

THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

SWIFT.

No. 72.

MINISTERIAL CORRUPTION.—MR. PERCEVAL AND MY LORD CASTLEREAGH.

EXTREMES meet: excess of effrontery under accusation gives one the same idea as excess of meanness: the disputant who passionately refuses to answer you, does in reality give you as complete an answer as you could wish; and upon these grounds, I begin to think that the Parliamentary Courtiers will turn out as strenuous Reformists as the most ardent of us. They talk against Reform, I allow; but then, how grammatically do their negatives destroy one another and become affirmatives! How full of acknowledgment are their denials! How eloquent in favour of Reform is their silence! Why, this is patriotism in spite of itself. They have met Mr. MADOCKS'S motion just as if they had been determined to give the nation the best argument that could be found for parliamentary regeneration. That gentleman, thinking and speaking like a true Englishman, demanding inquiry into the following facts;—"that Mr. DICK purchased a Seat in the House for the Borough of CASHEL, through the agency of the Hon. HENRY WELLESLEY, who acted for and on behalf of the Treasury; that upon a recent question of the last importance, when Mr. DICK had determined to vote according to his conscience, the Noble Lord (CASTLEREAGH) did intimate to that gentleman the necessity either of his voting with Government or resigning his Seat in that House; and that Mr. DICK, sooner than vote against principle, did make choice of the latter alternative, and did vacate his seat accordingly. To this transaction (proceeded Mr. MADOCKS) I charge the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. PERCEVAL) as being privy and having connived at it; and this I will engage to prove by witnesses at your bar, if the House will give me leave to call them. If the House will permit me to do so, I am satisfied that they could not take a more direct method to remedy the abuses in the representative system of such places as Hastings, Rye, Cambridge, Queenborough, and many other places that could be mentioned, where large annual sums were paid out of the taxes in the maintenance of sinecure offices and places to uphold the influence of the Treasury in such Boroughs."

Now the reader will recollect, that the objections to former motions respecting Reform were grounded chiefly on their "vagueness" and "generality:" one motion gave you no "tangible shapes," another was not "specific," and a third was perfectly "wide-wasting,"—a most pestilential motion. It used to be said, name your man,—give

the House a clear point—a tangible shape—a matter of fact,—it is precisely what every body desires, and nothing will remain to be done but to proceed to the proof. Well: here was a charge against two individuals, arising from two simple facts, and exemplified in the case of a single person: Mr. MADOCKS seems to have studied the last pin's point of ministerial precision; he produced his fact, his men, and his specific object, and asked nothing but permission to enter upon examination:—and how was the motion received? It was negatived by a majority of 225 against 85! The age of "tangible shapes," it seems, has gone by, as well as of shapes untangible: if you do not produce your man, the Members of course cannot see him; and if you do, they shut their eyes and are resolved not to see him: in plain truth, they will hear nothing at all of the matter, and henceforth any Minister, in spite of the late protestations of the House, may do all he can to annihilate its independence and integrity.

We now see the real meaning of the phrase "tangible shape." Tangible shape is an Under-Clerk, or a prevaricating witness, or even a Prince, or any thing or person not affecting Ministerial existence. Mr. PERCEVAL, who for very evident reasons undertook to be spokesman in reply to Mr. MADOCKS, though Lord CASTLEREAGH was the principal person accused, made an excellent appeal to the feelings of the 225 members by warning them against any toleration of a system of which this motion was only a part; that is, he said thus much to the House—"You see what the gentleman intends by this motion and particularly by his mention of the four Treasury-boroughs; of course he means to follow it up by exposing all the other corruptions by which you find your way into this House, and therefore, Gentlemen, I would have you take care of yourselves."—They did, and voted accordingly. It is curious to see, how easily these Courtiers, who violate the first principles of parliamentary integrity, can substitute other principles in their room, and make an honour and a virtue of their own:—Mr. PERCEVAL wished to impress upon the House that Mr. MADOCKS had obtained his information by dishonourable means: it is no matter, say he, with such men, "through what means the charge had been elicited,—no matter how sacred the confidence the discovery had violated, or how solemn the engagements it had broken through"—(hear! hear!)—Now, between whom are these sacred and solemn engagements? Between Courtiers and their creatures, between the Corrupters and the Corrupted, between men on both sides who have violated their solemn engagements to the People, betrayed the confidence of their country, and shewn an entire want of national principle. Can any declamation of any hypocrite upon earth be a grosser mockery of virtue! It seems then, that when the Ministers send a man to Parliament, they bind him to

secrecy and enter into solemn engagements! And what are these solemn engagements? Of what nature can they be, but to break the most solemn of all earthly engagements, that of a National Representative with the Nation? This is the "honour," of which Mr. CANNING and the other "honourable men" talk so magnificently; this is the honour of men of the world, the honour of gamblers, nay, the honour of any set of cheats, who have the least *esprit du corps*, and who are faithful to each other upon the principle of being false to every other obligation. According to Mr. PERCEVAL, it is the favourite doctrine of the People just now, "that public men must necessarily be corrupt:" this is a direct falsehood; the people's opinion is, that public men are much exposed to corruption, and that just now they are corrupt; but as to the necessity of the matter, it is for incorruptibility, if it is for any thing. No; it is the Placemen who maintain that public men must necessarily be corrupt: nay, they even make a virtue of the necessity; Mr. PERCEVAL sounds his ideas of moral obligation upon it; and Lord CASTLEREAGH, with his beautiful transparent candour, plainly declared the other day, that he thought it his duty, as a *Servant of the Crown*, to influence the election of Members of Parliament. Of course, if this is his duty as the servant, it is the King's pleasure as the master: I need not say how far such a monstrous libel will go; but this I will say, that the man who seduces a National Representative from his allegiance to his constituents, is as rank a traitor as can exist. A resolution of the House of Commons, passed at the commencement of every Session, declares every such exertion, on the part of any Lord of Parliament or any Lord Lieutenant of a County, to be "a high infringement of the liberties and privileges of the Commons;" and another resolution directly affirms, that "It is highly criminal in any Minister or Servant of the Crown, directly or indirectly, to use the powers of office in the election of Representatives to serve in Parliament;" yet with so much habitual indifference, to say the least of it, are the grossest violations of these laws regarded in every department of Government, that one CAPPER, a clerk in the Secretary of State's Office, in a new publication called the Imperial Calendar, has the face and the folly, in a time like this, to give the public an "Alphabetical Table of the Boroughs, Towns, &c. over which particular persons are supposed to have a certain degree of influence in the election of Gentlemen sent to represent the said places in Parliament." In this table, the Treasury is introduced without the least scruple as the patron of several boroughs: a most fatherly patron, to be sure, in guarding the pockets of the nation. "A table of this kind," says my Lord LIVERPOOL's Clerk in his Preface to the List, "must, under certain circumstances, be of the utmost importance to Gentlemen intending to offer themselves as candidates," &c.; and then at the end of the list he gives you an abstract of the Laws of election, among which is the resolution I have just mentioned!

Mr. DICK, who deserves every praise for preferring conscience to corruption, though he ought not in the first instance to have rendered himself liable to the insults of Ministers, now sees the utter selfishness of his Parliamentary patrons. Those men talk of the utility of passing over a few laws in order to advance men of talent and desert; but we see it is meanness, sheer meanness, they prefer after all. What does Lord CASTLEREAGH say to Mr. DICK?—"Sir, you must give up either your opinion or your seat!"

that is to say, "Sir, your conscience has nothing to do with the matter: will you vote for us or will you not? If you will not vote, you must vacate: but if you will vote,—if you will despise your conscience,—if you will be a place-hunting and profligate politician, you are still a sound fellow and one of us." Is not this the English of it? The public is not acquainted with half the vile arts that are practised to seduce weak men to the side of administration: one grand piece of policy is to separate private duty from public, and by a seduction purely diabolical to turn the very virtues of a man into the means of rendering him vicious.—"A man (perhaps meaning well) comes forward with professions of independence and honesty; he is returned to Parliament; the Minister then offers him a place of high trust and large profit, the acceptance of which his pretended friend represents as no dereliction of principle. If he has a wife and children, he is told by refusing it he would prove himself a bad husband and a worse father, and that in accepting it he would shew himself laudably interested in the advancement of his family. He consents, and thus is a representative lost; for from the moment he accepts the place his vote is as much the property of the Minister, as though he had bought it with guineas paid into the hands of the individual."*

The beauty of such a motion as Mr. MADOCKS's is, that whether discussed or not, it will produce the same effects. If the House had consented to hear the evidence, the behaviour of the Ministers fully proves what would have been discovered;—as it has not, the object has only been obtained with much less trouble to Mr. MADOCKS, and with instantaneous conviction to the whole nation. The difference between the fine talkers and the sound doers in the House is this, that the former give us a great many flowers but no fruit, while the latter produce excellent fruits even though their endeavours are nipped in the bud. One inevitable blessing is gained by such motions, whatever their fate may be,—the exposure of Parties. Mr. TIERNEY, a sturdy placeman, boasts that he is a zealous party-man, and only wishes he were "a better."—I wish so too with all my heart; but when he talks of the advantages that have resulted to the House from party-warfare, he should mention, that it was because the parties exposed each other. As to Mr. WINDHAM, I shall have an early opportunity of paying my respects to him at large, and at present will merely notice the singular transition he made, from his usual fantastic dance of meagre jokes and disjointed similes, to the very grave subject of *embezzlement on the part of agents*; a misfortune, he said, against which it was impossible to guard. I say nothing of his arguments on this head just now, but how came agency-embezzlement into his head? By what recollection, consideration, or anticipation, could he think of a subject so void of pleasantry? To be sure, it may be right to be armed at all points on all subjects, for nobody knows, says Mr. PERCEVAL, where those inquiries will stop.

Admire the temper of these Foxites:—the Reformists do not please them; the Ministry, with all their coquetry, do not please them; and between both they are in a perfect fever: Mr. TIERNEY summons up all his bluff defiance: Mr. PONSONBY fairly gets into a passion: Mr. WINDHAM tries to joke, but only becomes savage; his grin drops

* See an excellent, sound English pamphlet on Reform, written by the Hon. HENRY BOYLER, in the shape of "a Letter to the Electors of England."

into a growl: even Earl GREY, once the champion of reform, must wreak his vengeance somehow, if it be only upon himself; so in imitation of the idiot who, when he was vexed, used to go and lie all night upon the bridge, the Noble Earl walks off and dines with the Duke of York:—

“Revenge impatient rose
And with a withering look,”—
—Went and took dinner with the Duke!

Such are the successors of the “pure,” the “independent,” the “true Briton” Fox. A voluptuous poet of the present day calls that statesman, *Ultimus Romanorum*, the last of the Romans,—meaning, I suppose, that he was the last of Englishmen. Well, be it so; the place-man is worthy of his poet; but if Fox was the last of Englishmen, Providence has at once revived and bettered the stock, and WARDLE and his friends are the first of Englishmen.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

FIRST BULLETIN OF THE FRENCH GRAND ARMY.

Head-quarters at Ratisbon, April 24, 1809.

The Austrian Army passed the Inn on the 9th of April; that was the signal for hostilities, and Austria declared an implacable war against France and her Allies, and the Confederation of the Rhine. The following were the positions of the French Army and her Allies:—The corps of the Duke D'Auerstadt at Ratisbon. The corps of the Duke of Rivoli at Ulm. The corps of Gen. Oudinot at Augsburg. The head-quarters at Strauburg. The three divisions of Bavarians, under the Duke of Dantzic, were placed as follows:—The first division, commanded by the Prince Royal, at Munich; the second, commanded by Gen. Deroi, at Landshut; and the third, by Gen. De Wrede, at Strauburg. The Wurtemberg division at Heydenheim. The Saxon troops encamped under the walls of Dresden. The corps of the Duchy of Warsaw, commanded by Prince Poniatowski, in the environs of Warsaw. On the 10th the Austrian troops invested Passau, where they surrounded a battalion of Bavarians, and at the same time invested Kufstein, where there was another battalion of Bavarians; these movements took place without even a shot being fired. The Bavarian Court quitted Munich for Dillingen. The division under the command of Gen. De Wrede marched upon Neustadt. The Duke of Rivoli left Ulm for the environs of Augsburg. From the 10th to the 16th the enemy's army advanced from the Inn to the Isar; there were several skirmishes between parties of the cavalry, in which the Bavarians were successful. On the 16th, at Pfaffenhausen, the 2d and 3d regiments of Bavarian light horse completely routed the hussars of Stipschitz and the Rosenberg dragoons. At the same time the enemy appeared in large bodies for the purpose of forming at Landshut, the bridge was broken down, and the Bavarian division commanded by Gen. Duroy, vigorously opposed this movement of the enemy, but being threatened by the columns which had passed the Isar, this division retired in good order upon that of Gen. Wrede, and the Bavarian army took a central position upon Neustadt.

DEPARTURE OF THE EMPEROR FROM PARIS ON THE 13TH.

The Emperor learnt by the telegraph, in the evening of the 12th, that the Austrians had passed the Inn, and he set out from Paris almost immediately. He arrived at three o'clock on the morning of the 16th at Louisburg, and in the evening on the same day at Dillingen, where he saw the King of Bavaria, and passed half an hour with that Prince, and promised in 15 days to restore him to his capital, to revenge the insults which had been offered to his House, and to make him greater than any of his ancestors had ever been. On the 17th, at two o'clock in the morning, his Majesty arrived at Donaworth, where he immediately established his head-quarters. On the 18th the head-quarters were removed to Ingolstadt.

BATTLE OF PFAFFENHOFFEN ON THE 19TH.

On the 19th Gen. Oudinot quitted Augsburg and arrived by break of day at Pfaffenhausen, where he met 3 or 4000 Austrians, which he attacked, and took 300 prisoners. The Duke De Rivoli arrived the next day at Pfaffenhausen. The same day the Duke of Auerstadt left Ratisbon to advance to Neustadt, and to draw near to Ingolstadt. It was then evident that the plan of the Emperor was to out-manceuvre the enemy, who had formed near Landshut, and to attack them at the very moment when they, thinking they were commencing the attack, were marching to Ratisbon.

BATTLE OF TANN, ON THE 19TH.

On the 19th, the Duke D'Auerstadt began his march. The division of St. Hillaire arrived at Pressing, and there met the enemy, superior in number, but inferior in bravery, and there the campaign was opened by a battle, which was most glorious to our arms. Gen. St. Hillaire, supported by General Friant, overturned every thing that was opposed to him, and took all the positions of the enemy, killed a great number of them, and made between 6 and 700 prisoners. The 72d regiment distinguished itself on that day: the 57th maintained its ancient reputation. Sixteen years ago this regiment obtained in Italy the name of *the Terribles*. In this action they maintained their pretensions to that title; they attacked singly six Austrian regiments in succession, and routed them. On the left, at two o'clock in the afternoon, Gen. Moraud also fell in with an Austrian division, which he attacked in front, while the Duke of Dantzic, with a corps of Bavarians, attacked them in the rear. This division was soon driven from all its positions, and left several hundreds in killed and prisoners. The whole regiment of the Dragoons of Levenher was destroyed, and its Colonel killed by the Bavarian Light-horse. At sun-set the division of the Duke of Dantzic formed its junction with that of the Duke of Auerstadt. In all these affairs Gens. St. Hillaire and Friant particularly distinguished themselves. Those unfortunate Austrian troops who had been led from Vienna with music and with songs, and under a persuasion that there was no longer any French army in Germany, and that they would only have to deal with Wirtembergers and Bavarians, displayed in the strongest manner the resentment they felt against their Chiefs, for the error into which they had been led; and their terror was the greater when they saw those old bands which they had been accustomed to consider as their masters. In all these battles our loss was inconsiderable, compared with that of the enemy, who lost a number of General Officers and others, who were obliged to put themselves forward to give courage to their troops. The Prince of Lichtenstein, General Lusignan, and others were wounded.

BATTLE OF ABENSBERG, ON THE 20TH.

The Emperor resolved to beat and destroy the corps of the Archduke Louis and Gen. Keller, which amounted to 60,000 men: on the 20th, his Majesty took post at Abensberg; he gave orders to the Duke of Auerstadt to keep the corps of Hohenzollern, of Rozenberg, and Lichtenstein, in check, while with the two divisions of Moraud and Guden, the Bavarians and the Wirtembergers, he attacked the army of the Archduke Louis and General Keller in front, and caused the communications of the enemy to be cut off by the Duke of Rivoli, who passed by Freyberg, and proceeded to the rear of the Austrian army.—The divisions of Moraud and Guden formed the left, and manœuvred under the orders of the Duke of Montebello. The Emperor determined to fight that day at the head of the Bavarians and Wirtembergers. He ordered the officers of these two armies to form a circle, and addressed them in a long speech. The Prince Royal of Bavaria translated into German what he said in French. The Emperor made them sensible of the confidence which he reposed in them. He told the Bavarian Officers that the Austrians had always been their enemies; that they now wished to destroy their independence; that for more than 200 years the Bavarian standard had been displayed against the Austrians. But at this time he would render them so powerful, that they alone should be able to contend with the House of Austria. He spoke to the Wirtembergers of the victories they had obtained over the House of Austria, when they served in the Prussian army, and of the advantages which

they had recently obtained from the campaign in Silesia. He told them all, that the moment was come for carrying the war into the Austrian territory. This speech was repeated by the Captains to the different corps, which produced an effect which may easily be conceived. The Emperor then gave the signal for battle, and planned his manœuvres according to the particular character of the troops. Gen. Wrede, a Bavarian officer of great merit, was stationed at Siegenburgh, and attacked an Austrian division which was opposed to him. Gen. Vandamme, who commanded the Wirtemburghers, attacked the enemy on their right flank. The Duke of Dantzic, with the division of the Prince Royal, and that of Gen. Deroz, marched towards the village of Renhausen. The Duke of Montebello, with two divisions, forced the extremity of the enemy's left, overthrew every thing, and advanced to Rohr and Rosenburgh. Our cannonade was successful on all points. The enemy, disconcerted by our movements, did not fight more than an hour, and then beat a retreat. Eight standards, twelve pieces of cannon, and 18,000 prisoners, were the result of this affair, which cost us but a few men.

BATTLE OF LANDSHUT, AND TAKING OF THAT PLACE.

The battle of Abensberg having laid open the flank of the Austrian army, and all their magazines, the Emperor, by break of day on the 21st, marched upon Landshut. The Duke of Istria defeated the enemy's cavalry in the plain before that city. The General of Division Mouton, made the grenadiers of the 17th advance to the charge on the bridge, forming the head of a column. This bridge, which was of wood, was set on fire, but that was not an obstacle to our infantry, who forced it, and penetrated into the city. The enemy driven from the position, were then attacked by the Duke of Rivoli, who had advanced by the right bank. Landshut fell into our power, and we took 30 pieces of cannon, 9000 prisoners, 600 ammunition waggons, 3000 baggage waggons, and the hospitals and magazines which the Austrians had begun to form. Some Couriers and Aids-de-Camps of the Commander in Chief, Prince Charles, and some convoys of wounded men, also fell into our hands.

BATTLE OF ECKMUHL, ON THE 22D.

While the battle of Abensberg and that of Landshut produced such important consequences, the Archduke Charles had formed a junction with the Bohemian army under Kollowrath, and obtained some partial success at Ratisbon. One thousand of the 65th, who were left to guard the bridge of Ratisbon, and who had not received orders to retreat, having expended their cartridges, and being surrounded by the Austrians, were obliged to surrender. This event made an impression on the Emperor, and he swore that in 24 hours Austrian blood should flow in Ratisbon to resent the insult which had been offered to his arms.— During this time the Dukes of Auersstadt and Dantzic held in check the corps of Rosenberg, Hohenzollern and Lichtenstein. There was no time to be lost. The Emperor began his march from Landshut, with the two divisions of the Duke of Montebello, the corps of the Duke of Rivoli, the Cuirassiers of Nansouti and St. Sulpice, and the Wirtemburgh division. At two o'clock in the afternoon they arrived opposite Eckmuhl, where the four corps of the Austrian army, consisting of 110,000 men, had taken a position under the command of the Archduke Charles. The Duke of Montebello attacked the enemy on the left with the division of Gudin. On the first signal the divisions of the Dukes of Auersstadt and Dantzic, and the division of light cavalry of Gen. Montbrun, took their position. One of the most beautiful sights which war can present then presented itself; 110,000 men attacked on all points, turned on their left, and successively driven from all their positions; the detail of the events would be too long; it is sufficient to say, that the enemy was completely routed; that they lost the greater part of their cannon, and a great number of prisoners; and that the Austrians, driven from the woods which cover Ratisbon, were forced into the plain, and cut off by cavalry. The Austrian cavalry, strong and numerous, attempted to cover the retreat of their infantry, but they were attacked by the division of St. Sulpice on the right, and by the division of Nansouti on the left, and the enemy's line of hussars and cuirassiers routed, more than three hundred Austrian cuirassiers were made prisoners.—

As the night was commencing, our cuirassiers continued their march to Ratisbon. The division of Nansouti met with a column of the enemy, which was escaping, and compelled it to surrender; it consisted of 1500 men. The division of St. Sulpice charged another division of the enemy, where the Archduke Charles narrowly escaped being taken. He was indebted for his safety to the fleetness of his horse. This column was also broken and taken. Darkness at length compelled our troops to halt. In this battle of Eckmuhl not above half of the French troops were engaged. The enemy, closely pressed, continued to defile the whole of the night in great confusion. All their wounded, the greater part of their artillery, 15 standards, and 20,000 prisoners, fell into our hands.

BATTLE OF RATISBON, AND TAKING OF THAT PLACE.

On the 23d, at day-break, the army advanced upon Ratisbon; the advanced guard very soon came in sight of the enemy's cavalry, which attempted to cover the city. Three successive charges took place, all of which were to our advantage. Eight thousand of their troops having been cut to pieces, the enemy precipitately repassed the Danube. During these proceedings, our light infantry tried to get possession of the city. By a most unaccountable disposition of his force, the Austrian General sacrificed six regiments there without any reason. The city is surrounded with a bad wall, a bad ditch, and a bad counterscarp. The artillery having arrived, the city was battered with some 12 pounders. It was recollected that there was one part of the fortifications where, by means of a ladder, it was possible to descend into the ditch, and to pass on the other side through a breach in the wall. The Duke of Montebello caused a battalion to pass through this opening: they gained a postern, and introduced themselves into the city. All those who made resistance were cut to pieces: the number of prisoners exceed 8000. In consequence of these unskillful dispositions, the enemy had not time to destroy the bridge, and the French passed pell-mell with them to the left Bank. This unfortunate city, which they were barbarous enough to defend, has suffered considerably. A part of it was on fire during the night, but by the efforts of General Moraud, it was extinguished. Thus, at the battle of Abensberg, the Emperor beat separately the two corps of the Archduke Louis and General Keller; at the battle of Landshut, he took the centre of their communications, and the general depot of their magazines and artillery; finally at the battle of Eckmuhl, the four corps of Hohenzollern, Rosenberg, Kollowrath, and Lichtenstein, were defeated. The corps of General Bellegarde arrived the day after the battle; they could only be witnesses of the taking of Ratisbon, and then fled into Bohemia. In all these battles our loss amounted to 1200 killed and 4000 wounded!!! [Then follows a list of the French Officers killed and wounded, and very high eulogiums upon the different French Generals.] Of 222,000 of which the Austrian army was composed, all have been engaged except 20,000 men, commanded by General Bellegarde. On the other hand, near one half of the French army has not fired a shot. The enemy, astonished by rapid movements, which were out of their calculation, were in a moment deprived of their foolish hopes, and precipitated from a delirium of presumption to a despondency approaching to despair.

SECOND BULLETIN OF THE FRENCH GRAND ARMY.

Head-quarters, Muhldorf, April 27.

On the 22d, the day after the battle of Landshut, the Emperor left that city for Ratisbon, and fought the battle of Eckmuhl. At the same time he sent the Duke of Istria with the Bavarian division and Molitor's division to proceed to the Inn, and pursue the two corps of the Austrian army beaten at Abensberg and Landshut. The Duke of Istria arrived successively at Wilburg and Neumark, found there upwards of 400 carriages, caissons and equipages, and took from 15 to 1800 prisoners in his march. The Austrian corps found beyond Neumark a corps of reserve which had arrived upon the Inn. They rallied, and on the 25th gave battle at Neumark, where the Bavarians, notwithstanding their extreme inferiority, preserved their position. On the 24th the Emperor had sent the corps of the Duke of Rivoli

from Ratisbon to Straubing, and from thence to Passau, where he arrived on the 26th. The Duke made the battalion of the Po pass the Inn—it made 300 prisoners, removed the blockade of the citadel, and occupied Scharding. On the 25th the Duke of Montebello had orders to march with his corps from Ratisbon to Muhlendorf. On the 27th he passed the Inn, and proceeded to the Salza. To-day, the 27th, the Emperor has his head-quarters at Muhlendorf. The Austrian division, commanded by General Jellachich, which occupied Munich, is pursued by the corps of the Duke of Dantzic. The King of Bavaria has shewn himself at Munich. He afterwards returned to Augsburg, where he will remain some days, intending not to fix his residence at Munich till Bavaria shall be entirely delivered from the enemy. On the side of Ratisbon the Duke of Auerstadt is gone in pursuit of Prince Charles, who, cut off from his communication with the Inn and Vienna, has no other resource than that of retiring into the mountains of Bohemia, by Waldmünchen and Cham. With respect to the Emperor of Austria, he appears to have been before Passau, in order to besiege that place with three battalions of the Landwerk. All Bavaria and the Palatinate are delivered from the presence of the enemy. At Ratisbon the Emperor passed several corps in review, and caused the bravest soldiers to be presented to him, to whom he gave distinctions and pensions, and the bravest officers, to whom he gave baronies and lands.

Hitherto the Emperor has carried on the war almost without equipage and guards; and one has remarked, that in the absence of his guards, he had always about him the allied Bavarian and Wirtemberg troops; wishing thereby to give them a particular proof of confidence. A report has been circulated that the Emperor has had his leg broken. The fact is, that a spent ball grazed the heel of his boot, but did not touch the skin. Never was his Majesty in better health, though in the midst of the greatest fatigue. It has been remarked as a singular fact, that one of the first Austrian Officers made prisoners in this war, was the Aide-de-Camp of Prince Charles, sent to M. Otto with the famous letter, purporting that the French army must retire.

The inhabitants of Ratisbon having behaved very well, and evinced that patriotic and confederated spirit which we have a right to expect from them, his Majesty has ordered that the damages done shall be repaired at his expence. All the Sovereigns and territories of the Confederacy evince the most patriotic spirit. When the Austrian Minister at Dresden delivered the Declaration of his Court to the King of Saxony, the latter could not contain his indignation—"You wish for war, and against whom? You attack and you inveigh against a man, who, three years ago, master of your destiny, restored your states to you. The proposals made to me afflict me; my engagements are known to all Europe; no Prince of the Confederacy will detach himself from them." The Grand Duke of Wurzburg, the Emperor of Austria's brother, has shewn the same sentiments, and has declared that if the Austrians advanced to his territories, he should retire, if necessary, across the Rhine—so well are the insanity and the invectives of Vienna appreciated! The regiments of the petty Princes, all the allied troops, are eager to march against the enemy.

A notable circumstance, which posterity will remark as a fresh proof of the signal bad faith of Austria, is, that on the day she wrote the annexed letter to the King of Bavaria, she published, in the Tyrol, the Proclamation signed by General Jellachich. On the same day she proposed to the King to be neutral, and invited his subjects to rise. How can we reconcile this contradiction, or rather how justify this infamy?

[To the Bulletins are annexed a Proclamation from the Austrian General Jellachich, inviting the Tyrolese to throw off the Bavarian yoke, and to resume their allegiance to their old master; and a letter from the Archduke Charles to the King of Bavaria, soliciting his co-operation in a war undertaken for the general deliverance of Germany.]

PROCLAMATION.

Soldiers, you have justified my expectations. You have made up for numbers by your bravery. You have gloriously

marked the difference that exists between the soldiers of Cæsar and the armed cohorts of Xerxes.

In a few days we have triumphed in the three battles of Taun, Abensberg, and Ekmühl, and in the actions of Peising, Landshut, and Ratisbon. One hundred pieces of cannon, 40 standards, 50,000 prisoners, 3000 waggons full of baggage, all the chests of the regiments—Such is the result of the rapidity of your march and your courage.

The enemy, besotted by a perjured Cabinet, seemed no longer to preserve any recollection of us—They have been promptly awaked—You have appeared to them more terrible than ever. Lately they crossed the Inn, and invaded the territory of our allies. Lately they presumed to carry the war into the heart of our country. Now, defeated and dismayed, they fly in disorder. Already my advanced-guard has passed the Inn—before a month is elapsed we shall be at Vienna.

From our head-quarters, Ratisbon, 24th April.

(Signed) NAPOLEON.

THIRD BULLETIN OF THE FRENCH GRAND ARMY.

This Bulletin is dated from the head-quarters at Berghausen, April 30. It details nothing of importance. The Duke of Dantzic reached Altenmark on the 28th, Gen. Wrede entered Salzburgh on the 29th, and on the 30th the whole army crossed the Inn in full pursuit of the Austrians. Many prisoners were made. "The Emperor of Austria," says the Bulletin, "is gone to Scharding, a position extremely well adapted for a Sovereign who neither wishes to be in his capital to govern his dominions, nor in the field, where he is known to be merely an incumbrance and dead weight. When he was informed of the result of the battle of Ekmühl, he judged it prudent to retire into the interior of his dominions."—Speaking of the Austrian imitations of the French military system, the Bulletin remarks, "But the ass is not ennobled to a lion because he is covered with a lion's skin; the long ears betray the ignoble beast."—The Austrians are precipitately evacuating the Tyrol, owing to the victories in Bavaria. Marshal Davoust is to proceed to the Tyrol to restore tranquillity.

FRENCH REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF AUSTRIA.

This Report on the Relations between France and Austria, is addressed by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, Champagny, to Bonaparte. It goes back to the battle of Austerlitz, and enters into a number of long and tedious details. Austria is charged with having encouraged the Spanish Insurgents, and it is stated, that during the Campaign in Spain, Bonaparte obtained proof that Austria had promised to send 100,000 men to the assistance of the Spanish Juntas; but this promise, it is asserted, was only made to keep alive the spirit of the Juntas with false hopes. The Declaration published by the King of England, after the propositions from Erfurth, is then quoted. Champagny then says, "the promises given at Erfurth were broken, and Austria armed against her benefactor. Your Majesty was bound to recollect what was due to your People, and you abandoned with regret the pursuit of the English. May one of your Ministers presume, upon this occasion, to be the interpreter of the public opinion, of that opinion which is founded upon 15 years of victory, and to add, that however great the successes were which your Lieutenants obtained, and whatever talents they displayed, still had your Majesty conducted the war in person, not an Englishman would have returned to England. But your Majesty made this sacrifice to the security of your dominions, You returned to Valladolid to give the last orders which the state of Spain required, and wrote to the Princes of the Confederation of the Rhine to prepare their contingents, a measure of simple precaution, which the apprehensions which they had long entertained rendered necessary, and your Majesty returned to Paris. Your Majesty was willing to make another attempt to avoid this war, which you had not provoked; you employed the intervention of the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was then at Paris. After hearing the overtures of your Majesty he saw the Austrian Ambassador, and proposed to him an arrangement which would unite the three Empires by the ties of a triple guarantee, which would give to Austria, as a reward for the integrity of her territories, the guarantee &c.

against the enterprises of France, and that of France against the enterprises of Russia. The guarantee of Austria was also accepted by the two other powers. It is painful to state it, but those propositions of M. Romanzoff did not produce any good effect." Towards the conclusion the Minister thus addresses Bonaparte:—"Your Majesty did every thing to avoid this war, which prudence and moderation could suggest. But if the spirit which has always animated Austria, has made the politics of that Power an obstacle to a Maritime Peace, perhaps it is not to be regretted that she has brought on the crisis which will remove the obstacle. The Maritime Peace will not take place until the peace of the Continent is established, and until the English shall have lost all hopes of disturbing it by their intrigues. May such be the results of this new war."

Several letters relative to the military preparations of Austria are annexed to this Report; and a Dispatch from Champagne, containing an account of a long discourse Bonaparte is stated to have held with Count Metternich, the Austrian Ambassador, on the 15th of August last, at an audience given to the Foreign Ministers. Napoleon in his abrupt style interrogates the Ambassador respecting the preparations of Austria, and insists that they cannot be intended as defensive. Among other things he said, "Do you mean to alarm me? You won't succeed in that. Do you think the circumstances are favourable to you?—You deceive yourselves. My policy lies open before you, because it is honest, and because I feel my own strength. I shall take 100,000 of my troops from Germany, in order to send them to Spain, and I still have enough to oppose you. You arm—I will arm to; and if it is necessary, I can spare 200,000 men.—You will not have a single Power on the Continent in your favour. The Emperor of Russia, I can always venture to speak for him in his name, will urge you to be quiet. He is already little pleased with your connection with the Servians. He, as well as I, may feel offended by your preparations. He knows that you have designs upon Turkey. You pretend that I have such myself. I declare that that is false, and that I want nothing from Austria or Turkey."

The following is Champagne's account of the manner in which this conversation was conducted:—"His Majesty seemed to be moved, as men naturally are in discussing matters of such importance. He, however, exhibited only that degree of animation which such a motive was calculated to produce; he spoke of the Emperor of Austria and his Government with the greatest reserve, and paid many personal compliments to M. Von Metternich. This Ambassador, who, it should be observed, has always given an assurance of the pacific sentiments of his Court, was not, for a moment, placed in a situation of embarrassment; I had a conversation with him in the evening, and he felicitated himself on being employed at a Court where communications of this description could be personally made by a Sovereign to a Foreign Minister. M. Von Tolstoy concurred with him in this sentiment."

AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL ACCOUNT.

SUPPLEMENT EXTRAORDINARY TO THE PRIVILEGED GAZETTE OF PRAQUE.

On the 23d of April, at nine in the evening, Count Auersperg, Adjutant-General to his Imperial Highness the Generalissimo, arrived at his Majesty's head-quarters at Scharding. He was sent on the 22d from the field of battle. The two Coles and the two armies advanced on that day to combat each other. Success was on the side of the Austrians. The Generalissimo caused the post of Abbach, on the Leber, to be attacked, for which we had in vain contended the preceding evening, and he carried it. The third corps of the army took Fainpost. Whilst the right wing of the Austrian army was victorious, the enemy succeeded in getting possession of Echnub, at the presence of the Generalissimo restored order, and thus ended a battle which lasted five days without interruption. We have in this and other previous affairs taken a great number of prisoners, among whom are a Lieutenant-General under the order of Marshal Davoust. The loss on both sides has been very great. We have several Generals and officers of the Etat Major wounded.—The first corps of the

army has advanced to Hemmenau, and touches the grand army by Al-bach."

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, May 8.

Lord LIVERPOOL delivered a Message from his Majesty, stating that an application had been made to him by the Prince Regent of Portugal, for a Loan of 600,000*l.* on the security of the Revenues of the Island of Madeira; and that his Majesty had entered into a Convention with the Prince; a Copy of which would be submitted to their Lordships as soon as the ratifications were exchanged.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, May 9.

His Majesty's Message relative to the Loan to the Prince Regent was taken into consideration, and the Earl of LIVERPOOL moved an Address, stating their Lordships readiness to acquiesce in the measure, which was agreed to *nem. dis.*—the Duke of NORFOLK merely observing, that he hoped it was not intended to persevere in the project of wresting the Peninsula from the Bonaparte family, which would now only occasion a useless expenditure of blood and treasure.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, May 10.

The Nova Scotia Trade Bill was read a third time and passed.

Friday, May 12.

The Royal assent was given by commission to 72 Public and Private Bills.—Adjourned to Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, May 8.

PLACES AND PENSIONS.

Mr. H. MARTIN rose to call the attention of the House to the Third Report of the Finance Committee; and in doing so, whatever motives might be assigned to his conduct, he conceived it was a duty he owed to his country and the public at large. Had Ministers attended, as they ought to have done, to the reports of those Committees, he would not now have had occasion to trouble the House; but though no use had been made by them of those reports, he could hardly suppose that those Committees had been instituted by Ministers merely that they might lay reports of abuses before the House, without any intention of adopting measures to remedy them. That Committee, he said, had reported that 1,500,000*l.* was yearly expended in sinecure places; yet, in that account, there are many offices unaccounted for, and which are nearly sinecure. Nor is the Duchy of Lancaster taken into that account. He should wish the House to consider the enormous increase of the National Debt, and then it would be allowed it was the bounden duty of every Member to inquire into the best means of retrenching those useless expenditures. He would allow whatever was necessary to support the splendour of the Royal Family; he would also allow whatever was allotted to those who deserved well of their country; but when the House considers that all the unnecessary Pensions and Places are paid out of the National Taxes, he hoped it would go along with him in thinking that measures ought to be taken to prevent their increase. He did not expect it would, at first, be any great saving; but the impression it would make on the public would be of the most beneficial consequence, as it would show the people that the House is determined to correct every species of public abuse. It was the idea of the late Mr. Burke, that the opinions of the people should be complied with as long as they were not extravagant, and that such opinions ought to be a law to that House. From the year 1786 to 1791, there were Reports on the subject of Sinecure Places, &c. but we only find that some offices in the Customs were abolished in consequence of them; while other abuses which they pointed out were neglected. In 1796 it was found that many places in Chancery, amounting to not less

than 20,000l. a year, were of this description; and that many of those places were granted in reversion; it was a remarkable circumstance, that Lord Hale had recommended the abolition of those Places. Those Places would, in his opinion, have been best done away with when Parliament were granting pensions to retiring Judges. Since the year 1786, whoever recollects how much the burdens of the people are increased, would easily perceive that the influence of the Crown has increased in proportion; and if this motion will do away any of those abuses, it must be allowed to have proved beneficial. The public expenditure was last year 77 millions; in 1791 only 15. Whatever Pensions were paid out of the Consolidated Fund to Officers' Widows or Children, in the Navy or Army; and to those retiring, after long and meritorious service, must be excused; and these would be found to amount to no more than 697,747l. annually. He would confine his motion to those that are directly objectionable, or only questionable. The first of these are the Pensions allowed to Foreign Ministers, which in 1787 were only 9,185l. but now are 51,689l. He thought it would be right to address the Crown, though he did not mean to move for it now, that the disposal of the 4½ per cent. duties should be again vested in that House, as they were originally by the House of Assembly of the Island of Barbadoes, in the reign of Charles II. He particularly deprecated the power that those at the head of the Crown Offices have, of superannuating whom they please, and by that means acquire a very dangerous species of prerogative. He would also object to the pensions paid out of the sale of old naval stores, as that money ought to be appropriated to naval purposes. He would next object to allowances in the nature of Pensions, Compensations out of the Offices of the Masters of Horse and Ordnance, &c. which make, with the Pensions paid out of the sale of old naval stores, upwards of 99,000l.—Next, the Sinecure Places amount to 272,355l. and that must be considered less than reality, because no correct list has been given since 1804; this resolution would strike at all the Sinecures in the Courts of Admiralty, Chancery, &c. As to Scotland, the persons on the Civil List of that country only receive 39,600l. In Ireland they are already under the control of that House; yet there is a species of compensation made from various offices in that kingdom, from which he thought it necessary for that House to enquire into the length of service, &c. of the persons to whom they are made. He would have publicity given to such transactions, both here and in Ireland, and all papers relative to them laid before that House. He should wish to have his Resolutions laid on the table till the House resolve itself into a Committee on the subject. He then concluded by moving a number of Resolutions—"That in the present arduous state of affairs and increase of Taxes, it is the opinion of Parliament that it is expedient to apply farther remedies to the abuses in Sinecure Places and Pensions under Government, in the Army and Navy, &c.; That all Pensions be annually voted; That, as our communications with Foreign Courts are now less, a check ought to be put to the Pensions to persons in them; That no Pensions should be granted out of the Sale of Naval Stores; that an account be yearly laid before Parliament, shewing the amount and increase of Pensions, and Salaries in Public Offices; and That this House do resolve itself into a Committee on this day se'night, to consider the Third Report of the Committee of Finance."

Mr. THORNTON rose to second the motion. He said this would be found to be not more an economical question than a political one. He was clearly of opinion that the multitude of little sinecures was yet but partially known, though they must be much increased. He could correct the Hon. Gentleman who had reckoned the whole, according to the Reports, to be one million and a half, whereas he believed it would be found to be but 1,400,000l. The Public were in the constant habit of judging of every thing done in that House; and it was incumbent on the House to act in that fair and open manner on all public matters, that should remove all doubt or suspicion as to the purity of his conduct.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, he had to

thank the Hon. and Learned Gentleman for the manner in which he had brought this subject forward. It had been his intention to have submitted similar propositions to the House, but since the meeting of Parliament, he had not been able to turn his attention to the subject, owing to the multiplicity of other things in which he had been engaged. He had no difficulty in saying, that he agreed with the Learned Gentleman in many of his propositions, the adoption of which, he thought, would be extremely useful; and he also agreed with the Hon. Gentleman who spoke last, that the public ought to be correctly informed of every thing done by that House. He had no objection to adopt some of the Hon. Gentleman's plans; and since they were developed by the Hon. Gentleman, he had now a much easier task imposed upon him, than if the whole had originated with himself. After the subject was considered by a Committee, he thought it would be better to let the business, so far as related to Legislative regulations, stand over till next Session. In the mean time, many things would be left to the discretion of government to do. He agreed with the Hon. Gentleman in nearly the whole of his propositions; and when they came to be discussed hereafter, he would give them the fullest consideration in his power.

Lord H. PETTY expressed his approbation of the very candid manner in which the resolutions of his Hon. Friend were received by the Right Hon. Gentleman. He would give all the assistance in his power to the Resolutions when they came to be discussed.

Mr. ROSE made some explanations relative to the four and half per cents.

Mr. CREEVEY took notice of the several Pensions which were granted to the friends and relations of Mr. Pitt during his Administration; and Pensions paid out of funds which were not in existence at the time of Burke's Bill. This was a subject which he hoped the House would take into consideration. It was also of great importance that the House should consider the nature and extent of patent places.

Mr. BIDDULPH conceived it would be of great importance if any saving, however inconsiderable, could be made in the public expenditure; and as those Resolutions were likely to produce such an effect, he would support them.

Mr. P. MOORE said, he agreed with his Learned Friend Mr. Martin, as far as his Resolutions went; he also agreed with his Hon. Friend (Mr. Creevey) that they did not go far enough; and that as to the 4½ per cent duty, it was the right of the public, and was included in all the accounts of ways and means till the year 1791, when for the first time it was omitted as a part of the reserved income of the Crown. Mr. Moore said, that this point of the 4½ per cent. duties, must form the matter of a separate question for the House. With respect to this duty, there were three classes of Pensioners quartered on it: one by Sign Manual, a second by Patent, and a third class by Treasury Warrants. He did not pretend to understand authorities of this description as applicable to Pensions; Pensions obtained under such authorities could be of no validity—He had lately seen, and was rejoiced at it, that the Sign Manual to warrants for money was only considered as orders for monies to be advanced—to be accounted for in a faithful application to the public service, for which only they were voted; and this too was the very essence of legal authority. By Mr. Burke's Act for regulating Pensions, the sum of 90,000l. could not be exceeded by his Majesty, and that under specific regulations. As far as this went, there was legal authority; this was the extreme extent of the limited list of Pensions. But then stalks forth another list of Pensions, which has been called by gentlemen on the Treasury Bench the UNLIMITED list. "This," said he, "I consider to be wholly illegal, and a misapplication of the public money. Look at the title of the account returned, it is, Pensions, Sinecures, and Reversions, paid out of the public Revenue, or out of any funds applicable to the public service. The very title condemns these UNLIMITED Pensions, and shews that the public monies voted by this House and consecrated to the maintenance of the honour and dignity of the Throne, and the support and defence of the empire, have been

abused and misapplied; and I have no hesitation in giving my decided opinion that these Pensions and all others which are not granted under the regulation of Mr. Burke's Act, and such as are separately granted by Parliament for splendid national services, are IMPOSITIONS ON THE KING AND FRAUDS ON THE PEOPLE. It has been argued, that all the projected savings on these Pensions will not afford relief to the people. I do not view the subject in that narrow light: I look at it in a far more magnificent view; and could I induce the House to go with me, it would prove to the people a Mexico or a Peruvian mine of wealth: let the House adopt the principle that they reprobate the misapplication of public money, they will thereby manifest to the people that they are themselves honest and disinterested. If the Representatives of the people will do themselves honour on this point, the principles they lay down will never be infringed by subordinates." Mr. Moore concluded with a national anecdote:—A French Nobleman happened to call on him some years ago, when he had just read the Court Kalendar for the year. This Nobleman, who possessed large estates in France, was the virtuous descendant of the illustrious house of Colbert. Observing the Kalendar on the table, he put his hand on it, saying, "I hope this Red Book will not be so ominous and prove so fatal to your nation as our *Livre Rouge* unhappily proved to ours."—"How so, Sir." He replied, that their nobility, gentry, and leading interests of France, in their enthusiasm for prerogative, had thought it more honourable to have their names appear in the *Livre Rouge* for a pension of even one hundred livres, than to possess an independence of ten thousand Louis d'ors of their own private property. Mr. Moore conjured the House to make the application fairly and broadly to the Pension List before them. Our ancestors, he said, were proud and thought it their duty to have seats in this House for the protection of their private property against Ministerial encroachment. In modern times, if the House would steadily look at the Pension Book, they would at least believe what they must see, that seats were obtained not to protect their property against diminution, but for the purpose, indirectly, of improving it at the expense of the Public,—though if directly proposed, on the ground of a Tax, to benefit one individual subject, the proposition would meet the instant indignation of the House and the public.

The motion for the House to resolve into a Committee, on this day se'night, to take the subject into consideration, was then agreed to.

The Newspaper Stamp Bill was passed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The House, in a Committee of Supply, voted the following and other sums:—To make good certain sums paid out of the Civil List, 22,166l. For Bills drawn from New South Wales, 30,000l. For the Trustees of the British Museum, 13,000l.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, May 9.

THE CAMPAIGN IN SPAIN.

This subject, of which the Public have long been completely in possession, and as completely formed an opinion upon, was again brought forward by Earl TEMPLE, who, in a speech of much length but little novelty, attributed the disasters in Spain solely to the gross mismanagement of Ministers, and particular to the errors of my Lord CASTLEREAGH; for Bonaparte, he said, flew upon the wings of an eagle, while the Noble Secretary moved to oppose him on the back of a tortoise: the rapidity of the enemy was too well known, yet it did not in the slightest degree alter the snail-like sinuosity of the Noble Lord and his colleagues. Lord Temple concluded by moving several Resolutions to the following effect: "That it appears to the House, after considering the documents laid before it, that the spirit of resistance manifested in Spain last summer, had not been seconded by Great Britain: That the British Ministers, before they gave the promised assistance, afforded the enemy time to collect his resources, and advance with numerous armies into Spain: That when the British co-operate effectually with our Allies:

That nothing was done by the British Ministers to combine a proper plan of operations, or to gain a knowledge of the amount of the force of the Spaniards, or of the enemy: That the loss of the Spanish fleet at Ferrol, in consequence of being taken by the French, was owing to the neglect of Ministers, in not sending a naval force in time to get the fleet away: That the House is further of opinion, that in consequence of the negligence, weakness, and incapacity of Ministers, the hopes of the nation were disappointed, its treasures wasted, and 7000 of its bravest troops uselessly sacrificed."

Lord CASTLEREAGH entered into a long defence of himself and his friends in office, which our readers must spare us the mortification of detailing, for it was dull even for his Lordship, and merely repeated the arguments so often heard and the assertions so often disproved: he did not however forget the usual ministerial logic of retort; for he acknowledged that the present Government must have been dull scholars indeed, not to have learnt wisdom and vigour from the late administration. This naturally excited the indignation of

Mr. PONSONBY, who said, that the Noble Lord had proved by his speech, that the subject was one on which it was possible to be diffuse, erratic, and tedious.

Mr. Secretary CANNING maintained that every possible exertion was made, but he confessed that he could not entirely approve of the conduct of his Friend Mr. Frere.

Mr. TIERNEY attributed the disasters of the campaign in a great measure to the interference of Mr. Frere, who had caused the fatal advance of Sir J. Moore. Ministers, he said, evinced a strong disposition to keep the merits of that officer out of view: though they were too poor to honour his memory, they were rich enough to reward Sir Home Popham.—(A laugh.)

Mr. PERCEVAL maintained that had it not been for the exertions of Ministers, the cause of Spain would now have been hopeless. Gen. Moore had acted upon his own views of the case, and it was not true that Government had shewn the least indisposition to do justice to his character.

Mr. BATHURST, Lord H. PETTY, and Mr. WHITBREAD supported the resolutions: Mr. Whitbread contended that Sir J. Moore would have had good reason to say what an officer of Louis XIV. said when called upon in a moment of danger, in spite of the intrigues of courtiers: "I go to fight your Majesty's enemies, but I leave your Majesty in the midst of mine."

The House being divided at five in the morning, a majority of 119 appeared for Ministers, there being 111 in favour of the Resolutions, and 230 against them.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, May 10.

WAR OFFICE.

Mr. WARDLE rose to move that certain Papers from the Accomptant's department of the War Office, be laid before the House. He said, that since 1797 the number of clerks had increased in that office, in order to expedite the passing of regimental accounts; but if he was allowed the means, he was prepared to shew that instead of being expedited they were more delayed than formerly; that the greatest confusion prevails in the whole of their accounts: that every change in that department, since 1797, has been for the worse, and not for the better; and that the yearly expence of the War Office is 54,000l. when it might be much better done for 24,000l. All this, if allowed the proper documents, he would prove at the hazard of his seat. To his knowledge many Paymasters have been kept for years without any settlement in their accounts.—But he did not wish to be understood as blaming the present Secretary at War more than his predecessors in that office; he merely wished to war against the present system used in that office. He could not see why the War Office accounts should not be as regularly kept as those of any large mercantile house in the city, whose accounts are as intricate and as extensive. If there is any difficulty made in producing these papers, he would conclude it must proceed from the great confusion of the accounts. Of late years, too, there has been another War Office set on foot, in George-street, where the clerks have their town and country houses, for what? Why, for keeping the accounts belonging to the volunteer service. He then moved



for a return of all the annual regimental accounts, specifying those that are settled from those that are not, and when they were settled; and also those accounts that have been carried into warrant from 1797 to 1808.

The SECRETARY at WAR did not rise to make any specific objections to the present motion; but he hoped the Honourable Mover would give up his motion till the result of the Reports of the Committee of Military Inquiry was known. He was far from denying that the accounts of the War Office are materially in arrears, and steps ought certainly to be taken to prevent it in future. But it can hardly be supposed that any plan will be proposed by that House for remedying that evil better than the Committee of Military Inquiry can do. The delay in unravelling the accounts, he said, was entirely owing to their intricacy, and to the extreme care and accuracy of the Gentlemen in the office to bring them up properly.

Mr. C. LONG was of opinion it was next to impracticable to unravel the accounts that are now in confusion.

Mr. WINDHAM said it was to him no matter of surprise that, as the army increased, so should the number of the clerks in the War Office; nor could that confusion in the accounts complained of, be corrected by any thing but multiplying the number of hands; and as the clerks are increased, the old office not being able to hold them, they must, some of them, go to a new one.

Mr. WHITREAD said the simplifying of a merchants accounts was easy, and why not the accounts of the War Office? He had no want of confidence in the clerks; but he doubted their abilities very much, since they have now been employed in winding up those accounts for 12 years, and yet the accounts are in more confusion than when they began. That Mr. Charmilly, of whom so much has been said, was pleased, in 1797, to issue a publication, wherein he states, that he has received large sums from the War Office, to pay foreign troops he has raised; and which sums, he says, he has regularly accounted for. Mr. Whitread said, he would be glad to see these Accounts. In 1794, under Mr. Secretary Dundas, French prisoners of war were allowed to be enlisted from the prisons to serve in our army, and after serving a certain time they were exchanged for English prisoners of war; could these men fight with cordiality in our cause?

Mr. P. MOORE said, his Hon. Friend (Mr. Wardle) had been asked for his plan of adjusting these confused accounts. Let them only give him the materials, he would build a plan.

The motion was put and carried.

Mr. WHITREAD observed, that having seen in the Gazette the appointment of Mr. Adair as Ambassador to the Porte; and knowing that the Marquis Wellesley had already been appointed Ambassador to Spain, he now wished to inform the House, that he did not think it necessary to make the motion of which he had given notice on a former day relative to Mr. Frère.—Adjourned.

Thursday, May 11.

MR. PERCEVAL AND LORD CASTLEREAGH.

Mr. MADOCKS desired that the Resolution of the House, made in the Session of 1779, should be then read. The substance of it was,

"That it is highly criminal in any Minister of the Crown to influence, or to attempt to influence, the return of any Member to the House of Commons; and that when any proof of such improper interference having taken place shall appear, it shall be punished by the House, as an attempt to destroy the independence of Parliament, and to subvert our free and happy Constitution."

The late Resolution of the House respecting the conduct of Lord Castlereagh in his offers to place a Writership to India at the disposal of Lord Clancarty, for a seat in Parliament, was also read.

Mr. MADOCKS then said, before he should state the particulars of the charge which he meant to make against two of his Majesty's Ministers, he felt it a duty he owed to the House, distinctly to state, that he had no personal animosity or dislike to either of them. It was the system of government which they pursued which he was anxious to arraign. What he had

to charge them with was no more than what they made a subject of serious accusation against their predecessors. He was no party man himself, but he attached himself to any party as long as their acts were directed for the good of the country. When the Hampshire Petition was presented to the House, both Members said it deserved the utmost attention of the House; and that if a charge of so grave a nature could be proved against any Members of Administration, it was incumbent on the House to treat them with the utmost severity. What would the House now think when a similar charge was made against themselves, if they should abandon their former opinions? Several Members had frequently obtained the applause of their fellow-citizens, for detecting and exposing public abuses of various sorts; but the greatest of all public abuses, in his opinion, was the influence of the Treasury in the House of Commons. If such a practice should be continued, what were the people to expect when they should complain to that House of any public grievance? The doors of the House would be for ever shut against their complaints, and the Officers of the Crown would possess absolute authority. The influence possessed by the Treasury spread itself into so many ramifications, that he should not then enter into them at length. He should confine himself entirely to that part of it whereby the money taken from the pockets of the people was employed to influence a certain portion of them in returning their Members, and afterwards receiving a sum of money from the Members returned, to replace that which was so improperly given away. The Honourable Gentleman then stated, that, in the Borough of Hastings, the father and son were alternately appointed Mayor, and they held situations under Government which brought them in the sum of 9,975l. every Parliament, and their influence was always sufficient to determine the election. The freemen of Rye had places in the Customs or Excise, which brought them in collectively the sum of 2,868l. a year, which, when multiplied by seven, the number of years a Member can sit, would amount to no less a sum than 16,576l. By similar means the Treasury possessed an absolute controul over the Electors of Queenborough.—He meant to have witnesses called to the Bar, to be examined respecting the last election for the Borough of Cashel, in Ireland. The circumstances which he intended to prove were, that the Electors on that occasion did not exercise their franchise independently; and that an individual who opposed them was severely punished, for no other reason than that he withstood their wishes; and, from what he had heard of that person's character, he had no doubt but that his conduct would meet the esteem of the House, when they would hear his examination; and he trusted the House would not decline hearing him. The transaction which implicated the Noble Lord and the Right Honourable Gentleman was, that Mr. Quintin Dick paid a sum of money to Mr. Henry Wellesley, Secretary to the Treasury, for a seat in that House, as the Representative of the Borough of Cashel, which he was to procure through the interest of the Noble Lord, and that the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Perceval) was privy to that fact. That after Mr. Dick had been some time in Parliament, he took an opportunity of waiting upon the Noble Lord, and told him how he meant to vote upon the proceedings against the Duke of York. That Lord Castlereagh then consulted with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and afterwards suggested to Mr. Dick the propriety of vacating his seat, rather than give the vote which he proposed. After he had stated these circumstances, he did not wish to make any comment upon them at present; he thought it sufficient to recal the attention of the House to the language of the Hampshire Petition, which had been so consonant to the feelings and sentiments of the Right Hon. Members when they were in opposition. "If such unconstitutional interference is permitted to exist, our liberties are lost; and having stated the case, and pointed out its dangerous tendency, we throw ourselves upon the justice of the House."

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated, that if the present were a distinct and the only charge to be exhibited against him, he should be ready to give a positive and precise

answer; but he could not consider it in that view, as the Hon. Member who had made it might intend it only as a preliminary step towards other charges of even a more serious nature. Rye, Hastings, and Queenborough, might afterwards furnish matter of accusation, and no one could foretel where the charges might stop. He could not consider the present charge as particularly directed against himself and his Noble Friend for any supposed offence by them committed, but to shew the necessity of a Parliamentary Reform. The Hon. Gentleman had given notice of an intention to bring that question before the House, but he had since abandoned it, and had singled them out as objects of crimination, in order to effectuate the accomplishment of his purposes—(Hear! hear!)—He therefore felt it a duty to state, that as the charge was of a different nature from any which had before occupied the attention of Parliament, they ought to establish a precedent to go upon at present, and to guide them on similar proceedings in future. No charge was made, no witnesses were named, the mode of procedure had not been fixed, and he thought the House ought not then to call upon him to state any defence. If a man was to be made liable to give information upon any transaction, and that evidence should be afterwards used against himself, it would produce a species of inquisition, which would destroy all social intercourse between man and man.—(Hear! hear! hear!)—He knew at present there existed a spirit in the country which tended to reform all public men, and that evidence was collected against them, from any quarter, and by any means, and which was afterwards converted into grounds of accusation.—(Hear! hear!)—He therefore, with the utmost deference, would decline stating any thing connected with the charge until he should be commanded by the House, and in so saying, he trusted the House would not draw any inference of guilt from his present silence, but that they should consider him as having made his plea of not guilty, until he should learn the disposition of the House. He trusted that neither one side of the House nor another would countenance the charge in its present shape, but if they should desire it, he was perfectly ready and willing to give them every information; at present he should therefore make his bow and retire.

LORD CASTLEREAGH said, that he did not feel himself at liberty to give any explanation of the charge; but if the House should desire it, he was perfectly ready. He trusted that by keeping then silent, for the reasons which his Right Hon. Friend had stated, the House would not draw any inference to his prejudice, until he should be heard in his defence.—(Hear! hear!)—His Lordship then withdrew.

THE SPEAKER then asked what line the Hon. Member (Mr. Madocks) meant to pursue?

MR. MADOCKS said, that he wished to have evidence examined at the Bar on Monday next, in support of the charge which he had stated.

MR. CARTWRIGHT thought this matter was preparatory to a Parliamentary Reform; and for his part, taking the Constitution as it now stood, he could not assent to the smallest alteration in it.

LORD MILTON acknowledged that abuses had long existed; but they were not peculiar to the present Administration, and therefore he could not think worse of the present Ministers on that account. This interference at elections was a most pernicious evil, and the House was bound to take it up, though he did not approve of the mode proposed, and he should move that a Select Committee be appointed. Had he thought this question would lead to Parliamentary Reform, he should have opposed it altogether.

SIR C. MORGAN considered it the duty of the House to make a stand against the insidious attempts now making to excite disaffection in the country, and particularly in this case, in which the dignity of the House, and the very safety of the Constitution were at stake. Gentlemen would not stop here, but would bring charge after charge, till they had overthrown the authority of Parliament. He did not wish for a new order of things, nor should the valuable time of that House be occupied in hearing charges against its Members. He should oppose both the motions.

SIR J. ANSTRUTHER perfectly agreed with the last speaker. The Hon. Mover had said, that he belonged to no party, but was there not a party which wished to bring disgrace on all public men, (Hear! Hear!) a party who did not wish well to any set of men above themselves? The charge was of so vague a nature, that if listened to, it would excite discontent in the country. It would not lead to Reform, but rather to the destruction of the Constitution. What, in fact, did the Hon. Mover specify in his charge? Only that a seat in Parliament had been obtained by unfair means. The allegation was too general to merit the attention of the House. The clamour of a few designing men, should not be mistaken for the public voice.

MR. CURWEN thought the matter should be referred to a Committee. The charge was a very serious one, and should be proceeded in. He was an enemy to corruption, and a friend to partial reform, though he did not think the present a fit moment for carrying it into effect.

MR. BIDDULPH was for going into a Committee on the charges.

SIR F. BURDETT had hoped that the charges would have been met with something like argument, when the discussion was so connected with the purity, nay, even the very existence of Parliament: but Gentlemen seemed more disposed to vote than to argue on the matter. No sooner does an Hon. Member bring a charge of peculation against Ministers, than the charge is attempted to be retorted, and the worst and basest motives ascribed to those who support it, as if the innocence of the accused were already proved. On a former occasion it was decided that common fame was a sufficient ground for such a proceeding. The report of such abuses did exist, and he challenged any Member of the House now to rise in his place, and in his conscience, and on his honour as a man, to say, that he believed that no such thing existed.—(Hear! Hear! from several quarters.)—The public mind, he admitted, was alive on this subject, though it appeared that in that House they could contemplate with apathy and indifference those corruptions which were particularly marked and stigmatized by the Constitution, which were branded with infamy in the annals of the House and of the Country, and which were deplored and detested by all good men.—(Loud cheers)—If such charges were made and not listened to—if the present charges were to be negatived without any attempt to prove them groundless or irregular—if the House was so lost to a sense of its own character and honour (cries of Hear! Hear!) he must say, that the period was now arrived WHEN BONAPARTE HAD HIS BEST AND MOST VALUABLE ALLIES WITHIN THE WALLS OF THAT HOUSE.—(Loud and reiterated cries of Hear! Hear! from the Ministerial Benches.)—He was not surprized at hearing these violent cries of Hear! Hear! which he supposed were in disapprobation of the sentiments he had uttered.—(Repeated cries of Hear! Hear! again.)—But he would tell them to open their eyes, and look to the other nations of Europe. There was not a country in Europe, the Government of which had not been overturned, either by its own subjects, or by the arms of France. It was not the French that had subdued those countries; whatever might be the boasted fame of French valour, it was not to their arms that they owed their victories; it was to the corruptions of the Governments they had invaded, and to the profligacy of the vanquished, that they owed their triumphs.—(Hear! Hear! from many on the Opposition side of the House.)—What an enemy could have achieved, the corruption and profligacy of these Governments had effected, and with such facility and unexampled rapidity, as astonished Europe. He was not surprized to see those Gentlemen shrink from inquiry, after the awful disappointment they had met with on a late case, when they challenged publicity in every shape. Why did they not now shew the same spirit, and the same defiance of suspicion? Were they guilty or not guilty? Did such practices exist as that complained of? Nobody had said that no such abuses existed. The practice was in itself a criminal one, and an acknowledged violation of the Constitution, and could be justified by no precedents, nor sanctioned by any authority. Ministers

did not deny that the practice was a violation of the Constitution; nor did they attempt to justify it. Did they deny the fact? The Honourable Gentleman had staked his character and honour on the statement. Were these Gentlemen ashamed to plead their innocence "as if not to be corrupted, but uncorruption were the shame?" If they were innocent, let them avow it, that the House at least might have that circumstance to justify their not going into a Committee of Inquiry. But they were called on to negative the motion of his Honourable Friend, without even an avowal of innocence having been made in their favour. If they were innocent, however, what had they to fear? The shame and disgrace would then attach on those who pressed the Inquiry, if it should appear that they were actuated by any improper motives. The Bill before the House had been urged as sufficient to remedy all those evils; but he was afraid that this Bill might prove like others that had gone before it. It was not for want of Bills, it was not for want of Acts of Parliament, that those abuses existed; it was for want of detection, and when detected, for want of inflicting punishment on the offender. The evils existed, and they were the greatest enemies of the Constitution, who, instead of removing it, attempted to gild it over. The principles he maintained were to be found in the statute book, and were consonant to the spirit, as well as the letter of the Constitution, which could not be expected to exist long, should its very foundation be, year after year, undermined. It was to the House the Public looked for a remedy of the existing evils, and happy it was, that they still looked to it for redress. But should they tell them, upon every application, that their motives were bad, and that they acted only from disaffection and discontent, could it be expected that they should long look to them for their assistance? or was this the most likely means for the House to gain or to preserve its character and dignity in the Country? The Bill, it had been said, would prevent the evil; but by the Bill they left the corrupt boroughs still in the market, and at the disposal of the highest bidder. By the Bill they precluded every honest man from being concerned in those transactions, but they rendered them by that means only more profitable, and more in the power of men without either principle or honour. They were only left more in the power of those men who were pocketing the public money, and of whom, with whatever disdain they might reject the imputation of corruption, the country and the public would judge very differently. Why should these men abuse others who have not the same temptations, nor the same inducements to desert their duty? The Hon. Baronet concluded by pledging himself to vote for the motion.

Mr. DAVID GIDDY represented the flourishing state of the country, with our increased riches and commerce, and our cities and towns every day improving in splendour. Would men not be satisfied with all these blessings, but rather shew a disposition to sacrifice them all to some fanciful theoretical good? In any case of corruption, no man was more ready than he was to give his voice for redress, but he always wished to distinguish between corruption and that necessary degree of influence to enable the Executive to carry on the business of the State, (*Hear! Hear!*)—The Hon. Member gave his negative to the motion.

Mr. TIERNEY wished the charges to be distinctly made, as the House was now proceeding in the dark. As to Reform, though he was always friendly to the principle, yet this was not a proper time to agitate it. The present cry for reform arose from the pressure of the taxes, for persons idly supposed that a Reform would alleviate the public burthens: this was a foul delusion. As for party, there was no good to be done without it; he was a party man, therefore, though he knew that some affected to despise party, in order to obtain popularity. In fact, those very persons were a party, and would have a leader too. These No Party men say to the Public,—"Oh, the two factions understand and support each other: there is nothing but corruption in office, and the people pay for and support it." But in the expenditure of 80 millions annually, is it to be wondered that some irregularities occur? Mr. Perceval, he thought, should be left out of the charge,

for it did not appear to him that he was implicated in the matter.

Mr. WHITBREAD was astonished at the speech of the Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Tierney).—The arguments he had used against Reform were the very same as those used on a former occasion against himself (Mr. Tierney) by the enemies of Reform, though he called himself the friend of Reform! The cry for Reform arose from the People observing their Representatives, on a late inquiry, voting in direct contradiction to the evidence before them: this is what has excited their indignation; for the People can think as well as the Members of that House. A cry, it is now said, is raised against all public men; but if public men do public wrong, should they not be punished? None but public men can commit the crimes complained of; the weakness of this attack on those who would drag forth public delinquents, is therefore apparent. An Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Yorke) had declared on a former night, "that he would as soon applaud Mrs. Clarke for her virtue, as his Hon. Friend (Mr. Wardle) for his patriotism." This sentiment was not only illiberal, but even abusive. As for reform, he agreed with Chatham, Pitt, Fox, Paley, and other great men on the subject: there would be no security without it. The House should recollect that the present charge was brought against two of his Majesty's confidential counsellors, for the corrupt act of procuring a person a seat in Parliament for money,—THE APPLICATION OF WHICH MONEY NO ONE KNOWS BUT THEMSELVES. All other acts of corruption were puerile, when compared with this! On a former occasion, Gentlemen on the other side were vociferous in their outcries when Mr. Freemantle solicited the votes of his friends at the Hampshire election. Now, the same Gentlemen would gag us, when we complain of the grossest corruption in two Ministers of the Crown!! He would mention an instance of cruel and undue influence in the Scotch Excise, in the case of the accomplished, the oppressed, the ill-luminated, and lamented BURNS, who, because he wrote some things, not exactly agreeable to the ear of a courtier, was harassed and on the verge of being deprived of bread even by the Commissioners. Burns was had before them, but when he ventured to say, that "the extending influence of the Executive boded no good to the country,"—the Surveyor authoritatively observed, "It is your business to act, and not to think; be silent and obedient." (*A laugh on the ministerial benches.*)—Mr. Whitbread said, that those who could laugh at such insolence and intolerance, must be vastly inferior both in worth and genius to the man he had mentioned.—He was not an approver of republicanism: all the ancient republics were unjust and tyrannic; he would not therefore risk the Constitution for any such theory: but though he held revolution in abhorrence, he was not so blind as to suppose that any such evil would arise if Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Perceval were not granted impunity for a two-fold abuse of their power.—Mr. Whitbread concluded, by a most animated appeal to the House, conjuring them to take warning from the fate of the corrupt Governments on the Continent—to conciliate the people, and not to reduce Britain to the abject state of Sicily, where the conduct of the governors had rendered the people wholly indifferent to its fate.

Mr. BATEURST was not only determined to oppose this motion, but likewise any of a similar nature, which went to feed that popular ferment which it was the duty of the House to allay. All the corruptions which had ever occurred, were insignificant when compared to the creation of the 100 Isleworth Mill voters. (*Hear! Hear!*)

Lord COCHRANE was a decided friend to Reform, for if the people were properly represented, there would be less of opposition,—corruption would be extinguished,—and Ministers, being disengaged from the task of defending such things, would be able to devote their minds to the good of the country; for at present they must be incapable of attending to the business of their several departments.

Mr. PONSORBY could not conceive what the present motion had to do with Parliamentary Reform, which was a most awful, important, and even tremendous question, not to be

slightly agitated. *The practice of trafficking for Seats, he confessed, had become as glaring as the noon-day Sun, and the Bill of his Hon. Friend (Mr. Curwen) would be a complete remedy for the evil. Some might say he was delicate on the subject, lest some of his own friends might be detected: perhaps they might; but he had never given a shilling for such a purpose. The practice, however, had so long prevailed and was so generally known, that he thought it neither liberal nor just to select these two individuals as the victims.*

Lord FOLKSTONE would ask whether corrupt men were to remain in that House, merely because a Bill had been introduced to prevent the sale of Seats? When he lately moved for an Inquiry into abuses, he was met by a cheer of disapprobation and a cry of *proof*: but now Gentlemen were not ashamed to avow that these abominations were as notorious as the noon-day Sun! His motion was objected to because it was too general; and the present was objected to because it was too specific. It was therefore plain that no form of proceeding would be acceptable, because it was not to their interest to investigate any charge of corruption whatever. Who were the greatest enemies to public character? they who would exclude improper persons from public stations, or they who would unblushingly resist all inquiry, upon the ground that corruption was so general that no individual charge was admissible? After such an avowal from both sides, would there be any thing surprizing if the public should distrust the character of Parliament? They did distrust it, and nothing but a full and plain inquiry would remove such distrust.—He voted for the original motion.

Mr. WINDHAM said, it had been asked, why, since these abuses are notorious, will you refuse to notice this charge? But the very circumstances of their antiquity, their notoriety, and long standing, shewed that they were not corruptions of that gross and pernicious sort which they were represented to be. This kind of influence exercised by Ministers, had existed in the best of times, and he would call upon the House to think a little before they attempted to pluck it out by the roots. Let us take care what effects we produce by eradicating such things with a rash hand, lest we should tear up what is laudable and useful, with what is hurtful and pernicious. The Constitution was like the elements of the air we breathe; some of which were poisonous, and yet, if those elements were extracted, the earth would not be habitable. This species of traffic was a part of the defence of Government. There was corruption in the land from top to bottom and from bottom to top, differing only that it was more dense at bottom, and became purer as you advance to the top! Ambition operated on public men, and a sort of corruption was sometimes necessary to gratify it; but he could never believe that any thing low, as the embezzlement of money, was among the higher order of public men. Taxation, he was convinced, lay at the bottom of this popular outcry against abuses; but the taxes were not now more oppressive than they had been at other periods. Public men could not be accountable for their agents. He should resist the motion.

Lord A. HAMILTON argued strongly in favour of it.

Mr. WILKINSON, though he had the highest respect for one of the persons implicated, thought that the matter should be gone into, as it was highly desirable that the House should comply with the desires of the people.

Mr. CANNING hoped the House would this night make a stand against the encroachments of the factions: It was this night called upon to immolate two on his side of the House; and to-morrow, perhaps, it would be summoned to sacrifice two stately victims from the other, (*a laugh, and hear! hear!*) Though he was sure that his Right Hon. Colleague would be exculpated, should the House proceed in the inquiry, yet still they were bound to negative the motion, as well for its avowed object, as for the consequences to which it would lead. Mr. Canning concluded by an eulogy upon the Commons House, which he said was the protector of the dearest rights and privileges of the people!

Mr. HURCHMANSON said that posterity would not fail to reprobate the doctrines maintained this night in the House, for

corruption has been openly avowed and as openly defended: (*Here there was a violent uproar.*) It certainly was quite consistent to drown the discussion, convinced as they must be that such conduct would neither bear inquiry nor argument, no, not even the touchstone of common integrity.

Mr. WILLIAM SMITH thought the House bound to reflect upon the alledged interference of Lord Castlereagh with the vote of Mr. Dick upon a question of high importance.—[*No, No, from the Ministerial Benches.*] If the fact be not so, why not inquire? [*No, No, from the same quarter.*] I repeat the words—if the facts be not so, why not inquire? And if, with the question thus put to you, you refuse to inquire, the country will not fail to form its own decision.

Mr. P. MOORE said, he had sat most patiently eight hours to hear the opinions of other Members, and he trusted, that notwithstanding their impatience for the question, they would in justice hear his. The debate, he said, for the length of it, was one which applied to the question less than any debate at which he had ever been present, and threatened, by its result, to be the most disgraceful to the character of the House, and to the honour of the empire. It had commenced in qualified and delicate terms on the score of corruption, but had regularly accumulated in strength as it proceeded, (and especially on this side of the House, which made him more than ever anxious to stand clear) until organized corruption was avowed and justified as an established part of the system of all Administrations. He would at least free himself from sharing in the imputation, and leave it to the House to answer it to God and their country. He saw clearly that the course pursued to avoid the inquiry called for, would heap everlasting disgrace on the House. On a late occasion, a motion was brought forward by a Noble Lord (Folkestone) for an Inquiry into Abuses. The motion was so general, that he could not give it his support:—but what was the language held on that occasion? “Bring forward your motion in specific terms, such as can be grappled,—let us have it in a tangible shape.” This doctrine was applauded by the Ministerial side, in terms of great exultation. Now, the question before the House is exactly in those specific terms, in that tangible shape, then so loudly called for; but so far from meeting such a detailed question, as they then demanded, they are now as unanimously opposed to it, and it is manifest the general disposition of the House is to get rid also of this question. The question before the House is brought forward by one of its own Members, as respectable in honour, integrity, and deportment, as any individual in or out of the House, against two Members of the House, for corrupt practices in trafficking with a Seat in the House, and in subsequently using undue influence and virtual compulsion over the conscience of the Gentleman to whom they sold it, in the exercise of his vote in this House; and it is the more criminal, because these Members are Ministers. In other times, every Member of the House would have shewn a prompt and decided jealousy, and such a charge would have been received with congenial indignation; but this night they witnessed the utmost impatience to hear even the question itself; they opened their artillery against the Hon. Accuser himself, and appeared resolved to run to any doctrine, however foreign and extravagant, rather than look at the merits of the charges brought forward. It is attempted to be smothered by a resort to three different subjects—Parliamentary Reform, Abuses of the Finances, and the Bill brought forward by his Hon. Friend (Mr. Curwen) to prevent such traffic in Seats hereafter. The charge before the House had nothing to do with these topics; they were foreign to the subject, and brought forward for the purpose of diverting the House from the importance of the subject, which demanded their undivided attention. It was said, however, that the Bill of his Hon. Friend would cure the evil complained of;—then, said Mr. Moore, am I to understand that the Bill will be supported and passed into a law, and that Ministers pledge themselves to support it?—(Mr. Canning signified his dissent.)—Now, said Mr. Moore, the meaning of Ministers is intelligible:—they mean to get rid of this question under cover of an imaginary deception as to that Bill, and when that Bill comes forward, they will overrule it in like manner. This calls on the House to be on their guard against Ministerial

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deception, and his Hon. Friend to prepare his great talents to meet the opposition intended against his Bill, the principle of which they applaud, but are determined to deny any trial in practice. Mr. Moore repeated, that so long as he had a Seat in the House, he had never witnessed a proceeding so disgraceful to its institution and dignity; it had been openly avowed and declared, that corruption was one essential part of our Parliamentary System, and that the most vicious practices, as founded in long usage, were systematically to undermine the whole of the Statute Laws of the Empire; and yet, the national constituency were expected to respect parliamentary authority!! Mr. Moore concluded, with declaring it as his unqualified opinion, that those who opposed the inquiry were the bitterest enemies of the two Members whose conduct was solemnly arraigned; and that if the House suppressed the investigation, they would for ever bury the reputation of those two Members, and everlastingly sacrifice the honour of the House.

Mr. MADOCKS said, that at that late hour he should trouble the House but with a very few observations. It had been said, that he brought forward this motion only as a first step towards Parliamentary Reform. He brought it forward as a subject which his duty called loudly on him to endeavour to prevent a recurrence of. He had been censured because he said he was not a party man; all he meant was, that he was not attached to any particular set of men, but ready to contribute his poor abilities in aid of any description of persons who acted for the welfare and prosperity of the country. The chief argument urged against his motion was, that the crime of which it complained, and which it called on the House to punish, was and had been a common practice; that such corruptions were common, and that to touch upon them would be injurious to the interests of the Constitution, which had flourished during their long existence. He was sorry he could not deny that corruption was common; it was indeed too common, and he was afraid they might truly say with the Latin Poet—

In grediturque solo caput inter nubila condit.

The question being loudly and universally called for, a division took place:—Ayes, 85—Noes, 310—Majority for Ministers, 225!—At near three o'clock the House adjourned.

Friday, May 12.

Mr. CANNING, in bringing up the copy of the Treaty with Sweden, said, that no payment had been made of the subsidy to Sweden since the first quarter; and it was not intended to make another payment.

Mr. WHITBREAD moved for an account of the names of all foreigners in the British service, and their pay: he complained of the extreme partiality shewn to these persons, for they were encouraged and employed, while neither the Duke of Bedford nor Lord Petre were even permitted to raise corps of their own tenantry.—The motion was negatived, as Lord Castlereagh said it would be improper to disclose the names of these foreigners.

The sums of 400,000*l.* and 300,000*l.* were then granted to his Majesty; the former for the King of Sicily; the latter to make good the payment made to Sweden.

THE BUDGET.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER then stated the amount of the Supplies, the Services, and the Ways and Means, for the year. The sum for Naval Service was 18,986,100*l.*—for the Army 16,247,127*l.*—the Barrack Department 579,562*l.*—Commissary General's Department 1,162,000*l.*—Extraordinaries 3,000,000*l.*—There was besides an excess of 215,429*l.* making the whole Military Expence 21,144,770*l.* The Ordnance for England amounted to 5,275,298*l.* and that for Ireland to 627,000*l.* The Miscellaneous grants were 1,900,000*l.* There had been a Vote of Credit for 3,000,000*l.* for England, and 300,000*l.* for Ireland. The Swedish Subsidy was 300,000*l.* that being the sum actually paid to the King of Sweden. The Sicilian Subsidy 400,000*l.* The total amount of the different services constituted a joint charge of 51,934,912*l.* for the United Kingdom. Deduct from this the separate charge for Ireland, and the charge for England would be 46,588,124*l.* To

meet these various services, he enumerated the following Supplies:—The first was the Malt and Pension Duty, which amounted to 3,000,000*l.*; the next was the Consolidated Fund 4,000,000*l.*; the surplus of the Consolidated Fund 19,000,000*l.*; the Lottery 300,000*l.*; money paid by funding Exchequer Bills, and the Surplus of Ways and Means under that head 2,767,352*l.*; an excess of Exchequer Bills, 2,154,800*l.*; a similar loan, 1,352,900*l.* Total of Exchequer Bills, 7,268,052*l.* He proposed that a sum of 2,000,000*l.* be issued by Exchequer Bills. The sum of 150,000*l.* annually was to be paid by Portugal, to cover the loan about to be advanced to that Power. The sum of 11,000,000*l.* was to be raised by loan for England; 3,000,000*l.* for Ireland; and 600,000*l.* for Portugal; making the whole of the Loan 14,600,000*l.* Here the Right Hon. Gentleman stated the very advantageous terms upon which the Loan had been raised—namely, at a rate of interest so low as 4*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* for every 100*l.* The funds appropriated to the payment of interest on the Portuguese Loan, and the liquidation of the same, were the revenues of the Island of Madeira, and also an engagement on the part of the Prince Regent to furnish us with such produce belonging to him at the Brazils as we should stand in need of. The funding of Exchequer Bills created a capital of 8,253,644*l.* The charges of management on this capital, so created, amounted to 494,221*l.* The charge upon the Loan was 1,143,500*l.* Last year's Loan was only 8,000,000*l.* and the interest upon it amounted to 4*l.* 14*s.* 6½*d.* per 100. The interest on the larger Loan of this year, was only 4*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* This furnished the most convincing proof that there was no pressure on the wealth and resources of the country, that could in the slightest degree prevent us from making powerful exertions in its defence; inasmuch as, during the last 12 months, amidst all the pressure of war, the wealth of the country was increasing. A Noble Lord opposite had on a former occasion recommended that no new taxes should be raised for three years. He perfectly agreed in the justice of that recommendation; and it was not his intention on the present occasion to propose any addition to the annual burthens of the people; but the Noble Lord was not then aware of the increased expences which had since become necessary. A bill was before the House for the Consolidation of the Customs, from which an addition of about 105,000*l.* was likely to arise to the revenue. When this was deducted from the other charges, there remained 1,000,500*l.* to be provided for. It was proposed, in order to answer this, to apply for a Vote of Credit for 3,000,000*l.*—1,000,000*l.* for Ireland. In the present state of Europe, it was not thought advisable to fix on any definite expenditure, with respect to any ally on the Continent. It was not expedient to hold out any expectation of pecuniary aid; but rather to impress an opinion that this country could not, in the present year, incur a greater expence than she had already entered into. Such an expectation, however, had been raised, on the part of Austria, in the event of her going to war, that she had ventured to draw bills on this country to a limited amount; which bills were not paid by the Government until the fact was stated to the House. It was his intention, however, to propose a provision to defray these bills. They might amount to about 300,000*l.* The subject was not now to be brought forward; but to be proposed hereafter. He thought it fit to state the fact on the present occasion; as it was not fit that such a circumstance should be concealed from the Public. The Right Hon. Gentleman concluded with moving his first Resolution.

Lord H. PETRY thought that great caution should be observed with regard to the subsidy to Austria, as that made to Sweden had totally failed in its object.

Mr. CANNING stated, the British government had never advised Sweden to undertake the war; and the same abstinence had been strictly observed with respect to Austria; they had merely stated, that if she was committed in a war with France for her own defence, a limited aid would be afforded her; and it was stipulated, that should such event occur, the ancient relations between the two countries should be revived. Government however did not bind itself as to its future conduct.

Mr. PONSOMBY commended the conduct of government in respect to Sweden, and was glad to find they had not advised Austria to go to war; money would not be of the least service to that power, though the giving of it would injure us.

Mr. WHITBREAD said, that the 600,000l. granted as a loan to the Prince Regent, had better have been a gift at once, for it was absurd to suppose he would ever repay it. He disapproved of any subsidy to Austria, and even the Bills she had drawn on this country without authority, he thought ought not to be paid. Had Austria commenced the war when Bonaparte suffered the reverses in Spain, there might have been some chance of success, but now it was all over with her: but Austria had neither been prudent nor faithful in her engagements. Ministers should have desired her not to have gone to war. If there was any hope for Spain, he would not give her up. Mr. Whitbread here spoke of the bad effects of lotteries, which he was surprized to see continued by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, after the report made by the Committee, which fully proved the wretchedness, desperation, and even suicide to which they have invariably led. All palliations were useless; while the poor, the desperate, and the vicious, were shut out from the "Little Go," the "Great Go," received them with open arms. Such practices should be utterly extinguished; they led to distraction: A poor woman, who had made away with all her furniture for the purpose of insuring, in a state of great agitation informed her husband of her folly; he magnanimously forgave her, and she was so much affected by his conduct, that it deprived her of reason, and she is now in a mad-house! Gracious God! exclaimed Mr. Whitbread, who would not sacrifice the whole produce of a Lottery, to recover this unhappy creature and restore her to her generous husband!

Mr. PONSOMBY did not believe that Austria had violated her faith to France: he believed that France was fully bent on her ruin; and

Mr. CANNING perfectly agreed with the Hon. Gentleman. No country could look for safety in a peace with the Ruler of France, and Austria had acted wisely in going to war.

Mr. WHITBREAD observed, that from the compliments passing between his Hon. Friend and the Right Hon. Secretary, he supposed there was a treaty of Subsidy between them.

Mr. PONSOMBY said he valued not such subsidy.

Mr. PERCEVAL said it would be for the House to determine on a future occasion whether Lotteries were to be continued. It was to the Insurance, and not to the Lotteries that the objections lay: a revenue of 300,000l. per ann. was not to be abandoned, without some attempt being made to do away the evil of insurance.

After some further conversation, the Resolutions were agreed to.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

- J. Bogg, Mansfield, innkeeper. to surrender May 15, 20, at ten, June 20, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Bovill, New Bridge-street.
- J. Carter, Clapham, mason, May 13, 20, June 20, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Marson, Church-row, Newington Butts.
- J. Melson, Spitalfields, furniture-broker, May 13, 27, June 20, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Eyles, St. George's-court, New-road.
- J. Barton, Stockport, cotton-spinner, May 16, 20, June 20, at two, at the Palace Inn, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Heslop, Manchester.
- J. Scott, North Shields, grocer, May 15, June 3, at ten, 20, at eleven, at the Crescent Inn, North Shields. Attorney, Mr. Ramshaw, North Shields.
- T. Bright, Westbury-upon-Severn, corn-dealer, May 29, 30, June 20, at ten, at the White Hart Inn, Gloucester.
- A. Young, Stamford, common-brewer, May 20, at five, 30, June 29, at eleven, at the George and Angel Inn, Stamford. Attorney, Mr. Redifer, Stamford.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains an account of the capture of La Nouvelle Gir6nde, the "noted" French privateer of Bourdeaux, of 14 guns and 58 men, by the Parthian sloop, Capt. Howard, after an anxious chase of 36 hours. This "scourge to the trade," had been unsuccessfully chased by 12 ships of war during her last cruize.

BANKRUPTS.

- T. Wilkinson and J. Wighton, Cateaton-street, drapers.
- T. Wetherby, Great St. Thomas Apostle, ironmonger.
- T. Collison, Southampton-row, Bloomsbury, cabinet-maker.
- C. Wall, Faith-street, Soho, man's-mercier.
- G. Patterson, Heriford, merchant.
- J. Jacobs, Wentworth-street, Petticoat-lane, glass-cutter.
- J. Bayley, High-street, Shadwell, ship-breaker.
- S. Barber, Stapenhill, Derbyshire, tanner.
- W. Gamble, Liverpool, linen-merchant.
- D. Chenu, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, French stove-manufacturer.
- R. Dalkin, South Shields, merchant.
- T. Webb, Hereford, flax-dresser.
- J. Dent, Shelton, Staffordshire, money-scrivener.
- S. Tharme, Stone, Staffordshire, corn-dealer.
- E. Chiffence, Sarum, Wiltshire, musical-instrument-seller.
- G. Pratt, Manchester, hatter and hosier.
- T. Paty, Lime-street, merchant.
- R. Riddiough, Liverpool, imkeeper.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

Consols..... 68½

The great press of important intelligence, both foreign and domestic, postpones the ANSWER to STELMAN,—the CRITICISM on the Royal Academy Exhibition, and other articles. The communication respecting JOHANNA SOUTH-COT shall have a place the first open day.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, MAY 14.

THE Austrians have been entirely beaten in Bavaria. In five days, from the 19th to the 23d, they lost three partial and three pitched battles, were compelled to recross the Inn, and are now retreating in their own territory before the French Grand Army. The Vienna Bulletins, while they acknowledge these disasters, attribute them to the unaccountable conduct of the Archduke Lewis, in making an untimely retreat and breaking the line. If this be true, they may see the folly of entrusting high commands to inexperienced officers: BONAPARTE'S lines are not at the mercy of young Court soldiers of five and twenty:—but the fact seems to be, that the Austrians were out-generaled by the rapid manœuvres of the French, who invariably contrived, first to divide, and then to engage them singly. According to the French Bulletins, the Austrians have at last been endeavouring to meet the enemy on his own system; and the rapidity with which they entered Bavaria and began the war, looks something like it; but the alteration is too late and too superficial; they should have taken hard-fighting as well as hard-riding officers with them, and not have given all the chief commands to the Emperor's brothers. The Archduke CHARLES is a fugitive at Cham on the road to the Bohemian mountains; and NAPOLEON is on his way to Vienna, where he

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has pledged his word to arrive before the 24th instant. In the mean time, the Austrians claim successes in the Tyrol, and Warsaw has certainly surrendered to the Archduke FERDINAND, for his head-quarters are there; a battle is supposed to have taken place between the Poles and his Imperial Highness on the 18th, but it is not exactly known. These advantages, however, though they may serve to beguile the readers of ministerial papers for a day or two both in Vienna and London, can be of no essential service: BONAPARTE pursues his usual central object; he knows that when life has forsaken the vitals, twenty physicians will do no good to the fingers' ends; and therefore he aims at the heart, and let the extremities wait his leisure. His entrance into Austria cuts off the Tyrolean armies; BERNADOTTE, who is at Egra on the north-west corner of Bohemia, may either advance into that country with facility or proceed to attack Prince FERDINAND; and the occupation of Vienna, which FRANCIS has already deserted for a place of security, will give the last death-blow to the resources and restoration of the Austrian power. The glory of Austria rose with the House of HAPSBURG, and after a splendid career of 500 years, is destined to set with it.

Sir A. WELLESLEY arrived at Lisbon on the 22d of last month, but Sir JOHN CRADDOCK had already proceeded with the army, and had advanced, it is said, 30 leagues near Mondego Bay towards the North. Sir ARTHUR was every day expected to set out after Sir JOHN, and Sir JOHN to return in consequence of the arrival of Sir ARTHUR. These are mere trifles in our military arrangements. When the last advices came away on the 21st, SOULT had left Oporto to meet the English army, but his force was only 10,000 men, just half the number of our own. In Spain, the French boast of having annihilated the army of CUESTA, who has retreated from Medelin to Almondratejo. The fate of Germany will determine the fate of both Spain and Portugal beyond even ministerial doubt.

THE OPERA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Mr. EDITOR,

Mr. D'EGVILLE appears resolved that the gods and goddesses of antiquity shall not remain quietly in our libraries, and is continually dragging them forward on the Opera stage, with a merciless freedom that does not hesitate in totally altering their attributes to accommodate them to the dance. We are scarcely allowed time to recover from the effects of one mythological ballet, when another attacks us with the grossest violations of classic history; Apollo has scarcely dropped his custom of stopping his chariot in its daily course to alight and dance in a *pas de deux*, before Zephyrus comes tripping before us in the shape of an opera dancer;—for Mr. D'EGVILLE is not at all particular in his adaptation of character, and would with as little remorse make a dancer of *Clio* as of *Terpsit-*

chore. Zephyrus, it is said, could revive flowers by breathing on them; this would not do for Mr. D'EGVILLE, he must make him produce the same effect by dancing round them, which much reminds me of *Squire Bugle* in *Mother Goose*, who raises his wife from her tomb by the same ceremony. A rose-tree in the new ballet of *Le Naissance de Flora* (*The Birth of Flora*), is restored by this method, and being a plant of much feeling, testifies its gratitude by giving its daughter to the God; for unaccountable as it may seem, this rose-bush proves to be the mother of *Flora*! This is the whole subject of the ballet. Madame LE CLAIRE made her first appearance in this piece—a woman of such tremendous height and circumference, that no person but the great Lambert would be adequate to appear by the side of her; indeed I should as soon have thought of breeding a dray-horse for a racer as making a dancer of a woman of such awful dimensions. The music of the ballet is by POERTRA, and being light and pretty, is well adapted for dancing; but it exhibits little study and less science, and is by no means calculated to increase his reputation. Mr. D'EGVILLE's six skeletons still continue to gloat upon the audience with most unfeeling obduracy, and seem resolved that they shall have no respite. I went to the new ballet, with the hope of being for once relieved from them; but scarcely ten minutes had elapsed from its commencement, when I saw them stealing down a bank in the distance. The remembrance of their disgusting grins, meagre, half-clothed bodies, and distorted attitudes, rushed at once upon my mind, and all idea of pleasure vanished in a moment.

A relief from the folly of Mr. D'EGVILLE has been afforded us by Mons. VESTRIS's new ballet of *Le Calife de Bagdad*, which was performed for the first time at his benefit, on Thursday, with considerable success. The story is taken from the well-known adventure of *Haroun Alraschid* wandering disguised under the assumed name of *Il Bondocani*, and free from the absurdities that characterise Mr. D'EGVILLE's productions; the action is simple and concisely expressed, the dancing superior to any thing that has been seen at the Opera for many years. VESTRIS and ANGIOLINI have more than usual opportunity to display their wonderful activity and execution, and the DESHAYES appear as usual pre-eminent in the more refined and more pleasing branch of the art. The principle defects of the ballet are, the very wretched scenery, that would disgrace a puppet-show, and the dancing of OSCAR BYRNE, who is too insignificant a performer to be brought forward on this stage. His father appears determined to make him a fine dancer, and yet by his imprudent tuition has prevented him from ever becoming one, having begun where he should have left off. His *pirouettes* and *entre-chats* are executed with such unsteadiness and awkward exertion, that they appear like a burlesque of VESTRIS, and are quite as ridiculous, though not so well performed, as Mr. LISTON's dance in *Tom Thumb*. The music is by Mr. P. LANZA, and, as far as could be judged during the tumult of a first representation, seems animated and pleasing, although not furnished with sufficient study to add much to his fame.

H. R.

Prince STARREMBERG, who has arrived in London, left Vienna on the 18th ult. but had an interview afterwards with the Emperor of Austria at Scharding, and then passed through the Archduke's army, after, as we understand, the battle of Eckmühl. He made his escape in a Dutch

fishing boat, which was fired at on its passage; he was picked up by one of our cruisers, midway between the Dutch and English coasts.

The Parties who had made out lists for the Loan, waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Friday. The offers for taking the smallest quantity of Long Annuities, were as follow:—

Messrs. Goldsmid, Sons, and Moxon,	£o 8 1o
Robarts, Curtis, and Co.	o 9 9
Barns, Steers, and Ricardo,	o 1o 1o
Baring, J. J. Angerstein, Batye,	o 12 o
Aylog, and Ellis,	

The former were, of course, declared the Contractors. The Loan bore immediately a premium.

Lord PAGET having suffered judgment to go by default, a Jury was on Friday impannelled in the Sheriff's Court, to award the damages for his seduction of Lady CHARLOTTE WELLESLEY, when 20,000*l.* were given to the husband as a compensation. The woman could be worth nothing, and therefore the loss of her is a gain. Can a Gentleman pocket a sum of money produced by his wife's infamy? This is a miserable business altogether: Lord PAGET has a wife and eight children; Lady WELLESLEY is the mother of four children; and the Hon. HENRY WELLESLEY receives twenty thousand Pounds compensation money! Here is a precious specimen of high life!—To prevent such crimes in future, Lord PAGET and Lady WELLESLEY should be put in the stocks in St. James's-square for two hours. Mr. WELLESLEY should certainly send the money to the Magdalen Charity.

Mr. HANSON, found guilty of having encouraged the Manchester rioters last Summer, was on Friday brought up for judgment, and sentenced to six months imprisonment and to pay 100*l.* fine. He told the Court, that the consciousness of his innocence would enable him cheerfully to support that or any other sentence the Court might have imposed upon him.

The following article has been sent to this Paper:—
“The case of Mr. ALEXANDER DAVISON has been entirely misrepresented in many of the Morning Papers, and also in the *Examiner*.—The fact is, that the Commission which Mr. D. had charged upon supplies made by himself, (and which by the evidence of the Barrack Master General was properly his due), amounted to about 1200*l.* was paid by Mr. DAVISON into the Treasury,—together with all the commission, amounting in the whole to upwards of 18,800*l.* which he had received for his services for many years in transacting the business of an agent to the Barrack Department. As this is an incontestible truth, I am persuaded the Editor of the *Examiner*, will not hesitate to correct it on a future day.
T. W.”

A shocking murder was committed lately between Guildford and Godalmin, at a place called the Piece-marsh, on the body of a man named Hollis, a widower, who lived retired upon his property. He was found on Friday se'night, with his head nearly split in two, supposed by an axe, and his throat cut in a most dreadful manner. It appeared he had been taking his tea, when the horrid deed was perpetrated. A diligent investigation has taken place, and a man who resided under the same roof with him has been taken into custody, examined, and committed for a further hearing. The deceased lived in a very parsimonious manner, having no servant, except a woman who occasionally attended to make his bed, &c. He was a trustee for a family in the neighbourhood, and most of the papers belonging to this trust were carried off, with all the money, &c. on the premises.

LADY AUGUSTA D'AMELAND (LATE MURRAY) AND THE DUKE OF SUSSEX.

It is pretty generally known, that his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, when at Rome in 1793, married there Lady Augusta Murray, daughter of the late Earl of Dunmore, which ceremony was again performed in the same year, on their arrival in England, at St. George's, Hanover-square. In 1794, proceedings were instituted, at the command of his Majesty, in the Ecclesiastical Court, and these marriages were declared null and void. Thus having the law on his side, notwithstanding the solemn vows he had twice made at the altar to protect and cherish this unfortunate lady, his Royal Highness some time after abandoned her, though she had borne him two children, and though her conduct had ever been becoming and estimable.—In 1796, the Duke of Sussex entered into an agreement to pay two annuities (500*l.* and 200*l.*) during the minority of his two children by Lady D'Ameland (Augustus Frederic and Augusta Frederic)—when Lord Fin-castle (the brother of Lady D'Ameland) and Earl Moira, were appointed Guardians to the children. Under such circumstances, it will be heard with sorrow and indignation, that these annuities even were not regularly paid; they fell into arrear, and a Petition was presented to the Lord Chancellor on the subject; the parties were all heard before a Master; Earl Moira was appointed sole Guardian, and Lady D'Ameland was called upon to deliver up the children to him. To this the Lady demurred, but her petition to the Court of Chancery, (which the Lord Chancellor, a few days ago, thought proper to enter upon in a private room of the Court, where all the parties assembled) was unavailing, and the unhappy mother was compelled to submit to the separation.—The reason alledged for this apparently harsh proceeding, is, that Lady D'Ameland encouraged in the children notions of their having claims to the title of *Prince* and *Princess*, and that the boy, a high-spirited youth, had written to his father, claiming such rank. Lady D'Ameland acknowledged that by the law of England they had no right to such title, but neither she nor her relations could ever think of giving up her right to the character of a married woman, or that of the legitimacy of her children in any country except Great Britain.—This case has excited much interest: it certainly exhibits the conduct of the Duke in no very amiable light: for though in law he could not possibly be deemed the husband of Lady D'Ameland, yet he was united to her by the stronger ties of truth and honour; and as he had obtained her affections and person in the bloom of her youth and beauty, he should have disdained to have taken advantage of the law, and abandon her as she advanced in life to regret and sorrow. These things, whatever his Royal Highness may think, will neither obtain him the respect of Englishmen nor add to his own happiness.

DEATHS.

On Tuesday, suddenly, at Bath, Walsh Porter, Esq. The deceased had the preceding evening desired his valet to order the post-chariot to be in readiness by five o'clock on the following morning. The man, on entering the room in the morning found him dead in his bed. He had for some time laboured under a severe indisposition, from a liver complaint. His death is supposed to have been produced by the bursting of an abscess which had formed in the liver.

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