

# THE EXAMINER.

No. 175 SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1811.

## THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

No. 171.

### PORTUGAL AND SICILY.

THE Portuguese, in their respite from their invaders, will not be without a thousand anxieties as well as joys. Rumour will be particularly busy on the occasion; and not content with opposing misfortune to success, and conjuring up common indications of a reverse of fortune, will set herself to create a variety of dreadful reports suitable to the great interest of the time. What will render such reports more effective is, that in times like these, great reverses are as common as the least of them used to be, and scarcely any thing can happen below a reasonable phenomenon; at least so the majority are inclined to regard it. To the remaining few indeed, who have not used their eyes or understandings to no purpose during the present war, the most piquant events have lost their relish,—or rather, perhaps, the most obnoxious have lost a good deal of their bitterness. The legitimate princes have proved themselves so invariably silly, and the enemy so invariably ready to take advantage of their silliness, that the downfall of their kingdoms has taken with it a character of headlong obstinacy which nothing can resist; and really, tired out as every reflecting person must be, to have been lifting up his voice against these fatalities to no purpose, people are inclined to trouble themselves no longer about the matter, but to make up their minds, that if the said legitimate Princes are beat on finding their level in society, they must be allowed to give way to their heads, and come down with the vigour so natural to those weighty substances.—But to the subject before us.

Among other reports at Lisbon, there is, it seems, a very alarming one; it is not absolutely that MASSENA is coming again, or that SOULT is coming, or that BONAPARTE is coming: all these are terrible circumstances, but we have seen that it is possible to remedy them:—it is, that the PRINCE REGENT is coming! Coming from South America, now that the enemy are driven away, to head his faithful subjects, whom he had deserted, and to take re-possession of the throne, which he could not defend!—This is too much!—To be sure, if the English Ministers, in that excessive delicacy which they are always so anxious to shew to foreign nations, are determined not to recommend amendment to the Portuguese State, as the only preservative against final subjugation—if they are bent on so doing, and that state is finally to be overturned, as it infallibly will without such amendment—then the return of the PRINCE REGENT to palsy the present efforts of Portugal with

his bigotry and bad government, is proper and reasonable; the fatal hour will only be hastened by it; what would not be reform, will become revolution, or subjugation at once;—and much treasure and blood may be saved on our parts. But if our exertion in behalf of the Portuguese, crowned as it has just been with a success which may be of ultimate use to them, is to be respected as it ought and allowed every opportunity of prosecuting it's task with advantage, then a determination of this nature on the part of the PRINCE REGENT, is highly to be deprecated. In the first place, what good can it possibly do? The return, we shall be told, is to re-assure his people; but of what is it to re-assure his people? Of their Prince's imbecility? Alas! they know this too well already. Is it to supply them with any new resources? He cannot. Is it to stand by them himself on any new danger? He dare not; he has already deserted them at the bare apprehension of an enemy; he even left behind him a Proclamation desiring his own people, whom he thus forsook, to treat the invaders "with respect," thus not only forsaking them as far as himself was concerned, but absolutely committing them into the hands of their enemies. The return of such a Prince into a capital, where these proceedings are notorious, is calculated to do a great deal of injury to the Peninsula. Persons who write accounts of Portugal under a Minister's or a Commander's eye, may tell us fine things about the loyalty of the Portuguese and their attachment to the House of BRAGANZA; but one of two things is clear,—either that an imbecile devotee, (for such is the amount of their PRINCE REGENT's character) who has kept up the vile tyranny of that House in the first instance and then deserted his people in their extremity, cannot have the attachment of his subjects, and therefore ought not to be among them at such a juncture;—or that he has their attachment, as these persons would have us believe, and therefore proves that the nation is not worth our endeavours in their behalf. But who believes in this attachment, that thinks at all? Nobody; not even those who think least of the Portuguese spirit. It is not in the nature of any set of people,—it is not in the nature of human beings, to like a prince, who sitting stupidly upon a despotic throne, with his ears open to none but monks and his eyes shut to all the advancement of society, leaves his subjects to the mercy of their own wretchedness and of a nobility proverbially degenerate, and has no one quality either to secure fidelity or to dazzle dislike. His religious bigotry may have some effect upon the bigotry of the nation, when he walks in procession at the head of the priests, and shews himself on all occasions staunch to the letter of the papal law; but history shews us that subjects can make wide distinctions between religious and civil merit; the orthodoxy of Princes is forgotten when their people

want bread and raiment: and in fine, it is well known, that the late Pope himself, Pius the Sixth, whose subjects were in a similar condition with the inhabitants of Lisbon, used to be adored by them one minute, as the head of the church, and hissed by them the next, as the head of the nation.

Unrespected then by the Portuguese, and despised by their allies, of what advantage to either can be the return of this Prince? His presence creates no enthusiasm, his conduct affords them no example, his direction of affairs, to say the least of it, is not wanted. On the contrary, it is very much to be apprehended, that his presence would materially tend to unsettle what good had been done, and to perplex and hinder that which is in contemplation. To say nothing of religious jealousies, there is always jealousy enough between a court and an ally so situated as the Portuguese court and the English. It is true, the PRINCE cannot be blind to what his ally has done for him; far from being so, he may be induced to think they have done too much. Something, his courtiers will tell him, he must himself do to shew that he is reigning and knows what to be about:—then monkish processions take place, —then appointments of Portuguese to command, —then orders and counter-orders to the army, —all excellent things for the French, and it is twenty to one, but the English General will be disgusted; the French accommodated back again; and a new effort of magnanimity take place on the part of the REGEVY, if he has luck enough to escape a second time. Jealousies of this kind were notorious on the part of the late King of SWEDEN, who is now a fugitive; and a similar feeling in the King of SICILY is no secret to those who are at all acquainted with the state of that wretched island.

But the mention of Sicily brings us at once to the point, upon which the very last effort of Pittism, in behalf of the Continent, seems destined to split. In the little debate, or rather conversation, that took place last Wednesday in the House of Commons upon voting a further subsidy to the King of SICILY, a sum, "not exceeding," as the phrase is, four hundred thousand pounds, Mr. WRITBREAD took occasion to remind the Ministers, for the thousandth time, of the duty they owed themselves and the nation in enforcing upon the subsidized King the absolute necessity of redressing the abuses of his Government,—"a Government," said he, "than which, it was universally known, there is not, nor ever has been, one more profligate." What does Mr. PERCEVAL object to the advice? Does he deny the truth of the epithet profligate, or vindicate the Sicilian Government from the charge of oppressing the people? No, he has not the face to do so:—our Sicilian Minister sends him too many documents to the contrary; there is not a man in the House who has seen these documents, or read the excellent work of Mr. LEONTE in which the subject is mentioned, but would start with dismay at such denials even from a coalition Minister.—All that he denies, is the making such statements;—he re-

grets the mention of the abuses; his sympathetic feelings are shocked that they should be exposed. "If any thing," says he, "could make the defence of Sicily more difficult to British troops, it must be the employment of such language, which by holding up the Government as most profligate, and the people as most oppressed, was calculated to disunite the Government and the people, and thereby to weaken those efforts, which by their cordial co-operation for common defence might be efficient!"—Powers of experience! Is this all the good ye have done to the understandings of British Ministers!—Here is a confession of the full and flourishing existence of that old, debauched, and dotting error of the Pittites, that the public mention of a government's vices, and an admonition to the PRINCE to get rid of them, are worse than the vices themselves. The very mention of the thing, says Mr. PERCEVAL, will tend to disunite Prince and People. Will it indeed? And what will the thing itself do? What has it done?—As if the Sicilian people, too, could not find out, without our information, that they were grievously oppressed!—It is right in us to call the attention of their King to the subject, because, surrounded with smirking knaves, and occupied with his beloved dogs and fowling-pieces, he never thinks about the matter; but no mention of it on our parts could give information to his people of what they knew too well already. But thus it has been with time-serving Ministers from the commencement of the war, and thus it seems fated to be, till the whole Continent be revolutionized, in spite of the wishes of the very people themselves to the contrary. In fact, it is not the good of the people that is consulted on any of these occasions: it is the half-witted prejudices of their Princes, and the annoyance of the enemy; and Mr. PERCEVAL, in spite of what he says on behalf of the "suffering" Portuguese, acknowledges as much himself. "The effect," says he, "of the British support of the Sicilian Government, hitherto, had been the preservation of Sicily independent of France."—This is the amount of all the good which our alliance there is to do to these suffering nations:—but Mr. PERCEVAL must first prove that it is a good. "What!" cry his friends: "no good to preserve a country from the profligate and oppressive French! Here is a shocking wretch! A Reformer, a Revolutionist, and friend of the vile French!"—Hold, my good friends, not so fast. I hate profligacy and oppression quite as much as you do, perhaps a little more; but I do not confine my hatred to French profligacy and French oppression; and before you can convince me that it is good for the Sicilians to be independent of the French, you must prove that the French will bring them a worse tyranny than they have at present, or rather that, with all their tyranny and conscriptions, their possession of Sicily would not be a real blessing to the people, who are in the very worst state of feudalism,—whose country, naturally one of the most beautiful and fertile in Europe, is miserable and barren,—who cannot even grind their own corn with an assurance of eat-



ing it,—whose Judges notoriously *live* upon bribery,—whose nobles literally do nothing but devour their substance,—and whose King is a mere sportsman, with a horror of doing his duty, the scorn alike of his people and of all Europe?—French tyranny could not bring to such a people, what it would bring to Englishmen; to the Swedes, to the Danes, or even, under their present circumstances, to the Portuguese:—it would bring, if it brought any thing, amelioration; not deterioration; and it is truly lamentable to know that this is a fact, which a British Ministry, so far from being able to contradict, seems bent on rendering doubly gross, in their own despite and in favour of the French. It was so plain to Mr. LECTER, no inexperienced or partial observer of the state of Europe, that he does not hesitate in his book to represent the Sicilians as at present preferring the French to the English; and in one of his letters to Mr. DRUMMOND, the then English Minister in Sicily, he says, “I can see no alternative between your suspending the Subsidies until the King be brought to a true sense of the state of things, and your remaining at Palermo a mere cypher.”—(Historical Survey of the Foreign Affairs of Great Britain. P. 93. 1808.)

All this is lost upon the English Ministers, who see it and know it as well as any body, but do not choose to offend prejudices that have been the whole secret of their elevation. They did not venture to recommend any amendment to that refuse of the Spanish Court, called Juntas and Regencies, till every thing was just given up for lost, and then it was too late. It will be the same with Sicily; and to all appearance with Portugal, if this threatened return of the PRINCE REGENT is to take place.—“And what,” says the reader, “is the use then of your repeating truths so melancholy, and so often repeated to no purpose”?—None,—to the Ministers and their friends,—none to the Courtiers, the Stock-jobbers, and to the Corruptionists in a thousand shapes; whose interest it is to furnish Governments with every thing but advice;—but a good deal to you and me, and some little perhaps to those who from indolence or any other cause, not absolutely depending on self-interest, chuse to think contemptuously of Reform.

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

### PORTUGAL.

Lisbon, APRIL 13.—A letter, dated the 10th, from Val Formoso, states, that on the 9th our army was within reach of the artillery of Almeida; that the enemy still occupied that place; to the number of about a thousand men. The enemy have no provisions, except some cattle, and in all they do to delay the surrender of the town, they have only in view to obstruct the rapidity with which the allied army pursues them; thus sacrificing that portion of men composing the garrison. Notwithstanding, we continue to pursue them with the greatest ardour. Our advanced parties were yesterday beyond Ciudad Rodrigo. The enemy has retreated towards Salamanca and its neighbourhood, having left in Ciudad Rodrigo an equal portion of men as in Almeida, who, without doubt, will experience the same fate.

## PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Thomas Powell, farmer, aged 86, was buried last week in the parish of Lanspythid, Breconshire:—at the age of 71 he married his second wife, by whom he had five children (all now living); his eldest son is *fifty-nine*, and his youngest child is *one* year old.

RIOT AT SAMPFORD.—The Coroner's Inquest which sat on the body of the man killed during the late disturbance, returned a verdict of *justifiable homicide*. The other person who was wounded is in a fair way of recovery. The rioters proceeded to no further violence. It was at Mr. Chave's, a respectable farmer, of Sampford, that the fatal event took place. No extraordinary symptoms of riot were manifested until three o'clock on the Monday evening; and consequently a more ready interference by the Magistrates was not possible. It was entirely from their activity and well-applied exertions, that no further mischief ensued.—*Taunton Courier*.

A disturbance took place at Brighton, on Saturday week, between a party of the South Gloucester Militia and a detachment of the 10th Royal Hussars from the cavalry barracks. A few sabre and bayonet wounds were inflicted, but happily none of a dangerous nature. The piquet guard and several of the South Gloucester at length interposed and separated the combatants. A Serjeant and three or four privates of the 10th were secured and lodged in the South Gloucester guard-house.

BRUTALITY.—A boxing match for 100 guineas, between a Somersetshire man, of the name of Sanderson, and Flowers, of bruising fame, Capt. Hicks's coachman; took place at Hazely, Hants, on Monday. The battle was of a very obstinate nature. In the first round both were hit down with blows of strength, and in the second Flowers had a rib broken, by a right hand lunge from his adversary; and Sanderson had his jaw broken in the ninth round. Notwithstanding this, however, the contest was maintained twenty minutes longer with ruffian-like fury. The men hit without flinching, and were knocked down without murmuring, until a blow behind the right ear set Sanderson to sleep, and *his life was despaired of*. The amateurs present subscribed 40 guineas to the loser, or his next of kin!!!

There is now living at the village of Tethbury, in Staffordshire, five miles from Burton-upon-Trent, Mrs. Ann Moore, who has lived, or rather existed, without food for three years and a half; and without any liquor, not even so much as a glass of water, for two years and a half. Her stature is of the middle size; she was married, and has had four fine children; two of whom are now living. She can sit up in bed, and read her bible and prayer-book with the assistance of glasses; and work at intervals at her needle. Her memory is strong. In respect to the use of her frame, all the lower parts up to her body are useless; and totally dead. Her legs are bended under her; and their sinews grown stiff—her voice is low and faint, but accurately distinct—she takes snuff, and now is in her 50th year. Her opinion on her own case is, that she cannot live long; as she gradually feels herself weaken. The Nobility, Faculty, Gentry, and Commoners, throughout the Kingdom; pay her visits, to satisfy their curiosity.—*Asif. ed.*

On Monday afternoon, five French prisoners of war were discovered in the wood of Charleton, near Montrone; and apprehended. On their examination, it appeared they were a part of those who lately escaped from Edinburgh Castle. They were in a most deplorable condition, without food or clothes; and emaciated and spent with fatigue. Of the nine nights which had elapsed since they left Edinburgh, eight were spent either in wandering about; or in sleeping without any cover, in the open air; and during the dreadful storm on the preceding Thursday night, they lay in a ploughed field in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen. One of them is a first Lieutenant in the French marines; and possesses the manners of a gentleman. Another has suffered much from the bruises he sustained in dropping from Edinburgh Castle.

### AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR APRIL.

Sowing the lent corn, and potatoe planting, are nearly completed; the lands have worked remarkably well; and so soon

season, within memory, was ever gone through under happier auspices. The forward pease, as yet, appear thin upon the ground. Beans and oats never looked more luxuriant or healthy. The hop-bine strong, forward, and healthy. The wheats universally of fine appearance and high promise; those which were injured in the winter either recovered or recovering very rapidly. Tare, rye, grass, natural and artificial, in the finest condition, and most rapid state of vegetation. The turnips, both Swedish and English, have been eked out wonderfully in the eastern counties, continuing good, and the cattle thriving upon them to the last. The blossom and shew for fruit of all kinds, most abundant and beautiful, promising a most uncommon fruit season, granting no blight intervene.

The sheep and lambs in a most prosperous state of improvement; the season remarkable for the number of double births. Lambs for market scarcely ever before so forward; great flocks of couples have, however, come to market, on account of the high price of hay, and the desire of saving the grass for a crop. Markets: a lean stock, higher since the late warm showers, and the prospect for a grass crop. Fat stock lower than at Michaelmas. Pigs in great abundance, and cows. Horses of good quality very dear. Straw has proved indifferent in quality, but more in quantity than was expected. Stock of wheat on hand universally considerable, of barley and oats very great. Vast quantities of pea, barley, and bean meal have been consumed by live stock in course of the season. Oil-cake 15 guineas per M. Suffolk butter 14s. per firkin. The country never manifested a more general state of prosperity.

## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

This House, during the past week, has chiefly been occupied in business of a private nature. The Berkeley and Cloncurry cases have been heard at great length.—On Friday an adjournment took place till Monday.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, April 29.

The Bills on the Table were forwarded in their respective stages.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, April 30.

After some conversation, the order for the Committee on the Bullion Report was discharged, and fixed for Monday next.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, May 1.

The Slave Trade Felony Bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. TAYLOR gave notice, that on the 9th instant he would move for the appointment of a Committee to take into consideration the present state of the Theatres of the Metropolis, the privileges which they possessed, and the advantages or injury experienced by the public in consequence of those privileges.

### SICILY.

The Copy of the Sicilian Treaty having been referred to the Committee of Supply,

Mr. PERCEVAL moved, "that a sum not exceeding four hundred thousand pounds be granted to his Majesty to enable him to make good the provisions of the said Treaty."

Mr. WHITBREAD said, he thought it his duty to state, that notwithstanding the present elation of the public mind with respect to foreign relations, it was the duty of Parliament strictly to watch the course of our proceedings; and more strictly, perhaps, from the very circumstance of the existing relation. He was also of opinion, that it was highly desirable, at a time when we were subsidizing Sicily and taking that island under the protection of British arms, that Parliament should know the application of the money which they granted for these purposes, and that efforts should be made to remedy, if possible, some of those diseases in the Sicilian Government, which, if not cured, would inevitably destroy that Govern-

ment itself; for he was persuaded, that a more profligate Government, or a more oppressed people, than the Sicilians, not only did not exist, but never had existed. He would abstain from taking the sense of the Committee on the present proposition; but he would take this, the earliest opportunity which had been afforded him, of expressing his regret, that he was not in his place when the Thanks of the House were voted to Lord Wellington. His absence was entirely occasioned by avocations of a public nature, to which his attention was indispensable. In such circumstances alone should he ever seek for a justification of his absence from Parliament, while he had the honour of a seat there; for, whether the attendance of other Members was constant or lax, whether the benches were full or empty, he should always consider himself bound to resist every engagement of pleasure, and every engagement, which could be avoided, of business, for the purpose of attending his parliamentary duty. He particularly regretted his absence, as he should have concurred most cheerfully and most cordially in the vote of that day. He should have been enabled to bestow praise even on Ministers—a praise which they had never before received from him—for their selection of a General, whose conduct had so fully justified the confidence that had been reposed in him. He should also have been happy on that occasion to state, that, notwithstanding the doubts which had formerly existed in his mind, arising from his ignorance of the particulars of Lord Wellington's proceedings in Portugal, notwithstanding the hesitation which those doubts had occasioned, notwithstanding he had fancied that some parts of those proceedings were questionable, now that the whole were developed, and proved to be the combination of a masterly plan, he most willingly acknowledged his Lordship's great talents, and paid him the just tribute of his admiration. He would even have followed the example of a young and eloquent Member of that House, although without allowing the premises on which that Hon. Member founded his remark: without admitting that any of the envy of Lord Wellington's military talents, to which that Hon. Member alluded, existed in the House or the Country, he would still say with him, that

"Invidiam gloria superavit."

At the same time, and notwithstanding the splendour of recent events, they ought to conduct themselves with the moderation which became success, and never to lose sight of the principle—a principle which he had ever maintained, and which he should ever maintain—that the only legitimate object of every war, and of this above all other wars—an object which ought to be the nearest and dearest of Government, in the present oppressed state of the country and the world—was peace. Every endeavour ought to be made to render the late successes available to that end. How this could best be done was not for him to consider; but it was his sincere feeling, that it was a contemplation which ought ever to be uppermost in the minds of Government.

Mr. PERCEVAL was persuaded, that having agreed to a similar vote on a former occasion, the Committee would not be disposed to withhold from Sicily the proposed assistance during the continuance of the war. He could not forbear expressing his deep regret at the sentiments uttered by the Hon. Gentleman with respect to Sicily. If any one thing could render it more difficult than another to render British arms serviceable in defence of the country, it was to see the Government and the people of that country in opposition to each other. The object of the subsidy in Sicily, and of the British protection, namely, that of keeping Sicily independent of France, had hitherto been completely attained; and he deprecated every mode of conduct by which the success of that object might be endangered. Adverting to the observations made by the Hon. Gentleman on the vote of Friday last, he expressed his satisfaction at the sentiments which the Honourable Gentleman had expressed, and which were as honourable to himself as they were to the object of his applause. The approbation of the Hon. Gentleman was more unreserved than could have been expected, even from his liberality; and he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) was happy in the testimony which the Hon. Gentleman bore to the judgment of Ministers in their choice of Lord Wellington. At

to the general observation that Government ought to look to peace as the legitimate object of war, he certainly concurred in it; and, as a general sentiment, he hoped it was entertained as cordially by one set of men in that House as by another. But if the Hon. Gentleman meant to say, that at the present period the country might reasonably expect an immediate termination of hostilities, then he must observe, that, looking to all the circumstances in which Great Britain and Europe were placed, he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) could not entertain such an expectation. — Undoubtedly, the only rational object of any war was the honourable termination of it; but that, under the circumstances to which he had already alluded, there appeared to be any great prospect of the probability of obtaining such a peace as might at once be useful and honourable to the country, was a statement to the truth of which he could by no means accede.

Mr. WHITBREAD explained. On the best consideration which he could give to the subject, he thought it most important that the British Parliament should not shut their eyes to the true character and situation of the Sicilian Government and people; that they should not pretend to believe that the Government was not profligate, or the people not oppressed; and that they should not pretend to believe, that to abstain from proclaiming these evils was the best way to correct them. He held it the bounden duty of a Member of Parliament, when voting the public money for such purposes as the present, explicitly to state his sentiments. The Right Hon. Gentleman had been pleased to suppose, that he (Mr. W.) believed the recent events might lead to a *speedy* peace. He had said no such thing. At the same time he could not allow that to say that the legitimate object of every war was peace, was a common-place observation, unworthy of being uttered. There were times when this nation appeared to lose sight of that object. Inflamed to increasing hostility by the incitements of their Rulers, it was not common-place and useless, to say to the people, "Be moderate in the midst of your success." Whenever this country obtained any advantage in the contest, immoderate and enthusiastic anticipations were entertained of destroying the power of France, and of overturning the throne of the Emperor of that nation. Whether peace could or could not be obtained, he would not pretend to say; but this he would say, that, until the trial were made, no one could know what might be effected. The French Government, under the pressure of necessity, might be induced to listen to propositions which they had before rejected. There had been many opportunities, in the course of the war, when the Emperor of France might, in his opinion, have been successfully approached with overtures of peace. It might be a visionary prospect; but he could not help thinking, that the present was a most auspicious moment; and that it ought not to be allowed to pass without some pacific effort on the part of the British Government.

Mr. W. SMITH was of opinion, that notorious as was the state of the Government in Sicily, it was wisdom and policy to urge on that Government such a reformation as might be carried into execution without tumult, and as might convince the Sicilians that the British are the friends equally of the Sicilian Government and of the Sicilian people.

Sir T. TURTON, although he allowed that if we were in Sicily merely as subordinate allies, we should have no right to interpose with the Government, yet thought, that since we had assumed the defence of that island as principals, we ought to endeavour to produce the wished-for reform. However unpopular the sentiment might be, he must declare, that the moment of success was that in which we ought to treat with an enemy. It was, in his opinion, imperative to Government to see whether the enemy would surrender the great obstacle to negotiation, by leaving Spain independent. He was not one of those who would wish to lay the country at the foot of France, and crave peace on any terms; but he would say to her, "Give up that object—the subjugation of Spain—and we are ready to treat with you."

The Resolution was then agreed to.—Adj.

Thursday, May 2.

There was nothing of importance before the House this day.

Friday, May 3.

Dr. Thornton's Botanical Lottery Bill was read a third time and passed.

In a Committee, several sums were voted for the public service, among which were thirty thousand pounds to the Vaccine Establishment.

Mr. Brand's motion for a Reform in Parliament was postponed till the 15th instant.

Mr. HORNER made some brief remarks upon the Resolutions to be proposed by Mr. Vansittart, some of which, he said, were in direct opposition to the evidence before the House.—Mr. Horner's statement was ordered to be printed.

#### WESTMINSTER HUSTINGS BILL.

Mr. LUSHINGTON thought it desirable that before the House proceeded further in the Westminster Hustings Bill, the nature and extent of the responsibility attached to the Office of High Bailiff should be ascertained. He accordingly moved, that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the office of High Bailiff.

Sir F. BURDETT could not see what purpose the motion could answer—if it was for the purpose of indemnifying that Officer from the expences incurred at the election, he thought that this proposed indemnification could only have the effect of increasing the price of that office to any future applicant, and thus put money into the pockets of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. In the action brought against him (Sir F. B.) the Learned Judge decided that the expences ought to be defrayed by the party gaining the advantage, and that therefore he (Sir F. B.) was liable. Now, as he was still at a loss to know what advantage or emolument an honest Member of Parliament could derive from his place in that House, he must confess that the doctrine thus laid down by the Learned Judge appeared to him to be not a little singular.—(Hear!)—He could not see what was this advantage or profit, or where it was to be found. Other gentlemen perhaps might have had more experience this way, and it might be that the Learned Lord himself had found a seat in the House to be no such unprofitable concern; but still he denied the right of making him pay for a presumed profit where there was none, and where he had been elected without his consent, indeed without his knowledge.

—Mr. WILLIAMS WYNN thought that the expences should be defrayed by a rate on Westminster. He had a high respect for Lord Ellenborough, but he had no hesitation in giving it as his opinion, that his Lordship's decision in the case alluded to was directly contrary to the privilege and constitution of Parliament.

The Motion was carried.—Adjourned till Monday.

#### TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Downing-street, April 30, 1811.

A Dispatch, of which the following is an Extract, was this morning received at Lord Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by Lieutenant General Viscount Wellington, dated Nissa, 18th of April, 1811.

Having made arrangements for the blockade of Almeida, and having reason to believe that the enemy's army will not be in a situation for some time to attempt to relieve that place, even if they should be so inclined, I have taken advantage of the momentary discontinuance of active operations in that quarter to go into Estremadura to the corps under Marshal Sir William Beresford, and I have got thus far on my way.

Lieutenant General Sir B. Spencer remains in command of the corps on the frontiers of Castille. Nothing of importance has occurred in that quarter since I addressed your Lordship on the 9th instant. The enemy retired entirely from the Agueda; and, it is reported, that some of their troops had gone back as far as Zamora and Toro, upon the Douro.

Marshal Sir William Beresford was not able to effect his passage across the Guadiana as soon as he expected; and the enemy have introduced some provisions into Badajoz and Olivenca. Sir William Beresford's advanced guard crossed the

Guadiana on the 4th instant; and I am concerned to report that a squadron of the 13th Light Dragoons, which were on picket under Major Morres, were surprised, on the night of the 6th, by a detachment of the enemy's cavalry from Olivenca. I have not received the return of the loss upon this occasion, but I am informed that the whole squadron, with the exception of 20 men, were taken prisoners. The enemy have since retired, as I am informed, entirely from Estremadura, leaving small garrisons in Badajoz and Olivenca.

Marshal Sir Wm. Beresford has taken a position to invest both Badajoz and Olivenca.

A detachment from the 5th army, which is now commanded by General Castanos, is, I understand, at Merida.

Since I last addressed your Lordship, General Zayas had again landed the troops under his command, and had again embarked them, and returned to Cadiz. General Ballasteros's division alone continues in the Condado di Niebla; but, from a letter from Mr. Wellesley of the 11th, I learn that General Blake was himself about to come into the Condado di Niebla, to take the command of General Ballasteros's division, and the troops which had been under the command of General Zayas, and which were to return to that quarter. General Blake had expressed an anxious desire to co-operate with Marshal Sir William Beresford.

General Castanos has been appointed to command the army in Galicia, as well as the 4th army, lately the army of the left, commanded by the late Marquis of Romana.

*Foreign-Office, April 30, 1811.*

Dispatches were this morning received by the Marquis Wellesley from Charles Stuart, Esq. his Majesty's Minister at Lisbon, under date the 20th instant, stating that the garrison of Olivenca, consisting of three hundred and ten men, surrendered at discretion to the allied army on the 14th instant, and was marched to Elvas.

Marshal Mortier, with four thousand men, was in the neighbourhood of Llerena, having detached a moveable column, under General Martiniere, by the way of Almaraz, towards Toledo. General Beresford, with that part of the allied army which does not form the siege of Badajoz, was in the neighbourhood of Santa Martha.

The corps of General Ballasteros had its head quarters in Segura di Leone on the 12th; his cavalry was at Zafra on the 13th, on which day Lord Wellington left Villa Fermosa, on the Goo, to join the army in Estremadura.

*Foreign Office, April 30, 1811.*

A Dispatch, of which the following is an Extract, was this morning received by the Marquis Wellesley, from Charles Stuart, Esq. his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Lisbon, under the date of the 20th inst.

The brilliant successes of the Allied Army have been celebrated by every demonstration of joy which can mark the gratitude of the Portuguese for the exertions of the British in their behalf, and the satisfaction inspired by the salvation of their country.

*Te Deum* has been sung in the churches; the city has been illuminated; and shortly after the publication of the Proclamation enclosed in a former dispatch, the letters, of which I have the honour to enclose copies, were addressed to Lord Wellington and Marshal Beresford, by the Government and the Minister.

**MOST ILLUSTRIOUS AND MOST EXCELLENT LORD VISCOUNT WELLINGTON, K. B. MARSHAL GENERAL, COMMANDER IN CHIEF.**

Your Excellency's dispatch, dated the 9th inst. having been laid before us, and your Excellency's glorious and transcendent services in the course of the present campaign having been duly considered, we have high satisfaction in testifying our just admiration of the achievements which have immortalized your Excellency's name, sustained the honour of the combined armies, and delivered this kingdom the third time from the oppression of our enemies.

The conduct of the army having justified the confidence of their Chief, and fulfilled the expectations of the allied nations, we are desirous that your Excellency do make known to the whole army, that the Government and the Country are amply repaid for their exertions and sacrifices by the wisdom, valour, and discipline, displayed by the Generals, Officers, and Privates, of which that army is composed.

We will lay before his Royal Highness, in the distinctest manner, the events which have taken place; recommending to his royal notice the services of an army which have covered itself with glory under your Excellency's command.

Your Excellency cannot fail of deriving high gratification from the result of your plans and labours, which, crowned with the most eminent success and public opinion, leaves nothing wanting to satisfy the heart of the illustrious warrior by whom they were conceived and accomplished.—May God preserve your Excellency.

(Signed) **PATRIARCH ELECT, COUNT REDONDO, R. NOGUEIR, PRINCIPES SOUSA, C. STUART.**

*Palace of Government, April 17, 1811.*

(Signed) **D. MIGUEL PEREIRA FORJAZ.**

**MOST ILLUSTRIOUS AND MOST EXCELLENT SIR WILLIAM CARR BERESFORD, K. B. MARSHAL, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMY.**

The combined armies having driven the enemy beyond the Northern and Southern frontier with as much glory to the forces allied as advantage to the just cause they defend, the Governors of the kingdom have authorised me to acknowledge, in their name, the high and distinguished services for which the Portuguese nation is indebted to your Excellency in quality of Marshal, Commander in Chief of her Armies.

If the success of arms be the result of valour and discipline, to your Excellency it is attributable that troops, only the other day mostly recruits, have been enabled to conduct themselves like experienced veterans and to deserve so eminently of their Sovereign and their country.

The Government will lay before his Royal Highness, with an especial recommendation, the merits and glorious achievements of his army, and desire that your Excellency do make known to the whole of that army, in the most impressive manner, the high estimation in which their services are held.

The army have amply fulfilled the expectations of their country; and so long as she shall preserve the recollection of events so glorious, the distinguished Chief who disciplined and commanded that army will ever be present to her grateful memory.

I have particular satisfaction in communicating the sentiments of the Governors of the Kingdom towards your Excellency, being precisely those I have invariably entertained.—May God preserve your Excellency.

(Signed) **D. MIGUEL PEREIRA FORJAZ.**  
*Palace of Government, April 19, 1811.*

#### BANKRUPTS.

- T. Sockot, Holt, Denbigh, butcher.
- M. Hankinson, Pendleton, Lancashire.
- J. Garrett, jun. Harting, Sussex, mealman.
- J. Winfield, Gateshead, Durham, iron founder.
- W. and J. Porter, York, skippers.
- R. J. and J. Walker, Armley, York, cloth-merchants.
- R. G. Dewar, Great Winchester-street, merchant.
- J. Bardwell, Manchester, general agent.
- H. Holmes, Liverpool, merchant.
- J. Paulson, Manchester, manufacturer.
- A. Moorhouse, Stockport, flour-dealer.
- G. Wells, Hadley, Suffolk, draper.
- R. Wainwright, Manchester, manufacturer.
- G. Bowdery, Black Boy-alley, Poplar, melter.
- F. B. Goldney, Seymour-court, Bucks, lace-merchant.
- D. Sidbotham, Stockport, iron-merchant.
- S. Smith, New Cavendish-street, Portland-place.
- T. Pickett, Hillington, soap-manufacturers.

- C. Pratten, Bristol, shoemaker.
- T. Nutt, Spalding, Lincoln, draper.
- A. Aboaf Fonseca, Prescott-street, Goodman's-fields, merchant.
- G. Swatton, Cumberland-street, Goodge-street, liquor-merchant.
- S. Chettle, Blackman-street, Southwark, oilman.
- J. Ford, Minories, trunk maker.
- E. W. Brine, Chichester, brazier.

**SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.**

**BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.**

J. Byfield, Islington, dealer and chapman.

**BANKRUPTS.**

- J. Griffiths, Knighton, Radnor, draper.
- R. Smithson, Kingston-upon-hull, publican.
- I. Carter, Manchester, corn dealer.
- T. Lawton and J. Davison, Riding-house-lane, painters.
- T. Drake, Car-hall-mill, Lancaster, miller.
- R. and A. Gordon, Manchester, travelling chapmen.
- J. Waring, Alton, Southampton, woolstapler.
- W. Carpenter, Westurattng, Cambridge, horse dealer.
- R. Mair, Liverpool, linen-draper.
- W. Rigg, Liverpool, merchant.
- W. Drakeford, Great Peter-street, Westminster, baker.
- E. Gibson and Co. Great St. Helen's, London, merchants.
- C. Wildman, Great Newport-street, Middlesex, silversmith.
- J. N. and J. Cooper, Beckfoot, Cumberland, tanners.
- W. Reid, Bristol, insurance-broker.
- J. Blackburn and Co. Lancaster, Lancashire, spirit-merchants.
- R. Rippon and Co. Liverpool, merchants.
- J. Mills, Back Church-lane, Whitechapel, victualler.
- W. Whately, Cannon-street, merchant.
- J. Widnell, Holborn, potter.
- J. Robson, Manchester, innkeeper.
- J. Capstack, Lancaster, Lancashire, cabinet-maker.
- J. Merrifield, Plymouth, grocer.
- W. Tolley, jun. Richmond, Surrey, sadler.
- J. and B. Abernethie, College-Hill, London, merchants.
- S. Jones, Duke-street, Aldgate, draper.
- J. Wellford, Old South Sea House, insurance-broker.
- J. Dobson, Liverpool, merchant.
- F. Burchell, Warwick-place, Bedford-row, sadler.
- J. Smithson, Blackfriars-road, grocer.
- J. Stanley, Dail, ironmonger.
- J. J. Bowring, New Bond-street, hatter.
- R. Pettit, College-hill, merchant.
- W. Coombe, Scots-yard, Cannon-street, merchant.
- J. Cook, Plaistow, Essex, gardener.
- I. Hurrell, Henny, Essex, miller.
- R. Bainton, Lombard-street, provision-dealer.
- W. Smith, Lustre West Indian, merchant.

**PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.**

3 per Cent. Consols.....64½

**THE EXAMINER.**

LONDON, MAY 5.

No intelligence of importance has arrived from Portugal during the past week; nor even any important rumours, except that the French have been sending reinforcements into the South of Spain; and that some dissatisfaction had manifested itself at Cadiz, respecting a proposal made to the Spanish Regency of "placing the provinces, bordering on Portugal, under the temporary command of the English General in Chief." Lord WELLINGTON, it seems, having proved the advantages resulting to his operations from an unlimited power over the military resources of

Portugal, wishes to enjoy the same facilities in his operations in Spain; and has accordingly made the above proposal to the Spanish Regency, who are inclined to agree to it. It gives us, however, no very high idea of the English influence in Spain, or of the power of the Regency themselves, even in the small circle to which it is confined, to see that before they can venture on a measure apparently so necessary, they are obliged to sound the public feeling by a mongrel kind of document, half official and half not, dated from the office of the *Government Printer*. These jealousies, to say the least of them, are a very bad sign for the *Spanish* continuation of the campaign.

Perhaps, taking all circumstances into consideration, there is not so much real importance in any reports connected with these measures, as in the intelligence of the resolutions lately proposed in the Cortes, that the Torture and the Slave-trade shall be abolished. The struggles and jealousies of a feeble remnant of government may pass away and end in nothing; but it is an important part of the history of the human mind to know when any new and liberal opinion on men and things take place among an uneducated and oppressed people. Would to God, the power of those few enlightened men who appear to sway the Cortes were equal to the wishes of their own hearts and the wants of their distracted nation.

Information has been received of the seizure of two British vessels in the waters of the United States, under the Non-Intercourse Law.

An expedition, consisting of 14,000 troops, is said to have been confided to the Command of General BLAKE, for the purpose of co-operating with BALLASTEROS. The troops were expected to embark at Cadiz on the 14th ultimo, and after having effected a junction with BALLASTEROS, it is understood to be intended, that this combined force, amounting to 22,000 men, shall immediately co-operate with Marshal BERESFORD—and by a simultaneous movement upon Seville, compel the French to retire from that city, abandon the siege of Cadiz, and finally evacuate Andalusia.

It was the *Globe Evening Paper* that on Saturday week, in a second edition, announced the surrender of Badajos. It stated, without the slightest qualification, that the news had been received by a Telegraphic Dispatch, although no such intelligence had arrived. There is something very pitiful in these hasty second editions.

An occurrence has taken place at Newmarket, which is the subject of general conversation and surprise among the frequenters of the turf. Several horses were entered for the Claret Stakes, and as usual were taken out in the morning for exercise. They all drank, as we understand, at one watering trough. Some time after they had been watered, six of them were observed to stagger, and then to roll about in the greatest agony. One is dead. On examining the watering trough, it was found that the water had been poisoned. The horses were the property of Mr. SITWELL, Sir F. STANDISH, and Lord KINNAIRD. A large reward has been offered for the discovery of the perpetrator of this infamous deed.

Motions have been made in the Cortes for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, and of the use of the Torture. These motions were referred to a Committee.

It is painful to be so repeatedly called upon to remind the Board of Admiralty, that the enemy's cruizers are daily capturing our merchant vessels, at the very mouth of Dover harbour!

On Tuesday last a grand main of cocks was fought at the New Cockpit in Westminster. Such a number of *ill-looking ruffians* attended on the occasion, as to give it very much the appearance of a general gaol-delivery.

**PUGILISM.**—As it is now pretty well ascertained that several of the pugilists intend, in the course of a short time, to engage in pitched battles, it is hoped the magistrates will exert themselves to prevent these gross breaches of the peace, by apprehending, and holding to bail, all the expected combatants.

On Wednesday last, the volunteering from the 2d Tower Hamlets militia into the different regiments of the line, took place at the Head-quarters, Bethnal Green. It is to be hoped, if the above regiment is to be filled up again, that the Secretary at War will take care that every recruit may have the bounty which Government has allowed him. This vigilance is particularly necessary, as it appeared that not one man, who was examined on Captain MASON'S Court-martial, had received the BOUNTY CHARGED.

"There is a poor unfortunate dumb girl (says a Correspondent) always wandering about Austin-friars, or in the avenue leading from thence into Winchester-street; she endeavours to awaken the cold charity of the passengers, and signifies her inability to speak by offensive imitations, which are so disgusting, that my not knowing where to apply for her removal, is the only reason why I do not do so, and am compelled to drop you this line—Who is wanting in his duty here?"

To his friends, and the Amateurs in general, the Marquis of STAFFORD, has renewed the elegant pleasure of seeing his noble Gallery of Pictures at Cleveland-House, every Wednesday in May and June.

Mr. RAYMOND, the celebrated musician, at a very advanced period of a well spent life, is now confined to his bed by illness, from which there are no hopes of his recovery, so as to afford by his professional skill any support to his numerous family. Several Noblemen, Gentlemen, and eminent Professors, are now forming a Committee, to superintend a Concert for the benefit of this worthy man.

### THE KING'S ILLNESS.

#### MEDICAL BULLETIN.

Windsor Castle, April 23.

"His Majesty is going on well."

"This day the QUEEN'S Council go to Windsor again to examine the Physicians. Our readers would remark that no publication of the result of the Meeting on Saturday last took place. The Physicians were examined, and we understand with great minuteness; for a question was put to them respecting the protraction of his MAJESTY'S disorder to a period beyond that of any former illness, and recalling to their memories a declaration they had made on the outset, that if it should continue beyond the for-

mer period, their hopes of ultimate recovery would be less sanguine. The answer, we believe, was, that they still entertained hope, from the very considerable advances towards recovery which his MAJESTY had made. The Council contented themselves with registering the Opinion of the Physicians. But we presume, from several circumstances, that the sittings of the QUEEN'S Council on the Saturday in each week are expected to continue for some time, as the LORD CHANCELLOR publicly in his Court, while arranging with the Gentlemen of the Bar the order of the business to come on, begged that nothing might be set down for the Saturdays, as it was likely he would not be able to sit in the Hall on that day."

Morning Chronicle, May 4.

### THE GOUT.

A cure for this disorder, which has hitherto set at nought the utmost skill of the regular practitioner, and confounded the practices of the boasting empiric, has of late, according to some, been found in the Eau Medicinale.—This most powerful enchanter, which compels the complaint to move off, sometimes with and sometimes without the complainant, has it seems met with a rival, equally powerful, though of a very different nature.—Nothing indeed can be more opposite.—The Eau Medicinale acts inwardly; being poured down the throat, it sweeps away the disorder in its irresistible course; while the new discovery is an external application, beginning its work in the opposite quarter, yet acting, according to report, with equal celerity and certainty. Conforming to this mode, you have only to procure a slip of wood, of about two feet in length, and flattened on one side. With this instrument the patient is to receive two or three smart strokes on the soles of the feet, and the disease is immediately put to flight.

Though this matchless remedy has been boasted of as a "new discovery," yet there is a passage in the Baron De Tott's Memoirs, which clearly shews that this identical cure has long been known in the East.—The relation is given in so pleasant a style, that it is worth copying. The Baron observes,

"The manner in which the disposition of the master influences all his dependents, is one of the most remarkable circumstances in the manners of the Turks; it seems as if despotism would be imperfect, without subjugating the very sentiments. The attendants of a Turk are on the watch to observe the manner in which any person is received by their patrons, to treat him in the same manner on his departure: unlucky he, who shall have received a kick from him! They take the liberty likewise to construe his intentions. A Pacha had taken a great friendship for an European merchant; he could never be without him; and all his court gave entertainments to the stranger. The latter was subject to the gout, and the Pacha, who had unfortunately studied a little medicine, had a mind to cure his friend; and when he knew that he was in the most excruciating pain, he made two of his servants go, with orders to give him 50 strokes of a stick on the soles of his feet. These fellows, who were not so learned as their master, astonished at first at a remedy that did not seem of a very friendly nature, were at length persuaded that the *Wizir* had given offence, and executed their orders accordingly, with the utmost rigour, of which they did not fail to boast on their return to the Pacha. "How, wretches," said he, "you have dared to treat my friend ill! The fifty strokes I ordered were a remedy,—the insults you have added, are an offence,"—and he immediately ordered each of them one hundred; from thence he went to beg pardon of his friend for the insolence of his servants who had presumed to make addition



to the remedy. The European would readily have dispensed with this remedy, but he soon had reason to commend it, and was perfectly cured of the disorder."

## THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

Observations next week on Mr. ARNOLD's new play, the *Americans*, and on the *Melodrama* at the new Theatre.

No. 91.

COVENT-GARDEN.

THE new comedy called the *Gazette Extraordinary*, that has just appeared at this theatre, is from the pen of Mr. HOLMAN, author of the *Votary of Wealth*, &c. a gentleman much respected, I believe, in private, and remembered by many persons as one of those "respectable" actors, who having too much sense to sink into mere inanity, yet too little talent for natural effect, take refuge in a kind of well-bred declamation.

From a player, who turns dramatist, more ought to be expected perhaps than from any other stage writer. Knowledge of life we have a right to demand from all dramatists; and to the nature of the scene, an actor is at least bound to add his knowledge of the art of it. Some of the finest dramatists in Europe have in fact been performers, as SHAKESPEARE, MOLIERE, and OTWAY, besides many of great though inferior merit, from BEN JONSON and MASSINGER down to GARRICK and FOOTE inclusive. Knowledge of life however is not to be bestowed upon actors by the representation of it;—a truth, of which the general run of their intellect off the stage, affords, I understand, a lamentable proof. A poor dramatist, therefore, who is a performer, makes no better figure than others who are not, as far as the sense or the poetry of the thing is concerned; but the artificial part of the drama is still more at his command, and it is seldom that he does not give himself from damnation by some of the little tricks of plot, though all other means should fail him. GARRICK was a notorious assistant to authors in this way by helping them with a taking scene; and were we to take the pains of re-examining the worst of the dramas that have been written in our own time by players, we should find that wherever they succeeded, it was owing to their experience in situations and other clap-traps.

Mr. HOLMAN, though by no means in the lowest class of these writers, has not disdained to avail himself of his professional recollections for the same purpose; and the success of his present production is materially to be attributed to certain theatrical tricks, very common to the stage, but always new and delightful to the audiences of these good-natured times.—*Lady Demallory* (Mrs. WESTON) a stately dowager, and like most stately dowagers, a very insipid personage, is anxious, for family reasons, to marry her son the young Lord (Mr. YOUNG) to his relation *Lady Julia Sandford* (Mrs. H. JOHNSON), who is apprised of his approaching return from abroad, but from recollecting his obnoxious and overbearing temper when a boy, utterly rejects the proposal and confesses her dislike of him. This candour irritates the dowager, from whose indignation and the threat of turning her out of doors, she is rescued by the abrupt entrance of an old and blunt relation of the name of *Hartop* (Mr. MUNDEN) who carries her away with him to his seat in a distant part of the island, whither she is followed by a very unnecessary personage, a kind of fiery coxcomb, *Sir Harry Aston* (Mr. JONES) who flatters

himself she is in love with him. Here we are introduced to two very effective persons, a village Doctor (FAWCETT) who is of all sorts of professions, and wishes to obtain all sorts of preferment; and a most alarming gentlewoman, one *Mrs. Leech* (Mrs. DAVENPORT) who has set down old *Hartop* for her fourth husband, and accordingly assaults him, whenever she can find an opportunity, with a tenderness not at all equivocal. The old gentleman, perfectly afflicted at his situation, but too bashful to come to an explanation, is made to order a kind of rural fete, which *Mrs. Leech* insists upon taking as a compliment to herself. The fete is commencing, when a military officer makes his appearance, and upon mentioning to the Doctor, who acts as master of the ceremonies, his wish to make one of the party, is pleasantly introduced to *Hartop* by the latter, who had never seen him before, as *Major Clayton*, a most particular friend of his. This is *Lord Demallory* himself, who having arrived in England with a *Major Clayton* (Mr. BARRYMORE), and hearing of *Lady Julia's* antipathy, has taken his friend's name, and resolved to shew her, under this assumed character, how much his temper and turn of mind have altered. By his amiable manners, and his gallantry, during the fete, in saving the life of a young female (*Miss Bolton*) who was in danger of drowning, he wins the heart of his unconscious mistress; the old gentleman is equally taken with him for the same reasons, as well as on account of the exploits of *Major Clayton* at *Seringapatam*; and *Lady Julia's* hand is finally offered to his Lordship in her presence, when, struck with an idea that *Major Clayton* had gained too much for him, and annoyed with some strong expressions against himself both from the lady and gentleman, the latter of whom, in one of his fits of preference, shakes him by the hand and curses *Lord Demallory*,—he abruptly declines the honour intended him, and to their great surprise and mortification, leaves the house with a promise of future explanation. The old gentleman is very bitter on the occasion, and the arrival of the real *Major* in search of his friend, occasions a scene of droll equivocality—*Hartop* and the Doctor loading the name of *Major Clayton* with reproach, and the other growing warm, under imputations he knew to be unjust. The young female, whom *Lord Demallory* saved from drowning, explains the mystery by suddenly entering and running up to "*Major Clayton*," for whose life her father had exposed and lost his own at the storming of *Seringapatam*, and who has resolved to marry the old soldier's daughter in consequence. The other *Major* is therefore set down at once for an adventurer; and the Doctor, in his eagerness to push his interest with the great, hastens up to *Demallory Castle* to expose the villain who has taken the Peer's name, when in the midst of his denouncements, which utterly astonish and shock the Dowager's dignity, his Lordship himself makes his appearance, and the Doctor is once more frightened out of his wits. In the meantime, his Lordship is requested to marry another relation (*Miss Bolton*) but as she has a previous attachment, they agree to renounce each other when called upon; and as the play is now to end, explanation rapidly advances.—*Hartop*, *Major Clayton*, *Lady Julia*, *Sir Harry*, and *Mrs. Leech*, who, by a mistake on *Sir Harry's* part, when she was reclining in an arbour, is led to suppose him in love with her, and thus relieves the old gentleman, all appear at *Demallory Castle* to have their appointments and dis-

appointments;—a bride appears in a veil, *Lord Demalory* renounces her, and demanding the same renunciation on her part, is answered with the reverse; every body is astonished, except the spectators—the muslin veil rises, and *Lady Julia* blesses her enraptured lover with her consent.

This plot, as was before observed, is sufficiently theatrical. We have faintings in another person's arms by mistake, mistakes in identity, mistakes of passion, veils, equivokes, and surprises. In one scene, the Doctor, who is requested to give an account of the Major's exploits, of which he absolutely knows nothing, is enabled to do so by the simplicity of old *Hartop*, who in his enthusiastic recollection of the *Gazette Extraordinary*, puts every sentence into the other's mouth;—a trick, borrowed by the author, but new perhaps to a good part of the audience. What appeared to be the most dangerous attempt to excite applause was the battery of sights and sweets kept up against *Hartop* by the widow, which, one might have thought, would have disgusted rather than tickled the spectators. But Mr. HOLMAN knew his men. The characters, particularly that of the Doctor, who is a more outrageous kind of *Ollapod*, are as old as the tricks, with the exception perhaps of a shade of novelty in that of *Lord Demalory*, whose change of temper is a pleasing subject of contemplation, and well merits the happiness, which, at the first report of him, the audience are induced to think he can never obtain, or if obtain, never enjoy. But the best praise of Mr. HOLMAN'S play, and this is sound praise as far as it goes, is that it has none of the viler tricks and deformities that have so long disgraced the name of comedy,—no puns, no vulgar slang, no violations of decent English. A native good sense and propriety reign throughout the sentiments and the expression of them; and the piece is altogether a decided step above the shallow wordiness and buffoonery of the common five-act farces. Mr. HOLMAN is therefore unquestionably superior to the DIBBINS and REYNOLDS; he has not so much humour or sentiment as Mr. COLMAN, but he has more general taste; and, upon the whole, may take his place perhaps next to Mr. MORTON.

The representation of this piece, generally speaking, is very laudable; but not such as to mark out any one actor particularly, except Mr. MUNDEN, who received the addresses of *Mrs. Leach* as if he was turning away from a dose of physic, and with his uneasy shrinkings, and his gasping despondency of stare, expressed his feelings on the occasion with as much humour as nature;—a rare praise for this entertaining comedian.

### THE OPERA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—So slight are the variations made in the plots of those heterogeneous productions, our modern Italian operas, that, were it not for the well known force of fashion, which induces so many to endure what they would otherwise gladly avoid, I should scarcely imagine it possible to find patience enough to bear their constant repetition. One or two prison scenes and palaces, with a proper proportion of drawn daggers, and a little groping about in the dark, are the principal ingredients which our *BOONAPARTIS* and

CARAVITAS mix up to form those opiates, so refreshing to the fashionable world. The latter of those indefatigable quacks has now produced something which he calls an heroic-comic opera, under the title of *La Clémence*. Its heroism appears to consist in the conduct of a King of Navarre, who confines a King of Castile in a dungeon, without apparent provocation, upon a regimen of bread and water. Its comic humour however I must confess my inability to discover. There is indeed one incident which has some pretension to it, and that is, when the King of Castile, mourning in his dungeon, on one of those banks so essential to Italian operas, hears footsteps, and, being a lover of solitary confinement, most manfully rushes to run the intruder through the body. Too late, alas, he discovers that it is a Princess in disguise, whom he rapturously loves; but upon enquiring into the nature of the wound, it turns out to be merely a cut finger, which is as speedily bound up as the offence is forgiven. This incident has perhaps more originality than dignity, but it is treated by Signor CARAVITA with an importance that proves he had no mean idea of it.

The composer to whose lot it has fallen to set CARAVITA'S words to music is a Signor TRANTO, whose name seems scarcely to have been known in the country till now. His merit does not I think entitle him to rank much above PUCITTA and GUGLIELMI; though there are occasional instances of fanciful and scientific modulation, such as are not to be met with in their works. Many of the symphonies are peculiarly pleasing, and the prison trio in the second act far superior to the common-place music which forms the greatest part of the opera. The singers by no means do justice to the composition; the chorusses being performed, as they always are at the opera, without force and completely out of time; and the principal performers, from CATLANI down to DE GIOVANNI, could scarcely sing more out of tune if they endeavoured to do their worst. In this respect the Italian singers are unaccountably deficient, and seem not to be blest with such good ears as our countrymen; for out of the number at present in London, I do not remember one who does not sing either too flat or too sharp, and by that means mar the nicest points of the music they endeavour to perform. Bad as the musical taste is at present, such discordant sounds as are now to be heard at the Opera-house would not be tolerated throughout one song on an English stage.

It has at length been discovered that Mr. D'EEVILLE and Mr. ROSSI have exhausted the little invention they once possessed, and, after repeated attempts to produce something attractive, they have been compelled to retire, from absolute incapacity. The public however are not gainers by their removal, as they have been succeeded by a Mr. FAVIER, who promises to be much worse; his new ballet of *Les Amours de Mars et de Venus*, exceeding in tediousness every thing that has gone before it. It consists merely of a bungling representation of *Fulcan's* revenge on *Mars* and *Venus* for the latter's infidelity, and a long succession of dances destitute of novelty or meaning. It has also its due share of little boys and girls dressed up for the Loves and Graces, and the TWANLEYS and the TOOZES are once more brought forward, as if to shew how unavailing all their efforts have been, and that they have sacrificed their juvenile years, which might have been spent in better pursuits, without arriving at mediocrity in a profession, that can only please in its perfection. H. R.

## FINE ARTS.

## ROYAL ACADEMY.

"To promote the Fine Arts in Britain has become of greater importance than is generally imagined. A flourishing commerce begets opulence; and opulence, inflaming our appetite for pleasure, is commonly vented on luxury, and on every sensual gratification. Selfishness rears its head, becomes fashionable, and, infecting all ranks, extinguishes the *amor patriæ*, and every spark of public spirit. To prevent or retard such fatal corruption, the genius of an Alfred cannot devise any means more efficacious than the venting opulence upon the Fine Arts: riches so employed, instead of encouraging vice, will excite both public and private virtue. Of this happy effect, ancient Greece furnishes one shining instance; and why should we despair of another in Britain?"—

*Dedication to Kames's Elements of Criticism.*

The greater portion of mankind are dazzled with the extrinsic splendour of nominal titles and of wealth. To obtain their homage, it is sufficient that a being descended from the same common origin, composed of the same elements, obnoxious to the same evils, and destined to the same sepulchral corruption with themselves, is fed on more luxurious food, is carried about by gaily-caparisoned horses, lives in a large and richly-furnished mansion, expends an immense income, and, above all, is called, your Grace, your Highness, or your Majesty. But the few and justly-thinking of mankind, know that external things—things common to the weak-minded and vicious, the accident of birth, or the blind preferences of Fortune, confer no excellence, and deserve no respect; however the institutions of society occasionally demand it. But when the externals of wealth, birth, and power, are united to intrinsic worth, the philosophic few, while they reverence the latter, will rejoice in its possession of the former, as the valuable means of benefiting mankind. It is therefore with the heartfelt satisfaction of fellow-countrymen, and of men destined to the obedience of constitutional subjects, that reflecting Englishmen have observed the Heir Apparent of late years forsaking those levities which cast a gloom over the perspective of their political prospects, regulating his private conduct by the maxims of a purer morality, and his public by the principles of that civil constitution, which the history of England, down to the last years of the reign of George the Third, the history of its good, bad, and indifferent princes, will convince him is the only way to obtain and confer true glory and happiness. One of those evidences of true princely dignity, consists in his Royal Highness taking every opportunity of shewing his regard for the Imitative Arts, which confer pecuniary and intellectual wealth on a nation.

The Anniversary Dinner of the Royal Academy, was yesterday week graced by his presence, and he delivered the following energetic Address to the numerous assemblage of titled and untitled Amateurs, Artists, Literati, and other scientific and public characters:—

After a few of the usual toasts, the Prince rose and said, that in witnessing the exertions of the Academy in this Exhibition, he could not limit the expression of his feelings to the mere words of a toast—that he felt the pride of an Englishman in these efforts of the genius and talents of his countrymen; and had no doubt, from this unequivocal proof of their increasing excellence, that great

as this country now appeared in the eyes of Europe by her exertions in arms, by her constitution, her liberties, and her laws, the time was fast approaching, if it had not arrived, when her superiority in the Arts would be equally acknowledged; that he spoke this after an attentive examination of the several works, though with far inferior judgment to many noblemen and gentlemen who heard him, but whose sanction of that opinion he was certain he should have; that he had witnessed, with great pleasure, the exertions of the Royal Academy and of the different Artists on former occasions, but that what he had beheld to-day far surpassed any previous display; that he again congratulated the Academy and the country on the general excellence and splendour of an Exhibition, "distinguished (he said) by Portraits that would not have shamed the pencil of Vandyke, and by Landscapes that even Claude Lorraine could not have seen without delight."

The venerable President, Mr. West, then rose, the Academicians also standing up, and expressed to his Royal Highness the lively sense of the honour he had done them by this signal mark of approbation. He scarcely expected to have lived to see the day when so proud and so encouraging a mark of distinguished patronage would have been given. With such indulgence extended to the Arts in England, they would before long arrive at the proudest eminence of talent. The impression now made on their hearts could not fail to animate their efforts in future, and he trusted that England would soon rival the brightest era of antiquity in the Fine Arts.

The Marquis of STAFFORD professed his determination to afford the Arts, under the auspices of the Prince Regent, President of the British Institution, every possible encouragement.

In pronouncing on the superior excellence of the present Exhibition, the Royal Orator was critically correct. The pencil of the President sustains his epic dignity in several pieces, as does the Professor FUSLI, in his *Macbeth consulting the Vision of the armed Head*, and in his representation of *Dion seeing a Female Spectre overturn his Altars and sweep his Hall*. Mr. LANE's *Christ decided*, exhibits great advancement of talent. There are various fancy pieces highly honourable to the taste and sensibilities of the Artists, and a richer mass of excellence in Landscape and Portraiture than has ever been witnessed in any single Exhibition. There are also some good Architectural Designs; several very beautiful specimens of Statuary by FLAXMAN, BACON, ROSSI, and TREED; and several capital Busts by CRANTRY, NOLLEKENS, and GARRARD.—Though I always have to regret the narrow limits allowed to me, I will endeavour, before the close of the Exhibition, to sketch off the general character of the chief pieces in each department.

63. *The Amor vincit omnia* guiding the three Elements, B. WEST, P. R. A., is, indisputably, the best-coloured picture in the Rooms. In fact, I do not hesitate to say, in opposition to the prejudice which will not allow a living painter to share the praise of prescriptive excellence, that in imitating the breadth, toning, gradation, truth, and brightness of TITIAN's colour, Mr. WEST has equalled the hitherto unrivalled power of that Master. Like TITIAN's, the greater portion of cold hue appears in the sky and back-ground, balanced by a few dashes of it in the nearer parts. Like his, the parts of the flesh most

exposed to the light possess the utmost degree of fairness without any of that sickly white which is common when brightness is aimed at, and the shadows are perfectly fleshy and transparent, approximating neither to the purple, yellow, or brown hues, which render the shadows of flesh in most pictures so unnatural and unpleasant. Let a fair hand be placed near the light parts of the naked in most pictures that are even well coloured, and they will appear comparatively dingy, of a reddish brown, or of a paper complexion. Do this on the bosom of the Cupid in this picture, and you will feel enamoured with its beauty, for it still preserves its original brightness, and exhibits an equal degree of delicacy; and, I might almost venture to say, equal appearance of nature, with the life. The God of Love is endowed with the elegance and delicate vivacity of countenance and action especially called forth by his employment, of guiding the three Elements, personified by a Lion, a Sea-horse, and an Eagle. Their "eager airs of joy" designate the rapturous influence and vital power of their Guide; to whom,—

"with full consent  
 "Of complicated members, with the bloom  
 "Of colour, and the vital change of growth,  
 "Life's holy flame and piercing sense are giv'n,  
 "And active motion speaks the temper'd soul."

188. *Lot and his Daughters conducted by two Angels.*  
 B. WEST, P. R. A.—The history of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, contained in the 19th chapter of Genesis, is here displayed adequately to the highly animated description in that book. The magic powers of light, shade, colour, and form, are combined with admirable skill to raise the emotions of terror, while the imagination is delighted in the opposite impression of elegance produced by the graceful forms and movements of the group of Angels with Lot and his Daughters. The painter's mind must have kindled to a fervor of conception in so glowing and grand a display of destructive floods of brimstone and fire, that are rained in forked currents on the guilty, devoted, and dismayed cities and plains. It must have felt the enthusiasm of art, while it directed his hand in the impressive delineation of the fearful hurry exhibited in the persons who are escaping for their lives from the devouring element that behind them pours from the sky and rages along the ground, from a far illuminating every object with terrific brilliancy.

#### NEW MONUMENT TO LORD NELSON IN GUILD-HALL.

As the superior strength and prowess of the British Navy constitute one of the national bulwarks, it is the interest as well as duty of the country to adopt every possible means of rewarding those Naval Worthies who promote its power and glory. The City of London has therefore been patriotically grateful to superior skill and exalted bravery, by erecting in one of its most publicly frequented edifices a Monument to the memory of NELSON. I regret that its judgment in art has been in this instance so unworthy of the generosity of its feelings. Before seeing the Monument, and falsely supposing that the City could not fail of raising one to so celebrated an individual that would be worthy of public remark, I promised a critical notice. It is, however, altogether so defective, that the reader's time must not be wasted in reading what would consist altogether of censure.

R. H.

#### PENAL LAWS.

An afflicting detail has been laid on the table of the House of Commons, in consequence of the humane endeavours of Sir SAMUEL ROBERTS to modify our Penal Laws. It is a return of the number of Commitments for trial in the years 1805-6-7-8, and 1809, "distinguishing the Crimes, the Convictions, and the Sentences."—In London and Middlesex alone, it appears, that the numbers were:

	Committed.	Indicted.	Convicted.
1805.....	980.....	951.....	558
1806.....	899.....	855.....	475
1807.....	1017.....	980.....	542
1808.....	1110.....	1074.....	619
1809.....	1242.....	1197.....	750

In this melancholy table the gradual increase of crimes and convictions for the last three years is very remarkable; and we fear that the evil may be traced to the pressure of the times, for we observe that it is under the head of *Larceny* that the increase of crime is chiefly to be found.

The total number of Commitments, Trials, and Convictions for all England, in 1809, is—Committed, 2740—Indicted, 2601—Convicted, 1577—Executed, 50.

#### FASHIONS FOR MAY.

For the out-door costume, short pelisses in sarsnet, trimmed with Mechlin lace, with lace capes, made to meet in front, and fitting the shape with the most minute exactness, confined to the waist with elastic bands, made on the same plan as the glove-tops were formerly, and fastened with cope de perle clasps; pelisses also in black or white lace, or soft mull muslins, lined with pale primrose or celestial blue sarsnets, are much approved. Mantles, extremely short, hardly exceeding the bounds of a large tippet, made to sit plain on the back, and confined in to the waist behind, and lace cloaks with a small satin under tippet, so formed as to cover the neck and shoulders, which would otherwise be too much exposed to the sun and air, make up the list of the several varieties which we have to offer in this class of dress. A new satin has lately been produced, which has the appearance of being crimped small, or ribbed; this has a very pleasing effect when made up into bonnets, and is of the newest invention. Morning and walking dresses are made high in the neck, with collars, in the form of a pelisse, buttoned from the throat to the feet with small raised buttons, much intermixed with lace; these dresses are deservedly much approved, as, in addition to their simple and graceful form, they possess all the convenience and answer every end of the pelisse, by the trifling addition of a silk pel-rine or handkerchief; others are made high in the neck, without collars, in the Roman form. For home, or dinner dresses, mull or striped muslins, plain sarsnets, opera nets, figured gauzes, are the most appropriate; and the form either high to the neck, after the costume of the Romans, or low in the back, nearly stripped off the shoulders, and cut round and moderately high on the bosom. In full or evening dress, the bosoms of the dresses are cut something lower, the back and shoulders still more exposed, the sleeves are worn invariably short and plain; the necks are either trimmed with a simple chenille trimming, or beads; but if with lace, it must be Mechlin, and full two nails deep, set on full. Twilled silks are no longer even candidates for approbation, it is so generally allowed that they cast a shade over the complexion which make them extremely unbecoming. It is a singularity, however, worthy of remark, that, for this last fortnight, our younger belles have declined the aid of any ornament whatever, neither necklace, earrings, brooches, bracelets, or even combs, have appeared upon them. The hair is worn dressed in full flat curls over the face, twisted

behind, the ends brought forward and blended with the front half. The gloves are worn very short; the fans are increasing in size; trains are more laid aside through convenience than fashion. The prevailing colours for the season are yellow, primrose, pink, lilac, straw, and blue celeste. Feathers in full dress were never so universal.—*La Belle Assemblée*.

## CITY.

A Court of Common Council was on Thursday held for the purpose of considering a motion to present the Freedom of the City to the Prince Regent.

A report concerning Smithfield Market, and another concerning the erection of a bridge over the Thames, near London Bridge, having been taken into consideration and discussed.

Mr. QUIN rose. He had been told by his worthy Friend near him, that it was to be feared the tediousness of the preceding discussions should spoil his very excellent speech. This might be flattery in his worthy Friend—he was ill able to give them an excellent speech; but still he had the consolation of thinking, that the subject on which he was about to address them would elicit feelings which might apologise for a very bad one. Indeed, after the various jarring matters which had distracted his head during the preceding part of the day, he had little hope of producing any thing worthy their attention. In the first place, however, if the Court conceived that the present motion had any merit, he must in justice disclaim its being at all attributable to him. It had entirely originated with the worthy Alderman (Combe), who graced the same bench with his Lordship; and he had little merit, except that of having endeavoured to give substance, shape, and form, to his ideas. This motion might appear strange to many, who reflected that upwards of half a century had elapsed since the freedom of the City of London had been presented to a Prince of the Blood. He did not mean to go back to the cause of such a long interval; but he should say, that no better opportunity could occur for its cessation than the present. He did not mean to flatter his Royal Highness; flattery was not the province of freemen, and ought not to be offered to the Prince of a free people. No doubt, however, the Regent would distinguish between the grossness of servile adulation and the just offering of well-merited praise. His Royal Highness had early proved himself entitled to that praise: he had proved it in the answer which he made to Mr. Pitt in 1789—an answer which had filled every reflecting mind with joy, and particularly those who thought that the salvation of the country depended, not only on the persevering efforts of the people, but on the co-operation of a patriot Prince. He had then told the Minister, that he considered the power given to the Crown as a trust delegated for the security of the people. This memorable sentence had justly raised the hopes of the nation; it had stripped off the superstition with which Crowns were surrounded; it had dispelled the delusion of divine, indefeasible right; it had finally established the glorious cause for which England had so long struggled—for which Russel and Sidney fought—for which Locke wrote—and which that Court would doubtless be ever ready to defend. Thus, in 1789, they had this noble declaration emanating from a British Prince. He did not now mean to describe his conduct at that disastrous period; he did not mean to point out his moderation and forbearance during the whole time—his seclusion from even his nearest political friends, and, in short, his display of every virtue which could dignify a royal mind. No; he only meant to draw their attention to the magnanimity with which, on a late occasion, he had refused to add to the burthens of the people for the purpose of adding to his personal splendour. Now, when they were labouring under such privations, and called on to make such sacrifices, not only for their own people, but for those of Portugal, such an instance of singular self-denial must be doubly gratifying. One more instance of the Prince's characteristic patriotism, and he would have done; he meant his late refusal to encourage any exertion of Parliamentary influence. This, after Parli-

mentary Reform, was the most desirable object for the country. He must be excused, however, when he said, give him PARLIAMENTARY REFORM, in preference to the purity of any Prince whatsoever; his reason was obvious; it was, that that the one was permanent, but the other was only a temporary blessing—a fleeting security—a personal existence. Such a declaration, however, from the Prince was a good omen of his future friendship to Reform. As a Noble Friend of his had justly said, Reform depended on the joint exertion of the people and the Prince. Mr. QUIN here instanced the several grants of freedom which the City of London had made to Princes; among others, to the Duke of Cumberland, the Duke of Gloucester, the King of Denmark, the Duke of York—

Mr. WHEBLE—"What Duke of York?"

Mr. QUIN—"Not the Duke of York whose military achievements have been so much the theme of the Honourable Member's panegyric (*A laugh*), but the brother of the King."

Mr. QUIN then moved a Resolution, "That the Freedom of this City be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in testimony of the deep and grateful sense entertained by this Court of his public virtues, and amiable and endearing qualities," &c.

Mr. FAVEL seconded the resolution. It reminded him of the glorious struggle of our ancestors, it reminded him of the expulsion of the Stuarts; it reminded him of the principles which paved the way for the revolution, because it reminded him of the virtues of the House of Hanover, which that revolution went to place on the throne. He hoped that they might now hail the dawn of that day, on which the original principles of the Constitution would be reverted to, and on which those would no longer be considered its friends who went to defend its abuses and forget its purity. He was no indiscriminate admirer of power; if he was, he might bow down to the idols of Napoleon, but he was a friend to power when founded upon principle. Such was the connection which distinguished England; such was the union which they were that day met to reward and celebrate—the union of moral virtue and political authority—the union of public principle and high station. It was the rock of England's security; and as long as this stood, the country must remain unshaken.

Alderman C. SMITH thought the public and private virtues of the Prince had an irresistible claim to the gratitude of the nation.

Alderman COMBE thanked the worthy mover of the Resolution for the allusion which he had made to the share which he took in framing the Resolution. He was convinced, that the freedom of the city would be as acceptable to the Regent as it had been amply merited by him.

The Resolution was then carried unanimously.

Mr. QUIN then moved, "that his Royal Highness be requested to honour this city by his acceptance of the said freedom," and "that a copy of the said freedom be presented in a box of British heart of oak;" both which Resolutions were also carried unanimously.

The LORD MAYOR was requested to wait on his Royal Highness, to communicate the Resolutions of the Court, and to know his Royal pleasure as to the manner in which he will be pleased to be attended when the said Freedom is presented to him.

A Committee was appointed to provide the said Box, suitably ornamented and embellished with gold, and to prepare a proper device to be put thereon.

The RECORDER'S Salary was ordered to be raised to 2,500*l.* per annum, to commence from Christmas last.

## PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

On Friday a most respectable and numerous Meeting of the Livery of London, friends to Parliamentary Reform, Mr. Waithman in the Chair, dined together at the City of London Tavern.

The first toasts drunk were,

"The King," with three cheers.

"The Prince Regent, and may he never forget the sentiment

contained in his own declaration, that the powers and prerogatives of the Crown are vested there as a trust for the benefit of the people."

"The People."

Mr. WAITHMAN took occasion to express, in very handsome terms, his belief, in giving the second toast, that no doubt ought to exist in the minds of the public, that the illustrious person alluded to would act up to the assurances he had given. The Chairman then proposed the health of

"Sir Francis Burdett, with a full, fair, and free Representation of the People in Parliament."

Which was drunk with enthusiasm.

Mr. WAITHMAN assured the meeting, that the absence of the worthy Baronet was occasioned solely by a feeling of public duty, arising from the necessity imposed on him of attending to the progress of the Westminster Bill in the House of Commons. He then begged leave to propose to them a Gentleman distinguished by his sincere and undeviating attachment to all the principles of Reform; and to couple with his name a county peculiarly characterized by independence of sentiment; a county represented by that Gentleman.

"Mr. Brand, and the Freeholders of Hertfordshire."

Mr. BRAND returned thanks in a speech of considerable ability, in which he strongly enforced the indispensable necessity incumbent on all present, and those who concurred with them, to spread the influence of their sentiments, and transmit it to every corner of the Empire. Without unanimity in the expression of the nation's voice upon this transcendently important question; it was impossible that it could succeed, and against that unanimity, once obtained, no resistance could possibly avail. He wished, therefore, in a particular manner to impress on the attention of those who heard him, the importance of directing their minds to the power of the nominees of boroughs; whether at the disposal of individuals or of the Treasury, who purchased by wholesale the retained rights and liberties of their fellow subjects. The Honourable Gentleman concluded an animated speech, by proposing the health of Mr. Whitbread, who, under every circumstance of adversity and difficulty; had proved himself the determined enemy of every species of abuse, and the steadfast friend to the liberties of his country. This toast was drunk with unbounded applause.

Mr. WAITHMAN's health being drunk, he addressed the Meeting. Under all the difficulties by which he had seen men depressed at different periods, there were none, he believed, so generally embarrassing as those created by a public and unanimous grant of approbation. He had laboured for sixteen years in the service of his fellow citizens, and if his exertions had failed, they ought to be attributed to any other cause than a want of zeal and determination. He might be deficient in talent, but at least he could boast a resolution to persevere and stand forward whenever the interests or the benefit of the country were at issue. He then proceeded to state that he had drawn up a Declaration which he conceived ought to be submitted to the Livery of London, reciting the sentiments of that body at the close of the American war, and pledging themselves in future to vote only for such Representatives as should engage themselves to support a Reform in Parliament. These sentiments, he suggested, were still more appropriate at the present period, after corruption had been defended on the principle of its being as notorious as noon day, and the expression of Lord Bathurst to Dean Swift was so fully and practically exemplified in the instance of our present State Coach Driver. Mr. W. then read several passages from the speeches of Mr. Gray and Mr. Fox, in 1797, in which the latter most powerfully supported the argument for a general and universal Reform. He denied, therefore, that he did wrong in accusing those who had since deserted their principles (Mr. Tierney and others) since that desertion was as insulting to the memory of Mr. Fox as it was prejudicial to their own fame and the interests of their country.

On Lord OSSULSTON's health being drunk, the Noble Lord observed, that nothing was more necessary in the prosecution of the great measure of Parliamentary Reform; than to discri-

minate accurately and justly between those who professed themselves its friends, at particular periods, and those who pursued it with a steady, disinterested, and unabating perseverance. There were two seasons which their enemies had discovered to be unpropitious to the work of reformation—the season of peace, and the season of war—(a laugh.) Above all, his Lordship conjured them to guard against that description of men, who designated themselves safe and practical politicians; whose practice consisted in fact in promoting and securing their own private interests.

Mr. WAITHMAN then proposed the health of Mr. BYNG, who professed, in warm terms, his constant and determined attachment to the best and most practicable means of accomplishing a Reform.

Mr. WARDLE declared his opinion (at considerable length) to be, that nothing short of a radical Reform could secure the welfare of the nation.

Mr. Alderman COMBE returned thanks in a neat speech.

Mr. WILLIAM SMITH observed, that the verb 'to reform,' had been said to have no present tense. In reference to this remark; it was natural to remember, that the first grammarian of the age (Mr. Horne Tooke) had been through his whole life a most resolute and consistent reformer. He had himself, he believed, not varied much, during his political career, upon this subject. He should, therefore, express his sentiments, by wishing that the verb 'to reform,' might be repeated in the optative mood, till it became the imperative.

"Mr. Hutchinson, and the Prosperity of Ireland."

That Gentleman made an eloquent appeal to his audience in behalf of his native country—a country which had, he observed, been most properly termed one of the brightest gems in the Imperial Crown of the British Empire, but a gem which the present system of our Government threatened to throw away. It had often been his task, and a melancholy one, to endeavour to call the attention of Parliament to the ill-understood situation of the Sister Kingdom. Reform he would therefore support, because he believed it to be the best; if not the only means, of securing the stability and integrity of the empire at large.

Major CARLWRIGHT congratulated the room on the rapid progress of the principles of Reform.

Messrs. Aldermen DONVILLE, WOOD, and GOODBENET, severally returned thanks on the meeting drinking their health; and the evening was passed with the highest harmony and conviviality.

## GOLD AND SILVER.

MR. VANSITTART'S PROPOSITIONS RESPECTING MONEY, BULLION, AND EXCHANGES, INTENDED TO BE PROPOSED TO PARLIAMENT.

1. That the right of establishing and regulating the legal money of this kingdom hath at all times been a Royal Prerogative, vested in the Sovereigns thereof, who have from time to time exercised the same as they have seen fit, in changing such legal money, or altering or varying the value, and enforcing or restraining the circulation thereof, by Proclamation, or in concurrence with the Estates of the Realm by Act of Parliament; and that such legal money cannot lawfully be defaced, melted down, or be exported.

2. That the promissory notes of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England are engagements to pay certain sums of money in the legal coin of this kingdom; and that for more than a century past, the said Governor and Company were at all times ready to discharge such promissory notes in legal coin of the realm, until restrained from so doing on the 25th of February, 1797, by his Majesty's Order in Council, confirmed by Act of Parliament.

3. That the promissory notes of the said Company have hitherto been, and are at this time, held to be equivalent to the legal coin of the realm, in all pecuniary transactions to which such coin is legally applicable.

4. That at various periods, as well before as since the said

restriction, the exchanges between Great Britain and several other countries have been unfavourable to Great Britain; and that during such periods, the prices of gold and silver bullion, especially of such gold bullion as could be legally exported, have frequently risen above the mint price; and the coinage of money at the Mint has been either wholly suspended or greatly diminished in amount; and that such circumstances have usually occurred, when expensive naval and military operations have been carried on abroad, and in times of public danger or alarm, or when large importations of grain from foreign parts have taken place.

5. That such unfavourable exchanges, and rise in the price of bullion, occurred to a greater or less degree during the wars carried on by King William the 3d and Queen Anne; and also during part of the seven years war, and of the American war; and during the war and scarcity of grain in 1795 and 1796, when the difficulty increased to such a degree, that on the 25th of February, 1797, the Bank of England was restrained from making payments in cash by his Majesty's Order in Council, confirmed and continued to the present time by divers Acts of Parliament; and the exchanges became afterwards still more unfavourable, and the price of bullion higher, during the scarcity which prevailed for two years previous to the peace of Amiens.

6. That during the period of 75 years, ending with the 1st of January, 1796, and previous to the aforesaid restrictions, whereof, with the exception of some small intervals, accounts are before the House, the price of standard gold in bars has been at or under the Mint price 34 years and 5 months; and above the said Mint price 39 years and 7 months; and that the price of foreign gold coin has been at or under 3*l.* 18*s.* per oz. 31 years and 2 months, and above the said price 42 years and 10 months. And that during the said period of 75 years, the price of standard silver appears to have been at or under the Mint price 3 years and 2 months only.

7. That the unfavourable state of the exchanges, and the high price of bullion, do not, in any of the instances above referred to, appear to have been produced by the restriction upon cash payments at the Bank of England, or by any excess in the issue of bank notes; inasmuch as all the said instances, except the last, occurred previously to any restriction on such cash payments; and because, so far as appears by such information as has been procured, the price of bullion has frequently been highest, and the exchanges most unfavourable, at periods when the issues of bank notes have been considerably diminished, and to have been afterwards restored to their ordinary rates although those issues have been increased.

8. That during the latter part and for some time after the close of the American war, during the years 1781, 1782, and 83, the exchange with Hamburgh fell from 34. 1. to 31. 5. being about 8 per cent.; and the price of foreign gold rose from 3*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 4*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* per oz. and the price of dollars from 5*s.* 4½*d.* per oz. to 5*s.* 11½*d.*, and that the bank notes in circulation were reduced between March 1802 and December 1802, from 9,160,000*l.* to 5,995,000*l.*, being a diminution of above one-third, and continued (with occasional variations) at such reduced rate until December, 1784; and that the exchange with Hamburgh rose to 34. 6. and the price of gold fell to 3*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* and dollars to 5*s.* 4½*d.* per oz. before the 25th of February, 1807, the amount of bank notes being then increased to 8,088,000*l.*

9. That the amount of bank notes in February, 1807, was 8,488,000*l.*, and in February, 1791, 11,699,000*l.*; and that during the same period, the sum of 10,704,000*l.* was coined in gold; and that the exchange with Hamburgh rose about 3 per cent.

10. That between the 25th of February, 1795, and the 25th of February, 1797, the amount of bank notes was reduced from 13,539,000*l.* to 8,640,000*l.* during which time the exchange with Hamburgh fell from 36. to 35., being about 3 per cent. and the said amount was increased to 11,855,000*l.* exclusive of 1,542,000*l.* in notes of 1*l.* and 2*l.* each on the 1st of February, 1798, during which time the exchange rose to 38. 2, being about 9 per cent.

11. That the average price of wheat per quarter in England, in the year 1798, was 50*s.* 3*d.*; in 1799, 67*s.* 5*d.*; in 1800, 113*s.* 7*d.*; in 1801, 118*s.* 3*d.*; and in 1802, 67*s.* 5*d.*:

The amount of bank notes, of 5 <i>l.</i> and upwards.		The amount of bank notes, of 5 <i>l.</i> and under.	
£.		£.	
in 1798, about 11,527,000	-	1,810,000	equal to 13,337,000
in 1799, - 12,408,500	-	1,653,800	- - 14,062,300
in 1800, - 13,421,900	-	1,931,800	- - 15,353,700
in 1801, - 13,451,300	-	2,715,100	- - 16,166,400
in 1802, - 13,917,900	-	3,136,400	- - 17,054,300

That the exchange with Hamburgh was, in January 1798, 38*s.* 2*d.*; January 1799, 37*s.* 7*d.*; January 18 0*y.* 32*s.*; January 1801, 29*s.* 8*d.*; being in the whole a fall of above 22 per cent.—In January 1802, 32*s.* 2*d.*; and December 1802, 34*s.*; being a rise of about 20 per cent.

12. That during all the periods above referred to, previous to the commencement of the war with France in 1793, the principal States of Europe preserved their independence, and the trade and correspondence thereof were carried on conformably to the accustomed law of nations; and that although from the time of the invasion of Holland by the French in 1795, the trade of Great Britain with the Continent was in part circumscribed and interrupted, it was carried on freely with several of the most considerable ports, and commercial correspondence was maintained at all times previous to the summer of 1807.

13. That since the month of November 1806, and especially since the summer of 1807, a system of exclusion has been established against the British trade on the Continent of Europe, under the influence and terror of the French power, and enforced with a degree of violence and rigour never before attempted, whereby all trade and correspondence between Britain and the continent of Europe has (with some occasional exceptions, chiefly in Sweden and in certain parts of Spain and Portugal) been hazardous, precarious and expensive, the trade being loaded with excessive freights to foreign shipping, and other unusual charges; and that the trade of Britain and the United States of America has also been uncertain and interrupted; and that in addition to these circumstances, which have greatly affected the course of payments between this country and other nations, the naval and military expenditure of the United Kingdom in foreign parts has, for three years past, been very great; and the price of grain, owing to a deficiency in the crops, higher than at any time whereof the accounts appear before Parliament, except during the scarcity of 1800 and 1801; and that large quantities thereof have been imported.

14. That the amount of currency necessary for carrying on the transactions of the country must bear a proportion to the extent of its trade and its public revenue and expenditure; and that the annual amount of the exports and imports of Great Britain, on an average of three years, ending 5th of January 1797, was 51,199,141*l.* official value; the average amount of revenue paid into the Exchequer, including the profit on the Lottery, 19,495,945*l.*; and the average amount of the total expenditure of Great Britain, 42,855,111*l.*; and that the average amount of bank notes in circulation (all of which were for 5*l.* or upwards) was about 11,262,000*l.*; and that 57,274,617*l.* had been coined in gold during his Majesty's reign, of which a large sum was then in circulation.

That the annual amount of the exports and imports of Great Britain, on an average of three years, ending 5th January 1810, was 70,554,719*l.*; the average amount of duties paid into the Exchequer, 59,965,257*l.*; and the average amount of the total expenditure of Great Britain, 77,802,674*l.*; and that the amount of bank notes above 5*l.* on an average of the years 1808 and 1809, was 13,763,000*l.* and of notes under 5*l.* about 4,500,000*l.*; and that the amount of gold coin in circulation was greatly diminished.

15. That the situation of this kingdom, in respect of its political and commercial relations with foreign countries, as above stated, is sufficient, without any change in the internal value of its currency, to account for the unfavourable state of the foreign exchanges, and for the high price of bullion.

16. That it is highly important that the restriction on the

payments in cash of the Bank of England should be removed, whenever the political and commercial relations of the country shall render it compatible with the public interest.

17. That under the circumstances affecting the political and commercial relations of this kingdom with foreign countries, it would be highly inexpedient and dangerous now to fix a definite period for the removal of the restriction of cash payments at the Bank of England, prior to the conclusion of a definitive treaty of peace.

### POLICE.

#### HOW-STREET.

On Monday evening John Pedlar was brought to the Office, charged on suspicion of being the cause of the death of John Bartlett, by given him violent blows, &c. It appeared that the prisoner and the deceased were together at the Red-Lion-and-Still public-house, in Drury-lane, on the Wednesday preceding; the prisoner was there nearly the whole of the day, till about three o'clock, when the unfortunate affair happened; the deceased had also been drinking freely. A quarrel arose between them respecting their trade as carriers, and they were going to fight in the tap-room, but were twice prevented. The deceased wished to defer fighting till the following morning, it was said; but, however, they both retired to the back part of the house, where they stripped, and fought two rounds fairly, no foul blows being given by either. At the close of the second round, the deceased fell. After this he became helpless, his nose bled profusely; he was got up, when he appeared in great agony; said he was a dead man, and wished to die there; after some time, he was with some difficulty led home. The surgeon who attended him, stated, that the deceased died about 5 o'clock on Sunday morning. He had since opened the body, and he ascertained that he was ruptured, which he considered to be the cause of his death. The prisoner was committed for further examination.

#### MARLBOROUGH-STREET.

Thomas, who it has been stated has undergone two examinations on the charge of having forged Dividend Warrants, but not in conjunction with Armitage, was on Thursday finally examined. The prisoner was a Bank Clerk in the Imperial Annuity Office, and the warrants forged were to obtain the dividends of a person who had been dead about three years, and whose executors had not applied for his property. It appeared that 360*l.* had been paid out of the Bank, and the prisoner had signed as an attesting witness. It was also sworn that Bank notes, with which the dividends were paid, were found in the prisoner's possession. Under these circumstances the prisoner was fully committed for trial. This is one of the cases disclosed by Roberts.—Armitage having also been fully committed, there can be no impropriety in stating that Roberts and his wife are the principal witnesses against him. The evidence of Roberts goes to prove that he procured the forged Dividend Warrants, which were filled up by Armitage, at the former's lodgings, and the money obtained by Roberts. Mrs. Roberts's testimony goes to prove the intimacy that subsisted between her husband and Armitage, and that she had frequently seen Dividend Warrants pass betwixt them.

### ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

A respectable woman, of the name of Burham, who kept a school at Newington-road, was found burnt to death in her parlour on Tuesday morning; and what is more astonishing, the fire had not reached the bed, or any part of the furniture, nor had the slightest alarm prevailed. The deceased was stricken in years, and, from the situation in which she was found, she had probably fallen into the fire in a fit, to which she was subject. She was last observed reading, as was her usual habit. The body was in a dreadful state.

On Sunday se'night, Lieut. Fleetwood, of the Royal Navy, and Agent for Transports at Jersey, cut his throat in a shocking manner, and expired almost immediately. The servant having called him for some time to no purpose, and finding the door bolted on the inside, looked through the key-hole, and

perceived the unfortunate gentleman lying on the bed covered with blood. The door was then broken open, but the wound he had inflicted on himself was so deep, that life had been extinct for some time. He left three letters on the table:—One was for his mother; the second for a Captain in the Royal Navy, begging him to take care of his dear children, and to give them what money was due to him (his wife being dead)—it also intimated that misfortune had occasioned the rash act; the third was directed to the Lieut. of Greville Signal Post, requesting him to see him interred in a decent manner, which was done, his corpse being attended to the grave by the most respectable persons of the island, and eight Lieutenants of the Navy. He was exceedingly respected in the island.

An Inquisition was taken on Monday, at the Britannia, Poland-street, on the body of a Mr. Burke, who killed himself at his lodgings. It appeared in evidence that the deceased had lived four years at his lodgings, and for several months he had been in a declining state of health, with occasional fever. On Sunday afternoon, after having shaved himself, his servant having left the room, he inflicted a mortal wound with the razor across the abdomen, and with such effect as to let out his intestines, when he expired immediately. It was proved that the unfortunate man had been reduced so much by illness that he was quite dejected, and at intervals, when afflicted by fever, he was insane. The Jury returned a verdict of *Insanity*.

### BIRTHS.

On the 1st instant, the wife of Charles James, Esq. of Ham Common, Surrey, of a daughter.

### MARRIAGES.

On Monday last, at Banham, Norfolk, Mr. John Martineau, jun. to Miss Taylor, eldest daughter of Sam. Taylor Esq. of Banham Haugh.

Capt. Nesbitt, R. N. to Miss Maria, youngest daughter of Wm. Fisher, Esq. of Great Yarmouth.

Lately, Mr. Lovegrove, the Comedian, of the Lyceum Company, to Miss Wieppert, the performer on the Harp.

### DEATHS.

On Friday week, at his seat in Norfolk, Sir James Pulteney, Bart. a General in the army, and Colonel of the 18th regiment. His death was occasioned by the accident of his powder horn taking fire, while loading his gun, when the catch of it being blown violently into his left eye, occasioned an inflammation, which no medical skill could allay.

On Wednesday, aged seventy, John Smart, Esq. of Russell place, miniature-painter.

On Thursday, April 25, at Tiverton, at an advanced age, Richard Blundell, Esq.—“To those (says a Correspondent) who knew him, it is unnecessary to describe his virtues—to those who knew him not, it is difficult to convey an adequate description of his universal benevolence and goodness of heart.”

On the 17th ult. at Newhutte, county of Durham, Edw. Wetenhall, Esq. in his 68th year.

On Wednesday, in Hereford-street, Lady Essex Finch, daughter to the late Earl of Winchilsea.

Friday week, Mr. John Howard, farmer, of Rockland, Norfolk.—1,300 guineas and 80*l.* in silver have been found in his house since his decease.

Lately, Mary Discombe, of Exeter, aged 102. She had 16 children, 37 grand children, and 32 great grand children.

In the parish of Fintry, county of Sterling (Scotland) Mr. John Dunn, farmer, aged 105. He was 50 before he married; he has left a widow and eight children.

On the 5th of March, at Kenton (Scotland) Mrs. Margaret Milburn, aged 104.

A few days ago, in the Poor-house, Whitehaven, Olivia Grears, a pauper, aged 104.

On Monday last, at Runsgate, after a short illness, George Louch, Esq.