

THE EXAMINER.

No. 43. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1808.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

No. 43.

MILITARY DEPRAVITY.

The approaching crisis of this depravity.—The Duke of York.—The use of the Newspaper in their comments upon him.—Major Hogan's Pamphlet.—The services and sufferings of that Gentleman.—His personal remonstrance with the Duke, and retirement from the Army.—The Major's observations on female Commanders in Chief.—Account of a most singular transaction.—The contemptible Artifices of a Daily Paper exposed.—A word or more on the profligacy of our Military System, and on the Editor's Principles.

A TYRANT may sometimes be endured, when he is a man of prudence and genius: the thought of ourselves may be lost in our admiration of another, and while we are chained in wonder we may unconsciously suffer other fetters to be imposed upon us. But when we see any part of our countrymen or our country's institutes oppressed by a man who has neither virtue nor genius, when we can trace the origin of our military misfortunes to the vilest sympathies of the table or the toilet, when good soldiers and honourable men are bent to the earth in order that their backs may serve as the stepping-stone of prostitutes to heaps of wealth, we become indignant not only against an oppressor so destitute of feeling as well as foresight, but against our very selves who could have tolerated him so long. It is a waste of time to declaim generally against the gross corruption of our military system. The presiding principle of army government has become a perfect *Falstaff*, a dastardly carcass of corruption, full of sot-tishness and selfishness, preying upon the hard labour of honest men, and never to be moved but by its lust for women or its lust for money: and the time has at length arrived, when either the vices of one man must be sacrificed to the military honour of the country, or the military honour of the country must be sacrificed to the vices of one man,—an alternative truly monstrous and detestable.

The newspapers, the political reviews, the whole public voice of the country, have called upon his Royal Highness the Duke of York as the promoter and foster-father, if not the begetter, of these corruptions. Some of the papers have mocked his errors, others have been directly severe with him, others have been

severer still by behaving to him with an ironical gravity, and others again have been still severer and treated him with an air of real respect; in short, they have all warned him in some way or other, they have all entreated him, and they have all been despised. He still persists to dishonour himself, his family, and his country. He is *REGULUS* bitterly burlesqued, and tears himself from the petitions of his best friends to deliver himself up to his worst enemies both at home and abroad.

The newspapers however have done a considerable service. They have served to give confidence to those unfortunate men who have long suffered from military corruption in silence, and who can produce the most convincing facts to corroborate our assertions. Editors, and a thousand other persons, may have a perfect conviction of the truth of matters which they cannot decidedly explain to the public, from the want of papers, or signatures, or a proper military mode of explanation; and then their accusations are attributed to party or to prejudice and the Duke affects to disregard them with a dignified philosophy, as if the manifest errors of our army-appointments were not sufficient to disgrace their author without publishing the misfortunes of individuals and of insulted subalterns. A man however, may be disgraced, it seems, in the eyes of his country, without being disgraced in those of his King or of the King's Ministers, and therefore the publication of the minutest facts, which in these cases are generally the most disgraceful ones, is necessary to compel unwilling inquiry. General accusations may be treated generally and with neglect, but when an individual steps forth, and in the face of the laws declares himself injured and insulted by the man so accused, he hazards too much not to excite and to deserve attention.

The corrupters of the military system know that this indeed is a very unlikely circumstance, since the persons who are the most injured are the very persons who can least afford to print their case for the public, and thus a new malice is given to oppression by an alarm to its self-interest. But such an individual, as I have just mentioned, so insulted and so intrepid too, has at length stepped forth in the person of Brevet-Major HOGAN, lately a Captain in the 32d Foot, who in an *Appeal to the Public and a Farewell Address to the Army*—in which he resigned his Commission “in consequence of the treatment he experienced from the Duke of York,” has been the first to venture with a light into the secret and pestilential corners of the military

system and to shew us the reptiles and the vermin which batten on it's vapours. Of the style of the pamphlet I need not say much: it is clear, and unaffected, and dashed with the little pleasantries of a man of education; but the author's great object is to give us what he could not get for himself,—facts instead of fine speeches,—and of these we have a most convincing specimen. His veracity, as a gentleman and a soldier, is set beyond a doubt by letters and documents from some of the most respectable Field-officers, under whom he served in different regiments, and whose sincere esteem he appears to have gained by the united force of his social and military character.

Major HOGAN's first Memorial to the Commander in Chief in 1805 stated that he had been in the army upwards of fourteen years, had purchased all his commissions, and been a captain since the 3d April 1796. Seven of these years, during the last war, he passed in the West Indies, where he assisted at the capture of Demerara, Berbice, Essequibo, and St. Lucia; he was then taken prisoner on his passage to Cape Nichola Mole in 1796, and carried into Cape Francoise where he had three several relapses into the yellow fever. It concluded with referring for his character to Generals H. E. FOX, JOHN FLOYD, JOHN WHITE, FRANCIS DUNDAS, DONALD MACDONALD, JAS. HALL, JAMES HAY, CHRISTOPHER TILSON, and JOHN HAMILTON, and with hoping that his services and recommendations might entitle him to promotion. To this memorial he received a favourable promise, and it is to be particularly observed, not only that the promotion he was asking was no favour, even had he made no offer to purchase it, but that all he solicited was the mere liberty of purchasing, so that what other men, who had seen no service and been of no use to the army, could get for nothing, this experienced and useful officer was unable to obtain though he offered every kind of equivalent. At the latter end of the next year a circular letter was addressed by the Commander in Chief to the second battalions, earnestly recommending recruiting service to their activity, and holding out a promise of royal favour to those officers who should be most industrious in completing the levies. Four hundred men, it seems, were expected from the 32d Regiment, but nearly 500 were raised within the given time, 145 of which were produced in eight months by the sole exertions of Capt. HOGAN, who added ten more in a very short time. Upon this he memorialized the Duke again, but to all his applications whether by letter or in person he received almost the same answer, and he was told six times over that his name had been *noted for promotion*, and would be *duly considered as favourable opportunities offered*.

"Astonished beyond measure, (says the author), and, I will confess, even indignant, at the common

cant of this answer—at the delay and evasion which it betrays—I resolved to seek an interview with the Duke of YORK, in order to remonstrate with his Royal Highness. This interview I obtained at his levee, about the 27th August, 1807, when I submitted to his Royal Highness's recollection, the long time I had been seeking for promotion, and begged him to take into his consideration the nature of the circumstances under which I was recommended to his notice; particularly pressing upon his attention, that, in the course of the time I had been *noted* on his Royal Highness's list, *upwards of forty captains had been promoted without purchase, all of whom were junior to me in rank, and many of whom, indeed, were not in the army when I was a captain*. I added, almost literally, in these words:—"My applications for promotion have been made in the manner prescribed by the practice of the army and by the King's regulations, unfortunately without success.—*Other ways, please your Royal Highness, have been recommended to me; and frequent propositions have been made by those, who affected to possess the means of securing that object:—that for 600}. I could obtain a majority without purchase, which is little more than half the sum I had lodged to purchase promotion in the regular course.* But I rejected such a proposition;—for, even were such a thing possible, I would feel it unworthy of me, as a British officer and as a man, to owe the King's commission to *low intrigue or PETTICOAT INFLUENCE*." I expected the instantaneous expression of his Royal Highness's *gratitude* for such a candid declaration: I looked for an immediate demand for explanation; and was prepared with ample evidence to satisfy his Highness, that such proceedings were going on daily as were disgraceful to the character of the army. But no question was put to me: his royal mind seemed astounded; *vox faucibus hæsit*; and I retired."*

"For upwards of three years, (say the author), I have been seeking for promotion, and within that period above EIGHTY majors have been appointed, nearly FORTY of whom were *junior to me in rank*, and could not owe their advancement to any military experience or pretension."

At length, by the mere rise of seniority in his own regiment, Captain HOGAN obtained the rank of Brevet-Major, which, in this instance, and indeed in almost every other, is nothing but a name without pay. This was neither the honour nor the reward which he expected, and, accordingly, after having been seventeen years in the army, after having served in various parts of the world and particularly for seven years in the

* The money paid in the regular course goes into a public fund, which is not tangible by any public officer for private purposes, while the private douceur is wholly applicable to such purposes.—THE AUTHOR.

West Indies, where his constitution received a wound from which it is never likely to recover and where a service of one year is generally understood to be regarded by the Duke himself as equal to that of two in any other place, he gave up, in July last, his commission in a service "in which he had no reason to expect proper treatment."

"It has been observed to me by *connoisseurs*, (says the Major), that I should have had no reason to complain, if I had proceeded in the *proper way* to seek promotion. But what is meant by the *proper way*? I applied to the Duke of YORK, because he was Commander in Chief. To his Royal Highness I was directed by the King's orders to apply; and with these orders alone I felt it consistent with my duty as an officer, and my honour as a gentleman, to comply. But if any other person had been the substitute of the Duke of YORK, I should have made my application to that person. If a COOKE, a CRESWELL, a CLARKE, a SINCLAIR, or a CAREY, or any other name, had been invested by his Majesty with the office of commander in chief, to that person I should have applied: nay, if it had pleased his Majesty to confer upon a female the *direct command* of the army, I should have done my duty, in applying to the legal depository of power: but to no one other should I condescend to apply; for I scorn undue influence, and feel incapable of enjoying any object, however intrinsically valuable, that should be procured by such means."

"I have that evidence by me, (he observes); indeed, I am in possession of such facts as it would be imprudent in me to write, and as, no printer in England, perhaps, would venture to publish. But if any Member of either House of Parliament should be disposed to take up the subject, I can furnish him with materials that would enable him to make such an *expose*, as shall stagger even the credulity proverbially ascribed to this country."

"As some proof that I am known to possess materials that are calculated to excite alarm amongst those who must recollect their own acts, and, if they are at all sensible, must be fully conscious of their objectionable character, I have to state the following extraordinary fact:—About dusk on the evening of the first day my advertisement appeared, a lady in a dashing barouche, with two footmen, called at the Newspaper Office for my address. She must be, no doubt, one of the vulnerable corps, or their agent; as, upon the following evening, at my lodgings, the waiter delivered me a letter, which I opened in the presence of four gentlemen, whose attestation to the fact appears below. The following is a copy of the letter:—

"SIR—The inclosed will answer for the deficit of which you complain, and which was not allowed you through mere oversight. I hope this will prevent the publica-

tion of your intended pamphlet; and if it does, you may rely on a better situation than the one you had. When I find that you have given up all idea of opening your *secrets* to public view, which would hurt you with all the Royal Family, I shall make myself known to you; and shall be happy in your future acquaintance and friendship; by which, I promise you, you will reap much benefit. If you recall the advertisement, you shall hear from me, and your claims shall be rewarded as they deserve.

"Saturday, 27th August, 1808."

"Major HOGAN."

"We, the undersigned, do hereby certify, that we were present when Major HOGAN opened this letter, and inclosure, containing four bank-notes, to the amount of four hundred pounds.

"JOHN DANIEL, late capt. 17th light drag.

"IRENEAS MOE.

"HENRY WHEAT, lieut. 32d regiment.

"LEWIS GASQUET, late lieut. 20th light drag.

"Franks's Coffee-house."

"I do hereby certify, that this letter was delivered to me at the door by a Lady, who particularly desired me to be careful to give it to Major Hogan, and instantly went away: it was dusk at the time: I returned into the coffee-room, and delivered the letter.

"GEORGE FOZED, Waiter, Franks's Coffee-house."

"But such expedients shall have no effect upon the resolutions of
D. HOGAN."

"Franks's Hotel, 3, Brook-street, Sept. 2, 1808."

"P. S. The person who inclosed the 400l. not having left any address, I cannot ascertain to whom I am to return that sum: but if the numbers of the notes received are sent to No. 14, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street, the money will be returned.
D. H."

It is perfectly easy to discern the causes which have prevented the Author's advancement. In the first place, other men who had better interest and better sympathies with the Commander in Chief, wanted promotion as well as himself; and secondly, his personal remonstrance with the Duke, his mere mention of PETTICOAT INFLUENCE was enough to shut the door of promotion in his face at once.

A daily paper, which it is really painful to name and which clings to every corruption of the constitution with as rask and sleepy a pertinacity, as a bat to his winter dungeon, tells its readers that if any of them "will take the trouble of referring to the Army-List of this year, they will find that Mr. HOGAN had no less than fourteen captains senior to him in that regiment, over the heads of whom he had the assurance to expect promotion. This is a wretched piece of artifice to those who know any thing of the matter. Regimental seniority in the first place, is, or is allowed to be, no hindrance to the general promotion of an officer who has a superior army seniority; secondly, it is nothing at all to merit and old service; thirdly, Capt. HOGAN did not request promotion in his own regiment, though he had the united recordman-

dation of General OGILVIE and Colonel POWER, his commanding officers, who had the assurance, it seems, to wish him over the heads of his brother officers; and fourthly and lastly, Capt. HOGAN was not only senior army captain to all the fourteen above him, but four of those gentlemen were not even in the army when he was serving as a captain. Now let us examine this word assurance a little, and I am much mistaken if we do not find that it's author, with a truly alarming deviation into just satire, has been exquisitely severe upon the Commander in Chief, and taxed him with direct insolence. If it was assurance in Capt. HOGAN to expect promotion over the heads of his regimental seniors, setting aside his various deserts, what assurance must it be in the Commander in Chief to be perpetually making the very same promotions over the heads of officers, who are not only senior in the regiments to the persons promoted, but senior in the army too, senior in experience, and superior in every military qualification! I myself could name, if it were necessary, many officers in the guards, who were mere Ensigns when Major HOGAN was a Captain, and who are at this minute Lieutenant Colonels: I could name the sons of a noble house, who entered the army but two or three months before Major HOGAN had attained the rank of Captain, who have seen little or no service at all, and who are now Lieutenant Colonels, one of four years standing and the other of six. It is an useless task to enumerate all the instances I could bring of gross favouritism. Let the readers, who with such earnest pretence are advised to peruse the Army List of the present year, just trace a few of the names through the Army Lists of the preceding years, and then let them see how many undeserving men have been promoted over heads that ached with fatigue, with wounds, and with humiliation; how many gaudy nothings have been blown up into the sunshine, like bladders from a tobacco-pipe, while the maker of them should have been moulding bullets instead of bladders, things to strike the enemy and not things to strike the eye:—how many idlers, in the shape of soldiers, have been drinking, and lounging, and intriguing themselves into rank, while excellent officers were toiling, bleeding, and passing from the bed of sickness to the bed of death, without a single look to say to them, "Well done!" And yet this daily paper talks of assurance and of newspaper malignity! With what a face do some people forget the oldest vices with which they are in the habits of friendly intercourse. But so it is with an uneasy conscience. A drunken man is ever anxious to prove to you that he is sober; and the bitterest name which a prostitute can give other women is that of her own profession.

Such are the present military system and its defenders, and none but prostituted women will desire

the continuance of the one, none but prostituted papers will be the other. It is a new age of chivalry, in which vicious women preside over the fortunes of the military. If the soldier of old recommended himself to his mistress before he thought of success, the modern hero must kneel to the mistress of another before he can be in the way of glory. But alas, how different the women who inspire, and the men who kneel! Even gaiety itself sickens at the contemplation. Here are officers almost starving amidst their wives and children, here are grey-headed men shivering in attendance on their inferiors with worn-out limbs, with worn-out hearts, and with worn-out papers and memorials that almost drop of their own accord into their tattered foldings, and for what? To enable a courtesan to keep her country-house and give royal parties on a birth-day!

I know nothing whatever of Major HOGAN except his pamphlet; but by reading that and by referring to the Army Lists, I know he has been excessively ill-used, and I trust that the knowledge of this ill-usage is sufficient to gain him the support of every honest Editor. Men who know nothing of the world or men who know too much of it, may tell me I am too hazardous, or that I descend from my pretended philosophy in dipping into private scandal. As to hazard, I do not know what it means, when I have manifest justice and the voice of a whole people on my side. My sole wish is to see the times, when military virtue, like the word virtue among the old Romans, shall signify both courage and morality, both strength and goodness of heart. With respect to scandal, even neglected puddles may produce a pestilence; but there are very rarely any such things as the private vices of public men; the action may be private, but the effect is almost sure to be public. Remember HANNIBAL and his wine; remember CHARLES the Second and his women. God forbid I should intrude upon the firesides of men who will keep their follies to themselves. I leave them to the pulpit. God forbid I should assume to myself the judgment of common private criminals. I leave them to the bar. God forbid I should persecute any set of men, who are merely politically injudicious. I leave them to the throne. But when want of political judgment is united with want of virtue, when private vice becomes a public curse, and when a man's fire-side, for want of common care, bursts out into a conflagration, and threatens every thing with destruction, it then becomes my duty to break in to the domestic walks, to climb up into the secret recesses, to defy the blazing rubbish about me, and to endeavour to quench the fire, even though it arises from a Lady's chamber. Alas! it is impossible not to drop from indignation to ridicule on subjects like these: it is not only a relief to one's feelings, but, I believe, after all, that I must return to it as the best weapon against those who want feeling themselves, against men, who

Safe from the bar, the pulpit, and the throne,
Are touch'd and sham'd by ridicule alone.

Let the People look to it.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

GERMANY.

ERFURTH, SEPT. 28.—Yesterday, at nine o'clock in the morning, arrived here his Majesty the Emperor of the French. The Commandant of the town, the Magistrates, the Deputies of the Livery, the University, and the Clergy, met him without the gates; the President of the Senate tendered him the keys of the gates of the city, and presented an Address, expressing the fidelity and attachment of the inhabitants to his person and government.—The Emperor having perused the Address, and testified his satisfaction, entered the town on horseback amidst the firing of guns, ringing of bells, and joyful acclamations of the inhabitants, and alighted at the hotel prepared for his reception. Soon after the Emperor mounted his horse again, to pay a visit to his Majesty the King of Saxony, who arrived on the preceding day. He afterwards inspected the troops quartered in this town, and then proceeded on horseback on the road to Weimar, to meet his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia. About three o'clock in the afternoon the two great Monarchs entered the town on horseback, attended by a great number of persons of the first distinction, and escorted by two regiments of foot and two regiments of horse. At night the whole town was illuminated.

At Weimar 300 men of the Imperial Russian Guards are expected.

His Majesty the King of Westphalia, his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine, and the Duke and Hereditary Prince of Weimar, have arrived in this place.

HAMBURGH, SEPT. 30.—The Russian Minister at Kiel has caused articles to be inserted in the Hamburg and Altona papers, contradicting the reports of large assemblments of Russian troops on the Austrian frontiers. He states that the entire number of Russians on the frontiers of Western Galicia does not exceed 10,200 men, and that the camps on the Bog were for small corps collected there solely for the purpose of exercise. This document observes as follows, in proof of the amity subsisting between the two Imperial Courts:—"Although Russia is rich in leather, she gets the boots for her army made at Vienna, and very extensive contracts have been recently made, and are now executing, under the sanction of the Austrian Ministry. Austria has just lent 10,000 stand of arms to Russia, and a considerable quantity of copper in bars is now on its passage to Austria, being another payment of the expence of seventeen millions of florins incurred by the passage of the Russian armies through Austria in the year 1779 and 1803. Austrian surgeons continue to be allowed to enter the Russian service, and, in fact, every thing shews, not only that the most friendly understanding subsists between the two Courts, but that each is cordially desirous to maintain it."

SPAIN.

[FROM THE PATRIOTIC PAPERS.]

CORUNYA, OCT. 5.—We learn that Joseph Bonaparte is at Miranda de Ebro, and his army is encamped on the Banks of the Ebro. In Castilla they have 4000, and ten leagues from hence 4000 men. We

learn that the French are fortifying Bayonne with all expedition.

OCT. 6.—We expect every moment to learn the result of a great battle, which has doubtless before this been fought, between the Spanish army, commanded by Gen. Blake, and that of the French commanded by Marshal Ney. Though the French may obtain some advantages, it is the opinion of the best informed persons here, that in less than two months there will not be a single corps of Bonaparte's troops in Spain. Two couriers arrived here yesterday, one from Madrid, and the other from Gen. Blake, with dispatches for the Government of Galicia. They confirm a report of the recapture of Bilbao by the French, which had indeed been current here some days ago, but was afterwards contradicted. Bilbao was retaken by Ney's division, which is stated to be 32,000 strong. The number of the enemy who entered the place are said to amount to 14,000. The Spaniards, who had too small a force to oppose the enemy with any hope of success, made a most masterly retreat. Not a man was taken prisoner, and the military talents displayed by the Marquis de Portazzo in this operation, are spoken of with much eulogium. According to the latest accounts, Gen. Blake was making arrangements which had evidently for their object to be prepared for an important conflict. The advanced posts of the two armies were only a few miles distant.

FROM THE AMERICAN PAPERS.

BOSTON, SEPT. 6.—The following Answer to the Petition of the Inhabitants of this Town, from the President of the United States, was received on Tuesday by the Select Men, and is now presented to the public by their order.

"SIR,

August 26, 1808.

"I beg leave to communicate through you, the enclosed Answer to the Representation which came to me under cover from you, and to add the assurances of my respect.

"TH. JEFFERSON."

"Chas. Bullfinch, Esq. for the Select Men of Boston."

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON, IN LEGAL TOWN MEETING ASSEMBLED.

"Your representation and request were received on the 22d inst. and have been considered with the attention due to every expression of the sentiments and feelings of so respectable a body of my fellow citizens. No person has seen with more concern than myself the inconveniences brought on our country in general by the circumstances of the times in which we happen to live, times to which the history of nations presents no parallel. For years we have been looking as spectators on our brethren of Europe, afflicted with all those evil which necessarily follow an abandonment of the moral rules which bind men and nations together. Connected with them in friendship and commerce, we have happily so far kept aloof from their calamitous conflicts, by a steady observance of justice towards all, by much forbearance, and multiplied sacrifices. At length, however, all regard to the rights of others having been thrown aside, the belligerent powers have beset the high way of commercial intercourse with edicts which, taken together, expose our commerce and mariners, under almost every destination, a prey to their fleets and armies. Each party, indeed, would admit our commerce with themselves, with a view of associating us in their war against the other. But we have wished war with neither. Under these circumstances, were passed the laws of which you

complain, by those delegated to exercise the power of legislation for you, with every sympathy of a common interest in exercising them faithfully. In reviewing these measures, therefore, we should advert to the difficulties out of which a choice was of necessity to be made. To have submitted our rightful commerce to prohibitions and tributary exactions from others, would have been to surrender our independence. To resist them by arms was war, without consulting the state of things, or the choice of the nation. The alternative preferred by the legislature, of suspending a commerce placed under such unexampled difficulties, besides saving to our citizens their property, and our mariners to their country, has the peculiar advantage of giving time to the belligerent nations to revise a conduct as contrary to their interest, as it is to our rights. In the event of such peace or suspension of hostilities between the belligerent powers of Europe, or of such change in their measures affecting neutral commerce as may render that of the United States sufficiently safe, in the judgment of the President, he is authorised to suspend the embargo. But no peace or suspension of hostilities, no change affecting neutral commerce is known to have taken place. The Orders of England, and the Decrees of France and Spain, existing at the date of those laws, are still unrepealed, as far as we know. In Spain, indeed, a contest for the government appears to have arisen; but of its course or prospects we have no information on which prudence would undertake a hasty change in our policy, even were the authority of the Executive competent to such a decision. You desire, that in this defect of power, Congress may be specially convened. It is unnecessary to examine the evidence or the character of the facts which are supposed to dictate such a call; because you will be sensible, on an attention to dates, that the legal period of their meeting is as early as, in this extensive country, they could be fully convened by a special call. I should with great willingness have executed the wishes of the inhabitants of the town of Boston, had peace, or a repeal of the pernicious edicts, or other changes, produced the case in which alone the laws have given me that authority; and so many motives of justice and interest lead to such changes, that we ought continually to expect them. But while those edicts remain, the Legislature alone can prescribe the course to be pursued.

August 26.

THOS. JEFFERSON.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

READING, OCT. 18.—Pursuant to a requisition, signed by a number of Freeholders, a most numerous and respectable meeting of the Nobility, Clergy, and Freeholders, was this day held in the Town Hall, for the purpose of taking into their consideration the terms of the late Convention in Portugal. After the usual forms, it was moved and seconded, "That an humble and dutiful Address be presented to his Majesty, praying that he may be graciously pleased to order that an inquiry should be instituted with respect to the cause of the late disgraceful Convention in Portugal, and also beseeching his Majesty that he may be graciously pleased to order that such steps may be taken as will ensure the punishment of the guilty person or persons in that disgraceful transaction, however high his rank in society may be."—This was supported by G. Mitford, Esq. Lord Folkstone, and several other gentlemen. It was opposed by Mr. Serjeant Shepherd, and others. The opposition rested not only on the idea that judgment would by this motion be pronounced before trial, but also on the old Tory principle, of its being improper to offend the Royal ear by a subject presuming to give his advice in a manner which was known to be contrary to the declared intention of the Royal mind. In reply to both those objections, Lord Folkstone, and by the Gentleman who presented the Requisition, that no individual was named in the words or tenor of the motion; it

pointedly, no doubt, censured the thing; but it, at the same time, called for inquiry as to who may be the guilty person, and expressing the anxious hope of the Freeholders that exemplary punishment may follow this trial and conviction. With respect to the second point which had been advanced by some of the opposers of the motion, it had been so repeatedly urged, and refuted in the most able manner, that it was thought hardly worth a comment; it was a fact which was notorious to every Englishman who ever consulted a page of his own history, that however correct the motives of the Gentlemen who opposed the present motion might possibly be, and most probably were, yet it was a most unquestionable fact, that the "danger of offending the Royal ear," has been urged by the most abject slaves, and time-serving sycophants, in the worst periods of our history. On the other hand, the fact was as clearly ascertained, and as generally known, that at periods of our history which excited the universal admiration of the world, the constitutional language of Britons was held to be this—that every subject, however humble his station in life might be, had, by the peculiarly inestimable blessing of the British Constitution, a most unquestionable right, and that, in fact, it was his bounden duty to approach the throne on any great public emergency, by which the national character, interest, or honour may appear to him to have been compromised, and state his sentiments thereon in respectful but in manly terms; it was his duty to do so, in order that the parental attention of the Sovereign might be more immediately, but with humility, called to a point in which bad Advisers had previously had access to the Royal ear.—The motion was then put and carried by a large majority.

GLOUCESTER GAOL.—Copy of Report made by W. H. Yate, Esq. concerning Mr. Hart, and inserted in the Journals of the Magistrates.

Committee-Room, Gloucester Gaol.

"Having, in my professional capacity as a Magistrate, been applied to by various respectable characters to visit Mr. Hart, now lying in Gloucester County Gaol, pursuant to his sentence for a libel inserted in a London Paper called the *Independent Whig*, in order to ascertain the treatment he experienced in the said prison, I accordingly made a visit for this purpose this day. From disinterested principles of public duty, and actuated by motives of pure benevolence, I feel it incumbent on me to make the following candid, and, I trust, constitutional remarks on this case.

"From information of respectable persons who had visited Mr. Hart, from conversation with the prisoner himself, and the Governor of the said County Gaol, I find the following statement of facts to be correct; viz.—

"That Mr. Hart has been confined for six weeks, during which time he has not been permitted to purchase even small beer, his allowance being, agreeably to the regulations of this Gaol, confined to water; and he is promiscuously confined with those committed for illegitimate children and leaving the same a burden to their parish, those for assaults and misdemeanors, &c. Though his wife and family are come to Gloucester, for the natural and laudable purpose of alleviating his captivity and distress, by their little, though to him highly gratifying and consolatory attentions and converse, yet they are not permitted to see him in any other mode than through an iron grate, and in the presence and hearing of the Turnkey.

"His letters are all opened and read before they reach him, and all he writes undergoes a similar inspection: he is locked up in his cell at seven o'clock, deprived of fire and candle during the summer half year, and, during the remainder of the year, will be so at sun-set; alike debarred of the enjoyment of heat and light. Many more circumstances might be enumerated; but these are deemed sufficient.

"Under a conviction that the judgment passed on Mr. Hart, of confinement merely, by no means warranted or



justifies this rigorous treatment and severe system, conceiving it repugnant to the mild spirit of British laws, and under the impression that no regulations or rules of any particular prison, even though sanctioned by the Magistracy of the County, can operate against or supersede the general law of the land, I feel no hesitation in frankly saying, that my intention, in conjunction with many respectable and independent friends, and some Members of the House of Commons, is to make my official visit here a ground-work for a parliamentary investigation. In thus declaring this my avowed object, I beg to disclaim all party views or political distinctions, that I am solely guided by pure public principles, and, as I conceive, advocating the cause of justice and humanity, and that in a way perfectly constitutional; for I again remark, I cannot but consider the judgment awarded against Mr. Hart, as not implying this treatment; it merely goes to confinement *per se*, that is, deprivation of personal liberty, but it could never, by any fair or legal construction, be understood as authorising such severity and rigour of treatment, as in fact to make this confinement operate as very little, if any, dissimilar from those confined for crimes of a deeper die, and almost similar to felons before trial.

“ W. H. YATE, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Gloucester.

“ Aug. 13, 1808.

MITCHAM, OCT. 17.—This day an Inquest was held before Charles Jemmett, Esq. respecting the deaths of Mary Attwood, aged 14, Eliza, aged seven, and Sarah, aged five years, daughters of Wm. Attwood, of Mitcham, Print-cutter.—Mr. Parrott, Surgeon, deposed, that on Tuesday the 11th inst. he was desired to visit W. Attwood, his wife, and four daughters, who were supposed to be poisoned in consequence of their having eaten stewed Champignons on the preceding day; that he visited them immediately, when he found each of them suffering under severe vomiting and purging, attended with great pain in the head, and violent pain in the bowels; that he administered such remedies as appeared to him best calculated to get rid of the offending matter, as he knew of no method whereby vegetable poison could be decomposed; that he attended these children till their respective deaths, which happened as follows:—Mary died at two o'clock on Friday morning, Eliza at half an hour after, and Sarah at half-past four on Saturday morning; that they died violently convulsed; that on opening the body of Sarah, who seemed to suffer the most excruciating pain in the bowels, no appearance of disease existed in any part of the alimentary canal; hence he inferred that the poison acted more immediately upon the brain and nerves. These people were intoxicated within ten minutes after having eaten their meal, and the eldest daughter observed to her father how cheerful they all were. This exhilarating effect was soon followed by stupor, and the symptoms already described. A dog which had partaken of the same stew, died on Wednesday morning, apparently in great agonies. Mr. Attwood, his wife, and their daughter Hannah, aged eleven years, are recovering, the latter, however, only ate two spoonfuls of the stew, alleging that she did not like its flavour. It is here proper to remark, that the stew was made in an iron vessel. From this statement of facts it is sincerely hoped that persons will in future be cautious of purchasing what are usually termed Champignons, as these fungi are indiscriminately gathered off the commons in the vicinity of London, and sold at the London markets for the purpose of making catsup, with the addition of mushrooms.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, Oct. 18.

Copy of a letter transmitted by Vice-Admiral Vashon, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels at Leith.

His Majesty's ship *Ariadne*, Oct. 4, 1808.

Lat. 50. 30. Lon. 1. 30. E.

SIR—I beg to acquaint you, that I have this day captured the Danish cutter privateer *Hævnesen*, commanded by Abraham Steendal, carrying four carriage guns and 21 men. She belongs to Christiansand, but last from Stavanger; four days out, and has not made any capture.—I have, &c.

ARTHUR FARQUHAR.

BANKRUPTS.

- W. Burbidge, Moore's-yard, St. Martin's-lane, turner, to surrender Oct. 29, 29, Nov. 29, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Richardsons, New Inn.
- J. Knight, Nottingham, shoemaker, Oct. 24, 25, at one, Nov. 29, at three, at the Punch Bowl, Nottingham. Attornies, Messrs. Bigsby and Wells, Nottingham.
- J. Dodgson, T. Occleston, and J. Charlesworth, Clayton, Lancashire, calico-printers, Nov. 14, 15, 29, at three, at the Palace Inn, Manchester. Attornies, Messrs. Barrett and Wilkinon, Manchester.
- J. Emis, East Redford, Nottinghamshire, mercer, Oct. 24, 25, Nov. 29, at ten, at the Punch Bowl, Nottingham. Attornies, Messrs. Middlemore and Percy, Nottingham.
- I. Hull, Wharton, Warwickshire, jobber, Nov. 2, 4, 29, at eleven, at the Red Lion Inn, at Piawell, Leicestershire. Attornies, Messrs. Owen, Atherstone.
- J. Sinton, jun, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, miller, Nov. 15, 16, 29, at eleven, at the Shakespear Tavern, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Attorney, Mr. Foster, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- W. Glenton, Jermyn-street, taylor, Oct. 26, Nov. 3, 29, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. J. and W. Richardson, New Inn.
- W. Hathaway, Shoe-lane, dealer in spirituous liquors, Oct. 22, Nov. 1, 29, at one, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Walworth, Liverpool.
- W. Handcock, Marchmont-street, furnishing ironmonger, Oct. 25, at twelve, 26, at eleven, Nov. 29, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Hunt, Surrey-street, Strand.

DIVIDENDS.

- Nov. 10. R. Ivory, St. Clement, Oxford, upholder.—Nov. 17. R. Chambers, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, ironmonger.—Nov. 14. T. Mordue, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, linen-draper.—Nov. 19. N. Rust, Rotherfield-Peppard, Oxfordshire, miller.—Feb. 14. J. Chapman, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street, drysalter.—Nov. 15. Wm. Mac Donald, York-street, boot-maker.—Nov. 26. S. Morgan and M. R. Morley, York-street, Southwark, hop-factors.—Nov. 28. R. and J. Swaine, Halifax, merchants.—Nov. 12. J. Hyde and J. Chadwick, Manchester, dyers.—Nov. 28. J. Höllyer, Coventry, ribbon-manufacturer.—Nov. 15. R. Mount and Wm. Roberts, London, merchants.—Nov. 16. S. Harmer, Aldborough, innkeeper.—Nov. 12. W. Partridge, Exeter, serge-maker.—Nov. 10. T. Bale, Manchester, cotton-manufacturer.—Jan. 17. Jos. Deen, Watling-street, linen-draper.—Nov. 19. E. Claypole, Chatham, shop-keeper.—Nov. 14. R. Goulden, Liverpool, merchant.—Nov. 9. J. Courtney, Merthyr Tydvill, Glamorganshire, innkeeper.—Nov. 22. J. Taylor, Gracechurch-street, straw-hat-manufacturer.

CERTIFICATES—Nov. 8.

- J. Young, Manchester, cotton-manufacturer.—R. Stubbs, Leek, butcher.—A. M'Crath, Lower Brook-street, wine-merchant.—J. J. Secretan, Winchester-street, insurance-broker.—S. Twanley, Eardington, ironmaster.—G. Redford, Bedford, cotton-pinner.—Wm. Watson, Otford, Kent, miller.—Wm. Kelland, Exeter, cooper.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains a Letter from Captain Hawkins, of the *Minerva*, stating, that chasing the *Josephine French*

letter of marque, of 18 guns and 50 men, in a heavy gale, she overset, and the Captain and Officers, with all the crew, except 16 men, were drowned.

BANKRUPTS.

- W. and J. Steel and C. Johnstone, Lancaster, woollen-draper, to surrender Nov. 14, 15, Dec. 3, at twelve, at the White Horse, Preston, Attornies, Messrs. Blanchard and Carr, Preston.
- T. Marchant, Bridgewater, bookseller, Nov. 10, at four, 11, Dec. 3, at ten, at the Globe Inn, Bridgewater. Attorney, Mr. Anthony Dean, Castle-Bailey, Bridgewater.
- F. Head, Bury St. Edmunds, baker, Nov. 9, at four, 10, Dec. 3, at eleven, at the Angel Inn, Bury St. Edmunds. Attorney, Mr. Timothy Holmes, Bury St. Edmunds.
- R. Fry, Lullington, banker, Nov. 16, 17, Dec. 3, at eleven, at the Swan Inn, Bradford, Attorney, Mr. Robert Eldridge Willmott, Bradford, Wilts.
- E. Alderson, Caldewgate, dyer, Nov. 1, 2, Dec. 3, at eleven, at the Crown and Mitre, Carlisle. Attorney, Mr. Robert Mounsey, Carlisle.
- J. Jullion, Blackman-street, Southwark, linen-draper, Oct. 29, at ten; Nov. 8, Dec. 3, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Lee, Three-Crown-court, Southwark.
- C. Wicks, Birmingham, stationer, Oct. 27, 28, Dec. 3, at twelve, at the Shakespeare Tavern, Birmingham. Attorney, Mr. Simcox, Birmingham.
- J. Barber, Sparrow-corner, Minories, corn-chandler, Oct. 29, at eleven, Nov. 8, at twelve, Dec. 3, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Shepherd, Hyde-street, Bloomsbury.
- T. Mulloy, Tokenhouse-yard, merchant, Oct. 26, Nov. 8, Dec. 3, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Dawes, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street.
- J. Perry, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street, broker, Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 3, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Atkinson, Castle-street, Falcon-square.
- R. B. Herbert, Clare-court, Drury-lane, broker, Oct. 29, at eleven, Nov. 8, at twelve, Dec. 3, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Dobbins, Furnival's-Inn.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 22, T. Raine and G. Mackey, Greenwich, ship-owners.—Nov. 19, E. Clarkson and R. Dove, South Audley-street, wine-merchants.—Nov. 15, R. Nesbitt, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer.—Nov. 12, G. Davis, Cranbourn-street, linen-draper.—Nov. 21, L. Horner, Lancaster, common-brewer.—Nov. 12, J. Harvey, Springfield, Essex, bricklayer.—Nov. 2, R. Tunnecliffe, Long Stratton, Norfolk, draper.—Dec. 3, E. Price (A. Spence), Leeds, merchant.—Nov. 11, S. Chapman, Woolpit, Suffolk, shopkeeper.—Nov. 12, J. Norcliff, Robert-Town, Yorkshire, clothier.—Nov. 5, T. Horrell, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, tailor.—Nov. 15, H. Lewis and W. Chambers, Rathbone-place, Oxford-street, shopkeepers.—Nov. 16, J. Smith, Broughton, Lancashire, calico-printer.

CERTIFICATES—Nov. 11.

J. German, Aldermanbury, hosier.—H. Coleman, Mерт, Wilts, butcher.—A. Colquhoun, High-street, Lambeth, yeast-merchant.

The accounts received yesterday from the Coast are very disastrous, owing to the gale of wind on Thursday night. A large fleet of transports were very much damaged off Dover, on their passage to Portsmouth. One of them foundered, and several sail are driven on the coast of France. Report says twenty. Several ships have lost anchors and cables.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

3 per Cent, Red, 67 | 3 per Cent, Consols 67½ | Omnium 1½ dis.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. H. jun.'s DEFENCE of FERDINAND VII. and his Minister CEVALLOS, in our next.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, OCTOBER 23.

BONAPARTE seems determined to beat us with intrigue, when he cannot do it by fighting. On Thursday night, at ten o'clock, in spite of a hard gale of wind, a flag of truce, with a French and Russian Messenger, left Boulogne, with dispatches for our Government, and arrived in the Downs at eight on Friday morning. The Frenchman was detained on board of one of our men of war, till the pleasure of Ministers should be known, but the Russian, though it is not easy to see the reason of the preference, was allowed to set off to London, accompanied by one of Admiral CAMPBELL's Lieutenants. They arrived at Mr. CANNING's Office about eleven o'clock at night, and instantly proceeded to his private house in Bruton-street. Some of the Papers have been speculating with much fancy on the subject; one supposes the offer of a maritime peace, which shall exclude us from an interference in the Continent, though, what this means, I cannot tell; others think, that BONAPARTE will renounce the idea of conquering Spain, in order to secure what he has already conquered. But, in this case, he would finish his wars at a point at which he never stopped before, that of a doubtful conquest: and this suits neither his pride nor his policy. He knows that Spain would be a valuable ally to this country; he knows that its independence would tend greatly to restore that balance of Europe, which it is his first ambition to destroy; and he knows that even a shew of making Peace with Spain would be dangerous, since his armies, when once on their own side of the Pyrenees, would find it next to impossible to get back again. The Ministry of course would do nothing without the independence of Spain, but whatever the offer may be, whether about Spain or not, whether to bribe our merchants with a shew of commerce, or to bribe the WELLESLEYANS with a partition in the East, it is nothing most probably but the usual trick of negotiation which he practices before his new wars, like a squib let off in a mob to direct attention from the pickpocket, and it is very likely that he thinks he may easily cajole a set of Ministers whose Generals have treated his friend ALEXANDER and himself with such consummate good-nature. If he proposes a mission to a general congress, it is to be hoped by all means that Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY will be the ambassador, since his family ideas of conquest would tend to conciliate the Imperial mind, and especially since he has acknowledged the Frenchman's right to call a royal assembly.

Deal, Oct. 21.

A Flag of Truce arrived in the Downs this morning from France. She came out of Boulogne last night at ten o'clock, and, after a very boisterous passage, arrived in the Downs about eight this morning. Two Messengers have since been landed from her; one a Russian Officer, the other French, and after waiting on the Port Admiral, the Russian Courier set out about eleven o'clock in a post-chaise and four for London, accompanied by the Admiral's Lieutenant. The French Officer was not permitted to go, and has since been put on board the *Princess of Orange*, in the Downs, till the pleasure of our Ministers be known. It is however stated, that this was done by order of Lords HAWKESBURY and CASTLEREAGH, who are both at Walmer Castle, and were consulted on the circumstance previous to their landing. Such is the secrecy observed on the occasion, that not a word has transpired with respect to the object of their mission; conjectures here are various, and some have ventured to assert that they are charged with overtures of a negotiation for peace; others conjecture that they are dispatched in consequence of the meeting of the Emperors at Erfurth, with an invitation to the British Government: but all is mere supposition at present.

The vessel which brought them over is put under charge of the *Clyde* frigate, Commodore OWEN; and, it is supposed, is to wait to convey her passengers back again to France, or, at least, the decision of our Government to the dispatches. She is a French victualling lugger, marked No. 1, on her bow."

The inhabitants of Westminster, at a Meeting in their Hall on Thursday last, agreed to present an Address to his MAJESTY, in which they proceed more directly than the Londoners to the first cause of the Convention and look to the Ministers rather than to the Generals for an explanation. The talk of Parliamentary Reform was introduced in the course of the meeting, but Mr. WISHART, who moved the Address in a speech full of plain good sense, very properly deprecated the clandestine introduction of that subject, as unworthy of its justice and importance. Mr. SHERIDAN gave his concurrence to the Address, but his speech was remarkable for nothing but the want of his usual brilliancy and for some very useless compliments to Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, of which every Westminster Elector easily perceived the drift.

Sir HEW DALRYMPLE arrived in town on Wednesday from Lisbon, accompanied by his son Major DALRYMPLE, and several other officers. They came in the *Phœbe* frigate to Portsmouth, where the *Niobe* is also arrived, with Sir WILLIAM SCOTT. Both frigates sailed from Lisbon on the 5th inst. Private letters of the 4th, received by this conveyance, state, that the British army had not then entered Lisbon, but continued encamped at a short distance from the city. Some of the troops had become rather sickly, in consequence of their long exposure to the weather. About 5000 were to garrison Lisbon, and the remain-

der were immediately to proceed to Spain. The whole of the French troops had sailed from the Tagus, with the exception only of those put back in consequence of the severity of the weather. The transport that was lost was the *Two Brothers of London*; about 300 people were lost. When General KELLERMAN, who was on board the *Africaine*, was relanded, he was recognised by the people of Lishon, who seized him, and though our officers effected his rescue, he received several wounds, some of a dangerous nature, from the enraged Portuguese. Apprehensive of such treatment, he went on shore in plain clothes, and mixed with our officers in hopes of escaping detection. Sir HARRY BURRARD is left in the chief command of the army in Portugal.

Sir HEW DALRYMPLE had a very long conference with Lord CASTLEREAGH, at the Office of the War and Colonial Department, in Downing-street. It is said that he treats the accusations against himself with contempt, and demands a Court-Martial. But it is likewise said that a Court of Inquiry is to be held at Whitehall, to ascertain whether a General Court Martial be at all necessary!

Letters from Lisbon state, that transports were collected in the Tagus for the embarkation of 20,000 troops. It has been agreed that they shall be landed in Catalonia, where the French troops from Italy are supposed likely to penetrate by the Eastern Pyrenees, and where there is yet no strong disciplined force to oppose them. Twenty thousand English soldiers, aided by REDING's division of the Andalusian army, the conquerors of DUPONT, by a strong corps detached from Arragon, and 6000 men from the garrison of Minorca, landed some time since, will oppose an invincible barrier to any irruption on this side, and render the most important province of Spain the most useful to the common cause.

Intelligence is said to have been received of the arrival of Sir D. BAIRD's expedition off the coast of Spain. Both the British and the Spanish troops from the Baltic would, it was supposed, land at Corunna, if it shall be found dangerous to attempt the landing at St. Andero: at this season of the year the northern coast of Spain, from Cape Ortegal to Bilboa, is often not sufficiently safe for the debarkation of an army with its stores.

The following letter (a Morning Paper says) comes from a British Officer who accompanies the army of General BLAKE, and who has consequently every opportunity of obtaining accurate information:—

Trias, Sept. 27, 1808.

"As a courier is just setting out, I take the opportunity to inform you, that every thing goes on here to the utmost of our wishes. The army of Castanos is at Levia. A few days will bring the enemy to a general action, the result of which cannot be doubtful. Great discontent prevails among the enemy; and they also labour under a scarcity of provisions. This army gives a little inquiet to the right; we shall close them to-morrow. I yesterday went with General Blake close to the advanced posts in order to reconnoitre from a hill near Ona. We plainly saw all the line and position in Miranda and its vicinity.—Blake sees clear.

"The order of the enemy seems to be thus (to use the words of a Lieutenant-Colonel, who deserted from the French at Vittoria): *An quel elle s'est borne en appuy-*

ant les epaules de son centre au Fort de Pampelune pour proteger ses defiles dans le cas que l'on ne puisse se tenir sur L'Ebro.—The right is appuye on the defile of Pancoroo, its centre being at Miranda del Ebro, the head-quarters of the *svi-disant* King. It files along the Ebro to Lograno, the head-quarters of the centre. The left keeps up the communication appuye on the little mountain of Lade, which is the head-quarters of Marshal Moncey. His corps, he says, is destined to keep in check Loreggo, and to observe the Spanish corps at Calaborra and Tudela, which threatens, he says, to cut off the communication between the left and the centre of the French army.

“This French Officer adds, that there are in left of ours 10,000 men, in centre 18,000, in right 15,000, 60 pieces of artillery—nor does he diminish. According to this statement, we are three times stronger than the enemy. Caution indeed is to be observed in giving credit to the statement of a Frenchman.

—Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.

Now let me give you the amount of the Spanish force:

	Cavalry.	Infantry.
Castanos's Army	2,500	26,000
Blake's ditto	250	33,000
Cuesta's	1,500	10,000
Llamas's	800	20,000
Palafox's	500	20,000

“In Asturias there are 16,000 men; besides armies of reserve are forming in all the provinces to supply the respective ones. After this enumeration of our forces, can any fears be felt for the result of the first general action.”

According to this statement, the Spanish force already in the field, amounts to 109,000 men. If to these are added the 13,000 advancing under General BAIRD, and the 9,500 under the Marquis de ROMANA, Spain will then have an army of no less than 131,500 infantry, together with 5,550 cavalry, amounting in all to 137,050 combatants, much more than triple the amount of the enemy, who, from the same statement, do not appear to have more than 43,000 men, and 60 pieces of field artillery.

The Egyptian ophthalmia, it is said, has become prevalent in our army in Portugal.

The conduct of the Marquis WELLESLEY to the young NABOB of the Carnatic, and that of NAPOLEON to FERDINAND VII. have a more than common resemblance: the Nabob was deposed by the Marquis's order, another sovereign placed on his throne, and the unhappy Prince shortly after met his death in a prison. These are known facts; and it has even been publicly said, that the Marquis finding the young Nabob inflexible, “threatened him with death or something like it.”—The truth is, that ambitious men always use the same means; they know nothing of honour, justice, or humanity. The Indian Government could never have possessed itself of such an immense country, without a union of fraud and force. The Asiatic Princes have been treated precisely as the European ones have been by BONAPARTE; but his conduct, as it immediately threatens our own safety, is looked upon with a detestation and alarm which the Indian policy has failed to excite, because our interests are supposed to have been concerned; and because events, which take place ten thousand miles off, cannot make such an impression as those which occur almost within sight.—To reflecting minds, however, tyranny and oppression are as detestable in India as in Europe; and it is quite disgusting to hear the Wellesleyans canting about the villainies of NAPOLEON.

The Asturians (sly dogs!) have found their way to his MAJESTY's heart: they have made our most gracious Sovereign a thumping present, consisting of 2000 Merino sheep, which have been landed at Portsmouth. They were conveyed to England in six transports, under convoy of a frigate.

A very gallant attempt was lately made by the Strenuous gun-brig, commanded by Lieutenant John Nugent, to cut out from under the forts of Montville and Ecutiville, a French lugger of 14 guns: two boats, containing 20 men, succeeded in boarding her by the fore-chains, under the muzzle of her guns, and a tremendous fire, not only from the vessel, but from the beach and batteries, with grape shot, which instantly killed two men. The lugger's crew, amounting to 60 men, were by this time all assembled, and the crew of the Strenuous fought them hand to hand, until they lost another man, and had five more desperately wounded, when they made good their retreat, under a shower of bullets, which completely riddled the boats.

The following account of the naval and military operations of Baron HOMPESCH, is extracted from a Hamburg Paper:—

“Lieut.-Gen. Baron Hompesch, in the Salamine privateer of 20 guns, arrived in the Faro Islands on Whitsuntide Monday. The Baron was probably informed by the treachery of a skipper of the name of Hansan, whom he had taken along with him as a pilot on his cruise on the coast of Norway, that there was on the island 20,000 dollars value in goods, money, &c. belonging to the King. This as well as the church and school funds, he immediately demanded, threatening in case of refusal to plunder and sack the place. The Commandant and the persons present protested against delivering up the public money, shewing that it could only be considered as private, as the revenues of the church had been wholly advanced by the public to repair the edifice. Notwithstanding he took the money, being 5140 rix-dollars 42 skillings, adding, that he, as Chaplain on board his own ship, must know better that public worship might be as well performed in the open air as in church; this the more so, as there were high mountains enough in Faro, on which one could approach the Lord nearer. He said to the Vice-Provost, *Blessed are the poor*—and when he seized the School Funds of Thorharm, he observed, that he found the youths every where well bred and enlightened, and that they needed no money for their education. The chest of the Widows of the Clergy, containing 223 rix dollars and 93½ skillings, as well as that of the Hospital, containing 43 dollars, he returned; the rest of the 5140 rix-dollars he kept.”

Burlington House will shortly be levelled to the ground, to make way for new improvements to the Devonshire estate. It is said, that a part of the ground will be allotted to a row of stately houses, to be called Hartington Crescent.

Our readers are informed that the Mrs. STUART, who has been mentioned in the papers as having been indicted for an assault, and who is stated to be the wife of a gentleman in a public office, is not the lady of Mr. JOHN STUART of the War-office. This paragraph is of course addressed to those who may know Mr. JOHN STUART by name only; they who are acquainted with the family will need no information on such a subject.

Sir JOHN MOORE is appointed Commander in Chief of the British forces destined for Spain.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 31.

The Stranger.—It's painted sentiment and immoral tendency.—Mrs. Mudie's first appearance in the heroine.—Her failure,

DRURY-LANE.

The play of the *Stranger* was performed at Drury-lane last night to introduce Mrs. MUDIE, from the Windsor theatre, in the character of *Mrs. Haller*. This is one of the most hurtful dramas on the stage, and it is lamentable to see its meretricious allurements brought forward to obtain a crowd for the first appearance of a female. I have already expatiated upon the origin of these German productions, upon those forced feelings and that sickly affectation, which at one time threw all Europe into literary hysterics; but of all the productions of the kind, the *Stranger* is the best calculated to exemplify the poet's maxim respecting familiarized vice, which

"We first abhor, then pity, then embrace."

The heroine is an adultress, and for what? Because her husband mortified her vanity by a reserve arising from embarrassed circumstances, and because a villain persuaded her that this reserve was the consequence of another attachment. She was young to be sure, but she says she loved him, and so from mere disappointed vanity she forsook not only her husband, but her two children, and yet M. KOTZEBUE would persuade us that such a woman can have an "elevated soul," and be susceptible of the noblest feelings of the noblest heart. A woman must be depraved to be faithless to a husband who does not absolutely ill-treat her, but a woman who can forsake her children because she suspects her husband's fidelity, is a wretch utterly incapable of any exalted feeling, and has nothing to do all the rest of her life but to grovel downwards to her grave. If our hearts are moved, as they certainly are, by the latter part of *Mrs. Haller's* behaviour, it is because M. KOTZEBUE has departed from nature, and from the natural character of his heroine, and converted her into such a woman as it was impossible she could ever become. And here is the danger of the picture; for the sufferings she undergoes are artfully managed, so as not to give us an idea of the punishment of an adultress, who has forsaken her children, but to raise our respect for the fortitude of a mind persevering in a divine patience under all its "cruel fate," as the author terms it. Had I a daughter and a sensible one, I would rather take her to one of FARQUHAR's plays than to such a drama, for the grossness of the one might disgust her reason, while the false delicacy of the other might seduce it. The character in short is a monster of contradiction, and a most pernicious monster; it is a perfect sphinx, full of fatal riddles, with the face of a beautiful woman but the body of a beast; and I can compare the general mass of the German drama to nothing better than those fabled animals, which are said to lure unhappy travellers into destruction by counterfeiting the weepings and wailings of a human being.

Of the new actress I need not say much, as it is most probable she will not appear often on a London

stage. Something must certainly be allowed to a female on her first appearance, though the very agitation of such a time, in an actress of genius, might add to the delicacy and pathos of a sentimental heroine; but Mrs. MUDIE, with a tolerable conception of her character, has no powers either of voice or countenance, to give it effect. A natural impediment in her speech always gave the letters a thick intoxicated sound, and her appearance, though genteel, is certainly not suited to the beautiful *Mrs. Haller*, who turned every beholder into an idolater. It is the general fault of actors in their first appearance that they attempt too lofty a character, they appear on high like a comet at first, but by their immediate rapid descent are discovered to be a vapour; or even if they should preserve their eminence for a time they only injure themselves by a comparison with what they ought to be, and as BOLINGBROKE said on another occasion, appear less than they really are from their elevation, like a little statue on a lofty pedestal. Mrs. MUDIE appears a woman of sense, for sense is a grace that may be discovered through a hundred veils of the mind, as personal elegance may be discerned through unsuitable clothing; and, upon the whole, she gives one the idea, if not of a good actress, of a good reader, and of one who could instruct others how to become a better performer than herself.

THE GHOST IN HAMLET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

MR. EDITOR,

At the last representation of *Hamlet*, at Drury-lane Theatre, I was forcibly struck with the use, or rather the *no-use*, which the *Ghost* made of his truncheon. In that horrific speech, beginning "I could a tale unfold," instead of permitting the majesty of action and gesture to enforce the words of the poet, he stood, as I have seen a school-boy, when ordered to hold out the ruler at arm's length by way of punishment: all the Performers, whom I have seen act the character, dispose of the truncheon in the same manner, from the *pic-nic* at the Lyceum, to Mr. WROUGHTON, at Drury-lane, and Mr. POPE, at the Opera House. But I submit it to your superior judgment, Sir, whether the practice alluded to is not absurd, painful, and ungrateful. I shall not pretend to discuss the question, whether there are such things as ghosts; but it is evident, from the whole tenor of the character, that SHAKESPEARE intended *his Ghost* should perform all the functions of a mere mortal; he walks, he speaks; and, surely, if we can suppose a ghost capable of lifting a truncheon, we may, with the same ease, suppose him capable of using it; unless the poet had given us any reason to think that the King had lost the use of his right arm; but this does not seem to be the case; therefore it is absurd.

I shall not pretend to demonstrate that it is painful; because any of your Readers may convince themselves *experimentally* much sooner; and, to corroborate this assertion, I can safely say, that I never was present at the performance of *Hamlet*, but the *Ghost*

involuntarily manifested symptoms of pain: and, of course, communicated the same sensation to the audience. That it is ungrateful, must be obvious to any person who has seen the play, or who can figure to himself a person standing for a quarter of an hour together in such an attitude. For these reasons, Sir, I think the practice erroneous and unnecessary, however sanctified by prejudice, and the invariable coincidence of the various actors who have successively performed the part. Previous to MACKLIN'S performance of *Macbeth*, the character was always habited as a general officer of the present day; even the great GARRICK neglected to reform this absurdity. I merely mention this circumstance to prove, that a glaring inconsistency may elude the penetration of the brightest geniuses for ages. These observations, Sir, may appear trivial in themselves; but when we consider, that the *Ghost* is one of those characters in which SHAKESPEARE has incontestably shewn his superiority over all other dramatists, it will, I think, be allowed, that no line should escape animadversion—no impropriety censure.

This point discussed, Sir, there is another impropriety in the performance of the *Ghost* in *Hamlet* at Drury-lane Theatre, which equally deserves reprehension. In the closet scene, wherein *Hamlet* plants remorse in the breast of his mother; he, at the same time, paints in glowing colours, the wretched taste she had shewn in preferring his uncle to his father, pointing out to her the latter's superiority in personal beauty as well as mental accomplishments. Now, Sir, it is but reasonable to suppose, that the good sense of the Manager would induce him to preserve the reality of the scene as much as possible; and, consequently, that the character would be performed by an actor, whose majestic figure should, at least, eclipse that of his murderer. But this is not the case; for Mr. WROUGHTON, who performs the *Ghost*, is not so good a figure as Mr. POWELL, who performs the King. This is certainly erroneous, and should be amended—But how?—I answer by the substitution of RAYMOND for WROUGHTON: his person is majestic and unexceptionable, and his voice peculiarly suited to the performance of the *Ghost*.—*Quere*, To what cause may it be attributed that this alteration does not take place? to the influence of Mr. WROUGHTON, or the pride of Mr. RAYMOND? From what I have heard of the parties, I think, it is the operation of the former.—Sincerely wishing that your success may correspond with your exertions, I am, Sir, your humble servant,

London, Oct. 11.

O. J.

FINE ARTS.

LETTER FROM MR. BELL.

Leicester-street, Leicester-square, Oct. 22.

SIR—In your last Paper, by joining my name with expressions disrespectful to the Royal Academicians and to my Competitors for the vacant Professorship of Anatomy, you have given me much uneasiness. You may think it allowable to write what in me would be a high offence. Permit me to say, therefore, that I disclaim all knowledge and belief of any kind of impropriety on the part of the Gentlemen who have offered themselves for

the vacant chair; and to declare, that the whole deportment of the Academicians has been such on this occasion as must meet with general approbation. I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,
CHARLES BELL.
Mr. Hunt, 15, Beaufort-buildings.

ROYAL ACADEMY.

WHILE the soldier and the citizen are bewailing the mischiefs that result to their country from the extensive system of corruption and favouritism in the Civil and Military Departments, the lover of the Fine Arts has equal cause to deplore the baneful existence of a similar system in the departments of taste. In the list of Members of the Royal Academy, will be found the names of men very inferior in talent to many untitled Professors. There are several for instance far below Mr. DEVIS or Mr. DRUMMOND. Indeed, the health and vigour of which the Arts are capable from the existing genius of the country will never be elicited as long as the jaundice of jealousy exists to the extent it now does among the Members of the Academy, and as long as its present vile mode of election is suffered, in a great measure resembling the contemptible arts of parliamentary electioneering. Dinners, public breakfasts, canvassing and promises made long before the event of a vacancy, are scandalously suffered to superinduce the appointment of men of inferior talents, in violation of an existing law of the Academy. To prove that considerations the reverse of public utility and duty often influence the conduct and the elections of the members, even to the highest officers, one instance out of many is enough. Mr. WYATT, an Architect, was elected to the Presidency of the Academy on Mr. WEST'S resigning in consequence of the petty feuds of the Members, and the Establishment was degraded in the eyes of all Europe, by the elevation of an inferior Professor over the heads of his superiors. Envy indulged itself in this meanness, rather than elect a brother Painter to the highest post of honour. But we are sadly afraid that the remonstrances of the independent lovers of the Polite Arts will be as unavailing as any attempt that might at present be made to purify the corrupt and unconstitutional system of our representation, the source from which all our national misfortunes flow. We are, in particular, much afraid, that in the election that will shortly occur of a Professor of Anatomy, the influence of Mr. CARLISLE will triumph over the vastly superior talents of Mr. BELL; for we again repeat, that though Mr. CARLISLE is an excellent Anatomist, the union of Art with Science in the person of Mr. BELL gives him a proud preference to the former Gentleman. Mr. CARLISLE is no doubt capable of describing the shape, origin, insertion, and action of the muscles and bones, but he has given no proof, like Mr. BELL, that he can describe them with the highly necessary and tasteful feelings of an Artist. Mr. BELL'S excellent treatise on the *Anatomy of Expression in Painting*, and his other numerous works, prove that he is not only equal to the best Anatomist of the day, but that he is an Artist superior to many of the present Members of the Royal Academy. We challenge, therefore, those Members who intend to misapply their votes, to prove that Mr. BELL is not more competent than either of the other candidates,

to exercise the duties of a Professor. We defy them to prove, that if they succeed in favour of Mr. CARLISLE, they are not guilty of sacrificing their duty to the Students of the Academy, and of preferring the selfish consideration of private views, to public utility.

The writer of this article has no end to obtain in its public insertion, but the cause of justice and of the Arts. He cannot have, as neither he nor any other person connected with the EXAMINER, has any personal intimacy whatever with Mr. BELL.

R. H.

WESTMINSTER MEETING.

A very numerous meeting of the inhabitants was held on Thursday, pursuant to notice from the High Bailiff, to consider the propriety of an Address to his Majesty on the Convention in Portugal.—The requisition to the High Bailiff, and his notice, having been read,

Mr. WISHART, as one who had signed the requisition, stated to the meeting the reasons which had convinced him of the propriety of presenting an Address to his Majesty, praying him to institute an inquiry into the causes of the late most disgraceful Convention in Portugal. He thought it necessary shortly to state the circumstances which had preceded the arrival of our troops in Portugal, and the Convention which sent back such a number of French troops to fight against our nearest and best friends and allies, the Spaniards. No sooner had the French army under Junot entered Portugal, and obliged the Prince Regent and the Royal family to fly from it, than the Tyrant of France, intoxicated with his power and success, resolved upon seizing the dominions of Spain, and placing his own brother upon the throne. Having seized the principal fortresses of Spain, and obtained possession of the person of the King by perfidious artifices, he proceeded without hesitation to carry his plan into execution; but had hitherto been repulsed and baffled, by the bravery and generosity of the Spanish nation, who rose in arms to avenge the insult offered to their honour, and the attack made upon their independence. Under these circumstances a British army was sent to Portugal; and considering its great superiority of number, and the results which might have been expected to follow, from the glorious victory which the London Gazette Extraordinary announced to have been gained at Vimiera, there was not a man who had heard of that battle that expected any other issue than the unconditional surrender and utter ruin of the whole French army in Portugal.—[Loud applause, with cries of "To be sure, most certainly."] Instead of that, a Convention had been made by which an army that was not strong enough to fight us, or able to make its retreat, was to be sent back in British ships, to fight against our friends the Spaniards. Could any thing be more disgraceful than such a Convention, under such circumstances?—[Loud cries of "It was most shameful! most shameful!" from every part of the Hall.] His Majesty's Ministers had advised his Majesty to tell the City of London that there was no ground to doubt of his readiness to institute a proper inquiry. They could not, however, forget, that there had been no proper inquiries into other most shameful transactions, in which the honour of the nation had been deeply involved. There had been no inquiry into the causes of the retrograde movements at Dunkirk, or into the Helder Convention—there had been no inquiry into the failure of the Ferrol expedition; and what reason was there to suppose that there would be a greater forwardness to institute an inquiry upon the present occasion? He believed, that in no other reign had any King of England been advised to return such an answer as had been given to the first Corporation in the kingdom. George the Second had never been advised to return such answers

to the City of London. That Sovereign had always acted with the true feelings which become a British Monarch; and when his Son, the Duke of Cumberland, had signed at Closter-Seven a Convention somewhat similar to those Conventions which have become more common in our days, George the Second felt like a father, but he acted as became a British King: He DISMISSED HIS SON from all employments civil or military, neither did he ever again give him the command of an army. If his Majesty's Ministers were not inclined to give their Sovereign wholesome advice, it became the duty of his faithful people to exercise their constitutional right of addressing his Majesty upon the events which had lately taken place. As to the answer which had been given to the City of London, the real meaning of it appeared to be, "that they had no business to find fault, but all they had to do, was to pay what taxes were imposed upon them, and come up to congratulate his Majesty whenever they thought proper." After a variety of other observations, Mr. Wishart concluded by moving a string of resolutions, on which an Address should be grounded.

Mr. FINNERTY said, that his only reason for dissenting from the Resolutions which had been read was, that they did not appear to him to express in adequate terms the indignation which a justly irritated nation felt at the disgrace which this Convention attached to the British name. Neither did he think that they went to discover the real authors of that shameful Convention, or to bring them to punishment; or to find out the real causes which led to that event. He wished to incorporate some other Resolutions with them. He thought it was probable that an Address, conceived in more manly terms, might produce a better effect, and that the inhabitants of Westminster might not be treated by Ministers with the same affected contempt which the Corporation of London had met with from them. He had no very great respect for the Corporation of London, as he thought that by former servility they had exposed themselves to the contempt which they had met with from Ministers; but at the same time he could not think so very poorly of the Corporation as to suppose that the present Cabinet had any right to treat them with contempt. Although he did not think highly of the Corporation, he thought there were several persons in it that might fairly be matched against any of the Ministers. He thought his friend Mr. Quin could talk as well as Mr. Canning; that in judgment and political knowledge, Mr. Waithman was at least upon an equality with Lord Hawkesbury; that in supporting all parties and all doctrines, Lord Castlereagh could claim no superiority over Alderman Shaw; that the Duke of Portland was not superior in solidity to Mr. Deputy Kemble, or Alderman Curtis. If there was any quibbling, pettifogging Attorney in the Corporation, he would pair him off against Mr. Perceval; and for talking much and thinking little, he conceived Mr. Dixon was on an equality with Lord Mulgrave.—[This parallel occasioned considerable laughter.]—Things being so balanced, he did not see that the Cabinet had any right to treat even the Corporation of London with contempt. It appeared to him, that the object of the Address should not be to leave it to Ministers to direct their inquiry in the manner they thought proper, but that it should be to pray his Majesty to convene his Parliament, in order that the inquiry should be carried on openly and in the face of the nation, and that it should be discovered where the blame really was, whether in the Ministers or in the Generals. The Ministers were certainly responsible in the first place, as they had the selection of the Generals, as well as the appointment of the armies which the Generals were to command, and the supplying them with provisions and every thing necessary for carrying on the campaign with honour.—After expressing regret for the absence of Sir Francis Burdett, who was prevented attending from the affliction of private friendship (the illness of Mr. Tooke), and congratulating the

Meeting in warm terms on the presence of Mr. Sheridan, he proceeded to animadvert on the history of the present campaign. The Spaniards, he conceived, had conducted their business wisely. They first got rid of their domestic enemies, and then they combined to repel their external foe. They cashiered a silly, bigotted, stubborn, old King, and a profligate Prince, under whose influence he principally acted.—[Here murmurs of disapprobation were heard from different parts of the Hall.]—Upon the murmurs ceasing, Mr. Finnerty expressed his surprise that in justifying the conduct of the Patriotic Spaniards, whom all men praised for removing an incapable King, he should have experienced such interruption. He concluded by reading the following Resolutions:—

1. That we consider as among the principal causes of the late Convention in Portugal, the system that prevails in this country with regard to military promotion.

2. That the existence and extent of that system, arises out of the necessity imposed upon Ministers to prefer rank and influence to merit and experience.

3. That this necessity proceeds from the circumstances which urge a Minister to conciliate parliamentary influence, rather than to seek the public interest.

4. That these circumstances are the natural result of the present state of the representation of the people in Parliament.

5. That owing to this state of the representation a Minister is under the necessity, for the purpose, as it is termed, of "managing Parliament," and "carrying on the Government," to sacrifice the public interest, by complying with the desires and compromising with the views of the worst description of men; namely, the borough proprietors. Hence it appears impossible that any Minister so circumstanced, can be an honest man, and therefore until a reform in Parliament take place, no honest man can become a Minister.

6. That there is no security against the frequent repetition of military disgraces, nor can the people expect or hope for an effectual and permanent redress of their grievances, until they be fairly represented in the Commons House of Parliament.

7. That without a parliamentary reform the people have no means of recovering the liberty they have lost—no chance of retaining even that which remains.

Mr. HOWLINGS begged leave to offer a few words on one of the resolutions; because he considered the terms in which it was conceived inadequate to the object, and also because it was entirely in the terms of the King's Speech. He suggested, that instead of the words "hopes and expectations," &c. the following words should be inserted: "irremediable evils on our allies on the Continent, and eternal disgrace on the English nation." He, however, afterwards agreed to withdraw his amendment.

Mr. SHERIDAN said he was confident the meeting would feel, that he, who agreed that the conduct of Ministers must undergo examination in an assembly of which he was a member, could not debate the question at great length in that place. He could not, however, stand silently by without expressing his reprobation of that aspersion on the city of London, which his Majesty's Ministers had dared to throw on it. His Hon. Friend (Mr. Finnerty) had expressed his regret at the absence of the worthy representative of the city (Sir F. Burdett). He also regretted his absence, but he would take upon himself to say, that it proceeded from some honourable and justifiable motive. He could declare, that that Hon. Baronet had not uttered one word, or broached a single principle, during the last Session of Parliament, which he (Mr. Sheridan) would not be proud to stand by and support. He felt himself called on to notice the compliment paid to himself by his Hon. Friend, so much beyond any desert of his—(No, no, resounded from every part of the Hall). In stating that he had never said a word, or given a vote contrary to the interests of the people, during the whole

of his political career, his Hon. Friend, he was confident, however, had done him no more than justice. He was fully conscious of the attention and indulgence with which he was listened to by the inhabitants of Westminster, and also by the House of Commons. In return he could only assure them, that the price was not on earth which could induce him to desert the principles he had hitherto espoused, and in them the interests of the people!—(Loud applause.) His Hon. Friend had said that it was consistent with the true principles of the Constitution, to adopt the string of Resolutions respecting Parliamentary Reform which he had moved. He (Mr. Sheridan) said so too; and let his Hon. Friend, or any person else, move for parliamentary reform, and he should be the first to support it. But when his Hon. Friend said, that till parliamentary reform was obtained, there could be no honest Minister, and that till then no honest man should accept of being Minister, he (Mr. Sheridan) must dissent from him—(Loud laughter.) His Hon. Friend knew what a Minister was, and as such he must know that parliamentary reform could never be carried but by the influence of an honest Minister. He asked the Hon. Gentleman to look at the great and glorious question, which had been carried through a Parliament, which, however corrupt it might have been in other respects, had procured immortal honour to itself from that single circumstance—he meant the Abolition of the Slave Trade. That question had for ten years before found an advocate in Mr. Pitt, backed by all the saints and hypocrites in the House of Commons, but it was not till that honest Minister, Mr. Fox, came into office that this glorious measure was carried through. The fourth Resolution could not have his approbation. He was desirous that on a subject of this kind the meeting should be unanimous. They were met here not for the purpose of censuring the Convention, but of asserting their own right to address his Majesty, and desiring investigation. What the city of London had done was nothing but what they had a right to do. The city had complained, and the answer they received was, that there was no need of their interference. The address of the city was entitled to respect and honour, from the unanimity with which it had been passed. Mr. Alderman Birch had done honour to himself from the support he had given it. Alderman Curtis even did not oppose it; so there was no pretence for calling it a party business. The answer given to it, he conceived, was an insult on the city, and of course on the country at large.—(Here Mr. Sheridan seemed greatly exhausted, and unwell. The Meeting evinced its regard for him by requests from every quarter, that he would take time, and not fatigue himself.)—He concluded, however, by stating, that when the question came to that place where he should be called on to express his opinion on it, he hoped he should do his duty to the country, and evince his gratitude for the honour he had always experienced from the Electors of Westminster.—The Resolution was then withdrawn.

Mr. POWELL said, he hoped we should here have no Court of Inquiry at the Horse Guards—No Chelsea Court Martial. We were called on in justice to our own characters, and to our allies the Spaniards and Portuguese, to have the business carried to the utmost possible length. The remedy proposed was inadequate. Had not Ministers committed themselves to this disgraceful Convention, when they announced it by the thundering of artillery and by the roaring of cannon? He had no doubt they would have no objection, as had been done on a former occasion, to sacrifice the life of an individual officer, to screen themselves from punishment, but would that satisfy the indignant feelings of the country? They might institute an inquiry similar to that for the failure of the attack on Buenos Ayres, but could that suffice for the blood of our butchered countrymen. He therefore proposed, agreeably to the suggestion of Mr. Finnerty, that the Address do contain a request to his Majesty, that he would be glad

tionously pleased to order his Parliament forthwith to be called together, to take into their consideration the means of carrying such inquiry into effect.

Mr. SHERIDAN said, he had to apologize for his own inability when he last addressed them, to bring what he purposed saying to a conclusion, it having been his intention to submit to the meeting a proposition similar to that which had been so shortly and ably stated by the Hon. Gentleman who had just spoken. It was impossible for any Commission, in a military capacity, to do justice to the injured feelings of the people. The public had a right to ask the King to call the Parliament together. Though he was not successful when he applied to Parliament for an inquiry into the Expedition to the Helder, the public feeling was not so completely roused then as it is now. Whoever looked fully into the subject would be convinced of these two truths, that we could not have an honest Minister unless he was watched by the House of Commons; and that we could not have an honest House of Commons, unless watched by the People. He concluded by moving, That his Majesty be humbly requested to order, that Parliament be immediately called for the purpose of instituting such Inquiry.

This motion was put and unanimously agreed to.

The Resolutions proposed by Mr. Finerty were here put.

Mr. WISBART would not have objected to these Resolutions, if they had been proposed in proper time and place; but they were totally foreign to the specific purpose for which the meeting was called. The object of the meeting was to vote an Address to his Majesty, praying that he would institute an Inquiry into the Treaties with the Enemy in Portugal, and not to call upon him to reform the military system, or to pass resolutions in favour of a parliamentary reform. He trusted the meeting would give him credit for being as strenuous a friend to the principle of parliamentary reform, as the Gentleman who moved the Resolution in favour of it, but he could not consent to its being disgraced by being introduced by a side wind.

The question was then put upon the first of the series, when it was negatived.

The original Resolutions (upon which the Address was founded) were then carried.

The following Address to his Majesty was then read:—
TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, your Majesty's loyal subjects, the inhabitants of the city and liberty of Westminster, beg leave to approach your Majesty, and to express our firm persuasion that the late Convention, agreed to by your Majesty's Commanders in Portugal, no less afflicted your Majesty than it disappointed the hopes and expectations of your Majesty's faithful People.

That your Petitioners were filled with admiration and joy at the valour and success of your Majesty's forces in Portugal, as detailed in the Extraordinary Gazette published on the second day of September last.

That your Petitioners are concerned to observe, that at that time your Majesty's Commanders had signed Preliminaries for a Convention, by which the British nation engaged to carry to France the whole of the French army, with their baggage, artillery, and ammunition; that they were not to be considered as Prisoners of war, but were allowed to act, immediately on their return to France, in any place where their services should be required by your Majesty's implacable enemy.

We, therefore, humbly beseech your Majesty to direct a full and effective inquiry to be made into all the circumstances which led to the conclusion of a Convention, so inconsistent with the brilliant achievement of your armies, on the 17th and 21st of August, that the true causes thereof may be made manifest to your Majesty's faithful and affectionate people; and that your Majesty will be gracious-

ly pleased forthwith to assemble your Parliament, that such inquiry may be instituted, as to them in their wisdom shall seem expedient.

This Address was carried unanimously; and it was unanimously ordered that the Address be presented to his Majesty by the High Bailiff, Sir Francis Burdett, and Mr. Sheridan.

The thanks of the Meeting were unanimously voted to the High Bailiff, for his impartial conduct in the Chair, and the Meeting adjourned.

The Hall was extremely crowded, being at one time nearly full, and containing many thousands.

PORT NEWS.

PLYMOUTH, Oct. 14.—Arrived the Intelligent gun-brig, from Lisbon. She brought letters dated the 1st inst. which contain an account that Sir A. Dalrymple is recalled home. There has been sad wreck in the fleet of transports containing the third division of the French troops, consisting of 8000 men, under Gen. Kellermann. They experienced, just after they left Lisbon, a most dreadful gale of wind, which dispersed them. One transport, with part of the 86th French regiment of the line, foundered. The French Colonel, five French soldiers, and eight British seamen were saved; five British seamen, and 287 French soldiers perished in her; and it was supposed, from the violence of the gale, that several more had foundered. The Africaine, 48 guns, had put back with Gen. Kellermann and his Etat-Major on board, having sprung her bowsprit and foremast in the hurricane. Six transports also put back, greatly damaged, and the whole fleet dispersed. Sir W. Scott was at Lisbon on public business.

PORTSMOUTH, Oct. 18.—The Prince of Wales has been here since Friday, superintending the embarkation of the 10th Light Dragoons; and as each division has arrived, his Royal Highness has gone with them to the Dock-yard. They are now all on board. The Prince is quite adored by his regiment; and some of the men, as they went on board, could not refrain from expressing aloud their attachment. In taking leave of the Officers, his Royal Highness actually burst into tears, and expressed in the strongest manner his regret at not being able to accompany them; but he said—"I give my sword to Brigadier-Gen. Slade, who will be at your head, and under whose command I know you will like to go, as much as I do that you should."

POLICE.

BOW-STREET.

A great number of shopkeepers in and about this metropolis, have, for a considerable time past, been defrauded of goods and money, by a numerous gang of miscreants, both men and women, who have gone about uttering notes of a Southampton and Hampshire Bank, and Ipswich and Suffolk, made payable in town, but which banks failed some months ago; their existence, however, having been, and the names attached to them not being fictitious, no forgery was committed, and the specious means used by the parties putting them off generally kept them clear of being guilty of a fraud; and, from the very incautious manner in which the public have taken such notes, these depredators have hitherto escaped punishment; but on Tuesday a woman was brought to this Office on a charge of uttering several notes of the above description.—A shopkeeper at Deptford appeared and produced a 5l. note of a Southampton and Hampshire Bank, which had been taken of the prisoner in payment for a shawl of the value of four shillings, and which note was made payable in town; but on presenting it at the place directed, the answer of no effects was given. Another shopkeeper at Deptford proved, that the prisoner tendered him the same

notes a few minutes before, in payment for some goods: but he having been cheated by a 2l. note of the same bank, told the prisoner it was bad, and cautioned the prisoner against attempting to pass it.

Mr. READ, the Magistrate, was clearly of opinion, that from this circumstance the prisoner's knowledge of the note being bad when she uttered it, was evident; and that therefore she had been guilty of a fraud. The parties were bound over to prosecute her at the next General Quarter Sessions for the county of Kent.

MARLBOROUGH-STREET.

Mr. Howard, the person so well known to the Lord Chancellor, as the pretended Duke of Norfolk, charged a publican in Great Russell-street with felony, of which the following are the particulars:—Mr. Howard and his wife slept at the house of the accused, on Monday night, but not having the means of discharging the little account, a pawn-broker in the neighbourhood furnished the needful at the loss of his wife's cloak: and after tarrying a second night at the house, the landlord requested payment, and Howard observed, that he was going to the Duke of Norfolk's house that morning. His wife remained until he returned, but he had not obtained admittance at the Duke's, and consequently could not pay the landlord. He however left his hat as a pledge of his honesty, and shortly after the landlord was taken on a charge of stealing the hat off his head. Howard talked in an incoherent way before the Magistrate, of his neglected consequence, &c. of Government itself taking an advantage of him, in deducting 5l. a year from his annuity of 50l.; and lastly, he observed, he would from that moment turn beggar. The charge made out against the publican was altogether untrue, and Mr. Howard left the Office with a full assurance from the Magistrate, that when he was detected in his promised profession of street beggar, he should go to Bridewell.

GUILDHALL.

On Tuesday, four young women were brought before the Sitting Magistrate, charged with being common prostitutes. Mr. Butterworth, of Fleet-street, stated to the Alderman, that that neighbourhood had been so infested of late with females of this description, that the inhabitants, in their own defence, found it necessary to exert themselves to endeavour to abate the nuisance. He had accordingly had those four taken into custody, as being particularly obnoxious. They were committed to Bridewell for a fortnight. It is melancholy to add, that Mr. Butterworth knew two of them to be the daughters of a respectable Gentleman, who had formerly held a considerable employment under Government, and that every means had been used in vain to reclaim them.

HATTON-GARDEN.

Powell, a notorious astrologer, was committed to take his trial at the Sessions. Some of the officers belonging to this office, having information that he was in the habit of imposing upon credulous young women, and obtaining money from them, on pretence of telling their fortunes, went on pretence of consulting him, and, having paid their money, immediately apprehended him. He had before been convicted at the Sessions for necromancy, and suffered six months imprisonment; upon a second conviction he is liable to transportation as an incorrigible rogue.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

On Wednesday morning a mad dog made its appearance in St. James's Park, and bit a little girl; a soldier on duty at the back of Lord Mulgrave's, immediately ran the animal through with his bayonet.

On Tuesday morning about four o'clock, the house of — Owen, Esq. No. 13, Curzon-street, May Fair, was broken open by a gang of desperate villains, and robbed of every article of household furniture that was at all

portable. For some days past several suspicious looking characters were observed by the neighbours lurking at the Sun public-house, nearly opposite, and looking very hard at Mr. Owen's house. The desperadoes contrived as usual to elude the vigilance of the guardians of the night, and effected their purpose, by means of an iron crow, or some other instrument of strength to break open the hall door, and gain an entrance to the house. Soon after four o'clock Mr. Sparksall, surgeon and dentist, who had been attending a patient, was returning to his house next door to Mr. Owen's, and discovered the devastation which had been committed.—The door had been forced nearly off its hinges, and the pilaster broken down. The thieves got clear off, and no clue has been left to apprehend them.

On Monday a bull-dog, belonging to one of the Sun firemen, was seized with canine madness in the Strand. The animal foamed, and exhibited the usual symptoms of hydrophobia. The fireman, on perceiving the situation of his dog, made signs to the spectators to stand aside; he then seized the dog, in the most resolute manner, by the neck, and dragged it to the shop of Mr. Willows, fishmonger, where he procured a hammer, and the dog was destroyed. Dogs in various parts of the metropolis have lately died mad, and the public ought therefore to be peculiarly on their guard against them.

MARRIAGES.

On Tuesday last, at St. James's Church, by the Rev. Mr. Wilcox, John Bon Drayton, Esq. of Cheltenham, to Miss Wells, of Dufour's-place, Golden-square.

On the 3d inst. at Low Layton, Essex, Alfred John Kempe, Lieutenant of the 1st Royal Tower Hamlets, to Miss Mary Prior, of Rockingham-row, West Kent Road, Newington.

Thursday se'night, at Brislington, A. Townshend, Esq. of Therscomb, Gloucestershire, to Miss Clayfield, youngest daughter of the late Michael Clayfield, Esq.

On Thursday, at Frampton-upon-Severn, the Rev. Powell Colchester Guise, brother to Sir Wm. Guise, Bart. to Maria, second daughter of N. Clifford, Esq. of Frampton-court.

Major Wharton, of the 66th regiment, to Miss Sarah Slade, of George-street, Bath.

On Friday se'night, at Parham, Sussex, the Hon. R. Curzon, son of Viscount Curzon, and M. P. for Clithero, to Miss Bishopp, daughter of Sir Cecil Bishopp.

DEATHS.

Lately, Mrs. Morris, wife of Dr. Morris, of Parliament-street, Westminster.

Lately, in the village of Aberfeldie, Perthshire, John Stewart, commonly known by the name of Colonel John Stewart, at the very advanced age of 111 years. The history of this man is not a little remarkable. At the age of 18 he joined the Pretender's banners, and was present at the battle of Sheriff Muir, near Stirling, as a young piper. In the year 1745, he again took up arms in support of the pretensions of the House of Stewart, and was present in the same capacity in the battles of Falkirk, Preston Pans, and Culloden, in which last he received a severe wound in the thigh, in consequence of which he was so lame, that he made use of crutches ever after.

Lately, at Kingston, near Portsmouth, after a protracted courtship of three days, Mr. Page, who had lately returned from sea, to Widow Knight, near Kingston-cross. When they returned home, after the marriage ceremony was performed, the brave Son of Neptune threw a bundle of bank-notes into the lap of his fair bride. The acquaintance arose in his accidentally observing her put up her window shutters, last week, when he very politely tendered his assistance, afterwards his person, till breath should cease!