

THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

No. 181.

STATE OF THE FRENCH EMPIRE.

THE late ANNUAL EXPOSITION, or rather annual panegyric, on this subject by the French Minister of the Interior, appears to be longer than usual, but not so interesting. The exploits of the EMPIRE have not been so "great" as usual, and therefore what is wanting in substance must be made up in shew, and drawn out into a wire of detail. The mode of proceeding on these occasions is well known:—an English Minister would hardly be expected to be candid when put to such a task, and a French one, of course, is expected to be every thing *but* candid: it is neither his object nor his option to be so:—he is the personal slave of a despot, and all that he has to do is to make out as flourishing a statement as possible of the greatness of his master and the happiness of his brother slaves. He therefore casts not a general eye upon the character of the past twelve months, but a very particular one: and with a list of the various objects of political criticism in his memory, collects what he can, great or small, to put down under the several heads, so that the statement, as in the present instance, swells to a formidable bulk, and we are led with great solemnity through every kind of statistical department, no matter how empty, so that it gives our conductor room for a little talking. It is for this reason the account is split into so many different heads, some of them precisely similar, or at least including others,—as Extent of Territory, Religion, Judicial Order, Administration, Public Instruction, Sciences and Arts, *Public Works*, Fortifications, *Ports*, Canals, *Roads*, *Works at Paris*, Marine, and War. To follow the Minister through all these subjects would be as tiresome as unprofitable,—indeed there is one objection that might be made to following him through any of them, and that is, that setting aside such evident facts, as are clear to all Europe,—facts, by the bye, which he is not very solicitous to mention,—it is impossible to put confidence in any thing he says. The face with which a courtier will talk of his master's greatness is well known in every country, and a Frenchman's, on such occasions, is endued with triple brass. He is aware, in the first place, that he can speak but on one side of the question, and therefore must do it as well as possible:—secondly, he is assured, that nobody would venture to contradict him, whatever he says;—and thirdly, being one of a parcel of slaves, who have retained their vanity when they have lost every other feeling, it becomes part of his daily business to make the best of every thing both to himself and countrymen; and

thus they adopt a fine national tone, and look as great and happy as they can on all occasions, till the whole nation, like an individual in the habit of lying, succeeds in blunting the edge of its conscience, and perhaps, in some cases, absolutely believes its own exaggerations and inventions. Were this otherwise, and were not BONAPARTE skilled in the character of the people whom he governs, he could hardly suffer his Minister to declaim in public on subjects quite unworthy of such an exhibition, especially to a nation with a quick feeling of the ridiculous. But he knows them well enough:—he knows that the same inordinate vanity which so easily turned their love of freedom into a passion for false glory will, on all national subjects, turn their sense of the ridiculous into a blind self-flattery:—he knows that they are vain, giddy, ardent without any sound object, proud to be ridden by any body who shall afford them trappings and draw attention to their gaudiness, and, in a word, precisely the same people as they have been for centuries past. To such a people, flattery and exaggeration come as necessary food. Every thing that concerns them must, they think, in its nature be great; and therefore, in spite of what some may think and of all who suffer, the Minister comes magnanimously forward with his accounts of powder-mills erected and old houses pulled down, tells the people that they were never so happy in the happiest times; and every body, who has a shirt to his back, feels himself covered with glory.

The details about these powder-mills and old houses have been happily ridiculed in the *Times*, which has also well marked the difference between the embellishment of an enslaved country by the most splendid public works, and the willing industry and essential greatness of a free one. The whole statement of the French Minister is of a piece with these petty exaggerations on the one hand, and these woeful mistakes of aggrandizement for comfort on the other. Much of it,—such as the unfeeling summaries about the annexation of Holland and the Valais, the boasts respecting the Marine, and the still more unfeeling summaries and singular boasts respecting the war in Spain,—has been repeated over and over again; and the rest, which principally regards the public works, either consists of plans executed which are of no consequence to be known, or of plans that are to be executed, which will perhaps never be executed and are not even intended to be so. It is a common way of speaking on these occasions to say, that "great works have been undertaken;" such and such a basin will be constructed and will be able to hold so many ships;—and the war in Spain will be finished at such and such a time. All these assertions and prophecies go for nothing; and of the facts upon which we may rely, it may be truly pronounced, that though they may shew the absolute power of BONAPARTE and the great-

ness of his resources, neither of which are to be denied,—yet not one of them redounds to the true honour or happiness of his subjects. Under the head of Judicial Order, we are told the “*jury system* has been maintained and brought to perfection;”—this is a manifest falsehood, at least in our idea of jury systems, and is contradicted by what goes before, viz. that “the late code, in uniting civil to criminal justice, has erected *imperial courts*, invested with the right of pursuing and accusing, and armed with the force necessary to cause the laws to be executed.”—Now there may possibly be twelve men sitting in these courts under the appellation of a jury, but the places themselves are manifestly nothing but so many star-chambers for the summary punishment of obnoxious persons. If any system is being perfected, it is the Emperor’s system of making all Public Instruction subservient to his own views, and superinducing throughout the whole empire a kind of premature slavishness of mind. “Private seminaries,” even though he has already made it necessary for them to have masters from the public colleges, are finally to be “*all shut up*,” and “all public education” he recommends “to be regulated on the principles of military discipline, and not on those of civil or ecclesiastical police.” “The habitude of military discipline,” we are told, “is the most useful; since at all periods of life it is requisite for the citizen to be able to defend his property against *internal or external enemies*.” A pretty reason, truly, for an absolute monarch to give his people! But all that he wishes or intends by the recommendation is to fill the minds of the rising generation with warlike ideas, and to keep them from *degenerating* into a love of peace and virtue. The instilment of free notions into his people must, of necessity, be the very last that a conqueror would set about. In the Dauphin edition of the ancient Classics, conducted by the most learned men of the time, for the use of Louis the Fourteenth’s son, there was the glaring omission of LUCAN, a philosophic and free-spirited poet, who wrote against the evils of ambition. BONAPARTE, we know, is still worse in his prohibitions with regard to books and the freedom of discussion; we know, in fact, that there is no such thing in France as discussion on points of policy; that translators are obliged to alter or otherwise accommodate their publications to the taste of their Sovereign; and that a poet would not dare even to sing of patriots defending their property against internal enemies, much less would a Frenchman become a HAMPTON and defend it in earnest. I forget who it was that, in the reign of FREDERICK II., called Prussia a vast guard-house.

What BONAPARTE would make his empire, or at least his guard-house and half custom-house.

In granting that every thing which the French Minister is true,—granting that the canals, roads, and fortified cities, the arts and sciences, administration, law, and military strength, are all that they are said to be, still it is very possible for a nation to be all this, and yet not to be happy:—and this is not one of us, however im-

partial respecting the institutions of our own country, and candid to acknowledge their abuses as well as their blessings, but must feel the immense distance there is between himself as an Englishman, and the most self-complacent slave in BONAPARTE’S service.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

EXPOSITION OF THE STATE OF THE EMPIRE, PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE BODY JUNE 29, BY HIS EXCELLENCY COUNT MONTALIVET, MINISTER FOR THE INTERIOR.

GENTLEMEN,—Since your last Session, the Empire has received an addition of sixteen departments, five millions of people, a territory yielding a revenue of one hundred millions, three hundred leagues of coast with all their maritime means. The mouths of the Rhine, the Meuse, and the Scheldt, were not then French: the circulation of the interior of the Empire was circumscribed; the productions of its central departments could not reach the sea unless they were submitted to the inspection of foreign custom-houses. These inconveniences have for ever disappeared. The maritime arsenal of the Scheldt, whereon so many hopes are founded, has thereby received all the development which it needed. The mouths of the Ems, the Weser, and the Elbe, place in our hands all the wood which Germany furnishes. The frontiers of the Empire are supported on the Baltic; and thus having a direct communication with the North, it will be easy for us thence to draw mats, hemp, iron, and such other naval stores as we may want. We at this moment unite all that France, Germany, and Italy produce, as materials for the construction of ships. The Simplon, become part of France, secures us a new communication with Italy. The union of Rome has removed that troublesome intermediacy which subsisted between our armies in the north and in the south of Italy, and has given us new coast on the Mediterranean, as useful and necessary to Toulon, as those of the Adriatic are to Venice. This union also brings with it this double advantage—that the Popes are no longer Sovereign Princes, and in the relation of strangers to France. To bring to our recollection all the evils which religion has sustained, by the confounding of temporal with spiritual power, we have only to look into history. The Popes have invariably sacrificed eternal things to temporal ones.—The divorce of Henry VIII. was not the cause of England’s separation from the Church of Rome.—The peace of St. Peter occasioned that event. If it be advantageous to the State and to Religion, that the Pope should not continue to be a Sovereign Prince, it is equally desirable that he should be a Bishop of Rome, the head of our Church, should not be a stranger to us; but that he should unite in his heart, with the love of religion, that love for this country which characterises elevated minds. Besides, it is the only means whereby that proper influence which the Pope ought to possess over spiritual concerns can be rendered compatible with the principles of the Empire, which cannot suffer any foreign Bishop to exercise an authority therein.

RELIGION.

The Emperor is satisfied with the spirit which animates all his Clergy. The establishment of secondary ecclesiastical schools, commonly called *small schools*; the founding of many large seminaries for higher studies; the re-establishment of churches wherever they have been destroyed; and the purchase of several grand cathedrals, of which the Revolution had interrupted the construction, are manifest proofs of the interest which the Government takes in the splendour of religious worship, and the prosperity of religion.—Religious dissensions, the effect of our political troubles, have entirely disappeared.—Twenty-seven bishopricks having been for a long time vacant, and the Pope having refused to execute the clauses of the Concordat, which bind him to institute the Bishops nominated by the Emperor,—this refusal has nullified the Concordat—it no longer exists. The Emperor has been, therefore, obliged to

convoked all the Bishops of the Empire, in order that they may deliberate upon the means of supplying the vacant sees, and of nominating to those that may become vacant in future, conformably to what was done under Charlemagne, under St. Louis, and in all the ages which preceded the Concordat of Francis I. and Leo X.; for it is the essence of the Catholic religion not to be able to dispense with the ministry and mission of the Bishops. Thus has ceased to exist that famous transaction between Francis I. and Leo X. against which the Church, the University, and the Supreme Courts, so long protested, and which made the Publicists and Magistrates of that period say, that the King and the Pope had mutually ceded that which belonged neither to the one nor the other. Henceforward it is to the deliberations of the Council of Paris, that the fate of episcopacy is attached, which will have so much influence upon that of religion itself. The Council will decide whether France, like Germany, shall be without episcopacy. As for the rest, if there have existed other causes of disunion between the Emperor and the temporal Sovereign of Rome, there exists none between the Emperor and the Pope, as the head of religion; and there is none which can cause the least inquietude to the most timorous souls.

JUDICIAL ORDER.

Civil justice had been separated from criminal justice; the Magistracy did not pursue crimes till they had been marked out by the Police. The late code which you have adopted, has united civil to criminal justice; it has erected imperial courts, invested with the right of pursuing and of accusing, and has armed them with all the force necessary to cause the laws to be executed; the jury system maintained and brought to perfection; the confronting of the witnesses, and the publicity of examination, have united all that was good in the old and the new system.

ADMINISTRATION.

Many reclamations have been presented with regard to the limits of different departments. Opinions have even been listened to which went to substitute great prefectures in the room of those at present existing; but his Majesty has rejected them, and has adopted as a principle, to consider as established and permanent what has been already done. Instability destroys every thing. A great revolution has passed over, under the existing organization of the departments; it is become like a species of property which his Majesty does not wish to touch. These departments have been formed and consolidated amidst imperious circumstances, which have brought together their inhabitants, and they shall ever remain united as they are. The administration of Communes is every where brought to perfection. Already the mass of their revenues amounts to more than eighty millions. Every where else the tax called the Octroi is an impost of the Sovereign; his Majesty has left it to the Communes; in consequence of which all their establishments are in the best state, and at almost all of them the erection of town-halls has been set about, of market-places, of public magazines, and other works, which must embellish or augment their prosperity. The hospitals are every where ameliorated. The acts of charity are copious, and the legacies for the hospitals amount to several millions annually. His Majesty has sanctioned and endowed a great number of congregations of Charitable Sisters, whose object is to wait upon the sick. Depots of mendicity have been established in sixty-five departments; in thirty-two they are already in activity; and in these thirty-two departments begging is no longer permitted. These depots still require to be improved, in such a way that different kinds of labour may there be carried on, and thus they may provide for the greater part of their expenses.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The University has made some progress. Much, however, still remains to be done to realise the hopes and the views of the Emperor in this grand creation. Domestic education is that which permits the greatest encouragement; but since parents are so often obliged to entrust their children to colleges or places of education, it is the intention of the Emperor, that the organization of the University should be extended to all colleges and all places of education of all degrees, in order that

education may no longer resemble a manufacture or a branch of commerce, followed from views of pecuniary interest. The number of Lyceums and of Communal Colleges shall be augmented, and the number of private seminaries shall be gradually diminished till the moment when they shall all be shut up. All public education ought to be regulated on the principles of military discipline, and not on those of civil or ecclesiastical police. The habitude of military discipline is the most useful, since at all periods of life it is requisite for the citizen to be able to defend his property against internal and external enemies. Ten years more are still requisite for realising all the benefit which his Majesty expects from the University, and for accomplishing his views; but already great advantages are obtained, and what exists is preferable to that which has ever existed. For the primary instruction of children his Majesty perceives with pleasure the establishment of small schools; he desires their increase. Besides the houses of St. Denis and —, six houses have been established for the education of girls whose fathers have been devoted to the service of the State.

SCIENCES AND ARTS.

The discovery of the magnetised needle produced a revolution in commerce; the use of honey gave way to that of sugar, the use of wood to that of indigo. The progress of chemistry is operating at this moment a revolution in an inverse direction: it has arrived at the extraction of sugar from the grape, the maple, and the beet-root: wool, which had enriched Languedoc, and part of Italy, but which was unable, in the infancy of art, to support the competition with indigo, resumes the superiority in its turn; chemistry at this day extracts from it a residuum which gives it over indigo the advantage of price and quality. All the branches of science and of art are advancing in improvement.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Great works have been undertaken within the last ten years, and are advancing every year with new zeal, and a new increase of means. In 1810, 138 millions were appropriated for these works; 155 millions are appropriated in 1811. In the midst of wars, of expenses required by immense armies, by the creation and organization of numerous fleets, the sacrifices which the Imperial Treasury has made for the public works are such, that they surpass in a single year all that was employed on them under the old government for one generation.

FORTIFICATIONS.

Great part of these expenses has for its object the creation of new strong places: these are labours engaged in for the benefit of future times, in order to consolidate and fortify the empire.—(Here several works in the Texel, at Antwerp, Cadix, Corfu, on the Rhine, at Ostend, Boulogne, Cherburgh, and Havre, are enumerated.)

PORTS.

At our ports the labours go on with the same activity. At Antwerp they have removed the dam from the basin; eighteen ships of the line, even three-deckers, can enter, and go out fully equipped. Before the end of next September, the basin will be able to hold thirty ships. Ships of the line can only enter the basin of Flushing without their guns. The sluice is now dried and insulated, and they are busied in lowering it, so that 20 ships will be able to enter it with their guns. The quays which the English damaged are now restored. The ground has already been chosen for the basin of Terneuse; its foundations are now laying. Twenty ships of the line, fully equipped, will be able to leave this basin in one tide. It will be able to hold forty.—The sluice of Ostend is finished; that of Dunkirk will be finished by the end of the year. Great advantages are expected from deepening the channel. The sluice of Havre is finished, and has been of great advantage. At Cherburgh, the event-port and basin will be finished in 1812. The works of Cherburgh alone require more than three millions yearly.—Works are carrying on at all the ports of the second or third order.

CANALS.

The Canal of St. Quintin is finished. The Canal of the

North, to unite the Rhine and the Scheldt, was one-third part finished, but the union of Holland having made it useless, these works have been suspended. The Canal Napoleon, which joins the Rhine and the Saone, will be finished in four years. Three millions a-year are applied to it. The Canal of Burgundy, which joins the Saone and the Seine, is continued with spirit. The Canal of Arles, which brings the Rhone to the Pont-du-Bouc, is one-third part executed. That which cuts the peninsula of Brittany, in joining the Ronce to La Vilaine, is now going on. The Canal of Blouet, which joins Napoleonville to L'Orient, and which will one day lead from Napoleonville to Brest, is almost finished. Many other canals are either finished or going on with the greatest activity.

ROADS.

In the improvement of the roads, the distances are lessened. It has been computed that Turin has already been brought 36 hours nearer Paris, 24 hours by the passage of Mont Cenis, and 12 hours more by the new road of Maurienne. His Majesty has decreed the establishment of a new road from Paris to Chambery by Tournees. This road will be shorter by eight hours. In this manner Turin will be brought nearer to Paris by 44 hours, which is almost half the distance.—Milan is, by the road of Simplon, brought nearer Paris by more than a march of 50 hours. Bayonne and Spain have been brought nearer Paris by 18 hours, by the road which has been made through the sandy plains between Bourdeaux and Bayonne.—Mayence and Germany have been brought twelve hours nearer, by the road which has been made in the sands from Mayence to Metz.—Hamburgh will be nearer by more than sixty hours in the course of the next year, by the road made across the sands of Maestricht to Wesel, and from that to Hamburgh; and this will be the first example in history of eighty leagues of roads made in the course of two years.—Amsterdam will be brought twelve hours nearer Paris by the road through the sands of Antwerp to Amsterdam, at which they are labouring at many points. New roads are opened from Spezia to Parma, from Florence to Rimini, and from Nice to Genoa. Every where roads are opening to establish communications between the different points in the departments. The construction of a great number of bridges is begun. Those of Bourdeaux, Rouen, Avignon upon the Rhone, of Turin on the Po, are the most remarkable. A great number of other bridges are also finished.

WORKS AT PARIS.

The canal of l'Ourque, and the distribution of its waters in the different parts of Paris, are attended with an expense of two millions and an half of francs a-year. In a few years these works will be completely finished. Already sixty fountains spread the waters of Ourque in the different quarters of Paris. The Seine, the Marne, the Yonne, and the Oise, have considerable works constructing on them to improve the navigation. The cut of St. Maure, which will be finished in the next year, will shorten the navigation of the Marne by five leagues. The sluices constructed at Port d'Arche, at Vernon, and at ... will facilitate the navigation of the Seine; and other sluices will continue it to Troyes and l'Aube. The bridges of Choisy, Besen, and Jena, facilitate the communications, or concur in the embellishments of the capital. The Louvre is finishing; they are pulling down that quantity of houses which was between the Louvre and the Tuilleries. A second gallery re-unites the two palaces.

MARINE.

We have lost Guadaloupe and the Isle of France. The wish to relieve these colonies would have been no sufficient reason for trying to send out our squadrons in the state of relative inferiority in which they are. Since the annexation of Holland, that country has furnished us with 10,000 seamen, and 12 ships of the line. We have considerable fleets in the Scheldt and at Toulon. Squadrons of ships of the line, more or less strong, are in the different ports, and 15 ships on the stocks at Antwerp. Every thing there is so arranged as to add every year a great number of ships of war to our squadron in the Scheldt. Two ships of the line are building at Cherburgh; and the magazines of timber, and other materials

of every kind, are there so considerable, that we may put five on the stocks before the close of 1811. L'Orient, Rochefort, and Toulon, have all their frames occupied. Numerous ships are constructing at Venice. Our resources are sufficient to advance the material part of our marine to the same point as that of our enemies.—The experiments made of a maritime conscription have succeeded: young men of 18, 19, and 20, sent on board our ships, display the best inclination, and are rapidly forming. The frequent sorties of our squadrons, the cruising on the coast, the evolutions of our fleets and flotillas in the Zuyder Zee, the Scheldt, and in our roads, have enabled our young conscripts to make a progress which justifies our entertaining the best hopes.

WAR.

In one year the greater part of the strong places in Spain have been taken, after sieges which do honour to the genius of the artillery of the French Army. More than 200 colours, 80,000 prisoners, and hundreds of pieces of cannon, have been taken from the Spaniards, in a number of pitched battles. This war was verging to its close, when England, departing from her usual policy, came to present herself in the front of the line. It is easy to foresee the result of this struggle, and to comprehend all its effects upon the destiny of the world. The population of England not being able to suffice for the occupation of the two Indies, of America, and of a variety of establishments in the Mediterranean; for the defence of Ireland, and of her own coasts; for garrisons, and the manning of her immense fleets; for the consumption of men in an obstinate war, supported against France on the Spanish Peninsula; the chances are greatly on our side, and England has placed herself between the ruin of her population, if she persist in supporting this war, or disgrace if she abandon it, after having put herself forward so strongly.—France has 800,000 men under arms; and while new forces, new armies, march into Spain to combat there our eternal enemies, 400,000 men, 50,000 horses, remain in our interior, or on our coasts, ready to march in defence of our rights wherever they shall be menaced.—The continental system, which is followed up with the greatest constancy, saps the basis of the finances of England. Already her exchange loses 33 per cent.; her colonies are destitute of outlets for their produce; the greater part of her manufactories are shut; and the Continental system has only just arisen! Followed up for ten years, it alone will be sufficient to destroy the resources of England. Her revenues are not founded on the produce of her soil, but on the produce of the commerce of the world; even already her counting-houses are half closed. The English hope, in vain, that from the advantages of time, and of events which their passions light up, some markets will be opened to their commerce. With regard to France, the Continental system has produced no change in her position: we have been for ten years past without maritime commerce. The prohibition of English merchandize upon the Continent has opened an outlet for our manufactures; but should that be wanting, the consumption of the empire presents a reasonable market; it is for our manufactures to be regulated by the wants of more than sixty millions of consumers. The prosperity of the Imperial Treasury is not founded on the commerce of the universe. More than 900 millions, which are necessary to meet the expences of the empire, are the result of home-taxes, direct or indirect. England must have two milliards, in order to pay her expences; and her proper revenue could not furnish more than a third of it. We shall believe that England will be able to support this struggle as long as we can, when she shall have passed several years without loans; without the funding of Exchequer Bills, and when her payments shall be in money, or at least in paper convertible at pleasure. Every reasonable man must be convinced that France may remain ten years in her present state without experiencing other embarrassments than those she has felt for the last ten years, without augmenting her debt, and in short, meeting all her expences. England must every year of war borrow 800 millions (of livres) which, in ten years, amount to eight milliards. How is it to be conceived that she can contrive to support an increase of taxes to the amount of

400 millions, in order to meet the interest of her debt—she who cannot meet her current expences without borrowing 800 millions a-year? The present financial system of England is baseless without a peace. All the systems of finance, founded upon loans, are in reality pacific in their nature, because borrowing is calling in aid the resources of the future for the relief of present wants. Notwithstanding this, the existing Administration of England has proclaimed the principle of perpetual war; this is, as if the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced, that he should propose, in a few years, a Bankruptcy-Bill. It is, in fact, mathematically demonstrable, that to provide for expenditure by an annual loan of 800 millions, is to declare, that in some years there will be no other resource but a bankruptcy. This observation every day strikes intelligent men; every campaign it will be still more striking in the capitalists.—We are now in the fourth year of the war in Spain; but still, after some campaigns, Spain shall be subdued, and the English shall be driven out of it. What are a few years in order to consolidate the great empire, and secure the tranquillity of our children? It is not that the Government does not wish for peace; but it cannot take place while the affairs of England are directed by men who all their lives have professed perpetual war; and without a guarantee, what would that peace be to France? At the close of two years English fleets would seize our ships, and would ruin our ports, as they have done heretofore. Such a peace would be only a trap laid for our commerce; it would be useful to England alone, who would regain an opening for her commerce, and would change the Continental system. The pledge of peace is in the existence of our fleet and of our maritime power. We shall be able to make peace with safety when we shall have 150 ships of the line; and in spite of the obstacles of war, such is the state of the Empire that we shall have that number of vessels! Thus, the guarantee of our fleet, and that of an English Administration founded on principles different from those of the existing Cabinet, can alone give peace to the universe. It would be useful to us, no doubt, but it would be desirable in every point of view: we shall say more, the Continent—the whole world demands it; but we have one consolation, which is, that it is still more desirable for our enemies than for ourselves; and whatever efforts the English Ministry may make to stupefy the nation, by a multitude of pamphlets, and by every thing that can keep in action a population greedy of news, they cannot conceal from the world how much peace becomes every day more indispensable to England. Thus, Gentlemen, every thing at present guarantees to us a futurity as happy as full of glory; and that futurity has received an additional pledge in that infant so much desired, who, at last granted to our vows, will perpetuate the most illustrious dynasty; of that infant, who amidst the fetes of which your meeting seems to form a part, receives already, with the Great Napoleon, and the august Princess whom he has associated to his high destinies, the homage of love and of respect from all the nations of the Empire.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

MYSTERIOUS MURDER.—On Monday night, at Cargo, near Carlisle, an inquest was held on the body of a man apparently between 60 and 70 years old, of a spare and meagre appearance, who had been found dead in a corn field adjoining the high road. There being no absolute evidence before the Jury as to the manner in which the deceased came by his death, a verdict of *Found Dead* was delivered. It appeared that one of the inhabitants observed the body lying stretched out in a furrow on Monday morning, and a horse grazing by the side of the road, unencumbered by its saddle. Supposing the man merely asleep, no notice was taken until the evening, when the same appearance was observed. Alarm being naturally excited, it was discovered that he was dead. He was lying upon his back—all his clothes, even to his shirt, were stripped off, lying above him, and the saddle was placed upon his legs. At his side lay 14s. in a purse in silver, 2d. in copper, a crucifix, rosary, &c. At some little distance from the spot was a quantity

of blood, which had evidently proceeded from the deceased. It is necessary to remark, that though no marks of violence appeared on the body sufficient to account for his death, he might have expired from the bursting of a blood vessel, or have been forcibly suffocated. It was also given in evidence, that the unfortunate man was accompanied from the neighbourhood of Carlisle by a person on foot of suspicious appearance; and a person answering his description, much agitated, crossed the ferry at Rockliff, about twelve o'clock on Monday night. It is not unworthy of notice that the gate of the field in which the deceased was lying, was strongly fastened on the outside with a rope.—The body was afterwards recognised by a person who happened to be travelling that way, who had some little acquaintance of him. He proved to be an Irishman, from the neighbourhood of Newry, a jobber in cattle, and a man of pecunious habits—it being his general custom, when the weather permitted, to sleep in the open air, under some hedge or haystack. He had been in Whitehaven last week, where he received 53 guineas in gold in payment of cattle, which it is supposed were in his possession when he passed through Carlisle. His name is either Terney, Turner, Torrens, or some name of similar sound. His remains were decently interred on Tuesday evening, in the burying-ground of Stanwix.—We trust the business will not rest here, but that such means will be taken as may tend to the developement of this occurrence.—(*Carlisle Journal*).

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, July 8.

BANK NOTES AND GUINEAS.

On the third reading of this Bill, another debate ensued.

Lord KING observed, that Ministers answered all his facts and reasonings only by the assertion that the Bank-notes were not depreciated, for they passed for the sum they purported to be tendered for. The Bank Directors said the same thing—the Treasury repeated after the Bank Directors, that their paper had undergone no depreciation—Ministers repeated in that House what was said at the Treasury—therefore the notes of the Bank of England were not depreciated! This was the jet and sum of all their arguments. How conclusive, convincing, and satisfactory they were, he must leave it with their Lordships to determine.

The LORD CHANCELLOR remarked, that he would never say that the restrictions of cash payments of the Bank was not a very inconvenient measure at the time it was adopted. But it was absolutely necessary to do something of the sort. So it was now. Ever since the Restriction Act had passed, it must be obvious that a new character was given to Bank paper.—Every contract which had since been entered into, was conceived to be complied with by the interchange or payment of Bank-notes. It has mingled itself with every transaction between individual and individual since that time, and no suspicion was entertained that the paper of the Bank of England would not continue to bear the value which was then understood to be fixed upon it. Indeed every thing that could affect the country was connected with that idea, as well as every thing that could closely affect individuals.—The wealth, the prosperity, the glory, nay, the very existence of the country, now depended in some measure upon it.—What then must be the alarming, the dangerous, the pernicious consequences which must result from any sudden and violent change of that system? If no measure were to be taken to prevent the depreciation of Bank-notes, what difficulties and confusion might not arise? He himself, from the situation which he held, had to attend perhaps to 25 millions of the property of his Majesty's subjects, and he would endeavour to perform his duty. The law cases which might arise in consequence of mistaken notions on the subject their Lordships were discussing, he hoped that equity would provide for. He was sure the Judges would attend to such cases, and that they would do their duty with firmness.

Lord GREVILLE said, that the Bank was converted by Government into an engine for supporting a system of profusion. They did not, however, stop at paper tokens, they must have money tokens; and these were now about to be issued, of a composition or metal one fifth less than its nominal value.—No private Company, however respectable in numbers, are authorised to circulate a depreciated species of coin. But this was asserted to be done under the sanction of Parliament! Parliament, with its eyes open, to sanction such an issue, instead of the standard coin of the realm, which was required to be of a certain fineness and quality. This he could not regard as less than a gross fraud—a robbery of all those to whom payment in the legal coin of the realm was justly due. The measure now before them would by no means operate as a remedy; it would go to compel a man not to take less value for a note than its amount, or to give more than twenty-one shillings for a guinea; but it would go quietly to aggravate the very evil it affected to remove, and eventually to produce similar effects to those at one time so well known in France; and even there, with the whole system of terror in support, such financial expedients failed of their effect. Among others, the measure would operate injuriously this way; every man would at market have two prices: the rate of the coin and the notes were respectively fixed by the Bill, but could it prevent a man from selling for a lesser sum in guineas than which he would ask a greater sum for in Bank-notes?—They were not prepared, he believed, to pass a law for preventing such practices, as such must be on the principle of the maxim, a *provisio* which entailed such dreadful calamities on a neighbouring country.

Lord STANHOPE heard with surprise the mischievous, unpatriotic, and abominable notions respecting the depreciation not only of the Bank-notes, but also about the Bank-tokens being a debased coin. He did not know any thing which could do more public mischief than such doctrines; and could not understand upon what principles of justice that should be a legal tender to the public creditor which was not a legal tender to other people. When he was called upon for an explanation or definition of his ideas of depreciation, he would repeat, that if he brought to a banker twenty guineas in one sum, and twenty-one pounds in Bank-notes in another, he would get the same credit from his banker for the one sum as for the other. This showed, that in the opinion of the bankers, those two payments were of equal value; and what was value but as referred to opinion?—When he had formerly supported the Abolition of the Slave Trade—the cause of the Dissenters, and of the Catholics—he stood, as he now did, for the cause of justice. He should support the cause of the Stockholders with the same zeal, on the same principle.

Lord HOLLAND said, it had been asserted that if the example of a Noble Lord (King) were followed, it would produce a sort of mental earthquake in this country. It appeared to him as if a kind of mental earthquake had already been produced in that House. When his Noble Friend (Lord Stanhope) had formerly supported the Abolition of the Slave Trade and the cause of the Catholics, although nobody doubted that he did it from a sense of justice, yet Ministers never coincided with him. They allowed the ingenuity of his arguments, but they considered him as a theorist and a speculator; and yet they now for, or their old motto, "*Principis obsta*," and no longer shewed themselves enemies to all innovation.

Lord HANCOCK begged to observe, that the bringing forward this question had not been an act of the Government—it had always been thought very delicate to touch upon a subject which had stood the test of fourteen years' practical experience, and it was much to be lamented that it should now be obliged to bear the rude hand of legislation. His Majesty's Ministers never would have stirred it themselves, but as it had been stirred by the Noble Lords opposite, whatever evils might arise from it must rest with those who had rashly brought it forward. He contended, that with regard to the increased rise in the price of the several articles of necessary consumption, the increase of taxes had been one cause, and the increase of wealth had been another, and therefore it was not solely to be attributed to the issue of paper by the Bank. He denied that there could

be any real similarity between the assignats of France and the Bank-notes of this country. In France, in the first three years they issued to the amount of two hundred and forty millions; in the next year one hundred and forty millions; and in the third they went to the enormous sum of 800,000,000 of livres. It was ridiculous to compare such issues with those of the Bank of England, which was and long had been regulated by a discretion in the Bank Directors, that had raised the commerce and energies of this country to a higher pitch than had ever been known in the world, and this discretion had been also regulated by the watchful attention of Parliament.

The Earl of LAUDERDALE adverted to the speech of the Noble Lord on the Woolstack. The Noble and Learned Lord and his colleagues say this Bill is to prevent landlords from extorting. Where, then, was the reason for exempting Ireland? In this country the practice of extortion was never known to exist,—in Ireland it has been well known to prevail some years past, and he therefore put it to their Lordships whether the Bill were not more proper for Ireland, to which it does not extend, than to England and Scotland, to which it does extend? He insisted this Act violated every principle of political economy, and gained nothing for the public. If the Bank increase their paper, the value of guineas will increase in an equal proportion. It was the case in the time of King William, and the late decision of the Court of King's Bench in the case of De Yonge shewed, that if you could not prevent men from trafficking in guineas, when it was supposed to be felony, that this Bill, which makes it only a misdemeanour, will not be able to effect the object. He considered the present Bill as pregnant with infinite calamity to the country.

Lord LIVERPOOL said, the Bill was a measure of justice to a great portion of the people. The national creditor received Bank-notes at par; he ought to be placed in a situation in which he should be enabled to part with them at par. If in this point the landholder obtained an advantage, the national creditor must sustain an injury. He contended there was no depreciation whatever. The paper circulation of the country had not that tendency to excess which had been so injurious to other countries. While the issue was only about 23 millions, and the revenue amounted to between 70 and 80 millions, there could be no just ground for fearing a ruinous excess. As to the resumption of cash payments by the Bank, he confessed himself wholly at a loss to understand how, in the present state of exchange with foreign countries, that could take place, without the most dangerous consequences. A great deal had been said about the profusion in the national expenditure. What profusion? what measure of expense had been adopted with any other view than the conviction of its being wise and politic?—It was true, the issue of the Bank-paper might be reduced, by reducing the public expenditure; but this reduction must be affected by a complete change of system; by withdrawing our troops from the Peninsula, Sicily, &c. and by an abandonment of all those plans to which Government had hitherto looked for ultimate success and security. For his part, convinced as he was that the exertions made by Great Britain were indispensable, he was firmly persuaded that whatever might be the inconveniences attendant on the state of the currency, those inconveniences were trifling as compared with those evils which must result from an abandonment of those efforts which the country was making in the common cause.

Earl GREY protested against the proposed measure, as fraught with general calamity. For his part (notwithstanding what had fallen from the Noble and Learned Lord on the Woolstack) he never would believe, until it should be declared by the Twelve Judges, that the payment by a tender into a Court, of Bank-notes, would shelter him from a distress, when the law distinctly declared that it should be paid "in good and lawful money of the realm." Adverting to the affairs of the Peninsula, he declared that though he had concurred in the Vote of Thanks to Lord Wellington, yet still it was his firm opinion, if we made ourselves principals in the war, and attempted to contend with the whole military power of France on the Continent, the consequences would be the most ruinous to this country. He was anxious to give the supporters of the Bill a steady



warning, before they proceeded too far, as he was confident no victory would gratify our enemy so much, or so strongly prove the complete success of his endeavours to injure this country, as the passing of an Act subversive of the ancient rights of the Constitution.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in explanation, repeated that the law of the country would remain the same after passing the Act, as at present in cases of execution, save that the landlord who took a note must take it for the sum specified on it, and when distraining, must submit to have such note so offered to him.

After a few further observations, the Amendment was negatived without a division. The question was then put on the third reading of the Bill, when the numbers were—Contents, 43—Non Contents, 16—Majority, 27.

The Bill was then passed.—Adjourned.

[There was nothing of importance before this House on Tuesday and Wednesday, on which day it adjourned till Friday.]

Friday, July 12.

Earl STANHOPE observed, that the measure which the House had lately adopted respecting the Circulating Medium, could only be considered as preliminary to other measures which must be resorted to. A deep wound has been given to the currency of the country, to which the Bill recently adopted was by no means a plaster, or rather it was merely a plaster to keep off the flies and wasps from the wound, until proper means could be adopted to cure it. With this view, he thought it right to lose no time in stating the propositions which he conceived it would be necessary to agree to, in the form of principles, as a basis for the establishment of a circulating medium, which might be safely made a legal tender. His only object now was, that his Resolutions should lie upon the table for consideration next Session. His Lordship then read a string of thirteen Resolutions, the objects of which were the establishment of branches of the Bank of England, the entries of sums in the Bank books, and the transfer of them from hand to hand; and thus cause the creation of a circulating medium, to which neither gold nor silver would be necessary, and which might, under certain regulations, be safely made a legal tender;—his Lordship objecting to making Bank-notes themselves a legal tender, on the ground that the most paltry engraver might counterfeit them, and that there would be no security for the person receiving them, that they were not forged. Some words were also introduced, to declare the solvency of the Bank of England, in order to put an end to an alarm, which his Lordship stated had prevailed on this head, in consequence of some observations made on a former night. His Lordship, after shortly observing upon the necessity there was for resorting to some secure mode of making a legal tender in lieu of gold, which could not be procured, moved that his Resolutions do lie on the table.—After a remark or two from the Earl of LIVERDALE, the debate was adjourned till Tuesday.—Adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, July 8.

CASE OF DE YONGE.

Lord FOLKSTONE alluded to the case of this man, as one of peculiar hardship: he had been prosecuted under an obsolete statute of Edw. III. for doing nothing more than what bankers and merchants had been in the constant practice of. When such persons, therefore, were equally amenable, he thought it very hard that an individual like De Yonge should be selected for prosecution. He had been tried and found guilty; but the case was reserved for the opinion of the Judges, who, after a delay of 12 months, pronounced De Yonge not guilty. He thought some remedy should be applied, to prevent the recurrence of such an evil, for De Yonge must have been put to great inconvenience, as well as very heavy expence, by these protracted proceedings.—Lord F. then moved for copies of the Evidence, &c. &c.

Sir VICARY GIBBS (the Prosecutor of De Yonge) saw no grounds whatever for the motion. There had been no unneces-

sary delay, and blame could not attach any where.—The motion was negatived.

BANK NOTES AND GUINEAS.

Mr. PERCEVAL, in a brief speech, moved, that Lord Stanhope's Bill should be read a first time.—He said, that when this Bill was first introduced he thought there was no necessity for it; as he did not suppose a Noble Lord's (King) conduct would either be approved or followed, for such conduct had no precedent except in the practice of Jew pedlars and smugglers. (Hear, hear!) But when, on the contrary, he found not only that the Noble Lord was determined to persevere, but that many individuals of high authority not only defended and justified it, but even applauded it, he could no longer think that the interference of Parliament was not highly necessary. He did not mean to question the Noble Lord's motives, but when serious mischief was likely to ensue, it was high time for the intervention of the Legislature. The Bill before them, he was ready to admit, might not be able to sustain itself, and it was very possible that it might be necessary to make paper a legal tender. (Hear, hear!) There was no similarity between Bank-notes and Assignats, as had been sufficiently proved; and as for the Bank paying in specie, where was specie to be obtained? It was not thought necessary to extend the Bill to Ireland, because the practice that called for it, though new in this country, was not new in Ireland, where it had existed before the Bank Restriction Bill had passed at all. At this period, it was better to pass the Bill in its present form, and, if necessary, extend it another Session. The time to which it was proposed to extend the Bill was calculated to bring the discussion on it an early period of next Session. He was aware that an objection would be made to the interference of the Legislature, in contracts between individuals; and undoubtedly that was objectionable; but such interference had taken place in 1797, when Parliament took away from the creditor the most speedy way of recovering the debts due to him by arrest. He hoped the House would feel it necessary to extend its protection to the different classes who would be relieved by this Bill, and therefore should conclude by moving, that it be now read a first time.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE was of opinion that the measure was calling upon Parliament to become an active partner in committing a fraud and robbery upon one class of his Majesty's subjects—a fraud which would lead to the subversion of the establishments of the country. With this impression, he should oppose the Bill.

Lord A. HAMILTON opposed the Bill, conceiving that the Government were in error, and that it was not fit that they should identify themselves with the Bank.

Mr. DENT was satisfied that the Bill was called for on every principle which governed necessity, and therefore should support it.

Mr. WHITBREAD said, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not left the country in the dark as to his future plan of operations; for he had distinctly said, that it was very possible that Bank-notes must be made a legal tender. If he should once do this, he must next proceed to the greatest calamity which could befall a country, namely, the institution of a maximum of prices. The Right Hon. Gentleman was now precisely treading those steps which his model, Mr. Pitt, had declared brought France to the very verge of bankruptcy.—The Right Hon. Gentleman had said, that in his opinion the course pursued by Lord King was not justifiable. He had represented Lord King as acting on the precedent of Jew pedlars and smugglers. Now, in vindication of that Noble Lord, he must say, that from the acquaintance with which he had honoured him, he thought him as high, as honest, as upright, and as intelligent a man, as could any who be found. In the present instance, he certainly had done nothing in which the law did not fully bear him out. With respect to those who thought proper to blame that Noble Lord, and who supposed that by these temporary expedients they could support the credit of the Bank, he must say he thought they would find themselves totally mistaken. They might just as well think of screwing up the barometer, and calling it *plus weather!* This proceeding of the

Noble Lord had, however, been characterized as unjust. Now, no man would say, that on the expiration of a lease the raising the rent of it was unjust; and yet in his mind it was quite as unjust to raise the rents in consequence of the depreciation of Bank paper, as it would be to ask for money instead of notes in consequence of the same depreciation. But was Lord King the first who set the example? What became of De Yunge and Wright, who were both convicted of buying guineas? Oh, says the Right Hon. Gentleman, but then these were extortioners and Jew-pedlars. Where there were Christian sellers, however, there would also be Jew buyers. The measure could not, however, stand. Suppose that a man in the market chose to say "I will take gold and no paper;" what then would be the consequence? Why, two prices would immediately be instituted, and that must necessarily create a maximum. This was exactly the prediction of 1797 about to be realized. Disregarding the conversion of Lord Grenville—disregarding his declaration that Mr. Pitt always intended the suspension of cash payments to be temporary—disregarding all experience, the Right Hon. Gentleman exactly took the National Assembly and Robespierre for his model; and was thereby hurrying the country, step by step, to ruin. Did the Hon. Gentleman suppose that these partial remedies would stop an universal evil? If so, why not generalize the law? Why leave Scotchmen to be transported for that which in England is only a misdemeanour? Why omit Ireland altogether? Let the House and country just bear the Chancellor of the Exchequer now saying, that if this measure failed, he would make Bank-notes a legal tender; and let them turn to the memorable speech of Lord Mornington in 1797—this same Lord Mornington, now a member of the Cabinet, and as Marquis Wellesley, supporting this Bill. He concluded by opposing the second reading of the Bill, and he opposed it just as he would the opening of Pandora's box, if unfortunately, it had not been already opened.

Mr. BANKING thought, that if the measure was to be permanent, it might tend to the ruin of the country; but it was only intended to continue until Parliament could find a radical remedy for an evil, which was absolutely necessary. The Bank-paper had hitherto been taken with all the facility of a legal tender, and this arose from the general honour of their dealings, in consequence of which, good faith stood in the place of compulsion. With respect to the present measure, he had no hesitation in saying, that in his opinion it would be best to make the Bank-note a legal tender at once. Some security ought, however, first to be given as to the amount of the issue; and next, as to the expenditure of the country. On those two points there ought to be some pledge. The first, the issue of paper; the next, the extension of the national debt. There was in his mind no ground whatever for the despondency which had gone abroad as to our resources; and he thought, that so far from the national debt impeding our exertions, if we were not even sixpence in debt, we should not be able to keep so many men as now under arms.

Mr. TIRANNY declared, that he had never heard more monstrous doctrines in the course of his life, than those used by the Hon. Gentleman, a man so informed, as he naturally must be, on those subjects. He pitied those who had left the House, after the Bullion Report, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer told them that the question had been set at rest. The very next thing they were to hear was, that the Bank-note was to be made a legal tender! They had heard this, too, from two of the most suspicious characters in the world (he meant officially), namely, a Chancellor of the Exchequer, and a Bank Director. The only security now for the country, was for them to step forward and save themselves, their families, and their fortunes from ruin. From this hour, he declared, he should view the proceedings of the Bank Directors with the utmost jealousy; and he verily believed there was a connivance between them and the Government. They had originated this measure. He believed, in his soul, if Lord Stanhope or Lord King had never lived, that it would have been brought forward. Much had been said about the depreciation of the paper of the Bank, and it had been strenuously denied by Ministers that there was any depreciation. This was wrong; there was most evidently a

very great depreciation; and if great care was not taken to prevent it, he conceived it would not be an exaggerated statement to say, that a one pound note may become worth not more than five shillings. It was easy to talk of making those notes a legal tender for rent or for money due; but it would be impossible to make the butcher or the baker take them for the necessary articles of life they had to dispose of; and if once a money price arose in competition with that of paper, there was no knowing what might be the consequence. This Bill was intended to keep the gold in the country; but the means of sending the guineas abroad, and the inducement so to do, were so great, that it would be impossible that the Bill could have any such effect. We had daily accounts of vessels arriving in France, laden with guineas. A Gentleman, just returned from France, had this very day informed him that he had, the day before he left France, seen 1500*l.* in guineas and half-guineas, landed there, which had been concealed in the inside of a quarter of an ox that was hung over the stern of the ship as fresh provisions, and this ship had undergone a most severe search and scrutiny by our Custom-house Officers. How ridiculous was it, then, to say, that guineas should be received only at 2*l.*

Mr. MANNING defended the Bank; their notes outstanding last Saturday, he said, did not exceed 22 millions, and they had no wish whatever to conceal the state of their affairs.

Mr. BANKS thought it would be better to let things take their course, leaving them to the common sense and common honesty of the country. He thought the Bill would not remove the grievances complained of.

Sir F. BURGETT asked, how it could be pretended that a landlord was not entitled to demand his rent to be paid without depreciation, at the very time when the tenant was selling the produce of his farm, with reference to this very depreciation, in the paper currency of the kingdom? He recollected the language once held by Gentlemen on the other side of the House as to the French Assignats. Their tone, however, was now completely changed, and was to be compared to nothing but what they then attributed to Robespierre and his associates, from which the downfall of the credit of France was prognosticated. He trusted the landholders would at length be awakened, and not wait for that period when every man in England should find that, with his pockets full of paper, he was without the means of support. We were in the situation described by an Italian poet, who in pointing out the gates of Hell, said, that whoever passed them left hope behind. Without a speedy remedy, said the Honourable Baronet, we must quickly expect to see a paper price and a money price, and the evil must continue to increase till our Bank-notes became like the assignats in France. How was the Bank to get gold? An Honourable Director had told the House that the Bank was solvent. Could it pay the demands upon it in money? No. There was but one possible remedy, and that was, to diminish the paper circulation. This the immense expenditure of the country rendered next to impossible; and no remedy seemed at all to present itself. He was satisfied that in that House the Right Honourable Gentleman would carry any measure he proposed; but did not this furnish a further proof of the inadequate Representation in that House? Did the Right Honourable Gentleman suppose that this evil would stop short of the fixing the maximum of price? He was satisfied that it would not. It might indeed seem to be equally dangerous to return us to go over; but there could be no doubt that the path in which we now were, must lead to ruin. It must end in destruction; he did not say in the destruction of the people of the country, for a brave and free people must be immortal; but it must end in the ruin of the established system.

Mr. CREEVEY, observing that there were about forty Members of the Corporation of the Bank of England who had seats in that House, and being of opinion that they were not fit persons to legislate on the subject of the present Bill, and that too in the absence of the Country Gentlemen, while at the same time he was anxious to put on record a comparison of the nature of the interests of those Gentlemen, and of the Noble Lord (King) who had been so grossly calumniated, gave notice that he should submit to the House how far the persons alluded to

were proper persons to be allowed to vote on such an occasion. The House then divided.—For the first reading, 64—Against it, 19.—Majority, 45.—The Bill was ordered for a second reading on Monday, to which day the House adjourned.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty Office, July 9.

Copy of a Letter to Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, Bart. Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean.

His Majesty's ship *Pomone*, off Sagone, May 2.

SIR,—My letter of the 23d ult. would acquaint you with the intelligence I had received of the enemy's force in Sagone, and that it was my intention, under particular circumstances, to attack them.

I have now the honour to inform you, that on the evening of the 30th I arrived off the Bay, the *Unite* and *Scout* in company; the *Scout* joined in the morning, and Captain Sharpe having very handsomely volunteered his services to take charge of the landing party in the projected attack, I consented to take the *Scout* under my orders. At sun set the *Unite* made the signal for an enemy's frigate at anchor. By day-break on the 1st, the *Pomone* was off Liamone, and I had the satisfaction to observe the enemy's three ships at anchor in Sagone Bay. It was nearly calm, and the variable winds which prevail at this season having thrown the *Unite* a long way a-stern, I abandoned my design of attempting to take the Tower and Battery by surprise; and it was fortunately I did so, for, as the day opened, we could clearly observe the enemy in full possession of the heights, and ready to receive us. He appeared to have about 200 regular troops, with their field-pieces, &c. and a number of the armed inhabitants; the battery, consisting of four guns and one mortar, presented a more formidable appearance than I expected, and a gun was mounted on the martello-tower above the battery. The three ships were moored within a stone's-throw of the battery, and had each two cables on shore; their broadsides were presented to us. The smallest ship (*La Giraffe*) hoisted a broad pendant; she appeared to be a sister-vessel to the *Yar*, and shewed 13 guns on each side of the main-deck.—The other ship (*La Nourrice*) was much larger, and shewed 14 guns; her lower deck ports were open, but she had no guns in them. The armed ship was partly hid by the *Nourrice*, so that we could not make out her force.

The bay is so small, that it was impossible to approach without being exposed to the raking fire of the whole. Notwithstanding their strong position, the crews of each ship came forward in the most noble manner, and volunteered their services to land, or, as it was quite calm, even to attack the enemy's ships with the boats. Captains Chamberlayne and Sharpe both agreed with me, that we could do nothing by landing, and it would have been madness to send the boats; however, I signified by telegraph, that it was my intention to attack as soon as a breeze sprang up. As the calm continued, at half-past five p. m. I gave up all the hopes of the sea-breeze, and fearing any longer delay would enable the enemy to increase his force, I determined on towing the ships in. My pen is too feeble to express my admiration of the zealous and spirited conduct of the boats' crews employed on this service; the same zeal animated each ship's company; and by six o'clock, having towed into a position within range of grape, we commenced the action, which lasted without any intermission till about half past seven, when smoke was observed to issue from the *Giraffe*; soon after *La Nourrice* was in a blaze, and the merchantman was set on fire by the brands from *La Nourrice*. At this time the battery and tower were silenced, and in ten minutes the three ships were completely on fire. I lost no time in towing our ships out of harm's way, where we waited the explosions, which took place in succession. The *Giraffe* blew up about ten minutes before nine; soon after *La Nourrice* exploded, and some of her timbers falling on the tower, entirely demolished it, and the sparks set fire to the battery, which also blew up; the object of our attack being thus completely executed, I stood out to sea, to get clear

of the wrecks, and to repair our damages. No language of mine can do justice to the gallantry of those I had the honour to command.

I am particularly indebted to Captains Chamberlayne and Sharpe, for their spirited exertions and cordial co-operation throughout the whole of the affair. I am sensible my narrative is already too prolix, but I cannot conclude without assuring you that the Officers and crews of the ships behaved with the greatest courage and coolness. The *Pomone*, from being enabled to choose her station, was of course exposed to the brunt of the action, and has consequently suffered most; though, considering the enemy's fire and position, our ships have escaped much better than could have been expected. When all conspicuously distinguished themselves, it is impossible to select out individuals: but I should be most shamefully wanting in my duty to my country and to the merits of a most deserving set of Officers, if I were to neglect acquainting you, that I received from them every assistance it was possible to expect. Lieut. J. W. Gabriel, first of the *Pomone*, conducted himself with the same zeal which has uniformly distinguished his conduct. I inclose the report of the killed, wounded, &c. It is but justice to declare that the enemy kept up a very smart fire, and behaved with great bravery. I can form no opinion of their loss.—I have the honour to be, &c.

R. BARRIE.

P. S. From one of the crew belonging to the *Nourrice*, who was picked up by the *Unite's* boat, I am informed that the ships were all deeply laden with ship timber, and that, having observed us the preceding day, every preparation was made to give us a warm reception; and that, in addition to the four-gun battery, *La Nourrice* had landed her quarter-deck guns.—The regular troops posted on the heights were above 200, exclusive of the marines from the ships and the armed peasantry. *La Nourrice* he states to be about 1100 tons, *La Giraffe* 900 tons, the merchantman 500 tons; *La Giraffe* had about 140 men, *La Nourrice*, 160 men.

[Another Letter from Capt. Barrie states, that L'Etourdie French brig of war, of 18 guns, when chased by the *Pomone*, was blown up by her crew, who escaped on shore.]

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. Parry, Quality-court, Chancery-lane, scrivener.

BANKRUPTCY ENLARGED.

J. Byrne and E. Lewin, Liverpool, spirit-merchants.

BANKRUPTS.

R. Goodwin, Gouldsitch-moss, Staffordshire, hawker.

J. Wheatcross, Langhor, Glunorganshire, dealer.

E. Gregory, Pilkington, Lancashire, dealer.

J. Ollivant, Liverpool, broker.

R. S. Sharp, Great Yarmouth, chemist.

R. Hipkins, Birmingham, japanner.

J. Bath, Cirencester, watchmaker.

J. Welch, Birmingham, brass-founder.

J. Stephenson, Kingston-upon-Hull, druggist.

S. Bowden, Liskeard, Cornwall, mercer.

J. Hewitt, Bolton-le-moors, money-scrivener.

T. Reed, Beer-lane, Thames-street, victualler.

J. Kirkpatrick, Liverpool, merchant.

E. H. Wilson and J. Westmorland, Liverpool, spirit-merchants.

W. Bennett, Merton, Surrey, calico-printer.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains accounts of the following captures:—A French privateer, of 6 guns and 24 men, by the *Earl of Sandwich* gun-brig, Lieut. Templar;—a Danish row-boat, with 10 men, by the boats of the *Victory*;—a Danish privateer, of 6 guns and 20 men, by the *Leveret* sloop, Capt. Willes;—and the *Fegern* French privateer, of 10 guns and 50 men, by the *Plover* sloop, Capt. Campbell.

BANKRUPTS.

R. Rogers, Liverpool, merchant.

W. Sabine, Gosport, Hants, grocer.

S. Yates, Ashford, Kent, beer and spirit-dealer.
 R. Wilson, Friday-street, merchant.
 S. Boys, Darlington, Yorkshire, clothier.
 T. Clayton, Manchester, grocer.
 H. Godsall, Sudbrook, Gloucestershire, skinner.
 B. Thomas, Liverpool, merchant.
 T. Iman, Bedale, Yorkshire, wine-merchant.
 W. Manning, Boston, straw-manufacturer.
 D. Hunter and Co., Size-lane, merchants.
 A. Page, Fakenham, Norfolk, brewer.
 W. Hall and A. Hinde, Wood-street, silk-manufacturers.
 H. Mewburn, jun. Lloyd's Coffee-house, underwriter.
 A. Shepherd, Huddersfield, York; cloth-dresser.
 E. Gifford, Westham, Essex, builder.
 S. King, West Lexham, Norfolk, money-scrivener.
 G. Dyson, Dob-Mil, Holmfirth, York, cloth-manufacturer.
 J. Tomlinson, Mickley, Yorkshire, dealer.
 J. Goonwin, Ray-street, Clerkenwell, dealer.
 W. Mounsher, Carmarthen-street, insurance-broker.
 E. Weaver, Kenton-street, Brunswick-square, warehouseman.
 J. Damm, Threadneedle-street, merchant.
 H. Webster, Rolls'-buildings, Fetter-lane, jeweller.
 W. Brock and Co. Warwick-st. Throgmorton-st. merchants.
 S. Bald, Great Wild-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, coach-smith.
 T. Birrell, Upper Baker-street, Mary-le-bone, builder.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

3 per Cent. Consols... 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ ex. div. | Omnium... 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ds.

ERRATUM in the Political Examiner of last week:—For
 "Duke of Beaufort," read, "Duke of Rutland."
 CAIUS, with other Contributions, next week.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, JULY 14.

THE public anxiety has latterly been much excited by the Proceedings in Parliament respecting the Paper System, of which it is sufficient to say at present, that let the proceedings be what they may, they only arise out of the natural course of things; and are among the many increasing signs of the approaching downfall of that System.—This has been foreseen by all the best political writers of the last century; some of whom threw out vague surmises about the time, and others more decided anticipations; but all of them evidently pointing to a state of things, the present existence of which cannot possibly be denied. One writer in particular, whose arguments will not have the less weight with those who look for argument, because his name was THOMAS PAINE, ventured to predict that Mr. PITT himself would witness it, granting that he attained a common old age; and there is every reason to believe, that his computation of the time will be found correct. The Pittites already begin to apprehend; that they shall be obliged to make paper a legal tender, and what is a still nearer sign, they already begin to accuse others of forcing them upon such expedients. Yes; the Ministers have the face to say, that if it were not for certain proceedings, arising from a want of confidence in landowners, every thing might go on as well as ever! That is to say, in plain English, that the want of confidence, so long prophesied by those who differed with their leader and themselves,—that very want of confidence, which they were so often warned not to create by their

wretched system, is now turned upon those who cannot help it, as a fault and a public crime! When recrimination of this sort commences,—or rather such attempt at recrimination,—it is a proof that the minds that can be worked up to it have attained the last pitch of a wilful obstinacy,—an obstinacy beginning to see it's errors only to shut it's eyes against them with more malicious determination:—in a word, it is a proof that nothing further can be done after the exhaustion of a few miserable palliatives. The palliatives, we are told, are necessary, but only "for a time;" but this phrase, "for a time," is too well understood by all who remember Mr. PITT. The truth is, that palliative must be used after palliative; and stimulus after stimulus; and every time the dose is repeated, it must be made stronger, or the intoxication will not continue; till at last nothing will take effect; the energies are palsied; circulation stops; and the system expires.

He falls; and falling, bedreth thousands down.

Greatly mistaken however are those, who imagine that the ruin of such a thing as the Paper-system, however involving a great and lamentable multitude, must imply the ruin of the country. God forbid; that England should be so weak; or so dependent on the contingencies of luxury. This is an apprehension instilled into timid minds by those jobbers and others who are interested in the existence of the system, and who have the impudence, on all occasions, to confound themselves with the country. France herself disproved it, in their teeth, when they thought to ruin her by a bankruptcy; and if France, with all her bad principles, survived the shock; England, a more solid and consistent nation, is hardly to be overthrown. What should occupy the minds of all thinking persons is, how to prepare best against the shock, that is to say, how to diminish it's effects if not it's extent, and how to secure in that earthquake of the State the glorious institutions of their ancestors.

Although no accounts have been received during the past week from Lord Wellington; yet it appears, by French Papers which arrived yesterday morning, that his Lordship has been compelled not only to give up the blockade of Badajoz, but to recross the Guadiana, and re-enter Portugal. This was a consequence of the junction of MARMON with SOULT; who have established their head-quarters at Badajoz. The following is the French Official Account of these events:—

IMPERIAL ARMY OF THE SOUTH—RAISING OF THE SIEGE OF BADAJOZ.

The Duke of Ragusa, Commander in Chief of the Army of Portugal, was in motion the beginning of June, for the purpose of driving beyond the Coa that part of the English army which Wellington (when he set out for the siege of Badajoz) had left upon the frontiers before Ciudad Rodrigo.

On the 5th June, the Duke of Ragusa arrived at Ciudad

dad Rodrigo with his advanced guard, and a body of 2000 horse; the enemy did not think proper to wait for the arrival of the army; he retreated during the night. At day-break the Duke sent his cavalry in pursuit; they only met with some of the division of General Craufurd, who were driven into the Coa, under the ruins of Almeida; several prisoners were made; the English divisions forced their retreat into the mountains of Sabugal and Alfayates to get to the Tagus.

The Duke of Ragusa having, without striking a blow, succeeded in the plan of removing the enemy from that frontier, immediately directed the march of his army towards the Tagus.

General Regnier took the command of the advanced guard, and on the 9th arrived at Placentia.

On the 12th, two divisions passed the Tagus at Almaraz, the bridge of which was solidly established, and covered by strong batteries: numerous supplies of provisions and ammunition had for some days arrived at the important point. The Duke of Ragusa received there also a grand equipage for bridges, which he carried, with the remainder of the army, in the direction of Merida.

In the mean time the Army of the South under the Duke of Dalmatia had received large reinforcements, 12,000 men, under the orders of Count Erlon, arrived the 8th at Cordova, and followed the movements of the Duke of Dalmatia, who moved upon Santa Martha, and occupied by his right Almeydalejo, ready to communicate with the Duke of Ragusa.

Wellington, whose army was much fatigued by the scarcity of provisions and diseases, drew back successively his troops round Badajoz; but feeling himself pressed, he resolved to try a grand effort to carry the place before the two armies united. After a dreadful fire of artillery, a first assault was made; but the breach was defended by Frenchmen. Six hundred English remained on the place. A second assault had the same result—so that the English lost more than 1200 men in these fruitless attacks. Wellington was about to make a desperate effort, when, on the 16th, the Duke of Ragusa arrived at Merida, and joined the Duke of Dalmatia. The two armies marched upon Badajoz, the siege of which Wellington raised precipitately, re-entering Portugal with all his troops. We took a part of his besieging artillery, and many sick.

On the 21st, the Duke of Ragusa had his head-quarters in Badajoz.

We are expecting every moment the account of the siege from General Philippon, who, as well as the Governor, have covered themselves with glory, for the breach was every where practicable.

[Here follow some accounts from various quarters of Spain, of no great interest.—Count Suchet, in a long letter, details the capture of Fort Oliva and the Lower Town of Tarragona, after a most sanguinary resistance, which appears to have violently irritated the French Commander. The Upper Town, however, still holds out, though its fall appears certain, which Suchet seems desirous to accelerate by the savage threat with which he closes his letter. "I fear much," says this imperial ruffian, "if the garrison wait for the assault in their last hold, I shall be forced to set a terrible example, and intimidate for ever Catalonia and Spain, by the destruction of a whole city." The French confess a loss, during the siege, of 2300 men put hors de combat.]

Letters from Corrunna to the 30th ult. state, that the French, weakened by the advance of the main army to the South, have been gradually receding from Asturias, and finally abandoned Oviedo, the capital, and the whole principality, on the 14th of last month, which city was entered three days afterwards by Pottier and his little gallant army. In the mean while, the patriots in Galicia have not been idle. St. CILDES, with from twelve to 15,000 men, had proceeded from Lugo to the province of Leon, and it was supposed his first attempt would be upon Astorga, where the garrison had been much diminished to strengthen the grand army under SOULT.

The American OFFICIAL ACCOUNT of the rencontre between the *President* frigate and the *Little Belt* sloop, has been received—Commodore ROBERTS declares, that when he chased the British sloop, she studiously avoided shewing her colours, and though he first hailed her, no answer was given. The *Little Belt* then hailed the *President*, when the latter reiterated the first inquiry of "What ship is that?" which was answered by a shot from the *Little Belt*, which cut off one of the *President's* main-top-mast breast back-stays, and went into the main-mast. A shot was then fired from the *President*, which was scarcely out of the gun before the *Little Belt* fired three others in quick succession, and soon after a broadside and musketry. Com. ROBERTS, as he says, conceiving this to be a premeditated insult, with much repugnance gave a general order to fire, and the action continued from 4 to 6 minutes, when the *President* ceased firing, having discovered that the British vessel was of very inferior force. In less than four minutes, however, Commodore ROBERTS had to regret his humane forbearance, for the *Little Belt* resumed the combat, and the *President* was compelled to return the fire, which continued from three to five minutes longer, when the British sloop's fire was silenced, and the action terminated.—Commodore ROBERTS now hailed again, when, for the first time, he learned that the vessel was a British ship of war. This occurred during the night of the 16th of May. In the morning, Commodore ROBERTS sent a boat to the *Little Belt*, "to learn the names of the ship and her Commander, with directions to ascertain the damage she had sustained, and inform the Commander how much Commodore R. regretted the necessity on his part, which had led to such an unhappy result; and at the same time to offer all the assistance which the ship under his command afforded."—This offer was politely declined by Captain BINGHAM, although his ship was much damaged, and between twenty and thirty of the crew were killed and wounded.—"The regret," concludes the American Commander, "that this information caused me, was such, you may be sure, as a man might be expected to feel, whose greatest pride is to prove, without ostentation, by every public as well as private act, that he possesses a humane and generous heart; and with these sentiments, believe me, Sir, that such a communication would cause me the most acute pain during the remainder of my life, had I not the consolation to know that there was no alternative left me between such a sacrifice and one which would have been still greater, namely, to have remained a passive spectator of insult to the flag of my country, while it was confined to my protection; and I would have you to be convinced, Sir, that however much individually I may previously have had reason to be incensed at the repeated outrages com-

mitted on our flag by British ships of war, neither my passions nor prejudices had any agency in this affair. To my country, I am well convinced of the importance of the transaction which has imposed upon me the necessity of making you this communication; I must, therefore, from motives of delicacy, connected with personal consideration, solicit that you will be pleased to request the President to authorise a formal inquiry to be instituted into all the circumstances, as well as into every part of my conduct connected with the same. The injury sustained by the ship under my command is very trifling, except to the fore and main masts, which I before mentioned; no person killed, and but one (a boy) wounded.

"We understand that the conduct of Commodore Rowens, in repelling and chastising the attack so causelessly and rashly made on the United States' frigate *President*, by the British ship of war *Little Belt*, has the approbation of the President of the United States, and that the request of the Commodore for an investigation into his conduct on the occasion, has not been acceded to; his known candour and honour precluding any doubt of the correctness of his statement of the circumstances of the affair; and we assert, that it may confidently be expected by our Naval Commanders, that in supporting the dignity of our flag, they will be rewarded with the applause of the American Government and nation."—*National Intelligencer*, June 3.

JOSEPH BONAPARTE passed through Bayonne, on the 24th ult., on his return to Madrid.

An article from Vienna states, that a Notification has been made by the Court of Petersburg to all the Diplomatic Body, that Count Lauriston has renewed to Russia, on the part of France, protestations of the sincerest amity.

The Ex-king of SWEDEN has accepted an asylum from the King of DENMARK, with the sanction of BONAPARTE. He is in future to live as Count GOTTORP.—He is stated to be very angry with this Government, for not entering more fully into his views. Their caution, in our view, is to their praise; and we wish we could more often compliment them on that quality.

On Thursday, the Thanks of the Court of Common Council were voted to Gen. BENERSON and his Army, for their victory at Albuera. A Resolution of Censure on the conduct of the Commissioners of the Property-tax for the City, was likewise carried. The Commissioners had surcharged the City, and compelled the payment of 2,510*l.* that was justly due. The case was brought before the Court of Exchequer, who decreed that the 2,510*l.* should be returned, which has been since refunded! The Common Council declare, that the conduct of these Commissioners has been "unwarrantable and oppressive;" and they proceed to shew, that three of them receive salaries for their services; which circumstance appears to the Court to be "highly improper," as tending "to defeat the provisions originally intended to guard the subject from oppression and injustice."—The Court have very properly referred this business to the Committee of General Purposes, to report upon.—It is to be hoped that Mr. QUIN's hint will be adopted, and that the City will address the PRINCE REGENT to dismiss a set of men, who have thus attempted "to plunder the Corporation of London." It has been always understood that these Commissioners had no salaries, and were appointed to see justice done be-

tween the Crown and the Subject; but if once they are paid by the Crown, they will of course take good care not to offend their master,—and then where will be the equal justice?

The three-shilling Bank Tokens were on Tuesday issued from the Bank. It is a coin that has nothing to recommend it; the size is nearly that of a half-crown piece, the edge is plain, with his Majesty's head very badly stamped on one side, and on the other is stamped, encircled by a wreath, "Bank Token, Three Shillings, 1811."

MR. DRAKARD.—The Subscription for this injured man still advances. The amount, as advertized in the *Stamford News* of Friday, then reached 378*l.* 1*s.*—The following are extracted from that Paper:—

A rough-cut Caledonian, who prays that the cat-o'-nine-tails may operate on the consciences through the backs of those who punish the upright man	0	5	0
Rev. Dr. Brown, Barnwell	1	1	0
M. B. (a golden guinea)	1	6	0
H. B. (a one pound note)	0	18	0
A widow presents her wife, being a friend to Mr. Drakard, and an enemy to oppression	1	1	0
One who wishes every juryman may be possessed of common sense, with independence and integrity to exercise it	1	1	0
A London Music-seller	5	0	0
One who thinks the tender mercies of Sir Vicary croel,	0	7	0
An enemy to oppression, whether exercised by my Lord Judge or an Attorney-General,	0	5	0
A Friend to the Liberty of the Press, and a well-wisher to Drakard's <i>Stamford News</i> , London,	5	5	0

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

The talent displayed by Mr. NORTHCOTE, at an advanced season of life, is as honourable to his character for temperance as for genius. To his undiminished power we are indebted for the strength of likeness, firmness of style, and suitable energy of character, displayed in the portrait of *Sir F. Burdett*. Mr. SHARPE's engraving from this picture is in every respect worthy of the original.—Mr. DAWE has been very successful in his *Portraits of Mrs. T. Hope and her Sons*, though I think he has hardly equalled the delicate features and Grecian oval of *Mrs. Hope's* face. There are two kinds of face that almost bid defiance to accuracy of imitation,—the insipid, and the delicate and justly proportioned. The least deviation from the latter becomes a conspicuous deterioration; like a single key that is out of tune, it mars the harmonious effect of the entire piece. Mr. DAWE has, however, hit off the countenance of *Mrs. Hope* more happily than any of his predecessors in so difficult a task; and a bright ray of his genius especially shines in the intelligent and heart-piercing lustre of her eyes. In the praise of rich, forcible, transparent, and true colouring, I except in a degree the shadows in the flesh of these portraits, and in that of *Mr. Howorth*.—Mr. PAULLETT's portrait of *Mrs. Yates*, and indeed all his pieces in this Exhibition, are capital specimens of the beauty and truth of his carnations: he has a vigorous squareness of marking and freedom of pencil: his likenesses are what are commonly, but significantly, denominated speaking. His *Portrait of N. Tresham, Esq. R. A.* is animated with the noblest power of portrait-painting,—the power of disclosing intellect. The graceful style with which the hand holds a robe, the elegance

animated turn of the head, the thought that looks forth from the features, are all admirably appropriate to the accomplished mind of Mr. TRESHAM.—In portraying the studied refinements of fashionable life, Sir Wm. BEECHY is pre-eminent: his knowledge of every thing appertaining to the wardrobe, the toilet, the dancing-master, and, in fine, to all the exterior of Chesterfieldian grace, is consummate. His *Portrait of J. Egerton, Esq. M.P.* presents, in the polished air of the figure, a striking contrast to the manly deportment of Northcote's Sir R. BURDETT, or the unstudied and energetic graces of Phillips's TRESHAM. His colouring and chiaro-scuro are distinguished for plenitude, softness of blending, and richness.—Mr. OWEN's portraiture exhibits increased and first-rate talent: it is distinguished for its vigour and freedom of pencil, its strength of likeness, its chastity of colouring; and unstudied elegance of action. His *Portrait of the Marquis of Stafford* is worthy of Vandvke himself: that of *Lady Leicester* would have called forth more admiration for its chaste grey tone, delicately qualified with warm tints, and for its various elegance, had not Mr. DEVIS, in his portrait of a Lady in last year's Exhibition, supplied Mr. OWEN with more than a hint for his *Lady Leicester*.—Mr. DEVIS's picture, containing *Portraits of a Lady, her Son, Daughter, and Nephew*, shines in all the constituents of his art, and he will always continue to be one of the greatest favourites of the judicious, though R. A. be never attached to his name. If he is more distinguished for one excellence than another, it is in the union of grace with simplicity, which is the perfection of grace, and without whose aid,

"Tho' taste, tho' genius bless,

"To some divine excess,

"Faint's the cold work."

Mr. LONSDALE's *Portrait of Mr. Thelwall* is an admirable likeness, and merits much praise.—Mr. JACKSON's *Portraits of a Lady, and of B. Johnson, aged 100 years*, are rich, vigorous, and tasteful, in their composition, drawing, chiaro-scuro, and colour. This Gentleman is rapidly advancing to a high station in his department of art.—For rich and harmonious colouring, for agreeableness of effect, for accuracy of likeness, and, above all, for that most valuable and rare excellence of portrait-painting, the art of impressing energy of mind, Mr. LAWRENCE is justly ranked among the best portrait painters of any age or country. The *Portraits of General Stewart* and of *Mr. West* are among the noblest specimens of the art. Vigorous intellect, elevated genius, and benignity of nature, look out of the features and are conspicuous throughout the form of the President of the Royal Academy. The mental energy pervades not only the chief seat of expression, the face, but is conspicuous in the limbs, and inspires the whole figure. The colouring consists of rich yellow tones, from which cold hues are wholly excluded. The greater portion of the colours being subdued and kept down by shadow, the light on the head becomes peculiarly brilliant, and a force and sobriety of effect is produced, according to the venerableness of the character depicted.

R. H.

(To be continued.)

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 97.

ENGLISH OPERA, LYCEUM.

Our readers are not to be informed, that in the present condition of the stage, one or two criticisms on comedy

or farce will answer for fifty other comedies and farces, and that the drama in perpetually repeating the same things, has almost reduced criticism to its own tautology. They will not be surprised therefore, to hear that the farce that has lately been produced at this theatre, under the title of *Any Thing New*, is a very ancient acquaintance in all its limbs; that its plot and characters are made up of *Loves in a Village* and *Gentle Shepherds*; and its dialogue and its verses to be found in all other contemporary dialogues and verses. The hero is a young gardener (Mr. KNIGHT) who loves and is, at the bottom of her heart, loved by a little village coquet (Miss KELLY) whose head has been half turned by parades and red coats. The lover, though naturally industrious and of an independent spirit, neglects his work in trying to fix her attachment, and thus brings his father into distress, till walking out one evening in despair, he meets with an elderly gentleman (Mr. PENSON) coming towards the village, and interests him so much by his agitation, that the latter gives him a Bank-note of twenty pounds. This generous unknown must of course be an important personage to the completion of the piece, and in a short time he accordingly terminates it, after the usual manner of worthy old gentlemen,—being no less than uncle of the young lady, come to fetch her from the country, and the father of the enamoured gardener, who was born to him from a stolen-marriage which he had been ashamed to own. The *under characters*, who are so prominent however as to cut the greatest figure in the piece and to give it a name, are two perfumers, father and son (LOVEGROVE and OXBURY); the former, a chattering *Ollapod*, who makes love to an old face-painting lady (Mrs. SPARKS); the latter, a news-hunting fop a la *Liston*, who flatters himself he has conquered the heart of the gardener's mistress, and talks in the following novel and interesting strain, which will serve the reader as a random specimen of Mr. POCOCK's talents in general:—"Nature denied me face, but gave me figure; that always fetches them—(the girls)—Now for the village—strange report abroad—must get particulars—*any thing new* delights me. Mum's the word—I say nothing—know every thing—all hate me—can't do without me though.—Old Whitethorn's a rum one—so am I—Cut with his daughter Ellen—she won't do—Fanny will—*Any thing new*—then go to the Parson—he'll tell the Clerk—he'll tell Chop the Butcher—he'll tell Dough the Baker—he'll tell his wife—she's got a tongue—she'll tell all the town.—Rare fun—I'm off—*Any thing new*. (Exit). The reader will probably want no further hearing of the piece after this sample; but if he does, he will at least find excellent room in the theatre,—a consolation of no small moment after paying to hear such wit in such weather.—He should be told also that the piece is much better performed than it deserves. Mr. KNIGHT, in particular, displays much sound feeling in the part of the young gardener; and was well contrasted by the thoughtlessness of his fair one, Miss KELLY. This pleasing young actress improves from season to season, and notwithstanding her frequent representation of what is affected, always strikes and interests one with her own innate want of affectation.

HAYMARKET.

The other new farce, lately produced under the title of the *Outside Passenger*, might have been spared remark, for it seems to be already laid on the shelf; but it's fate

should be held up to other farce-writers, in order to convince them, that the art of claptrapping may really be carried too far, even when British sailors are the instruments. The wish of shewing the folly as well as inhumanity of vulgar insults upon the humbler passengers of a stage-coach was well enough; and Liston's character, that of a man-milliner, who quotes verses and makes ridiculous love, was not among the worst extravagancies written for that amusing actor. It is even refreshing now-a-days to hear the most blundering quotations that remind one of good writers; and parody of any kind upon a good original serves at least to inform us that the author is not altogether destitute of reading. But never before was such a congregation of claptraps, and of so formidable a nature. The sailor inundated the audience with sea-terms, fights, and praises of Old England; then the King was toasted in a manner which said, you must all applaud if you are loyal; and at last, the good old gentleman, who had been *Outside Passenger*, in winding up the moral of the piece by a panegyric on politeness, said that "courtesy, chivalry," and something else which I could not hear, "composed the plumage of character," and that this plumage, in allusion, no doubt, to the triple feathers, was "worn by our beloved Regent!" The audience could not tolerate this; and even with the alterations of the author, the piece has quickly disappeared. What the alterations were I know not; but it may be observed in this place, once for all, that though a dramatist has a right to expect, commonly speaking, that he shall be judged by the general tenour and run of his piece, and be allowed to avail himself of the objections of a first night's audience, yet his wrong attempts at applause on that night must not escape censure, particularly if they are wretched tricks like the present, and tend to degrade both author and actor. Indeed, as audiences are now treated, I am not sure whether a bad piece deserves to be considered with reference to any other night than the first; for such pieces do not scruple to re-appear the following evening after condemnation in that instance, as was actually the case with the farce before us; and thus, if they obtain fresh spectators, they do so, in great measure, from the mere ignorance of the new comers with regard to what had been done by those before them. But let me escape from this old and hopeless subject.

It may be observed, by the way, that our stage versification, after having afforded all other specimens of prosaic weakness and nonentity, is now reduced to the necessity of reviving the *bits* and *docs* of STEANWOLD and HOPKINS. The songs in the *Outside Passenger* say that "the dancing does begin" and "friendship does reveal;" and Mr. PAROCK, in the piece before criticised, assures us with a pith still more ancient, that

"When the cannon rattle,
" 'Tis courage doth inspire."

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

The following is the official Report of the State of his Majesty's health, as presented to the Privy Council by the Queen's Council:—

Windsor, July 6.

"We, the undersigned, Members of the Council appointed to assist her Majesty in the execution of the trusts committed to her Majesty, by virtue of the Statute

passed in the fifty-first year of his Majesty's reign, having duly met together, on the 6th day of July, 1811, at the Queen's Lodge, near to Windsor Castle, and having called before us, and examined, upon oath, the Physicians and other persons attendant upon his Majesty, and having ascertained the state of his Majesty's health by all such other ways and means as appeared to us to be necessary for that purpose, do hereby declare and certify, that the state of his Majesty's health, at the time of this our meeting, is not such as to enable his Majesty to resume the personal exercise of his Royal functions.

"That his Majesty's bodily health is but little disordered.

"That, in consequence of an accession of mental disorder, subsequent to our report of the 6th April last, a change took place in the system of management, which had been previously adopted for his Majesty's cure. His Majesty's mental health is represented to us by all the Physicians as certainly improved since the 6th of April. We are unable, however, to ascertain what would be the effects of an immediate recurrence to any system of management, which should admit of its free approach to his Majesty's presence, as was allowed in a former period of his Majesty's indisposition.

"Some of his Majesty's Physicians do not entertain hopes of his Majesty's recovery quite so confident as those which they expressed on the 6th of April. The persuasion of others of his Majesty's Physicians, that his Majesty will completely recover, is not diminished—and they all appear to agree, that there is a considerable probability of his Majesty's final recovery; and that neither his Majesty's bodily health, nor his present symptoms, nor the effect which the disease has yet produced upon his Majesty's faculties, afford any reason for thinking that his Majesty will not ultimately recover.

(Signed) "EDMOND, ELLENBOROUGH, W. GRANT,
C. CANTUEN, E. EBON, MONTROSE, WINCHELSEA, ATLESPOND."

Immediately after this Report was made, his Majesty had a fresh access of paroxysm; and from that time, the indulgence which had been allowed his Majesty of walking on the Terrace, has been withheld.

MEDICAL BULLETIN.

Windsor Castle, July 6.

"His Majesty is in some respects a little better this week."

LORD STANHOPE'S BILL.

A Bill—[as amended by the Committee]—intituled, "An Act for making more effectual provision for preventing the current Gold Coin of the Realm from being paid or accepted for a greater Value than the current Value of such Coin; for preventing any Note or Notes of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England from being received for any smaller sum than the sum therein specified; and for staying Proceedings upon any Distress by Tender of such Notes."

Whereas it is expedient to enact as is hereinafter provided: Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that, from and after the passing of this Act, no person shall receive or pay for any Gold Coin lawfully current within the realm, any more in value, benefit, profit, or advantage, than the true lawful value of such coin, whether such value, benefit, profit or advantage be paid, made, or taken in lawful money, or in any note or notes, bill or bills, of the

Governor and Company of the Bank of England, or in any silver token or tokens issued by the said Governors and Company, or by any or all of the said means wholly or partly, or by any device, shift, or contrivance whatsoever.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no person shall, by any device, shift, or contrivance whatsoever, receive or pay any note or notes, bill or bills, of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, as of less value in money, except lawful discount, than the sum expressed therein to be thereby made so payable.

And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in case any person shall proceed by distress to recover from any tenant or other person liable to such distress, any rent or sum of money due from such tenant or other person, it shall be lawful for such tenant or other person, in every such case, to tender notes of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, expressed to be payable on demand, to the amount and in discharge of such rent or sum so due to the person on whose behalf such distress is made, or to the officer or person making such distress on his behalf; and in case such tender shall be accepted, or in case such tender shall be made and refused, the goods taken in such distress shall be forthwith returned to the party distrained upon, unless the party distraining and refusing to accept such tender shall insist that a greater sum is due than the sum so tendered, and in such case the parties shall proceed as usual in such cases; but if it shall appear that no more was due than the sum so tendered, then the party who tendered such sum shall be entitled to the costs of all subsequent proceedings; Provided always, that the person to whom such rent or sum of money is due shall have and be entitled to all such other remedies for the recovery thereof, exclusive of distress, as such person had or was entitled to at the time of making such distress, if such person shall not think proper to accept such tender so made as aforesaid: Provided also, that nothing herein contained shall affect the right of any tenant, or other such person as aforesaid having such right to replevy the goods taken in distress, in case, without making such tender as aforesaid, he shall so think fit.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, that this Act shall be in force to and until the 25th day of March, 1812, and no longer.

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Tuesday, July 9.

NALDI v. GREVILLE.

This was an action brought by the Performer at the Opera-house against Coluel Greville, for the breach of a contract, by which it was agreed, that the plaintiff should receive 300*l.* for performing 20 nights at the Argyle-street Rooms, and 100*l.* for conducting 20 Operas there. The contract was to stand good for three years. The plaintiff did perform, and was paid the first year, but the second year he was not called upon to do so, and brought this action for the recovery of the money. The defendant pleaded, that the plaintiff was an alien enemy, living here without the King's leave!

Mr. GARRON said, that he did not think it reputable to the defendant to suffer the cause to come here. Col. Greville did not deny that he had entered into the agreement with Signor Naldi, but said to him, "Though you did sing one year for me, and were paid your 400*l.*, yet I can't, as a good citizen of England, pay you for the remainder of your agreement; as, although I knew it when I entered into that agreement, you were in adherence to the French state; and I don't know for what purposes my money may be applied." But the plaintiff, the moment he set his foot on English ground, applied to Mr. Reeves at the Alien Office, and had procured the regular licence. The ungracious defence which was to be set up this day, and which Col. Greville, who, Mr. Garron understood, was a good orator, would have been ashamed to have urged in person, was, that the plaintiff's licence as an alien enemy was for a limited time, and that time had expired. But the Court would look at the intention of Government in granting the li-

cence; and they would hold, that as the plaintiff's licence had not been revoked, he was lawfully residing and transacting business here.

Mr. Capper, from the Alien Office, produced the entry of the plaintiff's licences.

Mr. TORRING said, that this action was brought in Michaelmas term, 1810, at that time the plaintiff had no licence from the Alien Office.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH said, he should have no difficulty in holding, considering the situation of aliens, and the little opportunity they had of knowing the English laws, that it was sufficient for them to shew the licences which had been admitted for many years.

Mr. TORRING then submitted, that the Act authorised the licences to be granted for so long, "and no longer." The plaintiff had a licence for three months in 1806, and there was no renewal of it till 1807, for one month, and then not until after the action was brought.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH asked Mr. Capper, if there appeared any minute of the plaintiff's being obstructed as an alien enemy? To which he replied, that the irregularity of the licence was done away when it was renewed.—Lord ELLENBOROUGH observed, that the licence was superscribed as continued to the 1st of May, 1811; it therefore included all the time past.—The witness said, they were always so continued; a new one was never granted.—Lord ELLENBOROUGH said it was very important that if foreigners slipped the time of renewing their licences, they should nevertheless have the benefit of covering that slip. The plaintiff might take a verdict, and his Lordship would reserve a point of law for a case.

Verdict for plaintiff—damages 400*l.*—subject to the opinion of the Court.

Friday, July 12.

THE KING v. SEDLEY AND ANOTHER.

This was an indictment against D. Sedley, and J. C. G. Kierulff, for conspiring with J. Sedley, and T. Meyer, to defraud the Marquis of Hertford.—The particulars of this case have been already before the public. The Marquis was much in want of money, and the parties promised to supply him. After much artful intrigue, he gave them acceptances for 4000*l.*, for which, however, he never got one farthing, but was involved in a variety of legal actions on account of them.—Lord ELLENBOROUGH did not think there was any direct proof against Kierulff, and he was acquitted; but Sedley was found guilty.—Sentence was not pronounced.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

Thursday, July 11.

FULLER v. THE EXECUTORS OF THE LATE DUKE OF QUEENSBERRY.

This was an action brought by Mr. Fuller, an apothecary living in Piccadilly, against the Duke of Queensberry's Executors, for professional labour and service rendered to his Grace. Mr. Fuller, for seven years previous to the death of the Duke, visited him constantly, sometimes three or four times a-day, and very often sleeping all night at his Grace's house, subject to be called from his bed at all hours.—For this arduous duty, Mr. Fuller, though paid for medicine and attendance afforded to the Duke's household, received no remuneration whatever, though it compelled him to relinquish a considerable portion of his general practice. He had not delivered in any account to the Duke, from a sense of delicacy, as his Grace had frequently observed, that he would be paid for his attentions. The particulars of his charge were, for 1,700 nights and 2,751 days, each day comprising from two to four visits, charged according to their lengths, making the sum claimed 10,000*l.*

This action, it seems, was not altogether one of contention, though the verdict of a jury was wished. It appeared that the Duke had been applied to by Mr. Douglas, one of the Executors, to give Mr. Fuller a reasonable compensation; but his Grace said his Executors must do so.—The real defendants (Lord Yarmouth's children) were not of age, or the action would never have been brought; for Lord Yarmouth was of opinion that Mr. Fuller's demand was a just one. In this opi-

nion he was supported by Sir H. Halford, Dr. Ainslie, Dr. Home, and others.

Mr. Serjeant STEPHENS, however, contended, that the charge was excessive. Payment to an apothecary, he said, at the rate of 1,200l. a year, was what had never entered into the mind of man to conceive. To his bill of particulars, the Plaintiff, who had formerly disclaimed all ability for making out an account of this kind, had shewn himself to be peculiarly expert, by dividing 2,737 days, being the whole number which he (the Learned Serjeant) could find in seven years and a half, into 9000 and odd days, or, as he pleased to stile them, visits! No Physician even, he was satisfied, could have expected to be paid at such a rate. The Defendants, however, would be satisfied with whatever the Jury chose to allow.

Sir J. MANSFIELD, but for the allowed admission of the Duke, that the Plaintiff was to be paid, should not have conceived the present action tenable.—He was not aware that an Apothecary had any right to claim for attendance, far less that he could sue for it. The peculiar circumstances, however, of this case, he would leave to the Jury to weigh.

The Jury found for the plaintiff, and awarded him 7500l.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

The following detail of horrid barbarity, and its consequent punishment, is taken from a West India Paper; the admirers of the Flogging System will do well to peruse it with attention:—“On the 8th of May was executed behind the jail of Tortola, the Hon. A. W. Hodge, Esq. one of the Members of his Majesty's Council in this Island, for the murder of one of his own Negroes, of the name of Prosper.—The prisoner on his trial, pleaded *Not Guilty*.—Pateen Georges stated, that she was in the habit of attending at Mr. Hodge's estate to wash linen; that one day Prosper came to her house to borrow six shillings, being the sum that his master required of him, because a mango had fallen from a tree, which (he) Prosper was set to watch. He told the witness that he must either find the 6s. or be flogged; that the witness had only three shillings, which she gave him; but it did not appease Mr. Hodge; that Prosper was flogged for upwards of an hour, receiving more than one hundred lashes, and threatened that if he did not bring the remaining three shillings the next day, the flogging should be repeated; that next day he was tied to a tree, and flogged for such a length of time, with the thong of the whip doubled, that his head fell back, and that he could bawl no more.—From thence he was carried to the sick house, and chained to two other negroes; that he remained in this confinement during five days, at the end of which time his companions broke away, and thereby released him; that he was unable to abscond; that he went to the negro-houses and shut himself up; that he was found there dead, and in a state of putrefaction, some days afterwards; that crawlers were in his wounds, and not a piece of black flesh was to be seen on the hinder part of his body where he had been flogged.—Stephen M'Keogh, a white man, who had lived as Manager on Mr. Hodge's estate, deposed, that he saw the deceased (Prosper) after he had been so severely flogged; that he could put his finger in his side; he saw him some days before his death in a cruel state; he could not go near him for the blue flies. Mr. Hodge had told the witness, whilst he was in his employ, that if the work of the estate was not done, he was satisfied if he heard the whip.—This was the evidence against the prisoner. His Counsel, in their attempt to impeach the veracity of the witnesses, called evidence as to his general character, which disclosed instances of still greater barbarity on the part of Mr. Hodge. Among other examples, the witness Pateen Georges swore that he had occasioned the death of his cook, named Margaret, by pouring boiling water down her throat.—Before the Jury retired, the prisoner addressed them as follows.—“Gentlemen, as bad as I have been represented, or as bad as you may think me, I assure you, that I feel support in my affliction from entertaining a proper sense of religion. As all men are subject to wrong, I cannot but say that that principle is likewise inherent in me. I acknowledge my-

self guilty in regard to many of my slaves; but I call God to witness my innocence in respect to the murder of Prosper. I am sensible that the country thirsts for my blood, and I am ready to sacrifice it.”—The Jury, after deliberation, brought in a verdict of *Guilty*. There were six other indictments on similar charges against the prisoner.—To the last moment of his life Mr. Hodge persisted in his innocence. He acknowledged that he had been a cruel master (which, as he afterwards said, was all he meant in his admission to the Jury of his guilt in regard to others of his slaves); that he had repeatedly flogged his negroes; that they had then run away, when, by their own neglect, and the consequent exposure of their wounds, the death of some of them had possibly ensued. He denied all intention of causing the death of any one, and pleaded the unruly and insubordinate disposition of his whole gang as the motives for his severity.—From the time of his condemnation to that of his execution, this unhappy man was attended each day by a Clergyman. On the evening preceding his execution, he took leave of his three young children, which so overpowered him, as to make it a matter of doubt if he would ever be restored to tranquillity. In the morning, however, he was calm, and acquired still greater fortitude by receiving the Sacrament. He walked with firmness to the place of execution, addressed several persons by name in the surrounding crowd, forgave his enemies, and was launched into eternity. Thousands of persons witnessed the awful spectacle, some of whom rather indecently expressed exultation.—Mr. Hodge entered the world with good prospects. He came out some years ago to visit his property in Tortola, which is not among the most civilized of our Colonies. He felt the superiority of his attainments over those with whom he associated, and indulged himself in satirical verses and lampoons at their expence. Those whom his satires did not reach, he adverted from him by his habitual and fatal indulgence in most ungovernable paroxysms of anger. Thus he lived in a community where he scarcely had a friend or an associate. He was a man of great accomplishments and of elegant manners; and at the time of his death was, we believe, about 50 years of age. He had been thrice married. Happily, neither of his wives lived to see his last disgrace. By his second lady he has left a daughter about 15 years of age, now in England; by his last, three children, of whom the eldest is about eight, and the youngest four years old.”

MARRIAGES.

On Monday, at Lambeth Palace, the Right Hon. Charles Manners Sutton, Judge-Advocate-General, to Charlotte, eldest daughter of John Deacon, Esq. of Ovington, Nottinghamshire. Lord Cloncurry, to Emily, mother to Earl Milford.

DEATHS.

On Sunday last, at Blackheath, Mrs. Nicholls, wife of Mr. Thomas Nicholls, of Providence-row, Finsbury-square, after a long and painful illness of eight months.

On Wednesday last, in the 32d year of her age, after a short illness, lamented by all who knew her, Harriot, the wife of Mr. G. Korauer, of Lambeth Terrace.

On Thursday se'night, at Gainsborough, John Howell, a sweeper.—He walked from home early in the morning in perfect health one mile, and worked till breakfast, part of which he had eaten, when he was seized with an apoplexy, and immediately expired.

Lately, Mr. Buckley, a milk-dealer, in Manchester. Having been indisposed some time, and desirous of the Scriptures being read to him, and prayers offered up at his bedside, Mrs. Williamson, who has made it a practice to visit the sick, attended him for this purpose. She was sitting by his bed, and remarking how numerous the sudden deaths were of late, and how comfortable it must be to persons so to conduct themselves as to prepare for the awful change, when she lifted up her hands and immediately expired.—Mr. Buckley did not survive her more than half an hour.

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