

THE EXAMINER.

No. 75. SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 1809

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

SWIFT.

No. 75.

DINNER IN HONOUR OF "THE IMMORTAL PITT."

In Ireland, a death is the life of a whole neighbourhood: the friends of the deceased assemble on the occasion to unite melancholy with mirth, to ask him with plaintive cries *how he could have left them*, and to get drunk. This solemnity is called a *wake*, and is confined to the lower orders. The English have their *wakes* also, but only among the great: the ceremony however is much the same. A "great Minister" dies: his friends, not contented with a single *wake*, have an annual one: they assemble with the same mixed sensibility to grow melancholy or merry as the past or present feeling predominates, to ask the great man how he could have left them, and to shed a profusion of wine: if a joke or a *jeu-d'esprit* goes round, then they all laugh;—if the great man's name is mentioned, then they all look sorry:—nothing can be more natural:—all the essential difference between the Irish and English solemnity is, that the Irish do not get drunk till they have commenced, while the English are manifestly intoxicated beforehand: with the former, intoxication is the effect; with the latter, it is, in every sense of the word, the cause.

If posterity, as it may be apt to do, should regard this festival as a remnant of Northern barbarism,—if it should not see the inspiring connection between a dead man and a dinner, or be able to conceive how the same wine that "gladdens the heart of man" should also dispose him to solemn sadness,—it should recollect that the English never thought it necessary to pay a public dining testimony to the merits of their great statesmen, poets, and philosophers: the immortality of *those* great men never depended upon eating, and drinking, and ranting: to make foolish speeches would have had as little to do with the memory of CHATHAM, as to get drunk would have had to do with LOCKE, or to spout frothy verses, with MILTON: but to the memory of great placemen and other such "illustrious" characters, a dinner has most excellent allusion. In the first place, their memory, as the savages believe of their deceased ancestors, perpetually stands in need of refreshment: secondly, all the objects at the dinner, as the loaves and the fishes, &c. nay, even the very *seats*, tend to remind the assembly of the blessings they have enjoyed under the great man's dispensation: and thirdly, as it was the practice of ancient devotion to offer corn to CRESS the giver of corn, and wine to BACCHUS the wine-bibber, so the gratitude of the assembly is best displayed in the solemn sacrifice

of the abovementioned good things to the memory of the "illustrious" and "ever-to-be-lamented" donor.

Mr. PITT's Anniversary was kept in this manner the other day; and in spite of those writers who object to the festival, no placeman, I think, could have met with more appropriate honours than to be drunk as he was: in fact, I cannot see what the most fastidious of those writers would have, when they recollect that the Meeting has been eulogized by MR. FITZGERALD in poetry and by the *Morning Post* in prose. It is true, objections had been made, very "solemn" objections, by the Pittites themselves, to the same kind of meetings among other people; the Ministers who assembled for political purposes at the London Tavern protested, it must be confessed, against the men who assembled for political purposes at the *Crown and Anchor*; and they certainly did maintain with great vehemence, that to meet for such purposes at the *Crown and Anchor* was a violation of decency and true patriotism. But then the cases are so different!—For instance, SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, Baronet, is not MR. JOHN INGLIS, East-India Director; therefore he has no right to be the head of a public table:—secondly, MR. WARDLE, M. P. is not MR. PERCEVAL, the Chancellor of the Exchequer; therefore, he has no right to give his opinion in public: thirdly, the cause of the people is quite a distinct thing from the cause of PITT; therefore the people have no right to dine together: fourthly, the people pay for the places but the Ministers enjoy them; therefore the people must keep at home, and dine as well as they can, and hold their tongues like good children, while the placemen may go, and eat, and talk wherever, whenever, and whatever they please. If these reasons do not satisfy my readers, they must have the very stomachs of the London Livery. MR. CANNING, it must be allowed, does not go so far in this respect as his "illustrious" and "ever-to-be-lamented" colleagues, but when he was asked in the House the other night why a party-man and nobody else might dine in public, he replied with some confusion, that it was not the dinner to which he objected, but to what might be said at the dinner. Amiable and condescending liberality! And yet neither the Whig Club nor the Reformists have gone to MR. CANNING with tears in their eyes to thank him for assuring them, that the people of England may eat beef in taverns!

The number of tickets on this "great" occasion is said to have been limited to 320 on account of the size of the room; nothing indeed was at first intended but "a private dinner of the Gentlemen of the Pitt Club, to which the leading members of Mr. PITT's *School of Politics* and a few others were to have been invited;" but "when so many persons," continues the pathetic *Post*, "possessing rank, property, character, and every qualification that

constitutes respectability, sought this occasion of assembling together, and shewing to each other, and to the country, the falsehood, as well as the mischief of allowing the sentiments and resolutions of other meetings, composed of persons of a very different description, from being represented or received as the sense of the nation, it would have been unwise as well as cruel in the extreme, to have denied them the opportunity." *Cruel in the extreme!*—How pretty an invective of resentment! How amiably heard in school!—There the poor Pittites would have been standing, I suppose, some with patriotic hopes that one of the Aldermen might be taken ill and make room for them; others in blank despair at their total want of place; one looking through the key-hole with tears in his eyes and water in his mouth; and a third scribbling the paper to carry that little scrap of writing to my Lord CASTLEREAGH, who would very likely get him in.—Well, "from five to six o'clock" proceeds the dignified Post, "Members of the House of Commons, Peers, and Members of the Government continued to arrive. The Lord CHANCELLOR, and all his Majesty's Ministers, with a number of the most distinguished Nobility, entered the room together, in a sort of procession, which, notwithstanding the festive purpose of the Meeting, had in it an air of solemnity not unmixed with sadness."—Now, it would have been as well to state, of whom this distinguished Nobility consisted, and how it was distinguished: the rich nobles, the literary nobles, the heroic nobles, are unfortunately in opposition to the present Ministers: but then there is the Duke of MONTROSE, that distinguished Master of the Horse; and my Lord CASTLEREAGH, that distinguished jobber; and the Duke of PORTLAND, that distinguished Dowager; all famous personages, and distinguished by very eminent places. This reminds me of GOLDBRITH'S Chinese, when he was making his inquiries in Westminster Abbey and asking his guide what such a man was remarkable for—"Remarkable for," says the other; "O, Sir, he was a very remarkable man."—"Yes, but what for?" returns the Chinese—"What for, Sir? Sir, he was remarkable—a—a—remarkable—for a tomb in Westminster Abbey."

With the aforesaid "air of solemnity not unmixed with sadness" they of course sat down to dinner, and here there is a deplorable gap in the narrative, for hardly a word is said of the dinner, except that it consisted of "every thing the season could afford!" (for season read taxes)—Now the effect of all these merry-mournful occasions depends entirely upon contrast, and therefore it was incumbent upon any one who undertook to be its historian to enter into a number of particulars, as how the company were so ardent in the cause as to scramble rather indecorously for places,—how they all seated themselves in an attitude of despondency and grasped the knives and forks as though they would have demolished BONAPARTE—how at the name of that illustrious ruffian every body laughed outrageously from respect to Mr. PITT'S memory, and how at the name of Mr. PITT they all recovered their "solemnity not unmixed with sadness"—then the grave writer should have proceeded to describe how the general tear trickled down into the turtle-soup or wasted itself upon the trifle; how Lord CASTLEREAGH, from excessive sympathy with the music of the East India Company's band, could hardly manage to keep his seat; how the company in an agony of impatience called sometimes upon Mr. PITT and some-

times upon the waiter; how they praised that great man (I mean the former) for adding so artfully to our national strength by accustoming our shoulders to the heaviest burdens, like the porters who by the same means bring themselves to bear any thing; and lastly, how they exalted him to the skies for the consummate policy he displayed towards his enemies in aggrandizing them by every possible artifice, so that he may literally be said to have done for them, like the man in HOWARD who ruined his adversary by enriching and puffing him up. But all these matters are easily conceived, and the historian, considering their nature, and how "impossible" it was "to describe" them, was wise no doubt in leaving them to the imagination.

After dinner, Mr. DIXON, the Roman Catholic, commenced the very appropriate canon of *Non Nobis, Domine*,—that is to say, "Not unto us, O Lord." Then after a few accustomed toasts came "The immortal memory of the late Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT."—"This toast," says the accomplished Post, "was drunk in solemn reverential silence." Then a little while afterwards, "May the spirit of Mr. PITT ever animate and guide the Councils of Great Britain."—This "toast" was "drank" with three times three, "followed by long and enthusiastic applause:"

A present deity! they shout around.

A present deity! the vaulted roofs rebound.

With ravished ears.

"GEORGE CANNING" hears,

Assumes the god,

Affects to nod,

And seems to shake the spheres.

However, he shook nothing but his pocket-handkerchief. "A song, in which the spirit of PITT was invoked to preside over the councils of Britain, and the spirit of NETTLETON to lead the British arms to victory on the day of battle, was sung. The effect was sublime: something like that of the punch, I should imagine, from the contrast of spirits." "Here Mr. FITZGERALD," that illustrious and ever-to-be-lamented poet, "at the request of the Chairman recited at the head of the room, in his usual eloquent and" (what is very odd in an eloquent man) "impressive manner, his beautiful poem, called "an Independent Tribute to the Memory of Mr. Pitt." We are not told what applause followed the recitation, and no specimen of the poetry is given; but the reader has no doubt been, once in his life, a peruser of those impressive *jeux-d'esprit* called the Bellman's Verses. This "Independent Tribute" in verse was followed by a most independent toast:—"His Majesty's Tailors and success to their measures" I beg pardon—Ministers, I should say, but it is the same thing, for as the former cut their cloth, so the latter cut their consciences, precisely to fit the King. This toast was "enthusiastically drunk with three times three, and followed by long applauses and repeated shouts of huzza!" Then "the Lord CHANCELLOR was desirous to express in adequate terms the sense his Majesty's Ministers entertained of the honour done them, &c. &c. but," it need not be added, he could not: his feelings overpowered him, not to mention the heat of the room; and it would have been "cruel in the extreme" to insist upon a long speech, our good Lord Chancellor is so extremely weak! The health of "the Lord Mayor and Corporation, and prosperity to the City of London" were then "drank," and not only Sir JOHN WILLIAM ANDERSON returned thanks for himself, but we are absolutely assured by the precise Post, that "Mr. A.

German SHAW, who was present, said something. Very odd, a man should say any thing, who was present? Nothing is told us of what was said by persons who were not present; but I should conjecture, that they never could have made a speech equal to this Alderman's; one of the "many persons possessing rank, property, character, and every qualification that constitutes respectability." As a proof of two of the qualities that constitute respectability, viz. candour and common sense, this worthy Magistrate declared that "the toast was the more flattering; as it came from the friends of the GREATEST MAN this or any other country ever produced." What a fund of reading and observation is opened in this single piece of criticism: ALFRED to be sure had a little taste in every thing; BACON some small penetration, and SOCRATES a few hints towards human improvement; but PITT was the man, PITT who despised the liberal arts; PITT who could not see through the rottenness of continental coalitions, PITT who found France in her old limits and left her stretching out her hundred arms, like a monstrous cancer, over the whole face of Europe! This is the "illustrious," the "immortal," the "ever-to-be-lamented," the "greatest man; that this or any other country ever produced!" People are apt to doubt Mr. SHAW's sincerity, and even the London Tavern seems to have been silent on this occasion, but if any thing could prove him to be *distracted* at the loss of Mr. PITT, I think it is this speech. The madness however was contagious. The last speaker we find recorded is Mr. CANNING, who "in compliance with the desire of the Chair" rose to give the company the sentiments of the present Government with respect to the various "legitimate" Monarchies that had just been toasted. Were a Member of Parliament to ask such an explanation in the House of Commons, he might probably meet with rebuff or at least with evasion; but when Mr. JOHN INGLIS, East India Director, signifies his "desire" to the Ministers, what else remains for the Minister, but to comply? However the explanation consisted of nothing but what we all know—the Ministers it seems have *hopes* in Spain, and *hopes* in Austria, and are determined to act in every respect upon the Pittite principles, in which, says my Lord ELDON, they have been educated; so that the nation, to its everlasting comfort, may still hope to find its enemies gaining, and itself losing influence, and when Europe is entirely gone, the Pittites may transfer the losing qualities upon which they prize themselves to India and America.

After this satisfactory statement, the company appear to have given a greater loose to their maudlin gaieties, though still no doubt there was "a solemnity not unmixed with sadness" whenever the Chairman mentioned the word PITT, and they still sought anxiously for that great man's memory where it was so often drowned—at the bottom of the sixth bottle. "At ten o'clock," concludes the inspired Post, with a climax not to be exceeded by Mr. FITZGERALD himself, the "greater part of the company retired, and shortly after, the company broke up, deeply impressed with the sentiments that had been enforced in the course of the evening, and highly charmed with the entertainment, which, while it was an abundant source of sublime delight, was not less remarkable for the gratification of the palate." This is as if a person were to say—"The shores of Kent, while they exhibit a majestic sweep of cliffs that seem with naked strength to defy the hostile coast of France, are not less remarkable for the extreme quantity

of shrimps they produce;" or—"Mr. PITT, that immortal, ever-to-be-lamented, and greatest of men, was not more celebrated for the mighty qualities of his mind than for his very extraordinary nose!" or, lastly, as one of Mr. FITZGERALD's predecessors satirically singeth,

Persuasion tips his tongue where'er he talks—

And he has lodgings in the King's Bench walks;

So much for this most gross, most inefficient of all political farces.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, MAY 25.—We learn from Spain that Gen. Sebastian occupies the province of La Mancha. The Duke of Belluno is at Merida.—The official accounts from Valladolid, of the 12th inst. contain an account of the dispositions of the Duke of Elehingen, who occupies Galicia; whom Gen. Kellerman has greatly reinforced at Lugo; with the Duke of Treviso and Gen. Bonnet. Several columns must, by this time, have penetrated into the Asturias; and those measures will complete the deliverance of the whole Northern part of Spain.

EIGHTH BULLETIN OF THE FRENCH GRAND ARMY.

Vienna, May 16.

The inhabitants of Vienna greatly praise the conduct of the Archduke Rainier, who refused to support the Government in the revolutionary measures ordered by the Emperor Francis, and that the Archduke Maximilian was therefore appointed in his stead. This young Prince, who swore to bury himself under the ruins of Vienna, no sooner learnt that the French had crossed the Danube to cut off his retreat, than he quitted the town, without even transferring the command to any other person.—The misfortunes which have thus befallen the House of Lorraine were foreseen by all intelligent men, of whatever principles. Manfredini represented to the Emperor that this war would bring about the downfall of his house, and that the French would soon be at Vienna: "Poh! Poh!" replied the Emperor, "they are all in Spain."—Thugut made repeated representations. The Prince de Ligne said aloud, "I thought I was old enough not to have outlived the Austrian Monarchy!" And when the old Count Wallis saw the Emperor set out to join the army, he said; "There is Darius running to meet an Alexander; he will experience the same fate."—Count Cobenzel, the promoter of the war of 1805, on his death-bed and but 24 hours before he expired, addressed an animated letter to the Emperor—"Your Majesty," he wrote, "ought to consider as fortunate the situation in which the peace of Presburgh has placed you. You are in the second rank among the powers of Europe, which is the same your ancestors occupied. Avoid a war for which no provocation is given; Napoleon will conquer, and will then have the right to be invulnerable;" &c. &c.—The Prince of Zinzendorf, Minister for Foreign Affairs, several other statesmen and persons of distinction, and all the respectable burghers, spoke in the same manner.—But the wounded pride of the Emperor, the hatred of the Archduke Charles against Russia, the gold of England, which had purchased the Minister Stadion, the levity of some dozens of wretched or effeminate men, the false reports of Count Metternich, the intrigues of the Razumowskys, the Dalpazzos, the Schlegels, the Gentzes, and other Adventurers maintained by England for sowing discord on the Continent, have promoted this foolish and impious war. Weak Princes! corrupt Cabinets! ignorant, reckless, besotted men! such are the snafes which England has for these fifteen years constantly laid for you, and into which you will feebly fall. But the catastrophe you prepared is at length developed, and the Peace of the Continent is for ever secured.

The Emperor has reviewed the heavy cavalry of Gen. Nau, 5000 strong, and has given to the bravest officer of each

regiment the title of Baron, and to the bravest Goussier, a decoration of the Legion of Honour, with 1200 francs.

We found at Vienna five hundred pieces of cannon, a great number of carriages, and immense quantities of balls, &c.

The Austrian Monarchy issued more than 300 millions of paper to support the preparations for this war, and the number of bills in circulation amounts to more than 1500 millions.

During the bombardment of Vienna, only about ten houses were destroyed, and the people remark, that this misfortune fell upon the most zealous promoters of the war. The few days rest which the army has had, has been of great advantage. The weather is fine, and we have scarcely any sick. The wine distributed to the troops is in abundance, and of excellent quality.

RUSSIAN DECLARATION AGAINST AUSTRIA.

(From the *Petersburgh Gazette*, May 5.)

The Peace between France and Austria, long wavering, is at length entirely at an end. Austrian troops have entered the Duchy of Warsaw and the States of Saxony and Bavaria.—It is thus that the flames of war, which had been so lately extinguished upon the Continent, have just been rekindled, and by the force of circumstances, it is necessary that all the powers of Europe should take up arms again.—The preparations for war on the part of Austria were the first cause of this misunderstanding. Russia could not see these with indifference. Every means were employed from the beginning to put an end to them. The guarantee by Russia of the integrity of the Austrian States was even offered, and at the same time it was declared, that in virtue of the existing alliance with France, every attack upon the present order of things would be considered as a violation of the rights stipulated by treaties, which ought to be maintained by the force of arms.—Austria, not rejecting the pacific insinuations made to her, pretended at first that her measures were only defensive, that they were occasioned only by the fear of the danger which threatened her, that her intention was not to undertake an offensive war, and that she would not break the peace.—Facts have proved of how little value these assurances were. The measures of defence have changed into offensive measures. In the room of the fear that was expressed, ambitious plans have been developed, and the war has broken out by the invasion of foreign states, even before any declaration of war.—Austria, who knew perfectly well the conduct which Russia would hold under the present circumstances, has determined to renounce her friendship and rekindle the flames of war even upon our frontiers, rather than desist from her projects.—In consequence, orders have been given to the Russian Ambassador at Vienna to quit that capital, and it has been declared to the Austrian Ambassador at this Court, that his diplomatic functions have ceased and that all relations are broken off with him and his Court.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

A melancholy accident, by lightning, occurred on Friday so'night at Bishopstone, near Lewes. The thunder and lightning, attended with hail and rain, was very severe over that part. When, at seven o'clock in the evening, John Borchert, a baker, of Seaford, on his return home from Newhaven, in company with two other persons, on foot, was struck by the lightning, in front of Mr. Cat's tide-mill, and instantaneously killed. He was much scorched by the electric fire, particularly about the face and head, and some blood issued from one of his ears. His coat, waistcoat, breeches, stockings, and shirt, were literally torn to tatters, and so dispersed, that his body was left nearly naked. His hat and shoes were also much rent. The string of his watch was cut asunder, and the outer case, of silver, melted; the enamel, which formed the face, was stripped off, and the brass or copper beneath left quite bare, but otherwise without injury. The companions of the deceased were both knocked down, and so severely electrified, that bleeding was deemed necessary; and one was so seriously affected, that he is only now recovered.

Considerable alarm was excited at Norwich on Sunday morning, in consequence of the following circumstance:—The

3d Western Regiment of Local Militia, commanded by Colonel Chadd, assembled for parade on the Castle Ditches, when (from some irregularity respecting their pay), on the muster roll being called over, one of the privates answered as usual, "Here," adding, "and with an empty belly," in consequence of which he was ordered to the guard-house, when the whole company to which he belonged, immediately left the ranks, rescued him, and disarmed the guard. The others followed their example, paying no regard to their officers, and hallooing and triumphing, repaired to the Colonel's lodgings, and disarmed the guard there also. They then returned back to the place of parade, and surrounded the windows of the Castle Inn, where the officers were at breakfast, behaving riotously, and threatening any man who dared obey their officers. They were at length induced by the persuasion of some of the inhabitants to form a circle, and were addressed by Major Tyssen, in the absence of Colonel Chadd. After some explanation and persuasion, and on being promised to be paid regularly, and in advance on the Tuesday and Friday evenings, and being paid their arrears, they became very peaceable, and appeared on the parade in the afternoon, in a perfectly orderly manner.

At the late Northampton Meeting held to move a vote of thanks to Mr. Wardle, the requisition was signed by 17 respectable inhabitants, among which were two Aldermen of that town. Earl Northampton appeared in the streets the next day, a counter requisition was handed about, to which 70 signatures were procured. Among these were the two identical Aldermen appearing in the former requisition, and who had turned round like weathercocks with the first breath of noble influence that puffed in their faces. The worthy Mayor, taking the seventy to be the sense of the town, declined calling the Meeting, though it was well known that 700 might have been procured to the first requisition if necessary, and which requisition only required a Meeting called to consider on the propriety of thanking Col. Wardle. The object therefore on the part of the Mayor was evidently to divest the Meeting of its official shape, and thereby destroy its respectability. In other words, they attacked the advanced guard of the enemy with their main body, and declining all further contest, claimed the victory!! The seventeen however called a meeting at the Angel Inn, which was very numerously and respectably attended; and some spirited resolutions were carried. The two newspapers of the town, whose columns gave to the last moment for advertisements, marriages, deaths, burnt children, and overturned coaches, refused to insert the proceedings of the Meeting! One of these papers, perhaps, might be excused, from its press of advertisements; but the other, to take out its weekly portion of matter, condescends to insert stale extracts from state-books, recipes for the bite of mad dogs and school-boy poetry!

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, May 30.

The Smuggling Prevention Bill, African Trade Bill, Land Tax Redemption Bill, Excise Office Holiday Bill, and Irish Assize Fee Bill, were passed.

On the motion for the third reading of the Printers and Booksellers Indemnity Bill,

The Duke of NORFOLK wished to know what were the grounds and object of the Bill.

The LORD CHANCELLOR stated, that by an Act of Parliament Printers were obliged to put their names and places of abode to all the productions of their press. It occurred, however, that in some instances, the name of the street, the "Strand," for instance, was given, without adding, "London." It was obvious that this error did not arise from any intention of violating the law; and the object of the Bill now under consideration, was to indemnify them against the effect of a liberal interpretation of the statute.

The Duke of NORFOLK said, that after the explanation just given, he could have no disposition to oppose the third reading of the Bill. On the contrary, he conceived that there was no necessity for continuing in force the Act to which it referred. That Act was only defended upon grounds of a temporary nature; and he thought that the restraints imposed upon the Liberty of the Press, in troublesome times, ought now to be entirely done away. He would take an opportunity of bringing this subject under consideration next Session.

The LORD CHANCELLOR considered the Act alluded to as in no respect trenching upon the freedom of the press.—The Bill was then read a third time and passed.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, May 31.

The Irish Militia Completion, Scotch Militia Families, Window Glass Duty, Loan, and Irish Friendly Societies Bills were passed.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

In a Committee on the Animal Protection Bill, Lord ENSKINE proposed a variety of amendments, chiefly for the purpose of more accurately defining the offence which the Bill goes to punish. He had, he said, received an immense number of letters from persons of respectability, offering to give testimony of the horrid extent to which cruelty towards brute animals was carried. The writer of one of them, alluding to the abominable traffic of the *Niggers*, who buy up old horses for dog's meat, and keep them without food until there is a demand for their commodity, informed him, that he had frequently seen these wretched animals devouring the remains of their dead companions, and even eating their own dung, to allay the gnawing pains of hunger. Another letter from a clergyman complained of a practice prevalent among the butchers in his neighbourhood, who for the sake of improving the appearance of their mutton, cut the tendon Achilles, and drove a whole flock of the animals thus mutilated, for many miles, leaving a track marked with their blood. The letter also mentioned various barbarities committed under a similar pretence, upon calves. With regard to bull-baiting, he did not mean to introduce any particular provision; if that amusement could be carried on without cruelty, the Bill would not interfere with it; and if, on the other hand, it should, at any time be accompanied with cruel treatment, the offender would certainly come within the general purview of the Bill. He should propose a clause giving summary jurisdiction to the Magistrates with regard to offenders, because, their being no encouragement held out to mercenary informers, he thought he should do nothing if he left the occasional spectator of acts of cruelty to struggle with the difficulties and expences of the process by indictment. The only punishment which he proposed was imprisonment for a limited period; but in the other House, a clause might be added for inflicting a pecuniary penalty.

The LORD CHANCELLOR thought that the Bill, as proposed to be amended, should be printed, and afterwards re-committed. Of the principle of the Bill he highly approved, and also of the amendments now proposed, as tending to define more clearly the nature of the offence. Still however, he was apprehensive, that, on this point, there would remain much difficulty; so that, on the whole, it would, perhaps be better to limit the Bill to animals of draught and burden.—The houghing of sheep, with a view to improving the quality of the meat, was not a whit more cruel than the crimping of salmon, and the torture used in making collared hawn. It would be extremely difficult to regulate, by Legislative enactments, the degree of pain which might be inflicted in the preparation of such dainties. But with the limitation which he suggested, the offence would be broadly marked, so that the subject would know what he had to avoid, and the Magistrate what he was to punish.—The Bill was ordered to be printed.—Adjourned.

Thursday, June 1.

POOR CLERGY.

Lord LIVERPOOL moved the Order of the Day for considering his Majesty's Message relative to the Poor Clergy.

The returns had not yet been received from four dioceses, but from those which were on the table, it appeared that there were 858 livings below 50l. a-year, 2251 below 100l. and 3221 below 150l. The whole of the ecclesiastical benefices in England were about 11,700; so that making allowance for the returns not yet made, the livings below 150l. might be estimated at about one third of the whole. This statement was of itself sufficient to shew the propriety and necessity, with a view both to the interests of the Church and State, of some legislative remedy: His Majesty's Ministers had a general plan in contemplation upon this subject, but it was not yet sufficiently digested to admit of its being laid before Parliament. It would, however, be produced in the course of the next Session. In the mean time it was their intention to propose a grant of 100,000l. to be applied to the purposes of Queen Anne's bounty. His Lordship concluded with moving an Address, stating their Lordships' readiness to forward the objects of the Message.—The Address was agreed to, *nem. dis.*—Adjourned.

Friday, June 2.

LICENSED TEACHERS.

LORD SIDMOUTH highly approved of the Toleration Act, but thought it proper that Parliament should know what had been the effect of that Act. The Magistrates were bound by law to grant any person a licence to preach on paying one shilling. This licence exempted the holders from serving in the militia and other public service, and there were good grounds to suspect that many persons took this method to escape from their duty. He should hope that the Dissenters would not themselves object to lend their aid to prevent such abuses; and he thought also that they would not object to some regulations respecting the age and education of those who took upon themselves the important task of religious instruction. He was not one who thought that Dissenters of late much increased. The Meeting Houses were attended by many of the Church of England followers, from the want of regular places of worship in many parts of the country. His Lordship, after some further observations, moved for a Return of all Licences issued by the Magistrates, or from the Registries of Dioceses, under the Toleration Act, and the 39th of G. III. chap. 46. from the year 1780 to the close of 1808, distinguishing those issued in each year.

LORD HARROWBY approved of the motion, but wished to extend it to the year 1760, and also to a return of the places of worship for which licences had been granted.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY from his own experience in two dioceses could state, that the applications for licences had most considerably increased of late years. This he conceived to arise from a view to exemptions from civil duties; and from an increase of population beyond the means now possessed by the Church of accommodating those who were disposed to remain in her communion.

LORD GROSVENOR thought that something should be done to prevent persons from assuming the functions of Ministers of the Gospel, who were grossly deficient in the means of duly discharging them. His Lordship read a passage in a letter addressed to the late Archbishop of Canterbury by a Magistrate for Surrey, stating, that on a particular occasion 36 persons had applied for licences to preach, of whom six had spelled the word "Minister" as many different ways, and seven had only been able to sign their marks!!

The motion was then agreed to, with the amendment proposed by Lord Harrowby.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, May 30.

Mr. BARNES presented a Petition from the Booksellers and Publishers of London, praying an alteration of that Clause in the Act for preventing Seditious Publications, which imposes certain Penalties for omitting to annex the Names of the Printer and Publisher to all Publications.—Ordered to lie on the Table.

INDIA MILITARY AFFAIRS.

Sir HENRY MONTGOMERY rose to state a rumour which had been confidently stated to him, relative to a material alteration said to have taken place in the Native troops of the British service in India, namely, that all the Grenadier Companies of Native troops were formed into battalions, and placed under the command of British Officers. To any man as long conversant with military service in India as he was, the extreme danger of such an arrangement must immediately appear obvious.

Mr. DUNDAS said, that although he had seen no authentic document stating the fact mentioned, yet it had been communicated to him from such a variety of quarters, that he had no doubt the fact was as stated.

FRAUDS IN THE IRISH REVENUE.

Sir J. NEWPORT called the attention of the House to an appointment which had been made in defiance of the express words of the Act of the 46th year of the King, and of every principle upon which promotions and rewards should be conferred. By that Act any officer of the Customs or Excise, who should take or accept of any fee, gratuity, or presents, from the Distillers whom they visited in the course of their duty, should be thereby incapacitated from holding any office, civil or military.—Notwithstanding the express words of this Act, a Mr. Beauchamp Hill, who had confessed before the Commissioners of Enquiry, that he had regularly received 20*l.* per week from two Distillers who were in his district, was not only not dismissed, but was promoted from the situation of Surveyor to be an Inspector-General, which was a promotion in that very department in which the frauds had been committed. It was in September, 1806, that he had confessed himself guilty of the fraud, and on the 8th of March, 1808, he received his promotion. He thought it would be useless to endeavour to guess at what sort of defence could be set up, and concluded by moving a resolution, stating the words of the Act of the 46th of his Majesty, the confession of Mr. Hill that he had acted contrary to it, and his subsequent promotion.

Mr. FORSTER said, that certainly, owing to the inadequacy of their salaries, an universal system of corruption had formerly existed among the Revenue Officers of Ireland, and that out of 82 Excise Officers examined by the Commissioners of Enquiry, 30 of them had confessed that they had received similar presents. They justified it from its being a constant practice, and known to have been by the Board who employed them, and who yet took no measures to stop it. The practice of receiving these gratuities was so universal, and so long in a manner connived at, that it would have been unfair to select one or two individuals for punishment, as almost every other officer in the revenue equally deserved to be dismissed. Mr. Hill, however, was very ready to give every information in his power to the Commissioners of Enquiry, and was in every other respect a very good officer. He was therefore promoted for his merit, although he had in common with all other Excisemen done a thing illegal and improper. He therefore moved the previous question.

Mr. HURDISON thought nothing could bring the House into greater contempt than passing over so lightly such a flagrant case. Who could believe that it was utterly impossible to find a single honest man to fill any office in the Irish Revenue? If the Revenue Officers were so corrupt from bottom to top, they should all be removed, and honest men sought for. If men in high situations had known of these frauds, and connived at them, they should also be dismissed. He had heard with infinite pleasure, that his Majesty had been advised to annul a Commission granted to a Noble Lord (Burgbersh). He hoped he would also be advised to annul this appointment.

Mr. CROKER said, that it was sufficient proof of the corruption of some of the Revenue Officers that they were alive; for if they had trusted to their salaries, they must have starved. The salaries were settled in the reign of Charles II. and were but 40*l.* a year to the Gauger, and 65*l.* to the Surveyor. It therefore became necessary for them to get by some other means these necessaries of meat, drink, and cloathing, for themselves and their families, which the pure abstract Patriots of the present day might not think they had any right to think of. Lord

Annesley had recommended this particular promotion, on no other ground but that Mr. Hill was an active and good officer!

Mr. P. MOORE said, that without pretending to those abstract ideas of perfection, he would still stay, that although he had before heard a system of bribery and corruption avowed, he never did suppose that such a scene of bribery and corruption as this could ever have been justified or excused. It appeared from the Report of the Commissioners of Enquiry, that the frauds committed on the Irish revenue by the licensed distillers amounted in one year to 656,000*l.*, and that the principal cause of these enormous frauds was, that these officers were bribed to connive at them. These Distillers now deprecated all manner of enquiry into those transactions.

Mr. DUNDAS SAUNDERS defended the promotion on the ground of its being necessary to select for promotion persons in the service of the revenue; and that it would have been absolutely impossible to have dismissed them all.

Sir S. ROSSLY said, that he had never in his life heard such doctrines gravely stated, as might be deduced from what had fallen from an Hon. Gentleman (Mr. CROKER). If a man's salary was not sufficient, was that an excuse for his taking bribes, and conniving at all manner of frauds against the Government which employed him? As to the ridicule which the Hon. Gentleman appeared to throw out against those pure and abstract Patriots who would not consider the necessity of providing meat, drink, or cloathing for themselves and families a sufficient excuse, he would say that it never was allowed as an excuse for dishonest actions. If it were, any person indicted at the Old Bailey for a robbery, would say it was only for the purpose of getting meat, drink, and cloathing for himself and family. Such an excuse would not be admitted at that place. If the salaries of their places were not sufficient, did any body oblige these men to become Excisemen? He must therefore support the original motion.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER did not think his Hon. Friend (Mr. CROKER) had maintained the general proposition that the Right Hon. Gentleman imputed to him. It was to be considered that in this particular case, when all the Excise-Officers in Ireland had been in the habit of taking certain regular presents from the Distillers, it would have been impossible to dismiss them all at once, as although that might be good in the way of example, yet it would be a sacrifice of the revenues of Ireland for two years. If it were not contended that all the revenue officers of Ireland should be dismissed, there was no reason why the best of them should not be promoted. This man, although he had taken money, as others did, yet in other respects he did his duty. The cause, however, of this great corruption had now been removed by the increase of the Officers' salaries, and the Act might in future be strictly enforced. As to the case of Mr. Hill, there had been no legal conviction against him, nor any thing but his own confession before the Commissioners, which was not asked for the view of turning him out of his place. It did not appear to him that it was desired to select this man or any other for punishment, and therefore if he was allowed to stay in the revenue, he saw no reason why he should not be promoted if he was diligent and useful.

Mr. HORNER spoke shortly in favour of the motion. He expressed his surprise at what had fallen from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that a man should be continued in office who had been found guilty of corruption. He, for his part, thought that a more flagrant abuse of power was never heard of; a more unblushing breach of purity he was certain never till then appeared before that House, and as such he thought it his duty to give it his decided reprobation.

Sir J. NEWPORT replied to the several arguments urged against his motion. He thought the defence set up so extremely weak and defective, that it was only necessary to make a few observations. He insisted that the charge against Mr. Beauchamp Hill had been made out as strongly as the case would permit. The malt books of Mess. Orea Walk had not been returned. It was said some of them had been carried away; but what remained proved that Mr. B. Hill was the Surveyor then, that 15,000 gallons of Pot Ale had been found these suppressed;



so that if you could not positively say a charge was found, it was very reasonable to suppose it. The first he knew of Mr. Hill was seeing his name in the Report of the Commissioners of Enquiry. He censured the ground of argument that men known to be corrupt should be employed on account of their ability to fill a particular station. On the contrary, he thought that in a public officer honesty and character could not be balanced by, nor ought they to be put in competition with, any ability, however great it might be.

Mr. BARRHAM said, there was one argument which ought to make the House cautious in what way they dealt with this motion. It had been publicly and generally asserted, that many persons sat in that House by improper means. The public had taken the alarm; and it had been found in support of that alarm, and those assertions, that a Cabinet Minister had actually been concerned in bartering for a Seat in that House, and was defended for such an act. It was by the motion that moment under consideration, and the arguments urged in support of it, further asserted that corruptions prevailed in a most extensive degree over the whole Revenue of Ireland. If something were not done to rectify these corruptions and abuses—if no steps were taken towards removing them, he dreaded to think what the public opinion of that House must very soon be.

A division then took place—In favour of the motion, 50—Against it, 77 1/2.

TYTHES IN IRELAND.

Mr. PARNELL brought forward a motion pursuant to notice, "That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, that he would order a Special Commission to be appointed to enquire into the state and ratage of Tythes in Ireland, and to such other matters relating to the levying and collecting of Tythes as they may think proper to direct their attention to, and to report the same, with their opinion to the House."

Mr. R. DUNDAS, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, objected to the motion on the ground that such a Commission might raise hopes and expectations in the People of Ireland, which that House might never be able to realize.

Lord CASTLEREAGH opposed it.

Mr. C. HUTCHINSON defended the motion, and commented on the little regard which the Noble Lord paid to the pledges he had made at the Union to the People of Ireland.

Mr. PARNELL replied, and the House divided on the motion, which was negatived by 147 against 76.

MEDICAL BOARD.

Mr. WARDLE rose to make his promised motion relative to Appointments in the Medical Board. He stated the mortality in the East Indies to be such, that out of 30,000 men who were sent there, 13,000 died, and at least one-third of those were lost on account of the incapacity of the medical men who were allotted to superintend them. He also stated an overcharge of 100 per cent. taking place upon Medicines, which amounted to 13,000, on an average. He concluded by moving,—"That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, praying that there should be laid before the House a Return of all the Medical Persons employed in the Army, all Inspectors of Hospitals, Deputy Inspectors, Mates, &c."

The SECRETARY at WAR did not oppose the motion, which was carried, after a few words from Mr. Rose, Mr. Perceval, and Mr. Whitbread.

AMERICA.

Mr. HARRYATT said, as he had heard with great satisfaction that Ministers did not intend making any opposition to his motion, he should not trouble the House with any observations upon it—he moved, "That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, praying that there be laid before the House Copies of all Notes between his Majesty's Minister and the Government of the United States, between the years 1807 and 1808, as to the repeal of the Orders in Council; and also Copies of the Instructions from the Secretary of State to his Majesty's Minister in America, authorizing him to enter into any negotiation."

Mr. CANNING was very desirous to comply with the motion. As to the Instructions, in any other case he would feel delicate to object, because the publication of such documents was

not very usual. As, however, with respect to the particular Instructions now required, his Majesty's Minister in America had powers to communicate them *in extenso* to the American Government if he thought proper; and as they were by this time, perhaps, public in the United States, he felt his objection in some degree removed. Having said so much, he did not think it necessary to dwell on the substance of those Papers at present, but should reserve himself to another opportunity. He could not help saying, however, that his Majesty's Minister in the United States had not only not acted according to his Instructions, but had acted in direct contradiction to them. He gave every concession without insisting on any of the conditions of which such concessions were to be the consequence.

Lord MILTON wished to know what the commercial situation of the two countries was?

Mr. CANNING replied, that it was one of considerable embarrassment, owing to the unauthorised arrangement which had been made.

The motion was agreed to.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, May 31.

The Strand Bridge Bill was read a third time, and passed.

Sir F. BUNDETT presented a petition from Geo. Beaumont, in which the petitioner stated, that he was Printer and Proprietor of the British Guardian, and was now a prisoner in Newgate; that in the month of October there appeared in the said paper a letter signed "Tiberius Gracchus," in which there was a passage stating that there was a power behind the Throne greater than the Throne itself; that this passage was only a repetition of the language used by the illustrious Chatham. It was, however, charged against the petitioner as a libel; he was found guilty, and afterwards received a sentence which was contrary to the mild spirit of the British Constitution, and might lead to perpetual imprisonment, inasmuch as the petitioner might not be able to procure the sureties required; that previous to his trial, the petitioner had, in virtue of the Attorney-General's late Bill, suffered a long imprisonment; and that he was not fairly tried, inasmuch as the 48 Special Jurymen summoned to his trial had been selected by the Master of the Crown Office. The petitioner therefore prayed that the House would afford him such relief as in its wisdom it should think fit.—The petition was ordered to lie on the table.

The Woollen Manufacturers' Bill was passed.

AUSTRIA, SPAIN, AND PORTUGAL.

On the Report of the Committee of Supply and the Vote of Credit being brought up,

Mr. WHITBREAD said, he could agree to one part of the vote and not to the other. Ministers should have the power to aid Spain and Portugal, though he feared the contest in those countries would terminate unfavourably, yet while there was life there was hope. The cause of the Peninsula was a glorious one, and we ought not to abandon it till the last moment. As to Austria, if she had not been forced into the war, she had chosen a very improper time; she had neither calculated her own or her enemy's strength. The French Emperor was again in possession of Vienna, in the defence of which the people had not at all assisted. The war would end in the ruin of Austria, and he must protest against any subsidy being granted to her. His motives for so protesting had been misstated; nay, he had even been libelled by a Paper (the *Morning Post*) as being friendly to France.—(Cries of order!)—He was not out of order. The paper that libelled him was known to be under the controul of the Treasury. He hoped things might turn out better than he expected; but we could not afford to Austria effectual relief, and after her subjugation, that of the Peninsula must follow. His feelings were as truly national as any man's in that House, and yet he would not vote a single shilling to Austria, after the immense grants which had been uselessly made to her. In 1805, Russia and England had induced Austria to break her faith with France; the consequence had been the capture of Vienna. What we now to expect from the war, after the events of a month? Could the assistance held out by this country to Austria effectual aid? No; not even protract the

As to the merits of the war, he would suppose that the good faith was against France; but it was remarkable that France, throughout the whole of the contests, was the attacked, not the attacker. In the revolutionary war France was attacked, and it enabled her to extend her territories. He had never said that France was right, but he was not convinced that Austria was not to blame: her capital even had been restored to her, and he was not prepared to say that she was correct in forgetting these obligations. Ambition was a growing quality, and it was not in his power to deny that France might have it in view at a convenient season to swallow up Austria; but he could not suppose that this was the time Bonaparte would have chosen. If there was any thing which proved the blindness of human nature, it was in the appointment of the Marquis Wellesley to go Ambassador to Spain. *If there was a person who had ever acted the same part in any other part of the world which Bonaparte was now acting in Spain, it was the Noble Marquis who was now sent there to espouse the cause of justice!* He knew that it was said that the Marquis's conduct had proceeded from a zeal for the public good, and that the French Emperor's had proceeded from the Devil; but he was one who thought that they were of the same nature, and he conceived the appointment a most unhappy one. If the Spaniards knew any thing of history, they must know that the Marquis, impelled by an ardent zeal for the public good, would have seized on Spain just as Bonaparte has done. A Right Hon. Gentleman opposite, after inveighing in very lofty strains against tavern doctrines, had himself been induced to exhibit his powers of eloquence at the London Tavern, where the Chairman had proved himself to possess a power paramount to the Speaker of that House, and had drawn from Mr. Secretary Canning an answer to three questions, on the policy to be adopted thereon by his Majesty's Ministers. Whether the Right Hon. Gent. delivered his sentiments on the occasion standing on the table, of which so much had been said, or on a chair, or on the floor, he would not say. Whether he had been animated on the occasion by the inspiring sounds of three times three, or the terrors of a glass of salt and water, in case of a refusal, he did not know; but it appeared from a paper he had in his hand, that a meeting was held at the London Tavern, and that Mr. Canning, perhaps it might be another gentleman of the same name, though he had reason to think it was no other than Mr. Secretary Canning, had addressed the rabble met at the London Tavern.—(Hear! hear!)—He knew no reason why a set of gentlemen meeting at the Crown and Anchor, should be termed a *rabble* any more than a similar set of gentlemen who met at the London Tavern, whether to pay respect to the memory of Mr. Pitt, or for any other purpose. The Father of the Administration, the grave and virtuous Lord Chancellor, was more prudent; He felt so much, he could not express his sentiments on the occasion; and therefore the meeting got nothing from him on that subject. They had lately heard a great deal in that House about gentlemen haranguing a rabble from a table at a tavern dinner, but he believed this was the first time they had ever heard of a Secretary of State, either from a table or any other station, informing a company at a tavern dinner what Ministers meant to do on this or that particular subject. He then adverted to the late advices from Portugal, and observed that of all the impositions he knew of, that of deluding or attempting to delude a whole people, was most injurious. He declared he had a great respect for the character of Sir A. Wellesley. He thought, however, that in his letter to the Secretary of State for the War Department, he had said rather more than was warranted by circumstances; but the letter of the Noble Lord had gone far beyond all limits, when it said that Sir A. Wellesley had defeated Marshal Soult in three engagements: whereas he (Mr. Whitbread) did not believe he had ever been engaged with Soult's army at all, but merely with the rear-guard of it. The accounts we had very recently received from thence were such as to make him apprehend, if the prospect of affairs did not soon change for the better, Sir A. Wellesley would be in a very ticklish situation. We had received no account from Austria that could warrant

us to hope for success; and it behoved us therefore to husband our resources, since we were likely soon to have a struggle with the whole power of the Continent, under the direction of Bonaparte. However he might be calumniated, he was determined he would set his opinions on the Journals of the House. With respect to peace, many openings for it had already occurred, and might ere long do so again, and when such opening should invite, he hoped it would be eagerly laid hold of; for all sensible and impartial men must allow that a state of peace was the most desirable to any country, and that a state of warfare was peculiarly injurious to such a country as this. He could not quarrel with the Vote of Credit, because the intended application of some part of it was such as he approved; and to prevent debate, he would then read his address:—It began by thanking his Majesty for having directed the Treaty to be laid before the House; to acquaint his Majesty that the House of Commons had learnt with surprize that the Austrian government should draw bills on this country without the authority of this government; that it was a dangerous precedent, which the House of Commons could by no means sanction, and that they did not feel themselves justified in sanctioning any further grants to Austria.

Mr. W. SMITH conceived Austria to be entitled to our assistance as far as the ability of the country would permit.

Mr. C. HUTCHINSON thought a supply should be afforded to Austria, even although it enabled her to hold out but for one week longer against the common enemy. He condemned the tedious and ill-concerted military operations of this Government, who contrived to send our armies into the field always out of place or time.

Mr. POWSONBY had no hesitation in giving it as his opinion, that no aid which we could give to Austria could be of any effectual service to her. In his opinion the hopes of Austria were for ever blasted. But when he said this, he did not wish to be supposed as restraining the efforts of this country in her support, if Ministers had any probable prospect of undertaking it with success. He thought, that in the present struggle, Spain and Portugal would totally fail, and that in a very short time the Emperor of France would hold them in as complete a state of vassalage as he did many of the Continental States. While we had it in our power then, we ought to take possession of the insular American Colonies of those countries, and prevent Joseph Bonaparte from being really what he assumes to be—King of the Indies. He hoped we were not so far entangled with Ferdinand VII. as not to allow the people of South America, in case of the failure of the Spanish arms, to adopt a constitution of their own. If France succeeded in her contest with those countries, she would naturally govern them with a hard hand. We ought then to take care that we left them to the enemy in as little advantageous a state as possible; that by their conquest she should gain no maritime accession, and that their great seaports should not become so many naval resources in the hands of our enemy. Why should we allow Cadiz, and Lisbon, and Carthage, quietly to fall into the hands of France?

Mr. CANNING said, that all sides of the House seemed so unanimous in their opinions as to the vote of credit, that he should certainly not detain them on the subject, were he not afraid of being challenged by Gentlemen opposite, with having paid less attention to a matter of such moment, than he did to others of inferior importance. The vote, indeed, was the ordinary vote of credit, which was usually granted at the end of a Session, and the sum very little exceeded the regular average. After what had been stated in the King's Message concerning Austria, he should now be silent on that subject; did not he deem it proper to evince what was the disposition towards her. A complaint had been made with respect to her mode of application for pecuniary assistance; this he was not prepared to defend; care, however, had been particularly taken, that it never should be moulded into a precedent, and perhaps an excuse might be made for the proceeding in the unprecedented circumstances of the times. He begged leave distinctly to deny that the hopes of Austria were attempted to be damped or dismayed by any representations of Ministers here,

In fact, no possible discouragement had been held out, but certainly no excitement had been given; she had been fairly told to weigh cautiously the circumstances of the contest in which she was about to engage; to consider fully the risk she ran, and the probabilities of success she had, for that in all calculation the event would be definitive. This was the only discouragement which was made use of towards her—it was a frankness which we used to all countries similarly circumstanced. We denied them not assistance in case they engaged in the contest, but then we did not wish to hurry them blindly to their ruin. We did not desire to place them between ourselves and danger—to make them the conductor by which the dreadful lightning might be averted from ourselves.—(Hear! Hear!) He could not help defending the justice of the Austrian struggle—a struggle in which sooner or later they must have engaged in, even according to the arguments of those who considered France as entering only into defensive wars, since the revolutionary contest, up to the war with Spain.—(Hear! Hear!) Austria saw the storm was impending; she saw that to resist at some period she must; for that she should certainly be attacked, and it was most politic in her to resist when resistance was likely to prove effectual. What! was she to court the opportunity or interests of her enemies! Was she to wait the fascination of the eye of France, until it suited France to swallow up her prey!—(Hear! hear! hear!) But even if Austria did fall, her struggle might not prove ineffectual; it might serve to shew Russia, and the other continental powers, what mercy they were likely to receive, when France no longer needed their assistance, or thought their independence troublesome. It was an easy matter to prophecy misfortunes; and they who did so had at least this comfort, that they could not possibly be disappointed: but the person who foreboded good had no such advantage. He did not mean to become a too sanguine prophet; but he would say, that if accounts came within a few days, shewing, that notwithstanding the capture of her capital, the heart of Austria was still firm, and her spirit unsubdued, then, indeed, his hopes would not be totally dejected, then he might anticipate the glorious issue which patriotism and united perseverance promised. With respect to Spain and Portugal, all seemed unanimous in the opinion that we should not desert their cause. Some indeed thought proper to qualify this assertion. The House, he hoped, would see the situation in which Government was placed, and the consistent counsel of the gentlemen opposite. At the conclusion of last session they advised, that in the assistance which this country rendered to Spain, no appearance of a view to British interest might be obvious. What was their advice now? Why, indeed that we should seize on all their possessions abroad, and put them out of the reach of France. Now those two different advices might be both very good in their kind—they had at all events one advantage, that, whichever of them was followed, an attack for departing for the other might be made upon Ministers (a laugh). If they removed the Spanish fleets, and burned some of the sea ports, oh! then the cry would be, “how shocking—how barbarous—to treat the country like a corpse when there was at least six weeks life in her! (Hear, hear!) But if the contrary course was adopted, and we were cool, while France advanced in her successes—“Oh, then, for shame, to let the country lie a corpse so long, without taking possession as heirs!”—(Hear, hear!) Such was the predicament in which government was placed, if it followed either of the courses recommended by their sage advisers. He now wished just to touch upon the good-humoured attack of the Honourable Gentleman opposite, and to assure him that all the merit of the speech which he had quoted as spoken by him at the London Tavern, belongs to the Reporter. He begged it to be understood, that he never expressed any disapprobation of the discussion of politics at such meetings, his observations always applying to the nature and character of such discussions. He did not object to the practice but the matter. The Right Honourable Gentleman vindicated the appointment and panegyric the talents of Lord Wellesley, against whom the Hon. Gentleman was no doubt justified in stating his objections, but yet he could not expect that Ministers were to act upon such objections.

MR. WHITBREAD, in explanation, said, that he did not state that Austria was the aggressor in the war, but that France was so much engaged in the Spanish contest, that she would not have forced her into hostilities.

LORD H. PETTY thought it highly deserving of censure that his Majesty's Ministers should make a statement of the foreign politics of the country any where out of that House. He condemned the extraordinary proceeding of the Austrian government, in having drawn upon the English Treasury without being duly authorised, and was against voting any money on the part of Austria.

The resolution was agreed to, as also was a vote of 300,000l. to his Sicilian Majesty.

MR. WHITBREAD next moved his Address, which was negatived without a division.—Adjourned.

Thursday, June 1.

LORD BURGHERSH.

Col. SHIPLEY said, that the promotion of Lord Burghersh, as it appeared from the Gazette, had been revoked, he had nothing further to remark on the subject, except to congratulate the country, and particularly the Army, on their triumph. A victory had been gained over the undue influence of Ministers, which had been counteracted in an attempt to overthrow the established regulations of the Army. He begged therefore to withdraw his motion on the subject.—Motion withdrawn.

JUDGES SALARIES.

The House went into a Committee to consider the propriety of increasing the salaries of the Judges.

MR. PERCEVAL said, he thought it unnecessary to make any apology for bringing forward a measure, the necessity of which every body felt, and the only question would be as to the quantum of increase. As to the Master of the Rolls, that officer lately informed him that he was perfectly satisfied with the salary he received, and therefore he would propose no increase in that office.—Unless a Judge had a private fortune, it was impossible for him, with his present salary, to maintain himself in the line of life in which he moved. It was desirable that the Judges should maintain the dignity of their rank with ease, and that they might be enabled to make some provision for their families. He should then propose to give the Puisne Judges an increase of 1000l. a-year. This adequate and just reward would be the best security for having the offices filled with proper persons. He should propose a similar increase to the Chief Baron. With respect to the Welch Judges, they stood in a different situation, as they were not required to relinquish their profession at the bar. What he proposed for them was an addition of 300l. a-year to their present salaries, which amounted to the net sum of 250l. a-year. The Scotch Judges did deserve an increase, as did also the Judges of Ireland. But as he had not received sufficient information relative to them, he would defer bringing forward an increase of their salaries till next Session. The Right Hon. Gentleman then moved a resolution pursuant to his statement.

After some conversation, the resolution was carried, with an alteration, that 400l. instead of 300l. should be given to the Welch Judges.

SALE OF SEATS IN PARLIAMENT.

The House, on the motion of Mr. CURWEN, resolved itself into a Committee on this Bill.

The SPEAKER then rose to deliver his sentiments on the measure. The question now before the House was simply this, whether seats in Parliament were to be bought and sold?—A practice the very mention of which would have startled our ancestors; (hear! hear!)—a practice which had lately been acknowledged and avowed in that House; and which, unless the House would now stigmatize by some strong prohibitory law (loud cries of hear! hear!) the seats in Parliament would, in a short time, be put up and sold by public auction, like any marketable commodity; and a stigma and disgrace would be brought upon the House, greater than any which was ever known since a Parliament did exist in this country. It was now a question whether this evil could be put a stop to, and whether the present Bill was likely to effect that object.

No man denied that the influence of property, in maintaining civil rights, was of the highest importance; but it was equally certain, that if the persons who possessed such property, laying aside every pretension of talent and integrity, should sell their influence, and even sell it to strangers, it was not only a political evil, but it debased the higher ranks of life, and contaminated the character of Parliament; it also furnished weapons to those who were pretenders to reform, but who might entertain dangerous designs against the country. Every statute of this land was hostile to this practice. All the old statutes stated, that elections should be free. Undue influence on elections had been reprobated in all ages by our laws. All these descriptions of offences had been visited by proceedings in our different Courts; and, besides, these practices were judged as offences by the common law of the land. Here the Right Hon. Member quoted some cases, to shew that the practices in question had always been held to be violations of the common law, and of the privileges of Parliament. These decisions had been occasionally assisted by statutes. Now a severer statute was proposed to be enacted; and the question was, whether it was likely to answer the object intended by it. He thought the object might be attained by a deliberate and certain line of proceeding. With respect to the oath proposed to be taken, he thought there were other sanctions which might be more effectually adopted. The buyer as well as the seller of the franchise ought to be held guilty of a misdemeanour. On the whole, he was clearly of opinion, that this law would operate, by the fear of punishment, to prevent the commission of the offences against which it was levelled. It appeared to him to be indispensably necessary to the justice of the country, the honour of that House, and the security of the Constitution, that a regulation of this kind should be adopted.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that if the offence could be described in such a way as not to endanger the safety of the innocent, he should be ready to concur in the measure; but he felt great difficulty lest the House should controul where it had no intention; and he thought they should rather fall short than go too far. He did not approve making the offence a misdemeanour in the Court of Common Law; for if such offence was tried there, and a verdict of guilty pronounced, the House would expel the Member, which would throw the question of the validity of assent in that House upon a Court of Common Law. He thought that time should be granted, and that the seat should only be vacated in the first instance. The Bill extended to the promise of offices; but he considered it as utterly unsafe to go to this extent. Offices there must be, and the right of bestowal belonged to the Crown. The effect of such a regulation would be, that none would either ask or receive an office without the risk of a conviction for a misdemeanour, however innocent. The only evidence necessary for the Court would be, that a Member had procured an office for a friend who had voted for him. The difficulty of proving the absence of corrupt motives would be so great, that the most innocent man could hardly escape conviction. It might be said out of doors that he urged these arguments for the purpose of preserving the patronage of his office; but it was his duty to state his views on the subject, notwithstanding the odium to which it might expose him. As to the oath, the difficulty of describing the acts to which it was to refer with sufficient precision, rendered it wholly inadmissible. It would be impossible to ascertain to what a Member might safely swear or not. Mr. Perceval then proposed his amendment,—“That the Member guilty of purchasing his seat should lose it;—that the person receiving the money should forfeit it, and be liable to a penalty of 500*l.* and to conviction for a misdemeanour; with the proviso that the Act should not extend to the sale of estates to which Parliamentary influence was attached, nor to legal expenses at elections.”—This might, (he continued) be not altogether satisfactory to some gentlemen, but it was as much as the House could safely do in the first instance.

Mr. CRAWFORD said, that the force of the Speaker's observations must have been universally felt. He would, however, rather take the Bill as proposed to be amended by the Chancellor of the Exchequer than lose it altogether.

Mr. PONSONBY was of opinion that the Chancellor of the Exchequer's amendment would throw the borough patronage into the hands of the Treasury. As to the oath, no conscientious man could hesitate to take it. The public would never think the House sincere, unless a measure was carried which would put an end to the pernicious practices so fully avowed both on the part of individuals and of the Treasury.

Sir J. ANSTRUTHER saw no reason why the elected and the electors should not take the same oath.

Mr. TIERNEY said, the Bill must be nugatory, unless the Treasury influence was guarded against. The oath was essential to the Bill: he would rather adopt it alone, than take all the Chancellor of the Exchequer's amendment without it.

Mr. G. ROSE objected to the oath, which he thought could not be safely taken.

Mr. C. W. WYNNÉ said, the Bill would be mischievous, if it did not apply to patronage of office as well as to the grant of money. There was no weight in the objections urged against the oath. The people would consider the measure a mere mockery, if it did not wholly do away such disgraceful traffic. He could not conceive the smallest reason why men should not be prevented from giving as well as receiving bribes.

Mr. BATHURST did not conceive it within the reach of ministerial patronage to procure many seats in that House.

The SPEAKER did not approve of the amendment: he was afraid that if the omission of the grant of office was insisted upon, the Bill would be mainly defective.

After some farther conversation, it was agreed that the Bill, with the amendments, should be printed, and further considered on Tuesday.—Adjourned.

Friday, June 2.

The Gas Light Bill, on the third reading, was thrown out, by a majority of 14.

THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF FINANCE.

The House went into a Committee on the third Finance Report.

Mr. MARTIN said, that one thing had happened to give strength to his former opinions, which was the permanent taxes, which only brought in 30 millions for the last year, while the interest of the national debt is 31 millions, and upwards. If that account be true, we are arrived at the time when we must see that every shilling added to our expenditure must assist in rendering the War Taxes more permanent, and every day adding to the permanency of the Income Tax also. As a discussion on all the Resolutions would occupy a deal of time, he would consider them briefly. His first Resolution went to recommend economy in the public expenditure, on account of the perilous situation of affairs, and the increasing weight of Taxes.

Mr. HUSKISSON thought the resources of the country had been stated by the Hon. Gentleman in too gloomy a light. He considered the permanent taxes as sufficient to defray the interest of the national debt. He did not think that the permanent taxes had diminished within the course of last year. But if they had, the duties on timber, &c. had been less, in consequence of the little imported this year, whereas last year had been one of considerable commerce. The produce of the war taxes has increased since last year above one million, which more than makes up for the deficiency in the permanent taxes.

Mr. TIERNEY stated, that the Consolidated Fund had been 900,000*l.* less in its produce than it was expected to be; it was said it would produce four millions, whereas it had only produced, for the last year, 3,100,000*l.* He said the Peace Establishment would amount to 49,500,000*l.* and the permanent taxes would only produce 38,500,000*l.* leaving a deficiency of 11,000,000*l.*

Mr. PERCEVAL said, if Gentlemen would examine the resolutions he formerly moved, they would find they were only new arrangements of those of Mr. Martin. He proposed to substitute for that Gentleman's first Resolution, that it is the opinion of this Committee, that in all cases of public expenditure, economy is necessary.

Mr. MARTIN then consented to withdraw his first Resolution.

Mr. ROSE said, that during the administration of Mr. Pitt, many economical retrenchments had been made with regard to public money, exactly on the same principle with what General Besseney wished to lay down. He would support the resolution of his Right Hon. Friend.

Mr. WHITEHEAD said, he did not object to the resolution, but he thought it necessary that it should go much further. He thought it highly necessary to exclude many persons holding offices under the Crown from seats in that House. There were, however, certain Officers and Placemen who ought not to be excluded, because the House always required their presence, and required information from them. He then moved an amendment to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's resolution, the effect of which was to prevent certain classes of Placemen from sitting in that House.

Mr. POWSONBY thought it would be better to let this amendment stand over, and suffer the resolution before the House to be carried.

The Report was then ordered to be taken into further consideration on Thursday next.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCY ENLARGED.

W. Shewell, Burr-street, Piccadilly, dealer, from May 30, to July 18, at ten, at Guildhall.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Turner, Rochford, carrier. Attorney, Mr. Bennet, Philpot-lane.

W. Buddle, Chenies-street, Bedford-square, carpenter. Attorney, Mr. Godmond, New Bridge-street.

W. F. Walker, Charham, linen-draper. Attornies, Messrs. Palmer and Co. Copthall-court.

J. Romer, Rosamond-street, watch-jeweller. Attorney, Mr. Dewberry, Cheapside.

J. Johnson, Great Baddow, Essex, carpenter. Attorney, Mr. Hodgson, Chelmsford.

R. Townroe, Nottingham, malster. Attornies, Mr. Richards, Alfreton.

J. Townsend, Liverpool, merchant. Attornies, Messrs. Griffiths and Hind, Liverpool.

H. Hughes, Worcester, hatter. Attorney, Mr. Platt, Worcester.

CERTIFICATES—JUNE 20.

T. Dalton, Mitcham, shopkeeper.—W. Williams, Islington, builder.—J. Gane, Trowbridge, carpenter.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Downing Street, June 2, 1809.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was this day received by Lord Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-General the Right Honourable Sir Arthur Wellesley, K. B.

Monte Alegre, May 18, 1809.

MY LORD.—When I determined upon the expedition to the north of Portugal against Marshal Soult, I was in hopes that the Portuguese General Silveira, would be able to hold his post upon the Tamaga, till he should be reinforced; by which, and by the possession of Chaves, the enemy's retreat would have been cut off, excepting across the Minho; and I intended, if successful, to press him so hard, that the passage of that river would have been impracticable.

The loss of the bridge of Amaranthe, however, on the 2d instant, altered our prospects: I had no hopes that Marshal Beresford, who marched towards the upper part of the Douro on the 5th, and arrived at Lamego on the 10th, would be able to effect more than confine the enemy on that side, and oblige him to retire by Chaves into Galicia, rather than by Villa Real into Castille.

General Beresford, however, having obliged the enemy's front at Villa Real, and Malsan Fren, to fall back with some

loss, and having crossed the Douro, drove in General Loison's out-posts at the bridge of Amaranthe, and again acquired possession of the left bank of the Tamaga on the 12th, the day on which the corps under my command forced the passage of the Douro at Oporto.

Loison retired from Amaranthe on the morning of the 13th, as soon as he had heard of the events at Oporto of the preceding day, and met the advanced guard of the French army at a short distance from the town, which General Beresford immediately occupied.

I was unable to commence the pursuit of the enemy till the morning of the 13th when the Hanoverian Legion moved to Valonga, under General Murray. On that evening, I was informed that the enemy had in the morning destroyed a great proportion of the cannon in the neighbourhood of Penafiel, and had directed his march towards Braga.

This appeared to be the probable result of the situation in which he found himself, in consequence of General Beresford's operations upon the Tamaga; as soon as I had ascertained that the fact was true, I marched on the morning of the 14th with the army in two columns towards the river Minho.

At the same time I directed General Beresford upon Chaves, in case the enemy should turn to his right; and Major General Murray to communicate with General Beresford, if he should find, as reported, that Loison remained in the neighbourhood of Amaranthe.

On the evening of the 14th, I was certain from the movements of the enemy's detachments in the neighbourhood of Braga, that he intended to direct his retreat upon Chaves on Monte Alegre; and directed General Beresford, in case of the latter movement, to push on for Moncey, so as to stop the enemy, if he should pass by Villa de Rey.

General Beresford had anticipated my orders to march his own corps upon Chaves, and had already sent General Silveira to occupy the passes of Ruivães and Molgassey near Salamonde, but he was unfortunately too late.

I arrived at Braga on the 15th, (General Murray being at Guimarães, and the enemy about fifteen miles in our front) and at Salamonde on the sixteenth.

We had there an affair with their rear guard. The Guards under Lieut.-General Sherbrooke and Brig.-General Campbell attacked their position; and having turned their left flank by the heights, they abandoned it, leaving a gun and some prisoners behind them. This attack was necessarily made at a late hour in the evening.

On the 17th we moved to Ruivães (waiting to see whether the enemy would turn upon Chaves, or continue his retreat upon Monte Alegre) and on the 18th to this place.

I here found that he had taken a road through the mountains towards Orense, by which it would be difficult, if not impossible for me to overtake him, and on which I had no means of stopping him.

The enemy commenced this retreat, as I have informed your Lordship, by destroying a great proportion of his guns and ammunition. He afterwards destroyed the remainder of both, and a great proportion of his baggage, and kept nothing excepting what the soldiers or a few mules could carry. He has left behind him his sick and wounded; and the road from Penafiel to Monte Alegre is strewn with the carcasses of horses and mules, and French soldiers, who were put to death by the peasantry before our advanced guard could save them.

This last circumstance is the natural effect of the species of warfare which the enemy have carried on in this country.

Their soldiers have plundered and murdered the peasantry at their pleasure; and I have seen many persons hanging in the trees by the sides of the road, executed for no reason that I could learn, excepting that they have not been friendly to the French invasion and usurpation of the government of their country; and the route of their column on their retreat could be traced by the smoke of the villages to which they set fire.

We have taken about 500 prisoners.—Upon the whole the enemy has not lost less than a fourth of his army, and all his artillery and equipments, since we attacked him upon the Vouga.

I hope your Lordship will believe that no measure which I could take was omitted to intercept the enemy's retreat. It is obvious, however, that if an army throws away all its cannon, equipments, and baggage, and every thing which can strengthen it, and can enable it to act as a body, and abandon all those who are entitled to its protection, but add to its weight and impede its progress, it must be able to march by roads through which it cannot be followed with any prospect of being overtaken by an army which has not made the same sacrifices.

It is impossible to say too much of the exertions of the troops. The weather has been very bad indeed. Since the 13th, the rain has been constant, and the roads in this difficult country almost impracticable. But they have persevered in the pursuit to the last, and have been generally on their march from day-light in the morning till dark.

The brigade of Guards were at the head of the column, and set a laudable example; and in the affair with the enemy's rear-guard on the evening of the 16th, they conducted themselves remarkably well. I have the honour to be, &c.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[The Gazette contains also a Dispatch from Gen. Beckwith, giving an account of the capture of several small islands or rocks, off Guadaloupe, called the Saintes. The English, under Gen. Maitland, between 2 and 3000 strong, after "three days of great toil and active service," compelled the French garrison of nearly 800 men to surrender prisoners of war. The British had 2 officers, 4 rank and file killed; 3 officers, 2 serjeants, 1 drummer, 62 rank and file, wounded; and 1 missing.—Capt. Dolling and Lieut. Crosbie were the officers killed; and Lieut. Van Koning, Major Henderson, and Assistant Surgeon Beasant, were wounded.—Together with an account of the capture of the "notorious" French national felucca Joseph, of 3 guns and 53 men, by the 8-oared cutter, yawl, and gig, of the Argo, under the command of Lieut. Fraser. She was very gallantly boarded and cut out from under the batteries of St. Domingo.—Lieut. Coryton and 6 men were wounded in the attack.]

BANKRUPTS.

- B. Bennett, Hailsham, Sussex, brewer. Attorney, Mr. Colbatch, Brighton.
- T. Gibson, High-street, Marybone, ironmonger. Attorney, Mr. Sudlow, Monument Yard.
- D. Giles, jun. Cornbrook, Lancashire, brewer. Attorney, Mr. Heslop, Manchester.
- J. Howse, Wantage, Berkshire, carrier. Attorney, Mr. Pinder, Wantage.
- C. Cadman, Tlinton, carpenter. Attorney, Mr. Edwards, Symond's-Inn.
- J. Freemantle, and Co. King-street, Goswell-street, ironfounders. Attornies, Messrs. Allen and Best, Paternoster-row.
- J. Bailey, Chancery-lane, printer. Attornies, Messrs. Pearce and Son, St. Swithin's-lane.
- H. Moseley, Lawrence-Pountney-hill, and Isaac Wheildon, Copthall-Court, Throgmorton-street, merchants. Attornies, Messrs. Gregson and Dixon, Copthall-court.
- W. H. Munn, Knightsbridge, paper-stainer. Attornies, Messrs. Milton and Pownall, Doctor's-Commons.
- B. Giorgi, Wilson-street, Moorfields, chemist. Attorney, Mr. Loxley, Chelmside.
- R. Oxen, Scaffold-Hill-Mill, Northumberland, miller. Attorney, Mr. Bainbridge, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- J. Scott, Strand, bookseller. Attorney, Mr. Barber, Chancery-lane.
- E. Green, Stepney, carpenter. Attornies, Messrs. Cowper and Lowe, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane.
- J. Sison, Lombard-street, banker. Attorney, Mr. Oakley, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street.
- J. Wilkie, Howard-strand, Navy Agent. Attorney, Mr. Ledwich, Baldwin's-court, Cloak-lane.
- J. Hiffler, Leicester-square, carver and gilder. Attorney, Mr. Mills, Red Lion-square.
- Murdock Mac Linnan, Gracechurch-street, haberdasher. Attorney, Mr. Nind, Throgmorton-street.

CERTIFICATES—JUNE 24.

J. Pollard and J. Thompson, Preston, muslin-manufacturers.—S. and E. Statham, and H. Gorton, Nottingham, hosiers.—H. Jones, Skinner-street, cheesemonger.—J. Hardy, Sheffield, grocer.—J. Handcocks, Bromyard, Herefordshire, dealer in horses.—J. Rose, Road, Somersetshire, farmer.—S. Atkinson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, insurance-broker.—T. Robinson, jun. Birmingham, druggist.—S. Stanley, Derby, grocer.—E. and J. Cunningham, Davies-street, Hanover-square, livery-stable-keepers.—T. Hoare and W. Allen, Waltham-lane, Hertfordshire, calico-printers.—S. Sampson and C. Chipchase, Bread-street, silk-mercers.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

Consols.....68½—Omnium.....½ ½ prem.

ERRATUM.

In the last *Examiner* under the head of London, for "so miserable an office"—read "so enviable an office."

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, JUNE 4.

THE eighth and ninth French Bulletins have arrived—the latter came yesterday. The Austrians have been able to effect nothing against their invaders. Prince CHARLES, two weeks ago, was still manœuvring about the mountains of Bohemia, and seems to have had no inducement to venture forth, though DAVOUST and BERNADOTTE, who had been watching him, had taken the road towards Vienna. LEFEBVRE was with the Bavarians in the Tyrol, while BONAPARTE had thrown a bridge over the Danube at Ebersdorff, and was preparing to cross it for Moravia or Hungary. The Emperor FRANCIS is not with his brother CHARLES, but at Znaim on the Moravian frontiers: what he is doing there cannot be conjectured: he is neither statesman nor soldier, can neither plan nor fight, and BONAPARTE has already addressed a proclamation to the Hungarians inviting them to have a king of their own choice. This invitation of course is hollow enough, but it is natural for a nation which has been ill-used to connect the idea of amelioration with change, and the Hungarians, who are a brave and romantic people, have suffered too much to feel any interest, and seen too much to take any pride, in continuing to be subjects of the House of Austria.

The inhabitants of London have been listening for some days past, with all their ears, for a little refreshing thunder from the Park and Tower; but after all the reports of captured Dukes and flying Kings, it appears that JOSEPH is still at Madrid and that SOULT has really made good his retreat into Galicia with the loss of a fourth part instead of the whole of his army. The reader will see the detail in last Night's Gazette. General VICTOR has left his position in the frontiers with the intention, it is supposed, of marching to Lisbon and attacking Sir ARTHUR, who will no doubt do every thing that becomes a brave man, though in generalship, I am afraid, he does not find himself equal to his conventionalizing enemies. So little effect has his neighbourhood had on the Spaniards, that ROMANA,

accompanied by several persons of distinction, left Gijon the other day in a sloop of war, some say for Vigo, and some for Cadiz, on the other side of the country; while the celebrated Bishop of St. Aviero, who turned his pastoral crook into a spear, fairly arrived at Portsmouth on Tuesday.—The end of all these things will be, that our subsidies will go to buy wedding-clothes for some new couple of the House of NAPOLEON, and that the Spaniards and Portuguese, wearied out with half-politics and half-friends, will sink in quiet slavery, under the promises of the new despot, as the people of England did at the "Blessed Restoration."

As the debate on Mr. CURWEN'S bill has not yet come to a conclusion, the remarks upon it are once more postponed.

NEWS FROM THE CONTINENT, RECEIVED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

NINTH BULLETIN OF THE FRENCH ARMY.

Vienna, May 19.

After the army had a few days rest at Vienna, the necessary preparations were made for the important passage of the Danube. Prince Charles, driven to the other side of the Danube, had no other refuge than the hills of Bohemia. The Emperor did not adopt any plan to delay his entrance into Vienna a day, well knowing that in the state of exasperation in which people's minds were, it might be resolved to defend the town, and to multiply obstacles.

The Duke of Auerstadt remained before Ratisbon whilst Prince Charles retreated to Bohemia. Immediately after he proceeded to Passau and Lintz on the right bank of the Danube, and gained four marches on the Prince.

The corps of the Prince of Ponte Corvo acted on the same system, and first moved towards Egra, which forced Prince Charles to direct General Bellegarde's corps towards that point, but by a counter-march he turned towards Lintz, where he arrived before Gen. Bellegarde, who, foreseeing this counter-march, had also directed his march towards the Danube. These manœuvres performed daily have freed Italy, the borders of the Inn, the Selza, and the Traun; conquered Vienna, annihilated the militia and the Landwehr, completed the ruin of the corps of the Archduke Lewis and General Hiller, and diminished the fame of the enemy's Generals.

The Emperor has thrown a bridge over the Danube at Ebersdorf, two leagues below Vienna. The division of Molitor was conveyed to the left bank, and quickly defeated the weak detachments which disputed the ground with them.

The Emperor of Austria is at Znaim. There is as yet no rising in Hungary.

The Duke of Dantzic is at Inspruck. On the 14th he defeated General Chastellar, and took 700 men.

The position of the army is as follows:—The corps of Rivoli, Montebello, and Oudinot are at Vienna, as also the Imperial Guards; the corps of Auerstadt is between St. Polten and Vienna; Ponte Corvo is at Lintz, with the Saxon and Wirtemburghers; a Corps de Reserve is at Passau; Dantzic is with the Bavarians at Salzburg and Inspruck.

TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCH FROM ITALY.

"PARIS, MAY 25.—On the 15th the head-quarters were at Ponteba. On the 16th, at 4 p. m. the troops were at Torris, in Carinthia. On the 17th, the Viceroy took Marlboroughs by storm. The enemy lost 1000 killed, 4000 taken prisoners, and 22 pieces of cannon."

MAY 28.—The *Moniteur* of this day contains the following telegraphic dispatch—

"The head-quarters were on the 20th May at Villach—

The light troops on the same day entered Clagenfurth. The enemy is always vigorously pursued."

[A Proclamation from Bonaparte, dated on the 19th, is addressed to the Hungarians, in which the Emperor of Austria is accused of ingratitude.—He tells them that he is at war with the Emperor of Austria but not with the King of Hungary—and that the moment for securing their independence is arrived.—He calls upon them to have a King of their own choosing.]

HAMBURGH, MAY 28.—Two Swedish officers are arrived, bringing the intelligence of the Diet having declared that Sweden must break with England, and that the throne shall be given to the Duke of Sudermania for his life; after his death it falls to Russia.

The French claim a victory over the Austrians in Italy, on the 8th ult. at St. Daniels, in which, they say, they took 15,000 prisoners, among whom were twenty-six officers.

The Portuguese Papers are filled with the most ridiculous statements of the bravery and skill of their troops! One thousand Portuguese made nothing of eleven thousand Frenchmen, who attacked them at the bridge of Alcantara: they were defeated in a trice, leaving sixteen hundred dead on the spot!!

The little islands, or rather rocks, called the Saintes have surrendered to Admiral COCHRANE, from whom dispatches were received on Friday of that event. The garrison, which is not very considerable, are prisoners of war. The Park and Tower guns were not fired on this occasion.

American Papers have been received to the 27th April. They contain several accounts of the joy expressed in various parts of the United States, and especially at New-York, upon the supposed amicable termination of the differences between that country and this. It is to be hoped this business will not occasion a war between the two countries. Nobody but Ministers (present as well as past) would have thought Mr. ERSKINE a fit person to negotiate with America.

The Hon. Capt. COCHRANE, of the 15th Dragoons, who has been tried on charges of disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, leaving his post when he believed the enemy near, and making unwarrantable complaints against General CLINTON, has been honourably acquitted of the whole of the charges.

Lord BURGHESSE was made Major after he had been six years in the service. The Regulations ordain that such an appointment shall not take place till after the object of it has been seven years in the army. He was made Lieut.-Colonel too, in six years from his first commencing soldier! The Regulations say, that no man shall be promoted to that rank till he has been nine years in the army. The Regulations order that two years shall intervene between the promotion to a Majority and that to a Lieut.-Colonelcy. One week had intervened in this "aspiring young man's" case. It will be seen, however, by the Gazette of Tuesday, that Ministers have thought proper to revoke these Commissions, and his Lordship remains a Captain only. Here is another instance of the weakness of those men: they advise his MAJESTY to do an irregular and offensive act,—they defend this act with all their strength, maintaining that it is a just exercise of the prerogative, and after all, they revoke the grant!

Mr. GOODBHERE and Mr. HEYGATE are the candidates to succeed Mr. Alderman BOYDELL in the Ward of Cheap. The former gentleman, from his well-earned popularity in the city, will no doubt be successful.

The reports of Monday were fertile "in deeds of death." In the morning Sir F. BURDETT was mortally wounded in a duel with Mr. TIERNY; and in the evening Mr. STEWART, upon equally good authority, had made his final exit from this mortal stage to "that bourne from which no traveller returns!" when, in fact, the Member for Westminster was happily enjoying the domestic circle of his family at Wimbledon, and the Member for Ilchester enlivening a convivial party of friends in London.

The effect of the high wind, on Friday, was severely felt on the River; several ships and craft started from their moorings, and a number of boats were lost. A number of old houses, in Spitalfields, were shook to their foundations; but we have not heard of any lives being lost. One of the large trees in St. James's Park, was blown down, and the Mall was covered with branches and leaves that were blown off.

The new Military Regulation adopted in our Indian empire, may be attended with very serious consequences. It appears, that the flank companies (grenadiers and light companies) of the Native, or Sepoy army, are to be taken from their regiments, and formed into separate battalions, to be commanded by officers in the King's service, who are wholly unacquainted with the language, manners, and customs of those troops. We have had pretty recent experience of the perils of such innovations; and every liberal mind must feel how deeply such a measure must affect the honour and the interests of a numerous and gallant body of Officers, who have devoted their lives to the British service.

The plan for building Drury-lane Theatre, is said to be by a lottery, to raise 100,000*l.* the tickets to be five guineas each, and the prizes to be personal and transferable admissions for limited periods. The public have had so much of lotteries lately, raised upon rotten speculations, that we suspect much stability will not be looked for by the adoption of this scheme.

On Tuesday a Court of Aldermen was held at Guildhall, at which the Price of Bread was ordered to be reduced an assize, the quarter loaf therefore sells for 13½*d.* The Lord Mayor laid before the Court a letter from Mr. Alderman Boydell, requesting to surrender his office as Alderman of Cheap Ward; which was accepted, and his Lordship was desired to issue his precept for a wardmote to fill up the vacancy. His Lordship then nominated the following gentlemen, for the Livery to make choice of two on Midsummer-day, to serve the office of Sheriff for the ensuing season:—

- Griffith Jones, Esq. Citizen and Draper.
- George Bridges, Esq. Ditto and Wheelwright.
- Richard Sanderson, Esq. Ditto and Cooper.
- Samuel Baker, Esq. Ditto and Ironmonger.
- William Cass, Esq. Ditto and Wheelwright.
- George Wood, Esq. Ditto and Merchant Taylor.
- John Gray Esq. Ditto and Draper.
- Harvey Walklate Mortimer, Esq. Ditto and Factor.
- William Lambert, Esq. Ditto and Cooper.

Sittings appointed in Middlesex and London, before the Right Hon. EDWARD LORD ELLENBOROUGH, Lord Chief Justice, &c. in and after Trinity Term:—

| IN TERM. | | | |
|-------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| Wednesday, | • • • | June 7 | Thursday, • • • June 8 |
| Monday, | • • • | 12 | Thursday, • • • 15 |
| Monday, | • • • | 19 | Tuesday, • • • 20 |
| AFTER TERM. | | | |
| Thursday, | • • • | June 28 | Friday, • • • June 29. |

The Criticism on Mr. Lewis's Farewell to the Stage is delayed for want of room till next week. The Covent-garden Company's performances, which closed on Wednesday, have presented no novelty worth review. After the play of *The Exile*, Mr. Young came forward and delivered the following Address:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—I am desired by the Proprietors of Covent-Garden Theatre, to offer you their most grateful acknowledgments for the kind and liberal patronage you have afforded them during this most trying and distressing season. The weight of their obligation is the more sensibly felt, as they are aware (though every exertion has been used) the attraction of novelty has been, in a great measure, wanting. Next year, however, they hope the deficiency in theatrical amusements will be amply supplied:—THEIR NEW THEATRE IS NOW COVERED IN.—Owing to the peculiar circumstances of the times, they have encountered the greatest difficulties, and gone to an unprecedented expence in procuring the best materials necessary for the structure of so large a building; but from the indefatigable exertions of all concerned in the undertaking, they have now the heart-felt satisfaction of assuring you, that the New Theatre-Royal in Covent-Garden will be opened for your entertainment on Monday, the 11th of September. The chief ambition of the Proprietors has been to consult the comfort and convenience of the audience, and they trust, that, when completed, the New Theatre will receive the enviable sanction of your approbation, and be deemed worthy of the Metropolis of the British Empire.—The Performers, likewise, Ladies and Gentlemen, beg leave to return their most grateful thanks to a kind and indulgent Public, and till we meet on our new stage, the Company humbly take their leave.

FINE ARTS.

The LETTER sent by Mr. F. would have been inserted had it been dictated by gentlemanly feelings and a respect for truth. As it is, it is left for the "other weekly paper" to which he alludes.

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

Christ blessing young children.—H. HOWARD, R. A.—There is much clearness of colouring throughout this piece, infantine beauty in the children, and an appropriate expression in one of the mothers, but the other figures are altogether insipid. There is not a beam of the benignity so effulgent in the Saviour's character, nor any of his impressive dignity.

58. *Romeo contemplating Juliet in the Monument.*—H. FUSSELL, R. A.

Rom.—O my love, my wife!
Thou art not conquered; beauty's ensign yet
Is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks.

There is no artist of the present day whose works are so unequal as those of this learned Professor of Painting. His canvass frequently glowing with the enthusiasm of genuine art, and reflecting the solar orb of Milton's and Shakespeare's genius, as often presents the extravagance of caricature. I do not mean caricature in a qualified but literal sense, where the human passions are portrayed from the ravings of a mad-house, and the human frame dislocated by the rack.—The attributes of this subject should be, beauty in the persons of the lovers, and admiration in *Romeo* of the yet unfaded lustre in *Juliet's* charms, mixed with deep sorrow at her supposed death. In *Juliet* however, though the crimson ensign of health appears in her lips and cheeks, it is not "beauty's ensign." Her form has nothing of those bewitching charms which enamoured the heart of *Romeo* in spite of the old and rooted hatred of his family against her house. Her nose in size is like that of which *Sonnet*

so inscrutably speaks, when, describing a beauty, he compares her nose to "the tower of Lebanon;" and her feet are actively pointed like an opera dancer presenting for a step when they should hang in the lassitude of a lethargy. Instead of admiration at her beauty and deep sorrow at his loss of it, *Romeo* looks like a man in a rage, and intoxicated, not with love, but wine. He is without any personal beauty and in an uncount attitude. A Crucifix in this piece is obtrusively large.

149. *The Encounter of Romeo and Paris in the Monument.*—H. FUSSELL, R. A.—Though the *Juliet* here introduced has the Artist's favourite large nose, and is in other respects very different from Shakespeare's, yet this piece is more worthy of Mr. Fusell's genius than the last. The *Paris* is well drawn and falls naturally at the eager thrust of *Romeo's* sword: *Romeo's* attitude has something of a set fencing posture. He is however excellently drawn.

130. *Peace.* T. STOTARD, R. A.—This is worthy of the painter of *the Procession of Pilgrims*. A graceful female, of cheerful air and benign aspect, personifying the Genius of Peace, is advancing with the olive, from a dark clouded back-ground, where the storm passing off, presents the smiling rainbow, the pledge of peace. Her angelic attendants are bearing off wreaths and trophies of victory and implements of war. A second group, which smiles with pleasure at her approach, illustrates the blessings she brings. Old age happily reclines on its crutch. Youth and Infancy sport amid the luxuriant productions of the garden and the field. The figures are in those simply elegant forms and attitudes in which this artist surpasses all his contemporaries, and which rival the gracefulness of the Greeks. The glow of the colouring corresponds with the sprightliness of the subject, and the allegory is pleasing because it is obvious. Allegories in painting as well as poetry are mostly injudicious subjects, because they counteract the chief purpose of the Arts, which is to please, an end defeated by the trouble of finding out the latent meaning, which is addressed more to the learned than the tasteful.

105. *Tabley, the seat of Sir J. Leicester, Bart. Windy day.*—J. M. W. TURNER, R. A.—No painter of landscape among the old or modern masters has surpassed this artist in the varieties and harmonies of colour, the atmospheric hues and reflexions, the harmonies and contrasts of light and shade. A camera obscura reflecting the scene he represents, though it would exhibit more nicety in the details, would not be otherwise more lively or natural. In this piece, the brisk movement of the clouds and boats, the agitation of the waves, and the solemn masses of shade contrasted with the brilliant sun-shine, are forcibly displayed. The bustle and greater quantity of blue this subject necessarily demands, render it an admirable contrasting companion to 146, *Tabley, the seat of Sir J. Leicester, Bart. Calm morning*, from the same animated hand. A warm, yellow sky, pleasingly gradates from the right side into the blueish tinted left. These two colours are most admirably blended and reflected in the water, and on the distant offscap beyond, the yellow prevailing throughout. The wide expanse of most lucidly painted water, in a middle tint, is agreeably varied by forcible lights and shades on some fishing boats, and a cluster of trees through which the sun shines with fascinating effect. The worthy Baronet, whose liberal attachment to modern and native art reflects a thousand times more honour upon him than his rank, must felicitate himself in the pos-

session of two as forcibly and chastely coloured landscapes as any in Europe.

22. *Spithead: Boat's crew recovering an anchor.*—J. M. W. TURNER, R. A.—This piece represents several men of war magnificently riding on the waves. From the grandeur with which this animated artist has invested them, the spectator instantly and exultingly recognizes the sublime bulwarks of Britain "towering in their strength." The large and forcible masses of light and shade, and the pervading leaden hue of the piece, heighten its solemnity. This grey is however in a degree enlivened by some warm hues. The steadiness of the large and ponderous vessels is judiciously contrasted with the light buoyancy of the boats. From his perfect knowledge of perspective, his unrivalled management of the clear obscure and colour, the fluctuation and transparency of his water, I do not hesitate to say that Mr. TURNER surpasses the BACKHUSENS and VANDERVELDES of former days, and is without a rival in the present.

Yesterday Mr. TURNER closed to the Amateurs his charming Gallery of his own Pictures. Among the many admirable effects of nature by sea and land, his View at Putney of the Thames winding through an enchanting country, is a masterly exemplification of the rapturous exclamation of the Poet of the Seasons:—

Heav'n! what a glorious prospect spreads around
Of hills, and vales, and woods, and lawns, and spires,
And glitt'ring towns, till all the stretching landscape
Into smoke decays.

R. H.

FASHIONS FOR JUNE.

A Venetian Spencer of violet satin, or sarsenet, with a row of small round buttons embroidered in silver, with a pendant loop to each; confined at the neck with a silk cord or tassel. Beaver hat of the same colour, rather small, turned up in front, with a silver button and loop. Worked muslin dress and skirt, to shew the feet and ankles. Black silk slippers, and York tan gloves.

Muslin under-dress, with full loose sleeves; a tunic a l'antique, of yellow crape, trimmed with broad lace round the bottom; yellow silk head-dress, with short veil. Purple mantle, lined with white. York tan gloves.

LORD PAGET AND LADY WELLESLEY.

A LATE LETTER OF LADY C. WELLESLEY TO MR. J. ARBUTHNOT.

"It would be the height of ingratitude were I not to try to convey my thanks to Henry Wellesley for his most kind and generous offer of taking home a wretch who has so much injured him. I dare not write to him myself; but I implore it of you to say every thing which gratitude and feeling can suggest, to express my sense of the kindness of his conduct. His note was forwarded to me this morning; but degraded and unprincipled as I must appear in the eyes of every body, believe me I am not lost to all sense of honour, which would forbid my returning to a husband I have quitted, to children I have abandoned. Indeed, indeed, my dear Mr. Arbuthnot, if you knew all, you would pity more than blame me. Could you tell all the resistance that has been made to this criminal, most atrocious attachment—could you know what are my sufferings at this moment, you would feel for me. Henry has not deserved this of me.—We have had some differences, and he may, perhaps, sometimes have been a little too harsh to me; but I can with truth assert, and I wish you to publish it to the world, that in essential and indeed in trifling subjects, he has ever been kind to me to the

greatest degree; nor has the person who may be supposed to have attempted to lower him in my estimation, in order to gain my affections, ever spoken of him to me but in the highest terms of respect.—About my dear, dear children, I must say one word. Do you think I dare hope, by any remote or indirect means, to hear some times of them; you know how much I love them! You are aware of their merits, and what I must feel at having quitted them; but I have the satisfaction, the inexpressible comfort of knowing they will be taken care of by their father, though their mother has abandoned them. My dear little Henry and Charles—Oh! God bless you! I wrote every thing to my brother last night."

Tuesday Morning, Seven o'Clock.

"Since writing the inclosed, I have come to town, and if it is not repugnant to your feelings, I think I should like to have one interview with you, but not if you object to it any way.—The bearer can bring you to me instantly, if you will see me; but if not, ask no questions."

Mr. Henry Wellesley wrote to her in answer to this letter to Mr. Arbuthnot—

"That for the sake of her welfare, and that of her children, he would consent to receive her again, provided she would return and break off all correspondence or connection with the person she was then with; but that she must return instantly, for the next day would be too late."

The result of this afflicting romance has been, that Lord Paget returns to the bosom of his family. He is to live with Lady Paget, and has left town with her Ladyship for Beadesert, in Staffordshire. Lady Charlotte Wellesley is however to continue under his Lordship's protection; he has purchased a house for her, in which she now resides, and has made a settlement upon her; while Mr. Wellesley is eagerly proceeding to obtain a divorce.

DUEL BETWEEN LORD PAGET AND COLONEL CADOGAN.

A meeting between these parties took place on Tuesday, which terminated without bloodshed. The following account of the affair is given by the seconds, Colonel R. H. VIVIAN and Captain G. C. M'KENZIE:—

"In consequence of a challenge having been received by Lord Paget from Col. Cadogan, and every attempt to prevent a meeting having failed, the parties, attended by their respective friends, Col. Cadogan by Capt. M'Kenzie of the navy, and Lord Paget by Lieut. Col. Vivian of the 1th Light Dragoons, met as agreed, at seven o'clock, on Wimbledon Common. The ground having been taken at 12 paces distance, they were directed to fire together. Col. Cadogan fired—Lord Paget's pistol flashed; this having been decided to go for a fire; a question arose, whether Lord Paget had taken aim as if intending to hit his antagonist. Both the seconds being clearly of opinion, that such was not his intention (although the degree of obliquity he gave the direction of the pistol was such as to have been discovered only by particular observation), Capt. M'Kenzie stated to Col. Cadogan, that as it appeared to be Lord Paget's intention not to fire at him, he could not admit of the affair proceeding any further. Lieut. Col. Vivian then asked Col. Cadogan whether he had not himself observed that Lord Paget had not aimed at him—to which he replied in the affirmative. Capt. M'Kenzie then declared his determination not to remain any longer in the field, to witness any further act of hostility on the part of Col. Cadogan. Col. Cadogan replied, of course his conduct must be decided by his second; declaring, at the same time, that he had come prepared for the fall of one of the parties. On Capt. M'Kenzie and Lieut. Col. Vivian making it known to Lord P. that as he evidently did not intend to fire at Col. Cadogan, the affair could go no further, Lord Paget replied, "as such is your determination, I have now no hesitation in saying, that nothing could ever have induced me to add to the injuries I have already done the family, by firing at the brother of Lady Charlotte Wellesley."—On this the parties left the ground.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

An inquisition was taken on Monday at the Crown, Duke's-court, St. Martin's, on the remains of M^r. Smeeton and his wife, who were burnt in their dwelling-house, in St. Martin's-lane, on Saturday morning. The principal witness was W. Bird, the oldest apprentice, and by whose presence of mind four others were prevented from perishing. J. Thornton, a watchman, was the first who discovered the flames on the ground-floor, at the back of the house, in Chequer-court, into which a door opened, and he in vain attempted to alarm the family. The flames then seemed to be confined to the ground-floor. Bird stated, that his master and mistress slept over the warehouse where the flames were raging. He was awakened by an engine passing, and on opening his room door, which was on the second floor, he was half suffocated with smoke; he then broke open a room-door where his two fellow-apprentices slept, and also that of the maid-servant, and he sent them all up stairs to escape by the top of the house. Mr. Smeeton's bed-room was down a private stair-case, the door of which he also forced, and it fell to the bottom of the stairs with a great crash. He dared not attempt to descend the stairs, but continued to call his master, till the flames reached him, and he fancied the stair-case was giving way. The three other fugitives were nearly senseless by suffocation, and were unable to force the trap-door, but Bird forced it, and they all escaped over the tops of the houses. It was not known how the fire happened; the maid-servant went to bed at half-past eleven, and her master was then in the ware-room and Mrs. Smeeton in the drawing-room. Mr. S. had dined at Battersea, and it was supposed he had gone into the ware-room to deposit a 200l. note in an iron chest, which chest was got out of the ruins on Saturday, and the notes it contained were legible. The unfortunate couple had been married but three months. Verdict—Accidental Death.

On Sunday last a melancholy accident happened on the River.—A party coming from Richmond (consisting of six persons) were upset in Chelsea Reach, and but for the exertions and timely assistance of three young men, must inevitably have been drowned. One young Lady, a Miss Jones, of the Borough, was unfortunately lost though repeatedly dived for by one of the young men who were the means of saving the rest.

Yesterday week the body of a young man was taken out of the New River, near the Thatched-house, Islington, which was soon owned, when it appeared the name of the deceased was Lambert, 21 years of age, who resided in the City; he had been to see his brother at Kingsland-green; he parted from him on Thursday evening, with an intention of calling upon his father at Holloway; and it is supposed that on crossing the fields he was stopped by some villains who robbed and murdered him, and afterwards threw him into the river, as marks of violence appeared upon him. He had a watch in his pocket when he left his brother, but had none when found.

Another victim to the severity of the system of imprisonment for debt is to be added to the number who have within a few months committed suicide.—Mr. Cock, a Master and Commander in the Navy, cut his throat in the King's Bench Prison, on Tuesday night, the unhappy man being unable to support the extreme distress of his situation; and when it is considered that there are at least seven hundred prisoners, with their wives and children, actually shut up in that prison, we are less surprised than shocked at this melancholy event.

MARRIAGES.

On Tuesday, Mr. Rd. Brailsford; of Enfield, to Miss Sheep, of Kentish Town.

DEATHS.

On Monday last, Mrs. Knox, wife of the Rev. Dr. Knox, of Taunbridge.

Printed and published by JOHN HUNT, at the EXAMINER'S Office, 15, Beaufort Buildings, Strand.—Price 5d.

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