the wisdom of Congress to decide on the course best adapted to such a state of things; and bringing with them, as they do, from every part of the Union, the sentiments of our constituents, my confidence is strengthened that in forming this decision, they will, with an unerring regard to the essential rights and interests of the nation, weigh and compare the painful alternatives out of which a choice is to be made. Nor should I do justice to the virtues which on other occasions have marked the character of our fellow-citizens, if I did not cherish an equal confidence that the alternative chosen, whatever it may be, will be maintained with all the fortitude and patriotism which the crisis ought to inspire.

"The documents containing the correspondence on the subject of the foreign edicts against our commerce, with the instructions given to our Ministers at London and Paris, are now laid before you.

"The Communication made to Congress at their last Session explained the posture in which the close of the discus-

sion relative to the attack by a British ship of war on the frigate Chesapeake, left a subject on which the nation had manifested so honourable a sensibility. Every view of what had passed authorised a belief that immediate steps would be taken by the British Government for redressing a wrong, which, the more it was investigated, appeared the more clearly to require what had not been provided for in the special mission. It is found that no steps have been taken for the purpose. On the contrary, it will be seen in the documents laid before you, that the inadmissible preliminary which obstructs the adjustment is still adhered to; and, moreover, that it is now brought into connexion with the distinct and irrelative case of the Orders in Council. The instructions which had been given to our Ministers at London, with a view to facilitate, if necessary, the reparation claimed by the United States, are included in the documents communicated.

"Our relations with the other Powers of Europe have undergone no material changes since your last Session. The important negotiations with Spain, which had been alternately suspended and resumed, necessarily experience a pause, under the extraordinary and interesting crisis which distinguish her internal situation.

"With the Barbary Powers we continue in harmony, with the exception of an unjustifiable proceeding of the Dey of Algiers towards our Consul to that Regency. Its character and circumstances are now laid before you, and will enable you to decide how far it may, either now or hereafter, call for any measures not within the limits of the Executive Authority.

"With our Indian neighbours the public peace has been steadily maintained. Some instances of individual wrong have, as at other times, taken place, but in no wise implicating the will of the nation. Beyond the Mississippi, the Ioways, the Saca, and the Alibamas, have delivered up, for trial and punishment, individuals from among themselves accused of murdering citizens of the United States, on this side the Mississippi; the Creeks are exerting themselves to arrest offenders of the same kind; and the Choctaws have manifested their readiness and desire for amicable and just arrangements, respecting depredations committed by disorderly persons of their tribe. And generally, from a conviction that we consider them as a part of ourselves, and cherish with sincerity their rights and interests, the attachment of the Indian tribes is gaining strength daily; is extending from the nearer to the more remote, and will amply requite us for the justice and friendship practised towards them; husbandry and household manufacture are advancing among them more rapidly with the southern than the northern tribes, from circumstances of soil and climate: and one of the two great divisions of the Cherokee Nation have now under consideration, to solicit the Citizenship of the United States, and to be identified with us in laws and government, in such progressive manner as we shall think best.

"In consequence of the appropriations of the last Session of Congress for the security of our seaport towns and harbours, such works of defence have been erected, as seemed to be called for by the situation of the several places, their relative importance, and the scale of expence indicated by the amount of the appropriation. These works will chiefly be finished in the course of the present season, except at New-York and New-Orleans, where most was to be done; and although a great proportion of the last appropriation has been expended on the former place, yet some further views will be submitted to Congress, for rendering its security entirely adequate against naval enterprise. A view of what has been done at several places, and of what is proposed to be done, shall be communicated as soon as the several reports are received.

"Of the gun-boats authorised by the Act of December last, it has been thought necessary only to build 103.

in the present year; these, with those before possessed, are sufficient for the harbours and waters most exposed; and the residue will require little time for their construction, when it shall be deemed necessary.

"Under the Act of the last Session, for raising an additional military force, so many officers were immediately appointed as were necessary for carrying on the business of recruiting; and in proportion as it advanced, others have been added. We have reason to believe their success has been satisfactory, although such returns have not been received, as enable me to present you a statement of the numbers engaged.

"I have not thought it necessary, in the course of the last season, to call for any general detachments of Militia, or of Volunteers, under the laws passed for that purpose; for the ensuing season, however, they will be required to be in readiness, should their service be wanted. Some small and special detachments have been necessary to maintain the laws of embargo, on that portion of our Northern frontier, which offered peculiar facilities for evasion; but these were replaced, as soon as it could be done, by bodies of new recruits. By the aid of these, and of the armed vessels called into service in other quarters, the spirit of disobedience and abuse, which manifested itself early, and with sensible effect, while we were unprepared to meet it, has been considerably repressed.

"Considering the extraordinary character of the times in which we live, our attention should unremittingly be fixed on the safety of our country. For a people who are free, and who mean to remain so, a well organised and armed Militia is their best security. It is, therefore, incumbent on us at every meeting to revise the condition of the Militia, and to ask ourselves if it is prepared to repel a powerful enemy at every point of our territories exposed to invasion. Some of the States have paid a laudable attention to this object, but every degree of neglect is to be found among others. Congress alone having the power to produce an uniform state of preparation in this great organ of defence, the interests which they so deeply feel in their own and their country's security, will present this as among the most important objects of their deliberation.

"Under the Acts of March 11, and April 23, respecting arms, the difficulty of procuring them from abroad, during the present situation and dispositions of Europe, induced us to direct our whole efforts to the means of internal supply; the public factories have, therefore, been enlarged, additional machineries erected, and, in proportion as artificers can be found or formed, their effect, already more than doubled, may be increased so as to keep pace with the yearly increase of the Militia. The annual sums appropriated by the latter Act, have been directed to the encouragement of private factories of arms; and contracts have been entered into with individual undertakers, to nearly the amount of the first year's appropriation.

"The suspension of our foreign commerce, produced by the injustice of the Belligerent Powers, and the consequent losses and sacrifices of our Citizens, are subjects of just concern. The situation into which we have thus been forced, has impelled us to apply a portion of our industry and capital to internal manufactures and improvements. The extent of this conversion is daily increasing, and little doubt remains that the establishments formed and forming, will, under the auspices of cheaper materials and subsistence, the freedom of labour from taxation with us, and of protecting duties and prohibitions, become permanent. The commerce with the Indians, too, within our own boundaries, is likely to reserve abundant aliment from the same internal source, and will secure to them peace and the progress of civilization, undisturbed by practices hostile to both.

"The accounts of the receipts and expenditures during the year, ending on the 30th day of September last, being

not yet made up, a correct statement will hereafter be transmitted from the Treasury. In the meantime, it is ascertained, that the receipts have amounted to near eighteen millions of dollars, which, with the eight millions and a half in the Treasury at the beginning of the year, have enabled us, after meeting the current demands and interest incurred, to pay two millions three hundred thousand dollars of the principal of our funded debt, and left us in the Treasury on that day, near fourteen millions of dollars; of these, five millions three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, will be necessary to pay what will be due on the 1st of January next, which will complete the reimbursement of the 3 per cent. stock. These payments, with those made in the six years and a half preceding, will have extinguished \$3,580,000 dollars of the principal of the funded debt, being the whole which could be paid or purchased within the limits of the law and of our contracts; and the amount of principal thus discharged, will have liberated the revenue from about 2,000,000 of dollars interest, and added that sum annually to the disposable surplus. The probable accumulation of the surpluses of revenue beyond what can be applied to the payment of the public debt, whenever the freedom and safety of our commerce shall be restored, merits the consideration of Congress. Shall it be productive in the public vaults? Shall the revenue be reduced? or shall it not rather be appropriated to the improvement of roads, canals, rivers, education, and other great foundations of prosperity and union, under the powers which Congress may already possess, or such amendment of the constitution as may be approved by the States: while uncertain of the course of things, the time may be advantageously employed in obtaining the powers necessary for a system of improvement, should that be thought best.

"Availing myself of this, the last occasion which will occur, of addressing the two Houses of Legislature at their meeting, I cannot omit the expression of my sincere gratitude, for the repeated proofs of confidence manifested to me by themselves and their predecessors, since my call to the administration, and the many indulgencies experienced at their hands; the same grateful acknowledgments are due to my fellow-citizens generally, whose support has been my great encouragement under all embarrassments. In the transaction of their business, I cannot have escaped error—it is incident to our imperfect nature; but I may say with truth, my errors have been of the understanding, not of intention; and that the advancement of their rights and interests has been the constant motive for every measure. On these considerations I solicit their indulgence. Looking forward with anxiety to their future destinies, I trust, that in their steady character, unshaken by difficulties, in their love of liberty, obedience to law, and support of the public authorities, I see a sure guarantee of the permanence of our Republic; and, retiring from the charge of their affairs, I carry with me the consolation of a firm persuasion, that Heaven has in store for our beloved Country long ages to come of prosperity and happiness.

"Nov. 8, 1808.

"TH. JEFFERSON."

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Thursday se'night, about eight o'clock in the evening, as Mr. Budgeon, of Dartford, was returning home from Rochester, in a single horse chaise, accompanied by his servant, he was stopped by two footpads between Gravel-Hill and Foul Slough, near Greenhithe. One of the robbers seized the horse's head, the other, with a pistol in his hand, went to the chaise, and with some horrid oaths exclaimed—"your life or your money." Mr. Budgeon replied, he had no money for them, and none he would give. The demand for money was repeated with the threat to fire. Mr. Budgeon not giving any money, the villain at the chaise struck several violent blows with a

large stick, which Mr. Budgeon warded off as well as he could with his umbrella. The man at the horse's head then cried out in a violent manner to shoot him, upon which the villain at the chaise discharged the pistol at Mr. B. and two shots passed through his hat. The discharge of the pistol caused the horse to take fright, and run off furiously, but Mr. B. retaining command over the animal, he escaped without injury.

On Sunday morning last a dreadful fire broke out in the House of the Hon. Admiral Cornwallis, at Newlands, near Lymington; Hants, which for some time threatened destruction to the whole buildings; but from the timely assistance of the firemen and engines from Lymington, it was happily got under, after destroying the main house and furniture. Too much praise cannot be given to the inhabitants of Lymington for their ready assistance in getting the fire under, particularly to a Mr. Calborne, builder and surveyor of that place, for his very great exertions, with a few men, in cutting away part of the roof and floor of the buildings when on fire, which prevented the fire from destroying the whole of the offices, &c.

On Friday se'night the following shocking circumstance occurred in Sandgate, in Newcastle. A young woman, sleeping with an infant child, awoke early in the morning, and missed the child out of the bed. On searching the room, she found that it had fallen from the bed into a tub of water, which had been left near it, and was drowned. The shrieks of the young woman on discovering this melancholy event, alarmed the neighbours, who, instead of endeavouring to quiet her perturbed mind, began to charge her with carelessness, &c. This, added to the anticipated reflections of the mother (who was then at Shields) operated so powerfully on the young woman's feelings, that she rushed out of the house, and, in a fit of frenzy, precipitated herself into the river, where she was drowned before any assistance could be afforded. The young woman was the child's aunt, and sister to the husband.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, Dec. 17.

Copy of a Letter transmitted to Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Bart. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the East Indies, to the Hon. W. W. Pole,

*His Majesty's Ship St. Fiorenzo,
at Sea, 9th March.*

SIR,

It with regret I have to inform you of the death of Capt. Hardinge, Lieut. of his Majesty's ship St. Fiorenzo, who fell gloriously in the early part of an action on the 5th inst. between his Majesty's ship St. Fiorenzo and the French national frigate La Piedmontaise. The St. Fiorenzo sailed from Point de Galle on Friday the 4th inst. at half-past eleven, A. M. On the 6th, at seven, A. M. passed three Indiamen, and shortly after saw a frigate bearing N. E. We immediately hauled our wind in chase, and made all sail, being at that time in lat. 7. 32. long. 57. 58. We made the private signal, which was not answered; and at five shewed our colours, which the enemy took no notice of. At 40 minutes past eleven, P. M. we ranged alongside of him on the larboard tack, and received his broadside. After engaging till 50 minutes past eleven P. M. within cable's length, the enemy made sail a-head, out of the range of our shot; we ceased firing and made all sail after him; continuing to come up with him till daylight, when finding he could not avoid an action, he wore, as did we also. At 25 minutes past six recommenced the action at the distance of half a mile, gradually closing with him to a quarter of a mile. The fire was constant and well-directed on both sides, though that of the enemy slackened towards the latter part of the action. At a quarter past eight P. M. the enemy made all sail away; our main-topmast and being shot through, the

main royal mast, and both main-topmast-stays, the main-spring-stay, and most of the standing and running rigging, and all our sails shot to pieces, and most of our cartridges fired away (as our guns were directed at his hull he was not much disabled about his rigging), we ceased firing, and employed all hands in repairing the damages sustained and fitting the ship again for action. From the great injury our masts, yards, and sails had received, I am sorry to observe that it was not in our power to chase to renew the action immediately; we, however, succeeded in keeping sight of him during the night; and at nine A. M. on the 8th, the ship being perfectly prepared for action, we bore down upon the enemy under all sail; he did not endeavour to avoid us till we hauled athwart his stern, for the purpose of gaining the weather gage, and bringing him to close fight, when he hauled up also, and made all sail; but perceiving that we came fast up with him, and that an action was inevitable, he tacked, and at three we passed each other at opposite tacks, and recommenced action within a quarter of a cable's length. With grief I have to observe that our brave Captain was killed by a grape-shot the second broadside. When the enemy was abast our beam he wore, and after an hour and 20 minutes close action, struck their colours, and waved their hats for a boat to be sent them. She proved to be La Piedmontaise, commanded by Mons. Epron, Capitaine de Vaisseau; she mounts 50 guns, long 18 pounders on her main deck, and 36-pounder carronades on her quarter-deck. She had 360 Frenchmen on board, and nearly 200 Lascars, who worked their sails. She sailed from the Isle of France on the 30th December. In the action she had 48 killed and 112 wounded. The St. Fiorenzo has 13 killed and 25 wounded: most of the latter are in a most promising way. A list of them I have the honour to inclose for your information. The enemy was cut to pieces in his masts, bowsprit, and rigging, and they all went by the board during the night.

It is now a pleasing part of my duty to recommend to your particular notice the cool, steady, and gallant conduct of Lieutenants Edward Davies and Henry George Moysey: the latter, I am sorry to say, was severely wounded about ten minutes before the enemy struck. I also experienced very great assistance from Mr. Donovan, the Master, by the judicious and seaman-like manner in which he laid us close alongside the enemy. To Lieutenant Samuel Ashmore, of the Royal Marines, I am much indebted, for the cool and determined courage evinced by him through the whole action. Indeed every Officer, Petty Officer, Seaman, and Marine in the ship, behaved in the most brave and gallant manner, and nobly maintained the pre-eminence of the British flag. In the first boat from the prize came Mr. W. F. Black, Assistant-Surgeon of his Majesty's 86th regiment, captured by the Piedmontaise, on her passage to Madras, who rendered the Surgeon great assistance. I am also much indebted to the Officers of the Army, and the Captains and Officers of the country ships, who were prisoners on board the enemy, for the great assistance they afforded us with their Lascars, in erecting jury masts, and working the ship into port, as from our weak state, and the great number of prisoners on board us, we could spare but few hands from our own ship to send on board the prize. I have the honour to be, &c. WILLIAM DAWSON.

To Sir Edward Pellew, Bart.

List of Officers, Seamen, and Marines, killed and wounded.

Wounded on the 5th.—Wm. Pitt, John Treacy, Wm. Miller, seamen.

Killed on the 7th.—Thomas Martin, Charles Smallwood, Robert Carrrell, John Middleton, William Mead, seamen; William Martin, John Luff, Joseph Litchfield, marines.

Wounded on the 7th.—John Meadows, since dead; Wm. Baldwin, since dead; George Byng, John Finch,



Francis Jackson, Walter Boze, Wm. Long, John Acton, Philip Ulrick, Wm. Wakefield, Richard Lock, Wm. J. Brown, John Ellier, seamen; Benjamin Pool, marine.

Killed on the 8th.—George Nicholas Hardinge, Esq. Captain; John Beer, John Burn, seamen; Evan Jones, marine.

Wounded on the 8th.—Henry George Moyses, Lieutenant, severely; Thos. Gadsby, carpenter's mate, ditto; Thos. Clerk, seaman; John M'Fwen, corporal of marines; Charles Richards, marine; Wm. Pope, marine, since dead; Henry Thorn, boatswain's mate, slightly; Wm. Davis, George Anger, seamen.

Downing-street, Dec. 20

His Majesty was pleased, by a Commission bearing date the 11th of February last, to appoint Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. Stuart, K. B. to be Commander of his Majesty's Forces in the Mediterranean (the Garrison of Gibraltar excepted.)

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. Bell, Southwood-lane, Middlesex, underwriter.

BANKRUPTS.

T. Compere, St. Alban's, Hertfordshire, grocer, to surrender Dec. 27, 11, Jan. 31, at eleven, at Guildhall, London. Attornies, Messrs. Barlow and Hope, Stone-buildings, Lincoln's-Inn.

J. Burnes, Liverpool, tailor, Jan. 23, 24, 31, at eleven, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Pennington, Liverpool.

J. Bell, Liverpool, master mariner, Jan. 11, 12, 31, at eleven, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attornies, Messrs. Griffiths and Hinde, Liverpool.

Wm. Young, Ardwick, dealer, Dec. 24, Jan. 4, 31, at two, at the Palace Inn, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Law, Manchester.

W. Boddy, Scarborough, common-brewer, Jan. 17, 18, 31, at eleven, at the George Inn, Scarborough. Attorney, Mr. Lister, Scarborough.

S. Toop, Chadderton, Prestwich, Lancashire, manufacturer, Dec. 23, Jan. 5, 31, at the Dog, Tavern, Manchester. Attornies, Messrs. Johnson and Bailey, Manchester.

J. Hargreaves, Manchester, brick-maker, Dec. 30, Jan. 5, 31, at three, at the Commercial Inn, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Hewitt, Manchester.

B. Swine, Halifax, merchant, Jan. 2, 3, 23, at ten, at the Talbot Inn, Halifax. Attorney, Mr. Edwards, Halifax.

DIVIDENDS.

Jan. 14. J. Wickens, Sandhurst, Kent, grocer.—Jan. 10. H. R. and W. Mure, Fenchurch-street, merchants.

—Jan. 27. G. Richards, Gough-square, furrier.—Jan.

14. J. C. Hayward, Chambers-street, Goodman's-fields, purser.—Jan. 19. J. Neale and P. Tanner, Cockburn-hill, Ratcliff, dealers.—Jan. 24. T. Musson, Hulme, Lancashire, cotton-spinner.—Jan. 16. G. A. Child, Bristol, scrivener.—Jan. 18. E. Coats, T. Massey, and J. Hall, Horninglow, Stafford, brewers.—Jan. 16.

J. Whitaker, sen. W. Whitaker, Stockport, and J. Whitaker, jun. Edgeley, Chester, cotton-manufacturers.

Jan. 14. W. Partridge, Exeter, serge-maker.—Jan. 13. R. Jefferson and W. Dickenson, Kingston-upon-Hull, woollen-draper.—Jan. 17. T. Mitchell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, linen-draper.—Jan. 21. S. Deenan, Bernondsey-street, Southwark, tailor.—Jan. 31. T. Winterbourn, Aldersgate-street, cabinet-maker.—Jan. 17. E. Johnson, Bleedingheart-yard, Charles-street, Hatton-garden, cabinet-maker.—Jan. 21. H. Hart, Great Coram-street, Brunswick-square, broker.—Jan. 17. T. Gardner, Shoreditch, haberdasher.—Jan. 28. A. Johnstone and J. Nalby, Finch-lane, perfumers.—Jan. 21. G. Blunt and J. Mount, Little Carter-lane, Doctor's Commons, wholesale grocers.—Jan. 21. C.

J. Dudley, Gracechurch-street, merchant.—Jan. 23.

J. Waybrah and J. Gerrard, Swan-street, Maudrics, cornfactors.—Jan. 11. W. Clark, Hythe, taylor.

CERTIFICATES—JAN. 10.

J. Bell, Trowbridge, Wilts, clothier.—T. Stretch, Grafton-street, grocer.—J. Henriques, Aldgate High-street, merchant.—J. G. Caslake, White Horse-street, Stepney, tallow-chandler.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains a Proclamation for a General Fast;—in England on the 8th of February, and in Scotland, on the the following day.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

R. Thompson, Breneepeth-Parks, Durham, dealer.—R. Parsons, Lyncombe and Widcombe, Somersetshire, grocer.—J. Whitehead, Kingston-upon-Hull, grocer.

BANKRUPTS.

W. Wilkes, Birmingham, malster, to surrender, Jan. 9, 10, Feb. 4, at twelve, at the Swan Tavern, Birmingham. Attorney, Mr. S. Low, Birmingham.

G. Jones, Liverpool, bookseller and stationer, Jan. 13, 14, Feb. 4, at twelve, at the Star and Garter, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. J. Munro, Liverpool.

J. J. Howard, Pimlico, Middlesex, surgeon and apothecary, Dec. 31, Jan. 4, at ten, Feb. 4, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Rich, Ratcliffe-Cross.

J. Green, Hackney, Middlesex, builder and bricklayer, Dec. 31, Jan. 3, Feb. 4, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Chapman, St. Mildred's-court, Poultry.

W. Wells, Queen-street, Bloomsbury, working-jeweller, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Edwards and Lyon, Great Russel-street.

J. Crawford, Hoxton, Middlesex, money-scrivener, Dec. 27, at eleven, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, at one, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Basset, Bennet-street, Blackfriars.

M. French, George-street, Portman-square, wine-merchant, Dec. 27, at one, Jan. 5, at ten, Feb. 4, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Hackett, Chancery-lane.

W. Chambers, Lincoln, carrier, Jan. 9, 10, Feb. 4, at eleven, at the Rein Deer Inn, Lincoln. Attorney, Mr. Elgie, Lincoln.

W. Hayes, Kilburn, Middlesex, brick-maker, Dec. 27, Jan. 10, Feb. 4, at ten, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Humphries, Clement's-lane.

J. Mansall, G. Burkinshaw, and J. Fielding, Sheffield, saw and edgetool manufacturers, Jan. 5, 6, Feb. 4, at twelve, at the Angel Inn, Sheffield. Attornies, Messrs. Rimington and Wake, Sheffield.

G. Laing, London, merchant, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Caton and Bramell, Aldersgate-street.

DIVIDENDS.

Jan. 7. T. Leach, Graces-alley, Wellclose-square, haberdasher.—Jan. 20. B. Wright, Birmingham, factor.—Jan. 16. J. Endall, Over Norton, Oxfordshire, carrier.—Jan. 18. J. Owen, Earith, Huntingdonshire, victualler.—Jan. 16. J. Austie, Devizes, Wiltshire, clothier.—Jan. 25. P. Napper, Bristol, haberdasher.—Jan. 19. S. King, Halesworth, Suffolk, merchant.—Jan. 16. H. Chambers, Borough of Warwick, Warwickshire, hankoper.—Jan. 18. S. Smith, Liverpool, merchant.—Dec. 31. C. Smith, Bath, corn-factor.—Feb. 7. R. Sharp, Upton-place, Stratford, Essex, carpenter.—Jan. 18. R. Core, Bristol hat-manufacturer.—Jan. 23. T. Toppan, Manchester, merchant.—Feb. 4. P. Sintzenich, New Bond-street, printseller.—Jan. 17. G. Duffield, York-buildings, Bernondsey New-road, Wool-carder.—Jan. 21. H. G. Bacon, Gray's Inn-square, money-scrivener.—Jan. 28. R. Drake and

E. Goddard, Newgate-street, wine-merchants.—Jan. 28. C. Perkins, Swansea, shopkeeper.—Feb. 16. J. Seagoe, Duke-street, St. James's, tailor.—Feb. 4. R. Grange, York-place, Portman-square, miller.

CERTIFICATES—JAN. 14.

D. Mendes, Harrow-street, Gravel-lane, Houndsditch, army accoutrement-maker.—C. Baker, Saville-place, Lambeth, flour-factor.—F. Head, Bury-St.-Edmund's, baker.—T. Doyle, Threadneedle-street, merchant.—R. Wilkinson, Manchester, insurance-broker.—John Wright, Hammersmith, cheese-monger.—J. Rutter, Ormskirk, innkeeper.—J. Sharpe, Market-Deeping, Lincoln, linen-draper.—W. Mortimer, Wivenhoe, Essex, malster.—N. Dennington, jun. Loddon, Norfolk, merchant.—J. A. A. Leach, Jewry-street, Aldgate, wine-merchant.—S. Sanders, Abchurch-lane, vintner. J. Smith, Great Trinity-lane, merchant.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

3 per Cent. Red. 65½. | Omnium 1¼ dis. | Consols for Op. 66½.

On the 2d of January, a MONDAY EDITION of the *EXAMINER* will be printed, for the use of Readers of London Newspapers in the Country. It will, of course, contain all the LONDON MARKETS, and the latest Intelligence up to the evening of Monday.

A PREFACE, INDEX, and TITLE PAGE, are in preparation, which will be presented gratis to every Subscriber who wishes to bind up the Papers of the Year.

The Letter of AN ARTIST will appear next Sunday. Other Communications are merely delayed for want of room.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF YORK having ORDERED A PROSECUTION to be commenced against the *EXAMINER* for its strictures on Major HOGAN's Pamphlet, an ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC on the Subject will appear on Sunday next.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, DECEMBER 25.

THERE are no recent accounts whatever from Spain, and the only intelligence that has been received this week is the confirmation of the defeat of CASTANOS by his own detail. Thirty thousand troops are reported to be under orders for foreign service, and the Government, it is said, are buying up transports at any price. A stand therefore is to be made in Portugal, whether to any purpose or not our readers may well judge, who have seen Spain conquered, notwithstanding all its pride and patriotism, and who, if we may at all judge from past events, will see Portugal conquered too, notwithstanding all the pride of our heroes and the patriotism of our Commanders in Chief. I think it is pretty evident in the first place, that the native Portuguese are not a jot better disposed to the soldiers of one nation than to those of another, unless indeed heresy makes some difference: and in the second, it has not been by any means proved that they are not absolutely inimical to the restoration of the Prince Regent; so that Portugal

will most probably become a mere seat of war, that is, if we really do fight there, or, what is the same thing, quarter some of our troops at Cintra for a month or so. In the mean time, a General Fast and humiliation for sin have been ordered by the Government to further the great cause. Fasts are certainly excellent things, especially in such a luxurious country as this, and I reverence their utility; but the Spaniards fast almost every other day in the year, and I am afraid that if we do nothing besides fasting, we shall kill more fish than Frenchmen. The humiliation for our sins is indeed a serious and serviceable duty, if we really do feel humble on the occasion; if the prayers upon their country do for once in their lives feel ashamed before their Creator; and I trust, that the corruptions of the political and military systems, with the authors of those corruptions, will not be forgotten in the prayers to the God of Armies.

The President of the United States has offered to this country and to France, that he will revoke the embargo in favour of either nation, if it will revoke on its own part its orders against neutrals, and that on the other hand, he will continue it against either one or both of them, as they act accordingly. This impartial and manly proceeding has been treated with silence by our enemy, and with a querulous want of dignity by ourselves, and has of course made considerable noise among the monied people, though nothing has arisen from it but a confirmation of the philosophic policy of Mr. JEFFERSON. The President has been accused of partiality to BONAPARTE; yet there is a strain of *political liberty and independence* throughout his Declaration, which perhaps has not only touched the temper of BONAPARTE, but has made some other great personages feel a little uncomfortable.

There is a rumoured change of Administration in favour of a Noble Lord, whose opinions are said to be in direct opposition to those of the present conductors of affairs. If such a Noble Lord can be found, or I should rather say, if such a Noble Lord can get interest enough for the change, his opinions not only seem in a fair way of being correct, but of doing something for the country.

Sir A. WELLESLEY, it is said, is going to Portugal again. Will he retain his situation of Chief Secretary for Ireland? If so, it will be a proof that the place is not a necessary one, and that the great expence should be saved to the public.

An Embargo has been found necessary, in India, to preserve the trade from the depredations of two frigates and a privateer of 16 guns. Great Britain has not quite 1200 vessels of war!

The following sound observations, respecting the necessity of giving to the Irish Catholics all the privileges of English Protestant subjects, are taken from Mr. COBBETT'S Register of yesterday. Speaking of BONAPARTE, he says:—"If he gets safe possession of Spain and Portugal, the Irish Catholics will be the next, or nearly the next people, to whom he will directly, and with very little reserve, address himself. This must be evident to every man of common sense; and, it being evident, the question is, whether our government will, *while there is yet time*, adopt the means, and the only possible means, of preventing him from obtaining a fair chance of final success; or whether we are doomed to keep blundering on to the end of the chapter, under the influence of despicable bigotry and more despicable intrigue. That BONAPARTE will, as long as he has life, never rest until he has tried all the means in his power of subjugating this kingdom, no one can doubt. The motives which existed at the rupture of the peace of Amiens, still exist in all their former force; they have received strength from time, and especially from recent events. Our fleet is, indeed, a mighty bulwark; but, as has been a thousand times observed, there are modes of attack against which a fleet cannot be brought to bear. Experience has proved, that our fleet cannot, at all times, prevent the landing of French troops in Ireland. Now is, therefore, the time to erect, in that country, an impenetrable barrier against the enemy. The means are completely in our hands. They will cost us nothing. Only a single act of parliament does the business. How many millions, what freights of treasure, what streams of blood, might be spared, by an act of parliament passed in time?"

MAJOR HOGAN.—A number of wilful falsehoods are in circulation respecting Major HOGAN. The Major, who is a man of honour and property, did not leave England for fear of a prosecution: he went before the publication of his pamphlet, to settle some affairs of importance with his brother in America, from whence he will return in March next. As for the fabrications of a certain infamous pamphleteer, who would *abuse any body or praise any body for hire*,—who like the pickpocket would plead his want of bread as an excuse for his want of honesty,—and whose praise in fact is more to be feared than his censure—they are only calculated for corrupt newspapers and corrupt readers.

Accounts are said to have been brought by the last India Fleet from China, that through the influence of HORPO, the Viceroy and Prime Minister, permission has been granted to the Company's Agents at Canton, to open a free communication with Peking. When the cautious policy of the Chinese, and the total failure of Lord MACARTNEY'S Embassy are considered—this piece of intelligence will naturally be received with doubt. Such a relaxation on the part of the Chinese Govern-

ment would certainly have a most important effect on the interests of this country. The establishment of a cordial intercourse with the Court of Peking would necessarily lead to an increased facility of introducing the manufactures of Great Britain.

On Friday, Mr. MANN, hair-dresser, of Ranelagh-street, Pimlico, after dressing and shaving nine gentlemen, the last of whom was Mr. PALMER, of Drury-lane theatre, went home and cut his throat in a manner that caused his immediate death. All the gentlemen he had been with had observed something peculiar in his conduct, and it is fortunate for one of them that the razor was not used in an improper way. The poor man had before been deranged, but had recovered and resumed his employment.

The French cruizers in the East Indies have made an immense number of very valuable captures, and daily complaints are heard of the great losses sustained by the merchants in the West Indies. How is our immense navy employed?

Some letters sent by NAPOLEON into Madrid to his friends there, were seized by the Supreme Junta, and ordered to be burnt by the common hangman.

SPANISH PATRIOTISM!!

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER IN THE ARMY OF SIR DAVID BAIRD.

"Villa Franca, Nov. 28, 1803.

"We left Corunna on the 3d, and arrived at Astorga on the 20th, a march of upwards of 200 miles. It was originally intended we should proceed from Astorga to Burgos, to meet Sir J. Moore's army, on its march thence from Portugal; but the French having got possession of Burgos, altered that plan, and we remained three days at Astorga, till we could learn something both of Sir John Moore and of the enemy. On the 24th, it was reported that the enemy were pressing forward in great force to prevent our junction with Sir John, and to cut off our retreat. In this situation of affairs, Sir David Baird deemed it prudent to retreat; and, in a few hours, the whole of our troops who had advanced so far, evacuated Astorga, and the second day reached Ben Beberc, where they are encamped. The cavalry have since joined us, for the first time since their arrival from England, and we are under orders to be in readiness at an hour's notice to advance. Not a man is permitted on any account to undress himself. I left the regiment yesterday to purchase flannel, for shirts, which, for men sleeping on the cold ground under canvas, at this season of the year, are absolutely necessary. The farther we have come, the more reason we have to be displeas'd with our reception from the natives. They call us Heretics, and no Christians, and in fact look upon us as enemies. They shut their houses upon us, and refuse to sell the men the very necessaries of life. Their boasted armies of Patriots are dwindled away, and scattered up and down the mountains. We have not seen 500 Spanish soldiers in a body since we came here. In towns our men are billeted in convents, but in the intermediate parts in barns and cow-houses. Officers are glad to put up with a corner of a hay-loft as an upper apartment."

The COMMANDER IN CHIEF had an interview with his MAJESTY yesterday at Windsor, on Military business. The papers, containing the opinions of the Members of the Court of Inquiry, were laid before his MAJESTY, whose pleasure will be made known in a few days.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 36.

The Belvidera of Mrs. Beaumont on her first appearance in London.—It's superiority in general truth to that of Miss Smith and of Mrs. H. Siddons.—Declamation and passion.—The chief beauty of stage madness.—A rule to discover the better judgment of the audience.

COVENT GARDEN COMPANY, HAYMARKET.

Mrs. BEAUMONT, from the Glasgow Theatre, made her first appearance in London last Thursday evening as *Belvidera* in *Venice Preserved*. She is the sister of Mrs. MUDIE, and somewhat resembles her relation in the cast of countenance and in the lower tones of her voice, particularly in an unpleasant drag on the syllables *ir* and *ur*; but her face is at the same time more intelligent, her voice of more compass, her general appearance much more youthful, and her powers altogether infinitely more reputable. *Belvidera* is an arduous character; her sense is masculine, her sensibility truly feminine: so that an actress of mere mediocrity is in continual danger of rendering the part too declamatory on the one hand or sinking it into a whining feebleness on the other; and even a superior performer, unless she possesses as much judgment as genius, will occasionally lean too much to one particular passion: Miss SMITH for instance, who lately adorned this company, gave too maternally a dignity to *Belvidera*; Mrs. HENRY SIDDONS, who cannot assume a passion decidedly vehement, renders it too generally plaintive; and I have no hesitation in saying, that the new actress, without the fine tragic countenance of the one or the truly feminine expression of the other, excels both of these ladies in a natural combination of pathos and passion, of the yielding and the commanding qualities of *Belvidera*, of a heart full of sound feeling and a head full of sound sense. There is very little declamation in OTWAY upon any occasion, but Mrs. BEAUMONT undoubtedly failed most when she had more to argue than to feel, a deficiency which detracts less from her real genius than any other fault in tragic acting, since pity and terror are the great objects of tragic genius whether of the poet or the performer, and it is a good critical law by which you may detect much of the fine nothings of the stage, that an actor, comparatively speaking, of little genius, will convert passion into very good declamation, while a great genius will turn declamation itself into a thousand feelings. The talent however is, I confess, as rare as it is sublime, and no performer on the present stage can exhibit it, but Mrs. SIDDONS. Madness, which is always the touchstone of a tragic performer, since it brings out all the finer passions at once, gave Mrs. BEAUMONT an opportunity of shewing at once all the

powers of her fancy and her face, and if in the latter she was not exactly that beauty of delirious seduction which OTWAY paints with his usual tinge of pruriency, she nevertheless passed with very excellent expression from indifference to feeling, from feeling to strong passion, and from a strong passion to an exhausted one. When she described however the imaginary horrors of the weather, she ought to have painted them more with her action, as in covering her head for instance with a petty carefulness when she fancied the rain. These little actions, done occasionally with a minute and overstrained sobriety of demeanour, are the finest contrasts of insanity. In short, there was much excellent performance and still greater promise in Mrs. BEAUMONT's first appearance, and she is certainly a considerable acquisition to this company in the absence of Miss SMITH, for with all the illustrious talents of our great Melpomene, she is really becoming too old for any thing amatory and too large for any thing youthful. Mrs. BEAUMONT is earnestly advised to forget all that occasional tendency to rant, which is sometimes so necessary to a country audience but which she has too much good sense to preserve in town; and she cannot lay down a better rule for knowing the real judgment of the audience than to mistrust the applause which sometimes comes down in thunder from the Gods. The ancient orator, when he was interrupted in the middle of his speech by a shout of applause from the mob, turned round to his friends to know what he had said to expose himself. It is in a theatre as in a state: the freedom of feeling and expression is to be found in the middle class: the boxes repress themselves from a notion of polite reserve, and the galleries like nothing but what is as noisy and vulgar as themselves. The honest truth lies in the pit.

AN ATTEMPT TO SHEW THE FOLLY AND DANGER OF METHODISM.

IN A SERIES OF ESSAYS.

ESSAY THE VIIth AND LAST.—*On the Prevention of Methodism*

Nobody denies that the Church has it's corruptions; but it does not follow that Methodism will cure them. If the Church has become too worldly minded, Methodism is not less so because it is less exposed. Look for instance into the intrigues of their societies.—If the Church is too lax in what is called the real faith, Methodism on the other hand is too rigid. Examine for instance whether it is worth while to insist on all the articles which the Godly accuse us of neglecting. Many of the Church's divisions arise from the inflexibility of points which are not essential to virtue. Will the Elect reconcile these points by rendering them still more inflexible? Most of the Church's corruptions arise from it's connexion with the state, with the great and the rich, in short, with the world. Will the Godly be less corruptible when they are abroad in the same temptations? Will a father who is one of the saints be less anxious to use interest for his own son in prejudice to Clergymen better qualified? Will their

preachers be less proud, less ambitious, less greedy of wealth? Will HAWKER, when he becomes a Bishop, lay down his flippancy, HILL his vulgarity, or HUNTINGTON his coach? The very names of these men are insulting to a serious dignity. On the other hand, will they practise half so well the noble maxim which commands them to tolerate others as they themselves are tolerated? Will the various peaceable sects, who are not less worthy than the Methodists because they are less noisy and vulgar, be allowed, as the Methodists are now, to worship God as they please? Will no efforts be made, when the Godly have obtained a little ungodly interest, to interfere with private opinions under the old Popish system of proselytism? Will not conversion be introduced, in the true fatherly way, by a little loving correction; or persecution softly insinuated upon us, under the name of a *sweet struggle with lost sheep*? The Church tolerates every species of belief; but the Methodists flatly declare that they regard difference of opinion as a *crime*; and we all know to what punishments criminals are liable. The Papists wanted no better syllogism, when they filled Europe with human sacrifices; and the essence of Methodism is but a distillation from Popery; it is Popery deprived of its brilliance, its perfumes, and its volatility; a "vial of wrath," hypochondriac in its vapour and caustic to its last dregs. No, no; we have seen the prejudices and the passions which render the Methodists unchristian and unfit for church dominion: every body, who knows them intimately, knows that they are not free from a single worldly fault of which they accuse others, and that they want nothing but the chair at which they are aiming, to display all the pride and corruption of the worst establishments, together with all the bigotry, the intolerance, and the hatred of refinement, which characterise a *zeal that rejects reason*.

Such men would never succeed against the Establishment, provided the Church were at once just to itself and to others. It is with Church as with State; there is never any decided and alarming rebellion against either, without some corruption to favour the result. The Establishment possesses so many worldly advantages, that as long as it uses them without scandal, it is almost impossible to overturn it; but when its members become too worldly minded, these very advantages are turned against them, and superstition assumes an air of patriotic hazard in opposing the influence of the Court and the Crown. At such a time the noisiest and most intolerant sect, which is always the most powerful, will be ready for invasion, and with gravity to cheat the people and promises to secure them, may bind us all in chains before we perceive that we have lost our opportunity of freedom. The means of effectual resistance are therefore very evident; self-reform will prevent revolution, and conciliation will unmask those traitors who are aiming at rule instead of reformation.

The first care, in attempting to prevent fanaticism, must be *not to persecute*. This is a maxim essentially necessary to sound policy and sound Christianity; for the one teaches us not to injure our cause by losing our temper and character, and the other commands us to "do as we would be done by." Let us leave intolerance to those, whose faith will not bear the recom-

mendation of a perfect mercy, and who devote us to everlasting torments for saying "We differ with you."

2. The Methodists accuse the Church Preachers of not being sufficiently earnest in the cause of faith, but they are too apt to attribute this laxity to mere worldliness, whereas it arises in great measure from the faith itself, or to speak more properly, from the numerous articles which compose the professed doctrines of the Establishment. The great diffusion of learning and inquiry has dissipated most of those barbarisms which were introduced into the Christian religion by the Popish Casuists and Councils, that succeeded the reign of CONSTANTINE, and which were afterwards preserved by LUTHER and CALVIN, two violent men, who spurned at Papacy chiefly because it interfered with their worldly views and ambition. Neither of these men were Christians, for they had an utter want of charity, and while they derided the POPE's infallibility, vehemently and indeed ferociously insisted upon their own. The Church of England calls itself Lutheran, the Evangelical Preachers say it is or ought to be Calvinistic; but in point of fact, it is neither. LUTHER at all times held the doctrine of the Trinity indispensably necessary, and CALVIN in addition to that doctrine insisted upon the belief of predestination; but if you take one Clergyman of the Established Church with another, nine out of ten, who have examined the subject, not only begin to think the peculiar text which establishes the Trinity a bible interpolation, but certainly hold predestination as a mystery too Calvinistic to be insisted on. Why not, therefore, cease to insist upon every mystery that is incapable of moral analysis or confirmation, or upon which the truth of the Christian religion does not absolutely rest? The sole end of religion is the love of God and of one's neighbour; this comprehends all virtue, and there is no mystery in it whatever. If those who believed most, knew and practised most, the most credulous men would be the wisest and best; but every body knows the contrary. The love of mystery is the beginning of madness. The present Clergy of the Established Church were born in an age of inquiry, and they have obtained the great end of inquiry, a dislike of dogmatism and a love of plain truth. The consequence is, that the Methodists have taken up the neglected mysteries, and cast them in their teeth. Rubbish is continually falling away from the Church, the inhabitants have not the vigour to remove it, and it is at last converted into a mound of assault against them.—All this might be done away by one single act of a Convocation, an act which some of the greatest ornaments of the Church have endeavoured to obtain, and for want of which those who might have been as great, have seceded from the Establishment. This is a dispensation with the subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles. By such a measure, which would still leave the more vigorous believers in their own opinions while it declared those opinions not requisite to salvation, the most learned and liberal of the Dissenters, the Unitarians and the Universalists, would be added to the Establishment, the consciences of hundreds of Clergymen who originally subscribed without thinking would be rendered happy, and the Methodists would at once be bereft of their pretences to what is called orthodoxy and reduced to their proper level in so-

ciety. What GANANELLI said of the Jesuits may be well applied to these men; when once they are done away, religion will reform of itself. The learned Dr. MIDDLETON, Librarian of the University of Cambridge, who was abused in his day for being too reasonable a Christian, has made so complete a prophecy of the present dangers of the Church, and pointed out so exactly this necessity of enlarging the pale of orthodoxy, that I may be well excused for incorporating his words with these Essays. "These controversies, I flatter myself," says the Doctor, "may still be seasonable and serviceable, towards checking that spirit of disaffection which in every part of the kingdom is visibly exerting itself against the Established Religion, by all the various arts which Popery, Methodism, and Infidelity can supply: the growth of all which has of late years been greatly complained of by the Clergy. For as this increasing evil is owing partly to certain articles, publicly professed and imposed by our Church, which are justly liable to exception; and partly to groundless prejudices, and false notions of religion in general, conceived by the weak, and confirmed in them by the crafty; so it cannot possibly be cured by any other method, than by placing the common Religion of Christians on its right foundation, the Gospel, and clearing our particular system of it from all just offence, and reducing it to its original simplicity and conformity with the natural law or reason of man; which, in all questions whatsoever, is the primary guide and ultimate test of right and wrong, truth and falsehood, to the whole human species. * * * * *

"If the studious and inquisitive part of the nation, who search and judge of things for themselves, were made easy on these points, and allowed to think and speak of the popular doctrines of the Church, what they find agreeable to fact and the testimony of their senses, it would be the most effectual means of silencing those uncharitable disputes and dissentions, which are so frequent among us, on subjects generally so trifling, as to be unworthy of the zeal or attention of a Christian, or so subtle and abstruse, as to be incomprehensible to all, and unfit therefore to be the objects of faith to any. The arbitrary imposition of opinions naturally creates a reluctance to the reception of them; and as in the collision of bodies, so of minds, the repelling force is equal to that which impells: but if opinions were proposed to the public, with a latitude of interpretation, which left every one at liberty to receive them according to his own sense, and to embrace them either as true, or to acquiesce in them as expedient; it would cut off both the pretence and the inclination to wrangle about them; and we should enjoy them with the same ease as we do the common air or water, take just as much of them as we please, without offence or injury to any one else. By this means the virtuous and the liberal would become united in affection as well as opinion, and live not only with more charity towards each other, but by their example and moderation, would lead the multitude also by degrees into more reasonable notions of religious duties; so far at least, as to prevent them from being seduced into any extravagance of

zeal and principles, either Popish or Fanatical, which might create danger and disturbance to the peace of the kingdom." *

3. Much might be effected against the increasing influence of the Methodists by rivalling their own zeal; but in the present state of the Church tenets, such an activity is not to be expected. I do believe it impossible for the great majority of the Established Church to insist with any vehemence upon the belief in abstruse and useless mysteries; and if they did, they would be doing wrong. Make them easy upon the most difficult points, and they will feel more satisfaction in being earnest. There might still remain a number of indolent and indifferent men who would take no pleasure in expounding what they would never take pains to understand; but there is no establishment into which such men will not intrude, and it would be enough if the spirit of inquiry and general collision of mind, which would follow a reformation of the Church, should keep these persons out of the way of publicity and preferment. The present lukewarmness of the Established Preachers is a fertile and very natural topic of rebuke with the Methodists, who know how to draw their advantages from contrast. For the space of eight years, during which I was at a public school, I recollect perfectly well that I saw two preachers every Sunday, but as to hearing them, I cannot speak with any exactness at this distance of time. I do not think either, that I ever heard one of the Bishops preach except the late Dr. HORSLEY, but then I must do myself the justice to say that I have been present at several of their discourses, which must have been highly edifying to the clerk. It is due however to the celebrated Dr. PARR to declare, that when he preached his last Spital Sermon, I heard him in the aggregate for a whole hour, which I conjecture was about half the time in which he favoured the aldermen with his opinions on charity. It must be confessed that the delivery of these gentlemen is not calculated to make very vivacious impressions on the general mind. I say little of that host of poor Curates, who have really so much to do that they cannot exert themselves to any effect, or of those nests of luxurious dignitaries who are worse than inefficient, because they do nothing. Many of the misfortunes of the Church are to be found out of it: foolish parents who worship the gentility of a religious profession, and corrupt patrons who worship no religion at all, produce the two Church extremes of poverty and luxury; and nothing but the universal freedom of inquiry will annihilate the slavery and oppression that degrade and defeat the strongest talents. When the Clergy have a greater respect for their own consciences, they will have a greater respect for the proper exercise of their profession; and we shall see less of those indifferent readers; those racers and chasers through the Litany; those stop-watch sermonizers who dispense the Grace of God as if they were bidding you good morning; those preachers in short whether feeble or fantastic, who pick their teeth, as it were, in God's presence, ridiculous when they are not heard and useless when they are. I myself was witness, in a village north of the town, to a most disgusting instance of this con-

* Miscellaneous Works, vol. ii. p. 258, 261.

tempt of religious decency; and the blood rushes to my cheek when I think of it. It was at the funeral of one of the best of women; whose life was one continued sacrifice to Christian patience. The Curate had had some despicable little dispute with one of the persons employed, and he came to the burying place, not with respect to the departed and devotion to the great Dispenser of life and death, but with all the scowls and the sullenness of baffled meanness. He began to repeat the service by rote and at the same time to look about him, and he continued to draw, to look about him, and to eye, every now and then, the object of his animosity, with so gross a want of common feeling and Christianity, that nothing could prevent me from publishing the name of the miscreant, but a respect to that blessed memory, which he insulted at the edge of the grave.—But let me forget this scene.—Mere earnestness has done more for the Methodists than all the miracles and inspiration they can bring together; and the Church of England, which possesses men to whom the best of them are but meek bigots, will in vain be learned in it's doctrine and liberal in it's practice, if it suffers every enthusiast who has confidence and a loud voice to carry away it's religious multitude by an appearance of more heart-felt devotion. All this, however, still depends upon the first cause, an enlightened reformation.

4. In the mean time, the Laity who oppose the Methodists from a love of Christian toleration, have nothing to do but to attack them with the weapon most formidable to ignorance and intolerance, sheer ridicule. Few of the Methodists know how to reason, and those who pretend to knowledge, tell us they will not allow it; so they must be indulged. Admire the usual inconsistency of these men: when they have reason on their side, they reject it; and when they reject it, it is in the very rejection they have it most on their side. I cannot conclude my subject better than by quoting the witty and the wise advice of an author, who in one of his Poems* has shewn how truly he could estimate the beauty of real Christianity, while at the same time he was a bitter foe to every species of fanaticism. The Methodists say they despise ridicule because it makes no serious impression, as if COLLYER's frippery or HILL's buffoonery made any such impressions on men who have true conceptions either of reason or ridicule; but if all the wits would exert themselves, I much suspect that ridicule would make very serious impressions; and "there is still a stronger reason," says GOLDSMITH,† "for the enthusiast's being an enemy to laughter, namely, his being himself so proper an object of ridicule. It is remarkable, that the propagators of false doctrines have ever been averse to mirth, and always begin by recommending gravity, when they intended to disseminate imposture. Fohi, the idol of China, is represented as having never laughed; Zoroaster, the leader of the Bramins, is said to have laughed but twice, upon his coming into the world, and upon his leaving it; and Mahomet himself, though a lover of pleasure, was a professed opposer of gaiety."*****

* The Deserted Village.

† See the whole of an excellent Essay on Methodism. Citizen of the World. Vol. 2. Letter 111.

"Ridicule has ever been the most powerful enemy of enthusiasm, and properly the only antagonist that can be opposed to it with success. Persecution only serves to propagate new religions; they acquire fresh vigour beneath the executioner and the axe, and like some vivacious insects, multiply by dissection. It is also impossible to combat enthusiasm with reason, for though it makes a shew of resistance, it soon eludes the pressure, refers you to distinctions not to be understood, and feelings which it cannot explain. A man who would endeavour to fix an enthusiast by argument, might as well attempt to spread quicksilver with his fingers. The only way to conquer a visionary is to despise him; the stake, the faggot, and the disputing doctor, in some measure enoble the opinions they are brought to oppose; they are harmless against innovating pride; contempt alone is truly dreadful."

ABUSES IN CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

It is much to be feared that a proper inquiry into the abuses of this Institution will not soon take place. A motion was lately made at a General Meeting of the Governors for appointing a Committee to inquire into the alledged abuses. Upwards of 100 Governors were present, yet only seven held up their hands for the motion!!—Aldermen Newham, Smith, and Birch, were particularly anxious to prevent inquiry. How many improper objects have these Gentlemen recommended, that they wish to stifle all investigation?

It must be confessed that this conduct of the Governors is more than suspicious. Why not inquire? What harm can possibly result from investigation, if the parties have nothing to fear,—if their conduct has been pure and upright? Honest men know well that concealment must always create suspicion, and is therefore to be avoided. If the Governors have done their duty, inquiry would only tend to their honour and advantage; but if they have slumbered at their posts,—if they have from impure motives suffered the Institution to be abused by the admission of improper objects,—their solicitude to avoid inquiry is not to be at all wondered at.

That hundreds of unfortunate objects have applied in vain for admission, is sufficiently notorious; and that many persons with abundant means of educating and providing for their children and relatives have obtained their admission into the School, is also equally well known. The Vicar of Edmonton's case, thanks to the exertions of Mr. Waithman, is now as generally known as his conduct is reprobated; but his is not the only recent abuse. "A boy (says Mr. Waithman in his Letter to the Governors) of the name of *Caryfort Proby*, has been admitted since Mr. Warren's son, under the presentation of Sir George Baker, Bart. I will ask, whether his father has not two livings, Bee-wood and Litchfield, in Staffordshire, of the value of 700l. per ann. besides his own and wife's fortune?—whether the boy is not nephew to Lord S—f—th, and first cousin to the Lady of Sir S—H—d?—whether he is not cousin to the Earl of C—ys—t?—whether his mother is not sister to a Baronet? &c. &c."

Will the Governors say that these things are proper,

or even decent? In truth, if they do not "reform it altogether," they will act in open defiance of the duties they have undertaken to fulfil,—duties, the violation of which will subject them not only to the censure of their fellow-creatures, but to the awful displeasure of their offended Maker.

EAST INDIA HOUSE.

On Wednesday a Quarterly General Court was held, when the dividend on the Capital Stock of the Company, from the 5th July last to the 5th January next, was declared to be 5 1-4 per cent.

NAVAL VIGILANCE!

After the dividend had been declared, and the Chairman had stated the tranquil state in which the last accounts left India,

Mr. RANDLE JACKSON called the attention of the Court to the extraordinary ascendancy of the enemy's cruizers in the Indian Seas, and the dreadful ravages which they had been permitted to commit upon British property, and the still greater dishonour which they had brought upon the country. Who could believe that, with a maritime force greater than had been usually kept in those seas, the trade of them had been so completely unprotected, that the Calcutta Insurance Companies alone, had paid losses to the amount of more than two millions of money within the last seven or eight years, and that in the month of September and October only, of the year 1807, their losses had been upwards of 290,000l. that these, as well as numerous other captures, had been effected by two French frigates, and (principally) by the *Revenant* privateer, of 16 guns, which latter had scoured those seas for three months together, and in fact blockaded the Bay of Bengal, although a great maritime force, with an Admiral's flag, and several pendants flying, were then lying within 300 miles of this scene of depredation!! He understood it to be stated in a Memorial (from which he had gathered these facts) from the Calcutta Merchants to the Board of Admiralty that although the destination of these frigates and of this privateer was known to the station at Madras, in September, yet in the December following, not a vessel had been sent for the protection of the Bay, till at length the Imperial Government of India had been compelled to do what America had pretended to do on account of the confederated maritime strength of the world, namely, lay an embargo on its shipping, in order to keep them from the devouring jaws of this terrible privateer of 16 guns, which had had, it was said, the no less extraordinary good luck to preserve every one of its prizes from recapture, though it had to send them through a known track of 3000 miles to the Isles of Mauritius and Bourbon. Mr. Jackson added, that the Madras Government, with that feeling which became it for our fellow-subjects of India labouring under the horrors of famine, has advertised great encouragement to ships bringing corn for their relief; in consequence of which, the shipping interest had directed its attention to this object, when shocking as it should seem, if the Memorial spoke truth, no one ship that the Memorialists knew of had been sent out to protect these vessels, the consequence of which was, that a considerable part of the provisions thus intended to save our subjects from death, had been captured by the enemy. Mr. Jackson observed, that a marine could only be created through the medium of commerce, or through that of ships of war; our great enemy not having the former means in his power, was known, though silently, and, perhaps slowly, but surely, to be creating a body of most adventurous, hardy and skilful sailors through the latter medium, the whole of which he would call to his service whenever the affairs of the Continent should admit of his directing his energies to his marine. Mr. Jackson said, he would not suppose

it possible, but that the Directors had made the strongest representations in the proper quarter, if not, he adjured them to do so without a moment further loss of time; he must say, that if they had found the forms of office in their way at the Admiralty, they ought to have applied to the Minister, who was answerable for every department; and failing there, they ought to have addressed themselves to the House of Commons, and laid their case before the country. Mr. Jackson said, he did not pretend or could say where the fault lay; if with the Commander, the Board of Admiralty that wanted nerve enough to recal such a man ought to be dismissed by the Minister, and changed for men of more comprehensive faculties and more vigorous exertions. If the Minister wanted courage to do this, he was not the Minister for such a country in such times. Mr. Jackson, after remarking on the afflicting and disgraceful accounts of a similar ascendancy in the West Indies, and of the repeatedly revictualing and reinforcing of Martinique and Guadaloupe, the importance of the capture of which islands had ever been admitted to be of the utmost consequence, concluded with expressing his hopes, that the Directors would feel this subject as it ought to be felt, and act upon that feeling.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Perry) said, that it had not escaped their attention, that the depredations had been most scandalous, arising, as they apprehended, from neglect somewhere; that the Commander had been recalled some months past, and that he trusted precautions would be taken to prevent the recurrence of the evil so justly complained of.

Mr. Rock, Mr. Jackson, and other Proprietors, referring to the late gift of 1000l. to the Spanish Patriots, protested against the illegality of the Directors giving away the funds of the Company, however meritorious the object, without the consent of their Constituents.

The Court then adjourned.

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Wednesday, Dec. 20.

PARR v. BENSON.

The plaintiff and defendant in this case are both merchants resident in Liverpool, and the action was brought to recover a compensation in damages for a criminal connection with the plaintiff's wife.

Mr. PARKE, for the plaintiff, stated the case as below detailed in evidence, and accompanied the statement with the usual observations on the magnitude of the injury sustained by the Plaintiff. The defendant he said was well able to pay any damages which the Jury might award, as he had come into the possession of a large fortune; and he trusted the Jury would think this was a case of exemplary damages, inasmuch as the consequences of the conduct of the defendant had caused a derangement of mind in the plaintiff. The parties lived upon terms of intimacy and friendship, and it was from the opportunity afforded by this intimacy, that the defendant found means to seduce the wife of his friend. The plaintiff was married in the year 1798, and resided at the village of Billington, about a mile from Liverpool. He went into the town most days at ten in the morning, and did not return until four to dinner. In the interval between those hours it would be proved, that the defendant was constant in his visits to Mrs. Parr. But these were not the only visits he paid, for the plaintiff being a very jovial man, had the defendant constantly dining with him. Another circumstance of aggravation in the conduct of the defendant was, that he was himself a married man, and had children; he trusted that the Jury would think these circumstances of aggravation merited a severer visitation than ordinarily was called for. With respect, however, to the mental derangement of the plaintiff,

tiff, he admitted that the malady might in part be occasioned by a fever which he brought on himself by over exertions at the Liverpool Election, where he actively and warmly supported Gen. Tarleton's interest.

The marriage of the plaintiff and his wife was proved in the year 1798.

Mr. Carey and Mr. Dixon proved that the plaintiff and his wife lived on harmonious terms.

Mr. Wilkinson, clerk to the plaintiff, and who had been a confidential servant of his father's, said they lived on good terms.—On cross-examination, he said that the defendant frequently dined at their house, and always handed Mrs. Parr out of the room. He also usually followed her a short time afterwards. He once heard the plaintiff say, come back Ralph and divert your time, and leave Mary to herself. Several other witnesses were called, who spoke nearly to the same facts, and that the defendant and Mrs. Parr were frequently together, but they did not see any thing improper pass between them.

Mr. D. Parr, brother to the plaintiff, also spoke to the affectionate manner in which the plaintiff and his wife lived. He stated, that after the discovery of Mrs. Parr's infidelity, his brother became melancholy, and at length so deranged that he was obliged to be committed to the care of Dr. Chute, of Liverpool. On cross-examination by Mr. GARROW, he said that his brother had been deranged before that time, and he attributed it to his over exertions at the Liverpool Election.

Jane Hughes, servant to the plaintiff, said, in the year 1805, Mr. Benson was frequent in his visits at their house; and she observed great familiarities between him and her mistress.—[The evidence of this witness fully proved the criminal intercourse; but it is wholly unfit for the columns of any decent Newspaper.]

Mr. GARROW, for the defendant, contended it was not a case for damages, inasmuch as the plaintiff had brought his misfortune on himself by his own misconduct in neglecting his wife, and exposing her to improper liberties, which he suffered to be taken with her in his presence, without remonstrance, or apparently caring for them.

To prove this a Mrs. Jones, Mrs. C. Jones, and Philips, a waiter at the White Lion, Shrewsbury, were called, who proved the following facts:—That in August, 1806, Mr. and Mrs. Parr, and Mr. Benson, were at the Shrewsbury Races together. They could not be accommodated with beds at the White Lion, and were obliged to get beds at an adjoining house. Mr. Parr did not sleep with his wife, but in the best bed below, and Mrs. Parr slept in a bed without curtains adjoining to Mr. Benson's bedroom; but at that time Parr had a shade over his eyes, and appeared rather unwell. The waiters at the inn at first thought Mrs. Parr was Benson's wife, but when they discovered she was Parr's, they made it a joke, that Benson paid for all, and kept both husband and wife.

Several other witnesses were called, who proved, that familiarities had passed in the presence of the plaintiff, such as correctly ought not to have been passed over by a husband without notice.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH detailed the evidence at length, and said it was a case for their serious consideration; he left it for them to determine, whether the plaintiff had been consenting to his own disgrace, and whether at least he had not been culpably negligent.

The Jury found for the plaintiff—Damages, 1000l. The damages were laid at 30,000l.

Saturday, Dec. 24.

BOYDELL & DRUMMOND.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL opened this case with a high panegyric on the late and present Alderman BoydeLL, as patrons of the elegant arts of Painting and Engraving. They had in a great degree contributed to advance them to a state of comparative excellence, and had turned the balance of trade in Engravings against foreigners, by their

liberal encouragement of native Artists. In the year 1786, they issued a Prospectus of their great work from Shakspear, in which they proposed to present their subscribers with 72 prints from as many paintings, to be executed by the most distinguished artists of that time. They were to be delivered to the subscribers annually, in a number containing four prints, to be executed in the line and chalk styles of engraving. The number was afterwards increased to five. They embarked one hundred thousand pounds in this grand concern. On the 1st of May, 1789, the Shakspear Gallery in Pall Mall was opened with thirty-four of the Paintings, and in March 1790, fifty-six paintings were there exhibited, and ten specimens of the plates, in line and dotting. The Subscribers had then an opportunity of examining, with considerable accuracy, the nature of the work, to which they were affixing their names. In this progress of the work, the Plaintiff became a subscriber, received his first number, and paid a guinea in advance for the next, which he also had, but declined sending for any more; as the work, he afterwards asserted, was not so good as he was led to expect. This, Sir V. GIBBS contended, was an unfair objection; that the Subscribers had no right to expect uniform excellence in the different performances; that the work was executed in a style equal to the talents of the country at the period of its progressive accomplishment, and with the most liberal remuneration of the Artists. Out of the 1300 Subscribers, above 600 refused, at various times, to continue their subscription. Was this conduct in Subscribers, said Sir V. GIBBS, to be sanctioned by a Court of Law, the Arts would suffer a serious injury; as who would venture to publish works on a large and expensive scale? His client was entitled to a verdict, as he had fulfilled, in every respect, the conditions of his Prospectus.

Mr. Clay, Clerk to the late Alderman BoydeLL, proved, together with some of the above facts, that the prints were ready for delivery in succession, agreeably to the date of their subscription; that 1304 prints were struck off to be delivered to the Subscribers, before those which were designed for Non-subscribers.—On cross-examination, he admitted that the line is considered, by the competent judges in Art, much superior in excellence to the chalk style; takes twice the time to engrave; is more than double the expense; and that, in the early period of the Work, in the year 1790, there were twenty-three of the latter to four of the former.

Mr. Harrison, formerly a clerk to Alderman BoydeLL, said that if all the prints had been engraved in a style equal to those which had been engraved in the line manner, only one instead of four could have been produced in a year, and that the entire work would have taken forty years to finish.—In the course of evidence for the Plaintiff it appeared, that one of the painters and four of the engravers promised were not employed; that out of five prints at one time hung up as specimens, only one was in the line, and at another only two were line to fourteen chalk; that Mr. Drummond was not applied to individually, for the payment of a third subscription; that an advertisement, addressed generally to the subscribers, had appeared on the publication of that and subsequent numbers, in all the daily papers; and that in the year 1806 the remaining numbers were tendered to Mr. Drummond, and refused. The trial here abruptly terminated without hearing Counsel or witness for the Defendant, for Plaintiff not being able to shew that he had made a demand on Mr. Drummond for six years, even if he ought to be held bound by the Prospectus, the Statute of Limitation, it was contended, barred the Plaintiff's recovery. After a good deal of argument, the facts were agreed to be turned into a special case, and the opinion of the Court to be taken on the main questions, whether there was any agreement between the parties sufficient to ground this action, and whether the Defendant could be made liable by the

Prospectus or any advertisement in the newspapers. The case remains to be decided. It naturally excited much interest among the amateurs and artists, who crowded the Court, awaiting anxiously the issue.

POLICE.

WORSHIP-STREET.

FORTUNE-TELLING.—*Susannah Carr* was on Wednesday charged with having pretended to tell the fortunes of several young girls.

Susah Schofield, a pretty girl, about 16 years of age, went about a month ago to the lodgings of the prisoner, in Webber-square, Shoreditch, and requested to have her fortune told. Mrs. Carr produced a pack of cards, which she shuffled, and divided into several parcels, and said, the witness would have some trouble very soon, but it would end to her satisfaction—that she would be married before she was 19, and would have *nine children, all boys!*—that her husband would be a tall thin young man, of a darkish complexion.

Mary Bell, another good-looking girl, who appeared to be about the same age, said, that she was with Susan Schofield when she had her fortune told, as was also another girl. Mrs. Carr told all their fortunes, after going through a deal of ceremony with the cards. She told this girl also that she would have *a great many children, all of whom would be very like their father!*—The girl paid 1s. for telling three of them their fortunes.

Elizabeth Wood, another fortune-teller, was also examined before the same Magistrate.

The prisoners were convicted as rogues and vagabonds, and committed to the House of Correction till the Sessions.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

The *Walpole* Indiaman went ashore on Sunday at ten, A. M. off Margate: though the ship is totally lost, the whole of the Officers, the crew and passengers, got safe on shore. Mr. Sutton, the Chief Officer, had his arm badly fractured by the wheel, on the ship's striking. The greater part of the cargo is expected to be saved.

Capt. Balderston, of the *Parthian* sloop of war, lately murdered on board that vessel when getting under weigh from Plymouth to Corunna, was a native of Dover, in his 29th year, and universally esteemed. James Smith, the Master's-mate, by whose hand he fell, is about 25 years of age, and son of a British Planter resident at Santa Cruz. Revenge for being dis-rated by Capt. Balderston, was the cause of this wicked act. The pistol which he used was loaded with two balls, one of which was cut in four pieces. After loading the pistol he sat down coolly to dinner, observing to his messmates that it was the last time he should dine with them; and striking his hand violently against the table, he exclaimed, "I'll know what I have been dis-rated for, and will be d—m—d if I don't be revenged!" He then rushed on deck, and shot Capt. Balderston, who survived only an hour and a half, and in excruciating pain. The murderer was instantly seized by Lieut. Stevenson, and conveyed on board of the *Salvador del Mundo*. So far from expressing contrition, he declared that nothing but hurry of passion prevented his loading another pistol, with which it was his intention to have dispatched Lieut. Stevenson also, as he had only had half his revenge.—He was tried on Monday, and found guilty of the murder, making no defence.

Early on Sunday morning, the body of a respectably dressed man was found in the road leading from the bottom of Gray's-Inn-lane road to Camden-town. It proved to be Mr. Pester, a grazier, who resided in Cross-street, Portland-street. He left home after dinner, as he said, for a walk, and is supposed to have died from the inclemency of the weather.

The high wind yesterday week blew down one of the centry boxes in St. James's Park, near Duke-street. The centinel was in it at the time, and was so much bruised that he was taken to the Hospital with little hopes of recovery.

BIRTHS.

Last week a butcher's wife, in Banff, Scotland, was delivered of three children, two boys and a girl, who, with the mother, are all in a fair way.

MARRIAGES.

On Tuesday last, Mr. Robert Gwilt, of Chelsea, 2d son of the Rev. Robert Gwilt, Rector of Icklinghams, All Saints, and St. James's, Suffolk, to Mary, eldest daughter of the late Henry Williams, Esq. of Nassau, New Providence.

Yesterday se'night, at St. George, Hanover-square, F. H. Naylor, Esq. of Welbeck-street, to Maria Mealey, widow of Lieut. Col. Ridgeway Mealey, late of the Madras Establishment.

On the 20th inst. at Marylebone Church, by the Rev. Dr. Hall, Canon of Christchurch, Henry Drury, Esq. Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, to Caroline, second daughter of A. W. Taylor, Esq. of Barham House, Herts.

DEATHS.

Yesterday week, at six o'clock, at his house in Hertford-street, the Earl of Liverpool, in the 80th year of his age: the immediate cause of his death was a disorder in his bowels. His Lordship was the son of Colonel Charles Jenkinson, the second son of Sir Robert Jenkinson, of Hedlington, in Oxfordshire; and in the year 1789, by the extinction of the elder branches of the family, he succeeded to the title of Baronet and to the family-estates. In the year 1786, Sir Charles Jenkinson was created Lord Hawkesbury, and in 1796, Earl of Liverpool. During a considerable part of Mr. Pitt's long administration, his Lordship was President of the Board of Trade; and his acquaintance with the commercial interests of the country, and with subjects of political economy, has been displayed in numerous Tracts, the greater part of which, however, were written on subjects creating a temporary interest, rather than illustrative of general principles. His Lordship through his life was more remarkable as a politician in the closet than as an orator in the Senate. For many years he was generally supposed to be high in the confidence of his Majesty: By his death, the offices of Collector of the Customs Inwards for the Port of London, and Clerk of the Pells in Ireland, have become vacant. His Lordship was twice married, and has left two sons, Lord Hawkesbury, now Earl of Liverpool, and the Hon. Charles Jenkinson.

Suddenly, on Tuesday se'night, at his house, at Teddington, in the 66th year of his age, the Earl of Athlone. He is succeeded in his titles and estates by Frederick Viscount Aghrim, a lunatic.

On Tuesday se'night, in Dublin, Theobald M'Kenna, Esq. He was a political writer of much celebrity, and enjoyed from Government a pension of 200l. per ann. for past services.

A few days since, at an advanced age, Andrew Shaw, well known at Portsmouth, for upwards of 30 years, as a bill-sticker, in which employ, by industry and frugality, he amassed more than 900l. He was a soldier at the battle of Minden.

Sunday, Mr. Thomas, butcher, in Lisle-street.—He was perfectly well on Saturday, and the following day fell in a fit, out of which he apparently recovered, but was instantly seized with a shivering fit and expired. He was a middle-aged man; a very temperate liver.