

# THE EXAMINER.

No. 56. SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 1809.

## THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

SWIFT.

No. 56.

### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

*Speech of the Lords Commissioners.—It's singular notice of the Convention.—Lord Castlereagh's feelings.—Character of the first sitting of Parliament.—The danger of putting too much in the Royal Mouth.—Cavalry of the Expedition, strangely treated.—Want of judgment, a Ministerial claim.—Dr. Canning's mode of assisting nations to recover their liberty.—Court systems.—Futility of mere Antiministerialism.*

If there was any impartial person who looked for an explanation of things from the new Session of Parliament, he has, of course, been most lamentably disappointed. Neither the Speech of the Lords Commissioners, nor the other Ministerial Speeches, nor the Speeches of the Opposition, give us the smallest additional insight into the perplexities of our war system; and in fact, the Ministry tell us, they have done nothing that requires explanation. I believe them from the bottom of my heart.

The Speech of the Commissioners is chiefly occupied in announcing his Majesty's resolution to carry on the war; it says, that his MAJESTY has received "from the Spanish Government the strongest assurances of their determined perseverance in the cause of the legitimate Monarchy," and that he is about to engage in a treaty of alliance with the Spanish nation. What good this treaty will do, is not stated. Of course, the "Spanish nation" means, not the Biscayans, the Castillians, or the inhabitants of Madrid, but the Supreme Junta and the legitimate Monarchy, for care is always taken to shew us, that the People are nothing without the Court; but what the use of new treaties can be, unless they will inspire us and our allies with fresh vigour, it is impossible to discover. One may say of parchments as SUWARROW said of pig-tails, that they are not bayonets: while we are writing love-letters to the old monarchy, BONAPARTE will be writing laws for the new; and FERDINAND, the "beloved FERDINAND" (a traitor to his country to be sure, "but let that rest") will not possess a jot the more dominion though he may flourish his fifty titles over as many sheets of emblematic sheep's-skin. What is to be hoped for the "vigorous exertions" of our future warfare, when we see at last, one poor unwilling disapprobation come lagging forth against "some of the articles" of the Convention, a disapprobation, huddled over amongst

other matter, a reproof, attaching to nobody and therefore punishing nobody, and certainly pronounced with an air not half so warm or so frowning as the rebuke to the London Citizens, who seem, after all, to have been no more prejudiced about the question than the Lords Commissioners would have the Parliament to be prejudiced!—Lord CASTLEREAGH, one of those impolitic and unfeeling men, who pursued the system of torture against the unhappy Irish, and who is now fantastic enough but surely fit enough to applaud the Roman Catholic Junta who upheld the Inquisition, gave us a little insight into his cold-blooded vein, on Thursday, by telling the House of Commons, that "the reproof" to the City of London "was intimated in terms of respect and deference." The absurdity of a fiction so insulting and at the same time so useless, produced a loud laugh. I wish to God, the Irish could be merry enough to laugh at the man too.

This little trait however will serve as a good specimen of the ministerial tone during the first sitting of Parliament last week. The King's Servants (a fine title for men who represent the People) seem to have anticipated very reasonably the precise charges that were to be brought against them, and accordingly they met the House like other confident servants who raise their obstreperous sauciness in exact proportion to the truth of the accusation; in other words, they were determined to deny flatly every thing that was said against the present system of things, and to care for no inconsistencies provided they might preserve their places. It is useless to expose all the ludicrous contradictions into which such men were led. They are exposing themselves as fast as possible, and it must be confessed they do it imitably. But what are we to think of such inconsistencies as the following? In the first place, Lord LIVERPOOL in the Upper House tells us that though his MAJESTY disapproves some of the articles in the Armistice and Convention, the articles in question are not those of a military nature. Now I can find no article, discussed at Chelsea, which is not of a military or marine nature in its tendency and effect, except the mere acknowledgement of BONAPARTE's titles, and this is but one article. Is it the marine articles then, with which his MAJESTY is displeased? There has been no inquiry into the marine matters, and how can his MAJESTY disapprove what has not been investigated? His Lordship, who has done his best already to render the King's word ungracious, should take care how he represents it as unjust. The noble Earl, I dare say, has read *Bruce's Travels*, for his Lordship, we all know, is himself a great traveller, and would as soon go to Paris as to bed. He must remember in that work, that the Abyssinian King's Servants would sometimes, according

to their custom at meals, put too much into the royal mouth, so much indeed as not only to bring tears into his Majesty's eyes, but to render him a very unwarrantable spectacle. The noble Earl insisted that the cavalry and artillery that accompanied the expedition to Lisbon were perfectly competent to the services there; and Lord CASTLEREAGH, with his usual dull flippancy, said, "he was free to acknowledge that had it not been for the accidental circumstance of the station of the 20th dragoons in the Mediterranean, the armament would have been *much more deficient in cavalry* than it was, as it was not intended to have acted in such a manner as to require the co-operation of cavalry." But how does all this agree with their praises of Sir A. WELLESLEY, who was so convinced, it appears, of the necessity of cavalry in the affair, that he bought some horses, before he left Ireland, with money out of his own pocket; and who complains after all that he had not enough? Lord CASTLEREAGH tells us, that the armament was intended only as a floating one, for occasional descent, and that Sir C. COTTON misled him (simple soul) by writing him word that Lisbon was reducible by 5000 men. Now how could this be? How could Sir CHARLES mislead him, when his information was evidently disregarded by sending out 14 instead of 5000 men? And granting that Sir CHARLES had misled him, what paltry excuses are these for a set of men, who ought to be acquainted, like BONAPARTE, with the nature and the means of all the principal countries in Europe? Will they never take a lesson from their enemy, or will beating make them more obstinate only, as it did their political fathers before them? They seem to consider an error in judgment as an excuse for keeping their places for ever, and certainly, if they acquit their Generals upon this principle, they may claim indulgence for themselves. But it is very odd, we never hear BONAPARTE making a merit of his want of horses, or of his misinformation, or of his deficiency in judgment. "We acted," say Lords LIVERPOOL, CASTLEREAGH, and Sir CANNING, "to the best of our judgment, and what would you have?" Why, a better judgment, to be sure. The answer is the easiest in the world.

So little are these gentlemen inclined to copy their antagonist, at least in his better doings (for I have not forgotten Copenhagen) that they seem to regard decision and rapidity as incompatible with sound reason. Mr. CANNING descants upon the beauties of "deliberation," as if he had never spoken without thought in his life, though he takes great pains at the same time to confound deliberation with want of thought.

"It would be recollected," says Mr. CANNING, in reply to the accusation of delay, "that although the whole Spanish nation simultaneously rose in the same cause—that, although unanimous in favour of the same object, they formed themselves into different bodies, under distinct governments, each watching the other, and, as it was natural, each retaining its own authority. From these several Governments communications were made to this

country. The first which applied for aid were the Provinces of Asturia, Galicia, and Seville. The question which Ministers had to consider upon such application was this—whether they should promptly grant the aid required, or, by delaying until the Central Government (the propriety of establishing which was at once obvious), should be formed, expose those separate bodies, unarmed and unaided, to the attack of the enemy, and thus prevent their union altogether. From this consideration Ministers complied with the requisition of the Spanish Deputies, by furnishing a supply of arms, ammunition, and money; but they thought proper to decline *sending any British force until a Central Government should be established*; and this forms a solution of the contradictory statements which appeared in those publications from which the Rt. Hon. Gentleman had drawn so largely for his speech of this night. If the Asturian or Gallician Deputies asked for a British army, Ministers answered, that when a British army was sent, Spain must act *en masse*, and under a *competent* Commander. To send a body to Cuesta, or another to Blake, would be only doing that which would not enrich them, while it would impoverish us. This resolution again accounted for the delay in Portugal."

Here is an acknowledgment at last of that wretched system of court jealousy and timidity, which has helped to keep down the spirit of the Spanish nation, till BONAPARTE'S foot was on it's neck. The Ministers it seems were of opinion that the Spanish nation were unanimous and full of ardour in the same cause, nay, that they asked us for *personal* assistance, and yet we denied it to them: and why? Because a Central Junta, a *regular* Government, a *Court* Government, had not yet been formed! Why must the Spaniards have acted in mass, if a British army was sent them; and what is meant by a *competent* Commander? Was the system of warfare to be changed merely because the British co-operated with the natives? Or was the best mode of fighting an invader, a mode which if singly followed would have perhaps saved the Spanish Generals, to be altogether done away, because it was recommended by those excellent Precautions, which, as Mr. CANNING says, had not the authority of a *regular* Government? It will take much to convince the calm observers of the campaign, that these Precautions did not derive their excellence from the existing want of your regular Government. For have the Supreme Central Junta published any thing like them, either in sense or spirit? No: this Supreme Junta, which *usurped* the direction of affairs from the noble-spirited Junta of Seville,—this Supreme Junta, which never dared like it's predecessor to talk of the *late infamous Government*,—this Supreme Junta, which consists of the refuse of three Courts, which preserved the Inquisition, which kept a gloomy and tyrannical silence, which threw restrictions on the press, and in fine which treated the people exactly as they had been treated by the BOURBOINS, was the arbiter through which the English Court professed to preserve the liberties of a worn-out nation against a conqueror, full of power and of promises?

The Opposition saw these things as the people have already seen them, and they told a good deal of truth to the Ministers; but they exhibited, as usual, too much of the old party system; and reasonable men always have a quickening recollection, that these mere opposers have shewn, and would shew again, the same narrow excuses and principles as their antagonists. Pittite and Foxite now-a-days differ, like their names, merely in the first sound of the thing; they are both the same in the end. Mr. WHITBREAD was the only Member of the Opposition, who ventured last Thursday to talk of the people of Spain, their interests, and wishes; and to recommend, with Lord GROSVENOR, an imitation of BONAPARTE in the abolition of useless offices and institutions. The hunters of place and pension, whether Ministerial or Anti-ministerial, avoid these subjects instinctively: and we see how little can be done by party opposition in great matters, since its motives are at best very suspicious, and always serve the Ministers for excellent retaliation. Altogether, this first meeting of Parliament, or rather of Parliament and the King's servants, for the latter have no business there, is the most futile I have ever known. It is of oneservice only, to expose the uselessness of such Ministries and such Oppositions; and every day will serve, I trust, to convince disinterested thinkers, that the country is not to be saved but by a purification of its whole constitution. Things have become so gross and inefficient, so palpably wrong to every honest man, that I do not despair yet of seeing a new set of politicians rise up, who shall be slaves neither to the King, nor to the People, who shall be neither Place-hunters nor Partizans, neither Courtiers nor Republicans; but worshippers of truth for truth's sake, and lovers of their country for the country's sake. Such are the men, and such only, who can restore the British nation its health and happiness, because such are the only men who could and would

RESTORE THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION.

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

### FRANCE.

PARIS, DEC. 30.—The following is a copy of the address presented to his Majesty the Emperor by the Corregidor of Madrid, in the name of the Magistracy and Citizens of that capital:—

"Sire—the city of Madrid, represented by its Magistrates, secular and regular Clergy, Nobility, and Deputies of the wards, presents itself at the feet of your Imperial Majesty, to offer you its most respectful thanks for the gracious clemency with which your Majesty, in the conquest which your victorious troops have made of this city, has been pleased to think of the safety and welfare of its inhabitants, and the praise-worthy and beneficent treatment which your Majesty has been pleased to shew towards them, and which the city of Madrid considers as a pledge of forgiveness for all that has occurred in the absence of our King Joseph, your Majesty's brother. The several Colleges constituting this Assembly, duly deliberating on the subject of their meeting, have concluded and resolved to entreat your Imperial and Royal Majesty that it may please you to grant them the favour of seeing King Joseph in Madrid; in order that, under his laws, Madrid, with all the places under

its immediate jurisdiction, and the whole of Spain, may at length enjoy that tranquillity and happiness which they expect from the benevolence of his Majesty's character. Finally, Madrid flatters herself that she shall find protection in the power of your Imperial and Royal Majesty, at the same time that your clemency guarantees her happiness. Sire, at the feet of your Imperial and Royal Majesty."

"Madrid, Dec. 9, 1808."

To this Address his Majesty returned the following answer:—

"I am pleased with the sentiments of the city of Madrid. I regret the injuries she has suffered, and am particularly happy that, under existing circumstances, I have been able to effect her deliverance, and to protect her from great calamities. I have hastened to adopt measures calculated to tranquilize all ranks of the citizens, knowing how painful a state of uncertainty is to all men, collectively and individually. I have preserved the Spiritual Orders, but with a limitation of the number of Monks. There is not a single intelligent person who is not of opinion that they were too numerous. Those of them who are influenced by a divine call, shall remain in their cloisters. With regard to those whose call was doubtful, or influenced by temporal considerations, I have fixed their condition in the order of secular priests. Out of the surplus of the monastic property, I have provided for the maintenance of the pastors, that important and useful class of the clergy. I have abolished that Court which was a subject of complaint to Europe and the present age. Priests may guide the minds of men, but must exercise no temporal or corporal jurisdiction over the citizens. I have accomplished what I owed to myself and my nation. Vengeance has had its due: It has fallen upon ten of the principal culprits; all the rest have entire and absolute forgiveness. I have abolished those privileges which the Grandees usurped, during times of civil war, when Kings but too frequently are necessitated to surrender their rights, to purchase their own tranquillity, and that of their people. I have abolished the feudal rights; and henceforth every one may set up inns, ovens, mills; employ himself in fishing and rabbit-hunting, and give free scope to his industry, provided he respects the laws and regulations of the police. The selfishness, wealth, and prosperity of a small number of individuals, were more injurious to your agriculture than the heat of the dog-days. As there is but one God; so should there be in a state but one judicial power. All peculiar jurisdictions were usurpations, and at variance with the rights of the nation; I have abolished them. I have also made known to every one what he may have to fear, and what he may have to hope: I shall expel the English army from the Peninsula. Saragossa, Valencia, Seville, shall be reduced to submission, either by persuasion, or the power of my arms. There is no obstacle which can long resist the execution of my resolutions. But what transcends my power is this—to consolidate the Spaniards as one nation, under the sway of the King, should they continue to be infected with those principles of aversion and hatred to France, which the partisans of the English and the enemies of the Continent have infused into the bosom of Spain. I can establish no nation, no King, no independence of the Spaniards, if the King be not assured of their attachment and fidelity. The Bourbons can no longer reign in Europe. The divisions in the Royal Family were contrived by the English. It was not the dethronement of King Charles, and the favourite (the Prince of the Peace), that the Duke of Infantado, that tool of England, as is proved by the papers found in his house, had in view. The intention was to establish the predominant influence of England in Spain; a senseless project; the result of which would have been a perpetual Continental war, that would have caused the shedding of torrents of blood. No Power under the influence of England can exist on the Continent. If there be any that entertain such a wish, their wish is absurd; and will sooner or later occasion their fall. It would be easy for me, should I be compelled to adopt that measure, to govern Spain, by establishing as many Viceroys in it as there are provinces. Nevertheless, I do not refuse to abdicate my rights of conquest in favour of the King, and to

establish him in Madrid, as soon as the 30,000 citizens which this capital contains, the Clergy, Nobility, Merchants, and Lawyer, shall have declared their sentiments and their fidelity, set an example to the provinces, enlightened the people, and made the nation sensible that their existence and prosperity essentially depend upon a King and a free Constitution, favourable to the people, and hostile only to the egotism and haughty passions of the Grandees. If such be the sentiments of the inhabitants of the city of Madrid, let the 30,000 citizens assemble in the churches; let them, in the presence of the holy sacrament, take an oath, not only with their mouths, but also with their hearts, and without any jesuitical equivocation, that they promise support, attachment, and fidelity to their King; let the priests in the confessional and the pulpit, the mercantile class in their correspondence, the men of the law in their writings and speeches, infuse these sentiments into the people:—then shall I surrender my right of conquest, place the King upon the throne, and make it my pleasing task to conduct myself as a true friend to the Spaniards. The present generation may differ in their opinions; the passions have been too much brought into action; but your grandchildren will bless me as your renovator; they will reckon the day when I appeared among you among their memorable festivals; and from that will the happiness of Spain date its commencement. You are thus, Monsieur le Corregidor, informed of the whole of my determination. Consult with your fellow-citizens, and consider what part you will choose; but whatever it be, make your choice with sincerity, and tell me only your genuine sentiments."

TWENTY-FIRST BULLETIN OF THE ARMY OF SPAIN.

This Bulletin begins with an account of the entrance of the English into Spain, on the 29th October, and gives a detail of our operations to the taking of Gen. Lefebvre, on the 29th December. On the 28th December, Bonaparte's head-quarters were at Valderas, the Marshal Soult at Mancilla, and the Marshal Ney at Villafer. The weather is very bad; we suffer, but the English suffer more.

TWENTY-SECOND BULLETIN.

BENEVENTE, Dec. 21.—The head-quarters of the French were here yesterday. The Marshal Bessieres passed through Benevente on the 30th at night, and pursued the enemy to Puente. The flight of the English is so quick, that they leave their sick and wounded in the hospitals, and shoot their horses that were fatigued or wounded—they have also been obliged to burn a superb magazine of cloathing, &c. All the Germans in the service of the English desert. The French army will be this evening at Astorga, and near the confines of Galicia.

TWENTY-THIRD BULLETIN.

BENEVENTE, Jan. 1.—The Marshal Soult arrived at Mancilla on the 30th, which was occupied by the enemy's left wing under Romana. Gen. Francheschi overthrew them with a single charge—killed many; they lost one Colonel, two Lieutenant-Colonels, 50 Officers and 1500 men. On the 31st, Marshal Soult entered Leon. Marshal Bessieres, with 900 cavalry, is pursuing the English—we have taken 200 waggons of baggage left on the road to Astorga—Romana's remains have thrown themselves into Astorga. Gen. St. Cyr has joined General Duhesme. That junction has raised his army to 40,000. The King of Spain has gone to Aranjuez, in order to review the first corps, commanded by the Duke of Belluno.

TWENTY-FOURTH BULLETIN.

ASTORGA, JAN. 2.—The Emperor arrived here on the 1st. The road from Benevente to Astorga is covered with dead English horses, waggons, and caissons. On the road from Astorga to Villa Franca, General Colbert, command-

ing the advanced guard, made 2,000 prisoners. The Emperor has charged the Duke of Dalmatia with the glorious mission of pursuing the English to their point of debarkation, and of throwing them into the sea. General St. Cyr has entered Barcelona; the Dukes of Corneigliano and Treviso have invested Saragossa, and taken possession of Monte Terrero with little loss. General Sebastiani having passed the Tagus on the 24th, at Arzobispo, has attacked and routed the remains of the Estremaduran army. General Valence has passed the Tagus over the bridge of Almaraz.

GERMANY.

VIENNA, DEC. 14.—The new Grand Vizier, Mustapha Bairactar, has finished his career. Ever since the 29th of last July, when the good Selim III. was barbarously murdered in the Seraglio, and his successor, Mustapha IV. dethroned and shut in the old Seraglio, the Grand Vizier, under the name of Mahomet II. whom he made Grand Seigneur, ruled the Ottoman empire with unlimited authority. By his determined character, his severity, and his active, as well as vigorous measures, he re-established tranquility and order in all the provinces, kept under restraint the Pachas who were inclined to insurrection, deprived of their ancient extensive privileges the Janissaries who had so frequently dethroned and appointed Sultans, and intended gradually to assimilate the Turkish troops to the European armies. But the arduous undertaking of acting the part of a reformer among a people who detest every thing new and foreign, cost him his life.

On the 14th of November, at day-break, the Janissaries were seen assembling from all quarters, and being reinforced by those who were in the vicinity of Constantinople, they fell upon the Seimens of the Nizam Gedid, and massacred all the partizans of the Grand Vizier that came in their way. The contest spread to every street in Constantinople. The Seimens long made a most obstinate resistance, but at last they were compelled to submit. Many of their party deserted to the Janissaries at the commencement of the insurrection. On the 15th, the Janissaries assaulted the high walls of the Seraglio; and it was at this moment that the Grand Vizier, after causing the unfortunate Mustapha IV. who was a prisoner there, to be strangled, blew himself up in his own palace with gunpowder, of which he purposely provided a large quantity before hand, to prevent his falling alive into the hands of his enemies. On the 16th, when the post left Constantinople, the utmost confusion still prevailed there. A dreadful fire had broke out, and during the whole of the following night he saw a glow in the sky, from which he concluded the fire was still raging. The fate of the reigning Sovereign, Mahomet, is not yet ascertained; but it is feared that he has been the victim of the Revolution.

VIENNA, DEC. 17.—Mustapha Bairactar, according to the last advices from Constantinople, was not killed, as had been reported, by the explosion of a powder magazine, but had effected his escape with the Grand Seigneur, Mahomet II. on board one of the vessels in the harbour; the Admiral of the Turkish fleet, Seid Aly, being his friend. On the 16th ult. the ships of war were bombarding and cannonading the posts in the city occupied by the Janizaries; and considerable fears were entertained for the safety of the Foreign Ambassadors in the suburb of Pera. The blood that had been shed was beyond conception.

## PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

## EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF ABSTINENCE.

The following is an extraordinary case of abstinence from animal food:—Ann Moor, aged 58, a poor woman of Tutbury, in the county of Stafford, has lived twenty months without food.—However, not being, like many others, perfectly satisfied with the common report in the neighbourhood respecting the fact, I took an opportunity of visiting her personally, in order to ascertain the exact particulars of her case; when I had, by her own statement, the following account of her miserable condition:—That in the year 1804 she was attacked with a very severe illness, which I concluded, from her account, must have been an inflammation of some of the viscera of the abdomen. From this she gradually recovered, after thirteen weeks confinement. After this she had, the same year, at intervals, violent fits, accompanied with a spasmodic affection of the stomach.—The succeeding year, 1805, she was again attacked with a second inflammation of some part of the abdominal viscera, which was not quite so violent as the former; which, after she was perfectly recovered from this inflammatory disease, being gradual, after eleven weeks confinement, she found had materially mitigated the spasms and fits which she had been accustomed to support the preceding year. But what must have been a still greater affliction to her was, that her appetite and digestive powers of the stomach were considerably impaired, particularly the latter, so that, from the irritability of that organ, every thing was rejected that she took, except that mild aliment, tea, milk, puddings or vegetables, and of these she took such a small proportion, that it was believed, by all her attendants, she would soon fall a victim for the want of that nourishment which the system requires, to supply the wastes of nature. In this state she continued until the spring of 1806, when she undertook to superintend the daily dressing of a fistula wound of a poor boy's back, from the offensive nature of which, and the boy's inability to procure the necessary attendance of a surgeon, every one declined lending their assistance, except this poor woman, who said it was a charity which the poor boy's case demanded: she now, with unremitting care and attention, applied herself to the daily dressing of the wounds, with those detergent applications which she alone had procured for the purpose. It was not until the warm months of August and September that this disagreeable engagement appeared to affect her, when she found it impossible to divest herself of the idea that the offensive matter which issued from the wounds was present to her organs of taste and smell; which, from the sympathy existing between the stomach and those parts, made her aversion to take food become still greater, and for several days she was observed to be incapable of supporting herself in the presence of any thing that was offered her in the form of food. In the month of October the boy fell a sacrifice to his misfortunes; yet the poor woman still continued, though released from her unpleasant office, to exist until the 24th February, 1807, only taking one penny loaf, with tea, without either cream or sugar, which trifling allowance of bread generally served her fourteen days: she then (Feb. 24.) declined taking any kind of solid food whatever, her only beverage becoming that of water and tea, which she generally took upon feeling any nausea at her stomach. After this time she had regular discharges, by vomit, every twenty days, of yellow water from the stomach, which appeared to consist of the common secretion (gastric juice) of the stomach, intermixed with a small proportion of bile. From the woman's testimony being always discredited, she did not draw the attention of any of the Faculty until she had lived fourteen months without food, when several surgeons wished to have her removed to a neighbour's house to be watched, which she without hesitation consented to, that they might be satisfied of her real case. After this change, proper persons were appointed to watch her day and night; besides three surgeons regularly visited her two or three times a day, during which time she did not even drink the smallest quantity of water. Washing her mouth with water was, and is, the only thing she con-

tinues to do. She voids about four ounces of urine every six days, but has no other evacuation whatever, nor has she had any these six months, which leaves us no doubt to believe that she must live by absorption, as the greater part of all her muscles and soft parts are already removed by that process; though it is a known law of nature, that when one class of absorbent vessels (the lacteals) are deprived, by accident or disease, of their regular supplies of chyle, which is a milky production from the food, the other class (lymphatics) which are distributed all over the body, is called into action, to remove and convert, by means of their glands, such a quantity of the soft parts of the body as is requisite to supply and keep up the regular quantity of blood in the system. This theory is admitted to be established on such a scientific basis, by the late Mr. Hunter, that to deny its truth and validity, would betray a total ignorance of the structure and economy of the human frame. Then, according to this principle, why should not any other person live for the same length of time, upon being deprived of food, remains a question to be explained by the enlightened part of the profession, and, it is hoped, they will not think it unworthy of their attention to endeavour, by their joint labours, to develope this mysterious case, which I doubt not at present puzzles men the most learned to account for its extraordinary singularity.

Tamworth, Nov. 28.

WM. ROBINSON, V. S.

On Thursday se'nnight, Mr. Parkin, of Grimsby-lane, Hull, ship-broker, and his wife, retired to rest about eleven o'clock; between one and two the latter awoke, in consequence of dreaming that a man had got into the house and stabbed her husband. She awoke, and told her dream. In about three quarters of an hour after, while she was yet awake, her surprise and terror may be imagined, when, looking up, she saw a stranger standing at the bed-side, with a light in his hand. On her shrieking out, the light instantly disappeared, and the man ran down stairs, and out into the lane. On getting up and searching the house, they found that the villain had carried off Mr. Parkin's breeches, and his wife's pockets, which were afterwards found by the watchman in Grimsby-lane, but rifled of a considerable quantity of money, in notes, &c. The robber, it appears, must have been secreted in the house before the family went to bed.

A short time since, it was stated, that Mr. William Richardson, the Collector of the Lead Company, at Durham, had been robbed of upwards of 934l. by two footpads, as he was travelling on horseback from Barnard Castle, when he was within about three miles of Walsingham. He has himself been since apprehended on suspicion of having embezzled the enemy.

## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, Jan. 19.

This day the House of Lords met pursuant to prorogation, when the Lord Chancellor, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Camden, and the Duke of Montrose took their seats in their robes upon the Woolpack as his Majesty's Commissioners; and the Speaker and the Members of the House of Commons being in attendance, the Chancellor delivered the following Speech from his Majesty:—

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"We have it in command from his Majesty, to state to you, that his Majesty has called you together, in perfect confidence that you are prepared cordially to support his Majesty in the prosecution of a war, which there is no hope of terminating safely and honourably, except through vigorous and persevering exertion.

"We are to acquaint you, that his Majesty has directed to be laid before you, Copies of the Proposals for opening a Negotiation, which were transmitted to his Majesty from Berlin; and of the Correspondence which thereupon took place with the Governments of Russia and of France together with

the Declaration issued by his Majesty's command on the termination of that Correspondence.

"His Majesty is persuaded, that you will participate in the feelings which were expressed by his Majesty, when it was required that his Majesty should consent to commence the Negotiation, by abandoning the cause of Spain, which he had so recently and solemnly espoused.

"We are commanded to inform you, that his Majesty continues to receive from the Spanish Government the strongest assurances of their determined perseverance in the cause of the legitimate Monarchy, and of the National Independence of Spain; and to assure you, that so long as the people of Spain shall remain true to themselves, his Majesty will continue to them his most strenuous assistance and support.

"His Majesty has renewed to the Spanish Nation, in the moment of its difficulties and reverses, the engagements which he voluntarily contracted at the outset of its struggles against the usurpation and tyranny of France; and we are commanded to acquaint you, that these engagements have been reduced into the form of a Treaty of Alliance; which Treaty, so soon as the ratifications shall have been exchanged, his Majesty will cause to be laid before you.

"His Majesty commands us to state to you, that while his Majesty contemplated with the liveliest satisfaction the achievements of his forces in the commencement of the campaign in Portugal, and the deliverance of the Kingdom of his Ally from the presence and oppressions of the French army, his Majesty most deeply regretted the termination of that campaign by an Armistice and Convention, of some of the Articles of which his Majesty has felt himself obliged formally to declare his disapprobation.

"We are to express to you his Majesty's reliance on your disposition to enable his Majesty to continue the aid afforded by his Majesty to the King of Sweden. That Monarch derives a peculiar claim to his Majesty's support in the present exigency of his affairs, from having concurred with his Majesty in the propriety of rejecting any proposal for Negotiation to which the Government of Spain was not to be admitted as a party.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

"We are commanded by his Majesty to inform you, that he has directed the estimates of the current year to be laid before you. His Majesty relies upon your zeal and affection to make such further provision of supply as the vigorous prosecution of the War may render necessary; and he trusts that you may be enabled to find the means of providing such Supply without any great or immediate increase of the existing burthens upon his people.

"His Majesty feels assured, that it will be highly satisfactory to you to learn, that, notwithstanding the measures resorted to by the enemy for the purpose of destroying the commerce and resources of his Kingdom, the public revenue has continued in a course of progressive improvement.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"We are directed to inform you, that the measure adopted by Parliament in the last Session, for establishing a Local Militia, has been already attended with the happiest success, and promises to be extensively and permanently beneficial to the Country.

"We have received his Majesty's commands most especially to recommend to you, that, duly weighing the immense interests which are at stake in the war now carrying on, you should proceed with as little delay as possible to consider of the most effectual measures for the augmentation of the regular army, in order that his Majesty may be the better enabled, without impairing the means of defence at home, to avail himself of the military power of his dominions in the great contest in which he is engaged; and to conduct that contest, under the blessing of Divine Providence, to a conclusion compatible with the honour of his Majesty's Crown, and with the interests of his Allies, of Europe, and of the world."

After the reading of the Address the House was cleared for a short time, and the Earl of Liverpool and Lord Moira also took the

oath and his seat as Baron Hungerford, which he succeeded to on the death of his mother. Dr. Mansell, as Bishop of Bristol, and the translated Bishops, also took their oaths and their seats.

The House adjourned till five o'clock, when the Chancellor resumed the woolsack, and his Majesty's Speech was again read.

The Earl of BRIDGEWATER rose to move the Address, but spoke so inaudibly that scarcely a sentence could be heard. His Lordship approved generally of the sentiments contained in his Majesty's Speech, and of his resolution to persevere in his assistance to the Spanish nation as long as that nation should be true to itself. With respect to the Convention of Cintra, his Lordship said there might be a difference in opinion, but there could be but one opinion respecting the bravery of our troops. His Lordship concluded by moving the Address, which as usual was an echo of the Speech.

Lord SHEFFIELD seconded the Address, and dwelt with strong emphasis on the persevering exertions of his Majesty in defence of Spanish patriotism. That country, he said, had done much to preserve their liberties from the grasp of usurpation and tyranny; and considering the completely disorganised state into which the treachery of France had hurled the nation, their efforts had been highly meritorious. Bad men, however, would be found in every country, and Spain was not without its betrayers. Still he applauded the persevering spirit of his Majesty to follow up the assistance already afforded with energy and vigour. It was consistent with the principles the Sovereign had at all times shewn towards suffering humanity. His Lordship next adverted to the flourishing state of our Commerce, which, in spite of every artifice of Buonaparte, was still in a progressive state of improvement. His Lordship, after observing that the country felt the greatest confidence in the talents of the British General commanding in Spain, said, that whether he advanced or retreated, he was sure that he would not compromise the honour of the country or sully the glory of the British arms.

Lord ST. VINCENT confessed there was little to find fault with in his Majesty's Speech, especially as he had expressed his disapprobation of some of the articles of the Cintra Convention, but looking to the whole of that affair, he could pronounce that, in his opinion, it was a most disgraceful act. The Portuguese, he said, as a nation, were a brave people—he did not mean the rascally inhabitants of Lisbon—and if led on by British Officers, were excellent troops. He would have lost his head, had the French crossed the Tagus, if they had ever got into Spain. The armistice proposed by Kellermann, he said, was nothing more than a French artifice to squeeze the British General; and the Inquiry that had taken place, was nothing more than a medium through which it was suspected the public dissatisfaction would evaporate. It had been said that his Majesty's Ministers had displayed great vigour; he could see no traces of it, unless it was in sending transports at an increased tonnage to Portugal. But how were they employed? Why, in conveying Junot and his rascally troops back again to France, to fight us at greater odds. In short, looking to the present state of the country, in his mind we were lost as a nation, unless a change took place in his Majesty's Councils; he therefore thought that an Address should be carried to the foot of the Throne, praying his Majesty, if he wished to preserve his kingdom entire, and his people from ruin, that he would remove his Ministers. Nothing short of such a measure could save the country. His Lordship concluded by saying, that, considering his infirmities, it might be possible that he should not come again to the House, but he had spoken his sentiments, and he wished their Lordships good night.

Lord GRAYSON disapproved of the conduct of Ministers, though he did not mean to oppose the Address. He said, they should imitate Buonaparte's conduct at Madrid, and do away useless places and unmerited pensions.

Lord SIMONSON hoped that America would be reconciled; he was sorry that nothing had been said on this subject in the Speech. As to the affairs of Spain and Portugal, unless Ministers could give the country a satisfactory account of their late



proceedings in those countries, he was convinced the people would withdraw their support from them.

Lord GRENVILLE could not approve of that part of the Address which called for a vote of approbation of the events of last year, for they could not be viewed without unqualified disgust. The resistance of Spain to the enemy afforded Ministers an opportunity of checking the career of the tyrant; but how had they neglected this opportunity! He thought that it would be now blind folly to send troops into the interior of Spain. Bonaparte commands almost all the soldiers of Europe, and what chance could a handful of Britons have against his overwhelming forces? The "Precautions" published in Spain at the beginning of the contest, wisely pointed out the mode of warfare which should have been pursued in Spain, as that country afforded many resources for such a war. Ministers wished to pledge the country to call out its whole force to send into Spain, which he thought would be fatal in the extreme. There had been indeed a moment when 40,000 British soldiers, with the assistance of the Spaniards, might have driven the enemy beyond the Pyrenees, which was, when the French were in a state of sullen inactivity on the banks of the Ebro, waiting for reinforcements from Germany. Had we then afforded the Spaniards a proper and prompt aid, the enemy would in all human probability have been driven with disgrace back upon France. But the most scandalous delays had taken place. After the battle of Vimiera even, two months elapsed before a single soldier left Portugal for Spain! and two months more passed away before a British musket was fired in Spain! During this time, the armies of Spain are overthrown, the country overrun, and the tyrant triumphs. If Ministers knew that 40,000 British soldiers were to be opposed to nearly 200,000 of the enemy, they not only were guilty of manifest indifference for the fate of those brave men, but fully proved their utter incapacity to conduct so arduous a contest. As to the Armistice and Convention, he had only to echo the indignant sentiments of the country respecting them. If Ministers had intended to meet the enemy on the plains of Portugal, they should have sent cavalry; if they intended to have attacked the fortresses, they should have sent heavy artillery; but they sent neither cavalry nor artillery! He thought the Board of Inquiry right in their decision; but how does that correspond with the disapprobation conveyed in the Speech on some of the terms of the Armistice and Convention? How does the House and the Speech accord with the answer given to the City, "that it is not according to the spirit of British justice to condemn without a hearing." Yet the Speech condemned, and yet no hearing, no trial of the parties had taken place. The only conclusion therefore was, that Ministers, and not the Generals, had been to blame. Alluding to America, his Lordship said, that it was clear Ministers wished to quarrel with that country, or they would not pursue such crooked and shallow policy. The Americans had made a most reasonable and just overture respecting the Orders in Council, which Ministers had most unwisely spurned. Lord Grenville concluded by observing, that Britain would be lost if we sent our choicest troops and best officers into Spain; for we could not recruit by a conscription, and, like Prussia and Austria, this empire would be undone by such dangerous and unwarrantable experiments.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL replied to the Noble Baron. He thought that the Address would have produced an unanimous vote, as it did not pledge the House to adopt any proceedings without due deliberation, it only said, that as long as Spain should be true to herself, England would support her in the contest. It was impossible to assist Spain without risk. Those who gave way to despondency, should consult history, and they would find, that after many reverses, a people may yet finally be successful in their struggles for independence. The Spaniards possessed great physical means, and perseverance and unity might yet effect their deliverance from the tyrant. The cause of Spain was the cause of Britain. If Spain were conquered, France would possess the geographical means of involving the immediate safety of a part of these realms. Was it not a cause, therefore, in which something should be risked? The Expedition to Portugal, which the Noble Baron had con-

demned, had been deemed the best means of serving the Spanish cause by the Spanish Government itself. The capture of General Dupont was a consequence of it. In fact, the issue had been most brilliant!—As for the City Address, it was an assumption of guilt, not a petition for an enquiry. The Americans, his Lordship contended, had not poised the scales of justice equally between France and England. To the former they said, rescind your Decree, and we will go to war with England. To the latter, if you repeal your Orders in Council, we will continue our Embargo only with France. He denied that either he or his colleagues wished for war with America. He concluded, by pressing on the House the propriety of an unanimous vote, as the Address pledged the House to nothing specific.

Lord MORIA would not oppose the Address; but he attributes great blame to Ministers in sending out an army to Portugal, when they might have been successfully employed in the Pyrenees. He acquitted the Cintra Generals of all misconduct, for it fully appeared that Ministers were only to blame.

LORD ERSKINE said, that such were the gross errors of Ministers in respect to Spain, that they were utterly incapable of conducting the affairs of a great nation. In the present state of Spain, it was really a farce to think of giving them any effectual aid; and with America, if the Orders in Council were not rescinded, a war was inevitable.

The LORD CHANCELLOR defended Ministers; and Lords Mulgrave and Auckland spoke at some length, when the Address was put and carried without a division.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL gave notice, that on Monday he should move a *Vote of Thanks to General Wellesley* and the Troops engaged in Portugal; and on Thursday he should submit a motion respecting the Correspondence at Erfurth.—Adjourned.

Friday, Jan. 20.

A Bill granting Lord Boringdon a divorce from his wife was brought in and read a first time.—Adjourned.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, Feb. 19.

The SPEAKER acquainted the House that the Commons had attended the House of Lords to hear the Speech read by his Majesty's Commissioners. Having read the Speech,

MR. ROBINSON said, that the Speech just read was entitled to the general approbation of the House. The Hon. Gentleman then commented on its various passages, all of which he highly approved, and concluded a long panegyric on Ministers by moving an Address which echoed all the sentiments it contained.

MR. LUSHINGTON, jun. seconded the Address.

MR. POWSONBY said, that we are told in the Speech that "without a vigorous and persevering exertion, there is no hope of terminating the war safely and honourably." This must indeed be fully admitted; but never had the public force been so miserably directed as it had recently been by Ministers, whose whole conduct had shewn them to be weak, feeble, and imbecile. They had sent money, to be sure, to the King of Sweden, but not a single soldier had been employed in his support, for the Expedition under Sir J. Moore, after lingering in the Baltic for two months, had returned without striking a single blow. Here was a proof of vigour and foresight! The Court of Inquiry shewed that Sir A. Wellesley was sent out without particular instructions. The Junta of Galicia refused his aid, but, because they gave bad advice, was that a reason a British Officer should take it? His Majesty had informed the House that some parts of the Armistice and Convention had met his formal disapprobation; no one knew what those parts were; but he hoped the House would endeavour to find them out. The Generals employed stated that they had signed the Convention because they were in want of heavy artillery and cavalry. How came this to be the case? Was this a specimen of Lord Castlereagh's vigour? He had indeed sent 200 horses, but they were old, lame, and blind. His Majesty

seemed to have a nicer feeling for the honour of his arms than Ministers; for they had fired the Park guns for what he had disapproved of. The whole nation, however, differed with Ministers, and the Citizens had remonstrated, but they were rebuffed with that peculiar vigour for which the Ministry are now becoming so famous: they rebuked Englishmen, and suffered their enemies to escape! Mr. Ponsonby then took a view of the campaign in Spain, the mode of assistance adopted by Ministers, &c. the whole of which he disapproved, as well as of their conduct towards America.

Lord CASTLEREAGH rose and retorted the charge of incapacity on the Hon. Gentleman and his colleagues when in power. He then defended the conduct pursued with respect to Sweden: our fleet had kept the Russians in check, saved the Swedish navy, and prevented the Spanish troops in the North from passing over with Bernadotte into Zealand. The Land Expedition was sent at the desire of his Swedish Majesty. Why it had returned, he had no reason to keep a secret, except what immediately related to our ally. As for Spain, she had determined to resist the common enemy, by open and regular warfare, and it was both the duty and interest of this country to give her every possible support; but the plan of sending Sir A. Wellesley to the Pyrenees to cut off the French in Spain, was too ridiculous to be entertained for a moment. If a British army had been so employed, not a man of it would have escaped. Sir A. Wellesley did not sail without precise orders and objects, though that meritorious Officer's hands were not tied up in a way that should prevent his employing his force for the better interests of his country. In regard to the charge so frequently urged against him for not sending cavalry enough, he was ready to confess that it was by mere accident that any were sent, at all. Cavalry was not a description of force proper to send with floating expeditions, which might be long at sea. He should always protest against the notion, that we were never to engage the enemy without an equality of cavalry. Abercrombie had but 150 dragoons, when he beat the French in Egypt, though they had 2000; and, at Maida, Sir John Stuart had no cavalry at all; though, he did not mean to say, that had Sir A. Wellesley been supplied with a larger proportion of cavalry, that the victory of Vineira would not have been more complete—(Cries of Hear! Hear!)—Though he confessed this, yet he must resist the idea, that Government had in any shape neglected its duty. As to firing the guns, he thought, that when Portugal had been freed from the oppressions of the common enemy, however the means might be questioned, the end being obtained, it was worthy of that demonstration used on all similar occasions. The Address of the Citizens called upon Government to identify the culprit before they ascertained the crime; but he maintained, that the reproach was intimated in terms of respect and deference. The Noble Lord concluded with observing, that he rejoiced that Parliament was assembled, to decide upon the merits of the conduct pursued by Government under circumstances peculiarly awful and difficult.

Mr. WHITBREAD said, it was certainly inconsistent in Ministers in advising his Majesty to disapprove of certain parts of a Convention, which they had announced to the country by the discharge of artillery; and still more inconsistent to ask the House to concur in such disapproval before any investigation had taken place, or before such parts of the Convention had even been named! He did not now mean to debate the merits of the Expedition to Portugal, but he could not help noticing the marked difference of opinion, in regard to the want of cavalry, which appeared between the Noble Lord and the General Officers employed. That want was expressly pleaded both by Sir A. Wellesley and Sir H. Burrard, the former of whom actually bought artillery horses in Ireland with money out of his own pocket. He was utterly surprized to hear the Noble Lord speak so lightly of the affairs in Spain, when the perilous situation of the British army was considered,—when intelligence had this very day been received that the enemy, with three times our force, was hanging on the right wing of our army! Had not Ministers moved upon false information respecting the Spanish patriots? It was doubtful whether we

had met with a warm reception either in Spain or Portugal. He would recommend Gentlemen to look to the Proclamation of the Marquis Romana, as to the disposition of his countrymen to march against the French, and also to those wise and conciliatory arrangements recently proclaimed by Bonaparte, whilst not a single step of a similar nature had been taken by the Supreme Junta. From the beginning he had entertained doubts of Spanish success, unless means were adopted to embody the hearts of the Spaniards in the cause; and when he saw those means used by Bonaparte which ought to have originated with the Junta, those doubts were indeed much increased. The utmost infatuation had prevailed on the subject of the war in Spain, on the least turn of success. Not only was Spain to be delivered from the atrocious Usurper of France, as the Secretary for Foreign Affairs called him, but even the absurd calculations of the old school were revived, and France itself, at one time, was to be entered and overrun! He had no objection to vigour, while war was necessary, but if the Speech pledged the House to a *bellum infernecionem*, he should certainly dissent from it. He was sorry to see that the Speech was silent as to the means of reducing the public expenditure, and the Committee of Finance. The Hon. Gentleman concluded his Speech by deprecating the idea propagated by some thoughtless people, of a war with America.

Mr. CANNING maintained, that Ministers, in the present important crisis, had done their best. It had been their endeavour to employ the means committed to their direction in concurrence with the wishes of the country. If failure had occurred, such failure was not owing to any want of diligence, activity, and zeal, on their part. Wiser measures might have been adopted; but he had not heard any such suggested. The whole Spanish nation had risen to oppose the enemy; but different Governments were formed in the provinces, each of whom applied to Britain for aid. The question with Government here was, whether such aid should be immediately granted, or delayed until a Central Government was established. They therefore determined to send arms, ammunition, and money, to the several Juntas, but declined sending a British force until a Central Government should be established. To have sent men to Cuesta, and others to Blake, would not have enriched them, though it would have impoverished us; and this accounted for the delay in Portugal. As to America, she had not acted with impartiality towards us, though he was happy to find, by a late Report of the American Committee, that it was proposed to exclude French vessels as well as English ones from the ports. Sweden, he had no hesitation in declaring, was quite at liberty to make a peace, if she deemed it for her interest to do so. Whenever the Cintra Convention was brought forward for discussion, neither he nor his colleagues would shrink from that subject.

Mr. Tierney, Mr. G. Rose, jun. Mr. Baring, Mr. Alderman Corne, and other Gentlemen, delivered their opinions, when the Address was ordered to be referred to a Committee.—Adjourned.

Friday, Jan. 21.

#### THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

Mr. WARDELL gave notice, that on Friday he would submit a motion to the House relative to the conduct of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, with respect to the granting of Commissions, the making Exchanges, and the raising of Levies for the Army.

#### SIR A. WELLESLEY AND GEN. STEWART.

Mr. WHITBREAD wished the Noble Lord opposite (Castlereagh) would inform him whether his relation, Gen. Stewart, still retained his office of Under Secretary of State for the War Department; and whether Sir A. Wellesley still retained his office of Chief Secretary for Ireland?

Lord CASTLEREAGH replied, that Gen. Stewart was still in possession of his office; but from the moment that officer quitted Portsmouth, he declined receiving any of its emoluments.—Sir A. Wellesley was at this moment in possession of and discharging the functions of the Chief Secretaryship for Ireland.

Mr. WHITBREAD said, the public service was much incog-



venued by allowing Military Officers to hold such situations. The business loudly called for further inquiry and remedy.—  
Adjourned to Monday.

## STATE PAPERS.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE RUSSIAN AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS, RELATIVE TO THE OVERTURES RECEIVED FROM ERFURTH.—PRESENTED, BY HIS MAJESTY'S COMMAND, TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, JAN. 1809.

The first Letter is from Count ROMANZOFF to Mr. CANNING, dated from Erfurth, Oct. 12. It encloses the following Letter, and states that the Emperor of Russia has nominated Plenipotentiaries for the purpose of treating for a general Peace:—

No. 2.—*Letter from his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, and Buonaparte, to his Majesty, dated Erfurth, 12th October, 1808.*

SIR:—The present circumstances of Europe have brought us together at Erfurth. Our first thought is to yield to the wish and the wants of every people, and to seek, in a speedy pacification with your Majesty, the most efficacious remedy for the miseries which oppress all nations. We make known to your Majesty our sincere desire in this respect by the present letter.

The long and bloody war which has torn the Continent is at an end, without the possibility of being renewed. Many changes have taken place in Europe; many States have been overthrown. The cause is to be found in the state of agitation and misery in which the stagnation of maritime commerce has placed the greatest nations. Still greater changes may yet take place, and all of them contrary to the policy of the English nation. Peace, then, is at once the interest of the Continent, as it is the interest of the people of Great Britain.

We unite in entreating your Majesty to listen to the voice of humanity, silencing that of the passions; to seek, with the intention of arriving at that object, to conciliate all interests, and by that means to preserve all the Powers which exist, and to insure the happiness of Europe and of this generation, at the head of which Providence has placed us.

(Signed) ALEXANDER.—NAPOLEON.

No. 3, is a Letter from M. CHAMPAGNY to Mr. CANNING, informing him that the French Emperor is willing to treat with England and her Allies on the basis formerly proposed by England herself, namely, the *uti possidetis*, or any other founded on justice, and the equality which ought to prevail between great nations.

Nos. 4, 5, and 6, are merely Notes of Ceremony.

No. 7, is a Letter from Mr. CANNING to Count ROMANZOFF, stating the willingness of his Britannic Majesty to treat for a peace, in conjunction with Sweden and the Government of Spain. Mr. CANNING observes, that "his Majesty recollects with satisfaction the lively interest which his Imperial Majesty has always manifested for the welfare and dignity of the Spanish Monarchy, and he wants no other assurance that his Imperial Majesty cannot have been induced to sanction by his concurrence, or by his approbation, usurpations, the principle of which is not less unjust than their example is dangerous to all legitimate Sovereigns."

No. 8, is a Letter from Mr. CANNING to M. CHAMPAGNY, enclosing the following Note:—

No. 9.—*Official Note.*

The King has uniformly declared his readiness and desire to enter into negotiations for a general peace, on terms consistent with the honour of his Majesty's Crown, with fidelity to his engagements, and with the permanent repose and security of Europe. His Majesty repeats that declaration. If the condition of the Continent be one of agitation and of wretchedness; if many States have been overthrown, and more are still menaced with subversion; it is a consolation to the King to reflect, that no part of the convulsions which have already been experienced, or of those which are threatened for the future, can be in any degree imputable to his Majesty. The King is

most willing to acknowledge that all such dreadful changes are indeed contrary to the policy of Great Britain. If the cause of so much misery is to be found in the stagnation of commercial intercourse, although his Majesty cannot be expected to hear, with unqualified regret, that the system devised for the destruction of the commerce of his subjects has recoiled upon its authors, or its instruments, yet is it neither in the disposition of his Majesty, nor in the character of the people over whom he reigns, to rejoice in the privations and unhappiness even of the nations which are combined against him. His Majesty anxiously desires the termination of the sufferings of the Continent. The war in which his Majesty is engaged, was entered into by his Majesty for the immediate object of national safety. It has been prolonged only because no secure and honourable means of terminating it have hitherto been afforded by his enemies. But in the progress of a war, begun for self-defence, new obligations have been imposed upon his Majesty, in behalf of Powers whom the aggressions of a common enemy have compelled to make common cause with his Majesty, or who have solicited his Majesty's assistance and support in the vindication of their national independence. The interests of the Crown of Portugal and of his Sicilian Majesty are confided to his Majesty's friendship and protection. With the King of Sweden his Majesty is connected by ties of the closest alliance, and by stipulations which unite their counsels for peace as well as for war. To Spain his Majesty is not yet bound by any formal instrument; but his Majesty has, in the face of the world, contracted with that nation engagements not less sacred and not less binding upon his Majesty's mind, than the most solemn treaties. His Majesty therefore assumes, that, in an overture made to his Majesty for entering into negotiations for a general peace, the relations subsisting between his Majesty and the Spanish Monarchy have been distinctly taken into consideration; and that the Government acting in the name of his Catholic Majesty Ferdinand the Seventh, is understood to be a party to any negotiation in which his Majesty is invited to engage.

GEORGE CANNING.

Nos. 10, 11, and 12, are Notes of Ceremony.

No. 13, is a Note from Count ROMANZOFF in reply to that from Mr. CANNING—in which he states that the Emperor of Russia is willing to treat with England and its Allies, but cannot admit the Plenipotentiaries of the Spanish Insurgents in a Congress for that purpose; that the Emperor has acknowledged Joseph Napoleon as King of Spain; and that he is united with the French Emperor for peace as well as for war, and will not separate his interests from those of that Monarch.

No. 14, is a Letter from M. CHAMPAGNY to Mr. CANNING, enclosing the following Note:—

No. 15.—*Note.*

The undersigned has laid before the Emperor, his master, the note of his Excellency Mr. Canning.

If it were true that the evils of war were felt only on the Continent, certainly there would be little hope of attaining peace.

The two Emperors had flattered themselves that the object of their measure would not have been misinterpreted in London. Could the English Ministry have ascribed it to weakness or necessity, when every impartial Statesman must recognize in the spirit of peace and moderation by which it is dictated, the characteristics of power and true greatness? France and Russia can carry on the war so long as the Court of London shall not recur to just and equitable dispositions; and they are resolved to do so.

How is it possible for the French Government to entertain the proposal which has been made to it, of admitting to the negotiation the Spanish Insurgents? What would the English Government have said, had it been proposed to them to admit the Catholic Insurgents of Ireland? France, without having any treaties with them, has been in communication with them, has made them promises, and has frequently sent them succours. Could such a proposal have found place in a note, the object of which ought to have been not to irritate, but to endeavour to effect a mutual conciliation and good understanding?

England will find herself under a strange mistake, if, contrary to the experience of the past, she still entertains the idea of contending successfully upon the Continent, against the armies of France. What hope can she now have, especially as France is irrevocably united with Russia?

The undersigned is commanded to repeat the proposal, to admit to the negotiation all the Allies of the King of England; whether it be the King who reigns in the Brazils; whether it be the King who reigns in Sweden; or whether it be the King who reigns in Sicily: and to take for the basis of the negotiation the *uti possidetis*. He is commanded to express the hope that, not losing sight of the inevitable results of the force of States, it will be remembered, that between great powers there is no solid peace, but that which is at the same time equal and honourable for all parties.

The undersigned requests his Excellency Mr. Canning to accept the assurances of his highest consideration.

## CHAMPAGNY.

No. 16, is a mere Note of compliment.

No. 17, is a Note transmitted by Mr. CANNING to Count ROMANZOFF, in which he observes, that "the King learns with astonishment and regret the expectation which appears to have been entertained, that his Majesty should consent to commence a negotiation for a general peace by the previous abandonment of the cause of the Spanish nation, and of the legitimate Monarchy of Spain, in deference to an usurpation which has no parallel in the history of the world. Nor can his Majesty conceive by what obligation of duty or interest, or by what principle of Russian policy, his Imperial Majesty can have found himself compelled to acknowledge the right, assumed by France, to depose and imprison friendly Sovereigns, and forcibly to transfer to herself the allegiance of loyal and independent nations."—The Note concludes by observing, that if such are the principles by which his Russian Majesty is guided, his Majesty has only to lament a determination by which the suffering of Europe must be aggravated and prolonged.

No. 18, is a Letter from Mr. CANNING to Mr. CHAMPAGNY, enclosing the following Note:—

No. 19,—OFFICIAL NOTE, dated Foreign Office, Dec. 9.

The undersigned, his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has laid before the King his Master the Note transmitted to him by his Excellency M. de Champagny, dated the 28th November.

He is especially commanded by his Majesty to abstain from noticing any of those topics and expressions insulting to his Majesty, to his Allies, and to the Spanish nation, with which the Official Note transmitted by M. de Champagny abounds.

His Majesty was desirous to have treated for a Peace which might have arranged the respective interests of all the Powers engaged in the war on principles of equal justice; and his Majesty sincerely regrets that this desire of his Majesty is disappointed.

But his Majesty is determined not to abandon the cause of the Spanish nation, and of the legitimate monarchy of Spain; and the pretensions of France to exclude from the negotiation the Central and Supreme Government, acting in the name of his Catholic Majesty Ferdinand the Seventh, is one which his Majesty could not admit without acquiescing in an usurpation which has no parallel in the history of the world. The undersigned, &c.

GEORGE CANNING.

Nos. 20, and 21, which close the Correspondence, are letters from the French and Russian Ministers, merely acknowledging the receipt of the above Note of Mr. CANNING.

## TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

## BANKRUPTCY ENLARGED.

J. Bruce, master mariner, owner of the *Maria*, now lying at Hull, from Jan. 17, to March 7, at eleven, at Guildhall, London.

## BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

R. Sinclair, Mincing-lane, London, wine-merchant.

## BANKRUPTS.

- T. Pearson, South Shields, shipwright, to surrender Feb. 8, 9, 28, at eleven, at the Golden Lion Inn, South Shields. Attorney, Mr. Bainbridge, South Shields.
- G. Pickwood, Cloak-lane, London, wine-merchant, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 28, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Godmond, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars.
- W. Tomlinson, Toxteth Park, near Liverpool, merchant, Feb. 13, 14, 28, at one, at the George Inn, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Forrest, Liverpool.
- J. S. Barton, Liverpool, merchant, Feb. 8, 9, 28, at twelve, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Rowe, Liverpool.
- J. and C. Smith, Bath, plane-manufacturers, Jan. 23, Feb. 8, 28, at eleven, at the Christopher Tavern, Bath. Attorney, Mr. Sheppard, Bath.
- J. Marriott, Burnley, Lancashire, cotton-spinner, Feb. 1, at five, 2, at eleven, 28, at five, at the Thorn, Burnley. Attorney, Mr. Shaw, Burnley.
- T. Tanner, Barnstaple, money-scrivener, Feb. 1, 2, 25, at eleven, at the Globe Tavern, Exeter. Attorney, Mr. Law, Barnstaple.

## DIVIDENDS.

- March 17. W. Bulgin, Bristol, printer.—Feb. 8. J. Preston, Barton-upon-Humber, Lincolnshire, tanner.—Feb. 16. T. Filcock, Macclesfield, grocer.—March 25. H. R. and W. Mure, Fenchurch-street, merchants.—Feb. 13. J. Percy, Liverpool, block-maker.—Feb. 7. R. Banks, Eltham, Kent, victualler.—Feb. 25. R. Davies, St. John-street, Middlesex, carpenter.—Feb. 14. G. Stacey, R. and R. Dearman, Bread-street, warehousemen.

## CERTIFICATES—FEB. 7.

- J. Pussey, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, straw-hat-manufacturer.—W. Paul, sen. Reddish Mills, Lancashire, calico-printer.—J. Holden, jun. Salford, Lancashire, dyer.—R. H. Jones, Duke-street, Aldgate, plumber.—J. Clark, Houndsditch, brass-founder.—J. Millington, Houndsditch, glazier.—C. Parry, Liverpool, currier.—R. Robinson, Manchester, cotton twist and web dealer.—J. T. Mills, Southwark, coal-merchant.

## SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains accounts of the two following captures:—L'Esperance French privateer cutter, of 14 guns and 50 men, by the Sparrowhawk sloop, Capt. Pringle; and the General Rapp French privateer brig, of 8 guns and 41 men, by the Ned Elwin sloop, Capt. O'Connor.

## BANKRUPTS.

- J. Johnson, Clifton, Gloucester, coach-maker, to surrender Feb. 6, 7, March 4, at eleven, at the Rummer Tavern, All Saint's-lane, Bristol. Attorney, Mr. R. Bigg, Bristol.
- S. Ety, Oxford, wine merchant, Jan. 27, 28, March 4, at eleven, at B. Cosier's, under the Town Hall, Oxford. Attorney, Mr. Taunton, Oxford.
- E. Browne, Liverpool, tea-dealer, Feb. 13, 14, March 4, at eleven, at the Star and Garter, Paradise-street, Liverpool. Attorney, M. Murrow, Paradise-street, Liverpool.
- M. Jacob, Berner-street, Commercial-road, spirit merchant, Jan. 24, Feb. 7, March 4, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Lyon, Somerset-street, Aldgate.
- C. Talbot, Edgware-road, tailor, Jan. 28, Feb. 2, at eleven, March 4, at ten, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Dawson and Wrattislaw, Warwick-street, Golden-square.
- J. Smith, Evesham, Worcester, innholder, Jan. 24, 25, at eleven, March 4, at twelve, at the Farrier's Arms Inn, Evesham. Attorney, Mr. Bousfield, Bousfield-street, London.
- E. Jenkins, Bath, victualler, Feb. 3, 4, at eleven, March 4, at five, at the Old Packhorse, Bath. Attorney, Mr. Clarke, Bath.
- H. Davis, Warminster, Wilts, grocer, Feb. 6, 7, March 4, at eleven, at the Angel Inn, Warminster. Attornies, Messrs. Davies and Davies, Warminster.

S. Mobbs, Southampton, milliner, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, March 4, at one, at Gu. Hall, London. Attorney, Mr. Mason, St. Michael's Church-yard, London.  
 P. Davies and P. Davies, Drayton in Hales, Salop, bankers, Feb. 13, 14, March 4, at eleven, at the Talbot Inn, Drayton in Hales. Attorney, Mr. Butterton, Market Drayton.

DIVIDENDS.

Jan. 28. E. Johnson, Bleeding-hart-yard, Charles-street, Hatton-garden, cabinet-maker.—March 11. Wm. Isard, East Grimstead, Sussex, breeches-maker.—Feb. 18. J. F. Curtis, Minories, linen-draper.—Feb. 7. T. Dearing and M. Forster, Litchfield-street, Soho, tavern-keepers.—Feb. 13. G. Madeley, Ashted, Warwickshire, china-manufacturer.—Feb. 18. W. Shephard Boswell-court, Carey-street, money-scrivener.—Feb. 18. G. Steedman and J. M'Lean, Lamb-street, Christchurch, potatoe-merchants.—Feb. 28. J. Dean, Watling-street, linen-draper.—March 1. R. Marr, Lancaster, merchant.—Feb. 13. G. Dodsworth, Beverley, Yorkshire, draper.—Feb. 9. W. Sisson, Whitehaven, wine merchant.—Feb. 11. J. Wood, Lindfield, Sussex, victualler.—Feb. 11. G. A. Child, Bristol, scrivener.—March 14. J. O. Parr and T. C. Patrick, Suffolk-lane, insurance-brokers.—Feb. 15. W. Hilton and J. Jackson, Oxford-road, linen-draper.—Feb. 18. W. Ogilvy, jun. G. Mylre, and J. Chalmers, Jeffrey's-square, merchants.

CERTIFICATES—FEB. 11.

T. Daman, Teddington, maltster.—C. Parnall, St. Austell, Cornwall, merchant.—H. Garton, Nottingham, hosier.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

Consols.....65  $\frac{1}{2}$  1-4 | Red. Ann. ....65  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

See—w in our next.

Various Communications are again delayed for want of room.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, JANUARY 22.

THE arrival of General STEWART, with dispatches from Sir JOHN MOORE yesterday morning enables us at length to inform, though not perhaps to relieve the public mind, with respect to the situation of our gallant soldiers. The dispatches are dated Corunna, the 11th instant, and state, that Sir JOHN had effected his retreat to that place with the whole of his army, except 4000 men, who are said to have embarked already at Vigo, under General CRAUFORD. Sir JOHN, it seems, was waiting at Corunna for the transports from Vigo, in order to embark if necessary, an event not very problematical, when he tells us, that a large French force under General SOULT had reached the neighbourhood of Corunna and was actually *in sight* upon the hills.

In addition to this news, four more French Bulletins have arrived, which give an account of our operations in Spain, and tell us, that BONAPARTE has left to Marshal SOULT "the glorious task of driving us into the sea." This task, glorious indeed to a Frenchman, is deprived at the same time of much of it's glory, when we consider the numbers of the enemy and the petty force which the Ministers have thought proper to send into Spain at such a time. A report, however, accompanies the dispatches, that the Duke of INFANTADO, taking advantage of BONAPARTE's absence, has advanced with a formidable army and driven JOSEPH

BONAPARTE completely out of Madrid. This rumour seems to have arisen from BONAPARTE's resolution not to proceed in person against the English, a circumstance that might certainly warrant such a rumour; though his resolution may have a very different cause, when he sees the English flying so hastily. How is it with us, when our greatest anxiety is for the mere safety of our armies, without hoping for any better success?

BONAPARTE, whatever may be his court principles with regard to himself, has not only seen and rejoiced in the folly of our proceedings in Spain, but well knows how to reap his corn from our tares. The inhabitants of Madrid, always "unanimous" no doubt in favour of the "legitimate monarchy," have presented him an Address praying to see King JOSEPH in Madrid; and to this address the EMPEROR has replied, in his usual pithy manner, with that air of candour and those compliances with sound reason, which must have an inevitable and a very natural effect upon the minds of the thinking Spaniards. "I have preserved," says he, "the Spiritual Orders, but with a limitation of the number of Monks. There is not a single intelligent person who is not of opinion that they were too numerous. Those of them, who are influenced by a *divine call*, shall remain in their cloisters. With regard to those whose *call* was doubtful, or influenced by *temporal considerations*, I have fixed their condition in the order of secular Priests. Out of the surplus of the monastic property, I have provided for the maintenance of the Pastors, that important and useful class of the Clergy. I have abolished that Court (the Inquisition) which was a subject of complaint to Europe and the present age. Priests may guide the minds of men, but must exercise no temporal or corporal jurisdiction.—I have abolished those privileges which the Grandees usurped;—I have abolished the feudal rights; and henceforth every one may set up inns, ovens, mills, employ himself in fishing and rabbit-hunting, and give free scope to his industry, provided he respects the laws and regulations of the police. The selfishness, wealth, and prosperity, of a small number of individuals, were more injurious to your agriculture than the heat of the dog-days." These are incontrovertible truths and advantages, which will, must, and should have an effect upon the Spaniards, when their pretended patriots did not dare or deign to use them. I do not applaud the motives of BONAPARTE; I believe them to originate in mere ambition; but still less can I applaud the motives and measures of a set of old courtiers, who in the best of causes, have aimed at nothing but the most suspicious and worst of effects. Throughout the whole history of this man, nothing, I think, can be more cutting to the self-love of his opposers, than to see how much has been done for him by the mere exercise of common reason on one side and obstinate corruption on the other.

The news from Portugal is of a very desponding nature. It is stated in some of the papers, and with great confidence in those of the Opposition, that the two French corps, amounting to 40,000 men, which were at Talavera

de la Reina, have entered Elvas, a frontier town of Portugal, 130 miles from Lisbon, and that serious preparations were made at that capital for conveying the inhabitants and soldiery on board the transports, collected for that purpose in the Tagus. A formal notice of the probable necessity of this measure had been given to the British resident at Lisbon, and the factory there were packing up their effects, when the last letters came away. The French, it is said, have many partizans in the city, who began to be very noisy on the occasion: I dare say they have. When the French were there, the people wished for the English; but when the English came and treated them quite as badly, and were great heretics to boot, they wished for the French again. It is most manifest, that the Portuguese have no sort of desire for the re-establishment of their old government. Nothing but change will do them good, and they feel it, and whatever the courtiers here may say of preferring any government to a foreign tyrant, I am much mistaken if the Portuguese would not rather have the liberty of building and poaching under BONAPARTE, than return again to their bigoted and besotted government, with its horde of monks and menials. As to Lisbon, it is the St. Giles of Europe, and is glad of any disturbance that will favour stealing and stabbing. Such are the beauties of the old governments.

There have been various reports respecting a fresh revolution in Constantinople; and there is no doubt, it appears, that the Janissaries have made another violent attempt to restore their own independence and the slavery of the country. MUSTAPHA BAIRACTAR, who was at first said to have been slain, is now stated to have got possession of the fleet and harbour, and to have commenced a regular resistance of the insurgents with undaunted resolution. A single check to these ferocious bands is very unusual, and may entirely defeat them, for their courage is that of mere beasts; they have no science whatever. In fact, all their hostility is against science and improvement. The brave BAIRACTAR, a Turk and a Reformer, affords a singular and interesting spectacle. He is probably the only statesman in Europe whose plans really annoy BONAPARTE, because they are founded in love of reform.

The most interesting part of the Erfurth Correspondence is given in this day's paper. It contains nothing that has not been well known to the public, except the allusion to the Catholics of Ireland, which certainly had nothing to do with the subject, but to furnish it's author with a galling reflection on our policy. It may be something new however to our readers, to hear Mr. CANNING repeatedly calling the outrage upon Spain "the most unparalleled usurpation in the history of the world." Alas, bad and horrible as it is, how little do Englishmen know of the usurpations of their own Government in the East Indies! People shudder at the story of inveigled and dethroned Princes in Europe, but they have no idea that such outrages have long been practised in the East by the

very men who call BONAPARTE an usurper. We shall know more of these things ere long; but in the meantime, never let the English Government rail at oppression and usurpation, while Ireland and India are what they now are.

Since Lord LIVERPOOL's assertion in the House, that his MAJESTY's formal disapprobation of the Armistice, &c. had nothing to do with the *military* articles, this formal instrument has been published, though why it's appearance was delayed till *yesterday* morning the Ministry can best explain. It's tone, whatever it may be, for I do not profess to understand it, and have not time for studious research just now, certainly is not such as would have been used by our tyrannical foe, who, it must be confessed, has fine genera's too, notwithstanding the different manner in which he treats them.

The only consolation we have under our present military system is, that the worse it grows, the sooner it must become intolerable.

The formal declaration of his MAJESTY's disapprobation of the Armistice and Convention in Portugal, has been notified to Sir HEW DALRYMPLE and other Generals as follows:—

"The King has taken into his consideration the Report of the Board of Inquiry, together with the documents and opinions thereunto annexed.

"While his Majesty adopts the unanimous opinion of the Board, that *no farther Military proceeding is necessary* to be had upon the transactions referred to their investigation, his Majesty does not intend thereby to convey any expression of his Majesty's satisfaction at the terms and conditions of the Armistice and Convention.

"When those instruments were first laid before his Majesty, the King reserving for investigation those parts of the Definitive Convention in which his Majesty's immediate interests were concerned, caused it to be signified to Sir Hugh Dalrymple, by his Majesty's Secretary of State, that his Majesty, nevertheless, felt himself compelled *at once* to express his disapprobation of those articles, in which stipulations were made, directly affecting the interests or feelings of the Spanish and Portuguese nations.

"At the close of the Inquiry, the King, abstaining from any observations upon other parts of the Convention, repeats his disapprobation of those articles; his Majesty deeming it necessary that his sentiments should be clearly understood, as to the impropriety and danger of the unauthorised admission, into Military Conventions, of articles of such a description, which, especially when incautiously framed, may lead to the most injurious consequences.

"His Majesty cannot forbear farther to observe, that Lieut.-General Sir Hew Dalrymple's delaying to transmit for his information the Armistice concluded on the 22d of August, until the 4th September, when he, at the same time, transmitted the ratified Convention, was calculated to produce great public inconvenience, and that such inconvenience did in fact result therefrom."

Sir JOHN MOORE has sent from the army which he commands, one Officer of very high rank, and two Officers of very superior rank, on account of incapacity, and unfitness to command. It is but proper to mention, that want of courage is not the fault imputed to these Gentlemen; but courage is but one quality (though an indispensable one) in an Officer.

Whilst at Lugo, it is said, Sir J. MOORE drew up his army in order of battle, inviting the attack of the enemy, which was, however, declined by him.

Mr. WAITHMAN'S perseverance in inquiring into the abuses of Christ's Hospital, is as honourable to him as it is disgraceful to the Governors who have refused to make such inquiry. At a Common Council last Thursday, he moved for a Committee of twenty-one Members to inquire into those abuses. It was agreed to. At the side of the Statue of that excellent young King EDWARD VI. which graces one of the gates of the Hospital as its founder, Mr. WAITHMAN, if he succeeds, deserves his to be placed as restorer.

Last Friday, in the Sheriff's Court, Mr. HENRY having suffered judgment to go by default, for criminal intercourse with Lady BEST, wife of Mr. T. BEST, damages were given of 2000l. The only extenuation of the crime of this woman attempted to be given was, that she had left her husband because his temper was soured by embarrassments, which drove him into the Rules of the King's Bench, and that she could not reconcile herself to the relinquishment of fashionable life and its pleasures, and partake with him of adversity! Thus adding to the infamy of adultery the cruelty of forsaking her best friend, her husband, in his misfortunes, and becoming his severest curse, instead of his best comfort.

The Marquis of STAFFORD has just completed a Cemetery near to his seat of Trentham Hall, in Staffordshire. This building is after the manner of the Roman Tombs, and consequently situate on the road side. The ancients usually built their tombs near the highways, which reminded them of their ancestors, and was, at the same time, a useful memento of mortality to the traveller. The Cemetery is of stone, a square of 40 feet on the base, and rises pyramidically 40 feet high. The inside contains 40 Catacombs under one groined arch of stone, and the whole is lined with a beautifully dark, and highly-polished marble.

#### COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

##### HER MAJESTY'S BIRTH-DAY.

The Queen completed her sixty-fourth year on the 19th day of May last, the celebration of which has always been put off till the 18th of January following; the 19th of May being too near his Majesty's birth-day to afford encouragement to the manufacturers, artists, and other persons generally employed upon those occasions. The celebration took place on Wednesday, and although the cold was more severe than any this winter, numerous parties of fair damsels, very elegantly dressed, if dressed some of them could be called, considering the severity of the weather, began to assemble in the rooms of the Palace leading to the Drawing-room, about ten o'clock, and waited, with anxious but patient expectation, to behold the company as they passed, till twelve, until which hour even the attendants upon the Royal Family did not arrive. Some of them were refused admittance, although provided with tickets of admission, on account of being, as well as some gentlemen, dressed in black; as it is contrary to Court etiquette to admit any person so dressed upon the days of the celebration of their Majesties' birth; for, if the Court be in mourning at such periods, it goes out of mourning on these occasions. As the Horse Guards' clock struck one, a double Royal Salute was fired in St. James's Park, and the 61 cannons on the Tower wharf were discharged. Soon after nine o'clock, their Ma-

jesties, the Princesses, the Dukes of York, Clarence, Sussex, Cumberland, and Cambridge, breakfasted together at the Queen's Palace. The Duke of Kent was prevented from being present by indisposition. About eleven o'clock the Princess Charlotte of Wales arrived at the Queen's Palace, to pay her respects. In the course of the morning the Bishops of Chester and Salisbury, and a number of dignified Clergy, attended at the Queen's Palace to pay their congratulations to her Majesty. About half past twelve o'clock her Majesty and the Princesses, and Princess Charlotte of Wales, went from the Queen's Palace to Saint James's Palace, and proceeded to dress in their court dresses. The Princess Charlotte of Wales afterwards went to the apartments of Lady C. Finch, and remained with her Ladyship till near four o'clock, when she went home. About two o'clock her Majesty and the Princesses proceeded to the King's Levee-room, where the attendants of his Majesty's bed-chamber were in waiting, to pay their respects. They then entered the entre-room, where the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Portland, Earls Camden, Westmorland, Bathurst, and Liverpool, Lord Castlereagh, Mr. Canning, Mr. Perceval, &c. were in waiting, to pay their respects.

In her Majesty's way to the Grand Council Chamber, the boys from Christ's Hospital were presented: after which the following New Year's Ode was performed:—

#### ODE FOR THE NEW YEAR 1809.

BY H. J. PYE, ESQ. P. L.

FULL-ORB'D in equinoctial skies  
When the pale moon malignant rides,  
And bids the howling tempest rise,  
And swells the ocean's briny tides,  
Dreadful against the sounding shore  
The winds and waves tumultuous roar,  
The torrent-braving mound in vain  
The stormy inland would restrain,  
The surges with resistless sway  
Force o'er the labour'd mole their way,  
Scorn every weak resource of human toil,  
O'erwhelm the peopl'd town, and waste the cultur'd soil.

But when, by native fences barr'd  
From billowy rage, the happier land  
And rocky cliffs for ever stand  
To the wide-water'd coast a guard,  
Such as on Vecta's southern steep  
Look down defiance on the raging deep,  
Such as on Dover's breezy down  
On Gallia's hostile borders frown,  
Tho' billows urging billows roar,  
And idly beat against the shore,  
While from the heights sublime the swain  
Mocks the vain efforts of the foaming main,  
Till Nature bids the deluged surge subside,  
Hush'd is the tempest's voice, and resurgent rolls the tide.

So o'er Europa's ravaged plain  
We saw the torrent wild of war  
Resistless spread its iron reign,  
And scatter ruin wide and far;  
The embattled wall, the warlike band,  
Vainly the Tyrant's course withstand;  
Before the impious sons of Gaul  
The legions fly, the bulwarks fall;  
Yet Britain's floating castles sweep  
Invasion from her subject deep,  
Yet by her rocks secure from harm,  
Securer by her patriot arm,  
Iberia turns the battle's tide,  
Resists the injurious Tyrant's pride,  
While, freely floating in the ambient sky,  
Sacred to Freedom's cause, their mingled emblems fly.

The Princess of Wales entered the drawing-room about ten minutes before three o'clock, and was conducted to her Majesty by Mrs. St. Leger. Her Royal Highness, after paying her respects to her Majesty, passed on and shook hands with the Princesses and the Duke of Cambridge. The Prince of Wales came about five minutes after.

At the Court were present, besides her Majesty and the Princesses—

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales; the Dukes of York, Clarence, Cumberland, Sussex, Camberland; and Gloucester; the Duchess of York, and the Princess Sophia of Gloucester:

The Archbishops of Canterbury, York, and Dublin; the Lord Chancellor; the Speaker of the House of Commons; the Lord Mayor, Recorder, and Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, &c. &c.

In the evening their Majesties had a select party at the Queen's Palace.

#### LADIES DRESSES.

##### HER MAJESTY.

Scarlet velvet petticoat with black lace thrown over in tasteful draperies, tied up with diamond bows; the right side, drapery rows of gold cockle-shells and chains, strings of pearls and pearl tassels, the pocket-holes ornamented with rich gold cord and tassels, the bottom of the petticoat gold chains, body and train of scarlet and gold velvet, trimmed with black lace; the dress was very magnificent.

##### THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

A superb gold and white leopard tissue satin train and petticoat, richly embroidered and inlaid all round with beautiful coloured stones, to form oak leaves and variegated flowers, interwoven with branches of coral; the drapery and pocket-holes of royal purple, and gold tissue satin, with a most superb border all round to correspond with the petticoat and train; the body and sleeves of gold leopard tissue satin, embroidered and inlaid with rich coloured stones to correspond with the train and petticoat. Her Royal Highness wore over this dress a brilliant Grecian wreath of diamonds, superbly set with bunches of roses and stars; the splendour and magnificence of this dress were surpassed by none. Her Royal Highness's head-dress was elegantly set with diamonds and ostrich feathers.

## THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 40.

### SERIES OF CRITICISMS ON THE LIVING DRAMATISTS.

#### NO. I.—INTRODUCTION.

THIS is not quite so melancholy a subject as Methodism. The corruptions of taste, though they have great effect ultimately upon the interests of the community, are neither so difficult of prevention nor so destructive of good order as those of religion. Our farci-comedies, however similar in style to the eloquence of Dr. COLLYER and Mr. HILL, never speak disrespectfully of the moral virtues; and a modern dramatist, however incapable of good works, certainly dares nobody but himself. I feel much refreshed therefore in escaping from one subject to the other; yes, I escape from the tyrannical regions of bigotry where a wind more pregnant with fire than the storm raises a thousand threatening phantasmas in the sky and is to be escaped by nothing but grovelling in the dust, to the walks of literature, or even to its wastes, where if the laurels are somewhat blighted, it is by a few silly stragglers and not by the haters of cultivation, by the levities of the human intellect, and not by the worst passions of human nature.

I need not enter here into the causes of that dramatic decline which is universally acknowledged and which I have partially considered in another place.\* The course of criticism on our writers must inevitably lead me to retrace more minutely the grounds of a corruption, which has overspread not only our own drama, but the whole civilized stage. This corruption, particularly with regard to France, will of course be found to have some connection with the present great events of Europe, but its principal origin is always to be sought in more domestic and national causes. When the KING of SPAIN prohibited the importation of French literature, he forgot that it was his own government which had rendered the Spanish mind too feeble for solid food; and GRAVINA, in the same manner, while he lamented the literary dotage of Italy, did not recollect that he himself had contributed to found the society, which gave a death-blow to good taste †.

The only objection to which a series of Criticisms on the Living Dramatists appears liable, is the worthlessness of some of its subjects; but this objection overthrows itself. The more wretched the dramatists, the more they should be exposed; and if it is a task not very dignified, it is one of considerable utility and perhaps may be rendered amusing as well as useful. The nonsense of the modern drama does not expose itself like gross personalities in writing or any literary wickedness. It is generally amusing to the multitude, it sometimes appears even witty, and it is always good-humoured; and under all this laughing and knowing mask, a thousand follies are insinuated upon the public taste, which as it feeds them is sure to be flattered by them. Now flattery is a vice, of which I am determined not to be guilty.

No. 2 will be upon Sheridan.

\* In an "Essay on the Appearance, Causes, and Consequences of the Decline of British Comedy," published in another work.

† The Academy of the *Arcadians* instituted at Rome in 1690, under the protection of the *Infant Jesus*!—This puerile assembly, in which Canons and Cardinals changed their names to *Thyrsis* and *Myrtillus* and sighed verses to each other with crooks in their hands, was formed, says CRESCIMBENI, "a preciso effetto di estermiare il cattivo gusto;" for the precise purpose of exterminating bad taste. The reader may well judge of the result. CRESCIMBENI, who was *Custode*, or Head-Shepherd, wasted his time and his reputation in writing a grave account of these great boys playing at *Arcadians*; and our accomplished scholar MATHIAS has wasted his own, in republishing it in this metropolis.

## FINE ARTS.

TO the name of CHALON, the gentleman who so pre-eminently deserved the prize from the British Institution, for his admirable Landscape, the letter H. was affixed instead of the initials J. I. As there is a Mr. H. Chalon, who paints Cattle, we are anxious to correct the error.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,

In claiming your attention a second time, I do it not without much reluctance, my opponent having chosen to depart from that gentlemanly deportment, which I humbly conceive my first letter was entitled to, from any man who thought it worthy of his opposition. I feel bound to answer him, though his answer was certainly an *Hibernian* one: but possibly "his prejudices, his interests, and perhaps his passions," were at strife with "his reason;" else his "sneaking jackall, whited

feeds upon reviews of art after his master has done—his finding a *stain* upon the pages of truth," &c. are a jargon of words, which, to use like him the royal imperative pronoun, "We do not very well understand it, though we have tried hard." While speaking of his own works, you are told that "Mr. Landseer has suggested, with singular felicity, the mild and amber-coloured light," in a black and white print: Now, I think, it might have been well if he had diffused a ray of this or any other coloured light over his epistle. I will now "speak out," and though my attempts will probably be feeble, they may "elicit a spark or two." One secret I will communicate for that Gentleman's happiness and quiet, the thing seeming to grievously haunt him from one end of his loving epistle to the other:—I am under none of the *Boydell's influence whatever*, nor is there any thing in that quarter to enthrall me. I assert myself to be "free as air." In this state of things, Mr. Landseer might, with equal propriety and truth, call himself my friend. If I should be dragged into a court of justice by a subpoena, it will be to speak the truth; and, on such an occasion, would Mr. Landseer do otherwise? His view of this matter may be clearer than mine without "better spectacles." O mean and pitiful! Rememberest thou not, Mr. Landseer, that the same Power which shortened my sight, might have visited thee with a heavier affliction? I had occasion before just to hint how modest, and free from all manner of egotism this critic was. He now enters, (with a flourish of trumpets) and informs you, "It is no novice—no young Tyro— who now addresses you; I have myself practised the stippling art;" but to what end is, I presume, best known to himself: perhaps, he was wise enough to take such measures as would effectually prevent the fame of those works from being recorded. It was, however, probably about this time that he composed his very favourite Anthem of "Glory be to thee, O Dot!" This reviewing hobby, which is now ridden with such confident gallantry, he tells you, "and you know very well, Mr. Editor," that all he says must be true, is a beast, when mounted, which presents, in the *tout ensemble*, an aspect truly horrific to the *Boydells*—but what am I saying, he owneth it not as his beast? I will, however, beg leave to relate an anecdote of the great Barry; and then leave your Readers, Mr. Editor, to make that application of it, in this place, which seemeth best unto them. On a visitor knocking at the painter's door, he would look through a window to ascertain if the stranger were one with whom he was in the humour to commune; it being otherwise, Barry would ring open the window, stare the man full in the face, and tell him with an audible voice, "Mr. Barry's not at home!" The stranger was obliged to go away with his answer; and, of course, perfectly satisfied and convinced of the painter's absence.

It is some satisfaction for me to know, that "the sensible part of my friends" differ from Mr. Landseer, as to whether my "mind be afflicted with either the malady of gross falsehood or egregious inadvertency." They are aware of the practices "of insidiousness on the one hand" which I may have to encounter; and satisfied on the other of the real motives which actuated me,—namely, the defence of my own province in art; from which this Colossus turns aside. He has nevertheless a very convenient mode of argument in stumbling over every thing with a laugh, which he no doubt learnt from Euclid. It is this which is to make the *Boydells* tremble, and "hurry on another trial as fast as they can," to avoid the "dread" effects of another batch of the Reviewer's strictures! Here's a pigmy in stilts! I pretend not to be so "seducing" as Mr. Landseer; but I request to remark, that his little anachronism related to more artists than *Ryland* and *Woollett* (the former of whom had been dead for years, and the latter nearly two years) (but for *Devis*, his country had him not at that time to boast: he was then studying, or practising, which you like, on the banks of the *Ganges*: Lawrence, and others of the painters and engravers too, whom he has paraded, were then mere children in years or in art; but these are trifles,—only little anachronisms! The Reviewer nods, and *Boydells* are expected to put themselves into a

hurry. A similar nod to Messieurs *Ottley* and *Tresham* might possibly rouse those Gentlemen from their slumbers. They ought to awake and look about them, being warned of their danger. "Embarked on a sea of troubles"—new "bound in shallows," with all the *etcetera* of mariners' curses: but these bulletins should be read like *French ones*, with grains of allowance: indeed, I really suspect it will be found, after all, that this said vessel rides in waters too deep to be troubled by the bitterest blast \* this stormy critic can blow,—that however short a way it has yet made in its passage, it will arrive before his own bark at the "land flowing with milk and honey." To conclude—From the examples of style and of feeling which this critic has shewn, I am inclined to believe him one of that sect of philosophers, who, "though vanquished, they can argue still:" but as I have, thank heaven, more profitable engagements than those of scribbling in contention with him; and furthermore am aware, that your Readers will look for more edifying disquisitions than either his or mine; I here declare my determination of not again troubling you: I will ask it no more: and now, I dare say, this artful Reviewer—pardon my mistake, Mr. Editor, this Reviewer of Art, will, after his sage admonitions, think me an incorrigible sinner in again presuming to affix my name; but think as he will, I must now and ever beg to subscribe myself yours very respectfully,

January 10, 1809.

ED. SCRIVEN.

\* It really concerns one to see, with how unbecoming an illiberality persons are lectured by this Professor; for, instead of promoting the fine arts, this must degrade them; instead of inducing respect for British art, it must occasion its being treated with contempt. Can such proceedings be justifiable? Or will any sophistry, or "affected pomp" of language cloak the motives for such personal abuse? But be it remembered, that in the case of Anthony Pasquin, against Giffard, for defamation, the former lost his cause, in consequence of being a notorious satirist and calumniator; in consequence of having attacked private characters, instead of public works. By the same criterion, how stand we the Reviewers of Art? Are not candour, honour, and liberality of sentiment, qualifications as needful to a Reviewer, as genius and learning? Indeed, the latter, without the former, are more likely to be dangerous than useful.

#### FIRE AT ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

Yesterday morning at two o'clock, the sentry in the chief court yard of St. James's Palace, discovered a cloud of smoke issue up a little beyond the South-east corner of the yard, followed by flames. The alarm was given; the Palace was on fire in the East wing of the inner courtyard. It began in the apartments of Miss Rice, one of the Queen's Dressers, in the room of her maid servant. The flames soon took possession of the East wing of the inner court-yard, containing the Queen's private drawing-room, bed, and other apartments. At the end of the wing were apartments of the Duke of Cambridge, extending to the Park. The whole of the East wing of the inner court-yard was speedily in flames, and is now burnt down, that being the only wing of four in this court-yard burnt. A great number of persons assembled to assist in extinguishing the flames, besides fire engines which poured in from all quarters. The Duke of Cambridge was apprized of his danger, and all the residents in the Palace. The Dukes of York, Kent, Sussex, and Cambridge, were active in giving directions for the extinction of the flames. Some companies of the Guards arrived in their working clothes. A great difficulty arose in finding water in consequence of the frost, which gave the flames time to spread, and when found, it was at a distance. The flames

spread into the wing fronting the Park, and burnt it down from the Duke of Cambridge's apartments to the eastern extremity next Marlborough house. Of the front next the Park, about two-fifths are destroyed; the other three, including the drawing-room and all the state apartments, are uninjured. About fifteen windows in length is burnt down. The damage done by the fire has not consumed a sixth part of the Palace, and none of the great state apartments, stair-cases or avenues are touched. In front towards Pall-mall, nothing of the fire can be seen; the whole damage is on the West of Marlborough House.—No other life was lost but that of the unfortunate, in whose room the fire began. At eleven yesterday, the flames were completely got under, and the furniture which had been carried out into the gardens, was conveying back again. The Duke of Cambridge lost very curious plate, and a valuable library. We heartily sympathize in the loss sustained by this most justly esteemed of his Majesty's sons.

#### MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

Tuesday, Jan. 17.

*Alexander Burdon*, Esq. convicted of perjury on the second day of the Sessions, was brought up, and received the following sentence:—To be imprisoned six months in the House of Correction, and to pay a fine of 50*l.* to the King.

*Patrick McMahon*, convicted of having fraudulently obtained a gig, value 40 guineas, from Colonel Greville, was also brought up, and sentenced to seven years transportation.

*Daniel Sweeney* was indicted for violently assaulting and attempting to stab John Hunt, a police officer, in the execution of his duty, on the 15th December last, in St. Giles's.—It appeared in evidence, that the prisoner, who resided in a cellar in Dyott-street, had been maltreating his wife, whose screams attracted the notice of the watchmen on their beat, two of whom went down, and endeavoured to take him into custody, but in vain, as he made a most determined resistance, having armed himself with a fire-shovel; the watchmen then left the cellar, and on entering the street met Hunt, with whom they returned; and after a scuffle, during which the prisoner had attempted to stab Hunt with a knife, and which lasted upwards of three quarters of an hour, they succeeded in overpowering and hand-cuffing him.—His conduct towards his wife, who was in an advanced state of pregnancy, appeared to have been, upon that, as well as on many other occasions, extremely barbarous and cruel; and the Jury having returned a verdict of *Guilty*, he was sentenced to six months imprisonment.

The Court adjourned.

#### ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Several vessels below bridge having their cables cut by the floating ice on Tuesday night, were of course adrift and in much confusion. They were carried with the impetuosity of the morning tide, on Wednesday, towards the bridge; and a large West-country barge ran with her bows under the centre arch, and her mast beat for a long time with such violence against the battlements, as to loosen the masonry for a considerable distance. This was about four o'clock in the morning; and the bargemen, for the imagined security of the vessel, climbed the mast, lashed it to the ballustrade, and then returned to the deck to wait the day-light and return of the tide. But such was the force of the existing current, that upwards of 15 yards of the ballustrade were thrown into the river, and four men were killed on board the barge by the stones.

The daughter of a respectable tradesman, at a town in Surrey, not far distant from London, a very pretty and accomplished girl, only in her fifteenth year, was permitted by her father to spend the Christmas holidays with a friend at Hampton Court, who had a daughter about her own age. When, one day, walk-

ing in the Cloisters of the Palace, she was seen by an officer of a regiment quartered in that neighbourhood, more renowned for his conquests over female innocence, both here and in the Sister Kingdom, than his military achievements; he unfortunately saw and marked her as a victim for his libidinous desires; to accomplish which, he had recourse to the servant in the family where the young lady was, and, by bribing her, got an opportunity of speaking to the young lady, whose unsuspecting mind he so worked upon as to induce her to consent to an elopement, which, with the assistance of a male pander of the Captain's, was effected on Thursday se'nnight, between nine and ten o'clock; and, notwithstanding the severity of the weather, the fugitives walked from Hampton-Court to Hounslow, where they procured a post-chaise, and proceeded towards town. The young lady being very soon missed, her father was immediately sent for, who soon ascertained the cause of his daughter's flight, and almost frantic with grief and rage, set off in search of her. At Hammersmith he learnt that the chaise had broken down there, but that they had procured another, which had conveyed them to Leicester-fields, where all trace was lost, the driver stating that he had put them down in the street. All Friday and Saturday the unhappy father, whose anguish of mind can be better imagined than described, was spent in fruitless search of his daughter, though assisted by one of the officers of Bow-street, and they visited every house in that part of the town likely for them to resort to.—On Tuesday last, however, he succeeded in his search, and took her with him into the country. Is there no law to punish the scoundrel who seduced her?

A young gentleman of the name of Stewart, who had lately arrived in town from the Highlands of Scotland, was some evenings ago robbed in the Green Park of his watch and some silver, by a lady (supposed to be a man in female attire), in the following singular manner:—As he was walking about nine o'clock in St. James's Park on his way to Piccadilly, where he lodges, he was familiarly accosted by a tall lady, elegantly dressed, and prevailed upon to accompany her through the Green Park, to her residence in Half Moon-street, Piccadilly, to partake of a comfortable supper; and as soon as they arrived at the west end of the reservoir, she made a sudden halt, and presenting a pistol to the gentleman's breast, she swore, that unless he placed his watch and all his money on the seat, he was a dead man.—With the utmost dread and amazement he complied with her demand; and after she laid up her plunder, she opened the door leading into Piccadilly, by means of a key, and on shutting the same behind her, warned him to beware in future of bad company, and wished him good-bye.

Streatham Church, in Surrey, has lately been undergoing a thorough repair. The communion plate was in consequence sent to Rundle and Bridge, the silversmiths, on Ludgate-hill, to be new burnished, repaired, &c. On Sunday evening it was packed up in a box, and put into the Streatham errand-cart, from the shop of Rundle and Bridge. The cart had occasion to stop in Bishopsgate-street, and left the cart. On his return to the cart, he found the box containing the plate, had been taken out. It was suspected that some robbers had been lurking about on Ludgate-hill, and had watched the box out of the silversmith's shop, and had no doubt of its containing valuables.

#### DEATHS.

On the 18th inst. William Henry Reynell, M.A. Vicar of Hornchurch, Essex, aged 68, the youngest son of the late Right Rev. Father in God, Carew, Lord Bishop of Derry.

On Friday se'nnight, Josiah Barnard, Esq. of Cornhill, banker, aged 79.

Lately, near Birmingham, where he had recently retired, Mr. Ireland, author of the *Illustrations of Hogarth*, and several other works.

Lately, aged 63, Mr. Gibson, of Oakham, grocer. He accidentally scratched his finger with a pin on the previous Monday, which brought on a mortification, and occasioned his death.

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