

THE EXAMINER.

No. 44. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1808.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

No. 44.

CITY REMONSTRANCE.

THE Citizens gather spirit from adversity. The result of their meeting to consider his MAJESTY'S Answer to their late Address, has been a string of Resolutions, containing their disavowal of the motives imputed to them, and a complete refutation of the royal boast respecting inquiries. The Ministers will now see the impolicy of awakening resentment in any public body at a time like this. If the constitutional feelings of the people continue to ferment as they do at present, it is impossible that the grosser corruptions should hold together much longer; and the opposition of Ministers to any great national feeling, will produce a very evident effect; it will rouse the popular talk respecting old abuses, and from one question in which the people have been disappointed, it will turn their attention to others, which cannot be denied enquiry, if once it is demanded.

The Citizens are wrong, I think, in saying they pronounced no judgment before investigation. The word investigation here means Ministerial investigation, and this they certainly anticipated in hoping that the authors of the Convention might be punished. But they should have treated this narrow sense of the word as its pettiness deserved. Have the people themselves no powers of investigation into the most manifest grievances, without the help of a pair of Ministerial spectacles? Cannot they discover when they have been dishonoured most dishonourably? Cannot they discover, that the authors of the Convention behaved to the French with a studied politeness, that they acknowledged BONAPARTE in all his titles, and that they scandalously neglected to consult the Portuguese on a treaty, so interwoven with their dearest interests? Or does the acknowledgment of the FRENCH EMPEROR, with all his titles, a circumstance that at any other time would have thrown all the Ministry into fits, require an investigation into its merits at the Horse-Guards or the Privy Council? Must there be a meeting of Officers or Ministers, to decide whether it was right to insult the Portuguese? Do the Ministry, in short, seriously mean to say, that they really see nothing in the Convention, that could warrant a warmth of speaking in the City of London?

They are not accustomed to be so fastidious, when they are out of place. I have been always willing to regard the present Ministers as men, who have acquired a reasonableness of thinking from their experience of the distractions of party. But it is amazing to see the difference that a mere bench produces. What invectives, what thunders would they be preparing at this minute for the next sessions, were they on the opposition side of the house! What allusions from VIRGIL about TURNUS and ÆNEAS might Mr. CANNING have given us! What quotations from himself about the Constantinople expedition, my Lord HAWKESBURY! What indignant sentences from COCKER, Mr. ROSE!

The best part of the City resolutions is the refutation of the boast respecting enquiries. The Citizens "particularly regret that his MAJESTY should have been advised to express a hope 'That recent occurrences would have convinced them, that his MAJESTY is at all times ready to institute enquiries on occasions in which the Character of the Country or the Honour of his Arms is concerned; and that the interposition of the City of London could not be necessary for inducing his Majesty to direct due enquiry into a transaction which had disappointed the hopes and expectations of the Nation.' Because it appears, that during the eventful period of the last fifteen years, various enterprizes and expeditions have been undertaken, 'in which the Character of the Country, and the Honour of his Majesty's Arms, were concerned,' which have grievously failed, and 'disappointed the hopes and expectations of the nation,' and into which 'due enquiry' has not been made. That in one of the recent occurrences to which his Majesty's Answer refers, it is not known even at the present moment by whose advice the Commander in Chief was appointed, or on what account such Commander was appointed."—This is excellent. It is the first real reproof that the corruptions of government have received in public for many years; and I trust it is only the beginning of that public voice which shall hereafter make the ears of certain people tingle and blush for the heads that wear them. The logic by which Ministers were induced to hope that recent occurrences would have convinced us, 'how ready his MAJESTY is at all times to institute due enquiries, is the most absurd in the world; they might as well have said that because they eat mutton for dinner the other day, we must be convinced it is the f dish all the year round. An enquiry may agree with them very well, on particular occasions, especially

when it's favourable result, like that of WHITELOCKE'S, would be entirely at the expense of other Ministers; but if the trial of WHITELOCKE has proved any thing, it is the vast difference between their eagerness to gratify the people when they can gratify themselves too, and their eagerness to do justice to the people when they cannot do pleasure to themselves.

The Londoner's talk of addressing his MAJESTY upon the subject of *Military Appointments*; this is a very good thing; but the inhabitants of Westminster spoke of petitioning the throne for a *Parliamentary Reform*, and this is not only a better thing, but it is the only effectual thing of the kind. We may obtain a favour or two by petitioning on matters respecting prerogative, and this favour will make us hold our tongues. But let us petition for *rights*, not favours. Parliamentary integrity is our right, and our most necessary right. A true Englishman is no more represented in a corrupt Parliament, than a good face is represented by an ugly one: and to waste our time in petty demands while we are dying for want of greater, is to have a Physician for the cure of a pimple on our skin, while a fever is preying upon our vitals. A reform in military matters will do away but one corruption; A REFORM IN PARLIAMENT WILL PURIFY THE WHOLE CONSTITUTION.

DEFENCE OF FERDINAND VII.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

MR. EDITOR,

A uniform confidence placed in those we admire, is alike injurious to both parties;—to the admirers, as in all probability an implicit belief will at one time or other lead them to adopt error; and to the admired, because they will be blinded and misled by indiscriminating adulation, which is as certainly the curse of a weak mind as it is the weakness of a strong one. I state this as prefatory to some objections I shall urge against yourself, as without it you might do me the injustice to suppose I was professing an opposition merely from the spirit of contention; while on the reverse, I assure you it is the candid opposition of an admirer, and in general a friend to your principles; whose friendship, however, is not of that milky nature that looks only to admire, and closes its eyes upon your imperfections. To a man so remote as I should conceive yourself to be from your novitiate in the ways of the world, it would be an insult to treat you with the cringing, temporising principle, that I might perhaps be induced to play upon a pretty, foolish woman, upon whom my designs were sinister; that is to say, to equally applaud her weakness of mind as the beauty of her person. No, Sir, I will not tacitly conceive objections; I state them as I feel them, and leave it to your discrimination, in the first place, whether they are worthy a conveyance to the public; and to your liberality in the second (being in opposition to yourself) whether you will be the conveyancer.

I will freely admit, that in the responsible capacity of a Reviewing General of the affairs of Europe, you have mounted and, to my mind, generally managed to perfection a steed, who has boldly conveyed you from object to object, without, I think, leading you materially to swerve from the professions, customary at the onset of such careers, of justice and impartiality. I have, in common I be-

lieve with many, admired your evettings and prancings, and have said you rode your horse to admiration; but I now make a stand, for when I see reason to fear, that with all the grace of the horse and the ability of the rider, the brains of such as we should esteem our friends are in danger of being dashed out, it is high time for me, or some one to offer a check to your manœuvres becoming, as I think they do, rather dangerous, by endeavouring to soften the rigour of your reviews on the affairs, or rather, I should say, the personages at the head of affairs in Spain. It is a subject you lately have resumed, to my regret, for so far as York, or the Portugal Convention, I travel heartily with you and adopt your principles; but conscientiously I leave you when you set foot in Spain.

It is several numbers of your paper back in which you very hastily, I thought, reflected on the character of Ferdinand, as not partaking sufficiently of the hero, to justify the struggles which are making in his name:—in your EXAMINER of Sunday last, I notice in part a repetition, added to which, are comprised suspicions equally injurious to the person and hurtful to the cause attached in speculations to the character of Don Pedro Cevallos.

As to the character and conduct of Ferdinand, I profess to think you wrong, Sir, both philosophically and politically:—Philosophically, from your apparent misapprehension of the nature of man, dependant as I conceive it altogether, and regulated by contingent circumstances;—and politically, in consideration of Ferdinand's situation, and that of his country, at the point of time to which your observations chiefly bear allusion.

It is easy, Sir, to sit in our closet and play the hero with our pen, to regulate our own gall by the quantity contained in our ink—to wield our pen in fancy as a sword, and slay thousands upon paper; but when we are upon plain straight-forward matters of fact, hypothetical presumptions are inadmissible:—when a man's character is arraigned, we are but justified in considering what really is,—we are not to frame a child of imagination, solely originating in our own fancy, and then decry any one man for being unlike what we may arbitrarily have thought fit to conceive. Nature, and that taken generally, not in exclusive instances, should be the precedent for regulating our conclusions. I apply those considerations (reasonably I trust,) wishing to rebut the odium you strive to fix upon the character of Ferdinand, for not “dashing his pen in the face of Bonaparte and drawing his sword” at the time he was required to sign a renunciation of the crown of Spain. I ask you, Sir, for a cool reply.—Would one man, think you, in ten thousand, under all the spirit-breaking circumstances, so have done?—if not, the Prince merits no reprehension. As I do not recollect you to have shewn that Princes are dealt so liberally with by their fates as to have bestowed a greater portion of heroic bravery (though fool hardiness, in this case, I should incline to call it) than other men, and something of this, Sir, I must require to be shewn, to deter me from maintaining the injustice of decrying Ferdinand, or any man, because he does not chance to be the one singularly gifted out of ten thousand. Until you will prove to me, Sir, that principles are innate, and that predestination ordains principles in compatibility with the situations into which men are thrown, I will persist in reproaching your condemnation of Ferdinand, even admitting that policy really directed other than as he did act. Recollect, Sir, we cannot call into enquiry the right or wrong of the conduct of men, so far as it is regulated by their nerves and constitutional feelings, without something like an impeachment of nature's ordainments: you might with equal consistency attach disgrace to a child for the misfortune of hereditary disease.

I would further wish to enforce, that an active heroism, such as you incline to have required from Ferdinand, generally has been stimulated and led to by circumstances, none of which existed to excite the unfortunate Prince.—

Place a man singly, with no witnesses to his conduct—with no reward for the performance of great actions but a dreary self-approbation, and we should see how strangely different would be the doings of the same man with the incitements of companions to stimulate, and witnesses to publish to the world his bravery. The self-immolation of a Decius in the eyes of his soldiery, the firmness and patriotism of a Regulus or Leonidas, we can easily conceive; their sufferings have been tenfold rewarded by the adoration and applauses of their countrymen.—Besides, surrounding circumstances in such cases serve to warm the passions and to rouse into action feelings, that without such concomitants of time, situation, and stimulus, are but existent, I affirm, in fancy. Concluding generally, I should consider active heroism a momentary feeling, an ebullition, a fire kindled into being by surrounding sparks. In the case of poor Ferdinand was nothing to excite, but every thing to restrain,—nothing to elevate, but every thing to deject.

When heroism, Sir, extends so far as self-destruction, is there no reward pictured in the hero's imagination for the sacrifice? Does he not look forward to his name being handed down to latest posterity; that though the animal nature is extinct, yet that he will survive in never-dying fame? Yes; but the knowledge of the hero's deeds must be breathed into Fame's trumpet ere they can be sounded to the world—and who could Ferdinand expect would be his reporter to his countrymen, when those who alone could be the reporters were the people whose interests it most would be to shroud his struggle from the knowledge of the world? His own attendants, you perhaps may say; as if the character of Bonaparte in such cases was not sufficiently unequivocal to direct us that he never would have hesitated at the commitment of as many murders as might be necessary to prevent the circumstance from transpiring.

He might have dashed his pen in the cheek of the usurper,—he might for a little moment have fought nobly,—but no flame would he have kindled to warm to deeds of greatness his adoring countrymen; none, but for his own destruction. He might have died, it is true;—but how? a martyr to a moment's unavailing rage; in other words, a suicide who just evades the perpetration of the deed upon himself by thrusting him on other's swords. Availing it could not be, the struggle of *one* man—therefore only a foolish sacrifice of himself to pettish irritability, or a fear to live and encounter with misfortune.

His situation you will recollect was not unexpected; it was not an abrupt disclosure of Bonaparte's intention. Ferdinand had by degrees been led to expect some such termination to the progressive disgraces he had been subjected to; therefore a sudden burst of indignation was not to be looked for. The ground-work for his renunciation was laid, independent of acting in subservience to the commands of his father, from which command to have made an appeal to the sword would have been an abrogation of the bonds of duty, and the next step only could have been to plunge his sword into the breast of his parent. But, Sir, I would ask whether you or any man in existence would have presumed on the probability, or even have conceived the possibility of the noble and effectual exertions the Spaniards have since proved themselves capable? No! I will engage that no man at that time considered Spain as other than at the immediate beck and call of Napoleon—or that Ferdinand and Charles were but the merest dependants on his will. If in this I am correct, I ask where is the possible reason for requiring every thing, and all in a moment, from the individual person of Ferdinand; and where is the justice of condemning him for not making the stand, to which his whole country was thought incompetent.

Your strictures on the character of Cevallos I equally dislike. What line of conduct he could have pursued other than he has done, to have rendered real service to his

country, I am at a loss to conceive. He was the man of all others whose presence was most necessary in Spain, and yet you reprobate him for resorting to the only means that possibly could gain him a return. Generally, I think, we are taught that a man's actions should stamp his character, and which you have selected to stamp his unfavourably, I endeavour in vain to discover, with reason for a sanction. Did he advise to the detriment of his country while in the train of Joseph Bonaparte? Or did he, on his arrival at Madrid, remain an instant in the councils of his country's usurper, so as to establish cause for suspicion that Spain in him had a hollow friend? You find fault that he did *so far* accompany Joseph. Had he *before* an opportunity to withdraw himself? Had he so attempted on the first hour's residence in Spain in his new character, his design would have been too palpable to have imposed on a schoolboy.

You are methinks full virtuous in your theory for this world in the present state of society, when you denounce all time-serving conduct, and consider a politic duplicity, though in the cause of honour and justice, as not to be endured; you might as well argue that the contest of a naked man with an antagonist cased in steel would not be odds for a man of reason to avoid. Is the goodness of a cause sufficient to terminate successfully its battles? I suspect you have not proof for this at hand. If any doubts arise, turn to Napoleon, and remember *he* has been successful. May not the man of integrity with equal justice use the shield of policy as the villain? Tell me, and prove it, that villainy merits triumph, or that the French in Spain are espousing virtue's cause, else I must proclaim against the unfeeling tenets that would direct good sense, for the affectation of truth and the parade of virtue, to bare their bosoms to the murderer's knife and invite the blow, saying, "strike, I could save myself and perhaps my country, but will not, because however great the end I might accomplish, it must be purchased by the shadow of a lie." These are lessons for the nineteenth century, for the non-adoption of which men shall be stigmatized with the name of traitor or of villain. Oh, happy age! that shall exceed in virtue most immaculate the primitive purity of man!

Shew me, I beseech you Sir, a feasible method by which he could have escaped the clutches of Napoleon without the temporary compromise of tergiversation in accompanying Joseph, and I will join in your suspicions, else I freely speak my fears, that be your *real principles* what they may, your *essays* are every way calculated to injure the cause of Spain by engendering suspicions and discontent: means sufficient will be found to disseminate in Spain matter that in effect may be most fatal.

If you represent the character of those unworthy for whom they fight and by whose counsels they are regulated, do you not most certainly tend to paralyze their efforts, and weaken their energies? I cannot conceive that such is your wish, therefore beg you to recollect that by such presumptions you insensibly sap and undermine a cause for the success of which all honest men have an heartfelt anxiety.

In one of your papers you mention Ferdinand as the watchword of the Spanish nation: if then you invalidate this watchword, what is the consequence? The concentration of feeling would be destroyed, and inevitable, destructive disorders must ensue. If the people are led to swerve from their present general impulse in favour of their lawful Prince, the effect must be obvious, that the centinels of the nation would make different selections of watchwords. One set might prefer Ferdinand, another Charles, another Joseph Bonaparte, another Don Pedro, and so on. Upon which would consequently be attendant all the horrors of civil discord and certain miseries of anarchy and confusion. I am, Sir, yours, &c.

Great Marlborough-street, Oct. 20.

T. H. juv.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

SPAIN.

[FROM THE PATRIOTIC PAPERS.]

MADRID, Oct. 1.—It is reported that the diplomatic hero of the day, his Excellency Don Pedro Cevallos, Defender of the Innocence of our beloved Ferdinand, and, in short, a true Spaniard, full of honour and greatness of soul, proceeds to Austria, Russia, and Prussia, to represent to those Courts, and to all Europe, the perfidies of Napoleon, of which he himself was a witness at Bayonne, and to require justice of every nation.

Oct. 10.—Gen. Castanos left this city yesterday, to take the command of the central army, whose headquarters will, for the present, be established at Agreda.

CORUNNA, Oct. 10.—Private letters from Bilbao state, that on the 27th ult. and two following days, the French were occupied in plundering upwards of 20 houses in that city, the owners of which had fled, having been persecuted. Massaredo, who commands under Ney, had signified to the inhabitants, that unless all the fugitives returned, the whole town should be given up to an indiscriminate plunder. On the 30th, between four and five in the morning, the French began to march out with the whole of their artillery, &c. but suddenly returned about nine, finding, it is said, their retreat cut off. As soon as the inhabitants learnt their return, and cause of it, they instantly ordered away every description of vessel in the harbour, in order to prevent the escape of any of the commanding officers, but especially Massaredo, against whom the rage of the populace and soldiery are indescribable.—General Blake's headquarters were, on the 4th, at Quincoces (a few leagues from Bilbao); but when the last courier left him, which was at two o'clock in the morning of that day, the General was on horseback, and the whole army under arms. Castanos was at Logrono with 22,000 men, viz. 15,000 infantry, and 7000 cavalry. Palafox, with 18,000, was advancing by Ronces Valles, towards Fouterabia, to cut off the retreat of the enemy by Irun. [A reference to the map will shew what foundation there is for the hopes entertained of the speedy surrender of Marshal Ney and his army.]

Oct. 13.—This morning arrived a fleet of transports, consisting of 140 sail, having on board 13,000 British troops, commanded by Sir David Baird. It was expected that the disembarkation would have commenced to-morrow, but the Junta of this Province having been dissolved the day before yesterday, and the Supreme Central Junta being recognised, it was thought indispensably necessary to have the sanction of the latter before the troops were suffered to land. A messenger was sent off for this purpose to Madrid. Shortly after the General came on shore, and until the messenger returns, which will be in eight days, the whole will remain on board. Five thousand cavalry are also expected from England. As soon as the transports are cleared, they will proceed to Lisbon to bring away part of the English troops from thence, when the whole are collected, they will be sent to the army of Gen. Blake, as circumstances require. A general illumination for three nights, and prayers for nine days,

have been ordered throughout all the kingdom on occasion of the installation of the Supreme Junta.

SWEDEN.

“His Royal Majesty's Yacht *Amadis*, at anchor in Gronwick Sound, in company with a Flotilla of Galleys, Sept. 27.

“His Royal Majesty this day set sail from Fiske, and arrived here at half-past three: Vice-Admiral Ragalin, came immediately on board; soon after his Royal Majesty proceeded to the flotilla of galleys, in order to inspect its position.—His Royal Majesty has received the following Report from Field-Marshal Count Klingspor, dated the 18th instant:—

“Agreeably to the plan formed for the retreat of the army, Wasa was evacuated, after all the provisions, magazines, and sick had been previously removed. The troops halted at Lillkyas, from whence the army marched on the 12th to Woro, and the 13th to Crawais. In order to reinforce the troops at New Carleby, two battalions and Capt. Gyllenbagel's detachment were sent thither, Colonel Doheln, although still indisposed, put himself at the head of these troops, defeated the enemy near Juntas, and prevented him from executing his design to carry New Carleby. In consequence of this advantage our troops attacked the enemy on different points, drove him from Old Carleby, and forced him to fall back to the Lower Wetil. On the 14th inst. in the morning, the army was attacked in the position of Drawais. Your Majesty's troops repulsed the enemy on every point of attack, and at three o'clock in the afternoon, Major-Gen. Adlerercutz drove them back; but then the enemy received such considerable reinforcements, that our troops, after fourteen hours fighting, were obliged to retreat. This retrograde movement to New Carleby, was performed during the night, without the enemy, who had probably sustained a very considerable loss, making the least attempt to molest your Majesty's troops on their retreat. Our loss is very considerable, although its real amount cannot yet be ascertained; I estimate it, after the reports hitherto received, at about 1200 men, of which 100 have been made prisoners.

“MAURICE KLINGSFOR, Field-Marshal and Com.-in-Chief of the Northern Army.”

“Head-quarters, Kronoly, Sept. 18, 1808.

GOTTENBURGH, Oct. 17.—The King is displeased with his guards, and has broken them and disgraced all the Officers. This will create discontent amongst the first families here.

An Armistice has been concluded between the Swedes and the Russians in Finland. It has been published in a Bulletin, dated Oct. 12, 1808.

ARMISTICE CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE SWEDS AND RUSSIANS IN THE NORTH OF FINLAND.

“There shall be an Armistice concluded for an unlimited time, between the Russian troops posted as well upon the river of Gamla Cariby, as in the environs of Knopio, and the Swedish army under Count Klingspor, from the moment of the signature of this Armistice, till eight days after either party gives notice of its cessation; neither of the contracting parties, whilst this Armistice lasts, shall send any part of their troops to act in other parts. The Russian troops which are in the Government of Wasa, will keep their positions at Gamla Carly, and the Swedish troops theirs at Hemango, and not advance their advanced posts beyond Kannus, and from the Church of Ilkannus to the Lake of Leski, and from thence in a right line to the Church of Ideussalmi; and in order that there may remain a neutral space between the two armies, the Russian troops shall place their advanced posts in such a manner as not to pass the river which empties itself into the Junfela. On the side of Kaopio

the Swedish troops shall place themselves in such a manner, that the Church of Idemsalmi may remain neuter. The Russian troops shall occupy the defile which is on the South-east of it, and the Swedes that on the North-west. Should the Imperial Russian troops have passed the Church of Idemsalmi on the other side, before these orders arrive, they shall retire to the position agreed upon. There shall be an exchange of prisoners, man for man, rank against rank.

Field-Marshal SOCKELIN,
Gen. in Chief and Quarter-Master Gen.
"Le Conte KAMINSKOY,
Lieut.-General"

"Head-quarters, Lucko, Sept. 17-29, 1808.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LEEDS, Oct. 22.—A villainous plot, accompanied by unprecedented instances of credulity, was yesterday developed before the Magistrates. The parties were Mary Bateman, of Campfield, near this town, and William Perigo and his wife, of Bramley. It appeared that in August, 1806, an application was made to this woman by Perigo, to cure his wife of some complaint. Mary declined to undertake the cure herself; but said, that she had a friend at Scarborough, a Miss Blyth, who could "read the stars," and collect from them the knowledge requisite to remove all corporeal and mental maladies; and, as a preliminary step, required, that Perigo's wife should send her flannel petticoat to Miss Blyth, in order that she might from that article of dress collect a knowledge of her disorder. The petticoat was sent, and a propitious answer returned, wherein it was required, that the medium, Mary Bateman, through which all communication betwixt the astrologer and the patient was to be made, should have four guinea notes presented to her, and she was in return to give Perigo four other guinea notes, inclosed in a small bag, into which, if either his own curiosity, or the still stronger curiosity of his wife, should induce them to look, the charm would be broken, and sudden death would be the consequence. Soon afterwards a letter arrived from Scarborough, directing that another guinea should be paid into her hands. Similar requests were repeated and complied with, till forty guineas had been thus extorted from these infatuated people, under a promise, however, that they should, by and bye, be allowed to open the bags, and these bags, they were told, would be found to contain all the money they had advanced. After about six months had expired, Perigo was desired to buy a new bed, with appendages, and send it to Mary Bateman, through whose hands it was to be transmitted to the nymph of Scarborough. The bed, &c. which cost 8l. were bought, and notes, to the amount of 30l. more, paid at various times into the hands of the impostor. A set of china was also furnished to her. Perigo and his wife, thus drained of all the money they had in the world, and all the sums their former good credit had enabled them to raise, and the wife's health still growing worse rather than better, became impatient to look into the mysterious bags, and extract from them the wealth they contained. Mrs. Bateman then received, as she said, a packet from Scarborough; this packet contained a powerful charm, which was to be mixed up in a pudding, to be prepared for the purpose, and of which Perigo and his wife were to eat, but on no account to allow any person to partake with them. The husband eat sparingly; he did not like the taste; but his ill-fated wife, less scrupulous, ate freely. They both became sick almost immediately, and continued in the most deplorable situation for 24 hours: the wife lost the use of her limbs, and after languishing five days, died on the 24th of May, 1807, a victim of credulity. Perigo recovered partially; but from that time to the present he never had the perfect use of his limbs. Part of the pudding was, by way of experiment,

given to a cat, and it died; some fowls also picked up other parts of it, and shared the same fate. Contrary to the direction of Mary Bateman, Perigo applied to a Surgeon, and was told by him that he had taken poison, but fortunately not in a quantity sufficiently large to occasion his death. From the death of his wife till Wednesday last, the charm continued to operate on the husband. At one time he went to Manchester by the direction of this Jezebel; at another he sent her one of his wife's gowns; again she contrived to coax or frighten him out of another gown, a petticoat, and the family Bible! And last of all she demanded from him half a bushel of wheat, with three seven shilling pieces inclosed. His creditors at length became impatient, and the hopes of getting any part of his property back failing, he determined to brave all danger, and to look into the mysterious bags—but what must have been his surprise and vexation to find that the contents of these bags were not worth one penny! and to find himself a pauper, without property, and with a ruined constitution. The bubble now burst, and Mary Bateman was apprehended; when brought before the Magistrates, she in part confessed her delinquency, and admitted there was no such person as Miss Blyth in existence, but that the whole was a mere phantom, conjured up to forward her vile purposes. The Magistrates have committed the offender to the House of Correction, but whether to be tried for swindling practices, or to be removed from there to the county goal, to take her trial for wilful murder, is not yet known. On searching the house of this woman (who has a husband and several children), the bed and some other articles belonging to Perigo were found, of about 12l. value.

Fridayse'night Carlisle Gaol was again broken open, when the notorious Naylor, along with three other prisoners, viz. White, Row, and Barnes, made their escape. The manner in which this undertaking was achieved, displayed much ingenuity and courage, and gives some consistency to the bravado of Naylor himself, that no gaol in England but Lancaster Castle, could hold him. Since his last return to the place of his confinement, he was loaded with above 60 pounds weight of iron, only eight pounds short of that which the famous Baron Trenck had to sustain while confined in his dungeon at Magdeburgh; he was chained to the wall, frequently handcuffed, and generally shin-bolted and neck-bolted.

THE CONVENTION.

CHELMSFORD.—A Meeting of the Freeholders of the County of Essex was held on Friday last at the Shire Hall, to consider of the propriety of addressing his Majesty on the subject of the late Convention in Portugal.—Mr. COGGEN, the High Sheriff, stated the reason of calling the Meeting, and Earl St. VINCENT addressed the Freeholders. He had no intention of blaming the officers; the Armistice and the Convention, in the present stage of the business, were alone to be censured; they had cast the foulest stain on the honour of the nation that it had ever experienced since the detested reign of the Stuarts: they had lowered the pride and raised the indignation of all England. The character of the officers should not be blamed till inquiry had been instituted; but the Convention itself was sufficient proof that enormous guilt rested somewhere. The object of this Meeting was to express their opinion on this act, and to carry that opinion to the foot of the throne in the dutiful, loyal, yet firm manner, that became a free people. Some persons had said, that it would be better to leave the matter to Ministers. On ordinary occasions, this might be proper; but this was an extraordinary one, an occasion which demanded a strong expression of the public feeling, and called for the exercise of the undoubted right of the people to petition the throne. The guilty should be separated from the innocent, or, to use a vulgar expression, "the saddle should be laid on the right horse." The Ministers conduct was most suspicious. On the arrival of the Armistice—the most

disgraceful part of the transaction,—they fired the guns in token of *their* approbation at least, as if this Armistice had been matter for exultation instead of humiliation. This Armistice [Ministers had published in an Extraordinary Gazette in the French language without a translation,—a most uncommon and mysterious thing. What was their design in this?—The Noble Earl said, he had seen the forts of the Tagus, which were miserable indeed! Yet the Officers held out that they had not been furnished with the means to reduce them. The Officers alleged that they had neither military apparatus nor bread. Did not this demand inquiry? Yes, they would be unworthy their ancestors, unless they exercised this privilege, which they derived from the Bill of Rights. From the commencement of the American war, corruption had been increasing, and the means of corruption had been furnished Ministers by the enormous expenditure of the country. The most useful class of society, gentlemen of small property, were driven into the shade. The poverty of the people laid them under strong temptations to crouch to Ministers, in order to get bread for their families; but he hoped the Freeholders of Essex had still sufficient spirit left to come forward and support the Address about to be moved, for an inquiry into the Convention of Cintra.

[Here Mr. WESTERN read the Address, which hoped that his Majesty, in his paternal care, would be pleased to take such measures as would lead to a full, effective, and public investigation, of the true causes which induced the Commanders in Portugal to acquiesce in a Convention so humiliating and dishonourable; and if it should have arisen from any misconduct or incapacity, either in those who were appointed to such commands, or those who conducted the affairs of the nation, that such persons should be made responsible for their conduct.]

Mr. DU CANE approved of the Address. The Convention had not only offended and injured Sweden, Spain, and Portugal, but our gallant navy and army were equally disgusted with it.

[At this period, the Hall being much crowded, and a number of persons not being able to gain admittance, an adjournment to the space before the Hall was proposed and carried.]

Mr. BURGOYNE followed on the same side.

Mr. CONYERS, though he approved of the public feeling relative to the Convention, thought that the Address was not at all necessary, as his Majesty had not only not refused an inquiry into it, but had openly declared it to be his intention to investigate the causes of a result which had disappointed the hopes and expectations of the nation. He suspected that there was a snake in the grass. He had seen letters where it was stated that the Earl of Essex and the Marquis of Buckingham approved of the Address. The Noble Marquis had indeed been a most successful speculator in politics; he and his family might be truly said "to bear their *blushing* honours thick upon them." But he had lately been disappointed, and it was not at all surprising that he should seize eagerly an opportunity of destroying the popularity of those by whom he had been supplanted. It was improper to shew a distrust of his Majesty in this case; and thinking that the Address was wholly unnecessary, he should move that the Meeting do adjourn.

Mr. BRANSTON seconded this motion, and went into a long history of the war and its great successes (as he facetiously termed them.) He objected to the Address as unnecessary, unjust, and tending to depress the feelings of the nation at a period when there was *just cause for congratulation and exultation!*

Mr. W. SMITH, Member for Norwich, contended that every freeholder had a right to go to the throne. He, for one, doubted that the inquiry would be as public as it ought to be, unless the people of England were unanimous in calling for it. It is true, the army was called his Majesty's forces: these forces were, however, paid by the

people, and should it therefore be said that his Majesty alone was to judge when an inquiry was necessary? If this Convention was not a disgraceful one, why were Sir A. Wellesley and his friends so anxious to prove that he had no hand in it?

After Mr. Harvey and Mr. Hall had spoke, the High Sheriff put the question of adjournment, desiring the ayes to take the left hand and the noes the right hand. A scene of the utmost confusion ensued, and the Sheriff at length declared the majority to be in favour of adjournment. Each side, however, continued to claim the majority, and many persons of the highest respectability did not hesitate to maintain that the vanquished party were the more numerous.

Mr. WESTERN and some other Gentlemen, seeming inclined to continue on the table which had been brought into the market-place as a temporary hustings, were attacked in a most riotous and ruffian-like manner by the would-be heritors, and obliged to retire—a number of freeholders, however, immediately afterwards assembled and passed the following Resolution:—"That this Meeting is convinced that a decided Majority of the Freeholders, convened for the purpose of taking into consideration the Terms of the late Convention, was against the Motion of Adjournment, that they therefore protest against the decision of the Sheriff, and request those Gentlemen who signed the Requisition, to meet as soon as possible, and take into consideration the steps proper to be further pursued."

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, Oct. 25.

Copies of two Letters transmitted by Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood, Commander in Chief in the Mediterranean, to the Hon. W. W. Pole.

His Majesty's Ship Seahorse, off Skyro, July 8.

MY LORD—I have the honour to inform your Lordship, that yesterday evening we observed two Turkish men of war and a galley coming round the east end of the island of Scopolo, towards which we immediately made sail. On coming near enough to make out that they were both single decked ships, I determined to bring them to action, having every confidence in the officers and crew of this ship. The action began at half past nine, the Turks going a little off the wind under easy sail, and continually endeavouring to run us on board; indeed I early saw their chief attention was directed to this object, and as the largest ship appeared of great force and full of men, I kept this ship in a position not to be boarded. At ten o'clock, observing a good opportunity of more particularly attacking the small ship to advantage, we dropped alongside of her, and after a quarter of an hour's hot fire, at half pistol shot distance, her fire having totally ceased, we left her in a state of the greatest distress and confusion, with her sails mostly down, and just before we had left her she had partially blown up forward. By this time the large frigate, which, from having fallen a little to leeward, had not been able to assist her consort, had again got pretty close up, and the action between us soon recommenced; still so obstinate was the resistance of the Turks, that it was not till a quarter past one we rendered her a motionless wreck. As they now would neither answer nor fire, I conceived it most prudent, knowing the character of the people, to wait for daylight to send on board her. At daylight, observing her colours upon the stump of the mizen-mast, we poured a broadside into her stern, when she struck, and I had the pleasure to take possession of the *Budere Zaffer*, a very fine frigate of the largest dimensions, carrying 52 long brass guns, 24-pounders, on the main-deck, except two, which are 42-pounders, and 12-pounders on the quarter-deck and fore-castle. She had a complement of 500 men, and was commanded by Captain

Scanderli Kichue Alli, who, I am informed, was prevented by his own people from blowing her up. Her loss in killed and wounded is prodigious, 165 killed, and 195 wounded; our loss is comparatively small, five killed and ten wounded. The other ship was named *Als Fezan*, carrying 24 18-pounders and two mortars, commanded by Capt. Daragardi Alli, with a compliment of 230 men. I understand they took most of the men out of the galley before the action, and sent her away.

Having now, my Lord, given you the details of this affair, there only remains the pleasant office of recommending to you the officers and ship's company, who, during a tedious night action, where much depended on working the sails as well as the guns, behaved in a manner to command my utmost gratitude. The disparity of force, with the loss of the enemy's ships, will prove the greatness of their exertions, to which I shall add, that 30 men were absent from the ship. Mr. Downe, the First Lieutenant, is an officer of merit, ability, and experience; and I beg strongly to recommend him to your Lordship's protection for promotion. Mr. Lester, Master's Mate, who has passed, is also very deserving of promotion. Thomas Hully, Gunner's Mate, and an excellent man, acted as Gunner; and, from his conduct, is very deserving of such a situation.

I am now proceeding with the prize for any port I can get first into amongst the islands, as it is with difficulty we can keep her above water. I have the honour to be, &c.
The Rt. Hon. Lord Collingwood. JOHN STEWART.

His Majesty's Ship Porcupine, at Sea, July 14.

MY LORD—I have the honour to inform your Lordship, that on the morning of the 9th inst. being off Mount Circe, on the coast of Romania, I observed two French gun-boats, with a merchant vessel under convoy, going along shore to the westward; as the ship was becalmed, I sent Lieut. Price with the boats in pursuit of them; after a row of eight hours in a hot sun, he drove the latter on shore, and forced the gun-boats to take shelter under the batteries of Fort Danco. At this time, seeing three very suspicious vessels coming down with a fresh breeze from the westward, I was obliged to recal him; but before we could cut them off, they also got into the same harbour. Next morning I observed that one of them, a large polacre ship, lay farther out than the others, and having reconnoitred, thought it possible to take her; I was the more induced to try it, from a wish to give a check to the trade along this coast, which they think from their numerous batteries they can carry on without molestation. As soon as it was dark the boats went in, under the command of Lieut. Price, and, from the heaviest fire I ever saw, brought her out. She carries eight long six-pounder guns, and had on board between 20 and 30 men, bound to Naples with salt.

When I consider that this vessel was moored to a beach, lined with French soldiers, within pistol-shot of two batteries and a tower, and of three gun-boats, carrying each a 24-pounder and 30 men; that from the baffling winds she was an hour and 20 minutes before she got out of range of grape, and that the enemy were at first perfectly prepared for the attack, I cannot find words to express my admiration at the intrepid conduct of all the Officers and Seamen and Marines employed in it.

I am sure that the services of Lieut. Price, he having been more than thirty times in action with the boats of this ship since October last, and his sufferings on this occasion, being severely wounded on the head and right leg, will be a sufficient excuse for my requesting, in the strongest terms, that your Lordship will recommend this gallant Officer to the consideration of the Lords of the Admiralty.

Inclosed are the names of the officers employed in the boats, and a list of the wounded, all of whom, I am happy to say, are likely to do well; fortunately we had none killed. I am, &c.
HENRY DUNCAN.

The Right Hon. Lord Collingwood.

List of the Officers, Seamen, and Marines wounded in the Boats.

Lieut. G. Price, severely; J. O'Brien Butler, Midshipman, severely; J. Campbell, 2d Master's Mate, ditto; J. Lewis, able, ditto; J. Germain, ordinary, ditto; E. Edwards, able, slightly; J. Rogers, Private of Marines, severely; W. Mitchell, ditto, slightly.

[This Gazette also contains accounts of the following captures:—*La Hercule* French letter of marque, of 12 guns and 57 men, by the Kingfisher sloop, Capt. Hepenstall: the French brig of war *Requin*, of 16 guns and 108 men, by the *Volage*, Capt. Rosenhagen: a small Danish privateer of six guns and 11 men, by the *Clio*, Capt. Baugh: and the *Giengfelderer* Danish sloop privateer, of four guns and 25 men, by the *Cygnat*, Capt. Dix.]

BANKRUPTS.

J. Osbaldiston and R. Jones, Manchester, cotton-dealers, to surrender Nov. 4, 22, Dec. 6, at three, at the Palace Inn, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Edge, Manchester.
Ann M. Robinson, Kingston-upon-Hull, milliner, Nov. 4, 5, Dec. 6, at eleven, at the George Inn, Hull. Attorney, Mr. Lloyd, Hull.
D. C. Roose, Cranbrook, near Manchester, brewer, Nov. 4, 11, Dec. 6, at one, at the Palace Inn, Manchester. Attornies, Messrs. Heslop and Barrow, Manchester.
W. Medhurst, Ross, Herefordshire, innholder, Nov. 3, at four, 4, Dec. 6, at ten, at the Swan Inn, Ross. Attorney, Mr. Hooper, Ross.
A. Saunders, Tottenham-street, horse-dealer, Nov. 5, 8, Dec. 6, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Smith, Bedford-street, Bedford-row.
W. and J. Fly, Long-acre, bricklayers, Nov. 5, 12, Dec. 6, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Kirkman, Cibak-lane.
T. Goss, Hackney-road, apothecary, Nov. 5, 12, Dec. 6, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Keys, Somerset-street, Aldgate.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 15. J. Saxton and G. Chapman, Chesterfield, hosiers.
Nov. 19. J. Dove, Newmarket, grocer.—Nov. 15. T. Fawcett, Old Change, merchant.—Nov. 19. W. Dartnall, George-yard, Lombard-street, stationer.—Nov. 18. T. I. Watkis, Salford, Lancashire, cotton-merchant.—Nov. 16. M. Macklin, Southampton, silver-smith.—Nov. 19. T. Fisher, Ramsgate, grocer.—Nov. 29. S. Allen, Cardiff, fellmonger.—Jan. 17. W. Henderson, Paternoster-row, draper.—Dec. 3. G. Herron, Bermondsey-street, fellmonger.—Nov. 19. F. Pinnéy, Princes-street, Leicester-square, carpenter.—Nov. 8. A. McLachlan and J. Galt, Great St. Helen's, factors.
Nov. 8. W. Wright, Queenhithe, provision-merchant.
Nov. 23. J. Hopkinson, I. Bower, W. Vickers, J. Richardson, J. Birley, and A. C. Harker, Sheffield, saw-manufacturers.—Nov. 15. J. Bottomley, Leeds, timber-merchant.

CERTIFICATES—Nov. 15.

O. Hargreave and J. Goodwin, Manchester, merchants.
E. Manwaring, Welleclose-square, tallow-chandler.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

At the Court at the Queen's Palace, the 26th of October, 1808, present, the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

It is this day ordered by his Majesty in Council, that the Parliament, which stands Prorogued to Tuesday, the first day of November next, be further Prorogued to Thursday, the eighth day of December next.

BANKRUPTS.

W. P. Roper, London, merchant, Nov. 1, at ten, Nov. 8, Dec. 10, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Swain, Stevens, and Maples, Old Jewry.

- R. Williams, Bedwelty, Monmouth, shopkeeper, to surrender Nov. 11, 12, at eleven, Dec. 10, at twelve, at the Greyhound Inn, Abergavenny. Attornies, Messrs. Gabb and Son, Abergavenny.
- S. Rhodes, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, grocer, Nov. 28, 29, at twelve, Dec. 10, at ten, at the Red Lion Inn, Newport, Salop. Attorney, Mr. Morris, Newport, Salop.
- J. Drew, Dursley, Gloucestershire, innkeeper, Nov. 7, at four, Nov. 8, Dec. 10, at eleven, at the Old Bell Inn, Dursley. Attorney, Mr. Bloxsome, Dursley.
- J. Jones, Llangollen, Denbighshire, shopkeeper, Nov. 2, 17, Dec. 10, at eleven, at the Cross Keys Inn, Oswestry, Salop. Attorney, Mr. Edmunds, Oswestry.
- G. Forster, Easter Dukesfield, Northumberland, miller, Nov. 16, 17, Dec. 10, at eleven, at the Crown and Thistle Inn, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Attorney, Mr. Hunter, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

DIVIDENDS

- Nov. 24. T. L. Anwyl, Shrewsbury, money-scrivener.—Nov. 22. C. Parry, Liverpool, carrier.—Dec. 6. W. Brown and J. Yoxen, Jermyn-street, shoemaker.—Feb. 18. J. Johnson, Holborn-hill, linen-draper.—Nov. 19. G. E. Sargeant, Portsea, slopseller.—Nov. 19. C. Grellet and S. Winter, Lawrence Pountney-lane, merchants.—Nov. 29. J. Denison, W. A. Rhelphs, and G. Williams, Friday-street, warehousemen.—Nov. 30. J. Lawrence, Stainground, Huntingdon, tanner.—Nov. 19. W. Smith, Globe-place, Bridge-road, Lambeth, corn-chandler.—Nov. 19. S. Field, Plymouth-dock, wine and brandy-merchant.—Nov. 22. J. Marlar, R. Boyd, and E. Stewart, Ironmonger-lane, merchants.—Nov. 22. J. Epworth, Spalding, Lincolnshire, grocer.—Nov. 26. J. Copping, Chevington, Suffolk, yarn-maker.—Dec. 6. W. Winter and T. F. Hay, Long-acre, lace-men.—Dec. 6. J. Hudson, Watling-street, merchant.—Nov. 19. G. Hill, Tottenham-Court-road, cabinet-maker.—Nov. 19. W. Kelland, Exeter, carrier.—Nov. 25. H. Risleben, Birmingham, taylor.—Nov. 19. S. Dyke, Bartholomew-close, tea-dealer.—Nov. 19. J. Flack, London-road, St. George's-fields, coach-smith.—Nov. 22. J. Wheeler, Abingdon, grocer.

CERTIFICATES—Nov. 19.

- T. Surr, Charing-cross, wine-merchant.—T. Traughton, Liverpool, stationer.—R. Payne, Raine, Essex, shopkeeper.—W. Goffe, Aldgate, London, Manchester warehouseman.—C. Delahoyde, Esher, rectifying distiller.—S. Jacob, Portsea, slopseller.—W. Harrison, Berwick-street, Oxford-street, carrier.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

Consols. 67 | Red. Ann. 66½—Omnium. . . 1 dis.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. W. will perceive by the Papers, that his idea of County Meetings has been anticipated in various parts of the Kingdom. The Editor feels highly flattered by his good opinion. To do service to his Country is his first ambition; to please *classical* men, certainly his second.

THE EXAMINER.

London, OCTOBER 30.

THE French and Russian Messengers left Deal on Sunday last, and an English Messenger, with the assistance of our Government, set off yesterday morning for the same place, whence he will sail in a flag of truce to Bourgoe on his way to Erfurth. The Impe-

rial dispatches are *said* to be very short, containing a mere proposal signed by the French and Russian Ministers, "that plenipotentiaries should be immediately named to proceed to a given place, and open a negotiation for a Maritime Peace." The answer to this trick, after expressing his Britannic Majesty's desire of peace, is said to be an equally pithy anticipation of impossibilities, and to state, that his Majesty is very ready to negotiate in concert with his Allies, and that he will communicate the overture to the KING of SWEDEN, the PRINCE REGENT of PORTUGAL, and the Central Spanish Junta governing in the name of his Catholic Majesty, FERDINAND the Seventh. All this is precisely as it should be; and BONAPARTE, for the first time, will want his usual excuse for the prolongation of war, since it is the first time his overtures will have been rejected with unmixed sound reason.

A general engagement is hourly expected to take place in Spain, and Bilboa has again been evacuated by the French under NEY, whose army is said to have been reinforced with 30,000 men. This place is the very weatherhouse of Spanish fortune, the Frenchman coming out when the sun shines, and the Spaniard leaving it when it grows cloudy. The British troops under General MOORE, amounting to 20,000 men, have commenced their march from Portugal; and the forces under General BAIRD, 13,000, are already at Corunna, where they have been waiting the permission of the Supreme Junta to land! This singular obstruction is equally unaccountable, whether arising from the neglect of the English or Spanish Government; for though the Ministers may have neglected to announce the expedition to the Junta, the Junta, it is presumed, might have sent orders to the Spanish ports to admit an armament, which they must undoubtedly have expected. The Ministers however are wrong, at any rate, in not treating the Junta with all imaginable punctilio; for without claiming any thing for the national pride of the Spaniards, their present misfortunes demand the nicest delicacy on our parts, particularly in the bestowal of so great an obligation. The troops were at length permitted to land by a dispatch from the Junta, but the delay is still to be lamented; for though the Spaniards are the conquerors of the moment at Bilboa, yet they may have wanted very urgent assistance in another quarter. Great fears are entertained for General PALAFIX, who in his ardour is said to have pushed on as far as Roncevalles, where he is without support and with the fortress of Pampeluna in the line of his retreat.

The Supreme Junta has entered on its functions, and is receiving universal acknowledgment. In the meantime King FERDINAND is at Paris, ready, no doubt, to sign as many papers and proclamations as BONAPARTE pleases, provided the Usurper will let



him eat his olio in peace. A defence of this Prince of expediency, and of his expedient Minister CEVALLOS, will be found in the second page of the present EXAMINER.

A temporary armistice has been concluded between the Russians and Swedes in consequence of the sanguinary victories lately obtained by the former in Finland. The Swedish Monarch, who has always shewn himself a rash and passionate man with much mimicry of decision, has broken 4000 of his guards for not suffering their throats to be cut by 12,000 Russians. This will not do in Sweden, where the times are so hard, the soldiers so discouraged, and the nobility so proud. It is indeed as mad a proceeding as might be expected from the imitator of CHARLES the Twelfth.

The following are the only articles of interest contained in the Spanish Papers received yesterday morning:—

Corunna, Oct. 20.

Yesterday afternoon arrived here his Britannic Majesty's ship the *Semiramis*, having on board their Excellencies the Marquis DE LA ROMANA and Mr. FRERE. The latter is invested with the character of Ambassador from the English Government to the Supreme Central Junta.

October 22.

The Messenger has arrived from Madrid with an answer from the Junta, authorizing the landing of the troops. Sir JOHN MOORE's army commenced its march from Lisbon on the 5th inst. The evacuation of Bilboa by the French is confirmed. They are retreating coastways from Gentaria, two leagues on this side St. Sebastian's. Since writing the above, I have been informed that the disembarkation will not take place till Monday, and then only partially.

St. Andero, Oct. 10.

The Bishop has received an express, with the agreeable intelligence that our brave Spanish troops have entered Vittoria, with a considerable loss indeed; but they have entered it.

A private letter from Lisbon, dated Oct. 1, says that the Portuguese are so loud in their clamour against the Convention, that it is hardly possible for the British Commanders even to remain. Two anecdotes of JUNOT are related. The first, that he lately declared at his table, that he had indeed lost a battle by the sword, but that he had gained a great victory by the pen; and that though he could do nothing with our soldiers, yet he could do any thing with the Generals!—On another occasion, it was told him that the British Officers meant to present Sir A. WELLESLEY with a piece of plate worth 1000 guineas: when JUNOT said, "In that case, the Officers of the French Army ought to present Sir HEW DALRYMPLE with a service worth at least double that sum."

Generals MOORE and HOPE, it is said, marched on the 13th from Lisbon.

The Africaine frigate from the Tagus is arrived at Spithead. The French Gen. KELLERMAN and his suite are on board. The Africaine had at first sailed from the Tagus with the third division of the French forces, but put back, it is now said, in consequence of orders issued to stop the sailing of that division, until it was known, whether the transports which conveyed the other divisions were permitted to leave the French ports. By the Africaine we learn, that the British army, to the amount of 20,000 men, under Generals MOORE and HOPE, have at length commenced their march from Lisbon towards Spain—a voyage by sea, we are now told, being dangerous at this time of the year!—Thus our brave countrymen are doomed to march between 4 and 500 miles, through a swampy country, and at a rainy season. They cannot possibly reach the seat of war before the beginning of December, whilst, on the other hand, the two French divisions sent by sea would be enabled to join their countrymen in a fortnight after their landing, and to combat our Allies. These are amongst the many bitter fruits of that Convention, in defence of which it was alleged "that it would immediately enable a large British force to go to the assistance of the Spaniards!" Instead of this, the defeated enemy is allowed ample time to take the "vantage ground," whilst our victorious troops are compelled, with tardy and unequal steps, to give them a meeting!

On Friday a Council was held at the Foreign Office. There were no less than ten Members of his Majesty's Cabinet present. Their deliberations commenced at half after one, and the meeting was not dissolved until it was nearly six o'clock. At night, Mr. MILLS, one of his Majesty's Messengers, was sent off with dispatches to the Court of Stockholm; and Mr. SYLVESTER, another of his Majesty's Messengers, set out for Spain.

The journey of the Emperor of RUSSIA to Weimar, for the purpose of meeting BONAPARTE, has occasioned, it is said, so much discontent at Petersburg, that a proposition has been made in his absence to the Dowager and Reigning Empresses, to place themselves at the head of the Government, and to set aside both ALEXANDER and his brother the Archduke CONSTANTINE. This proposition the two illustrious females are stated wisely to have declined, though they did not scruple to express their marked dissatisfaction with the EMPEROR, for condescending to an act of such unbecoming servility.

The Chiefs of the principal departments in Spain, appear to have been judiciously selected. Don THOMAS MORLA, late Governor of Cadiz, is appointed Minister at War. GAREY has the Home, and JOVELLANOS the Foreign Department. Admiral APODACA is named Ambassador to our Court. It is stated that the Spanish Generals intended to make a general attack on the whole of the French line, on the 23d or 24th inst. The following is an enumeration of the Spanish force:

Central Army, under CASTANOS.....	65,000
Northern Army, under BLAKE, including 10,000 Asturians.....	50,000
Aragonese, under PALAFOX.....	15,000
Catalouian, under LLANAS.....	20,000
Total.....	150,000

The Provisional Government of Spain is completely organized and established. All the Provincial Governments, and the Great Councils have recognized the Supreme Junta.

The Russian Admiral and Officers remain in the command of their ships at Spithead, without an Englishman on board of one of them; so that Spithead actually hold a fleet of our enemy, with every means to give battle at a moment's notice. That roadstead cannot be left without a squadron equal to the Russians, lest they should escape. The Russian Admiral will not quit his ship, nor has he come on shore, and when he was informed that hotels were prepared for the reception of him and his officers, he replied that he should not leave his men, but would accompany them to Russia.

The relaxation of the system of commercial restriction which took place a few weeks ago in Holland, has continued but for a short time. Private accounts received from that country state, that a new Decree, more rigorous than any which preceded it, was issued on the 17th inst. This decree is stated to be the result of an engagement agreed upon by the two Emperors at Erfurth. They have, it is said, mutually pledged themselves that none of the ports or places under their control shall be open to any foreign commerce. The line of exclusion is to extend from St. Petersburg to Bayonne. These accounts notice a rumour, that the Emperor ALEXANDER was pacifically inclined, but that BONAPARTE was for strong measures, and upbraided the former with a disposition to renounce the principle of the engagements he had entered into at Tilsit.

The following is an account of the total nett Receipts of the Permanent Taxes in the year and quarter, ending the 10th October 1808.

	Quarter to Oct.	Year to Oct.
Permanent Taxes.	1808. £10,009,372	1808. 38,982,379

The war taxes were not all in full collection in the last year, nor are they even yet completely so. Their amount, however, in the year to Oct. 10 last, is 21,055,867l.; their estimated produce for the year, to end the 5th April, 1809, being 21,200,000l.

“Mr. HORNE TOOKE (says the Morning Chronicle), is now in as good health and spirits as it is possible for any man to be, whose life has been so recently in such a precarious state, as his has been through severe bodily affliction. His biographers will have to renew their labours on some future day.”

Bread has again risen. The quarter loaf has reached the enormous price of *one shilling and three-pence farthing!* Can the price of wheat have increased one-fourth in the course of a few weeks, after a most plentiful harvest?

Mr. FIELDING, the Counsel, and son of the celebrated HENRY FIELDING, was lately appointed a Presiding Justice, and it is rather a whimsical circumstance that on the first day on which he took his seat upon the Bench, a prisoner was brought before him named *Tom Jones*. The man had his *Molly Seagrim* with him, who, on hearing that he was sentenced to imprisonment for ten days, fainted away, and was taken out of Court in a state of agitation that strongly manifested the interest she took in the fate of her unfortunate hero.

Another disgraceful scene of prize-fighting took place on Tuesday last, at Moulsey Hurst, in a pitched battle between two blackguards, named *Crib* and *Gregson*, for 500 guineas. After 36 minutes of hard fighting, *Crib* was declared the victor, though to such a miserable state of suffering were they both reduced, that even the conqueror “*had but just animation enough to hear the news.*”—This battle was fought under the immediate patronage of two men, who, from their rank in life, one should have supposed incapable of even shewing themselves among such a base and inhuman rabble. The *Marquis* of Tweedale backed *Gregson*, and Paul Methuen, *Esquire*, was the equally disgraced patron of *Crib*!!!—Two other battles were afterwards fought, which the *fashionable Morning Papers* describe as being still more sanguinary than the former, the seat of action, to use their own words, being literally “*A FIELD OF BLOOD!*”—It is really difficult to decide which of the parties are most entitled to detestation—the persons actually engaged in these brutal and unnatural scenes, or the Magistrates who thus openly permit such repeated and daring violations of the laws.—If these men acted properly, there would not be a single prize-fighter absent from his Majesty's service. It is time that the Lord Lieutenants interfered, since the Magistrates forget their duties.

FRANKLIN was at Paris during VOLTAIRE's last illness. At an interview with that wonderful man, he introduced his grandson, and begged for him the Philosopher's blessing. The boy knelt down, and VOLTAIRE placing his hands on the child's head, with tears in his eyes, pronounced those remarkable words, which the French once regarded as a prophecy:—“*My child! God and Liberty. Remember these two words.*”

“*Madness,*” says Dr. John Read, in his *Report of the Diseases of the Finsbury Dispensary*, “*strides like a colossus over this island. Those depots for the premature captivity of intellectual invalids, scattered in the country, encircling and emplaced in the bosom of the metropolis, can be regarded only as nurseries for, and manufactories of, madness; arsenals for the destruction of human reason, magazines or reservoirs of lunacy, from which may be issued out, from time to time, a sufficient supply for perpetuating and extending the generation of this disease:—a disease which is not to be remedied by stripes or strait-waistcoats, by imprisonment or impoverishment, but by an unwearied tenderness, and an unceasing vigilance and exertion.*”

“*In the miscellany of patients that are inclosed together in an insane asylum, there are few that can sympathize, or form an affinity or association with each other. Melancholy seeks to shelter itself under the shadow of solitude. The visit even of the morning light is felt as an intrusion. The sun's rays cast a darkness over the mind. Interruption of any kind produces distraction. The unfortunate victim loves to feast upon his meal of misery, without disturbance or controul. A gluttonous indulgence in this gloomy and misanthropic epicurism is better to him than any other the most dainty and luxurious repast.*”

“*The grand Council of the country ought to be aroused to a critical and inquisitorial scrutiny into the arcana of our medical prison, into our slaughter-houses for the dislocation and murder of the human mind.*”

We think it just to state, that the article which appeared in our Paper a short time since, entitled *Hibbomania*, was copied from Mr. NIGHTINGALE'S *Portraiture of Methodism*.

At the Middlesex Sessions on Wednesday last, *Weston* and *Sherrard*, two men in the employ of Mr. Pickford, of the Paddington Canal, were found guilty of a violent assault on Mr. Cove, a respectable wharfholder of that place. The Grand Junction Canal Company had promised Mr. Cove a renewal of his lease, but to his utter astonishment and injury, they had privately granted it to Mr. Pickford, who possessed more interest with them. Mr. Cove had notice to quit within the short period of a week, which not being able to comply with, his premises were violently and illegally entered by Pickford's men, who assaulted him in the most gross manner, by which his hand was cut, and he was compelled to leap out of the Window at the risk of his life.—The two men were ordered to pay a fine of 10l. each.

At the Old Bailey, last week, there was not a single trial worth reporting.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 32.

Farquhar's Constant Couple.—It's departed interest and want of nature.—*Miss Ray's Angelica.*—Mr. Penley's sympathies with his Author.

DRURY-LANE.

THE play of the *Constant Couple* or a *Trip to the Jubilee* has been revived again this season in spite of the thin houses it produces. The obsolete interest of the characters is perhaps the principal cause of this neglect, and the gross indecency of the dialogue well deserves it. The times of jubilees and carnivals, the sacred licentiousness of Romish festivals, and the grinning heyday of Parisian, have long ceased to interest the fashionable world; and the fops and fine gentlemen of FARQUHAR'S day, with their travelled affectation, their fencing, and their jaunty frivolity, beget no sympathy with the prize-fighters and politicians of our present isolated gentry. Our women too, thanks to the *Spectators* of the last century and the female writers of the present, no longer look for an example of the sex in those flushed and loose characters, which for some time after the age of CHARLES the Second breathed such a vile bed-chamber atmosphere, and converted the stage into an intellectual brothel. There is a sketch of very strong moral character in the *Lady Lurewell* of the *Constant Couple*, who revenges the loss of her virtue by leading a life of mercenary coquetry; but *Angelica*, the heroine, is a miserable attempt at female innocence and dignity: she rejects, indeed, the pecuniary offers of *Wildair* with contempt instead of mere laughter, and this single good feeling gives her a respectable rank among the demireps of the stage at that time; but she is in downright love with the man all the time, and is perfectly reconciled the moment he assures her, by way of apology, that he took her for a strumpet! The rest of the play, with its beau *Clinchers* and its personal beatings, is for the most part absolute farce, though of a superior order of farce,

The English, who think a blow should never be tolerated by any body, and who have not been accustomed like the French and the Romans, to deal with domestic slaves, have never been fond of these canings and kickings, which make a very stick of honour and put it in the power of any twig-bearer to be witty. The author's play of the *Inconstant*, which has also been revived this season, I have already criticised; but I notice it again as a comedy worth ten of the *Constant Couple*, with much more nature, twice as much wit, and a most unexceptionable moral.

ELLISTON'S *Wildair* is certainly one of his best specimens of vivacity and dry humour; but I confess I am unwilling to praise what I ought not to recommend. Miss RAY in *Angelica* delivered some of her parting admonitions to *Sir Harry* with much emphasis and sound feeling; but she has an awkward trick of forgetting her own character to admire that of her interlocutor, and she absolutely laughed two or three times in a most unseasonable manner for *Miss Angelica's* sensibility: her expression of dignity too, when she turned from *Sir Harry* with disdain, was apt to be rather coarse than genteel, rather sullen than dignified, and her face, when she tossed away her head, sometimes fermented into that chambermaid disdain which seems to say, "Marry come up! I wonder what the fellur takes me for!" The younger Mrs. SIMONS and her illustrious namesake appear to be the only ladies on the stage, who understand the calm and fixed indifference of a truly feminine contempt.

The performers were very injudiciously dressed, some in the habit of a century ago, some in that of the present, and some in a mixture of both. But certainly there was no occasion for Mr. PENLEY, who is a very amusing footman, to add to the indelicacy of his author by wearing those outrageous buff pantaloons, which fit him like his own skin, I must really protest, in the name of the side boxes and pit, against these anatomical habiliments. He looked, from his waistcoat to his shoe, as if he had stepped out of a bath of gamboge. Not a boot, not a gaiter, not a wrinkle, interrupted the continuity of smoothness. It was a practical dissertation on the signs of *Moore's Almanack*. We talk of the ladies and their dresses, but as times go, I can see no reason whatever why Eva should be blamed as she is by ADAM.

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

MR. EXAMINER—I read your last articles under the head of *Fine Arts*, with some little surprize. I hardly know which to admire most, your candour, or Mr. BELL'S serio-comic approbation of the conduct of the Members of the Royal Academy. He, "good easy man,"—was greatly afflicted that you had coupled his name with expressions *disrespectful* to the Royal Academicians" (that august Body), for it had given him "much uneasiness,"—as their conduct "must meet with general approbation."

Now, Sir, I, for one, cannot unite in Mr. BELL'S sweeping approbation of the Academicians. I know something of these Gentlemen and of the Academy,—that

pandemonium of painters: and though Mr. BELL might have thought it prudent and praiseworthy to puff them all off as "honourable men," at this particular crisis, yet, as I am no Candidate for office and therefore have no interest at stake,—I am free to declare my disapprobation both of Mr. BELL's Note and the present Gods of his idolatry.

To be sure, Mr. EXAMINER, when a man conceives his interest to be at stake, he often makes a sacrifice of his best friends; but when you were in the full career of impartial exertion in his cause,—while you were straining every nerve in the race,—who would have imagined that the person so served could throw himself in your way, and, as it were, endeavour to trip up your heels by thrusting a filthy broomstick between your legs, in order to excite the laughter of his adversaries, and thus remove the opposition from himself to you? Mr. BELL, it is true, is at present a suitor, and even though he may be aware that his mistress is no better than a prostitute, yet, like NELL GWYN's footman, he will not allow her to be so termed.

But if Mr. BELL really believes what he says, one should suppose that he had just landed in London from the Highlands or the Hebrides. Has Mr. BELL never heard of the cabals of the Royal Academy? Does he not know that to *canvas* for a vacant situation is against the Rules of the Institution, though it is a rule constantly violated? Does he think that giving *breakfasts* and *dinners* to the Members on such occasions is proper or becoming? Does he know that the Academy is ruled by a party, at the head of which is said to stand a very mediocre landscape-painter, one FARINGTON by name? Has Mr. BELL never been told, that, from a spirit of "envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness," men of superior talent are kept out of the Academy on the most frivolous and hypocritical pretences? that even at this moment, when there are vacancies for four Associates, and no less than 20 or 30 candidates, many of whom possess talents far superior to the majority of their own body, these immaculate Gentlemen have decided that only two shall now be chosen? Does Mr. BELL know that every thing is thus done by favour and patronage? that merit is decried and imbecility cherished? that it is not, "Does the person possess talent," but, "Does Mr. — or Mr. — patronize him?" Did Mr. BELL ever hear that the PRESIDENT, disgusted with these miserable and petty cabals, lately resigned his office, which those who respect him most think he should not again have condescended to accept? If Mr. BELL does not know all this, he knows nothing of the Academy; but if he does know it, how can he step forth as the open panegyrist of such unworthiness?

Were I not informed that Mr. BELL is a gentleman much respected for his various acquirements, I certainly should have supposed him to be a Bell of base metal, unsound, if not cracked. For my part, Mr. EXAMINER, rather than advocate the conduct of the Academy,—a conduct at once deficient in decency as well as dignity,—"I'd rather be a dog and bay the moon."

"Fie on't, oh fie!—'Tis an unweeded garden,

"Things rank and gross possess it merely."

Yours, tooth and nail,

Marybone, Oct. 25, 1808.

A CONNOISSEUR.

TREASONABLE LETTER.

"About the dusk of the evening of the day of the Meeting at Westminster, a porter belonging to a respectable tradesman at Charing-cross, passing through the Temple, saw lying on the ground, near the Fountain, a piece of paper, which, on examination, proved to be a letter, addressed to a ———, Esq. The man, after some hesitation, opened it, when, struck with alarm at its con-

tents, he ran immediately home, and gave it to his employer. The letter, after describing the transactions of the day at Westminster Hall, contained such sentiments, and avowed such intentions, as would be imprudent to mention. A communication was immediately made to Government, through the medium of a Gentleman belonging to the Foreign Office. Though no great importance was attached to the letter, it was nevertheless deemed prudent to order certain precautions to be taken, both at Windsor and in London. Whether the letter was seriously written or not, we cannot pretend to determine; but the fact of its having been found in the manner we have described, may be depended upon."—*Morning Post*.

These "Originators" of treason are very careless fellows! This letter, it seems, addressed to ———, Esq. was found about the dusk of the evening, in the Temple, near the Fountain. How fortunate it was, that the loyalty of this porter was not inferior to his literature. The poor man had well nigh been punished for his curiosity, so great was the alarm with which he was struck at its contents; no doubt, it made—

"Each particular hair to stand on end,

Like quills upon the fretful porcupine;"

and he immediately "ran" home, as fast as his legs could carry him; where, as may be presumed, he arrived breathless, and unable to do more than hold out the "fatal scroll." The astonished "Tradesman" had no sooner glanced his eye upon this terrible letter, than, struck with horror he "ran" to a Gentleman in the Foreign Office, where, of course, all was consternation. Not a moment was lost in making a communication to Government, who, though "attaching no importance" to this treasonable production, which, after describing the transactions of the day at the "Westminster Meeting," contained "such sentiments," and avowed "such intentions" as would be "imprudent to mention," ordered "certain precautions to be taken at Windsor and in London."

Of the nature or extent of these precautions we are left in ignorance; but that such were deemed necessary, we have already been informed; and that they were efficacious, will naturally be inferred, as no person, except the Author of the Letter, has from that moment heard any thing of the transaction!! It would have given great pleasure to have been informed of the names of the honest, loyal Porter, the respectable Tradesman at Charing-cross, and of the Gentleman in the Foreign Office, that they might have been handed down to posterity, with that applause which their zeal and loyalty so justly merit. We, however, sincerely hope, that all these worthy men will be most liberally rewarded; and might we presume, on an occasion which so strongly claims the gratitude of the public, to offer our opinion, we would suggest the propriety of the appointment of the honest Porter to a command in that renowned corps, so well-known by the appellation of *Beef-Eaters*; the respectable Tradesman might have a snug contract; and for the Gentleman in the Foreign Office, a new post might be created, of Comptroller and Inspector-General of the Public Meetings of the Inhabitants of the City of Westminster.—To be serious, this tale is one of the most stupid and contemptible we ever remember to have heard.

CITY.

THE KING'S REBUKE OF THE CITIZENS—CONSIDERED.

At a Court of Common Council held on Thursday, the report of the proceedings of the last day were read, as well as his Majesty's Answer to the Address which had been presented to him.

Mr. WAITHMAN was perfectly aware of the delicacy which ought to be preserved in the present discussion; he knew the difficulties that would be found in many minds,

to any thing which might appear in any degree disrespectful to his Majesty; and therefore he thought it necessary to state to the Court, that he meant to consider the Answer which had been given to the Address of the City, as the answer of his Majesty's advisers, and not of his Majesty himself. This was the light in which the answers and speeches of his Majesty had always been considered; and it was from their being so considered, that it became possible to discuss them fully and fairly, without being guilty of any thing disrespectful to his Majesty himself. Considering, then, that the answer which the City had received, was the answer of his Majesty's advisers, he would say that it was a most extraordinary one; and he could not conceive on what occasion it would be proper for that Court hereafter to exercise its right of petitioning, if it had no right to petition for an inquiry as to the causes of the disgraceful convention in Portugal. The right of the subjects of this realm to present their petitions to his Majesty, was a right that was universally known and acknowledged. It had been claimed, demanded, and insisted upon, at the time of the Revolution; and as it was often not only the right, but the duty of the subject, it was obvious that there should be no obstruction to the exercise of so valuable a right; and that petitioners exercising that right, and discharging that duty, should not be subject to reprehension or reproof. The City of London had frequently gone up to the throne with remonstrances and addresses worded in much stronger language than the Address which had lately been presented; but he believed there was no instance of any answer having been given in so repulsive a style. It appeared to him, indeed, that the Corporation had, in a great measure, drawn this reproof upon themselves; and if it had only been a severe lecture given to them, he could not say he should have been very sorry for it. That Court had upon former occasions debased itself so far, that Ministers might consider themselves justified in taking the liberty of reprimanding them when they did not conduct themselves in the manner that was agreeable to them. That most valuable privilege of petitioning his Majesty had not been exercised for the last twenty years, although no period of our history had been more eventful, except in the single instance of a petition to his Majesty, to convene his Parliament at the time that the nation was suffering most severely on account of the high price of provisions. Although, for 20 years, that had been the only instance of petitioning for the redress of public grievances, yet during the whole of that time they never let a single opportunity pass of congratulating his Majesty, repeating their expressions of loyalty and attachment to his person. There had been, however, no addresses expressive of attachment to either of the other two branches of the Legislature. The City had, upon an occasion not very distant, (the No Popery cry) congratulated his Majesty on the firmness with which he had supported the glorious independence of the Crown; but the City had never spoken of the glorious independence of the Houses of Lords and Commons. The answer which his Majesty's Ministers had advised him to give to the City of London, was, to put it into plain English, nothing more than this:—"Gentlemen, I am perfectly convinced of your loyalty and attachment to me; you have told me that so very often, that it was not necessary to tell me that over again what I knew before. As to your advice, I could very well dispense with it." An answer such as this was undoubtedly insulting to the City of London, the first Corporation in the empire. The Court might well remember what had taken place, when he himself had moved for an Address to his Majesty, praying for an inquiry into the causes of the disgraceful convention at the Helder. The answer which the Gentlemen on the other side gave to his motions, was, that his statement was unfortunately full of truths, but that there must be an inquiry into the circumstances of that transaction; that it could not be supposed that the Government or the Parliament would be so remiss

in the execution of their duty, as to allow such a business to pass without full investigation; and that therefore it would be a disgrace to the Court, and an insult to his Majesty, to pass such an Address. This was the language which those Gentlemen held at that day:—[Mr. S. Dixon then nodded his head and smiled.]—He perfectly understood the meaning of the Gentleman's nods and gestures, and was sure that nothing would prevent him from repeating the same language on the present occasion, except the knowledge that he could not now take the same liberty with the Court. Although that Gentleman affected to treat the present subject with so much levity, yet it would be remembered with what zeal he called upon the City to interpose, when he had stated our holy religion was in danger. At that time it did not appear that any particular interposition was necessary, as his Majesty had already done that which those Gentlemen so highly approved of. When that Court went up to address his Majesty on the cause of the Spanish Patriots, their interposition did not appear particularly necessary, as they only returned thanks for the vigour and firmness which they stated that Ministers had displayed. In both those cases, however, the object of the addresses was agreeable to Ministers, and therefore his Majesty was advised to answer most graciously; but when they presented an address which was not flattering to Ministers, those Ministers immediately advised his Majesty to answer it in terms of reproof and reprimand. He would defy any Gentleman in that Court to justify the answer which had been given, or to point out what part of their Address it was which called for judgment without inquiry. The Address expressly prayed for such an inquiry as would lead to the discovery of those by whose misconduct the honour of the country had been tarnished. Was it possible for any man to suppose that there had been no misconduct? If we could observe the manner in which our enemies conduct their affairs, we would see that they never make such disgraceful Conventions, while, on our part, the history of our campaigns present a continued succession of disastrous events. When his Majesty was advised to say that recent events had shewn his readiness to institute inquiries, it was not easy to find out what were those recent events alluded to. He did not know that the inquiries which had been instituted with respect to Gen. Whitelock, Admiral Calder, and Sir Home Popham, had been conducted in such a manner as to give perfect satisfaction to the country. He did not know that the inquiry respecting Lord Melville or Mr. Alexander Davison had been more satisfactory than those military inquiries. It appeared to him, on the contrary, that although there never was a deficiency of power to screw from the people the means of carrying all the projects of Ministers into execution, there was a most lamentable deficiency in the means of making those who had embezzled the public money refund what they had pilfered from the nation. Was it to be presumed that if Ministers had been left to themselves upon the present occasion, they would have instituted very rigorous investigations into that business, which they wanted to announce to the country as a victory, and for which they fired their cannon? If the retreat from Dunkirk was not taken into consideration, the Court would not see that any great readiness to institute inquiries existed in any quarter. He had heard several accounts from officers who had accompanied the British army in its retreat from Holland through Germany. No British army had ever, perhaps, before been exposed to such afflicting hardships and cruel sufferings, and yet no inquiry had been instituted. No inquiry had ever been instituted for the failure at Quiberon, nor for the disgraceful expedition to Ferrol, where the present Secretary at War landed near 18,000 men, and after ascending the hills and taking a view of the town, immediately re-embarked them. When so many capital failures, which so deeply affected the honour of the British arms, were suffered to pass over without any inquiry, it was not to be taken for

granted that Ministers would be very forward in directing such an inquiry as would be satisfactory to the nation, on the event which they thought proper to announce as a victory. In former times such failures were not allowed to pass over without addresses from that Court, praying for a proper inquiry to be instituted. The City presented similar addresses on the occasion of the failures at Minorca and before Rochefort, although the Rochefort squadron had been planned under the great Lord Gatham. To those addresses the City had received very gracious answers. At the time in which the expedition to Rochefort had failed, the nation seemed to consider it a serious crime in Ministers to expose a British fleet or army without previous information. For several years, however, we have been accustomed to send expeditions without information, or without any distinct object. The public were amused for many months with reading in the newspapers of great expeditions to be sent somewhere. Their destination was a profound secret—the officers did not know where they were going, neither did the Ministers themselves. Every thing was left to the mere chapter of accidents; and Ministers were quite contented so long as they could amuse the nation by preparations, and get as much money as they pleased to demand. The inquiries which they had instituted had never been satisfactory to the country. In the case of General Whitelocke, the nation was still ignorant what services he had ever performed to entitle him to so important a command as he was entrusted with; it had not been informed of the causes of his appointment, and it had not learned by whose advice that appointment had been given him. All that was known was, that he was appointed under one Administration, and brought to trial under another. With respect to Sir Home Popham, all that was known was, that he was appointed under one Administration, brought to trial under another, and afterwards reinstated in the royal favour by a third, notwithstanding the sentence of a Court-martial. There had been an inquiry also with respect to Lord Melville, who had certainly been acquitted by the tribunal who tried him. It was now pretty generally understood that Lord Melville has a considerable influence in his Majesty's Councils, and it was therefore not very easy to perceive what great advantage had been derived from those inquiries, for which his Majesty's advisers seemed disposed to take so much credit. In the navy, there is a strict inquiry with respect to the loss of a single ship; but in the army, and in expeditions in which the honour of the country is deeply committed, there is no sufficient inquiry into the causes of the failures. If the same rules were applied to the army which prevail in the navy, the country might pride itself in the achievements of her army, as it now does in its naval character. It was impossible for any Englishman, who felt strongly for the character of his country, not to feel that the national honour had been considerably tarnished, by the incompetence or mismanagement of those who have directed its military power for a number of years. Disgrace had followed disgrace, and yet no satisfactory inquiry with respect to the causes or the authors of these disgraces had yet been made. If the City of London had called for inquiry with respect to the expeditions to the Helder, Dunkirk, Quiberon, and Ferrol, they probably would not have had occasion now to call for inquiry into this last disgrace which the British character had sustained by the Convention in Portugal. If ever there was an occasion which made it necessary for the City to exercise its right of approaching his Majesty with their Petitions, it was upon that occasion, where not only the honour of this country, but the interests of their allies, for whom the British nation felt so strongly, had been completely sacrificed. In the exercise of that right and duty, they had received an answer from his Majesty's Ministers which was more repulsive, and more in the language of reproof, than any Ministers had ever advised a British King to use to his City of London. After a variety of

other observations, he concluded by moving the following Resolution:

“RESOLVED—That his Majesty's Answer be entered upon the Journals. That at the same time this Court cannot forbear declaring it as their opinion, that the Address and Petition presented to his Majesty by this Court on Wednesday the 12th inst. was conceived in the most dutiful and respectful terms; that it is the undoubted right of the subject to petition, and that this right ought at all times to be freely exercised in all matters of public grievance without obstruction or reproof:

“That they are, therefore, at a loss to know by what construction of their said Petition, however strained or perverted, his Majesty's advisers could attribute to them any intention or desire “to pronounce judgment, without previous investigation.”

“That they are equally at a loss to know why his Majesty's advisers should have deemed it necessary to remind them, “That it was inconsistent with the principles of British Justice;” unless to throw an unmerited odium on this Corporation, and raise a barrier between them and the Crown, on all occasions where their object is free and constitutional enquiry.

“That had this Court refrained from expressing to his Majesty their feelings at the humiliating termination of the campaign in Portugal, they must have ceased to feel—to think—to act as Britons, and have shewn themselves unsusceptible of that patriotism so essentially necessary for the preservation of their Liberties—the maintenance of their National Honour—and the independence and security of his Majesty's Crown and Dominions.

“They cannot, therefore, sufficiently express their concern, that they should, by any suggestions, have met with obstruction and reprehension in the exercise of this undoubted and invaluable right.

“That they particularly regret that his Majesty should have been advised to express a hope ‘That recent occurrences would have convinced them; that his Majesty is at all times ready to institute inquiries on occasions in which the Character of the Country or the Honour of his Arms is concerned; and that the interposition of the City of London could not be necessary for inducing his Majesty to direct due enquiry into a transaction which had disappointed the hopes and expectations of the nation.’

“Because it appears, that during the eventful period of the last fifteen years, various enterprises and expeditions have been undertaken, ‘in which the Character of the Country, and the Honour of his Majesty's Arms, were concerned,’ which have grievously failed, and ‘disappointed the hopes and expectations of the nation,’ and into which ‘due inquiry’ has not been made. That in one of the recent occurrences to which his Majesty's Answer refers, it is not known even at the present moment by whose advice the Commander in Chief was appointed, or on what account such Commander was appointed.

“That during all these calamitous events and wasteful profusion of blood and treasure, the public burthens have been patiently borne, and his Majesty has not been called upon by ‘the interposition of the City of London’ (if their humble supplication must be so termed) to institute inquiries into these failures; although it appears to them that such ‘interposition’ might have been highly necessary and beneficial to the country, and by promoting ‘due inquiry,’ precluded the necessity of their late application.

“That during these unhappy reverses, and while his Majesty's subjects submitted to so many privations, the most shameful and scandalous abuses and peculations have prevailed; into which ‘due inquiry’ has not been made so as to bring to justice such great public delinquents.

“That whoever advised his Majesty to put so unfavourable and unwarrantable a construction on their late Petition, has abused the confidence of his Sovereign, and is equally an enemy to his Majesty and the just rights of his people.

"That they do not attribute guilt to any one, much less do they pronounce judgment without previous investigation. They ask for investigation, prompt and rigid investigation, and the punishment of guilt wherever it may be found."

Mr. QUIN seconded Mr. Waithman's motion, and expressed himself to the following effect:—"My Lord, we are this day called upon to remove, by the manifestation of our sentiments, the unfavourable and dangerous impressions which have been made upon the royal mind by the advice of one or more of his Majesty's confidential advisers, to vindicate our consistency, to assert our dignity, and to stand forth, in common with our fellow-subjects, the supporters of that bulwark of our liberties, the right of petitioning the Sovereign, and declaring our opinions in a fair and constitutional way. I am not the enemy of his Majesty's Ministers; for many of their measures, particularly in their Foreign Administration, I find the best possible grounds to approve. I have not in view the gratification of party-spirit, nor is it my object to convert the present motion into an engine for the removal of the principal servants of the Crown; but I wish to shew that the City of London cannot be degraded into the tool and instrument of every set of men who occasionally possess the first offices of the State, and possessing authority, influence, and power, flatter themselves with the idea of finding in us men so pliant and so sycophantic, as to be fit for every work of self-debasement and unqualified drudgery. In considering the answer which has been read, it is almost needless for me to say, that we are to treat it as the answer of his Majesty's Ministers. In speaking, therefore, of his Majesty's Answer, I feel myself justified in calling it the answer of my Lord Hawkesbury, from whose mouth it was delivered. There are in the answer of Lord Hawkesbury three points, which more particularly present themselves to our consideration:—The first tells us, that his Lordship must remind us that 'it is inconsistent with the principles of British justice, to pronounce judgment without previous investigation.' Although this is a truism, who is there so absurd, so preposterous, so besotted, as not to see the drift of it? We are accused with calling upon his Majesty to inflict summary punishment upon the authors of the disgraceful Convention in Portugal; and yet, in the very words of our Address and Petition, we merely call for that which is our undoubted right—such inquiry as would lead to the discovery of those violators of the national honour; of those men who, in the very hour of victory, deprived us and our allies of all the benefits arising from the gallant and triumphant exertions of British discipline and British valour. I now come to a part of the answer which says, 'that the recent occurrences might have convinced us that the Sovereign is at all times ready to institute inquiries, on occasions in which the character of the country or the honour of his arms is concerned.' Here let me ask, what are these recent occurrences? The case of Mr. White-locke is so fully known as not to require from me many comments: he is now, while I address you, surrounded by a splendid circle of titled, opulent friends; he has lost indeed his rank, but he has not lost his influence. With respect to Sir Robert Calder, whose peculiar case is, I suppose, one of the recent occurrences alluded to, he, although crowned with victory, lives in retirement and solitude, condemned to waste the remainder of his days in sorrow for the loss of his lady, whose high spirit and noble mind could not survive a sentence so very painful to the partner of her fortunes and his glory. But are there no other recent occurrences? Has my Lord Hawkesbury forgot the sad disasters, the melancholy reverses, which during the last fifteen years have most seriously affected 'the character of the country and the honour of his Majesty's arms?' Has it escaped the Noble Lord's memory that there was an event so painful to every heart as the retreat from Dunkirk? A Royal Duke was the Com-

mander in Chief upon that occasion, but the *head quarters* of the Royal Commander were twelve miles distant from the place which was besieged. When the attack commenced, there was neither heavy artillery to reduce the town, nor naval co-operation, which was so essentially necessary; and when the artillery arrived, it was found that the balls would not fit the calibre!! Was there no cause of inquiry there? And yet we are assured by his Majesty's advisers, that he is 'at all times ready to institute inquiries.' Is it necessary for me, my Lord, to call your attention to the evacuation of Holland by the Royal Duke? After failure upon failure, after disaster upon disaster, he was penned in, cooped up with his army in Holland. What was his conduct? *Instead of participating in their distresses, instead of sharing in their dangers, he embarked for London, in December, 1795, and left them to perform a march of two months to Bremen, constantly harassed by the enemy, subject to every privation, and supported only by that spirit, that courage, and that perseverance which are the characteristics of British troops.* Will any man dare to tell me that in that instance there ought not to have been inquiry? And yet we are assured by Lord Hawkesbury, that his Majesty is 'at all times ready to institute inquiries.' In alluding to the Convention at the Helder, it will be sufficient for me to say, that the same Royal Duke concluded a treaty by which, for the delivery of his Royal Person, and that of his troops, 8000 French and Dutch prisoners of war, at that time detained in British prisons, were to be restored. Was there in that instance no ground for inquiry? And were not the character of the country, and the honour of his Majesty's arms concerned? And yet we are confidently assured by Lord Hawkesbury, that his Majesty is 'at all times ready to institute inquiries.' Of the expedition against Ferrol, I shall merely say, that it failed, and its failure was unaccompanied by inquiry. Here then, without adverting to any other cases, we find no readiness for inquiry. The defect, the radical error, is in our present military system, where there is nothing tangible, nothing which we can call responsible, and which, while it is allowed to exist, must make a wide line of distinction between our land and naval exertions. I now come, my Lord, to the use made by his Majesty's Ministers of the word 'interposition.' The word means, in the best possible sense, an act of agency; but the City of London, and the People of England, cannot be so degraded as to be termed agents, in asserting the rights given to them, by the express words of the Constitution, of addressing their Sovereign, and expressing their sentiments on all occasions of public complaint and grievance. I have looked through the records of the country both in ancient and modern times, and the only instance of using the word I have found, is in the reign of James I. When that Monarch was addressed by his Parliament upon the subject of foreign and domestic grievances, and more particularly upon his favourite project of marrying his son to the Infanta of Spain, he, among other observations, said, 'That in any business which depended upon his own prerogative, they had no title to *interpose* with their advice, except when he pleased to desire it.' Mr. Quin entreated the Court to support their own dignity and honour. He conjured them to consider, that the flattery and adulation of his Majesty would only tend to their own humiliation; the men in power had been at all times ready to swallow compliment, praise, and panegyric; whenever the City presented them with sweatmeats, blanc mange, and whipt syllabub, they glutted themselves with the most extraordinary avidity; but whenever the Corporation spoke the language of truth, and laid before them a solid, substantial piece of beef, the same Ministers lost their appetites, and turned up their noses. It was not a dish to be found in the ministerial bill of fare. He trusted the inquiry would be adequate to the cause, and that instead of a secret Court of Investigation, it would be conducted in a

way as open and manifest as the disgraceful failures of the campaign had unfortunately proved.

Mr. S. DIXON thought that they ought not only to consult the dignity of that Corporation, but that they should also consult the dignity of their Sovereign. He moved, as an amendment, that instead of the Resolution which had been read, the first resolution should be, "That his Majesty's most gracious answer be entered on the Journals."

The RECORDER, upon reading the amendment as it was handed up to him, read it (*by mistake*) that his Majesty's most *grievous* Answer be entered on the Journals. (*This mistake occasioned prodigious laughter in the Hall.*)

Mr. Alderman BIRCH objected to that part of the Resolution which stated, that in the exercise of their right of petitioning, they did not conceive themselves subject to reprehension or reproof. He contended, that his Majesty had as full a right to select the terms in which he chose to give his answer, as the Petitioners had to select the terms in which the Petitioners chose to word their Petition. He could not agree in the doctrine, that his Majesty's answer should be considered merely as the answer of his Ministers.

Mr. Alderman COMBE contended, that in constitutional language the speech of his Majesty was always considered as the speech of his Ministers. It was under that supposition that Parliament always entered freely into the discussion of the propriety or impropriety of such speeches, and it was upon the same supposition that every Gentleman in the country had a right to discuss these things freely; in public and in private companies, without being supposed to violate, in any degree, that respect which is due to the Sovereign.

Mr. WEEBLE was against the amendment, conceiving that the term, "Most gracious Answer" would not apply to the answer which had been returned to the City of London.

A Member proposed, that it should be called "the most ungracious answer of his Majesty."

Mr. GODDHERE thought that this was a situation in which it was the duty of the City of London to speak out. He could hardly conceive a greater crime than for any Administration to attempt to degrade or insult that glorious spirit with which the whole country was animated for the honour of the British nation and the assistance of the Spaniards. The Convention in Portugal was a disgrace which ought not to be allowed to pass over without ample inquiry.

Mr. WAITMAN made an able reply to the observations of Mr. Dixon and Mr. Birch.

The motion was then put on the amendment, which was negatived by a great majority, and afterwards the original motion was put and carried by a great show of hands.

Mr. WAITMAN then proposed an Address to his Majesty, conformable to the spirit of the Resolution; and also praying him to institute an inquiry into the system of military appointments, and to convoke his Parliament speedily for that purpose.

Mr. Alderman COMBE objected to that part of the motion respecting military appointments, which he thought was a consideration foreign to the object of the meeting.

Mr. WAITMAN consented to withdraw the motion for the present, if the Resolution was published in the usual manner.—It was then resolved that the Resolution should be published.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

On Tuesday morning a most shocking incident occurred in the King's Bench prison:—A young gentleman, named Alexander, a native of Berlin, who had been 15 months a prisoner there, put an end to his existence by throwing himself from his chamber-window, in the top gallery, a height of three stories. The deceased was at Hamburg about two years since, where he was met by a British ma-

nufacturer, one of his father's creditors, who had dealt extensively with the house; by this person Mr. Alexander was induced to set out with him to London; but as soon as they arrived in England, Mr. Alexander was thrown into Chester goal at the suit of his friend and fellow-traveller, upon the ground of an alleged debt, as the supposed partner with his father. There having remained for some time, he was removed at his own desire by *Habeas Corpus* about 15 months ago, to the King's Bench. With the feelings natural to a man so circumstanced in a foreign country, neglected by his friends, and destitute of support, at length his mind became deranged. His creditors, however, persisted in his detention, under a persuasion that it would ultimately force his friends to settle their demands, as they conjectured there was an understanding between him and his father; but in this, fatally for the unhappy young man, they were deceived. Indigence and persecution reduced his mind to imbecility, and his body almost to a skeleton; for the last week he had lain on a bed of sickness, and refused to take medicine or sustenance of any kind, and on Tuesday morning, in a moment of frenzy, while his attendant had quitted his room for a few seconds, he availed himself of the opportunity to precipitate himself from his window upon the pavement.

On Tuesday night, about nine o'clock, a fire broke out at a house adjoining the Raven and Sun, in Great Russell-street, near Dockhead, Bermondsey. The houses being very old, and built of wood, with lath and plaster partitions, it raged with great fury until seven houses were entirely burnt down, and three others in Raven and Sun-yard much damaged; no lives were lost, but nearly 20 poor families lost all their furniture; two children were in imminent danger of death, the staircase being on fire, but two of the firemen with great courage rushed through the flames and saved them. A poor old woman, who was the unfortunate cause of the conflagration, by making too large a fire, which caught the chimney, was saved with great difficulty.

On Wednesday morning, about five o'clock, a fire broke out in the cooperage of Mr. Stewart, in Hermitage-street, Wapping, which destroyed the whole stock, and had nearly reached the brewery of Mr. Bowman, but which was saved by the arrival of the engines.

MARRIAGES.

At Gishorough, Yorkshire, Charles Lloyd, Esq. Major of the 56th Regiment of Foot, to Miss Emma Hale, daughter of the late Gen. Hale, of the Plantation.

At Lambeth Church, T. Manners, son of the Hon. Wm. Manners, of Lambeth, to Miss A. Gates, of Newington.

Yesterday se'night, by the Rev. G. S. Townley, John Bainbridge, jun. Esq. to Harriet, youngest daughter of the late Robert Pickwood, Esq.

DEATHS.

In the 68th year of his age, the Rev. J. Nasmith, D.D. Rector of Leverington, in the Isle of Ely.

At North Collingham, Nottinghamshire, John Pym, Esq. who was lineally descended from the famous republican Pym, who distinguished himself so much in the civil wars, and died in 1644. His only son having died abroad, this branch of the male line became extinct. Mr. Pym, and two other gentlemen, who were at the sea-side together, all caught the ague at the same time, and, what is remarkable, have all died on their return home.

On Thursday se'night, a workman of the name of Roberts went into the George public-house, in Great Portland-street, and called for half a pint of purl, but before he could be served with it, he fell down, and instantly expired. He has left a wife and four children.

On Friday morning, at his house, in Brompton Crescent, Mr. Edward Jones.