

THE EXAMINER.

No. 7. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1808.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

No. 7.

CAPTURED PROPERTY.

SIR FRANCIS BURDETT on Thursday last made his promised motion relative to the captured property at the disposal of the Crown. The object of this motion was to ascertain the amount of each capture, the net proceeds, and the application of the money since the year 1792. The worthy Baronet could not have proposed a subject more easy of enquiry or more honourable to the spirit of an English Senator, and it is somewhat difficult to discover the meaning of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, who insisted that it was almost impossible, if not entirely so, to produce the account of each individual capture. Why is it impossible, or rather why is it not as easy to produce that account as well as any other official one? Does not the Admiralty keep a list of captures? The clerks enjoy excellent salaries, and the money that goes into the KING's pocket ought undoubtedly to be as well registered, as that which comes out of the pockets of his subjects. But this observation was not the only or the greatest mystery in the speech of Mr. PERCEVAL. He said that the Baronet had a right to know the amount of the sums arising from captures, but he contended against any inquiry into their misapplication. Now it is rather singular that the Right Hon. Gentleman should be willing to promote one inquiry which he had stated was almost impossible, and that he should obstruct another inquiry which he knew to be very possible. His ostensible reason for this obstruction was, that Sir FRANCIS had alleged no instance of misapplication and therefore had no right to ask for an account of the application. This is a piece of logic by no means suited to that jealous liberty which is the duty of a British Parliament. Strong suspicion is in itself an excellent reason for parliamentary inquiry, and when not only the justice of the application of certain sums, but even the royal right of applying them, has been already questioned by the public, it is the absolute duty of a British Senator to state his sentiments on the subject.

The present question has evidently arisen from the Royal Grant of 20,000*l.* lately made to the Duke of YORK out of the Rights, or what are barbarously called, the Droits of Admiralty, and it may therefore

be resolved into two heads: the right of the Crown to these Droits, and the application of them exemplified by the late grant. One would suppose that the English language had not advanced beyond the time of CHAUCER, that we must thus mingle French words and Latin words with our own, when our synonymous English terms are always as good, and very often better. These barbarisms are only stumbling blocks in the way of common understanding: they merely serve to make that obscure, which should be plain to every body.

At the beginning of the present King's reign, his MAJESTY gave up his hereditary revenues to the public, upon condition that the Crown should receive a fixed annuity of 800,000*l.* This sum was to defray all the expences of the Civil List, that is, it was to maintain the Royal Household, the King's secret service, pensions, and private expences; the persons employed in the State, the appointments to Foreign Ambassadors, and the QUEEN and Royal Family. I do not understand how this condition was gradually done away, but his MAJESTY has since received for his private expences the additional annuity of 200,000*l.* No Englishman would wish to deprive his King of a proper and royal magnificence; a million of money is not too much for the annual expences and lasting comforts of the King, but certainly it is enough. If his MAJESTY wishes to bestow some extraordinary rewards on great characters, and if he has not enough for this purpose, either of what he receives yearly, or of what he may be supposed to have saved, the Parliament are ever ready to supply the deficiency. A King ought to be the richest man in his kingdom, because he ought to be the most liberal. To speak generally, therefore, either the annual allowance to the Crown is not sufficient, or some of what may be called the official revenues of the King are too great. Again, if his MAJESTY receives money for holding the office, for instance, of Lord High Admiral, and his other incomes are already sufficient for his expences, it is evident that this office is a mere sinecure, and that the Lords Commissioners are only his clerks. The King has certainly as much right to enjoy such a sinecure, as a rich Nobleman has to enjoy a living in his own gift, and to employ a hack curate to preach for him; but let us suppose that his MAJESTY chose to be also his own Commander in Chief, his own Secretary at War, or his own Secretary of State. The profits of the office of Lord High Admiral should in justice arise from its real exercise, and if there ought

not to be a sinecure in the State, the Chief Magistrate certainly should not hold *many* sinecures himself,

The question then naturally leads to its second point, which is the application of these profits: for a King may really receive the money arising from the office, and yet may so use it to the benefit of others, that the office is no longer a sinecure, or at least it no longer exhibits the *obnoxious* character of a sinecure. Let us always recollect that our glorious ancestors bestowed prerogatives and revenues upon the King, not that he should always use them to his own immediate benefit, but that he should prove the true value of his elevation by showering down benefits upon his subjects. If liberality becomes a royal soul in times of quiet and contentment, how much more does it dignify the crown in times of public exigency? The generous man is most generous in self-privation, and a Monarch should never fear the hardships or the dark aspect of the times, so long as he can soften them with the dews of his bounty, and enliven them with the sunshine of his example.

With every respect for the King, and with every allowance to the natural feelings of a father, it may be permitted an English subject to think, that his MAJESTY would have won a better applause from his people in giving up at once to his distressed subjects the whole profits of the office of Lord High Admiral, than in sending 20,000*l.* in a circuitous way through the hands of the Duke of YORK. The nation gives an excellent allowance to each of the Royal Family, and there is not one of his MAJESTY'S sons who could come forward and tell the people that his annuity was not enough for his *just* expences. It is a little odd, that when the Parliament some short time ago granted an additional sum to the Princes, the Duke of YORK protested against any addition to what he himself had already received, with an assurance that his receipts were quite equal to his expences. His Royal Highness seems to have preferred the receipt of money from his august father to such obligations from a British Parliament; but he must surely know, that after all this very money is the gift of the people. It will be argued perhaps, that the expences of living have greatly increased within these few years, and that the Duke's expences must have increased with them: but so have the expences of every honest subject in the kingdom, so have the hardships of thousands of industrious men, whose poverty arises neither from gaming nor from keeping mistresses, and who therefore deserve—just the same assistance as his Royal Highness. Must Princes be the only men who are exempt from pecuniary suffering? Ought the Duke of YORK in *delicacy* to claim the profits arising from the *wealthy* of the country, while many a *poor* is growing old and sickly? We all know, that to keep

soul and body together upon such a pay, is almost as impossible as to go to sleep upon the edge of an axe?

In short, it would have been much better, if in times like the present, the Duke of YORK had abstained from such pecuniary advantages. A generous King has a much greater family besides his royal offspring, and the people of England view the partialities of their Sovereign with all the natural jealousy of affectionate children. They enjoy a Constitution, which, with all those faults that wise men acknowledge and fools exaggerate, is still, thank Heaven, the best in Europe; but weak observers are apt to confound the errors of their governors with the faults of that Constitution, and therefore every true friend of his Monarch is sorry to see a single action in any single personage, which may give faction a new subject of outcry and the Constitution a new subject of alarm.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FROM THE AMERICAN PAPERS.

WASHINGTON, DEC. 21.—We understand that when the Embargo Bill came down from the Senate it only contained the first section. The second section was added by the House of Representatives. Motions were made to limit the duration of the bill, and to confine it to American vessels; both of which were negatived. It was also moved to exempt vessels from the operation of it which by Treaty Stipulations were not subject to such a provision; but this too was negatived. The opposers of the Bill were only answered by a rude and vociferous call for the question, or by an obstinate and contemptuous silence. The principal opposers of the Bill were Messrs. Key, Randolph, Gardenier, Rowan, Livermore, Quincy, Elliot, and Masters. Messrs. Nicholas and Smilie were the only two of the *dumb* majority who condescended to open their mouths on the Bill.

DEC. 31.—This day Mr. Raulolph made a motion in the House of Representatives against Gen. Wilkinson. He said, he should first state certain facts, and those facts would be the ground of his motion, on which he should offer no argument. Mr. Randolph then read the following documents:—

TRANSLATION.

In the galley the Victoria, Bernardo Molina, Patron, there have been sent to Don Vincent Folch 9640 dollars, which sum, you will hold at my disposal, to deliver it at the moment that an order may be presented to you by the American General, Don James Wilkinson. God preserve you many years. The BARON DE CARONDELET.

New Orleans, 20th Jan. 1796.

To Senator Don Thomas Portell.

I certify that the foregoing is a copy of its original, to which I refer. (Signed) THOMAS PORTELL. New Madrid, 27th June, 1796.

A debate ensued, which continued till past five o'clock; no decision was however made. The further consideration of the subject was postponed till Monday, January 4.

Extract of a letter, dated Washington, Dec. 31.—



"This morning an advertisement was found posted up in different parts of the city, proclaiming John Randolph a prevaricating poltroon. Signed, "James Wilkinson." Wilkinson challenged Randolph yesterday, and Randolph replied, that he would not fight him till he cleared up his character."

BOSTON, JAN. 7.—Already are the effects of the embargo so sensibly felt by the labouring classes, that the Corporation of New York were proposing means of employing the cartmen, mechanics, and labourers, so as to give bread to their distressed families. Letters from Gentlemen of the first intelligence at Washington, received at Philadelphia, mention, with considerable confidence, an expectation of the seat of Government being removed to that city.

JAN. 11.—Mr. Rose has actually arrived at Norfolk, but, had not reached Washington at our last accounts (Jan. 2) though hourly expected.

We were last evening favoured with New York papers to the 7th, which state that an express had arrived at Washington to the British Minister, to know whether Mr. Rose would be received. Mr. Erskine immediately applied to the Executive. Soon after he returned an express, requesting Mr. Rose to repair to Washington immediately.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

On Friday se'night an Inquisition was taken at Polsted, on the body of Joshua Willis, who early on Thursday morning got up from his bed at Raydon, left his shirt with his other clothes in his sleeping-room, and walked naked to a guide-post on the road leading from Raydon to Stoke, and was found hanging by his arms on the said post. On being taken into the next house he died, in consequence of his having in a fit of frenzy beaten and bruised himself upon and against the post, and from the inclemency of the morning. It appeared that he belonged to a society of fanatics, and that he had for some days before been insane, and almost distracted; that his mind was loaded concerning a future state, and that he wished to die on the guide-post, as our Saviour did upon the Cross.

A duel was fought on Wednesday se'night in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, between Captain F. M. of the A—— Militia, and Capt S. of the M——. The parties met at six o'clock in the morning, and went over in the ferry-boat to the parish of Nigg, where they fought, and upon the second fire the latter Gentleman was unfortunately wounded in the groin. He was soon after brought over to his lodgings in town, where he died next morning at eight o'clock. Capt. M. and his second have absconded.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MONDAY, FEB. 8.

The Curates' Bill was read a third time and passed.

COMMERCE.

Lord AUCKLAND rose to move that there be laid before the House a Statement of the Imports and Exports for the last three years; and also a Statement of the American Imports and Exports, so far as respect their trade with this country. The first was a motion which he had for years been in the habit of making, and his object in so doing was completely attained, which was to prove the continual progress of our commerce, in spite of every obstacle which France had opposed to it. When he last

made this motion, which was under the Administration of his Noble Friend near him, the result was, that our exports were proved to have reached, during the preceding twelve months, the unparalleled amount of 43 millions. He had no doubt that our traffic, during the year which had just elapsed, would appear to have been equally extensive; but he wished he could indulge a hope that this would be the case with regard to the current year. In this view of the subject, our relations with regard to America, were of the utmost importance. Our treatment of neutrals was to him wholly inexplicable. America had shut up her own ports, and we had shut up all others. How, under such circumstances, we were to derive a revenue from a tax on neutral trade, it was beyond his powers to divine. He considered the total ruin or prosperity of our trade to depend on the proceedings of Parliament for the next six weeks. The Noble Lord concluded with moving for the accounts above-mentioned, and also for a Paper relative to the means of supplying the West India Colonies with provisions, &c. in case of a rupture with America.—These several motions were agreed to.

COPENHAGEN.

The Duke of NORFOLK read a variety of motions for copies of the Proclamations of Lord Cathcart and Admiral Gambier; the representations of the latter respecting the state of the Danish fleet, &c. all of which were agreed to. His Grace then adduced various arguments to shew the necessity of farther documents to prove that Ministers were in possession of the substance of the secret articles of Tilsit, and acted in seizing the Danish Fleet upon the conviction that Denmark either had not the means, or was not disposed to resist the efforts of France to possess herself of it. This he conceived to be requisite for the character of the nation, and he therefore moved accordingly.

The Marquis of WELLESLEY thought it was only necessary to look at the state of Europe, to be able to decide whether it was a matter of reproach to our public counsels, or whether the most vigorous and the most successful operation of the war was not as much the result of profound wisdom, as it was the dictate of imperious necessity. The intentions of France to possess herself of all the naval means of the Continent for our annoyance had long been avowed. Bonaparte was too able a soldier and statesman not to perceive that by force or intimidation the navy of Denmark must fall into his hands, had we not interposed. The Noble Marquis then argued the question upon the ground of imminent danger, and on the principles of the law of nations, as applicable to such an emergency.

Lord HUTCHINSON stated his conviction, that the Crown Prince was determined to persevere in his neutrality. When the French, in December, 1805, violated his territory, it was known to every Foreign Minister at Copenhagen, that his resolution was, in case of necessity, to abandon Holstein and Jutland, and not a doubt existed of his ability to preserve Zealand with its Navy. His Lordship complained of the words, lines, and garbled sentences, by which his sentiments had been misrepresented elsewhere, and demanded the complete publication of his correspondence. He was convinced, that the attack on Copenhagen gave great offence to Russia. That Power had done all that she could do against France. In the short campaign of 11 days, which terminated the war, she had, out of an army of 70,000, lost 27 Generals, 1800 inferior Officers, and 40,000 men. The enemy had taken the field with, at the lowest calculation, a force of 160,000 effective troops. He had opportunities of judging that peace was essentially necessary to the existence of Russia; and if any reliance could be placed on the most confidential communication of a Monarch, the Emperor Alexander was sincere in his wishes to mediate a peace with England, considering it to be no less her interest than that of his dominions. Here his Lordship read a statement of two

conversations which he had with the Emperor. At the first, which was on the 17th of July, his Majesty, after representing the necessity in which he had found himself placed, of concluding peace, in which representation his Lordship concurred, assured him that the terms communicated to him by Bonaparte, with respect to England, were such as would be acknowledged to be both safe and honourable. Upon his Lordship stating that one month was too short a period to receive the assent of the British Cabinet to his mediation, the Emperor stated that he was not particular as to the time; the English Government might take three or four months to consider of his overture. At the second interview, viz. on the 4th of Sept.—

“His Imperial Majesty began the Conversation by asking me what I thought of our attack upon Copenhagen? I replied, that I was entirely ignorant of the circumstances which had occasioned that attack, but that I hoped the Administration of England could justify themselves, and prove to the world that the Danes were on the eve of joining all their forces to the French, to make common cause against England. His Imperial Majesty told me in reply, that it was impossible for me to be of that opinion, if I would recollect the repeated conversations which had taken place between us, on the subject of Denmark, at Bartenstein, in which he told me that he had used every effort in his power to bring forward the Crown Prince of Denmark, and to induce him to join the coalition against France; the answers of the Prince had always been explicit and uniform, that he had maintained for many years a system of neutrality, in which he was determined to persevere, as the people whom he governed had flourished and prospered under it; and that no consideration should ever induce him to depart from it. His Imperial Majesty added, that I must be acquainted with the decision of character which belonged to the Crown Prince, that nothing was so difficult as to shake his determinations, or to induce him to change any line of conduct which he had once adopted; and that he was sure no connection existed between the French and Danish Governments previous to the attack on Copenhagen. I then said, that I believed Lord G. L. Gower had delivered to his Imperial Majesty's Minister a note on the subject; to which his Imperial Majesty answered that he had, but that the contents of it were nugatory, as it contained no sufficient explanation, or offer of satisfaction. His Imperial Majesty then proceeded to state the great concern which our unjustifiable aggression had given him; that the French Government never had done any thing so strong—that it justified every thing they had done or might do hereafter. If such proceedings were admissible, there was an end of all those relations which had usually influenced the conduct of nations towards each other; that every body was at liberty to do just what they pleased, and that he might attack Sweden to-morrow. His Imperial Majesty then told me in the most peremptory language, tone, and manner, that he would have satisfaction, complete satisfaction, for this unprovoked aggression. That it was his duty as Emperor of Russia to demand it, and that he would have it; and he asked me, whether even I myself could venture to differ with him on that subject? He then said that he was bound to Denmark by the most solemn treaties and engagements which he was determined to adhere to. His Imperial Majesty then added, that he supposed we meant to make an attack on Cronstadt; he did not know what the event of that attack might be, but this he knew, that he was determined to resist to the last man, and to prove himself not entirely unworthy of filling that high station, to which it had pleased Providence to call him. I told his Imperial Majesty that I had strong reason to hope and believe, that no attack would be made on Cronstadt. His Imperial Majesty said he was prepared for such an event, and had taken his determination upon it, which was that which he had before stated to me. He then closed the conversation, by repeating with much emphasis, that “he would have satisfaction for Denmark.”

What had been the conduct of Ministers? They asserted that Russia was a principal party to the Maritime Confederacy, they permitted one of her squadrons to enter the Tagus, and another to pass through their fleet in the Sound? They were weak and pusillanimous to the strong, firm and vigorous to the weak.

Lord HAWKESBURY justified the expedition to Zealand upon three grounds, 1st, The avowed designs of France; 2d, The impracticability of effectual resistance on the part of Denmark; and, 3dly, The magnitude of the danger to this country, should the Danish Navy fall into the hands of Bonaparte.

Lord ST. VINCENT asserted, that Zealand was more defensible against an army in Jutland, than this country was against an invasion from Boulogne. He knew the state of the Danish Navy for 48 years, and could aver that it was during all that time kept in the same state of repair which was now alledged as a proof of hostile intentions against us.

Lord GREY contended, that the expedition was founded neither in justice nor sound policy. We had taken 16 ships in a bad condition, from Denmark, but had not deprived the enemy of her maritime resources. Bonaparte had given the Crown Prince a million sterling to re-construct a fleet; and to this was to be added the whole of the resources of Russia, and most probably, in a short time, those of Sweden.

Lord MULGRAVE said, that but for the capture of the Danish Navy, there would by this time have been fitted out against us in the Baltic a fleet of more than 40 sail of the line. The consequence would have been, the most active naval war in which we had ever been engaged, or, perhaps, a struggle for our existence on British territory.

Lords DARNLEY and SIDMOUTH supported the motion. The House then divided, for the motion 48—against it 105.—At half past five o'clock the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, FEB. 9.

Counsel were heard in the Irish Appeal, Stafford v. Drew.—Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10.

The LORD CHANCELLOR stated, that his Majesty had ordered various Papers, recently moved for, to be laid before their Lordships.—Adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEB. 11.

Lord SIDMOUTH gave notice, that on Thursday next he should move for an Address to his Majesty, praying him to preserve the Danish Navy in such a state, as should not preclude or put to hazard the possibility of its restitution on the conclusion of peace.

Lord HAWKESBURY laid on the table a Copy of Mr. Jefferson's late Message to the American Congress; and also Copies of certain Communications from the British Minister in America.

Lord GRENVILLE, in a speech of some length, lamented that Government had issued the Orders of Council, which had totally put a stop to American commerce, though he was a firm advocate for the right of searching merchant ships for British seamen—a right upon which our very maritime existence depended. He concluded by moving for a Copy of the late Treaty with America.

Lord HAWKESBURY, in consenting to the motion, said that Government would do every thing which a regard to the rights of the country would admit of to cultivate a good understanding with America.

RUSSIAN MEDIATION, &c.

Earl GREY then rose to move for a variety of Papers, The first which he called for related to the Austrian and Russian offers of mediation. He did not approve of any attempts to agitate petitions for peace, because that was not the surest way to obtain that object; but it was highly important to ascertain that no practical opportunity had

been neglected for obtaining it. Complete impartiality was not at all times to be looked for in a mediator; all that could be required was, that the mediator was not under hostile engagements to belligerents, and a fair presumption that he was desirous of effecting a reconciliation. It was, therefore, of the highest importance to know what answer had been returned by Lord Gower to the Note, in which Count Budberg, though he complained of the conduct of this Country, still he offered his Sovereign's mediatorial offices. The subject of this Note led him naturally to a review of the conduct of the late Administration. His Lordship contended that no engagement had been violated by them, and that they had never given other ground of hope than a general assurance of their readiness to co-operate in any practicable way which Russia could point out, on such a scale as was proportioned to the military means of the country. His Lordship briefly touched on the various events which occurred, from the breaking out of the war between Prussia and France, down to the period when he and his colleagues left office, to prove that from the state of the season, from the complete dispersion of the Prussian army, and from the ineffectual and ill provided state of the Russian army, this country could not give any efficient aid in continental operations. He appealed to the history of the campaign of 1805, to prove that the plan of *diversion* was not one which had any probability of producing the usual effects upon the mind of Bonaparte, who moved his force in one great mass to overwhelm the chief opposing army. Lord Hutchinson had, on the 9th of March, forwarded a dispatch, pressing the sending of a body of troops up the Baltic to join the Russians; but when he reached their camp, and saw their true condition, he was soon convinced that such an aid would be of little avail. So little of foresight was there on their side that, while the enemy abounded in supplies of every kind, though in a hostile country, the Russians were actually reduced to the greatest distress. The Swedes had engaged to furnish a force of 25,000 men for an additional subsidy; but this stipulation had not been executed. The late Ministry had not thrown any obstacle in the way of the proposed loan to Russia; but when it was considered that the sum demanded was six millions, it would not seem surprising that with the experience of the Austrian loan before them, they had declined to guarantee the repayment of such a sum; and without such guarantee the money could not be raised. He concluded with moving for the production of the several documents connected with the principal topics on which he had touched.

Lord HAWKESBURY vindicated the conduct of Ministers, in not entering, in their Declaration against Russia, into the details of the complaints which she brought forward in her Declaration, any further than to shew that they formed no valid justification for her conduct. Ministers had not rejected the mediation of Austria or Russia; but they conceived it their duty to require some basis previous to negotiation. He must do the late Ministers the justice to state, that they had violated no stipulation with Russia, and he completely concurred in what had been stated by the Noble Lord, as to the impracticability of giving effectual aid to the Continent for some time after the rupture between Prussia and France; but he blamed them much for having given a general assurance of readiness to co-operate, not only without preparing the means of transporting an army to the Continent, but while they were actually diminishing the number of transports. From the moment that Russia and Sweden were disposed to risk every thing for the deliverance of Europe, it was their duty to strain every nerve to aid them by men and money. He was ready to admit that the sum of six millions was too large to be advanced either as loan or a subsidy, but thought that *three millions* might have been granted in either way. The result of not giving any assistance to Russia had been, to impress the people of the Continent with the idea that we goaded them on to hosti-

lities with France for British interests alone. His Lordship expressed a readiness to assent to the production of many of the papers moved for.

Lord HUTCHINSON contended that the Russians, in the late battles, were generally unsuccessful. The battle of Eylau was no victory to Russia. The French obtained possession of large magazines, also branches of the Vistula, which gave them one fortress, and blockaded another. The French remained masters of the field ten days, and only retreated to cover their cantonments. After the battle of Eylau, there came to the Russian Court a French Officer to treat for Peace. In February he addressed a letter to Lord Howick, stating, that secret proceedings were going on at Memel, and advised Government to be cautious. On the 23d of February General Zastro sent for him, and said, the Emperor of Russia was determined to continue the war. Here the Noble Lord proceeded to make remarks respecting conversations he had with the Emperor Alexander, when he was called to order by Earl Bathurst.

The LORD CHANCELLOR informed the Noble Lord that his conduct was irregular in stating proceedings which occurred during his official situation, without the sanction of his Majesty.

Earl GREY said, he did not understand that the Noble Lord was speaking from dispatches received in his official capacity, but he was merely defending his own character against misrepresentations which had been made respecting his official conduct.

Lord HAWKESBURY thought, while their Lordships were discussing the policy of the late campaign, that such observations were improper, and irrelative to the business of that House.

Lord GRENVILLE said, the Noble Lord appeared to him to be anxious to defend his conduct while abroad in his official situation, and it was not very surprising that the Noble Lord should take the earliest opportunity of doing so, when partial extracts had been published in a newspaper respecting dispatches supposed to have been received by Government.

Lord MULGRAVE asked, if it was consistent with the dignity of the House that Ministers should be called upon to give information respecting the contents of newspapers. The newspapers must explain themselves, and if they did wrong, another place would set them right.

Lord HUTCHINSON then continued his speech, and contended that the force collected on the Elbe by Bonaparte rendered every effort that England and Sweden could have made insufficient to resist the successes of the French.

The motions were put and carried without a division.—
Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, FEB. 8.

PRODUCTION OF PAPERS.

Mr. WHITREAD observed, that he should proceed to move for certain Papers, in obedience to his notice, to which he trusted the Right Hon. Secretary for Foreign Affairs would not object. In the course of that Gentleman's speech on Wednesday last, he made use of materials which no man had a right to resort to. He remembered an instance in the last war, where Lord Melville did draw from his pocket certain papers, in order to read them, but the House refused to hear their contents in that informal unofficial way. It was a practice derogatory and disgraceful to Parliament to suffer, and disgraceful to any individual who might attempt it. Mr. Pitt never did so, notwithstanding a Noble Lord over the way had often done so (Lord Castlereagh). The Right Hon. Secretary (Canning) had on Wednesday disregarded all delicacy and reserve, and had read a garbled extract of a letter from Earl Grey, then Lord Howick, to Mr. Gerlike, our Envoy at Copenhagen. The Noble Earl, from the way in

which that extract was read, had every reason to complain that he was injured by the letter having been read in the mutilated way it was. He did not mean to charge the Secretary of State with having forged what he had read, but he charged him with having wilfully omitted whole sentences, highly material, giving, instead of facts and true statements, a loose disjointed chaos. Lords Grey and Hutchinson, and Mr. Garlike, were alike sufferers, by the conduct of the Right Hon. Secretary; reprehensible it certainly was, to give it no harsher epithet, and these personages had a most undoubted claim on the Right Hon. Gentleman for atonement and reparation. Mr. Whitbread concluded by moving for a Copy of the Dispatch by Lord Howick to Mr. Garlike, dated the 3d of December, 1806, extracts from which were read by Mr. Secretary Canning, in the course of his speech on Wednesday last, together with a Copy of the Note delivered by Mr. Rist to Lord Howick.

Mr. CANNING stated, that he was unwilling to give information where it was not necessary, and he never yet refused it where it consisted with his duty to accord it.—After having manifested this disposition repeatedly, he did not like to be thus rebuffed and rebuked in the face of the whole House. The Hon. Gentleman was however mistaken, if he attributed to him any disrespect to the personages he had alluded to. He had merely quoted so much of the Noble Lord's Dispatch, as bore upon the point then in discussion, and could assure the Hon. Gentleman, that if he went in any degree beyond that, it was in the heat and warmth of the debate. He would cheerfully vote for the first part of the Hon. Gentleman's motion, as he had made out a clear ground for it. He then glanced at the discussion on the attack on Copenhagen, which he again defended and justified, using however no argument novel in its tendency. Mr. Canning concluded by agreeing to the first part of the Hon. Gentleman's motion; but expressing his dissent to Mr. Rist's Note, as no case had been made showing why it ought to be laid before the House.

Mr. TIERNEY said the Papers ought in justice to be laid before the House, as passages read from them could not be a criterion of the whole, and therefore could not justify the conduct of Ministers in the attack on Copenhagen.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER maintained, that the Noble Lord's Letter conveyed an insinuation that the Danes were hostile to this country.

Mr. WINDHAM charged his Majesty's Ministers with having shifted their grounds. It was shameful to throw the whole blame on the Noble Lord (Howick), who was perfectly innocent of that affair; but he was certain it would be ultimately found that Ministers could not justify themselves, when these letters were fully and fairly before the Public.

Sir J. ORD did not see the necessity of making the Papers public.

Mr. LYTTLETON observed, it was the hearing of these extracts read by Mr. Canning that induced him the other night to vote for Ministers, but now he was perfectly satisfied he had acted improperly, as they refused to produce the original letters, which was a convincing proof they had misrepresented Lord Howick's opinion.

Mr. SMERDIS contended, that Ministers had not a single scrap of paper in their possession to vindicate their conduct, and had not given any reason to convince the House of the impropriety of producing the Papers.

Mr. CANNING explained, and said he did not mean to say it was Lord Howick's opinion, that induced Ministers to declare hostilities against Denmark, but from other information.

A division now took place—73 for the motion, and 157 against it—majority 84.

The House resolved itself into a Committee, to consider the Extraordinaries of the Navy, which

Mr. WINDHAM stated, would amount to considerably

more than the last year. 1,142,959l. 19s. 10d. would be wanted for the Extraordinaries of the Navy; 235,100l. for building and repairing; 175,100l. for wear and tear of transports; 281,400l. for sick and wounded; 55,500l. for prisoners of war; and 50,000l. for sick prisoners.

The American Intercourse Bill was read a third time and passed.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY, FEB. 9.

Sir F. BURDETT said he wished to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer a question, respecting the grant lately made by his Majesty to the Duke of York, of 20,000l. All he wanted to know was, by what authority his Majesty could dispose of so much property at pleasure?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied, that the property belonged to his Majesty, which accrued to him from Droits of the Admiralty, &c. Such grants were usual.

Sir F. BURDETT signified his intention of bringing forward, on an early day, a motion respecting these Grants.

After transacting some routine business, the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10.

THE BANK.

In the Committee of Ways and Means the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated, that he felt great satisfaction at being able to state the favourable arrangement he had made with the Bank. The arrangement embraced three different subjects. The first was the management of the Public debt; 2dly, the allowance to the Bank for that management; and lastly, the Unclaimed Dividends, and Unclaimed Lottery Prizes, remaining in the custody of the Bank. The Right Hon. Gentleman then went on to describe the sums to be allowed the Bank for the management of the Public Debt, at the rate of 343l. per million, as it at present stood. When the Debt should be farther reduced the allowance was then meant to be 400l. per million. This arrangement would eventually prove a saving of 62,000l. or 65,000l. a year. The next point was, the advance by the Bank of 3,000,000l. during the war. This came from the advantages the Bank enjoyed in possessing the balances of the public money. It appeared from the most accurate calculation, that these balances amounted to something between eleven and twelve millions, from which, however, there fell to be deducted 600,000l. being a deposit on account of America. That money, he observed, might have been better employed had it been expended in Exchequer Bills. It however amounted in the whole, he believed, to ten millions and a half, deducting the above sum. He then described the amount of the unclaimed Dividends from 1791, as amounting to 500,000l.; and the three millions as the profit of the Bank on the deposits of Government in their hands. The Right Hon. Gentleman concluded by moving, "That towards the Supply granted to his Majesty, a sum of 500,000l. of unclaimed Dividends, and unclaimed Lottery Prizes, be granted."—He stated, he should move the other Resolution after this preliminary one should be agreed to.

On the question being put, Mr. BANKES, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, could not subscribe to the idea that the Right Hon. Gentleman had made so good a bargain. A better might have been made, and it would not have been injurious to the Bank. A reduction ought to have taken place in the allowances proposed to the Bank on the management of the Public Debt, as the advance from the Bank of three millions, without interest, might endure for a long time, at least until the end of the war. The Bank could, by its paper, coin the money wanted by Government to-morrow; but it would not, at the termination of the war, be satisfied with any thing but cash in return. What it might come to in paper, would scarcely cost it a penny, and yet it would be reimbursed in a very different way.

Mr. TIERNEY urged, that the Bank ought, from the public balances therein deposited, to take the management of the National Debt without any charge. The profits of the Bank must be great, when, since the restriction, four millions were divided in bonuses, the dividend raised from seven to ten per cent. and such a considerable addition made to the building.

Mr. S. THORNTON, Mr. HUSKISSON, Mr. D. GIDDY, and Mr. MANNING, contended, that the National Debt could not be managed at an easier rate.

Lord H. PETTY did not altogether admire the mode in which the unclaimed Dividends were to be taken; nevertheless, if the war continued, he thought the advantage to the Public, as far as respected these dividends, would be considerable.

Mr. Brogden, Mr. Biddulph, Mr. Croker, Mr. R. P. Carew, and Mr. H. Thornton, each approved of the arrangement, as being favourable to the Public.

The Resolutions were agreed to.—Adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEB. 11.

CAPTURED PROPERTY.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT called the attention of the House to the subject of those immense sums, which, as Royal or Admiralty Droits, accruing for a number of years, became at last of such magnitude as to call for public notice and investigation. Upon considering the matter in the most scrupulous manner, he could not perceive any objection which could possibly be made to his motion; he should not, therefore, unnecessarily occupy the time of Gentlemen, but at once submit it. He then moved, "That there be laid before the House an Account of all Captures made at Sea, by the Naval Forces of this Country, from the 1st of January, 1792, to the 1st of January, 1808, and claimed as rights, the property of the Crown; together with Statements of the proceeds thereof, and the nature of the applications of such sums as have been made therefrom, and the balance now remaining."

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER expressed it as his opinion, that it would be very difficult to obtain all that information which the motion of the Hon. Baronet seemed to reach. All that part which calls for an account of captures, of condemnations, and of balances in hands, might easily be furnished; but the items appertaining to the application could not now be obtained. All those sums which his Majesty had been pleased to give to captors were within the reach of the offices to publish; but many others were of that description which could not be furnished; the whole was at the disposal of the King, and without infringing on his property, as well as his prerogative, it could not be supplied. Among those of the latter description were the grants to his own family, the right to do which could not at this day be disputed. The Right Hon. Gentleman then proposed to amend the motion, by omitting all that part which appertained to the applications of the proceeds.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT replied, that all he wanted was information upon a subject which involved in it matter of the utmost magnitude, and attached itself to the possession, in the hands of the Sovereign, of property of such great and enormous bulk, as the House would not endure to permit remaining so, without satisfactory enquiry into its application. If that could be accomplished by the mode suggested, he was not very unwilling to adopt it.

Sir C. POLE expressed his thanks to the Hon. Baronet for the motion he had submitted, and he could not see how Ministers could oppose any thing so fair and reasonable.

The ADVOCATE GENERAL said, there were two kinds of property vested in the Crown by the fatality of war.—Those which comprised all captures made before declaration of hostilities, and those which vested in the Crown, in the relative character of the Monarch as Lord High Admiral, after hostilities. Of these his Majesty had an unequivocal right, and he generally rewarded the captors of

each in some way or other. As to the Droits in question, some prevailed as far back as the year 1795, when the French having made an irruption into Holland, we seized immediately the ships and property of the Dutch, and did not declare hostilities until five or six months after, giving thereby an opportunity to those natives of Holland, whose property we so became possessed of, the option of foregoing all allegiance to the French Government, and seeking our protection, by which they would have had restored to them such captured property; or of adhering to their new masters and forfeiting it. Of this latter description was the great majority, and of course all that became Droits of the Crown. The like happened with respect to Spain in 1803. Again, when war was renewed against France and Holland; and so it happened in the case of Prussia and Denmark. In the year 1795, his Majesty gave one million, arising from this fund, to relieve the public burthens; and in the year 1806, his Majesty contributed one million more. His Majesty had found it expedient also to consider, in his justice, the claims of certain persons, whose property had been sequestered by the Court of Spain. Some more was applied in remunerating those who, in obedience to the Orders of Council, had suffered by putting these orders into execution; and several sums were likewise granted to relieve persons who had suffered by insolvency of captors, who were incapable and unable to make good their losses; and he appealed to the liberality of the House, whether an act of gracious and parental munificence to the younger branches of his family, could be complained of by the enlightened Legislature of England? He did not think there was any ground for the motion, and must oppose it.

Mr. LUSHINGTON expressed himself decidedly in favour of the necessity of the motion. There was a circumstance which came in his way this day, and the Records of the Court of Admiralty were the documents which he read, that warranted him to mention them to the House, and particularly as an Hon. Baronet (Sir Home Popham) to whom they alluded, was then in his place. The fact was this:—that Baronet, when an Officer under the rank of Post in his Majesty's service, in the year 1807, being out of employment, went to Ostend and there purchased and freighted a ship under Imperial colours, and proceeded with her to India, returned home with a full cargo, touched in Ireland, and there landed some of his goods, and repairing to Dungeness there landed the remainder, that is, in other words,—“there smuggled them!”—His vessel was seized in the very act of carrying on this contraband trade, process was instituted in the Admiralty, and there condemned as lawful prize; yet the gallant Captain of the Brilliant never received a penny for his capture, and 18 years elapsed, when, to the wonder and astonishment of all who heard of it, the Hon. Baronet, instead of being punished for violating the laws of his country, instead of being degraded for descending so much below the honourable profession in which he had been bred, was rewarded by a Treasury Warrant of 25,000l.!!!—He now called upon the Learned Gentleman to justify that act, that disposal of the Droits of the Admiralty.

[Several Gentlemen were about to rise at this moment, but the House resounding with the cry of Sir Home Popham! Sir Home Popham!]

Sir HOME rose and said, it was impossible that he could avoid complaining of the manner in which he was thus made the subject of such an attack, which was greatly aggravated, because, being done at a sudden, he was quite unprepared to defend himself. He trusted, however, that the House would believe, that, whether in India or at home, the good of his country was an object nearest his heart. If he adopted the mode alluded to by the Hon. Gentleman, he could tell him there was nothing derogatory in it; it was the best that a man of his then rank in the service could attempt, to enable him to improve in his profession. He might have had private cause for doing so

at that time; and he had cause. He thought it now both severe and hard to be singled out for attacks of this nature, for, without arrogance, he might say, that by his extraordinary exertions—the Opposition Benches were loud in their laughter, at the word “extraordinary.” The Hon. Baronet begged pardon for using the term “extraordinary;” he did not mean by that, to make himself appear superior to others; but that his exertions were such, as to have secured him the esteem and favour of those, who it might have been supposed would, if he had not in some way deserved their consideration, have been directly adverse to him. As to the circumstance of sailing under the Imperial or any other flag, it was a well known thing that he was not singular in that; many, from irritation, or from some cause or another, of his profession, when there was no employment for them at home, did the same thing. He defied the Hon. Gentleman, or any other person, to prove one act that constituted him a smuggler, and nothing could possibly afford him greater happiness than moving, that all the Papers respecting him and his conduct, from the India House, should be laid before the Public.

Mr. SHERIDAN perfectly agreed with the Hon. Baronet, that after such an attack, he ought to be allowed time and opportunity to repel it. The defence, however, such as it was, appeared to him not a little singular. The Hon. Baronet has acknowledged, that in a moment of irritation he sought refuge under a neutral flag. How that could assuage the passion of the moment was very difficult for him to guess, unless it meant allaying the furor of speculation, which so eminently appeared to predominate, at an early day, in the Hon. Baronet's mind. He had heard of activity, and of “extraordinary” exertions also, made by the Hon. Baronet for the good of his country, and for his own improvement in the line of his profession; but it was the first time in his life that he had heard such efforts denominated by “landing teas at Dungeness!”—It was the first time in his life—

Here the Right Hon. Gentleman was called to order by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, who thought it contrary to the rules of common justice, that transactions such as these should have been cited at the moment, without any previous notice of the intent to do so.

Mr. SHERIDAN continued: he said, that there appeared nothing which he had uttered, that could impute to him the charge of being out of order. The turn which the debate took, arose from the instance so roundly asserted by the Learned Advocate, that no improper application was ever made of these funds; whereas, in fact, a most gross and wanton application had been made of them. The Hon. Commodore was certainly prosecuted for this violation of law; he does not deny the fact. The application of the monies of this fund ought, therefore, to be investigated. The very attempt to conceal it excited great suspicion, and could not be completed without injury to the Constitution. As to the grants to the younger branches of the Royal Family, he did not think they should be arraigned. But there was a fund, out of which the legal owner had not his right; he alluded to the arrears of the Duchy of Cornwall.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER submitted an amended motion, adopting the whole of that submitted by Sir Francis; but omitting that part which called for the statement of the application of these funds.

Lord FOLKSTONE spoke in favour of the original motion.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT declared, that from the case recited, which stated so flagrant and gross an abuse of the public money, he would be deficient in his duty to omit that which he was now convinced was the most important part of his motion, meaning the application of this immense fund; he therefore could not relinquish it.

The ADVOCATE GENERAL stated, that although the Hon. Commodore had acted contrary to the letter of the law, yet he had not violated any principle respecting the

rights of war, and concluded with contending, that the sum given to Sir Home Popham was only the restoration of as much forfeited and taken from him, which, from very particular considerations of peculiar merit in the individual, as well as from the hardship of the case at large, the Crown was justified in restoring to him.

Mr. BRAND declared that the motion ought to go in its original shape. If the application of this fund was fair, it should not be concealed. But he thought there was a door opened for something very unjust in the exercise of that prerogative, which by committing acts of hostility without an open declaration of war, could thereby enrich itself.

The House then divided—for the motion, 57—against it, 82—majority, 25.—Adjourned.

FRIDAY, FEB. 12.

The Curates Suspension Bill was read a third time and passed, as was the Exchequer Bills Regulation Bill.

Several public documents were ordered to be laid before the House, which then adjourned to Monday.

THE LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

TUESDAY, FEB. 9, 1808.

Downing-street, February 8, 1808.

Captain Berkeley, First Aid-de-Camp to General Bowyer, arrived yesterday morning at the Office of Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, with a Dispatch from the General, of which the following is a copy:—

My Lord,

Santa Cruz, Dec. 27.

Being in a state of preparation and readiness to move a sufficient force against the Danish Islands in these seas, in consequence of your Lordship's dispatch of the 5th of September, no time was lost (after the arrival of his Majesty's final commands, signified to me by Lord Hawkesbury's letter of Nov. 8, in your Lordship's absence, by the Fawn sloop of war, which arrived early on Tuesday morning, the 15th inst. at Barbadoes) in embarking the troops at Barbadoes on board the men of war appointed to receive them by Rear Admiral Sir A. Cochrane, who immediately dispatched others to the islands to leeward to take on board such as were under orders in each of them, with directions to proceed to the general rendezvous, the whole of which, except 100 rank and file of the 90th regiment from St. Vincent's, joined the Admiral before or soon after our arrival off the island of St. Thomas, on the 21st inst. It was then thought proper to send a summons to Governor Von Scholten, in charge of Brigadier-Gen. Shipley and Capt. Fahie commanding his Majesty's ship *Ethalion*, to surrender the islands of St. Thomas, St. John, and their dependencies, to his Britannic Majesty, which he did the next day on terms agreed upon between him and Major-General Maitland and Capt. Pickmore, of his Majesty's ship *Ramilles*, which were afterwards approved of and ratified by Rear-Admiral the Hon. Sir A. Cochrane and myself, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose, and hope they will meet with his Majesty's approbation.

On the 23d, in the evening, after leaving a garrison of 300 men of the 10th regiment, with an Officer and detachment of the Royal Artillery, at St. Thomas's, under the command of Brigadier-General Maclean, whom I have also directed to assume the Civil Government of the same, until his Majesty's pleasure is signified thereon, we proceeded to Santa Cruz, the Admiral having previously sent his Majesty's ship *Ethalion*, with Brigadier-General Shipley and Captain Fahie, to summon that island; who returned the next morning, the 24th, with a letter from the Governor, offering to surrender it to his Majesty, provided we would allow three Danish Officers to view, on board the ships, the number of troops brought against it, which we permitted, that his Excellency's military honour might

thereby, not be reflected on. These Officers returned early the next morning, the 25th, to the flag ship with a message that the Governor was willing to treat for the surrender of the island, when Major-General Maitland and Capt. Pickmore were again sent on shore to settle the terms of capitulation, a copy of which I also transmit; which being approved of by the Admiral and myself, troops were landed, and the forts and batteries taken possession of in the name of his Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, a royal salute being fired on the British colours being hoisted.

I should be ungrateful in the extreme, did I not state to your Lordship the great and many obligations I conceive myself, the Officers, and soldiers, to be under to Rear-Admiral the Hon. Sir A. Cochrane, the Captains and Officers of the Royal Navy, who have universally afforded us every comfortable accommodation in their power, and I am sure much to their own inconvenience.

I am convinced that had it been necessary to have called for the exertions of the sea and land forces employed upon this expedition, that they would have added another laurel to the many already acquired by British valour and discipline.

Copies of the two letters of summons, with the answers of the respective Governors, are hereby transmitted, together with a return of the ordnance, and ordnance stores, taken possession of, both at St. Thomas's and Santa Cruz.

This dispatch will be presented to your Lordship by Capt. Berkeley, of the 16th infantry, an intelligent Officer, who will answer any questions you may be pleased to ask him; and I beg leave to recommend him to your Lordship's notice. Capt. Berkeley is my first Aid-de-Camp. I have the honour to be, &c.

HENRY BOWYER,
General and Commander of the Forces.

This Gazette then gives the summons sent by Gen. Bowyer and Admiral Cochrane, to the Commandant of St. Thomas, with the Commandant's reply, announcing his having sent out three Officers to know the strength of the sea and land forces before he surrendered.—The Articles of Capitulation are then given, by which it appears, that these Colonies must trade under the same laws that govern the British West India Islands. The Danish troops are to be considered prisoners of war, and conveyed to Europe as speedily as possible. From one of the articles it appears there was a conspiracy in Santa Cruz to overturn the Government.

There were 89 pieces of ordnance of different calibre at St. Thomas's, and about 134 at Santa Cruz, besides gunpowder, cartridges, shot, shells, muskets, &c.

Admiral Cochrane's account of the operations follows next. It is in substance the same as the letter from General Bowyer. The ships found at St. Thomas's and Santa Cruz, amount to—At St. Thomas's, Danes, 53; English, 8; Americans, 3; Hamburgers, 3; Swedish, 1.—At St. Croix, Danes, 21.—Total, 89.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

A Letter from Lieutenant Carr, commanding the Attentive gun-brig, states the capture, on the 17th of October, between Tobago and Trinidad, of the Spanish privateer lugger *Neustra Senora Del Carmen*, commanded by Don Thomaso Lisaro, rowing forty sweeps, mounting two carriage guns, with swivels, small arms, &c. and carrying sixty-three men, three of whom were wounded in the chase. She was only fifteen days from Barcelona, and had captured the sloop *Harriot*, of St. Vincent.

BANKRUPTS.

- Thomas Bunn, of King-street, Norwich, corn-merchant, to surrender Feb. 15, at eleven, 24, March 22, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Hister and Fletcher, Lincoln's Inn.
- Anthony Hyde, of Brandon, Suffolk, liquor-merchant, Feb. 22, at five, 23, March 22, at eleven, at the George Inn, Thetford. Attorney, Mr. Fuller, Brandon.
- Francis Hall, Jermyn-street, St. James's, cordwainer, Feb. 15, 18, March 22, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Palmer, Barnard's Inn.
- John Salisbury, Exeter, cabinet-maker, Feb. 16, 24, March 22, at eleven, at the Star Inn, Exeter. Attorney, Mr. Turner, Exeter.
- George Else, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottionham, hosier, Feb. 17, 18, March 22, at eleven, at the Swan Inn, Mansfield. Attorney, Mr. Walkden, Mansfield.
- Seth Ellis, Folkinham, Lincolnshire, woollen-draper, Feb. 22, 23, March 22, at eleven, at the George Inn, Grantham. Attorney, Mr. Tottic, Leeds.
- John Brellit, Alfreton, Derbyshire, mercer, Feb. 24, 25, March 22, at eleven, at the Angel Inn, Alfreton. Attorney, Mr. Hall, Alfreton.
- George Croker, late of Bideford, Devonshire, ship-builder, Feb. 24, 25, March 22, at eleven, at the Golden Lion Inn, Barnstaple. Attornies, Messrs. Bremridge and Drake, Barnstaple.
- William Rose, Earl's-court, Kensington, Feb. 10, 16, March 22, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Allen, Carlisle-street, Soho.
- William Bull, Bush-lane, Cannon-street, Feb. 16, 23, March 22, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Taylor, Old-street-road.
- William Busby and Isaac Hill, Strand, hatters, Feb. 13, 23, March 22, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Godmond, New Bridge-street.
- James Makeham, Upper Thames-street, cheesemonger, Feb. 16, 23, March 22, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Wid, Warwick-square.

DIVIDENDS.

- March 16. J. Jones, Carnarvon, draper.—Feb. 27. W. Smith, Cheapside, warehouseman.—March 12. Thos. Bishop, Little East Cheap, carpenter.—March 5. W. Jarmy, Norwich, felmonger.—March 12. R. Spencer Fern, Cannon-street, drysalter.—March 1. R. Berrow, Pall-mall, feather merchant.—April 11. H. Fraser, Nightingale-lane, grocer.—March 7. J. Daxon, Manchester, merchant.—March 5. J. Dickenson, W. Dickenson, sen. and W. Dickenson, jun. late of Broad-street, merchants.

CERTIFICATES—MARCH 1.

- B. Barnett, Sheppy-yard, Minorics, dealer.—J. Denison, W. A. Phelps, and G. Williams, Friday-street, warehousemen.—O. Lodge, Keresforth Hill, York, dealer.—T. Chambers, Wigton, Cumberland, shop-keeper.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains an account of the capture of the French lugger privateer *Le Furet*, of 16 guns and 47 men, by the Port Mahon sloop, Capt. Chambers.

BANKRUPTS.

- Edward Blyth, Louth, Lincolnshire, merchant, to surrender March 11, 12, 26, at eleven, at the Crown and Woolpacks, Louth. Attorney, Mr. Paddison, Louth.
- Elizabeth and Ann Gell, Wirksworth, Derbyshire, grocers, Feb. 26, 27, March 26, at eleven, at the Red Lion, Wirksworth. Attorney, Mr. Swettenham, Wirksworth.
- Jos. Washington, Ashborne, saddler, March 3, at twelve, 4, at ten, 26, at five, at the Anchor Inn, Loughborough. Attorney, Mr. Buchanan, Ashborne.

Nicholas Hurry and Christopher H. Jones, Liverpool, merchants, March 1, 2, 26, at twelve, at the George Inn, Liverpool. Attornies, Messrs. Lace and Hassal. Liverpool.

James Rowel, Wolverhampton, factor, March 1, 2, 26, at eleven, at the Punch Bowl, Birmingham. Attorney, Mr. Holland, Birmingham.

Joseph and John Rippen, Clapham, dealers in coals, Feb. 16, at eleven, 23, March 26, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Harman, Wine-office-court, Fleet-street.

James Wain, Mount-street, Lambeth, merchant, Feb. 18, March 5, 26, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Highmoor, Bush-lane, Cannon-street.

George Simpson, Copthall-Chambers, London, Feb. 20, 27, March 26, at ten, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Holmes and Lewis, Mark-lane.

John Cole, Fore-street, stationer, Feb. 20, at one, 28, at twelve, March 26, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Pullen, Fore-street.

John Crowther, Barkisland, Halifax, York, corn-dealer, Feb. 24, at ten, at the White Lion Inn, Halifax, March 4, 26, at ten, at the Old Cock Inn, Halifax. Attorney, Mr. Howarth, Rippenden.

Thomas Wood, Sheffield, merchant, Feb. 19, 20, March 26, at eleven, at the Tontine Inn, Sheffield. Attorney, Mr. Blacklock, Temple, London.

John Maciacian, Harford-place, Drury-lane, cabinet-maker, Feb. 20, 27, March 26, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Surman, Golden-square.

Caleb Whital, Fenchurch-street, warehouse-keeper, Feb. 16, March 1, 2, 6, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Carpenter and Bailly, Basinghall-street.

Thomas Hare Wills, Lamb's Conduit-street, linen-draper, Feb. 20, 27, March 26, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Bell and Broderick, Bow-lane, Cheapside.

James Wrigley, Pitt-street, Blackfriars-road, hat-manufacturer, Feb. 20, March 5, 26, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Taylor, Took's-court, Chancery-lane.

Margaret Luck (Seares), St. Martin's-le-Grand, dealer, Feb. 18, March 5, 26, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Fryett, Milbank-street, Westminster.

DIVIDENDS.

March 12. Thomas Westlake, Plymouth Dock, draper.—Feb. 23. Joseph Greaves the elder, Gloucester-buildings, Walworth, Surrey, insurance-broker.—March 14. Matthew Macklin, late of Southampton, silversmith.—April 23. Robert Dawson, Oxford-street, Middlesex, linen-draper.—March 5. Henry Nicholson, Bishopsgate-street, London, silk-mercer.—March 12. Eliz. Kent, Bicester, Oxfordshire, draper.—March 8. J. Deakin, Manchester, manufacturer.—March 5. H. Fell, Basinghall-street, warehouseman.—March 5. S. Draper, Oxford-street, linen-draper.—March 8. B. Prested, Brick-lane, Spitalfields, shoe-maker.—March 5. T. Longbottom, Holbeck, Yorkshire, clothier.—March 5. C. Gilbert, St. George's Fields, back-maker.—March 22.—W. Wentworth, Deschamps, B. S. Morgan, and P. M'Taggart, Suffolk-lane, London, merchants.—March 14. James Kay, John Watson, sen. Paul Catterell, and David Ainsworth, Preston, Lancashire, machine-makers.—March 14. Joseph Myers, Whittle, cotton-spinner.—March 5. Wm. Dickenson, T. Goodall, Wm. Dickenson, jun. London, bankers.

CERTIFICATES—MARCH 5.

G. Beaver, Tavistock-place, stone-mason.—J. Powell, Wapping-street, undertaker.—Jesse Sharp, Phoenix-street, St. Pancras, paper-hanger.—S. Storr, Wisbech St. Peter's, plumber.—T. Herbert, Arundel-street, Russell-square, merchant.—B. Norden, Exeter-street, Strand, grocer.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

3 per Ct. Cons. for money 63½.—Ditto for Feb. 63¼.
3 per Cent. Red. 64½.—Omanum 3 prem.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

THE week has been very barren of news. Not a single article has arrived from France. The coffee-house politicians are at present occupied with a very fit subject for noisy debate, the disputes of American parties. The legislators of America certainly exhibit just now that irresolution and turbulence, that impatient violence of council, which has always been the forerunner of changes in the state. The country is divided into a hundred political disputes. Mr. RANDOLPH has denounced General WILKINSON to the House of Representatives as a Spanish pensioner: WILKINSON challenges him, and he refuses to fight till the General has cleared his character. One member of Congress has been accused of taking the oath of allegiance to Spain, and another is suspended on a charge of forgery. WILKINSON in the mean time threatens to cane Mr. RANDOLPH, and RANDOLPH threatens to send a negro-driver to the General. These accounts do not agree with that love of the *polite* arts, of which we have lately heard so much from America.

An Extraordinary Gazette has been published to announce the capture of the Danish Islands of St. Thomas and Santa Cruz. Such a Gazette is indeed extraordinary. The whole capture is not worth its announcement, or rather it is worse than worthless; it will do no single service to the country either in time of war or at the arrival of peace; it is of no importance as to any influence upon treaties; it will merely serve to add to the satiety of a glutted West India market, and to the useless expenditure of maintaining an useless Government and an hundred useless dependencies. To publish an Extraordinary Gazette for such an acquisition is like the folly of a man who should write a letter to all his relations requesting them to congratulate him upon a new incumbrance on his estate.

There is reason to suppose that a considerable relaxation, if not a total abandonment, of the principle of the French Decrees, has taken place in favour of America. The measure of an embargo has also been adopted in Spain; but there, as in France, vessels belonging to the United States are *excepted*. BONAPARTE, by this new regulation, casts all the odium attached to commercial restrictions upon our Government.

The embargo does not prevent any foreign vessels from coming into American ports with the manufactures of the country to which they belong, but such vessels are not permitted to return with American produce.

Some accounts are said to have been received from Admiral DUCKWORTH, who is stated to have obtained correct information of the course taken by the Rochefort squadron.

So severe was the weather on Friday night, the snow so deep, the wind so violent, that by ten o'clock yesterday morning not more than six inland Mails out of twenty had arrived at the General Post Office. In some places the coaches could not proceed, and the bags were dispatched on horseback; in others, additional horses were forced to be procured.

On Wednesday, during the whole night, and Thursday morning, the wind was so high, that we feared we should hear of great damage having been done at sea. The Deal and Ramsgate letters state, that some ships were driven on shore, whilst others parted from their cables and run out to sea. At Portsmouth several ships parted, but towards four in the afternoon the wind moderated, and we trust the damage will not be so extensive as was at first apprehended.

The trial of General WHITELOCKE is continued from day to day, and promises still to last some time.

A cause is soon likely to be heard in Westminster-Hall, in which a Magistrate and a Divine are principally concerned. If the heavy charge made against them, viz. for a conspiracy in marrying an orphan lunatic, should be proved, the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex, and a certain Bishop, will have duties to perform, that must be as congenial to their feelings, as they will be gratifying to the Public.

The late Marquis of THOMOND was celebrated as a bon-vivant, being deemed a six bottle man; in 1753 he married the eldest daughter of the late Earl of INCHICUIN, to whose title he succeeded; by this lady he had no children. For many years he sat in the House of Commons, where he was considered a satellite of BURKE. In 1794, his first lady having been several years dead, he married Miss PALMER, niece to Sir JOSHUA REYNOLDS. At the Union, he was created Marquis of THOMOND, and shortly after a Peer of the Realm. His Lordship, who was in his 85th year, scarcely missed a day riding, if the weather permitted. He is succeeded in his title and Irish estates by Capt. O'BRIEN, a near relation. A ribbon of the Order of St. Patrick also becomes vacant.

Simmons, the wretch who murdered the two females, at Hoddesdon, a few months since, died, it is said, last week, in Hertford Gaol, raving mad. He had, it seems, refused to take any food for several days before.

A beautiful specimen of virgin gold was lately found in a tin stream-work in Cornwall. It is about the length and thickness of a little finger, and weighs above two ounces. Its intrinsic value is equal to nine guineas, but, as a specimen, it is invaluable; for though gold has been frequently found in the stream-works, and that in larger quantities than is generally known, that is unquestionably the largest and most beautiful specimen ever found in Cornwall.

ANECDOTE.—An old Indian Chief, who was in the fatal expedition with the British army under General BRADDOCK, when he besieged Ticonderago, and formed part of the detachment which General WASHINGTON saved, dined with the American *Fabius*, at Mount Vernon, in Virginia: after the repast, the savage hero indicated signs of disappointment, if not disgust. When the venerable General enquired, by the interpreter, the cause of his chagrin, the savage stood erect, and told his illustrious host, that some years ago, when he was in the Indian castle, he, the savage, had offered him the embraces of his squaw; and that he was wonderfully surprised that the General had not returned this instance of civility, by a similar offer of Mrs. WASHINGTON. The General excused himself, by averring that it was not the custom of his country. As Mrs. WASHINGTON, who was present, understood the tenor of the demand, she became much agitated with terror, which the Indian perceiving, he told her with manly dignity, that she had nothing to fear; as, if the General had complied, he should only have walked up to her to signify his right to this sort of hospitable courtesy, and then bowing, have resigned her to her white Chief.

Madame CATALANI, who was invited as a visitant to Lady HARRIET CAVENDISH's grand musical and supper party, on Wednesday evening, at Devonshire House, was most elegantly dressed; she wore all the diamonds that had been presented to her at the Court of Lisbon, and was, from the neck to her tiara, one blaze of jewellery.

A shocking catastrophe happened at Ladon, Herts, in consequence of the hurricane on Thursday night. A wing of the house of Mr. WALPOLE was blown down about twelve o'clock, and a gentleman of the name of BELLIS, a servant maid, and a little boy, were buried in the ruins. The former was dug out of the ruins a corpse; the child died on Friday, and the servant was dangerously bruised. Mr. B. was a resident of Hampshire, and had only slept in the house two nights previous to the accident. The child was the nephew of Mrs. WALPOLE.

A man of decent appearance was found frozen to death under the park wall yesterday morning. He appeared to have been drinking, and in his pockets were found 2l. in money, but there were no traces of his abode.

At the Westminster adjourned Sessions, yesterday, *White, Soames, and Woodford*, who had been committed under the vagrant act, as being reputed pick-pockets, were again brought up, judgment having been respited at the late Sessions, in consequence of objections then taken, which were, that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant the conviction; that the witnesses were not examined before the defendants, who consequently were deprived of the rights of cross examining them, and that the act of the 42 Geo. 3, was misconstrued by the substitution of the word *of* instead of *for* in the conviction. Mr. MAINWARING observed, that it was the opinion of the Court, that the defendants were recognized by the act, and liable to be taken into custody; but in consideration of their long confinement (9 weeks) they would be discharged. The defendants were then discharged with an admonition from the Chairman to lead a new life.

COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

Wednesday his Majesty held a private Levee at the Queen's Palace, which was numerously attended. His Majesty afterwards held a Privy Council, and gave audiences to the Cabinet Ministers.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 7.

THE REVIVAL OF THE CHANCES.—ELLISTON'S VIOLENCE.—THE NEW OPERA OF KAIS, OR LOVE IN THE DESERT.—IT'S ORIGIN AND ERRORS.—A HINT FOR THE COMMENTATORS ON CERVANTES.—THE NEW COMEDY BY MR. REYNOLDS.—IT'S SURPRISING NEGATIVE QUALITIES.

DRURY-LANE.

BEAUMONT and FLETCHER's comedy of the *Chances* was revived on Saturday week. This play is almost an entire copy of the story of *Donna Cornelia Bentivoglio*, in the *Exemplary Novels* of CERVANTES, but the dramatists in rendering it more humorous have lost the exquisite simplicity of the original. The character of *Don John*, which in FLETCHER's time was reckoned a finished picture of the gay gentleman and which DRYDEN tells us was so much improved by the Duke of BUCKINGHAM, cannot pretend either in the original copy or in the Duke's alteration to equal the delicate though manly gentleman of CERVANTES. The very first part of his behaviour, when in the darkness of night a large bundle is put into his hand under the supposition that he is another person to whose name he answers, exhibits a want of gentlemanly feeling totally distinct from the ancient Spanish character, and indeed from any character of manly refinement. CERVANTES represents *Don John* as receiving the bundle with surprise, and when he discovers it to be a child, his first impulse is to take it to a nurse and his second to return to the place where he received it, and see whether he could be of further service: this is humane and disinterested: but the gay dramatists must give their gentleman a little more humour on the occasion, and the first impulse of their *Don John* is to congratulate himself upon the probable value of a burden which was evidently intended for another: this is the true selfishness of a libertine, but it certainly is not the true gentleman of which BEAUMONT and FLETCHER's admirers have talked so much.

The story in short is unfit for comedy. A lady who is seduced by a nobleman, delivered of a child which she is obliged to send away from her, and pursued by the fury of an indignant brother, cannot possibly give rise to any comic feelings, and therefore BEAUMONT and FLETCHER destroyed the simplicity and pathos of the original by giving the gentlemen who assist her a prominence and a levity that turn the attention from her sorrows. The adventure in CERVANTES is one of the most interesting stories that ever were written, but in the drama you receive very little pleasure from the tale itself: the great amusement arises from the humour of the dialogue, which for the most part is indeed perfectly spirited and natural, almost every turn

of pleasantry comes from the circumstances not for it, and the authors do not talk through the medium of their characters. If CERVANTES however has introduced little humour in the original, what he has introduced, should not have been altered even by FLETCHER himself, who has converted the artless officiousness of the nurse into an artifice rather too manifest and farcical.

ELLISTON's performance of *Don John* was full of spirit, especially in those touches of dry humour, which he always gives with so pungent an aridity. But I observed in his performance the very same defect, a want of natural and self-possession, which, though exhibited in a different manner, so obstructed him in his first representation of *Sir Harry Wildair*. *Don John* was one of the best characters of GARRICK, ELLISTON therefore exerts himself with all his bustling energies, and instead of an easy vigour gives his character a kind of stiff violence. Sometimes he claps his hands together as if he was playing two cymbals, and sometimes with straining fists he stiffens his attitude into a backward meditation and muscular tension, as if he was going to vault into the side boxes. This is not the elegance of the gay gentleman. He will perform the character much better, as he afterwards did that of *Sir Harry Wildair*, if he trusts more to instantaneous feeling than to an anxious study which becomes affectation.

The piece was altogether very well performed, and every lover of the drama must have been pleased to see the promised taste of this theatre so well exhibited in the spirit of it's revivals. But how long will it be, before our managers are persuaded that obscenity is neither humour nor wit? Why will they preserve the ore with the gold, the deformities with the beauties of genius? This is not what they owe to departed genius. Alas, if the author who indulges his pen in licentiousness would consider for an instant what poison he mingles with his ink and what a blot he is giving his fair name for ever, he would thrust his unworthy hand like CRANMER into the flames.

A new opera, in four acts, called *Kais, or, Love in the Desert*, was produced on Thursday night. Mr. BRAHAM and Mrs. MOUNTAIN performed the hero and heroine of the story, which is founded on the celebrated Eastern tale of *Kais and Leila*, or as it is commonly called, *Mejnoun and Leila*. The author, who is said to be a Mr. BRANDON, a gentleman of the Jewish persuasion, has evidently taken his idea of this tale from the romances of Mr. D'ISRAELI, who has related the adventures of the unhappy lovers in very elegant prose and with a poetical spirit that has united the luxuriance of Eastern description with the finest touches of simple feeling. The dramatist however has miserably deformed the beauty of his original. There is nothing in his performance but a smooth mediocrity of blank verse, such as might be written by any well-educated young gentleman fond of poetry; he has spoiled the incidents, he has spoiled the characters, he has ruined the fancy and the pathos of the whole story.

The true narrative of *Mejnoun and Leila* is as simple as all love-stories ought to be, and it must be confessed that an amatory tale can be dramatised by nobody but a perfect master of the drama. An Arabian youth

named *Kais*, who is already the best poet of his time, is deeply enamoured with *Leila*, the daughter of a haughty man of rank, who rejects him on account of his inferiority of birth; the lover's poetical genius, so great as it is in the eyes of an Arabian, and so renowned as it has rendered his daughter, cannot move the heart of the proud chief: the young poet becomes a *Mejnoun*, or lunatic, and plunges into the wildest part of the desert, where he pours forth a profusion of beautiful verses in praise of his mistress: his favorite Antelope, which like an European dog, has followed his master, shares his miserable society, and with his fine black eyes affords the enamoured poet a hundred comparisons and recollections of *Leila*. His father however reclaims him from this solitude and restores him to his senses by the promise of petitioning the haughty chief; but the unhappy old man is unsuccessful, the youth relapses into insanity, *Leila* becomes the virgin wife of another, she dies with long-suffering, and the *Mejnoun*, soon after he hears the news, dies with mere exhaustion.

Mr. BRANDON has completely destroyed the beauty of this story by giving it a cheerful conclusion, and by the introduction of useless and insipid characters, which hurt its unity of effect. The poetical genius of *Kais*, whose verses would have afforded a noble opportunity for the inspiration of a great dramatist, becomes a dull mediocrity that contradicts the reputation of the Arabian poet, and therefore injures the probability of the story.

The new Opera, in short, considered as a literary composition, is really the dullest drama that has appeared for many years, and the story that has enchanted all Asia has been degraded beneath the interest of a *DIBDIN* or a *CHERRY*. A most miserable and unseasonable piece of flattery on the English nation was rejected with contempt by the audience; a Circassian, travelling in Arabia, is made to exclaim on a sudden, "I have heard of a little island," &c. &c. Nothing could be more gross or ineffectual. Perhaps Mr. BRANDON is not aware, that *Kais* the *Mejnoun* really existed a little before the time of the celebrated HAROUN AL RASCHID, and that when England is praised as a land of greatness and liberty in the time of *Kais*, it is praised for what it did not possess. This is a touch of Mr. CHERRY's chronology.

The actors were very ill adapted to their characters. The idea of Mr. BRAHAM in the part of a poetical lunatic is insane enough. When he stood on the precipice amidst the deserts, in a fine silken dress, and in an attitude of the most meek stiffness, he certainly did not look very like a half-clothed bewildered being, who had become violent by hunger and despair. Signora STORACE would certainly have done it better: she would have looked more active, more ferocious, more like a man. The music was altogether elegant, but it was uncommonly old. There did not appear to me to be one original song in the whole piece except the first, which was sung by Mr. BRAHAM in a fine impassioned tone of fondness. But he must have become exceedingly modest to tell us that one of his airs was composed with the assistance of the Chevalier FEDERI. How was it that he never mentioned the assistance of his numerous Italian friends, living and dead, in the composition of the *Cabinet*?

How is it that he says nothing of the help of MOZART and others in the present opera? and what could have induced Mr. REBE to copy one of his own airs from the *Cabinet* and pass it for an original in *Kais*? Mrs. MOUNTAIN sung as sweetly as usual, but she does not improve in science: she seems inclined to yield the palm to Mrs. DICKONS without a struggle. KELLY did his best to spoil one of Mr. BRAHAM's duets: it was like a knife-grinder's wheel accompanying a flute. As for Signora STORACE, she performed the part of a Circassian beauty! I did not think the Managers possessed such powers of irony.

To conclude, it is not a little surprising that none of the critics on CERVANTES or the Persian poets, should have noticed the exact resemblance between the story of *Mejnoun* and *Leila*, and that of *Cardenio* in *Don Quixote*, which has been dramatised by Mr. COLMAN in his *Mountaineers*. *Cardenio* is a lover and a lunatic, who flies into a desert like the *Mejnoun*, and is dying on account of the supposed marriage of his mistress. The conclusion, indeed, of *Cardenio* is cheerful, and that is the very reason why the story is comparatively so uninteresting: but the general idea is evidently the same, and there is every probability of the intimacy of CERVANTES with the Eastern tale, since the Moors, who were the descendants of the Arabians, brought with them into Spain a profusion of the most popular romances of their country.

COVENT-GARDEN.

The new comedy called *Begone Dull Care*, which was produced on Tuesday from the old original pen of Mr. REYNOLDS, somewhat astonished the tribe of playgoers, for it had neither puns nor praises of England. The plot, as I have not a column to spare, I cannot venture to explain, but the play appears to have been written in imitation of Mr. MORTON's style, and though the prologue told us that the author intended to be *funny* (a rhyme with *money*) yet the general character of the play was an attempt at pathetic sentiment. It is the excess only of the sentimental which injures a comedy: sentimental comedy is after all the most natural species of drama, because it is a picture of the natural vicissitudes of life, but the serious and the lively must be well mingled or the piece becomes either a comedy with patches of tragedy, or a tragedy with patches of comedy. A natural seriousness strengthened by solid observation, and a natural liveliness adorned by original wit, are the ingredients of true comedy: violent distress belongs to tragedy, and violent merriment to mere farce. CUMBERLAND's best comedies, therefore, such as the *Wheel of Fortune*, and the *West Indian*, approach much nearer to true comedy than MORTON's, so that Mr. REYNOLDS has not copied a proper original, though he has successfully imitated a writer superior to himself. The new play upon the whole does credit to his knowledge of stage effect, to his good sense, and to his self-command; he has not only perceived the errors of his ancient buffoonery, but he has had the resolution to conquer some of them. When Mr. REYNOLDS ceases to pun and to play the fool, one may expect Mr. DIBDIN to look about him.

THE OPERA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,

After a fascinating performance of *La Frascatano*, by Madame CATALANI, on Tuesday evening, a new ballet was produced, the composition of Mr. D'EGVILLE, entitled *L'enlèvement de Dejanire*. This gentleman has been long remarkable for his inventive faculties and produced many delightful pieces, but he will receive little additional fame from the present one, which is of a very inferior description. The subject, as the name announces, is the rape of *Dejanira*, the wife of *Hercules*, who was forcibly carried from the court of her father by the centaur *Nessus*, but rescued by *Hercules*, who aimed a dart which occasioned the monster's death. When dying, *Nessus* presented *Dejanira* with a mantle under the pretence that it would reclaim the affection of her husband, should he ever prove unfaithful. She soon found occasion to use this supposed preventative of infidelity, and discovered too late the treachery of *Nessus*, by the poisonous effects of his gift, which occasioned the death of *Hercules*. This fable gave Mr. D'EGVILLE an opportunity of introducing a character new to the stage. Bears, swans, camels, and elephants, have so long been the ornaments of modern melo-dramas, that they have nearly ceased to delight, but a centaur is a novel gratification to the town, of which even *Pindock's* collection could never boast. This charming production of D'EGVILLE's fertile genius had not so successful a debut as was undoubtedly expected. It consisted of a man fastened to the stuffed body of a horse, which had no motion distinguishable in joint or limb, although the legs run upon castors to give it facility of movement! Nothing could be more ludicrous than its turnings, which were like the stiff sweeps of a crocodile. Imagine a man dragging a dining table fixed tightly to his back, and you will have a correct idea of this classical animal. *Mons. Deshayes* performed with great energy, but his figure is too elegant and not sufficiently muscular to express the dignity and strength of *Hercules*. *Mad. Deshayes* had no opportunity of displaying her abilities as an actress, which are of a very superior description, particularly in rural characters, for which her face and figure are peculiarly adapted.

The music is by *VENUA*, who leads the band to the dances: it is of rather a heavy and dry description, and too much in the French style, which has never succeeded in this country, nor indeed in any other. It is remarkable that a nation so distinguished for its refinement, should have made no further progress in this science; the names of few of its composers are known in this country, and the composition even of *GRETRY* is enjoyed only by those who are acquainted with music scientifically. Some of the airs of *VENUA* are to be excepted from this general censure, but they are chiefly imitations of other authors; thus two or three, which are by far the best in the ballet, reminded me strongly of *HANDEL*. As a leader he is much inferior to *SPAGNOLETTI*, whom he succeeded; there is a want of decision and a feebleness in his style that should have prevented him from taking so high a situation in the orchestra. The economical plans of the

present manager appear to have been the cause of this change, and that of the painter, which is still more to be regretted. The scenery of this ballet would disgrace a provincial theatre; the buildings deviate from all architectural rules; the palaces are in size and formation like cottages or barns, and the temple of *Jove* inferior to a Hackney or Islington summer-house. The landscapes are equally defective both in design and colouring; the trees appear to be covered with snow, and the most verdant fields have all the monotonous effect of green baize. If it is necessary to employ *Signor Aello* at this theatre, it should be in shifting the scenes rather than in painting them. Surely the manager is highly reprehensible for thus thrusting upon the public persons of the most inferior abilities to supercede those who have long held their situations with so much credit. It is this spirit of economy which has dismissed *Signor NALDI*, and raised *RIGHT* to the situation of principal singer; the same motive has discarded from the orchestra many of the best professors to make room for others of inferior excellence, particularly *HARRINGTON*, whose place is taken by the brother of *CATALANI*, a young man so totally unqualified for the situation, that he is under the necessity of getting the second oboe to execute his solos, while with an astonishing effrontery he sits perfectly unconcerned at the sneers of those around him. H. R.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

Heav'n! what enchantment to the raptur'd gaze
This region rich of Helicon displays;
Where tides of soft and tasteful transport roll
"Thro' ev'ry channel of the human soul."

A painter of genius will never enter into a minuter detail than is necessary for the elucidation of his subject, but it is a pity he should be slovenly.—*Mr. DRUMMOND* is so in his dabby forms, his unfinished outline of flesh, and his fuzzy coarseness of draperies, which are destitute of square marking. *Mr. DRUMMOND* must know that vigour of outline is a characteristic of the sublime and beautiful. To judicious effects and other essentials, however, he adds a lively conception of his subject, of which the spectator has an instantaneous and accurate recognition. Thus in his *Pharaoh's Daughter pleading for Moses*, No. 7, our feelings sympathize with the amiable young princess hanging on her father's neck, conciliating his ferocious heart with the tenderness of filial affection and pathetic eloquence, while unfolding her discovery of the founding; and with the *Good Samaritan*, No. 7, who, with humane sollicitude, is recruiting with cordials the fainting spirits of the despoiled and bruised traveller. The mantle of the Samaritan thrown over the stripped sufferer, is a judicious thought, and the roseate bloom of health well contrasts with the livid hue of sickness. His *Designs from Ossian*, No. 79, are graceful, pathetic, and grand. The warrior with uplifted eyes, and another covering his face in his grief, are sublime; but why hide all the faces in a piece. *Sir J. REYNOLDS* says that "the

chief, if not the only occasion for hiding the face, is either for the sake of decency; or to avoid what would appear disagreeable." *Dramatis Personæ*, No. 40, has all the polished elegance of Watteau's attitudes.

328. *Girl washing her feet*. W. OWEN, R.A. It is the peculiar praise of this modest artist (a rare quality in a painter) that he never attempts what he is incompetent well to execute. The graces of infancy, and the riper beauties of youth, in all the untutored charms of nature, delight on his canvass.—His colouring is rich without gaudiness; his effects bright without glare. Few painters equal, none surpass him in judicious management of the clare obscure, and the harmony of his colours. He is a model for a due medium between careless and elaborate finishing, with vigour and facility of outline and touch. If there are other painters with higher excellencies, there are none so devoid of faults. We appeal for these truths to the "Girl washing her feet."

Mr. GREEN'S canvass reflects a vigorous and elegant mind. The *Infant Bacchus*, No. 122, is as rich as Rubens, and has a grace and beauty which the great Fleming never possess.

193. *Helenus and Cassandra asleep*. H. HOWARD, R.A. This rich picture justifies the Royal Academy in having elevated this Gentleman last week to the rank of an Academician. Mr. PHILLIPS at the same time received the same honour, which he well merits for his spirited portraits.

25. *Fishermen—A scene from nature*, J. LINNELL, is a rare production from a boy in his teens. With exquisite Dutch finish, bright silver tint and relief, the water is equal to Ruysdael.

21. *The Attic Artist*. H. ASBY. As the grand style in painting presents only the great and general ideas of select nature, so, on the contrary, the familiar style attends with scrupulous exactness to the minute detail of common nature. This piece therefore would be more perfect of its kind, were it more carefully finished. But its character is admirable. Nothing can be more easy and natural than the cross-legged attitude of the painter, who appears by the chaotic confusion of his sky-girt and time-torn apartment and his wild energy of countenance, to possess more genius than money. This idea is heightened by the flock bed on the ground, the ragged stockings hanging to dry, the saucepan on the fire, the broken culinary utensils, and materials of art, with "To be sold" chalked on a landscape.—The mother watching the progress of her boy's portrait, contrasts by her gentility and grace the uncouthness of the ragged headed artist. The Marquis of STAFFORD enriches his fine collection with this singular piece, and generously gave the deserving painter his own price.

Capt. Agar has bought Mr. DEVIS'S charming *Madona*. R. H.

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Wednesday, Feb. 10.

THE KING v. HECTOR CAMPBELL.

Mr. Justice GROSE pronounced the judgment of the

Court on the defendant, who had been convicted of several libels on the College of Physicians.

Mr. Justice GROSE addressed the defendant in an appropriate speech, stating, first, the substance of the criminal information on which he was convicted; and then proceeded to observe, that the College of Physicians was a body of learned and honourable men, who acted under the authority of Letters Patent from the King, confirmed by the Legislature, by which they had many duties imposed on them of great public importance; one of which was, that of examining into the fitness of those who claimed to practice physic in London, or within seven miles thereof; and without whose authority none were to practice in that science; and to interdict those who might practice without their licence. This authority, thus granted to this learned body, was of great utility to the public, and might have been so to the defendant; for it was of great consequence that the ignorant, illiberal, and presumptuous pretenders to skill and knowledge in the science of physic, should not be allowed to practise it. On the other hand it would have been highly advantageous to the defendant in his practice to have had the honour of being admitted to practise after examination by the College of Physicians, and their authority for his fitness. The Defendant's conduct, particularly that of sending back the interdiction to the College of Physicians besmeared as it was, had proved him unfit to attend the chambers of the sick.

The Court taking all the circumstances of the case into consideration, and being disposed to prevent a repetition of this offence, and to deter others from following so detestable an example, did order and adjudge that the Defendant, for this his offence, do pay to the King a fine of 50l. and be imprisoned for three calendar months in the King's Bench Prison.

Friday, February 12.

At the sitting of the Court this morning, Mr. R. I. FERRARS rose up, and claimed the attention of their Lordships. He said, he came to move, in his own person, for a rule to shew cause why a criminal Information should not be filed against Dr. David Pitcairn. The Court interrupted him, and said, it was not permitted even that privileged Advocates should move for a Criminal Information on the last day of the term, and therefore he could not be heard. The Gentleman immediately desisted, observing, that he would postpone his motion till another opportunity.—Mr. Ferrars had not got the length of stating the nature of his complaint.

POLICE.

MANSION-HOUSE.

On Thursday a Chimney-sweeper was summoned for ill-treating a poor boy, nine years of age, who had been apprenticed to him about seven months, during which time he had experienced such severe treatment from his master and his son, that he had scarcely strength, with the assistance of his mother, to describe his case. Mr. Alderman Perryn, who sat for the Lord Mayor, ordered the boy to be put under the care of a surgeon, and bound the master over to answer for the complaint.

THAMES POLICE.

W. Andrews, a journeyman biscuit-baker, was convicted before JOHN HARRIOTT and JOHN LONGLEY, Esqrs. the Sitting Magistrates, under the 39th and 40th of Geo. 3d, cap. 106, for unlawfully persuading and enticing away the biscuit-bakers in the employment of Mr. Walters, of New-crane. It was stated by Mr. Walters, that he, and many of the trade, had large contracts for supplying Government with bread; and that unless these contracts were fulfilled within a given time, it was usual to impose a heavy fine on the contractors. The men, aware of the urgency there was, had taken advantage of it to

obtain an advance of wages; and had throughout the whole trade, almost to a man, left their work for that purpose. The conduct of Andrews was particularly bad, for he had received 5s. for every man he had cuticed away. The Magistrates thought the combination too dangerous to be treated lightly; and sentenced him to two months imprisonment in the House of Correction, Cold-bath-fields, and during that time to be kept to hard labour.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Wednesday afternoon, about half past one o'clock, as the Marquis of Thomond was riding through Grosvenor-square, towards the S. E. corner, attended by a servant, his horse suddenly started, or got unexpectedly on the pavement, when he seemed to plunge; and, whether from the slipperiness by the frost, or otherwise, the animal threw the Marquis to a considerable distance in the carriageway or kennel, where his Lordship was taken up completely stunned or dead. A cart driving hastily along at the moment is supposed to have startled the Marquis's horse. The Marquis of Thomond expired about fifteen minutes after, in Lord Sydney's house, immediately opposite to the spot where the accident happened, and before any medical assistance appeared. Dr. Jones, of Mount-street, arrived a few minutes after his Lordship's death, followed, very soon after, by Mr. Heaviside, the surgeon, and afterwards by Sir Walter Farquhar. The remains were removed about eleven o'clock, from Lord Sydney's, to the family house of the deceased, in Great George-street, Westminster, where the body now lies. The late Marquis was in his 85th year.

An Inquisition was taken on Tuesday at St. George's Hospital, on the body of Mary Carpmeal, who drowned herself in the Serpentine River on the preceding day. The deceased, 18 years of age, was the niece of the late Carpmeal, of Bow-street Police-Office, and her father recently kept the Coach and Horses, in Mount-street. It appeared, that she was walking in the Park with her sister and others, and on a sudden ran away from her companions, and in their sight threw herself into the river. A gentleman's servant, who was on the spot, but who unfortunately could not swim, tied three handkerchiefs together, to save her, which she attempted in vain to seize hold of, and at length sunk. A man of colour plunged after her, she having been in the water several minutes, and he succeeded in getting the body to the shore; but every means to restore animation proved unsuccessful. It was stated, that an unhappy attachment had deprived the deceased of her senses.—Verdict, Lunacy.

Friday se'night a young lady, residing at No. 17, Carburton-street, Fitzroy-square, was so severely burnt by her train catching fire, as to cause her almost immediate death.

FIRE.—The fire which broke out on Monday in Mr. Nichols's Printing-Office, Red-Lion-passage, Fleet-street, began at ten at night, and continued burning until four in the morning. There is no certainty as to the manner in which it originated, more than it is generally supposed to have begun from a snuff of candle having been dropped in the ware-room. The whole of that extensive concern is consumed, and valuable works, that have been accumulating for many years, have been entirely lost. It is said that Messrs. Nichols and Son were insured to a considerable amount, but by no means equal to cover their loss. There is a remarkable circumstance related, which is as follows:—A servant girl was in the kitchen, almost suffocated with the smoke, and unable, through terror and the deprivation of breath, to move; a fireman discovered it, broke open the window, and at the risk of his own life saved the girl's.—The Red-lion public-house, Mr. Edwards's Printing-Office, the Scottish Hospital, and some other adjacent places, sustained partial injury.

The celebrated *Major Semple* met with another unexpected detention on Wednesday, in Upper Seymour-street. He had called at the shop of a perfumer and artificial florist a few days since, and looked out ornaments to the amount of 25s.; he then requested change for a 5l. note, and on its being about to be given him, the Major begged pardon, and, with an air of surprise, observed that his note was for 10l. The florist could not give him change for ten pounds. The Major obtained possession of the goods. The tradesman, however, espied his late customer on Wednesday, in Seymour-street, and, *sans ceremonie*, demanded his money; but the Major was destitute of either cash or note, and took refuge in the house of a Mr. Frear, to avoid the mob; a constable was then charged with him. The Earl of B. was passing, and, on perceiving an immense crowd, he inquired into the business, and on the tradesman making his case known, his Lordship paid the demand. There were, however, other clamorous creditors in the street, and, to avoid their importunities, Mr. Semple escaped from the back part of the house.

MARRIAGES.

On Monday last, Horace Beckford, Esq. to Miss Rigby; after the ceremony they left town for Lord Rivers's seat, in Hampshire.

On Tuesday, Richard Dallet, jun. of Merton Hall, Surrey, to Miss Mary Sparks, youngest daughter of Richard Sparks, Esq. of Wormish, near Guildford, Surrey.

DEATHS.

At Clea, near Grimsby, Mrs. Elizabeth Fridlington, of that place, a maiden lady. She had long lived in a penurious manner; but after her decease upwards of 3400l. in gold was found in her house, wrapped up in small linen bags, containing about 100l. in each.

At Beccles, Mr. John Lincoln, corn-merchant, aged 54, whose death was occasioned by rashly immersing his feet in cold water during a severe attack of the gout.

A few days since, at Newmarket, in Ireland, in the 96th year of his age, Michael Farrell, the well-known monarch of the mendicants of Munster, over whom he reigned for seventy years, with mildness, justice, and moderation.

On Friday se'night, in Walcot Poor-house, James Waite, aged 107. He was born in the house adjoining the White Horse Cellar, opposite Walcot church, Bath, and was never out of the parish a twelvemonth together. He lived as a servant to old "Squise Hooper" 15 years; but was the greater part of his life a chairman. He remembers when there were only eighty houses in the parish of Walcot—and no poor-rate!—There were two capital clothiers in it. Waite had three wives; by the first he had 15 children, one of whom survives him, and who is likewise a chairman. He went into the poor-house April 7, 1797, and was then, by his own account, 97, though it was reported he was 103. He has lived there nearly eleven years, and always expressed himself grateful for the humane attention he experienced. He perfectly recollects hearing about the death of Queen Anne, and the coronation of George I. His faculties were clear till within three or four days of his dissolution.

Tuesday, Mr. T. Haines, many years master of Tom's Coffee-house, Great Russell-street, Covent-garden, in his 63d year.

On Thursday se'night, in Gower-street, Henry Earl, Esq. formerly one of the Prothonotaries of the Court of Common Pleas.

On the 31st ult. at his residence, Stanley House, King's-road, Chelsea, Leonard Morse, Esq. of the War Office, F. R. S. and F. A. S.