

THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. *Pope.*

No. 526.

OLD MAY-DAY,—(NEXT WEDNESDAY.)

AGREEABLY to the promise which we made at Christmas, and which we are glad to find our readers have not forgotten, we proceed to remind our busy and beloved countrymen of another season enjoyed by their happier ancestors. It was left for the delicious statesmen of modern times to find out that politics, and indeed the whole business of life, consisted in the pursuit of wars and money,—in crowding cities and forsaking the fields,—in manufactures and disease,—in wants, toils, stocks, consols, jobs, policies, contracts, lotteries, shops, offices, gobblings, gormandizings, insolvent horrors, unwarrantable property, shocking poverty,—and all such follies and miseries, the very terms of which follow each other like the goggling chatter of a poor madman. We shall not repeat our remarks however on this part of the subject. We have said a good deal upon it to the only persons who are likely to benefit by our endeavours, the rising generation; and what we have left unsaid, their predecessors are anxious enough to supply by overworking them, and disgusting them, and shewing how foolish, tyrannical, and discontented they are themselves. The glimpse of a piece of sky or field from the window of a manufactory, the sight of the money-getter's bloated or care-worn countenance, the sneaking or bullying look of an unhappy parliamentary corruptionist,—all these are so many volumes of eloquence against the system; and the last argument for altering it is fast approaching, in the awful necessity for so doing. Good God! That any set of men should want such an argument for reminding them of the beautiful world they live in! That they should have so glorious a garden to expatiate in, and yet with an infatuation which children may despise them for, abandon it, to crowd, as it were, into brick-kilns and slaughter-houses!

But to return to the pleasanter and more persuasive side of the question,—the enjoyment itself. We have chosen to write on Old May-Day instead of New, for several reasons; the principal of which are these,—that it is the day associated in one's mind with the cheerful wisdom of old times;—that inasmuch as it is later in the season, it stands a chance of being a finer day;—and that New May-Day can still be kept, and the old one, in the liberal spirit of our ancestors, be made an additional holiday; for "a morn of May" was often observed by them as well as the first of the month.

The custom of welcoming the leafy and flowery season of the year has been derived from a variety of nations; and each derivation appears so well established, that by a natural paradox it amounts to nothing. The fact is, that the cause is in the season itself, and not in the nation. All countries are naturally glad of the return of an agreeable

time; and according to their respective superstitions or imaginations, they have shewn their enjoyment. The ancient Eastern nations celebrated the return of the Sun; the Greeks and Romans kept the holidays of the rural gods and goddesses,—Pan, Ceres, and Flora; and among other customs retained by Christendom from the Pagans, and added to their own manifestations of joy, was that of hanging a pole with flowers in May, and dancing about it in delight. Our festive enjoyment of the Spring was no doubt made up of the respective customs of our Saxon ancestors and our Roman invaders; and while the hunting and fishing occupations of the former gave way to more civilized habits, the honours of May partook still more of the Roman character, till at last its celebration put on almost entirely a classic appearance. We allude to the May-pole just mentioned, to the songs and dances, and to the choice of a Lady of the May, the representative of the ancient Flora. CHAUCER, who flourished in the time of EDWARD the 3d. and his successor, and who, although he was a politician and a reformer, zealous enough even in his old age to get imprisoned for the space of four years, took a special delight in rural pleasures, makes repeated mention of the enjoyments of May, representing his heroines as watchful observers of the season, and describing the whole court going out from high to low

To fetch the floures fresh, and branch, and blome;—
And namely, haithord brought both page and grone,
And then rejoycen in their grete delite;
Eke ech at othier throw the floures bright,
The primrose, the violete, and the gold,
non with the garlants party blew and white,

This custom continued in full force till the time of the Puritans, who first complimented heaven with attributing to it a dislike of seeing the world happy. In the days of SHAKESPEARE, which are those to which we chiefly refer on these subjects, and in which the manly and intellectual as well as rural character of the nation was at it's height, the return of May was welcomed with one universal burst of delight from the throne to the cottage. SPENSER painted his lovely Raphaelian picture of the month from what he had seen:—

Then came faire May, the fayrest mayd on ground,
Deckt all with dainties of her season's pryde,
And throwing floures out of her lap around:
Upon two brethren's shoulders she did ride,
The Twinnes of Leda; which on pyther side
Supported her like to their sovraigne queene.
Lord! how all creatures laught when her they spide,
And leapt and daunced as they had rapist bene!
And Cupid selfe about her flutred all in greene,

The general custom among the youth was to rise before the dawn, and go to meet it, as it were, with songs and music in the fields and woods. There they plucked flowers and branches, and returning triumphantly with them at sunrise, decorated the doors and windows, till the whole place in which they dwelt looked as rural with greenwood-boughs as it did with evergreens at Christmas. The peasants at the same time, taking forth a number of oxen, tied garlands about their horns, and then yoking them together to carry it, brought home a new May-pole, or a trunk of

an elm-tree, to fix it on. It was covered with flowers and other productions of the field, and sometimes painted with various colours. Round this the happy villagers of the town, who had not become overgrown and mercenary enough to feel such a separation from country as now; the gentry presided over manly sports; the ladies distributed the prizes; the court entertained itself with masks and revels; the SYMNEYS, BALSIGNS, and SHAKESPEARES, wrote songs, which were set to music, and which almost every body could sing from the music-book; and the Great Spirit was most gloriously honoured in one universal enjoyment of his beautiful creation.

In the month of May, says good old Stow, "namely, on May-day in the morning, every man, except impediment, would walk into the sweete meadows and green woods, there to rejoice their spirits with the beauty and savour of sweete flowers, and with the harmony of birds praising God in their kind." But the opinion of good old Stow was not that of a godly but less renowned person except STRYBBS, who in his puritanical work the *Anatomic of Abuses*, rages, as if he would pull down the poor happy May-pole with his own proper claws. "Thus equipped," saith he, with his eyes staring for indignation, "it is reared with handkerchiefs and flagges streaming on the top; they strawe the ground round about it; they bind green boughs about it; they set up summer halles, bowers, and arbours, hard by it; and then fall they to banquetting and feasting, to leaping and dancing about it, as the heathen people did at the dedication of their idolls." It was enough for Master STRYBBS, that the heathens did it; and of course it became an abomination. Its own merits were another matter, except indeed that it was a "pleasant pastime," which of course was an abomination also. He might have exclaimed, as a lover in a modest play does, when remonstrating against the vivacity of his mistress, "The life of the company! Have I been the life of the company? Have I made you all ready to die with laughter?" But addeth the pious but chuckling STRYBBS, "I have heard it credibly reported, by men of great gravity, credit, and reputation, that of fourtie, threescore, or an hundred maides going to the wood, there have scarcely the third part of them returned home againe as they went." Ay, Master PHILIP? And how came these men of great gravity and reputation to be so accurately informed? They had been the most selfish, we suppose, of the whole set of love-makers in their youth, and so taken to grim intolerance and to a bad opinion of all their kindlier fellow-creatures in their old age. That the impulses ran a quite not on these occasions, can easily be imagined; but that they ended in a kindlier manner, and were at any rate of a better nature than those of intolerance, and solitary gain, and mere profligacy, will be as easily conceived, by comparing the general character of ELIZABETH'S age with the sullen one of the Puritans and the heartless sensuality which was the consequence of it in the reign of CHARLES the Second. Before MILTON suffered his imagination to be degraded into fellowship with these vulgar mistakers, (whom by the way he soon despised, and there is reason to believe ultimately differed entirely with) he, a happy and innocent youth, did not

scruple to thank the month of May, in that graceful little Ode of his, for it's amorous inspiration. We will quote the whole piece, as it is short, and altogether to our purpose. He calls it a

SONG ON MAY MORNING.

Now the bright Morning-star, day's harbinger,
Comes dancing from the east; and leads with her
The flowery May, who from her green lap throws
The yellow cowslip and the pale primrose.
Hail, bounteous May! who dost inspire
Mirth, and youth, and warm desire;
Woods and groves are of thy dressing;
Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing!
Thus we salute thee with our early song,
And welcome thee, and wish thee long.

And BEN JONSON, who while he bitterly satirized vice, carried his admiration of real virtue to a sort of human pety, has a passage in his *Sad Shepherd* respecting the growing puritanism of JAMES the First's age, in which he vindicates the kindliness of these pastimes with his usual contempt of sophistications, though his disdain is made gentle by his subject. He puts it with great propriety into the mouths of ROBIN HOOD and his companions, who in the sixteenth century had become chief characters in the celebration of May-games. This passage also, though much longer than MILTON'S Ode, we shall extract for the particular nature of it's allusions, some of which are singularly applicable to the present times:—

Robin. Welcome, bright Clarion, and sweet Melliflour,
The courteous Lionel, and fair Amie, all
My friends and neighbours to the jolly bower
Of Robin Hood and to the greenwood walks.
Now that the shearing of your sheep is done,
And the washed flocks are lighted of their wool,
Why should or you or we so much forget
The season in ourselves as not to make
Use of our youth and spirits to awake
The nimble hornpipe and the timbarine,
And mix our songs and dances in the wood,
And each of us cut down a triumph bough?
Such were the rites the youthful June allow.

Clarion. They were, gay Robin; but the sourer sort
Of shepherds now disclaim in all such sport,
And say our flock the while are poorly fed
When with such vanities the swains are led.

Tuck. Would they, wise Clarion, were not hurried more
With covetise and rage, when to their store
They add the poor man's cantling and dare sell
Both fleece and carcase, not giving him the fell;
Or dig deep pits their neighbours' neat to vex,
To drown the calves and crack the heifer's necks;
Or with pretence of chasing thence the brack,
Send in a cur to worry the whole flock.

Lionel. O friar, those are faults that are not seen;
Our's open, and of worst example been.
They call ours pagan pastimes, that infect
Our blood with ease, our youth with all neglect,
Our tongues with wantonness, our thoughts with lust;
And what they censure ill, all others must.

Robin. I do not know what their sharp sight may see
Of late; but I should think it still might be,
As 'twas, a happy age, when on the plains
The woodman met the damsels and the swains,
The neat herds, ploughmen, and the pipers loud;
And each did dance; some to the kit or crowd;
Some to the bag-pipe, some the tab'ret mov'd;
And all did either love, or were beloved.

Lionel. The dextrous shepherd then would try his sling,
Then dart his hook at daisies, then would sing;
Sometimes would wrestle.

Clarion. Ay, and with a lass,
And give her a new garment on the grass,
After a course at barley-break or base.

Lionel. And all these things were seen without offence,
Or the least hazard of their innocence.

Robin. Those charitable times had no mistrust;
Shepherds knew how to love, and not to lust.

Here is the whole history of the loss of our rural pleasures. First came religious bigotry with its cant against vanity,—which would talk the colour out of the flowers and the rainbow down from the sky:—then came covetousness, which made enjoyment consist in scraping every thing towards itself;—and as both these vices destroy all real sympathy, the animal passion, of which they could not have got rid if they would, and which had been before exalted into taste and mutual kindness, became degraded into mere lust,—a word almost abhorrent to write.

We need not follow the declension of these pleasures through all its gradations. They never well recovered the dreary follies of the Puritans. At the Revolution they were almost confined to the lower orders, and very faintly shewed itself among them. The May-pole which POPE speaks of as existing in the Strand, was only a curiosity, and was taken down in his time to form a support for a large telescope in Wanstead Park,—a very allegorical incident. We think we remember something about milkmaids and their garlands in our boyish days; but even this lingering piece of professional rejoicing is gone; and instead of intellectual pleasures at courts, manly games among the gentry, the vernal appearance every where of bouquets and flowers, and the harmonious accompaniment of ladies' looks, all the idea that a Londoner now has of May-day, is the dreary gambols and tinsel-fluttering aqualidness of the poor chimney-sweepers! What a personification of the times;—paper-gilded dirt, slavery, and melancholy, hustling for another penny!

Something like celebrations of May-day still linger in more remote parts of the country, such as Cornwall, Devonshire, and Westmoreland; and it is observable, that most of the cleverest men of the time come from such quarters, or have otherwise chanced upon some kind of insulation from its more sophisticated common-places.—Should the subject come before the consideration of any persons in those quarters, who have not had occasion to look at it with reference to the general character of the age, they will do a great good, and perhaps help eventually to alter it, by fanning the little sparks that are left them of a brighter period. With regard to such of us as have a more difficult task elsewhere, we need not disturb ourselves with supposing we make little immediate impression, or even attempt to make any at all upon the elder part of the sophisticated. Our business is to do what we can, to remind the others of what they may do, to pay honours to the season ourselves, and to wait for that alteration in the times, which the necessity of things must produce, and which we must endeavour to influence as generally as possible in its approach.

We have the great pleasure of knowing that not a few of our readers were glad to be reminded of the Christmas enjoyments of their ancestors, and that many a room echoed in consequence with laughter over the Wassel-Bowl. This alone is a great good. We have a right also to suppose, that what we know was but a part of the old English festivity that we helped to increase. We now therefore call again upon these admirers of the good and beautiful to help us in "rescuing nature from obloquy." All you that are lovers of nature in books,—lovers of music, painting, and poetry,—lovers of sweet sounds, and odours, and colours, and all the eloquent and happy face of

the rural world with its eyes of sunshine,—you, that are lovers of your species, of youth, and health, and old age, of manly strength in the manly, of nymph-like grace in the female,—of air, of exercise, of happy currents in your veins,—of the light in great Nature's picture,—of all the gentle spiriting, the loveliness, the luxury, that now stands under the smile of Heaven, silent and solitary as your fellow-creatures have left it,—of the whole world of fields, trees, and brooks, and birds, as if our Paradise was close to us and none would enter it,—go forth on May-day, or on the earliest fine May-morning if that be not fine, and pluck your flowers and your green-boughs to adorn your rooms with, and to shew that you do not live in vain. These April rains (for May has not yet come, according to the Old Style, which is the proper one of our climate) these April rains are fetching forth the full luxury of the trees and hedges:—by the next sunshine, all "the green weather," as a little gladsome child called it, will have come again; the hedges will be so many thick verdant walls, the fields mossy carpets, the trees clothed to their finger-tips with foliage, the birds saturating the woods with song. Come forth, come forth; and if you should meet a money-getter or a bigot by the way, who calls upon you to turn, refer the one to the "time for all things," and "the lilies of the valley," and the other to the song of the lover, the king, and the wise man, whose glory these lilies surpassed:—

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
For to! the winter is past, the rain is over and gone,
The flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land:
The fig-tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—At the conclusion of your delightful papers at Christmas, on the revival of old English hospitality, you promised that at the return of May-day you would notice the manner in which our ancestors were wont to hail the opening of summer. I trust you have not forgotten the obligation you have laid yourself under to gratify many of your readers, who still preserve a lively taste for those genuine delights the God of Nature and of Harmony has so bountifully lavished upon us at this verdant season, but which none more truly appreciate than your former Correspondent. An attempt to re-kindle the expiring embers of ancient conviviality at the former season was a desirable task; but in this heartless and money-getting age, amid a race of smoke-loving and city-loving beings, it seems yet more desirable to revive a taste for the pure and unsophisticated pleasures with which the country, and the country only, abounds—

"Where Flora laughs at every vain regret,
"And sweetly whispers to our ear—forget."

So vitiated is the taste of this degenerate age, so absorbed are the finer feelings of the soul in the all-consuming passion of over-weening wealth, that pleasures connected with rural life appear to live only in the poet's fabled song, or with Arcadian ages. Yet a reference to the pages of our too-much neglected bards will prove, that our ancestors met not "the Mother of Flowers" with the ungrateful indifference of modern times. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER speak of Morris-dancers and May-games, of Masques and Revelries held, not in crowded drawing-rooms indeed, but "under the greenwood tree," beneath the azure vault of heaven. Then the landowner did no

dedain to mingle with the riller of the soil; but as he pledged him the "Wassail-bowl" at Christmas tide, so at the return of May he loved to greet the holiday merriment of his hardy peasantry with cordial sympathy. The best characters in the village were annually selected as the King and Queen of the May; and this simple but judicious distinction tended in no small degree to improve the morals and excite a laudable spirit of emulation among the lower classes. Madame de GENLIS' comedy of *La Bosière de Salency* has ever struck me as one of the most affecting pictures of moral beauty, and as worthy of imitation throughout the country. In some parts of our island May-day is still kept with rustic cheerfulness: the many-coloured garland is carried about in triumph. In parts of Ireland, the peasantry assemble, dressed in their best apparel, and carry in procession huge pyramids of flowers, sitting upon a mat of very ancient origin, which has been carefully preserved from father to son:—

"Tu m'as appris à te cultiver."

"We bring summer with us."

and thus welcome in the "coming year." Would to God that the votaries of the Hazard Table and the Slaves of the Loom could once more, with minds attuned to such peaceful delights, return to our deserted groves and fields! We might then hope to see cheerful industry take place of squalid want, and the ruddy hue of health visit the cheek, where now disease has fixed its pallid ensign.

Condemned by hopeless sickness myself never more to walk abroad and view the face of Nature, it seems incomprehensible that those who are blessed with a happier fate can renounce such sources of happiness, and better health and liberty for a paltry gold!—But as every day's experience proves to us that the simple pleasures of pastoral life are no longer appreciated, and that avarice is the ruling vice of the age, it behoves every true lover of his country to stave the baneful torrent of luxury by every means in his power; and a pen as eloquent as your's own ably serve her best interests, in placing the false glare of the present system of things in their true light.—I am, Sir, with cordial esteem, your constant reader.

AN ENGLISHWOMAN AND A LOVER OF NATURE.

South Lambeth, April 27, 1818.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, APRIL 30.—The Chamber of Peers was occupied, in the sitting of the 25th, with the consideration of a report delivered by the Vicomte de Montmorency, touching a petition from Lord Kinnaird, who appealed against the conduct of the King's Government, in arresting one Marinet, to whom Lord Kinnaird asserted that a promise of safe conduct to and from Paris had been held out, if he should make certain discoveries respecting the Duke of Wellington's proposed assassination. It seems pretty clearly stated, that no promise whatever was held out to Marinet, either by the Duke of Wellington, or by the French Ministers; that Marinet made no disclosures of any consequence, but was arrested on a strong suspicion of being himself implicated in the crime which he professed to denounce. The petition of the Noble Lord was, on these grounds, referred to the President of the Council of Ministers.

May 2.—On the 1st inst. the Chamber of Deputies adopted the project of the law creating 16,040,000 francs rentes, for the purpose of liquidating the foreign claims against France, and opening an eventual credit of 24,000,000 of rentes, to complete the payment of the sums due to the Allied Powers, conformably to the Treaty of the 20th of Nov. 1815. No Member expressed a desire to speak on the proposition, but the Chamber divided, when there ap-

peared for the law 162, against it 17. The profoundest silence, says the *Moniteur*, reigned throughout the Chamber.

GERMANY.

FRANKFORT, APRIL 22.—The following letters have been published, which throw some light on the negotiations that have been long pending between the Courts of Munich and Baden:—

LETTER FROM HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GRAND DUKE OF BADEN TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF BAVARIA.

"SIRE.—It is with great reluctance that I prevail on myself to address your Majesty upon a subject which must be as disagreeable to your personal feelings as it is to mine; but the urgency of the case renders it necessary at length to break a silence which, from motives of delicacy, I have perhaps observed too long. For these three years past I have been threatened with having a part of my dominions wrest from me; and while my country made the greatest exertions to enable me to maintain, in an effectual and honourable manner, the last struggle for the independence of Germany, my allies are endeavouring to tear from me my finest provinces, and are disposing, during my life, of my succession. In the various negotiations that have taken place, I think I have proved to the whole world the insufficiency of the reason alleged to excuse this violation of my most sacred rights, and public opinion has already decided in my favour, even before the full extent of the injustice was known of which it is intended to make me a victim. If it is gratifying to my heart to see how many persons, who have declared in the face of the whole world, that they took arms wholly to destroy the dominion of arbitrary power, to introduce into Europe a political system founded on the basis of morality, suffer themselves to be influenced by false representations that are made to them, that their debts are to be paid with provinces that belong to me, and the preservation of which has been purchased with the blood of my subjects, what a painful feeling must it excite in me, when I see my nearest relations at the head of those who seek to oppress me, and who, not contented with accepting that of which I am to be robbed, urge the execution of measures to which they ought never to have given their consent!—I am embarrassed in my mind when I endeavour to reconcile the continually renewed offensive steps of your Majesty's Cabinet with the expressions of attachment which you continue to bestow on me. In so serious an affair, I find it impossible to separate the Government from its head, so as to find in the latter my relation and friend, while the former shows itself my bitter enemy. I at length owe you my confession of faith. It is true that the affair should be decided one way or another, or I must declare to your Majesty, that as I believe myself to have more than fulfilled my engagements, as well by the exertions which my country has made for the common cause, as by the last conciliatory proposal which my Ambassador delivered at Frankfort, I am now irrevocably resolved not to consent to any thing further. I am not blind to the situation in which I am. Nothing surprises me; I am prepared for every thing; but I declare to you, Sire, that if there should be an intimation of tearing from me by force what never will be obtained voluntarily, I appeal, for my support, to public opinion, and your Majesty will hardly find a more powerful ally. To the King I have now said enough. The feelings of my heart call on me to add a word to my brother-in-law and friend. I therefore conjure you, Sir, by the ties of blood which unite us, to put an end to a negotiation which has too long attracted the anxious eyes of Europe; and which, by the establishment of the principle on which it is founded, may have as dangerous consequences for your Majesty as for me.—I am, &c.

at Carlsruhe, March 18, 1818.

"CHARLES."

ANSWER OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF BAVARIA.

"MY DEAR BROTHER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW.—I have read, with equal astonishment and regret, the letter of your Royal Highness; and I cannot sufficiently express to you what a painful impression it has made on me. You know the public and private negotiations which have taken place since 1813. Your Minister for Foreign Affairs was witness to the conventions concluded at Paris between the four powers who signed the treaty of 1815; he knows that I had no share in them. The memoirs which my Minister delivered on that occasion is inscribed among the public acts. We have all fought in the bravest manner. The German troops valiantly met their enemies in their exertions. The general interest has nevertheless demanded sacrifices; I have made such, as well as the greatest numbers of the confederation.

If the Ambassadors of your Royal Highness are well-informed, they will have informed you that the course which I have followed for these two years has been wholly conformable to the sentiments that unite us; and that, far from inducing measures against you, I have made it a rule to wait in silence the regulation of the interests on which depend the conclusion of the Acts which will fix the fate of Europe. I do not allow myself to make to your Royal Highness any remark on the resolution you take. It is for you, in your wisdom, to decide on what the well-understood interests of your house and your people require. But whatever events may ensue, they will never have any influence on the personal feelings which bind me to a relation who will be ever dear to me, and will never lessen the friendship and tender attachment which I cherish for your Royal Highness, and with which I am, &c.

"MAX. JOSEPH."

EAST INDIES.

A Bombay Gazette and letters to the 7th of last January, bring intelligence of an important nature from the seat of war in India. It appears that instead of the Pindarrees being the only foe with whom Lord Hastings has to contend, they seem to be almost the only one with whom, as yet, he has had no actual conflict. All the Mahrattas have broken their engagements. Two victories are stated to have been the result of two battles. The first of these actions, in point of time, took place between the division of the British army under the command of General Doveton, and the troops of the Rajah of Berar; which Chieftain was raised to the sovereignty by British interference, and to the exclusion of a candidate protected by Scindiah. In consequence of some hostile dispositions in that state, General Doveton moved upon Nagpoor, and reached it on the 12th December. The Resident then announced to the Rajah the conditions on which the Company would grant him peace. On the 16th, information was received that the Rajah had complied with our demands, and might be looked for immediately in the British camp. He came accordingly, surrendering his person and his guns, and sending an agent to his own officers to enforce his orders. But on the advance of the British army to have them carried into execution, the Mahrattas fired on our columns and attacked us with a formidable body of troops. Our infantry moved forward, charged the batteries with the bayonet, and instantly carried them. Their cavalry was attacked and completely routed. We got possession of the whole of their guns, 75 in number, with the loss of but 130 of our men. The second action was fought with the troops of Holkar, by the Madras army under Sir Thomas Hislop, and Sir John Malcolm. The last accounts left these Officers on the banks of the Nerbudda, on crossing which stream they found themselves in close contact with the dominions of Holkar, Scindiah, and the Pindarrees. Here, on the left bank of the Sapooria river, the Mahrattas opened a tremendous fire, silencing seven out of fourteen of the English field-pieces; but a battery of 40 pieces of cannon which covered his right wing, was stormed and carried, the enemy's gunners dying bravely at their guns. Our troops then moved to the enemy's left, where his batteries were stormed with the same gallantry and success. The Mahratta army then dispersed, and we encamped in their position. The loss sustained by Holkar in this engagement was calculated at 2,000 men, besides the whole of his artillery, consisting of 65 pieces of cannon. But the spirit and obstinacy with which the Mahrattas fought, were evinced by the number of killed and wounded on our side, which amounted to no less than 34 Officers, together with 700 rank and file. No farther particulars have yet been communicated, nor have we any ground for conjecturing how the above successes of our arms may influence the ulterior operations of the war. Scindiah was suspected of shuffling, in the teeth of his recent treaty, as he had not furnished the stipulated body of 5,000 horse; nor had his Killedars surrendered the stationary fortress of Aseerghur, when summoned by the orders of Lord Hastings. In the neighbourhood of Poonah the campaign seems to languish, General Smith having effected nothing beyond his first march in pursuit of the Peishwa, and the troops of the latter being dispersed by their encounter with Colonel Barr. Thus the war is alive throughout the centre of India.

A Supplement to the Gazette of Tuesday was published on Wednesday, containing Dispatches received at the India House, addressed to the Secret Committee by the Governor in Council of Bombay. They consist chiefly of Letters from General Hislop,

Doveton, and Smith, and Colonel Scott; but, on the whole, so far as these dispatches are published, they add nothing whatever to the sum of the above intelligence, and present the details of it with scarcely any variation. The account of the victory gained over Holkar is contained in a short and hurried letter, written by Sir Thomas Hislop, from the field of battle, on the 21st December. The action was fought on the bank of the Sapooria, opposite Maleidpore, considerably to the North of Indoor and Ougein, which capitals of the two leaders, Holkar and Scindia, the Madras army must have passed in its march towards the enemy. The result of the action is in a subsequent dispatch described, as before, to have been the capture of Holkar's camp, with the greater portion of his artillery, and the loss on his part of about 2,000 men. The British loss was not exaggerated, when it was stated at upwards of 30 officers and 700 men killed or wounded. The engagement between Colonel Scott and the troops of Berar was long, obstinate, and bloody. It lasted from the evening of the 26th of November to 12 o'clock on the following day; and although the enemy was repulsed, and six of his guns captured, it was not until Colonel Scott's small force, 14 officers and 349 non-commissioned and privates, were left among the killed and wounded. We are not enabled, by any passage of the Gazette, to explain distinctly the causes of hostility between Sir T. Hislop and Holkar, or between Col. Scott and the troops of the Rajah of Berar. Sir Thomas merely says, that his battle arose from failure of the negotiations with the Government of Holkar, and "from the repeated acts of aggression and insult which we had experienced since our advance from Ougein on the 14th inst." It is not specified or even hinted at what were those insults and aggressions. Again, we are told, that on the 25th of November Colonel Scott took a position which commanded Nagpoor, at the requisition of Mr. Jenkins, the Resident; but he does not inform us what were the provocations to this march. It is plain, however, that the Berar troops were neither beaten nor dispirited in the action with that officer, since, on the 14th December following, they encountered the army commanded by General Doveton, in a battle of much greater importance. The issue of this new contest was the complete defeat of the Rajah of Berar's numerous army, who, it would appear, opposed the British in defiance of the orders of their chief. The camp-equipage of the Mahrattas fell on this occasion into our hands, with 40 elephants, and 75 pieces of cannon. These actions complete the military history, to the extent to which it has been thought right to publish it, of our affairs in the centre of India.

UNITED PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, May 7.

ROYAL GRANTS.

On the 31 reading of the Duke of Cambridge's Annuity Bill, a conversation arose, in which Lord LATOUDATE noticed the proceedings respecting the Duke of Cumberland, which he thought altogether unfair and improper. He said, that if provision was to be granted on the event of a Royal Marriage, it should not be given from partiality and personal considerations, but upon public grounds. He did not understand why a stigma was to be cast on the Royal Duke; and as for his Royal Consort, she had submitted to the will of her husband, and there was now nothing to injure her feelings, except the observations which had appeared in the public papers, and these he could not help believing to be misrepresentations of what had passed in another place (the House of Commons). He did not suppose it possible that there could be any person so base as to malign an illustrious stranger in the way the representations to which he had alluded indicated. If there were any man possessing such a talent, he might perhaps have the satisfaction of knowing that he had given pain; but he would also see an example of the exercise of the most virtuous feelings in the quarter where he had thrown his unjust reflections.

Lord HOLLAND observed, that Ministers, though they had thought it right to recommend very large sums to members of the Royal Family, could endure the rejection of their proposition with the greatest tranquillity. They had pocketed the affront, and kept their places. At the same time, he agreed with his Noble Friend that it was quite improper to censure the character of those for whom such grants were proposed; but then his objection went to the whole of the system acted upon. He could not admit that Parliament were bound to grant a provision on the

marriage of a member of the Royal Family, as a matter of course; for though the Royal Marriage Act placed in the Crown the sole right of consent, it must be recollected that the Constitution had placed in the House of Commons the sole right of granting money. He had risen, however, not to oppose the sum proposed, but the imposing of any additional burden on the public. If their Lordships considered what had already been granted to the Crown, they would find that it enjoyed at least double what, at the commencement of this reign, it had a right to expect. He had come down unprepared with calculations, but he would prove what he then asserted, whenever the Noble Earl might please to enter at large into the question.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL did not mean to say that the House of Commons had not the right of acting as they had done; but, at the same time, he perfectly concurred with the Noble Earl in the general principles he laid down. Such distinctions made by Parliament must lead to decisions more or less capricious, and consequently unjust. He was ready to enter into a detailed view of the subject, whenever the Noble Baron might think proper to bring it forward; and he was convinced that, on a fair investigation, it would be found that the arrangement made at the commencement of the present reign had placed his Majesty in a less favourable situation with respect to revenue than any sovereign since the Revolution.

The Bill was then read a third time and passed, as was the Duchess of Cumberland's Annuity Bill, and the Loan Bill.—Adjourned.

Friday, May 8.

The Royal Assent was given by commission to the Duke of Cambridge's Annuity Bill, the Duchess of Cumberland's Annuity Bill, the Innkeeper's Rates Bill, the Loan Bill, the Cork Duties Bill, the Exeter, Bath, and Nottingham Gas-lights Bills, Lee's Divorce Bill, and a number of other private Bills, in all 81.

LORD ABERLAND presented a Petition from certain inhabitants of Leeds in favour of the Chimney-sweepers' Regulation Bill. His Lordship stated, that the Petitioners had formed themselves into a society for promoting the use of machinery in sweeping chimneys, and had found its application to that purpose perfectly efficient.

COTTON MANUFACTORIES.

The Earl of LANCERDALE presented a Petition from certain spinners in Manchester, and other towns in Lancashire, praying to be heard by Counsel, and to adduce evidence against the Cotton Manufacturers' Regulation Bill. The Noble Earl observed, that the Petitioners not only opposed the Bill generally, but in particular objected to limiting the hours of labour. He was not prepared to state what would be the particulars of the evidence, but this much he understood, that medical men of great reputation would prove that the children in the cotton-manufactories were as healthy as children generally are. The only rational course of proceeding was, to leave labour free, and then the time of labour would be properly regulated between the employers and the employed.

A conversation arose, in which LORD LIVERPOOL asked, was it possible to say that children compelled to labour more than 15 hours a day were not overworked? What evidence could negative that proposition? If all the medical staff of Manchester were brought to the Bar to prove it, he would not believe the evidence.

Here the conversation ended, with an understanding that counsel and evidence should be heard against the Bill before a Committee of the whole House.—Adjourned to Wednesday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, May 4.

OFFICERS OF THE NAVY.

Captain WALDEGRAVE presented a Petition from Lieutenant Frederick Bedford, of the Royal Navy, stating his services and the wounds he had received when a Midshipman, and praying for compensation, as his pension was inadequate to his support.

Mr. BAKER wished to know why the Noble Lord at the head of the Admiralty denied his high presence to the Officers of the Navy, while the Illustrious Personage at the head of the Army could be waited upon by the humblest Ensign in the service?

Mr. CROKER was not quite able to give a very distinct answer to the question; but he would observe that the First Lord of the Admiralty was a responsible Minister of the Crown, whereas the Commander-in-Chief held a substantive office. He was not aware that the regulations and rules had been altered. As to Bedford, the reason why he did not receive a pension after

promotion was, that his case occurred before the regulations which had been made some years ago.—The Petition was ordered to be printed.

Some conversation took place on the Land Tax Assessment Bill, the committal of which was opposed by Sir JAMES GRAHAM, LORD LOTTHER, and LORD CASTLEREAGH. The House divided, and there was a majority of 36 for the committal.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.—DR. BURNEY'S LIBRARY, &c.

Mr. BAKER moved that 13,500*l.* should be granted to his Majesty for the purchase of Dr. Burney's Library. He said, it was needless for him to enlarge on the policy of not permitting a collection to be dissipated which might require many centuries to accumulate.

Mr. CURWEN opposed the motion, as he could not consent to vote a single shilling for any purpose but one of absolute necessity.

Mr. LOCKHART doubted whether a case was made out for the interference of the State. If any thing was to be found in this collection not elsewhere to be obtained, he should be willing to pay money for its preservation; but as for the varieties of verbal criticism, it might well be left to the enthusiasm of virtuosos, while the interference of the State was confined to that which was really useful to mankind.

Sir J. MACINTOSH protested against the sentiments of the Hon. Member. In that classical education, to which so many superficial objections might be made, was comprised a course of indirect, but not less forcible moral and political instruction, which had the greatest effect in the formation of the character and the mind.—(Hear hear!)—The vote was agreed to without a division.

1,350,000*l.* was voted for Army Extraordinaries of Great Britain, and 60,000*l.* for ditto in Ireland.

Several other sums were voted, among which were—28,000*l.* for the African Forts—394,700*l.* for the Commissariat—90,000*l.* for the Barrack Department—75,000*l.* for the Gold Coinage in 1819—54,327*l.* for the Silver Coinage in 1816—and 60,000*l.* for printing Votes, Papers, Journals, &c. for the House of Commons.

On the vote of the above sum for the Gold Coinage being proposed,

Mr. J. P. GRANT observed, that it was surprising to hear a proposition of this kind at a time when the gold coin could not be kept in the country.

Mr. W. POLE stated, that the law of the land was, that the bullion brought to the Mint should be coined without charge to the owners. Bullion had been, within the last few months, sent in such quantities, that the amount in the year would probably be eight millions. It was therefore necessary to provide for its coinage. Though only two millions of sovereigns had been issued by the Bank, seven millions had been coined, the remainder of which he supposed were in their coffers.

Mr. FINLAY said, if there was no law against the exportation of coin, it would be sent abroad and brought back in that state, and the expence would be spared.

The House then resumed.

POLICE REWARDS.

Mr. BAKER moved the recommitment of the Offenders' Reward on Conviction Bill.

Sir C. BURNETT spoke against this Bill, conceiving the grant of rewards necessary to the detection of crimes and the apprehension of criminals.

Mr. BAKER observed, that this Bill provided that persons engaged in apprehending and bringing felons to justice should be duly rewarded; and, therefore, there was no ground for the objection of the Hon. Barsnet.

The House having resolved itself into the Committee, The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed as an amendment, that rewards should not be abolished altogether, as this Bill proposed, but that it should be left to the discretion of the Judges, to award the whole or any part thereof to the persons apprehending felons, to the witnesses against them, or to those concerned in their prosecution.

Sir S. ROMILLY deprecated the amendment, from a persuasion that its enactment would serve to continue the evil of which every one was heard to complain. That evil was, indeed, of an enormous magnitude. The system of rewards was indeed so operative in producing an eagerness for conviction, that he had himself known a case in which a father sought the conviction of his son, in order to obtain the reward. The eagerness which was now evinced to get the verdict of a Jury, would, after the adoption of this amendment, be employed to obtain the recommendation of a Judge, and it was idle to suppose that the evil

dence which contrived to impose upon the former, would have no effect upon the latter.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL contended that the clause proposed would answer the purpose of preventing such conspiracy in future, by investing the Judges with the discretionary power of granting or refusing rewards.

After some further observations, the amendment was agreed to.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, May 5.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT presented 53 Petitions from Leeds, (signed, as we understood, by 20 each,) praying the early attention of the House to the subject of Parliamentary Reform, stating the evils of an oligarchy, and that Annual Parliaments and Universal Suffrage were the only means of restoring the Constitution.—The Petitions were received. The first of them was read, and ordered to be printed.—Sir F. Burdett then presented 42 similar Petitions from Halifax.—Ordered to lie on the table.

PURITY OF PARLIAMENT!—BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.

Sir F. BURDETT addressed the House on the case of Thomas Ferguson, who had been committed to Newgate for a breach of privilege, he having written a letter to Mr. Dykes, offering him a bribe for his vote. Sir Francis said, that in committing Ferguson to prison it was impossible not to see that the grossest injustice had been done him, when they called to mind, that a Noble Lord opposite (Castlereagh) had been found guilty of much greater corruption, which the House had suffered to pass unpunished. It was the duty of the House to dispense equal justice to the poor and the rich. No doubt Ferguson had committed a heinous offence,—he had attempted to influence a vote; but the Noble Lord, when President of the Board of Control, had been concerned in an offence of the most aggravated nature, with which this of Ferguson could not at all compare; yet the House, on that occasion, declared, that as it was a matter proceeding and not completed, though they ought to be very jealous of the freedom of election, they did not think it necessary to direct any measures to be adopted against the Noble Lord! The Noble Lord was a wholesale dealer, in this species of traffic; he was for buying a seat; but Ferguson had only attempted to influence a vote. In his case, there was no scandalous abuse of patronage, which was not intrusted to men in office to be converted to any such purposes. The attempt of Ferguson was so inferior, that he should be glad to know, in the name of justice and common sense, why the House had thought proper to send this man to gaol, while the Noble Lord was sitting there without having received any censure whatever? The House would remember, that during the administration of Mr. Perceval and the Noble Lord, a gentleman was introduced into that House under the most corrupt and aggravated circumstances. Mr. Henry Wellesley was the agent who received the money for the seat. Now, so far as any infamy attached to parliamentary corruption, a more corrupt case could not be imagined. When the gentleman (Mr. Dick) entered the House, he was disposed to exercise the dictates of his own conscience, and he preferred giving up his seat to voting contrary to his conscience. To interfere with the right of voting would have been deemed a heinous offence in any individual; but it was ten thousand times worse in a Minister of the Crown. But how did the House act on that occasion? The corruption was justified as being a practice "as notorious as the sun at noon-day;" it was said to be "as common as the streets of the metropolis;" and, therefore, there was no particular reason for condemning the Noble Lord. Now, when it was perfectly well known, that in this way that House was constituted; when it had been shown, in the excellent Petition drawn up by the Friends of the People, and presented in 1793, that Members were returned contrary to law, and to every principle of honesty and justice; when it had been offered to be proved at their Bar, that so many Peers nominated so many Members; it was unjust to imprison a person like Ferguson, under the pretence of preserving their mock purity and independence, while others had thrown over them the broad shield of impunity. When this bright robe of purity was taken off, there was nothing but "dowls, filthy dowls" beneath—(A laugh.)—Could men look at transactions of this nature, without feeling indignation? He remembered one of Aesop's fables, in which the beasts of the forest are represented as being visited by a plague. A council is summoned to ascertain the cause of this visitation. The lion acknowledges that he has committed some acts of oppression, but that, all this being very consonant to his royal nature, he could not have produced this dreadful calamity. Several others deliver their sentiments, each in his turn acquitting himself. At

last the ass enters on his defence. He states that his life had been one more of suffering than of oppression; but that one day, impelled by hunger, he had stolen a cabbage. Upon this all the beasts set up a shout, and declared, that undoubtedly this conduct of the ass had brought down the vengeance of the gods.—(Loud laughter.)—For his part, he could not understand how Ferguson, who had followed the example of the Noble Lord, but followed him "adul passibus regis," should be punished, while the Noble Lord himself had been so fully protected. He should not then detain the House any longer, and therefore he should conclude by moving, "That Thomas Ferguson be discharged forthwith."

Lord CASTLEREAGH was surprised that the Hon. Baronet had addressed so much of his speech to him. He knew nothing of the case of Ferguson; but it was impossible not to know the object with which the Hon. Baronet had brought forward his motion. It was not out of feeling to Ferguson, but in support of that common cause towards which he had directed all his efforts. Whenever any meeting took place in the metropolis, at which the Hon. Baronet thought that he had lost some part of his popularity, he immediately came down to the House, and started some question in the hope that he should regain it. (Hear, hear!) This was the only object of the present motion; and having stated this, he must leave the discussion of Ferguson's case to those Members of the House who were better acquainted with it.

Mr. C. WENN did not understand how any one could argue that, because the House of Commons omitted to do its duty nine years ago, it was not to discharge it now. To agree with the Hon. Baronet, would be equivalent to a declaration that bribery against the privileges of Parliament had no punishment. It would go to render nugatory every thing that had been done by our ancestors on the subject, down to the time alluded to.

Colonel WOOD made some remarks respecting the Middlesex elections in which the Hon. Baronet had been concerned, where persons had voted for him who had no votes, and perjuries had been committed.

Mr. BRAND, though he agreed with the Hon. Baronet in many of his arguments, found it impossible to vote with him on his present motion. If the motion should be agreed to, all distinctions on matters like that of Ferguson were at an end; and they would be bound to pass over all infringement of privilege for the time to come. How those who had voted on the former motion could vote in an opposite manner in that case, he could not conjecture. It was for them to determine.

Sir F. BURDETT, in reply, noticed Col. Wood's observations respecting the Middlesex election, which he had ample reason, he said, to remember. He admired the consistency of the Noble Lord and his colleague in punishing the present case. It would be futile to suffer his motion to go to a division; for one set of men would have to vote against him from consistency; and the other, in despite of the inconsistency, would vote against him; so that, between consistency and inconsistency, he should not press the motion to the vote.—The motion was then negatived without a division.

ALIEN BILL.

Lord CASTLEREAGH observed, that he should never forego, as a principle, that the governing power should have the means of taking suspicious foreigners, and he could never think that hospitality was to be carried so far that danger might result from it, nor could he consider that, when in the country, foreigners ought to be amenable only to its ordinary laws. He could give the House information upon that subject that would show them the importance of the Alien Act. When a number of ill-designing persons had found that they could not in France bring their projects to issue, they had gone to the Netherlands, where making the press their vehicle, they gained such influence, and were so confident, that they were so bold as to open to a great power a proposition to the effect that they might have the protection of that state to their conspiracy, which was for the purpose of overturning the existing Government, and renewing the Government that the country had possessed. The House, he was sure, would feel under all considerations the necessity of the measure. It was known that the conspiracy against the life of an illustrious personage (the Duke of Wellington) was carried on by persons in France and in the Netherlands, in connexion. It was a conspiracy, without doubt, directed against his life, he being the man whose life was most valuable, with a view to the conservation of the order that had been established. He thought it was a duty to arm the executive government with power to redress and break up such combinations. These were the grounds on which he thought it necessary to propose to the House the continuance

of the Act, and he trusted such a case would be found to be made out, that the House would not object to it.

Lord ATRON and Mr. LAWSON protested against the principle of this bill.

Sir S. ROXLEY contended that such a Bill was contrary to the principles of the English Constitution, to the policy of our ancestors, and to the feelings of the people. The Bill had been a part of the Continental System, and this country had become ministerial to the despots of Europe.—(Hear, hear!)—England had always been the sanctuary of liberty, for the outraged victims of foreign oppression, her hallowed soil, once touched by the persecuted refugees, was absolute safety from further persecution. He should be unworthy of the protection he and his ancestors had received against persecutions, such as were at the present moment suffered in Spain, if he did not struggle to extend the same benefits to others.—The former Alien Bills, he said, had, till 1816, been brought into the House by the Secretary for the Home Department, the official guardian of internal tranquillity, not by the Representative of the Despots of Europe. (Hear!) It had been, then, for the first time, introduced by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and for the preservation of peace in other countries. The Noble Lord had talked of it as a mitigated measure. In what respect was it mitigated? It was not limited to those who had not come into the country previously to the passing of the Bill; not to those who lately came in, but it extended to those who were long established here; and by the returns before the House there appeared to be not less than 20,000 persons who had fixed upon this country as their choice: and those persons were now to be banished from the country at any moment when the Minister chose; nay, what was infinitely worse, when any individual, from private motives, chose to complain of them. The Bill was utterly unnecessary, was derogatory to the character of the nation, as subservient to the evil designs of other countries; and he could not suffer it to pass through this first stage without resisting it as much as was in his power.

The House then divided upon the question, that leave be given to bring in the Bill.—Ayes, 55—Noes, 18—Majority in favour of the Bill, 37.—The Bill was read a first time.

BANK RESTRICTION BILL.

Mr. TIERNEY inquired if the preamble was altered?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied, that it was, and read it to the effect, "that notwithstanding the perfect preparation of the Bank to resume cash-payments, unforeseen circumstances had made it necessary to continue the restrictions."

Mr. TIERNEY hoped the Bill, with its new preamble, would be printed and circulated as widely as possible, and therefore he should say no more of it now.

The Bill was ordered to be printed.

SCOTCH BURGHES.

Sir SAMUEL ROXLEY said, he held a Petition in his hand respecting the state of the Scotch Burghs, signed by 120 persons, some of whom represented corporate bodies in Hamilton, Prebles, Cupar, and other Burghs. The Petition set forth the great grievance arising from the complete thralldom of most Burghs to some neighbouring Nobleman, and from the power of Councils to contract debts, for which the individual Burghers were answerable. The Petition therefore prayed, that Parliament would restore to them their ancient right of electing their own Magistrates. The Learned Member observed, that this had recently been done with the happiest success in the Borough of Monrosc.—The Petition was read. It complained that for the last 50 years the whole influence of the Corporation had been in the family of the Earl of Eglintown.—It was ordered to be printed.

Mr. FINLAY said, the system which it described prevailed, though not to the same extent, in most of the Scotch Burghs. It must undoubtedly be considered a great hardship, that the Petitioners should not have the election of Magistrates for whom measures they were answerable.

Sir S. ROXLEY then presented two other Petitions from the Corporation of Bonnet-makers and Dyers, and from that of Wrights and Masons, in Edinburgh, alleging similar abuses, and praying that the present Bill may not pass into a law, being calculated to increase the evil. These were likewise ordered to lie on the table, and to be printed.—Adj.

Wednesday, May 6.

NEW CHURCHES.

The New Churches Bill was recommitted, and several verbal amendments introduced.

Dr. PRATT proposed a clause for the prevention of the opening any grave, cemetery, or church-yard for the interment of

dead bodies, within twenty-feet of the site of every new church respectively, unless such grave, &c. be enclosed by an arched stone or brick vault, under the penalty of 50*l.*—Adopted.

GAME PURCHASE BILL.

Mr. BANKES moved the second reading of this Bill.

Mr. CURWEN opposed this measure, because it was not only severe, but would be nugatory. It would impose hardships on others, but would not reach the persons whom it was intended to affect. Game ought to belong to the occupier of land, and a protection of it purchased by the landlord from the tenant if he wished to preserve it. The Bill would have a tendency to make servants spies on their masters, by giving them inducements to inform against them, in the case of purchasing game.

Mr. BRAND said the Game Laws were opposed to nature, justice, morality, and social intercourse. Their severity ought to be diminished instead of being increased. The system demoralized the lower orders; for persons who were rich would buy game at any events. It was also objectionable on the principle of universal justice; it was but fair that he who maintained the game should have the enjoyment of it, and the occupier maintained the game as much as his own stock. The oppressive severity with which the present laws were enforced, was attested by the fact of 1,200 persons having been imprisoned for offences relating to the game last year.—(Hear, hear, hear.)—and their resistance had caused the death of many others. Besides all this, the poacher's habits led to other vices, and the laws that attempted to repress them were in every respect promotive of the evil.

Mr. LOCKHART, though he despaired of seeing any radical change in the Game Laws, thought the present Bill unnecessary.

Sir C. BURNELL defended the Bill. The Game Laws occasioned no injustice where the landlord retained in his lease the right of sporting. He thought the Bill would not have the effect of shifting the punishment from persons the most guilty. As to the 1,200 persons committed, there had been an increase of crimes in every way; and this was but a small proportion of the whole.

The Bill was ordered to be read a 2d time on Monday se'nnight.—Adjourned.

Thursday, May 7.

FORGED BANK-NOTES.

Mr. CANNING presented a Petition from Liverpool, complaining of the grievances occasioned by the number of forged Bank of England notes, and praying for consideration of the subject.

Gen. GASCOYNE remarked, that the Bank ought to make some exertions to prevent forgeries.

Mr. MANNING said, that if any important suggestion could be given, it would be met with an anxious desire on the part of the Bank to remedy any evils.

Mr. CANNING said, he meant to impute no blame to the Bank; but the evil must be admitted to be great in a large town like Liverpool.—The Petition was received, and ordered to be printed.

DOCTRINES OF THE ROMISH CHURCH.

General THORNTON moved for leave to bring in a Bill to repeal parts of Acts of the 25th and 30th of Charles II., requiring the declarations denying transubstantiation, and stating the worship of the church of Rome to be idolatrous. Now that the established religion was quite secure, this declaration was no longer wanted.

Mr. W. SMITH seconded the motion.

Lord CASTLEREAGH said he had no doubts of the good intentions of the gallant General; but the motion only tended to bring on an embarrassing question, without the probability of effecting any practical good whatever.—He should therefore move the previous question.

The previous question was carried.

CROWN LANDS.

Mr. HOSKISSON moved for leave to bring in a Bill for the improvement of parts of Hainault Forest, in Essex, with a view to encourage the growth of naval timber.

Mr. BROUGHAM observed, that when he looked into the reports of the Commissioners, he perceived a great diversity in the terms imposed on different purchasers. Some persons had paid 25 or 30 years' purchase; but others had paid only at 10 years' purchase. In the latter way, a Cabinet Minister had got lands for 9000*l.* odd, which were shown in another part of the reports to be estimated at 500*l.* a-year value. The best way for the public interests would be to offer open bidding by auction. Lord Londale had obtained three-fourths of the lordship and barony of Kendal in Westmorland for 14,000*l.*, being 30 years' purchase; but he had paid nothing for honours, forestal rights, &c. In that instance, too, there was no sale by open competition.

Mr. HURDISON observed, that he was favourable to the mode of public auction generally, where it was convenient. But with regard to the particular transactions to which he had referred, if the Hon. Gentleman, instead of throwing out loose allegations, would bring forward particular statements, there would appear very satisfactory reasons for the course which the Treasury had adopted.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM informed the House, that Lord Lonsdale himself had not set on foot the contract for the purchase; it was proposed to him by the Crown. The Commissioners, so far from showing any favour to him, had valued the property at a sum which no other man would have given. Lord Lonsdale had given one-third more than the value of the estate.

Leave was then given to bring in the Bill.

ALIENS.

Mr. LAMSTON understood that the Noble Lord had stated the necessity of co-operating with foreign Governments, for the purpose of protecting the State against the conspiracies of individuals. Such a declaration could not fail to astonish him, when he recollected that the Alien Bill was not introduced with a view to Foreign Powers, but for the protection of British interests. He wished, however, to have more information before the Bill was again discussed; and, therefore, he thought it his duty to move, first, for copies or extracts of all correspondence which had taken place since Nov. 1815, between Ministers and Foreign Governments, relating to aliens; secondly, for copies or extracts of all correspondence relating to passports granted or refused to persons going to or returning from the Netherlands, not being British subjects.

Lord CASTLEREAGH objected to the information called for. This Government had never used the powers of the Bill for any other than British interests; and he would now repeat, that it would not be wise to allow persons to come here and abuse our hospitality, by disturbing the general peace.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT observed, that it was impossible not to see on what slight grounds the powers given to Government by this Bill might be exercised. In his opinion, it was a measure most disgraceful to those who had proposed it; it was most unconstitutional; it was hostile to the spirit of liberty, and contrary to the policy of all former times.

Mr. ASHERBROOK did not think that the Noble Lord had shown sufficient grounds for refusing the motion, and therefore he should give it his support.

Mr. BENNETT thought it a very bad symptom, that when a charge was made in the House, Gentlemen refused Papers that would exculpate them if it were unfounded.

Mr. LAMSTON wished to ask the Noble Lord whether he had not joined the rest of the Allied Powers in demanding certain Frenchmen who had taken refuge in Switzerland, the Netherlands, or on the banks of the Rhine? It was impossible for him not to require information which could alone show the real extent of such interference. (*No answer*).

The House then divided, when there were,—For the Motion, 30—Against it, 68—Majority, 38.

FRAUDS RELATIVE TO CLOCKS AND WATCHES.

Mr. P. MOORE moved for leave to bring in a Bill for the more effectual prevention of frauds in the manufacture, importation, and exportation of sundry wares, and for the relief of distressed persons employed in the manufacture of clocks and watches.—The motion was agreed to.

PARISH VESTRIES' BILL.

Mr. S. BOURNE moved that this Bill be read a third time.

Mr. CALCRAFT protested against the curtailment of the rights of what were called the lower orders, which this Bill proposed to effect. On the same principle on which parish vestries, as now constituted, were objected to, objections might be made against all poor assemblies whatsoever.

Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE had also great doubts as to the propriety of the measure, and should be very glad to hear any grounds pointed out for this innovation.

Mr. S. BOURNE said, that the object in view was to follow the analogy of kirk-sessions in Scotland, so far as the very different system of poor-laws in England would admit. In Scotland, the wealthier classes had the greater influence in managing the provision for the poor. By this Bill it was proposed to bring back the wealthier classes to attend parish vestries. Their absence was occasioned by the numbers and the clamour of others who attended, of whom some were connected with paupers, and some were employed in trades which made it their interest to be liberal to certain paupers. In 1807, Mr. Whitbread had introduced a measure, the same in principle, and similar in its modifications

to the present. The same principle which was proposed in this Bill had been adopted in other assemblies. It was so with the proprietors of East India Stock. But he now thought it better, that the right of all who pay rates to vote should be retained; but those who paid a certain proportion should have a greater number of votes.

Mr. CURWEN was against the Bill: it would create a prejudice against vestries. He had never known one instance where the higher classes were present, and were not able to exercise great influence to keep order.

Mr. F. DOUGLAS professed himself friendly to the Bill, because it was calculated to encourage the attendance of persons of character at vestries. The Bill proposed that every one who paid 50*l.* should have two votes; 75*l.* three votes; 100*l.* four votes; 125*l.* five votes; and 150*l.* six votes, which was the utmost number allowed. Now he had to object to this arrangement, that, according to it, parishes might be divided into separate classes, and 7 or 8 persons, who represented neither the population nor the property of the parish, might have the whole control. (*Hear, hear!*)—He should therefore prefer, that every one who paid to the amount of 25*l.* should get an additional vote; 50*l.* a third vote; 100*l.* a fourth vote; and so on.

The Bill was then read a third time.

Mr. S. BOURNE moved a clause to exempt the City of London from the operation of the Bill, and Mr. BARCLAY moved a similar clause for Southwark; which were both adopted.

The Bill was then passed.

POOR LAWS' AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill was read a third time.

Mr. F. DOUGLAS made a variety of objections to the clause for enabling the parish to place the children of paupers in a house of industry. He considered the separation of parent and child as a greater evil than any which it was intended to remedy.

Mr. STURGES BOURNE made a few observations in defence of the clause. In the present state of the poor, he could not imagine any thing more humane than the regulation provided by it.

Mr. CURWEN must object to every regulation which did not go to the principle of making the labourer's wages equal to his maintenance. Every measure that stopped short of that object would only serve to confirm the existing evils.

Mr. CALCRAFT thought the Bill might be generally beneficial, but the clause in question highly mischievous.

Mr. W. SMITH supported the clause: it had only the common failing of all human institutions—a balance of good and evil: he thought the good prevailed. We could not recede from the system of poor laws all at once; all that we could do, was to mitigate their ill effects.

The House then divided on the clause, when the numbers were—For the clause, 46—Against it, 14—Majority, 32.

The Bill was then passed, and ordered to the Lords.

NEW CHURCHES.

The new Churches Bill was read a third time, and, after the insertion of a variety of verbal amendments, it was passed.—Adjourned.

Friday, May 8.

BANKRUPT LAWS.

Mr. J. SMITH brought up the Report of the Committee on the Bankrupt Laws. Various difficulties had appeared as the inquiry proceeded—difficulties which, he was sorry to say, some Gentlemen of the Committee thought irremovable. He wished to bring in a Bill on the subject; but he did not state any particular day. The Committee had had before them the evidence of Commissioners of Bankrupts who had had the experience of 20 years, and who knew the existing abuses which were so frequently complained of. The question was felt to be of considerable importance in the commercial world.—The Report was ordered to lie on the table, and to be printed.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. BROUGHAM rose to move the Order of the Day on the motion respecting Thomas Ferguson, for a breach of the privileges of the House.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER observed, that he believed many Members had not yet had time to read over the evidence carefully; and that the question concerned the personal liberty of an individual.

Lord ARCHIBALD HAMILTON said he had a Petition which, if the motion of the Hon. Member were carried that night, he should present for the release of Mr. Ferguson.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER observed, that the situation and prospect in life of the individual must be taken into con-

sideration, though at the same time the House must consult its own independence and dignity!

No motion was made.

EDUCATION.

Mr. BROUGHTON called for the attention of the House, in conformity with the wishes of the Committee on charitable institutions for education. The result of evidence and enquiry was, that there were much greater means provided for the education of the lower classes, by the various modes of charity, than had been generally believed. Yet, under all the circumstances, they were at present quite inadequate to the desired objects.—Mr. B. then gave a variety of highly interesting statements on this important subject, which our limits will not allow us to detail—(they may be seen, however, in the *Morning Chronicle*)—and concluded a very able speech by moving that the House should go into a Committee on the Bill for the Education of the Poor.

A conversation arose, after which the House went into the Committee.

Mr. ROBINSON proposed an amendment to the clause, excepting from the operation of the Bill, the schools of Eton, Westminster, Winchester, and the Charter-house, for the purpose of adding that of Harrow.

The Committee then divided.—For the amendment, 30—Against it, 53—Majority, 23.—Harrow school will therefore remain open to the investigation of the Commissioners.

The report of the Bill was then brought up, ordered to be printed, and to be taken into further consideration on Friday.

The other orders of the day were then entered upon, after which the House adjourned till Wednesday.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

- A. Spear, Basinghall-street, merchant. Attornies, Messrs. Blunt and Bowman, Broad-street-buildings.
- I. Spence, Hackney, merchant. Attorney, Mr. Mitchell, Union-court, Broad-street.
- J. Briggs, Sculcoates, Yorkshire, grocer. Attorney, Mr. Shaw, Ely-place, Holborn.
- F. Rolland, St. James'-street, Piccadilly, perfumer. Attorney, Mr. Walls, Russell-square.
- W. Nash, Bristol, drysalter. Attornies, Messrs. Bourdillon and Hewett, Bread-street, Cheapside.
- C. Tomlinson, Hawarden, Flintshire, apothecary. Attornies, Messrs. Milne and Parry, Temple.
- J. Wilkin, Preston, Lancashire, draper. Attorney, Mr. Norris, John-street, Bedford-row.
- C. Brinsley, Ashborne, Derbyshire, butcher. Attornies, Messrs. Alexander and Holme, New-inn.
- J. Thompson, Mappleton, Derbyshire, farmer. Attornies, Messrs. Alexander and Holme, New-inn.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

- J. and J. Jones, Leominster, Herefordshire, linen-draper.
- J. Porter, Wrington, Somersetshire, nurseryman.
- S. E. Townley, Pope's-head-alley, Lombard-street, victualler.

BANKRUPTS.

- J. P. Alpe, W. Cooper, and T. H. Birch, Fenchurch-street, merchants. Attornies, Messrs. Young and Hughes, Poultry.
- W. Woodward, Cannon-street, carpenter. Attorney, Mr. Godmond, Earl-street, Blackfriars.
- W. Hooper, Tenbury, Worcestershire, maltster. Attorney, Mr. Robinson, Tenbury.
- J. Wetherell, Rochester, hatter. Attorney, Mr. Phipps, Basinghall-street.
- M. Hazlehurst, Liverpool, block and pump-maker. Attorney, Mr. Chester, Staple-inn.
- W. Stubbs, Manchester, coal-dealer. Attornies, Messrs. Duckworth, Chippindall, and Denison, Manchester.
- J. Carnaby, Morpeth, Northumberland, brewer. Attornies, Messrs. Meggison and Poole, Hatton-garden.
- J. Sadd, Graystoke-place, Fetter-lane, builder. Attorney, Mr. Warrand, Church-row, Fenchurch-street.
- J. J. Tilly, Hampstead, music-seller. Attorney, Mr. Hartley, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars.
- G. Milne, Broad-street, City, merchant. Attornies, Messrs. Smith and Lawford, Drapers-hall.
- T. Ingleby, Birmingham, common-carrier. Attorney, Mr. Walker, Exchange-Office, Lincoln's-inn.

W. Barton, Doncaster, maltster. Attorney, Mr. Charles Lever, Gray's-inn-square.

A. Dorn, Vauxhall, victualler. Attorney, Mr. Wm. Nettlefold, Norfolk-street.

W. Batty, Kirkby-Stephen, Westmoreland, tobacconist. Attorney, Mr. Chester, Staple-inn.

B. M. Taylor, Woolmer-street, Poplar, builder. Attorney, Mr. Walker, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

E. Walder, Battle, Sussex, tailor. Attornies, Messrs. Gregson and Fonnereau, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street.

R. C. Ball, Bristol, basket-maker. Attorney, Mr. W. R. King, Serjeant's-Inn.

W. Buddle, Drury-lane, carpenter. Attorney, Mr. Coomba, Clifford's-inn.

J. Kingsell, Blackwall, painter. Attorney, Mr. Goodchild, Commercial-chambers, Minories.

J. Boote, Stratford-upon-Avon, corn-dealer. Attornies, Messrs. Adlington, and Gregory, Bedford-row.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

3 per Cent. Red. 70½ | 3 per Cent. Cons. 80½.

Mr. HAYDON on the Cartoon of *Christ's Charge to Peter*, in our next.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, MAY 19.

The Liquidation Project for paying the foreign armies to walk off has passed the two French Chambers in total silence. A very small minority of black balls thrown into the urn in opposition have been supposed by a correspondent of the *Courier* to shew the exact amount of the number of Jacobins, who wish to throw their country into anarchy again. It is certainly difficult to say what measures are most likely to make the Bourbons vacate a second time:—if the armies continue, the *Courier's* correspondent seems to think, that *that* would do it; and it is our firm opinion, that if the armies do *not* continue, *that* will do it. If by Jacobins therefore he means enemies to foreign dictation and the BOURBON "legitimacy," we are afraid the old "Jacobins," that is to say, the Ministers, who are old Bonapartists, are still the Jacobins on this occasion, as well as the Independents; and that the black-ballers are the bigotted Ultras, who, as they well may, think the continuance of the foreign armies the better chance for royalty of the two.

The following curious paragraph upon the long demanded and long delayed representative systems which were promised to the Prussian and other German states, is taken from the same paper:—"The KING of PRUSSIA has returned an *angry* answer to the town of Coblenz, and the communes belonging to that district, which had petitioned his MAJESTY, for the *immediate organization of a representative system*. The KING reminds them, that *the promise he made was VOLUNTARY*, and that *the mode and time of its performance should be equally so*. By urgently soliciting its fulfilment, he *considers they have cast an imputation upon his sincerity*; and he unequivocally expresses *his great displeasure at the proceeding*. There is, doubtless, no danger more imminent, or which ought to be more firmly resisted, than that which attends the zeal of innovation. When important changes are to be effected in the public administration of a kingdom, the *more slowly* and cautiously they are produced, the more permanent and beneficial they are likely to prove."

The "*more slowly!*" Ay, till Doomsday, no doubt.—Now we have to observe in reply to this barefaced yet

conscious piece of business, that the promise made by the King of Prussia was not voluntary. He made it, as the other allies made their promises, first in an hour of danger, when they would have been all upturned from their thrones, like so many vegetables, if the people had not come forward in their behalf; and second, in an imaginary moment of gratitude, when they had just got out of the danger, and talked of good things for their deliverers out of pure babbling joy. The memory of those who are denied their rights, is not so at the mercy of a prince's frown, especially of one who could whine and whimper as much about his personal wrongs, as he now pretends to look grand in answer to the claims of others. "By urgently soliciting its fulfilment, he considers they they have cast an imputation on his sincerity!" And what then? Have no persons in the world any wish for their rights, or a right to ask for them, but a King? And is a King the only person whose sincerity is not to be doubted, if he delays year after year his own promises? If the people tell him at last that they doubt his sincerity, it is only what he might have learnt from the journals, and probably did learn, months and months ago; and it is mere burlesque now, whatever it might have been formerly, in a King, under all these circumstances, to pretend to look lofty and indignant. He must keep his promises, or run the risk of another revolution of things, which will certainly not put faith in him again; and his anger in the mean time at being reminded of them, is only an additional lesson to those whom he has the honour of ruling over, to watch how he conducts himself. If he behaves with proper deference to the demands and intellect of the time, he is a king indeed, and worthy of remaining among the heads of it; if not, the head on his walking stick might as well give itself airs.

The news from India continues to be of the same curious and suspicious description,—victories on our own part, and yet unusual sufferings, chiefs taking every opportunity to make themselves amends for their partial defeats, the fate of detachments unknown, the natives harassing us without coming to blows as the Spaniards did the French, and finally, pestilence breaking out in our camps. These are lamentable victorious accounts to reckon upon in a burning territory, where we are hated still worse than the chiefs themselves, and under a leader, who whatever may be his qualities in some respects, seems to go to war more in the spirit of a theatrical soldier than a real one.

Mr. BROUGHAM, with the true spirit becoming a legislator and a man, has called the attention of the House, or we should rather say of the public, to the state of public instruction. We regret that the necessary limits of a weekly paper prevent our doing justice to his speech; but we shall make it the subject of our first article next week.

American Papers arrived yesterday. It appears from them that the dispute between the United States and Spain is not at all likely to be amicably arranged. A war, there is little doubt, will soon break out, and then, woe to the Dons!

It is stated in a Charleston Journal, that Lord COCHRANE has been appointed by the Independent States of South America, Commander of their squadron in the Pacific Ocean; that he has written letters accepting the appointment, and is expected shortly to assume the command.

When the last ships left St. Helena, BONAPARTE took no exercise, and refused to see any visitors. In consequence of a misunderstanding between Count MONTHOLON and General GOURGAUD, at St. Helena, the latter has returned to Europe. He came passenger in the Camden East Indiaman. It is stated that BONAPARTE peremptorily forbade the decision of the quarrel by duel. Mr. BALCOLM, at whose house BONAPARTE resided when he first landed, has also returned to England with his family. Reports were on Wednesday circulated that a secret correspondence had been detected at St. Helena. The rumours are without the slightest foundation.—*Courier*.

There are various reports in circulation respecting a fracas at St. Helena. Mr. BALCOLM and his family, with whom BONAPARTE was so intimate on his first landing, is certainly arrived in England; and it is generally rumoured that he was not allowed to spend much time in packing up. It is also asserted that a duel was actually fought between Generals MONTHOLON and GOURGAUD.—*Times*.

NATIONAL DEBT.—From the year 1786, when the Sinking Fund was put in operation, the sum-total of the debt, in spite of that system of liquidation, has increased above threefold, being somewhat more than 288,000,000*l.* at the first epoch, and upwards of 748,000,000*l.* at present!

The use of fetters on prisoners, before trial, exists no longer in the City Prisons. This change first took place in Clerkenwell New Prison, where Mr. BEEBY is Governor; and it was instantly followed by Mr. BROWN, Keeper of Newgate.

THE LAWYERS.—A Correspondent writes, "Adverting to your well-timed quotation from Mr. BENTHAM, respecting the snares of lawyers, I cannot refrain from inviting your attention to the following important question; most especially as a meeting was called some time back by Mr. ACHESON the Solicitor, to prevent improper persons from acting as Conveyancers.—The question is simply this:—Should an Attorney be permitted to act as a Trustee or Executor? It is well known, that an Attorney, who possesses these powers, can get the funds into his hands, and then create innumerable obstacles to prevent their honest appropriation; taking especial care to pay himself first. It is his interest to excite litigation; and this fact alone ought to call upon Parliament to prevent an Attorney or Money Scrivener from being a Trustee or Executor."

At the last examination which took place at Madras, of the Candidates for the Prizes given for attaining the Oriental Languages, the two rewards, amounting to one thousand pagodas, were adjudged to Lieut. HENRY WM. HODGES, of the 2d battalion of the 17th regiment of Native Infantry, on the Madras Establishment, son of the late WILLIAM HODGES, Esq. R. A., for his attainment of the Hindostany and Persian Languages, accompanied by very flattering expressions of approbation of his proficiency. These Prizes are now abolished by the Court of Directors, notwithstanding the repeated assurances of the Government of their obvious utility to our Eastern interests. The period fixed for their abolition was the 1st June, 1817, but was extended in favour of the above officer and others, who on account of their civil and military engagements could not reach the Presidency before that time.

COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

We can now state from authentic information, that the marriage of the Duke of CLARENCE with the Princess Royal of MEININGEN is finally arranged. The consent of his Royal Highness in Council, and of her Serene Highness, has undergone no change by the proceeding in the House of Commons. The Princess is to have the ceremony of a marriage by proxy before she embarks for England. The British Minister at Stuttgart is to be his Royal Highness's proxy.—*Chronicle*.

Extract of a letter from Berlin, dated April 25.—"The

wedding of the Princess FREDERICK, daughter of her Royal Highness the Duchess of CUMBERLAND, took place on the 17th instant, and was celebrated with great splendour. The bridegroom, the reigning Duke of Anhalt Dessau, is a young man of great promise, aged 24."

It is probable that an amusing scene will take place at the ROYAL next Levee, Dr. WATSON having ordered a Court dress, for the purpose of presenting the Spafford's Petition, according to the instructions given to him at the late meeting.

LADY F. V. TEMPEST.

MR. EXAMINER.—How exactly does the situation of poor Lady FRANCES VANE TEMPEST agree with the description given of an Heiress by the Widow in *Hudibras*:

"For what did ever Heiress yet,
By being born to Lordships, get?
When the more Lady she's of Manors,
She's but exposed to more Trepanners;
And does but tempt them with her riches
To use her as the devil does witches;
Who takes it for a special grace
To be their culy for a space,
That when the time's expired, the druzels
For ever may become his vassals:
So she, bewitch'd by rooks and spirits,
Betrays herself and all she inherits;
Is bought and sold, like stolen goods,
By Pimps and Matchmakers and Bawls."

Part 3—Canto 1.

So also my Lady ANTRIM and Mr. MACDONNELL:—

"Lord, what an enormous thing is want!
How debts and mortgages enchain!
What graces must that Lady have
Who can from Execution save!
A man will damn himself and swear
He loves an old rich Dowager,
Grown fat and puffy, by retail
Of pots of beer and bottled ale,
And find her fitter for his turn,
For fat is wondrous apt to burn;
She at his flames will soon take fire,
Relent and melt to his desire;
And, like a candle in the socket,
Dissolve her graces int' his pocket."

PROFOUND SECRETS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—I have marvelled much of late to observe how insufferably dull the Newspapers have been (*the present company always excepted*, as the old saying has it),—still, I think, *between you and I*, something of a livelier nature might be produced.

You must know, then, that I have an excellent ear; not for music, no; but to pick up little pieces of intelligence, that are *profound secrets* to all the world beside, by applying the aforesaid ear to key-holes, &c. I send you two or three trifles I have picked up in this way lately, and am, Sir, yours, &c.

AURICULAR.

I heard Lord Castlereagh whisper a certain Borough-monger—*between you and I*—there is a number of men in the House of Commons who have no business there.

I heard Lord Sidmouth whisper Sir N. Conant—*between you and I*—there have been a number of innocent men imprisoned under the late suspension of the Habeas Corpus.

I heard Mr. —, the Magistrate at Bow-street, whisper an agent of the Bank—*between you and I*—a great many men, and women too, have been executed for forgery.

I heard Mr. Canning whisper an underling of the Ministers—*between you and I*—there is but little common sense, and scarcely any wit, but what is brutal, in the senate.

I heard Mr. T. Dibble whisper Mr. Diamond—*between*

you and I—there has been a great quantity of vile stuff brought on the stage of late years.

I heard Sir S. Romilly whisper the Attorney-General—*between you and I*—there is a wide difference.

I heard Sir Wm. Curtis whisper Mr. Dixon—*between you and I*—the City have spent many large sums upon feasts.

I heard Mr. Claremont, of Covent Garden Theatre, whisper Mr. Holland of Drury-lane—*between you and I*—there is much miserable acting in the present day.

I heard Lord Liverpool whisper another great man in the Ministry—*between you and I*—Reform is as great a farce as the last new Comedy.

I heard a Wesleyan Preacher whisper a holder forth at the New Jerusalem Chapel—*between you and I*—hypocrisy has increased prodigiously of late.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 322.

DRURY-LANE.

OUR old favourite ELLISTON made his re-appearance at this theatre on Tue-day after a long absence, and was received with an applause natural both to his merits and to the long dearth of genteel comic acting which the town has experienced. Since the loss of that delightful fluttering spirit, Lewis, he has been without a competitor; and never, in our remembrance, was equalled in parts of dry humour and a kind of eager and affectionate gallantry. We shall go to see him again, and again, with the double delight arising from old habit. His performance on Tuesday, which we did not see then, but which we have seen a hundred times and got by heart, was *Rover in Wild Oats*—a play of genuine comedy in it's broader shape, and full of the very best spirit of humanity,—frank, sympathetic, and happy-making. Can any of our readers inform us of the present fortunes of it's venerable author Mr. O'KEEFE, who, we believe, is still living? He has long been known to be blind; and had he no additional claim to our sympathy on that score, gratitude for the genial pleasure his works afford us ought to induce us to find him out, if it is only to tell him how we still enjoy them.

MR. KEAN surprised and delighted the public with a new character on Wednesday night,—that of *Young Norval in Douglas*. We need not make any criticism on this well-known play, which, in spite of it's mediocrity, keeps possession of the stage by it's being founded on maternal affection. The most curious things concerning it are, it's being shorter than other tragedies ("exceeding brief and tedious"), and it's having lost the author his situation as Minister of a Presbyterian Kirk, for which, we believe, compensation was made him by a pension. To write an amiable play was the next damnable thing to encouraging rural enjoyment; and for a Minister to do this, was even worse than attempting to inveigle his audience into the toleration of a "great whistle,"—which was the denomination given on such an occasion to a church-organ. When persons of these opinions produced children more intelligent than themselves, the natural consequence of such extravagances, after a time, was to produce a re-action; the natural quietness of the Scotch character hindered it from going to another sort of excess; and Nature had her revenge in the liberality of Scotland's modern philosophers and the pastoral tendencies of it's poets.

MR. KEAN's performance of *Norval* is thought by most to be an entire contrast to his more vehement and gloomy characters, while a few others can hardly think he does any thing naturally out of the pale of fierceness and revenge. It appeared to us certainly, that there was too much of the latter in the passages where he is romped by *Glenalton*; nor can we help thinking,—whatever may be the

cause of it,—whether early theatrical habit, or some greater facility he finds in himself,—that parts of a more contemptuous and wilful kind are those in which he is destined to excel. His voice and his appearance at any rate are both more adapted to them. Our opinion may be disproved, and we are heartily willing for our theatrical enjoyment that it should. We do not of course mean to insinuate any thing against Mr. KEAN's own natural temper or disposition, of which we know nothing whatever except from some anecdotes which have appeared in the newspapers, and which imply very generous and amiable feelings. But an actor is an anomaly not yet explained. There is no judging of him as of a poet, painter, or musician, by his performances, as the public have formerly had occasion to know in some extraordinary contradictions on that score, some of the best natured men having excelled in representing the worst, and *vice versa*. We believe that HAVARD was an instance; and we think we have heard as much of a rising actor at Covent Garden. Perhaps the reason is, that such persons, with a natural tendency to feel the kindest, have had their theoretical notions of humanity somehow embittered. But at all events, when great performers of this kind get upon passages of a genial nature, their intellect alone will enable them to give them a finer and truer effect than any moderate representor of what is amiable; and this, we take it, is the secret of the great and very just impression made by Mr. KEAN in the tender passages of his new character, especially the scene where his mother makes herself known to him. Nothing could be truer to the life than the half-hesitating, subdued agitation, in which, with a quiet familiarity, he made his enquiries after his father; or than the little affectionate and triumphant wiggings of something approaching to laughter, with which his voice and feelings were tenderly borne away in the second line of that passage, where he asks whether he excelled the rest of his sex as much as his mother does the rest of hers. "Beautiful! beautiful!" said the ladies in the boxes; and we are happy to repeat a criticism, so honourable to the performer and themselves.

A new actress, Miss MACAULEY, made her first appearance on the London boards in the character of *Lady Randolph*. She does not appear to be young, nor new to the stage. Her face, if not otherwise remarkable, seemed intelligent, and her voice is exceedingly well-toned and sweet, like Mrs. LISTON's made more graceful and tender. The part of *Lady Randolph* is perhaps a very good test of an actress of this description; and if we may judge from a first night's performance, Miss MACAULEY may become a very respectable and useful though not great addition to this theatre, where regular tragic actresses are as much wanted, as comic ones at the other house. Her greatest fault is a want of knowing where to pitch her emphasis to advantage; and her pronunciation exhibited at times an unlucky piece of applicability to her part, being too decidedly Scotch. But she is sometimes striking in striking passages, though chiefly perhaps where her predecessors have marked them out. Her best one of all was the increasing breathlessness with which she witnessed the last moments of her son.

The performance, with an awkward exclusiveness of compliment to Mr. KEAN, was improperly cut off at this scene, leaving the spectators in doubt what was to become of the *Lady* and other persons concerned. But it gave them such delight altogether, that they loudly called for its representation the next night, in preference to the play announced.

COVENT-GARDEN.

The theatres are unfortunate just now with their new after-pieces. Drury-lane has produced several to little or no purpose, and we understand that the *Sleeping Draught* is

getting out of favour, probably from HARTLEY's overdoing the sufferings of the drinker, which we saw on one occasion he had a tendency to do. Covent-garden has succeeded as little in some late productions, and though the new burlesque afterpiece on the *Sorrows of Werter* was given out for repetition in the play-bills, we find from the report of those who thought it worth while to stop and see it out, that it met with considerable disapprobation at the close. We hardly expected this disapprobation,—LISTON, who performed *Werter*, is generally so irresistible on these occasions, and any extravagancies on the side of sentiment have so little quarter from a nation of our habits; but we think it is quite right. We do not like to differ with a contemporary critic whom we have in our eye; but the evils which individual sensibility might fancy were to be apprehended from a story like *Werter*, are so far, we think, from being to be dreaded by the mass of a community like ours, that we conceive it calculated to do them a great deal of good, and to shew them that there are other things in the world to think of besides themselves and their gain. Nor is it any objection on such occasions that a story is carried to an excess. The blow must be loud in order that the noisy world may hear it.

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

WHATEVER difference of opinion may exist with regard to the Exhibition at Somerset-House, impartiality must allow that it is an Exhibition honourable to the talents and industry of a great portion of the flower of the nation. It must indeed be expected to be so, when it is considered that the majority of the numerous and best Artists of a country, which has been exceeded by none in modern times, nor perhaps in ancient, for force and delicacy of genius,—we do not exactly mean in the imitative Arts,—here unite the yearly result of their professional labours, amounting in general to more than a thousand performances in every department of Painting, proceeding from the pencils of above five hundred Artists. It must almost as a consequence be so, when it is considered that the existence of such a number of professors has in itself an internal evidence of a considerable love for and encouragement of the Fine Arts in this great country, which naturally operate as a continual spur to a body of estimable individuals, forming part of an emulous, intellectual, and active nation. Next then to the unequalled enjoyments which Nature herself invites us to on the return of May, when she enlivens every thing with a new spirit of youth, and we seem to begin our existence afresh, at least feel that we continue it with a renewed consciousness, the pleasure which Art confers upon us is one of the best, and those enjoy it most who most delight in Nature. Like Nature, the Genius of Art appears before us in this Exhibition in a new dress and in new scenes, and smilingly invites us to come among them. We have accepted the invitation, and shall communicate our impressions on this and future visits. This Exhibition is better than many past ones; for if many or even the majority of the Artists do not advance, some have advanced greatly. Their thinking and executive powers have been well nurtured by evident pains-taking and emulation. As proofs of this we refer to the greater part at least of the following works: PO CATCOTT, in 95, *The Mouth of the Tyne*; COLLINS, 84, *Departure of the Diligence from Rouen*, &c.; HOWARD, 15, *Fairies*; SIR J. LAWRENCE, 165, *Duke of Wellington*; CONSTABLE, 11, *Landscape*, &c.; NASHMYTH, 22, *View near Interpary*; COOPER, 52, *Alderney Bull and Cows*, &c.; STOTHARD, 71, *Fête Champêtre*; FUSSELL, 16, *Dante in Hell*; PHILLIPS, 72, *Mrs. W.*

Russell, &c.; OWEN, 147. Mr. and Mrs. C. Scott; TURNER, for grand effects, 116, Dort, and 263, Field of Waterloo; HOPPLAND, 182. Goodrich Castle, &c.; RAE-BURN, Admiral Sir D. Milne, &c.; JACKSON, 20, Earl Grosvenor, &c.; DEVIS, 277, Sir T. Heard, and 378; Prince Blucher; BEYCHEY, 62, Dukes of Gloucester; Mrs. Coult, &c.; WILKIE, 110, The Strand Boy, &c.; R. T. BONE, 215, Venus, Cupid, and the Graces; STEPHANOPE, 274, Trial of Algefnon Sydney; ALLAN, 285, A Press-gang; SHEE, 10, Mr. Sharpe, &c.; WITHERINGTON, 303, The Fifth of November; WESTALL, 54, &c., and HILTON, 291, Una with Satyrs, which fairly surprises us in the immensely increased powers of its painter.

These works, in conjunction with the President's masterly East India subject, and other paintings, the performances of CHANTREY, — whom we consider as the first modern Sculptor in Europe, — of WESTMACOTT, GARRARD, FLAXMAN, BAILY, &c., and the many capital and very improved performances in the minor classes of Art; the Miniatures, Still-life, &c., will certainly justify our opinion of the present Exhibition, as one considerably improved and beautiful.

R. H.

SPA-FIELDS MEETING.

On Monday, in consequence of placards intimating that a Meeting would be held in Spa-fields, a number of persons assembled in front of the Merlin's Cave, from which, however, they soon departed, on seeing the intimation by Mr. Wilson, proprietor of the ground, that every person trespassing should be prosecuted. The Landlord of the Union public-house, (formerly the Bull in the Pound), near Bagnigge Wells, was applied to, and consented to give the use of his house, after which a large placard was fixed up with the words, "Peace and good will to all men." A number soon collected in front of the house, and the elder Watson, Messrs. Preston, Dugdale, (a young Quaker), Whatman, and others, entered it. Some delay took place in consequence of Mr. Henry Hunt being expected. Meantime every precaution had been taken by the Magistrates, and a large body of Police Officers were stationed in the neighbourhood.

At one o'clock the crowd became very impatient, and at last Messrs. Watson and Preston, attended by four or five others, appeared in front of the house, on the roof of the bar. Mr. Watson having taken the Chair, which he assured the Meeting he had done solely on account of the absence of Mr. Hunt, began by lamenting that the Meeting were deprived of the valuable services of that most eminent patriot and disinterested citizen of the world, but stated, that he would endeavour as far as he could to do his duty. They knew the object for which they were convened, and he trusted they would discuss it with coolness, firmness, and temperance. The cause was common to all, every Englishman felt an interest in it, and he had no doubt that the proceedings of that auspicious day would have a mighty influence on the English nation. After some allusions to the former meetings, Mr. Watson proceeded to attack Lord Erskine, Earl Grey, Sir James Mackintosh, and Sir F. Burdett. He then panegyricized Messrs. Cobbett, Cartwright, Bentham, Wooler, and Sherwin, whom he characterised as the sole friends of the public. After animadverting on some of the public Journals, he quoted several extracts from Mr. Cobbett, and entered into a long detail of public grievances and of his own sufferings while a state prisoner.

The Resolutions were then read by Mr. Whatman, and carried. — A Petition was submitted to the Meeting and a read to; and it was ordered to be presented to the Prince Regent in person, by Messrs. Hunt, Cartwright, and Watson.

Mr. PRESTON then addressed the Meeting. He alluded in very strong terms to the conduct of the Spenceans, and declared that he was no scholar, but yet he knew what was right. He, at great length, endeavoured to shew the bad effects of the funding of property both in Greece and Rome, and also of what had resulted from the oligarchies in Rome and Carthage. He professed himself a friend of the people, by whom, he hoped, he should for ever abide; and he then warmly condemned what he called the Westminster Junta, for not giving some relief to the widows and families of Brandreth, Turner, and Ludlam. After a dissertation on the baneful influence of taxation, he concluded by asserting

that justice was his motto, and that was what he felt to the human race.

The Meeting were afterwards addressed by Messrs. Dugdale, Baxter, and Watson. At five o'clock, the business of the day being over, the Meeting adjourned. There were present about 2000 persons. The crowd dispersed very quietly. A considerable number of military were stationed in the neighbourhood.

LAW

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Saturday, May 2.

ABJURATION OATH.

While a young gentleman, whose articles of clerkship had expired, was taking the usual oath of abjuration, denying "that damnable doctrine and position, that Princes, excommunicated by the Pope, may be deposed or murdered," a smile passed over his countenance.

Mr. Justice BARRY, perceiving it, immediately ordered that he should be reprimanded for the present, and not be allowed to take the oaths necessary for his admission until he produced an affidavit to his moral and religious character.

THE KING v. THE REV. MR. EASTON AND EIGHT OTHERS.

This was an indictment against the defendants for disturbing a congregation of Protestant Dissenters, assembled for religious worship at a house duly licensed. At the trial, at the assizes for Wiltshire, the defendants were severally acquitted upon the count for conspiracy, but were found guilty of the riot.

The Court taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case, and particularly that the prosecutors had removed the indictment into this Court, when it might have been tried at the Sessions, or preferred originally at the assizes, adjudged that Mr. Easton should pay a fine of 5*l.* to the King, that James Garratt should pay a fine of 10*l.*, that the other defendants should be fined 1*s.* each, and that they should all enter into recognizances to be of good behaviour for three years, the two former defendants in 100*l.* each, and the rest in the sum of 40*l.* each. The Court at the same time stated, that it was a part of its duty to protect the Protestant Dissenters in general, in the exercise of their religious worship.

Monday, May 4.

HAMILTON v. THE PRINTERS OF SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS.

On a former day Mr. GURNEY, on behalf of the defendants, obtained a rule, calling upon the plaintiff to give security for costs in certain actions brought by her as a married woman without the knowledge of her husband, now living, against the printers of certain newspapers, for publishing a statement that she had been convicted of child-stealing at the Old Bailey. Mr. SCARLETT now shewed cause, and stated that the plaintiff was the wife of a Mr. Hamilton, who had some years since carried on, to considerable extent, the business of a printer, in Fleet-street, and about 13 years ago had abandoned his wife, who then went to reside in France with her daughter, and came to England to vindicate her character from the foul imputation cast upon her by the defendants. Since her husband left her she had never seen him, and she did not know where he was now to be found.

On the other hand it was sworn that Mr. Hamilton was now alive, and had recently been seen in London. — The Court thought the application properly made, and ordered the plaintiff to give security for the costs from this day forth.

Thursday, May 7.

LIBEL.—HAMILTON v. BELL AND HARNER.

This was an action brought against the Proprietors of *Bell's Weekly Dispatch*, for publishing a Libel in that Paper, concerning the plaintiff, imputing to her the offence of child-stealing.

The circumstances of the case were these: — At the Old Bailey, in 1816, a woman named Hamilton was convicted of stealing a child. The conviction took place on the 2d of July, and on the 20th of that month a paragraph appeared in the defendants' paper, headed "Child Stealing," purporting to be a biographical sketch of the offender. It commenced by stating, "that the female convicted at the late Old Bailey Sessions of the crime of child-stealing, was formerly the wife of an eminent Printer, in Falcon-court, that she had performed for a short time at the Little Theatre in the Haymarket, and then went to France, and formed a connexion with a foreigner, and after remaining there a short time, came to England for the purpose of her accouchement—that her child having died, she received a large sum of money from the above mentioned foreigner, as an inducement to

steal the child in question, and return with it to France for the purpose of imposing upon the father as her own child, &c." At the time this publication appeared, the plaintiff, who had been the wife of an eminent Printer, in Falcon-court, and had been a short time on the boards of the Little Theatre, was residing in France, and could not possibly have been the Mrs. Hamilton convicted at the Old Bailey.

The formal parts of the case were proved in the usual way.

Mr. Williams, the plaintiff's attorney, proved, that after the libel had appeared, and before any legal proceedings were had, he wrote to Mr. Harmer, one of the defendants, and desired, on Mrs. Hamilton's behalf, that he would give up the name of the author, promising, if this was done, that no legal steps should be taken. No answer was sent to this application; it was repeated, but still no answer was given. The action was then commenced, and when the cause was put down for trial, witness wrote again to Mr. Harmer, offering to forego the action if the name of the author was given up. This application was also unattended to.

Mr. GURNEY said, that although Mr. Harmer was strictly speaking liable for the consequences of the libel published in the paper, of which he was a proprietor, yet he had no more to do with the management thereof than any Gentleman on the Jury. It had been urged, that the defendants had not given up the author; but the fact was, that they were unable so to do; and the supposed neglect in answering the plaintiff's applications might perhaps be justly attributed to some shyness of the correspondent who had demanded the name of the author. Undoubtedly the defendants had acted under a mistake in the publication of the paragraph, and the Jury, in considering their verdict, would be guided solely by the evidence, and not by the highly coloured statement of Counsel.

Mr. Justice ANNOT charged the Jury, that the disclaimer of any knowledge of the author of the libel on the part of the defendants was rather an aggravation than otherwise of the case, but he cautioned them against giving vindictive damages.

The Jury found for the plaintiff—damages 200*l.*

OLD BAILEY.

On Friday the following prisoners were arraigned, and pleaded guilty to having forged notes in their possession, being the minor offence, and for which the punishment is fourteen years' transportation:—*Thomas Davies, Thomas Ward, Thomas Smith, Patrick Lane, Clarissa Ward Downes, Robert Funnell, and William Brown.*

Mr. REYNOLDS, as Counsel on the part of the Bank, stated, that the lenient disposition of the Bank had been peculiarly shewn in not producing evidence against any of the seven prisoners at the bar.

Mathias Maher was then brought to the bar, apparently in a state of furious derangement, for the purpose of being arraigned on a charge of forging a power of attorney, with intent to defraud *Thomas Moore*, under the prosecution of the Board of Admiralty. The prisoner was conducted to the bar by three men, one at each arm, and one behind having a fast hold of him. He was secured by a strait waistcoat and by weighty chains. He looked at the spectators with a hideous grin, and his eyes appeared as if they were starting out of their sockets. His beard appeared not to have been shorn for several weeks, and his countenance was pallid and emaciated.

The Clerk of the Arraignment put the usual question to him, "Are you guilty or not guilty?" But the only reply the maniac made was, "Do you want to murder me? I have been starved here for upwards of a month, without eating or drinking."

Mr. Justice BAYLEY repeated the question, and the prisoner still continued to rave and complain of being starved. He endeavoured to stoop down and eat the herbs placed on the board before the dock, but was prevented by the keepers.

Mr. Justice BAYLEY.—If you do not plead either guilty or not guilty, I must direct the Jury to enquire whether you stand mute by the visitation of God, or whether you do it wilfully?

Prisoner.—Are you going to give me any tobacco?

Mr. Justice BAYLEY repeated the observation.

Prisoner.—I get up with swords and pistols upon me. You want me to eat nothing but poison.

The Jury was then sworn, and directed to judge whether the prisoner was or was not insane, and evidence was called to prove his insanity.

W. Brown, keeper of Newgate, had no doubt of the fact, from his conduct and appearance. He had attempted to stab a man, and to hang himself.

Mr. Bayle, surgeon of Whitecross-street prison, proved that

the prisoner was there for debt. There was an incoherency in his manner, but he had lucid intervals. The first act of insanity he evinced was that of eating an ounce and a half of ointment which he should have used.

Mr. Box, surgeon, had attended the prisoner since 29th January, and gave his decided opinion that the prisoner was not insane, and that it was nothing but pretence.

Mr. Watts, an attendant at Whitecross-street prison, proved the derangement of the prisoner while he was there.

Dr. Weir, superintendent of the sick of the Victualling Board, found evident marks of derangement in the prisoner. He had visited him three times, and upon conversing with him he was extremely incoherent. An artful man, he was convinced, might pretend insanity, so as to baffle all the enquiries of the most skilful surgeons.

Dr. Baird, Inspector of the Naval Hospitals, attended the prisoner in Newgate. The prisoner was furious in the day-time, and quiet in the night. This was a circumstance which induced him to think that he was otherwise than insane.

John Fisher, a turnkey, said, when the prisoner first entered the gaol, his nights were sleepless.

Dr. Hatch, Medical Superintendent to the Lunatic Naval Asylum, could not speak with certainty, but he was inclined to think that he might possibly be insane.

Mr. ALLEY was about to reply, but was prevented by the Jury stating that they had made up their minds upon the question.

Mr. Justice BAYLEY was glad to hear the opinion of the Jury. He had, himself, long ago made up his mind upon the case. If the Jury thought that the prisoner was insane, and therefore was mute by the visitation of God, he would be kept in confinement until the pleasure of his Majesty was known upon this case.

The Jury found a verdict—*Insanity*. The prisoner was immediately taken from the bar back to his cell.

A young Frenchman, of respectable appearance, was placed at the bar, charged with having wilfully stabbed *Gilbert Mathias*, with intent to murder him. The prisoner was a member of a rich family at Nantes, and had been sent to England to receive a commercial education.

Gilbert Mathias, a Catholic Priest, officiated at the Spanish chapel. On Sunday, March 1, the prisoner came to the altar, and offered to take the sacrament. This witness refused, conceiving that he was in a state of mental derangement. After mass, the prisoner asked witness why he did not give him the sacrament? and witness replied that he could not do it, as he was under a mental derangement. The prisoner went out quietly. He did not see him again until Sunday the 15th of March. After the *paternoster*, he heard a little noise in the crowd, and upon turning his head, he observed the prisoner coming over the rail with his hat on, and a long naked sword in his hand. Witness immediately ran towards the vestry, and was followed by the prisoner, who made several thrusts at him, which cut his vestments. In the endeavour to wrest the sword out of his hand, witness received a cut in his arm and on the fingers.

The Prisoner was here called upon for his defence, and he declared,—“My defence is this. The priest refused to administer the sacrament to me; and I think any priest who does this acts with a malicious motive. There being no law in this country to punish him, I took the law into my own hands.”

Mr. Le Clerq proved the mental derangement of the prisoner. The prisoner had for some time previous to the present transaction lived upon nothing but bread and water.

Sarah Benshawe lived with Mrs. Menistrier, Cumberland-place, City-road, and the prisoner lodged in the same house. The prisoner first lived upon bread and water; afterwards he ate fowls, and generally devoured 21 fowls in a week. Oranges he afterwards lived upon for some time; and for three weeks ate nothing but oil-cake. On several occasions, he brought home grass and roses, and pounded them, and drank the juice. The prisoner afterwards ate nothing but peas for a long time, and sometimes ate four pecks a day, three pecks of shelled, and one of unshelled peas. She had no doubt but that the prisoner was deranged. For the last three months the prisoner devoured six pounds of mutton a-day.

Samuel Davies, one of the turnkeys of Newgate, proved that the prisoner scarcely ever slept while he had been in prison, and ate a leg of mutton every day.

The Jury found a verdict—*Not Guilty*, upon the ground of insanity.

Lieutenant *David Davis* was brought to the bar, and it was not without considerable difficulty that he complied in pleading “*Not Guilty*.” He said that his sufferings were so great, that

they must be known before he was put upon his trial. He had been turned from his regiment like a madman, and all the world knew it. He added, "If I am acquitted of this charge, I must put an end to my existence."

The prisoner was then put upon his trial, charged with having wilfully shot at Henry John Temple Lord Viscount Palmerston, with a pistol, with intent to murder him.

Lord Palmerston and others proved the case, which is already well known.

The Prisoner was called upon for his defence. He observed that he had been dismissed from his regiment, being unfit for any thing, and witnesses would be produced who would tell the Court his sufferings, and prove his insanity. With respect to the present transaction, he had been refused a personal communication with his Lordship, and had written many letters to Lord Palmerston to which he had received no answer. He was an innocent man, and did not deserve this treatment. He should have wished the circumstances to have been inquired into in a private manner.

Mr. Justice BAYLEY.—Have you any thing more to say?

The Prisoner.—Why should I be crucified in this manner, when the business might be settled at once? I knew I should not kill his Lordship by firing at him.

The witnesses on the part of the prisoner were then called, and the ladies were requested to go out of Court.

Francis Rogers Pasloe was a surgeon, and knew the prisoner when he lived at Pinalco in 1816, and was called up to visit him. Witness proceeded to examine him, and found that he had committed a dreadful mutilation with a razor. He was then decidedly insane.

Mr. Box, the surgeon, considered the prisoner particularly insane on the point of his regiment. On the point of religion he was also deranged.

Mr. Justice BAYLEY summed up the evidence at considerable length.

The Jury having retired for about a quarter of an hour, returned a verdict of—*Not Guilty*, on the ground of insanity.

The prisoner, during the whole of the trial, which occupied nearly six hours, conducted himself with great propriety and calmness.

POLICE.

MANSLION-HOUSE.

On Saturday week, the proprietor of the Old Swan Tavern, Fish-street-hill, preferred a charge of felony against two eminent surgeons, of the following nature:—The wife of the prosecutor had, it appeared, upon retiring to rest, sprained or broken her leg. Her husband rose and obtained medical assistance. Two gentlemen were called in, and one of them had occasion to retire, to procure the necessary materials for dressing the fracture. During his absence, a pocket-book, containing 119*l.* in notes, it was said, was missed. This fact was alleged by the prosecutor; but the Lord Mayor, thinking his evidence insufficient, sent one of the Marshals (Mr. Woutner) to the Tavern, where the prosecutrix declared, that she had placed the pocket-book, containing the money, as before stated, upon a chair close to her bedside, and that no other persons but the surgeons had been in the room. After an investigation of more than two hours, the defendants were ordered to appear on a future day; but, at a late hour on Saturday night, the money was found under the patient's head.

UNION-HALL.

Isaac Tupper, preacher at the Paragon Chapel, Lock's-fields, Southwark, on Tuesday appeared before the Magistrate to answer the charge preferred against him by Collingbourn and another officer, for unlawfully having in his possession various articles of lead, pewter, copper, &c. and also a number of birch-brooms, the latter stolen from Mr. Stiles, dealer, of the Kent-road.—The defendant accounted in a satisfactory manner for several of the articles which had been seized on his premises: but the pewter pots, lead, and iron, were condemned, and he was fined 40*s.* under the lead and iron act. Mr. Stiles positively swore that the brooms were part of 6 bundles which were stolen from his premises, and upon this charge Mr. Tupper was held to bail for his personal appearance at the Quarter-Sessions. His friends immediately entered into the necessary recognizances, and paid the penalty. On leaving the Court, the defendant declared that the whole business was a conspiracy, and that he would instantly institute proceedings against the officers, and never relax in his exertions until he procured their suspension or dismissal from their situations.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Tuesday afternoon, as one of the Hammersmith stages was proceeding along Piccadilly, loaded inside and out, one of the wheels came off, and the coach was overturned. Two or three children, with their parents, were on the outside, and the former falling under the wheels, were dreadfully cut and bruised. Nearly every passenger was hurt.

Tuesday night, as Mr. Waller, of Westminster, was proceeding along the New Cut, near the Cobourg Theatre, he was stopped by three stout fellows, who after severely beating him, robbed him of 5*l.* in Bank of England notes, and his watch.

Wednesday night, a Mr. Forty, of Whitechapel, with a relation and a friend, was returning home from Edmonton, where they had been spending the day, were attacked by a party of men armed with bludgeons, who severely beat and robbed them of all their money and watches.

A Bankrupt of the name of Cowen, who fled from his commission some time ago to Rotterdam, was apprehended there by a Police Officer from London a few days ago; in consequence of which he hung himself in prison the second day of his confinement.

The celebrated chieftain, Sir Gregor Macgregor, whose exploits in South America have been the theme of so much conversation, had a narrow escape a few days ago from an "unlauded death," by the accidental overturning, near Wooler, of a stage-coach, in which he was a passenger from Newcastle to Edinburgh. A young lady in the coach had her collar-bone broken, and was so much bruised that she was obliged to be left at Wooler.—*Edinburgh paper.*

MARRIAGES.

April 21, at Florence, Wm. J. H. Browne Folkes, Esq. only son of Sir M. B. Folkes, Bart. to Charlotte P. Browne, youngest daughter of Dominic Browne, Esq.

On the 30th April, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Exeter, Joseph Sparkes, Esq. banker, of that city, to Miss Weston, late of the Minorics.

On the 2d May, at Kensington, Gerard de Visme, Esq. of Bryanston-street, to Eliza Ellis, eldest daughter of Major Torrison, of Kensington-square.

On the 30th April, at St. John's, Margate, by the Rev. Wm. Frederick Bayley, James Penfold, only son of the late Mr. Stodden, of Canterbury, to Sarah, second daughter of Mr. James Brooman, of Margate.

On the 1st instant, at Bath, Charles Cave, Esq. of Mincing-lane, to Sarah, only daughter of Edward Camberbatch, Esq. of Barbadoes.

On Friday week, at Linsfield, the Rev. Robert Tritton, B.A. of St. John's College, Cambridge, youngest son of John Hanton Tritton, Esq. of Lombard-street, to Mary, eldest daughter of Vincent Hilton Biscoe, Esq. of Hookwood, Surrey.

May 2, at Walthamstow, Mr. Lewis John de la Chauxette, to Miss Sibella Wilkinson.

On the 4th inst. at St. George's, Hanover-square, George Robert Smith, Esq. eldest son of George Smith, M.P. of Upper Harley-street, to Jane, eldest daughter of John Maberly, Esq. of Grosvenor-square.

On Monday, at Morden, A. R. C. Dallas, Esq. Assistant-Commissary-General, to Mrs. Edge, late of Norfolk-street, Strand.

On the 5th instant, at St. George's, Hanover-square, the Hon. Granville Levison Proby, M.P. to Isabella, daughter of the Hon. Hugh Howard.

DEATHS.

On Tuesday week, at Brompton, of a rapid decline, aged 24, Frances Page Turner, Esq. youngest brother of Sir Gregory Osborn Page Turner, Bart.

On Saturday week, at his house in the Admiralty, Rear-Admiral Sir George Hope, K.C.B., and late one of the Lords of the Admiralty, and a Major-General of Marines. He was 53 years of age.

On the 1st inst. in Cumberland-place, the Hon. John Douglas.

On Sunday at Bath, after a long illness, Alexander Darblay, a General in the French service, one of the Legion of Honour to Louis XVIII. &c. He came to this country in the early part of the French Revolution, in company with Talleyrand, Narbonne, Lally Tolendal, and other emigrants. He afterwards married the authoress of *Evelina*, *Cecilia*, *Camilla*, and *The Wanderer*. He has left one son, Alexander Darblay, Esq., who was lately elected a Fellow of Caius College, Cambridge.