

THE EXAMINER.

No. 15. SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 1808.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

No. 15.

ON THE NECESSITY OF A MILITARY REFORM.

THE greatness of such a nation as ours should be great in every thing. Partial excellence springs from a want of education and example, and belongs to infant communities; but a country which has grown illustrious by a long race of statesmen and heroes ought to give some better reason for its military deficiencies than a mere unforeseen want of genius. The late melancholy instance of a total want of generalship in an English commander ought indeed to revive the strongest spirit of enquiry. Some errors in ~~the~~ it may be delicate to examine and still more so to oppose, but I believe it is universally acknowledged, that a military reform in Great Britain would be at once perfectly easy to its promoters and perfectly agreeable to his Majesty's people. Whom indeed could it offend? Surely not the nobility, who derive their best honours from military genius; surely not the commonalty, to whom a new path would be opened for the attainment of wealth and honour: certainly not one single citizen, male or female, since the very existence of the body politic depends upon its strength in arms. The utility of the measure is so manifest, that they who are able to reform the army and do not reform it, must be either grossly foolish or grossly corrupt, though as folly and corruption reciprocally produce each other, it is most likely they are both.

Till men are able to buy genius, they should never be allowed to buy military rank. The revolutionary French never had a greater right to call us a nation of shopkeepers than when they beheld our military system of barter and truck. A young gentleman wishes to be a soldier—I beg pardon, an officer—and if he is asked what talents he possesses for command, the answer is quite ready, "Sir, I have some hundred pounds in my pocket." It is this system which together with the dilatory privileges of seniority and the gross favouritism of the higher powers, has rendered the finest soldiers as useless as straws and shed the blood of hundreds of my gallant countrymen, in order that a man named WHITELOCKE might retire to his large estates. I do not wish to oppose this retirement; nay, I am very well convinced, that the nation

would purchase excellent estates for some other commanders provided they would retire also.

1. It is truly surprising that we should neglect to strengthen our military force; when we see in our boasted navy such a noble example of the utility of an education for war. Why do we possess such excellent officers at sea and such miserable officers on land? Simply because the former rise through all the gradations of rank and through all the gradations of actual service. And if we are blind to this noble example at home, surely we cannot be blind to the causes of the almost universal empire of the French. The whole world has felt the weight of those mighty arms, which in a turbulent hour, when strength naturally became uppermost, suddenly rose from the crowd, pushed a lazy nobility off their seats, and have now seized every one his laurel and every one his diadem. In France military genius creates riches; in England riches create military genius. In fact, some men in this country are literally captains and commanders from their cradle: a noble lord wishes his younger children to wear a sash, and he cannot be satisfied unless this sash is a military one: the girl-faced stripling is instantly thrust into a cocked hat and a pair of boots, he has excellent interest, and so he becomes an officer of rank and always stays at home. Poets will tell us by way of eulogy upon great generals, and other great men, that they were born so; but if we compare the military genius of France and England, it will be found, I believe, that men in our days become great generals, because they are not born so.

2. Such are the obvious consequences of military purchase. The sleepy effects of seniority exhibit an absurdity quite as glaring. Let us suppose that the country is in danger: a Colonel or Major has distinguished himself in a manner that proves him to be possessed of considerable talents for war; the country wishes him to be one of its foremost protectors; but "No," exclaim a number of titled or bald-headed men, "we are before him on the list, and we must be before him in the battle,—(aside)—especially as our enemy is very weak and we are likely to get much wealth and no wounds." Now let us imagine that a house is on fire; that we maintain a number of firemen, some to look after fires and some to do nothing but wear red coats; and that the latter species happen to be seniors of the former: What would our neighbours think, if these red-coated idlers who never saw a fire were to claim the advanced post during the con-

flagration, while the active firemen were compelled to be gazing behind them? And in particular, what should we say if these red-coated idlers were to shew themselves very much afraid of burning their fingers, and were to be well paid for letting the whole street burn to the ground? Miserable infatuation! If our warlike neighbours, when their country was threatened with the fate of Poland, had stopped to consult their army-list for a hero of the proper standing, their Generals would not have long possessed a single estate to which they might retire after their defeats.

3. Over all this lazy and disgusting corruption, like a fog over the standing pool, hangs the chilling influence of military interest. Gross favouritism is the natural consequence of a system which despises talent, it has a natural love of folly and is accessible alike to the dissolute, who are always impudent, and to the rich, who have no need of impudence. Even now we see his Majesty's guards dishonoured by the admission of the most profligate youths in the nobility: corruption flows round the royal person, and is this the mode of rendering that person respectable in the eyes of the subject? We see Generals sent upon expeditions for the mere purpose of getting rich; we see idle officers suffered to stay at home whenever their regiment is ordered into service; we see the few active young men, who by never deserting their regiment are true soldiers truly bred, condemned to toil painfully into a little pre-eminence and to behold the first ranks in the army occupied by a host of parade loungers, who never see a fire more dangerous than their own firesides. The army is falsely supposed to be the school of honourable gentility. A true officer is indeed the truest of gentlemen; but how are we to obtain officers? The highest military posts are filled by the richest men, who are always apt to be the idlest; and the subaltern ranks are crowded with men equally idle if not equally rich, who spend their all perhaps on a commission and then live by running in debt at every village they enter. I wish to heaven that every Colonel of a regiment would follow the example of that excellent soldier Sir JOHN MOORE, who well knows that he who can feel for an obscure tradesman is the very man to feel for the whole country: this General will not suffer a single dishonourable spendthrift to remain in his regiment. "Where then," it may be asked, "do these spendthrifts go." Alas, other regiments have spendthrift Colonels as well as spendthrift Ensigns, and the profligate merely changes his regimentals.

In the mean time the army is becoming a thing of more shew than use, a host of laced jackets and long pigtailed rather than active and hopeful soldiers. Our imitation of Prussian management has been eagerly pursued without the slightest reason or consideration. If FREDERICK adopted a stubborn and tyrannical sys-

tem, it must be recollected that his soldiers were not born in England, that he considered their habits of education and thinking, and that great part of his army was filled with unwilling exiles, whom he had absolutely kidnapped from the neighbouring states. What need have we to fetter an army of Englishmen into slavish observations of dress which draw the attention from great things to little? What is the peculiar strength that is to be found in a tight pigtail, or the military spirit that elevates the head by means of a regular hard stock? Does one soul animate a whole regiment a jot the more, because these pigtailed and these stocks are all of one pattern? In truth, our armies seem made on purpose for agents and clothiers. I recollect a sublime story of an English General now living, who during the late peace happened to be on the French parade while the Consul was reviewing his troops. The Englishman left some of his friends to reconnoitre the boasted soldiers of France, and presently returned with an air of sovereign contempt—"I have been down all the ranks," whispered he, "and would you believe it, there are not two men whose neckcloths are alike!" Such are the effects of a parade education. Our dragoons in particular seem to be enlisted in order to shew the genius of a tailor. It is a pity that almost all of them were not drafted into the infantry and artillery; in the latter regiment their horses might be of some service in transporting the cannon, and the lace on their jackets might help to drag them if strong enough. The splendid hats and helmets, weighed down with feathers and fur, and the splendid laced jackets, which look as if somebody had been flourishing upon them with chalk, are of no single use but to entice into the gaudy regiment a few poor simpletons, who will never make the better soldiers for their admiration of fine clothes. One may generally see in London a number of foppish serjeants and others, lounging about in all the military lure of huge whiskers, nicely cut and powdered, close white pantaloons and glazed boots, and a head so bewildered and overwhelmed with pomatum, leather, and plumes, that in hot weather I have felt a kind of ludicrous pity to see my fellow-creatures strutting about in so gay and peculiar a pillory. I have read of a famous Grecian robber, who in order to terrify the enemy into a supposition of his vast forces, used to crown the long hedges with rows of military caps in battle array. I dare say our dragoon suits of clothes, in the shape of soldiers, would do almost as well as the robber's artifice if ever they were sent upon service. At any rate they would frighten some body, for if they did not alarm the enemy, I am pretty well persuaded they would manage to frighten themselves.

In short, if we may judge of the present system by the natural tendencies of all corrupted bodies,

God only knows what will become of our armies if ever they are commanded by a Chief, who shall be deaf to all but his favourites, who shall take it into his head to maintain his mistresses upon the sale of commissions, and who by very evident consequences must at length become the tool of a few cunning agents, a miserable dependant on the silence of the knaves about him, and a bye-word among all his countrymen for want of sense and want of virtue! I shudder to think of the extreme probability of these visitations.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

GERMANY.

HAMBURG, MARCH 13.—The King of Sweden has forbidden all communication between his kingdom and Denmark, upon pain of death. The army of this monarch is concentrating itself. The flotilla of Abo has been burnt, in order to prevent its falling into the hands of the Russians, whose operations are well seconded by the rigour of the season.

DENMARK.

COPENHAGEN, MARCH 3.—The fermentation of the public mind is very great in Sweden, if we may believe the reports of travellers, and of certain writings, which are circulated in spite of all prohibitions.—Among others, one pamphlet is quoted which is said to be very bitter; it has the following title, *Why are not two Swedes worth an Ox?* This question alludes to a treaty by which Gustavus the IVth sells his subjects to the English Ministry at 14l. sterling per head, while the English themselves pay twice as much for an ox. We cannot deny that it must be very humiliating to so brave and spirited a people to be assimilated to the cattle which serve for their food.

MARCH 1.—We perceive no part of the Sound which is not covered with ice. At Elsineur, where the passage is narrow, and the current more rapid, the masses of ice are seen collecting from day to day, so that should the frost continue a week only, it would be possible for the foot soldiers to cross the ice and march into Sweden. When Charles Gustavus, King of Sweden, passed the two Belts on the ice, he caused a medal to be struck with this inscription, *NATURA HOC DEBIT UNO—Nature owed this to One alone:*—We heartily wish nature would unite with fortune in giving Charles Gustavus the lie.

SPAIN.

BURGOS, MARCH 15.—His Imperial and Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Berg is arrived here, and has been received with the honours due to his rank. His Highness informed himself concerning the details of what respects the useful establishments, economy, and administration; having in the course of his enquiry learnt that the French armies were a charge to the inhabitants of those provinces, he was pleased to write in Spanish a letter to the Commandants, Governors, and Deputies of the Provinces of Burgos, Old Castile, and Biscay, announcing his intention to pay with scrupulous exactness for every thing supplied to

the troops, and concluding by saying, that he had "hastened to render an account to his Majesty the Emperor, who, full of esteem for the Spanish nation, desires to contribute with all his heart to the welfare of this country."

ITALY.

VENICE, MARCH 5.—The English have just established themselves in the little island of Lesina, on the coast of Dalmatia, which the Russians occupied several months during the last war with France. But it is very probable that they will not remain there long, since the island is sufficiently near the land to permit the French to effect a landing by the aid of small boats.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, FEB. 26.—The Porte is making the greatest efforts to re-establish the army of the Grand Vizier, which has been considerably weakened during the winter; 150,000 men from the Asiatic provinces are to repair to it; very severe firmans have been addressed to the governors, and envoys have been sent to press the execution of the orders of the Grand Segnior. The English squadrons continue to have the exclusive dominion of the Archipelago; their vessels, as well as the Maltese cruisers, carry the English flag; they seize all Turkish vessels, as well as all those that issue from a Turkish port. On the 8th of January, the Captain of the frigate *Seaorse* (*Seahorse*), John Stewart, who commands a division, addressed a proclamation to the inhabitants of the Cyclades, in the name of Admiral Collingwood, in which he announces to them the close blockade of the Dardanelles, and the ports of Egypt. He adds, that he has orders to seize all Turkish vessels, even those concerned in the coasting trade, but he will grant passports to all vessels sailing to and from Malta. The commerce in the Levant is in a state of absolute stagnation.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

A dreadful mortality rages at present amongst the soldiers stationed in Ashford Barracks; the average of the men buried, for two months past, having exceeded two each day. The disorder, at its commencement, has the appearance of a slight cold, attended with fever, and on the second or third day generally proves fatal. It is suggested that the men lying too close is the cause of this dreadful malady, as the cavalry quartered in the town are very healthy.—*Kentish Chronicle.*

We state from unquestionable authority, that a decrease of 26,893 pieces of broad cloth has taken place in the woollen manufacture within the district of the Leeds cloth-halls, during the last year. In the two first quarters the number of pieces manufactured nearly equalled those in the corresponding quarters in the former year; so that in fact a diminution has arisen principally within the last six months.—*York Herald.*

A few days ago, were present at a marriage festival, near Huddersfield, a husband and wife, a brother and two sisters, a father and two mothers, an uncle and an aunt, a daughter, a niece, and four cousins; the whole consisting of four persons. In the same neighbourhood, there is a widow, a mother and her son, a father, a mother, and their daughter, a brother and sister, a grand-mother and her grand-daughter; the whole consisting of three persons.

FATAL FRIGHT.—Extract of a letter from Feversham, dated April 3:—"A boy, who had been watching crows, on his return home a few days since, left his gun in the corner of the room. A little fellow, nine years old, running into the room, and taking the gun, exclaimed—"Joe, I will shoot you!"—pulled the trigger, and wounded his young friend in the hand and thigh. Two gentlemen riding past, alighted, and gave every assistance in their power. One of them, shaking the little fellow, said, he would have him hanged; which had such an effect on him, that the next morning he was unable to rise. He cried, and hoped Joe would get better. He was assured he was getting better, and that he might go and see him: he did so, and appeared more composed; but his feelings were too great for his strength, and on Thursday morning he died. The wounded boy is now walking about."

On March 4, there was a general meeting of the sect of Methodists called *Jumpers*, at Aberystwith, when the jumping and horrid yells and screams made at the end of the service, exceeded any thing of the kind ever witnessed.

CAMBRIDGE, APRIL 1.—The Chancellor's two gold medals, value 15 guineas each, for the two commencing Bachelors of Arts who shall acquit themselves the best in Classical Learning, are this year adjudged to Mr. Charles James Blomfield, and Mr. Richard Ward, both of Trinity College. The subjects for the Members' Prizes for this year are, for the Senior Bachelors, *Quæ præcipue sint labentis Imperii Iudicia?* For the Middle Bachelors, *Quamquam Illirionis Artem miremur, quærendum tamen, utrum Mores Hominum emendet magis, an corrumpat Scæna?*

SINGULAR ACCIDENTS!—A person residing in the neighbourhood of Swansea fell from his horse a few days since, and dislocated his collar-bone; a servant was dispatched for surgical assistance, likewise fell, and broke his arm; and another, sent of the same errand, met with a similar accident, and broke his collar-bone.

The following is an extract of a letter from Tain:—"John M'Gregor, who was suspected of the murder of Catherine Munro, has himself been murdered, his body having been found mangled in a most shocking manner, in a wood about a mile distant from the town of Tain, on Monday se'night. The testimony of Dr. M'Donald, who examined the wounds, is clear and explicit; and some corroborating circumstances strengthen the opinion that a hatchet, or some such weapon, was used to perpetrate this diabolical act. M'Gregor was known to be possessed of some money, and, it would seem, he had been watched and murdered while out of town. After this the perpetrators proceeded to his house in Tain, which they plundered of money, &c. and, it would appear, that while in the act of so doing, they were discovered by Catharine Munro, who lived under the same roof with M'Gregor; and whom, it is presumed, the wretches also dispatched, by strangling or suffocation, to prevent detection. The exertions of the magistracy to bring this atrocious deed to light, have been indefatigable and praiseworthy; and, in consequence of a most minute investigation, several circumstances have already transpired, which induce a strong belief that the whole of this shocking affair will be disclosed. Two persons, Andrew Bain and Janet Ong, both residing in the hill of Tain, having already been committed to prison under very suspicious circumstances; their declaration, emitted in presence of the Sheriff-Substitute, was very confused and contradictory. Sir Charles Ross, the Provost, attended, and was particularly instrumental in bringing to light several important circumstances. The murder of two persons, supposed to have been committed in the same night, is of such unparalleled atrocity in this part of the country, and the manner of its accomplishment so awful, that a general sentiment of horror and indignation pervades all ranks, and a general anxiety prevails to bring to light every circumstance connected with this horrible deed."

On the 24th ult. an inquest was taken on the bodies of G. and Sarah Green, of Gressmere, Westmorland. It appeared that the industrious couple had been attending a sale in Langdale a few days before, with the intention of buying a cow, on their return home, about six o'clock in the evening, a fall of snow took place; they lost their way, and melancholy to relate, both perished. By this catastrophe, eight children, the eldest only eleven years old, and the youngest, an infant at the breast, half a year old, have been bereaved of their parents.

At Stafford Assizes, on Monday last, William Hawkeswood was found guilty of poisoning his master, Mr. Parker, of Swindon, in Staffordshire, by administering to him some corrosive sublimate, in a cup of camomile tea. The prisoner, when called upon for his defence, offered a paper, wherein he acknowledged his having administered the poison, without the knowledge of any other person, but that he did not do it with an intention of injuring any one; that he thereby meant it as a "trick upon the old woman, the housekeeper." He also spoke very highly of the deceased's kindness towards him. He was executed on Wednesday morning.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MONDAY, APRIL 4.

Lord HOLLAND presented a Petition from M. Tierman de Testat, against the Jesuit's Bark Bill, stating the injury which he apprehended therefrom, as being the greatest importer of the article in this country.—It was ordered to lie on the table.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5.

Lord REDESDALE brought in a Bill for better securing the Monies arising from Bankrupts Estates, and for the further amendment of the Bankrupt Laws.—Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6.

Mr. Broughton was heard at the bar, in summing up the evidence which had been adduced by the Petitioners against the Orders in Council.

Lord GRENVILLE, immediately after the Counsel withdrew, gave notice that on an early day after the Holidays, he should move the House to Address His Majesty for the revocation of the Orders in Council.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7.

The third reading of the Bark Bill was supported by Lords Mulgrave, Redesdale, Hawkesbury, and the Lord Chancellor; and opposed by Lords Grenville, Lauderdale, and Roslyn. And on a division, the question was carried by a majority of 110 to 44.

The Bill being read a third time, Lord GRENVILLE proposed, by way of rider, a clause, empowering the Crown to appoint Commissioners to enquire into any claims of compensation for losses sustained by the Bill. This proposition was rejected without a division. The Bill was then passed.—Adjourned.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8.

The Cotton Wool Prohibition Bill, and the Irish Bark and Cotton Bill, were read a third time and passed.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, APRIL 4.

Mr. H. WELLESLEY complained to the House of certain expressions in a Morning Paper, on Lord A. Hamilton's motion respecting the Nabob of Oude, containing personal reflections on the Marquis Wellesley.

Mr. R. THORNTON observed, that the Hon. Gentleman seemed to allude to certain words that had fallen from him in the progress of that discussion. He had been, upon that occasion, particularly cautious and circumspect in avoiding any language of the kind; and he was confident he had nothing of such a description to answer for.

The SPEAKER observed, that no details of the proceedings of the House, however they were tolerated, could possibly be justified. He thought it better to let the matter drop.—It did so.

Mr. BIDDULPH in a neat speech prefaced the motion he intended to submit to the House, which was one he thought every independent Member ought in justice to support at this important crisis. He conceived that a Member of the Committee of Finance was incapable, from the duties imposed on him, of accepting any place of honour or profit under the influence of either the Minister or the Crown; and, as an Hon. Member of that House, whose integrity he could not impeach, had accepted of a place; he, as an independent Member of Parliament, thought it his bounden duty to move, that as "R. Wharton, Esq. had accepted of the situation of Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, as a place of profit, he could no longer be a Member of the Committee of Finance; and that the Hon. Mr. Ward be nominated in his room in the said Committee."

Mr. PERCEVAL did not think Mr. Wharton disqualified from holding both situations, as the House had not heard any thing to his prejudice. There could be no doubt but he would discharge both duties with equal honour.

Mr. WHITBREAD objected to Mr. Wharton holding both places.

Mr. I. H. BROWN thought the Hon. Member was not disqualified from holding situations in which he might be equally useful.

The House divided—Ayes, 21—Noes, 70—Majority against the motion, 49—Adjourned.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5.

A ballot stood for this day for a Committee to try the merits of a Petition, complaining of an undue Election and Return for Newry, in Ireland. The Grenville Act requires that 49 Members should be chosen by ballot in the House, afterwards reduced by the Counsel and Agents for the parties to 13, and two Nominees. The House, on the present occasion, could only get 26, of course an adjournment took place.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6.

Sir F. BURDETT presented a Petition from the united Parishes of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster, in support of the Vauxhall Bridge Bill.—Laid on the table.

The Vauxhall Bridge Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Monday.

Mr. HUSKISSON moved for an Account of the Surplus of the Consolidated Fund of Great Britain, for the year ending the 5th of April, 1808. He observed, that the House would hear with satisfaction that the surplus amounted to nearly four millions and a half, and that it exceeded the corresponding quarter for the last year by 600,000l.—The account was ordered.

Mr. C. WYNN obtained leave to bring in a Bill for the better care and maintenance of Criminal and Pauper Lunatics.—Adjourned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7.

On the second reading of the Assessed Taxes Consolidation Bill,

Mr. BIDDULPH objected to any farther progress being made in the Bill, as it went to increase these duties in the sum of 100,000l. without any ground for such increase having been stated by the Finance Minister.

Mr. PERCEVAL maintained, that the Bill was a Bill of Supply, and therefore it was necessary it should not be

impeded. After a short conversation, the Bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Monday.

Lord CASTLEREAGH gave notice for Tuesday, of a motion on the subject of the better defence of the country.

REVERSION BILL.

Mr. BANKES moved the Order of the Day for the House resolving itself into a Committee.

The question was put, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, Mr. H. THORNTON filling that of the Committee.

Mr. BANKES then stated, that in moving to fill up the first blank in the Bill, he should not detain the Committee for any length of time. He had originally intended to fill up the blank with the words "for a time to be limited," or in other words, "for a period of two years." As however he understood it would be difficult, if not nearly impossible, to carry the Bill through with such a stipulation, he had determined to lay aside such a proposal at present, as he sincerely hoped a period was not far distant when the necessity of absolutely restricting the Crown in grants of Offices in Reversion, would arrive. In order, therefore, to prevent any objections to the Bill, either in this House or the other, he should propose that the blank be filled up in a manner the most conciliating to the Upper House. He was well aware that these were not the times for jars, discords, and misunderstanding, between the branches of the Legislature; and it was far from his heart that any such dissention, or altercation, should be engendered. Were the Bill, however, to be deferred for ten years, he should then, indeed, despair of its ever passing at all. He was still inclined not to adopt the Amendment proposed in the Upper House; but he should move, the blank limiting the existence of the Act, should, in the Bill, be filled up with the words, "for one year from the passing of the said Act, and for six weeks of the then next Session of Parliament." This, he thought, would give the Finance Committee, the House, and the Public at large, ample time for digesting the propriety of such a temporary suspension of the prerogative; and also afford opportunities for investigating the nature of any office of the kind, that, in the interval, might be disposed of. To this, he said, he had been driven by necessity alone; but he still entertained his original ideas upon the subject. In the Preamble of the Bill, he should also submit an Amendment, as a part of the Preamble had been objected to by the other House. For these reasons he wished his Right Hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, would forego proposing the Amendments of which he had given notice, and obtain for the measure that countenance and support it was in his mind (Mr. B.'s) so justly entitled to. Mr. Bankes concluded by moving, that the first blank in the Bill be filled up, as we have stated.

Mr. PERCEVAL confessed that his Hon. Friend had proposed Amendments on the Bill which divested it of what he thought its most objectionable features. It was to the Bill as originally described by his Hon. Friend, in moving for leave to introduce it, that he had objected, and he should therefore not press the Amendments he announced. With regard to the principle of the Bill, he neither did then, or even now, affect to conceal his sentiments upon it. He was clearly a supporter of the Amendment proposed by his Noble Friend in the other House (Lord Hawkesbury), and had the present Bill been similar to the other, he most certainly should have opposed it. He should therefore abandon all idea of submitting his Amendments.—(Loud cries of Hear! from the Opposition.)—The Bill, upon the whole, had undergone so material an alteration that it was unobjectionable. With respect to Offices in Reversion, he thought the practice was good; it was better to reward services by expectation rather than by a grant of public money. It was thus a cheap mode of remunerating the servants of the public, which had long attracted public notice, and which had created more attraction than he ever thought belonged to it.

Mr. WHITBREAD was certain the beneficial effects of this Bill would ultimately prove a great saving to the public. He was glad that a revolution had taken place in the mind of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with respect to the Bill; whether it arose from a coincidence of public sentiment or not, was immaterial; but it was deplorable to see the King's Ministers defeated in the other House. It argued little in favour of their stability, when they could not carry the Bill into a law, though it had been recommended by his Majesty in his Speech. He was not friendly to this Bill in its limited state, yet he apprehended that, modified as it was, it would meet the fate of the former Bills; he, however, hoped the House would persevere, under the impression that the other branch of the Legislature would see the necessity of retrenching the public burthens; and when the Bill came out of the Committee he should consider it his duty to propose to leave out the limited time, and adopt the Bill in its original state.

Sir J. NEWPORT contended, that of all other things Reversions stood most in the way of any economical reform. He enumerated a variety of those reversions in Ireland, and instanced, in particular, that of Surveyor of the port of Dublin, the emoluments of which were above 2000*l.* per ann. and which had been granted for three lives. He said it would be endless to go through all the variety of offices connected with the revenue in Ireland, which had been reversion sinecures. Of these there were the Comptroller of Duties in the Port of Cork, where the principal had 1000*l.* and the deputy, who alone did the duty, had 300*l.* per ann. There was also the office of Taster of Wines—(a laugh)—not long ago re-established, in which there was not even the semblance of duty to discharge, which brought in 1000*l.* annually, and this he would not scruple to say, had been given to the Hon. J. Beresford, and in reversion to two of his sons. The Right Hon. Member enumerated other local offices of a similar description, and added, that it would be enough to say to the other House, you have had a'l these abuses presented to you in the Report of a Committee, to shew the expediency of preventing the Grant of Reversions. But if the Law Department of Ireland were looked into, the grants would be found still more enormous; and instead of 1 or 2000*l.* some would be found to rise to 8 or 9000*l.* a year. There had also been various compensations of the most shameful kind granted for the loss of offices by the Union; and it was well known that the Board of Compensations had sat three weeks considering what compensation should be given to the King's Rat-catcher—(a laugh).—The Hon. Gentleman then alluded to those means of influence and corruption by which he said the Union was brought about, and related an anecdote of a certain Noble Lord (Castlereagh) whom he was sorry not to see in his place, having urged a friend to accept an office only for a year, in order that he might be entitled to a pension for the loss of it. The Right Hon. Member pledged himself that he was prepared to bring all these things to light and establish them in the Committee. The Administration which brought about the Union, was tenaciously scrupulous of adhering to the fulfilment of every job, but had not kept one pledge which they had given to the Irish public.

Mr. BUNDELL had no doubt of the beneficial effects the public would ultimately derive from the abolishing of useless offices.

Lord PORCHESTER was surprised that any Bill which embraced a financial reform should meet with the slightest opposition. The public had a right to look to that House, and he trusted, by a manly perseverance, they would disregard the frowns of Princes.

Mr. WILBERFORCE said, it was high time to put a stop to Reversionary Grants, which were grown into enormous evils.

Mr. TIERNEY said that the Bill was formed for the privileges and interests of the people, and the members of

that House were imperiously called upon to defend it. There was a dark cabal lurking behind the throne, injurious to the public, and there never was a time when the junto came out boldly to defend themselves. He had heard of expressions, such as "Government know who made them, and Government will know who unmakes them." Government had not insured the unanimity of the country. He felt that he performed his duty to a high authority, when he stated that this Bill had brought his name in a situation which no good man would ever wish to see it placed. That name had been bandied about in the course of the discussions on the Bill in the most indecent manner. (Hear! Hear!)—It was a fixed principle of the Constitution, that Ministers had all the odium of Government, and the King all the good; but it was now changed, and when any thing was to be done, the Hon. Gentleman opposite came in for his share of the good. There was not a man in Administration who would get up to speak against the junto; they know what the tenure of their office was, and they wished to remain in office upon the terms on which they came in. The House abandoned the Bill when they submitted to its alteration. He would rather go to the King with an Address, as he did last summer, to suspend the granting of Places in Reversion for two years. There was no junto to contend against by this proceeding, for if the people of England went fairly before their Sovereign, they would be heard. By sending the Bill again in the shape proposed, they were to have another battle with the Lords in two years; and who knew but they might experience another defeat? He did not think by pursuing the proposed plan, that the House would arrive far in the estimation of the public, who attached importance to the Bill, because it was the corner stone of reform. The late Administration had abstained from giving away an office, the Tellership of the Exchequer, because they would begin with reform. All that appeared upon the proceedings of the House was, that they had assented to the rejection of the Bill by the Lords, without assigning any reasonable motive for acquiescence. They were called upon to support the privileges of the people, and ought not to deceive their constituents.

The question was then loudly called for, and the amendments were put and carried without a division.

A conversation then ensued on several clauses of the Bill, during which amendments were introduced. The Bill went through the Committee.—Adjourned.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8.

In a Committee of Supply, sums were voted for the pay and cloathing of the Militia, and for allowances to certain Officers of the Militia disembodied—48,000*l.* for employing convicts at home—2,500*l.* for the Stationary-Office—31,500*l.* for Stationary to both Houses of Parliament—4,450*l.* for the farther Preservation of the Public Records—and 5000*l.* on account, for completing the Buildings for the Royal Asylum, until the estimate for that edifice should be presented.

Mr. WHITBREAD's motion for the production of a Letter from Lord Gower relative to Russia, was negatived, on the ground that the letter was a private one to Mr. Canning, and its disclosure would even endanger the lives of persons who had given intelligence.

Mr. WHITBREAD deferred till Monday his motion respecting the Reversion Bill.—Adjourned till Monday.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, April 5, 1808.

[Transmitted by Vice-Admiral Whitshed.]

SIR, Dryad, at Sea, March 27.

I have great satisfaction in reporting to you the capture of the French brig privateer Rennair, by his Majesty's

snip under my command, in lat. 47. N. and long. 11. W. She has ports for 18 guns, but only mounts 12 six-pounders, and two 12-pounder carronades; sailed from Bourdeaux on the 10th instant, with a complement of 95 men, the half of which are Danes. She is a new vessel, and was on her first cruise; coppered, sails very fast, and complete with provisions and stores for three months. The only capture she has made is a Portuguese schooner, bound to Cork, laden with salt. I am, &c.

(Signed) ADAM DRUMMOND.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

George Harrison, Manchester, Lancashire, merchant.

BANKRUPTS.

- J. G. Caslake, White Horse-street, Stepney, tallow-chandler, to surrender April 11, at ten, 19, at eleven, May 17, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Fillingham, Union-street, Whitechapel.
- J. Beale, Southampton-street, Camberwell, mathematical instrument-maker, April 16, 26, May 17, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Surman, Golden-square.
- W. Dand, Whitehaven, muslin-manufacturer, April 13, 14, May 17, at eleven, at the Crown and Mitre, Carlisle. Attorney, Mr. Lowry, Carlisle.
- L. Redfern, Stockport, cotton-spinner, April 9, 16, May 17, at eleven, at the Dog and Partridge Inn, Stockport. Attorney, Mr. Harrop, Stockport.
- W. Boucher, Birmingham, toy maker, April 14, 16, May 17, at eleven, at the Bell Inn, Birmingham. Attornies, Messrs. Smith and Arnold, Birmingham.
- J. Whitehead, Stockport, victualler, April 18, 29, May 17, at four, at the Castle Inn, Stockport. Attorney, Mr. Baddeley, Stockport.
- S. Wright, Leeds, victualler, April 21, at six, 29, May 17, at eleven, at the White Swan, Leeds. Attorney, Mr. Granger, Leeds.
- W. Ord and J. Ewbank, Monkwearmouth-shore, mercers, April 29, 30, May 17, at eleven, at the Bridge Inn, Bishopwearmouth. Attorney, Mr. Collins, Bishopwearmouth.

DIVIDENDS.

- April 26. J. and T. Auther, Great St. Helen's, insurance-brokers.—April 30. E. Eagleton, Cheapside, grocer.—May 14. J. Finden, jun. Clifton-street, carrier.—May 7. F. Scurry, Kent-road, coal-dealer.—April 29. W. W. and J. M. Wright, Welleclose-square, coal-merchants.—May 7. R. Jameson, ironmonger-lane, linen-factor.—April 30. W. Kennett, Snow-hill, baker.—April 30. W. Ivey, Titchfield-street, tailor.
- May 3. H. Weeks, Edgware-road, carrier.—May 3. E. Manwaring, Welleclose-square, tallow-chandler.—April 26. W. Price, Leadenhall-street, tailor.—May 7. C. James, Cateaton-street, ribbon-manufacturer.—May 7. E. Warner, jun. Little New-street, Shoe-lane, lamp-manufacturer.—April 26. J. Appleby, Chatham, linen-draper.—May 3. J. Simpson, Artillery-street, Bermondsey, tallow-chandler.—April 26. R. Enock, Oxford-street, tailor.—May 10. T. Ward, Oxford-market, tallow-chandler.—May 3. W. Young, Seton, Yorkshire, grocer.—April 29. E. Wainwright, Thame, Oxfordshire, butcher.—April 28. J. Pearson, Altham, and T. Spence, Blackburn, corn-dealers.—May 2. R. Flint, Rotherham, liquor-merchant.—May 11. J. Cocher, Pitchcombe, Gloucestershire, clothier.—April 30. A. Harvie, Birmingham, factor.

CERTIFICATES—APRIL 26.

- S. Walker, Leeds, malster.—W. Davenport, Marsden, Yorkshire, innkeeper.—J. and J. R. Wilkinson and J. Charlesworth, Gildersome-street, Yorkshire, merchants.—J. Wilde, Dale, Yorkshire, clothier.—A. Henny, Thoruhaugh-street, painter.—F. Hall, Jermyn-street, cordwainer.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

The Gazette contains an account of the capture of the Danish privateer brig *Forden Shieold*, of 10 guns and 62 men, by the Ringdove sloop, Lieut. Peak. The privateer in endeavouring to escape had one man killed and two wounded. She sails remarkably fast, is copper-bottomed, and had only sailed from Bergen four hours when she was captured.

BANKRUPTCY ENLARGED.

J. Randall, Leeds, Yorkshire, grocer, from April 5, to April 30, at eleven, at the Talbot Inn, Leeds.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

J. Johnson and J. Statham, Twicken's Mills, near Towchester, millers.

W. Birchall, Stoke, City of Coventry, victualler.

BANKRUPTS.

- Edward Rhodes, Leeds, Yorkshire, currier, to surrender April 19, 20, May 21, at eleven, at the Woolpacks Inn, Wakefield. Attorney, Mr. Brooke, Wakefield.
- John Hulbert, Bristol, soap-boiler, April 22, 23, May 21, at eleven, at the Bush Tavern, Bristol. Attorney, Mr. Stephens, Bristol.
- George Whitham, Addingham, Yorkshire, drover, April 19, 20, May 21, at the Black Horse, Skipton. Attornies, Messrs. Alcock and Preston, Skipton.
- Henry Mould, Winchester, cabinet-maker, April 16, at one, 26, May 21, at eleven, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Ware, Blackman-street, Southwark.
- William Henderson, Paternoster-row, draper, April 16, at ten, 19, May 21, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Adams, Old Jewry.
- Thomas Taylor, Liverpool, tea-dealer, May 10, 11, 21, at one, at the Star and Garter Tavern, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Avison, Liverpool.
- Thomas Seddon, Salford, Lancashire, victualler, April 28, 29, May 21, at eleven, at the Dog Tavern, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Knight, Manchester.
- Richard Loat, Long-Acre, ironmonger, April 12, 26, May 21, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Jennings and Collier, Great Shire-lane, Lincoln's-inn.
- Edward Tier Axford, Tothill-street, haberdasher, April 16, at one, 22, May 21, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Mason, Rectory-house, St. Michael's-alley.
- Foice Champion, Beech-street, Barbican, boot-maker, April 16, 23, May 21, at ten, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Higden and Sym, Curriers'-hall, London-wall.
- James Shynn, Bow, Middlesex, whitesmith, April 12, 19, May 21, at ten, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Harding, Primrose-street, Bishopgate-street.
- Mark Malin, Highgate, dealer, April 22, 30, May 21, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Field, Richmond-buildings, Soho.
- Henry Hart, Great Coram-street, Brunswick-square, broker, April 19, 30, May 21, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Isaacs, Mitre-court, Aldgate.
- John Layton Ireland, Shoreditch, cheesemonger, April 16, 23, May 21, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Clifton, St. Thomas-street, Southwark.
- Thomas Cotton, Cornhill, stock-broker, April 19, 26, May 21, at one, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Winter, Kaye, Beckwith, and Freshfield, St. Swinfin's-lane.

DIVIDENDS.

- May 2. T. Clifford, Birmingham, mesnman.—May 2. R. Sowley, Knowle, Warwickshire, cornfactor.—May 2. O. Ayles, Topsham, Devonshire, ship-builder.—April 29. W. Garner, Thetford, Norfolk, merchant.—May 10. J. T. Jackson, Washway, Lambeth, stock-broker.
- April 30. S. Brunn, Chancery-lane, sword-cutter.—May 3. A. Strother, Tottenham, warehousman.

—May 14. T. Livermore, sen. Chelmsford, grocer.—
 May 2. C. Clark, Carlisle, mercer.—May 2. J. Stubbs,
 Liverpool, woollen-draper.—April 30. J. C. Morrey,
 Manchester, cotton-manufacturer.—April 30. J. Sayer,
 Upper North-place, Gray's-inn-lane, and J. Jeffery,
 Tichfield-street, Mary-le-bone, coach-makers.—May
 24. J. Wilson, St. George's-fields, umbrella-maker.—
 June 1. P. Lindsay, Barking, Essex, farmer.—May 12.
 A. Woodward, Liverpool, wine-merchant.

CERTIFICATES—APRIL 23.

E. Weaver, Newark-upon-Trent, draper.—James Mann,
 Warwick, grocer.—J. Endfield, jun. Langham, Essex,
 merchant.—J. Pearson, Altham, and T. Spence, Black-
 burn, corn-dealers.—T. Topham, Manchester, merchant.
 —H. Cooke and J. Herbert, Birchin-lane, merchants.
 —O. Mann, Greetland, Halifax, worsted-manufacturer.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

Consols.....65½.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON:

SUNDAY, APRIL 10.

SIR RICHARD STRACHAN is still the subject of a hundred rumours. It was reported last Friday, on the authority of a Gentleman from Cadiz, that he had arrived at Palermo in Sicily; but Government have received no intelligence of the kind. The late account of his victory is not believed at Lisbon; the *Courageux* of 74 guns, Captain BISSETT, which arrived on Friday from the Mediterranean, has given us no intelligence to clear up the doubt, and in fact it has been imagined for two or three days past, that Government have received accounts altogether unfavourable to the sanguine expectations of the Public.

SIR JOHN DUCKWORTH, who went to the West Indies in search of the Rochefort squadron, is said to be returning home.

The *General Stuart* packet has arrived off Portsmouth from Bengal, from which place she set sail on the 8th December. The Ministerial Papers seem inclined to conceal a disastrous piece of intelligence which this packet has brought respecting our affairs in India. They tell us, that a Fort called Kitsmore, near Alighur, was taken by our troops on the 24th November, after a month's siege, but they do not attempt to explain how these hostilities could exist at a time when India was supposed to be in a state of complete repose. An Opposition Paper informs us however that the packet brings an account of what is called an insurrection of one of the Rajahs against the British Government. In an attempt to gain the fort, of which the insurgents had taken possession, it is said not only that the Rajah made his retreat in safety, but that *thirty-eight officers* lost their lives.—The origin of this insurrection remains to be explained. The native Indian chief is a person who cannot be considered as a

very immoral rebellion against a very moral government. A petty ruler does not rise against so powerful a master from a mere wantonness of sedition. Every Englishman must be sorry to hear of the slaughter of his own gallant countrymen, especially when he considers that the soldiers in India know as little about the justice of their cause as about the origin of the Indian languages. But the word Rajah, which once sounded to European ears, through history and romance, as the title of illustrious personages great in arms, and still greater in wealth, has now become another word for the oppressed and the plundered, for exiles and for slaves, for miserable men hunted out of their homes by the fire and sword of the freest nation in Europe. English Liberty is a very fine preacher at home, but in truth she makes a very bad missionary. In former times, men, who called themselves Christians, have devoted their fellow-creatures to the stake purely to convert them to the doctrine of universal Charity; and in the present times, men who call themselves freemen, have devoted their fellow-creatures to chains purely to subject them to a Land of Liberty!

Not a single piece of information had been received since our last respecting the war in Finland, or the proceedings of the French in the North. If they succeed in passing into Sweden, all is lost.

The first accounts respecting the action between *L'Aigle* and a French frigate were not correct. Government dispatches are said to state, that *L'Aigle* and the *Impetueux* were in company when two French frigates hove in sight; *L'Aigle* very soon brought one of the frigates to action, which had not continued long when the French Captain, finding it impossible to resist any longer, set all the sail he could, and ran directly stem on upon the island of Grouais, when all her top-masts went over her side, and mizen-mast by the board. On the following morning she appeared to be a perfect wreck, lying upon her beam-ends, and the sea breaking over her. A shift of wind having taken place, it became impossible for *L'Aigle* to set fire to her; and the French having been enabled, by a number of craft from *L'Orient*, to lighten her, they succeeded in getting her into *L'Orient*. The other frigate escaped the *Impetueux* by superior sailing. *L'Aigle* had nine men wounded. Capt. Wolfe's wound is very slight.

A more circumstantial statement is given in a letter from an Officer on board his Majesty's ship *Impetueux*, dated March 29:—

"On the 22d inst, being at anchor near the Glenans, a ship was seen by the Isle of Grois. We got under weigh, and while in chase, the Cuckoo schooner spoke us, and gave information of their being two French frigates, which we then plainly perceived between the Isle of Grois and the main land. *L'Aigle* frigate commenced the action, and soon after our ship gave her a broadside, which, we have since learned, killed the Captain, First Lieutenant, and Commissary, with 25 seamen, and wounded 36. The one drove on shore, and the other was obliged to anchor among the rocks, where she remained two days; but afterwards both got into *L'Orient*."



On Tuesday, the agreeable news was received at the East India House, of the safe arrival of the following ships in the Downs, under convoy of his Majesty's ship *Diadem*, from the Cape of Good Hope, viz.

The Marchioness of Exeter, Capt. Nash; Admiral Gardner, Capt. Eastfield; Lord Melville, Capt. Lennox; Dover Castle, Capt. Richardson; and Baring, Captain Carnegie—from Bengal and Madras.

United Kingdom, Capt. D'Estierre—from Madras.

Devaynes, Capt. Adderley; Tottenham, Capt. Jones; and Union, Capt. Macintosh—extra ships from Bengal and Madras.

The principal article of intelligence which we have derived from the late India arrivals, respects a secret expedition which sailed from Madras on the 10th of October, under Sir E. PELLEW. The detachment consisted of four men of war, and the Worcester and Lord Duncan Indianmen, used as transports. There were on board six companies of European regiments. The expedition directed its course towards the East, and it was known that the ships were to call at Penang, for an European regiment. Unfortunately, soon after they set sail, the vessels encountered a gale of wind, by which they were separated. The Lord Duncan was compelled to return to Sangor Roads.—Nothing had transpired at Madras with respect to the object of the expedition, but the best informed persons entertained no doubt that an attack was meditated upon Batavia.

Mr. COBBETT states, that the appointment of Lieutenant-General WHITELOCKE "was determined on in consequence of the strongest recommendations, signed by several of the first Officers in the military service." This information, coming from one to whom Mr. WINDEHAM'S reputation has always been considered dear, is, we presume, to be considered as that Right Hon. Gentleman's official absolution of himself in the appointment of General WHITELOCKE, of all responsibility in that unhappy affair. The country at large will have much cause for complaint, if the above recommendation, thus signed, be not made public—be not moved for, and produced; for if the persons so recommending and signing be indeed "several of the first Officers in the military service," that is, if they be persons who must have the selection and appointment of subordinate agents in any duty upon which they may be ordered, it is of the first importance that men thus evidently incompetent to the task of selection, should be removed from the possibility of further injuring their country by their blindness and want of discrimination.

The late General WHITELOCKE has taken a villa near Mitcham, in Surrey, to which he retires with his family in a few days.

Mr. LAMBERT, of the Stock Exchange, who committed suicide on Monday, was accustomed to give the most sumptuous entertainments to the Nobility and Gentry at his beautiful villa, the accounts of which figured in the newspapers. His musical parties were splendid—and he was one of the men who find that nothing is more easy than to gain access to the fashionable world, if you will invite them to a superb mansion and a magnificent fete.

It is said that BONAPARTE has ordered a statue of ALEXANDER I. to be cut out of one entire block.

The amateurs of boxing have had the impudence to advertise a meeting, in a few days, of Belcher and Dockarty, notwithstanding the late prohibition. Any Magistrate that shall suffer such a violation of the laws in his district, having notice of it's being about to take place, ought to answer all the consequences at his utmost peril.

The Magistrates did well in preventing the pugilistic fight last Tuesday; but they might still do better, and annihilate the savage practice, by binding over all its notorious professors in heavy penalties to keep the peace.

At the Middlesex Sessions, yesterday, *Charles White*, a notorious swindler, was convicted of breaking out of Tothill-fields Bridewell, a few weeks since, by forcing an iron bar; he was afterwards heard of at Stratford, where Anthony, the officer, and the prison-keeper of Tothill-fields went to secure him. The prisoner made a stout resistance, and, together with a ferocious bull-dog, kept the officers at a distance for some time; but after an attack was made, the dog seized his master, and very much maimed him. After he had loosed his hold, he seized Anthony by the hip, and the officer being within reach of a knife, he cut the throat of the dog, and the prisoner was at length secured.—A motley group of Dissenters, of all sizes, ages, and professions, exhibited themselves in Court, to be sworn in Preachers. Several of them, who undertook to instruct the ignorant, were under 21 years of age, and were consequently refused the oath; but the others were sworn in.

Child-stealing has now become a common crime, and yet there is no law to punish the horrid offenders; they can only be indicted for stealing the wearing apparel, though they may have plunged whole families into the bitterest of all afflictions.

STARACE, it is said, actually retires from public life at the end of the present season. Report says that she has realized not less than 40,000*l*.

On Tuesday a conger eel was taken in the Wash at Yarmouth, by a fisherman, which measured six feet in length, and twenty-two inches in girth, and weighed three stone seven pounds. This eel, on finding no way for escape, rose erect, and actually knocked the fisherman down before he could take it.

ADDISON was particularly reserved in company when strangers were present. Dr. MANDEVILLE, after passing an evening in his company, was asked his opinion of ADDISON, "I think," answered the Doctor, "he is a person in a tye-wig."

A Frenchman among other eulogia, told one of our brave and victorious soldiers at Acre, that BONAPARTE was a *Rara Avis*. "Yes," said the soldier, "I once saw him fly."

A few days ago an Undertaker was observed to shed tears at the interment of a Quack Doctor—a friend asked him the cause of it—"Why," said he, "you see I have just buried one of my best friends."

A bruising match lately took place at Kendal, between two fellows of the names of *Best* and *Hill*, both of some pugilistic celebrity—*Hill* beat his antagonist hollow, so that of course *Best* got the worst of it.

The Duke of PORTLAND is called the *Nestor* of Ministers—from his age, no doubt.

The late Mungo PARK, the African Traveller, was a native of Scotland, and was bred to the profession of a Surgeon. He was a fine tall figure, early inured to travel and fatigue in the East and West Indies. In conversation modest and communicative, and in his writings he has not once availed himself of the privilege of travellers.

It is said that Mrs. Siddons once paid a visit to Dr. Johnson, who received her, notwithstanding his avowed contempt for actors, with great politeness. His servant not readily accommodating her with a chair, Johnson gallantly observed, "You see, Madam, whenever you appear, there is no obtaining seats."

COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

On Thursday her MAJESTY held a Drawing-room at St. James's Palace, which, for the time of year, was but thinly attended. Among the Ladies who were most distinguished for the elegance of their dresses, were the Countess of Loudon and Moira; Lady Mildmay, and her three lovely daughters; Lady Rancliffe, Lady Grey, Misses De Blaquiere and Perrins.—The Countess of Loudon and Moira came to Court with more splendour than any other Lady. She came in a most elegant new chair, attended by four footmen, in their superb state liveries, which they had new for the christening of Lord Mauchline on Monday, richly covered with silk and tassels; their hats vandyked with broad rich lace. The chairmen wore similar liveries, and all of them had new silk stockings.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 15.

MR. T. DIBDIN'S MOCK-MELODRAMA.—IT'S DAMNATION, IT'S MEANS OF EXISTENCE, AND THE GROSS FALSHOODS OF THE PLAY-BILLS.—DEFINITIONS OF BURLESQUE AND MOCK-HEROIC.—MR. DIBDIN'S UTTER CONFUSION AND IGNORANCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HIS RIDICULE.—A QUESTION RESPECTING PLAY-WRIGHTS WHO MAKE VEHICLES FOR MUSIC.—AND AN OLD FABLE EARNESTLY RECOMMENDED TO ALL WRITERS OF OPEA WHO ENTERTAIN A MODEST OPINION OF THEMSELVES.

COVENT-GARDEN.

I am really almost ashamed to enter into any serious criticism upon the new burlesque melo-drama, which is the most stupid piece of impertinence that has disgraced the English stage for some years past; but when such a writer as Mr. T. Dibdin commences dramatic satirist, the critics must naturally be surprised enough to enquire into his pretensions to so unexpected an office. This melo-drama, to which Mr. Dibdin has given the four titles of *Bonifacio and Bridgetina*, or the *Knight of the Hermitage*, or the *Windmill Turret*, or the *Spectre of the North-East Gallery*, was so completely damned on its first performance last Tuesday week, that the performer who came to announce its second representation could not obtain a hearing amidst the universal hisses and groans, and the audience departed under a romantic

persuasion that the piece would be withdrawn. But these petty hints of disapprobation are nothing to modern dramatists: the managers of the theatres prove their affection for public opinion by growing bolder from denial; and the new melodrama was announced, as usual, in the play-bills of the next day, as an exquisite production which set the audience in *universal and continued peals of laughter*. This was a miserable artifice as well as a miserable falsehood. Those who heard the laughter can bear witness with me, that it proceeded rather from contempt than merriment: the better part of the audience had never heard any thing so grossly ridiculous as the dialogue, they were amused at the ludicrous presumption of the author, and they occasionally burst into that kind of laughter which by its lagging and tremulous depth announces a feeling very different from that of the loud and sudden shout. Mr. KEMBLE, I have understood, is the present Acting Manager of Covent-Garden, and how that grave actor or any manager whatever can reconcile the perpetual falsehoods of these play-bills to the gratitude which is due to the public, or even to the feelings of honest men and gentlemen, is a problem not to be solved by the admirers of truth. It is reckoned sufficiently gross and contemptible in any person to tell a lie to a single man, but as these bills are intended for the whole town, they of course tell lies to every body in the town, and every body therefore is insulted. This is the true quackery of theatres: they must impose upon people by the vilest puffs, before their physic can be swallowed: the new audience on the second night do not like to condemn a piece which has been so highly applauded by the critics of a first night; they laugh where they can, say nothing where they cannot laugh, and with the help of songs, and scenery, and play-bills, the new piece becomes the standing opiate of the season. The poets of the modern stage do indeed live by fiction.

I said in my Paper of last week that "a writer of mock-heroic should have a correct taste for the true heroic, or he will not know how to produce the proper contrast between his subject and its style." I use the term burlesque and mock heroic indiscriminately, when speaking of Mr. Dibdin's melodrama, though they are literally very different things; but Mr. Dibdin, who has no sort of taste for real heroic, has of course been totally ignorant how to ridicule the violation of it in others. The writers of mock-poetry have left the different species undefined; but if the subject be at all considered, it will be found that mock-heroic consists in the use of serious language upon a familiar subject, and burlesque in the use of familiar language upon a serious subject. Thus the *Rape of the Lock* and the *Lutrin* are mock-heroic poems, and the tragedy of *Tom Thumb* a burlesque. The *Splendid Shilling* of PHILLIPS, though it wants machinery and is confounded with burlesque, is nevertheless a mock-heroic piece: the author meditates on the possession of a shilling, just as an epic poet might be supposed to meditate on the possession of a good conscience or any other great blessing: he does not, in short, degrade an important subject, but elevates an unimportant one: he renders familiarity great, not greatness familiar. Mr. Dibdin has managed to find out that the language and the subject

ought to differ, but his indefinite notions of ridicule have not taught him to separate the mock-heroic from the burlesque: his attempts therefore are perpetually clashing: when he should be pompous he becomes trifling, when he should be trifling he becomes unexpectedly serious. His story is naturally grave and heroic; a Nobleman's estate is usurped by his relation, who is prepared for any villainy that shall secure his ill-gotten elevation: the characters therefore are naturally heroic, because their means and designs are truly substantial, and might appear in a real tragedy or epic; but alas, Mr. DIBBIN has confounded the *ridiculous effect*, which these hacknied characters produce in hacknied dramas, with the *real character* they ought to sustain, and imagining them to be *ridiculously familiar* has endeavoured to raise them into heroic by language really lofty; the really serious character therefore of these rich and great personages meets with really serious language, and of course the effect is unexpectedly grave. Mr. DIBBIN seems however to have been perplexed with this seriousness as well as ourselves, and therefore has thrust into the middle of grave speeches a few common phrases and vulgar allusions, which merely serve to render the mixture of burlesque and mock-heroic more surprising and to hinder the audience from laughing by keeping them in a state of stupid enquiry: his personages have five serious lines to one comic, and as they talk with common seriousness about a serious business, one is astonished why they should every now and then introduce a ludicrous phrase or allusion in contradiction to their own character. It is necessary both to burlesque and mock-heroic, that the characters and dialogue should disagree, and this disagreement should not be partial but continual, otherwise the poem or drama is not a perfect piece of ridicule. In the *Rape of the Lock* the speakers are always serious in the midst of familiar action; in *Tom Thumb* they are always familiar in the midst of serious action. Mr. DIBBIN generally gives serious dialogue to serious action, and familiar to familiar action: now where is the ridicule of this? One of his personages, who is a real knight, almost always speaks seriously except in the pronunciation of the word *nephew*, which he invariably calls *nevy*: now I cannot, with all my exertion, discover the satire of this. His chief humour however consists in making his characters flatly contradict themselves by the most manifest bulls: *Sir Hildebrand* for instance tells us with his own mouth, that he was *slain* in battle, and at the same time informs the person with whom he is talking, that as he has told him *all* his story, he will tell him the *rest* another time. All this puts one at a great loss. I rather conjecture, that Mr. DIBBIN had some vague idea of that burlesque contrast, which introduces an extreme familiarity by a preface of important preparation, or in other words, introduces a speech of no meaning by a preparation of some meaning. In *Tom Thumb* for instance, *Lord Grizzle* in answer to some enquiry from the *Queen* tells her that "as far as he could conjecture, &c. &c. &c. he really did not know." This is a touch of ridiculous importance natural enough to a simpleton, and FARQUHAR has the very same idea in his picture of the ludicrous importance of *Scrub* in the *Beaux Stratagem*. But

the most simple of all simpletons would never think of saying that his face was black because it was white; yet Mr. DIBBIN's contrasts are evidently of this kind. There are a number of instances similar to those I have already quoted. One of his females begs that the robbers will not deprive her of "all," because she has "nothing to lose." By all this affected pleasantry, the characters themselves become theatrical performers, the performers therefore are but the actors of actors, and the stage is reduced to an imitation of itself. The characters exhibit an intentional burlesque, and the humour entirely loses its zest, just as a man who falls to the ground on purpose loses the ridiculous effect of an unavoidable fall.

I anticipate the common answer to all these objections. The author, it is said, intends his composition for nothing but a vehicle to the music and scenery: he claims little merit for himself, he does not wish to be thought a genius.

In the first place however, as to the vehicle of music and scenery, I really do not see the right which any dramatist possesses to give a bad vehicle to good music. This is not only a dishonour to the music, but it is as much as to say to the audience, "You do not care for poetry: sound is sufficient for your ears." I am very sure that MESSRS. LONGMAN and BRODERIP would never send home one of their pianos on a brewer's sledge; and why should a dramatist be allowed to jolt and destroy good music by any wretched vehicle he chuses? In the second place, I do not suppose that the customary dramatists of opera and pantomime could produce a better vehicle if they wished it: and lastly, when the modern opera writer talks of his little claims and his little wishes, I by no means believe this modesty of claim and this humility of wish: I have very good reasons for supposing, that the authors of these wretched pieces regard themselves not only as legitimate dramatists, but as ornaments of the British stage, that they claim the honour of supporting the finest singers, and that with a blind self-importance they refer us to the perpetual performance of their operas as a proof of their consummate genius. I will put them in mind of an old fable. A jackass laden with holy relics and images, happening to pass through a French town, perceived the inhabitants fall down on their knees at his approach and make the customary gestures of adoration: this behaviour tickled him excessively; he pricked up his long ears, and commenced a very awkward kind of stateliness:—"Upon my honour," said he to himself, "these fellows have taste; they are doing homage to the beauty of my person."

THE OPERA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—After a very wretched representation of the first act of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, on Tuesday evening, the Public were presented with as miserable a performance of Cimarosa's celebrated opera of *Il Capriccio Drammatico*. This opera has not been played before for many years, and the revival would have done credit to the Managers, had the singers been capable of representing it; but this, in the present state of the company, is as impracticable as the per-

formance of a concerto on a violin without strings, or the execution of a harp sonata on a gridiron. CIMA-ROSA, I think, may be placed above every other Italian composer; his music seems to be the link that forms connection between the styles of Germany and Italy. With the sportive fancy and elegance for which the Italian music is remarkable, he combines the solidity and grandeur of the German school. To those whose admiration is directed to the trills, turns, and tricks of the singer, more than to the beauty of the music, the representation on Tuesday night must have been as insufferably dull as a Quaker's Meeting, when unvisited by the Spirit; but to those who enjoy music for its intrinsic excellence, it must have been highly gratifying, as far as the orchestra was concerned, excepting the execution of CATALANI's brother on the oboe, which would disgrace an amateur. He does not appear to have any command over the instrument, but plays as those people sing who are unacquainted with music, and think that taste consists in sinking the voice into a dying softness that is scarcely to be heard, and then furiously bursting forth into sounds that split the ears of their friends and endanger the safety of their blood vessels.

Of the vocal performers I regret that I cannot speak in terms of praise. Madame DUSSECK still possesses all the defects observable in her former characters; indeed, it is as impossible that she can ever act well, as it would be for an idiot to write an essay on the human understanding. RIGHI seems to think comic humour consists in a perpetual grin, a loud exertion of voice, and a furious gesture; these, instead of being comic, are a representation of the worst of all afflictions—they are more resembling insanity than mirth. MORELLI and ROVEDINO are in the decline of life, and the abilities they once possessed are nearly obliterated by age. BRAGHETTI looks as if he was always enjoying a quiet doze, which, by a kind of sympathetic affection, communicates a similar sensation to the audience. From such a company what amusement can be expected? H. R.

FINE ARTS.

Sir JOHN LEICESTER has lately added to his charming gallery of British art Mr. WEST's celebrated *Bacchante*. Sir JOHN merits well of his country for his patriotic as well as tasteful and exclusive encouragement of our British Painters.

The Prince of WALES has added to his collection the beautiful drawings of Mr. FOX and the Duchess of DEVONSHIRE, from the pencil of LANE.

ANALYSIS OF LONGMAN AND REES'S FIRST NUMBER OF THE BRITISH GALLERY OF PICTURES.

The first series of this work is merely a catalogue in picture, executed as well as things of this kind in general are, but the coloured number of it is indifferent; it will however answer the purpose for which we suppose it was intended, a cheap and agreeable companion to the various Galleries and Collections of Pictures.

The second series is to consist of highly finished engravings of the best pictures in the country, accom-

panied by a history of Painting and its Professors.—The number now under consideration contains *The Woman taken in Adultery*, engraved by CARDON, from Mr. UWINS' admirable copy of the splendid *Rubens* in the possession of HENRY HOPE, Esq.

Of this engraving we cannot speak with too great praise. It contains almost all the requisites for perfection as an engraving. The characters are delineated with energy and truth. The drawing is masterly. The texture of the dresses, on which the richness of RUBENS' pictures so much depends, is accurately discriminated. The light and shade is managed with infinite address, and in perfect accordance with the best principles of art.

If disposed to find fault, we should say, that the lights in some parts are a little too much rounded and softened, producing rather a metallic effect: but we say this with "fear and trembling." Mr. CARDON has displayed such mastery of his art, has proved himself so great a hero of the burin, that the critic must be confident indeed who can censure without the utmost caution. We are content to "hint a fault and hesitate dislike." Perhaps our objection will be better understood by a reference to the *Paris* of SCHIAVONETTI, a print which ought to be hung up in the study of every engraver. Here the lights on the flesh are soft without insipidity, and brilliant without glare.—We have in a former number characterised it by Sir Joshua Reynolds' beautiful expression, "deep toned brightness."

We cannot help regretting that this number is a work of opposition. Opposition in undertakings of such magnitude cannot fail of injuring all parties concerned, without producing to the public any benefit. What might not have been effected by a concentration of all the various powers and talents of the country? The mixed style of engraving, as it admits of every variety of tool, and is not confined by any law, would have been admirably adapted to express the character of the Flemish and Venetian pictures; and the more commanding powers of the line reserved for the landscapes of Salvator and Poussin—for the silvery brightness of the Dutch pencilling, or for the severe and learned productions of the Italian masters.

Of the coloured department of this work, in spite of the hue and cry raised against it, we are compelled to speak in terms of admiration. All the common place observations upon coloured prints are totally inapplicable to these, and we have no hesitation in saying, that if every future number be wrought up to the same perfection which is attained in this, that the promises of the prospectus will be not only realised, but exceeded.

In the literary part of this work the names of Otley and Tresham are sufficient guarantees to the public for information and elegance, as the specimen already given evinces.

PRIZE FIGHTING.

It is with much satisfaction we find that we have not in vain called the attention of the Magistrates to the disgraceful practice of prize-fighting, the general prevalence of which has of late become a most crying

evil. The prime scene of brutal blackguardism intended to have been exhibited on Tuesday at Moulsey Hurst, was prevented taking place by the vigilance of the Police, and the disgrace of the day consisted chiefly in the combats of a few minor vagabonds and noted pick-pockets.

While the mischief was confined to a few foolish young men of a sort of half fashion, who, possessing neither virtue nor talents to raise themselves to honourable distinction, sought an infamous notoriety, by becoming the patrons and supporters of those brutal contests which are the peculiar disgrace of the English nation, however lamentable the example of so bad a taste may have been, no moral derangement of general society was apprehended. But of late the practice of prize-fighting has become a regular trade, in which every labourer or artisan, remarkable for strength or hardihood, is uniformly trained and exercised, as in a kind of apprenticeship, then matched against an opponent of equal weight, for a purse proportioned to the rank of the pair in the community of boxers; the victor is drawn on to more arduous encounters, by the interested praises of those who delight in seeing the blood of others shed, not daring to shed their own. The temptation of increased emoluments earned in a little time, and the prospect that a superior power in giving, and a superior firmness in bearing blows, may in time raise him to the station of Champion of England, overcome every principle of honesty and decency, and the respectable tradesman becomes an idler, a blackguard, and in process of time a robber. The title of Champion, that is, Chief Boxer of England, is sought for by those deluded creatures, with as much eagerness as that of Prime Minister by the heads of political parties. There is a stipend of 50l. a year annexed, which the holder is beaten into, and beaten out of, almost every second year. This, with the subscription purses for his battles, while he continues able to fight, and the profits of a public-house frequented by bullies and their backers, constitute the splendid revenue for which these unfortunate wretches are induced to desert the paths of honesty, industry, and virtue, and to plunge themselves in all the horrors of guilt and shame. But these advantages, especially with the habits of life contracted in acquiring them, are precarious and transitory; the unhappy prize-fighter generally finds himself at the approach of old age destitute and friendless, and is compelled to seek a miserable subsistence by teaching others the trade that throve so badly with himself, by seducing the young and vigorous to waste the blessings of Providence, in furnishing a gratification which his decayed strength can no longer supply to the brutal patrons of the pugilistic art.

Let it not be said, that this disgraceful practice of prize-fighting, like the gymnastic exercises of the Greeks and Romans, keeps up the martial spirit of the people, and teaches Britons to meet their external enemies with that invincible fortitude which they always display. Which of these prize-fighters has ever been known to offer himself as a volunteer to fight the battles of his country, when the call of danger or of glory was most loudly sounded, and by all other classes generally obeyed? We will go farther, and

ask, which of their abettors or patrons ever gave any proof that the art inspired this patriotic valour? No; idleness, drunkenness, blackguardism, theft, and robbery, are the only consequences that result from this practice. It is to the Calendar of the Old Bailey, and not to our military annals, that we are to look for the exploits of its vagabond votaries. The extension of the practice at the present time, gives room for well-grounded apprehensions of all the multiplications of the worst crimes, and the worst vices. We therefore trust the Magistrates will continue their vigilance, and exert it to the utmost: and as far as our efforts can contribute to the salutary object we have in view, the public may rest assured they will not be wanting.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

That active and successful depredator on English commerce, Sourcouff, has announced his return to the Bay of Bengal, by the capture of two large valuable ships, both belonging to the port of Calcutta, the *Mangles* and *Trafalgar*, who were on their passage from Bengal to Madras, with cargoes of rice, an article of the utmost value to the captors, as the latest accounts from the Mauritius gave a dismal picture of the sufferings of the island from the effects of famine, and particularly from the scarcity of grain.

Monday a Court Martial was held on board the *Salvador del Mundo*, 112, in *Hambaze*, on five mutineers of the *Edgar*, 74, Capt. Macnamara, viz.—*Henry Chesterfield*, captain of the main-top; *John Rowlands*, boatswain's mate; *George Scarr*, *Abraham Davis*, and *James Johnson*; seamen, on a charge of mutinous expressions on board that ship, on the 27th of March last, while she was in Cawsand Bay. When the evidence for the prosecution having been gone through and the prisoners heard in their defence, the Court found them guilty, and passed the following sentence upon them, viz.—*Chesterfield* to receive 700 lashes round the fleet, and to be kept in solitary confinement two years; *Rowlands* 300 lashes; *Scarr* 500 lashes, and one year's solitary confinement; and *Davis* and *Johnson* 200 lashes each.

On Thursday se'night came into Leith harbour, to be repaired, his Majesty's sloop *Childers*, after an engagement with a Danish brig of war of very superior force. We are happy to lay before the public a copy of Capt. Dillon's statement to the Admiralty, who have signified their high approbation of his conduct, as well as that of all his officers and crew, by official letter, and conferred on him the rank of Post Captain:—

Sir, Leith, 18th March, 1808.

I have the honour to acquaint you, that on the 11th inst. at four P. M. when standing in for the coast of Norway, a sail was discovered in-shore, and, on seeing us, appeared to be seeking a port for safety. We instantly gave chase, with a fresh breeze from the eastward. As we neared her, she was hauled amongst the rocks, out of our sight, to take shelter in the small port of Midbe. Immediately a number of boats came out to her assistance, I suppose with the intention of removing her cargo. I dispatched Mr. Wilson, acting master, accompanied by Mr. Knight, mate, with the cutter well armed, to bring her out; the jolly-boat was also sent with Mr. McNicholl, gunner, and Mr. Le Neve, purser, who volunteered his services. This duty was performed by Mr. Wilson, with

the utmost gallantry; for, when mixing with the boats, they were dispersed in all directions, leaving him at liberty to board the vessel, in doing which he was opposed by the inhabitants with musketry, while others hurled down stones upon our men from the top of the precipice, under which she lay secured; however, she was carried without any loss, to the astonishment of an increasing multitude, who crowded together on the surrounding heights. She is a galliot (name unknown, her crew having deserted), with only part of her cargo, consisting principally of oil and fish. Scarcely had the galliot been in sight from under the rocks, when a large brig was observed coming out of Hitteroe. He bore down on us with confidence, indicating a vessel of force, and apparently with the design of rescuing the prize. About six, he got on our weather-beam, and, judging him to be within the reach of our guns, I sent a challenge, by firing a shot over him. He hauled his wind close, and kept in-shore. Finding he would not join us, I made sail for the purpose of bringing him to action, which soon commenced at half gun-shot range, distant from the shore half a mile, passing each other on different tacks. When he received our first broadside, he caught fire forward, and had we been closer at the moment, to profit of his confusion, I have no doubt of the result. He kept so near the land, that he was held from our view, so that we could only be guided in our fire by the flash of his guns, and were also, from this circumstance, prevented weathering him. We continued engaging him in this manner for three hours, but found he had a decided advantage over us. The Dane was a man of war, well-appointed in every respect, carrying long 18-pounders, and seemingly had taken fresh courage after a few of our broadsides, as if aware of our inferiority to him in weight of metal, the Childers bearing only 12 pounder carronades: latterly, his guns were so well directed, that every shot did us mischief, particularly between wind and water.— Observing that nothing could be done whilst he kept so near his own port, from whence he might at pleasure draw fresh supplies of men, I conceived the plan of enticing him out to sea, where the contest would be more equal, by giving us an opportunity of forcing him to close action, which he had hitherto so repeatedly avoided. In order to effect this, I stood out under easy sail. It was some time before he relished the idea of following us; but in the end he did so. At eleven, he was about three miles off the land. I set the courses and tacks, intending to weather him. As we approached, the wind unfortunately headed us, and foiled our attempt. I therefore passed under his lee, as close as it could be done, without touching, and poured round and grape upon his decks, which I imagine did the Dane much damage, for we distinctly heard the groans of the wounded; his guns also did us material injury, most of his shot taking us between wind and water; and when on the point of renewing the battle, it proved impossible. In the mean time the enemy tacked, and made sail to regain the shore, and we shortly after lost sight of him. I was mortified that our situation would not admit of our pursuing the enemy. We had five feet water in the hold, the magazine afloat, the lower masts wounded, bowsprit and main-mast badly, and the pumps increasing on us in such a way, as to make it doubtful whether we should be able to prevent our vessel sinking under us. In this position we bore up to secure our prize, with the only satisfaction left us of having driven a man of war, of much superior force, off the field of action, which we kept during the space of six hours, in the very entrance of his own harbour." The letter then proceeds to pronounce an eulogium upon the officers and crew, and concludes thus:—"Not being able to keep at sea, from the nature of our leaks and wounded masts, I could not put into execution the remaining part of your orders—have in consequence judged it proper to return to this anchorage with my prize. I am, &c.

W. H. DILLON."

Rear-Admiral Yashon, &c.

LIST OF KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Killed.—Mr. Roberts, Captain's Clerk. William Jones, Boatswain's Mate.

Wounded.—Captain Dillon, badly in both legs; his arm and shoulder very much contused. Mr. Batters, Midshipman, slightly. Mr. Parker, Midshipman, slightly. Corporal Allander, of Marines, slightly. John Holding, Seaman, badly on the hand: lost one finger. Dennis Burke, Seaman, badly. John Constable, private Marine, slightly. John George Marshal, boy, slightly.

LAW.

COURT OF CHANCERY.

Thursday, April 7.

The delicate and important question submitted to the CHANCELLOR, respecting the care and custody of Lord Aghrim, was again agitated. It will be remembered that Lord Athlone imputed to Lady Aghrim that she had removed his son to a great distance, had concealed the place of his residence, and had entirely shut out his Lordship from the anxious and affectionate solicitude and attention of his family and friends; and further, the affidavits filed by his Lordship went on to describe her Ladyship as unfit to have the care and custody of her husband, in his unfortunate condition, by reason of her neglect and unkindness. This general allegation was supported by the following charges:—1st. That while at Cheltenham, her Ladyship had sent Lord Aghrim unattended to fetch letters from the post-office. 2d. That on some irritating language passing between her Ladyship and Lord Aghrim, she had threatened to send him to a mad-house, upon which his Lordship burst into tears, and appeared greatly distressed.—3d. That she compelled Lord Aghrim to get out of bed at twelve o'clock at night and dress himself, at a time when he was under a course of medicine. 4th. That while playing a game of cribbage with his Lordship, she found fault with his remissness in keeping the score, and expressed herself harshly with respect to what she termed his stupidity. His Lordship's mind was again overcome, and he wept. 5th. That she had kept a servant about his Lordship's person, whom she knew was obnoxious to him, and the sight of whom greatly irritated his mind. 6th. That on his Lordship's refusing to go into a bath prepared for him, she threatened to call in persons from the street, and compel him. 7th. That on the coachmaker not getting the carriage ready, she used very warm expressions, calculated to irritate his Lordship's feelings. 8th. That she forcibly conveyed his Lordship from under his paternal roof, and carried him to Scotland, and from thence returned to England, secreting him from his family and friends; and, 9thly, that her Ladyship had improperly disposed of his Lordship's Commission, as Captain of the 18th Dragoons.—To these charges Lady Aghrim replied. Her Ladyship admitted, that she suffered his Lordship, on one occasion, to call at the post-office at Cheltenham for letters, but excused herself from the imputation of neglect, by saying, that it was only a few days before that Lady Athlone permitted his Lordship to drive her carriage through the streets of London. She did not deny using the threat of sending Lord Aghrim to a mad-house, though the conclusion that it arose from unkindness was as cruel as unjust; the check was necessary, and was the offspring of affectionate solicitude, not of anger. With respect to her making his Lordship get out of bed to dress, she had reluctantly complied with the representation of the nurses, who described it as proper, his Lordship having been confined two days, and it was necessary his bed should be made, and himself receive the attentions of his domestics. The servant for whom his Lordship had taken a temporary dislike, was one who had followed the family from Ireland, and was in every respect faithful and attached. Her Ladyship conceived there was no settled ill-will towards him. But

with regard to the forcible conveyance of his Lordship from Sloane-street, her Ladyship replied, that the state of her husband's mind, his quiet, and his comfort, together with her own feelings, imperatively called for his removal. The nurses had entreated her only to place herself in the street, where she might be seen by her husband, and his mind would be easy. She was incapable of bearing the separation, and she resolved on taking him away. She entered by the area, because she had been forbid to knock at the door, and on going to Lord Aghrim's room he jumped up, and said nothing should prevent him from going with his dear Maria. Lady Athlone interfered to prevent him, and pulled off his Lordship's gown; so that the naked way in which his Lordship got into the coach was not ascribable to Lady Aghrim. His Lordship was carried to the house of Mr. Duncan Shaftoe, the brother-in-law of Lady Aghrim; and so far from her Ladyship wishing to secrete her husband from his family, she proposed to take a house in the neighbourhood of Lord Athlone's, provided the family consented to visit Lord Aghrim at such times only when his physicians should think proper. With respect to the sale of the commission, her Ladyship proved that it was with the advice of Gen. Stuart, as Lord Aghrim having been reported absent without leave, would have subjected him to have been superseded. The affidavits also stated her Ladyship's distress for money. There were also numerous affidavits respecting her conduct to Lord Aghrim after leaving Sloane-street, all of which described her as the most exemplary of women, and that her unremitting affection, assiduity, and attention to her husband in his unfortunate situation, was the subject of remark and eulogy throughout the whole of her Ladyship's acquaintance.

Mr. RICHARDS and Mr. WETHERELL supported these affidavits with great eloquence. They said, his Lordship would require a strong case on the part of Lord Athlone before he divorced a wife from her husband; and especially such a wife as Lady Aghrim, whose feelings alone bribed her to her present resistance, who, like a virtuous woman, was struggling to fulfil the oath she had taken at the Altar, namely, to love and cherish her husband in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, and to part with him only with existence. The Learned Counsel added, that it was admitted on all sides that Lord Aghrim was a confirmed lunatic, but denied that his malady had been accelerated by his removal from his father's house; and as the law of the land gave the custody, in that case, to the wife, it was incumbent upon Lord Athlone not only to shew that he was fit to have the protection of his son, but that he was more fit than Lady Aghrim, before the Chancellor had the power of removing him.

After some observations by the CHANCELLOR respecting the necessity of some additional affidavits as to the medical treatment Lord Aghrim had received since he quitted Sloane-street, the case was adjourned.

Friday, April 8.

Sir S. ROMILLY was heard in reply: he contended that the harsh conduct of Lady Aghrim had been sufficiently proved, and insisted that the cruel removal of her husband to a mad-house had increased his malady. Lord Aghrim's income was £2001. a year, and if her Ladyship was embarrassed, it was her own fault.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said, he could not perform his painful duty without the medical certificates of his Lordship's treatment. Lady Aghrim's conduct had been described as most affectionate and exemplary, and he should not remove her from the care of her husband, as matters now stood; but if she refused to admit the free intercourse of Lord Athlone's family, "though it should break my heart," said his Lordship, "I must remove her from her husband." The case stands over till after the Easter recess, in order that the medical affidavits may be produced.

POLICE.

BOW-STREET.

There has not been any female at the Office, who has attracted so much public attention as Mrs. Morgan, since the days of Mrs. Lee, particularly with the higher orders. Earls, Barons, Officers of the Navy and Army, and numberless Gentlemen from all parts, have resorted to the Office daily, since her apprehension, to make inquiries respecting her, and have visited her at the Brown Bear public-house, when there, and in Tothill-fields Bridewell.— This Mrs. Morgan is stated to be a natural daughter of the late Gen. Spray, and wife of Lieut. Morgan, of the Marines. She was brought from Portsmouth, by Anthony, on suspicion of having robbed Mrs. Derville, of Leicester-square, of bank-notes and bills to the amount of \$51. and various diamond and pearl trinkets. No sooner was she brought to town from Portsmouth, than an eminent Attorney, with Mr. Const, the Barrister, were in attendance at the Office, to defend her: they had been employed by a friend of her's without her knowledge. Her examinations have been put off several days, on account of Anthony being at Shrewsbury Assizes.— When Mrs. Morgan was taken into custody, a gentleman attended at the Brown Bear public-house, in Bow-street, and made himself known to Mr. Hazard, the landlord, and gave directions for Mrs. Morgan to have the best accommodation, and any refreshment she might choose. Others have been to Tothill-fields Bridewell and given similar directions, and she has in consequence lived in the Governor's house. A gentleman, who resides 100 miles from London, on reading the accounts in the newspapers of her being in custody, is said to have come to town for the express purpose of visiting her, and promised that in case of her releasement his carriage should be at her service. Anthony being returned to London, and Tuesday being the day for Mr. GRAHAM to sit at the Office, it was expected Mrs. Morgan would be again examined; this induced a number of distinguished characters to attend at the Office to see her, together with her attorney, but they were disappointed, as she was not brought from Tothill-fields Bridewell.

[The above account has been given in the papers, and it is rather unfortunate that the names of these distinguished individuals, these Earls, Barons, Officers, and Gentlemen, have not been published at length. Their tender concern for this amiable female, who has abandoned her husband for a life of infamy, and is now charged with felony, does them infinite honour! And yet objects equally worthy their attention might be pointed out. If they read the papers only, they would constantly find well authenticated accounts of the sufferings and distresses of their fellow-creatures—widows, orphans, and families who daily steep their scanty pittance in their tears. Such are the persons on whom offers of aid might be honourably pressed; but no; for a purpose too profligate to be avowed, yet too apparent not to be seen through, a host of people, noble and ignoble, rush forward to sympathize with and afford a temporary protection to a dissolute and infamous woman, who will herself, at a period not far distant, be abandoned by her present eager admirers, and left to deplore her folly in all the anguish of hopeless suffering.]

OLD BAILEY.

The only trial of importance which took place last week, was that of Maria Jones, charged with the wilful murder of her female infant, of which she privately delivered herself. The unhappy young woman had denied her pregnancy, but suspicion being excited, her room was searched, and the child found dead in a box, with a cut in

its throat. The Medical Gentlemen examined stated, that a woman under such circumstance might unintentionally cause the death of the infant; but their evidence was of a nature unfit for the public eye. The prisoner having provided baby-linen, and receiving a good character for humanity from her mistress, was acquitted of the murder, but found guilty of endeavouring to conceal the birth of the child, which subjects her to twelve months imprisonment. The prisoner seemed much affected at the imputation cast on her humanity. She seemed about 22 years of age.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

On Tuesday evening a Coroner's Inquest was held on the body of Mr. L—, of Cornhill, who shot himself the preceding day. The servants were examined as to the fact. It was given in evidence, that on arriving early in town he complained of being indisposed, and said he would retire to bed till half-past eleven o'clock, when he requested he might be called. About that hour Mr. C—, his partner, enquired for him, and being made acquainted with the orders he had given, desired the female servant to knock at his chamber-door. The servant did as she was ordered; but receiving no answer, opened the door and perceived the deceased lying on the bed. Although she was not certain that he was dead, her alarm induced her to communicate her fears. Mr. C. the porter, and the servant, returned to the chamber together, and found Mr. L. lifeless. He had two pistols lying by him, the contents of one of which he had discharged into his mouth, and which is supposed to have caused his instant death; the other remained loaded. Mr. L.'s depressed state of mind, for some time past, was deposed to, which concluded the evidence.—The Jury gave in their verdict, Insanity. Mr. L. had given a letter to his coachman, in the morning, to be delivered to Mrs. L.; he left one behind him for Mr. C. and another for his nephew, who was on the eve of becoming a partner in the house.

Several ships in the River drove from their moorings on Tuesday morning, during the gale, which blew from ten to three o'clock; and a boat, in crossing the river from the Surrey side towards the Glasgow Wharf, was upset at no great distance from the shore, when, with great difficulty, the persons on board were rescued.—About one o'clock, a large sheet of lead was raised, by the violence of the wind, from off the top of a house on Ludgate-hill, and thrown down on the pavement; in its way it broke a part of the parapet wall, which fell in the street with a terrible crash; though the street was crowded with passengers, yet none received the smallest injury.

On Tuesday evening, as Mr. Shuter, his son, and daughter, were returning to their house, at Easton, from London, they were detained in Piccadilly, by a stoppage of vehicles, when the son, nine years of age, put his head out at the coach window, for curiosity, which was caught by a stage-coach passing swiftly by, and jammed with such violence, that the appearance was truly shocking. Some hopes, however, are entertained of his recovery.

BIRTHS.

At Midgeley, near Halifax, the wife of John Garnet, weaver, of four living girls. One of the children died soon after the birth; the other three are likely to live.

MARRIAGES.

At Brigham, J. Harrison, of Tod-croft, in Corbeck, to Miss Robinson, generally known by the appellation of Mary of Butterworth.

On Wednesday last, at Kellan Church, Cardiganshire, Mr. S. Jones, of Landover, Carmarthenshire, watchmaker, aged 31, to Miss Ann Williams, a maiden lady of considerable property, of the same place, aged 74.

Mr. John Redding of Mitcham, aged 61, to Miss Anne Culverwell, aged 16! (Such an unnatural union is a disgrace to all the parties concerned; the relations of the child in particular merit the severest censure, if they consented to the barbarous sacrifice.)

Tuesday, Sir T. Ackland to Miss Hoare, daughter of the Banker of that name.

DEATHS.

At the City Coffee-house, William Seddon, Esq. of Acres Barn.

At Edgware, the Rev. John De Viel, Rector of Aldenham.

On Thursday se'night, at Morpeth, in his 89th year, R. Roddam, Esq. senior Admiral of the Red.

On the 30th ult. at Fort Pitt, near Chatham, James Wilkie, Esq.

Mrs. Winston, wife of the Sub-Manager of the Little Theatre in the Haymarket.

At Danby, near Middleham, W. M'Arthur, in the 92d year of his age.

At South Shields, Mrs. Dennison, who was scorched to death, by falling into the fire.

At Whitby, Mrs. Bosman. Her husband having been long ill, and his dissolution hourly expected, she was herself suddenly arrested by the hand of death, and expired after a few hours illness. Her husband died on the day she was buried.

On Sunday, aged 13, Thomas Henry Spencer Stanhope, fifth son of W. Spencer Stanhope, Esq. of Grosvenor-square.

On Sunday, in Wimpole-street, Mrs. Penton, the wife of John Penton, Esq. late M. P. for the Borough of Winchester, aunt to the present Earl of Digby.

On the 1st inst. in Welbeck-street, Mrs. Southwell, widow of Wm. Southwell, Esq. of Frampton, in Gloucestershire. She was the daughter of Henry Pye, Esq. of Faringdon, Berkshire, by Anne, sister of Lord Bathurst, and mother of the Lady of Sir Cecil Bishopp.

On Monday last, at Bath, Lady Charlotte Murray.

On Thursday se'night, at Taunton, where his regiment was quartered, Richard Aubrey, Esq. brother to Sir John Aubrey, Bart. and Colonel of the Royal Glamorgan Militia.

On Thursday evening, at Clapton, Admiral Rainier.

On Saturday se'night, suddenly, Mr. Ledger, of Covent-Garden Theatre. He had attended as usual in the morning at the Treasury of the Theatre, where he was taken ill, but, on being brought into the open air, he felt so much recovered, that he went to Mr. Harris's banker to lodge the money of the theatre as usual. Mr. Ledger had concluded his business, and had only proceeded a few steps from the door, when he fell down in a fit, and was conveyed home, where he lingered until nine o'clock at night, when he expired.

At Castle Waller, Limerick, Bridget Behan, aged 110 years.

At Goodnestone, aged 101, Mrs. Catharine Stocks: she retained her faculties to the day of her death; and on the celebration of her 99th year, sang several songs.

Lately, in Newcastle-street, Strand, Mr. Thomas Bayley, better known as Little Tommy, the Pot-boy, in St. Mary's parish, Strand. He was in his 54th year, and had been 40 years a pot-boy. The last 20 years were spent at the Fountain public-house, in Newcastle-street, where he died, after a week's illness, during which time he made a will, bequeathing 400*l.* the savings of 40 years servitude, to a sister, whom he had not seen for the last 20 years of his life; who, on being informed of the bequest, said, "she did not want it, but he ought to have had more money."