

THE EXAMINER.

No. 178 SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1811.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

No. 174.

SENTENCE PASSED AGAINST THE PROPRIETOR OF THE STAMFORD NEWS.

INDIVIDUALS who labour to procure any great national good, in opposition to the existing powers and to the sense that may be put on existing laws, are sure to suffer, in some way or other, from their patriotism; but conscious of their good intentions, and having so glorious an end in view, the very hazards of the game give a peculiar relish to their endeavours; and if, in one respect, they suffer more than the timid and the time-serving, they can extract from that sufferance a delight to which the best enjoyments of the latter are not to be compared. These truths, so often repeated in different ways by this paper, and so often and so naturally denied by those who cannot feel them, have struck me with additional force in hearing of the exemplary good temper and self-satisfaction with which Mr. DRAKARD, the Proprietor of the *Stamford News*, bears the sentence just passed on him in the Court of King's Bench.

The excellent example which the *Stamford News* lately set to the press in agitating the question of Military Scourging, and its general and incontrovertible impartiality in speaking its mind even of its own side in politics, are too well known to need the praise of repetition. The Public well remember also, that for reprinting the strongest part of the article relative to the Barbarism just mentioned, the Proprietors of the *Examiner* were tried in the Court of King's Bench, and to the great satisfaction of all the journals in town not immediately on the side of the Ministers, acquitted. For this article, including what we had omitted,—omitted, notwithstanding what a Barrister chose to affirm to the contrary, only because we thought it not as forcible as the rest,—Mr. DRAKARD was tried by a Lincoln Jury, who differing altogether from a Westminster Jury, gave a verdict against him, which brought him up to London to receive the sentence above-mentioned. Mr. DRAKARD, having no reason, from all circumstances, to suppose that the judgment would be particularly mild, put into Court an affidavit in mitigation of punishment, which was printed in the *Examiner* of Sunday week,—a paper excellently drawn up by his Editor, and establishing beyond a shadow of contradiction the fact of his having been truly impartial in every great subject agitated in his paper, whether relating to Ministers or Reformists, to domestic or foreign politics, to BORDETT or BONAPARTE. The honest singleness of his conduct,

speaking through all the opinions of his Editor, was indeed so manifest, that it was thought to have made some impression on the Court; and Sir VICARY GIBBS himself appeared to thaw a little under the general warmth of conviction,—declaring that it was not his wish to press any particular severity of punishment. It does not appear, however, that such conviction produced any amelioration in the intended sentence. Looking to the feeling of the Bench with regard to the supposed offence, one might suppose that it had; but considering the offence as none at all—considering, on the contrary, the publication of Mr. DRAKARD as having proved its honesty, and effected a real public good—the sentence appears as harsh as it well could be; and on these occasions, nothing of harshness is lost in coming from the mouth of Mr. Justice GROSE. Mr. DRAKARD was brought up for judgment on Friday morning; and it was in the Court of King's Bench, in that same Court in which the *Examiner* had been acquitted—and for a piece of writing, which, in exciting the public attention, has been the means of rousing Parliament to a sense of what it owed the general feeling, and of enabling military authority to commence scourging for disobedience—an appeal to the body for an appeal to the reason—it was in this Court, and for this offence, that Mr. DRAKARD was sentenced to be imprisoned Eighteen Months in Lincoln goal; to pay a fine of two hundred pounds; to find two sureties for his good behaviour in two hundred pounds each; and to become a further surety on his own part, in the sum of four hundred. In passing the sentence, Mr. Justice GROSE took occasion to shew how entirely he differed with those persons whose estimation of the offence had been at all affected by the affidavit offered in Court. He even declared that the Court had “read it with surprise,” and expressed his indignation that the defendant, because he had adduced an instance in which he had sided against the popular feeling, and several instances in which he had denounced the conduct of BONAPARTE, should have thought himself entitled to any respect on this occasion. “The Court,” he said, “could not allow, however, that it should serve as a mitigation of a libel against any part of the Government of this country, that the author of it had libelled the enemy also.” It becomes us to conclude, therefore, that in the opinion of the Learned Judge, a writer might as well shew the grossest partiality, not only towards his countrymen that agreed with him, but towards the enemy himself, for any effect that the contrary is to produce in estimating his character at the bar. This is indeed to leave a writer without hope of escape. If you praise the conduct of BONAPARTE, honest men justly cry out against you; but if you do not, nay, if you take all possible pains to hold it up to execration, and studiously to separate his moral worth from his

talents, it is no matter:—your Judge will not think a jot the better of your spirit and impartiality:—nay, further still, Sir VICARY GIBBS will insist that you do it as a blind, as a cheat for the unwary, a cloak for some dagger that you are carrying about you! The Learned Judge concluded by letting his auditors understand, that what he said was intended as a warning to other writers. The *Examiner* begs leave to acknowledge the favour; and to assure him, that nothing on earth can induce it to forget the warning given by such opinions,—opinions that most effectually admonish the hearer against themselves, and teach him to avoid contradictions which no reasoning can make plain, and no situation can make respectable.

To the object of the Judge's censure, other acknowledgements are due; and the *Examiner* would be wanting to itself and to the public, were it not to call their particular attention to Mr. DRAKARD'S situation. He is a bookseller at Stamford; and though Lincoln gaol is not so much out of the way for him as it is for other persons, it is quite enough so to be of serious inconvenience to the conduct of his business. What with the expences of a Lincoln Trial, and of being brought to London for judgment, he will have lost, by the time he gets home again, at least seven hundred pounds, without calculating what his business may suffer by his absence. Now, though he is, by all accounts, a man of as much spirit with regard to money, as of sound temper in bearing his fate altogether, yet it would not become the public to let him suffer in their cause without manifesting a just and practical sympathy in his losses:—he has unquestionably been a means of ameliorating the condition of the soldiery; he has proved himself impartial and independent; and he has altogether done honour to the cause of Reform, by evincing that right spirit which is firm and well-tempered because it is upright, and which knows how to endure as well as to profess. On all these accounts therefore, the *Examiner* does not hesitate to recommend a public Subscription in his favour,—not as a matter of course because such a Judgment has taken place, nor yet as a proceeding which every sufferer would have the right or the necessity to expect on similar occasions,—but as an acknowledgment due to Mr. DRAKARD'S own good temper and want of pretension, from a public whom he and his friends have benefited, and a cause which he has contributed to honour. Communications on this subject to the Editor will meet with becoming attention; and if the readiness of the public shall shew that they regard the matter in the same light as ourselves, proper measures will be taken to facilitate the Subscription.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, MAY 10.—His Majesty took the diversion of the Bois de Boulogne yesterday. Prince Poniatowski and Count de Kaas were of his party for the first time. The Countess de Kaas was in her carriage.



MAY 12.—Marshal Ney, Duke of Elchingen, is arrived at Paris.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

On the 12th instant (say the papers), a destructive phenomenon appeared at Bonsall, in the Peak of Derbyshire. A singular motion was observed in a cloud of a serpentine form which moved in a circular direction, from S. by W. to N. extending itself to the ground. It began its operations near Hopton, and continued its course about five or six miles in length, and about four or five hundred yards in breadth, tearing up plantations, levelling barns, walls, and miners' cots. It tore up large ash trees, carrying them from twenty or thirty yards; and twisted the tops from the trunks, conveying them fifty to one hundred yards distance. Cows were lifted from one field to another, and injured by the fall; wash-vats, and other materials, carried to a considerable distance, and forced into the ground. This was attended with a most tremendous hail storm; stones and lumps of ice were measured from nine to 12 inches in circumference, breaking windows, injuring cattle, &c.

A young woman, named Susan Rudson, died a few days since, at a small village called Mill Hill, near Hendon, Middlesex;—her complaint was what is generally termed a galloping consumption, which arose from her taking, no doubt, at different times, poisonous medicines, procured, as she said, by her seducer, but unsuccessfully, for the purpose of producing abortion; and the last unhappy offspring was the 5th child. For several days previous to her dissolution she appeared to struggle under the most violent convulsions possible for any human being to endure, and exhibited all the horrors of imagination arising from a misspent life. A few moments before death closed her eyes, she declared she could not die until she had unburdened her conscience. A clergyman was sent for, but to him she would say nothing, but called out for a Mrs. Mackay, who had given her nourishment during her illness. This miserable creature then related how she had falsely sworn her first two children (now alive) to an innocent man, and how she had disposed of three others since. The first, a boy, she destroyed as soon as born, and buried it under a tree in a garden near Dorslane; the second, a girl, met with a similar fate, but buried it behind a public-house called the Adam and Eve, Mill-Hill; the last child, a girl also, shocking to relate, she buried alive in a field near Tottridge. After this disclosure the unhappy wretch appeared more resigned, and expired almost immediately. The circumstance had such an effect upon the people in the neighbourhood, that no one would stay with the corpse during the nights previous to burial.—*Taunton Courier*.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, May 20.

CLONCURRY'S DIVORCE.

A conversation arose on the introduction of the clause prohibiting the Adulterer and Adulteress from intermarrying.

The Earl of LINCOLN endeavoured to impress the House with the hardship of the case of Sir R. P. Piers; that he was expatriated, and could not shew his face in England or in Ireland; that his sufferings had already been converted into an ample atonement for his error; and finally, that to make the only and best restitution in his power to wounded honour, he was anxious to make the unhappy Lady his wife. The Noble Lord concluded with moving, that the clause be altogether expunged from the Bill.

The LORD CHANCELLOR trusted that the House, and the Noble Persons who at present appeared in it, would not lend themselves to so immoral and so unbecoming a Resolution. If ever there was a case which loudly and deeply called for this prohibition, it was the case of Lord Cloncurry; nor should it ever be said, that where the female was nursed in the lap of ease, she should avail herself of the indulgence of her unsuspecting

husband, to make his generosity and indulgence the pander to her lasciviousness.

Other Noble Lords spoke, and the House divided—For the motion, 16—Against it, 8.—The Bill was then passed.

LOVEDEN'S DIVORCE.

In this case the clause containing a similar prohibition was expunged, and the Bill passed.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, May 21.

THE DISSENTERS.

Earls Stanhope, Grey, Moira, Rosslyn, Lauderdale, the Marquis of Lansdowne, and Lord Erskine, presented an immense number of Petitions, from every part of England, against Lord Sidmouth's Bill.—Before the Order of the Day for the second reading was read,

Lord LIVERPOOL observed, that although he was perfectly convinced his Noble Friend (Sidmouth) had been actuated by the best motives, and that the object of the Bill had been much misconceived, yet no much alarm had been spread, he thought it would be better to withdraw the measure.—On the Order of the Day being read,

Lord SIDMOUTH expressed his concern at the misinterpretation and misconception, and, he was afraid he must add, *misrepresentation*, which had gone abroad, of the objects of his Bill, which were, chiefly, to give uniformity to the Toleration Act, which was differently construed in different counties, —to prevent persons without moral or intellectual acquirements from electing themselves to the exercise of the most important duties that could be performed by men,—and also to prevent individuals from obtaining licences as teachers and preachers, in order to exempt themselves from certain civil duties.—Abuses of this sort were quite common, and called loudly for a remedy, and in proposing one he conceived he was doing an essential service to the community. It was with deep regret that he observed the misconception and alarm that had arisen; but all ground of misconception might be removed, by going into a Committee on the Bill. He had not the remotest intention in proposing the Bill of infringing upon the Toleration Laws—he rather wished to make the Bill one of comprehension than one of exclusion; and if it was thought that its provisions tended to exclude any class of Dissenters, he was most desirous that other provisions should be so framed as to include them.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY observed, that although some misconception might exist on the subject, the flood of Petitions which had been laid upon their table, ought to convince their Lordships of the necessity of stopping short for the present. However he might lament what he conceived to be the errors of the Protestant Dissenters, it was to be recollected, the Bible was the foundation of their belief, as well as that of the Established Church, and was, or might be, in the hands of every member of the empire; and it was to be recollected that the best interpretations were but the interpretations of men, and the best of them were liable to error. He was sure, that so long as the Church of England should endure as a Church, the Dissenters would not be disturbed by the Church of England; and as he was no Prophet, he did not wish to foretel what might happen to them after it was no more. As to the Bill itself, the Noble Viscount stated, that he brought it in, as he conceived, under the sanction of the Dissenters, but the Dissenters had now thought fit to oppose it; and they were the best judges of what was for their own interests. He therefore conceived that more injury than good would result from persisting in the measure.

Lord ERSKINE opposed the second reading. But a small number, comparatively, of the Petitions against the Bill had yet come in; but there were quite enough to shew the general opinion. His Lordship then entered upon some legal objections against the Bill, and concluded by moving, that it be read this day six months.

The LORD CHANCELLOR believed the Bill to be well intended, and capable of doing good, but under the present circumstances he thought that to press it on the House would not be advisable.

Lord HOLLAND, in allusion to the assertion, that the majority of the Petitioners probably did not understand the mea-

sure against which they petitioned, observed, that the holding such language was singularly unbecoming and offensive. Looking at the immense number who signed the Petitions on the table, it was no light libel to stigmatize them with the want of understanding on a question that so closely touched their immediate interests. He was an enemy, a most decided, principled, and resolved enemy, to restraints on religious freedom. He was convinced that every man had a natural right to choose his mode of religious teaching, and that no authority ought to interfere with the choice. A man had as good a right to preach a peculiar doctrine as he had to print it. It was not meant to say, that if seditious or blasphemous doctrines were uttered, they were not to be visited; but those offences required no new Parliamentary infliction. In the language of the Right Rev. Prelate, the Scriptures were a great largess to the world, a mighty and free gift to all mankind; not restrained to the disciples or discipline of a peculiar church, but given for the benefit of the world.—(Hear!)—He considered the Toleration Act as the great religious charter; and religious liberty could not subsist unless it was perfect and secure. He was always unwilling that questions of this nature should be stirred; but if it pleased the House that the Toleration Act, which had slept for an hundred and fifty years, should be roused once more, he was ready to meet the whole discussion. The evil complained of by the Noble Lord was visionary; but the remedy was violent.—There was no document before the House to prove that there was any loss of Militia service by the privileges of the Dissenters. The Noble Lord (Sidmouth) had established his opinion on some private letters. But were those things to be documents, authorizing the House to heap disabilities on the whole immense body of Dissenters? One of those letters was from a gentleman, who complained that one of the preachers in his neighbourhood was an Atheist and Deist at once; that he denied a first cause, and preached a first cause; and it was upon the testimony of such correspondents that the present Bill was built! The part of the Bill which went to force the Dissenting Ministers to be moral after the fashion of the Noble Lord, was new, offensive, and tyrannical. The Noble Lord would manufacture the Dissenting Ministers into precisely such men as he would wish to have preaching to himself; but this was not the species of preacher that the Dissenters chose. What was the mode of qualification? They must find six housekeepers to vouch for their morality. Suppose five hundred paupers chose to hear religion from a man of their own choosing and of their own class, was it to be said, that the desire was beyond what might be permitted, and yet where was this teacher to find his six house-keeping vouchers? Or was the argument to be persisted in by those men who were so ready to boast of their attachment to religion, and to acknowledge, as one of its glories, that it had risen by the labours of humble men, not merely without dependance on, but in opposition to, the wealth and influence and power of the great of this world?—Yet it was not enough for the Bill, that the Dissenting Minister should be devout and learned, but that he should be proved to be so by his congregation. How? by the signature of six housekeepers. Was his ordeal to end here? No; the judgment of the six housekeepers was to be revised by a country Justice, before the dissenting congregation could be secure of the teacher whom they had originally chosen for his fitness.—The Bill was completely at variance with all that he had ever learnt to reverence as the genuine principles of religious liberty.—(Hear!)

Earl STANHOPE had never, since he had been a Member of Parliament, received so much pleasure as this day, in observing the number of petitions, so numerously signed, which had been presented against this most wretched Bill. He had heard it said that such was the public feeling, that they would not be affected by any thing which could possibly happen. The petitions now on their Lordships' table, however, completely gave the lie to this allegation. The event had shewn that there was still a public opinion in this country, and that it could manifest itself with effect. The Noble Lord had declared the Toleration Act to be abominable. He (Lord Stanhope) was one of those who detested that Act. He was one of those who had

read as many statutes on the subject of religion, not as the lawyers only, but as my Lords the Bishops. He had gone through them with a professional man by his side, and with his pen had abstracted and marked off three hundred laws about religion from the Statute Book; and he ventured to assert they were of such a nature as would make their Lordships disgusted with the Statute Book, and ashamed of their ancestors. An Act, however, was passed in the 1st of Edward VI. by which they were all shovelled away at once; and justly so; for what need had Religion of Acts of Parliament? Was not Religion capable of standing by itself? (*Hear, hear!*) The Noble Lord might say hear, hear, but was it not true? Was not America religious? Yet there, there was no established religion—there, there were no tithes. In one particular state, that of Connecticut, he was informed there was a law, that if any man voluntarily gave a bond to a clergyman, no suit upon it could be entertained in a Court of Justice. And for a good reason; because, it being the duty of the Clergyman to instruct his flock, and to make them good and honest men, and if he had succeeded in doing so, no such suit would have been necessary; and on the other hand, having failed to perform his duty, he could have no right to be rewarded. Oh! if the Establishment in this country were never to be paid till they made the people honest, many of them, he was afraid, would go without any reward whatever! He gave notice, that he should, early in the next Session, introduce a Bill, in place of that of which, he trusted, they had seen the last glimpse this night, founded on the equitable principle he had now alluded to.

Earl BUCKINGHAMSHIRE was convinced that, if the Bill had been suffered to go into a Committee, it would have come out free from many of the objections under which it laboured.

Earl GREY said, that the principle of the Bill was restraint—restraint and meddling for. He was against all restraint. He went along with his Noble Friend (Lord Holland) in thinking that every man who was impressed with the belief that he had a call to preach, ought to have every liberty allowed him to do so. For the last 40 years the number of persons licensed appeared to have been about 11,000. He should take, however, the last 12 years. Dividing it into two equal parts, it appeared that, in the six former years, there were 500, so that the number had diminished, instead of increasing, and the present measure, instead of being thereby more peculiarly called for, had become so much the less necessary.

The question for the second reading was then put, and negatived without a division. The Bill is therefore thrown out.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, May 22.

Some conversation took place respecting the vote of the Commons in favour of Mr. Palmer's claims.—Earls Harrowby, Lauderdale, and Radnor, disapproved of it, and thought it deserved the serious attention of the House, particularly as to the manner in which it had been carried.—No motion however was made.—Adjourned till Friday.

Friday, May 24.

The Earl of LAUDERDALE commenced an Address to the House complaining of a breach of its privileges, in consequence of a Circular Letter, which he deemed a libel on one of its Committees.—His Lordship was proceeding to state the case, when strangers were ordered to leave the House.—(The business, it is said, related to a private Bill.)

Notwithstanding a most able speech from Lord HOLLAND, in favour of Sir Samuel Romilly's Bills to restrict Capital Punishments, they were thrown out by a majority of 17.—Lord ELLENBOROUGH opposed them with his usual warmth, and he was followed by opposition by the LORD CHANCELLOR, and Lords REDESDALE and LIVERPOOL.—The Bills had the support of the Marquis of LANSDOWNE and Lords LAUDERDALE and ERSKINE.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, May 20.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM brought in a Bill to amend the Act of

the 12th of King George 1st, and another of King George 11d, respecting frivolous and vexatious Arrests.

Mr. GRATTAN presented a Petition from several of his Majesty's Roman Catholic Subjects in Ireland, both for themselves and others of the same persuasion, stating the several grievances under which they laboured, and that for the last 17 years no relief had been afforded them, and praying for relief.

Ordered to lie on the table.

Sir F. BURDETT moved, "That an Account of the Value of all Ships condemned as Droits, either of the Crown or the Lord High Admiral, should be laid before the House."—Ordered.

Sir F. BURDETT then moved for a similar Account with respect to Vessels condemned at Matta, the Bahama Island, &c.—Ordered.

THE BUDGET.

Mr. PERCEVAL moved the order of the day, for the House going into a Committee of Ways and Means.

The House having resolved itself into the Committee,

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that it was with considerable satisfaction he should submit to the Committee the Loan for the service of the present year, as he had no doubt that the terms would meet their approbation, being, as he conceived, highly advantageous to the public. Before entering on this statement, however, he thought it necessary to remind the House of the sums already voted for this year, with their respective destinations, that the Committee might have a more clear view of the sums to be provided for.

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| For the Navy, they had voted | £20,276,144 |
| Army, " " " " | 14,299,432 |
| Ireland, " " " " | 3,233,421 |
| Extraordinaries of the Army, | 3,200,000 |
| Unprovided Extraordinaries of the Army, | 627,000 |
| Making for the Army a sum somewhat above 21 millions,—more, no doubt, than in some former years, but rendered necessary by our armaments abroad. | |
| Ordinaries, | £ 5,120,378 |
| Miscellanies, | 25,000,000 |
| Vote of Credit for England, | 3,000,000 |
| Vote of Credit for Ireland, | 200,000 |
| Sicilian Subsidy, | 400,000 |
| Portugal, | 2,100,000 |

Making in all a sum of 54,338,453*l.* already voted by the House. There was a separate charge for Ireland of 113,416*l.* one million on Exchequer Bills, and 600,000*l.* interest on Exchequer Bills for Ireland; from all which, if they deducted the proportion of the joint charge for Ireland, there would be left the sum of 49,560,000*l.* to be provided for by Great Britain. The Right Hon. Gentleman then entered into a detail of the Ways and Means he wished to submit to the Committee, in order to cover this sum:—

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| The surplus of the Consolidated Fund last year was | £1,363,758 |
| The surplus this year he estimated at | 5,000,000 |
| The War Taxes, | 20,000,000 |
| The Lottery, | 300,000 |
| Exchequer Bills, | 3,000,000 |
| The Five per Cent. Loan to be converted into Stock | 5,000,000 |

Making in all a sum of something above 40,000,000*l.* to meet the charges of the current year. He then justified the estimate he had made of five millions for the surplus of the Consolidated Fund of this year. He took the Customs this year at 5,121,000*l.*, as, last year, having taken the Customs only at 14,583,333*l.*, they produced 500,000*l.* more, and he did not think it unreasonable to estimate them this year at the sum of five millions, as there was no ground to apprehend their decreasing.—On the head of Excise, he had calculated on its average produce for the two last years. The year before last it produced 16,880,625*l.*, last year it produced 17,339,312*l.*, he therefore estimated its produce this year at 17,167,000*l.*, being an average of the produce of the last two years.—The Auction Taxes he took at 5,800,000*l.* He was justified in this estimate, as they had produced last year 5,781,000*l.* The Stamps he estimated at 5,300,000*l.*, having produced last year 5,302,000*l.*—Receipts alone he calculated at 5,193,000*l.* Their

actual produce last year was 5,000,000*l.*, making an excess of 100,000*l.* above what he had taken it.—The Post Office last year produced 1,276,000*l.* He took it this year at 1,280,000*l.*, making an average of the whole produce of the last three years. —The duty on Hawkers and Pedlars he estimated at 106,000*l.* —The Land Tax at 1,138,000*l.*—The Tontine, 24,000*l.*—Crown Lands, 26,000*l.* The total taxes amounting to 25 millions. The surplus of the Consolidated Fund of the last year, 5,753,715*l.*, which was a greater surplus than had been known in any former year. The War Taxes he calculated at twenty millions, conformably to the average produce of the last three years. Due from the East India Company, 400,000*l.* on account of tea duties. The Property Tax last year produced 11,800,000*l.*; which was 400,000*l.* more than he calculated on, though less than the preceding, owing to the balances that were still due. The amount of the arrears from 1804 to 1810, was 2,246,000*l.* The Assessed Taxes now in arrear were six millions, which, added to the arrears of the Property Tax, made above eight millions, which added to the 11 millions of Property Tax made 20 millions. The War Taxes he therefore estimated at 22 millions. He came now to the third head, the Loan of the year, and trusted that the terms on which he had been able to negotiate it would meet their approbation.—The House would recollect that 12 millions of Exchequer Bills had been funded, the interest on which was 622,195*l.* The Sinking Fund to be provided for, 720,716*l.* He then entered into a statement of the loan contracted for this day, which created a sum to be provided for of 465,403*l.* The bonus was 1*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* on every hundred pounds subscribed. The interest of both Loans, and the management, was 1,245,819*l.* which was to be provided for. He meant to repeal the duty on Hats, as it became every year less productive, and gave rise to much fraud. It might be said that he ought to find out a tax of a similar description before he gave up this; but, in repealing it, he did not give up much. The House had already voted more than was really wanted, and no new tax would be necessary.—(Hear! Hear!)—He then referred to the additional duties on spirits, &c., of which the several Bills were in progress.—The duty on Foreign Timber would produce 620,000*l.*—The duty on Cotton Wools from America, 35,840*l.*—Duty on Pearl and Pot Ashes, 25,900*l.*—Additional duty on Foreign Linen, 71,600*l.* These duties had all been already voted. These sums, with 804,000*l.* from the War Taxes, would give 1,215,890*l.*, which was more than he wanted, and left a balance of 300,000*l.* There was also 600,000*l.* surplus from the Consolidated Fund, which would not be wanted for the service of the year, and which might be applied to the charges of the Irish Loan. Two millions had already been borrowed for Ireland, and four millions more to be borrowed, would make seven millions; which, to prevent any new taxes in Ireland, might thus be partly provided for from the Consolidated Fund in England. This would be an accommodation to Ireland, and a proof of our wishes to assist her. He then entered into a statement of the increasing produce of various duties, as a proof of the opulence and prosperity of the country, which was particularly exemplified in the increasing consumption of wine, notwithstanding the high duties. He said they could not go through the country in any direction without seeing proofs of this increasing prosperity.—(Hear! Hear!)—He concluded by moving, “That twelve millions be raised by authority, to provide for the service of the current year,” which having been read from the Chair,

Mr. BARRING was of opinion that the additional duty on the import of American Cotton Wools would operate unfavourably on the manufacturers of this country. The additional duty on Foreign Timber would also have the effect of excluding it, though he allowed it was desirable to encourage our American Colonies.

Mr. PERCEVAL observed, that the several Bills were in progress through the House, and might be discussed in any of their future stages. He did not doubt of obtaining a sufficient supply from our own colonies.

After some farther observations the resolutions were agreed.

IRISH BUDGET.

Mr. FOSTER then rose to state the Supply, and Ways and Means for Ireland.

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| The Unfunded Debt was | £ 4,295,000 |
| The quota for Ireland of the joint expence of the current year in Irish Money, was | 7,116,000 |
| Deficiency on the part of Ireland last year in Irish Money, was | 2,110,000 |
| The whole making a sum of | 13,466,600 |
| To meet this sum he took the surplus of the Consolidated Fund of last year at | 740,000 |
| The Revenue of the Year | 4,500,000 |
| The Loan, | 2,500,000 |
| Treasury Bills, | 1,000,000 |
| Loan to be raised in Britain | 4,300,000 |

Making a total of 13,618,710*l.* beyond the sum wanted for supply.—To meet this charge, it was necessary to provide for the two millions and a half loan, and the one million Treasury Bills. The Loan was procured in this country at 4*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* per cent. Though Ireland was a thriving country, it was desirable not to let the whole weight fall on her. One general principle he wished to lay down was, to equalize, where it was possible, the duties of the two countries.

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| He proposed an additional duty on Tobacco, which would amount to | £ 221,000 |
| An additional duty on Hemp | 8,000 |

Which would amount to 229,000*l.*
 The charge of the Loan of two millions and a half was 150,000*l.* and with that on the Treasury Bills would amount to 200,000*l.* which was under the sum to be raised by tobacco and hemp. He proposed, however, also a duty on timber from America, equal to that in this country, except staves, which it was desirable to exempt, as being so necessary for Ireland, in sending her provisions to this country, and supplying the Navy. He intended also to impose on Cotton Wool imported in foreign ships a duty of 1*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. which would raise it to the same standard as in England. He proposed also to remove the duties on hats in Ireland, as the produce of the duty was, at any rate, but small.—He said, that there had been, during the last year, a considerable failure in the imports of Ireland, which necessarily produced a diminution in the revenue; but that the exports during the last year had been considerably greater than at any former history, which fact he deemed a proof of the internal prosperity of the country. It was true, a great part of the exports was raw materials, consequently not so beneficial to the country as those which had undergone some degree of manufacture, but it was a proof of what Ireland was capable of producing. He stated his full conviction, that at a very early period, Ireland would become extremely opulent, as she had progressively done for some years back. It gave him the highest satisfaction to reflect upon so cheerful a prospect, produced entirely by the uniform liberality wherewith Ireland was treated by the English Legislature, in the education of the youth, improving the morals of the people, establishing Charities, erecting Light-houses on the Coast to increase the security of the trade, and generally improving the country. For these valuable advantages he thought the Legislature entitled to the gratitude of every true Irishman. (Hear! Hear!)

Sir JOHN NEWPORT stated that it had often been his lot to warn the House against the danger which followed the inequality of the contributions of England and Ireland, and which must, at some period, be ruinous to the latter. The time had now come when his fears were realized, and he was sorry to say, that no effectual expedient had yet been suggested to remove so serious an evil. He bestowed the highest praise on Parliament for the liberality with which they in many instances had benefited Ireland, but he should always maintain that she would be much more improved under her own Parliament. What he particularly complained of was the inequality of the present system of taxation, whereby the greatest burthen fell upon that numerous class of people who could least afford to pay it. The only remedy, which in his opinion could relieve them, was to create in them a wish, and extend to them the

means, of enjoying those comforts of life, which had long been considered necessaries in this country, but which the Irish had never known. It might be impossible for the present generation to feel the benefit of his suggestions, if adopted, but it might be felt by their children. Ireland was entirely, and, he would always contend, totally deprived of one great subject of taxation, he meant the money annually remitted to this country, to enrich the English at the expence of the Irish Exchequer. (*Hear, hear!*). He knew of no expence that had been incurred in educating the youth in Ireland, or improving the morals of the people, and although the Right Hon. Gentleman had assumed so much credit for having abolished the free in the Customs, he was well persuaded that every merchant would rather pay them than submit to the additional trouble they had now to undergo. The light houses, when erected, would be a benefit, but the entire expence was imposed upon the merchants whose property received it. He thought tobacco a very objectionable subject of taxation, because it was too great a temptation to smuggling, while there were so many ports in the Atlantic Ocean which can trade in tobacco unmolested, in defiance of the whole of our navy, were it greater than it is. He also deprecated the imposition of a tax on American wood, because the value of that article should never be enhanced, and he was also apprehensive that it might lead to a war with America. (*Hear, hear!*).

Lord CASTLEREAGH stated, that the scale of contribution in the two countries was extremely favourable to Ireland.

Mr. GRATTAN said he did not accuse the House of illiberality towards Ireland, but he thought she did not receive that encouragement to which she was entitled.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER maintained that Ireland was capable of bearing all the burthens imposed upon it, from its increasing exportation of its productions.

Mr. HUTCHINSON trusted that Government would for the future follow a more liberal system of policy, and not arrogate merit for that which really did not originate with them, which was the more unbecoming, after the obstructions they had uniformly given to measures proposed by other Members, which would have really been beneficial to Ireland.

Mr. SHAW, of Dublin, spoke a few words on the falling off in the Irish Duties, and against the exaggerated statement of the increasing prosperity of the country. The public debt of Ireland at the time of the Union, and at the present time, was in direct opposition to that statement; at the time of the Union it was 32 millions, now it is 89 millions.

The Resolutions were carried.—Adjourned:

Tuesday, May 21.

Mr. WHITBREAD presented a Petition from Wm. Henry Mallison, praying for an investigation into an invention discovered by him for saving the lives of his Majesty's subjects at sea. The Petition was ordered to lie on the table.

MR. PALMER'S CASE.

Mr. PALMER said, he should barely confine himself to a statement of the grounds upon which he should make his motion. He referred to the Resolution of the House, of the 6th of June, 1806, which declared Mr. Palmer entitled to the premium of two and a half per cent. after the profits derived to the Post Office, from the establishment of mail coaches, should arrive at the clear profit of 200,000l. per annum; and also that there was an arrear due to him on that agreement, amounting to 54,702l. 7s. Those advantages, notwithstanding the Resolutions of the House, had been withheld, and Mr. Palmer obtained leave to bring his action at law in order to have the case tried upon its merits, in which, however, he was defeated. Having now no other means of redress, he was forced to apply to Parliament, in the expectation that it would act upon its own Resolutions. He concluded with moving, That the Resolutions referred to should be read; which being done, he moved for an Address to the Prince Regent, praying that he would order the sum of 54,702l. 7s. to be advanced to Mr. Palmer, and pledging the House to make good the same.

Mr. ROSE disclaimed being actuated by any personal objection to Mr. Palmer in the part he had acted; and justified

the conduct of the Government towards that Gentleman upon the ground of his non-performance of the duties of his office.—The grant, he maintained, was not given to him merely for the invention itself, but for the continuance of his services in the department of Comptroller General, to which he was in consequence appointed. But so far from discharging the duties of his office, he instructed the Officers under him how they might elude the vigilance of the Post-Master-General.

Mr. P. MOORE, Sir Thomas Turton, Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Sheridan, and Mr. Jekyll, supported the claim.—Mr. W. DUNDAS, Mr. LONG, Mr. RYDER, and Mr. PERCEVAL, opposed it.—On a division, however, it was carried against the Ministers by a Majority of 65,—107 voting for it, and 42 against it.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, May 22.

On the motion of Mr. WHITBREAD, a Select Committee was appointed to enquire into the merits of Mr. Mallison's invention for preserving Shipwrecked Mariners.

It was proposed that the House should go into a Committee on the Cotton Wool Duty Bill, which was opposed by several Members, as they deemed the duty highly injurious to the interests of our manufacturers, already sufficiently perplexed by untoward events.—The Ministers, however, contended that the additional duty of 1d. per pound would have no such pernicious effect upon that body.—The Committee was postponed till Friday.—Adjourned.

Thursday, May 23.

Mr. LONG obtained leave to bring in a Bill to amend an Act of the 49th of the King, relating to Prize Money. He stated that considerable sums had lain unclaimed since the commencement of the war, and conceived, therefore, it would be advantageous to apply that money to public use.

Mr. LOCKART gave notice, that on Thursday week he would move for a Select Committee to take into consideration the Regulations of the Trade of the Tailors residing within the Bills of Mortality.

THEATRES.

Mr. WM. TAYLOR moved, "That a Select Committee be appointed to enquire into the present state of dramatic and scenic Representations in the Metropolis; also into the privileges of the different Theatres, so far as relates to the advantages or disadvantages resulting to the Public from the existence of the same."—He observed, that before the Bill for the erection of a new Theatre came on in the next Session, it would be advantageous to enquire into the state of the present Theatres, in order that the House might judge of the necessity which existed for an additional one. He conceived that no restriction should be placed on public amusements, unless for the most cogent reason. He deprecated the dramatic monopoly to which the Public were subjected, and was of opinion that the monopoly which was presented at some of the Theatres called for the attention of the House, inasmuch as it was necessary to put down every thing which was injurious to the morals of the people. The ground upon which he called for the Committee did not at all interfere with the interests of the Proprietors of Drury-lane Theatre. He concluded with his motion.

Mr. WHITBREAD observed, that this was an improper time for the consideration of this subject, as the Drury-lane Proprietors were about to obtain a fund which would enable them to set their Theatre on a footing again. If the Hon. Gentleman thought that there was not enough Theatres in London, it would be better to wait until Drury-lane was rebuilt, and he might then enter into any inquiry on the subject. He hoped he would withdraw his motion, at least until the third Theatre Bill came on for consideration. If he would not consent to this, he hoped the House would reject the motion altogether.

Mr. Taylor consented to withdraw his motion.

The British and Irish Militia Volunteer Bill, was read a second time, after some opposition, and the House adjourned:

Friday, May 24.

Mr. ROSE informed the House, that it was the intention of Ministers to abandon the proposed duty on Cotton Wool, as a great feeling of alarm had gone abroad respecting that measure.

CRIMPING.

Mr. CROKER stated, that Government had taken into its consideration the mode adopted to procure substitutes for the Navy, which were supplied by Crimps, who charged at the rate of 100 guineas for a seaman, and 50 for a landman.—This iniquitous trade, he said, would now be done away altogether, for the Board of Admiralty would in future cause the individual to be discharged the moment he paid, if a seaman, 80 guineas,—and if a landman, 40.—The money thus paid would go to the fund for raising Volunteer seamen.

IRELAND.

While the House was in a Committee on the Irish Customs Bill, a warm conversation took place.—Mr. BANKES had observed, that in consequence of the Union, Ireland was becoming a burthen upon this country.—This naturally excited the feelings of the Irish Members.—Mr. FOSTER asked, whether Ireland had solicited for the Union?—Was it not forced upon her?—And another Hon. Member imputed the expressions of Mr. B. to his ignorance.—(Order, order.)—Mr. BANKES explained, and declared that at this moment Ireland could not support herself, as she was receiving pecuniary assistance from this country.

Sir J. NEWPORT moved for a repeal of the late duty on Irish Advertisements.

Mr. FOSTER said, the tax should be withdrawn, if the Irish Printers would submit to pay the same duties as in England.

Mr. SHERIDAN observed, that if Ireland was compelled to ask the aid of England, she was reduced to it by the oppression and injustice of Great Britain—(Hear, hear!)—Ireland was taxed beyond her fair quota.—Mr. S. then noticed the hardships sustained by Proprietors and Printers, who were prosecuted *ex officio* for libels, and then sent, at the caprice of Judges, to distant jails. It was such conduct, and laying heavy duties on the Press, which rendered THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS A MERE NAME. "I have always" (said Mr. S.) been a firm friend to the Press. I fear no corruption while the Press exists. Against venal Lords, Commons, or Juries,—against Despotism of any kind or in any shape,—let me but array a free Press, and the liberty of England shall stand unshaken."—(Hear! hear!)

Mr. PERCEVAL declared, that Ireland was no burthen to England. She was the main limb of the Empire.—(Hear! hear!)—The Rt. Hon. Gentleman had talked of the liberty of the press, *ex-officio* prosecutions, and the sending persons to distant jails, at the "caprice" of the Judges.—There was no ground for such charges. Never was the administration of justice so pure, and Judges so uncorrupt. The Rt. Hon. Gent. was too hasty; he should consider his words.

Mr. SHERIDAN explained. Perhaps he should not have used the word "caprice;" but he would next Session move for a repeal of the law which enables judges to confine prisoners in distant jails.

The Motion was lost by a Majority of 30.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

- P. Beck, Salford, Lancaster, brewer.
- G. Bass, and Co. Liverpool, tailors.
- J. Bouch, and S. Tolson, Cumberland, check-manufacturers.
- T. Brown, Steep, Southampton, fellmonger.
- R. Bowker, Bedford, Lancashire, cotton-manufacturer.
- J. Banson, Chard, Somersetshire, jobber.
- A. Carson, jun. Liverpool, merchant.
- S. Casey, Plaistow, Essex, gardener.
- T. Cleava, Lincoln, mercer.
- W. Cook, Ward, Gloucester, money-scrivener.
- E. Cotching, Southcott, Bucks, row-dealer.
- A. Crumack, Castle on Moor, Lancashire, corn-dealer.
- F. Diestrichsen, Bennet-street, Blackfriars, mercer.
- H. Duckworth, Liverpool, merchant.
- J. G. Gerrard, Basinghall-street, merchant.
- G. Hall, Holywell-street, Shoreditch, victualler.

- J. Hardman, Blackheath-hill, victualler.
- J. Morris, Gracechurch-street, cheesmonger.
- M. Phillips, Brighthelmstone, vintner.
- J. Scholfield, Rochdale, Lancashire, shopkeeper.
- W. Storie, Warwick-street, Charing-cross, tailor.
- W. Summers, Frome Selwood, currier.
- J. Trevitt, Little Bolton, Lancashire, cotton-manufacturer.
- J. Wright, Drury-lane, coach-spring-maker.
- J. Young, White Coppice, Lancaster, bleacher.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCY ENLARGED.

W. Raworth, Birmingham, grocer, from June 1 to July 20, BANKRUPTS.

- J. Sartain, Horseferry-Road, Westminster, builder.
- E. Hussey, Bristol, earthen-ware dealer.
- T. Mercer, Billingham, Sussex, grocer.
- E. L. Meacher, Berkhamstead, Herts, brandy-merchant.
- T. Meacher, Newport-Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, brewer.
- J. Wilson, Sunderland, Durham, ship-owner.
- J. Fox, Runcorn, Chester, grocer.
- W. W. Tait, Liverpool, merchant.
- J. Lyon, Leadenhall-street, insurance-broker.
- B. Dolan, Strand, cheesmonger.
- R. Allen, Bristol, fruiterer.
- T. Bailey, Hackney, factor.
- J. Carter, jun. Liverpool, merchant.
- R. Fenton, jun. Hauley, Stafford, draper.
- T. Smith, Oxford, linen draper.
- R. Stone, Clifton, Gloucester, dealer.
- J. Cross, Plymouth, butcher.
- W. Swan, jun. Liverpool, merchant.
- W. Jernegan, Swansea, Glamorganshire, architect.
- J. Woodhead, Linthwaite, Yorkshire, woollen-manufacturer.
- W. Eames, Little Moorfields, stable-keeper.
- C. Sharood, Brighthelmstone, Sussex, victualler.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

3 per Cent. Consols.....65

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, MAY 26.

THE very strong and well-accredited report which prevailed for three or four days past, of a victory gained by Lord WELLINGTON over Marshal MASSENA, near Almeida, at the commencement of the present month, was yesterday confirmed. The following are the particulars of this sanguinary event:—

OFFICIAL BULLETIN.

Downing-street, May 25.

" Dispatches have been received from Lord Wellington, of the 8th and 10th instant, by which it appears that the enemy's whole army, consisting of the 2d, 6th, and 8th corps, and all the cavalry which could be collected in Castile and Leon, including nine hundred of the Imperial Guard, together with some battalions of the 9th corps, crossed the Agueda at Ciudad Roderigo, on the 2d instant, and on the 3d and 5th made desperate attacks on the British army, for the purpose of relieving Almeida.

" The contest though very severe, especially on the 5th instant, terminated in the complete repulse of the enemy, and in the Allied Army continuing to hold its position.

" On the 7th, at night, the French army retired from the po-

sition which it had occupied on the preceding day on the *Duas Casas*.

"On the 8th, the enemy continued their retreat to the woods between *Gallegos Espesa* and *Fuente di Honor*.

"On the 9th, they crossed the *Azara*, and on the tenth, the *Agueda*, leaving *Almeida* to its fate.

"In the action of the 3d May, the British loss consisted of 22 killed, and 171 wounded; that of the Portuguese, of 14 killed, and 38 wounded.

"On the 5th, the British loss consisted of 148 killed, and 872 wounded. The Portuguese loss, 50 killed, and 158 wounded. The numbers of the Allies missing in the two days amounted to 215.

"The enemy's loss appears to be great in killed, wounded, and prisoners; but no return has been transmitted of the exact amount."

In this *Repulse* the enemy are said to have lost, in killed and wounded, seven thousand men, and the allies but one thousand seven hundred,—a very great disproportion, not easily reconcileable to the former reputation of *MASSENA* or his acknowledged choice of a battle on this occasion, but so much the more honourable, if true, to the rising name of his antagonist. There was every reason to believe that *MASSENA*, who had previously calculated badly on his stay in the south, would meet with an ill success proportionate to his want of foresight; and that *LORD WELLINGTON*, on the other hand, who had calculated well, would reap the fruits of his patience and good plans. Should his Lordship proceed in thus adding to his reputation, he will at no remote period rank with the proudest names in our military history. *SIR ROBERT WILSON*, it is true, in his book about the Russian army, represents *BONAPARTE* as having been overheard to say, that when he was dead, the world would be astonished to find what old women his Marshals were; but *BONAPARTE* may have said in a fit of passion, what he would not have thought in his cooler moments; and in fine, nobody can believe that the men he selects for his Generals, are not the cleverest in his armies; and therefore well worth beating, whether old or young.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

"Plains near *Almeida*, May 8.

"The French army do not appear to have been materially reinforced.—Report says 5 or 6000 of the Imperial Guards.—On the 3d, we had a good deal of skirmishing; on the 5th, in the morning, the whole French force were in motion early, and a general action took place, particularly gallantly contested about the right and centre. We were exposed for upwards of four hours to the hottest fire of grape and shells. Our wounded are considerable, particularly those dangerously wounded. But the victory was ours and the loss of the enemy trebling ours. The French, as you will hear, were baffled in all their efforts, and have not dared to attack us since. They are to-day retreating. The 71st, 79th, and 92d, had a fortunate opportunity of distinguishing themselves. Lieutenant-Col. Cameron, 79th, is severely wounded; Major Grant, of the 92d, lost his left leg; Lieut. M'Nab, 92d, his right arm

from the socket, and left arm splintered; Lieut. J. L. Hill, 92d, severely wounded. The 79th had 90 men taken, and 148 killed and wounded."

"May 10, two miles from *Almeida*.

"We are still here.—The enemy no more to be seen.—They have crossed the *Azava* and the *Agueda*; and report says they are to leave *Cuidad Rodrigo* to its fate. *Massena* is falling back to *Salamanca*. In the action of the 5th, these fine lads of the 42d, 71st, 79th, and 92d, in their kills, were particularly hard at it.—The Portuguese behaved nobly."

Three Telegraphic Messages on Friday from Plymouth, confirmed the intelligence brought to Bristol from Oporto.—

THE FIRST MESSAGE WAS,—

"The News from Oporto via Bristol confirmed."

THE SECOND MESSAGE:—

"The Enemy lost 7000—we 1940."

THE THIRD MESSAGE:—

"Lord WELLINGTON kept the field, and MASSENA had

The remainder of the communication was interrupted by a fog which prevented one of the intermediate telegraphic stations from distinguishing the signals of that immediately below it. But in the morning it was ascertained, that the Message was,—*Massena had retreated across the Agueda*.

The Officer with the dispatches arrived at Plymouth about twelve o'clock on Friday, and immediately set off for London. Plymouth is 215 miles distant. He arrived at the Earl of LIVERPOOL'S Office at eleven o'clock yesterday morning. His Lordship lost no time in sending a letter to the LORD MAYOR, containing the substance of the Bulletin.

The Park and Tower guns were yesterday fired at noon, and an *Extraordinary Gazette* will be published in the course of this day.

"From Lord WELLINGTON'S dispatches it appears (says the *Courier*) that if he pleased he might have brought on a more general action, and with every fair prospect of success; but in the course he chose to adopt he acted with great ability and prudence, and knowing the object of the enemy to be the relief of *Almeida*, he resolved not to risk that object on any account. He therefore contented himself with defeating their purpose by this course of proceeding. He probably insures the fall of that fortress, and will, when that event takes place, find himself in a condition to undertake bolder measures with less risk.—It is reported that *MASSENA* hazarded the battle in consequence of positive orders from *BONAPARTE* himself, reiterated by three Officers sent express from Paris. One of them, a Baron LE JEUNE, is said to have been taken by a party of Guerillas. He had been sent by *BERTHIER* to ascertain the true state and situation of all the *corps d'armees* in Spain, and he was the bearer of a positive order to *MASSENA* to hazard an action, *couste que couste*, as the only means of retrieving their affairs, and as the Emperor could send no more reinforcements at present to the Peninsula."—All this is at least doubtful.

Letters from the Continent state, that instead of the King of Prussia's declaring war against France, he has consented to place 30,000 men at the disposal of *BONAPARTE*. The same account says, that the Emperor of Russia is as subservient as ever to the views of the Gallic Chief.

The Gazette of last night contains the following most unwelcome announcement:—

“Whitehall, May 25, 1811.

“His Royal Highness the PRINCE REGENT has been pleased, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, to constitute and appoint Field-Marshal his Royal Highness FREDERICK DUKE OF YORK to be COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of all His Majesty's Land Forces in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.”

In the *Stamford News* of Friday, there is a most judicious and manly Reply to Mr. COBBETT's unwarrantable attack upon Mr. DRAKARD.—The contrast between Mr. COBBETT's behaviour and Mr. DRAKARD's, when labouring under similar sufferings, is peculiarly striking and apposite.

THE CORTES.—An article in *El Espanol* makes the following objections:—

1. What is the meaning of two Centinels within the Hall of the National Representation? Bayonets should be removed, not only from that spot, but from the whole of its neighbourhood. Muskets are in perpetual hostility with the freedom of debate.

2. Why has no remedy been adopted against the abuse of the same Deputy speaking repeatedly on the same subject? Time is thus lost, and the Cortes seem rather a *Club* than a *Congress*.

3. Why have not the Cortes listened to the just complaints which have been made against their secret sittings? The frequency of these sittings manifests a timidity unworthy of the Spanish Nation, and is destructive of public confidence. It was necessary for the Cortes to establish for themselves the right of deliberating with closed doors (because it might sometimes be necessary to do so, to preserve the freedom of debate) but that right should have been very seldom exercised.

The following remarkable instance of continued immersion is related on the authority of Dr. ROBERTSON, late Surgeon-General of the Navy Hospital at Barbadoes:—A Gentleman in this island, a great votary of Bacchus, was in the practice, from 15 to 20 years, of plunging into cold water when he rose from his bottle, and of actually going to sleep in a trough full of water, with his head supported on a kind of wooden pillow made for the purpose, above the surface. In this watery bed he would sleep one, two, three, or even more hours, experiencing always the greatest refreshment. His wife and family, when they wished to change his quarters, used to draw out the plug and let the water run off; when he would awake and humorously complain of the loss of his bed-clothes.

There are six prisoners confined for debt, in the gaol at Maidstone, whose united ages amount to four hundred and twenty-three years; the average of these debts is twelve pounds each; one has been confined nearly two years, three eleven months, and two about five months!

The High Constableness of Westminster (says a Westminster Elector) is in the gift of the High Steward, the Marquis of BUCKINGHAM; and the *Lad* who has been lately deemed a fit and proper subject to discharge the duties of the station, is the Son of a person who some years ago lived in the service of that nobleman.

Another subject of difference, it is reported, has arisen between the PRINCE REGENT and Mr. FERCEVAL. Sir J. MANSFIELD, under the plea of age and infirmity, has offered to resign his situation, and the Minister has recommended Sir VICARY GIBBS, as successor to the Chief Justiceship of the Common Pleas. To this proposition, it is said, his Royal Highness has not given his assent; and has

taken time to consider by whom the important duties of that station can be most beneficially discharged.

The Fighting Gentlemen, by way of cajoling the Magistrates to connive at their grossly irregular conduct, advertised a sparring-match the other day for the benefit of the *Suffering Portuguese!* It took place on Friday, when a very numerous assemblage of *blackguards* from all parts of the town mustered at the usual place in St. Martin's-street.

There is no subject of local regulation which Parliament ought to view with more suspicion and jealousy, than that of any Bill brought in for the establishment of a *Select Vestry*. Such a regulation in the first instance deprives the Parishioners of discussing and inquiring into their own affairs, and gives a few the opportunity of selecting each other, for managing the affairs of a Parish, in which the whole of the Parishioners have so much interest. It may be a proper regulation to perpetuate the *system of gorman-dizing*, but it is one certainly that the Legislature should on all occasions reject.

The Loan of 12,000,000*l.* for the service of the year, was contracted for on Monday. The lists were as follow:—

| | s. | d. | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--------------------|
| Messrs. Roberts, Curtis, and Co. | 6 | 11 | per Ann. Long Ann. |
| Barnes, Steers, & Ricardo | 6 | 11 | Do. |
| Baring, J. J. Angerstein, | | | |
| Batye, Aytun, & Ellis | 7 | 4 | Do. |
| Read, Irving, Jackson, & Co. | 7 | 5 | Do. |

The two first Lists having offered similar terms, were of course declared Contractors.

From a Return presented to the House of Commons, it appears that we imported last year, 1,387,020 Quarters of Wheat—503,422 cwt. of Flour—533,613 Quarters of Oats, and 33,226 Bolls of Oatmeal.

Of this quantity the Imports were—

From France, 331,896 Quarters of Wheat, and 202,922 cwt. of Flour.

From Holland, 189,016 Quarters of Wheat.

From Germany, 145,186 ditto—and

From Poland and Prussia, 296,756.

From Denmark and Norway, 110,935 Quarters.

From America, 31,829 Quarters of Wheat, and 210,269 cwt. of Flour.

Hence more than one-third of the Wheat, and nearly one-half of the Flour, came from France and Holland; while from America we imported not more Flour than we did from the countries with which we are at war; and the quantity of Wheat from America did not exceed one-fortieth part of the whole quantity imported.

INTOLERANCE.—“Nothing dies so hard and rallies so often as intolerance. The fires are put out, and no living nostril has scented the nidor of a human creature roasted for faith: then after this the prison doors were got open, and the chains knocked off. And now Lord SIMONDS only begs that men who disagree with him in religious opinion may be deprived of all civil offices, and not be allowed to hear the preachers they like best. Chains and whips he would not hear of; but these mild gratifications every orthodox mind is surely entitled to. The hardship would indeed be great, if a churchman were deprived of the amusement of putting a dissenting parson in prison. Lord SIMONDS's error is not of his heart, but of his time, above which few men ever rise. It is the error of some four or five hundred thousand English gentlemen, of decent education and worthy character, who conscientiously

believe that they are punishing, and continuing incapacities, for the good of the state, while they are in fact (though without knowing it) only gratifying that insolence, hatred, and revenge, which all human beings are unfortunately so ready to feel against those who will not conform to their sentiments."—*Edinburgh Review*.

NEW CHURCHES.—“Should Viscount Sidmouth succeed in his exertions (says a Correspondent) to have *New Churches* erected, let him take care not to overbuild himself, as at this period, in the *City of London* only, we have already *sixty-eight*. These churches (with the exception of about five, occupied by what are termed *Evangelical Clergy*) it is well known are on *Sundays* almost *totally deserted*.”

CARLTON HOUSE GALA.—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York is to preside, in the unavoidable absence of her Majesty, to do the female honours on this splendid occasion. The Prince, and several of his Royal relatives, will dine immediately after the Review on Wimbledon Common. Every apartment of the Palace will be thrown open on the night of the 5th of June, even those in which never yet has a vestige of furniture been seen; the latter rooms will be hung with crimson silk damask; all the Chinese, Etruscan, Grecian, and Hindostan cabinets, &c. in ebony and ivory, will be exhibited for the first time. Not only the interior of the Palace will be appropriated for the reception of company, but likewise the gardens will be covered in, and formed into one immense tent, resembling a marquee. The unique Gothic conservatory will be filled with all kinds of rare exotics, and illuminated by crystal and variegated lamps of uncommon beauty. There will be seven spacious rooms to promenade in, and the supper will probably be given under the awning in the garden. The trees will be illuminated with variegated lamps. Colonel Congreve has directed the preparation of some brilliant fire-works, on a new construction, to be displayed immediately before the supper, which will be given in courses upon the Prince Regent's magnificent services of gold and silver plate.—His Royal Highness's full band of music will be stationed in a tent not far distant from the grand marquee.—*Herald*.

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

MEDICAL BULLETIN.

“Windsor Castle, May 20.

“His Majesty is quite as well as he was last week.”

His Majesty, instead of taking his daily walks upon the terrace, now usually rides out on horseback in Windsor Park.—Some of the daily papers say, that this alteration in the mode of exercise is occasioned by the swelling of his Majesty's legs. The *Post* of yesterday says, that the King, on Tuesday, for the first time since his indisposition, went to the Queen's apartments, to congratulate her upon the return of his birthday.—The Doctors are still in close attendance; they wait on his Majesty when he is mounted on his horse, and they receive him when he returns from his ride.

“It is not very decorous (says the *Chronicle*) in the Treasury Prints to give currency to the rumour of one of the most incessant delusions to which our afflicted Sovereign has been subject—that of meditating the establishment of a *Female Order of the Garter*; the ladies to wear

the *garter* on the *arm*, and the *star* on the *breast*. Every one has heard of this *reverie*; but what would the *Sun* and *Courier* have said if we had promulgated the story.”

CONCERT OF ANCIENT MUSIC.

MR. EDITOR,

As the *Archbishop of York* has lately been appointed a Director of the Society of Ancient Music, it is hoped that in the arrangements for that concert, the *Sacred* will not in *future* be so improperly intermixed with the *Profane*. In a volume now lying before me,—The Canzonett of, “Soft Cupid, wanton, amorous boy,”—is immediately followed by the Chorus, “O God, who in thy heavenly hand!”—The Chorus, “Sing, O ye heavens, for the Lord hath done it,” is succeeded by the Canzonett,—

“Haste, my Nannette, lovely maid,

“Haste to the bower thy swain has made.”

The Chorus,—

“Young and old come out to play

“On a sunshine holiday,”—

is followed by a Song from the *Messiah*,—*Why do the nations so furiously rage?*—and, to crown the whole, the sublime Chorus,—“Thy right hand, O Lord,”—is succeeded by the *Glee*,—“Shepherds, I have lost my love.”

If it were not, Mr. Editor, for trespassing on your time, I could point out a number of improprieties equally glaring with the above.

AN OBSERVER.

IS THE MOMENT OF SUCCESS A PROPER TIME TO ASK PEACE OF BONAPARTE?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Leicester-square, May 2.

Sir,—According to a report I have read in the *Times* this day, of Mr. Whitbread's speech on the vote of Subsidy to his Sicilian Majesty, (while that gentleman, with that honourable candour that always marks his conduct, acknowledges he was mistaken in some of his opinions in regard to Portugal, and joins in the general praises of the British Commander, whose superior talents, being so well seconded by the other Generals and the valour not only of the British veterans but also of the new allied troops, led to such a happy result,) I observed, not without considerable regret, that so distinguished a Member of the British Senate still leaned to his ancient attachment to a premature peace.

I hope all generous minds will pardon me, if, having already freely declared my opinion on this subject, and this with the sacrifice of a noble fortune and eventually of life itself, I presume to combat so respectable an authority.

At the same time, it gives me great pleasure to hear Mr. Perceval unequivocally declaring, this was not the time to think of Peace; but what was still more cheering, was to hear the Prime Minister manfully calling the Usurper by his true name, “the Tyrant.”—It is a sure pledge that England will not lower herself by courting so disgraceful an alliance;—certainly their firmness in resisting the artful manœuvres of that consummate hypocrite to ensnare England into a disgraceful and ruinous peace, and their vigour in this campaign, entitle the present Ministers to the thanks of their country and of all Europe.—I beg it may be observed, that in this, as in every former letter, I think it my duty to abstain speaking on the interior politics of the country, as I consider it becomes only those who have the honour of being Citizens of England.

The first proposition of Mr. Whitbread, "that the obtaining of a peace is the object of all just wars," is certainly true with all good governments and honest princes, though not so with robbers and usurpers like Attila or Bonaparte, who make war for war's sake and the love of plunder:—but we must not be deceived with the word of peace. This would be only a cessation of hostilities, and not a solid, durable accommodation.

The second proposition, "that the moment of success is a proper time for negotiation," depends upon circumstances:—in cases of ordinary war, for small objects, with settled governments, it certainly is so; but in this war, so different from all others, in a war, as this is, for existence—in a war with a lawless Chief of Banditti, in whom no faith can be placed, it is the very reverse:—in such a case, with such a man, nothing is done if all is not done.—Is it when the chace is in its vigour that you ought to give up the pursuit?—Is it when fair blows the wind and the crew is in full spirits that you ought to give up the favourite voyage and skulk into port?—No; no; the moment of success is not that of relaxing, but, on the contrary, of increasing our efforts till we attain the complete possession of our object.

Never, in the eighteen years of this dreadful, but honourable, but necessary war, were our prospects so fair, or those of the enemy so sad. The finest army ever sent out of France, under the most successful General of the Revolution, foiled in all its boastings of conquering Portugal and driving the English into the sea;—in their turn driven in disgrace and ruin into Spain, there to be assailed again by numerous hosts of new enemies. The Spaniards, undismayed by all the evils they have endured in a war of three years with a most barbarous foe;—and here I must observe, how imprudent, or, how guilty, are those writers, who, for the errors of some of their Generals, vilify so loyal and heroic a nation, which, without a government, without an army, without finances, has so long withstood the immense forces of that power which in one campaign has subdued the three principal Sovereigns of the Continent;—the heroic Spaniards, I say, animated with fresh vigour from the successes of their allies, will press on every side the routed army of Massena, and soon free their unhappy country from these Vandalic hordes.

The magic of Bonaparte's invincibility is dispelled. His reverses will drive the most dastardly to resistance. The flames of discontent are bursting out in different places: properly supported they will be raised to universal conflagration. From the Texel to the shore of the Adriatic; from the Elbe to the Straight of Gibraltar, a general rise will take place; it will be universal; it will be irresistible. France herself having found, from the moment she renounced the government of her ancient Sovereigns, nothing but a succession of tyrannies and miseries, will join the holy league.—Being thus restored to the great Commonwealth of Christendom, will enjoy tranquillity at home and respect and love abroad.—May not then the tide of success seduce us into notions of false philanthropy, and into a love of dishonourable rest, but, on the contrary, inspire this brave nation and the rest of Europe to prosecute with new ardour this honourable contest, till it is brought to a happy and a glorious termination, which can only be with the fall of the Tyrant.—I remain, Sir, your humble servant,

ZENOBIO.

Leicester-square, May 20.

P. S. Hail, heroic nation of Spain!—the glorious news from Catalonia must fill every honest heart with joy, and silence both the calumnies of the malignant and the nonsense of the ignorant. From the moment of this proud contest I never doubted of its success; in prosperity as well as adversity I never changed tone,—I always said Spain would never be conquered.

Oh, my unfortunate countrymen!—Venetians, formerly not inglorious in the annals of history, cannot this noble example arouse a spark of manly spirit in you?—Will you remain the most degraded in the human species, by tamely submitting to be the abject slaves of the enemy of God and man—of the perjured tyrant, who made us the first object of his infamous deceptions, by quietly bearing and almost kissing your dishonored chains?—Forbid it Providence, forbid it honor.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 94.

LUCERN.

A new comedy, entitled "*Where to find a Friend*," was produced at this theatre last Monday with good success. The main story is that of Sir Harry Moreden, a good-hearted but thoughtless young Baronet (WAGNER) who having an excellent but somewhat too sportive wife (Miss DUNCAN), and conscious at the same time of a fatal fondness for the gaming-table, which he does not chuse to let her know, takes occasion, from her levity, to be as much annoyed as possible with his home, and finally makes this levity a pretence of parting from her, when his embarrassments have become too great for his longer stay in England. An old friend of his, a retired General (WAGGONER) has watched the progress of this matrimonial division, and discovering its true causes as well as the worth of the lady and the good intentions of the gentleman, takes advantage of a generous intention to which the former has long been inclined, and while Sir Harry, on the eve of a divorce, and most probably of arrest, is in the full anguish of a disclosure to him, walks out and brings back with him a friend whom he has found to relieve the Baronet's distresses:—this is Lady Moreden herself,—the friend and the wife,—who gives up to the Baronet a separate fortune of her own, and thus at once proves her undiminished affection, re-assures that of her husband, and retrieves his pernicious habits. The under plot introduces us to a retired tradesman (DOWSON), a warm-hearted but hasty old gentleman, who has shut his doors against a daughter that eloped from him, and persuades himself that he has shut his heart too. The good old General however, who luckily knows him as well as the Baronet, interferes with his usual success, gives him some excellent and softening advice respecting the forgiving duties of a parent, and after thus preparing his subject, goes off to seek the daughter, who fortunately meets him on the road, having resolved to try her father once more. She does so, when after first being melted into forgiveness, as was proper, he suddenly describes a ring upon her finger, and discovers to his remorse, that owing to his obstinate refusal to open her letters, he had kept himself in a passionate ignorance of her having been married.—There is still another kind of episode in the persons of an enamoured alewife (Mrs. SPANKS) and her Ado;

nia, *Mr. Barney Muckleton*, a drunken collier (*MATHEWS*), whose wayward affections she turns from her maid-servant to herself by the eloquence of a thousand pounds, and whom she marries in consequence, in the great dismay of her son (*DE CAMP*), till the latter's sullenness is dissipated by *Mr. Muckleton's* sharing the thousand pounds with him and taking him into partnership. The piece therefore concludes, as in duty bound, to the satisfaction of all parties, with the exception of certain distasteful forebodings on the part of the aforesaid *Mr. Muckleton*, who, when he hears the General rallying the Baronet and his Lady on the late proposal of separation, and asking them what is to be done with the articles, begs that they may be given him rather than be thrown away,—a jest somewhat too much like the Irishman's request for an old letter, but sufficiently seasonable and well adapted to be quite brilliant after *Mr. ARNOLD's* good things.

—This production, *Lunderstand*, is from the pen of *Mr. LEIGH*, the author of *Grieving's a Folly*, and if not so good, or of so much comparative novelty, as that piece, is nevertheless superior to the general run of our comedies, by the absence of their vilest faults. Some good observations are made against the anticipating grossness of pin-monies and separate maintenances, and the moral is excellent throughout,—delicately so indeed, with regard to the explication of the title of the piece. The embarrassed husband is beset with afflictions;—the General,—at least he thinks so,—can do little or nothing for him;—he sees no possibility of escape on his own part;—and knows of no hand to which he can look for extrication;—where then shall he apply, even for consolation? or who shall bring it to him; when he least expects it?—His wife;—the very last person of whom profligacy or stupidity would think; the very first, of whom the moralist and the calm observer. The stage, disgraced for so many centuries with common-place fooleries against marriage, has a great debt to discharge in this matter; and writers deserve well who are anxious to contribute to the payment. Wives, like all other human beings, are apt to grow contemptible in proportion as they are represented so, and taught to be so considered; but it is seldom that an unwillingness on the part of the husband to give pain to his wife, has not all its effect, and does not render her grateful and affectionate. How much more must be effected by sound evenness of conduct towards her, and that just confidence which is due to one whom he has selected to share his destiny? This is the way to make a woman prepared for any sacrifices,—to make a friend worth all the friends upon earth.

The comedy was excellently performed; and as it met with great success, the public must have been surprised to see other pieces take place of it on the succeeding nights. After the epilogue on these occasions, a critic is eager to get out of the theatre, having, in addition to heat, weariness, &c. &c. to escape from a thousand old griefs which none but critics can justly appreciate.—Not staying therefore to hear the piece given out for further representation, I lost, I am told, some little explanation on the subject—*Mr. Dowton* stating that the author had given his play to the actors only, and that it was not to be performed but on benefit nights. An account has since been given me by a friend, of some strange proceedings, attributed to *Mr. ARNOLD*, who stimulated, it is said, by *Mr. Leigh's* gift of his former piece, *Grieving's a Folly*,

finds his appetite very much increased for these voluntary contributions, and proportionately decreased towards such as require payment. *Mr. LEIGH*, therefore, though for his part not growing less generous as he grows successful, but not chusing to further an example which might injure other dramatists, is represented as confining the performance of his play to the nights above-mentioned. Be this as it may—for I do not profess to deal in the private history of the stage—the public have great reason to complain of *Mr. ARNOLD* for thrusting his own unmixed nonsense down their throats, while better compositions, which please and refresh them, are only presented them to be taken away again.

This first performance, it seems, was for the benefit of *Mr. Dowton*, as might have been guessed from the tone of the epilogue—a most limping piece of doggerel, in which he is made to talk of his favour with the town, and concludes with bidding—

“————— the critics flout on;

“While he remains it's faithful servant *DOWTON*.”

Now it was hardly worth this rhyme to accuse the critics of an imaginary offence. *Mr. Dowton* has no right to complain of them, whatever may be the case with his friend the author of the epilogue, who might have written quite as good and much truer distichs on himself:—

O'er all the drama's dangehill there is no cock,
Who cuts a laner figure than *JAMES POCOCK*.

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

29. *Achilles, unarmed, shouting from the Trench*. G. F. JOSEPH.

“With her own shout *Minerva* swells the sound;

“*Troy* starts astonished, and the shores rebound.”

The fierce and inexorable mind of *Achilles* at the moment of his raising his dreadful voice to appal the Trojans who had slain his friend *Patroclus*, and were slaughtering the Greeks in their retreat, requires a vehement expression. *Mr. JOSEPH* has therefore exhibited him in a most energetic attitude, his body a little bent forward and raised on his feet, one arm upraised and the other clenching his robe, his breast heaving, his nostrils distended, and his eyes glowing with revenge; the whole figure presenting a vigorous translation to the eye of *Homer's* sublime description of the Hero, at whose “brazen voice” and awful appearance,

“Hosts dropt their arms and trembled as they heard.”

36. *Portrait of P. Howorth, an extraordinary Boy, aged four years, in the Character of the Infant Hercules*. G. DAWE, A.—This piece mingles much elegance of attitude with a muscular and athletic form. The height and thickness of this child render him indeed extraordinary, for they are equal to those of a sturdy boy of ten years of age.—The vigorous display of the muscles of the arms, especially the fore arms, that are in strong action from grasping the serpents, exhibit a still greater phenomenon. It is drawn with a free and tasteful pencil, and does much credit to *Mr. DAWE's* advancing talents;—as does No. 461, a *Demoniac*, whose unhappy condition is powerfully expressed by the ragged hair, neglected beard, cadaverous skin, haggard stare, and limbs crossed and violently compressed in the horrid emphasis of his feelings.

PUBLIC NUISANCES.

The boxing-match between *Molineux* and *Rimmer* took place at *Moulsey Hurst*, last Tuesday, when the latter was beaten.—It is not to be expected that we should repeat the brutal and disgusting detail of this battle, which has already disgraced most of the Daily Papers (the *Times*, to its honour, excepted). It is more to be wished than expected, that the Surrey Magistrates would take an early opportunity of preferring Bills of Indictment against all the parties concerned in such a scandalous breach of the Peace.

Mr. EXAMINER,—One of your professed objects being to correct abuses, I need not apologise when requesting you to allow me to call the attention of the Commissioners of Pavement to an unpardonable nuisance. I allude to the loss they occasion to the commercial part of the town, and the inconvenience they put the public to, by repairing in the middle of the day so narrow a street, and, at the same time, so great a thoroughfare, as the Strand. Were it without remedy I should not complain, but why, let me ask, is it not done early in the morning, especially at this time of the year, when day-light commences at three; surely, by employing a sufficient number of hands, they might accomplish by eight o'clock what they now take a whole day to do by employing only four or five men. What adds to the confusion just now, is the number of carriages passing through the Strand to the Exhibition; and when I inform you that on Monday last, from half past two till half past four, there was one continual stoppage, there needs nothing more to prove how impolitic it is to break up the road at such a time. Trusting that this will be a sufficient notice to the Commissioners to avoid the like in future, I shall not longer obtrude on your goodness, but subscribe myself, your's truly,

A. Z.

May 22.

CITY.

A Court of Common Council was held on Wednesday at Guildhall. The LORD MAYOR commenced the proceedings by reporting to the Court, that a Deputation, consisting of his Lordship, the Recorder, the City Remembrancer, and the Sheriffs, had waited on the PRINCE REGENT, to acquaint him that the Freedom of the City had been voted to him:—That his Royal Highness, after expressing in the most gracious manner his sense of the honour intended to be conferred upon him by the City, declared, that it was his wish to accept that honour, if it were consistent with established usage in similar cases; but after consulting with his Majesty's Ministers, his Royal Highness found that it had not been customary with the Kings of this country to accept the Freedom of Corporations, and that he could not accept the honour proposed consistently with the situation he now filled. His Royal Highness however concluded, by repeating his gracious sense of the honour intended him, and of his sincere attachment at all times to their ancient and highly respectable Corporation.

A Resolution of Thanks to his Royal Highness for his gracious answer, was proposed and unanimously agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

Mr. QUIN presented a Petition, which was received and read. It was signed by Sir John Throckmorton, Major Cartwright, Sir Francis Burdett, Mr. Jones Burdett, Mr. Byng, Mr. Brand, Lord Cochrane, and above two hundred others; and stated, that the Committee of the Friends of Parliamentary Reform having given notice of a public Meeting to be held in London, on Monday, the 3d of June, for the purpose of discussing the subject, and preparing a Petition thereon; and con-

ceiving that the number and respectability of the Meeting, the dignity of its character, and the effect of the proceedings, would be greatly promoted by its being held in the Guildhall of the City of London, it therefore prayed for the permission of the Corporation, for the Committee to have the use of Guildhall for the purpose on that day.

Mr. QUIN said, he had heard some murmurs of alarm in the course of this morning from persons not very friendly to Parliamentary Reform, that the object of this Petition was to deprive the City of London of its rights and privileges; but he was confident that such apprehensions would be found frivolous, for all the Petition asked for was, the use of Guildhall for a single day, in order to the discussion of a subject already admitted by that Court, and by the Livery of London, to be of the utmost importance and the most urgent necessity; and which principle the Court had most forcibly recognized in the Address lately voted to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

Mr. FAYEL seconded the Motion, observing, that the present was a moment the most propitious that had ever occurred for the obtainment of an object, the necessity of which had been avowed by the great Lord Chatham, and his son, and in favour of which, his Royal Highness the Prince Regent had marked his sentiments, by refusing to co-operate in any traffic of place or power for Parliamentary influence.

Mr. DIXON opposed the motion, and sincerely wished that those men of great landed property who had signed this Petition would pause in their career, and take a lesson from France.

Mr. JACKS declared himself a friend to Parliamentary Reform, to a certain extent; but he would not go the length of certain Reformers, who seemed to have no definite plan.

Mr. Alderman BIRCH maintained that it was contrary to all precedent for the Corporation of London to grant the use of their Guildhall for the purposes of political discussion to any persons save the Livery of London.

Mr. Alderman WOOD said, that the chief object of the intended Meeting was to stimulate the counties by an example. As such, he should vote for the motion without any hesitation.

Mr. STREYER had received no notice on the subject of the present Meeting: he thought it was very plain that the Court had been crammed with friends, and that in a clandestine manner, to the present motion, and therefore he should vote against it.

Mr. WRENCH was for the motion.

Alderman Sir W. CURTIS thought the question was, whether such a question ought to be discussed in the capital of the Empire. What would be the consequence of such a question? Who could tell how the peace of the City would be preserved? Who could say what questions would be agitated?—(Hear! Hear!) The Court ought to consider that they were going to assemble the people on a disputed point—going to assemble them on a question on which no two were agreed. They were going to grant the use of their Hall, in the heart of the City, to men who could not agree even on their own question. With respect to what had been said as to the House of Commons, he had no hesitation in affirming that they spoke the sense of the people. He was as willing as any man to allow that there was some points which ought to be reformed; but still, he hoped, that such reformation would begin with the House of Commons itself.—(Hear, Hear!)—As to the present question, he should move "to adjourn the question till the next Court."

Mr. WATKIN was very willing, if delay was necessary, to agree to another Court, but he did not think it was. The Petitioners had come to apply for the use of the Hall, on a subject on which that Court had frequently given an emphatic opinion. Crowded as he saw the Court on that day, he was sure they were competent fully to decide on such a Petition. It was far from his intention to go at any length into the question of Reform; but still he must confess, he was glad to hear those who on a former occasion abused the Friends of Reform as base and revolutionary, now without courage to avow their motives. The worthy Baronet said, the House of Commons had spoken the sense of the people! What? How could he look that Court in the face, and say so, even when the *Walcheren Expedition* was fresh in their minds? How could he say so, when the accumulation of taxation shewed that a

Reform was necessary? This was a question in which not only they and their fellow citizens, but even their posterity, were interested. Was there any man there so bad as to say, that the Constitution ought to be cemented by corruption? If so, let him vote against this motion. He was not a mad reformer, a reformer so wild as to seek for universal suffrage; but still he was not so intolerant as to condemn those who held a different opinion.

Sir C. PRICE and Sir JAMES SHAW, spoke against the motion, and Mr. SLADE was for it.

The motion was then put:—Ayes, 80.—Noes, 45.—Majority, 35.

WESTMINSTER MEETING.

The Anniversary of the Westminster Election, was held on Thursday, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern; Sir FRANCIS BURDETT in the Chair. About five, Sir Francis entered the great room, attended by Major Cartwright, Mr. Alderman Wood, Mr. Mallett, Mr. Wishart, Mr. Jones Burdett, and others. The company then sat down to dinner, which was conducted with the utmost decorum, and the cloth having been withdrawn, Sir F. Burdett, gave

"The King," which was followed by the loudest applause.

"God save the King" was then struck up by the Orchestra.

"The Prince Regent and his Constitutional Declaration,—

"That the Kingly Office is a trust for the benefit of the People."—This toast was drunk with the most rapturous applause.

"The People," which was drunk in silence, but followed by the most unbounded applause.

Mr. MILLER, on a call from the Chair, then sang a song composed for the occasion, which was loudly applauded.

Mr. WISHART then begged leave to drink the health of a man who was dear to every lover of liberty, and to every one who understood or valued the Constitution, as settled at the Revolution;—he meant their Chairman, "Sir Francis Burdett," (*loud applause.*) He did not attempt to mention all the services the public had received from him since his election, but they must all be aware of them. He had lately opposed a trial without Jury, and vindicated the rights of the People against certain assumed privileges. The decision, it was true, had been against us; but it was a good thing that the question had been brought forward, as to know the extent of an evil was calculated to lead to its remedy. Their fathers had successively struggled against repeated encroachment on the part of the Crown; it now remained for them to resist the encroachment of the House of Commons. From that quarter their liberties were now threatened; but they had a Representative who proved by his conduct that he would suffer no encroachments on their liberties. His conduct was an example for others. He had personally suffered in the cause, and was undaunted in the principles he maintained. He would therefore give a toast, which, he had no doubt, would be universally gratifying to the meeting;—

"Westminster's Pride and England's Hope, Sir Francis Burdett," which was drunk with three times three, with reiterated applause.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT said, that it was with the most unaffected satisfaction he received these marks of their approbation and esteem. A Representative of the People could receive no greater reward than the approbation of his Constituents, and that indeed was the only reward an honest Representative could accept. He had often witnessed a dereliction of duty in public men; and if they were guilty, how much more should he be, who had so honourable a trust reposed in him? It had been his fate, long before he had entered the House of Commons, to witness the mutual recriminations of the different parties. He had long seen that the public interest was not their object, but their own private and individual emolument. This was the foundation of the great party-struggles that had long existed. They fought merely for places and power, while the system in the hands of either would remain the same. No set of men, as a party, could ever have his support, though he

might respect many of them as individuals. The public good was the only party that he could ever follow. Nothing but plain, straight forward, public principle should ever meet his support.—(*Loud applause.*)—It had been said, in ancient times, that Pompey had a friend, and that Cæsar had friends, but that the people had none. Such was too often the case now; but, for his part, he should always hold to the spirit and letter of the Constitution,—that the people should not be taxed without their consent, by Representatives duly and constitutionally elected. He had always contended for Parliamentary Reform, because it was Reform only that could give strength and union to the country amid all the gloomy prospects before us.—(*Loud cheers.*)—It was in vain for us to ask for union on other grounds. If men possessing themselves of unconstitutional power continued to add wrongs to wrongs, and to insult an oppressed people, how could they expect union? Was it not more natural that the people, feeling their rights and their claims trampled on, should be indignant, particularly if these abuses proceeded from authority? Some men, not very zealous in the cause, had admitted of the propriety of a moderate reform; He trusted, they were not now very far from this moderate reform, for they asked nothing more than what the law directed. He trusted that the period would soon arrive, when those persons who now received advantage from corruption, would themselves be the first to come forward in favour of Reform. They would do well to come forward now in support of it, for if they did not, they might one day hear of a resumption on the part of an indignant and abused people. He was indeed happy to announce that Parliamentary Reform was encouraged by gentlemen of the highest respectability and greatest property in the country. They seemed at length to learn their true interests. They had been too long duped by designing men, but had now divested themselves of that indifference, so fatal to the public good, which they had so long exhibited. It was with the greatest pleasure he had witnessed the conduct of the City of London, which, he had no doubt, would receive the thanks due to them, for their manly support of the common cause. He augured well from the support of the City, and trusted that their example would be followed.—(*Loud applause.*)—One argument against Reform was, that the people themselves shewed no willingness to come forward; but could this be said any longer after what the Cities of London and Westminster had done? It was certainly a dishonest plea in any Member of Parliament, that he would not urge Reform unless pressed by the public voice.—(*Applause.*)—He had, indeed, often seen that the people were abused, and made blind to their own interests; but he would support their interests, though they themselves might be ignorant of them.—(*Applause.*)—If the Public at large were ignorant, it was their duty to enlighten them; and, if entrusted with their interests, to do the best for them they could.—(*Applause.*)—A Right Hon. Gentleman, now no more (Windham), had used a most singular argument against Reform. He did not wish to say any thing, if possible, but good of the dead. At the same time, he thought the sentiment false, for what was a greater reward to a virtuous man than his posthumous fame; and what was that fame, if every knave was to be equally well spoken of?—(*Applause.*)—Every man, after death, should have his due, as a lesson to the living. Mr. Windham thought that it was of no consequence who represented, or who voted for the Representatives of the People. This was precisely the present system; but it was not in this manner that the people of England could be fairly represented. It was not in this way that the influence of a corrupt Administration could be opposed. The people, if slandered and vilified, though libel was heaped on libel against them, had no Attorney-General to prosecute for them, while every little whipster of a lawyer could spit out his venom against them with impunity. Mr. Windham founded his doctrine on the maxim, that the mass of the people was corrupt, and that therefore it was of no consequence who represented them, or which of them were admitted to vote. This doctrine reminded him of the old song,—"*Tantarara, rogues all, rogues all!*"—(*A laugh.*)—To believe this was impossible, after the exertions they had seen on the part of West-

minster, which, he trusted, would be recollected to the last day of England's freedom, and which had already led to the most important consequences, by giving example to others, and opening the eyes of the country at large. If corruption was everywhere put down in this manner, and the purity of election preserved, the country would soon be restored to a sound, a healthy, and constitutional state. Vague words on this subject had produced much mischief. Corruption was talked of, but nobody would define it. Corruption, in his opinion, was individual interest opposed to the public good. In this sense it was impossible that the people could be friendly to corruption, without supposing that they would be hostile to their own interests. The great mischief was, that a Member of Parliament was supposed to take his seat for his own personal benefit. This pernicious absurdity was even admitted by the most enlightened lawyers, whose judgments were perverted, as it should seem, by practice. On this principle a Learned Judge had found him liable for the expense of the Westminster Hustings, as the person receiving the benefit, though he was elected without any inclination to be so returned, and though liable, if he had refused, to a severe penalty. Thus law, reason, and the Constitution, were every way perverted, by having so widely departed from the original principles and intent of the Constitution, which was all he contended for. They wished for nothing new. It was a conformity only to the laws of the land, established and maintained by our ancestors, and confirmed at the Revolution. Having entered into a detail of the present wretched state of the Representation, the majority of the House of Commons, consisting of above 600 Members, being nominated by only 150 persons, he concluded by giving as a toast,—

“The Electors of Westminster.”

Mr. STURCH, after a very appropriate panegyric on their other Representative, to the health of Lord Cochrane, whose absence, from indisposition, he much lamented. This toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

Sir F. BURDETT, in the name of his Noble Friend, returned thanks, expressing his confidence, that the Noble Lord would be as ready to defend them against domestic inroads, as he had been, at all times, to meet and defeat the foreign enemy.—(Loud cheers.)

The next toast was,—“Defence without Foreign Assistance, and Laws without Military Execution.”

Major CARTWRIGHT said, that Earl Grey, in 1793, had brought forward a number of grievances, which, for reasons best known to himself, he had not found leisure to examine; but the greatest of all was, that nine-tenths of the Members of the Popular Part of the Constitution, as it was called, sat there independent of any popular election. This was an oligarchy. Various were the methods by which this despotism, for so he must call it, had been encountered; moderate Reformers had played their part, and as the public sees, with little effect; but the ideas of Reformers of this class were founded in an absurdity, for no person, in addressing despotism, would beg of it to depart from it by degrees, until at length it would be entirely powerless. There was only one way of encountering a despotism with success, that was, by national union. National union was the only thing which, by putting the Borough faction in fear, would accomplish the object of their wishes. He was happy to state, that that national union was in a state of progress, that he believed would render it completely successful. He had papers from many parts of the kingdom, calling aloud for Reform; from Cornwall, where the borough system most prevailed; from York, from Essex, from Stafford, and from several other counties, he had papers containing numerous and respectable signatures. The general voice of the nation would, he was sure, make the borough faction tremble: after the 3d of June he expected similar meetings would be more numerous; these meetings, he sincerely hoped, would be conducted with prudence and moderation.

After a song by Mr. Miller, which was much applauded, the next toast was,—“The Liberty of the Press; it is like the air we breathe; if we have it not, we die.”

Mr. Alderman Wood spoke at some length on the general subject of the meeting, as well as on the proceedings at the Common Hall. Lord Sidmouth's Bill was commented upon by him, and the tendency of the opposition to it very well explained: it would, in the opinion of the Worthy Alderman, produce an union between all classes of Dissenters, and ultimately prove highly serviceable to the cause of civil as well as religious liberty. He then gave—“The cause of Religious Liberty, and may every attempt to abridge it be defeated.”

Mr. QUIN being called for by several persons, he delivered sentiments corresponding in a great measure with those who preceded him. The concluding sentiment was—“The Progress of Public Opinion.” Shortly after which Sir Francis left the room, amidst the most rapturous applause. Some members continued for a short time longer, and seemed inclined to consecrate the cause of patriotism by more free libations to mirth and good humour. Songs from Mr. Piercy, Mr. Miller, and others, seemed calculated to promote those innocent purposes to their fullest extent.

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

REX v. KENT.

At the Quarter Sessions, held at Reading in January, Mr. W. Kent, of Childrey, who had been convicted in the penalty of 20*l.* for teaching and praying, appealed against such conviction, and had his trial by Jury, who found him guilty, although he, with others of the congregation, only engaged in extempore prayer on their knees, and in singing of hymns, on the Sunday evening. Mr. Kent, in the last term, applied for and obtained a Certiorari to remove the proceedings into the King's Bench, and on Saturday week the conviction, with the judgment of the Sessions, was quashed by the Judges in Westminster Hall. In consequence of which Mr. Kent is entitled to be repaid the 20*l.* which has been levied by distress and sale of his horse.

Wednesday, May 22.

THE KING v. WILLIAM LUNN AND OTHERS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved for the judgment of the Court on Wm. Lunn, John Lunn, John Lunn, jun. and James Lunn. It appeared that the four defendants had been convicted before Mr. Justice GROSE at the last Assizes for Huntingdon, of a conspiracy to endeavour to induce the non-commissioned officers and privates of the garrison serving at Normau Cross, one of the depôts for French prisoners, to permit straw to be introduced into the said garrison, to be made into plat, and also into platted straw hats, boxes, &c. by the French prisoners, contrary to an express order of the Commander in Chief, and to the great injury of our own manufacturers in that line.

Mr. Justice GROSE declared the sentence of the Court to be, that Wm. Lunn be imprisoned in the common gaol of Huntingdon for twelve calendar months; that J. Lunn, and J. Lunn, jun. be imprisoned in the same gaol for six calendar months; and that James Lunn be imprisoned in the same gaol for the space of three calendar months, under each of the two informations on which he was found guilty.

THE KING v. WM. HORN.

The defendant in this case was brought up for judgment, for publishing a libel of a most extravagant kind, in which it was laid down, in many parts, that all power having emanated from the people, it was in their power to resume it at pleasure, and that the present was a proper period for resuming it.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL not being without hopes that he should be able to bring forward the principal in this offence, consented to the defendant's being allowed to remain at liberty on his own recognizance.

Friday, May 24.

SIR F. BURDETT v. THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND CONSTABLE OF THE TOWER.

In these cases, the Trials at Bar were fixed for Wednesday, 19th June.

THE KING v. DRAKARD.

Mr. Justice GROSE read the sentence of the Court on the defendant in this case. He was brought up; he said, to receive the judgment of the Court for a libel, as plain and clear as could well be imagined; going, as it did, to impute to the military system of the country improper and cruel methods of punishment, thereby to excite disaffection and disgust among those already engaged in the service of the army, and such a horror of its barbarity; as would prevent others from embarking in it. The Court had heard and read his affidavit with surprise, seeing that in it the defendant professed to hold in admiration the British Constitution, and to regard it as affording blessings which no other nation enjoyed. Such sentiments seemed utterly inconsistent with the tenor of the libel in question. The defendant seemed to think that the fact of his having, in other parts of his publication, held up the Ruler of France to execration and horror, should operate as an excuse for him on the present occasion. The Court could not allow, however, that it should serve as a mitigation of a libel against any part of the Government of this country, that the author of it had LIBELLED the enemy also. The sentence of the Court was, that the defendant do pay a fine of two hundred pounds to the King, be imprisoned in the Castle of Lincoln for 18 months, and at the expiry of that period do enter into recognizances to keep the peace for three years, himself in four hundred pounds and two sureties in two hundred pounds each, and be afterwards imprisoned till such fine be paid and sureties found.

THE KING v. COLLIER.

John Collier, for publishing a libel reflecting on the Commissioners of Taxes for Manchester, was sentenced to be imprisoned twelve calendar months in the Castle of Lancaster.

THE KING v. WEBB.

Thomas Webb, a paper-maker at Abberville, in Berkshire, who had been convicted of forging the name of the Officer of Excise on the wrappers of certain reams of paper, was sentenced to be imprisoned, in the common jail of Reading; for eighteen months.

THE KING v. PERKS.

Joseph Perks, an Officer of Excise, who had been found guilty of improperly affixing the stamp of office on the wrappers of paper which had not paid duty, was sentenced to be imprisoned for eighteen months, in the jail of Flint.

THE KING v. BISHOP AND ANOTHER.

G. C. Bishop and James Trip, convicted of an assault of a very violent nature on an Excise Officer, were sentenced to be imprisoned in the jail of Maidstone, Trip for eighteen, and Bishop for twelve calendar months.

THE KING v. CHURCHYARD AND OTHERS.

A Criminal Information had been moved for in this case, against a number of persons for conspiring together, by noise and violence, to prevent the exercise of Divine Service at Wickham Market, by a body of Protestant Dissenters.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL shewed cause on the part of one of the defendants, but the Rule was made absolute as to them all.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

The body of a young lady, very elegantly dressed, was on Tuesday morning, about six o'clock, discovered floating on the Serpentine River, in Hyde Park. A red ribbon was tied over her eyes, and she appeared to have been in the water about a fortnight.—The body was immediately conveyed to St. Margaret's Workhouse, where a Coroner's Jury sat, and returned a verdict—*Found Drowned*.

On Wednesday, the house of Mr. Hastings, the sign of King Henry the Eighth, in White Lion and Great St. Andrew-streets, Seven Dials, suddenly fell down. The screams and cries of the inhabitants were dreadful, as many of them were buried in the ruins. The watchmen soon alarmed the neighbourhood, and in a few minutes nearly 500 persons arrived at the dreadful scene, who immediately set about digging the unfortunate persons out of their perilous situation. An old man, with an infant in his arms, that had been brought there but a few days before

this affair happened, to be weaned, was the first shocking spectacle that presented itself before their eyes, dead. The most horrid groans were heard in the ruins; but in consequence of some timber stopping up the way, the unfortunate sufferers could not be got at for some time. One of them, a young man, had the spade drove into his skull; he was taken, along with four others, to the Hospital in a dreadfully mangled state. Some had their legs and arms broken. An old woman, named Tongood, who lodged in the second floor, on being apprized of her danger, threw herself out of the window, by which she was severely hurt, and was taken to the Hospital without hopes of recovery. Mr. and Mrs. Hastings, who kept the house, escaped with some slight bruises, as the front fell first, and their bed-room being backward, they had just time enough to get away. Those whose business it is to look to the state of old houses in the various parts of London, ought to consider what a serious duty is imposed upon them; and how careful they should be not to let any such old tenures stand.—A Coroner's inquest was held on Thursday on the bodies of the man and child.—The verdict was—*Accidental Death*.—The deceased man was an industrious mechanic, and the infant had been taken to nurse. Its parents reside at Watworth, where the body was conveyed.

MARRIAGES.

On Wednesday, at Marylebone Church, by the Rev. Dr. Heslop, Sir John Carr, K. C., of the Middle Temple, to Miss King, of Goldingham-hall, Essex.

At St. Margaret's, Westminster, by the Rev. R. Stevens, Matthew Coleman, Esq. of Chelsea, to Miss Charlotte Trollope, of Parliament-street.

On Sunday, at Fulham Church, Mr. J. Sawyer, hatter, of Mill-bank, to Miss Sophia Whitby, of the same place.

DEATHS.

On Wednesday evening, Mr. Joseph Holland, of Gutter-lane; he was walking his horse along the Green-lane near Kilburn, in company with Mr. Sampson, of Bread-street, apparently in perfect health at that moment, when a vivid flash of lightning came, and he fell from his horse dead, without groan.

On Thursday last, Lady Charlotte Pelham Clinton, aged 19, sister to the Duke of Newcastle.

Same day, at Streatham, Surrey, after a long and severe illness, Mr. George Robinson, bookseller, of Paternoster-row.

Lately, the Right Hon. Robert Blair, Lord President of the Court of Session.

On the 15th instant, while bathing in the Thames, Mr. W. Deans, of Guy's Hospital, surgeon, aged 19, son of Captain Deans, Finsbury Terrace. A young man (says a Correspondent) of most amiable disposition and excellent qualities of mind, and whose abilities and attainments were such as would have done honour to a far more advanced age, and promised to have rendered him an ornament to his profession, and of general service to society.

Lately, at the extraordinary age of 112 years, after two days illness, John Leahy, an honest, faithful domestic in the family of Currah, Limerick; for above eighty years. He was married to eight wives, by seven of whom he had children; his last he married in his 103d year. He lived in the reign of six monarchs; and before his death (retaining his senses and perfect memory to the last) he declared that he never suffered a day's illness, or an hour's pain, unless for the death of a friend, or occasionally for the loss of a wife.—*Dublin Evening Post*.

At Tautoght, near Traler, aged 103, Lucien Bolton, Esq. For the last six years he never slept on a bed, but took his repose in an arm chair, from which he seldom allowed himself to be removed during that period: he retained the possession of his faculties until a few hours previous to his death.

Lately, in Russell-street, Greenland-Dock, Mrs. Curry, of Gateshead, Durham, aged 39.