

THE EXAMINER.

No. 22. SUNDAY, MAY 29, 1808.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

No. 22.

UPON THE NECESSITY OF A REFORM IN THE CRIMINAL LAW OF ENGLAND.

SIR SAMUEL ROMILLY has done honour to himself and to his country in beginning to reform our Criminal Code. The object of his second Bill I shall consider at a future opportunity. His first Bill is intended "to repeal so much of the Act of the 8th of Elizabeth, as made it death *without benefit of clergy* to take away property privily from the pocket of persons," &c. The term *benefit of clergy* has now no literal signification. It originated in times of papal ignorance, when the talent of being able to read was almost confined to the clergy, and they themselves almost confined to the talent: the clergy upon the strength of their literary utility always escaped secular punishment, and a lay offender who boasted so rare and useful an accomplishment partook in some degree this *benefit of clergy*, that is, he was acquitted of a first offence upon proving himself able to read. "Afterwards indeed," says BLACKSTONE, with much quaintness, "it was considered that education and learning were no extenuations of guilt, but quite the reverse: and that if the punishment of death for simple felony was too severe for those who had been liberally instructed, it was, a *fortiori*, too severe for the ignorant also." *Benefit of clergy* now signifies nothing more than a remission of death, after some slight punishment, to all simple felons on their first offence, whether able to read or not. Offences thus privileged are gravely called *clergyable offences*.

It would seem, that error is of a more lasting nature in criminal jurisprudence than in any other human system. The majority of a nation are neither anxious nor able to enquire into it's laws; the general pursuits of life rarely look beyond their own harmless purposes; and this singleness of object together with the natural abhorrence of criminality settles last in a total inattention to the proportion of crimes and punishments. Thus we see, that executions, frequent as they are in this country, are scarcely heard of by the only part of society capable of estimating their utility; and the death of a fellow-creature becomes a matter either of mere unfeeling curiosity to the mob, or of complacent gratification to the tea-tables of old

women, who strengthen their attachment to life by contemplating it's loss in others.

But though the inattention of the upper ranks of society to this subject may originate in feelings negatively good, yet it is no honour to the liberality of their education, that the laws of their country are thus omitted in their studies. The universities shew a most unpardonable neglect in this matter: a young man, unless he puts on a legal gown, obtains not an atom of legal knowledge; his wisdom, like that of the prophet, must arise from the nature of his cloak. Thus the students, who are intended for humble situations in the church, learn to reason upon matters which they have no reason to learn, and carry a hasty bundle of mathematics into their country-curacies, where mathematics are totally useless and a little law would be of great service. The other gentlemen, who are intended for a lounging life, either in St. James's or St. Stephen's, come up to town with as little knowledge of the laws they are about to maintain; if a legal question, however publicly interesting, is before the House of Commons, you generally see it confined to the law-members; and really, instead of that general knowledge which every English gentleman should have of his country's institutes, the legislature may at last be reduced to the necessity of making laws without knowing any thing about them.

The motion of Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY will, I trust, excite a more general spirit of enquiry into the British Code. The severity of our criminal law punishes great and small vices with a prodigality of human life, that must have astonished any person who has at all considered the subject; and though our Judges have been for the most part estimable for their integrity, and some of their writers have professed a surprise at this severity, yet it is no honour to the feelings of that learned body, that they have made no parliamentary efforts to correct it. The criminal law seems not only to have had but one eye to justice, but to have lost even that, and like the Cyclops in HOMER to have become more cruel from blindness. The deprivation of life, without benefit of clergy, for a petty theft which scarcely deprives one of any thing, seems to be a punishment which none but a Turkish miser could invent; but nevertheless it appears to have been revived in a polished Court and in the bosom of a woman! "The offence," says BLACKSTONE, "of privately stealing from a man's person, as by picking his pocket or the like, privily without his knowledge, was debarred of the benefit of clergy, so early as by

the statute 3th Elizabeth, c. 4. But then it must be such a larceny, as stands in need of the benefit of clergy, viz. of above the value of twelve pence; else the offender shall not have judgment of death. For the statute creates no new offence; but only prevents the prisoner from praying the benefit of clergy, and leaves him to the regular judgment of the ancient law. This severity (for a most severe law it certainly is) seems to be owing to the ease with which such offences are committed, the difficulty of guarding against them, and the boldness with which they were practised (even in the *Queen's Court and presence*) at the time when this statute was made." Our good Queen therefore seems to have been sufficiently irritated by a petty theft in her presence to recall from the age of barbarism this sanguinary law, and to have revenged herself; perhaps on the most wretched necessity, perhaps on the want of a solitary loaf, perhaps on a distracted husband forcing himself to steal for his famished children. I do not mean to defend or excite pity for any crime whatever, considered in it's simple criminality, but so hideous a disproportion of punishment and offence should excite both pity and indignation.

In all public punishment there are two things generally considered; first, it's utility as to example; and secondly, it's utility as to public reparation. But there ought always to be a third consideration, it's utility with regard to the sufferer himself. Revenge, though evidently the origin of some laws, is not to be considered for an instant by a Christian legislature, which is the vicegerent of the divine justice and should therefore be superior to all violent passions. Unless we consider however the utility with regard to the sufferer, that is, so long as it does not interfere with the general welfare, we use the criminal with something worse than revenge, for we consider him as a being lost to the pity of his fellow-creatures. The first end of punishment is certainly it's social utility; but society is not indemnified by example only; there is a loss to be supplied, a detriment to be repaired; and it will be found, that the *second* and *third* considerations necessarily depend on each other. Suppose for instance, that a thief conveys his booty into the hands of a foreigner, who departs with it instantly to another country, and thus deprives the nation of it's use, whether pecuniary or otherwise; and suppose that this thief dies a hardened death at the gallows, what reparation is there to the nation in his death, what regard is there to the future repentance or happiness of the malefactor, what possible kind of consolation can there be to the injured person who prosecutes? Death in such an instance is evidently of no use, unless indeed it is sufficient to deter others by example; but Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY has proved to the House of Commons, and any man of common reading may prove for himself, that these severe punishments have by no means lessened the number of crimes in any one country in Europe; and facts are the best arguments in the world. As there is neither example therefore nor reparation,

there can be neither policy nor mercy in such punishments: their only effect is the loss of a thousand members of society, who might be rendered valuable, virtuous, and happy.

The deprivation of life for petty offences will seem the more wonderful in a nation of freemen and philosophers, when we consider that not only the policy but even the justice of capital punishment, in any case, has to this day been a matter of doubt with the soundest reasoners: * and I trust that Sir S. ROMILLY, like the rational and humane legislators before him, will do his utmost to wash away the bloodthirstiness of feudal times. It is a disgraceful inconsistency in this country, that it's general intellect has been progressively refining and it's legal severity increasing ever since the revolution in 1688. † Travellers never fail to express their astonishment at the multiplicity of our executions. We call the Russians half-savages, and yet they have entirely abolished the punishment of death; we call the Turks entire savages, yet the Mohammedan laws punish no crime capitally but murder, and even then the punishment is at the option of the deceased man's family. ‡ Unless we are quick to rescue our country from the charge of a most wanton severity, we may be sure, that in the event of a peace with France, the cool policy of NAPOLEON will be before us. The philosophers of France and Italy have already anticipated us in protesting against indiscriminate infliction of death, and it is but twenty-two years ago that LEOPOLD, Grand Duke of Tuscany, brother to the Emperor JOSEPH the Second, abolished the pains of death for ever throughout his dominions. Let us attend for a moment to the preamble of his edict, and I have done. —“ Con la piu grande sodisfazione del Nostro paterno cuore Abbiamo finalmente riconosciuto, che la mitigazione delle pene, congiunta con la piu esatta vigilanza per prevenire le ree azioni, e mediante la celere spedizione dei processi, e la prontezza e sicurezza della pena dei veri delinquenti, in vece di accrescere il numero dei delitti ha considerabilmente diminuiti i piu comuni e resi quasi inauditi gli atroci.” —“ With the greatest satisfaction to Our paternal feelings We have at length perceived, that the mitigation of punishments, joined with the most exact attention to the hindrance of crimes, together with the summary dispatch of justice and the certainty of instant punishment to real offenders, instead of increasing the number of offences has considerably reduced the lighter ones and almost put an end to the more atrocious.”

* Montesquieu *Esprit des Loix*, Beccaria *Del Delitti e Delle Pene*, and Sir Thomas More in his *Utopia*. See also the *Edict of the Grand Duke of Tuscany for the Reform of the Criminal Law*.

† Blackstone's *Commentaries*. Vol. 4. p. 441.—See Colquhoun on the *Police of the Metropolis*, passim. The great prevention of petty crimes, as this judicious Magistrate has well proved, is the moral instruction of the lower orders: a considerable negligence is to be charged in this matter against the Church of England, who ought to have anticipated the Methodists in their numerous Sunday Schools.—Superstition, and folly, and vice, are a necessary chain of progression with the mo.—More of this will be said in the Seventh and last article upon the subject of Methodism in this Paper.

‡ Sale's *Koran. Preliminary Discourse*. Sect. 5. p. 187.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, MAY 13.—The disturbances which took place at Madrid, in the beginning of this month, extended to the other towns of the kingdom, but have, however, been less serious. On the 21st of April, towards evening, the people of Toledo began to assemble in great numbers on the plain, crying "Long live Ferdinand the VIIIth."—The disorder reached such a height, that the respectable part of the Citizens could not suppress it. Furniture and property belonging to the Corregidore and other persons of distinction, were burned and destroyed. These disturbances continued all night, and next morning the Staff of the Corregidore was taken and carried about in a procession, with a flag affixed to it, on which was the portrait of the Prince of Asturias. The mob afterwards proceeded, under the direction of two of the most worthless young men of the town, to the great plain, where they erected a statue to the Prince of Asturias on a throne. They then directed their course towards the Council House, where the Cardinal and the Infanta came to the windows, and endeavoured to restore tranquillity. The insurgents, however, still kept up the cry of "Long live Ferdinand the Seventh," and compelled the quiet citizens to join them. Towards the night they attempted to attack other houses, but fortunately at last some Reverend Churchmen and brave Citizens prevailed on the rabble to disperse, and peace was restored; but it was necessary to patrol the streets night and day.—Gen. Dupont, however, arrived on the 27th of April, with a corps of French troops. He was received with great joy by the citizens, and the tranquillity of the town was completely re-established.

The Official Journal of this day contains the following articles from Spain:—

"This day we have official intelligence from Madrid, of the 6th. Two days before, on the 4th of May, the Junto of the Government, in consequence of a letter from the Grand Duke, and in consideration of the difficult and extraordinary situation of public affairs, conferred on his Highness the Office of President of the Junto. On the 6th the following Proclamation was addressed to the Army by the Grand Duke:—

"SOLDIERS,—On the 2d of May you were compelled to draw your swords and repress force by force; you have behaved well: I am satisfied with you, and have transmitted an account of your conduct to the Emperor. Three soldiers allowed themselves to be disarmed; they are declared unworthy of serving in the French army. All have now returned to order—tranquillity is restored—the criminals are punished—the misled have seen their error—a veil shall cover the past, and confidence must be restored.—Soldiers, resume your former friendly relations with the inhabitants—the conduct of the Spanish troops merits praise.—The harmony and good understanding between the two armies must be more and more confirmed.

"INHABITANTS OF MADRID—Inhabitants of Spain, be tranquil; remove from your minds all that anxiety which the evil disposed wish to excite; return to your wonted occupations; and see in the soldiers of the Great Napoleon, the Protector of Spain, only friendly troops—only faithful allies. The inhabitants of all classes, of all ranks, may as usual wear their cloaks; they shall no longer be detained or disturbed.

"Madrid, May 6."

"JOACHIN."

The Emperor has ordered that the names of the three soldiers mentioned in the above Proclamation, shall be inserted in the Orders of the Day of the army. They shall, during a month, appear at the parade with a stick instead of a sword. His Majesty has imposed only this slight punishment, because these soldiers are youths, and he is persuaded that they will take the first opportunity of retrieving their characters. Had they been old soldiers, they would have been dismissed from the army; for a French soldier who allows himself to be disarmed, has lost that which is most essential to a soldier—his honour.

We are assured that the King and Queen of Etruria, the Infanta, Don Francisco, and the Prince of the Peace, are expected at the Palace of Fontainebleau by the 20th of this month. The Prince of Asturias will, in about two or three days, arrive at the estate of Valency, which belongs to his Highness the Grand Elector.—(Moniteur.)

LETTER OF HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR TO THE PRINCE OF ASTURIAS.

"MY BROTHER!—I have received the letter of your Royal Highness: in the papers which you have received from the King, your Royal Highness's father, you must have found a proof of the interest which I have always felt for you. You will permit me, under the present circumstances, to speak to you with truth, and I wished, by my journey to Madrid, to draw over my illustrious friend to some necessary amelioration of his states, and also to give a certain satisfaction to the public feelings. The removal of the Prince of the Peace appeared to me to be necessary for the prosperity of his Majesty and that of his subjects. The affairs of the North had retarded my journey. The events at Aranjuez took place. I pass no decision on what had previously fallen out, nor upon the conduct of the Prince of the Peace; but I know well that it is dangerous for Kings to accustom their people to shed blood, or to seek redress themselves. I pray God, that your Royal Highness may never feel this by your own experience. It is not the interest of Spain to injure a Prince who has married a Princess of the Blood Royal, and who for a long time directed the affairs of the kingdom. He no longer has any friends; your Royal Highness will possess them no longer than while you shall be fortunate. The people willingly revenge themselves for that homage which they pay us. How also can a process be drawn up against the Prince of the Peace, without involving in it the Queen and King your Father? This process would give nourishment to hatred and factious passions, the issue of which would be fatal to your crown. Your Royal Highness has no other Right thereto than that which you derive from your Mother. If this process degrade her, your Royal Highness destroys your own right. He who has lent an ear to weak and disloyal counsels, has no right to pass sentence on the Prince of the Peace. His misdeeds, if he can be reproached with them, go to destroy the rights of the Crown. I have frequently expressed a desire that the Prince of the Peace should be removed from affairs; the friendship of King Charles has often induced me to remain silent, and turn away my eyes from the weakness of his conduct. Unhappy mortals that we were! Weakness and error, these are our motto; but all may be arranged; namely, that the Prince of the Peace should be banished from Spain, and I should invite him to a place of retirement in France. As to the abdication of King Charles the Fourth, that has taken place at a moment when my troops were traversing Spain; and in the eyes of Europe, and of posterity; I should seem to have sent so many troops solely for the purpose of pushing from his Throne my Ally and Friend. As a neighbour Sovereign, it is fit that I should know this abdication before

I acknowledge it. I say it to your Royal Highness, to the Spaniards, and to the whole world, if the abdication of King Charles has proceeded from his own will, if he was not driven to it by the insurrection and uproar at Aranjuez, I make no scruple to accede to it, and to acknowledge your Royal Highness as King of Spain. The circumspection, which I have observed for this month past, must be a security to you for the support which you shall find in me, should ever party differences disturb you, in your turn, upon the Throne.

"When King Charles made us acquainted with the events of last October, I was very much affected by them; and I think that by my efforts the affair of the Escorial received a happy issue. Your Royal Highness was much to blame; I have no need of any other proof of this, than the letter which you wrote to me, and which I shall always desire to consider as not having come to me. Your Royal Highness must distrust all popular commotions and insurrections. *A few of my Soldiers may be murdered, but the subjugation of Spain shall be the consequence of it.* I see with pain that some persons at Madrid have disseminated certain letters of the Captain-General of Catalonia, and have done every thing to excite disturbances among the people. Your Royal Highness perfectly comprehends my meaning. You perceive that I have touched slightly upon many points, which it would not be proper to enlarge upon.

"You may be assured that I will conduct myself in every thing towards you in the same way as to your Royal Father. You may rely upon my desire to arrange every thing, and of finding an opportunity of giving you proof of my perfect regard and esteem. Herewith accept," &c.

Bayonne, April 18, 1808."

MAY 15.—Letters from Auch state that great preparations are making in that town for the reception of their Majesties, who are expected soon to arrive there.

One of our journals contains a letter from Toledo, in which the following expression has been particularly remarked:—"The security of Spain requires that she should be united to France by bonds far more strict than treaties. Her possessions must be preserved inviolate, and the integrity of her monarchy must be maintained. Respect and eternal gratitude to him, to whom we shall be indebted for these benefits."

SWEDEN.

GOTTENBURGH, MAY 18.—The English Expedition is arrived, nearly 300 sail, which are now safe in harbour, where they wait the dispositions of the King of Sweden. The vessels given up to the Russians at Sweaburg, amount to near 300, which will furnish the means of transporting the troops of the enemy, and thus place Stockholm in great danger. Colonel Gahn, with 480 men, were taken prisoners by the Norwegians, after a most gallant resistance. In Finland, several partial actions have taken place, and the Russian troops landed in Oland have been compelled to surrender to the peasants.

RUSSIA.

PETERSBURGH, MARCH 9.—Baron Budburg has solicited and obtained his dismissal, and Count Romanow has been appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

A melancholy accident occurred at Brighton on Friday se'night. Mr. Alexander, late a grocer in the Strand, London, who had for some time retired from business, un-

fortunately, in the dark, walked through an open part of the fence, near the East battery (or rather where the East battery was, for the guns have been removed), and from thence over the cliff. It is supposed that he was killed on the spot, though he was not discovered until six o'clock on the following morning.

On Saturday se'night, the house of Sir V. Gibbs, at Hayes, in Kent, was robbed in the following extraordinary manner:—When Miss Gibbs, daughter of Sir Vicary, awoke in the morning, she discovered that all her clothes were taken away, the quilt of the bed, and every thing that was portable in the room. On examining the premises, it was discovered that the robbers had, by tying some hurdles together, made a ladder, and ascended a colonade, which goes round the house, found easy access to Miss Gibbs's room, and made off with the property without awakening her. A large stick was left upon the bed.

A complaint was lately exhibited at Milford, charging an old woman, nearly 70 years of age, with keeping a disorderly house. The Magistrates ordered her to be put in the stocks for four hours, and so indifferent was the venerable dame to the jeers and scoffs of the surrounding multitude, that at the end of the first hour she took out her snuff-box and exclaimed, "Come, now I'll take a pinch in comfort."

A most barbarous assault was lately committed at Great Paxton, in the county of Huntingdon, on a poor woman, about 60 years of age, by an ignorant and brutal mob, who accused her of witchcraft.

Last week, at Whitby, an infant, not a year old, died in its mother's arms, in a paroxysm of rage. The mother having been standing with it at the street door, returned into the house contrary to the inclination of the child, when the latter throwing herself back to give vent to its passion, expired in the efforts.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MONDAY, MAY 23.

The Cork Duty Bill, Child-stealing Bill, and Court of Session Stock Bill, were received from the Commons, and read a first time.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY, MAY 24.

INDICTMENT BILL.

The order for going into a Committee on the Indictment Bill being read,

Lord EASKINE repeated his former arguments against it. This was all he said he could do, because no man had given, or even attempted to give, any reason for so great an innovation on the law of the land.

Lord STANHOPE read various passages from the Petition of Right, from which, and from the remarkable and uncommon form in which the Royal Assent was given to that Act, he contended that the right taken away by this Bill was a most essential part of the privileges of the people at common law. Those words interpreted were "let right be done as is demanded." That, and the Acts referred to in it, were of a very different stamp from this Bill. It was not much to the credit of another House, that such a Bill should have passed through it without any notice whatever; and with all the respect which he had to the majority of the Members whom he now saw around him (he meant the empty benches), he should have expected a fuller attendance of those who sat on them, upon a question of such infinite importance to the rights and liberties of the people. He should have liked to see something of those crowds who came down when a question affecting a pretty woman, or a child, was to be agitated.

Lord HOLLAND, after a pause, rose, and in a short but animated speech, repeated his former arguments against the Bill. He particularly expressed his astonish-

ment that though two Law Lords who supported the Bill were present (the Chancellor and Chief Justice of the King's Bench) so great an innovation on the law of the country was about to be adopted, without a single reason having been given for it. He declared that under such circumstances he could not attend to the progress of the Bill in the Committee, consistently with any feeling of duty.

The question for going into the Committee was then put and carried, by 15 to 6.

On our re-admission, we found their Lordships in the Committee, and Lord STANHOPE, who was the only Peer on the Opposition side of the House, proposing amendments. These, however, being all rejected, *sub silentio*, his Lordship hastily withdrew, exclaiming that having now discharged his duty he would leave their Lordships to account to God, their own consciences and their country, for the proceeding in which they were engaged.

The Bill went through the Committee without any alteration.—Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25.

On the suggestion of Lord HAWKESBURY, the third reading of the Indictment Bill was postponed to Monday.

Lord SUFFOLK, seeing a Noble Secretary in his place (Lord Hawkesbury) wished to know in what manner the Droits of Admiralty were disposed of. This was a consideration of moment, not merely from their amount, but because with regard to the Danish vessels, it was very well known the Austrian Ambassador had declared it to be his opinion, that no peace could be made with this country without a stipulation for their restitution.

Lord HAWKESBURY said, it could not be supposed he should make any reply to the point last stated by the Noble Lord. When the question of Peace came to be considered, it would be on other grounds than the opinion of the Austrian Ambassador. As to Droits of Admiralty, there could be no doubt they were the rightful property of the Crown.—Adjourned to Friday.

FRIDAY, MAY 27.

Lord GRENVILLE, in a speech of some length, brought forward his motion for taking into consideration the Petition of the Irish Catholics.—The subject has so long and so often been before the public, it has been discussed in such a variety of shapes, that it is not necessary to repeat arguments and objections already sufficiently known. Lord Grenville stated, however, one important and additional fact, which was, that the Catholics would submit the nomination of their Bishops to the King of England, which would do away every cause of affected or real alarm.

The Bishop of Norwich, Lord Erskine, Lord Moira, Lord Hutchinson, Lord Stanhope, the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Holland, and Lord Auckland, supported the motion; which was opposed by Lord Sidmouth, the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Bangor, the Earl of Buckinghamshire, and Lord Hawkesbury; and the House having divided, there appeared a majority of 87 against the motion.—Adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, MAY 23.

Mr. GRATTAN presented a Petition from the Roman Catholics in Ireland, praying the repeal of all the statutory disabilities under which they labour.—The Petition was so swelled by signatures, that it filled the arms of the Right Hon. Gentleman who presented it.

In a Committee of Supply, 147,179l. were voted as Arrears for Army Services of last year outstanding and unpaid; 2,850,000l. for the Extraordinary Services of the Army of Great Britain, and 500,000l. for the same

purpose, for the Army in Ireland, for 1808; 1000l. were voted towards the repairs of Henry the Seventh's Chapel.

The House then proceeded to take into further consideration the Report of the Committee on the propriety of the Distillation from Sugar instead of Grain.—A long conversation ensued, but no new argument was brought forward.—On a division, there appeared for the measure, 163; against it, 127.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY, MAY 24.

A Ballot stood for a Committee to try the last election for Sandwich. There being only 22 eligible Members found, instead of 49, an adjournment took place.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25.

Sir S. ROMILLY brought in a Bill to repeal the 8th of Queen Elizabeth, which was read a first time.

Sir F. BURDETT again called the attention of the House to the effect which the late decision of the Court of King's Bench relative to the Westminster Election, might have on the Privileges of the House.—There being nothing on the record, however, to shew that the instruction given by the Judge to the Jury was of the exact nature stated by the worthy Baronet, it seemed to be the general opinion that there was not evidence sufficient to ground any proceedings upon.

IRISH CATHOLICS.

Several Petitions having been presented from the Irish Catholics, praying relief, and one of the principal having been read, Mr. GRATTAN rose to support the claims of the Catholics. He and his friends contended, that the present time was the one peculiarly fitting for a union of all classes of his Majesty's people; that it was the interest of Bonaparte to prevent such union; that it would be a death-blow to his hopes; that the Irish Catholics did not acknowledge the Pope's supremacy; that the great majority of Irish Protestants even were desirous that their Catholic brethren should participate in all the advantages of the British Constitution; that they had been promised such advantages at the Union; that Mr. Pitt, Mr. Fox, and all the enlightened men of every party and of every nation, saw the necessity and justice of doing away all religious distinctions; that a refusal to acquiesce in these just claims would be dangerous, at a time when all Europe was in arms against us; and that the granting them would more than any other event place the security of the United Empire on the most substantial basis.—It was therefore moved, that the Petition should be referred to the consideration of a Committee.

Mr. CANNING and his friends replied, that their objections did not so much rest against the principle of the measure, as against the time; it was not a proper one to discuss the question; objections most formidable existed in a certain quarter; to proceed in the business would only tend to create confusion in the Government; that the Opposition were well acquainted with these facts; that their conduct was very suspicious, for they gave up the question when in place, and now brought it forward merely to embarrass their successors.—Mr. Canning, indeed, distinctly said, that "he looked forward with confidence to the period when all might be done in this respect which every liberal man could have wished had long since been effected; Mr. Wilberforce, however, thought that the claims of the Catholics ought not to be granted at any time—an opinion in which he appeared to stand alone.

A division at length took place, when there appeared for the motion, 128,—against it, 281—majority, 153.—Adjourned.

THURSDAY, MAY 26.

The Duchess of Brunswick's Annuity Bill, and the Military Enquiry Commissioners' Bill, were read a third time and passed.

A motion respecting his Majesty's Droits of Admiralty

was about being brought forward by Sir C. Pole, when he was told by Mr. Perceval, that the subject had been arranged by his Majesty in such a way as would obviate the necessity for the Hon. Baronet's motion.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, for the purpose of examining witnesses on the Orders in Council; when Mr. Molling, a foreign merchant, was called in and examined. He was of opinion, that if the Orders had been stronger, they would have had a better effect in bringing Bonaparte to his senses. He had stated, in his Petition to the House in favour of these Orders, that they would be the means of restoring peace on the Continent; but in the course of his examination, he could not state any ground on which that opinion was founded; on the contrary, he said that more vigorous measures had been adopted by Bonaparte since the Orders had been issued. The witness then got into a violent passion, and called Bonaparte a d—d rascal, and said, if he had been younger, he would go over to the Continent to fight him. Here the Speaker interposed, and said, that the language of the witness was highly indecorous, and such as could not be heard in that House without reprobation. The witness was ordered to withdraw, when the Speaker moved, that he should be called in again and reprimanded by the Chairman.

Sir C. Price observed, that the language made use of by the witness was entirely owing to his ignorance. The witness was then called in and severely reprimanded.

Mr. S. Rucker, Mr. Alewyn, and Mr. Burmester, were also examined. They spoke of the high price of colonial produce, which was very scarce, but had no advice of any relaxation of the Decrees restricting commerce; it was impossible to do any business with the Continent on the present footing.

The Chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again on Thursday.

The further consideration of the Assessed Taxes Bill, and the Local Militia Bill, was postponed till Monday.—Adjourned.

FRIDAY, MAY 27.

The new Annuity Plan was taken into consideration, and the Bill ordered to be printed.

Mr. FOSTER's motion for continuing the Bank of Ireland Charter for 20 years beyond the original period, in consideration of their granting a loan and various other public advantages, was carried in the affirmative.

Another debate and division took place on the Distillation from Sugar instead of Grain, when two resolutions were carried by a majority of only 18, and the third was referred to a Committee of Supply on Monday. During the debate, Mr. Coke, of Norfolk, declared that the measure went to deprive the people of bread, for which the Chancellor of the Exchequer must be responsible. The distilleries are to be stopped from the 10th of June till Sept. 1.—Adjourned till Monday.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette mentions the capture of the *Deux Freres* French privateer.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Bland and J. Satterthwaite, Fen-court, insurance-brokers, to surrender May 28, June 7, July 5, at ten, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Parather and Son, London-street.

J. Harris, Redman's-row, Mile-end, rooper, May 28, June 4, July 5, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Swain and Co. Old Jewry.

J. Dunsmore and J. Gardner, Broad-street, merchants, May 31, June 14, July 5, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Spottiswoode, Tokenhouse-yard.

D. and L. Blackford, Lombard-street, gold and silver-lacemen, May 31, at twelve, 14, July 5, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Druce, Billiter-square.

J. Scholes, Manchester, calico-printer, June 14, 25, July 5, at two, at the Bridgewater Arms, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Nabb, Manchester.

H. H. Schorey, Halifax, merchant, June 14, 15, July 5, at eleven, at the White Swan, Halifax. Attorney, Mr. Swainson, Halifax.

J. M'Keunell, Cleckheaton, Yorkshire, linen-draper, May 31, at four, June 1, July 5, at eleven, at the Bull and Mouth, Leeds. Attorney, Mr. Carr, Gomersall.

CERTIFICATES—JUNE 14.

J. Gerrard, Swan-yard, Minorics, corn-factor.—W. Partridge, Exeter, serge-maker.—A. Batic, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer.—A. Marr, Gravel-lane, Southwark, baker.—J. N. Watred, Birmingham, woollen-draper.—W. Ball, Bush-lane, broker.—W. Rose, Bowbridge, Gloucester, dyer.—G. Touse, Kennington-green, underwriter.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette gives an account of a feat of heroism displayed by Capt. Usher and his crew, of the sloop *Redwing*, off Trafalgar, in an action with seven armed vessels, containing together 22 heavy guns and 246 men, who, on the approach of the *Redwing*, formed a close line, sweeping towards her with an intention to board. Capt. Usher met the enemy on his own terms, and endeavoured to close. After two hours close action, the enemy pushed their vessels into a heavy surf, sacrificing their wounded. The *Redwing* captured one of the armed vessels, four were sunk, and two escaped. She captured seven of the merchantmen, four more were sunk, and one escaped. The British lost but one man killed, and three wounded.

Also an account of the capture of an Italian brig of war, 16 twelve-pounders, by the *Standard*, Capt. Hervey, and of two vessels with 6 guns each, off Carthage, by the boats of the *Renommee* and *Grasshopper*. The prizes running aground, the British humanely abandoned them without burning, on account of the many men, women, and children on board.

BANKRUPTCY ENLARGED.

J. Connolly, Manchester, linen-merchant, from June 4, to July 23, at ten, at the Dog Tavern, Manchester.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

Eliz. Washington and G. Currell, Chester, milliners.

BANKRUPTS.

R. Stubbs, Leek, Staffordshire, butcher, to surrender June 17, at five, 18, July 9, at eleven, at the Red Lion, Leek. Attornies, Messrs. Cruso, Jones and Porter, Leek.

J. Hamper, Stone's-End, Borough, shopkeeper, June 4, 14, July 9, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Field, Friday-street.

D. Wilby, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, cloth-manufacturer, June 13, 14, July 9, at eleven, at the Stafford Arms, Wakefield. Attorney, Mr. Clarkson, Wakefield.

W. Canne, Otley, Yorkshire, stationer, June 17, at four, 18, July 9, at eleven, at the Star and Garter, Leeds. Attorney, Mr. Granger, Leeds.

W. Perry, Eaton-Bishop, Herefordshire, miller, June 9, 10, July 9, at eleven, at Lane's Coffee-house, Hereford. Attorney, Mr. Woodhouse, Hereford.

W. Wakefield, Manchester, warehouseman, June 15, 16, July 9, at four, at the Palace Inn, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Edge, Manchester.

W. Watts, Little Carter-lane, Doctors' Commons, wine-merchant, June 11, 14, July 9, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Hamilton, Tavistock-row, Coycut-Garden.

- J. Moss, Kingston-upon-Hull, boat-builder, May 31, June 1, July 9, at eleven, at the White Hart, Hull. Attorney, Mr. Sandwich, Hull.
- T. Young, Bartlett's-passage, Holborn, jeweller, May 31, June 14, July 9, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Mayhew, Symmond's-Inn, Chancery-lane.
- E. Hunt, Duke's-row, Pimlico, painter, June 2, 11, July 9, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Greenwood, Manchester-street, Manchester-square.
- R. Soames, Mark-lane, provision-merchant, June 7, 14, July 9, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Wilde, jun. Castle-street, Falcon-square.
- J. Dunn and C. Robinson, Wood-street, factors, May 31, June 7, at twelve, July 9, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Rigby, Crown-Office-row, Temple.
- E. Morris, Carmarthen, innkeeper, June 6, 13, July 9, at eleven, at the White Lion, Carmarthen. Attorney, Mr. Brown, Carmarthen.
- W. Brown, King-street, Bloomsbury, grocer, May 31, June 14, July 9, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorneys, Messrs. Bolton, Lane, and Lane, Lawrence-Poultney-hill.
- Eliz. Biddell, Ratcliffe-Cross, haberdasher, June 7, 14, July 9, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Payne, Basinghall-street.
- J. Parkinson and J. Stork, St. Saviour's Church-yard, hop-factor, June 4, 11, July 9, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Abbott, Old Broad-street.
- H. Gill, Spitalfields-market, victualler, June 4, 11, July 9, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Rivington, Fenchurch-street-buildings.
- A. Iiter and J. Holding, Wentworth-street, Whitechapel, sugar-refiners, June 4, 11, July 9, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Ratson, Wellclose-square.
- E. Heseltine, Beech-street, oil-merchant, May 31, at one, June 14, July 9, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Hindman, Dyer's-court, Aldermanbury.

CERTIFICATES—JUNE 18.

- J. Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchant.—J. Taylor, Newgate-market, salesman.—M. W. Heginbotham, Manchester, cotton-spinner.—T. Spring, jun. Great Grimsby, ironmonger.—J. Lloyd, Liverpool, brewer.—J. Angell, Wardour-street, Soho, taylor.—A. Anderson, London, insurance-broker.—W. Traynor, Jermyn-street, St. James's, taylor.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

3 per Cent. Red, 67 | 3 per Cent. Consols, 57 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ | Cons. for Acct. 69, 68 $\frac{1}{2}$.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON:

SUNDAY, MAY 29.

A DOMESTIC event has happened, which is sufficiently important to be mentioned before the Foreign News. The Weavers in Manchester, Stockport, and Bolton, &c. &c. in consequence of the rejection of their bill for regulating the price of their labour, assembled last week in large bodies near Manchester, and appointed Delegates to represent their grievances to the Magistrates. They state, that they do not want work, but that work is not a jot of advantage to them, since after labouring six days for 14 hours a day, they cannot earn more than seven or eight shillings, a pittance indeed which will not support nature. Upwards of 10,000 of them had assembled during the afternoon of Wednesday, in a field near Manchester, and were

harangued by the Borough-reeve, who advised them to disperse; but there was a general cry of expostulation;—"We have nothing to eat," said they, "and unless our wages are raised, we might as well play and starve, as work and be famished." The misery of the poor creatures was truly affecting, but the Riot Act was read, and upon an attempt of the military to disperse them, one old man who has left a widow and five children, was killed, several were wounded, and 40 seized and sent to gaol. It is most earnestly to be hoped, that at a time like this, when union is so indispensably necessary and when our enemy is continually watching for causes of accusation against us, that some immediate steps may be taken to alleviate their sufferings. It is certainly a delicate thing for the Legislature to interfere in questions of wages, but it is better to handle a delicate subject than to be driven into unwilling and violent measures against these unhappy persons. Their employers assert, that owing to the stagnation of trade, they cannot at present afford a higher price. But surely every one of their employers will not assert this. Where are all those individuals, who are now growing, or have already grown rich by these weavers? Why do they not come forward and help the instruments of their prosperity? The miserable sufferers have indeed collected into a body, but it is a famished and a hitherto peaceable body, and as long as the evil is not produced by mere wantonness, but by absolute and dreadful necessity, no rich Weaver ought to have two dishes on his table till he helps to do it away.

The accounts from Gibraltar, received by the Admiralty on Friday, represent the late insurrection at Madrid as infinitely more alarming to the French than it has been described in the French Papers: 6000 Spaniards and 8 or 10,000 Frenchmen are reported to have been killed, and the result of the contest, it is said, would have been very doubtful, had not the Duke of Bero arrived from the camps with 20,000 men. The ferment is said to have arisen from a general anxiety, lest the new King should be detained by the French Emperor. There are a hundred rumours of course. Some say, that the Spaniards regret they had not opened their ports to the British at the commencement of the revolution, and because our Government sent an answer on Friday to Admiral Purvis's dispatches, it is supposed that Cadiz, which is reckoned defensible against the Continent, has proposed to deliver up its port to our occupation. Nothing can be more improbable. The Spaniards, and especially the inhabitants of Cadiz who have so lately witnessed our vengeance on their country, can entertain no sentiments of attachment towards us. France, though a violent and a recent enemy to the repose, and a

before her at the commencement of the French Revolution, when all Europe was opposed to France,—what are we to expect now when France is strong against all Europe?

Sir JOHN MOORE, after a slow and foggy passage, has arrived with his 15,000 men at Gottenburgh. Our troops were not intended to disembark there, and a signal was made shortly after their arrival for a convoy to the Baltic. In the mean time there is little hope of saving Finland, and though divine thanksgiving has been put up by the Swedes for a few trifling successes, it is greatly apprehended that Stockholm itself will be soon attacked. The KING, in order to compose the minds of his subjects upon the capture of Sweaborg, has issued a pious Proclamation recommending them to preserve their confidence in Heaven and to look to their own bosoms for their best reward. The charm which misfortune gives to devotion renders this heart-felt address highly affecting. It forms a strong contrast to that outward habit of piety, which NAPOLEON puts on and off before his bishops and soldiers.

Stockholm Palace, May 6, 1808.

"We readily conceive, that the very unexpected surrender of Sweaborg must occasion uneasiness in the breasts of all our well-disposed people; but it behoves you, my faithful subjects, and honest Swedes, not to be depressed by misfortunes, nor despair of the salvation of your country. The unhappy incident itself ought to increase your confidence, double your precautions, as well as give greater strength and life to your exertions, in order, with united efforts, to resist the plans of the enemy; that every one may, in his station, to the utmost of his power, do his best endeavours towards the salvation and defence of a beloved country. During the fulfilment of such great and sacred duties, turn with hope and confidence towards the Eternal, Just, and Omnipotent God, who, in his wisdom, sometimes puts honesty and confidence to the proof, but never forgets to reward them; and be assured, that they who earnestly and truly follow those sacred obligations which they are placed under in this world, and for which they will one day be called to account before the Most High, will in their own bosoms feel a satisfaction and reward, which the greatest distress cannot deprive them of. The grace of the Almighty be with you all!"

After all the rumours about peace and war between Russia and Turkey, hostilities are now said to be vigorously commencing. People are surprised at this sudden event, but it is most probable the war has been merely delayed by some French intrigue, till matters were ripe for the downfall of Turkey. Poor Russia then is now fighting the way for France both east and west!

On Tuesday the Crane schooner arrived at Plymouth from Cadiz, with dispatches for Government. She left the station, consisting of eleven sail of all well. Previous to her arrival, which are said to contain the news of the insurrection at Madrid.



The Townshend packet has arrived in eleven days from Gibraltar. The accounts she brings respecting affairs in Spain, contain some further particulars.—The immediate occasion of the riots is thus given in a letter:—

"On the 2d inst. Gen. Murat (Grand Duke of Berg) entered Madrid, and intimated to the Infant Don Antonio the necessity of his presence at the Conferences about to be held at Bayonne between Bonaparte and the King; and that it was expected that he would issue a Proclamation declaring him (Murat) Regent during his absence. To this the Infant answered, 'that he had received the Regency from the King, his nephew, into whose hands only he would resign it; and that as the duties of Regent of Spain were incompatible with a journey to Bayonne, he should remain at Madrid.' Murat finding the Prince inflexible in his determination, ordered a body of troops he had a few days before withdrawn from Madrid, to re-enter the city, intending, as is supposed, to seize the person of Don Antonio, and to declare himself regent. However, the inhabitants having intimation or suspicion of his design, and being alarmed by the return of the French, collected in the streets; attacked them with vigour and resolution; took their cannon, which they turned against them; and drove them out of the town with great slaughter. Ten thousand persons at least, are supposed to have lost their lives in this conflict. The French force consisted of 8000, and rivulets of blood ran through the streets."

It is said in other letters, on the authority of a Gentleman arrived from the Spanish territory at Gibraltar, that on the first breaking out of the insurrection, nearly the whole of the French troops, amounting to about 8000, stationed at Madrid, were killed by the enraged inhabitants; but that on the arrival of 20,000 fresh French troops from the camps near the city, some thousands of the Spaniards were slaughtered by them. This shocking massacre had not appeased the people. The President of the Council and the Grand Duke of BERG, in order to tranquillize them, are said to have proposed to send a courier to Bayonne, to obtain the release of the Royal Family, and to bring them to Madrid. The people, it is added, agreed to wait a certain length of time for their arrival, after which they were to be at liberty to take their own steps.

It was generally believed at Gibraltar, that the populace at Cadiz had driven the Frenchmen there on board their ships, with the design of delivering up the whole to the English. It is also reported, not from Gibraltar, but from the Crane, that the second in command of the combined fleet at Cadiz was assassinated on the 2d inst. at the theatre there; but whether a Spanish or French officer, is not stated. The fleet in Cadiz consists of twelve sail of the line, one frigate, and a brig. It was also said at Gibraltar, that the Governor of Catalonia had refused to put in force the French Decree against the Americans.

The Transit, arrived at Plymouth, passed through the Gut of Gibraltar on the 14th instant, with a fleet of 19 transports, full of troops, supposed to be destined for Cadiz, the people of which place, it is said, have entered into a correspondence with the British Admiral off that port.

Dispatches from Lord COLLINGWOOD mention the arrival of Sir J. STUART at Palermo, to take the command of the troops in Sicily. The Rochefort and Toulon squadrons continue blockaded in the latter port.

Lord STRANGFORD is, after all, left behind by the last Brazil convoy. His Lordship went from Torbay to Plymouth by land; and during his journey the President frigate sailed without him, the wind having come fair.

THE LOAN.—The gentlemen who wished to contract for the Loan had their first interview on Friday with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Loan is to be eight millions for this country, and two millions and a half for Ireland, to be raised in this Country in the 4 per cents.—730,000*l.* is also to be raised in Ireland. The bidding is to take place on Tuesday next. It is understood that the money for the India Company is to be raised by Exchequer Bills; so that the Loan will not exceed eight millions.

On Tuesday a Court of Aldermen was held at Guildhall, at which the price of Bread was ordered to be continued the same as last week. Aldermen LEA and ROWCROFT gave in their resignation, and the LORD MAYOR was requested to issue his precepts for the election of two Gentlemen in their place.—J. COWLEY, T. POYNTER, T. WHIPHAM, and M. PEARKES, Esqrs. paid a fine of 400*l.* and 20 marks each, to be excused serving the office of Sheriff.

There was no cause of any public interest in any of the Courts of Law yesterday.

A gentleman of the name of HOLLINS, an Officer in the army, who recently returned from the Indies, put a period to his existence yesterday morning, by lodging a ball from a pistol in his head. It was about six in the morning when the catastrophe occurred; and the report of the pistol was heard by a carpenter of the name of Fowler, who was about four or five hundred yards from the spot. On his proceeding thither, the unfortunate young man was lying dead. He had left his apartments in Orange-court, Mary-le-bone, at four o'clock, on Friday afternoon, and it was supposed that embarrassment was the cause of suicide, with the additional circumstance, that the deceased had made some hazardous attempt to recruit his finances.

Letters from the *Minerva*, of 44 guns, Capt. Hawkins, dated the 6th inst. off L'Orient, state, that the boats of that ship, manned and armed, commanded by Lieutenant Cooke, landed in a bay in L'Orient, attacked and carried a battery defended by one 18-pounder, and a large party of soldiers, in the block-house, with loop-holes. The gallant tars turned the gun toward the block-house, and fired it through; then spiked the gun, and took the sentinel prisoner, when the enemy fired through the loop-holes, and unfortunately killed Lieut. Cooke, but his party succeeded in carrying the body on board, and the next day it was committed to the deep, with naval honours.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP TARTAR, DATED LEITH ROADS, MAY 20.

"We sailed from Leith on the 10th inst. We got on the coast on the 12th, but from the very thick fogs, could not stand in till the 15th, when we made the Islands to the westward of Bergen. It being the Captain's intention to reach the town and bring off the shipping, we got the ship under weigh, but from the lightness of the wind, and intricacy of the passage, could not get near Bergen; and when about half way, in a narrow rocky strait, without a breath of wind, and a strong current, we were attacked by a schooner and five gun-boats, who were within half gun-shot, each mounting two 24-pounders, and manned with

troops. They kept up a well directed fire, hulling in ten or eleven places, and cutting much our rigging and sails. One of their first shots killed our gallant Captain, in the act of pointing a gun. Although the force with which we were engaged was comparatively small, yet as we were at this time drifting towards the enemy, no wind, a narrow passage full of rocks, with no anchorage, under heights manned by their troops, no guns to bear on the boats, and a crew newly impressed, it must be confessed to be a situation in which nothing but the greatest exertions on the part of Lieut. Caiger and the rest of the Officers, could relieve her. We at length brought our broadside to bear on them; one vessel was sunk, and the rest much shattered. They continued the attack for an hour and a half, and were re-manned by small boats during it—at length a light air sprung up, we wore and stood towards the enemy, and compelled them to row under the batteries of Bergen, where we found it would not be advisable to follow, from the general alarm that had been raised. We have preserved the body of our heroic Captain, and shall if possible, also that of Mr. H. Fitzhugh (Midshipman), a fine promising youth, who fell at the time the Captain did. They are the only killed; we have one man lost his right arm, another severely wounded, and several slightly. Most of our shot holes are between wind and water, and one shot struck us two feet under water."

Capt. Bettesworth had often distinguished himself by his gallant conduct on former occasions; particularly while Lieutenant of the *Centaur*, with Sir S. Hood. In conjunction with Lieut. R. C. Reynolds, of the same ship, he boarded and cut out from under Fort Edward, Martinique, Le Curieux, of 16 guns. In this enterprize Lieut. Reynolds was killed, and his gallant companion so dreadfully cut and shot in various parts, that his recovery was for some time extremely doubtful. For this achievement he was promoted. Capt. Bettesworth was lately married to Lady Hannah Grey, sister to Earl Grey, and had just fitted out the frigate in which he has so prematurely lost his life.—Aged 28 years.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor returns his thanks for the flattering Letter of CADMUS, and will be happy to attend to any authentic explanations of the sources of theatrical corruption. If ASPER will write argumentatively and with the feelings of a gentleman, the Editor will insert his defence of any actor.

No. 20.

Miss Pope's Farewell to the Stage—Her Character both public and private.—A Comparison between the Faes of former Actors in England and France.—Another Hint to Actors respecting their private Characters.

DRURY-LANE.

MISS POPE, the last venerable survivor of the Garrick School, retired on Thursday from the stage. She chose the character of *Lady Duberly* in the *Heir at Law* for her last performance, probably because it was a part that required little exertion; but her farewell was spoken in the character of *Audrey*, which by her tenaciousness in thus keeping it to the last, seems to have been her favourite one. Probably however this character also was chosen by Miss POPE for its little sensibility, since it allowed her to restrain her feelings. She came scuffling on the stage with the usual idiotic bustle of *Audrey*, and after gazing about at vacancy with an admirable blankness of gape amidst a thunder of clappings, delivered some few lines with a faintness of voice and humour, that seemed

unable to conquer itself. The lines seemed to consist of quotations from SHAKESPEARE tacked together with rather a coarse kind of rhythm, and she retired after many rustic curtsies in the same manner she had entered amidst peals of applause. A more serious address would have better suited, I think, the feelings of the theatre, but if a gayer farewell spared pain both to herself and to the house, it was chosen with her usual good sense. There is something strongly impressive in these little eras of the stage; they shew us a human being conscious of it's declining faculties, they exhibit a decided step towards the grave, and in witnessing a farewell to the mimic world, we anticipate our farewell to the real, and hope to depart, in the same manner, amidst the respect and the tears of our friends.

MISS POPE in comedy, like Mrs. SIDMONS in tragedy, has always been remarkable for her sound sense as well as genius. She has never sacrificed nature to a mistaken fondness for pleasing, and she has proved how true and superior a reputation a comedian will obtain who despises affectation and buffoonery. This excellent actress has adorned the stage from a child. She was the only good performer whom GARRICK obtained from his juvenile theatre, and she appears afterwards to have had some instructions from Mrs. CLIVE. Her genius however is evidently so entirely owing to nature, that her theatrical education could have given it none of it's excellence, as I trust I have already proved in the *Critical Essays on the Performers*. That she has escaped from such an education, unaffected and unvitiated, is indeed a remarkable proof of her excellent sense both on and off the stage. THOMAS DAVIES the actor, who wrote dramatic criticisms in a strange rambling style, and who had not sufficient taste to relish the true simplicity of nature, professed to have no hopes of genius in Miss POPE; but CHURCHILL has done her ample justice in his *Rosciad*, and at the same time has revenged her upon Poor Tom, as JOHNSON called him, in the following comprehensive criticism:—

With him came mighty Davies—On my life,
That Davies hath a very pretty wife!

The other remarks on Miss POPE I beg leave to quote from the *Critical Essays*, as I should merely have to repeat the criticism in that work.

“With all the native vigour of sixteen,
Among the merry group conspicuous seen,
See lively POPE advance in jig and trip,
Coriona, Cherry, Honeycomb, and Snip.
Not without art, but yet to nature true,
She charms the town with humour just, yet new.
Chear'd by her promise, we the less deplore
The fatal time when CLIVE shall be no more.

ROSCIAD.

“This anticipation of Miss POPE's resemblance to Mrs. CLIVE, who excelled in hoydens and romps as well as intriguing chambermaids, does not seem to have been perfectly justified in the former character; but in the latter we ourselves can witness to that lively nature which seems determined to survive her very powers, and the picture of Mrs. CLIVE's genius, if not of her characters, might still be drawn for Miss POPE:

“In spite of outward blemishes she shone
For humour fam'd and humour all her own.
Easy, as if at home, the stage she trod,
Nor sought the critic's praise nor fear'd his rod.

Original in spirit and in ease

She pleas'd by hiding all attempts to please.

ROSCIAD.

“It has not been my fortune to see Miss POPE in her former days and characters, but if her humour is still so powerful, when her powers of voice and of action have become so weak, it is easy to imagine her former excellence. Her genius however is of a very lasting nature, for it does not depend upon bodily exertion. The stage, as CHURCHILL says, with respect to Mrs. CLIVE, appears to be her own room; she never indulges in that excess of action which is intended to supply the want of active countenance, and which would be so astounding to Englishmen in real life; she never talks to the audience, she does not exhibit all she can when her character will not warrant the display, and with the same judgment she never affects what she cannot do. One of her great beauties is a most judicious emphasis of speech, that unites the qualities of reading and of talking; for it has all the strength of the one tempered by the familiarity of the other. Her general style of acting indeed may be termed emphatic, not because like Mrs. DAVENPORT, who is a very sensible actress in other respects, she digs, as it were, into particular words with her voice and her action, but because she relieves with much art the uniform temperance of her manner by that variety of tone, which appears the natural result of a person's obedience to feelings, without any attempt to repress or to elevate them. This is peculiarly observable in her performance of Mrs. Candour in the *School for Scandal*, in which her affected sentiments are so inimitably hidden by the natural turns of her voice, that it is no wonder her scandal carries perfect conviction to every body around her. Her humour is perfectly adapted to this affectation of truth, for it is of that dry sort which a person of little judgment might mistake for seriousness, and it is so perfectly equalized with her immediate feelings, that in scenes of cool contemptuous defiance or of anger affecting coolness, as in the character of Lady Courtland in the *School for Friends*, she never passes those limits at which the actor's adherence to his author ends, and his mere wish to please the audience commences.

“In the parts of mere farce, like that of stupid *Audrey* in *As You Like It*, Miss POPE must yield, I think, to Mrs. MATTOCKS, but in true comic humour and in temperate unaffected nature she yields to no actress on the stage, and it is a very considerable praise to her judgment and her general manners that in the present rare gentility of the stage she is the only natural performer of the old gentlewoman. With features neither naturally good nor flexible, she manages a surprising variety of expression, and with a voice originally harsh and now enfeebled by age, her variety of tone is still more surprising. None of her deficiencies in short are acquired, and she contrives that they shall injure none of her excellencies. With perpetual applause to flatter her and a long favouritism to secure her, she has no bad habits; and when even the best of our actors are considered, it is astonishing how much praise is contained in that single truth.”

There yet remains one praise to be given to Miss POPE, and unfortunately it is one quite as rare as her natural acting. She has always shewn a respect for her own character and profession, and is among the very few women whom a theatrical life has not corrupted. She will therefore retire into private life, rich by her industry and rich in her good name. The English, unlike their gay neighbours, have always had a lasting gratitude for those who have given them their gayest hours. They do not indeed treat all their living actresses like goddesses, but then they do not use them when dead like dogs and malefactors. The monuments of GARRICK and Mrs. OLDFIELD are

mingled in Westminster Abbey with those of poets and statesmen; while the noblest French performers have been thrust into a hasty grave in fields and in the roads. *Le Couvreur*, one of the finest actresses in the world, who was admired by the first wits of her time and idolized by the Court of Lewis XV. was hurried into a hackney-coach and buried on the banks of the Seine: there was no priest; no respectful ceremony: the clerical beau, who had called her divine the night before, would have profaned himself by reading over her. Her eyes however were closed by the hand of *Voltaire*, and the same hand has immortalized her in prose and poetry. *Moliere* himself, the first of humourists, the favourite of Kings, and the inmate of a royal palace, crept to a common grave in an obscure burying-ground. These things indeed are altered now, and the French Emperor releases his actors from slavery after death and merely tyrannizes over them while living. In the mean time the old superstitious custom of France may convince us what effects have been produced by the dissolute manners of the stage; for the earliest modern actors, who led better lives and performed nothing but sacred dramas, or something like dramas, were originally allowed the common privileges of Christians, and it was not till the plays and players had disgraced their stage, that a blind superstition confounded the innocent with the guilty. There is at this moment a sect among us quite as superstitious and quite as intolerant as the Papists used to be, and if ever they should succeed in their attempts to displace the Ecclesiastical Authorities, the actors will not be far off from an excommunication in England. May superstition mend, and players too.

THE OPERA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—A combination of absurd incident, tawdry dresses, bad music, and worse scenery, was produced at this theatre on Tuesday last, under the title of a new grand Indian Ballet. That it is new I am not disposed to contradict, but I must deny that it is grand, till I am convinced that grandeur consists in a gaudy profusion of gold leaf and tinsel, which at present appear to me to have no greater claim to grandeur than the May-day embellishments of a chimney sweeper. To render it Indian, we might reasonably require Indian scenery and dresses, and above all, Indian complexions; but these Mr. D'EGVILLE has denied us. The incident of this ballet is uninteresting and absurd. *Constance* and *Almazor*, from whom it derives its name, are in love, and of course dance together as all lovers in the opera ballets do; but in the midst of their amusement, they are surprized by a rival who carries *Constance* away by force to prison. *Almazor* is not to be thus easily defrauded; he therefore, with the assistance of a friend, obtains admission into the prison as a corpse, which his rival exultingly shows to *Constance*; but his exultation does not long continue, for upon turning his back to *Almazor*, the dead man arises, and gives him a sly and desperate wound that deprives him of life. The lovers, by some means known only to the Ballet Master, get out of prison, and, in the usual style, live and dance happily ever after.

Mr. D'EGVILLE appeared on the stage after an interval of two seasons, but I cannot compliment him upon his performance. His action is always appropriate and dig-

nified, but his countenance is remarkably inexpressive and immovable; it never relaxes from one unmeaning position, and it is difficult to judge by it whether he means to be miserable or happy. This is the most material defect that a ballet-master can possess, who, being debarred the use of words, has no other means of expressing the emotions he is supposed to feel. *Mons. and Madame Deshayes* had no opportunity of shewing their abilities in acting, from the triviality of incident; but the grand dance in the second act was one of the most astonishing specimens of their art that I have ever witnessed. *Mad. Deshayes*, although labouring under the disadvantages of a clumsy figure, dances with wonderful grace and lightness; but she is greatly surpassed by her husband, who approaches almost to perfection. With the exception of their *pas deux*, and the tambourine dance by *Miss Gayton*, there was nothing to admire throughout the whole performance.

Mr. *Venus*, with the assistance of compilation, has contrived to furnish some tolerable music, but he does not possess enough talent to compose for this theatre; his music is in general tediously dry and monotonous. He appears sufficiently versed in the rules of composition, but has a false taste and a remarkable deficiency of invention; to supply this defect, he has recourse to old tunes, which he endeavours to disguise by alterations which spoil them. As a leader, he should remember that he is not placed in the situation for extraordinary merit, most of the other performers being far superior to him. This might teach him not to arrogate so much consequence, and not to beat the time so loudly to those who are much more competent to the correct performance of the music. In the ballet of *Le Mariage Secret*, the effect of several beautiful symphonies by the wind instruments was materially injured by this unnecessary presumption. H. R.

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

The frost of age, when it chills the ardour of genius, is a sufficient excuse for professional decay, but not for intrusion of this decay before the public. The respectability of old age is impaired when its inanity is obtruded on the public eye by its vanity. We therefore recommend to Messrs. Garvey, Copley, Northcote, and Sandby, to retire from public view. Mr. GARVEY'S *View in Portland Isle*, 30, is cold, heavy, and insipid. Mr. COPLEY'S *Lady Jane Grey*, 1, is a tawdry patchiness of harlequinade colouring. Mr. NORTHCOTE'S *Mother and Child*, 79, look as if they had a fit of the palsy and their limbs broken on the rack; and Mr. SANDBY'S *Landscapes*, as if floured over with a dredging box.

99. *A Holy Family*: R. WESTALL, R. A.—A rich and harmonious piece of colouring. The mother and child are beautiful, the light is admirably concentrated and the entire effect highly pleasing and powerful.

104. *A Hall of Roman Soldiers*. Sir F. BOURGEOIS, R. A.—A spiritless imitation of *Salvator Rosa*.

The general diffusion of taste for the elegant arts among the higher classes, together with the proverbial humanity of Englishmen, are pledges for the success of the intended subscription for the relief of Mr. GRAYSON, the Father of English Engraving, in his works from *Hayman* and others. By the decay of his physical powers, at the advanced age of more than 90, he is reduced to honourable poverty. His tremulous hand and his dimmed eye can no longer second his active and virtuous mind; and he who has contributed so much to the amusement of others in establishing the useful and delightful art of engraving, is threatened with a dreary prison by importunate creditors. But no. The GLOUCESTERS,

the STAFFORDS, the LEICESTERS, and the HOPES, of this tasteful day, will prevent this venerable Patriarch of Art from such a doom, and not only so, but generously assist to lead him gently and happily down the declivity of life.

AN ATTEMPT TO SHEW THE FOLLY AND
DANGER OF
METHODISM.

IN A SERIES OF ESSAYS.

ESSAY III.—*Of Eternal Damnation and Election.*

I. The Methodists call themselves Gospel Preachers, and they are always preaching from the Epistles; they call themselves Evangelists or the announcers of good tidings, and they are always proclaiming everlasting misery. It is chiefly the Calvinistic sect who delight in these proclamations from the King of Mercy; the revelation of the divine will is read by the light of the infernal regions; and the whole atmosphere of Calvinism, together with the countenances of the auditory, takes a ghastly hue from the illumination. The sect began in fire. CALVIN, it's author, though a profound dialectician, could find no better argument against the Unitarians than a brand from the Inquisition; and he who had differed with almost all the Christian world, who had been persecuted for this difference, and who had written two books against persecution, committed his rival to the flames for difference of opinion. The embers of these bad passions are still glowing. The Calvinist-Methodists are universally reckoned the most intolerant of the sects; they have rejected the lighter credulities of Popery merely to give double weight to its grossest superstitions; and if CALVIN deprived the POPE of his infallibility to transfer it in all it's tyranny to himself, his followers brandish the same flaming sword with a vivacity of no inferior threat: the fiery furnace is heated in proportion to their imperial wrath, and every body who will not bow down to the monstrous images of their fancy, is condemned, like SHADRACH and his brethren, to the inextinguishable torment. These are the men against whom a moderate Church should chiefly be on it's guard. A common Christian is indeed shocked to sit in their assemblies and hear the Deity represented as the most angry and revengeful of all beings; eternal wrath, fire, flames, howlings, gnashings, and fiends compose their favourite figures; and if a man of temperate feelings were to enter one of their churches during some of their descriptions of God, he might reasonably conceive that they were painting the Devil. The Church of England and the moderate sects feel an awful reluctance to be so frequent and so fierce upon this subject, because they well know, that the greatest divines have differed upon the meaning of Scripture as to the duration of divine punishment; that it is more honour to God to represent him in the beauty of his own virtue than in the deformity of human passions; and above all, that this doctrine has not been found to make men happier or milder. It is a mere fancy, that the lower orders are more easily persuaded by the Methodists, because they are frightened by them: to be frightened is their misfortune, not their way to conversion; and they would attend with much greater

pleasure to a more chearful preacher, provided he would but interest himself in his subject and give the proper spirit to his letter. Enter one of the Calvinist meeting-houses, hear the gloomy preacher, and then look at the gloomy audience. Those are the elect, the favourites of God. You see nothing natural in their whole appearance. Every thing is constrained, dull, and monotonous: the women have a housewifely air and a prudent, but it is the stiffness of the Quaker female without her simplicity and chearfulness:—the men exhibit that kind of vulgar and unpliant look, that hard outline of appearance, in short that air of decisive stubbornness, which people see in the countenance of a low and inflexible creditor. An acquaintance of mine once stood at the corner of a street and upon the mere strength of this characteristic distinction, guessed, almost to a man, who would turn round to the chapel and who would not.* The common people of Florence attributed the burnt colour of DANTE'S beard to a real visit into the infernal regions, and the manners of the Calvinists seem to be tinged with a fiery gloom by their meditations on hell-fire.

These manners are certainly a little extraordinary for God's immediate favourites; one would imagine, that men so highly honoured and blessed would exhibit a constant spirit of chearfulness, that they would carry the sunshine of Heaven in their countenances, and in the ecstasy of a sainted humility commence a kind of Seraphim upon earth. But they appear to be the favourites of a Turkish despot rather than an all merciful Deity, and to view the blind tyranny of their court with an alarm not altogether honourable to the royal promises. Thus they become like the favourites of any other sovereign, proud, selfish, and of a restless suspicion: when they are before him, they prostrate themselves with an abject humility; when they are abroad, they become tyrants themselves; for a dastardly spirit and a tyrannical spirit are one and the same thing. All this must be attributed to that very doctrine of Election, upon which they found their happiness.

II. Predestination, like party, is the misery "of many for the gain of a few." The doctrine of Election is an excellent one for a new sect, because it ensures the future happiness of the sectarian; and therefore was brought forward with great eagerness by the first Protestant Reformers, who not only gained followers by it but damned all their bitter enemies, the Roman Catholics. God, say the Calvinists, is all-merciful: before the creation of the world he predestined, of his exceeding goodness which surpasses all understanding, that the immense majority of his human creatures should suffer the pangs of everlasting

* "There is, in the commonwealth of Artificial Enthusiasm some real foundation for art to work upon, which other mortals seem to want. Observe but the gesture, the motion, and the countenance of some choice professors, though in their most familiar actions, you will find them of a different race from the rest of human creatures. Remark your commonest pretender to a light within, how dark, and dirty, and gloomy he is without; as lanterns, which the more light they bear in their bodies, cast out so much the more soot, and smoke, and fuliginous matter to adhere to the sides."—Swift on the Mechanical Operation of the Spirit.

fire, while a few others were to enjoy the blessings of his everlasting favour. BEZA tells us, that the all-merciful God acts thus in order to shew his power; but setting aside the mildness of this doctrine, we may reasonably wonder that the Deity in order to shew his own superior power should suffer his adversary the Devil to boast such an amazing population.* The majority of Calvinists however are content to produce their texts of Scripture for the opinion; their opponents of course produce theirs; and after the thousand disputes upon the subject, after all the arguments upon Liberty and Necessity, upon Fate, Free-will, and Fore-knowledge, what have we discovered? Nothing, but that the staunch Calvinists and maintainers of Predestination are the most violent and intolerant of all the Protestant Christians. If we cannot reconcile the goodness of God, humanly speaking, to the doctrine of Election, which dooms men to sin and misery, neither can we reconcile it, I allow, to the doctrine of Free-will, which makes the Deity a calm spectator of miseries he might prevent. But the fact is, that we know nothing about the matter, and never shall in this world. The Calvinists indeed, to clear up the mystery, will tell you that human feelings and virtues must not be applied to God, and certainly they have every credit for making him altogether inhuman. But this old assertion is mere jargon. If we cannot speak at all of the divine qualities, says a profound theologian, then God is not great and good according to our acceptation of the words, and therefore we literally mean nothing when we say that he is powerful and wise and merciful.† To this reasoning I beg leave to add, that if the Scripture does not speak of the qualities of God in a human sense, it means nothing when it commands us to imitate God, for how can we imitate what we neither see nor can conceive? We might as well be commanded to make a figure of infinite space.

In the mean time, the natural consequence of all doctrines which deny the attributes of wisdom and virtue to God, is a gradual disesteem of them amongst men. If the Calvinists imagine their Deity to be possessed neither of common reason nor common charity, we see at once the plain origin of all their follies and intolerance. If God has no reason for what he does, how can we expect his worshippers to give any reason for their own actions? If God has no pity for men destined to hell fire, how can we expect that his worshippers, irritated as they are by opposition, should have pity for their opposers? Nay, cry the Calvinists, God has reason in perfection, but it is nothing like the reason of which he has made us a present: he is all-goodness, but it is nothing like the goodness by which he has commanded us to be like him: every thing good proceeds from God, but it is not a part of his essence. Was there ever such an improvement upon Babel? Light comes from the sun, but it is a very different thing from the sun's light. Mark the horrible alternative into which the Calvinists are driven. Distinction of essence is two-

* Those who wish to see a curious specimen of confident assertion and self-refutation will consult Elnathan Parr's *Plaine Exposition of the Epistle to the Romans*. 1620. Chap. 9.

† Dr. Clark on Natural and Revealed Religion.

fold: either the goodness of God therefore differs in degree from human goodness or it differs in nature: if it differs in degree only, as the Anti-Calvinists maintain, it must certainly be infinitely superior to ours in it's benevolence and mercy; if it differs in nature, as the Calvinists maintain, what, in the name of Heaven's violated Majesty, can it's nature be? They cry out, that we must not judge of God: but why then do they judge of God? Which of us honours him more to the best of our judgment? He who attributes human virtues to the Deity, who humbly hopes for an explanation of evil hereafter, and in the mean time adores in silence; or he, who strips the Deity of the only honours man can give him, who insists that men are damned for ever for his mere pleasure, and who explains away all evil by attributing *human vices* to God and calling them virtues *above* human nature? Hear what is said by one of the wisest of mankind: "It were better to have no opinion of God at all, than such an opinion as is unworthy of him; for the one is unbelief, the other is contumely."‡ And "surely," says PLUTARCH, "I had rather a great deal, men should say there was no such man at all as PLUTARCH, than that they should say there was one PLUTARCH, that would eat his children as soon as they were born."§ It has been observed, that mankind delight in degrading the Deity to their own condition: but the Calvinists have made him worse.

Thus the deeper the mystery, the less has it's inquiry to do with the rational objects of preaching, the love of God and the love of Man. In fact, the Calvinists unconsciously acknowledge, that they have no reason for preaching at all; for if the blest and the unblest were determined for everlasting before the world, the continual threat of hell fire is only making the non-elect begin their unavoidable hell by anticipation. At any rate it is useless to preach it to the elect, unless indeed they take a pleasure in the contemplation, as some of them acknowledge. As to proselytism and missions, they are evidently useless for the same reasons; and indeed if all the world could be converted to their faith, the Calvinists would find themselves in a very awkward situation, since every body cannot be elect and non-elect too and the preachers would be obliged therefore to condemn a great part of the faithful to everlasting misery. By this we may see how ignorant St. PAUL was, when he wished to convert the whole world; and in particular how excessively gross he was in saying, that God would have all men to be saved.



‡ Bacon's Essays.

§ Id. On Superstition.

DINNER OF THE WESTMINSTER ELECTORS.

Monday the Electors of Westminster met at the Crown and Anchor, in the Strand, to celebrate the Anniversary of Sir F. BURDETT's election. Dinner was served up at five o'clock, and Sir FRANCIS took his seat at the head of the table, amidst the reiterated plaudits of the company. After the cloth was removed, the King and other toasts were given. These were succeeded by "Westminster's Pride, and England's Hope, Sir F. Burdett;" which called up the worthy Baronet, who addressed the Electors. He expressed his gratitude for the display of spirit

they had manifested in the late election. He rejoiced that he was the agent of men actuated solely by public principles, and so long as they continued to operate, the nation was safe. "At the same time," said Sir Francis, "I cannot hesitate to say, that the present situation of our country is most melancholy. Whether I look at our internal or external relations, I see cause for alarm; but particularly when I look at that ever-active and unvarying system of internal corruption, which is the real source of our external dangers (*Applause*). To put the country capable of defending itself against foreign danger, we must proceed to internal reform. I do not mean that species of trifling reform, of which the public have lately heard so much, and which seems rather calculated, or designed, to lead men's minds away from that description of reform, which can alone produce any important good. (*Applause*).—You will of course conceive that I allude to a reform in the representation of the Commons House of Parliament (*Loud applause*). It appears, according to a statement laid before the House of Commons, that a decided majority of that House are returned by about one hundred and fifty persons, principally Peers.—Then, while that House is so constituted, how is it possible to expect from it any redress of our grievances, any alleviation of our burthens? It cannot have a congenial feeling with the People, with whom the majority in general does not seem to have any common interest. For the members of that majority of that House are chosen not to consult the interests of the People, but to promote the profit or aggrandizement of their respective patrons (*Applauses*). I have no hesitation in saying, that a reform in that House is most essentially necessary; that in fact, it would serve to supply the country with its best defence, with both arms and men (*applause*). We have seen nothing for years but the creation of Commissions with a professed view to public benefit; but we have seen no public plunderer brought to justice; we have seen no peculation restrained; no economy introduced into the public expenditure. Nothing, in fact, material has arisen out of those Commissions, but the expence which their existence has superadded to the burthens which those by whom they were instituted affected a solicitude to remove (*Loud applauses*). It is a common custom with many people to compare the persons who fatten upon those burthens, to leeches; but really the comparison does not hold; for leeches can be satiated, but the persons I allude to are absolutely insatiable. The more these persons get, the more they desire, and the closer they adhere to the subject from which they can gratify their desire; while, as to the leeches, there is a consolation, that as they fill they suck a little less hard, and when they are absolutely full, they drop off (*applauses*). In proposing the redress of grievances, and the correction of abuses in a season like the present, it is often said, such is not the time. Now, this appears to me to be peculiarly the proper time. What, I should ask, would be thought of the Captain of a ship, who, at the moment he apprehended attack, should, instead of clearing his ship for action, leave all things in confusion, and refuse to attend to such things until the action was over. Now, what do we stigmatized reformers propose?—Why, nothing more than that the ship should be cleared for action—that the country should be put in a state capable of resisting the most formidable enemy by which she has ever been menaced. What I have so often said before, and which has always been so much misrepresented, meant nothing more simply and shortly than this, that the country should be worth defending (*applauses*); that the ship should be cleared; that the people should enjoy the liberty they are called upon to defend, and should have some security against the corrupt expenditure of their property, in order that they might defend the one, and the other, with adequate vigour. It is not by the sham sentiments of patriotism which proceeds from the hollow hearts of courtly orators, that the people are to be excited to action, but by rendering them

the justice they are entitled to claim (*applause*). In order to animate the energies of the people, and to save the country from subjugation, domestic reform must take place. That reform is every thing—it is the soul and body of our means, and without it we shall be nothing. How many nations capable of mustering a much larger mercenary force than is within our reach, have we seen fall before the enemy, because the people were not free, and because the despots by whom they were governed chose rather to submit to the enemy, than to emancipate their subjects (*applause*). Such also must be the fate of England, if due means be not taken in due time to avert it, and as Ministers are certainly not capable of providing such means, the People should set about providing for themselves—(*applauses*)."

"I have often heard," said Sir Francis, "the Advocates of the People called domestic enemies: but it strikes me that there is an infallible rule for judging who are the real domestic enemies. We are very naturally disposed to consider those who plunder us our enemies; as one is rarely plundered by a friend. Now it is with us infallible to judge of our domestic enemies by ascertaining who are our plunderers. The present Session, Gentlemen, has added much to your burthens, but nothing to your liberties. It requires some apology from any Representative, that he suffered any Bill to pass the House of Commons without notice. But the fact is, that a man's constitution must be as hard as iron, and his mind as quick as lightning, to endure all the fatigues, and to understand all the business of the House. I have to confess, therefore, that a Bill of a most exceptionable character did pass through that House without having once attracted my attention—the Indictment Bill;—but, Gentlemen, there is another exceptionable Bill now before that House, I mean that respecting what is called a Local Militia—this Bill may not pass—but if it does, it certainly shall not without my most decided reprobation. I trust that my countrymen are not yet so low as to submit to that last of human degradations to which this Bill would reduce them. When I consider the conduct of Ministers in overwhelming the people with taxes; ruining one part of them, and reducing another to distress, and when thus broken down, attempting to seize and subject them to all the indignities which this Bill has in view, I cannot reflect upon the project without indignation."—The Hon. Baronet adverted to the question respecting the Droits of the Admiralty, which he expressed his resolution to submit to the House of Commons as soon as the Papers should be laid before the House; and it would then be decided whether the immense sums those Droits produced belonged to the King or the People. Reverting again to the subject of Parliamentary Reform, the Hon. Baronet dwelt upon its necessity and value. The corrupt state of the representation was, in his mind, the cause of every evil the country suffered—it was, in fact, the source of those waters of bitterness that poisoned the silver stream from which England drinks. Sir Francis concluded with expressing his conviction, that unless the state of our representation were reformed—unless the numerous abuses of the country were corrected—the people would become disgusted and indifferent to their fate, and the subjugation of this land must follow.—(*Acclamations of applause followed this speech.*)

Mr. RICHTER read a Report of the Committee relative to the conduct and expence of the Election—from which it appeared that the whole expence, including the procession, triumphal car, &c. did not exceed 1500l. The subscription is short of that 117l. Upon the proposition of Major CARTWRIGHT the following toast was drunk: "The Life-Boat of England, which no storm can sink, no waves can swallow—a People Free—Parliament Independent—and the Nation Armed." The Company was entertained by several Songs from Mr. DIGNUM, Master SMALLEY, and Mr. MASON. There were above 700 persons present at this Meeting.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Monday, May 23.

THE KING v. D'EGVILLE.

The Defendant was brought up to receive the sentence of the Court for an assault committed on Mr. Waters, the Executor of Mr. Gould, late Manager at the Opera House. The Court sentenced him to pay a fine of 10l. and be discharged.

THE KING v. WATSON.

The Defendant was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, and to find security in 200l. for his good behaviour. His offence was sending an abusive letter to Gen. Gwynne.

Tuesday, May 24.

THE KING v. HUGH DOGHERTY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL applied for leave to file a criminal information, and in support of his motion gave the following singular and afflicting narrative:—Mr. Hunter, who had changed his name from Holmes, was a gentleman of large fortune, who had a daughter under the age of 15, when the defendant, who was 35 years of age, formed an acquaintance with her. Mr. Hunter was induced to inquire into the character and situation of the Gentleman, when he found he had no fortune or profession, but many debts. Upon this discovery, the father availed himself of the usual means to prevent intercourse: but the ingenuity of Mr. Dogherty unhappily disappointed his endeavours. This Gentleman prevailed upon Miss Holmes to keep up a clandestine correspondence with him, and her father was obliged to confine her to the house. While this necessary caution was adopted, the defendant contrived to interchange letters, and kept her mind in such a state of incessant irritation that she lost her reason. In this distressing predicament Mr. Hunter called in the assistance of Sir Walter Farquhar. This physician found that it was not a case within his line of practice, and therefore recommended Dr. Simmonds. The latter's efforts to tranquillize her mind were ineffectual, as Mr. Dogherty, by signals and a variety of experiments, still continued his communications with her. At last Mr. Hunter found himself compelled to send his daughter to the private receptacle for insane persons under the immediate inspection of Dr. Simmonds. Even while she was immured within this establishment Mr. Dogherty had the art to succeed in withdrawing her from her confinement, in a condition of wildness; and at the end of a month, something like the ceremony of marriage was performed between them. When Mr. Hunter discovered that his daughter had entered into this unhappy connection, he made her an allowance of 500l. a-year. He at the same time indicated his readiness to assist Mr. Dogherty. For this purpose he advanced to the extent of nearly 1700l. for which security was given, the defendant remaining also personally liable. A place called Laurel Cottage, near Barnet, was taken for the married couple, and the husband was thus relieved from his creditors. Notwithstanding this generosity of the father, he never permitted his daughter's husband to be received into his house, or affected any reconciliation on account of the marriage. In the mean time Mrs. Dogherty was a visitor, and made frequent complaints of the misconduct of her husband; but the father put them by as well as he could by observing, "He is the husband of your own choosing; I will not have to do with your differences; you must bear with patience the evils consequent on your indiscretion." Much in this way matters proceeded, until the year 1806, when Mr. Hunter was attacked by a dangerous illness; when a Gentleman of the name of Wyatt called upon him, and informed him, that the affairs between Mr. Dogherty and his daughter had come to extremities, and that the connexion must terminate. Mr. Hunter said, that he had acted upon his own judgment hitherto, but fearful that he should be guilty of some mistake, he would commit the question to the decision of two friends, who were of opinion, that Mr. Hunter was called

upon by imperious duty to afford protection to his daughter. Thus impelled, he sheltered Mrs. Dogherty from the cruelty of her husband. The defendant now began to feel the inconvenience of having his wife withdrawn, through whom he received the means of his subsistence, and he expressed the most violent resentment against her father. He swore that he would murder Hunter, and that if Hunter were on one side, and the gallows and the grave on the other, he would not be prevented from fixing a dagger in his heart. These threats came to the ears of Mr. Hunter. Mr. Dogherty, before he uttered them, had been arrested, and was in custody, as indeed he had been when first the intrigue took place with Miss Holmes. It was stated that Mr. Dogherty was personally responsible to Mr. Hunter for certain sums advanced. In such a situation, the Court would consider Mr. Hunter as fully justified in having lodged a detainer, and from that time to the present the defendant had been in confinement. Mr. Dogherty, finding such expedients ineffectual, thought proper to operate on the feelings of the father, by giving notoriety to the infirmity and sufferings of the daughter; and for this purpose he published what he called "The Discovery, or a Domestic Tale," in which he said, that Mr. Hunter, finding that her attachment was so strong, sent his daughter to a mad-house, to withdraw her from the defendant; that he rescued her from this imprisonment, restored her to happiness, and that, since the event of her marriage, he had treated her with the utmost tenderness and affection. So incorrect was such a representation, that she had exhibited articles against him for cruelty and adultery. This application was founded on the publication, a fifth edition of which was advertised. Mr. Hunter was let to hope that the matter would have passed over without further observation, if that work were suffered to appear without notice from himself. His expectations were disappointed; a new publication had appeared in the form of a romance, under the title of "Ronaldsha," to which Mr. Dogherty pretended only to be the editor, but of which he proclaimed his wife as the authoress. This book accused Mr. Hunter of treachery the most base, avarice the most sordid, ingratitude the most flagrant, and villainy the most complicated, for having torn Mr. Dogherty from his home, and for having deprived him of the wife whom he adored. This work also threatened the appearance of a second volume of "The Discovery."—Rule granted to shew cause.

Wednesday, May 25.

CITY PRIVILEGES.

Mr. GARROW applied for a *Habeas Corpus* to bring up Nathaniel Young, a freeman and liveryman, who had been impressed. The same question had been before the Court, in the case of Millarchip, in 1772, and then the *Habeas* was granted, and the man was discharged pending the inquiry. In 1792 there were similar proceedings, but neither in the former nor the latter case, was there any ultimate decision.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH—"Was Millarchip resident in London?"

MR. GARROW—"He was a freeman and liveryman of the Needle-maker's Company, and, like Young, was a waterman on the River."

LORD ELLENBOROUGH—"I do not see on what principle they are to be exempted from the defence of the country."

MR. GARROW—"Under Edward II. on account of some gratuitous assistance in arms to Government, they were exempted."

LORD ELLENBOROUGH—"Charters may be called in question, tending to exempt permanently any class of subjects from rendering such service to the country."

MR. GARROW—"The freedom of the city may be purchaseable, but in this case it was by servitude. There is an immemorial use in support of the exemption."

Lord ELLENBOROUGH—"Read your affidavits."

Mr. GARROW said, that in substance they stated instances of persons being discharged in the situation of Young, and the charters as the ground of exemption; by an extract from one of these, dated the 12th December, in the 15th of Edw. II. it appears that the Mayor and good men of London had given aid to the King, at the castle of Lays, in Kent, and that his Majesty, wishing to find indemnity for them, had granted to them and their heirs, &c. citizens, that they should not be compelled to go out from their walls for the purposes of war.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH—"That grant only means that the citizens of London having in that instance given voluntary aid to the Crown, the fact should not establish a precedent for calling them out of their walls on every occasion. It does not exempt them from the *coram* of the Crown, when the realm is in danger. I fancy, Mr. Garrow, that the statute of array which recognizes the right of the Crown to call out the subjects for the defence of the realm, applies as fully to the citizens of London, as to any other class of his Majesty's subjects."

Mr. GARROW said it was a question of great importance to the city of London, and perhaps the Court would grant a conditional rule so as to bring the question before the Court.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH—"If, Sir, you could lay before us reasonable grounds for supporting your claims to exemption, then the Court would attend to it; but it is giving a consequence to the application that does not belong to it, to grant a Rule in the absence of such grounds. The Court see nothing in the present case to take the party out of the common liability."

Mr. Justice GROSE—"The exemption claimed would only enable the city of London to sell more freedoms."

Mr. Garrow took nothing by his motion.

Friday, May 27.

Mr. Dearsley, a loungee at the theatres, one of those persons, who, by their vulgarity, ribaldry, and violence, so frequently insult the respectable part of the audience, was brought up for judgment, having been convicted of a most violent and brutal assault upon Sir Robert Peat, at the theatre, some months since. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment, and to find security for keeping the peace for two years;—an example which we trust will operate on such characters, so as to enable the Public to enjoy in comfort and security a most rational and refined amusement.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

On Wednesday afternoon the son of Mr. Lea, of Whitecross-street, two years and a half old, who was standing at a window, perceiving his father on the opposite side of the street, and being anxious to get to him, over-reached himself and fell upon the leads underneath. The distress of the father, during the interval, can be easier conceived than described. It was soon after much increased by his son rolling off; but he fortunately caught him in his arms before he reached the pavement, with only a slight contusion on the head, which he received by the first fall. The father was so overcome with conflicting passions, that he sunk down speechless—till tears afforded him relief.

A Special Commission has passed the Privy Seal for the trial of Captain Williams, of the Croydon African trader, who has surrendered himself on a charge of murdering one of his crew. The crew refused to weigh anchor at the Captain's order, he advanced to the mutineers, and said if they persisted in disobedience of his orders, he would shoot the ringleader. A second disobedience following, he took his pistol from the binnacle, and fired at the mutineer standing in front, when the ball passed through his body, and killed the next behind him. The man who was wounded prefers the charge.

Thursday a Coroner's Inquest was held on the body of John Hendrey, in-door porter to the Duke of Cambridge, who was found drowned in the Serpentine River, on the preceding day. Benjamin Perks, coming to town from Kensington, at seven in the morning, saw the body floating on the water, and, with assistance, brought it on shore totally lifeless. The Jury returned a verdict—Found Drowned, but it did not appear by what means.

J. A. Bambury, a servant to Mr. Ditmore, Pianoforte-maker, of Greek-street, Soho, was detected in purloining a quantity of wire, the property of his master, and conveyed to the watch-house, where he was on Friday morning found dead, having suspended himself from the bars of the window by his handkerchief.

On Wednesday afternoon a beautiful girl, three years of age, from a momentary inattention of a servant, fell from a second-floor window in Half Moon-street, and had her brains literally dashed out upon the pavement in the area. Mrs. Sherstone, her unhappy mother, was at the drawing-room window, and witnessed the melancholy fate of her child. She became instantly deprived of all sense, and little hopes are entertained of her recovery. The poor woman whose carelessness occasioned this catastrophe, is an old favourite servant, and is in a state of mind nearly as deplorable as that of her mistress.

A most afflictive circumstance occurred on Monday se'night, in the house of Mr. Whealan, a respectable farmer and dealer, at Kilneaden, Waterford. His two daughters retired to bed at their accustomed hour, and by some fatal neglect or circumstance, of which we are as yet ignorant, the bed took fire, by which event both of them lost their lives.

MARRIAGES.

Tuesday, at St. James's Church, Robert Rushbrooke, Esq. to Miss Davers. After the ceremony, they sat out for Lord Hawkesbury's Villa, at Coombe Wood.

At Rickmansworth, on Tuesday, John Coleman Rushleigh, of Pridesux, Cornwall, Esq. to Harriett, second daughter of Robert Williams, Esq. of Moor Park, Herts, and M. P. for Dorchester.

DEATHS.

On Wednesday, the 18th inst. at Upton Court, near Windsor, aged 76, William Lascelles, Esq. one of the Benchers of the Hon. Society of the Inner Temple.

On Sunday morning, aged 61, at his son's house, in Camden Town, after a long and painful illness, Mr. Russell, father of Mr. Russell, Comedian, of Drury-lane Theatre.

Mrs. Ford, wife of — Ford, Esq. of the county of Down, Ireland. She went on Thursday se'night to the rout of Mrs. L. Tottenham, in Dublin:—while seated at the card-table, she found herself suddenly indisposed, and being near her accouchement of her twenty-first child, medical assistance was instantly called in; but Mrs. Ford finding herself much recovered, was conveyed in her coach, accompanied by her sister, the Countess of Powerscourt, but before they arrived at her house, the vital spark had flown, and she was brought home a corpse.

At Clifton, aged 89, Lady Ann O'Brien, daughter of the late Earl of Inchiquin, and sister to the Countess of Orkney.

At Vienna, on the 5th instant, the Hon. John Theophilus Rawdon, brother to the Earl Moira.

On Sunday, Dr. Ayrton, a Gentleman of his Majesty's Chapel Royal.

On Tuesday last, at Seaton Delaval, Northumberland, Lord Delaval, at an advanced age. His Lordship is succeeded in his estates, which are very large, by Sir Jacob Astley, Member for Norfolk.

Printed and published by JOHN HUNT, at the EXAMINER Office, 15, Beaufort Buildings, Strand.—Price 7d.