

THE EXAMINER.

No. 111. SUNDAY, FEB. 11, 1810.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

No. 108.

MR. SHERIDAN'S MOTION RESPECTING THE EXCLUSION OF STRANGERS.

Equo ne crederis, Teucris.

Quicquid id est, timo Danaos et dona ferentes.

VIRGIL. Lib. 2.

Trust not, with all his talking gifts,
This arrant, trimming shaver,
Whose wit is but a stalling-horse
On which to curry favour.

THE order enforced by Mr. YORKE for the Exclusion of Strangers during the Walcheren Inquiry, has produced a "great sensation," particularly among the Newspaper-Proprietors, who have found both their character and profits attacked on the occasion. The Government part of them do not like to say much of the exclusion, but are sufficiently petulant to shew how they are divided between the love of Ministers and the love of money;—the Oppositionists attribute it to the Ministerial dread of exposure, and are annoyed in proportion as their party views are obstructed;—while the Reformists, in attributing it to the same cause, justly rank it among many foolish exhibitions of aristocratical feeling which betray at once the fear and the petty malice of Placemen. My brother Reformists, however, are led too far by their indignation, when they treat this poor little measure as an attack on the public right—or even as an attack on custom which the public ought to resent. It is one of the oldest privileges of Parliament, useful on some occasions, but generally neglected for two reasons, 1st. Because the Members are aware that their speeches will get abroad somehow or other, and therefore are willing to see the thing done in its most correct manner; and 2dly, Because politicians who know any thing of human nature, know that it is much more to their advantage to give a certain food to public talk than to inflame a suspicious and dangerous curiosity. The Ministers, or their friends, may hinder us from receiving a daily account of the Inquiry through the text and comment of the Newspapers; but the consciousness of guilt,—a dread of exposure, which they betray by such conduct, fully compensate for the want of detail, and shew us the colour of the business in as glaring a light as could be devised. As to the misrepresentation, of which Mr. YORKE speaks as the sole ground of his proceeding, it is an offence so easily stopped and punished by any Member of Parliament, and withal so unlikely and so unnecessary

on the present occasion, at least with those of whom Ministers are afraid, that the plea is unworthy of notice, and is to be dismissed like all the other reasonings of Mr. YORKE, by a pinch of snuff or shrug of the shoulders.

However, though the measure was carried, and not at all likely to be done away throughout the Inquiry, it gave a lucky opportunity to Mr. SHERIDAN to try and retrieve some little portion of that popularity, which he had so lately sacrificed on the Ducal Investigation. On that memorable business, it will be remembered that Mr. SHERIDAN who had *unluckily* declared in Westminster Hall but a few weeks before, that he always did and always would stand by the people and Sir FRANCIS BURDETT on questions involving the public benefit, endeavoured to dash Mr. WARDE's purpose by prematurely charging him with being ready enough to accuse but not to prove; after which charge, this Right Honourable Gentleman, this supporter of patriotic men and measures, this high-toned and undaunted puller down of corruption,—never uttered a syllable during the Investigation. Now, however one may lament the dependence or the time-serving that led Mr. SHERIDAN into this betraying growl at the first measure that threatened corruption, its causes are perfectly well understood, and the character of the man perfectly well appreciated in consequence; and therefore, when we see an orator, whose mouth is bridled or unbridled just as it pleases the hand of his master, coming forth on a safe occasion to deliver his patriotic declamations, we respect the words if eloquent, and the opinions if just, but we despise the motives and pity the man.

Mr. SHERIDAN grounded his motion upon various points; upon the nonsense of the Order itself, upon the expediency of meeting the popular wish on such an occasion, upon the good character of the Proprietors, Editors and Reporters of Newspapers, and upon the necessary Liberty of the Press. It may certainly be made a question whether a single Member should have it in his power to enforce the Order, but it should be recollected that the power of excluding Strangers has no regard of persons in this case, for Sir FRANCIS BURDETT or Mr. WHITBREAD could exclude the King and all his courtiers, were it possible for such a body to obtain room in the gallery; whereas when we consider by whom and to what end the majorities in the House are generally managed, the people might be shut out from the gallery, and the courtiers take their seats there whenever they pleased. We had a hint of this the very first night of the Order's enforcement: Mr. YORKE excluded the plebeian strangers, but when my Lord MULGRAVE and his Royal Highness the Duke of CUMBERLAND

came into their place, not a word did Mr. YORKE say against the patrician strangers; and these two aristocratic overseers, the one a Minister implicated in the proceedings before the House, and the other a diligent and scrutinizing attendant on matters of public judicature, might have listened, and written, and reported as much as they pleased, had it not been for a few persons who saw and were disgusted at the partiality. With regard to the expediency of "ingratiating the House with the public," it is an argument of little weight in Mr. SHERIDAN'S hands or in those of any other Member: every party uses it when out of power, and disregards it when in; and besides, the Parliament should be recommended to a measure, not for the mere sake of ingratiating itself with the people, but for the sake of doing justice and *deserving* to be in favour with the people. Ingratiation, expediency, and other smirking and shuffling terms, are the cant of interested politicians, which generally has no meaning, and when it has, always betrays a bad one. As to the good character of the Newspaper Proprietors and Reporters, which Mr. SHERIDAN was so anxious to rescue, his knowledge of lobbies and taverns certainly gives him the best insight into the matter; but it is much easier to believe him with regard to the latter than the former. There have been Reporters not only of good character, but of considerable learning and virtue, who have given the Parliamentary Speeches with a spirit and eloquence much beyond what mere fidelity could have done: and no doubt there are such men among them still, though many, I believe, have been sad careless fellows, to whom late hours and worn spirits have furnished but so many additional temptations to drinking and debauchery: but as to the Newspaper Proprietors and Editors, it must be confessed, that as a body, they have quite as little character to lose as the warmest of their defenders, and the sole reason, why they are not more exposed to the public, is because *they dare not expose each other*. You see them quarrelling with and accusing one another on political matters violently enough, for this, they know, promotes their separate views; but upon morals or private consistency of character, there they agree to say not a single word, because every word would tend to ruin their views. Persons however, who have perhaps only half Mr. SHERIDAN'S means of knowing them, know but *one* set of men more contemptible. One or two exceptions, of course, do not destroy the general rule: as a body, they are composed of the merest adventurers, some of them having left wretched trades for a trade still more wretched though more profitable, others who never drove any trade but that of a rank hireling, men as debauched in private conduct as in public, roaring about state-virtue in the midst of gross sensuality, credible only and consistent only when they defend corruption.* These men are as well known in the purlieus of Covent-garden as those of the Court. Are you a *Theatrical Manager* and in want of a writer who will praise you for what you do not and pass over what you do? Look about the lobbies and the taverns, and you will find your Newspaper-man. Are you a corrupt Statesman and in want of a writer who will treat your vices as so many little venial errors, provided you are of such and such a party? Look about the lobbies and the taverns, and you will find your Newspaper-man. Are you, in short, a notorious delinquent

* See an Essay on Newspaper Principle. Examiner, Nos. 83 and 84. P. 481, 497.

lost to every thing but the fear of losing your place? Look about the lobbies and the taverns—search the conscious garrets about Covent-garden—or dive into that cellar—there he sits—there sits your Newspaper-man—inveigled with all the smoke and dictatorship of the place—the cloud-compelling Jupiter of the ale-room—there he sits, with his eyes half shut with liquor and half askew with cunning—dozing in the interval of oaths and ribaldry over his pipe, and meditating how he shall shame the opposite party in to-morrow's paper! When Mr. SHERIDAN, who knows such men as well as he does the guggling of a bottle or the thermometer of a tradesman's face, praises their honesty, and above all, their *scrupulous* honesty, his courtly touches are just as highly-coloured as when he talks of the high independence of Mr. YORKE and the candid, enquiry-seeking spirit of the "parties accused." The parliamentary attendance which the Right Honourable Gentleman vouchsafed on this occasion, and his sympathetic defence of the Newspaper-men, called forth the jocular wonder of Mr. WINDHAM, who doubted whether he should regard his friend as their Patron or their "Client." This side-attack rouses the conscious virtue of Mr. SHERIDAN, who answers that "if he is to be considered the Counsel for the Press, he is a Counsellor *unfeared even by flattery*." What this unsophisticated orator calls flattery, I know not: the Newspapers have given him praise enough in his time to satisfy a palate not entirely worn out, and if they have taken little notice of him lately, what then? Mr. SHERIDAN knows very well, that silence respecting certain men is something *better* for them than flattery. Mr. SHERIDAN knows very well, that silence respecting the habits of certain politicians is much better for their success in the world than any flattery that could go before them, for the flattery would but expose them to *all*, whereas the silence serves to deceive *a great many*. Such are the Newspaper-men whom Mr. SHERIDAN professes to know and yet ventures to praise; and such are the men, I grant, who give a handle to corrupt Statesmen to doubt any existing virtue and utility in the Press. Worthless indeed and worse than useless would the Press be were it given up to such workers; but, thank God, it's utility and character rest not upon the character of such men. The propriety of reporting the Parliamentary evidence is a question depending upon general principles of policy, and not upon a set of men whose interest it is to report rightly and who are so easily punished if they do otherwise. But the Liberty of the Press, which is a distinct question altogether, was lugged into the subject in order to furnish some despicable plea of attack to the Corruptionists, and to provoke the eloquent though baneful panegyric of Mr. SHERIDAN. I say eloquent, because a part of it at least was delivered in a majestic strain of words, and baneful, because when we see the defence of such a subject made an occasion to snatch back an ill-deserved morsel of popularity, the subject is hurt by that very eloquence. "Give me," exclaimed Mr. SHERIDAN (and this noble passage would have had ten-fold effect in the mouth of another man), "Give me but the Liberty of the Press, and I will give to the Minister a venal House of Peers—I will give him a corrupt and servile House of Commons—I will give him the full swing of the Patronage of Office—I will give him the whole host of Ministerial Influence—I will give him all the power that place can confer upon him, to purchase up submission and overawe resistance; and yet, armed with the

Liberty of the Press, I will go forth to meet him undismayed; I will attack the mighty fabric he has reared with that mightier engine; I will shake down from its height corruption, and bury it beneath the ruins of the abuses it was meant to shelter!"—(Loud cries of "Hear! hear! hear!")—There is no person, at all acquainted with or susceptible of the power of words, but must feel the glow of this passage; but how lamentable is it that while we catch the inspiration we cannot venerate the inspirer—that we cannot trace up the precept to any likelihood of the practice—and, in short, that our feelings are done away in an instant by images of ludicrous contrast! When CRATHAM talked, you could imagine him doing; when CICERO talked, you could imagine him doing; but when SHERIDAN, the Bacchanalian and the universal promiser, who cannot arm himself with a little resolution against the worst habits, talks of arming himself with the Liberty of the Press and going forth to overwhelm corruption, the image soon becomes too ridiculous for gravity; the arms suit the wearer as little as RINALDO'S helmet would have suited SANCHO PANZA; and you think of poor, boasting, reprobate FALSTAFF, who, when he was found in a corner of the field during battle, and asked by his master, the Prince of WALES, what arms he had, drew out a bottle of sack!

I have said thus much on this hollow subject, because in times like the present, when reform ought to have no enemies unmasked and no friends untried, it is the duty of a public writer to resist, as strongly as he can, every attempt to gain popularity by little arts. These are times to try popular men and popular claims; and they who endeavour to trim between courtiers and people, by keeping silence on the most important matters, and only coming forward when a little noise may be made with safety, deserve to be held up with a stronger torch to their faces than even the pretended loyalists. The latter are known as much as they can be just now: the difficulty with respect to them is not how to understand, but how to get rid of them. The abuse of eloquence may rouse one's fears; but who would think it necessary to refute such speeches as those of MESSRS. YORKE and WINDHAM against the Liberty of the Press, unless perhaps Mr. CORBETT should hold it proper to deprecate the vagaries of his old favourites? * All the arguments that such men can furnish, all that their politicks have brought upon this country, and their speeches would still bring upon it, are but so many pieces of recoiling logic in favour of a thorough Reform. It is upon this point that we must fix our attention, unmoved by the petty artifices either of its avowed enemies or its trimming friends: it is upon this, that Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, despising alike the arrogance of his opponents and the "Worthy Baronets" bestowed on him by Mr. SHERIDAN, fixes a steady, a dignified, and I trust an unalterable eye. It is curious, and at the same time beautiful to see, with how entire a dignity he rises to speak amidst the courtly shoals about him, upon the mere strength of his good old English sentiments and his consistent character.

* Since writing this article, I see that Mr. CORBETT has done so in a way that does him great honour. His remarks on Mr. WINDHAM deserve the attentive perusal of all those who admire impartiality, and despise insolence and ingratitude.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, JAN. 23.—The Emperor yesterday took the diversion of hunting, in the environs of Versailles.

The *Journal de l'Empire* contains the following article under the head of Dresden the 16th inst.—“From the circumstance of our King having left Paris sooner than the other Princes of the League of the Rhine, and his having frequently, while in that capital, had private conferences with the Emperor, the public conclude that a very important event, previously in contemplation, will immediately take place. There are even reports in circulation, which lead to an opinion that the Royal House of Saxony will receive additional splendour. Since his Majesty's return, the young Princess Maria Amelia, daughter to Prince Maximilian, and who has not yet attained her sixteenth year, has been treated with particular distinction.”

The *Moniteur*, of Jan. 31, contains a note, which we shall subjoin, upon that part of the King of England's Speech at the Meeting of Parliament, which relates to the state of British commerce. The real words of his Majesty's Speech are—

“Whatever temporary and partial inconveniences may have resulted from the measures which were directed by France against those great sources of our prosperity and strength, (viz. the trade and revenue), those measures have wholly failed of producing any general effect.”

These words are thus cited in the *Moniteur*:—

“You are aware that the measures adopted by the French to dry up the great sources of your prosperity, have been to a certain extent efficient. Their effect, however, has only been momentary.”

Upon the sentence thus disfigured the annotator says,—

“We shall explain how that has happened. The state of affairs in Spain has opened to you the greater part of the ports of that kingdom; they shall be shut against you. Trieste afforded a great vent for your commerce; and that port is for ever shut. Holland, in particular, has impaired the effect of those measures which could and ought to have been completely enforced by her. She has betrayed the common cause. She has received your merchandize under the American flag, in spite of the United States, or under other pretexts; but this will no longer be the case. Your Orders in Council of 1807 make it necessary that the coasts and ports of Holland should be occupied by revenue officers and troops, who shall be efficient, and who can be relied on; and as the result of the first and second coalition was the extension of the French coasts to the Scheldt, the result of your Orders in Council of 1807 will be the extension of the French coasts to the Elbe. The obstructions which you have hitherto found to be only momentary, will henceforth make a deep and permanent impression. It is obvious that the operations of the war upon the Continent, by the union of the two great empires, and the adoption of the same system by Prussia, Denmark, Sweden, and Austria, will give new vigour to our measures, and totally deprive you of the means of any commercial intercourse with Europe.”

SPAIN.

The following regulations are to be observed in the election of Deputies to the Cortes:—

ABSTRACT OF THE CHAPTERS AND ARTICLES.

Chap. I.—The writs for the convocation of the Cortes are to be directed by the Supreme Junta to the Superior Juntas of Observation and Defence, who are to transmit summonses to the Corregidores of Districts, for assembling, through the medium of the Justices, Parochial and District Junta for the nomination of Electors; each of the said Juntas to be fur-

nished with a copy of the instructions. The Electoral Provincial Juntas are to appoint a Deputy to the Cortes, in the proportion of one to every 50,000 souls, estimating the population according to the census of 1787. If in any province there should be an excess of population to the amount of 25,000 beyond this apportionment, an additional deputy is to be nominated. The 10th article gives a statistical table, according to which Spain contains 10,534,985 souls, and the number of effective Deputies is fixed at 208; besides which, there are to be 68 Supplemental Deputies, to be summoned to the Cortes, in case of vacancies by death. The Provincial Electors are directed, *ceteris paribus*, to send to the Cortes persons who can, under the present circumstances, afford to serve the country at their own charge. The Supreme Junta, however, affixes the appointment of the Deputies at 120 reals a day, that of the Electors of Districts at 40, and of the Parochial Electors at 20, during the time of their attendance: the sums to be defrayed by the respective provinces.

II.—The Parochial Juntas to choose an Elector to repair to the Electoral Junta for the District. Every inhabitant householder, being 25 years of age (the secular Clergy included), to have a vote; with the exception of foreigners, persons under criminal prosecution, those who have suffered a corporeal, or infamous, punishment; bankrupts, debtors to the public, persons insane, or deaf and dumb. Each individual at the parish meeting is, in succession, *viva voce*, to mention the parishioner whom he thinks fittest for the office of Parochial Elector; and the 12 persons standing highest on the list of votes are to choose the Elector for the district.

III. This chapter merely applies the regulations in the preceding, to the appointment of a Deputy to the Provincial Electoral Assembly, by the twelve persons standing highest on the list of votes of the district meeting; the only difference being that they may choose one who is not a member of their own body, provided he is resident in the district.

IV. The Provincial Electoral Juntas are to be assembled under the superintendance of the Juntas of Observation and Defence, and the President of the latter is to officiate in a similar capacity in the Provincial Assembly. The votes are to be given *viva voce* in succession, beginning with the Elector on the right hand of the President. Each Elector having mentioned a person qualified for Deputy, the Secretary is to read over the list in an audible voice, and the person having the greatest number of votes, exceeding that of half the Electors, is to be declared capable of being balloted for as a Deputy. Three persons being thus chosen in succession, one of the number is to be elected by ballot as the Deputy to the Cortes. This process of ternary election and subsequent ballot is to be repeated until the number of Deputies, proportioned to the population, is completed. The same regulations apply to the election of the Supplemental Deputies. Every native of the province, having attained the age of 25 years, and not being a mental servant, nor coming under any of the exceptions specified in Chap. II. is eligible as a Member of the Cortes.

V. and VI. empower each of the Superior Juntas of Observation and Defence, and each of the Cities which had votes in the Cortes of 1789, to send one Deputy to the Cortes; the election to be conducted according to the regulation in the preceding chapters.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Nothing of importance occurred in this House on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Thursday, Feb. 8.

COMMERCE.

Earl BATHURST, on presenting Accounts of Exports and Imports and other Commercial Papers, took the opportunity of giving a general statement of the Trade of the Country for the three quarters ending the 10th of October, 1809, compared with the corresponding period of preceding years. The accounts

of the fourth quarter, ending the 5th of January, he had not been able to obtain with sufficient accuracy. With respect to the three quarters ending the 10th of October, 1809, our exports during that period amounted to 39,000,000*l.* During the corresponding period in 1807, they were 20,000,000*l.*; and in 1808, 25,000,000*l.* In 1806, which was reckoned a year of the greatest commercial prosperity, they amounted to 36,000,000*l.* Our Imports during the similar periods in 1809, were 22,000,000*l.*; in 1808, 17,000,000*l.*; 1807, 19,000,000*l.* After dwelling upon the superior prosperity of the last year, his Lordship adverted to the arguments which had formerly been used by some Noble Lords as to the injury which would result to our commerce from our disputes with America, and observed, that the result had shewn the fallacy of those arguments; for though some decrease had taken place in our trade with the United States, our commerce with other parts of America had greatly increased. Thus instead of our exports to America amounting to 20,000,000*l.* including 12,000,000*l.* to the United States, they now amounted to 25,000,000*l.* including 7,000,000*l.* to the United States. On the subject of cotton wool also, the fears entertained had proved groundless. A considerable supply of that article had been obtained from other parts of America, and might also be procured from the East Indies, two ships having arrived from thence with cotton wool, the produce of which rendered it a profitable speculation to those who imported it.

Lord GRENVILLE said, nothing could be more fallacious than those statements of figures, on which his Noble Friend seemed so much to rely. As to the commerce of our country having prospered in consequence of the Orders in Council, and the restriction imposed by Ministers, the notion was absurd; it had prospered in spite of them; and it evidently appeared from his Noble Friend's statement, that the greatest increase had taken place after the abandonment of the Orders in Council. As to the amount of exports, it was a fallacious criterion, it being known that great quantities of goods had been sent to America, where there was no sale for them, the markets being completely overstocked. Another fallacy also appeared in the argument urged by his Noble Friend respecting the trade to America; it was true that the exports to the other parts of America had increased, and how should it be otherwise; but what would our commerce have been, if our exports to the United States had not at the same time been decreased, in consequence of the misconduct of Ministers? Nothing had been said by his Noble Friend respecting the state of our circulation, or the relative proportion of our Paper and Coin. This was a very important subject, and he trusted that at a future period their Lordships attention would be called to it.

After some further conversation the Papers were ordered to be printed.

LORD GAMBIER.

Lord MULGRAVE, after going over all the circumstances of the enterprise, and complimenting Lord Cochrane, Captain Woolridge, and others, on the gallantry displayed by them on the occasion, he concluded by moving the Thanks of the House to Lord Gambier, for the zeal, judgment, and ability displayed by him in the action with the enemy in Basque Roads.

Lord MELVILLE highly approved of the conduct of Lord Gambier: he censured the Admiralty for appointing so young an officer as Lord Cochrane to the attack in Basque Roads, and entirely disapproved of their consenting to hold a Court Martial on Lord Gambier.

Lord LIVERPOOL defended the conduct of the Admiralty; and the motion was carried unanimously.—Adjourned.

Friday, Feb. 9.

Some conversation took place respecting the Reports of the Commissioners of Naval Revision; and Lord MELVILLE proposed an Address to the King on the subject, but the previous question was put and carried.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, Feb. 5.

The SPEAKER, addressing Gen. Stewart, in the name of the

House, returned that Officer thanks for his exertions in the battles of Talavera, "under the guidance of that great Commander, the *pride* and *boast* of his country."

General STEWART expressed his high sense of the honour conferred upon him. "It was his ardent wish to follow the example of his gallant Commander, to whom *all the success* of the campaign might be attributed."

SINECURE PLACES.

Mr. FULLER, after noticing the enormous expenses the country was burthened with by Sinecure Places and Pensions, moved,—“That it be an instruction to the Committee of Public Expenditure, to report, in the first place, a List of such Sinecure Offices as in their opinion ought to be abolished, after the expiration of the list of persons in whom such situations are now vested.”

Mr. PERCEVAL disapproved of the motion. The House had already appointed a Committee on the subject, and proper measures of course would be adopted.

Mr. BANKES thought the Committee, as it now stood, could do little: their powers were too limited, and they were therefore involved in doubts and disputes.

Mr. FULLER's motion was negatived without a division.

SECRET COMMITTEE.

Lord PORCHESTER rose to move—"That a Secret Committee be appointed to examine the secret and confidential information received by his Majesty's Ministers, relative to the Walcheren Expedition, and report on such parts as they might deem necessary to be laid before the Committee of that House, appointed to inquire into the conduct and policy of the Expedition,—And that the following should form the said Committee:—Mr. Bragge Bathurst, Mr. Robinson, Admiral Markham, General Ferguson, Mr. Wilberforce, Sir A. Piggott, Lord Lowther, Sir John Seabright, and himself."

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER would not concur with the list proposed. He thought the number proposed sufficient; but there were five of those to whom, from the views they always took of the measures of Government, he must object. Only one of the Government (Admiral Bickerton) had been named, but who, consistently with the duties of his office at the Admiralty, could not attend any Committee. Mr. Robinson was named no doubt from a good motive; but Mr. Wilberforce was not so attached to the measures of the Ministers as to make them prize his attachment.—(Hear! hear!)—Mr. Robinson should be retained; and he thought an Hon. Friend (Mr. Canning) ought also to have some opportunity of representing himself in the Committee. He concluded by naming the following to be part of the Committee:—Mr. Sturges Bourne, Mr. Yorke, Gen. Crawford, Mr. Leycester, Mr. Beresford. And if there were ten, he would move that Mr. Leycester should be of that Committee.

Mr. TIERNEY thought the Right Hon. Gentleman had gone to the utmost lengths when he, one of the accused, came forward to object to any one named for the Committee. One of the Gentlemen too, who, he thought, after the consideration he had given to the Papers laid on the Table of that House, was in danger of an *impachment*.—(Hear! hear!)—All the Learned Gentleman had done was just to turn the scale in his favour by naming five.

After some further debate, during which Mr. Perceval withdrew his objection to Mr. Wilberforce, the following Committee were appointed, a majority of whom are the friends of Ministers:—Lord Porchester, Mr. Bragge Bathurst, Mr. Robinson, Admiral Markham, Gen. Ferguson, Mr. Wilberforce, Mr. Sturges Bourne, Mr. C. Yorke, Mr. Leycester, Mr. D. Giddy.

SCHELDT EXPEDITION.

The House going into a Committee of Inquiry on the Goolga Expedition, Mr. YORKE moved the Standing Order, and Strangers were ordered to withdraw.

Tuesday, Feb. 6.

CATHOLICS.

Gen. MATHEW presented a Petition from the Roman Catholics of Tipperary. The Hon. General thought the Catholics

should no longer be considered as aliens in their native land, but be admitted to a full participation of all the privileges of their fellow subjects; at least they had a right to be placed in the situation they stood in by the treaty of Limerick, which, though ratified by King William, had been most shamefully violated by a British Parliament. If some more able person did not bring forward the subject, he should before May.—Ordered to lie on the Table.

EXCLUSION OF STRANGERS.

Mr. SHERIDAN made his promised motion respecting the Standing Order concerning Strangers. He thought all parties interested in the Inquiry going on would wish the Public to be fully acquainted with their proceedings. It was urged, indeed, by a Right Hon. Gentleman, (Mr. Yorke), that a partial communication of the Evidence might be made by the Daily Prints: but this he did not believe; it was the interest of the Papers to give the proceedings of the House faithfully, for unless they did so, they would not long find purchasers. The exclusion of the Public was a measure highly repugnant to their feelings, on such a subject, and in such a period. There was in fact nothing sacred in this Standing Order, which indeed was never enforced, for it states that all Strangers should be *taken into custody* by the Serjeant at Arms. There were other Standing Orders which were never enforced; one to prevent gaming among footmen attending the House; another to compel Members to meet at ten in the morning, which might do well for early risers, but which was readily dispensed with; a third which required all Bills to be read in their different stages, clause by clause, though a very different practice prevailed; and a fourth said, "No Member should introduce a Stranger while the House was sitting," though the practice was notorious. It had been long the custom to admit the Public to the Gallery; and in a late Investigation of a domestic nature, where a veil might well have been drawn over the frailties of human nature, not a syllable was heard respecting the exclusion of strangers, although the Son of their Sovereign was implicated: Now, indeed, the conduct of Ministers themselves was to be inquired into, and the subject was of course too delicate and tender for public inspection. In his opinion, Parliament should be anxious to conciliate the Public, and he should therefore move, "That a Committee of Privileges be appointed to meet to-morrow, to consider the Order of the 25th January last."

Mr. WINDHAM, though it might create some surprise, should both speak and vote against the motion. His Honourable friend had always been an advocate for the liberty of the press: so was he, but on different grounds. This Standing Order had been submitted to for a century, and no inconvenience had been found till within the last 30 years. Admission to the gallery was a matter of *favour*, not a *right*; and he wished to know how much the country had gained by it since the favour was granted? What advantage had accrued to the country by the publication of the debates? What was the value to their constituents? Supposing they should never know what passed in that House, it was only the difference between a Representative Government and a Democracy. The publication of the debates had only been permitted for 20 or 30 years; and so late as the time of Dr. Johnson they were only published with fictitious names. He liked the Constitution as it was, not as it is. There was no reason that persons should make a trade of what they obtain from the galleries, among whom were to be found bankrupts, lottery-office-keepers, footmen, and decayed tradesmen! Proprietors of Papers had talked of the injustice of closed doors, as if the admission was a privilege; but it was no such thing. Were that the case, we should be in a state of democracy, a state like that of Athens. He did not think accounts in the Daily Papers were so desirable. They had lately reviled Government so far as to assert that some of them were in its pay. What did this prove? Not the value of the Papers, for Government could have them in their pay, if they were to be bought and sold, and thus the palladium of liberty, as it was termed, the press, was to be purchased by the highest bidder. He did not wish to see a power in the press which would control Parliament. *He did not*

know any of the conductors of the press; but he understood them to be a set of men who would give in to the corrupt misrepresentation of opposite sides; and he was therefore determined not to lend his hand to abrogate an Order which was made to correct an abuse. He saw no reason why it should now be laid prostrate at the feet of the very worshipful, he could not say ancient, Corporation of London Printers. These gentry had their favourites; his Hon. Friend was hailed by them as their patron. He would assert that the rights of the House were now in danger of being lost from misuse. It was like the O. P.'s who had set themselves up for the people of the country, and compelled the Managers to give them plays at their own prices. So the Proprietors of Newspapers told them that the people must have the debates before them at breakfast; and in the name of the public say, "we have that right, and have friends in the House who will support us in our claim." His Hon. Friend had said that the character of the House was at stake; according to this argument, all the Houses for the last 30 years had no character. He should vote against the motion.

Lord FOLKESTONE partly agreed with Mr. Windham as to the venality of the press, and concurred with him in thinking that the Constitution had not grown better within these 30 or 40 years: yet he did not think the deterioration was occasioned by the publication of the debates. He would put it to the House, whether the accumulation of taxes, the increase of the standing army, the building of barracks, and other things of this nature, had not done more injury to the Constitution within the last 30 years than publishing their debates? The practice had now existed for years, and he did not approve of its being interrupted. There were times indeed in which he was almost ashamed of the publication of the debates. No later than yesterday (on the Secret Committee debate) questions had been argued merely on party principles, as if the only object was the retaining of office by one set of men, and their dismissal by another. Men were even reproached for not belonging to one of the great parties. When such doctrine was supported by leading Members in that House, it was no wonder that the Constitution was not better than it was 30 years ago. To secure the confidence of the public, he thought it necessary that the Inquiry should be open.

Mr. YORKE restated his reasons for enforcing the Standing Order. He had moved it, to prevent gross misstatements going forth to the public, in the manner they did during the Inquiry last year. He did feel the deepest shame that on that occasion he had not moved for the exclusion of strangers. He certainly should have done so, had he been at all aware of the nature of the case, or could he have suspected how it would have turned out! (*A laugh.*) If the privileges of the House were to be taken away, the Constitution would soon be trampled under foot. He, therefore, could not, for the sake of popularity, agree with the Right Hon. Mover.

Mr. TYERNEY would entirely acquit the Proprietors of Papers of wilfully misrepresenting the proceedings in Parliament. The curiosity of the Public was so great to see the Debates, that time was not given to produce accuracy. He had no acquaintance with any of the Proprietors, and if he had, the only favour he would ask of them would be to let him alone. The Public, he thought, had a right to see what passed in that House. For these thirty years, things had been growing worse and worse, and all the public had gained, was the satisfaction of seeing the causes of these changes. When a tenth part is taken from every man's income, it was natural he should wish to know the reason for the tax. As to Party, he thought that most good was to be done by attaching himself to one, for he did not think that the discussions in that House would be improved by every Member's giving his abstract views of a subject. He never reflected upon the Members of any party. From the conduct of some, he thought he saw a third party in that House, of which perhaps they were themselves not aware.

Mr. PETER MOORE would say a few words in defence of what he conceived to be a very meritorious body of men,—the Editors of Newspapers. He did not know any of them, but

he believed they had done more to enlighten and strengthen the public mind than any other class of the community. If the Press was to be further fettered in its practice, its liberties would be annihilated. Former Ministers had given the following advice to their Sovereign: "We must destroy the Press, or the Press will destroy us."—In these times, however, the Proprietors of Newspapers were substantial persons, who had given security. Whenever the Attorney-General wished to lay his hands upon them, he knew where to find them. Their names were registered. He had seen nothing in the Papers to justify the degrading language which had been used respecting them. In point of revenue they afforded great aid; he believed they yielded two millions annually to the wants of the State. For his own part, he wished that every thing that passed in that House should be made as public as possible.

Sir F. BURDETT subscribed to many of the doctrines he had heard, though he thought them inapplicable to the present situation of the nation. Could he see in that House a body of Gentlemen fairly and freely selected by the people as the chosen Guardians of their Rights,—if he could see no Placemen and Pensioners within their walls,—and that no corrupt or undue influence could ever operate upon the Members,—then indeed he should have no objection to a Secret Inquiry. In the eye of the Public, the House, however, stood in a very different light. They stood under circumstances of great suspicion. (*No, no, no, from the Treasury Bench.*) It had been considered by some, that they were on their last legs. For his part, HE GREATLY FEARED THEY HAD NOT A LEG TO STAND UPON.

[Here Mr. PERCEVAL rose to order. It was highly disorderly to say that the House of Commons had not a leg to stand upon;—and the SPEAKER also observed, that it was highly disorderly to say that the House had lost its reputation and character.]

Sir F. BURDETT continued.—He had not made the assertion positively, but had stated it as his apprehension. The House must recollect what passed in May last respecting a Minister's attempt to bring a Member into that House in the most corrupt manner, and it was impossible for the public to shut their eyes to that corrupt transaction. It was his duty, while a Member of that House, to speak the truth,—the whole truth. He could not imagine a puritz which would not allow our ears to hear that which we are got ashamed to do. A Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Yorke) had stated that he was not bound to give reasons for his motion. He certainly would have done better had he not attempted to give any. The Reports in the Newspapers he thought were given with considerable exactness and ability. They were much more likely to be correct when given in the present way, as several persons were employed at the same moment in taking notes. The House in the present Inquiry had not to perform the functions of a Grand Jury, as had been said. Such a Jury determined on *ex parte* evidence; but the House heard evidence on both sides, and were to determine on conflicting testimony. Eleven or twelve thousand of our countrymen had been sacrificed, and it was quite fit that the Public should know every circumstance attending the calamity. To make the Inquiry a secret one would be to insult the Public; and if the House had the least regard for the remnant of its reputation, or hope of regaining it, they should give the Inquiry the utmost publicity.

Mr. SHERIDAN, in reply, observed, that if he was to be considered the Counsel for the Press, he was a Counsellor unfeared even by flattery. "Give me," said Mr. Sheridan, "but the liberty of the press, and I will give to the Minister a venal House of Peers,—a corrupt and servile House of Commons,—the full swing of office patronage,—the whole host of Ministerial influence,—all the power that place can confer to purchase submission and overawe resistance,—and yet, armed with the liberty of the press, I will attack the mighty fabric he has reared with that mightier engine,—I will shake it down from its corrupt height, and bury it beneath the ruins of the abuses it was meant to shelter!" (*Hear, hear, hear, from all parts.*) Out of affection for his Hon. Friend, for the first time in his life he wished that the Galleries had been closed, in

order that his speech should not be heard by strangers,—a speech entertaining sentiments which filled him with regret and horror. His Hon. Friend's doctrines amounted to this,—that the liberty of the press was a nuisance, which, if suffered longer to exist, would produce infinite mischief to the State. Now, in his opinion, it was owing to that very liberty of the press that we were able to maintain a contest that bid defiance to a power which had overthrown almost all the nations of Europe, and trampled upon all rights and privileges. By shewing to the people the grounds upon which public measures were resorted to, they had submitted to the heaviest burthens ever imposed upon a nation,—burthens which in former times and under a different system would never have been thought of or endured. Was it the liberty of the press which had brought France, during its Revolution, to a state of anarchy and ruin? No; it was the suppression of all liberty of discussion. What had caused the downfall of Europe? the liberty of the press? No; it was the want of that salutary controul over the measures of Government,—that animating source of public spirit and national exertion. If the liberty of the press had or did exist in France,—had it existed in Austria, Prussia, or Spain, Bonaparte would never have found himself in a situation to dictate to all Europe, or filling the Throne of nearly an universal Monarch. (*Hear, Hear!*) The speech of the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Yorke) had already been refuted by the worthy Baronet behind him.—Mr. Sheridan concluded by hoping that his motion might not be mistaken. It was not to rescind the Order, but to have it referred to a Committee for consideration.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, it had been asked whether his Majesty's Ministers meant to shelter themselves behind the opinions delivered by the Right Hon. Gentleman near him (Mr. Windham.) He was ready to admit, that in most of what had fallen from that Right Hon. Gentleman he entirely concurred, though he was not prepared to carry his concurrence to the full extent of that Right Hon. Gentleman's opinion, if he went to the exclusion of strangers altogether from the House. It was necessary that the House should maintain its dignity, and when any Member moved the enforcement of a Standing Order, that it should be submitted to without argument. This was the ground upon which he should vote against the motion.

On a division, Mr. Sheridan's motion was lost, by a majority of 86, there being for it, 20; against it, 106.

Strangers were then ordered to withdraw, and the House went into a Committee on the Golgotha Expedition.

Wednesday, Feb. 7.

The House in a Committee of Supply,

Resolved, That the sum of 10,500,000*l.* be granted to his Majesty in Exchequer Bills, in aid of the Supplies for the current year; and that a sum of 1,500,000*l.* be granted to his Majesty, to be raised by Exchequer Bills, towards defraying the Exchequer Bills issued in the last year.—Ordered.—Adjourned.

Thursday, Feb. 8.

Mr. MANNING presented a Petition from certain Merchants, &c. praying for leave to bring in a Bill for establishing a Marine Insurance Company.—Ordered to lie on the table.

Sir JAMES SHAW presented a Petition, signed by the Lord Mayor, Joshua Jonathan Smith, and others, praying for leave to bring in a Bill to raise a loan of 200,000*l.* for the purpose of erecting a New Theatre.

Mr. BYNG presented a Petition from the Freeholders of Middlesex, complaining of the present state of the representation in Parliament, and praying for a reform.

The Reversionary Grant Bill was read a third time and passed.

LORD WELLINGTON.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER brought down a Message from his Majesty, expressing his desire to confer a signal honour and grant a proper reward to Lieut. Gen. Lord Wellington, for the valour and skill displayed by him on the 27th and 28th of July, 1809, in the battles of Talavera, and recommending it to his faithful Commons to enable him to make a provision of 2000*l.* for him, and for the two next

heirs to his title, in such a manner as would by them be deemed most effectual.—Ordered to be referred to the Committee of Supply.

LATE EXPEDITION TO THE SCHELDT.

LORD CASTLEREAGH thought the House, while prosecuting the Inquiry into the policy and execution of the late Expedition, would feel it necessary to be made acquainted with the representations of foreign powers on the subject, more especially those made by Austria. As he was anxious to meet the question in all parts, but above all, in those which might appear most unfavourable to himself, he wished not only that the repeated and urgent representations of Austria relative to a diversion in their favour, should be laid before the House, but that the quarter in which the Emperor of Austria wished for the presence of a British force should be made known.—He should endeavour to prove that to employ a force in the manner desired by Austria would have been impossible, at least with any prospect of advantage. He was prepared to shew, that the line of conduct pursued was that which afforded the best chance of success, as it afforded a prospect of gaining a specific object while furthering the views of Austria. He concluded by moving for such representations from the Government of Austria, relative to the employment of a British force on the Continent for the purpose of making a diversion in the Austrian cause in the campaign of 1809, as far as such documents could be communicated without detriment to the public service.—Agreed to.

Mr. TIERNEY moved the Order of the Day for the House going into a Committee to inquire into the policy, &c. of the late Expedition.

Mr. YORKE moved the Standing Order, and the Gallery was cleared.

We understand that Sir THOMAS TRIGGE, Sir RUFERT GEORGE, Colonel GORDON, General CALVERT, and Sir HOME POBHAM, were examined, after which the Committee Adjourned at Two o'clock.

Friday, Feb. 9.

Sir F. BURDETT presented the Petition of the Electors of Westminster, agreed to this day, praying for a Reform in Parliament.—Ordered to lie on the table.

CRIMINAL LAWS.

Sir S. ROMILLY, in a speech which we are very sorry we cannot give even an outline of, for want of room, entered on the subject of Capital Punishments, the indiscriminate application of which, he contended, had been long a subject of just complaint. His object was to convert capital punishments, for certain offences, into banishment or imprisonment, according to the nature of the crime.

Leave was given to Sir SAMUEL to bring in his Bills on the subject, though Mr. WINDHAM, Mr. PERCEVAL, and the SOLICITOR-GENERAL differed in opinion with him on the subject. In reply to their remarks, Sir SAMUEL observed, that nothing but a sense of duty actuated him, for to endeavour to amend the law was not the way to procure Attorney-Generals and Chancellorships.—The House then went into a Committee on the Golgotha Expedition, and the Gallery was cleared.

INQUIRY INTO THE SCHELDT EXPEDITION.

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF EVIDENCE taken before the Committee of the whole House, appointed to consider of the Policy of the late Expedition to the Scheldt.

FIRST DAY—FEB. 2, 1810.

Sir David Dundas, Commander in Chief, examined.—He attended a Cabinet on the 24th of March, on the subject of the Expedition.—The object was the propriety and possibility of an attack on Walcheren and the French fleet of ten sail of the line then in Flushing, and not in a state for sea. The attempt was to be made in a limited time; for it was apprehended that on the smallest alarm the French fleet would run up to Antwerp. Sixteen thousand troops were thought necessary for this object; and when desired to state whether such a

force could be then assembled, he was not enabled to answer in the affirmative.

SECOND DAY—FEB. 5.

Sir David in continuation.—The Army was then in such a shattered condition, a large portion of it having just returned from Spain in ill health, that it required a considerable time to replace and repair it.—He took no notes of what passed in the Cabinet.—From the 24th March to the 8th May, no official communication took place between him and the Government relative to the Expedition, but every exertion was made to complete the troops for service.—On the 8th May, Lord Castlereagh applied to him to ascertain the number of troops fit for embarkation; on the 10th, a return was made; and on the 21st, a scheme was transmitted to his Lordship relative to an army of 25,000 infantry and 6000 cavalry.—On the 29th, his Lordship requested Sir David's sentiments as to the practicability of an attempt on the enemy's Naval Establishment at Antwerp, where, his Lordship observed, not less than 20 still of the lige were in different stages of equipment; the place, too, was undergoing such alterations as must render it, as a maritime position, not only extremely formidable to the security of Great Britain, but still more invulnerable to attack. These considerations had long attracted the attention of Government, who had received intelligence from France, Holland, and Flanders, which represented the force of the enemy in that quarter as drained as low, if not lower, of regular troops, than at any former period; and Lord Castlereagh thought it might be generally assumed, that it was not to be expected the enemy would ever be found more assailable, or that Great Britain could ever have a larger disposable force, than at this time.—To this statement Sir David replied, that the object in view was a most desirable one, but that the risks and difficulties should be well weighed. Our utmost means were 30,000 infantry and 6000 horse. There were two routes to Antwerp, one from Ostend through Flanders, a march of above a hundred miles; the other along the Scheldt to Antwerp, first occupying Walcheren, Beveland, &c. Every calculation of success could only be made with a reference to the strength of the enemy. If the army marched through Flanders, that country was known to be one of the most intricate in Europe for military operations, being everywhere intersected with ditches, canals, rivers, and enclosures, with well guarded passes and strong fortresses. Military operations in Flanders were never rapid. Such an attempt, with our force, would certainly be most singular and without example. Sapping, however, after a march through such a country, the main object of the Expedition was attained by the destruction of the fleet at Antwerp, it was evident that the army could not calculate (from the force the enemy must by this time have acquired) on returning by the same route, but must return by the Scheldt.—It appeared to Sir David that the advance through Flanders would be attended with very great risk, and that at any rate a return through the Scheldt would be most expedient; "it would follow also," continued Sir David, "that the attack should be directed from that side, and be a combined naval and land operation, the detail of which must be well considered and arranged in both services. In what ever way Antwerp is to be approached or taken, the service is one of great risk, and in which the safe return of the army so employed may be very precarious, from the opposition made, and the length of time consumed in the operation, which enables the enemy to assemble in a short time a great force from the Netherlands and Holland, and even from Westphalia by the course of the Rhine, as well as from the frontiers of France." Sir David was in possession of the opinions of four officers upon this subject.—On the 19th of June, Lord Castlereagh transmitted orders for holding in readiness for embarkation 33,000 infantry and 1800 cavalry.—He did not think that so large a force could be assembled before the 22d of June.—On the 27th, Lord Castlereagh notified to him his Majesty's pleasure that Lord Chatham should be appointed to the command of the Expedition, and that Sir Eyre Coote should be second in command.—The next official communication was on the 15th of July, respecting the addition of a cavalry regiment.

—Sir David had various conversations with Lord Castlereagh, from the time the Expedition was resolved upon (the beginning of June) till the troops were embarked.—He could not say he was consulted on the plan of the Expedition further than he had stated; he had at no time any communication with the Admiralty or the Navy on the subject of Walcheren; he conversed with Lord Chatham and the Secretary of State relative to the troops, and things of that kind.—After the 2d of June, he was not consulted on the probable result of the Expedition. He was not absolutely consulted by Ministers as to the appointment of Lord Chatham, but he knew of it, and thought it a very proper one.—The operation respecting which he was consulted on the 2d of March, and that which was subsequently carried into effect, were perfectly distinct.—The army employed in the Expedition was composed principally of the troops that had served in Spain under Sir John Moore.—Considerable time had elapsed, before they could be equipped for service again. When he gave in his opinion to Lord Castlereagh respecting the Expedition to Antwerp, his Lordship did not return an answer; he had frequent conversations with him on the subject; but they related to the equipment of the troops, and not to the policy of the object, that was not his concern.—Sir David had been in Antwerp for a few days, when the Duke of York was in the Netherlands. The citadel was a considerable one, and would require a siege; the town was surrounded by very high walls, there was a deep ditch, great mounds of earth, &c. in short, it could not be entered without a regular siege. The city was a very large one, and would require ten thousand men to garrison it, and if it had such a force, there must be an army of four times that strength to attack it.—He did not recollect that Lord Castlereagh ever talked of attacking Antwerp by a *coup-de-main*, at least no serious conversation ever ensued on that point; he might have mentioned it.—He was consulted to a certain degree on the appointment of Lord Chatham, though it was not his choice; he did not know the extent of Lord Chatham's services; he had served in America and Holland; he could not say that his Lordship had ever before five thousand men under his command.—Sir David being asked whether it was not the duty of a Commander in Chief to be prepared to state what the services of any officer have been when it is proposed to employ him?—he replied, that the Commander in Chief cannot give a detailed account of every officer's services. Lord Chatham was a man of high military rank, who had always conducted himself well, and was a very excellent officer.—The whole force employed was embarked between the 24th June and 9th July. He did not think greater exertions were ever made with respect to their equipment and embarkation.—[Here several questions were put respecting the topography of the country from Santflet to Antwerp, which Sir David could not answer, as he had never travelled in that country.] After it was known in England that the ulterior object of the expedition was given up, he was not consulted about the propriety of retaining Walcheren, nor did he make any representation on the subject to Ministers; it was not his duty to do so; he expressed no opinion further than by general conversation, &c. Neither was he consulted respecting the disorders of the army in that island. The representations of Sir Eyre Coote and Mr. Webb on this subject were communicated to him, and every thing possible was done to afford relief; there was much difficulty in procuring Medical Assistants; but no expense was spared. The Medical Establishment sent out consisted of 60 or 70 persons, and 40 others followed. The hospitals were well supplied; about 18,000 men passed through them, and every thing went on well.

Sir Lucas Pepsy, Bart. Physician to the Forces, examined.—He was not consulted on the nature of the Walcheren fever previously to the sailing of the expedition; he was not consulted till the 10th September, when he went to Harwich to investigate the nature of the disease, which was a bilious remitting fever. He was previously well acquainted with the nature of the Walcheren disorder, having both written and conversed with Sir John Pringle on the subject. Until the spring is over, it will be impossible to state the permanent injury



which the British army has received, exclusive of the mortality which has taken place. There was no particular preparation made in fitting out the expedition, as it related to the probable consequences of the fever: they did not know where the expedition was going. The sickness prevails in Walcheren chiefly during July, August, September, and till about the 10th of October. From the 10th of September the number of sick in the hospitals might have amounted to 12,000 men. The representations of Sir Eyre Coote and Mr. Webb were laid before him; there was no want of medicines or medical aid, but what was immediately supplied, except Hospital Mates, which the Surgeon-General could not supply; there were not sufficient Medical Practitioners in London willing to go.—There was no additional pay offered to undertake the service; but had it been offered, he did not think they could have been procured. The deaths in Walcheren, to the middle of November, amounted to 1800, including those killed in action: between 1300 and 1400 died in the hospitals at home. The troops infected, if they have no relapse, will be ready for service in May. They are constantly liable to relapse however. The number of deaths he had stated were by no means all that had suffered by disease, because many have died since those accounts were made. He believed the fever to be greater in Walcheren than in any other place he knew of, Batavia in the East excepted. Had he known the destination of the army, he certainly would have advised extraordinary precautions to have been taken against sickness. When he knew that the expedition had gone to Walcheren, he did not make any representation on the subject: he was told, though not officially, that the expedition was only gone for a few weeks.—Being asked why he omitted to make such representations to Government?—Sir Lucas said, "Because it is not our practice to originate any thing with us, but to obey the commands we receive: we are not Councillors."—From the 10th of September every exertion was made by Government to relieve the sick at Walcheren: it was from the 10th to the 16th that the first sickness appeared. It was his opinion that the sick should be removed from Walcheren as soon as possible. He did not know that General Monnet had informed his Government that it was a bad practice to remove the patients; if he had, he should have differed with him. Men once afflicted with a remittent fever are more liable than others to that disorder for a certain length of time—to the following spring, or the following autumn.—Adjourned.

THIRD DAY, FEB. 6.

Mr. Keate, Surgeon-General to the Army, examined.—He was not consulted before the sailing of the Expedition; he was not consulted till the end of September. Had he known its destination he should have suggested precautions against the climate of Walcheren, if called upon to do so; but he knew nothing of that climate except from Sir John Pringle's book. He should have sent more bark, had he known where the Expedition was going. He did, however, hear that it had landed in Walcheren, upon the publication of the Gazette, but he did not then send off more bark, because it was his duty to wait for information from the Head of the Department. The first requisition made to him for medicines, was dated the 11th September, and received on the 18th. The medicines were ordered immediately; they were delivered on the 27th September, shipped on the 30th, and arrived at Walcheren on the 15th October. Being asked why the order for medicines was not executed till the 27th? Mr. Keate replied, that there was no request to have them sent by any express in any more immediate manner; the word "immediately," was used generally, but not to desire immediate conveyance! The sick from Walcheren, of the line, are now under his care; they are generally improving; there have been many relapses; but the mortality is not now great. He thought that the troops who recover may be fit for home and light duty in a few months. When he heard that the Expedition had landed in Walcheren, he expected what has happened, to a certain degree, but not to the full extent. Being asked what quantity of bark a strong man attacked by the Walcheren fever should

take at one dose, Mr. Keate could not say, as it must depend on the nature of the case, &c.

Mr. Knight, Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, examined.—He was not consulted at all, either before or after the sailing of the Walcheren Expedition. He knew of the Walcheren fever only from Sir J. Pringle's book. The hospitals at Walcheren were not under his inspection. He found great difficulty in procuring Mates for the service; he did not offer additional pay, he had no authority to do so. Various requisitions were received, and as fast as Mates could be procured, they were sent off; but the same wants existed in Portugal, Sicily, and the West Indies.

RETURN, shewing the effective strength of the Army which embarked for service in the Scheldt, in the month of July 1809; the casualties which occurred; the number of Officers and Men who returned to England, and the number reported Sick according to the latest Returns (with the exception of the 59th Regiment, from which Corps a proper Return has not yet been received.)

Adjutant General's Office, 1st Feb. 1810.

	Officers.	Rank & File.
Embarked for service - - - - -	1,738	37,481
	Officers.	Rank & File.
Killed - - - - -	7	99
Died { on service - - - - -	40	2,041
{ since sent home - - - - -	20	1,850
Deserted - - - - -	0	84
Discharged - - - - -	0	25
Total Officers and Men who returned, who are now borne on the strength of their respective corps - - - - -	1,671	33,373
Of which number are reported sick - - - - -	217	11,269

HENRY CALVERT, Adjutant-Gen.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

As Lord Kinnaird and Sir George Wombwell were sporting near his Lordship's seat in Norfolk, Lord Kinnaird accidentally discharged the contents of his piece into the face of Sir George. Surgical assistance was immediately sent for from London; and the sight of Sir George's eye (though surrounded by shot) will be saved.

A short time ago a girl, named Williams, aged 15, went to live as servant with a Mrs. Ridley, a widow, residing at Shrewsbury. On Monday, Jan. 22d, she died without previous illness. She was placed on a bed, with her clothes on, and remained, without notice to her friends, until the following Thursday, when her body was so putrid, that the surgeon could not ascertain the cause of her death. Mrs. R. on her examination before the Coroner, said she did not know where the girl's friends lived. It appeared, however, that she spoke falsely respecting the food she gave her. The day after the girl died, Mrs. R. wrote a letter to her father, saying that she was ill. It appeared that she used to feed her servants on broth made of beef liver, and flower puddings; to lock them up when she went out, and not let their friends come to see them. Some days before her death, a neighbour had heard violent groans in the back of Mrs. R.'s premises, where the deceased had been confined, in an inclement night. The girl had complained of hunger and hard usage. The verdict of the Coroner's Jury was—"That no evidence had been adduced to shew that the deceased had Died otherwise than by the visitation of God; but that they had great reason to suspect she had been improperly treated by her mistress."—Mrs. R. who is about 60 years of age, on the verdict being read, knelt down and begged the clemency of Heaven on her friends, and his vengeance on her enemies. On the same day the populace of Shrewsbury broke all her windows,

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, Feb. 6.

Copies of Dispatches transmitted by Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir A. Cochrane, K. B. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels at the Leeward Islands, addressed to J. W. Croker, Esq.

His Majesty's sloop Hazard, off St. Mary's, Guadeloupe, Oct. 17, 1809.

Sir,
Cruising on my station blockading Point-a-Petre, Pelorus in company, at day-light this morning I observed a privateer schooner, moored under the battery of St. Mary. I immediately determined on the capture or destruction of her. Both ships stood in sufficiently close to silence the battery effectually, and cover our boats, which were dispatched under the orders of Lieutenants Robertson and Flinn, first of their respective ships, and I am happy to say they succeeded in boarding her; but as she was moored to the shore with a chain from the mast-head and each quarter, finding it impossible to bring her out, they shortly after blew her up.

In justice to the officers and men employed on that service, I cannot omit particularizing the very gallant manner in which they approached the Schooner, under a very heavy fire of grape from the battery, until it was silenced by the ships, and of grape and musquetry from the privateer, until they were nearly alongside, when the enemy quitted her, and joined a long line of musquetry on the beach, and two field-pieces, to the fire of which they were exposed during the whole time they were preparing to blow her up, at a distance of not more than ten yards.

The privateer had one long eighteen-pounder on a circular carriage and two swivels, about one hundred tons, and appeared to have from eighty to one hundred men; she was coppered and appeared new, and left Point-a-Petre yesterday on a cruise. Our joint loss has been fifteen killed and wounded, lists of which are inclosed; that of the enemy must have been very considerable, as the shore was completely lined with musquetry, exposed to a heavy cannonade from both ships, as well as from small arms in the boats.

I should be very deficient in my duty was I not to mention the very gallant style Captain Huskisson, of the Pelorus, supported me in totally destroying the enemy's battery by a joint fire.

It is impossible for me to express my idea of the very gallant manner in which Lieutenants Robertson and Flinn conducted themselves on this occasion; and they speak in the highest terms of Messrs. Brisbane and Hunter, Midshipmen of this ship, Mr. Ferguson, Boatswain, and Mr. Scott, Mate of the Pelorus, who as well as every individual employed were volunteers on the service. I have the honour to be, &c.

To Commodore Fahie.

HUGH CAMERON.

Killed and Wounded on board the Pelorus.

Lieut. Edward Flinn, much hurt by blowing up the enemy's schooner; one seaman killed; and six seamen and marines wounded.

Killed and Wounded on board the Hazard.

Mr. Ferguson, boatswain, badly wounded, blown up;—three seamen and marines killed; and 3 ditto wounded.

His Majesty's ship Thetis, N. W. part of Guadeloupe, Dec. 13, 1809.

Sir,
I have the honour to acquaint you, that the brig you directed me to reconnoitre at the Hayes, proved to be the French National Corvette Le Nisus, commanded by Mons. Le Netvel, Captain de Fregate, brought out of that port yesterday evening. The gallantry displayed by Captain Elliott of the Pultusk, who headed the marines of this ship, Pultusk, Achates, and Bacchus, with a party of 175 seamen, secured the possession of this vessel, and the destruction of every defence at the port of the Hayes. The difficulties they had to encounter in finding their way through thick woods, over a high hill, without any path or guide, adds an instance of the perseverance and intrepidity of British seamen and marines.—It was dark before this gallant party found their way to the fort. Their charge made upon it was irresistible; the enemy (amounting, by the account

of one of the prisoners, to 300 men) fled after a slight resistance, and the brig surrendered immediately upon the guns of the fort being turned upon her, and was brought out by Capt. Elliott, who left Lieut. Belchier, first of this ship, in charge of the destruction of the battery, which he completely effected, setting fire to the buildings, spiking the guns, and throwing the carriages and ammunition over the cliff. I should be deficient in duty not to report the zeal and ability displayed by that officer in the performance of this service, as well as the assistance his abilities have afforded me whenever called upon; and the credit Lieut. Carr has added to his character, and the gallantry of the Attentive in keeping up a fire on the battery and brig for upwards of six hours, a considerable part of the time within range of grape.

I am gratified at the conduct of every officer and man of this ship, keeping up a constant fire, and working in a very narrow harbour with 129 men out of the ship. Capt. Elliott reports the conduct of his ship's company, and of Lieutenants Ruel and Cooke, and the marines, as well as of every officer and seaman of the landing party, in the highest terms.

Conceiving it of much importance to prevent the enemy getting guns mounted again at the fort, and cutting off reinforcements from Basseterre, which the prisoners reported were expected, I have thought it my duty to remain off the Hayes, in hopes of accomplishing that object, and preventing any vessels getting into that port, or their getting round the cargo of Le Nisus, which I understand to be a supply of provisions, and is in the town; most of her crew got on shore from her after surrendering: she sailed from L'Orient on the 30th of October, and arrived at the Hayes on the 1st of this month, and was ready again for sea, laden with coffee. I am happy to add, that not a man has been lost; the boatswain's mate and one seaman on board the Attentive; one marine and one seaman belonging to this ship, wounded on shore.—I have, &c.

GEORGE MILLER.

To V. V. Ballard, Senior Officer, off Guadeloupe.

Pompee, under Marie Galante, Dec. 25.

Sir—Being at an anchor in fort Royal Bay, Martinique, on the 16th instant, a man of war brig, far in the offing to leeward, appeared with a signal flying that she had been chased by the enemy's frigates; I immediately made the signal to the Pelorus, then on her way towards Guadeloupe, to speak the brig, and to proceed according to the intelligence she might obtain; the Alceme was ordered to weigh and follow, and the Sceptre, Alfred, and Freija, which had at that moment joined me, were not allowed to anchor, but to leave their flat boats, and proceed also.

So soon as I heard from Captain Weatherall, of the Observateur, the brig which made the signal that the enemy's frigates, four in number, had captured and burnt his Majesty's ship Junon (belonging to the Halifax squadron), about 150 miles to windward of Guadeloupe, and that the Observateur had escaped by superior sailing, I proceeded to sea with this ship and the Abercrombie, and arrived off the Saintes early in the morning of the 18th; and about noon I was informed by Capt. Elliot, of his Majesty's sloop Pultusk, that two of the enemy's frigates were at anchor about three leagues to the N. and W. of the town of Basseterre; I then directed Capt. Fahie, of the Abercrombie, to remain and guard Point-a-Petre, and Capt. Watson, of the Alfred, to guard Basseterre, and made all sail in this ship with an intention of attacking the enemy; but on approaching nearer, I discovered the Sceptre, of the line, the Blonde, Thetis, Freija, and Castor frigates, and Cygnet, Hazard, and Ringdove sloops, and Elizabeth schooner, ready to commence the attack, I therefore did not interfere with the judicious arrangement of Captain Ballard of the Sceptre, the senior Captain, and had only an opportunity of witnessing the engagement. Baffling and light winds preventing the Pompee from getting within gun shot until the action had ceased, and the two frigates and batteries which defended the anchorage completely destroyed.

The Blonde, Thetis, Cygnet, Hazard, and Ringdove, bore the brunt of the action from their being a-head of the other ships, and by the animated fire kept up from them, one of the

enemy's frigates was very soon dismasted, when the men began to desert their ships, and soon after set fire to them. Upon this Captain Cameron, of the Hazard, with the boats of the squadron, gallantly landed and stormed the batteries, which were still annoying our ships both with cannon and musketry, and in the act of hauling down the enemy's colours, he fell by a swivel shot. In him the service has lost a brave and distinguished Officer, and who, with Lieut. Jenkins, first of the Blonde, also killed, have left each a widow and family to lament their loss.

The names of the frigates destroyed are, I understand, the Loire and Seire, pierced for 40 guns each, but had none mounted on their quarter-decks or forecastles; they were moored in a strong position in Ance La Barque, with their broadsides towards the entrance, which was defended by a heavy battery, now demolished, and the magazines blown up.

I am informed by the seven prisoners brought off from the shore, that these ships had not their full complement of seamen, but that they had 400 troops on board, and 50 artillerymen, which all escaped, with the exception of the above seven, and 20 others taken in a recaptured vessel; but all the warlike stores and provisions, intended for the garrison of Guadalupe, were blown up in the frigates.

I inclose a list of killed and wounded; the Blonde's loss is rather severe, and so is, I have reason to believe, the enemy's, who had time to save nothing but their clothes. I had every reason to be highly pleased in witnessing the emulation and bravery displayed by the several ships, in closing with the enemy; and I request you to make the same known to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; also Captain Ballard's report, which is sent herewith. I have not yet been able to fall in with the other two frigates: but am in great hopes of preventing their arrival at Guadalupe. I have, &c.

ALEX. COCHRANE.

SIR, *Septre, off Guadalupe, Dec 18, 1809.*

The moment I took charge of the squadron you did me the honour to place under my command, I that instant rejected the enemy's truce, conceiving it a mere French finesse, to procrastinate our attack on their frigates, at an anchor in port a la Duché.

The Captains of the squadron most readily entered into my plans, which, and that ready zeal manifested throughout the squadron, claims my most grateful thanks. To Captains Ballard and Miller all possible praise is due for so judiciously placing their ships in a situation nearly annihilating the enemy's two frigates, of forty guns each: the outer ship's mast gone and on fire, by the time this ship, and the rest of the squadron, from baffling winds, could render assistance.

I lament that this little affair has not been achieved without bloodshed. To that gallant officer, Captain Cameron, I gave discretionary orders with the other commanders, aided by the armed boats, to act against the batteries; and while in possession of the northernmost fort, which we had before silenced, he received a wound from a musket ball, and afterwards his mortal wound from a swivel shot. In him the service has lost a most meritorious and good officer. I grieve to find that he has left a widow to moan his loss.

I beg leave to recommend to your notice Lieutenants Wyhorn and Collins, of this ship, as well as Guise and Mollesworth, for their prompt measures in destroying the batteries; and to every other officer there employed, for the same spirit that excited them seemed in short to animate every individual in the squadron.

From Captain Dix I received every assistance the nature of the service required, who I trust stands high in your estimation. Inclosed is a list of the wounded on board the Thetis, which is the only return I have received.—I have, &c.

To Sir A. Cochrane, K. B.

V. V. BALLARD.

Wounded in the Thetis.

John M'Masters, quarter-master's-mate, and five seamen.

Killed and Wounded on board the Blonde.

Killed.—Mr. G. Jenkins, First Lieutenant. Mr. Edward Freeman, Mate; and five seamen.

Wounded.—William Johnson, Captain of the After-galley, mortally. Mr. C. W. Richardson, third Lieutenant. Mr. T. Robotham, Midshipman; and 14 seamen and marines.

[This Gazette contains also an account of the destruction of a French vessel off Basse Terre, by the boats of the Blonde, Facon, and Scorpion, in which service, Mr. Thomson, Master of the Blonde, lost his arm, and one sailor his life.—Also, accounts of the following captures:—Le Barnais, French corvette, of 16 guns and 100 men, by the Melampus, Captain Hawker; she was laden with flour and warlike stores for Guadalupe:—The French privateer L'Hirondelle, of 14 guns and 75 men, by the Medusa, Hon. Capt. Bouverie; and Le Charles, French privateer, of 14 guns and 90 men, by the Jalouse and Phoenix, Capt. Mudge: the latter ship had one man killed and one wounded.]

BANKRUPTS.

T. Coward, Bath, linen-draper. Attornies, Messrs. Clarke and Son, Bristol.
J. B. Duckworth, Ashford, Kent, brandy-merchant. Attorney, Mr. Taylor, Gray's-inn.
J. Griffiths, Milbrooke, Southampton, builder. Attorney, Mr. Ridding, Southampton.
W. Duncan, Thatched House-court, St. James's-street, working-jeweller. Attorney, Mr. Gaines, Hart-street, Bloomsbury.
T. and T. Slade, Bartholomew-close, Smithfield, oil-merchants. Attorney, Mr. Tilson, Chatham-place, Blackfriars.
J. P. Atterson, Woolwich, grocer. Attorney, Mr. Magoall, Warwick-square.
W. Metcalf, Banks Mill, Durham, miller. Attorney, Mr. Maynard, Durham.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty Office, February 10.

Copy of a Letter from Capt. Bligh, of his Majesty's ship *Valiant*, addressed to Admiral Lord Gambier, and transmitted by him to John Wilson Croker, Esq.

His Majesty's ship Valiant, off Belleisle, Feb. 3.

MY LORD,—I beg leave to acquaint you, that at day-light this morning I fell in with, and, after six hours chase, captured the French frigate *Canoniere* (now called the *Confiance*), from the Isle of France, in part disarmed, having 14 guns and a complement of 137 men, and laden with a cargo of colonial produce. It appears she was sent to the merchants of the Mauritius, for the purpose of transporting this valuable cargo to France.—I have, &c.

JOHN BLIGH.

[This Gazette also contains an account of the capture of *Le Count de Hunebourg* French privateer, of 14 guns and 53 men, by the *Pheasant* sloop, Captain Palmer; and of the *Trauset* French privateer, of 14 guns and 45 men, by the *Clyde*, Capt. Stuart.]

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

W. Hodgkinson, East Retford, Nottinghamshire, ironmonger.
BANKRUPTS.
P. Lock, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, yarn-maker. Attorney, Mr. Wathen, Stroud, Gloucestershire.
J. Bacon, Deptford, victualler. Attorney, Mr. Whitton, Great James-street, Bedford-row.
E. Pauden, Cateaton-street, warehouseman. Attorney, Mr. Hurd, Temple.
J. Jacob, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, miller. Attornies, Messrs. Clarke and Sewell, Newport, Isle of Wight.
J. Parmeter, Aylsham, Norfolk, miller. Attorney, Mr. Shaw, Aylsham.
J. Carroll, Hoxton-square, Shoreditch, victualler. Attorney, Mr. Darby, Gray's-inn-square.
W. C. Shepherd, Nottingham, iron merchant. Attorney, Mr. Payne, Nottingham.
J. Schofield, Slaithwaite, Yorkshire, cotton-manufacturer. Attorney, Mr. Stephenson, Holmfirth, Yorkshire.

- H. Hirst, Lingard's-Wood, Yorkshire, clothier. Attorney, Mr. Pate, Huddersfield, Yorkshire.
- W. Marden, Leeds, Yorkshire, merchant. Attornies, Messrs. Upton, and Co. Leeds.
- Thomas Salt, Preston, Lancashire, plumber. Attorney, Mr. Dixon, Preston.
- R. Ockenden, Bopeep, Sussex. Attorney, Mr. Barnard, Alfriston, Sussex.
- W. Forge, Holderness, Yorkshire, carpenter. Attorney, Mr. Dickinson, Hull.
- I. Donnithorne, Truro, Cornwall, victualler. Attorney, Mr. Edwards, Truro.
- J. Jones, Whitechapel-road, cordwainer. Attorney, Mr. Metcalfe, Basinghall-street.
- J. Binn, Oxford-street, founder. Attorney, Mr. Hannam, Great Piazza, Covent-garden.
- E. Lintow, Mark-lane, merchant. Attornies, Messrs. Day and Hammerton, Lime-street.
- S. Chambers, Maidstone, Kent, corn-merchant. Attorney, Mr. Druce, Billiter-square.
- J. C. M'Leod, Huntley Hotel, Leicester-fields, merchant. Attornies, Messrs. Forbes and Pocock, Ely-place, Holborn.
- W. Atkinson, Paradise-street, Rotherhithe, broker. Attorney, Mr. Martin, London-street, Fitzroy-square.
- J. Stone, Bridge-road, Lambeth, seedsman. Attorney, Mr. Clutton, St. Thomas-street, Southwark.
- J. Whitaker, Francis-street, Tottenham-court-road, book-binder. Attorney, Mr. Hurd, Temple.
- J. Ivory, Mark-lane, London, broker. Attorney, Mr. Murray, Birch-lane.
- S. Sanders, Dove-row, Hackney-fields, Middlesex, wine-merchant.
- G. Palmer, Plymouth, Devonshire, haberdasher. Attornies, Messrs. Street and Co. Philpot-lane, London.
- W. Audley, Bristol, linen-draper. Attorney, Mr. Baynton, Bristol.
- T. Gissing, Borough-road, Surrey, shopkeeper. Attorney, Mr. Isaac, Bevis Marks, St. Mary-Axe.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

3 per Consols for Money, 67½ | Do. for Act. 68½ | 3 per
Red. Ann. 68¼.

The Communications of J. T., C. P., and O. J., have been received.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 11.

THE Junta, who, on the alleged ground of being near the Cortes, are removing from Seville to the Isle of Leon, have issued regulations for the election of Deputies to that Assembly: but the sad jest of Spanish regeneration is now hastening to it's close. The French army, according to Paris Papers, was in full march on the 12th January, crossing the Sierra Morena for Seville. King JOSEPH, it is said, whose head-quarters were then at Almagro in La Mancha, intended to put himself at the head of this army; and he may now proceed with all confidence, for with the numerous and enormous magazines established on the confines to supply his wants, with the examples which the Spaniards have had of our assistance, with the fate of Austria before them, their Junta retreating from place to place before the enemy, and above all, with the privileges granted and the superstitious opinions taken from them, they must be mad indeed if they still fight battles not half so likely to succeed even as

their former ones, for a King not half so likely to do them service as their present. Had they fought for the restoration of liberty, and not for the restoration of despotism—but the thing is over.

The Freeholders of Westminster had a numerous meeting last Friday in Old Palace Yard, and unanimously carried two Petitions for Parliamentary Reform,—one to the Parliament itself, and the other to his MAJESTY. Some persons expected to see Mr. SHERIDAN there, upon the strength of his late oration; but a proper consciousness withheld him. Lord COCHRANE made an animated speech on the abuses of Government, particularly those in naval policy and patronage; and Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, in that strain of clear exposition and popular allusion, which give his speeches so much unaffected energy, deprecated the futile attempts to blind the people by useless Acts of Parliament against this one grievance and that one grievance; and stated as his unalterable opinion and rule of conduct—the necessity of a radical change in the Representation. Sir FRANCIS ridiculed the solecism of the Placemen, who tell us that Reform would do us no pecuniary advantage, as if it would not prevent wretched wars and the loss of millions in those wars; but setting this aside, “they count,” said the Baronet, in a tone of indignation well befitting the liberal patriot,—“they count upon the baseness of our minds, in supposing that we would not have Reform even unaccompanied with retrenched expenditure: money no doubt is much, but *liberty is more.*” Towards the close of the meeting Mr. WARDLE made his appearance amidst great applauses, and in the course of deprecating the calumnies that were directed against him, assured his auditors that the report of his having taken up the investigation into the Duke of YORK's conduct at the instigation of the Duke of KENT, was utterly false, as “he never had communicated, either directly or indirectly, with the Duke of KENT, and to the best of his knowledge, had never even seen him till the late trial, at which his Royal Highness sat on the bench.” Whether this assertion does or does not want any corroboration, I think it but a piece of justice due to the Duke of KENT from an impartial man who has no political connexion whatever, to state on my own part, that one of the Gentlemen implicated in the calumnies against Mr. WARDLE took the pains to come and shew me, upon the ground of that impartiality, some original documents respecting the Duke of KENT's feelings and wishes on that occasion, which, notwithstanding all the suspicions I once had on the subject, perfectly satisfied me that his Royal Highness took every means he could of disclaiming and expressing his regret at the whole transaction. Whether he should have done so, or kept an entire silence, is another question.

Advices have been received of a manifestation of public opinion in Spanish America, where the people of La Paz, jealous that they were about to be transferred to the Prince of BRAZILS, have deposed their President, exiled their Archbishop and established a Provisional Government, proclaiming FERDINAND VII. Monarch of South America. The Viceroy of Buenos Ayres has, in consequence of this event, been obliged to open the ports in the River Plate, in order to supply the necessities of his Government, as since the events at La Paz, the money that usually came from thence has been withheld.

Some further unpleasant differences have arisen between the Governor and House of Assembly of Jamaica, in consequence of which the latter has been dissolved.

On Tuesday the LORD MAYOR, after inspecting the returns, ordered Bread to fall 2d. in the peck loaf.

CAPTAIN LAKE.—On Tuesday and Wednesday a Court-Martial was held on board the *Gladiator*, on the Hon. Capt. LAKE, of his Majesty's ship *Ulysses*, on charges of cruelty and oppression, in having put one of the crew of the *Recruit* brig, which he commanded, on shore in an uninhabited island, in the West Indies, about two years since, because he had been guilty of theft. The unfortunate man was taken off the island by an American ship, and on the return of which to America, the circumstance was made known, published in the American Papers, and much dwelt upon as a proof of our tyranny on the seas. It was this circumstance that brought the transaction to light in England. The Court agreed, that the charges had been fully proved, and sentenced the Hon. Captain LAKE to be dismissed from his Majesty's service.

Friday noon, as Mr. ABRAHAM GOLDSMID was walking along Lombard-street with another Gentleman, a bullock coming behind rushed between them, when Mr. GOLDSMID was thrown on the pavement, and wounded in the head. No serious consequence is apprehended.

ELOPEMENT.—An elopement has taken place which will make a very considerable noise. The elegant Miss ELWES, daughter of G. ELWES, Esq. eloped with a young Clergyman of Oxford, of the name of DUFFIELD, who was assisted in the plot by two other gentlemen of the cloth, on Wednesday morning last. Mr. ELWES is, perhaps, the richest ready-moneyed Commoner in England. He is heir to the peculiar virtues of his economical father, and is estimated to be worth near a million of floating disposable cash, and she is his only child. She is under age, but was not made a Ward of Chancery.

A GHOST.—The French Papers contain an account of the appearance of a ghost at Pozen, in Prussia.—A young lady, distinguished for her great beauty and piety, died of a violent fall, and shortly after it was reported that the deceased appeared every night at the house in which she died, always dressed in a different manner. A young officer, passing along the garden about ten at night, perceived before a young lady, elegantly formed and dressed in white. He overtook her, and ventured to seize her by the arm; but what was his terror, when he felt nothing but the cold arm and hand of a skeleton, and saw nothing but a pair of dim eyes, stern and fixed, while a sepulchral voice uttered, "should one word of this meeting escape your lips, death is your portion." The figure vanished, and the "gallant officer" fell motionless. Little hope is entertained of his recovery.—Another story is related of a farmer, who saw in the same garden two coffins walking by the side of each other! How they walked the account does not state; but the farmer threw a stone at one of them, which rebounded, and he was so much shocked, that he went home shivering, firmly persuaded that the two walking coffins contained the dead bodies of Miss de M. the young lady, and her deceased father.—The old gamekeeper also saw the spectre, which he knew to be his young mistress: she was then enveloped in a shroud; her countenance disclosed a strong grief; she inclined her head slowly, raised her hands, placed them on her heart, and then reclined her head on her bosom. The game-

keeper, though "of approved courage," who had gone on purpose to detect the imposture, fancied he inhaled a "death-like scent;" she placed her left hand on his, when the man "of approved courage" gave a horrible shriek, and all vanished!—Seven brewers, at work near the haunted mansion, saw it one night completely illuminated, when the young lady appeared at the window of the chamber in which she died, opened it, and looked out. On this occasion it appears that the ghost looked very handsome, was dressed in crape, with silver spangles; a cross was suspended from her neck, and altogether her deportment was "most imposing."—The seven brewers walked towards the mansion, when the lights all disappeared. At this time the house had been deserted for three months. So many reports induced the family to have the grave of the deceased opened, when "it was found that the left leg was rather raised, and the right arm placed upon her head; and it has been further asserted, that the tomb has been opened a second time, when the body was found altogether in a different attitude."—The Editor of a Berlin Journal, who originally wrote the account, says,—"I was told that Miss De M. had made a will in favour of the church; but that her family had strongly opposed the carrying it into execution."—So ends the story of the Pozen Ghost. Mr. MONK LEWIS will doubtless peruse the account with raptures.

DEPRECIATION OF BANK NOTES.

Mr. RICARDO, in his Pamphlet on the high price of Bullion, proposes, as a remedy for the evil, that the Bank be compelled to diminish the quantity of their notes, until they are increased in value fifteen per cent. On this important subject the following extract from Mr. RICARDO's work may be acceptable to our Readers:—

"The remedy which I propose for all the evils in our currency, is, that the Bank should gradually decrease the amount of their notes in circulation, until they shall have rendered the remainder of equal value with the coins which they represent, or, in other words, till the prices of gold and silver bullion shall be brought down to their mint price. I am well aware that the total failure of paper credit would be attended with the most disastrous consequences to the trade and commerce of the country, and even its sudden limitation would occasion so much ruin and distress, that it would be highly inexpedient to have recourse to it as the means of restoring our currency to its just and equitable value.

"If the Bank were possessed of more guineas than they had notes in circulation, they could not, without great injury to the country, pay their notes in specie, while the price of gold bullion continued greatly above the mint price, and the foreign exchanges unfavourable to us. The excess of our currency would be exchanged for guineas at the Bank, and exported, and would be suddenly withdrawn from circulation. Before therefore they can safely pay in specie, the excess of notes must be gradually withdrawn from circulation. If gradually done, little inconvenience would be felt; so that if the principle were fairly admitted, it would be for future consideration whether the object should be accomplished in one year or in five. I am fully persuaded that we shall never restore our currency to its equitable state, but by this preliminary step, or by the total overthrow of our paper credit.

"If the Bank Directors had kept the amount of their notes within reasonable bounds: if they had acted up to the principle which they have avowed to have been that which regulated their issues when they were obliged to pay their notes in specie, namely, to limit their notes to that amount which should prevent the excess of the market above the mint price of gold, we should not have been now exposed to all the evils of a depreciated and perpetually varying currency.

"The Bank Directors have imposed upon the holders of money all the evils of a maximum. To-day it is their pleasure that 4l. 10s. shall pass for 3l. 17s. 10½d. to-morrow they may degrade 4l. 15s. to the same value, and in another year 10l. may not be worth more. By what an insecure tenure is property, consisting of money or annuities paid in money, held! What security has the public creditor that the interest on the public debt, which is now paid in a medium depreciated 15 per cent. may not hereafter be paid in one degraded 50 per cent? The injury to private creditors is not less serious. A debt contracted in 1797 may now be paid with 85 per cent of its amount, and who shall say that the depreciation will go no further?"

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 65.

LYCEUM.

On Saturday week the Managers of this Theatre presented us with what they call a new comedy, entitled *Riches, or Man and Wife*. This is a revival and alteration of an old play called the *City Madam*, written by PHILIP MASSINGER, a dramatist well known and esteemed in the time of CHARLES the 1st, but withheld by various causes from the notice of posterity, till the revival of *A New Way to pay Old Debts*, and more particularly, an edition of his plays by Mr. GIFFORD,* restored him to the knowledge of his countrymen. Whether this restoration was deserved or is likely to last, will furnish me with a longer criticism next week, and at present I must be content with hastily noticing the play before me. The *City Madam* is the story of a wealthy citizen's family, consisting of his proud wife, two proud daughters, and an elder brother, who having spent his patrimony in debauchery has become an humble dependant on his relation. *Luke Frugal*, notwithstanding the patient humility of his demeanour, gives the reader many side hints of a really bad character, and is still suspected by his brother *Sir John*, and treated like a dog by the upstart pride of the females; but the eloquence with which he pleads for some ruined creditors of his brother, begets him a new interest, not only with *Sir John* but with two gentlemen, whose courtship to the young ladies had been done away by their ambitious and inordinate demands. To try his brother therefore, and at the same time to give his wife and daughters a lesson, *Sir John* feigns to have retired into a monastery, and declares *Luke* the sole heir of his estate. This interesting crisis the author manages with great art by making the new master subdue his feelings, console the fallen and humiliated *Lady Frugal* with promises of increased splendour, and behave with so smooth an hypocrisy, that the reader himself is almost deceived out of his suspicions. All

* In four vols. 8vo. Rivington, Cadell and Davies, &c. 1805.

this however is only to give an unprepared sharpness to the fellow's villany: the sight of *Sir John's* storehouses, with their silver and gold, pearls, sapphires and diamonds, put him at once beside concealment, and his avarice and revenge burst out in all their diabolical selfishness: it now appears, that his professions to the creditors and promises to the women were made only to give greater zest to his rapacity and vengeance: the creditors he sends to prison, the women, with the bitterest mockery, are stripped of their fine clothes and set to spinning and sewing, and when he sits down to feasting he desires to have no companions, lest in enjoying themselves they forget to envy him. In the mean time *Sir John* and his friends, by a wild contrivance, enter the house as American Indians with a secret request to *Luke*, that he would furnish them with two virgins and a matron to be sacrificed to the devil in Virginia. The villain, with a credulity which the ignorance of his times can hardly pardon, and still less the subtle wariness of his character, which might reasonably suspect such men coming on such an errand, grants their request and devotes *Lady Frugal* and her daughters to the devil with as much ease as he would have done in an oath: the Indians continue about the house, a banquet is served up by their pretended magic, and to try his feelings for the last time, the persons who suffer under his oppression are brought forward with music and plaintive shew: this has no effect but to make him laugh; and *Sir John's* friends being prepared, appear, as Mr. GIFFORD thinks, standing within picture frames "in the exact dress and attitude of their respective portraits:" at this sight, *Luke*, by an unlucky refinement of obduracy, wishes the magician to give them life: he does so, the portraits descend, *Sir John* embraces and forgives his reformed wife and daughters, the lovers are thankfully welcomed back, and *Luke* departs with sullen desperation. This, it must be acknowledged, is a highly-interesting picture of a villainous character, the component parts of which are certainly to be found in human nature; but I am afraid, or rather I trust, not with such mere depravity. Mr. HOME*, it is true, talks of men so constituted as not to be capable of feeling a virtuous emotion; and Mr. GIFFORD's friend, Dr. IRELAND, in an elegant criticism on this play, thinks the character "true, though some of its parts are opposite;" but I much doubt whether a disposition entirely devilish is to be found among mankind except in cases of real madness. *Luke* too is represented as an experienced man of sense, and it is hardly possible, that when the choice between mere cruelty and a good worldly character is set before such a man, he should select the former as affording superior worldly enjoyment to the latter.

[Want of room compels the abrupt closure of this Criticism, which will be continued next week, with Remarks on the alteration of this play, on MASSINGER's general character, and on that most decrepid of all lame productions,—Mr. REYNOLDS's new drama of the *Free Knights*.]

* Essays, vol. i. p. 171. Edinb. 1793.

THE OPERA.

Mr. EXAMINER,—I was not less surprised by Mr. TAYLOR's letter in the EXAMINER of last Sunday, than you would have been at receiving one from Mr. KEMBLE, denying the appearance of any performer whose talents you

have criticised. Being totally unacquainted with Mr. TAYLOR, the Chevalier LA CAINEA, and every other person connected with the Opéra-house, I can only conjecture the motive that could induce the denial of so well-known a fact, to be, the pride of the Chevalier, who, as he moves in the higher ranks of life, probably feels a wish to conceal his employment from those who might think he degraded himself by undertaking it; this I am the more induced to believe, from the circumstance, that the Annual Concerts at the houses of the Nobility, of which he receives the emolument, are given under the name of Signor ASTOLI, from the same delicate motive. With respect to his situation at the Opera-house, I will only ask Mr. TAYLOR, whether his advice about the management of the theatre is not continually consulted; whether the engagements of Monsieur DESHAYES, Signor ANFOSSI, and other performers, have not been negotiated by him; and whether the operas of *Sidgero* and *Il Principe di Taranto* were not produced at his suggestion and under his immediate direction? If Mr. TAYLOR or the Chevalier LA CAINEA will, in the face of all those who know better, deny these circumstances, I can only say that they will appear to be possessed of more assurance than veracity.

H. R.

FINE ARTS.

SUSPENSION OF MR. SOANE'S LECTURES.

IN his last Lecture, the Professor of Architecture to the Royal Academy expatiated on the vicious taste in his Art frequently evinced by eminent Painters, and exemplified defects from Designs of modern Architects in the Metropolis, and among the rest, from Covent Garden Theatre, an excellent but by no means perfect work of Mr. SMIRKE, jun. an Associate of the Academy. This the Academy so highly resented, that they held a Council on the subject, the result of which has been a suspension of the Architectural Lectures, and instructions to the Professors who are about to Lecture on Painting and Perspective, that they must not drop even a hint of the defects of any Member of their sacred body. Where defects are so numerous, it is very natural to fear exposure, but this fear is no justification of a jealousy restrictive of the proper exercise of a Professor's duty. The Architectural Student acquires as much knowledge from learning what is to be avoided as what is to be imitated in public works, and especially in those which, from their situation in the Metropolis, are perpetually present to the eye. Those defects ought certainly to be pointed out, as the quicksands on which the bark of genius would fasten if not forewarned, and in vain spread its sail on the sea of knowledge and celebrity. But no, say in effect the Members of an Academy expressly established for the advancement of Art, defects must be imitated by the Student, rather than that our vanity should be wounded by the display of our errors in Art. Let them go on ever so erroneously, no matter, so that our blunders are not detected. What egregious vanity! What preposterous assumption of privilege from critical animadversion! The exalted talents of MICHAEL ANGELO himself would not justify such presumptuous exemption, for no talents, however exalted, are without their share of merited censure, and it is the bounden duty of the Instructor in Art to adopt it without any fastidious deference to any person whatever. An impartial Teacher and Critic is no respecter of persons.

Beside, while a Professor avoids every thing disrespectful as to his manner, the Academy is surely unwarranted in dictating to him the matter of his discourse, as it relates to his art. He is the teacher, not the Academy. Having once considered him so competent as to place him in the Architectural chair, the Council of the Academy, consisting of Painters and Sculptors, has subsequently no right to dictate what shall issue from it. A Judge on the bench may as well be trammelled in the exercise of his functions. The partialities, the perpetual bickerings, the envy, hatred, and malice, which have rendered the Royal Academy a theatre of continual contention even since its establishment, only wanted this dispute of vanity to complete the disgraceful climacteric of character. I sincerely hope however, that whether the learned Professor be prevented or not from finishing his excellent course of Lectures, he will issue them to the Public through the Press, that his illuminating pen may exhibit in their proper light the faults which so thickly vegetate around modern Professors, including the Sprouts from the Royal Academy Sensitive Plants.

R. H.

VALENTINES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—It will be doing a public service to the cause of morality, to advert to the custom of sending Valentines, which will, as usual, take place on the 14th of this month. As long as the practice consisted of merely sending a few amatory verses, innocent in themselves, perhaps it might have been tolerated, or even approved of, inasmuch as thereby the youth of both sexes have been stimulated to exert their talents in first attempts at poetry, which attempts may afterwards have led to the production of works of real merit. But as the practice is now much abused, and as it but too frequently happens that Valentines, so called, are made the vehicles for most shocking ribaldry, it behoves parents, particularly those who have the care of females, to give particular orders that no twopenny or threepenny post letter, coming on the 14th, or for two or three days afterwards, shall be delivered to any of the unmarried females to whom such may be addressed, without first undergoing the inspection of the parent or guardian. I have adopted this caution for some years, and have thereby saved those of the loveliest part of the creation entrusted to my charge, whose minds I have taken pains to keep pure and uncontaminated, the horror of perusing some of the most abominable obscenity, in the shape of a Valentine letter, that human depravity could invent.—Your obedient Servant,

Clerkenwell, Feb. 8, 1810.

W. C.

REFORM.—WESTMINSTER MEETING.

On Friday a numerous Meeting of the Inhabitants of Westminster took place in Palace-yard, for the purpose of petitioning the King and the Parliament for a Reform in the Representation.—ARTHUR MORRIS, the High Bailiff, having stated the object of the Meeting, Mr. STURCH entered on the subject, and quoted Mr. Pitt's assertion, when first in Parliament, that without a Reform no honest man could become Minister. He, however, became Minister, and yet no Reform took place. The people of Westminster had indeed two able and honest Representatives, but how were the close borough Electors to get such men?—He concluded by moving the following Resolutions, which were unanimously agreed to:—

1. That in a Petition presented to the House of Commons on the 6th day of May, 1795, and entered on its Journals, it was averred, and offered to be proved at the Bar, that 154 individuals, (Peers and others) did, by their own authority, appoint or procure the return of 307 Members of that House, (independent of those from Scotland), who were thus enabled to decide all questions in the name of the whole People of Great Britain.

2. That in a Report presented to the said House during the last Session, it appears that a large portion of the Members thereof are Placemen and Pensioners, dependent on the Crown.

3. That in a Petition presented to the said House, on the 9th day of December, 1790, and entered on its Journals, it was averred, that "Seats therein were as notoriously rented and bought as standings for Cattle in a Fair;" which assertion was then resented as "scandalous and libellous;" but when, on the 11th day of May last, two of his Majesty's Ministers were accused of being concerned in the sale of a Seat, they were screened from punishment, on the plea of the extreme notoriety of the practice, a practice which many of its Members unblushingly justified.

4. That to this defective state of the Representation is to be attributed long, unfortunate, and destructive wars; the immense Debt and Taxes with which the country is burthened; and those pernicious Councils which have deprived our fellow Subjects, the Citizens of London, of their ancient and constitutional right of Petition to the King.

5. That by these corruptions the people are deprived of their lawful share in the Government, by Representation in the Commons House of Parliament, which share has been usurped by an unlawful oligarchy of Borough-mongers.

6. That a complete Reform in the Representation would destroy the corrupt influence of Borough faction, secure to the Crown its just prerogatives, and restore to the people those rights of which they are unlawfully deprived.

7. That when the principles of our Constitution shall be reduced to practice, the expence, disorders, and tumults attending Elections, will be avoided; the rights and liberties of the people secured; taxes lessened; the unequal and grievous imposition of the Property Tax removed; and future burthens prevented. Corruption will then be no longer necessary, much less avowed to be necessary, for the administration of public affairs.

Mr. STURCH then proposed a Petition to his Majesty, which was also unanimously applauded; and it was resolved, That the Hon. Lord Cochrane, and Sir Francis Burdett, Bart. accompanied by the High Bailiff, be requested to present the same to his Majesty.

A Petition to the House of Commons, founded on the above Resolutions, was then read and agreed to, amidst loud acclamations.

Mr. WISHART supported the Resolutions, &c. and called upon the Meeting to set a glorious example of energy and spirit in their exertions for Reform.

When the Thanks of the Meeting were given to Sir F. Burdett and Lord Cochrane,

Lord COCHRANE addressed the People. He well knew the necessity for a Reform in Parliament. The Naval Department was as corrupt as the Ministerial: There were no less than 120 sail of the line in commission, to watch about 40 sail of the enemy. Naval patronage was now subservient to the borough interest. The abuses in the Admiralty Court were notorious. Captors did not find it worth their while to sue for condemnation, the expence often exceeding the value of the prize! Our wise Ministers pursued a singular system of commerce: foreign vessels were constantly admitted, in spite of the Navigation Laws. Upwards of 180 had arrived lately with French produce, and in the river of Bourdeaux alone there were recently 200 vessels waiting for convoy!—These things he should bring before Parliament shortly, when he hoped the doors would not be shut. (Lord Cochrane's Speech was received with unanimous approbation.)

Sir F. BURDETT said, that the unanimity of the Meeting cheered and encouraged him. Such a people deserved a better

fate, an opinion he had never failed to express in a Room not far distant. (Shouts of applause.) The people had as much right to a third share in the Legislature as the King had to his crown, and yet of that right the people were robbed. Their contest now was not with an arbitrary King or an arrogant Nobility. No; it was with a base Borough Faction, which was equally hostile to the rights and independence of the People, the King, and the Nobility. Unless this faction was overthrown, the country is lost. To submit to such men was a real degradation; it was not submitting to the lion, but to the jack-alls. We had 115 Acts of Parliament to regulate Elections, when a new Act was recently added, the whole calculated merely to impose on the public. The evil consisted in the unequal Representation of the People; let the axe be applied to that root of evil, and all these Acts of Parliament would be useless. He remembered a fable, in which an old man had received a promise from Death that he should not be taken off without three warnings. Well; first the old man lost his hearing; then his limbs; and thirdly, his sight: Yet when Death approached, the old man complained that he had not sufficient warning! The English People, however, could not say that they had not warning: they have had the warning of barracks, of hostiles, and of foreign troops. (Loud applause.) For what good purpose could these foreigners be introduced? Were we unable to defend ourselves? Could we not rely on our gallant soldiers, who had at least arrested the progress of that very enemy who had chased these Germans out of their country? (Bravo, bravo!) These troops were in fact the advanced guards of Bonaparte,—they were the best pioneers he could select. Their introduction into the country was the proper mode to fit it for subjugation. To avert the dangers he apprehended from them, he had made a motion in the Room over the way (laughing and applause) the result of which he hoped would be salutary. Sir Francis then alluded to the dangers which threatened the liberty of the press—that inseparable accompaniment of freedom—the vicious mode of impanneling Juries in cases where the Crown was concerned—and the power of the Attorney-General; and concluded by an appeal to the Meeting on the state of the country, the vices of Government, and the indispensable necessity of Reform.

Mr. FINNERTY made some pertinent remarks on Mr. Windham's attack on the Press. That Gentleman, he said, professed to know nothing of Newspaper Editors, though he was personally intimate with many, and had even proclaimed one of them as worthy of a statue of gold! If that Right Hon. Person had not been born to fortune, what might have been his fate. Instead of being a Senator, he most probably would now have been editing the works of some Joker or Jesuit—Joe Miller or Ignatius Loyola.—(A laugh.)

A loud cry being heard among the people for Col. WARDLE, he stepped forward and addressed them. He observed, among other things, that the good opinion of the Electors of Westminster was a high source of gratification to him, amidst all the calumny and persecution he had laboured under. One calumny he should particularly notice. It had been asserted that he had prosecuted the Inquiry respecting the Duke of York at the suggestion of the Duke of Kent, and not from public motives. This was a gross falsehood. He had never the slightest communication or connection with the Duke of Kent, and had never even seen him, until he appeared in Court on a late trial.—The Hon. Gentleman had on a former occasion shewn how eleven millions annually might be saved to the country, by which the inquisition of the Income Tax might be done away. For this he had been called to account in that Room, of which they had heard. When abuses were pointed out, Ministers appointed their own Committee to look into them! All the evils of the country arose from the corrupt state of Representation.—Mr. Wardle concluded his speech, and withdrew amidst the loudest plaudits.

Thanks were then voted to the High Bailiff; after which Mr. COX spoke for a short time, and the People separated.