

THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

No. 160.

PREFATORY OBSERVATIONS ON THE CASE OF MR. FINNERTY.

If ever there was a time, when it became public writers among us to be bold—I may say adventurous—in advocating the cause of individual freedom, that obligation is now in full force. Nor is this spoken declamatorily, like common-place invectives against the degeneracy of an age; nor insidiously, in order to represent our condition as upon a par with that of the French. If the present times are inferior in some respects to the past, they are also superior in others; and as to the French, none but the absurd persons calling themselves Antijacobins, would think of gravely refuting the advantages which that nation, or admirers equally absurd in its behalf, would claim over us. But to an Englishman, living in the present age, and wishing to be as free as he ought in his own country, what signify comparative arguments drawn from past despotisms in England, or present despotism in France? It is, no doubt, very lamentable to recollect that such men as the STUARTS have reigned in England; but it does not therefore become us to put up with an encroachment upon our liberties, because the people in their times put up with worse:—it is also very lamentable, that our neighbours the French have chosen to be splendid slaves, rather than consistent and comfortable freemen, but surely that should not induce us to be less anxious in preserving our own independence, and withstanding the least approach towards a violation of it. By arguments drawn from comparison, we might all put up with a blow, because in China every body is beaten;—or with an order from the Court to go to Scotland, because in Russia they are sent to Siberia;—or with the amputation of a leg at the Sovereign's pleasure, because in Turkey and Morocco it is the fashion to lose one's head at a moment's notice. The Ministerialists should be ashamed of comparisons leading to such absurdity. An Englishman's freedom ought to be positive and not comparative: he should be absolutely not relatively free; and he is no longer so, if his power of speaking and writing is at the mercy of a comparison with that of Frenchmen.

But justly as every honest Reformer disdains this comparison, and the creatures who would make it an apology for corruption, he is not the less convinced of the vital necessity of restoring the liberties we have lost, and of keeping a perpetual watch upon those that remain to us. By

the liberties we have lost, I mean in particular, *short Parliaments*, and their great consequent benefit, the *actual responsibility of Ministers*;—by the liberties which remain (and noble ones they certainly are, however violated at times) I understand particularly the *personal security of the Subject*, and the *Liberty of the Press*. The loss on the one hand sufficiently explains the necessity of vigilance on the other; but there exist other reasons, of the most obvious importance, both in a general and particular light—both with a reference to history and human nature, and to the present condition of the nations around us. These are chiefly the *progress of luxury*,—the rapid growth of arbitrary power when once suffered to lessen its restraints,—and the lesson daily taught us by our enemy, that nothing can eventually withstand a powerful and *skilful* ambition but an inviolate national spirit. In times of luxury, in particular, a more than ordinary stimulus is necessary to keep alive that spirit, and to hinder individuals from indulging their ease and their lucrative speculations, so as to become careless of the political rights of themselves and their posterity. The liberal arts, in their proper exercise, have a material influence, to this effect, upon the hotter order of minds; but the manifestation of a bold, constant, and upright spirit of freedom in a few individuals is worth every other exercise of the intellect and feelings, inasmuch as it essentially tends to correct the softness of the times; appeals to every understanding high and low; and affords, not only a practical example to the well-intentioned, but the best and only contradiction to those timid, small-minded, or selfish people, who affect to consider all public spirit as artifice or Utopianism. When once the supreme power acquires a strength beyond its prerogative, such men become more necessary than ever, inasmuch as the acquisition of that strength argues a corrupt acquiescence in the other estates of government, and the people require new monitors,—new guardians,—perhaps new representatives. Accordingly, while the STUARTS were occupied with one hand in encroaching upon the legislature, they employed the other in attempting to ruin individuals whose intrepidity was their greatest obstruction; for they knew, that though it was possible to set the people against the Parliament, it was not so easy to make them suspect the disinterested and fearless men who came forward, at the hazard of their fortunes and liberties, to combat with oppression. The exertions of these individuals were at length successful, and the STUARTS were driven from the throne; but till all monarchs become ANTONINES and ATRACES, never shall we banish from the throne the love of encroachment. In the very times when a nation may think itself most secure against a return of the STUART principles, circumstances may arise, abroad and at home,

which by throwing an enormous degree of patronage in the hands of the monarch, shall take away from the other branches of government the very desire to resist encroachment; the House of Commons, for instance, shall not only acquiesce in the views of the King, but so acquiescing, they shall begin to feel the arbitrary spirit themselves, and unite with him to shut their ears against complaint. Under these circumstances, the possession of uncontrolled power becomes the prize of whichever of the two parties, master or servant, is superior in intellect:—if the King is a man of genius, he does what he pleases with Parliament, and the Government becomes an arbitrary Monarchy;—if he is weak, his Ministers do what they please with him, and the Government becomes an Oligarchy, not less arbitrary. He may be obstinate, it is true; but obstinacy is to the mind what fits are to the body,—strength to no purpose,—a proof of the very weakness it would contradict. The Ministers have only to flatter a weak Monarch in his prejudices, and they are secure of his attachment. The people are at last set at an enormous distance from the Government, in order to gratify the Monarch's pride, or to confirm his fancied security, or to indulge his incapacity of attention:—not even a Petition reaches him; and he may become deaf, blind, and even insane, for what the people know, without the least change in the affairs of Government,—without the least stoppage in the general progress of the nation towards exhaustion, bankruptcy and enslavement.

If England is not in this situation at present, then she has not shed a single tear for the deeds at Walcheren,—then do we all pay with gold and never see fifty bankrupts a week,—then are we in the confidence of his Majesty's Ministers; have never had the Habeas Corpus suspended; enjoy triennial, nay annual, Parliaments; are not in the least danger of foreign subjugation; and may all speak the truth like men.—But if she is in this situation,—if the Ministers can waste our treasure and blood as they please;—if our gold has vanished, and paper-money has arrived to that pitch of worthlessness that it tempts men to speculate only to ruin them;—if the King has been unable to discharge the common duties of his office, and the Ministers have dared to keep the secret from us; if the Legislature receives as law the precedents of that man, who suspended one of our dearest rights;—if Septennial Parliaments have brought with them temptation to worldliness, inviolability to corruption, and contempt to the people;—if we have such an enemy, as Europe has never seen before, on the perpetual watch for our destruction;—and, lastly, if we are not allowed to say all this in the strongest manner, and to place it in the most pointed and enlightening view to one another, in order to animate our countrymen to a full recovery of their Constitution,—then we have no resource but in a noble daring worthy of our ancestors; and nothing can save us but a voluntary sacrifice on the part of those patriotic individuals, who content to exchange their luxuries for bread and their liberties for a prison, will assert

their right to utter the truth. It is true, those who oppose this right have the power in their hands, and they may laugh at the resistance of a voice or two; but let us never forget, that the resistance of one voice shook down one of the greatest pieces of despotism that CHARLES the First attempted to build on the people's necks; and that the unjust imprisonment of a single individual opened to us the breathing liberty of the Habeas Corpus Act.

Leaving the reader at present to digest these remarks, and to turn for the refreshment of his memory, if he needs it, to the history of the STRAFFORDS, the BUTES, and the successors of BUTE, the Editor will enter at large next week upon the case of Mr. FINNERTY, with a plainness of speaking respecting that Gentleman and his persecutors, which he trusts will be as candidly appreciated by the former, as he has no doubt it will be vilified—perhaps persecuted—by the latter.



FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

PORTUGAL.

LISBON, FEB. 3.—The armies remain in their former position. Soul is besieging Badajos, and there is a report that it has fallen. We do not expect any thing serious until April. The inhabitants are flying from the Alentejo, on the borders of which the French have captured Olivenza, with 3000 men. Junot is said to have set off for France on account of his wound.—Our force amounts to full 90,000 men, while the enemy has little more than 60,000 effective. Our sick amounts to about 20,000; the enemy have nearly 7000 in their hospitals, and are much distressed for medicine.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS,

Tuesday, Feb. 12.

SPEECH DELIVERED IN THE NAME OF THE REGENT, &c.

The LORD CHANCELLOR informed the Lords, that his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, not finding it convenient to attend in person, had issued a Commission, authorizing the Duke of York, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, Earl Camden, the Earl of Westmorland, and the Duke of Montrose, in the name and on behalf of his Majesty, to open and declare certain further causes for holding the Parliament.

The Commission having been read, and the Commons being in attendance, the LORD CHANCELLOR delivered the following Speech (as it is termed:—)

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ In execution of the Commission which has now been read to you, we are commanded by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent to express, in the strongest manner, how deeply he laments, not only in common with all his Majesty's subjects, but with a personal and filial affliction, the great national calamity which has been the occasion of imposing upon his Royal Highness the duty of exercising, in his Majesty's name, the Royal Authority of this Kingdom.

“ In conveying to you the sense which his Royal Highness entertains of the great difficulties attending the important trust which is reposed in him, his Royal Highness commands us to assure you, that he looks with the most perfect confidence to the

wisdom and zeal of Parliament, and to the attachment of a loyal and affectionate people, for the most effectual assistance and support; and his Royal Highness will, on his part, exert his utmost endeavours to direct the powers with which he is invested, to the advancement of the prosperity, welfare, and security, of his Majesty's dominions.

"We are directed to inform you, that his Royal Highness has great satisfaction in being enabled to state, that fresh opportunities have been afforded during the late campaign, for distinguishing the valour and skill of his Majesty's forces both by sea and land.

"The capture of the Islands of Bourbon and of Amboyna have still further reduced the colonial dependencies of the enemy.

"The attack upon the Island of Sicily, which was announced to the world with a presumptuous anticipation of success, has been repulsed by the persevering exertions and valour of his Majesty's land and sea forces.

"The judicious arrangement adopted by the Officers commanding on that station, derived material support from the zeal and ardour which were manifested during this contest by the inhabitants of Sicily, and from the co-operation of the naval means which were directed by his Sicilian Majesty to this object.

"In Portugal and at Cadiz, the defence of which constituted the principal object of his Majesty's exertions in the last campaign, the designs of the enemy have been hitherto frustrated. The consummate skill, prudence, and perseverance of Lieutenant General Lord Viscount Wellington, and the discipline and determined bravery of the Officers and men under his command, have been conspicuously displayed throughout the whole of the campaign. The effect of those distinguished qualities, in inspiring confidence and energy into the troops of his Majesty's allies, has been happily evinced by their general good conduct, and particularly by the brilliant part which they bore in the repulse of the enemy at Buzaco. And his Royal Highness commands us further to state, that he trusts you will enable him to continue the most effectual assistance to the brave nations of the Peninsula, in the support of a contest which they manifest a determination to maintain with unabated perseverance; and his Royal Highness is persuaded that you will feel, that the best interests of the British Empire must be deeply affected in the issue of this contest, on which the liberties and independence of the Spanish and Portuguese nations entirely depend.

"We have it likewise in command to acquaint you, that discussions are now depending between this country and the United States of America; and that it is the earnest wish of his Royal Highness that he may find himself enabled to bring these discussions to an amicable termination, consistent with the honour of his Majesty's Crown, and the Maritime Rights and Interests of the United Kingdom.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"We are directed to acquaint you, that his Royal Highness the Prince Regent has given his commands that the estimates for the expenditure of the current year should be laid before you; and his Royal Highness has great satisfaction in acquainting you, that although the difficulties under which the commerce of this kingdom has laboured, have in some degree affected a part of his Majesty's revenue, particularly in Ireland, yet that the revenue of Great Britain in the last year, though unaided by any new taxation, is greater than ever was known in any preceding year. And his Royal Highness trusts to your zeal and liberality to afford his Majesty adequate supplies for the support of the great contest in which he is necessarily engaged.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"We are commanded by his Royal Highness to declare to you, that it is the most anxious wish of his heart, that he may be enabled to restore unimpaired into the hands of his Majesty the Government of his Kingdom; and that his Royal Highness earnestly prays, that the Almighty may be pleased in his mercy to accelerate the termination of a calamity so deeply lamented by the whole nation, and so peculiarly afflicting to his Royal Highness himself."

ADDRESS TO THE REGENT.

The Earl of ABERDEEN rose to move an Address of Thanks to the Prince Regent, for his most gracious speech. The Noble Earl joined in the pious prayer offered up by his Royal Highness for the recovery of his Majesty,—applauded his Royal Highness for the forbearance, moderation, and judgment, he had evinced,—and gave it as his opinion, that the sacrifice made by his Royal Highness of his private and personal feelings, presented a perfect picture of true patriotism. The Noble Earl then adverted to foreign affairs; spoke of the skill and judgment of Lord Wellington,—of the sacred flame of liberty in the Peninsula,—of the good grounds for hope, &c. &c. &c.—He concluded by alluding to the Catholic Claims, which he thought ought not to be urged at the present moment, though, on this topic, he agreed in opinion with "that immortal man," to whose memory he reverted with filial respect and veneration. The Noble Earl concluded with moving an Address, which, as usual, was a mere repetition of the Speech.

Lord ELIOT seconded the motion.

Earl GROSVENOR said, that Ministers in the confidence of the Regent would have noticed in the Speech the subjects of *economy* and *reform*, which the people were anxiously looking for: but it was altogether the most flimsy one he had ever heard in Parliament. The situation of Ireland, he said, called for the most serious consideration—it deserved immediate inquiry—it should be known, if it were true, as said, that many of the natives, alarmed at the prospective dangers, were emigrating into different parts of England, and among the mountains of Wales. The degree of these dangers, if any do exist, ought to be investigated. Adverting to the affairs of the Peninsula, his Lordship insisted on the propriety of thoroughly informing Parliament on that subject, as to the real state and means of defence possessed by the natives, the character of the Nobles, and whether the great mass of the people were earnestly inclined to resist the progress of the enemy. These were points on which Parliament should be informed; and the conduct of Ministers, he insisted, was such, especially on the recent trying and arduous occasion, as should divest them of the confidence of the country.

Lord GRENVILLE approved generally of the Address; but that part which alluded to the Peninsula he altogether differed from. The people of Spain and Portugal ought certainly to be assisted in their struggle for independence; but the mode of assistance ought not to be such as to make us principals rather than auxiliaries: our whole disposable force ought not to be hazarded in a conflict with an enemy who commanded the united powers of Europe. It is true, the most favourable predictions had been uttered; but how have they been verified? They had been repeatedly told of the great distress of the enemy in Portugal, yet that distressed enemy had driven the Allies to the last tenable post in the country. The system could not lead to success. If the French subdued Spain, no man could be sanguine enough to look for our retention of Portugal? What, in fact, have the Spaniards done for themselves? What did they perform when the French armies were called away to a distant part of Germany; or what have they been doing while so large a French force has been occupied in Portugal? Nothing: nay, the enemy was daily gaining ground in Spain. Under every view of the subject, therefore, he must protest against that part of the Address which promised further military aid to the Peninsula. His Lordship then alluded to America and the Report of the Bullion Committee, but postponed his observations till a better opportunity.

Lord LIVERPOOL contended that Parliament stood committed to afford every assistance to the Peninsula. The Portuguese troops had proved their ability to combat in the ranks with British soldiers; their conduct on all trying occasions had obtained them the applause of the most distinguished military men; and as they had never disappointed our expectations, upon what ground could we now desert them?—The gloomy predictions of Noble Lords had not been verified. Our army had not been compelled to quit the country; they still maintained the contest with success, and that contest ought to be persevered in to the last moment.—On the subject of America, this was

not the proper time to dilate. On the whole, the Address did not pledge their Lordships to any new measure, but merely called upon them to acknowledge the sentiments they had already professed.

The Address was then agreed to without a division.—Adjourned to Friday.

Friday, Feb. 15.

INFORMATION EX OFFICIO FOR LIBEL.

LORD HOLLAND gave notice, that in the course of the Session he should make a motion for the number and nature of the informations *ex officio* filed in the Court of King's Bench for Libel. His Lordship observed, that he had on a former occasion unsuccessfully opposed a Bill, which since it had passed into an Act of Parliament, had given to informations *ex officio* a consequence they did not before possess, and he now gave this general notice, in order that he might not be charged on a future occasion with taking the House by surprise, intending, according to the information upon this subject which should be obtained, either to found upon it some specific motion, or a motion for the repeal of the Act.—Adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, Feb. 12.

ADDRESS TO THE REGENT.

On the return of the SPEAKER from the Lords, he read the Speech delivered by the Commissioners—(for which see the Lords.)

Mr. MILNER rose to move an Address to the Regent: he deemed the Speech they had just heard one calculated to awaken every feeling of the human mind, and to inspire at once the highest admiration and warmest affection for the illustrious individual from whom it proceeded. The same admiration and approbation he thought equally due to Parliament for its conduct under the late arduous circumstances.—After continuing in this strain for some time, he concluded by moving an Address to the Prince, in the usual style.

Mr. R. WELLESLEY (son of Lord Wellington) seconded the motion. After eulogizing the conduct of the Regent, he alluded to the affairs of Portugal, and contended that the projects of France had entirely failed. He could not wholly suppress his admiration of Lord Wellington's exploits; and he must say at least, that he had conducted one campaign to its termination with honour to the British arms;—that, with comparatively small means, he had occupied a large French force for a longer space of time than that which had heretofore sufficed them to subvert empires of powerful sway;—that he had materially diminished the strength of the enemy, while he preserved his own inviolate.—It was both the duty and interest of this country to maintain the cause of the Peninsula.

Mr. ROYSONAY entirely agreed with the Hon. Gentlemen in their praises of the Prince.—In regard to Spain and Portugal, he had not made up his mind, and therefore at present he should not enter upon the discussion.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT could not help lamenting, that after the end of three months, the people should be placed in a state in which they were as much without the Constitution as at the first period of it. The Prince seemed to have felt himself so awkwardly circumstanced with an Executive forced on him, that he did not appear very anxious to meet them personally in Parliament. His situation was certainly one of great embarrassment, and owing greatly to the manner in which he had been forced into it. After having raised one phantom to make the Prince another, they proclaim him a Governor without giving him the powers of government. He could not sit down without again adverting to what appeared to him not a little awkward, though not unaccountable; he meant the Prince declining to come down in person to meet the Parliament. The Prince, however, had no doubt his own reasons for not doing so. He might have felt rather shy of appearing in public, with such a set as the present servants of the Crown. He might have felt at the head of them as Falstaff did at the head of his soldiers, when he was, in his humorous description of his

“tattered prodigals,” confesses himself so much ashamed of “such scare-crows,” that he exclaimed, “I’ll not march through Coventry with them, that’s flat.”—(A laugh.) He thought that the Speech must necessarily require more consideration than they could then give it, and therefore he should wish the adjournment of the present question till to-morrow.

Mr. LAMB hoped no domestic subjects of complaint would arise to take up their time, and that the Session might be devoted to enquiries into the real state of the Nation. Public economy, he trusted, would be properly attended to, and the public expenditure thoroughly investigated and regulated.

Mr. PARNELL made a few observations on the Address. He complained that little notice had been taken of Ireland in the Speech, and expressed an intention of shortly speaking more at large on that subject.

Gen. TARLETON agreed with all that had been said of the Prince, but would take an opportunity of strongly protesting against that part of the Address relative to the affairs of Portugal.

The question was then put, and the Address carried without a division.

A PORTUGUESE PRISONER.

Sir F. BURDETT wished to ask some questions respecting the treatment of an individual in this country, now confined in Cold Bath-fields prison. In 1809, when Lord George Stewart was commander of a fleet on a foreign station, a Portuguese was introduced to dinner with Lord George Stewart, and every thing appeared very agreeable, when, after they had dined, an order was produced from Mr. Canning for his arrest and detention. The man was then thrown into a dungeon at Heligoland, where he was confined a fortnight, and very roughly treated by those who had him in custody. He was afterwards brought over to this country, and committed to Cold Bath-fields prison, where he had been denied pen, ink, and paper, and even newspapers. He has been thus confined for two years, during which time no notice whatever has been publicly taken of him.

Mr. YORKER knew nothing at all of the transaction, but he should certainly feel it his duty to make the enquiries necessary to ascertain the state of the fact.

Sir F. BURDETT should have supposed such a transaction must be known to all his Majesty's Ministers.

Mr. WHITBREAD was about to speak, when

The SPEAKER observed, that there was no question before the House.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Mr. HUTCHINSON, remarking upon the Regent's Speech, observed, that all the energies of the nation should be called forth. The public expenditure should be watched over; they should endeavour to bring about a Reform in that House; and the claims of Ireland, so long neglected and despised, should be particularly regarded.

Sir T. TURTON was of opinion that our efforts should be directed to the attainment of an honourable peace. He had never been sanguine about the event of the war, which had proved the grave of our prosperity. With such a disparity of force on our side, it was absurd to contend against the armies of France. We should soon have nothing in our possession but Lisbon and Cadiz.

[Here Mr. CANNING took an opportunity of observing (in allusion to the observations made by Sir Francis Burdett respecting the Portuguese in Cold Bath-fields prison) that he had not the most distant knowledge of the transaction.]

At this moment the Report on the Address being brought up, Mr. WHITBREAD made some remarks upon the various topics mentioned in the Address. He observed that no mention was made of peace, and therefore we must look forward to a destructive, interminable, and annihilating warfare! As to Portugal, we could form no judgment of the war there from the dispatches of Lord Wellington, who had talked of having confined the enemy to the ground on which he stood, though two important towns had fallen without even an attempt to relieve them. While the enemy was laying waste the country, and utterly destroying all the means of subsistence, we had been told that he must soon be annihilated by famine and disease!

And after all this, what a very small portion of Portugal remained in our hands. He could see nothing brilliant in our prospects in the Peninsula.—After alluding to Sweden and America, Mr. Whitbread concluded by declaring, that should the same general system be continued, he should feel himself compelled to oppose it as he had hitherto done.

Mr. PERCEVAL felt astonished that the Hon. Gentleman could not collect the sentiments of Lord Wellington from his dispatches. Though the enemy had been disappointed, on our side there was no disappointment of any rational hope. (*Hear, hear!*) It might be presumptuous to anticipate success, but no cause for despondency existed. We had already effected an object for Spain, and the Peninsula, though overrun by the enemy, was very far from being subdued. He hoped much from the unconquerable mind of the Spanish nation.—Although the system pursued by the enemy had materially injured our commerce, yet that system had such an effect upon the national industry, that the revenue had increased. The system of interminable war, as it was termed, was wholly imputable to France, whose avowed object was the total destruction of this country. Its Chief had never shown any other disposition.—Wishes had been expressed that the Regent would remove from his Councils persons who did not possess the confidence of the people. He, however, would contend, that the present Ministers possessed as much of the public confidence as any body of men in the land. (*Laughter.*)

Sir J. NEWPORT was of opinion, that Ministers had studiously neglected the interests of Ireland. They seemed to think that the less said of Ireland the better. That country had been so drained of troops, that the public tranquillity was endangered. (*Hear, hear!*). This was the fact. The Irish business was always delayed till the end of the Sessions, though it was the peculiar duty of the House, at this awful crisis, to probe the complaints of Ireland to the bottom, and to relieve them if just.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that Ireland had not been drained of troops: there was a larger force there now than during any former period of the war.

On the Report being received, Mr. WHITBREAD wished to know the facts relative to the Portuguese prisoner, so properly adverted upon by an Hon. Baronet.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that proper inquiries were making.

Mr. WHITBREAD observed, that it was a subject of just complaint, that a man should remain in prison two years without a charge having been made against him. He was afraid that the law had been grossly violated.

Mr. YORKE said, that he had instituted a proper inquiry into the transaction. The officer who sent the man to prison was now at Yarmouth, and consequently could not explain it for a few days. The prisoner, on the 7th of October, was sent from Heligoland to London as a spy, and it appeared from the warrant that he had assumed three different names.

Mr. WHITBREAD remarked, that the prisoner should long since either have been liberated, or, if a spy, dealt with according to law. The matter, however, would not drop here.

The Address being finally agreed to, the House adjourned.

Thursday, Feb. 14.

THE REGENT'S ANSWER.

Lord GEORGE THYNNE informed the House that his Royal Highness the Prince Regent had returned the following gracious answer to the Address:—

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"I thank you for your dutiful and loyal Address, and feel highly gratified by the expressions of regret and condolence you have used on the state of his Majesty's health. I experience additional satisfaction from the assurances of support you have given me in the arduous undertaking in which I have engaged, and which can alone enable me effectually to conduct the Government in the present difficult situation of public affairs."

Leave was given to bring in a Bill for erecting a new Bridge across the Thames from Queen-street, Cheapside, to the opposite shore.—Adjourned.

Friday, Feb. 15.

Mr. MELLISH brought in the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons on the Petition of the Subscribers for a New Theatre in the Metropolis, and leave was given to bring in a Bill.

Mr. WHITBREAD asked if any reform had yet taken place in the Exchequer Bill Office?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that one or two removals had taken place.

MODE OF GRANTING THE PUBLIC MONEY.

Mr. CREEVEY complained of the manner in which sums of money were voted away in that House. The Minister brought forward such motions at all hours of the night, and when the House was nearly empty. This was an intolerable grievance. Last Session a million and a half of money had been granted to the India Company. This matter was delayed till the last moment, and no important stage of the Bill took place till one o'clock in the morning. Thus, when large sums were granted, Ministers selected their own time and supporters, and chose the moment when little or no opposition could be expected.—He then alluded to grants of 6000*l.*, one to Lord Glenbervie, the other to Lord Auckland. Why was this fact concealed from the House? This grant was a stale demand, which had been refused by different Administrations. There was another monstrous grievance, too, respecting the fees paid to Lords Auckland and Camden, as Tellers of the Exchequer. He could see no possible reason why these pretended freeholds should be annually increased at the public expence. The Act of Appropriation gave a dreadful power to Ministers, and he called for some proper regulations on the subject.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that it was not in the power of Ministers to bring on the public business at any particular time; it was quite impossible. As to the complaint of the Hon. Gentleman respecting the grant to Lords Auckland and Glenbervie, which he insinuated was a concealed piece of patronage to Members of Parliament—he would observe, that when any gentleman wished for delay in any Ministerial Grant, that delay was always afforded. Lord Glenbervie was indeed a Member of Parliament when the Grant took place, but he had ceased to be one since the Duke of Portland's Administration. As to Lord Auckland, did the Hon. Gentleman really believe that he would act from any improper motive? Has, in fact, that Noble Lord's conduct shewn that he was under undue influence? (*Hear, hear!*)—The Grant would not have been made, had he not been convinced of its justice. He intended to bring forward a Motion to obviate the inconveniences felt in conducting the public business.

Lord FOLKESTONE observed, that it was notorious that it was next to impossible for any but the friends of Ministers to know when any particular measure was to be brought forward.

Mr. WHITBREAD was of opinion that the evil complained of originated in the great accumulation of public business, owing to the short meetings of Parliament.

In a Committee of supply, Mr. PERCEVAL said, that the estimates would be laid before the House on an early day. The sum which he then should move for would not be greater than was required by the immediate wants of the nation.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains a letter from Vice-Admiral Bertie, dated on board the *Africaine*, St. Paul's, Isle of Bourbon, the 13th October, 1810. The Admiral forwards to the Admiralty three letters from Capt. Rowley, of the *Boadicea*, and one from Capt. Gordon, of the *Ceylon*, giving an account of their proceedings in the Indian Seas. It appears that Capt. Rowley, in the *Boadicea* frigate, with the Otter sloop, and Staunch gun-brig, sailed from St. Paul's Road, on the 12th September, in order to attack the *Astrea* and *Iphigenia* French frigates, which were cruising in the offing. As they stood out of the Bay, they were joined by the *Africaine* frigate, Capt. Corbett, who united with them in the chase. The *Africaine*

having the same breeze as the enemy, closed with them before dark, and commenced the engagement. The Boadicea was four or five miles astern, and unfortunately at this moment the winds became light and variable. The Africaine becoming unmanageable under the fire of both ships (one in a most destructive raking position) after a most gallant though unequal contest, which continued upwards of an hour, was obliged to surrender. Capt. Cosbett, and Mr. Parker (the Master), with 36 seamen and marines, were killed; and Lieutenants Tullidge, Forder, and Jackson, Mr. Theed (Master's Mate), and Messrs. Morder, Jones, and Leech, Midshipmen, with 71 seamen and marines, were wounded. On the approach of the Boadicea, Otter, and Staunch, the enemy abandoned the Africaine to them, leaving an officer and nine Frenchmen in charge of her, with most of the wounded, and about 83 of her crew, whom they had not time to remove. Six days after this, while in the Bay of St. Paul's, the Boadicea discovered three sail in the offing. She immediately set sail, in company with the Otter and Staunch, and after some hours chase, came up with the Venus French frigate, of 44 guns and 338 men. The Boadicea ran her alongside, and after a short but close action, the Venus struck, having had nine killed and 15 wounded. The Boadicea had only two men wounded. The Venus, in company with the Victor corvette, had that morning captured the Ceylon, Capt. Gordon, after two most desperate actions, which together lasted upwards of four hours. The Ceylon did not surrender till she became wholly unmanageable, and had lost, in killed, 10 seamen and marines, and in wounded 31. Among the latter were Capt. Gordon, Mr. Oliver (the Master), and Capt. Ross, of the 69th regiment.—When the Venus struck, the Ceylon was taken possession of by the Otter, and both were sent into St. Paul's Roads. In the Ceylon, Gen. Abercromby and the whole of his Staff were recaptured. Capt. Rowley, in the whole of these services, appears to have acted with the utmost perseverance, intrepidity, and judgment; and by his exertions has re-established the British ascendancy in the Indian Seas, which had been suspended by the loss of the Nereide, Magicienne, and Iphigenia.—Commodore Hamelin, senior officer of the French squadron in India, was taken in the Venus.

BANKRUPTS.

- J. Pearkes, St. Paul's Church-yard, silk-weaver.
 R. Stott, Rochdale, Lancashire, money-scrivener.
 J. Flack, Lystall-street, Liquor Pond-street, coach-smith.
 T. Granger, Long-acre, brass-founder.
 O. C. Faerber, Bridge-street, Covent garden, tailor.
 J. Sutton, Sandy, Bedfordshire, butcher.
 G. C. Bainbridge and W. Cartwright, Liverpool, merchants.
 I. Jeffries, Sudbury, Suffolk, miller.
 J. White, Gloucester, barge-owner.
 J. Heywood, Manchester, machine-maker.
 R. Horner, Welburn, Yorkshire, tanner.
 R. Brade, R. Norcott, J. Joel, Manchester, coach-makers.
 J. B. Haywood and J. Pinniger, Coleman-street, clothiers.
 W. Adds, Dorking, Surrey, linen-draper.
 T. Carter, Oxford-street, upholsterer.
 T. Dawson, High-street, Wapping, grocer.
 J. A. Gibbs, Worthing, plumber.
 H. Richards, Strand, gun-maker.
 J. Morley, Stewardstone, Essex, silk-throwster.
 J. Hill, Axminster, Devonshire, innholder.
 H. Fallows, Pendleton-within-Salford, Lancashire, dealer.
 H. Faugoin, Triasaran, Carmarthenshire, coal-merchant.
 E. Gibson, Great St. Helen's, merchant.
 W. Gibson, Edgware-road, cheesemonger.
 J. Taylor, Winchester-row, Mary-le-bonne, cheesemonger.
 B. Parker, Great Saffron-hill, ironfounder.
 F. Simpson, Lancaster, merchant.
 C. Brooke, High Town, Yorkshire, butcher.
 A. Blakeley, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, cloth-manufacturer.

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY,
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13.

This Gazette contains Dispatches from Vice-Admiral Bertie, &c. giving an account of the capture of the Isle of France. It appears that the troops from India and the Cape having arrived at the place of rendezvous, they proceeded to the attack. On the 29th November the troops effected a landing with very little resistance. Some skirmishes took place till the 2d Dec., when the French Governor, Decaen, offered to capitulate. The most favourable terms were granted. The garrison, naval and military, with their effects and baggage, are to be sent to France, without being considered prisoners of war. The inhabitants are to preserve their religion, laws, &c. and all private property to be respected.—Admiral Bertie commanded the fleet, which consisted of the Africaine, Illustrious, Boadicea, Nisus, Cornwallis, Clorinde, Cornelia, Doris, Neriède, Psyche, Ceylon, Hesper, Hecate, Eclipse, Emma, Staunch, Egremont, Farquhar, Mouche, Phoebe, and Acteon, with transports, amounting altogether to 70 sail.—The army was commanded by Major-General Abercrombie, (second son of the late gallant General). It consisted of the 12th, 14th, 22d, 59th, 84th, part of the 89th, a troop of the 25th dragoons, the 2d battalion of Native Infantry, Artillery, &c.—Besides stores and colonial produce to a large amount, the following vessels fell into the hands of the captors:—

A List of Ships, &c. in Port Napoleon, at the Reduction of the Isle of France, December, 1810.

*French Frigates:—*L' Astree, of 44 guns; La Bellone, of 48 guns; La Manche, of 44 guns; La Minerve, of 52 guns.—*English Frigates:—*Iphigenia, and Nereide, of 36 guns.—*French sloop* Le Victor, of 22 guns. *French brig* L'Entreprenant, of 14 guns. *A new French brig* of 14 guns.—*English Indiamen:—*Charlton, Ceylon, and United Kingdom, prison ships, of 30 guns.—*French Merchant Ships:—*La Ville d'Anten, La Severam, L'Adele, L'Aurora, Le Prudent, Le Robuste, Le Wellesley, Le William Burroughs, Le Philip Dundas, Le Trafalgar, L'Althea, Le Hope, Le Marie, Le Faunie, Le Forth, L'Eclair, L'Active, L'Orient, Le Favourite, L'Illusion, Le Jeune Armond, Le Zephyr, L'Ant, L'Aimable Creole.—*American Ships:—*Hermes, Thomas, brig Angilika, schooner Spy; and five gun-boats.

SUPPLEMENT to the GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

A Supplement to the Gazette Extraordinary was published on Friday, containing an Extract of a Dispatch received by Lord Liverpool from Major-Gen. Abercrombie, dated Port Louis, Isle of France, the 7th of Dec. This dispatch contains a Letter to Lord Minto, the Governor-General in India, detailing the military particulars of the surrender of the Isle of France.—The armament arrived off the Island on the 28th: on the following morning a part of the troops under Major-Gen. Warde landed without opposition in the Bay of Maypon, the enemy retiring on their approach. Lieut.-Col. Smith, with his brigade, followed the next morning, and gained the open country without much opposition, a few shots only having been fired by a small piquet, by which a few men were wounded.—The army moved forward the next morning, and took up a position about five miles from Port Louis.—The main body of the army having moved, was soon after attacked by a corps of the enemy, who had taken a strong position with field pieces. The advanced guard, under Lieut.-Col. Campbell and Gen. Warde, charged the enemy with the greatest spirit, and compelled him to retire with the loss of his guns and many killed and wounded. In this affair Col. Campbell and Major O'Keefe were killed.—The next morning, whilst making dispositions for a general attack, the enemy proposed to capitulate, and the terms, as stated in the Gazette Extraordinary, were agreed upon.—General Abercrombie states, that he was induced to grant favourable terms from the desire of sparing the lives of many brave officers and soldiers, out of regard to the interests

of the inhabitants of this Island, having long laboured under the most degrading misery and oppression, (and knowing confidentially your Lordships' further views in regard to this army), added to the late period of the season, when every hour became valuable."—General Abercrombie concludes his letter with a panegyric on the officers, &c. employed.

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing.

1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Major, 1 Serjeant, 2 Havildars, 1 Drummer, 22 rank and file, killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Major, 3 Lieutenants, 5 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 81 rank and file, 2 pioneers, wounded; 1 Native Officer, 2 Drummers, 42 rank and file, missing.

N. B. One seaman killed, and five wounded, not included above.

Names of Officers killed and wounded.

Killed—Lieut.-Col. Campbell, 33d regiment; Major O'Keefe, 12th regiment.

Wounded—Lieut.-Col. Keating, 56th regiment; Major TAYNTON, Madras Artillery; Lieuts. ASHE and KEAPPOCK, 12th regiment; Lieut. JONES, 84th regiment, slightly.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Carlton-House, Feb. 5, 1811.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was this day pleased to make the following Appointments in his Household:—Sir Henry Halford, Bart. M. D. to be a Physician in Ordinary; Major-General Turner, of the 3d Guards, to be Assistant Private Secretary; and General William Keppel, Major-General Francis Thomas Hammond, and Lieutenant-Colonel William Congreve, to be Equerries.

Foreign-Office, Feb. 15.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased to appoint the Right Honourable Lord William Bentinck, to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Palermo.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has also been pleased to appoint Augustus John Foster, Esquire, to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States of America.

[This Gazette contains also an account of the capture of Le Furet, French privateer, of 16 guns and 86 men, by the Hawke sloop, Capt. Bouchier, after an anxious chase of 19 hours.]

BANKRUPTS.

- J. Mills, Holywell-street, Strand, merchant.
- E. H. Wilson, Liverpool, merchant.
- E. Stevens, sen. and B. Stevens, sen. Oxford-street, carvers.
- J. Patrick, Mary-le-Bone-street, linen-draper.
- B. Ingram, Old-street, bedstead-maker.
- F. Petersdorff, Hatton-garden, furrier.
- L. Deformeaux, Great Titchfield-street, apothecary.
- W. Barber and R. Barber, Cheapside, warehousemen.
- D. Phillips, Walbrook, tailor.
- J. Price, Birmingham, brass-founder.
- R. and T. Rennards, Kingston-upon-Hull, merchants.
- W. Heffl, Gray's-inn-lane, grocer.
- C. and W. Hartley, Bingley, Yorkshire, worsted-spinners.
- R. Berry, Shoreditch, hop-merchant.
- T. Timmins, Birmingham, tailor.
- J. W. Parkin, Ecclefield, Yorkshire, tobaccoist.
- J. Biskinshaw, Newton-upon-Ouse, Yorkshire, brewer.
- R. Fetter, York, grocer.
- J. Burrows, Hammer-smith, victualler.
- D. Corri, Air-street, Piccadilly, professor of music.
- J. Seed, Preston, Lancashire, corn-merchant.
- G. C. Aplin, East Budleigh, Devonshire, miller.
- J. Brain, Bristol, cooper.
- R. Senior, Bristol, clothier.
- C. Walker, Manchester, manufacturer.
- W. Masgrave, Honiton, Devon, surgeon.
- J. Mettam, Old-Bailey, dealer and chapman.
- W. Kirby, Stratford, Essex, plumber.

R. Bagster, Piccadilly, Westminster, upholsterer.
C. Crippen, Limehouse, hoop-bender.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

3 per Cent. Consols.....65½ 66

The EXAMINER had intended this week to make some remarks at length on an Article in the Times Newspaper reflecting on the character and views of an intelligent and most respectable man, the Editor of the *Espagnol*. But as the Author of the Article has thought proper, however ungraciously and shufflingly, to retract what he had said, in consequence of a letter from that gentleman himself, the task has become unnecessary,—at least for the present. In the mean time, the Editor of the *Times* is advised, if he would act as an English writer should with regard to the Spaniards and South-Americans, to say less about what he does not know, and a little more about what he does.

The *Examiner* will take up the subject of the New Theatre as soon as possible.

The Letter respecting the late Sir FRANCIS BOURGEOIS, and other Communications, next week.

GALEN'S Letter has been delayed hitherto on account of its length. It shall however be inserted as soon as possible.

A Letter remains at the *Examiner*-Office, directed to Count ZENOBIO.

Mr. FLOWER'S Reply, next week.

The TITLE-PAGE and INDEX for the last year's *Examiner*, are now ready for delivery; price 6d.

None of the early numbers of this Paper are now to be had.

The last year's VOLUME of the *Examiner*, will be ready for delivery in a few days; price in boards two guineas.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 17.

It is now fully understood that the PRINCE REGENT has no confidential connexion with the persons whom he has retained in office. He signs papers, receives addresses, expresses his opinions respecting court-martials and criminals, and has ten or a dozen people to walk before him; but with regard to the nation, he can only wish it prosperity, and has no more to do with it's government than a keeper of geese. This is sufficiently seen in his whole conduct. When he speaks on topics of policy, it is in the vaguest manner possible; the only earnestness he evinces is in expressing his anxiety for the KING'S recovery and his own consequent release from a situation so obnoxious to him. Of these characteristics of his behaviour, his answer to the candid and truly exemplary Address of the City is a complete specimen, though betraying perhaps at the same time some anxiety to assure the Citizens of his sympathy with their view of things. It would seem, that this answer was dictated by his own feelings or by *unofficial* advice; while the Speech in Parliament has all the appearance of the old Ministerial leaven,—nothing to say of past times and great cant about the present. It is observable that the PRINCE'S name is employed upon the more general parts of the Speech, and does not introduce the sentences expatiating upon Sicily, &c. &c. and upon the "consummate" merits of Lord WELLINGTON. It is connected however with an opinion, which the public will lament to see repeated with such an addition, about the "unabated perseverance" of the Spaniards. The whole production, or whatever else it may be called, is indeed the climax of this kind of absurdity. Before the time of CHARLES II., our princes used literally to make speeches

to Parliament, some of them perhaps with little or no previous consideration of words, as may have been the case with his unhappy father, who was accustomed to speak too much from impulse. CHARLES II., who had not even the want of wit to excuse his profligacy, was the first who ventured upon reading a speech, excusing himself upon the plea, that "he had so often asked his subjects for money, he did not chuse to look them in the face." The ridiculous expedient, then begun by the STUARTS, was afterwards kept up by the House of BRUNSWICK, but why, I cannot tell. Certainly it could not, in the present reign at least, have been from shame. It does not appear who was the first Monarch that had his speech written for him, but this additional absurdity arose, no doubt, from want of talent. At last comes the climax; and the English people, so famed for their writing, speaking, and thinking, are presented with the spectacle of a native Prince, who neither writes his own speech, reads his own speech, nor agrees with his own speech!

"Miratur novas frondes, & non sua poma."

This state of things certainly exhibits the PRINCE'S character in no very strong point of view. If he really thinks that his MAJESTY will soon be well enough to resume the Government, one can only repeat, that he acts perhaps as well as he can. But nobody else, I believe, agrees with him in this expectation. In the event of such recovery, there is a talk of some intention on the part of his MAJESTY, to continue the PRINCE in his ostensible office, and to give up the cares of Government altogether. But it is earnestly to be hoped, that the PRINCE could not bring himself to consent to such an arrangement. What! Become a mere signing and responding puppet, like the automaton in Spring-gardens!—and sit under a hat and feathers to receive company, nodding about with no meaning, like a mandarin on a chimney-piece!—Impossible.

It is a pity that the Minister had not had a little earlier intelligence of the capture of the Isle of France, as it might have formed one decent feature in the speech of Tuesday last. What astonishes every body, and has done for years past, is, that this nest of marauders was not taken before; and that our soldiers went fighting for useless sugar islands in the West Indies, while the Isle of France was lording it over the Indian seas. Nor is the astonishment diminished, when the conquest is effected without a drop of blood; and when we see also, that, in spite of so easy a victory, the conquerors have suffered the Governor and his troops to be transported to France *à la Junot*. Two reasons are conjectured for this proceeding.—1st, That our armament was in haste to proceed to its ultimate object, the capture of Batavia; and 2d, That the Governor, DECAEN, an Officer of the Legion of Honour, has been bribed. The former seems a sufficient reason if the armament could really afford no loss of time; and people of common reflection will always rejoice at the prevention of bloodshed; but to save Frenchmen needlessly is only to save so many blood-hounds, who will go and spread a hundred times more misery than a battle with them might have occasioned; and if our motive for sparing them was only to get possession of the island as soon as possible, we seem to have acted almost as weakly as Lord WELLINGTON did with the Duke of ABRANTES. As to the report of bribery, it is not at all likely, if Gen.

DECAEN is really to proceed to France, nor if he is to proceed any where else, unless it were to England, where he could shelter himself from the vengeance of BONAPARTE. Yet how he could venture, in contemplation of returning to his country, to do so without striking a blow, is hardly to be explained, unless defeat was so inevitable, that the preservation of his master's troops will be a sufficient excuse for him. If the General has been bribed, he was influenced no doubt, by disappointment in BONAPARTE'S service, which was the cause of the desertion of General SARAZIN, another Legionary of Honour. If he has not, we have no shadow of an excuse for permitting all the maraudings and obstructions with which the French have annoyed us in the Indian Seas, since their possession of this Island.

The reader's anxious attention need not be directed to all the things that may be said or done, in consequence of the impression made upon free minds by the circumstances connected with Mr. FINNERTY'S Trial. Some friends of the Liberty of the Press, constituting part, I believe, of a Society so called, have had a meeting at the Crown and Anchor, at which it was resolved that a Subscription should be raised to defray the expences to which Mr. FINNERTY'S imprisonment will subject him; and that another meeting should be held, at which Sir FRANCIS BURDETT should be requested to take the chair. Sir FRANCIS, it is stated, has agreed to the request; and the Meeting is to take place on Wednesday.

In addition to the interest thus excited, where such interest is most habitual, the public are rejoiced to hear that Lord HOLLAND has given notice in Parliament, of his intention to move an enquiry into the numerous informations for libel that have been lately filed *ex officio*. His Lordship could have brought forward no question more honourable to himself, or more seasonable to English liberty; and I do not know what visions of cordiality and union among rational and independent men, it is calculated to inspire in the minds of the ardent!

Is it not monstrous that at such a time, intelligence should arrive from Ireland of the revived enforcement of the Convention Act in that unhappy country? This is announced, with much satisfaction, in a Dublin Ministerial Paper, styling itself the Patriot; and was called for, we are told, not only "by every loyal man," (meaning the CAMDENS, CASTLEREAGHS, &c.) but by the mischievous conduct of the Roman Catholic Committee and "the measures which they had in contemplation." Accordingly, a circular letter from Mr. WELLESLEY POLE to the Sheriffs and Magistrates denounces the Catholic Committee as an "unlawful assembly," and in consequence of its "reported" intention of summoning Delegates and Representatives, requires them "to cause to be arrested and to commit to prison (unless bail be given)—to what amount?—"all persons within their jurisdiction, who shall be guilty of giving, or having given, or of publishing, or having published, or of causing, or having caused to be given or published, any written or other notice of the election and appointment, in any manner, of such Representative, Delegate, or Manager, as aforesaid; or of attending, voting, or acting, or of having attended, voted, or acted in any manner, in the choice or appointment of such Representative, Delegate, or Manager."—In addition to this proceeding, the same Paper reports,

that "Government have prepared orders to be issued, empowering a certain number of Magistrates to grant Warrants where they shall suspect any of the inhabitants to have arms unlawfully in their possession."—In fact, the Ministers who assured us that all was well in Ireland, and who, at the end of a Session, used to answer to the questions respecting her with as much indifference as they would to a remark upon a dish of lobsters, are apprehensive of a fresh rebellion there, and according to the reports of their friends, are already recommencing the horrible and Robespierian work of suspicion. The Public will not easily lose sight—indignant sight—of these most tyrannous and most absurd proceedings.

The Island of Banda, one of the Moluccas, has been captured from the Dutch. The *Caroline*, Piedmontaise, and *Barracoutta*, arrived off Banda on the 8th of August. At night, the boats, containing 390 men commanded by Capt. Cole, pushed for the shore, but owing to the blowing weather, only 180 reached the appointed rendezvous. After waiting some time for the missing boats, they boldly resolved to push on. The badness of the weather was now of service, for the boats grounded undiscovered in a heavy squall of wind and rain, within 100 yards of a battery of ten 24-pounders, which was stormed: the sentinel was killed by a pike, and 60 men disarmed without firing a pistol.—The storming party, under Capt. Cole and Ketch, proceeded to Fort Belgica. The alarm bugles were then sounding, and the enemy reserved their fire till the British got close to the walls. The scaling ladders were rapidly applied and mounted with extraordinary celerity, notwithstanding a smart though ill-directed fire from the citadel.—The lower works being gained, the ladders were placed against the inner wall, when the enemy fled in all directions, leaving the Col. Commandant and 10 men killed, and two Captains and 30 men prisoners. The guns near the ladders, owing to the heavy rains, being fortunately useless, they found themselves, at sun-rise, in possession of the citadel, without the loss of a single man. This fortress commanded the town and Fort Nassau. A flag of truce was dispatched to the Governor, who at first refused to surrender; but a shot from Belgica, and a threat of storming the town, produced an immediate and unconditional surrender. Seven hundred disciplined troops, and three hundred militia, grounded their arms to this handful of Britons!—About 400,000*l.* worth of spices were found by the captors. Banda is the principal of a cluster of islands lying to the east of the Colches. They are supposed to contain about 5,000 inhabitants. Their chief produce is nutmeg, of which they grow enough for the supply of the whole world.

According to the last accounts from Portugal, Junot was not dead, as reported, nor had his wound been of a dangerous nature. It was merely a flesh wound in the cheek. Lord Wellington, as soon as he heard of the event, sent his compliments to the French General, with a message importing that if he was in want of medical aid or any other assistance, he should be immediately supplied. Junot returned a very civil answer, signifying that he was in no need of the assistance so liberally offered by the British Commander; that he was doing very well, and likely, in two or three weeks, to be wholly relieved from the consequences of his wound.—*Sun.*

HUGH DOHERTY, Esq.—A case is expected to be tried in a day or two, in the Court of King's Bench, which will exhibit this Gentleman's conduct in its proper light. Mr. DOHERTY has been charged with having ill-treated his wife: his friends maintain that he is cruelly slandered and abused, and assert that a monstrous conspiracy has been formed to defame and ruin him.—All this, they say, will be manifest on the trial.—The whole affair, according to report, is indeed truly singular and astonishing.

Last Monday, the honour of Royal Academician was conferred on WILKIE the inimitable painter of familiar life, on MESSRS. WARD, WESTMACOTT, SMIRKE, jun., and BONE. H. HOWARD, R. A. was unanimously elected Secretary to the Royal Academy, in the room of J. RICHARDS, deceased.

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

MEDICAL BULLETINS.

- "Windsor Castle, Feb. 10.
" His Majesty continues to advance towards recovery."
"Windsor Castle, Feb. 11.
" His Majesty remains, in all respects, as well as for the last few days."
"Windsor Castle, Feb. 12.
" His Majesty continues in a state of amendment."
"Windsor Castle, Feb. 13.
" His Majesty goes on very favourably."
"Windsor Castle, Feb. 14.
" His Majesty remains to-day as well as he was yesterday."
"Windsor Castle, Feb. 15.
" There is little difference in his Majesty's state since yesterday."
"Windsor Castle, Feb. 16.
" His Majesty continues still in the same state."

The following paragraphs are taken from the Ministerial Daily Papers:—

"On Saturday week his Majesty appeared in public for the first time since the commencement of his indisposition. The weather proving very mild and fine, his Majesty came out of Windsor Castle about 12 o'clock, attended by three of the Physicians, who accompanied him to the east-walk of the Terrace, so as to be in full view of the Park; they continued walking till one o'clock, when the King returned to the Castle to dinner. His Majesty appearing in very good health, not having lost much flesh, and in high spirits; conversing with the medical gentlemen the whole time. He was dressed in a blue great coat, over his mourning. The unexpected circumstance of his Majesty appearing in public soon spread through the town of Windsor, and crowds resorted to the Park to see him; several attempted to go on the Terrace, but were prevented by the centinels, the order for preventing strangers from walking there continuing in force."

"His Majesty continues to see his Family daily, and when the weather permits, he walks on the Terrace, always appearing cheerful and happy."

"The Prince Regent went to Windsor on Tuesday morning, and had an interview with his Illustrious Parent, between twelve and one o'clock; after which he returned to town. His Majesty has been for some days fully apprized of the late proceedings in Parliament, and, we are well assured, has expressed his approbation of the measures that have been adopted."—*Post.*

THE CITY ADDRESS.

On Thursday at one o'clock, the Lord Mayor, attended by the Sheriffs, several Aldermen, the Recorder, and a very considerable number of the Common Council, proceeded in State to Carlton House, where, being admitted to the presence of the Prince Regent, the Recorder read the following Address of the Corporation of the City of London:—

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES,
REGENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

THE DUTIFUL AND LOYAL ADDRESS OF THE
LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COMMONS
OF THE CITY OF LONDON, IN COMMON COUN-
CIL ASSEMBLED.

May it please your Royal Highness,

We, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, most humbly approach your Royal Highness, with the warmest assurances of affectionate attachment to your Royal Person, and unshaken adherence to those sacred principles which seated your Family upon the Throne of this Realm, fully convinced that those principles afford the best security to the honour and dignity of the Sovereign, and the rights and interests of the People.

Whilst we offer to your Royal Highness our sincere condolence upon the severe visitation with which it has pleased Divine Providence to afflict our most gracious Sovereign, which has occasioned a suspension of the Royal Functions, it is with heartfelt consolation, that, in common with all ranks of our fellow subjects, we behold in the person of your Royal Highness a Prince highly endowed, and eminently qualified to exercise the regal duties—a Prince, who has so greatly endeared himself to the People by his moderation and forbearance, on various trying occasions, and the attachment he has so uniformly shewn to their rights and liberties.

Had, indeed, the desire and expectation of the United Kingdom been realized, by vesting in your Royal Highness the full powers of the Executive Authority, we should have had just cause for congratulation; confident as we feel, that those powers would have been wisely and beneficially exercised, to enable us to meet the extraordinary exigencies of so perilous a crisis.

Deeply impressed with a sense of the many and great difficulties, which, with powers so limited, your Royal Highness must have to encounter in the discharge of duties so arduous, and feeling towards your Royal Highness the fullness of that loyal affection, which, in deeds, as well as in words, we have so long demonstrated towards your Royal Father and Family, we would fain have forbore to cloud the dawn of our intercourse with your Royal Highness, by even a glance at our grievances, manifold and weighty as they are; but duty to our Sovereign, duty to our country, the example of our forefathers, justice to posterity, the fame and safety of the kingdom, all, with voice imperious, forbid us to disguise our thoughts, or to smother our feelings.

Far be it from us, insulted as the Corporation of this ancient (and, at all former times, respected) City, has recently been, by the Servants of the Crown; far be it from us, to indulge in complaints of grievances peculiar to ourselves, ready and willing as we are, to share in all necessary burdens and all the dangers of our country.—It is of general grievances, grievances sorely felt in all ranks of life; of accumulated and ever-accumulating TAXATION, rendered doubly grievous BY THE OPPRESSIVE MODE OF EXACTION, and of the increased and increasing distress and misery therefrom arising; of the IMPROVIDENT EXPENDITURE of the immense sums thus wrung from industry and labour; of the WASTE OF LIFE, and of treasure, in ill-contrived and ill-conducted EXPEDITIONS; of the attempts, which, for many years past, and especially within these last three years, have been made, and with but too much success, TO CRUSH PUBLIC LIBERTY in all its branches, and especially the liberty of freely discussing the conduct of Public Men, and the nature and tendency of Public Measures.

Can we refrain from humbly expressing our complaints, when we have seen those Ministers who have so long usurped the Royal Authority, and who, it is now discovered, have, by practising the most criminal deception upon the Parliament and the People, carried on the Government during his Majesty's former incapacity, exerting their influence to degrade the Kingly Office; when we have seen measures adopted, evincing the most unfounded jealousy and mistrust of your Royal Highness—when we have seen the Prerogatives of the Crown curtailed and withheld—when we have seen a new Estate established in the realm, highly dangerous and unconstitutional, when we have seen power, influence, and emolument, thus set apart to controul and embarrass the Executive Government, at a time of such unprecedented difficulty, when all the energies of the State are necessary to enable us to surmount the dangers, with which we are threatened, both at home and abroad; we confess, that, feeling as we do, the most unbounded gratitude to your Royal Highness, for undertaking these arduous duties at a moment of such peril, and under such circumstances, we can discover no cause for congratulation; on the contrary, we should be filled with dismay and the most alarming apprehensions were it not for the known patriotism and amiable qualities which your Royal Highness possesses, and the resource which, we trust, your Royal Highness will find in the zeal, ardour, affection, and loyalty, of a free and united People.

Numerous other grievances we forbear even to mention, but there is one so prominent in the odiousness of its nature, as well as in the magnitude of its mischievous consequences, that we are unable to refrain from marking it out as a particular object of our complaint, and of your Royal Highness's virtuous abhorrence—THE PRESENT REPRESENTATION in the Commons House of Parliament, a ready instrument in the hands of the Minister, for the time being, whether for the purpose of nullifying the just prerogatives of the Crown, or of insulting and oppressing the people; and A REFORM in which representation is therefore absolutely necessary, for the safety of the Crown, the happiness of the people, and the peace and independence of the country.

Reposing the fullest confidence in your Royal Highness's beneficent views and intentions, we can only deplore the present unfortunate state of things—fully relying, that under circumstances so novel and embarrassing, every measure which depends personally upon your Royal Highness will be adopted towards extricating us from our present difficulties, and for promoting the peace, happiness, and security of the country.

Thus to mingle our expressions of confidence and affection with the voice of complaint is grievous to our hearts; but, placing, as we do, implicit reliance on the constitutional principles of your Royal Highness, we are cheered with the hope, that such a change of system will take place, as will henceforward, for a long series of happy years, prevent your Royal Highness from being greeted by the faithful and loyal City of London in any voice but that of content and of gratitude.

To this Address his Royal Highness returned the following Answer:—

Gentlemen,

I thank you for the assurances of your attachment, and of your confidence in the sincerity of my endeavours to promote the welfare and security of his Majesty's Dominions, by the faithful Administration of those Powers with which I am entrusted, during the lamented indisposition of the King.

In the arduous situation in which I am placed, I can assure you, that it will be the happiest moment of my life, by the blessing of Providence, I shall be called upon to resign the powers now delegated to me, into the hands of my beloved and revered Father and Sovereign.

My own disposition, no less than the example of my Royal Father, will make me at all times ready to listen to the complaints of those who may think themselves aggrieved; and will determine me on all occasions to regulate my conduct upon the established principles of that ancient and excellent Constitution, under which the People of this Country have hitherto enjoyed a state of unrivalled prosperity and happiness.

BRITISH INSTITUTION EXHIBITION.

"Our Exhibitions at once afford the best nursery for the protection of infant genius, and the noblest field for the display of accomplished merit. While they administer to the benefit of the Artist and the pleasures of the public, they may justly be regarded as schools of public virtue. They inspire martial enthusiasm, and have a happy influence on the manners and morals of those who fill the different departments of more tranquil life."—HAYLEY.

The Pictures by all the Candidates for the Prizes in this year's Exhibition evince much improvement. It is with much pleasure therefore that I commence the remarks on the Exhibition with the Prize Paintings.

10. *The entombing of Christ.* J. HILTON.—In selecting such a subject as this, Mr. HILTON exhibits great confidence in his abilities, and his execution of it shews that it is a confidence resulting in many respects from a just estimate of his powers. It is a subject of so elevated and grave a nature, that excellence can alone satisfy the judgment. It demands such an impression of dignity, bordering on awe, and consequently so great a proficiency in the higher attainments of art, that much as was expected from the talents exhibited by this young painter in the two last Exhibitions, the Patrons of the Institution must be equally surprised and pleased at so singular and rapid a march of genius. Praiseworthy, however, as it is, it possesses a great proportion of defect. In explaining what I humbly conceive this to be, Mr. HILTON will attribute the statement to a wish to clear away the rubbish which clings about the diamond of genius, that it may shine with all the lustre it is capable of. The presiding features of this tragic subject are solemnity and pathos. Whatever, therefore, appears on the canvas that does not conduce to their impression, is pernicious. These should be the main aim of the composition, the colouring, and above all, the expression of the figures. But the effect of the glare obscure and colour in this piece, though good abstractedly taken, are bad, inasmuch as they deviate from that solemnity of tone so imperiously required by this solemn subject. It wants that solemn twilight which CARACCI shed over his pathetic pieces. Mr. HILTON has certainly rejected a considerable portion of that gaudiness of hue which spotted his last year's picture, but he has not gone far enough in his rejection of gaiety for a grave subject. He is in this, like a young rake who has been long enamoured of a gay and meretricious favourite, but who cannot summon up sufficient resolution to abandon the bewitching wanton for a chaster beauty. Except the figure, there is no object in Art more important, or more conducive to assist the requisite expression, than the drapery. Mr. HILTON should give this branch of painting some severe study, and the works of the President of the Royal Academy will afford him noble examples. The drapery in Mr. HILTON's picture wants historical dignity, for it is deficient in due marking, in volution and tasteful cast of fold. But the most reprehensible part of the piece, is the want of dignity in some of the figures, for nothing mean should intrude on the sacred solemnity of such a subject as this. The head of Nicodemus has the character of a profest pugilist, who begins to be angry at pain and discomfiture. The face of Christ should be ennobled, even in death, by a divine composure. Nothing disfiguring should degrade the dignified "Man of sorrows." But here the character of the mouth and the ensanguined blurring of the eye-lid, produce not only a common, but

a disagreeable character. The hiding of the face, except for some palpable reason, is mostly, if not always, to be avoided, for, expressive as the other parts of the human frame are, the face contains of expression its concentrated energies. *Mary Magdalen*, a chief mourner in the melancholy scene, has her's entirely hidden. But it is still worse to uncover her form, so as to exhibit her back and bosom. Thus represented, she is a wanton, not the converted, contrite, and weeping *Mary Magdalen*. The cutting off to the eye of part of the lower limbs is more than unseemly, for such an amputation goes to the very quick of one's imagination. It is to be hoped, therefore, that Mr. HILTON will for the future avoid so very ungraceful a concealment of those important parts of the human figure. With all these defects (and how few productions are there without them), it is unquestionably one of the best works the generous patronage of the Institution has hitherto elicited. It is worthy of the choice of the noble purchaser, the Marquis of STAFFORD, who has given 200 guineas for it. The group of figures is well condensed in the form of a cone, the apex of which is the head of Joseph of Arimathea, admirable for its drawing, light and shade, and expression. He superintends the sacred interment with pious veneration. The face and action of the beloved disciple are impress with affectionate and sorrowing earnestness. These, united with the pathetic prostration of the murdered Saviour, affect the heart with a pleasing and powerful melancholy; and on the whole, the beauties of the piece are sufficient to command no common degree of respect for the talents of the painter, and to raise high expectations of his future powers.

92. *A Negro overpowering a Buffalo.* G. DAVE, A.—A subject which is nearly devoid of mental expression, and whose energies are almost narrowed to bodily strength and character, has comparatively but little scope for the display of what is elevated, except from the inspiring hand of a great master. A MICHAEL ANGELO may confer sublimity on mere bodily form and action; but unaided by the admission of some impressive emotion of mind, the young Artist whose powers have not attained to maturity, may produce vehemence of action, but be far from the sublime and beautiful. These remarks are suggested by this picture of harmonious tone, vigorous action, and neatness and facility of execution. The muscles are all faithfully marked, as they appear in an athletic and in part beautifully formed figure of a black man of the name of Wilson, whom the best Artists have delighted to copy. The muscles are swelled to an exertion which throws the Buffalo on his back, and triumphs over his savage strength. It is coloured and composed with a knowledge of his art creditable to the growing energies of the Artist. But where the original is moulded by the hand of mere common nature, the copy is also common place.—Such a subject, uninspired by any emphatic emotion of mind, affords but small interest to the amateur, whose taste is refined to the relish of similar subjects, as are given to us by a RUBENS, a MICHAEL ANGELO, or the antique.

R. H.

 WHY ARE WE NOW AT WAR?

LETTER II.

TO W. WILBERFORCE, Esq. M.P.

SIR,—The avowed object of the present war was resistance to the increasing power of France. That it has totally

failed in this respect is too notorious to need a comment. In examining this part of my subject I shall therefore only endeavour to prove that there never was any rational ground for expecting to check by force the ambition of Bonaparte, but that his views have on the contrary been promoted, and our prosperity materially injured, both by the war itself, and by the manner in which it has been conducted. The false colourings that have been given to so many events, and the mistaken points of view in which existing circumstances are held up to us, will require a brief review of the situations of England and France at the beginning of the contest, and of the systems pursued by our Government; after which I shall endeavour to shew that the measures adopted could only produce such consequences as have resulted from them.

Short as was the peace of Amiens, the nation still experienced in no small degree its beneficial effects. The celebrated speech of the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, December 10, 1802, bears ample testimony to this fact. Burthensome taxes had been done away—the revenue not only equalled the expenditure, but even contributed to the diminution of the national debt—the new stimulus given to the industry of the people was evinced in “the growing prosperity of our commerce and manufactures”—and the exports of 1802 exceeded by eight millions those of the preceding year.—“When I look to the country,” said the Minister on that occasion, “in every view that it holds out, in every prospect it affords, I do not see, except in those points lately so much discussed, and into which I do not now mean to enter, any cause for apprehension. To see a revenue rapidly increasing, and the causes of that increase solid and substantial—to see increasing manufactures and an extended commerce—to see an army provided perfectly adequate to our security, and a fleet superior to any that could be brought against it—to see a people possessing all these advantages, and disposed to use them *not for wars* or objects of ambition and aggrandizement, but for justice and the *maintenance of peace*; not for the prosecution of wild and visionary schemes, but for purposes of solid happiness—must be a subject not only of delight to me, but of admiration to the whole universe.”—Such were the first fruits of peace, and after a war so disastrous and expensive as the last, it was much that had been regained during so short a period. But within three months after the above declaration did the same Minister bring down to Parliament that Message from the Throne, which soon produced the present war, overthrowing at once the financial prosperity of which he had vaunted, and paralyzing the commercial exertions from which such great advantages had been anticipated. We entered upon the war however in perfect amity with all the leading continental powers, even with those, whose hostility had at various periods rendered the preceding contest more calamitous. Spain evinced no unfriendly disposition—Russia offered her mediation with perhaps more sincerity than is usual in such cases—Austria and the German States could not feel otherwise than interested for our success in opposing the nation, which had so recently triumphed over them, and despoiled them of some of their finest and richest provinces—Prussia, though playing a deep game for the possession of Hanover, was not disposed to obtain it by war—Denmark and Sweden appeared to have forgotten that they had ever been engaged in the Northern Confederacy. Holland alone was compelled to make common cause with France. No sooner

were the warlike demonstrations of this country known, than Napoleon, as an earnest of his intentions—as a proof both of the power he possessed, and of the opportunity afforded for its exercise,—marched his troops into Holland and made it an involuntary party in a war, destructive to all its little remnant of former prosperity. This warning was unheeded by our Government—for Malta, a barren, unprofitable isle, they rushed into a conflict, the very earliest signal of which gave to our antagonist a pretext for countering by force a country of more importance to us than ten thousand Maltas.

If we except the loss of Hanover and the taking of a few colonies, the first 18 months of the war presented a singular spectacle: two nations, whose animosity appeared to increase the more they experienced the difficulty of mutual annoyance:—the veteran armies of France were collected on the coast, but the triumphant fleets of Britain doomed them to unwilling repose. Threats and defiance passed and repassed the Channel—if was a war of empty words and unmeaning demonstrations. During this period Mr. Pitt had returned to the helm—under his auspices more activity was of course expected.

Before I notice the calamitous effects of this activity, let me remark what slight grounds for hostility there must have been between two nations, which thus at open war possessed in themselves such scanty means of injuring each other. Had France obtained any superiority over us by the influence acquired in Switzerland, the changes made in the Italian States, or any of the circumstances alledged in our Declaration? Did the possession of Malta assist us in making any impression upon the disciplined armies or the “iron coast” of France? Yet war removes the restraint that peace imposes upon the conduct of a nation, and enables each party to exert without controul those advantages which are ruinous or distressing to its rival. It must therefore have been unwise in us to appeal to arms in consequence of encroachments, which, as it soon appeared, gave our enemy no superiority over us—it must have been unwise to risk so much for a rock, which soon proved of so little value.

As a check to the farther progress of French power, the war had not hitherto succeeded in any one instance. On the contrary, the possession of Holland and Hanover had increased the influence of the Parisian Councils upon the States of Germany, and the internal resources of France had (for the present at least) derived new stability from the change which its form of government had undergone—whatever the effect of that change may be when the mud that projected shall no longer give it support. The spirit of republicanism had subsided into that of loyalty, and Bonaparte, no longer First Consul but Emperor of France, was secure in the elevation which his ambition had gained. This security did not arise solely from the devotion of an innumerable army, but from the contrast he enabled his subjects to make between the horrors of anarchy and the benefits of order: willingly they grasped at the blessings of tranquillity, though liberty was the price at which they were purchased. In every department of the State increased regularity, vigilance and promptitude were awakened. The preservation of the forms of freedom, and apparent appeals to the voice of the people, made the transition to despotism less alarming. A religious establishment, by which all sects were protected and provided for

by the State, not only wisely avoided the dangers of intolerance on one hand and of zeal on the other, but multiplied the state engines of influence, and secured the allegiance of minds, which a less liberal policy would have provoked and enflamed. A knowledge of the human mind—an attention to individual characters—well-timed endeavour either to unite or to conciliate opposite and clashing interests—a watchful observance of events, and a quick perception of the greatest advantage to be derived from them—such are the traits most evident in the laws and institutions which France received from her new monarch. These gave to his conduct a colouring of moderation and liberality, which concealed the real extent of the tyranny established, and while it satisfied the small remnant of independent feeling left in the people, palliated their ready submission to the will of a despot. The unanimity thus diffused throughout the new empire, placed the government on much higher ground, and left it to employ against external foes alone an uncontrolled dominion over the resources of the country and the exertions of its inhabitants. Such had been the progress of Bonaparte and France, during little more than the first year of a war which England intended to have been a barrier to both, and such was the state of affairs when Mr. Pitt returned to office. Blind to the dangerous tendency of his former policy, he again had recourse to it, ere the wounds were healed which he had before inflicted, or the ravages repaired which he had before caused; new subsidies, new coalitions, involved in our quarrel the infatuated nations of the Continent.

The events of the last war were momentous, and produced changes so important, and so far beyond the extent of probability, as scarcely to have entered even into the imagination of those who presaged from it the direst consequences. But these, compared with the occurrences and revolutions of the last six years, may almost rank with the prodigies of those times, when generals thought the acquisition of a few frontier towns the work of a successful campaign, and statesmen imagined that they had made a most advantageous treaty, if they curtailed a few acres and villages from their adversary's dominions. To enter into a detail of the events produced by Mr. Pitt's system would be needless; they are fresh in the recollection of every one,—they may be traced in the subverted thrones of the Continent,—in the new establishments created out of the losses of our humbled and suffering allies,—in the extended influence and consolidated power of France; they are heard in the just indignation of a burdened people, convinced too late that the privations to which they have cheerfully submitted, and the immense taxes which they have patiently paid, have only tended to aggrandize their enemy, to ruin their allies, and even to arm against them the very hands which were once held out to their assistance. Mr. Pitt did not live to see all the disastrous consequences of his measures; he lived long enough however to see his error; but too proud to own it, he sank into the grave the victim of a broken heart, and the remnant of his administration retired from office, yielding without a struggle to the ascendancy of Fox's superior talents.

From a statesman whose warning voice had predicted the evils that would ensue from both wars, the country justly expected an alleviation of its miseries, and a well directed attempt to stem the swelling tide of calamity.

For a few short months an enlightened and liberal policy seemed to be conciliating, by degrees, nations the most estranged from us; the work of peace was begun, but before it could be matured, the benevolent mind that planned it was called from earth, and with Fox our councils seem to have lost every noble and disinterested sentiment,—every comprehensive view of human actions,—every penetrating glance into the future effects of systems and of principles! Bonaparte was aware of the loss which we had sustained, and equally conscious that the preponderating influence in our cabinet was that of the very men who had declaimed against the peace of Amiens,—had urged most strongly the renewal of war,—and could not therefore be supposed very anxious for its termination.

In the negotiations between hostile countries, it is not very difficult to discover where a sincere desire of peace exists, and where professed wishes for reconciliation only conceal determined and unsatiated animosity. In the former instance, there is a frankness and candour of expression which cannot be mistaken; in the latter, there is a sticking for trifles and forms, a choice of ambiguous words, not intended to mislead the opposite party, but to bewilder the people to whom they are to be submitted on the failure of the negotiation. The unsuccessful result is then made to hinge on some short and obscure Latin expression, such as the *uti possidetis*, &c., which, from not being generally understood, is of course believed to convey something of the utmost importance. The correspondence between the two governments on this occasion exhibits instances of both these sorts of writing. The change of tone began as soon as Mr. Fox's illness obliged him to withdraw from the active lead he had taken in our national councils and on whichever side it commenced, I fear that its primary cause is to be looked for in the warlike opinions so vehemently proclaimed by the Grenville party during the last peace, if not to their continued adherence to the same sentiments. Unfortunately for England and for Europe, the war went on, and with it, Bonaparte's victorious career. Not that Mr. Pitt's ruinous system was pursued by these Ministers, but they had rejected the only means in their power of preventing the disastrous consequences of their predecessor's errors. They were however soon displaced; a ready opportunity was found for dismissing men who never possessed the confidence of their Sovereign, who had in a great degree disappointed the expectations of those who looked up to them, and who had lost, by the death of Mr. Fox, that reputation for talent which laid the foundation of their power, and that character for principle by which it might have been cemented. It is needless to add how their places were filled; the indifference of the people to the struggles and professions of parties left the possession of power to men of acknowledged incapacity, whose narrow views and consummate ignorance have been displayed in actions that have disgraced our national character, heaped calamity upon calamity, and brought us into a situation of difficulty and danger unparalleled in any part of our history. Not satisfied with Mr. Pitt's system of inducing Continental Powers to join our cause, offering to France fields for new triumphs and opportunities for new acquisitions, these men have wantonly driven into the confederacy against us nations disposed to cultivate peace, and even converted our allies into our foes. In all their leading

measures they have most fully justified the accusations of pride, ambition, and selfishness, by which Bonaparte has prejudiced all Europe against us. They have played the game of our enemy—they have confirmed the assertion that the alliance of England entails ruin and humiliation—they not only have destroyed every prospect of present support, but even the hope of future assistance. It is not merely the power of France which is triumphant against us, but all the arts of our own weak and wicked policy recoiling upon ourselves. It is not merely the fiat of Bonaparte which excludes us from all intercourse with the Continent, but the injustice which we have ourselves practised,—the suspicion, jealousy, and doubts, which we have ourselves raised. It is not merely the operation of the Milan and Berlin Decrees which we feel, but the consequences of the flames of Copenhagen and of the Expedition to Walcheren. When we look forward, our hopes of being able at some distant period to curb the power and restrain the ambition of France, require not merely that the nations of Europe should recover by slow degrees from the effects of long war and repeated disasters, but that we ourselves should regain that high opinion, that unbounded confidence, that general esteem, which in happier and prouder days our country enjoyed throughout the civilized world,—a confidence and esteem, the semblance of which may be wrested by force or purchased by wealth, but of which substantial possession can only be secured by the spotless purity of national honour, and the liberal tendency of national feeling. R.

REPLY TO CAPT. MASON'S ADVOCATE.

“The march of Justice may be slow—it is nevertheless sure.”

Sir,—I perused with great surprize the second feeble attempt of J. Mathew to refute the well authenticated facts of J. H. Being in possession of the Minutes of the Court-Martial, I shall explicitly animadvert on the testimony adduced, without dread of being hereafter stigmatised as incorrect or partial. I contend, Sir, that not an iota of proof was tendered to the Court of *one* individual having received *EVEN* the regulated bounty, much less an extra sum. The evidence of the Serjeant-Major went only to shew that men had received 10*l.* 10*s.* and he, as bringer, 3*l.* 3*s.*: but this was under the balloting system, (unconnected with Government), and while Mason was drawing from principals the enormous sum of twenty-five and thirty guineas;—similar to the case of George Cavalier, whose bounty did not exceed the liberal sum of 9*l.* Serjeant Thomas White also substantiated that three and four guineas were paid to bringers, and twenty to substitutes (not recruits); but that was not out of the pocket of Mason, but out of the allowance due to the deluded substitute. Did not Mason, to crush this charge at the Court of Enquiry, impress on this Serjeant to state that all losses were to fall on him (Mason), although he knew the prosecutor possessed this Serjeant's written instructions to the contrary? Has Mason ever paid to this Serjeant the 2*l.* he is indebted to him for losses? But what do all the reiterated circumstances alluded to by J. M. prove? Nothing less than Mason's inability to produce, out of above 200 men, one living subject, who has received this extra mark of his generosity. Allow me now to ask J. M. where his immaculate friend Capt. Mason had secreted, at this critical juncture, the little Red Bounty Book, with every man's signature in it? Would it not have been eagerly produced, had such an occurrence ever taken place? What reliance can be placed in the authenticity of the witness on this point, when the Serjeant-Major has repeatedly and publicly avowed he was so terrified with the threats of Mason, that he dare not declare the truth? Have not the amended accounts delivered in since

the Court of Enquiry, established their former incorrectness? What, in fine, were the Judge-Advocate's *impressive* words on this head?—“Throp, this charge is fully proved, both by the Levy Accounts and your witness; and I firmly believe there is scarce a man who has received the bounty charged by Capt. Mason to Government.”

As to the acts of cruelty referred to in J. H.'s letter, the four first were not stated to have been laid before the Court; they were no doubt recited to shew Mason's conduct in its proper light. J. M., however, is wise enough to allow their existence, because he is aware they can be proved. The case of Serjeant Wood assuredly requires no elucidation from J. M., as the Assistant-Surgeon allowed he was acquainted by Serjeant Wood of the blow he received from Mason; it was therefore his indispensable duty, (as the Judge-Advocate stated), to have examined him. Would Assistant-Surgeon Smart swear that the blood which oozed out of this man's body eight weeks after, did not originate from that blow? If all the barbarous acts of Captain Mason were enumerated, they would fill a volume. J. M. has completely disproved his own veracity, by daringly asserting that “John Reading fired off his ramrod during a review, by which the lives of the General, the Officers of the corps, and numerous spectators, were endangered.” The reverse was the fact. Reading's piece missed fire, and after the General had quitted the parade, and the Officers the ranks, he and others were selected on a prescribed spot to discharge their firelocks in the air, when Reading incautiously fired his ramrod, without the smallest probability of injuring any one. Upon this, Mason most wantonly cut through his cap with his cane. Will J. M. who styles himself a soldier, insult the public by declaring there is any military law extant which warrants such an act of violence being perpetrated on a man under arms? Has not the Legislature amply provided punishment by law for all military crimes, without any Officer presuming to exercise a power not vested in him? It must still, therefore, be evident, that the charge of being “extremely ignorant of military matters,” which J. M. made against J. H., now returns on himself, when he has the assurance to argue that General Officers concur with him in the propriety of assailing a soldier with blows. J. M. surely has forgotten, that a General Officer sent Capt. Mason to Chelsea for that crime, and for which the Court directed him to be reprimanded, which was accordingly done, although his sentence was never read at the head of the regiment, as directed. I cannot conclude without expressing my astonishment, that as an old soldier J. M. should divest himself of those nice feelings which veteran Officers are supposed to possess, by voluntarily prostituting his talents to advocate the cause of a man proved guilty of the most disgraceful acts. Jan. 31, 1811. A CONSTANT READER.

THE SAMPFORD GHOST.

A Correspondent in the *Examiner* having expressed a desire for further information respecting the above piece of imposture, the Editor of the *Taunton Courier* has inserted in his Paper the following additional details. It was from this provincial journal that all the London newspapers copied those very pleasant accounts of the Ghost, which lately so much amused the public:—

“We have already informed the public, that the tenant had received notice to quit the premises; but notwithstanding the Nightly Visitor was so extremely troublesome to the family, and the tenant was sustaining such serious injury, as it was alleged, in the loss of his trade, the possession has not yet been relinquished!

“The visit of *Lucina* has perhaps a corresponding effect on ‘bodiless creations’ with that on mortal beings—few will endure her presence who can avoid it; and thus we are enabled to account why the tenant's wife has lately lain in without disturbance, in the identical chamber which has been so furiously haunted.

"Tired of his fantastic cruelties on Sally, we have been informed by two gentlemen of Taunton, who had the honour of a conference with Mr. Chave, about a month since, that the Monster has, with a Nero-like versatility, varied his amusements, and has lately indulged a musical taste! His penchant for, and exclusive association with, the fair sex, have, no doubt, led to this refinement. Chave seriously assured the gentlemen above-mentioned, that the Ghost had not manifested his presence so frequently as heretofore; but whenever he did, he invariably beat on the floor, to the tune of ———. Guess, reader, what solemn sounds, what celestial strains, could thus invite a Spirit to 'burst its carments,' and come all the way from the other world to the mud habitations of Sampford, to indulge in?—No less inspiring an air than the seraphic tune of *Go to bed Tom*.

"The above is no "weak invention of the enemy," but an absolute fact, which we give on the veracity of the persons we have mentioned, and for the truth of which they will vouch.

"The offer we have made, of giving 50l. to the person by whose evidence the parties concerned in this buffoonery shall be convicted, has not yet been claimed. This, however, is not to be wondered at, when it is considered how much the consequences of being concerned in the plot, must overpower the persuasions of advantage from the proposed reward. We do not want to know who are the parties concerned in it, for that is already sufficiently clear; but we are desirous of legal proof, upon which to found a conviction, and this (unless the very strong circumstantial evidence already before the public be sufficient, of which we have little doubt) can only be obtained by dissolving the conspiracy. While the agents, however, are linked together in strict confederacy, there will be, perhaps, as much difficulty in exemplifying the process by which they have succeeded, as there is facility in comprehending how the contrivance has been conducted.

"There are very few whose local situations allow them an opportunity of judging, who are not perfectly satisfied of the trick, and feel the utmost indignation against its authors. The details of the circumstances, however, have been transused over the kingdom, and the mischief it may occasion to the youthful and the credulous is seriously to be lamented."

SHERIFFS FOR 1811.

Bedfordshire—Jos. Howell, of Market-street, Esq.
 Berkshire—Wm. Wiseman Clarke, of Addington, Esq.
 Buckinghamshire—W. Bernard, of Nether Winchendon, Esq.
 Camb' and Hunt—Wm. Dunn Gardner, of Chatteris, Esq.
 Cornwall—Lewis Salisbury Trelawney, of Penquite, Esq.
 Cheshire—Booth Grey, of Ashton Hayes, Esq.
 Cumberland—John Losh, of Woodside, Esq.
 Derbyshire—Godfrey Meynell, of Langley, Esq.
 Devonshire—Arthur Campenowne, of Dartington, Esq.
 Dorsetshire—Edw. Greathead, of Udden, Esq.
 Essex—Charles Smith, of Suttons, Esq.
 Gloucestershire—Rob. Gordon, of Kemble, Esq.
 Herefordshire—Philip Jones, of Sugwas, Esq.
 Hertfordshire—Rob. Taylor, of Tolmer, Esq.
 Kent—Sir J. Courtney Honeywood, of Evington, Bt.
 Lancashire—S. C. Hilton, of Moston, Esq.
 Leicestershire—Rich. Norman, of Melton Nowbray, Esq.
 Lincolnshire—Sir John Trollope, of Casewick, Bart.
 Monmouthshire—Hugh Powell, of Llanvihangel, Esq.
 Norfolk—Charles Lucas, of Filby, Esq.
 Northamptonshire—W. Strickland, of Brixworth Hall, Esq.
 Nottinghamshire—Thomas Wright, of Norwood Park, Esq.
 Northumberland—Wm. Burrell, of Broome Park, Esq.
 Oxfordshire—Sir John Reade, of Shinstone, Bart.
 Rutlandshire—The Hon. Geo. Watson, of Rockingham Castle.
 Shropshire—Geo. Brooke, of Haughton, Esq.
 Somersetshire—John Leigh, of Combhay, Esq.
 Staffordshire—James Beach, of the Shaw, Esq.
 County of Southampton—Sir R. Kingsmill, of Sidmouton, Esq.
 Suffolk—Roger Pettward, of Finborough, Esq.
 Surrey—Geo. Tritton, of West Hill, Wandsworth, Esq.

Sussex—Wm. Dearling, of Donnington, Esq.
 Warwickshire—Francis Newdigate, of Arbury, Esq.
 Worcestershire—Thos. Hawkes, of Dudley, Esq.
 Yorkshire—Rich. Watt, of Bishop Burton, Esq.
 Carmarthenshire—Hamlyn Williams, of Edwinsturd, Esq.
 Pembrokeshire—L. Mathias, of Langwarren, Esq.
 Cardiganshire—Wm. Brookes, of Noyart Esq.
 Glamorgan—Sir Robt. Lynch Blossie, of Gabalva, Bt.
 Brecon—W. Wilkins the Younger, of Alexanderstone, Esq.
 Radnor—John Cheesement Severn, of Llanqualia, Esq.
 Merioneth—Hugh Revely, of Brynygwin, Esq.
 Carnarvonshire—Tho. Parry Jones Parry, of Madryn, Esq.
 Anglesey—Henry Williams, of Trearddur, Esq.
 Montgomeryshire—Edw. Heyward, of Cresswood, Esq.
 Denbighshire—John Wynne, of Garihullio, Esq.
 Flintshire—Sir Geo. Wm. Prescott, of Ewloe, Bart.

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Monday, Feb. 11.

LIBEL.—THE KING v. ROCHE.

The defendant was this day brought up for judgment, for the libel on the Horse Guards, which was published in *The Dog*, and Mr. Justice GROSS, after making some very severe remarks on the defendant, sentenced him to be imprisoned in the King's Bench Prison twelve calendar months, and at the end of that period give security to keep the peace for three years, himself in 500l. and two sureties in 250l. each, and further to be imprisoned until that security be entered into.

THE KING v. JOHN KING.

The COMMON SERJEANT was about to move in this case, when

Lord ELLENBOROUGH directed the matter to be put in the peremptory paper for next term. But the defendant being in Court, and in custody, his Lordship observed, that it would really be too much to expect that he should be kept in prison till the next term; the more especially when all the circumstances of this case were considered. And as it was now a doubtful point what might be the result of the enquiry, his Lordship therefore directed that the defendant should go at large upon his former bail, entering into fresh recognizances;—which they immediately did, and he was discharged.

CRIMINAL INFORMATION.—DISSENTERS.

Mr. GARROW applied for rules to shew cause why criminal informations should not be filed against J. Churchyard, B. Garrot, W. Hewitt, P. Dykes, W. Moore, J. Colpee, J. Shel-drake, W. Garlick, R. Redwell, E. Hewitt, Tuffin and Cluse, for most extraordinary conduct and conspiracy. A Dissenting Minister (Mr. Thomson), residing at Wickham-market, near Ipswich, in Suffolk, some short time since obtained a licence for a place of public worship. The Meeting was opened on the 2d of September last, and public worship continued to be performed till the 2d of December, when the congregation was finally driven out, and the house pulled down! The first opening of the chapel was marked by most outrageous proceedings, from a crowd who had assembled for the purpose of obstructing the worship, and those crowds invariably continued to assemble for this object till the 2d of December. The persons whose names he had mentioned had been conspicuous by this intolerant proceeding. The men whose names he had repeated, were not men in high situations of life; they were backed by persons whose rank and education ought to have taught them better. The town-criers were sent about, admonishing the townsmen to take care of their property, as there were strange persons among them. The lower order of people were told that they might make any sort of noise they pleased, to obstruct the proceedings of a congregation in any way offensive to them, provided they kept on the outside of the Chapel! This sentiment did prevail in the county of Suffolk, and would certainly continue to prevail till that Court should convince the deluded people to the contrary. Acting upon this construction, the people assembled in thousands around the Meet-

ing, and made so much noise by means of shouting and hooting, aided by an Indian gong, a drum, and other musical instruments equally harmonious and noisy, that it was impossible for the congregation to hear what fell from their Clergyman. At other times they would mock the Pastor, and pretend to adore their Creator, in a most ridiculous manner; then a fellow, elevated upon a waggon, dressed in a black frock and cocked hat, would assume to imitate a Clergyman, and would afterwards proceed to distribute amongst the crowd small portions of bread. When the Minister left the Meeting, this crowd would follow him, hooting and jostling him and otherwise insulting him, so that his life was endangered. Nor did those crowds confine themselves to hooting and hissing, for they afterwards became so daring, that fire-works were thrown into the Meeting, and when the Minister left it, he was pelted with rotten eggs, &c.; and a gullion was carried before him! Fellows in masks, and with most grotesque dresses on, would go to the Chapel, and exclaim with loud voices—"We come here to hear the word of God, and by God we will hear the word of God!" In addition to exclamations of this nature, they pelted the congregation, and broke the windows. At one time these fellows brought to the Chapel a scoured furnip, filled with dirt, which was thrown at the Clergyman, and he was thereby besmeared all over, as was the greater part of the congregation. At another time a basket of stinking sprats was brought into the Chapel, and the contents were thrown among the persons then assembled. The general exclamation in justification of this outrageous conduct was, that they would have no *fograms* among them, a name they gave to these Dissenters. To prove that persons of rank and consequence approved and promoted this conduct, houses were open for the accommodation of those who would hunt down the *fograms*; and in order that the *fogram-hunters* might not be in want of spirits, they were stimulated to exertion by having wine furnished them gratis, and they were informed that money would not be withheld if it should be required. One man (a parochial officer) observed at a public meeting, that he would not mind giving 100*l.* for the purpose of adding and assisting those who opposed the *fograms*; money should not be wanted. The man who occupied the cottage, the two lower rooms of which were converted into a Chapel, was told that if he did not prevent the meeting of the "*d—d fograms*," he would have a press-gang sent after him. At another time he was told that he would be shot if he did not submit; for murder would ensue if the *fograms* were not put down. The various acts ascribed to the several persons, as described in the affidavits, were then repented; but the Court were of opinion, that *Rules Nisi* could only be granted against six persons, namely, James Churchyard, farmer; Benjamin Garrot, a taylor; William Hewitt, a collar-maker; John Culpee, a shoe-maker; — Taffo; and — Close. The congregation was an infant one, and the first Dissenter's Meeting that had assembled in that county; but the continuance of the Meeting had been prevented as he had described.—The *Rule Nisi* granted.

Friday, Feb. 15.

RICHARD P. WALSH AND NEBHETT.

Mr. TOPPING stated this to be an action by Mr. J. Prichard, who had at one time been an Officer in the Army, to recover from the defendants, who were stock-brokers, the amount of an Exchequer Bill for 500*l.* which the plaintiff put into the hands of the defendants, to be laid out in other Government Securities. This Exchequer Bill the defendants had converted into cash, but instead of laying it out on account of the plaintiff, the proceeds had found their way into the general funds of the defendants.

Madame De Naves was called to prove the plaintiff's case, who stated, that she accompanied the plaintiff on a particular day in the year 1806, to an office in the neighbourhood of the Royal Exchange, where the plaintiff handed over to a gentleman, whom she had never seen before, an Exchequer Bill for 500*l.* Not understanding English, she could not speak as to the nature of the conversation which took place on the occasion.

From the witness's answer, to Mr. Garrow's questions, it appeared that the witness lived at the time with Mr. De Chemant,

the dentist; that the plaintiff was a friend of his; and that the Exchequer Bill in question for 500*l.* and also another sum of 100*l.* were the proper monies of Mr. De Chemant; in fact, that they were to be laid out for Mr. De Chemant, as Mr. Garrow expressed it, in a gaming speculation in the English Funds.—The plaintiff was of course immediately—*Non-suited*.

COVE V. ADAMS.

In this action the plaintiff appeared in person, and complained that he had been forcibly driven from the possession of a wharf and premises, at Paddington, which he held under the Grand Junction Canal Company.—The plaintiff made some pertinent observations on the hardships of his case, and on the unjustifiable conduct of the Canal Company.

Mr. GARROW seemed much disturbed that the plaintiff had not employed Counsel: he said, that parties of late had got into such a habit of appearing in person, that it would soon be forgotten what was or was not a rule of practice.

It appeared that the lease had expired the day before Mr. Cove was turned out, and he was therefore nonsuited.

[There can be little doubt that Mr. Cove has been very hardly used by the Grand Junction Canal Company. What he complained of was, that he had been forcibly ejected without any legal notice, and his premises let to another, contrary to the promises of the Company; by which conduct, Mr. Cove has lost his business as well as several thousand pounds property.]

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

A dreadful fire broke out on Saturday week, at some oil and colour warehouses near Limehouse-hole Stairs, by which four warehouses and 12 dwelling-houses were destroyed. The damage is estimated at upwards of 60,000*l.*

Tuesday evening, about eight o'clock, as a young man, the son of a respectable butcher, at Wandsworth, was passing on the Wandsworth-road, he was stopped by five foot-pads.—They first dragged him into a field and knocked him into a ditch, from which they afterwards pulled him out. They then proceeded to rifle his pockets, and rob him of his coat. They next proceeded to pinion his arms back with his neckcloth, and because he looked at them he received violent blows on each side of his face. After they had fastened his arms, one of them put the muzzle of a horse-pistol to his nose, and told him to smell the contents, which he should have in him if he looked after or pursued them. He remained in the position in which they left him for about three-quarters of an hour, and then ventured into the road, and walked to the Britannia public house, where he got his arms released. The robbers were all dressed like gentlemen's grogms.

On Monday last a Marine, of the name of John Horat, was executed on board the *Namur*, at the North, for a vile offence. At a quarter past eleven the signal gun was fired, and he was immediately run up to the yard-arm. He was a remarkably good looking young man, about 24 years of age.—A few minutes previous to his being launched into eternity, he delivered in a written paper asserting his innocence.—A Marine, upwards of 50 years of age, was the same day punished for desertion and mutinous expressions. The Court Martial sentenced him to 300 lashes through the fleet, 200 of which were only inflicted, he being unable to sustain the whole of the sentence.

DEATHS.

Lately, at Morden, aged 24, the Rev. F. Papendieck.

On the 5th inst. at Laytonstone, Mrs. Parsons, well known as a writer of Novels.

On Tuesday, in Bruton-street, the Right Hon. John Smyth, one of his Majesty's Privy Council, and late Master of the Mint.

Lately, at Bath, Lady Liddell, widow of Sir George Henry Liddell, Bart. of Ravensworth Castle, Durham.

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