

## THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.—POPPE.

### COBBETT IN PARLIAMENT.

We think that all spirited politicians, of whatever party, should be glad to see Mr. COBBETT in Parliament, and should assist to get him seated there. There can be no doubt that he has a considerable body of supporters in the country, or, as he calls them, "disciples;" and that alone forms a reason why he should be in the House of Commons, as their Representative. Besides which, he is a man of great talent, shrewd, ready, ingenious, forcible, and upon many subjects thoroughly well-informed,—and would therefore be an acquisition to any political assembly in the world. Above all, he would represent the *labouring* class of society,—a class which may be said to have no Representative in Parliament, though under a just system it would have many. Sprung from that order himself, possessing the firmness and good sense to look upon his self-procured elevation as his greatest merit, his temper and education leading him to condemn mere gentility, and to regard no claims to superiority in life as valid but those of *intellect*, he naturally makes common cause with Democracy against Aristocracy, prides himself upon standing forward as the champion of the labourers, and seeks reputation and influence in vindicating their title to respect and independence. No public writer describes so feelingly and so forcibly the actual condition of the poor, or does so much justice to their rights and importance in the community. There are already men in Parliament who think justly and humanely in regard to the treatment of the mass of the people,—who give their best support to every measure tending to improve it. But there are none, we suspect, who sympathize with them so entirely as WILLIAM COBBETT does,—who know in detail their wants, their feelings, and the way to deal with them, so well as he. Were he elected, he would never allow the House to lose sight of the interests of "the millions;" upon every great question he would vigorously put forward their rights, and point out, with his peculiar clearness and effect, how they would be touched by any proposed enactment. We are convinced, too, that he would effect no small good by beating down, with the weapons of reason and ridicule, a great deal of Parliamentary cant and nonsensical circumlocution, and by demolishing the *genteel* pretences upon which numberless extravagant items of expenditure are supported.

It may be objected, that COBBETT's character is not such as to make his admission into Parliament desirable. We answer,—first, that the vices of his character, whatever they may be—and we have not been backward to expose them—would not affect his utility in the House of Commons, where he would have no influence except what was due to his sagacity and good sense; secondly, that whatever we may think of the malignity and meanness of some of his writings, he cannot justly be called an immoral man, being well known as exemplary and amiable in all his domestic relations; thirdly, that it would be a dangerous thing to allow objections to an individual, on the score of personal character, to be pleaded against the employment of his talents in a public capacity; and lastly, that, at all events, the House, as at present composed, has no right to object to him on a squeamish principle. If boroughmongering were abolished, and the representation thrown open by a radical reform, we should think it quite fair that COBBETT, in offering himself as a candidate to any body of electors, should have thrown in his teeth his tergiversations, his unjust attacks on individuals, his cowardice, and his vanity:—but constituted as the House of Commons now is, we think it would be extracting some good out of a bad system, to send him in through a rotten borough, in order to obtain the benefit of his great abilities, and to have his powerful voice perpetually exerted on behalf of the most important, though worst represented, part of the British People.

At the same time, we think it a great mistake to suppose, that Mr COBBETT would make a "great sensation" in Parliament: his "disciples," we are sure, prodigiously overrate the effect of his presence there. Shrewd and ready in conversation, with a command of words much in talking as in writing, he yet has not the least pretension to eloquence: his strength indeed lies in the use of familiar language and colloquial idioms, which are remote from the lofty range of oratory. He could not run on unchecked, among a body of clever men, in the free and slashing style which distinguishes the *Register*: in the ability to be answered on the spot, to have his blunders exposed, his fallacies detected, he would feel a check which would greatly restrain

his expatiation. He could not venture, for instance, upon those fierce sallies which supply so much *unction* to his essays: "privilege" would not tolerate his clenching an argument with a "What say you to that, beast?" or "There's a stupid wretch!" addressed to Hon. or Right Hon. Gentlemen. Besides, Mr COBBETT is neither deep nor enlarged in his views as a politician: his intellectual vision is microscopic; he sees the object before him magnified, and makes much of all its details; but he sees nothing else at the same time; he wants comprehensiveness, and is consequently betrayed frequently into gross inconsistencies. Witness the extremes he has run into on both sides of almost every public question; witness also his blind obstinacy regarding such matters as the Usury Laws, the Navigation System, Free Trade, &c. No man with his impulsive temperament, and after such a vacillating career, can be very formidable in the House: if he gave himself scope in his speeches as he does in his writings, he would bring down an amount of retort and retaliation upon his head, which he could not stand against;—but, in fact, the consciousness of his numerous weak points would tame him down, surprisingly. To take part in a debate, in which such speakers as BROUGHAM, CANNING, MACKINTOSH, &c. are concerned, is quite a different thing from writing away, with nobody to gainsay him, in a pamphlet; and we should not be surprised if the restraint which this difference imposed upon him, were to make the commencement of his Parliamentary career very flat indeed. We know that cleverer men than he,—of whom much was anticipated when in the House, have grievously disappointed expectations founded upon their writings and electioneering speeches; and his long habit of weekly essay-writing would certainly not make him an exception to the rule. However, he has talent enough to make the debates more amusing, and more useful too; and it will therefore be worth the while of the readers of those debates to put down their contributions towards buying him a borough. For our parts, if we were in the place of Messrs CANNING and HUSKISSON, we would open to him one of the Treasury bye-paths to the dignity of M.P., if it were only to show how little we feared his threatened efforts in Parliament, and how certainly a political writer is *lowered* in the opinion of the admirers of his weekly sheet, by exhibiting in an arena where he contends with many men of great and various talents.

## UNITED PARLIAMENT.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, Feb. 17.

Petitions were presented against the Corn Laws, for the Abolition of Slavery, and against the admission of Foreign Silk and Gloves.

#### THE CURRENCY—GENERAL DISTRESS, &c.

Lord LIVERPOOL entered upon various details respecting the measures proposed by Ministers for the alleviation of the distress so generally prevailing,—viz. the regulation of the Banking System, and the withdrawal of the Small Notes. In the course of his speech he gave it as his decided opinion, that the present distresses had been principally occasioned by the extravagant speculations which had been entered upon last year—the Foreign Loans, Mining Associations, Joint-Stock Companies, &c. together with the over-trading, which had extended itself into all the branches of legitimate and ordinary trade—to enormous importations of sheep's wool (no less than 33,700,000 lbs. last year), cotton-wool (220,000 bags), indigo, timber, silk, wine, tallow, &c.—in fact, to every article within the reach of speculation—a course which could only lead to the consequences they were now witnessing. These speculations did not flow exclusively from the state of the currency, but they never could have reached the height they had but for the paper issues. Both causes had operated. The speculations in trade had been the origin of the evil; the spirit of gambling carried into every branch of trade had been the beginning, but it could not have been so extensive if it had not been aided by the currency.—The remedy for the evil, in his Lordship's opinion, was to get rid of the small notes, to substitute a metallic currency, and to place the banking system on a better foundation. As the measure stood now, no new notes were to be stamped; and from April 1829 the circulation of one and two pound notes was to be discontinued. In this respect the Bank of England was to be placed on the same footing as country banks. But it was desirable that the small notes of the Bank of England should be withdrawn gradually, and therefore *the Bank were to be at liberty to issue one-pound notes till October*, after which no issues of small notes were to be made; and those already in circulation were to be recalled at the end of three years. It was quite clear that the issues of small notes should be put on the same footing, though not at the same time, both in England and Ireland. Some longer time must be allowed to Ireland, but he

thought that more than two years would not be necessary. With respect to Scotland, he should propose, that the Banks there should cease stamping their notes about the same period that the notes of the Bank of England discontinued their circulation.

A debate arose. Lord LAUDERDALE was of opinion that the proposed measures would augment rather than lessen the general distresses.

Lord LANSDOWN thought that the distress arose rather from want of confidence than want of money, and that Government had not acted discreetly in sending the Bank into the market to purchase 2,000,000*l.* of Exchequer Bills, which would serve to aid instead of to depress the spirit of speculation. It was also his opinion, that the Bank had been the original cause of all the distress by their large paper issues: but he cordially approved of the measures now proposed by Government.

Lord BEXLEY gave it as his opinion that the proposed measures would put everything on a solid foundation.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH, though he differed in some respects as to the proposed measures, yet on the whole thought they would do good.

The first bill, that respecting the Bank System, was then ordered to be committed on Monday.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, Feb. 13.

##### SLAVERY—CORN LAWS, &c.

Petitions were presented from various parts of the country, praying for the mitigation and gradual abolition of Slavery in our West Indian Colonies—Petitions were likewise presented,—some praying for a revision, and others for the abolition of the Corn Laws.—On the presentation of that from Nottingham,

Mr BIRCH said, he coincided in the sentiments contained in the petition. The consequences of the present system were dreadful. Skilful mechanics, who formerly were able to maintain their families in a comfortable manner, were now reduced so low as to be obliged to work in the roads for one shilling a day. Their distress was properly ascribed to the operation of the Corn Laws. It had been said, that the manufacturers did not wish to have any alteration made in the Corn Laws, much less that they should be repealed. Those that said so had only to cast their eyes over the petitions they had already received from London and other great towns of the kingdom. If there was not a tolerable harvest, the prospect to the poor was as bad as it was in 1816. It was these partial laws, and the weight of taxes with which they were burthened, which had reduced the working classes to their present distress.—Mr P. MOORE presented a petition from the Weavers and other persons employed in the Ribbon Trade, in Coventry, against the importation of foreign silks. The Hon. Member said, the question involved in that subject was simply whether or not Ministers meant that the people of England should be starved!—These petitions were all ordered to lie upon the table.

##### THE CURRENCY—COUNTRY BANKS—PROMISSORY NOTES ACT.

The order of the day, that the House do resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the Bank Charter and Promissory Notes Acts being read,—it was moved, that the Speaker do now leave the chair.

The motion was opposed by Sir JOHN WROTTESELY. He objected to the proposed measure, on the ground that the country bankers had not produced the evils which it was wished to remedy—that those evils arose from an extravagant speculation, which the country bankers had discouraged—that the country bankers had as good a right to issue small notes till 1833, as the Bank of England to enjoy its charter till that period, the one event being declared co-extensive with the other by act of Parliament—that the new chartered Companies would never be established; and even though they were, would offer no better security to the public than the existing banking firms, which had been of great service to the nation in stimulating improvement and assisting industry.

Mr Alderman THOMPSON took nearly the same line of argument, contending that the country currency was not the cause of our commercial embarrassments—that the small notes were necessary for country payments—and that they could not be entirely and suddenly withdrawn from circulation without creating suffering or aggravating the existing distress.

Mr LEYCESTER supported the measure to abolish the small notes, but expected no advantage from that other part of the plan for rendering the country currency more secure. The consequence of their establishment would be an excess of currency—a depreciation and bankruptcy. If the Scotch banks had always remained stable, and invariably yielded accommodation without failure, they must have owed their success to the character of the people rather than to the nature of their business or the wisdom of their management. The spirit of adventure was not so wild, nor the wealth of the people so stimulating, in that part of the island as in this.

Mr THOMAS WILSON could see no remedy in an interference with the state of the currency, which interference had produced, was producing, and would produce greater evils. The real cause of our distress was over-trading—and the only remedy was to be found in that restoration of confidence which the proposed measures had no tendency to produce. He concurred with Mr BAINING in thinking that silver as well as gold should be made a legal tender; and was favourable to the idea of requiring from country bankers security for their small notes.

Mr JOHN SMITH agreed with Ministers in the evils of the small note system. He believed, however, that these small notes were one of the chief sources of advantage to the country bankers, and had even known instances of gentlemen becoming bankers, that they might pay their own workmen. He did not, however, think that this was a proper time for introducing measures like the present, though, as they had been introduced,

they ought now to be settled as speedily as possible, in order to put down the dangerous reports so generally circulated, and to quiet the public mind. He likewise thought that the question respecting the establishment of a double standard of silver and gold deserved consideration. Part, he said, of the silver coin of this country consisted of five shilling pieces, and this was certainly the best coin. He had never known that one of them was counterfeit, and the cause was, the difficulty of imitating their execution. This difficulty was caused by the inscription, which was made in raised letters on the outside of the rim. He stated the fact, and asked why it would not be proper to adopt this safe plan of coinage, so free as he had mentioned it to be from the power of forgery? He would also recommend that the tender in silver should be increased to 40*s.* or 5*l.* This plan, he calculated, would produce a great circulation through the country, which was much required.

Mr C. GRANT said, he was glad to hear the objections raised rather against the *time* than the principle of the measures; but they were bound to look their difficulties boldly in the face, and to provide a remedy for them, which the country, in his judgment, was fully able to do.

Sir JOHN NEWPORT was of opinion, that the present was the very best time to remove the small notes,—the over-issue of which had done so much harm,—from circulation, when so large a portion of them had been converted into specie; and the object should be, not to allow them to grow up again. (*Hear!*)

Mr Alderman HEYGATE complained of the conduct of Government in withdrawing small notes and refusing the stamping of others for the period to which the limitation was to extend, and ridiculed the writers on the subject of currency, whose opinions he described as good for nothing. If Ministers carried the measure before the House, they would find shortly that their situations would not be so comfortable as they had been. The late calamities had been attributed to the circulation of small notes; but it was not likely they had done all the mischief, as at former periods of great calamity, in 1793 and 1797, small notes were not in circulation, and therefore commercial distress might exist from other causes. It was very well, when the country got into a scrape, to lay the blame upon any trumpety thing, or upon any undefended body of persons. (*Hear, hear!*) He was aware that few persons entertained opinions similar to his own—(*Laughter, and cries of "hear!"*)—but he was firmly persuaded that one great cause of the recent distress was the imperfect nature of the bill introduced by Mr Peel.—This country was full of artificial systems, and would be torn to pieces by the theories upon which Ministers seemed disposed to proceed. Free trade might be a very fine thing between countries newly founded, or where there was something like reciprocity; but this country had nothing in common with others, and that trading which was profitable to the latter must be ruinous to the former. At all events it was necessary to begin with that which constituted the maintenance of the people,—the Corn Trade,—and yet he was firmly of opinion, that it would not be advisable to alter the Corn Laws in the present state of the country! The immediate consequence would be, that the poor lands would be thrown out of cultivation, and a great portion of the tillers would lose their employment.

Mr PEEL said, that he was fully satisfied of the imperative necessity of the measures now proposed for adoption. The currency of the kingdom must be put upon a solid foundation, and they should set about the work immediately, for the present banking system was productive of great misery, and a new one was absolutely necessary for the general welfare. In 1793, when so many failures took place, there were not three hundred country banks in the kingdom; and at present the number is not less than eight hundred,—a strong admission that the system, bad as it is, is in a fair way of increase. The Hon. Member for Staffordshire had said that the present distress is not to be imputed to country bankers; that their issues do not produce speculation, but are produced by it; that they have a natural tendency to increase as prices rise. Mr P. maintained that this, the natural consequence of the system, was one of those many evils most to be deprecated. As the prices decrease, so will the issues of notes be diminished. It is thus that the system stimulates the nation, when it is already in a state of over-excitement, instead of acting as a cooling application to calm its delirium; and, on the other hand, it adds to its weakness when it is already in a state of languor, instead of presenting a stimulant to recruit its energies, and renovate its strength. Contrary to those beautiful principles of mechanics, which in a complicated system of machinery makes the contraction of one part correspond so exactly with the expansion of another, that the engine works easily without any danger of the wheels being broken. But here, in the system of banking, when you want one part to contract it immediately expands; when you want another to expand it immediately contracts; and the consequence is, that the whole system of your banking machinery is shivered to atoms, and the disjointed fragments left in ruin and confusion. His opinion was, that the present distress did not spring from one but from many causes,—all, however, arising out of the original erroneous system. The making silver a legal tender was an important measure, but it would not afford present relief. The number of bank failures during the late panic amounted to 76, and, amid such a series of insolvencies, could the system be deemed a wise one? During all these bankruptcies, only one had occurred in Scotland, and then 14*s.* were paid in the pound. Was not this a strong proof of the solidity of the Scotch system? and ought not our own to be brought to a resemblance of such an excellent model? The poorer classes were most injuriously affected by the small note system—they were hurt both by its exaltation and by its fall; and he saw no remedy for the mischief except by a return to a metallic currency, by which alone security can be afforded

our banking establishments. He saw little difficulty in establishing a gold circulation. About six millions of sovereigns would be required to replace the small notes. Since 1819, twenty-five millions of sovereigns had issued from the Mint, and if eight millions has been withdrawn, there still remained seventeen.—To postpone the measure, as some wished, would have the effect of creating suspicion, confusion, and uncertainty; and be, in his judgment, altogether a most unwise proceeding. (*Hear, hear!*) The question was now ripe, and should either be at once adopted or abandoned. (*Hear!*) As gold was flowing into the country, the opportunity should not be allowed to pass, for it could be carried with less immediate pressure than it could in a time of prosperity with the country bankers. If they now hesitated, the measure must be abandoned as one utterly impracticable and hopeless. (*Cheers.*)

Mr ATWOOD denied that the small notes of the country bankers had caused the distress; it had been caused by the system pursued by Government, in increasing the circulation of Bank of England notes in 1823. It was not to be imagined a country like this could be affected by the withdrawal of five millions. The precious metals were always to be had. But while gold was kept at the present price of 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* per ounce, so sufficient quantity could be obtained; nor could it be obtained at a lower rate, unless the commodities for which it was exchanged were lower in proportion. (*Hear, hear!*) When wheat was lowered to 4*s.* a bushel, iron to 8*l.* per ton, and other produce experienced similar reduction, then, and not till then, would gold be lowered in proportion. It was well understood, and it had always happened, that when prices were raised, gold disappeared. He cautioned Ministers to pause in their proceedings, or else the greatest calamities might arise. When they boasted of the prosperity of the country, he had said that it was fallacious. The evils they were enduring had all proceeded from the errors and inconsistencies of Parliament, and the measures of Government. (*Hear, hear!*)

Mr HUDSON GURNEY considered it absolutely necessary that the Bank of England should have the power of a small circulation, though other banks were deprived of it. In the general view of the question, he concurred with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He did not attribute the present state of the country to agricultural or commercial causes exclusively, but thought the foundation of all our errors was owing to the Bullion Committee.

Mr CANNING was of opinion that this was the very fittest time to proceed in altering the system, for the country banks having withstood the late storm, nothing was to be feared from a new panic. The proposed measure was a necessary, and, he thought, a salutary one. The distress had been proved to have been caused by that extravagant spirit of speculation which had so lately prevailed,—speculations, however, which were beyond the reach of Parliamentary interposition, as was intimated in the Royal speech. They sprung up after the dawn of morning, and had passed away before the dews of evening descended. (*Hear, hear!*) They came over the land like a cloud—like a vapour from heaven, and, destroyed by the puncture of a pin, they sunk to the earth and were seen no more. He did not know what legislative interference could do in such a case. He did not know what measure should be framed to check such speculations, which would not at the same time bear so hard on industry and enterprise, that it would be likely to do more harm by opposing these than good by putting down the inordinate desire for speculation, which left to itself could not fail to work its own cure. Though he did not charge the country banks with having originated this spirit, he thought it not too much to say, that the *animus* was sustained by their means. Not accusing them of having wilfully erred, he did no more than point to this one source of evil, the state of the currency, in order that *that* at least might be dammed up, leaving other causes to be operated upon by such measures as may from time to time be suggested.—Here Mr C. reproved the fashion which had arisen, of attacking those who wished, on philosophical principles, to reform our currency, by fixing on them the character of visionaries and enthusiasts, and representing them, as such, to be prepared to resign the greatest benefits, and to sacrifice the dearest interests of communities, in order to give effect to their own theories. The measure, however, now proposed, was a practical, not a theoretical one. It was founded on experience of years, which proved that the circulation of small notes could not exist with a metallic currency. He was therefore for treading in the footsteps of our forefathers, and to return to the good system of 1793.—Mr C. here pointed out the mistakes of Mr Baring, in regard to the transactions between the Bank and Government, which, he said, had not, as had been asserted, a tendency to load the Bank with a heavy burthen, and render it incapable of duly performing its functions. The Bank had sustained no injury, but it had received a benefit from the Government, and he thought that it would be the greatest imaginable misfortune for the country, if the Bank were not in full possession of all the power that ought to belong to such an establishment. So far as the Government was concerned, the Bank was now more disembarassed than it had been for many years, and therefore there was no sort of reason why the House should not proceed to regulate the system of country banks. There were now perhaps 700 banks. Some named their issues of small notes at six, others at four millions,—and these it was proposed to withdraw from circulation in three years. Divide the number of small notes supposed in circulation between the country banks, and at the most the average will not be more than 8,000 each. A sum of not more than 3,000*l.* will thus be withdrawn annually, for three years; and after all that they had heard of the stability of the country banks, could it be contended that this withdrawal of between 2 and 3,000*l.* a year would produce such a strain

upon them, that the law could not be satisfied without plunging the country into new confusion and general distress? Quite sure he was that, when the proposition was reduced to its proper dimensions, and gauged by arithmetic, no feeling would remain, but that of astonishment that it could ever have been swelled by ingenuity to an argument of such magnitude. This alteration, though small in its effects, would be mighty in principle. If we can by its means restore to the country the fixed principle of a metallic currency, we shall have achieved a mighty good, and conquered an incalculable and a growing evil.—Mr C. here mentioned, that when Edmund Burke was on his death-bed, he sent him (Mr C.) a letter, which he should always preserve as a relic of departed greatness. The concluding sentence contained some remarkable words,—words which he wished to impress upon the mind of those who heard him, as they came from a man whose opinions were entitled to respect, and who, upon more than one occasion, proved himself a true prophet. The words were these:—"Tell William Pitt, that if he ever issues one pound notes, he will never see a guinea again." (*Hear, hear!*) Had not the event (asked Mr C.) borne out the assertion?—Alluding to the restriction of payment on the Bank, Mr C. said, that Ministers, under any circumstances, would never repeat a coercive obligation on the Bank to stop payment. (*Hear, hear!*) The time might come, when some fatality may impose the necessity of a voluntary restriction, but no time should come at which he would consent to stop the circulation of the country, and substitute for it a paper currency, not convertible into gold on demand. They would betray their duty not to take measures against a recurrence of the mischiefs arising from the failures of the country banks—and there was nothing to frighten them from their resolution. They had no disposition to trench on the existing regulations of trade, as far as regarded the higher order of commercial dealings. Bills might be heaped upon bills—a superstructure of paper might be raised—but the base must be irrigated with gold, if any regard was to be had to the interests of the laborious classes. (*Cheers.*) There must be a metallic standard to refer to in all petty commercial intercourse; and as to the surprise expressed by some Gentlemen that there should have been an outcry against the one and two pound notes, his surprise was, that there should have been any surprise at all; (*Laughter.*) for when it was considered that the one pound note is the representative of the sovereign, and that the labourer or mechanic may often tender it, and receive nothing in exchange, what is likely to result but want of confidence amongst the lower orders, through whom, and from them to their superiors, that want of confidence spreads with great rapidity, involving the destruction of commercial credit, and pregnant with incalculable mischief. When it is considered that such disasters are the consequences of the present system, he thought he had made out a sufficient ground for affirming the resolution of his Right Hon. Friend, by an adherence to which we shall restore the circulation of the country to a sound and healthy state, and place it for the future upon an imperishable and immovable basis. (*Hear!*) And, what he considered no slight recommendation, we shall be able to effect all this good by an extremely slight effort.—Ministers, for years, had been goaded by a cry for free trade, and as soon as they began to recognize the principle, applications arose for delay. Those engaged in the Silk Trade had asked and obtained time,—and how had they used it? by accumulating a stock, double the quantity of any preceding year—and this excessive accumulation is made the ground of an objection to the admission of foreign manufactures next July, and even to the general measure. (*Cheers.*) Such conduct was not favourable for the argument of time, nor for Parliament to grant it. (*Cheers.*) No; such a retraction would only stultify their own measures and render it impossible to carry them into effect at any period. The existing distresses, though springing from another class, deeply affected the lower, even to their actual subsistence; but he trusted that the period was not far distant when the industrious peasant would be able to store up the little sum of his earnings, not in frail shreds of paper, but in solid gold. (*Long continued cheerings.*)

Mr PEARSE defended the conduct of the Bank of England, which, he said, stood in no very enviable situation. He contended, that the Charter ought to be renewed, and no rival allowed in London,—not for the sake of monopoly, but the public advantage—(*a laugh*). Neither the London nor the country banks had created the late mischievous speculations, which had originated in the extraordinary state of prosperity in which the country had been placed. Money was abundant, the interest was low, and every one wished to have his money employed in some speculation. The excess of paper arose from the merchants' bills, and not from the over-issue of either the London or country banks. Then came the reaction, the panic, and all the aggravation of distress consequent upon it.

Mr BARING was quite convinced that if they went on discussing this question from day to day, they would greatly aggravate the evil. It was his duty, therefore, to take the sense of the House upon an amendment to the following effect—"It is the opinion of this House, that in the present distressed state of public credit, it is not fitting to enter on the consideration of the currency of the country." Men of business said, beware; and not a single merchant or banker had told the House that the proposed measure would benefit the country, or could be taken with safety. That the small notes were nuisances, and should be abated, he was satisfied, on account of the misery they produced among the lower classes; but the House had prolonged the issue of paper, and now, in a panic, a new theory was to be introduced, in spite of all consequences. If any country banker would say that the alteration could be made without danger, he would cease to oppose it, but he would not yield to theorists alone.—Why was the Silk question to be carried at this time? The consequence of that

measure would be the throwing half a million of people into distress, for France and Switzerland would beat us in the manufacture of Silk. With economy on the part of the Government, and forbearance on that of the people, in relieving the debt by sacrifices that all would be willing to make, the present system might proceed satisfactorily, until a more fit opportunity arose for a change, which he would advise the House it had better let alone at present.

Mr P. GRENELL observed, that, as a practical man, he would assert that the present was not only a measure that could be adopted with safety, but it was one without which no safety could be looked for. He had had communication with all parties in the City, and not one man with whom he had conversed thought otherwise than that the one and two pound notes had caused the pressure. (*Hear!*)

Mr BROUGHAM differed with his Hon. Friend (Mr Baring) as to the question of time,—which was the only one between them. The small notes did not cause the over-trading or originate the mischief; but when the mischief had arisen, it was then very materially aggravated by the small notes. Runs were accordingly made. When fear strikes the minds of the holders of notes, the persons rushing in were not the holders of large notes, but those persons who had saved up small sums. In this way the calamity is increased. The consequence is to diminish the confidence in the banks, then to produce failures, and then to displace the small notes; which displacing of small notes is as completely accomplished as by the full execution of this measure. The mischief has been felt; and the question was, shall we go back, or take such measures as may guard against a recurrence of the evil? Does any man entertain a shadow of a doubt, that if this measure is not accomplished now, it ever will? His Hon. Friend would not say when. He had hinted something about a year, but this measure gives more time than even that. His Hon. Friend and others foretold evil as likely to result from the measure, but they did not condescend to show how. It was a truth which he could not resist, that when there was a paper currency convertible at will into a gold, and a gold currency at the same time, gold would soon disappear from the circulation. If they were to yield to the present request for delay, when the time comes which had been conceded, if it prove to be a season of difficulty, they would say, this is not the time, wait yet a little longer till the present storm blows over; this is not the time for changes or innovation, do not interrupt the course of things by speculative theories till the present danger is past. If it be a time of prosperity, why then they will be told to "leave well alone;" they will be reminded of that cordial virtue of their ancestors—the quiet contentment under all abuses, the "leaving well alone"—they will be told they may, perhaps, better themselves a little, to be sure, but they may be much worse, and they should know when they are well off. In short, they would find that no alteration could ever be brought about by their consent. There might, it is true, be some argument adduced against those who now wished to put an end to the system of small notes, if they were beginning to displace them at this moment; but the ground for that argument no longer exists. Few, if any, of the banks which would be affected, had any paper of this description in circulation. No country could have a sound and wholesome circulating medium from a paper currency, deprived of gold and silver, because these precious metals seemed to be designed for such a purpose, from their intrinsic value; but he proposed gold as a standard, because it was less easily procured, and was not so subject, as silver, to fluctuation in value. They should be prepared to do all in their power to benefit the meritorious sufferers in every part of the country, after all they had recently endured, and were still enduring. All they could offer them will be, not a vain pretence to remedy their injuries or their afflictions, but a steady and invariable currency to buy and to sell—a currency which may save them a renewal of those risks and those disasters from which they have lately, in some districts of the country, suffered miseries, compared with which the very lowest rate of wages that could be accorded was as nothing, inasmuch as the one was only a diminution of profit, while the other became a total and irretrievable loss, attended by calamities too melancholy to be dwelt upon without the most sensible pain. (*Hear, hear, hear!*) As he believed a state of suspense to be the very worst in which the country could be left, as to the question before them, he, for one, would give a cordial vote for the immediate production of the bill. (*Hear, hear!*)

Mr Secretary CANNING hoped that although it was a division upon such a mere matter of form as the Speaker leaving the chair, yet they would allow it to decide the question itself.

The House then divided upon Mr Baring's amendment—Ayes, 39—Noes, 222—Majority, 183. The House then went into a Committee. Upon the Resolution being read—

Mr HUDSON GURNEY observed, that if Government destroyed all the country bankers' notes, and, at the same time stopped the issue of one pound notes from the Bank of England, they would leave the country in a state of destitution, of which they could not have any adequate conception. He would therefore move, as an amendment, to leave out the words "Bank of England."

Upon the question being put,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, that, considering the small notes to have a pernicious effect on the state of the country, he could not, although he might think the small notes of the Bank of England possessed more security, because they were more easily watched, consent for a moment to allow such an unjust distinction. It would be a very unfair distinction, without producing an adequate benefit. (*Hear!*) It was his

intention to carry the principle into full effect, both in Scotland and in Ireland, and the only grounds for making any variation depended upon the question of time.

Mr HUME said, he rose to protest against being supposed to agree with the principle which had that night been adopted. He thought paper convertible into gold, as by law, under Mr Peel's bill, the very best kind of currency.

Mr HUDSON GURNEY said, that had it not been for the issues of the one-pound notes by the Bank of England at the time that they took place, the recent calamity that befel the country would have been greatly aggravated.

The House then divided—For the Amendment, 7—Against it, 66—Majority against the Amendment, 59.—Adjourned at half-past two o'clock.

Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL gave notice, that he should on the 2nd of March move for leave to bring in a bill for the better prevention of Bribery and Corruption in returning Members to serve in Parliament.

Mr ELLICE presented a petition from Coventry, signed by several Manufacturers engaged in the Ribbon-trade, who employed 24,000 workmen, stating the apprehensions they entertained from the competition into which they would be forced with the French and Swiss trade next July, on the admission of the foreign article. Mr ELLICE agreed in opinion with the manufacturers, that if the Government persevered in their intentions, the home trade must necessarily decay. He gave notice, that on the 22d inst. he should move for a Select Committee, to examine and report upon the subject.—The petition was laid on the table.

Mr R. GORDON presented a petition from several bankers, merchants, lawyers, manufacturers and yeomen,—who all, he said, thought that Ministers were wrong in the course they were adopting in regard to the Currency,—praying that they would relinquish their present measures.

Sir THOS. LETHBRIDGE differed with the Petitioners. The panic, he said, had passed away; it was the duty of Government to place the Currency on a proper footing; and the present measures would tend to lower prices and secure to the poor man the full produce of his industry in a coin that could not be depreciated.

After some conversation, in which Mr HUME gave it as his opinion that the mercantile navy of England was rapidly declining, owing to the impediments thrown in the way of ship-builders, by the heavy duties laid on all the materials they used,—leave was given to bring in a bill to carry into effect Treaties of Commerce entered into with certain countries of South America.

#### THE CURRENCY—COUNTRY NOTES, &c.

On the question of bringing up the Report of the Committee on the Bank Charter and Promissory Notes Acts,—

Mr CALCRAFT gave it as his opinion that the Legislature were proceeding in a most imprudent and precipitate manner. He contended that, notwithstanding last night's majority, the general sense of the House was against the plan. Though he believed that the distress had arisen from the Bank, the bubbles, and the over-trading, a grave inquiry should be instituted on the subject before any measures were adopted.

Mr H. GURNEY contended that the six millions of country bankers' notes which would be withdrawn from circulation, ought to be supplied by the small notes of the Bank of England, and that it would not be possible to return to a metallic currency until the Ministers wholly changed their present system of policy; and that to attempt it before this should be done, would cause a stand-still over the country, and plunge it into a most dreadful situation.

Mr ELLICE said, that instead of delaying the present measure, it was to be regretted that it had not been carried into effect in 1815 or 1816. In his opinion, the present distress was in a great measure owing to the reduction of interest, and the increase of foreign loans—he recollected Colombian loans, Mexican loans, Chile loans—in short, we had sent the greatest part of our metallic currency to foreign countries. He did not ascribe much effect to the domestic bubbles; for although one individual might have cheated another or a thousand other individuals in these transactions, still the money had not gone out of the country: therefore he conceived it was a mistake to imagine that these had been the cause of the panic. Were we to go on in this way without attempting a cure? We had now an immense quantity of gold in the country; if they delayed the passing of this resolution, this gold would be speedily conveyed abroad. They were come to such a pass, that they must decide either upon going on with this system, which had brought the country to the brink of ruin, or upon ending it now and for ever. Now it was his opinion, that if ever there was a moment in which we could grapple with this system, it was now. He thought that the resolution ought to be agreed to *in toto*, seeing that a metallic currency was the only way to save the country from the fluctuations by which it had been visited. They were in the habit of talking a great deal about Free Trade: but how it could exist in a country with such fluctuations, he did not know. At one time the issues were abundant. The consequence was, the price of provisions rose, and also wages. Then came a contraction, and down fell the prices; the people were thrown out of employment, and were often cheated by the want of solvency of the paper which they held. We had now got the silk business upon our hands; and whatever hopes he had once entertained as to the success of the measure proposed in the last session, he had now abandoned, and he was convinced that Government must abandon them until bread could be given to the manufactures at the same price at which it could be procured in other countries. Until some measure was taken to bring about so desir-

able a consummation, it was all nonsense to talk about the establishment of Free Trade. The currency must be changed, if they were to continue to have higher prices with the same standard as prevailed in other countries. He would not ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to repeal the Corn Laws after this resolution was passed, because he was convinced that the effect of it would be to make the Corn Laws repeal themselves.

Mr T. WILSON observed, that the mercantile distress was rapidly increasing, and he begged to ask, with a view to allay the ferment in the trading world, whether, as a change had occurred in the flattering picture which Ministers had themselves drawn of the Prosperity of the Country,—whether Government would afford any relief to the mercantile community? When a man who was ready to deposit 100,000*l.* worth of goods asked for a loan of 50,000*l.* to preserve himself from being involved in ruin, he was entitled to receive the protection which he asked, if not for his own sake, at least for the sake of his clerks, of his connexions, of his correspondents, of his bills, which, if they were protested, would be sent back to Glasgow, to Liverpool, and elsewhere, and create misery wherever they went. There never was a crisis which more imperatively demanded from the Government the extension of some aid. He asked for no paper relief; he wanted relief for solid property. When a man came forward with such property, and asked for a loan, not greater in amount than a half or a quarter of the value of what he deposited, surely he was worth saving, and deserved the relief for which he prayed.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied, that in cases of this description, Ministers were placed in a painful situation. They were surrounded by scenes of distress, and they were told that it was their duty to afford relief, and that, if they denied it, they would show a want of sensibility to the wants of their countrymen. But it was the duty of Ministers to resist such requests, when they were convinced that, upon the whole, a compliance with them would do more harm than good. The temporary relief sought, he was convinced, would not be productive of any material benefit. When the distress arose from overtrading, which had led to the purchase of goods at high prices, if they were to follow the course suggested, he knew of no case in which they would not be drawn, by parity of reasoning, to a similar result; and then he knew not by what process of legislation, by what deliberate contrivance, they could prevent such fluctuation of prices as the country had lately witnessed from recurring almost periodically. That proposition was of such a nature, that he deemed a compliance with it to be injurious to the public, and prejudicial to the real interests of commerce, to a degree that would not be at all compensated by any benefits which the temporary ease that it might administer to the distressed would confer upon the country. He therefore was bound to say, that Government would not acquiesce in the proposition. If by any relief which could be administered in the money-market—if by any absorption of that species of securities which were now circulating at a low rate of interest (Exchequer Bills)—to be effected by the assistance of the Bank, any pressure could be removed—if the issue so created should find its way through the ordinary channels of commercial intercourse to those who stood in need of relief, that would be a mode of proceeding which the Government would leave the parties interested in it to take, without any objection. If the Bank would administer that species of relief, he would have no hesitation, at a future period, to apply to Parliament for a grant to repay it any advances which it might eventually have occasion to make. In what other way the Government could interfere with propriety, he confessed that he could not see.

Mr ROBERTSON observed, that the distress among the manufacturing classes was daily spreading; and unless something should be done effectually to arrest its progress, the consequences must be so injurious that it would be impossible to apply a remedy to them. For this purpose, none appeared to him at once so effectual as the advance of Exchequer Bills. It was clear that commercial men could not make anything like adequate advances. The labouring class must, therefore, inevitably be deprived of employment, and the landed interest must suffer from the decreased consumption which would ensue. Nothing but the help of Government could prevent this: if they did not step forward, the rents could not be paid, and before the end of the year the whole country, from one end to the other, must be reduced to a condition of the most disastrous kind.

Sir H. PARNELL said he was disposed to attribute to the conduct of the Bank of England the distress which now prevailed, and he thought that before anything effectual could be done to remedy it for the present, and to prevent its recurrence for the future, the exclusive privileges enjoyed by the Bank ought to be done away. He could not refrain from expressing his surprise, that no mention had been made of the influence which the Usury Laws had on the general distress. Mr Tooke stated, that in some instances property had been sold at a loss of 30 per cent. owing to the necessity the owner was under of raising money, and which those laws precluded him from doing on more advantageous terms. A banker had told him that instances had come to his knowledge in which, under similar circumstances, a loss of 90 per cent. had been incurred. For the immediate relief of the distress, three measures should be adopted—viz. the withdrawing the exclusive privileges enjoyed by the Bank of England; the granting them permission to pay in massy bars of silver bullion; and the repeal of the Usury Laws, at least as far as regards discounts.

Mr Alderman BRIDGES could see no solid objection against the Government advancing Exchequer Bills to all persons who could give security, and he was fully convinced that unless this was immediately done, the tranquillity of the country would be endangered.

Sir T. BLAKE rose on the present occasion to return his very earnest

thanks to Ministers for the conduct they had pursued, and to request that they would persevere in the liberal line of policy they had adopted, notwithstanding the gloomy apprehensions which some gentlemen seemed to entertain.

Mr Alderman HEYGATE said that *everybody* out of doors differed from Ministers; and those who spoke plainly, did not scruple to say that we were to be sacrificed to a cold-blooded theory. (*Hear!*) Excepting only the members of the Political Economy Club, there were no persons to be found who approved of Ministers on this occasion. Everybody else believed that the country was on the eve of a convulsion, and that the measures proposed were calculated to aggravate and hasten it!

Mr HUME, on the contrary, contended that the conduct of Ministers, in regard to the freedom of trade, had given the country general satisfaction: with respect to the present plans of Government, he thought they were ill timed, though he admitted that Ministers were placed in a difficult position.

Mr Alderman WOOD was of opinion that Government had better let matters go on as they were. An issue of Exchequer Bills would do no good.

Mr ATTWOOD contended that the Bank were bound at the present moment to carry into the market all Exchequer bills and other Government securities in their possession, and sell them at whatever price they would bring, and with the produce to afford assistance to merchants by discounting their bills or lending them money on security.

Mr PEARSE observed, that within these six weeks the Bank had, in the most unlimited manner, assisted in relieving the distresses of the country. (*Hear, hear!*) At the present moment, the discount of merchants' paper was going on to the utmost possible extent. But all the assistance which could be afforded was not sufficient to meet the public difficulties. There was a class of merchants possessing great property, who yet were not in a situation to present bills to be discounted. To this class accommodation might be granted in the best manner, as had been done on former occasions. If commissioners were authorized to issue Exchequer bills to the amount of 5,000,000*l.*, the measure would have the effect of restoring confidence throughout the country (*Hear, hear!*) So effectually, indeed, did he think the measure would tend to the restoration of confidence, that he was opinion the commissioners would not find it necessary to issue more than half the amount of bills placed at their disposal, and that half never would find its way into the Bank, but would be taken up by parties who now kept their money locked up. (*Hear, hear!*)

Mr W. SMITH thought that Government might advance money upon goods without the danger of encouraging speculation. As the distress was general, some means of relieving it should be immediately adopted. (*Hear!*)

Mr HUSKISSON remarked, that if we once taught the extravagant trader and the speculator, that whenever they embarked in rash schemes they might always expect to obtain in aid Government, it was as much calculated to encourage speculation as the Poor Laws were calculated to encourage vagrancy and to discourage honest industry. But if the Bank has the means, and would issue, until relief be felt by the public, an additional quantity of paper, he (Mr Huskisson) thought it might be done with perfect safety, under the arrangements made between the Bank and the Treasury.

Mr ELLICE observed, that the distress was going through the country; and unless Ministers adopted some steps the country would be in a state of bankruptcy. There was a material difference between the Bank advancing money on Government Exchequer bills, and on the bills of merchants. It was to be feared that parties had not Exchequer bills to carry to the market; and there was no disposition in the commercial world to lend credit. Credit had now become as valuable as property; and no person could be found who would readily lend it. He was of opinion that the relief afforded to merchants should not be by advances on goods. Some relief, however, should be afforded, and the mere announcement of the intention to give relief would do half the good. If we looked at the state of the manufacturing towns, their condition was deplorable. Who could now pay their workmen? But very few; and those who were unable to pay, their labourers were of course obliged to discharge them.

The Report was then brought up and read, as follows:—"It is the opinion of this Committee, that the notes of the Bank of England and of provincial banks, under the value of five pounds, which shall have been stamped, and were in circulation on the 5th of February 1826, should be allowed to circulate until the 5th of April 1829, and no longer."

Mr H. GURNEY moved an amendment, that the words "the notes of the Bank of England" be omitted.

Mr E. WODEHOUSE was fully prepared to give his support to Ministers on this question, although he believed they had taken a contracted view of the embarrassments of the country.

The Gallery was then cleared for a division. None, however, took place.

Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Mr HOLME SUMNER obtained leave to bring in a bill to build an additional Chapel of Ease in Clapham, Surrey.

Mr T. WILSON presented a petition for a bill to make an Arcade from Lincoln's Inn fields to Holborn.—Referred to a Committee.

Petitions were presented, and laid on the table, praying for the Abolition of Slavery—against the Importation of French Silks—and for the Repeal of the Window Tax.

#### USURY LAWS.

Mr Sergeant ONSLOW expressed his sincere regret that the House had rejected his proposition for a repeal of the Laws against Usury, as he

was convinced that their abolition would have greatly mitigated the distress under which so large a portion of the people were now labouring. He could prove that, in many instances, more than 100 per cent. had been given for money, notwithstanding the operation of the usury laws. It was said on a former occasion, that his bill would injure the landed interest; he denied that this would be its effect; on the contrary, it would materially serve that important class. He concluded by moving for leave to bring in a bill to repeal the law which prohibited the taking more than a given interest for the loan of money.

Mr DAVENPORT opposed the motion. His firm belief was, that nothing could be devised more mischievous than the proposed measure: it would necessarily disturb the whole mortgage system, affecting the property of the kingdom, and substitute a wild plan of theory in the room of useful practical experience. He called upon the Government to look to themselves in time, before a perseverance in error brought ruin upon the country. (Hear!)

Mr BALGOUR condemned in the strongest manner the introduction of such a bill.

Mr INVING was of quite a different opinion. Had such a bill been in operation during the late crisis in the money-market, the heavy sacrifices made by individuals would have been lighter than they unfortunately had been. (Hear, hear!) He for one thought, that in place of the present crisis being in opposition to the introduction of such a bill, it was rather in favour of its wisdom, justice, and policy.

Mr BERRI said, that from a persuasion money would be obtained, on cheaper terms after this bill should pass, than it had been hitherto he should give his support to the measure.

Mr SYKES thought it most unaccountable that Gentlemen should deem such a bill hostile to the landed interest. By law they were interdicted from paying more than 5 per cent. interest for money; but in point of fact the law was frequently evaded by resorting to the ruinous system of annuities.—A system which had brought some of the noblest estates in this country into complete dilapidation. (Hear!) All other commodities were open to the valuation of individuals who wanted them, and there ought not to be an exception for money.

Mr R. GORDON opposed the bill; and so did Mr WODEHOUSE, who said, however, that he chiefly objected to the measure in point of time.

Colonel DAVIS thought, that a provision might be introduced in this bill, to exempt the country gentlemen from its operation. (A laugh.) They might still be permitted to pay 13 or 14 per cent. upon mortgages; but surely the trading classes ought to be allowed to borrow money on such terms as they thought most conducive to their interests.

Mr MONK was strongly opposed to the principle of the usury laws: they tied up the hands of the borrower of money, although they allowed the sacrifice of a man's goods at any rate he could sell them, for the supply of his necessities.

Mr JOHN SMITH could state of his own personal knowledge, that enormous sums had been paid for pecuniary loans; indeed, he knew an instance in which for a very large sum no less than from 74 to 76 per cent had been paid. (Hear, hear!) What, then, must be the state of the law, when such things could be done in spite of its penalties? In fact, if a man wanted money, he would make his own terms for obtaining it. It was time to repeal laws which were mischievous and inoperative. (Hear!)

Mr WYNN gave his entire support to the proposed bill, and in doing so, he felt, that instead of injuriously interfering with the landed interest, he was conferring a great boon upon that body.

Mr CALCRAFT opposed the bill. He observed, that Gentlemen asked why the trader should be debarred of a benefit, merely because it was unpalatable for the country gentlemen? Well, let a bill be brought in to enable traders to borrow upon any terms they pleased, and not affecting the mortgages of the country. (Hear!) Then if the trading bill worked well, perhaps the landed interest would consent to participate in the experiment. At present, however, the only result of such a bill as this would be generally to increase the rate of interest.

Mr PEAR said, that the measure was one which was entitled to serious consideration, and all must feel that the manner which it had been disposed of last Session afforded no decisive proof of the sense of the House upon it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had been too much engaged to allow him to give this subject the attention which it required, or to enable him at the present time to pronounce an opinion upon it. He hoped, therefore, that the Learned Gentleman would postpone the measure for a short period, in order to allow time for its consideration. He (Mr Peel) had last evening a conversation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject, when he stated, that on the second reading of the bill he would be prepared to give his views with respect to an alteration of those laws. Upon the general principle of the usury laws as *res integra*, he would not now say anything further than, that whether defensible or not, their operation had within the last three months been *unfortunate*.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

To a question put by Mr HOUSSEY respecting the Bubble Act and Joint-Stock Companies,—the ATTORNEY-GENERAL replied, that he did not think any new legislative measure was requisite, for the law as it stood was quite competent to the punishment of fraudulent attempts by joint-stock or any other companies.

#### PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

On the motion for going into a Committee of Ways and Means, after some remarks by several Members, Mr HARRIS, in moving some resolutions respecting Exchequer Bills, &c. observed, that an Hon. Friend had

stated that the Government had received lightly the representations of distress that had been made to it. Now he was sure that his Hon. Friend could not have meant what he said, for no solicitations had ever been received with greater attention. His Hon. Friend the Member for London had given it as his opinion, that the large purchase of Exchequer bills which had taken place that morning, would have produced a greater effect, if it had been a measure of the Government instead of a measure of the Bank. The Hon. Member ought to have known from what had fallen from his Right Hon. Friend, that the measure to which he alluded was a measure of the Government. It was a measure which the Bank would never have felt itself justified in undertaking, if it had not been for the communication which his Right Hon. Friend had made. For himself, he hoped that it would be more effective as a remedy, than many Gentlemen were now inclined to anticipate. The resolutions were then put and carried.

Mr HERRIES brought in the bill for limiting the circulation of 11. and 21. Bank-notes.

Thursday, Feb. 16.

#### IRELAND.

Sir JOHN NEWPORT called the attention of the House to the abuses which existed in Ireland in the voting and collection of the Parochial Rates, and, after making various observations in proof of his assertions, moved a Resolution, "That from the Reports made to that House, it appeared that large sums of money were levied on the people of Ireland by Church rates; that a great portion thereof was applied to purposes not contemplated by the law, and that it was desirable to prohibit such abuses."

A conversation arose, in which several Members took a part.—Mr GOULBURN stated, that it was the intention of Ministers to submit to Parliament a series of measures respecting Ireland; and in respect to the question brought forward by the Hon. Baronet, he was happy to be able to inform the House, that the attention of the Irish Government had been particularly directed to that subject, and that, after mature consideration, it had appeared expedient to consolidate all the laws relating to Church Rates into one Act, and to introduce such reforms as circumstances might point out.—After some discussion, the Resolution was negatived, and leave was given to Mr Goulburn to bring in a bill for consolidating the Irish Church Rates.

Mr S. RICE, after a few observations respecting the evils to which the present system of collecting tolls and customs in Ireland gave rise, moved (for the purpose of remedying those evils) that an humble address be presented to his Majesty, praying that he would order a Commission for inquiring into the amount of all tolls and customs levied in fairs, markets, and sea-ports in Ireland.

The motion was opposed by Mr GOULBURN, and others.—In the course of the debate, Sir J. NEWPORT said that the Irish Collectors took their station at the "custom-gap" of a fair, with a stick in one hand, and a Prayer-book in the other. (A laugh.) They swore the carters who brought goods to market, as to the amount of their loads, and if they were not satisfied, they took summary vengeance with the stick. (A laugh.)—Mr M. FITZGERALD observed, that the exactions at fairs and markets were a heavy tax upon the necessities of life, and the food of the poor. From this taxation the rich, even the middle orders, escaped, as they in general produced their own articles of consumption. It fell exclusively upon the poor; and this, not only in defiance of the just principles of legislation, but in direct contradiction to the law.—Mr R. MARTIN said, it was notorious that the most atrocious abuses took place in the collection of the tolls in Galway.—Mr DALY denied this, asserting that there was no abuse whatever practised at Galway.—The motion was withdrawn for the present.

Sir H. PARNELL called the attention of the House to the banking system in Ireland. He observed that the giving up by the Bank of Ireland of a portion of their privileges in the year 1821, was productive of the most beneficial consequences to the country parts, in which was introduced a good system of banking, but that good system had not as yet been introduced in the metropolis. The Hon. Baronet concluded by moving, "that there be laid before the House a copy of the Memorial of the Merchants of Dublin to the Treasury, for abolishing the exclusive privileges of the Bank of Ireland."

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER thought it would be a little unfair towards the Bank of Ireland, to entertain any motion having for its object the depriving them of their chartered rights, unless a good *prima facie* case were first made out. It was however finally agreed that the Memorial should be brought up.

#### DEBTOR AND CREDITOR ARRANGEMENT BILL.

Mr BRIGHT moved the second reading of his bill for altering the law between debtor and creditor. As the law now stood, a deed signed by a debtor making over his property to trustees for his creditors, constituted an act of bankruptcy. This was a grievance; and the intent of the new bill was to take the act out of the limits of bankruptcy. According to the existing law, too, such a deed of trust must be signed by every creditor. This bill made it valid when signed by seven-eighths. He was convinced that the bill would be a great boon in the commercial world, as enabling parties to avoid the expense attendant upon commissions of bankruptcy.

The bill was committed for Monday.

#### WAYS AND MEANS.

On the Report of Ways and Means being brought up and read, Mr HUME asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it was his intention to propose any reduction of taxes during the present Session?—The

CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that, as his general exposition would come on at an early day, he must decline answering that question.

Friday, Feb. 17.

The House went into a Committee on Mr Kenrick's case, when John Franks and other witnesses were examined; and, after a good deal of discussion, the Report of the Committee, &c. were ordered to be considered on Tuesday next.

#### NAVY ESTIMATES.

In a Committee of Supply, Sir G. CLERK moved, "That 1,638,000*l.* (151,000*l.* above the estimate of last year) should be granted to defray the Charge of Wages and Victuals for Thirty Thousand men, including Nine Thousand Royal Marines, to serve in his Majesty's Fleet for thirteen lunar months, commencing the 1st Jan. 1826."—After various judicious remarks by Mr HUME, in which he objected to the increased expense, and complained of the abuses that existed in the Naval System,—the sum was voted, as were several others for Victualling, &c.

#### PROMISSORY NOTES BILL.

The CHANCELLOR, in moving the second reading of this Bill, announced that the Bank of England would be left the power to issue small notes until October next. (*Hear—Hear!*)

Mr ELLICE said he would resist the measure in every stage.—Mr H. GURNEY approved of it, but thought that the Bank should be allowed a still greater latitude.—Mr CALCRAFT advised Ministers to retrace their steps altogether.—Mr TIERNEY approved greatly of the general plan announced by Ministers, but did not like the indecision now evinced in regard to allowing the Bank to issue small notes till October. He had great confidence in the resources of the country. Its energies were unimpaired, and he saw nothing that could prevent its recovering itself in six, or even in two months. He saw nothing alarming, except a want of confidence. What was the origin of all our present difficulties? The besetting vice of this country, ever since the Bank restriction was done away, was the attempt by every means to keep up prices. The landlord, the merchant, and all, in their several spheres, were endeavouring to keep prices as high as they were during the war. That was utterly impossible. It was madness to expect to have a war price and a metallic currency. He knew that this was unpalatable doctrine, but it was truth; and this was not a time to abstain from stating the truth on so important a subject, though the truth should be disagreeable. He did not approve the principle, yet he thought that government had better issue Exchequer Bills—perhaps as many as they issued in 1793; and if this were judiciously done, it was his firm belief that things would soon come about again, and the country would return to a wholesome state of things;—he meant a large circulation of paper, founded on a solid substantial metallic currency.—[Mr T. was loudly applauded at the conclusion of his speech.] The Bill was read and ordered to be committed on Monday.

## THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

### COVENT GARDEN.

On Saturday week, we attended the first representation of a sort of tragi-comedy, entitled *The French Libertine*, being the identical play which has for some time past disturbed the apprehensive morality and loyalty due to rank of that pink of dramatic licensers, Mr GEORGE COLMAN the Younger. This French made-dish, which has been advertised by the practised hand of Mr HOWARD PAYNE, is founded upon the character of the notorious Parisian coxcomb and lady-killer, the Duke de Richelieu,—the God of Love, as an adoring dame of quality once called him,—who used to receive *billets-doux* by the bushel, and for whom a duel was actually fought by two spirited females of rank, who formally met on his account, and absolutely drew triggers at each other. The character of this all-conquering villain only differed from those of our own Rochester and Buckingham by the greater heartlessness of his vanity in one respect, and his more soldierly experience and qualifications in another. On the other hand, he seems to have had less wit and humour, as in duty bound, being a Frenchman. Be all this as it may, the name of this seducing personage—we are wrong again, he was no seducer, for half the female *à-dévant* court of France contended for the honour of administering to his pleasures—was in the first instance borrowed for the title of a piece in which libertinism and coxcombrity of the foregoing order was to be duly and morally exposed. The name of Richelieu still existing in France, our Licenser—nor do we much quarrel with him on that account—insisted on a change of title; hence an alteration both in the name of the play and of the principal character, which is transformed from Richelieu to *Rougemont*. The story may be briefly told:—the all-conquering Duke de *Rougemont*, in the character of his valet, with the honourable view of making him assistant to his own disgrace becomes acquainted with a decayed gentleman, M. *Dorival*, possessed of a lovely and virtuous wife, much younger than himself. Being treated with the utmost confidence, he makes such good use of his opportunities as to instil a baleful passion into the bosom of *Madame Dorival*, who, after being entrapped into one of the Duke's houses of pleasure, falls a victim only to a mixture of fraud and force. The play opens at this crisis, when the unfortunate lady is represented

sinking under a sense of remorse and humiliation, disclosing her fatal secret to a trusty female servant, in consequence of receiving a letter from the Duke, announcing his return from a victorious campaign, and determination to see her that evening. The purpose of this confidence is to employ the attendant to return the letter and prevent the intended visit. The Duke however persists, distresses his victim to the utmost, and upon her framing an excuse of a pre-engagement to avoid meeting him again at supper, has her hired coach intercepted, and the unfortunate lady a second time driven to the scene of her former shame. In an agony of distress, she resists all his blandishments, and is finally delivered by the intrusion of a lady of quality, who, looking to an honourable connexion with him, effects her release. Sinking with grief and emotion, she is conducted home by *Dubois*, secretary to the Duke, a man of probity, her husband's bosom friend. The Duke is determined to go to supper nevertheless; and to his great surprise he meets, as a fellow guest, his own inconveniently-honest Secretary, who however, in pity to the lady, keeps his secret. A not badly-conceived, though not very well-written scene of altercation ensues, in consequence of the disguised Duke finding that his Secretary had been making somewhat free with his dukely character to their common friend *Dorival*. This covered conversation is terminated by *Dubois*, the secretary, significantly observing, that he has an answer at hand which will astound the supposed indignant *Lamotte*; and, slipping out, he brings in the lady, pale, woe-begone, and evidently about to sink a prey to remorse and recent suffering. The Duke is struck with horror, as well as the husband, who had not seen her since the last cruel deception had operated so violently on her previously-decaying frame. A scene of considerable pathos ensues, in which the dying wife discovers the Duke, and undeceives her confiding husband. The latter, in a burst of anguish, presents a pistol to the deceiver, but is prevented from firing it by his friend and wife, who then pathetically implores his forgiveness, which he finally pronounces, and she dies in his arms while the Duke, rushing off the stage, exclaims horror, and the curtain drops. Such is the main incident; all the rest of the play being made out by the gasconade and fanfarronade of *Rougemont*, who sits between two secretaries dictating political epistles to the one, and love-letters to the other, with much artificial *nonchalance*. This superlative puppyism may be in the French way, but it is contemptible and ridiculous in English eyes; and the design of the author is evidently to make the talents and address of his hero support his vices, not sink beneath them. The best scenes of this description were with the *Countess de Fleurus*, whom he baffles with considerable dexterity. Supported however as the character was by the talents and strenuous exertions of Mr KEMBLE, it was too hateful to be comic, and too unintellectually coxcombrical to be anything else. We suspect that finessing in love, upon the stage, seldom succeeds; the audience must see that it is feigned, while a keen-eyed, arch, penetrating woman must appear to be deceived at the same time. This cannot well be done; the spectators will either think the woman a fool, or the man must seem to make love in earnest. And then how can a man ever make love, real or assumed, before some thousand people? In which way is he to practice its routine of indescribabilities? The thing is impossible. He may be gallant, jealous, and even discover love, but *pro bono publico* he cannot possibly make it. But where were we—Oh! after the scene with the Countess, who was very chastely and pleasantly performed by Mrs CHATTERLEY, the only real *vis comica* in the play fell to the lot of Mr POWER, who exhibited the imitative coxcombrity of the valet with considerable humour; and if the contrasted character of the honest secretary (for which WARDE did all that could be done, for one who has only to talk of honesty) had fallen into a more effective collision with it, some very natural pleasantry might have been elicited. COOPER performed the husband, and had to wig himself into age for the purpose; he had but a single opportunity at the close, and made a good use of it. We have left Mrs SLOMAN to the last, because we really think that the nature and pathos of her performance of the heartstricken wife merit particular encomium. We never witnessed a broken heart more naturally portrayed, or the sighing of a contrite spirit conveyed with more appropriate feeling. It was a bending down of the whole soul to remorse and self-condemnation; and the dying scene drew down unequivocal proofs of sympathy from a large portion of the audience. Most of our contemporaries unite with us in this testimony, and it is always a pleasure to be one in this species of accord. There was some opposition to the play, but the approbation was decisive, although we guess that its attraction will not be lasting; the main character is too gauzy, and not gauzy either in our own English way. Mr C. KEMBLE changes his dresses three times, and his first habit *en cavalier* is singularly picturesque. There is also some very beautiful drawing-room scenery; so that if the vital principle had proved strong, certainly nothing else would have been wanting.—And now, save and except the name of Richelieu, on

what ground could the Author of *Broad Grins* and *Vagaries* possibly demur to licensing this play? Will he insist upon it that noblemen are never coxcombs or seducers, or, being so, that they are never to be so represented? We should not wonder if he imagined that, with the assistance of Harriette Wilson, the *canaille* might fancy a resemblance between *Rougemont* returning from a campaign and the amorous lack-a-daisybilities of a certain warlike Leader on a similar occasion. We did not however observe any colloquy between *Rougemont* and any other noble Duke at the door and window of a common prostitute; but if there was anything of the kind, and Mr COLMAN cut it out, he is certainly to be vindicated. We guess, however, that such was not the case; and, if people assimilate the two heroes, it is all the Licenser's fault: but goodnatured friends are always committing this sort of mistake. We shrewdly suspect that since our deputy Aristarchus has become a courtier, he would cover aristocracy altogether and constitute the representation of a silly or a wicked lord a dramatic breach of privilege. As in certain other cases of misdemeanour they doubtless ought to be allowed to plead their peerage. We wish that superannuated sinners would contrive to get to heaven by other means than by correcting their own faults in other people. This Sister Jane style of reaching Abraham's bosom is intolerable. Public stews once flourished under the protection of the Bishops of Winchester, who licensed them as George the Younger does plays. That was bad; but it would be nearly as much so to place them under the superintendence of some reformed Mother Cole, who, brimful of contrition and Cogniac, has just left off keeping one. Having become serious, oh Inditer of epistles from Mrs BUNT to Miss BUNT, thou must know that, among other graces, there is one called the grace of congruity! Attend to it, honest Licenser, and do not, because thou hast something of the latest taken to "purge and live cleanly," be incongruously made, as poor Paul Whitehead used to say Westminster Abbey always made him—take his own words—"so d—d devout." Q.

ORATORIOS.—We were much gratified on Wednesday evening with the musical selection at this theatre; and if the different graduates in taste were not satisfied, we think the cause must be attributed to the fastidiousness of the hearer, rather than to the misjudgment of the Director. The performance commenced with the overture to the "occasional Oratorio" of HANDEL; which, with the exception of the first movement, we do not think worthy of being distinguished from several of his other overtures. At the commencement of the third act, the one to the *Zauberflöte* followed;—that exquisite combination of grandeur, fancy, and brilliancy, with profound learning and harmonious proportion.

Mr BRAHAM sang "Deeper and deeper still," in an admirable manner; so much so, that we will not write what was at the "tip of our pen," in return for his *obbligato* at the close of the air. Is there not some confusion of ideas respecting that word "*obbligato*?" Is not the balance of obligation very much in favour of the performer? Reflecting upon the well-known modesty of the profession, such is doubtless their interpretation of the term. Miss LOVE's "Return, O God of Hosts" pleased us very much; the simplicity with which she sang that charming air was creditable to her appreciation of its sentiment; being earnest, and yet meek; deprecatory and yearning for relief. A Miss FARRAR (from York, we believe) under apparently painful embarrassment, acquitted herself well in "Wise men flattering." It would be unwise as well as unjust to give an opinion of her merits from the hearing of one air only, and under such an impression: notwithstanding which, however, we noticed some of her tones when singing in quartett and semi-chorus, and augur favourably from them. We thank Sir GEORGE SMART for selecting that noble chorus from a "*Dixit dominus*" of Leonardo Leo, now first published from the *Fitzwilliam MSS.* by Mr NOVELLO. It was once our happy lot to hear that eminent man perform at his altar in the Catholic chapel,—

"Swaying the organ with firm royalty,—"

"Whilst he plied his grave and fancied descant in lofty fugues, and with artful and unimaginable touches," like a serious and faithful recorder, told the great thoughts of immortal spirits: among these, Leo was an archangel,—the Michael of his hierarchy; or, without descending to play upon words, the Michael Angelo of musicians: like him, his designs were bold, severe, magnitudinous: they should be performed by a host, in the amphitheatre of Vespasian, to an audience of eighty thousand.

#### ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

This silly institution, with its cant about morality and religion, seems likely to be brought into general contempt by the discussions now taking place about it. Already the Archbishop of York must feel himself in very awkward company when transacting business with his worthy friend Mr BOCHSA, and the Academy Chaplain have

no sinecure in protecting the boys and girls from bad precepts and worse examples.

It has been said, very irreverently, that "if there were no Devil, there would be no need of Parsons;" and we therefore suppose it is to find the Chaplain in work that Mr BOCHSA has been introduced somewhat in that character. The Chaplain sayeth, "Keep your hands from picking and stealing, your tongue from lying, and your body in soberness and chastity." The Devil replieth with a sneer, "Do as I do."

If the Archbishop and his deputy have power to cast out devils, they will serve their Academy best by turning out Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

But the whole business is truly ridiculous, with poor VELLUTI to instruct the boys and girls in the Italian mode of making singers,—Lord BURGHESS to teach them the short road to composition,—the Parsons to teach them morals,—the Opera to unteach them again,—and lastly BEELZEBUB, to show them by his example that the patronage of the Great has nothing to do with honesty or decency, and that in fact character in the musical profession amounts to nothing. Does not the Archbishop shake his wig at this? X.

#### MR BRAHAM AND THE JOHN BULL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—In the *New Times* of last Monday, I observed a letter from Mr Braham, complaining, and justly, of a most wanton and canting attack upon him in the "*Smutty Gazette*," relative to the indecency of his singing, "I know that my Redeemer liveth,"—(an air by the way, he did not sing)—he being a Jew. Mr Braham has answered the slanderer in a more forbearing manner than the fellow deserved.\* It is not worth while, at any time, to enter into an argument with a convicted Robber, upon the impropriety of thieving; or with a Hypocrite dyed-in-grain, upon the hatefulness of canting: and I am convinced that not one of your readers will need to be reminded, that, even supposing Mr Braham were a Jew, there can be any more indecency in his uttering words in reference to Christian faith, than there would be in his singing a verse of the Koran. The purport of this letter, however, is to ask you and your readers, whether you have ever heard of an extempore piece of blasphemy sung by "HUMBURG" Hook during a *Thunder Storm*? Also, a conclusion to a Methodist Sermon once preached by him, and in public? If not, I here promise you, upon the first future opportunity the Hypocrite affords me, either by his vile attacks upon the feelings of unoffending individuals, or by his loathsome canting to the cassocked readers of his slander, to publish two specimens of his reverence for Decency, "Social Order, and our holy Religion," such as will edify you and them, and make the ears of his parson-readers tingle,—unless they are indeed "altogether such as he is."—Your's,

\* TO THE EDITOR OF THE COURIER.

SIR,—I had hoped that the malignant feelings of the Editor and writer of the *John Bull* towards me had ceased, or, at least, been softened, and that the high crime of daring to sing some beautiful Scotch melodies, not on account of long forgotten political allusions, but merely for their intrinsic musical merit, would have found favour from him who owes his being, his education, and his virtues, to a celebrated composer of Scotch melodies. In an account of the Oratorios in this day's *John Bull*, an attack is made upon me, which, for my own peace of mind, and the happiness of a virtuous and religious family, I am forced to notice. Nothing is sacred to this writer. If he destroy your professional reputation; if he plant the dagger in the heart of an unoffending and virtuous wife; no matter: malice is gratified, and the talented writer is satisfied. I had hoped it would not have been necessary for me now to declare to the world what can only be of vital importance to myself, that I have long been a member of the Protestant Church, that I have married a Protestant, that I have educated my children as Protestants, and that I trust I possess a greater portion of Christian charity than my unrelenting reviler.—I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

"69 Baker street, Feb. 12.

"JOHN BRAHAM."

We willingly (says the *Courier*) give insertion to the above letter,—The attack which it repels in so manly and becoming a manner, we submit:—"To hear Mr Braham at any time seriously telling twelve or fifteen hundred people that he knows his Redeemer lives, when, if he have any religion at all, he believes no such thing, is a little disgusting, and to find puffs disseminated all over the town upon his opening the Messiah, in which he has no faith, is carrying the thing quite as far," &c. &c.

#### FROM THE LONDON GAZETTES.

Tuesday, Feb. 14.

INSOLVENTS.

O. Tomalin, Size lane, Bucklersbury, hatter.  
G. Bassett, Judd place West, New road, cabinet-maker.  
J. Crosthwaite, Fenchurch street, wine-merchant.  
O. Thompson, Wells row, High street, Islington, plumber.  
T. W. Williams, Northwich, Cheshire, banker.  
J. Cook, Sheffield, victualler.  
G. Andrews, Durham, bookseller.



**BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.**

- J. White, Old Broad street, merchant.  
 C. D. Broughton and J. J. Garnett, Nantwich, Cheshire, bankers.
- BANKRUPTS.**  
 T. Shepherd, and J. Haworth, Bury, Lancashire, machine-makers. Solicitors, Messrs Adlington and Co. Bedford row.  
 R. Bouchez, George street, Adelphi, diamond-merchant. Solicitors, Messrs Willis and Co. Token-house yard.  
 J. Haddon, Castle street, Finsbury square, printer. Solicitor, Mr Wilks, Finsbury place, Finsbury square.  
 J. Cording, Strand, jeweller. Solicitor, Mr Webb, Dyer's buildings.  
 C. T. Heath, Seymour place, Euston square, engraver. Solicitor, Mr Bousfield, Chatham place, Blackfriars.  
 C. Whittle, Hastings, draper. Solicitors, Messrs Gregson and Fonnereau, Angel court, Throgmorton street.  
 A. U. Meredith, Portsmouth, tailor. Solicitors, Messrs Clowes and Co. King's Bench walk, Temple.  
 W. L. Bryan, Peterborough court, Fleet street, printer. Solicitors, Messrs Hodgson and Burton, Salisbury street, Strand.  
 J. Boulton, Wisbech St Peters, Cambridgeshire, merchant. Solicitors, Messrs Bremridge and Cleobury, Chancery lane.  
 O. Jones, Liverpool, linendraper. Solicitor, Mr Chester, Staple inn.  
 T. Jarvis, Hungerford street, Strand, wine cooper. Solicitor, Mr Rushbury, Carthusian street, Charterhouse square.  
 J. Perry, Nottingham, lace-manufacturer. Solicitors, Messrs Hurd and Johnson, Temple.  
 J. Rier, and T. Travis, Manchester, machine-makers. Solicitors, Messrs Willis and Co. London.  
 T. Shroud, Bath, linendraper. Solicitor, Mr Fisher, Featherstone buildings, Holborn.  
 W. Berresford, Heaton Norris, Lancashire, roller-maker. Solicitor, Mr Tyler, Pump court, Temple.  
 J. Boothroyd, Almondbury, Yorkshire, cloth-manufacturer. Solicitors, Messrs Batty and Co. Chancery lane.  
 F. Whiston, Crutchedfriars, merchant. Solicitors, Messrs Constable and Kirk, Symond's inn.  
 G. Wryghte, White Lion street, Nortonfalgate, Leghorn-hat-manufacturer. Solicitor, Mr Alexander, Clement's inn.  
 S. Bramwell, Peter street, Southwark, leather-hat-manufacturer. Solicitor, Mr Shirreff, Salisbury street, Strand.  
 W. Widgeon, Whitmore road, Hoxton, coal merchant. Solicitors, Messrs Robinson and Burrows, Austinfriars.  
 J. Stinton, Coleman street, shoe-maker. Solicitor, Mr Wigley, Essex street, Strand.  
 J. Burrows, Bond street, Vauxhall, builder. Solicitors, Messrs Croft and Johnson, Bedford row.  
 J. F. Littlewood, Oxford street, linendraper. Solicitor, Mr Hardwick, Lawrence lane, Cheapside.  
 J. F. W. Wittich, Manchester, grocer. Solicitor, Mr Dougan, Clifford's inn, Fleet street.  
 W. Porter, jun., Great Driffield, Yorkshire, merchant. Solicitors, Messrs Ellis and Co. Chancery lane.  
 J. and W. Bird, Watling street, merchants. Solicitor, Mr Bousfield, Chatham place, Blackfriars.  
 E. Bond, Wallingford, Berkshire, linendraper. Solicitor, Mr Jones, Sise lane.

Saturday, February 18.

**INSOLVENTS.**

- G. Johnson, King-Stanley, Gloucestershire, wool-broker.  
 S. Arscott, Buckfastleigh, Devonshire, carrier.  
 J. Carter, Oxford street, furrier.

**BANKRUPTCY ENLARGED.**

- J. Searle and S. B. Searle, Saffron Walden, Essex, bankers.

**BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.**

- J. J. Garnett and T. Garnett, Nantwich, Chester, cheese-factors.  
 J. Gibbins and R. Eaton, Swansea, bankers.  
 G. Haynes, sen. G. Haynes, jun. and W. W. Haynes, Neath, Glamorganshire, bankers.  
 E. Williams, Southampton, shoe-seller.  
 J. Purser, Bowyer lane, Camberwell, dyer.

**BANKRUPTS.**

- J. O. Whitehall, Nottingham, plumber.  
 T. Gale, Bradford, Wiltshire, clothier.  
 J. Berry, Hans place, Middlesex, wine-merchant.  
 S. Hart, Bradford, Wiltshire, clothier.  
 R. Mardon, Tooley street, baker.  
 J. Riant, Gracechurch street, cheesemonger.  
 T. G. Blofeld, Middle row, Holborn, perfumer.  
 J. L. Lowe, York place, Camberwell New road, stock-broker.  
 J. Gibbs, Wardour street, linen-draper.  
 A. L'Ange, Sherborne lane, City, merchant.  
 W. Archer, Maidstone, corn-merchant.  
 G. Hopkins, Oversley Mill, Warwickshire, miller.  
 M. A. Joseph, Mansell street, Goodman's fields, coal-merchant.  
 R. Horne, Holborn hill, shoe-manufacturer.  
 G. Stanley, Upper Ground street, Surrey, ironmonger.  
 B. Dring, Hammersmith, tallow-chandler.  
 W. Tuck, Elsing, Norfolk, miller.  
 T. Hudson, High street, St Giles's, grocer.  
 W. Gathard, Cheapside, tailor.

- M. Ward, Warren street, coach-builder.  
 I. Hart, Norwich, grocer.  
 A., S. and J. Sharp, Birkenshaw Bottoms, near Leeds, cotton-spinners.  
 J. Taylor, Gomersal, Yorkskire, merchant.  
 W. Cross, Birmingham, dealer in hides.  
 J. H. Teulon and E. Brichta, Finch lane, Cornhill, merchants.  
 T. Wood, New Church court, Strand, printer.  
 J. Pearce and J. Perry, Nottingham, lace-manufacturers.  
 W. and J. Hepper, Armley, Leeds, cloth-manufacturers.  
 R. Pearson, Rothierham, Yorkshire, grocer.  
 T. and E. Frost, Sheffield, Yorkshire, tailors.  
 J. Wells, Kenninghall, Norfolk, shopkeeper.  
 J. Barlow, Heaton Norris, Lancaster, currier.  
 J. Wharton, Manchester, factor.  
 W. Sage jun., Bristol, grocer.  
 J. Scott and Henry Bragg, Walbrook, commission merchants.  
 R. Slack, High Holborn, woollen draper.  
 J. Brown, Loughborough, lace manufacturer.  
 J. M. and D. M. Japha, York street, Borough, mustard manufacturers.  
 L. Lyon, Goswell street, tailor.  
 J. Basset, Circus street, New road, warehouseman.  
 J. Kelly and J. Boniface, Brighthelmston, builders.  
 J. Rigby, J. Marriner, and T. Wright, Liverpool, hide merchants.  
 G. F. Baker, Macclesfield, silk manufacturer.  
 M. Boyd, Union Tavern Inn, Worcester, victualler.

**THE FUNDS.**—A perfect panic arose in the Funds at the beginning of the week, threatening a renewal of the scenes which were witnessed in the stock-market last December. It subsided however in a day or two; and Consols, which had been down below 74, gradually rose, apparently in consequence of the temptation offered to the public to purchase at so low a price. The extended time allowed for the circulation of small notes of the Bank of England, announced by Ministers on Friday in the House, had also a further favourable effect yesterday, and produced a great preponderance of demand over supply of stock. The depreciation in the Foreign Market was excessive at first—amounting to about 10 per cent. on Colombian Bonds; but the prices have since rallied very strongly, the reaction amounting to about two-thirds of the fall. Latest quotations:

Consols, 76½	New 4 per Cents, 94½
Reduced, 77	Consols for Account, 76½
¾ per Cents. Reduced, 85½	
<b>PRICES OF FOREIGN STOCKS YESTERDAY.</b>	
Colombian Bonds, 47½	Mexican Bonds, for Acc. 58½ 9½
Ditto (1824) 44½ 5½ 5 6½ 5 6½	Peruvian Bonds, 31½
Ditto Account, 44½ 5½ 5 6½	Russian Bonds (1822) 76½ 7½
Danish Bonds (1825) 52½ 3½	Ditto for Account, 77½
Greek Bonds (1825) 18 17½	Spanish Bonds, 5 per Cent. 10½ 11 10½
Ditto Account, 18½	Ditto for Account, 10½ 11
Prussian Bonds (1822) 97½	Spanish Bonds (1823) 7½ 8
Mexican Bonds, (1825) 58 9½	

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 19, 1826.

It has been confidently asserted in some of the French journals, that the Russian troops have passed the Pruth, and consequently that hostilities have virtually commenced between Russia and Turkey. There is some reason to believe that this information is not altogether correct, but at the same time the tendency of things in that direction renders it a very probable anticipation of an approaching fact, unless the mission of the Duke of WELLINGTON, which is obviously connected with the state of things in the East of Europe, be so operative as to avert it. It appears, that whatever be the policy adopted by, or forced upon, NICHOLAS, he is singularly distrustful of the leading officers of his army, many of whom of the first distinction he is removing from their respective commands. Under such a state of apprehension and restraint, it is obviously impossible to calculate on the measures that a despot, in the situation of him of Russia, will be called upon to pursue; but goaded as he is by a people who, in their anxiety for an interference in favour of the Greeks, are actuated at once by general views of national aggrandizement and enthusiastic religious sympathy, it is obviously the interest of the remaining powers of Europe to settle the Greek question without further delay. If even ALEXANDER had lived, we think this would most probably have been necessary; but evinced as the national disposition of Russia has been to her new ruler, it seems to us impossible for him to withstand the impetus which forces him forward, however his own wish, or that of the governing party, might incline him to the more wary game of ALEXANDER—that is to say, the game of gaining everything he could by craft and demonstration, with as little real adventure in the field as possible, except in quarters where, although the glory is little, the profit is occasionally great.

It seems, by the arrival of a document showing an alteration of the Custom House duties, that Russia has considerably relaxed in her system of prohibition and of high duties on imports. The formal declaration of war by Brazil against the Provinces of La Plata has

also arrived; it is a curious State paper, and worthy of perusal if only for its pure no-meaning. The Brazilians claim some temporary advantages on one of the points of contact.

Commercial distress is the universal subject which occupies both Parliament and the Press; and the discussions upon it have elicited a variety of opinions as to causes and remedies. The Ministerial measures affecting the currency and banking system, are moving by regular stages through both Houses: they do not profess however to afford immediate relief; and the mercantile community, in their present urgency, cannot regard with satisfaction any relief which is not immediate. A direct request has been accordingly made for an issue of Exchequer Bills, not exceeding five millions in amount, to merchants and traders, upon the security of property to be deposited in the custody of Government; the object being to save the individuals who might receive the loan, from the ruinous necessity of selling such property at the present extreme depreciation. To this request however Ministers gave a direct refusal, on the ground, that compliance would hold out encouragement to that overtrading which has rendered assistance necessary. Whether this refusal was expedient or not, it is difficult to say; but the reason assigned for it we certainly hold to be fallacious: individuals speculate largely in the hope of making large profits; and it would be no additional inducement, that in the event of failure, they might obtain a part of a temporary accommodation which Government might be induced to grant, to save them from utter ruin. By way of doing something, however, in the shape of immediate aid, Ministers guaranteed the Bank against loss in purchasing Exchequer Bills (then at a discount) to the extent of 2,000,000*l.*; and the Directors acting instantly upon that guarantee, a supply of money has thereby been thrown upon the Stock-market, and the price of the securities in question kept up to par. It is obvious however, that the effect of this step will scarcely benefit the embarrassed merchants: there was money enough before, but want of confidence keeps it locked up in the hands of capitalists; and no buying up of Exchequer Bills will restore confidence, which indeed continues to decline daily among traders. The extension of the privilege of circulating small notes of the Bank of England (to the 10th October) has been allowed as a temporary means of counteracting the excessive contraction of the currency, and has been received with a degree of satisfaction at the Stock Exchange, which seems to imply a strong sympathy between the abundance of paper and the prices of the Funds.

Whatever may be the causes however of the nation's present difficulties, we are convinced that by far too much effect has been attributed to the absurd joint-stock schemes of 1825. Official papers have been printed, exhibiting the excess of the imports of the last year over the average of the three years proceedings. The increase on wool is 90 per cent.; on thrown silk 98, and on raw silk 31; on wine 56, indigo 48, deals 42, tallow 41, cotton 38. "We may hence (observes the *Globe*) form some idea of the ruinous losses that must have been suffered by the commercial world. The traffic in shares was a species of gambling mainly carried on with spare money, and upon which what was lost by one party was gained by another. But in the import trade there has been a pure loss; great stocks of goods having been purchased at high prices, which are exported at low prices, either in the raw or in the manufactured state."

A debate on the Usury Laws has given scope for the utterance of nonsense to an extent surprising even to the constant readers of Parliamentary debates. We hope there is not another assembly in the kingdom in which many individuals could be found gravely to argue in favour of attempting to limit the rate of interest, any more than for attempting to fix a *maximum* price upon the quarter loaf, less than would in a scarce season pay the miller and baker. One man actually expressed his fear that the repeal of the Usury Laws would disturb mortgages at 4 per cent. He did not perceive that the very mention of the 4 per cent. refuted his own argument; for if the law alone kept down the rate of interest, how would lenders be content with 4, when that law allowed them 5 per cent.?

Mr BRIGHT has introduced a bill for the excellent purpose of facilitating arrangements between debtor and creditor by means of *trust-deeds*, and of doing away the mischievous legal absurdity which allows such arrangements, however beneficial to all parties, and however much desired by the majority of the creditors, to be defeated by the vindictiveness or folly of a single one.

COURT JON.—So studious have Ministers been of the Duke of Wellington's health and comfort, that they have prevailed upon his old medical friend, Dr Hume, who knows his constitution, to accompany the mission to St Petersburg; and in recompense for the interruption of professional practice occasioned by it, though not expected to last more than ten weeks, have agreed to pay down to the Doctor 2,000*l.* in money, besides giving his daughter a pension of 200*l.* per annum for life.—*Times*.

FRANCE UNDER CHARLES X.—It may be remembered, that in the last years of the reign of Louis the 18th, the government was chiefly in the hands of his brother, the Count d'Artois. The old king, less a slave to the priests than his successor, repeatedly refused to listen to the counsels of his ultra advisers, who panted for a counter-revolution. When they expressed their disappointment to the Count, "Have patience," said he, "I will answer for the future—*Je vous reponds de l'avenir*—your wishes shall be realised in good time." Charles the 10th, led by the crafty counsels of the Abbé Latil his confessor, Fraycinous, and the Abbé Menais, has shown himself as good as his word. He has scarcely reigned eighteen months; and how much has he accomplished? A milliard of francs (forty millions sterling) have been granted to the emigrants; another monstrous douceur has been thrown into the hands of the ex-colonists of St Domingo, who belong chiefly to the court or the old noblesse. The clergy have just been promised their indemnity: the crafty Jesuits having crept into power, fill the tribunals and high official stations; and exert themselves to suppress Lancasterian schools and all unpurified institutions for education. The Sorbonne is re-established, to preserve the Catholic faith from the infection of modern liberality, and keep theological opinion at the level of that enlightened era, the 12th century! Last in order, and not least in importance, comes the revival of the law of primogeniture, with its supplementary barbarism, the law of entail. And what is the avowed object of this bold innovation? Why, it is for the preservation of families! that is to say, for the creation of a body of men, who become the servile dependents of the crown, that they may fasten on the country the tribe of hungry brothers and relatives whom they have robbed under the shadow of an iniquitous law—who, when they get strong enough, plunder the people by Corn Bills, fill the prisons by Game Laws, assist the crown in multiplying imposts that they may share the produce, and by their vanity, ostentation, and fantastic notions of dignity and honour, teach men to despise sober industry, and spread through society false ideas of the true end and object of human life. Let it be remembered that the law of equal division prevailed in two-fifths of France before the revolution, and yet in this portion of the kingdom families did contrive to exist. But what do the Bourbons owe to these few thousand nobles whom they are gorging with money, and to whose absurd pretensions they are sacrificing the interests of the industrious millions? What have they done to be worth preserving at such a price? When the revolution broke out, they fled at the first appearance of danger, and left Louis the 16th to his fate. They fled again when Bonaparte returned from Elba, without breaking a lance; and when the present King falls into the snare their cupidity is laying for him, they will desert him as they have done his predecessors, carry their chivalry across the Rhine or across the Channel, and raise a howl in foreign countries about "social order," and the "preservation of the throne and the altar." Some subtle priest advised Charles to proceed in his encroachments on the Charter, not by storm but by sap, (non par escalade mais par la sappe). The advice seems to have been lost upon him. Nothing will bring his throne so quickly into peril as tampering with the laws that fix the state of property.—*Scotsman*.

B. A. GOLDSCHMIDT & Co.—We feel sincere sorrow in announcing the failure of one of the most eminent mercantile houses in the City—Messrs B. A. Goldschmidt and Co. of Great St Helen's. They were also great foreign loan contractors. The following are the loans negotiated by this eminent house:—Danish 5 per Cents. (paid off by the new 3 per Cents.); Mexican 5 per Cent. Stock; Colombian 6 per Cents.; and Portuguese 3 per Cents.—We may truly say, that few failures that could have happened would be more severely felt in every quarter of the globe. Their connections with North and South America, and with every part of the Continent of Europe, were most extensive; indeed, we know of no branch of traffic where the baneful effect of this misfortune will not be generally apparent, if we except the East India Trade, with which, we believe, the firm had little or nothing to do. As to the situation of the affairs of Messrs B. A. Goldschmidt and Co. their engagements are so extensive, that it becomes impossible to make a calculation of the sum for which they were liable; but we believe it is an ascertained fact that the house was worth, in the early part of last year, (taking the public sureties at the value of the day) at least one million and a half sterling. This is the great house to which we on Tuesday alluded in the fall of 10 per Cent. in South American Stocks, and the cause of the four failures of eminent Brokers. On the Foreign Stock Exchange there was no negotiation of foreign bills on Tuesday, and the public mind was fully prepared for the shock of Wednesday morning. Immediately on the report of the failure, merchants and others connected with the establishment hurried to public coffee-houses to ascertain the fact; and the Royal Exchange became as crowded as at the usual hour of the merchants assembling at what is termed "high Change."—It is necessary, on such an occurrence, to say a word as to the holders of the stock of loans for which Messrs Goldschmidt were contractors. The real security of these loans cannot be at all affected by the event. If Messrs Goldschmidt had continued solvent, they could not have paid the dividends unless funds were remitted; and, if the Governments remit these funds, the dividends can just as well be paid through any other house as by that of these merchants.—Mr HURTZ, who held a small share in B. A. Goldschmidt and Co.'s House for a short period, retired from business about a year ago, with a fortune of 100,000*l.*—*Globe and Traveller*.

The CHANCELLOR has so far mended—(his health of course is alluded to)—that he has taken his seat again in the Court.—Some people think, that it would be the death of his Lordship were he to retire from his seat; others believe that he will not quit it till he dies.—God help the poor suitors!

**MINISTERIAL BOASTING.**—The following extracts have been posted at the Stock Market, in order to show how much the existing state of affairs in the City are opposed to the views of Government last year:—"There never was a period in the history of this country when all the great interests of the nation were at the same time in so thriving a condition."—*King's Speech, Feb. 1825.*—"There are persons who imagine our prosperity is not permanent; but the House, I am sure, will concur with me in opinion, that it rests on the most solid foundation."—*Mr Robinson, March 1825.*

Mr Mushet, of the Mint, contends in his book, that the Bank of England, by the enlargement or contraction of its issues, has been the sole cause of the rise or fall in Government securities, in the prices of commodities, and in the flowing or ebbing of speculative adventure.

We have no doubt that if the Poor Laws could be introduced into Ireland, they would ultimately be beneficial, as they would force the landowners to keep down the population on their estates. In the other semi-barbarous countries of Europe, the landlord regulates his population as he does his stock of cattle. Even in Austria, no Clergyman dares to marry a labouring man, who has not obtained a license from the local authority, specifying that he has the means of subsisting himself.—*Morning Chronicle.*

**NORWICH, FEB. 13.**—This city has again been in a state of riot since eleven o'clock this morning, owing to one of the manufacturers being detected in sending work out of the city, to be executed in the country. The Mayor, with several magistrates and the *posse commilitatus*, went down to the scene of riot, at twelve o'clock, and continued at their post. Every thing predicts a turbulent night, the distress and despair of the people being at its climax, as I can assure you, that near 12,000 persons are at this time unemployed; in fact, every kind of business is at a direct stand.

Accounts received from Manchester state, that there has been a run on the deposit banks of that town, but owing apparently more to a want of money than any distrust of their solidity. The want of money is so great in Manchester, that large orders from Germany for twist have been refused through inability on that account to execute them. Leeds is in the same state, and some of the manufacturers are represented to be entirely at a stand, as the owners receive bills only in payment for their goods, which bills they are unable in the present state of credit to convert into money. There has been a heavy run also upon the Westmoreland banks, in consequence of that of Gibson and Co., of Kirkby Lonsdale, having stopped payment.

**DR OWEN.**—"Of and concerning,"—as the lawyers have it,—this Reverend Tithes-scraper, we shall have a word or two to say in our next. In the mean time, we recommend to general perusal a small tract,—40 pages only,—but then there is much in a little,—just published by Mr ROLPH, the gentleman whose observations at a late Vestry Meeting gave rise to that exhibition of temper and sentiment on the part of the "Divine," which is deemed so extraordinary by those who do not know of what "perilous stuff" these established teachers of Humility and Charity are usually composed. Mr P. ROLPH's tract is entitled "An Address to the Citizens of London, but to the Parishioners of St Olave in particular." The Author treats his living subject just as LAWRENCE or COOPER, or any other skilful Surgeon, would serve a dead one—namely, he dissects him in fine style, judiciously exposing all his diseased parts as a warning and guide.

**BANKRUPTCIES.**—There were 1331 bankrupts in the course of last year. During the first six weeks of the present, there have been 514! Fever is breaking out in several parts of Glasgow to a serious extent. It is partly attributed to the poverty of the operatives. Many families are in a starving state, eight of a family having not more some weeks than 8s. to subsist upon.—*Scotsman.*

The mendacious Scotch bookseller, *Blackwood*, is called *Ebony* by those who know him best;—a name in some respects extremely appropriate, the fellow's nature being evidently very heavy, hard, and black. Hard as he is, however, many honest people have found it not difficult to cut this *Ebony*, although his pious Colleague *Cadell* treats him with such peculiar tenderness; but it is a property of some soft bodies to adhere closely to hard ones.

**MR MURRAY'S REPRESENTATIVE.**—Poor John is in a sad quandary; and not being gifted with "the better part of valour"—discretion—flounders about with a desperation quite moving to witness. Will the reader believe that he has changed his Editor again? Such is the fact however—three Editors in three weeks! First there was the man of "four mortal columns," who promised very soon to overlay the bantling; next came a poor creature who could not for his life get beyond a paragraph of the veriest common-place about the last arrival of French papers; lastly, we have a sprightly youth, who aims at an uncommon penetration and smartness of style; and when Sir JOHN NEWPORT makes a motion respecting the abuses connected with Church Rates in Ireland, affects to settle the question of Irish misgovernment by exclaiming,— "Happy indeed must be the country, in which a practised grievance-hunter can find no more important subject to animate his exertions!" This witty politician cannot expect to continue beyond the next change of the moon, with an Employer so much alive to the weak points of his men. To be sure, ABSOLUTE JOHN is only true to his old character in these autocratical vagaries;—an Editor per week he may think no more unreasonable than a wife per day was to the Commander of the Faithful in the *Arabian Nights*. In the mean time however, what says the public to the precious medley of leading articles produced by the Sultan's inconstancy? A decline in the sale and advertisements may best answer that question. The News-venders, who will never tolerate

a long name, abbreviated the Emperor's pompous title into *Rep.*—which the shrewder fellows among the fraternity, seeing how matters went in the editorial department, speedily changed, by the slight alteration of a letter, into *Rip*. "Murray's *Rip*" may now be heard called about the streets at the hour of publishing the Morning Papers.

"ABSOLUTE JOHN" UNWILLING TO FIGHT!—A very amusing Correspondence has been published by Dr Lyall, in which the Albemarle street Publisher cuts a truly dolorous figure. It appears from it that Dr Lyall's work upon Russia having, in the Author's opinion, been shamefully treated by the *Quarterly Review*, which contained also, he says, an "infamous libel on his character;"—he called upon Mr John Murray for explanation and apology.—To this demand, made in no very flattering terms, poor John replies in his usual way when in a state of trepidation—thus:—"MY DEAR SIR,"—(yes, my dear Sir!)—"In reply to your letter, I have only to state, that I neither have, nor ever had, the slightest influence over the Editorial Department of the *Quarterly Review*.—I am, dear Sir, your faithful servant, JOHN MURRAY."—Dr Lyall, conceiving, as well he might, that this answer was "a complete evasion," immediately informed the prostrate Publisher, that unless he gave a satisfactory explanation and made a due apology by mid-day, he must expect to receive a challenge on Monday! (This information was conveyed on Saturday.) No answer having been given to this communication, Dr L. forthwith claimed "that satisfaction which one gentleman has a right to demand of another."—Mr John Murray still maintaining a most unsuspecting silence, Dr Lyall sent a friend (Dr Power) to him; when "Mr Murray said, that he was only responsible as publisher for the contents of the *Quarterly Review*—that if Dr Lyall felt himself aggrieved by that periodical, he had his remedy by bringing an action at law; that the giving up the name of the writer of the Review in question, would be to sacrifice his professional character; and twice he repeated, that if he heard anything further about a challenge, he would answer it by a Bow-street officer." Seeing that it was quite useless to expect that *Mister John Murray* could be induced to act the part of "a gentleman," even for an hour or so, Dr Lyall was preparing to lay a statement of the transaction before the public, when he received the following anonymous Note:—"In consequence of a communication from Mr Murray, the Author of the Article in the *Quarterly Review* respecting the *History of Moscow*, will be happy to give Dr Lyall the desired satisfaction tomorrow morning at half past six, in the fields between the Hampstead road and Primrose hill; of course, one friend will attend for each party.—Feb. 17, 1826."—"This letter (says Dr Lyall) was delivered by a common porter, who said a Gentleman gave him it in the street—its seal exhibits neither crest nor initials—it is dated a day in advance; and, as the reader must have remarked, it is anonymous.—I immediately consulted with my friends, who, as well as myself, were unanimously of opinion that I could not take any notice of such a communication.—On Monday, an explanation of Mr Murray's conduct towards me, before the publication of the 61st Number of the *Quarterly Review*, will be given; till which time, may I request my friends and the public to suspend their judgment?"—Alas! for poor John!—no longer, we suppose, "ABSOLUTE," even in printing-offices or at sales at the Albion.

## NEWSPAPER CHAT.

**CONJUGAL AFFECTION.**—A few years ago, a man died in Paisley, leaving his wife and four children in very indigent circumstances. From the nature of his disease, and other causes, the widow had reason to suspect that an attempt would be made to disinter her husband's body after burial. She was too poor to pay for a guard to watch the grave, and she resolved to perform the fearful task herself. Her children, the youngest of which was an infant upon the breast, were unable to contribute in the least towards their maintenance; and she was obliged to support the family, as she does still, by washing clothes. Every day, for the space of six weeks after her husband's burial, did she discharge her duty to the living, by toiling at her laborious occupation from day-break till sunset—while her nights were spent in the church yard tending her husband's grave. Unawed by the superstitious terrors which the strongest mind could scarcely fortify itself against in such a place—heedless of the drifting snow which sometimes fell in wreaths around her—of chilling night-damps, drenching rains, and howling winds, did this affectionate creature, seated on a tomb-stone by the side of her husband's grave, with an infant at her bosom, maintain her solitary vigils, for forty-two successive nights, at the close of a stormy autumn. "Whiles," added she, in delivering her simple narrative, "I was kept at the washin' green till night was settin' in, an' then I cam straight to the kirk-yard—lap owre the dyke—and set me down on the thruch-stone till the weans brought out dry claes an' my supper. After changin' myself, I just sat down wi' my cloak about me, faulded my baby in my bosom, an' keepit my dreary watek as weel's I could, till it was time to gang to the fiel' in the mornin'."—*Paisley Advertiser.*

Mr Goodall, an assistant at Eton, the morning he married Miss Prior (to the great astonishment of the scholar) attended his duty as master—a luckless boy who had played truant, pleaded, as an excuse for his absence, that he really thought Mr G. had a prior engagement.

**A WARM PLACE.**—Dr W—, the chemist, being asked, on one of the extremely cold days during the frost, what he thought of the weather, said, "What do I think of it? Why, that it's weather to go to—and to shut the door after you."—*London Magazine; Diary of a Constant Reader.*

Irving has varied his Entertainments. He is now predicting the end of the world; and I understand that it takes, and draws prodigiously.—*London Magazine.*

**TITHES.**—Dr Cove asserts that tithes are as old as Adam. Apropos of Dr Cove—if any kind friend would lend us his celebrated Pamphlet, we would endeavour to ascertain whether Adam paid or received tithes. In either case, we suppose that it must have been after the Fall—because, before there was any sin, there could not be any occasion for Parsons—and, “no parsons, no tithes,” must have been true originally. Besides, if there were tithes in Paradise, it would not have been so great a punishment for Adam to be driven out of it. At all events, the Devil and the tithes must have entered it together. Whether, if Satan could be now expelled from the earth—tithes would go along with him;—or if tithes were to lead the way—the “Evil One” would follow them to their “dread abode” or not, we leave Dr Cove to consider before he publishes his next edition.—*Hereford Independent.*

**THE BURMAN PEOPLE.**—The men are fine, open-hearted, cheerful, manly fellows, and good tempered to a wonderful degree. Such a thing as a quarrel or abuse is quite unknown.—Of the ladies our correspondents do not profess themselves so well qualified to speak. They rove about, paying and receiving visits, just as they think proper. Chastity is a virtue not so much inculcated amongst them as in most others, but there is reason to suppose that it is more practised than in many more civilized ones. The outward behaviour of the women is very striking. They are constantly seen by our men by hundreds, in houses, or walking about, or keeping their shops; and such a thing as an immodest gait, gesture, or look, has never been observed, although they will enter into conversation with one, sit with one, and talk with perfect freedom.—*India Gazette.*

“So HELP ME GOD!”—The Duke of York’s oath is quite the fashion with the Directors of the Arigna Mining Company. Sir William Congreve at the first meeting protested that he thought the transaction touching the buying at 10,000*l.*, selling to the Company at 25,000*l.*, and sharing the difference among the Directors, honourable,—“So help me God!” At the meeting of the 6th ult., Mr Brogden swore like the Duke, but in a key very different from that of the martial Sir William. “So help me God!” “So help me Heaven!” and “As sure as there is a God in Heaven!” were the adjurations with which he seasoned his exculpation. From the account of the matter given by the Chairman of the Ways and Means, it would seem that the Directors of this Company have been the most innocent and injured of Directors. They were ruined in their sleep, as it were; poor beguiled gentlemen! While they were all in the dark, a certain Genius came round, saying, “Shut your eyes and open your mouths, and see what God has sent you,” and then he slipt a bon-bon into the unsuspecting innocents’ mouths, which they swallowed like mother’s milk—excepting indeed Mr Bent, who had penetration to discover, and the honesty to denounce the trick. At the first meeting, it will be remembered that the Directors carried the matter with a high hand, and the shareholders, like the bamboozled ants in the fable,

—Passed the accounts as fair and just,  
And voted them implicit trust.

—Now a very different face is put on the matter. Sir William Congreve’s mustachios no longer overshadow and overawe the meeting, and the transaction of the 15,000*l.* before voted honourable, is undefended by a single voice.—*London Magazine.*

**A QUESTION FOR DR SLOP.**—England has often smarted for placing too much power in the Crown,—has she ever suffered from placing too little? “The wars of the Duke of Marlborough failed in attaining their chief object, viz. preventing the grandson of Louis XIV from succeeding to the crown of Spain, simply because the reins of Empire were in the hands of a drunken Old Woman. Louis was humbled to the dust, and prepared to yield even the question of Spain, when he was saved this mortification owing to an insurrection which broke out at the Queen of England’s—*tea table.* One of the combatant’s discharged a dish of hot tea at the other, and this dish of tea, as Horace Walpole observes, “changed the face of Europe,” leaving John Bull to suck his thumbs, and maul about “his good Queen Anne.” Need we wonder that the rest of Europe is wickedly inclined to call this animal Jack-ass.—[For an account of what sort of a person “Good Queen Anne” was,—vide the *Memoirs of the Duchess Dowager of Orleans.*]

**POPULATION OF RUSSIA.**—The religious classification of the inhabitants of Russia, as given upon recent authority, is as follows:—Greek Church, 40,351,000; Catholics, and United Greeks, 5,990,000; Lutherans, 2,400,000; Calvinists, 82,800; Armenians, 60,000; HERNHUTERS, 9,200; MENNONITES, 6,000. This gives for the Christians of different denominations in Russia, a population of 48,902,000. It contains, in addition, Mahomedjans, 3,100,000; Jews, 500,000; Worshippers of the Grand Lama, 300,000; Heathens, 600,000;—Total population, 53,402,000.—There is one circumstance connected with the population of Russia, on which every enlightened inquirer must dwell with satisfaction. All religious sects, whether Christians or others, enjoy equal civil rights, and protection in the exercise of their various forms of devotion.—*Northern Whig.*

His Majesty has transmitted 1,000*l.* in aid of the funds for re-building St George’s Hospital. The King is President of this Institution.

A duel was fought on Blackheath on Saturday week, between M. M—r—u, of Lewisham grove, and G. B. Be—m—t, Esq. in consequence of a dispute respecting a lady, the *chere amie* of Monsieur, who resides in the Kent road. The former was seriously wounded in the arm in the first fire.

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**—The public are beginning to understand the wretched system prevailing in our public schools, under which all the most useful parts of education are sacrificed to the tedious acquirement of a parrot-like ability to talk Greek and Latin. The following anecdote, the truth of which we vouch for, bears upon this subject:—A gentleman, returning home after a long absence from England, called lately upon a young kinsman in Westminster school, who had been in that foundation for a considerable period. Asking a few questions at random, with a view to ascertain the youth’s general knowledge, he said among other things—“Where is the Burmese empire?” The scholar answered—“I don’t know exactly; but it is somewhere in Africa!”

**GLOUCESTER TRUE BLUE CLUB.**—There was a meeting of this sapient club on Monday week, under the presidency of a *Mr Proser*—certainly a very appropriate name. The speeches were all in character—prosey; and the toasts were most happily selected. After the “Wooden Walls of Old England,” (Query *Heads*, seeing what followed,) came “King George the Third—Mr Cooper—the Duke of Beaufort—the Chairman—the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese—Lord E. Somerset—the Hon. and Very Reverend the Dean—the Duke of Wellington—the Marquis of Worcester—Lord Apsley—Sir Wm. Hicks—Mr Talbot—Mr Browne—Col. Beach—Dr Cooke.”

A certain wealthy apothecary being engaged in some of the building speculations in Marylebone, it was well observed of him, that he had got into his mortar.

**NEW ROYAL ACADEMICIANS.**—On the 10th instant, a General Assembly of the Royal Academy was held at Somerset House, when William Wilkins, Charles Robert Leslie, and Henry William Pickersgill, Esqrs. were elected Academicians, in the room of George Dance, William Owen, and Henry Fuseli, Esqrs. deceased.

Lord Gower and some other persons of distinction not having accompanied the Duke of Wellington on his congratulatory mission to St Petersburg, has occasioned a good deal of conversation in the fashionable world. One wanted a close carriage, while the Duke was for an open one.—*Representative.*

Lord P., on reading the advertisement of Mr Wiffen’s new translation, “The Jerusalem delivered of Tasso, by J. H. Wiffen,” remarked that the comma was ill-placed: “Put it after *Jerusalem*,” said his Lordship, “and it will be correct—The Jerusalem, delivered of Tasso, by J. H. W.—for he has not left a vestige of Torquato in his translation.”—*Representative.*

#### VELLUTI.

Heard’st thou not the peacock shriek?  
Heard’st thou not the cricket squeak?  
Heard’st thou not the door-hinge creak?  
No,—it was VELLUTI.  
Heard’st thou the parrot’s shrilly cry?  
Heard’st thou the screech-owl hooting by?  
Heard’st thou the sea-mew screaming nigh?  
No,—it was VELLUTI.  
Heard’st thou the angry mastiff growl?  
Heard’st thou grimalkin’s midnight howl  
And croaking frog in waters foul?  
No,—it was VELLUTI.  
Some there are who mock the song  
And warblings of the feather’d throng,  
But birds and beasts alike belong  
To thy tones, lost VELLUTI.  
For thou art all—first this, then that,  
A husky rook—a squeaking rat,  
Famed *Punch*—a frog—a love-sick cat;  
These form thy voice, VELLUTI.

#### LINES

ON THE REV. ROBERT HALL FORSAKING HIS FLOCK AT LEICESTER FOR A

#### CALL FROM BRISTOL.

O *Bottom*, thou art translated!—*Shakspeare.*  
THE Reverend ROBERT HALL,  
Has from Bristol had a call,  
Where the pious folks, it seems,  
Possessing better means,  
Are thus enabled to be winners  
At the expense of Leicester Sinners!  
ROBERT, of course, cannot afford  
To save such souls as don’t pay well,  
And therefore clearly sees, the Lord  
Wills they should all be sent to H—!—S. A. O.

#### KICK’D THE BUCKET.

SALLY had left her mop and pail  
Outside the warehouse-door,  
When Ned and Will o’ercome with ale,  
Reel’d by, and knock’d it o’er.  
Will staggar’d round, and smiling said,  
“My boy, how hard you struck it!  
You may as well be buried, Ned;  
Since you have ‘kick’d the bucket.’”  
“Nay, nay,” said Ned, “that cannot be;  
Your inference must fail;  
I only have as yet, you see,  
Just turn’d a little pale.”







