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LAW INTELLIGENCE.

SITINGS AT GUILDHALL, D. 18.

Mr. Topping stated, that this was an action of damages, brought by Mr. Hugh Bell, a respectable merchant of the city, against Mr. Nicholas Byrne, the sole proprietor of the paper called the Morning Post. The defendant was charged in the declaration, with publishing a false and scandalous libel to the injury of the plaintiff's feelings and character.

The learned counsel, after some general observations, went into the history of the transaction. About the period when the arrest of Mr. F. Burdett engaged so much of the public attention, a correspondence, chiefly consisting of letters and documents under the name of Roger O'Connor, had appeared in Cobbett's Political Register. An article appeared in the Morning Post of the 15th of last May, purporting to be an abstract or report of the speech of the attorney general for Ireland, at a time when a motion was made in the Irish House of Commons, relative to Mr. O'Connor and other late prisoners. The speech comprehended several letters, showing the connection between the Irish late prisoners and some persons who had attracted the attention of the government in this country. These letters were followed in the article by comments on the characters alluded to, and the comments, attached to Mr. Bell's name in the article, was that he had been confined on a charge of high treason, in England, in February 1798. This was totally untrue; and yet its effect upon the character of a peaceable and respectable man must be most serious, if it were not done away by the measures which were now adopted, at once to clear the plaintiff's character and to punish the defendant. He (Mr. Topping) knew very little of the defendant, as it seldom fell in his way; but it was apparent, that the circulation of such a charge, in London, must be highly detrimental to any man, in a country where reputation was the great treasure of a man. But the character of a due regard to obedience to the laws and government under which he lived was most essential, and it was that important branch of character that the slander of the libeller was intended to cut away. In the present instance there could be no defence, though there might be a feeble attempt at justification. But that would link under the advocate, and the jury would only have to consider, what should be the compensation to the plaintiff. The cause was from many circumstances a singular one; but not the least of its singularities was, that it produced the attorney general in the new character of defender of a great, malicious, and scandalous libel. That learned counsel had been used to their exertion of his great powers; he had now to act the part of one pleading the malice of the libeller. At other times that learned counsel was seen, pleading in a different direction, and using the whole of his strength to beat down the cause of the accused. Of these efforts, he must say, in the sentiments of Shakespeare—

"Oh! 'tis excellent
To have a giant's strength; but it is tyrannous
To use it like a giant."

However, in the present instance, even his powers must fall in defence of a new field in law; he would perform as an actor in a play; and he would probably be as awkward a performer upon that as he was upon the flagstone case, yesterday. The plaintiff was, on the part of the plaintiff, of the highest order. A reputable man had been wronged; the injury had been offered through a medium that made it most extensive. A compensation for that injury was sought of the jury, and there could be no doubt that they would do what justice required.

A parcel from the stamp office attended to prove the paper of the 15th of May.

The part of the article which the counsel for the plaintiff particularly referred, was a letter from Mr. Arthur O'Connor to his brother, Mr. R. O'Connor, mentioning that he had disposed of some property to Mr. Francis Burdett, and pointing out the present plaintiff as the agent to whom he had left the conduct of the sale, and other particular business of the same kind. This was followed by the comment of the Irish attorney general, that the persons who were alluded to in the correspondence were of the most suspicious order, such as Sweeney, a late prisoner, Hugh Bell, a man who had been arrested in London, in February, 1798, on a charge of high treason, &c. This report was re-printed in the Morning Post of the 13th of May last.

The attorney general, on the part of the defendant, said, that as the counsel for the prosecution had failed to give a simple statement, it should be met, on his part, by a simple defence. The circumstances of the publication were few, insignificant, and such as most perfectly do away the charge of particular malice against the plaintiff. When an occasion which was probably fresh in the memory of the jury, Mr. Roger O'Connor had brought himself into the public eye by certain correspondences, it became the habit of his friends to talk of him as a man of many talents. Those correspondences were contained in the different public prints; and among the rest the Morning Post, not being probably, the first entire faith in Mr. O'Connor's merits, gave its readers a report of a speech pronounced by an eminent law officer in the house of commons of Ireland. The report touched upon some circumstances of his connection with persons not highly reputable as loyal or honest subjects. This report was taken from the Dublin Journal of some years back. The jury had already heard how far the present plaintiff's name was animalized on it. It was merely in a vulgar and ac-

cidental manner; without any peculiar allusion, without any peculiar mark of malice, but merely as a part of the current paragraph. If the printer had exceeded any thing like thought upon the subject, he would have omitted the plaintiff's name. The whole statement was taken from a paper openly published, openly circulated, and yet unstained by the plaintiff in his zeal for vindication. If there ever had been evil in the thing, it had been done, and had passed away to the years which had since passed. This was to be looked to, and to be the great consideration with the jury. The trial of the malicious intention lay with them; for the charge of malice was only to be substantiated by proof of intention. It was in this sense that he (the attorney general) was inclined to judge of the language which had been used by the learned counsel on the opposite side. It was impossible not to consider it as extraordinary, as very extraordinary and strange. The proper name for a charge of that nature coming against a person of his (the attorney general's) situation, was, flagrant and scandalous; but as there was, it was to be presumed, no malicious intention, it should receive no answer. What! was the charge of professional severity, of pushing hard against the persons accused of libel, to be laid upon him? The whole course of his professional life was before the world. He was known from his boyhood, and there was not an hour of his life that had a stain upon it; he had never preferred the law; he would have made no other reply to the singular and most unaccustomed expressions which had so hastily escaped the counsel on the opposite side. It was to be presumed, there was no malicious intent in this; and the plaintiff in the case ought to feel in the same way. There could be no intention to injure him; the publication of the paper was for a purpose with which he had no possible connection. There was no imputation of treason meant now to be fixed on the plaintiff. He was exonerated from it, and of course the injury was nothing. It would be admitted, that loyalty was a valuable part of the character of a British merchant, or of a British man; but the jury would consider the desire to injure, and the injury done. If they came to the question of damages, they would make it a thousand. The case seemed clear, and the jury would pronounce their judgment accordingly.

Mr. Paley, from the secretary of state's office, was called to give evidence of the warrant for arresting the plaintiff, in March, 1798.

The warrant was read; it directed that Mr. Hugh Bell, of Charterhouse square, should be arrested on suspicion of high treason. The warrant was signed by the late duke of Portland. Mr. Paley knew nothing of the trial of Arthur O'Connor, at Mill-floors.

Cox, a king's messenger, had received the warrant on the 6th of March, 1798. He arrested Mr. Bell at eight o'clock in the morning of the 7th of March. He searched the bureau and desks for papers, and intercepted the prisoner's letters. At eleven, he conveyed his prisoner to the secretary of state's office; Mr. Wickham was there; did not think he saw Mr. Canning. About half past one the prisoner was discharged from before the presence of the jury council. Wickham had then nothing more to do with him, and heard no more of him till this time.

Mr. Topping, in reply, could not repeat his statement in the manner in which the attorney general had taken up words which he had used in the opening statement. It was not becoming a man, to bring his personal feelings before the court; but he would be unfeeling his friend—he would be visiting the gown he wore, as king's counsel, if he could be silent under the language which the attorney general had used. No; he was not to be deterred, he was not to be influenced by the vulgar insinuations of scandalous and slanderous libel. Did the attorney general think, he was to stand up, and to

Like a Colchian, utter curses
To walk with under his huge legs, and prop
To find themselves dishonourable graves?
No; life was not to be endured on such a covenant.
To use the words of the great poet again,
"I had as live not, as to live in hell."
The attorney general should be made to feel this. It should be a lesson to him the longest day he had to live.

Lord Ellenborough—"Mr. Topping, it is perhaps better not to pursue this line. The words which occurred could not have been meant so strongly as you think; they merely passed as things of that kind generally do; it is painful when they excite such notice as at present."

Mr. Topping—"My lord, the language was not to be endured, or passed over. I owe a vindication to the court, I owe it to myself."

Lord Ellenborough—"I know Mr. Topping, there is no malice in your disposition. I cannot doubt that; but it is better that things of this kind should go to as little length as possible."

Mr. Topping—"My lord, I have the highest defence for the court; and I will not enlarge on what has been said. But I know that what passes here must go forth to the public; and I owe it my profession, I owe it to myself, to throw off degrading an imputation as that thrown upon me by the attorney general. The sentences shall be brief and few. But I must not sink before any man who thinks to brow-beat me into submission."

Mr. Topping proceeded—"He had but few opportunities of addressing a jury, and he now could not suffer anything like a stain to be fixed on him. The noble judge upon the bench had known him from his youth up. He had nothing to conceal from any man; there was nothing which could authorise insulting language in his professional habits, or professional life. He had not charged the at-

ney general with perfection; he had not charged him with malignity; and the sudden burst of the learned counsel's opinion was perfectly uncalculated for anything which had occurred. He had only said, that the learned counsel must find himself in a new situation; that defence of libel must be left easy to him than its accusation. A few ludicrous allusions had been made to his want of ease and practice on the flagstone, and no observation had been made that ought to have disturbed him. If he had thought the attorney general one who professed the severity of the laws against the unfortunate persons who incurred their punishment—if he had thought him malignant to that degree—he could not have associated with that officer; and yet they walked home side by side yesterday. He (Mr. Topping) was not fond of speaking of himself; but he must be allowed for once to say of himself, that he would fatten an unjust charge of no man, and bear it from no man.

Lord Ellenborough briefly stated the evidence. If it had appeared that the warrant was on a charge of high treason, the publication would have been made out, and a verdict must have gone for the defendant; but the warrant only was, on suspicion of high treason. It was certainly improper, that a person's name should have been introduced as the plaintiff's was; but the jury would take it into their serious consideration, in apportioning the damages, how the evil was palliated, by its having been done long before, by the consolidation of the sum now having extended as widely as probably it would ever extend. The Dublin Journal came over to London, and was probably sometimes in the hands of the present jury; so that the additional circulation by the Morning Post could not have the effect of much additional injury. A verdict must be found for the plaintiff.

The jury, without leaving the box, found for the plaintiff—Damages 500l.

EAST INDIES.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Headquarters, Calcutta, 20th April, 1810.
GENERAL ORDERS, BY MAJ. GEN. GOWDIE.
Further extracts from the confirmed proceedings of the general court-martial, which assembled at Bangalore on the 17th of November, 1809, and of which major-general Ward is president, are published to the army.

Major David Courtenay Kenny, late commanding 2d battalion 19th regiment native infantry ordered in arrest by the officer commanding the army, charged with the following—
"I am directed by the honourable the governor general in council, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, and to convey to you the thanks of his lordship in council, for the communication of the proceedings on the several trials therein referred to, and for the information, that it is your intention to dissolve the general court-martial at Bangalore."

In dissolving the general court-martial of which major-general Ward is president, major-general Gowdie published to the army the following copy of a letter, addressed to him by the chief secretary to government, with the expression of his fullest concurrence in the sentiments of his lordship in council, as they relate to major-general Ward, and the officers composing the general court-martial of which he was president.

"I am directed by the honourable the governor general in council, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, and to convey to you the thanks of his lordship in council, for the communication of the proceedings on the several trials therein referred to, and for the information, that it is your intention to dissolve the general court-martial at Bangalore."

In conveying to you the entire concurrence of the governor-general in council, in the propriety and wisdom of every measure you have adopted, and in the justice of every opinion you have expressed, relative to these proceedings, his lordship in council cannot but deeply lament; that the most efficacious interests of the public should have required, that both the officer commanding the army, and the governor-general in council should withhold their approbation from several parts of these proceedings."

His lordship in council is, however, assured, that he only anticipates your sentiments when he adds, that in performing this painful and ungracious duty, he has done the full justice to the upright and honourable motives of the respectable officers who composed the court, and who he well knows, have discharged their debate and differing trials, with a pure and conscientious regard to the dictates of their own minds; and his lordship in council has only the more to regret, that the points on which the judgment of the court have been thought to be erroneous, were too important and fundamental to admit of their receiving even the ta-

lents of public authority. I had the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) A. PALCOWAR chief clerk to the general court-martial, assembled at Whitehall, on the 2d instant, and of which colonel Wickham is president, is dissolved, and the president, members, and executors, will return to their respective stations and corps forthwith.

SPANISH GRATITUDE.

MONUMENT OF GEORGE III. AND THE BRITISH CORPSES—SITTING OF NOV. 19.

Senior Perez de Castro, addressing the court, spoke in substance as follows:—"I have long felt a desire to propose to the cortes a resolution, the adoption of which appears to me very proper, because it is very just; but the important affairs which have occupied your majesty since your installation, and the multitude of occurrences, if not so important in themselves, yet at least all springing from the wish to advance in the grand career of the salvation of the country, have hitherto prevented me from so doing. I mean to speak of the gratitude which the Spanish nation feels for England, its generous ally. The whole world knows how much we are indebted to her illustrious sovereign, as great in his sentiments towards the Spaniards, as determined in his purpose to protect their sacred cause. There is not a patriot, who, in so speaking, does not feel his faculties excited by contemplating the abundant supplies of troops, arms, ships, and money which the generous British nation has freely bestowed on Spain from the moment at which it beheld our heroic resolutions. Donations, promises, enthusiastically all have been lavished by the English people on their ally; and posterity, painting in majestic colours the heroism, the constancy, and fidelity of Spain, will place in the same picture the unbounded generosity and truly inimitable exertions of Great Britain on her behalf. England knows our gratitude, the whole world knows it; it is engraven on our hearts; our past government has repeated it on every occasion that offered; but it is just, it is necessary, that the whole nation, that is, the cortes, who represent it in the fullest manner, should solemnly manifest it, by voting an eternal monument of national gratitude to the worthy head of their great nation. Thus shall we perform a sacred duty; thus we shall give a public proof of one of those virtues, which greatly characterize the noble nation whom we represent. I mean gratitude. Let us declare at the same time, that we will never by down our arms till we have secured our independence, the integrity of our territory in both hemispheres without dismemberment, and our lawful king free. Let us use the painful but heroic and glorious course of our holy war, always in good understanding with, always united to the great nation which aids us so generously; and may that union be as eternal, as the ties are sacred and inviolable which bind us to our ally, by the last treaty of the 14th January, 1809. My wish is, that since such are the vows of the whole nation, its representatives also may function them. If the cortes think fit to adopt my ideas, they permit me to read the heads of a decree, conformable to what I have suggested."

The motion was approved of by acclamation. The decree was then read, which was also carried by acclamation, without the alteration of a single word. Joy was depicted in the countenance of all the spectators, and the gratitude which filled their bosoms was displayed by the most affecting demonstrations of applause.

DEGREE.
The cortes general and extraordinary, assembled by the most lively and sincere gratitude towards his most sacred majesty George the Third, king of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the most generous interest he has displayed, and for the important assistance he has afforded the Spanish nation, in liberally supplying her with arms, money, troops, ships, and stores, from the first moment the provinces raised the loud acclamation of independence and fidelity to their legitimate sovereign king Ferdinand VIIth, indignantly enslaved, captured, and insulted by the most unprincipled usurper of the throne of France, Napoleon Bonaparte;—hereby decree, that a public monument shall be erected to his majesty George the Third, in testimony of the national gratitude of Spain, not only to an august, generous sovereign, but to the unconquerable English nation, for the arduous and patriotic services he has rendered in the glorious cause of Spain. The king is at the same time declared, that the Spanish nation will not by down her arms until she has secured her independence, the absolute integrity of the Spanish monarchy in both worlds, and recovered it for her lawful sovereign, Ferdinand VIIth, acting always with the concurrence, and in the most perfect harmony, with the king of Great Britain, in pursuit of the interests of the Spanish nation, and the perfect and absolute alliance, solemnly stipulated in the treaty of the 14th of January, 1809. The cortes of regency will take care to make known to his majesty, respecting the most solemn and appropriate manner in which the same can be executed, and will also submit to the cortes the plan which it thinks will be the best for carrying such national intention into effect. The cortes conceive it proper, with a view to the attainment of the desired object, that this decree shall be printed, and publicly circulated.

(Signed) LUIS DEL MONTE, President.
MANUEL LIXAN, Secretary.
Royal City of Leon, Nov. 19, 1810.

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LONDON GAZETTE.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE, DEC. 29.

Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir Robert Calder, Bart. Com. in Chief of the Mediterranean, addressed the following letter to the Admiralty, on the 29th instant.

"I enclose the letter which I have received from Captain Grant, of the Diana, informing me that the boats of that ship, under the command of Lieutenant Rowe, had succeeded in getting fire in the enemy's frigates, and in getting fire in the enemy's frigates, on the coast of Norway, two Danish cutter privateers, one of four guns, and the other of two.

Extremely irritated by the loss of the life of Bonthon, (seeing it thus every day become more difficult to make good his promise to France of preserving her colonies), as well as by the resistance which he has met in the Peninsula, Bonaparte sent for the Baron Lagerbjelke, the Swedish minister at Paris, and in presence of Champagny alone, spoke to him as follows:—"The election of the prince of Pontecorvo to the throne of Sweden has also restrained my just resentment against your court for the last 3 months. It has not ceased to give prosecution to France since 1809; at one time presenting England from making peace for three years together; and at another, seeking the alliance and protection of France in order to defeat it afterwards. I knew (said Lagerbjelke) how to provide against the hatred of Gustavus Adolphus, he was my declared enemy; while the present government of Sweden has only sought my friendship for the purpose of recovering Finland, an event that will never take place. It has besides continued to trade with Great Britain, in violation of the treaty of peace with France, by permitting colonial produce to be introduced into Sweden for the purpose of being afterwards re-exported to the Continent."

"In consequence of all this," continued Bonaparte, "my Minister at Stockholm has orders to demand, that you be declared against England—that English manufactures be burnt—and that colonial produce be interdicted to a duty of 50 per cent; and in case of refusal, he must quit Stockholm immediately. It is his order to—such is my pleasure."

Whereupon the Baron de Lagerbjelke attempted to reply, Bonaparte ordered him to be silent, crying—Hold your tongue!"

The French Government cannot proceed to burn the English manufactures, and to impose a duty of fifty per cent on colonial produce, without first consulting the States of the realm. The Baron de Lagerbjelke having mentioned that objection to Bonaparte, received for answer—"Let me hear no more of these piffling (the expression is much more common in the French) laws of Sweden."

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Let us speak in the strongest manner of all employed under him, and I hope you will agree with me in thinking, that this service was most faithfully and well executed; they have brought off with them the colours of the frigate, and two other ensigns.

Captain Collier very handsomely offered the boats of the Cyane to assist; but as it was not to be done by force, I deemed it best to fend the boats of the ship only.

Although there had been boats constantly employed about the enemy's frigate since the ranon there, they had not cleared any part of the wreck.

Having ordered the enemy to have collected the boats about the coast of Santa Maria, in a frigate which I had on board, at a proper time of the day, I placed the most ardent and hoarse boats under the able direction of captain Hall, with one division of the Spanish and two divisions of English gunboats, under the zealous command of Captain Thomas Fowell and lieutenant W. F. Carter, successfully drew the attention and fire of Fort Callado, threw, seemingly with considerable effect, the place of construction, until the wind coming from the westward, made it necessary to move them on.

We have not yet ascertained what has been the damage or loss on the part of the enemy, but we are unfortunately on this occasion to lament the death of two highly esteemed and respectable young officers, Lieutenant Thomas Warr and Lieutenant John Boyd, of the Royal Marine Artillery, who fell in the fire of the vessel of the enemy, which, with four Spanish and four English men wounded, constituted our loss in this action.

BONAPARTE AND THE SWEDISH MINISTER.

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INTERNAL DISTURBANCES.

In our last edition, we alluded to those internal disturbances, which agitate this unfortunate and seemingly devoted country. It is impossible to consider the subject, including as it necessarily does, a retrospect to pass, but not very remote times, without shuddering at the "dreadful scenes of preparation," which appear to strike every eye, and every ear, but those, that should be constantly open and watchful for the peace and welfare of the public. The principles upon which administration has been accused of conducting the affairs of Ireland, that of allowing a spirit of division among its inhabitants, seems to have had no little influence upon the present instance, and it has been turned against themselves by those, whose interests can be promoted only by the promotion of anarchy and confusion. While the pretended hostility of the Shanawats and Caravats to each other lasted, government took no essential steps to repress it, and it is no wonder if the magistracy, destitute of its natural support, sunk into impotence, or was paralyzed into inactivity. But the deception is hid aside, because no longer deemed necessary, and a peace, hostile to public tranquility, has been announced between the adverse parties. Corps of peasantry are carrying on military operations throughout the counties of Kilkenny, Tipperary, Limerick, and the adjacent parts, as if they were acting under the sanction of the laws. Systematic robbery supplies them with arms, and their depredations are carried on with little or no appearance of involuntary violence. All field sports are given over; the fowling is now to be depolished of his gun; and, unless a speedy and effectual check is given to the spirit of insurrection, the country, the country of Ireland, will present the most dreadful of all spectacles, an armed peasantry and a disarmed gentry.

The consequences of such a state of things are too obvious to require being pointed out to our readers. Indeed, they have already begun to manifest themselves. Very lately, a fellow, in the neighbourhood of Clougher, told a Gentleman, whom he met hunting, that if ever he heard again of his dogs and horses going over other men's grounds, he would shoot him. Our Correspondent, upon whose accuracy we have the best reason to depend, adds, "the hint was effectual," and this alone denounces the state of terror and humiliation, to which the natural guardians of the public peace, the Country Gentlemen, are reduced.

Upon a rough calculation, it is computed that upwards of ten thousand stand of arms are in the hands of the insurgents in a single district of the County of Tipperary. They are evidently subject to a degree of control, partaking more of political restraint than military discipline. The secret powers, by which their movements are directed, has not, as may be naturally imagined, influence enough to withhold all those embarked in the project, whatever that may be, from occasional acts of violence, which do not appear to enter into the general system. As a proof of this, we select the following passage from the letter of a Gentleman travelling in that part of the country, directed last week to this office.

"We found nothing to molest us, till we took a post-chaise at the Nine-mile-houls for Clonmel, about 5 o'clock on Saturday evening; when, in going down the Mountain-road of Kilsah, I observed, notwithstanding it was dark, some anxious vigilance in the conduct of the driver, which denoted that he was not free from apprehension. I distinctly heard an acquaintance of his, with whom I had a short conference, reply to some question, they had been firing several shots, and that there were five arms. We remained ignorant of the precise meaning of these words, until we arrived at Clonmel, in which attempt, by the way, we might have been interrupted, if a gun or pistol, which had been snatched up, had not luckily burst priming only. Mr. — and I saw the flash from inside a hedge on the road side, as distinctly as I see the paper, on which I am now writing. We found, upon inquiry, that the three fellows, who had the arms on the Mountain-road, wished rather to pick a quarrel, than to shoot us at once. They were, in some degree, intoxicated, and ripe for battle; and, in order to provoke it, they sang songs at the chaise. The driver, who saw all this, halted his speed, and soon took us beyond the reach of their violence."

Some slight robberies of money, we understand, now and then take place; but they appear not to be taken to supply individual rapacity, but to defray, and indeed they avow the purpose, contingent expenses. Under the pretence of drunkenness, however, some very wanton murders are committed, of which no public notice is taken.

"What is government about?" is the universal question in the country. As far as the term may be considered to imply the ministry, the answer to the question is more easily than satisfactory. The ministers are employed upon a very different subject, how to overcome their adversaries; to whom, in

CATHOLIC MEETING.

A Meeting of the Catholic Committee took place on Sunday last. Major Bryan in the Chair. A proposition was made by Mr. Byrne, that certain gentlemen, whom he named, of whom Mr. Keogh was one, should be deputed to visit Lord Fingal in the management of Catholic affairs in England. Mr. O'Connell followed Mr. Byrne, and stated, that as he had very little doubt but that Catholic Emancipation would be secured to us, it might be necessary to have some of the Catholic lawyers in London, to prepare, revise, or examine any bill that might be intended to be presented to parliament for their relief; and he proposed, that as it was to be apprehended that Mr. Keogh's ill state of health would prevent his attendance, that Sir Edw. Bell, two Catholic Mechanics (one of whom, Mr. O'Connell proposed, should be Mr. Randall M'Donnell) and two Catholic Lawyers, the whole to form a deputation of six persons, should attend the progress of the Catholic Petition in Parliament, but that they should be restricted from agreeing to any ecclesiastical stipulation in the Bill of Emancipation.

Mr. Owen O'Connor was of opinion that six would be too many; and moved as an amendment to Mr. O'Connell's proposition, that the number now should be substituted in place of six.

Mr. Plunkett seconded the amendment, which was also supported by Mr. Dyne and Mr. Lynch, whereupon a debate took place, in which Doctor Sheil, Messrs. Hufley and Mahon, supported Mr. O'Connell's proposition. Mr. O'Gorman expressed his dissent to both the original Motion and the Amendment; the Bishops, however, were polled for further consideration.

Mr. O'Gorman then proposed, that the answer of the Earl of Donoughmore to the address which had been presented to him, should be published, which was unanimously agreed to. And the Committee adjourned to Saturday next.

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE.

DUBLIN, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29.

MAJOR BRYAN IN THE CHAIR.
The Committee met for the purpose of appointing proper persons to take charge of the Petition. The Secretary read the following letter from the Earl of Donoughmore to Lord Fingal:—"MY DEAR LORD,
"In asserting my place in Parliament, the undoubted right of my Catholic countrymen to a complete participation of the privileges of the Constitution—in claiming for them their full share of political power—I took my stand upon the same ground upon which I have so often pleaded the cause of that important class of his Majesty's subjects. Arguing the case, upon such principles as these, I was prepared to offer no new conditions on my part, who had already so fully assured their loyalty to the King and their fidelity to the State.
"It is truly gratifying to me to have obtained the approbation of those who place their interests in my hands under circumstances of peculiar difficulty. How greatly have they overrated the humble endeavours of their advocates, by the valued testimony of their regards and confidence, which your lordship has done me the honour of communicating to me in terms of personal kindness towards myself and those who are most dear to me, for which I cannot too strongly express my warmest acknowledgments.
"I have the honour to be, &c.
"DONOUGHMORE."
The letter being read, the Committee requested that the proceedings of to-day should not be reported.

In the County of Meath there have been a great many depredations perpetrated lately by a banditti calling themselves Jack Carders. On the night of the 15th ult. they attacked the farm-yard and offices of Mr. T. B. Hardman, and fired several shots into the house of his bailiff, and having forcibly entered it, threatened to shoot him, beat him severely, and then in the most savage manner, scraped his back with a wool card. After thus maltreating the bailiff, they cut down 250 young trees in the plantation, and destroyed several gates, &c. &c. They then left a written paper with the bailiff threatening all persons who should take lands over the heads of others, in the counties of Dublin, Meath, Louth. When they departed, they took with them five mares and one horse, which were afterwards found on the hill of Bellefontain.

On the 8th ult. five large ash trees were cut down and carried away from the estate of George Palmer, Esq. near Castletellingham.

