

THE EXAMINER.

No. 40. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1808.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

No. 40.

THE UNIVERSAL SUBJECT RESUMED.

NECESSITY OF ENQUIRY INTO THE CONVENTION.—
SUSPICIOUS RESERVE OF THE MINISTRY.—THEIR IN-
CONSISTENCY.—SIR ARTHUR WELLESLEY AND HIS
INCONSISTENCIES.

THE disgraces in Portugal still occupy the public conversation; and so they will and ought, till the Ministry take notice of the delinquents. There is scarcely a question brought before politicians which may not be settled by one or two simple propositions; and this is precisely the case with the present one. Granting that Sir HARRY BURRARD is the most timely of interferers, Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY the most consistent of conquerors, and Sir HEW DALRYMPLE the most profound of commanders, yet nobody attempts to deny that some person or persons have committed a great fault in Portugal, and it follows of course, that an enquiry should be instituted into the matter. If we accuse nobody, if we defend nobody,—if we lean neither to this Officer nor to that,—if we listen neither to party editors, to no-party editors, nor to party-coloured editors,—if we give up Sir ARTHUR neither to the contempt of the people, to the defence of his friends, nor to any other punishment,—whatever in short is said or is not said about particular men and particular measures,—still a fault has been committed, a disgrace has been suffered, and an enquiry should be made. This is the simplest thing in the world, and the great object for which my brother Editors should contend.

If there is a disturbance in the street, if our pockets are picked or our blood spilt, we are in the first instance filled with indignation against the offenders; but if these men are suffered to escape after detection, if the judges take no notice of the disturbers, our indignation is turned against the men who provide so badly for the public peace. Let the thief, if he can, produce the reason why he made away with another's property; let the assassin, in God's name, give me a reason why he shed my blood without any apparent cause; but let not my friend's pocket or my own be emptied before the judge's face without moving a muscle of his countenance, let not the police make a vile compromise with the robber in open court before

every body else as well as the judges, and not be instantly called to account before insulted justice. I sincerely hope that this allusion may not be really applicable to Ministers, but I think we may be reasonably astonished at their forbearance just now. Somebody has been wrong in Portugal, and yet they recall nobody; somebody has injured the reputation of their Ministry, and yet they ask for no explanation; the voice of British blood, ignobly wasted, cries aloud from a foreign shore, and yet they answer it not; they suffer it to alarm the whole nation, to echo to the same voice in Portugal, to sound the reproach of England all over Europe, and yet it is answered by nothing but the murmurs of their country and the horrible laughter of France. That they will continue to keep this strange and miserable silence till they are forced to answer to personal questions, appears most likely from the silence they have hitherto preserved; but this very silence is eloquent against them, and they are now in the situation of the persons they have employed—they must be content to be thought guilty till they have proved themselves innocent. It has been stated this last week, that the Commanders in Portugal had received particular orders to behave with every possible lenity to the Russian fleet, and it was given as a ministerial reason, that this lenity was to please and conciliate the Emperor ALEXANDER. What! Do these Ministers, who had obtained from thinking men the reputation of being thinking men themselves, wish to rush back into all the follies and fatuities of former administrations? Have they still a hankering, now she is old, and deformed, and disgusting, after that universal jilt, Continental Alliance, who has wasted the treasure and happiness of their predecessors—after that—what shall I say—of Babylon, who has “made drunk the kings of the earth?” Do they know so little of human nature as to be ignorant, that the contempt of an enemy is more powerful than anger in rendering enmity lasting? ALEXANDER, it is said, is about to meet BONAPARTE to converse with him. Well, what would have been their conversation, had we treated the Russian fleet as we should have done? Why, BONAPARTE would have roused his anger and ALEXANDER would still have been our enemy, but nevertheless he would have had a respect for us. And what will be the consequence now? The Frenchman will shrug his shoulders at our stupidity, his vassal will be tutored to laugh at us, and to the anger of losing the use of his ships he will add contempt at seeing us lose the use of them our-

selves. At best, the obligation will be considered as a mere trick to win his feelings at the expense of his understanding, for as to generosity, disinterested sympathy, and all those fireside feelings between kings or courts, they were all very well when we were little boys and believed in the Arabian tales, but that Minister must be senseless indeed who would attempt to persuade a selfish monarch or any other monarch into a reliance on this political coquetry. BONAPARTE will once more direct the eyes of ALEXANDER towards Denmark; and it has been well observed, that the present conduct of the Ministry towards Russia exhibits a very singular contrast with their treatment of the Danes. The King of DENMARK was not at war with us, he had not deceived us, he only appeared to the Ministry to be about to deceive us, and without the least notice they attacked him with fire and sword. The Emperor of RUSSIA is at war with us, he has grossly deceived us, and he does not even appear to have a single wish for our friendship, so we treat him with the utmost kindness and send back his sailors to fight us over again. The King of DENMARK in short was sitting very peaceably on his throne, and we take his weapons from him and act the part of assassins; the Emperor of RUSSIA attacks us with all his might, and we return him the bullets he shoots at us, and beg him with the utmost politeness to blow our brains out. Thus after scalping women and children, we sit, like a Cherokee captive at the stake, and instruct our enemies how to torture us. We are like the fanatic in the *Tale of a Tub*, who to mortify his passions went a courting insult, and would petition the passengers for corporeal punishment—"Worthy Sir, do me the honour of a good slap in the chaps."—"Honest friend, pray favour me with a handsome kick."—"Noble Captain, lend a reasonable thwack for the love of God, with that cane of your's, over these poor shoulders."

If the Ministers do not recall any of the Commanders at Lisbon, they should at least give us a reason why those gentlemen stay at Lisbon. Sir JOHN MOORE, instead of Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY, is now said to be going to Spain; but if Sir ARTHUR is not fit to go there, if Sir HARRY and Sir HEW are not fit to go to Spain, how can they be fit to stay in Portugal. They may have to fight with two enemies there instead of one, with domestic as well as foreign enemies; and to say the truth, there appears great reason for a transfer of hostility from the French to the Portuguese. The Portuguese commander FRIERE DE ANDRADE has published a very strong protest against the convention, particularly against its total want of reference to the Portuguese Government in the articles stipulating the surrender of the native military resources, against the protection of French spies and Portuguese traitors, and against our inattention to the safety of the capital in not putting a stop to the vexatious and oppressive

behaviour of the French. The same General accuses Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY of raising bread to the Portuguese army when our stock was overflowing, of hindering the native troops from having any share in the battle of Vimiera, of acting and commanding without any reference to the Portuguese Government, present or future, and of withholding the arms which the British Ministry had sent over for the special service of the native troops. What do the Ministry say to this? If they did not order Sir ARTHUR to be humane, they certainly could not have ordered him to take arms to the Portuguese and to withhold them directly they were requested of him. If Sir ARTHUR is that meek obedient personage the Wellesleyans represent him, one might absolutely conjecture that these arms, in spite of what General FRIERE was led to believe, were never intended for the use of the Portuguese in case the English were victorious. Sir ARTHUR, who has spent the most active part of his life in extending conquest over an usurped country, may be a very good person to convert allies who have sought our protection into vassals who would gladly seek our death, and really the refusal to grant the power of defence to the Portuguese has a disgusting appearance which it requires some charity to pass over. The idea, to be sure, would be too ridiculous to believe under common circumstances, but who is to wonder at any foolish ambition after the government of the Marquis WELLESLEY in India, and who is to wonder at the most ridiculous of all ridiculous things after the late convention? At all events, Sir ARTHUR has been determined to be a very responsible person by what has appeared in the Portuguese papers, and he becomes every day a more prominent object of enquiry above his fellows. My readers will find in the present Paper the letter he wrote to the Bishop of Oporto, in which he says that the Convention contained "nothing remarkable" but the stipulation for the neutrality of the port and of the Russian squadron. Nothing remarkable! An officer in the British service, a conqueror, a man of proud spirit, thinks it "nothing remarkable" to let a vanquished enemy go back to his country upon our shoulders and laugh at us when he gets there! And yet it is upon the strength of this "nothing remarkable" that Sir ARTHUR is said to be so vehement against DALRYMPLE: it is upon the strength of this "nothing remarkable" that he protests against the measure as something very remarkable and very ridiculous. This is absolutely the very inconsistency of intoxication, which will laugh and grow furious upon the same cause. But it is a waste of time to toil through the mazes of Sir ARTHUR's understanding. I leave him for the present to the enjoyment of his folly, if he does approve the convention; and of his hypocrisy, if he does not.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, SEPT. 13.—Yesterday the Emperor and King received the Senate at St. Cloud, when the following Address was presented to his Majesty:—

SIRE,—The Senate have listened with the liveliest emotions to the Message of your Imperial and Royal Majesty. They have also received with a profound and respectful gratitude the communication which your Majesty has been pleased to make respecting the affairs of Spain, the Constitution accepted by the Junta, and the Report presented to your Majesty on the state of your armies in the several quarters of the globe. They have unanimously adopted the *Senatus Consultum* which your Imperial and Royal Majesty has proposed, and ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY THOUSAND brave men shall participate in the immortal fame of your numerous and formidable legions. You believe in the peace of the Continent, Sire, but you will not suffer yourself to depend upon the errors and perverse calculations of Foreign Courts. Your Majesty desires to defend solemn and voluntary concluded treaties—to maintain a Constitution freely discussed, adopted, and sworn to, by a National Junta—to suppress a barbarous anarchy, which now covers Spain with blood and mourning, and threatens our frontiers—to rescue the true Spaniards from a shameful yoke by which they are oppressed—to assure to them the happiness of being governed by a brother of your Majesty—to annihilate the English troops, who unite their arms with the daggers of the banditti—to avenge the French blood, so basely shed—to put out of all doubt the security of France, and the peace of our posterity—to restore and complete the work of Louis XIV.—to accomplish the wish of the most illustrious of your predecessors, and particularly of him who was by France most beloved—to extend your great power, in order to diminish the miseries of war, and to compel the enemy of the Continent to a general Peace, which is the sole object of all your measures, and the only epoch for the repose and prosperity of our country. The will of the French people is, therefore, Sire, the same as that of your Majesty. The war with Spain is politic, just, and necessary. The French, who are penetrated with affection for the Hero whom they admire—who display so much enthusiasm whenever they have the good fortune to behold you, will answer the call of your Majesty with zeal, and nothing shall shake the determination of the Senate and the People to support your Majesty in every undertaking which you may judge necessary for the great interests of the Empire. May it therefore please your Majesty to accept this new tribute of our respect, our attachment, and our fidelity.

The *Senatus Consultum* referred to in the above Address, is of the following tenor:—

ART. I. There are placed at the disposal of the Government 80,000 Conscripts, who are inscribed in the classes for 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809; 20,000 for each year.

II. These 80,000 Conscripts may be immediately placed in active service.

III. The Conscripts of the year 1806, 1807, and 1808, who were married before the publication of this decree, shall not be drawn for the above 80,000.

IV. The Conscripts of the years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, who have answered to their Conscription, and are not under orders for distribution in the army, shall be now freed from service; and from these classes no new levy shall be made.

V. Eighty thousand Conscripts from the classes of the year 1810, are also placed at the disposal of Government.

VI. These Conscripts shall be allotted to the formation of corps for the defence of the coast, but shall not be called out before the 1st of January next, unless before that period some at her Power shall be in a state of war with

France. In this case they may be immediately called into actual service.

All the great roads leading from Mentz to the interior of France are at present covered with troops from the grand army, on their march towards Spain.

A letter from Vittoria, of the 1st September, says, "The 59th regiment of the line entered St. Sebastian on the 28th of August. It is also understood that 3000 men have come to Bayonne, and that the passage of troops out of all parts of France is incessant. Never was seen greater preparations than have now been collected of military stores, &c. The Emperor has ordered to be in readiness 10,000 waggons *a la Marlborough*, for the conveyance of a sufficient quantity of provisions for the support of an army of 200,000 men during three months.

The King of Naples arrived at Rome on the 3d inst. Gen. Miollis, with his staff, went to receive his Majesty, and the whole garrison was under arms.

SEPT. 16.—The *Journal de l'Empire* of this day gives the present position of the French army in Spain, in an article from Vittoria, dated the 6th Sept. The principal corps of the army, where his Majesty is, holds the two banks of the Ebro, and all the defiles of the mountains of Biscay, the head-quarters at Miranda. The corps of Marshal Bessieres extends from Pancorbo to Burgos, which last city is held by the light cavalry of Gen. Lasalle. The head-quarters of Bessieres are placed at Santa Maria. Defiles in the mountains have been explored, which were hitherto unknown, and which will very much promote the farther operations of the army. All the troops await with impatience the signal for the combat, and burn with desire to meet the English.

A great number of troops come here daily, who go to strengthen the army of Spain. Marshal Jourdan is arrived at his head-quarters, and Marshal Ney is expected to-morrow or the day after. The Ministers and Members of the Junta of Bayonne are at Miranda with the King, as well as at Vittoria.

SEPT. 18.—The *Moniteur* has notified, that the Meeting of the Legislative Body is to take place on the 25th of October.

On the 16th a Council of State was holden at St. Cloud, at which the Emperor was present. On the day before his Majesty was at Versailles, where he reviewed the 3d regiment of dragoons, on their march to Spain.

It is said that early next month the Emperor will leave this capital for Saxony. The Dutch Papers already report, that the Emperor of Russia is to be accompanied on his journey by the Hereditary Prince of Saxe-Wiemar, in whose capital he is soon expected to arrive.

The *Journal de l'Empire* has published a particular account of the joyful manner in which the King of the two Sicilies was received on his entrance into Naples, on the 6th instant.

SEPT. 19.—It is thought that the departure of his Majesty the Emperor and King for Germany is very near at hand, for his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs will set out this evening, while his Highness the Prince of Benevento will take his departure to-morrow.

General Sebastiani goes to take the command of a division of the Army of Spain.

GERMANY.

ASCHAFFENBERG, SEPT. 17.—It appears certain that Marshal Lannes has gone to meet his Majesty the Emperor of Russia, in order to receive his Majesty on the confines of his empire, and conduct him to Erfurth, where the two Emperors of France and Russia are to have a meeting. All the Princes composing the Confederation of the Rhine are making great preparations to set out for Erfurth, where it is supposed, his Majesty the Emperor of the French will spend some days. Already 500 men of the French imperial guards arrived at Mentz on the 14th inst. having been forwarded in carriages. These troops always accompany their Sovereign.

BANKS OF THE ELBE, SEPT. 13.—The Journal of Genoa says, that according to various letters from Paris, his Highness the Prince of Ponte Corvo will be placed on the throne of Portugal, and that the Prince of Neufchatel will be appointed to the Grand Duchy of Berg.

SWEDEN.

LETTER FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SWEDEN TO THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

Honour and humanity enjoin me to make the most forcible remonstrances to your Imperial Majesty, against the numberless cruelties and the injustice committed by the Russian troops in Swedish Finland. These proceedings are too well known and confirmed, to require from me any proofs of their reality; for the blood of the ill-fated victims still cries aloud for vengeance against the abettors of such enormities. Let not your Imperial Majesty's heart be insensible to the representations which I find myself compelled to make to you in the name of my faithful subjects in Finland. But what is the object of this war, as unjust as it is unnatural? It is not, I suppose, to excite the strongest aversion for the Russian name. Is it criminal in my subjects in Finland not to have suffered themselves to be seduced from their allegiance, by promises as false as the principles on which they are founded? Does it become a Sovereign to make loyalty a crime? I conjure your Imperial Majesty to put a stop to the calamities and horrors of war, which cannot fail to bring down on your own Person and your Government the curses of Divine Providence.

Half my dominions in Finland are already recovered by my brave Finnish troops. Your Majesty's fleet is shut up in Baltic Port, without the hope of ever getting out, otherwise than as a conquest. Your flotilla of galleys has recently sustained a very severe defeat; and my troops are this moment landing in Finland to reinforce those who will point out to them the road to honour and glory.

Given at my Head-quarters, Sept. 7, 1808.

(Signed) GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS.

GOTTENBURGH, SEPT. 19.—There is a Bulletin out to-day, dated Gralsby, the 13th September, stating the capture of a Russian cutter, by one of the cruizers from the blockading fleets; also of the capture of four other vessels with naval stores; farther, that in conjunction with Admiral Nauckhoff, Admiral Saumarez had proposed to the Russians to discontinue hostilities against Baltic Port, on condition of one-half of the fleet being given up to the combined fleet; the rest of the Russians to be allowed to return quietly to Cronstadt. The Russian Admiral replied that he would sooner burn the whole of his fleet, than surrender any

part thereof; but that he thought he could venture to enter into an engagement to dismantle his ships in Baltic Port, on condition of a promise from the combined fleet to cease hostilities. The proposal was rejected; and on the departure of the courier, one fire ship was ready to be sent in, and several more were preparing. Mr. Edward Thornton, his Britannic Majesty's Minister, left Stockholm on the 4th instant, to join Admiral Saumarez; and perhaps in eight or ten days we may have more news of an interesting nature.

PRUSSIA.

KONIGSBERG, SEPT. 13.—The Emperor of Russia and the Grand Duke Constantine are expected here this week, on their way to Erfurth, to meet Bonaparte!!!—This remarkable event gives rise to much conjecture, but all agree in condemning the Emperor. There is still a great movement amongst the troops in Germany.

PORTUGAL.

OPORTO, AUG. 31.—We have infinite pleasure in communicating to the public the following intelligence from the English and Portuguese:—

Copy of a Letter from General Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY, to the most Excellent and Reverend the Bishop, President, and Governor.

“Camp at Ramahal, Aug. 24.

“May it please your Excellency—I have the honour to inform your Excellency, that the army under my command defeated General Laborde's division on the 17th instant, and on the 21st inst. the whole of the French army united, under the command of General Junot, at Vimiera. The loss of the enemy in those actions was very considerable. Last night he sent General Kellermann to confer with Gen. Sir H. Dalrymple, who concluded an agreement with the said General for a suspension of hostilities, until the conclusion of a Convention for the total evacuation of Portugal by the French troops. This agreement contains nothing remarkable, with the exception of a provision for securing the neutrality of the port of Lisbon and the Russian squadron. Permit me to congratulate your Excellency on the approaching conclusion of the misfortunes which have so much afflicted your country, and to the recovery of which your Excellency's zeal and solicitude have so much contributed. I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration and respect, your Excellency's most humble and obedient Servant,

“ARTHUR WELLESLEY.”

Protest made by Berdardin Freire de Andrade, General of the Portuguese Troops, against the Articles of the Convention agreed on between the English and French Armies, for the Evacuation of Portugal.

“I protest, in general, on account of this Treaty being totally void of that deference due to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, or the Government that represents him; on account of what may be hostile in it to the Sovereign authority and independence of this Government, and for all that may be against the honour, safety, and interests of the nation: and, in particular, I protest against what is stipulated in the following Articles:—

ARTICLES I. IV. and XII.—“Because these Articles determine the surrender of Portuguese fortified places, stores, and ships to the English forces, without solemnly declaring that this surrender is momentary, and that it is intended they should be immediately restored to the Prince Regent of Portugal, or the Government that may represent him, to whom they belong, and in whose aid the English forces came as auxiliaries!

ART. XVI.—“Because it permits the residence in Portugal of the individuals mentioned in it.

ART. XVII.—“Because it attempts to tie down the Government of this kingdom, not to bring to justice and condign punishment those persons who have been notoriously and scandalously disloyal to their Prince and their country, by joining and serving the French party: and, even if the protection of the English army should be allowed to screen them from the punishment they have deserved, still it should not prevent their expulsion, whereby this country would no longer have to fear being again betrayed by the same men.

First of the Additional Articles.—“This Article can by no means bind the Government of this kingdom, as no reciprocal conditions are stipulated.

“I protest, finally, on account of the want of attention to the safety of the inhabitants of the capital and its environs, nothing having been stipulated in their favour to insure their not being still vexed and oppressed by the French during their stay—not even an equivalent for what is established by Art. XVI. and XVII, in favour of the French and their followers.

“And to these heads I limit my protest, in order not to make too long a list, passing over other objects of less importance, such as the concession of 800 horses, which was made without considering that they all belong to Portugal, and thus cannot be considered as the property of the French; that of the magazines of the army, filled at the expence of the country, and consequently only belonging by fact, not by right, to the unjust occupants of the country.

(Signed) “BERNARDIN FRIERE D'ANDRADE,”
“Head-quarters at the Encarnation, Sept. 14, 1808.”

PROCLAMATION

By the British and French Commissioners, for seeing carried into effect the Convention agreed upon between the respective Commanders in Chief.

For the fulfilment of the stipulations made in the Convention agreed upon for the evacuation of Portugal by the French Army, That property of every kind confiscated or seized from the subjects, or other persons residing in Portugal, whether of the royal palace, royal and public libraries, and museums, and from individuals that are still existing in Portugal, should be restored:—

We, the Commissioners for seeing carried into execution the said Treaty, as his Excellency the Commander of the French Army has already notified to his army, think it also right to make public the same for the information of all concerned, and for facilitating the restitution, or the receiving back such property, we have judged expedient to appoint a Committee of three persons, viz. Lieut.-Col. Trant, O. St. Antonio Rodrigues de Oliveira, and Mr. Durlur, Commissaire des Guerres, to meet at No. 8, Cargo do Loretto, who are appointed to receive, enquire into, and judge of all reclamations on this head, and whose orders for the restitution of property, to whomsoever addressed, are to be obeyed. And it is directed that keepers shall have charge of sequestrated or seized property in every house to which it may have been removed, to assure the conservation of objects or moveables transported from royal or public houses, to others, for the use or convenience of such General, Administrator, or other subject of the French Army. These keepers will mark the description of all *meubles* with the name of the owners, and be accountable for whatever is therein, and they will be delivered only on legal proof of ownership, to the possessors of such articles as above-described, who will transmit to this Committee a return of what each may have in his possession of the property designated. And all persons may with safety apply to this Tribunal.

We think it necessary also to make known to whom it may concern, that any purchase made of articles taken from the public arsenals or stores since the 30th August, or whatever shall, on trial, be proved to have been illegally sold or disposed of at any time, even previous to the 30th August, shall be null and void, the articles seized

and the persons purchasing subject to what the law may further direct.

The Committee assembled to receive reclamations, and facilitate the restitution of property, hold its sittings at the house of St. Antonio Rodrigues de Oliveria, No. 8, Cargo de Loretto.

W. C. BERESFORD, Maj.-Gen. } British
PROBY, Lieut.-Colonel, } Commissioners.
Le Gen. KELLERMANN, Le Commissaire Français
pour l'exécution de la Convention, du 30 Aout.
Lisbon, 10th Sept. 1808.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

“From on board the Conqueror, Sept. 9.
moored in the Tagus.

“My last was on the 5th inst. by the Blossom. On that day the British fleet entered the Tagus, and is moored between Fort St. Julien and Belem Castle, where it is expected to remain till the first division of the French army quits Lisbon. They are now embarking on board our transports, with their horses, artillery, and every thing belonging to the army, as well as a great part of the plunder they took from the Portuguese. The whole of our army are advanced near Lisbon, but they are not to enter the town till the greatest part of the French are embarked; but I hear they wish our troops to be in the town before their force is too much weakened, fearing that the Portuguese inhabitants would rise upon the remainder, and revenge themselves for all the enormities they have committed, and the plunder of which they have been robbed, which they know our troops would not allow.

“Junot is to go to France in *La Nymphé*; we are to furnish the transports with every thing they want. The Russian fleet is to go to England, escorted by seven sail of the line: two of the Russian ships are so bad, they are not fit to go to sea, and will therefore be broken up here. The other seven are completing their provisions from our ships, and making every preparation for their departure. It is a great disappointment to our fleet, that the Russians are permitted to go to England in the quiet way they do. Our tars were most anxious to try the mettle of the heroes of the North, on whom Bonaparte chiefly relies to compel England to a maritime peace. It was generally believed they would have been fought for. In fact, orders for the attack had been given, when an express arrived from England, ordering every means to be used to conciliate the Russians, and of all things to avoid an action with them; from which we infer that some treaty must be on foot between the Courts of St. Petersburg and St. James. The Russian Admiral dines with Sir C. Cotton to-day, which is being pretty friendly for people at war with each other.”

“September 11.

“The French army is to sail in three divisions. The first division are embarked, and will sail almost immediately, under convoy of *La Nymphé*, Capt. Percy, who takes Junot on board, with 20 officers of his staff. The Resistance, Captain Adams, goes with the second division; she also takes two Generals and other officers. *L'Amiable*, Lord G. Stewart, goes with the third division; each division will consist of nearly 8000 men.”

“September 12.

“I closed my letter this morning, thinking the *Podargus*, which is going to England with dispatches, was about to sail; but learning she is to wait till the first division of the French army leaves this, I will continue my account up to the latest moment.

“The Russian fleet, consisting of six sail of the line and two frigates, went out of the Tagus this morning. Admiral Tyler, with his squadron, was waiting outside to receive them, and will proceed immediately to Portsmouth. In passing through our ships, they manned the rigging, which was returned by our ships. The two line-of-battle ships left behind are in possession of a few men, who are

left for the purpose of taking care of them until their fate shall be determined.

"The first division of the French army are all ready to sail, except their wanting some water, which will soon be supplied; and *La Nymphe*, with the French Commander in Chief on board, made the signal for sailing this afternoon. We are to provide transports to carry 25,000 men, and Junot is allowed to take 800 horses, that is, including those for the artillery, cavalry, &c. He himself has bought up all the English horses he could get, at the rate of 100 guineas each. The *Aimable*, Capt. Lord G. Stewart, is to have charge of the convoy, and the Admiral is particularly anxious they should sail to-morrow. They go to Basque Roads. The army to be landed at Rochelle. The second division of the army begins to embark either to-morrow or next day. Our troops have now entered Lisbon, and the Portuguese flag is flying at Belem Castle, and most of the fortifications. The French had taken off a vast quantity of plunder, but a Committee of General Officers have appointed Commissioners to attend the embarkation, &c. and most of it has been re-landed; and the inhabitants are required to send in all demands they may have on the French, which are attended to.

"September 13.

"The *Podargus* sails to-day, at one o'clock. The French colours are hauled down this morning on board the ships of war, and they are taken possession of by the boats of the squadron, for the Prince Regent.

"The *Eclipse* arrived to-day from Oporto, with a convoy of light transports, to convey the French troops home."

[FROM AN OFFICER ON THE STAFF.]

"Camp at Cascaes, near Lisbon, Sept. 10.

"Of course you know all about the Convention; it is therefore unnecessary to touch upon that unpleasant subject; however I must acquaint you with the pleasing circumstance which happened yesterday:—Gen. Junot, it appeared, allowed his Officers and men to plunder the inhabitants of Lisbon, the royal palace, and public places, churches, and all places of worship, after the capitulation had been signed. In consequence of these proceedings, the Magistrates and the first families in Lisbon complained to our Commander-in-Chief of their infamous conduct. At this period about 8000 Frenchmen had been embarked, forming the first division (but Junot still remained in Lisbon), when the British Commander ordered that Junot should cause to be restored all the plunder of every description pilfered from the Portuguese from their first entering Lisbon to the present moment. It is impossible to express the rage and disappointment visible on every French countenance on being apprized of this sudden order. They bitterly complained, but it will avail them nothing. A Military Committee has been formed, to whom it is left to ascertain and distinguish between *plunder* and *private property*. The former the *Cormorants* will be obliged to *disgorge*, which, it is supposed, will amount to several millions sterling."

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM LISBON, DATED
SEPT. 10.

"You will undoubtedly long ere this gets to hand, have heard of the memorable battle of the 21st of August, and of the gloom cast thereon by the shameful capitulation granted the French, too disagreeable a subject to dwell on. Since the battle above-mentioned, the French have been busily employed in packing up every thing worth plundering. The church plate they melted into bars, being the most convenient method of carrying the same to France. The natives were not only insulted, but murdered in the face of open day. All this is well known to the British General, memorials from the *Juiz de Soro*, and principal merchants in Lisbon having been given in to him to no effect. The French are still employed in melting down the church plate into bars, making mat-

tresses of cotton, putting up indigo and coffee in the form of crates of bottled wine, &c. The Spanish troops are still confined."

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LEEDS, SEPT. 24.—We never recollect a day in which the public feeling was so much chequered as last Saturday. The morning was ushered in with the most delightful congratulations, every face was illuminated, and every heart bounded with the joyful intelligence of the bloodless victory in Portugal. In the forenoon it began to be buzzed about that the terms of capitulation were not such as the country had a right to expect, but nobody could bring themselves to believe the ungrateful report. About ten o'clock in the morning, the *True Briton* coach, which had travelled from London in the short space of 28 hours! arrived in Leeds, the hats of the guard and coachman were covered with ribbons, and at their entrance into the town, and opposite the Mercury Printing-office, where the coach drew up, they discharged their fire-arms. The coach brought no particulars in addition to those we had already received, except that the Park and Tower guns had fired before they left London. The arrival of the morning papers, containing the letters from Lords Castlereagh and Mulgrave, in the afternoon, dissipated the illusion, and confirmed, but too decisively, the unfavourable reports of the morning; from this moment the scene underwent a total change, and the day which had opened with all the brilliancy of a rising sun, in an unclouded atmosphere, closed in thick darkness—a darkness that might be felt.

On Tuesday evening last, about half past nine o'clock, as Mr. Sugden was locking his warehouse, in John-street, Liverpool, he was suddenly and ferociously attacked by three men, one of whom knocked him down with a bludgeon, the second presented a pistol, whilst the third robbed him of his watch and about 10l. in money. The ruffians were not content with these acts of villainy, but they also wounded Mrs. Sugden in the head, who happened to be with her husband. Several other robberies of minor importance have, we understand, been committed within these few days. We trust that the authors of such daring outrages will not long remain undetected.

A most melancholy accident happened at a coal-pit, near Kimbleworth, Cumberland, belonging to Messrs. Walker, by the explosion of sulphureous matter common in pits, called the fire-damp, which unfortunately killed four persons, viz. G. and T. Hague, J. Jarvis, and Wm. Frith; the two former were father and son, and what added to the distress of the scene was, they were found locked in each others arms—a striking instance of parental and filial affection in the agonies of death.

There is now living at the Higher Ferry, near Chester, a widow lady (the daughter of a Welsh Squire that lived near Bagilt), aged 89, who can read, thread a needle, and knit stockings, without the help of glasses. She generally walks two or three times a week to Chester; her other faculties are as strong and perfect as a person of 20. There is also in the same house a favourite cat, who never quitted the room of the late Mr. Jones during his four weeks sickness, and upon his decease quitted the habitation entirely for a month. It was with the utmost difficulty she was enticed to settle in the house afterwards.—Mr. Jones died 12 months ago, at the advanced age of 74.

Saturday se'night a melancholy event occurred at Weymouth:—Early in the morning, Mr. Legge, surgeon of the 2d Somerset Militia, was found in the street, under the window of his lodgings, weltering in his blood, and quite dead. He had been spending the preceding evening in company, and it is thought that on his return home, finding the street door locked, and being very active, in the gaiety of the moment he resolved to scale the chamber window, but missed his hold, fell back, and was killed by the fall.

On the evening of Saturday se'night, about nine o'clock, as Mr. John Harris, a respectable farmer, of Whaddon, Gloucestershire, was returning home from Gloucester, he was attacked by two villains in Sandyway-lane, one of whom, on Mr. H. displaying symptoms of resistance, held a pistol to his breast, when they robbed him of two half-guineas, four seven shilling pieces, and some silver. From the description of these fellows—one tall and thin, and the other rather short and robust, it is supposed they are the same that have recently committed various robberies in that neighbourhood.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, Sept. 27.

Copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean, to the Hon. W. W. Pole, dated on board the Ocean, at Gibraltar, Aug. 27, 1808.

SIR,—I inclose for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a letter I have received from Lord Cochrane, Captain of his Majesty's ship the Imperieuse, giving an account of the surrender of the Castle of Mongal (a fort on the coast of Catalonia, in possession of the French), to his Majesty's ship under his command, which his Lordship had subsequently destroyed, after having delivered the principal part of the military stores to the Spanish militia.

I have great pleasure in transmitting this information to their Lordships, as it points out one of the many instances in which his Majesty's ships on the eastern coast of Spain have rendered effectual aid to the Patriot Spaniards, in resisting and driving the enemy out of their country, and of the zeal and indefatigable industry with which Captain Lord Cochrane engages in that service.

Capt. Otway of the Montague, landed at Rosas Bay a party of marines in aid of the Spanish peasantry, to oppose a French force which was approaching to attack that fortress on the 23d ult. and obliged the enemy to retire.—I am, &c.

COLLINGWOOD.

His Majesty's ship Imperieuse, off Mongal, July 31.

MY LORD,—The Castle of Mongal, an important post, completely commanding a pass in the road from Barcelona to Gerona, which the French are now besieging, and the only one between those towns occupied by the enemy, surrendered this morning to his Majesty's ship under my command. The Spanish militia behaved admirably, in carrying an outpost on a neighbouring hill, Lieut. Hone, with the marines, took possession of the castle, which, by means of powder, is now levelled with the ground. The rocks there are blown into the road, which in many other places is rendered impassible to artillery, without a very heavy loss of men, if they determine to repair them.

I inclose to your Lordship a list of the prisoners and of the material part of the military stores, all that could be of use to the Spanish militia have been delivered to them.

I have the honour to be, &c. COCHRANE.

Right Hon. Lord Collingwood.

1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Serjeants, 8 Corporals (7 wounded) 5 gunners (2 killed), and 54 Soldiers.—Total 71.

5 cannon, 80 muskets, 80 bayonets, 80 cartouches, 500 cannon balls, 13 barrels of powder, and cartridges, &c.

Copy of a letter transmitted by Rear-Admiral the Hon. Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. B. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels at the Leeward Islands, to the Hon. W. W. Pole.

His Majesty's ship Acasta, off La Guira, 17th July, 1808.

SIR,—I beg leave to inform you, that Le Serpent French national brig, of 18 guns, and 104 men, com-

manded by Mons. Lamaou, Enseigne de Vaisseau, was this day captured off La Guira by his Majesty's ship Acasta.—I am, &c. P. BEAVER.

BANKRUPTS.

W. Visick, Medhurst, Sussex, draper, to surrender Oct. 11, 18, Nov. 8, at eleven, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Russell, Lant-street, Southwark.

R. Brennan, Threadneedle-street, factor, Sept. 28, at eight, Oct. 3, Nov. 8, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Bousfield, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street.

J. Carter, Sandwich, draper, Oct. 11, 18, Nov. 8, at eleven, at Guildhall, London. Attorneys, Messrs. Gregson and Dixon, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street.

T. Shaw, Shepherd's-green, Saddleworth, Yorkshire, clothier, Oct. 16, 19, at the Pack Horse Inn, Huddersfield, Nov. 8, at the Yew Tree Inn, Robert Town, at eleven. Attorney, Mr. Stevenson, Holmfrith.

DIVIDENDS.

Oct. 25. G. Singleton, Pancras-lane, merchant.—Oct. 21.

J. Battershell, Portsmouth, ship-chandler.—Nov. 8.

J. Colecom, Bow-street, bricklayer.—Oct. 21. D.

Thomas, Llandilo-Vaur, Carmarthenshire, shopkeeper.

Oct. 31. J. Lewis, Cardigan, mercer.—Oct. 22. T.

and D. Jennings, Spalding, Lincolnshire, bankers.—

Oct. 18. D. N. Weeden, Whitechapel-road, brush-

maker.—Oct. 18. J. G. Caslake, Stepney, tallow-

chandler.—Oct. 18. Wm. Beck, Bishopsgate-street,

dealer.—Nov. 1. F. Champion, Beech-street, Barbican,

hooemaker.—Nov. 5. R. Peacock, Turnmill-street,

Clerkenwell, carrier.—Nov. 1. W. Wakefield, Man-

chester, warehouseman.—Nov. 5. Wm. Goodenough,

Hampstead-road, coachmaker.—Oct. 25. J. Lacy,

Whitby, shipbuilder.—Oct. 21. F. Parkinson, Hull-

ston-upon-Hull, merchant.

CERTIFICATES—Oct. 18.

J. Royle, Manchester, sadler.—R. Blakemore, Bir-

mingham, tailor.—H. Jenner, Norwich, linen-draper.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCIES ENLARGED.

R. Banks, Eltham, Kent, victualler, from Sept. 27, to Oct. 29, at ten, at Guildhall, London.

D. Moore, Penholm, Kent, dealer, from Oct. 4, to Oct. 26, at ten, at Guildhall, London.

J. Sharpe, Market-Deeping, Lincolnshire, linen-draper, from Oct. 4, to Oct. 29, at ten, at Guildhall, London.

BANKRUPTS.

W. Ainsworth, Manchester, innkeeper, to surrender Oct. 18, 20, Nov. 12, at two, at the Bridgewater Arms, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Law, Manchester.

C. Field, Portsea, taylor, Oct. 8, 15, Nov. 12, at ten, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Jones, Church-yard, Covent-garden.

T. Henley, Abbey-place, Bethnal Green-road, carpenter, Oct. 4, 18, Nov. 12, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Lewis, Red Lion-square.

J. Smith, Liverpool, merchant, Oct. 17, 18, Nov. 12, at eleven, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attorneys, Messrs. Griffiths and Hinde, Liverpool.

S. D. Wilmott, Dunster, Somersetshire, merchant, Oct. 11, at four, 12, Nov. 12, at eleven, at the Angel Inn, Bridgewater. Attorney, Mr. Symes, jun. Bridgewater.

J. Roberts, Dolefaur, Cardiganshire, horse-dealer, Oct. 13, 14, Nov. 12, at eleven, at the Three Cocks, Aberlunvey. Attorney, Mr. Evans, Rhayader, Radnorshire.

R. Millegan, Portsea, brewer, Oct. 17, at one, 18, at eleven, Nov. 12, at twelve, at the Blue Posts, Portsmouth. Attorney, Mr. Hart, Portsmouth.

J. Trafford, Frodingham, Lincolnshire, beast dealer, Oct. 11, 12, Nov. 12, at eleven, at the Angel, Lincoln. Attorney, Mr. Nicholson, Glaucford.

J. Brymer, King-street, Soho, tailor, Oct. 7, at five, 8, at ten, and Nov. 11, at one, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Vandercom and Comyn, Bush-lane.

DIVIDENDS.

Oct. 22. A. M'Lacklan, and J. Galt, Great St. Helen's, factors.—Oct. 24. W. Green, of Liverpool, cutler.—Oct. 25. R. Rayner, of Birmingham, button-maker.—Oct. 24. T. Lees, late of Hebden-Bridge, York, cotton-spinner.—Oct. 25. B. Williams, of Liverpool, linen and woollen-draper.—Oct. 25. T. Wood, of Dorchester, ironmonger.—Oct. 25. W. Guy, of Devizes, tinner.—Oct. 22. D. Matthews, late of Basingstoke, grocer.

CERTIFICATES—Oct. 22.

C. Dawes, of Huntingdon, sadler.—L. Lazarus, of Brown's-Buildings, slopseller.—W. Paine, of Manchester, dealer.—N. Chandler, of Fleet market, butcher.—A. Harding, of Bristol, haberdasher.—W. H. Cheek, of Manchester, scrivener.—J. Eamer, late of Preston, cotton-spinner.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

Consols 65½ 66 | Omnium 2½ dis.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, OCTOBER 2.

THE Commanders in Portugal have at length exhibited some signs of remorse at the Convention, and Commissioners have been appointed to examine into the property claimed by the French, and to determine between what is legal and what is plundered. This commission however is a mere sound, for private property is held sacred by the Convention, and unless they can re-convert the French monies into church furniture and merchandize, it is impossible the general nature of the property can be ascertained. A few bundles, most probably, will be paraded back over the wharfs with much solemnity, and there will be an end of it. Yet the Ministerial Papers are crying out, that the most disgraceful Article of the Convention is done away. I am heartily glad of it. What is it?

Some interesting continental intelligence was received yesterday. CHAMPAGNY, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, left Paris for Germany on the 19th September; TALLEYRAND was to set off the next day; and the deadly climax was to be closed a few days after by BONAPARTE himself. The interview between himself and ALEXANDER is said to be determined. They will meet at Erfurth, in Lower Saxony, and that stupid monarch, so unlike his namesake, who was short in person and lofty in intellect, will once more stoop to embrace the destroyer of his honour. On the other hand, some of the best French Generals are preparing for their horrid work in Spain. NEY is gone there, JOURDAN is there already, and the chief command is to be given to MASSENA, the avenging blood-thirsty, who was never known to spare the misery, or the life of a weak man. This is the most furious signal

of NAPOLEON'S vengeance. The affairs in Spain are said to have wrung his feelings into savage irritability, and the daily papers have published an extract from a speech to his soldiers on the parade, in which he is reported to have said, "the Leopards of Spain, Portugal, and England, should all soon be devoured by the Eagles of France." What boyish nonsense is this! It is just like a lad, fresh from HOMER'S speeches, haranguing his regiment in the playground. The impatient temper of this man is his great weakness. The whirlpool is ever most violent in its centre, and the mind of the universal destroyer preys inwardly upon itself. What does he mean by the Leopards of England and Spain? Is it an allusion to the spots of our iniquity, like that of the Catholic DRYDEN in his *Hind and Panther* to the Protestant religion? How TALLEYRAND, the pithy and the politic TALLEYRAND, must smile at these wretched conceits! At any rate it is an acknowledgment to his own troops of the direct defeat he has received in Spain and Portugal, for he thought in his original pursuit that those nations were hares and he has found them wild beasts. The Senate however are as much attached to bombast as their master, and have addressed him in a style at once so pompous and so slavish, that they evidently have the feelings of men who are obliged to hide their want of action in a cloud of big words. They refer again to the example of Louis the Fourteenth and the completion of his designs, and absolutely acknowledge the justice and encourage the idea of universal dominion by entreating him to accomplish the wish of the most illustrious and most beloved of his predecessors in extending his great power. This a direct allusion no doubt to HENRY the 4th, who is said to have formed a plan for the attainment of universal monarchy in Europe. BONAPARTE however, though he is a more illustrious conqueror, will never be loved like HENRY, the gay, the affable, the patient HENRY, who wept when his meanest peasants suffered and whose very errors took a tinge of amiableness from their taste and sociality. These Senators, the representatives of regenerated Frenchmen, of the planters of the Tree of Liberty, and of those who died in the cause of real freedom, are in truth the most slavish and dastardly scoundrels in Europe. They are the vilest of prostitutes, whose utter loss of virtue has been followed by the utter loss of shame; and with all the malice of an abandoned obstinacy, they seem to delight in bawling out their hideous bravadoes to offend the ears of human nature.

Every day promises more decisive intelligence respecting Austria. It is certainly the policy and wish of BONAPARTE to alarm her from her preparations, if he can, for he would never chuse to have two affairs of moment on his hands at once. But if he



cannot alarm her sufficiently in his new visit to Germany, he will most probably attack the Emperor FRANCIS with the whole force of the Rhenish Confederation.

A *Moniteur* of the 20th is said to have reached town, which contains an account of a speech made by BONAPARTE to his troops on the parade the preceding day. It appears that he assembled his troops on the parade, and told them, that their labours were by no means concluded; that they had traversed Austria and Prussia, but they must now traverse France, cross the Pyrennees, and take a dreadful vengeance upon the Spaniards for their rebellion. The English, he said, had contaminated Spain and Portugal with their presence, but their success should not be of long continuance, for the leopards of Spain, Portugal, and England, should all soon be devoured by the eagles of France. This is given as the substance of this most extraordinary speech, the whole of which is said to have been couched in extravagant terms.

A Junta of the Province of Biscay has been assembled at Bilboa, in which Admiral MASSAREDO presided. In the speech with which he opened the sittings of this Junta, he said, "There is no longer any uncertainty; the Emperor NAPOLEON cannot possibly depart from the resolution which he has taken. The great Powers of the Continent have acknowledged JOSEPH NAPOLEON as King of Spain, and have sent to their Ministers new credentials. Dreadful armies approach for the purpose of effectuating the undertaking."

A statement has been published in the *Madrid Gazette*, by Don PEDRO CEYALLOS, for the purpose of exposing the means resorted to by BONAPARTE, in order to rescue GODOY (the Prince of PEACE) from the just indignation of the Spanish nation. It appears that there was no order, as falsely asserted, given by the Prince of ASTURIAS (FERDINAND VII.) for delivering over GODOY to BONAPARTE—that Prince, on the contrary, having expressed his decided disapprobation of such a measure: but that MURAT pretended that such an order had been given, and in consequence of his threats operating upon the weakness and pusillanimity of the Junta at Madrid, that body consented to the measure, and GODOY was sent to France.

Dispatches from Admiral COCHRANE, dated the latter end of August, state that affairs are in a most favourable situation in the West Indies. The communication with the Spanish Colonies was perfectly cordial and uninterrupted. The same spirit and principle animate the Spaniards in America as animate the Spaniards in Europe—the principle of detestation to France, and of love and gratitude towards Great Britain—Every commercial facility had been afforded us by the Spaniards.

There is every reason to believe that the whole of the Spanish troops who were so fortunately rescued from the French yoke in Denmark, have by this time arrived in Spain. They passed down Channel some days ago, without touching at any of our ports. They were to land at some port in the north of Spain, we believe at St. Andero.

The fleet of transports with troops, which sailed from Cork, have arrived at Falmouth, where they will be joined by the other troops composing the Expedition.

Extract of a letter from an Officer in Sir CHARLES COTTON's fleet;—"We are more in the dark in Portuguese politics than you are. We look to the London Papers for information. One thing, however, we fully and sadly know—that our *victorious* troops have made a treaty disgraceful to us and favourable to the *conquered* enemy. Sir HEW DALRYMPLE ought ***** The whole fleet is dissatisfied. The Russians ought to have been ours. We could have blown them to atoms! We cannot conceive that Sir CHARLES will suffer the plundered property to be sent to France. No convention can justify it. Our Commanding Officers would subject themselves to equal detestation as the French; for is not he that permits, as bad as he who commits the crime?"

Extract of a letter received on Wednesday morning from an officer on board one of his Majesty's ships at Coruppa:—"The particulars of the Convention between Sir HEW DALRYMPLE and JUNOT, reached this place two days since, and were received by the most marked disappointment by the Spaniards, who inveighed bitterly against terms so contrary to the expected result of a campaign, in which the unconditional surrender of all the French forces in Portugal was thought inevitable; and the ferment was and is so great, that I fear the unfavourable impression will soon be disseminated throughout the Spanish armies, which will neither enhance the military character of our countrymen in the opinion of our new allies, or tend to promote the general cause."

The dispatch of Sir HEW DALRYMPLE, which accompanied the Convention, gives a reference to the bearer, Capt. DALRYMPLE, for explanations. It is said that when Capt. DALRYMPLE was called in by the Cabinet Council, to give those explanations, he burst into tears, and retired after some ineffectual attempts to speak.

An embassy is preparing at Paris, at the head of which DUROC is placed, to compliment the Emperor of AUSTRIA on his marriage. Presents of considerable value have been ordered by BONAPARTE for the occasion.

The provincial papers vie with those of the metropolis in the expression of their surprise, their sorrow, and their indignation, at the late Convention. Many that we have received have encircled the *Extraordinary Gazette* with a broad black line; one has prefixed to it two gallowses with bodies hanging to them.

The LORD MAYOR has appointed an especial Court of Common Council to be held at the Guildhall, at 12 o'clock precisely, on Tuesday next, to consider of an Address to his MAJESTY, for an inquiry into the cause of the late disgraceful Convention in Portugal.

The Emperor of AUSTRIA is said to have ordered a *conscription of Old Women*. We are afraid that many of that description of persons have already been too frequently called to his service as well as to our own.

The Edinburgh paper has the following paragraph:—"Married here, by the Rev. C. VINCENT, Mr. GEO. COOKE, of the Theatre Royal, Covent-garden, to Miss LAMBE, daughter of — LAMBE, Esq."

A subscription is now on foot for the sufferers by the late fire, of which the Duke of Bedford is at the head. One gentleman has sent anonymously three hundred pounds. The Duchess of Brunswick has sent five guineas to the sufferers. Some persons have expressed their surprize that their MAJESTIES are not among the subscribers; but these persons must be blind indeed not to perceive that those exalted personages are poor, very poor indeed. Not to mention their inability to pay the debts of the Prince of Wales, who was so often obliged to apply to Parliament;—not to speak of their incapacity to afford pecuniary aid to the Duke of Sussex in his late unfortunate embarrassments, when an execution even was sent into a Royal Palace;—it should be recollected, that their MAJESTIES have a very numerous family, and that coals and candles and soap and bread are at an enormous price. How absurd is it to suppose that the King can give any thing to the unhappy sufferers by the fire, when it is only a few months ago that he was obliged to ask the people through Parliament for a pension for his own sister, the venerable Duchess of Brunswick,—a proceeding which it is certain would not have been resorted to, in the present distressed state of the country, had his MAJESTY possessed the necessary funds. And here it may be observed, that the Act of Parliament exempting his MAJESTY'S funded property from taxation, was quite superfluous, for, from the above circumstances, it is evident, notwithstanding all the positive assertions to the contrary, that the King has no money in the stocks or elsewhere. It is really impossible; and those too who talk of her MAJESTY'S great wealth, must also be equally misinformed and impertinent. Great wealth indeed! It is quite vexatious to hear about it.

The Prince of Wales has allowed the free use of his box at the Opera-house to the Covent-garden Company. This act of *propriety* has been called by an Opposition paper "*magnificent liberality*." If his Royal Highness had sent a thousand pounds to the sufferers, these *courtiers* would really be at a loss for language adequate to express their admiration. Plain English would certainly never answer their purpose.

CITY.—On Thursday, Aldermen FLOWER and SMITH were nominated by the Livery as proper persons to serve the office of Lord Mayor for the ensuing year, when the choice of the Court of Aldermen fell on Alderman FLOWER, who was declared Lord Mayor elect. Every thing was conducted in a very citizen-like manner. The new Mayor, as usual, made a very *promising* speech on his appointment, which was *loudly applauded*. Mr. QUIN also made a very pretty speech on moving the thanks of the Livery to the late Sheriffs, which was likewise *loudly applauded*. His compliments were certainly rather of a doubtful nature, and some people seemed to think, when the worthy Deputy talked of its not being his intention to enquire into *motives*, and that it was of little consequence, as good had been performed, whether those performing it had been actuated by ideas of "*personal importance, pride, or a desire to court popularity*," that Sir RICHARD PHILLIPS might have asked with the King in *Hamlet*, "Is there no offence in it?" But the Knight was not present. Amiable and modest as he is,—

shrinking as he does from every species of flattery,—he could not bear the idea of listening to his own exploits, and therefore absented himself altogether.—Who shall say that Sir RICHARD is not a very diffident, aye, and a very prudent man too?

MESSES. WALSH and NESBITT, Stock-brokers (the former the Member for Wootton-Basset), last week declared themselves insolvent. These Gentlemen were the contractors for the two last Lotteries, and they had also purchased the City Lottery, a speculation which has contributed to their downfall. They are said to owe 200,000*l.* to meet which, some say they possess 150,000*l.*; but this is very doubtful. The conduct of these Gentlemen is highly censurable: they have been dashing speculators, endeavouring to obtain large and rapid fortunes at all hazards; so that their fate is not to be regretted, for they had no right to risk the property of others in furtherance of their own selfish objects. But many honourable individuals will be materially injured by this failure. The writer of this paragraph is acquainted with a most liberal and respectable Gentleman, to whom the defaulters owe a large sum,—a sum due for active and expensive service,—the loss of a great part of which is inevitable. Mr. WALSH, it is hoped, will be compelled to give up the seat he has purchased. The man who will thus injure his own connexions, is certainly unfit to legislate for the people. If he does not want common honesty, he unquestionably is deficient in common prudence and common feeling.

MOHAMMED'S PARADISE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

MR. EDITOR,

The Arabian lawgiver did not rely upon the fear of everlasting punishment alone, to induce his countrymen to abjure their original superstitions and embrace those of his invention. He possessed indeed great knowledge of human nature, and knew well that where terror would not be a sufficient motive for obedience, the hope of an eternity of bliss might operate with a more powerful effect. He therefore was particularly minute in his description of the happiness which awaited the true believer.

Paradise, he taught, is situate above the seven heavens, and next under the throne of God. The earth of it is of the finest wheat flour, or of the purest musk, or of saffron; its stones are pearls and jacinths, the walls of its buildings enriched with gold and silver, and the trunks of its trees are of gold, among which the most remarkable is the tree called Tuba, or the tree of happiness:—It stands in the palace of Mohammed, though a branch of it will reach to the house of every true believer: it will be laden with pomegranates, grapes, dates, and other fruits of surprizing bigness and of tastes unknown to mortals; so that if a man desire to eat of any particular fruit, it will immediately be presented to him, or if he choose flesh, birds ready dressed will be set before him. The boughs of this tree will spontaneously bend down to the hand, and will supply the blessed not only with food, but also with sitken garments, and beasts to ride on ready saddled and bridled, which will burst forth from its fruits. This tree is so large that a person on the

fleetest horse would not be able to gallop from one end of its shade to the other in a hundred years. Some of the rivers of Paradise flow with water, some with milk, some with wine, and others with honey; the pebbles of these streams are rubies and emeralds, their earth of camphire, their beds of musk, and their sides or saffron.

But all these glories will be eclipsed by the resplendent and ravishing girls of Paradise, called from their large black eyes, Hur al ayun, the enjoyment of whose company will be a principal felicity of the faithful. They are created, not of clay, as mortal women are, but of pure musk, being wholly free from all impurities, of the strictest modesty, and secluded from public view in pavilions of hollow pearls.

There are not less than 100 different places in Paradise, of different degrees of felicity, the very meanest whereof will afford its inhabitants so many pleasures and delights, that in order to qualify the blessed for a full enjoyment of them, God will give to every one the abilities of a hundred men.

The poor, says Mohammed, will enter Paradise five hundred years before the rich; nor is this the only privilege they will enjoy; for the Prophet has declared, that when he took a view of Paradise, he saw the majority of its inhabitants to be the poor; and when he looked down into Hell, he saw the greatest part of the wretches confined to be women!

The meanest inhabitant of Paradise will have 80,000 servants, 72 wives of the girls of Paradise, besides the wives he had in this world, and a large tent erected for him of pearls, emeralds, &c. He will be served in dishes of gold, whereof three hundred shall be set before him at once, containing each a different kind of food, the last morsel of which will be as grateful as the first—and will also be supplied with as many sorts of liquors; and to complete the entertainment, there will be no want of wine, which may be drank without danger, since it will not inebriate.

The inhabitants of Paradise will enjoy perpetual youth, and their ears will not only be entertained with the ravishing songs of the angel Israfil, but even the trees themselves will celebrate the divine praises with a harmony exceeding whatever mortals have heard.

The Mohammedans, however, as has been asserted, do not confine the joys of Paradise to sensual delights; the highest gratification of all, to be enjoyed only by those who have obtained a superior degree of felicity, will be the honour of beholding the face of God morning and evening, which will give such exquisite delight, that in respect thereof all the other pleasures of Paradise will be lightly esteemed and forgotten.

Did I suppose, Mr. Editor, that your Paper circulated among the worthy Members of the Court of Aldermen or Common Council, I should have been cautious of mentioning the *table delights* of Paradise; for it is very far indeed from my wish to make proselytes to the Mohammedan faith. Should you therefore have either Alderman —, or —, or the worthy Deputy —, upon your list of Subscribers, you have my full permission to omit that most dangerous paragraph. I am yours, &c. J. O.

Brompton, June 8,

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 30.

Covent Garden Company.—Mr. Skeffington's *Mysterious Bride*.—It's interesting plot, inconsistencies of conduct, and errors of composition.—It's condemnation not attributable to party.—Standard of Mr. Skeffington's genius.—A word respecting the attacks on his love of dress.—The new afterpiece called the *Fortune Teller*.—It's utter inanity.

KING'S THEATRE.

The Opera House was opened by the Company from Covent Garden, on Monday evening, when Mr. KEMBLE delivered the following very neat Address:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—The power of utterance is almost taken from me by the very great kindness of your reception on my re-appearance before you; but be assured, that however words may fail me, I can never be wanting in the gratitude which is due for your patronage on many former occasions, and still more particularly for your favour on the occurrence of that calamitous event which is the cause of our opening the King's Theatre this evening. My object, Ladies and Gentlemen, in presenting myself before you now, is to address to you a few words on the subject of our appearance here. The Theatre of the Italian Opera, we are well aware, is not provided with all those conveniences with which it has been the custom to assist the works of our own poets, and we therefore have to entreat your favour for those inaccuracies and difficulties which must necessarily occur as to scenery, dresses, and decorations, in some of the plays. At the same time we beg to assure you, that this indulgence shall be claimed as seldom, and for us short a time, as possible: for the perpetual appeal to indulgence is indeed the abuse of it. You perceive that no time has been lost in adapting this house, though in a necessarily imperfect manner, for the continuance of your amusements: and the Proprietors are already occupied in preparations for constructing a new Theatre, which they trust will, by next September, be worthy of your attendance and patronage, and rise the appropriate ornament of a British metropolis.

When Mr. KEMBLE talks of assisting the works of our own poets, he can hardly mean those divine bards Messrs. REYNOLDS and DIBBIN, and yet the word *assisting* renders the application necessary; for I hope he does not intend to say that SHAKSPEARE was assisted at Covent Garden Theatre with that vile pitch-kettle and those washerwoman-dresses in the witches' scene of MACBETH, or indeed with any of the scenery in any of his plays. The other words in Italics respecting indulgences are an excellent lesson to authors as well as actors, and the poets of Covent Garden may see by this single sentence what their Manager thinks of those wooden-legged prologues and epilogues which ask the public charity with so gross a mixture of bluster and beggary.

DRURY-LANE.

MR. SKEFFINGTON's play of the *Mysterious Bride*, which was originally performed last season on a benefit night, was revived at this theatre on Tuesday and decidedly condemned. A piece founded on the same story is said to be in preparation at Covent Garden, and the friends of Mr. SKEFFINGTON would persuade us that the condemnation of his drama was a manifest party business, and that it's opposers either were jealous of his play and therefore made merry with his person, or disliked

his person and therefore made havoc with his play. It is curious to see, with what magical delusion the modern dramatist creates or annihilates a multitude according to his success. If "some few followers" cry bravo and the piece is not condemned, then there was a "general applause and chearful shout;" if on the other hand, the general voice is against it, then it was the trick of a few, a party business, a combination of journeymen playwrights, a very partial and mysterious condemnation indeed. Those who witnessed the death of Mr. SKEFFINGTON's play very well know to what it was owing; those who have seen any one of Mr. SKEFFINGTON's plays may very well know; but to those who have not, some account of this gentleman's talents may be necessary in order to defend the taste of last Tuesday's audience.

The plot of the *Mysterious Bride* is imitated from the French, and possesses considerable interest. It consists of the misfortunes and final success of a Bohemian Princess, who in her journey towards Transylvania to be married to the Prince of that country, is wrested from the protection of the Bohemian Ambassador by an ambitious Transylvanian Nobleman, who imposes his own sister upon the Prince for his intended bride. The Ambassador and the Princess are both doomed to death by the Nobleman, and he concludes they have been murdered; but the one escapes from the river into which he was plunged, and the other moves the compassion of the ruffians sent to assassinate her, and after some pleasing adventures on the part of the royal sufferer, who in the situation of servant at an inn captivates the Prince's heart, they both appear before the court, the imposture is detected by means of a locket which had been stolen from the Princess and which opens by a secret spring, and justice is done to all parties.

This story, without any great originality, possesses a simplicity, regularity, and interest, that might have afforded an excellent chance of success to a writer capable of giving its characters an original prominence or its dialogue a little elegance and vigour. But Mr. SKEFFINGTON, instead of busying himself with the passions and consciences of his most prominent characters, has left them comparatively in the shade, and exhibited unnecessary and insignificant persons with a shew of importance; he has given soliloquies to these persons, who have no business to interrupt the progress of the piece, and what he says to us on such occasions is by no means of a nature to excuse his loitering. One of his declaimers, who is merely confidential servant to a nobleman, was saluted with a shout of laughter from the audience for saying, "But why do I stand moralizing here?" and Mr. SKEFFINGTON thought it hard, I dare say, that so common a stage question should be so uncommonly answered. But when the audience have been quiet at the same sort of address, it was because they had heard something which rendered the question a modest one; they had been pleased with the speech, and they allowed the speaker to retire in his own way, because he had spoken neither at an unseasonable time, in a silly manner, nor with an unsuitable touch of the comic. But Mr. SKEFFINGTON's declamatory retainer is a very serious person, gifted with a most patient enjoyment of common-place

ideas, and he had been haranguing the audience with all his energies on some such topic as the uncomfortable feelings of guilt, or vice it's own punishment and virtue it's own reward: the hearers of course did not want to be told of these matters in a common-place way, they did not go to the theatre to be informed that they all had heads on their shoulders, that light was not darkness, or that whatever is—is. The pathetic retainer, therefore, who had so gravely come forward to instruct them in these matters, astonished them by his sudden touch of self-knowledge, and as the surprise was of a comic nature the effect was quite epigrammatic. Another shout was produced by a worthy rustic who, when he discovered that the object of his love, who stood before him, was a Princess, declared that he felt *choaked*. This ludicrous expression of a serious feeling, at a time when a rustic lover would have felt too great an awe and humiliation to speak so familiarly, was another touch of the epigrammatic bathos, and the flash was followed by an instantaneous roar. The serious bathos is hardly less entertaining. One of the declaimers, in announcing his fixed determination to go off the stage, insists that the warring elements and the dreadful thunder shall not—(What? as LONGINUS says)—why, *retard his footsteps*. To these violations of character and good writing Mr. SKEFFINGTON is not aware, perhaps, that he has added sundry violations of grammar that are really not to be tolerated in an age like the present when even newspapers are beginning to aim at correctness. Accusative cases for nominative, sentences without the slightest connexion, and all the charities of grammatical relationship barbarously neglected, may suit the slovenly intoxication of Mr. DIBDIN's muse or of any writer who has neither been educated by others nor has the gentlemanly ambition to teach himself common English; but that a man of rank and elegant manners, who keeps the best company and writes to adorn his sphere, should indulge in this slatternliness of mind, is a phenomenon that must give us a strange idea of his studies. In short, if Mr. SKEFFINGTON's play is not original in it's defects, neither is it original in any thing else. It has not, I allow, that air of confident pretence, which is so disgusting in Mr. DIBDIN and his brethren; if the author is vain, he is never impudent, but a mere want of pretence, a mere appeal to the good nature of an audience, ought never to supply the place of an appeal to their understandings, because in fact it shews them a disrespect; and with regard to original desert, I can safely challenge Mr. SKEFFINGTON, as I once did the author of a tragedy called *Edgar*, to bring forward a single fancy, sentiment, or epithet, which I will not produce from well-known British authors. Is it rational or politic, that the friends of such a writer should talk about party rivals and packed enemies? Is it necessary to the condemnation of such a writer, that personal jealousy should be lurking in the boxes and literary jealousy in the pit; that interested men should pursue to destruction what was running to destruction of it's own accord; that they should plant themselves about the curtains to thrust daggers into a death-bed.

Mr. SKEFFINGTON is a gentleman highly esteemed in private life, but his genius is precisely of that boyish

nature which mistakes imitation for originality and by the help of repeating a few magnificent phrases and fancies to its own mind, elevates itself to a literary delirium which will talk a great deal of harmless nonsense. It is curious to think, how a writer may impose upon himself by reading his own productions in his own tone to his own heart: every thing seems to be his own when thus disguised; every thought that approaches him gathers a new aspect from the imperfection of his vision; and as his mind never wakes but by fits and in the dark, it's eye wants sufficient expansion to discern shadows from substances, to distinguish the most common furniture of the brain from new shapes and romantic combinations. As to those critical sneers at Mr. SKEFFINGTON's peculiarities of dress, of which his friends complain, his clothes have certainly very little to do with his writings. JAMES the First's fondness for fine clothes, did not hinder him from being learned enough for a schoolmaster, and GOLDSMITH wrote very amusing comedies though he was proud of his bloom-coloured coat. There is no essential connection between the turn of a sleeve and the turn of a sentence, between figures of embroidery and figures of speech. But the attacks on Mr. SKEFFINGTON's dress are erroneous, only because they are unseasonable, in literary criticism. One singularity is as fair a mark for general ridicule as another; and after all, even in an intellectual point of view and in spite of JAMES the First, or GOLDSMITH, or CÆSAR himself, the critics will be apt to think less of that man's mind who is studiously ambitious to adorn his person to the detriment of better studies and a better ambition.

A new operatic afterpiece called the *Fortune Teller* was produced on Thursday night, and flatly condemned in spite of Mrs. MOUNTAIN's singing, and the united drunkenness of Messrs. BANNISTER and MATHEWS. This is a farce obstinately bent on being damned. The plot consisted of the unaccountable adventures of four or five persons who came on and off the stage, sometimes with a speech, sometimes with a song, but never with any meaning. All that could be discovered was, that a lady was in love with a young man who had enlisted, that she disguised herself as a *Fortune Teller*, told his fortune, went back, sent for him or met him or saw him again somehow or other, and finally married. The songs were just fit to be read in that hurried undulation of drawl and thrust at every rhyme, with which little boys are wont to repeat their psalter. A man possessed with a common gentlemanly stock of rhymes, such as fields—yields—arms—charms—fair—despair—might write about fifty such a day, including the time for breakfast, a walk, and a lounge after dinner. The music was airy and pleasing, and altogether much better than Mr. REEVE has produced for some time; but it had nothing original. Mr. REEVE may wander about his gamut for ever, but he will never get beyond his old hand-organ stock. For the sake of the author and my readers, I will not quote any of the poetry. Some sick people have an awkward knack of making you taste their physic, just to see how nauseous it is; but though I am sick enough of the farce, I will not insist upon exercising this abominable privilege.

COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

On Wednesday his MAJESTY arrived in town from Windsor, at the Queen's Palace, where at two o'clock he held a private levee, at which the following had the honour of being presented:—

The Earl of Portarlington, on his promotion to be Lieut.-Colonel of the 10th Regiment of Foot; Sir Robert Barlow, on his appointment to be Commissioner at Chatham; Viscount Balyrood; Lieut. Ide Govia Courted; Colonel-Lieutenant Britto, of the Portuguese Royal Navy; Captain-Lieutenant Pines, of the Portuguese Royal Navy; Mr. Martens, Commissary; Capt. Schöenberg, Commissioner of the Navy; and Sir Francis Hartwell, on his appointment to be Deputy Comptroller of the Navy; the Marquis de la Romana; Gen. Adrian Income; Gen. Josef O'Donnell; Admiral Apadaco; Captain de la Lorenzo; Viscount Materosa; Captain Chambers; Count Belchimo, &c. &c.

His MAJESTY afterwards held a Privy Council.

The following instance of "affecting goodness," as the French happily term it, is worthy of being handed down to posterity:—"When his MAJESTY was informed of the late dreadful fire, he was much concerned at the intelligence, and with that generosity and sensibility for which he is so peculiarly distinguished, in order as much as possible to alleviate the distress occasioned by their calamity, he immediately dispatched a message to the Proprietors, informing them that—he sincerely condoled with them in their misfortune.

FASHIONS FOR OCTOBER.

The unfavourable weather which has marked some part of the last month, has called forth somewhat earlier than usual the silk pelisse, which, with those of shawl muslin, lined with sarsenet of agreeably contrasted shades, are very well adapted as a shelter from the chills of autumn. These pelisses are usually worn with turbans, or small French poke bonnets, formed of the same material; as also with bonnets of straw, of the complete cottage form, with bands and tufts of folded sarsenet, or silk handkerchiefs of orange and green, or purple and amber shot.—Black French chips of the jockey form, with a small bunch of variegated chineaster in front, display much novelty and animation. Gipsy hats are still seen in the morning ramble, or in the stroll on the sea-beach; but they give place, in point of novelty and comfort, to the palm bonnet, of figured sarsenet, which is edged with a deep lace, and formed so as totally to obscure the countenance, except quite in front. In full dress, coloured crape over white satin, or white with painted borders in fruit, or embroidered in autumnal flowers, are very much esteemed. The Polonese vest, and Turkish robe, are remarkable for grace and elegance in this species of costume. The former is a received habit, and is particularly calculated to display to advantage a tall and graceful figure. The Turkish robe differs little from what has been often exhibited, except that the sleeves (which are large and full) now meet, in the true Eastern style, the bend of the arm in front, and hanging long, are sloped to a point considerably below the elbow behind; it is also confined with a broad Turkish girdle, fastened in front with three clasps of gold, silver, or jewellery. These robes are chiefly composed of crape, tissue, imperial gauze, or muslin, and variously bordered in gold, silver, chenille, or coloured silks. Dresses of gossamer net worn over white sarsenet or satin, give a sort of silvery rainbow lustre, and are remarkable for delicacy and beauty.

The lace hoods and tippets are an exceedingly elegant article, and so unique in themselves, that they never can

become offensively general. The Pilgrim's hat and mantle, comprise much simplicity and novelty, and when formed of velvet, or Georgian cloth, must be found a very appropriate, and will doubtless become a very fashionable winter article. The Brazilian coif, and emigree cloak, with the Minerva helmet, are ornaments of considerable elegance, but are best adapted to the carriage costume.

FINE ARTS.

ON THE BENEFIT TO THE ARTS FROM GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT.

The number of Painters, Statuaries, and Engravers who live on the profits of their genius and application proves the extensive encouragement of the fine Arts in England. This encouragement, and the abilities evinced by the Professors in the various Exhibitions and Publications, exalt the taste and liberality of the British people, especially when we consider the enormous taxation of the country, which has been gradually increasing for 20 years past, while our sources of wealth have been decreasing ever since the commencement of the French revolution, in the diminution of our commerce. With this love for the Arts, what would their promotion have been had the wealth of the country not been drained for the accumulated expences of government, and had not the blast of war stinted their growth in this genial soil of genius and of taste? While the people then do so much for their government, it is the duty, as it should be the delight of their government, to do every thing in their power for them. Among other things, the Arts, so productive of national wealth and refinement, demand the fostering hand of the ruling power. A few thousand pounds judiciously and annually expended on so noble a purpose would beneficially second the laudable and useful efforts of the Patrons of the British Institution, and the various encouragement of tasteful individuals. It would operate like a plentiful and enlivening shower from above on the plants which had only the insufficient watering by the hand of the gardner.

It has however been argued that a love of art and a love of fame are the only stimuli of genius, which was never elicited by a prospect of pecuniary recompense. That pecuniary reward alone is insufficient to this great object may be conceded, but that it is not an auxiliary inducement to the study and attainment of excellence in art, is an opinion which the least knowledge of the human character controverts. Generosity of soul, which is generally allied to the elevated powers of genius, will seek the obtainment of money with a desire perhaps unequal to the eagerness of avarice, but in a great degree proportioned to its liberal desire of useful and extensive expenditure. Beside, avarice and genius are not always and necessarily at variance. Marlborough, one of the greatest geniuses in the art of war, was meanly fond of money. He was so saving of it, that he darned his stockings while riding slowly at the head of his troops. Sir Godfrey Kneller, "whose art was nature and whose picture thought," neglected the muse of Historic painting for a more lucrative devotion to portraiture, preferring profit to fame.

But independently of pecuniary inducement, the pa-

tronage of government would advance the excellence of the Fine Arts by increasing the powerful stimulus of honour, certainly the great object of the pursuit of art. That national honours should be limited to great civil, naval and military excellence, is a distribution parsimonious and impolitic. Exalted genius in art is as rare as in that of any other, and if it is not so nationally useful as some, it is universally admitted that it is extensively beneficial and glorious, and should therefore be promoted by every possible means in the possession of government. That superior genius in art should not then be rewarded by an elevation to the rank of nobility, is inconsistent with the motives which should alone influence the monarch to adorn with patrician honours the hero and the statesman. It was thus the wise Greeks estimated the dignity and the value of the Fine Arts, and crowned with the same species of honour the warrior, the statesman, and the artist.

But, for various reasons, such an elevated appreciation of art does not, and perhaps never can exist in any nation of modern Europe. Something however may and ought to be done for its advancement by the British Government. Why should not a portion of the public money be appropriated to the Arts? If there were not so many iniquitous sinecures, the plunder and the insult of the public, government might refuse it on the ground of economy. But while a lazy and undeserving lord, with a capacity no way superior to his coachman, has many thousands a year for nominal service, the public, and the body of artists who amuse and refine it, have just grounds of complaint and indignation. With the money thus wasted on worthlessness, how might public zeal be generated or enlivened in the bosom of every citizen by the animated representations of the achievements of their countrymen displayed in our public edifices by the inspired hand of the painter and the statuary; the hero, the statesman, and the artist be thus united in social glory, and their fame carried down to posterity together. How would the eager eye of the youthful artist glow with fresh ardour at the sight, how would his heart expand with the wish to be equally distinguished. It would prompt him to encounter with cheerfulness and to surmount the laborious difficulties of his art, and in the eventual remuneration of his toil, to advance the refinement, the dignity, and the prosperity of his country.

COMPARATIVE EXCELLENCIES OF LINE AND DOT OR CHALK ENGRAVING.

Selfish considerations and difference of sentiment respecting the comparative beauties and defects of the Line and Chalk style of Engraving have occasioned almost as much verbal acrimony in the disputants, as the rage-exciting themes of politics and religion. The admirers of the Line Style have vexed those of the Chalk, by turning up the nose of contempt on what they falsely denominate insipid and unmeaning productions. The chalk advocates reply in the virulent language of resentment, and in order to keep up the respectability of their art, endeavour to shew its competency to more than its real excellencies. Thus they are both in error. The former in depreciating, the latter in too highly estimating the chalk style.

Both styles have capabilities in common. The general effect, with all the intervening tints and gradations of light and shadow, the drawing and expression of the heads, hands, and the other nudities, may be equally well expressed by the agency of the dot as the line.

It is indeed difficult to decide between the respective claims of the two styles in female subjects. Perhaps the softness of the dotting is more suitable to the pulpiness and delicacy of female flesh, and the gravers of Ryland, Cardon, Schiavonetti, and Scriven, have conferred a respectability on that style, which is unjustly denied to it by the prejudiced, exclusive admirers of the line, and which has been degraded for fifteen years past by a profusion of wretched engravings.

But the line has greatly the advantage in rendering that sharpness of outline which belongs to almost all the forms of external nature. It discriminates with greater accuracy the appropriate characters of the different surfaces of objects, and charms from the diversified direction and playfulness of the lines, while the dot is confined to little more than the superficies of woolly and peachy objects, and is consequently monotonous, though this monotony is in a degree relieved by a partial intermixture of the line, a practice now invariably adopted by the best chalk engravers, but which however is a confession of the insufficiency of the chalk. It has greater transparency than the dot manner to characterize the lucid surfaces of all such objects as water, glass, and metals. From the free and bold sweep of the line, it is superior in all dignified and animated subjects, and it exclusively possesses the region of landscape.

The powers of the chalk manner are therefore limited, those of the line unlimited. The latter style is thus in general very superior to the former.

R. H.

BALL FIRING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—It has long been customary for Volunteer Corps to practise ball-firing; partly for amusement, but chiefly, perhaps, for improvement in the art *militaire*. It is not my intention to make any invidious comparison between the Volunteers and the Regulars. My only object is to point out the present dangerous mode of ball-firing, as practised by Volunteers in general. Amongst numerous instances of the alarming danger to which the lives of the public are thus daily exposed, two occurred last week; one of which has been noticed in most of the diurnal prints, terminating in the death of one of the corps; and the other, although not so fatal, was no less hazardous in its consequences. This latter instance (I forbear to mention *time* and *place*) had nearly sacrificed a sergeant of the corps, and also a gentleman passing the scene of *action*; who produced a *bullet*, and avowed he could produce 100 more, that had perforated the embankment against which the target was erected; and which doubtless might have perforated as many *foes*,—nay, even *friends*, had they chanced to have crossed the adjoining *field*.

But really, Sir (craving your pardon for dwelling lightly on so serious a subject), let me ask you, whether our good-intentioned countrymen (the volunteers) should not be forewarned of the lamentable results likely to ensue from the pursuance of the present mode of ball-firing; in order that the furtherance of their object may be promoted, without endangering the lives of their fellow-creatures, and bringing the body of volunteers into merited contempt.

It requires but an ordinary degree of foresight to prevent the recurrence of these fatal consequences. And if the Volunteers were actuated by no other motives than self-preservation, and their reputation as *soldiers*, these considerations alone might be imagined to operate sufficiently powerful to dictate the necessity of an immediate reformation in the deadly exercise of ball-firing.

In the hope that these hints may be attended to by the judicious, I remain, yours, &c.

Sept. 22, 1808.

PHILO-VITA.

ENGLISH PRISONERS IN FRANCE.

Through some Gentlemen who have just arrived from France, the most afflicting accounts have been received, as to the state of our countrymen who are prisoners in that country. At Bitche, Valenciennes, Arras, Giver, Verdun, and St. Louis, which are the principal *dépôts*, there are no less than 8000 English prisoners, who are treated in a manner not only unworthy of the character of a civilized nation, but inconsistent with the feelings which humanity generally preserves even in a savage state. The pay of the seamen, who compose nearly the whole of these prisoners, has been recently reduced from three halfpence to three farthings per day, which is a sum obviously inadequate to furnish them with any subsistence fit for the food of man. But the Agents of the Government seem indifferent to the fate of those unhappy beings, or rather, perhaps, anxious to consign them to the grave. With this view they are confined in subterraneous cells and other nauseous places, where, particularly at Bitche, Arras, and St. Louis, they are daily dying. The treatment of the Officers is somewhat less inhuman. They are divided into classes of 10 each, and the whole of each class is rendered responsible for the conduct of each of its members. Thus if one misbehaves or exceeds his parole, the other nine are imprisoned, and can only expect release or mitigation of rigour through the medium of bribery. This is very well understood, and the terms universally known. An Officer, who is imprisoned with several others in a house incapable of affording tolerable accommodation, is told without disguise, that for a louis and a half he may obtain his removal to another house where the prisoners are less numerous and the accommodation better, and that for another louis he may recover his liberty to walk at large within the boundaries. These bribes go into the pockets of military officers, who have the command of these *dépôts*, and who can discriminate with much accuracy what description of persons are good subjects to be mulcted.

A Correspondent observes, with great truth, that the inattention of the British Government to the miseries of these unhappy prisoners is not a fault, but a crime. It certainly is the duty of Government to interfere in their behalf. If the French Emperor refuse to listen to honourable offers, the odium will then be all his own. It would have done Sir A. WELLESLEY credit had he stipulated in the late convention for their release; such an article would no doubt have been acceded to by JAPAN and would have wiped away a part of the disgrace of that treaty.

POLICE.

MARLBOROUGH-STREET.

On Tuesday a Rev. Gentleman was charged by a Lady of the name of Matthews, with violent abuse and an assault. From the testimony of Mrs. Matthews, supported by some other witnesses, it appeared, that the Rev. Defendant had lodged in her house; and being a notable housewife, and somewhat exact in the gloss of her mahogany tables, the brightness of her grates and fenders, and the cleanliness of her carpets and window-curtains; she found her lodger's taste totally different on these points; and after many remonstrances on her part, much disagreement and altercation had arisen. Mrs. Matthews eternally complained of the injury done to her furniture and fire-arms; and her Rev. Inmate, like another Socrates, complaining of the ceaseless annoyance of a second Xantippe. On Sunday afternoon, however, the Doctor having returned after sermon, Mrs. Matthews proceeded to read him an *Evening Lecture on rusty grates, tarnished mahogany, and sullied carpets and curtains.* The Doctor was rather warm in his responses. His hostess became still hotter in her rejoinders, until at length the Doctor, who was exceeding wroth, called his hostess "a Brimstone." The spark was instantly caught in the tinder-box of Mrs. Matthews's temper, and soon kindled into a raging flame, which shortly proceeded to that which, in the rhetoric of Billingsgate, is called a *blow-up.* The Doctor, meek as he was in the spirit, waxed outrageous in the flesh, and, forgetting the exemplary calmness of his cloth, laid violent hands upon the Lady, and shoved her down stairs; and for this assault she came to demand reparation by due course of law.

On the other hand, the Rev. Gentleman denied the truth of Mrs. Matthews's statement. But she persisted; and declining all overtures of a pacific nature, the Rev. Gentleman was required to comply with the usual and necessary form of finding security to abide trial.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Since the inquests which we have noticed, resulting from the late fire at Covent Garden Theatre, were held, a Fireman belonging to the London, and another belonging to the Phoenix Insurance Company, have died in St. Thomas's Hospital. Fish, the foreman of the Phoenix, and Stuart, an engineer belonging to the same Company, have also died in St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and a Soldier belonging to the Guards died in Tothill-fields. The number of lives lost on that melancholy occasion is TWENTY-THREE, as far as at present accounted for.

On Wednesday a Coroner's Inquest was taken at a house in Foster-lane, upon the body of an unfortunate Gentleman, named Wyth, who came from the vicinity of Bristol, and who terminated his existence, by strangulation, at his lodgings, on Tuesday night last. The unfortunate gentleman had come to town for the purpose of disposing of the produce of a mine of fireclay, used in the manufacture of crucibles and melting pots, and which he had recently discovered on his estate; but what cause existed for this melancholy action, save a desponding mind, did not appear. He had used his garters for the fatal purpose, and, kneeling on his bed, fastened them to the cross-rail of the bedstead, and effected his design. He had plenty of clothes and linen in his trunks, and about five guineas in his pockets.—Verdict—*Lunacy.*

A few evenings ago as a gentleman, a foreigner, was going towards Chalk-farm, he was attacked by a Newfoundland dog, who bit him and mangled him very much; two gentlemen passing by at the time rescued him from the ferocious animal, and brought the gentleman to an apothecary at the top of Tottenham-court-road. On his wounds being examined, both his hands were torn in a shocking manner. There is a suspicion that the dog belongs to a gang of thieves who infest that neighbourhood,

and have trained the animal to attack the unwary passengers, and wait to commit their depredations.

A dreadful fire broke out at five o'clock on Friday morning, in the premises of Mr. Maberly, ordnance store contractor, in Castle-street, Long-acre. From the quantity of combustible articles on the premises, consisting of tallow and oil; materials for gunpowder, hides, &c. the flames raged with extraordinary fierceness, and the whole of the building was speedily burned to the ground. Mr. Maberly's loss is estimated at 8000l. The fire, it is supposed, was occasioned by one of the coppers, containing tallow, boiling over. The premises were not insured.

An alarming fire broke out at half past nine on the preceding night, at a carpenter's shop, adjoining the premises of Mr. Gillows, cabinet-maker, in George's-street, North Audley-street, at the back of St. George's Parade; it raged with great violence for a length of time. Several engines arrived shortly afterwards, but no water could be procured; and had it not been for the engine belonging to Mr. Gillows, which is always kept full of water, the whole neighbourhood would have been endangered, and the Hon. Mr. Villiers' house, which joins Mr. Gillow's premises, must have been consumed. The fire was got under by half past ten o'clock, without spreading to the adjoining premises. The neighbourhood of Grosvenor-square was very much alarmed, as the flames at one time threatened destruction to it.

MARRIAGES.

Lately, at Broxted Church, the Rev. Henry Jones Randolph, of Hawkesbury, in Gloucestershire, to Frances, eldest daughter of the late Beckford Cater, Esq. of Church Hall, near Dunmow.

Last week, at Scarborough, Richard Edensor Heathcote, Esq. of Longton-Hall, in the county of Stafford, to Emma-Sophia, second daughter of the late Sir Nigel Gresley, Bart. of Drakelow-Park, Derbyshire.

On Tuesday, at East Knoyle, George Law, Esq. of Lincoln's-Inn, to Charlotte, eldest daughter of I. C. Still, Esq.

Lately, at Miserden Park, near Cirencester, Major-Gen. Burr, to Miss Mary Davis, daughter of the late James Davis, Esq. of Chepstow, Monmouthshire.

DEATHS.

On the 12th ult. the Rev. J. Fisher, B. A. of Christ-college, and Rector of Marske, near Richmond, in Yorkshire.

At Mount Tiviot, on the 20th ult. John Elliot, Esq. Admiral of the Red.

Lately, aged 77, the Rev. George Thompson, of Hull, Vicar of Wawne, Curate of Sutton and Drypool, and 41 years Chaplain to the Trinity House, Hull.

On Monday last, at Woolbeding, Sussex, the Rev. Charles Williams, aged 51, Rector of the parishes of Woolbeding and Kingston-by-Sea.

Lately, at Blackrock, near Dublin, aged 48, Lady Caroline Gore, daughter to the Earl of Arran, and half-sister to the Marchioness of Abercorn.

At his house at Barham, Kent, Edward Dering, Esq. eldest son of Sir Edward Dering, Bart. of Surenden.

On the 13th ult. at New Hall, Ashton, Lancashire, after a short illness, Anna Maria Gerard, wife of Sir William Gerard, Bart. aged 81.

Wednesday, at Brompton Grove, aged 71, Mrs. Grojan, widow of the late Francis Grojan, Esq. and mother to Mrs. Willock, of Golden-square.

A few days since, James Parry, Esq. of Walworth Terrace, aged 71.

A short time ago, in Scotland, Mr. Home, well known as the author of *Douglas* and other insipid tragedies.

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