

What the opportunity of withdrawing the Spanish troops during the night was left; and on my observing that, after such a defeat, there was no risk of attack from the enemy, a very contrary opinion was maintained. In point of fact, no enemy ever appeared during several days employed in bringing off the wounded and burying the dead.—It may be proper to remark on the reports published relative to the enemy's number at Santi Petri (4,500 men of Villat's division), that by the concurrent testimony of all the French Officers here, General Villat's division had changed of the whole line. What then must be the strength of that division, in order to be numbered 4,500 men to Santi Petri alone? In order to establish, by authentic documents, facts which may have been disputed, and to elucidate others, I enclose by way of appendix, the reports of various Officers of the division.

I have the honour to be,
With the greatest regard,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
T. GRAHAM, Lieut. General.

P. S. I have put this postscript, diffidly to the duty of my staff at head quarters, in the evening of the 5th, of sending for more troops or for provisions from the Isla.

My visit was a very short one, of mere ceremony. I may have asked if the Spanish troops expected arrived. This error must have arisen from the difficulty of conveying in a foreign language.

With this I send you a sketch of the ground, &c. of the Action of Barosa, by which it will be seen how impossible, according to my judgment, it would be for an enemy to expulse his left flank, by making a direct attack through the wood on the Brema position, while that of Barosa was occupied in force by the allied army.

We have not received the appendix alluded to by the gallant General.

PARLIAMENT.
HOUSE OF LORDS, MAY 9.

The Slave Trade Felony and Irish Loan Bills were read the third time, and passed.

The Earl of LAURENDALE took the opportunity of the full attendance, to require some explanation from Ministers respecting a point which he deemed of considerable importance. After addressing to certain proceedings of the Boards of Treasury, of Trade, and of Excise, he said he understood that many Dissenters were actually yet distilling from sugar, on the faith that an application would be made to Parliament in their favour, with respect to the duties. He therefore wished to be informed, if Ministers had given notice to those persons, that the application to Parliament in their favour had not been successful, and that the law of the land, with respect to distillation, must be enforced. He felt this was an extraordinary question, but there were extraordinary times; and with reference to the circumstance, he trusted it would not be deemed an improper one.

Earl BARNSTABLE, in a low tone of voice, replied to what had fallen from the Noble Earl. We could only distinctly hear, that it was proposed to bring in a Bill of Indemnity.

The Earl of LAURENDALE, in reply, observed, that this was the first case of the kind that he remembered; and added, that if a Bill of Indemnity were brought in, as mentioned by the Noble Earl, he should oppose it in every stage of that House.

Earl BARNSTABLE rose to explain. The revenue, he observed, was duly taken care of. Those Distillers had entered into a bond for the payment of the higher duties, if called upon to do so. The case was far from being a novel one, it occurred in many other instances.

PROTESTANT DISSIDENT MINISTERS
The Order of the Day, upon which their credentials were summoned, being read.

Lord Viscount STURMOUTH rose, pursuant to the notice he had given, for the purpose of introducing a Bill, the principal object of which was to prevent the abuses of the Acts of William and Mary, and of his present Majesty, and to extend and render more effectual those Acts as far as relates to Protestant Dissenting Ministers. The subject before them was one, he thought, which should be an object of anxious solicitude to every individual of whatever sect or persuasion he may be, in the country. He meant the correction of the abuses of those important Acts. The dignity, the honour, and the sanctity of the national religion were involved in the consideration. After addressing to the effects of the Reformation on the ecclesiastical policy of the country, his Lordship referred to the principles and policy of the Acts of Toleration, which were chiefly established at the era of the Revolution. He dwelt principally upon the operation of those Acts as applicable to Protestant dissenting Ministers; and described their provisions which respect to those individuals who applied to the Magistrate for licences to act as religious teachers or Ministers in their respective congregations. These provisions, however, he stated, had received a novel interpretation, within the last thirty or forty years. It was well known to the Magistrate, and to those who were conversant in the business of the Quarter Sessions of the Peace, that the general understanding and practice was, that any person whatever, let his moral or intellectual qualifications be what they may, let his ignorance or immorality be what it might, whether he descended from a chimney or a pillory, was at liberty to repair to the Quarter Sessions, and there to take the oaths and make the declarations required by the Statute when he was at liberty to demand a certificate of his having qualified himself, and then to go and preach any doctrine he pleased, provided the same was not against the law! "Religion," said the immortal Bacon, "is the main stay of a well-ordered commonwealth." Nothing could be of more deep importance than that religious instruction should not be contaminated at its source, and that its teachers should not be men of tainted or immoral principles. Those facilities were an inducement to crafty and designing individuals to tempt upon the ignorant and unwary. For the correction of his statement, he would appeal to every officiating Magistrate at the Quarter Sessions. Neither was there any attestation offered as to the moral or intellectual competency of those applicants; they demanded their certificates upon their taking the oaths, &c. and these were given by the Justices under the idea that they had no power to refuse them. It was not to the characters of those individuals, as general members of society, that he objected; he felt left to their tenets, or modes of Faith. It was the ill appointment he thought dangerous, and their taking upon themselves, merely upon their own motives, to act as religious instructors, that he thought objectionable. This he held, was admitted under a false interpretation of the Acts of Toleration. The spirit of those did not do to authorize incompetent persons to assume the sacred functions of ministers of religion.—But under the Acts as now interpreted, all descriptions of persons—cobblers, from masons, chimney sweeps, excommunicated clergymen, and such persons, were held as admissible. Again he meant no reflection on the occupations of these persons, but they afforded strong presumptive evidence of their unfitness to perform the sacred functions. No man could possibly higher respect all or any of their Lordships than himself, yet there were many among them whom he should not like to see commanding armies, in the place of Lord Wellington or General Graham, or leading on fleets to battle in the field of Lord Gambier, Sir J. Somers, or Sir Edward Pellew. But the practices which he complained of were not consonant to the true spirit and meaning of the Acts in question; and he felt confident, if such were stated from authority, their Lordships would not hesitate to interpose, in order to prevent the continuance of so enormous an evil. Notwithstanding such was the prevalent interpretation of the Acts, there were parts of the kingdom where different opinions were held respecting the true intent and meaning of them; and he believed, that such a sentiment was held by some among their Lordships. The Noble Viscount then referred to the provisions of the Act of William and Mary, in illustration of the position he had laid down; and also the Act of the 19th of his Majesty. These were held to apply to the cases of Dissenting Ministers, not to all persons indiscriminately, who chose to take those functions upon themselves; and there were instances of such persons being refused because they could not show that they were teachers of congregations; but in the great general case of cases it was otherwise; and they were called upon to resist the evils resulting from the uncertain state of laws of so much importance. It was incumbent on the Legislature to declare the real intent and meaning of those Acts, and to point out particularly for the species of evidence to be required from the applicants for licences, as to their competency. What he proposed was, that in all such cases this should appear; that some evidence of their moral and intellectual fitness should be required; that a certificate should be brought signed by at least six householders, who had known the applicant, and knew him to be a person of a sober life, and considered as endowed with sufficient abilities for the purpose. The Noble Viscount then addressed to the various exemptions enjoyed by dissenting Ministers of various persuasions; and particularly of the sect called Quakers; and proceeded to consider some of those clauses which were held as contributory to the great increase, of late years, of dissenters from the Established Church. He alluded particularly to the want of a sufficient number of places of worship for the dissenting sects, and influenced the contrast between the measures adopted in that respect, in the reign of Queen Ann, when the erection of fifty new churches was referred upon in the then comparatively small size of the metropolis. With respect to the present number of churches in the Metropolis, if it increased since the reign of Queen Anne, it was considered, one hundred additional Churches would scarcely be sufficient. What he proposed now was, that the Bill he had the honour to present should be read a next time, then printed, and it would be for their Lordships to name a day for the second reading. He then moved, "That this Bill be now read a first time."

On the question being put, Lord HOLLAND said that even what had fallen from his Noble Friend impressed more strongly on his mind, that no necessity existed for the desired interference. The whole seemed to go upon a fundamental error, that it was only by the permission of Government that individuals were to instruct others in their religious duties. He, on the contrary, held it to be the right of every man who thinks he can instruct his fellow creatures, to do so without let or hindrance. For the measure itself, he did not think a sufficient case was made out, as the existence of any real practical evil or inconvenience, to require such an interference on the part of the Legislature. His Lordship then referred to some calculations as to the increase of dissenting teachers of late years, which he did not seem to regard as a misfortune, or an alarming consideration.

Earl STURMOUTH acquiesced in every thing that had fallen from his Noble Friend (Lord Holland). The Noble Lord, on whatever question he spoke, whether right or wrong, wife or unwise, always spoke from principle. But on the present occasion, he did

not think that his Noble Friend or the Noble Viscount had gone far enough. They did not, or would not, touch the real state of the question. They must know, or if they did not know, he would tell them, that in most parts of England, where the parishes did not consist of more than a thousand souls, the places of worship, exclusive of private houses, barns, &c. were as three to four to those of the Established Church; and that if Scotland and Ireland were to be included, the proportion between the Dissenters and the Established Church would be found as two to one. The tide was running that way, and who could stop it?

The Bill was then read a first time, and ordered to be printed.

The House went into a Committee on Lord Redefale's Vexatious Affect Bill, when after a conversation between Lords Ellenborough, Holland, Moira, Stanhope, Redefale, and the Lord Chancellor, it was agreed that the principle of the Bill should be, that 15l. should be the lowest assessable sum, and that the Bill be continued for five years.

On the motion of Lord Stanhope, that Bills of Exchange and Promissory notes (which are excepted in the Bill) be also raised from 10 to 15l. The House divided.—For the amendment 3.—Against it 7.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MAY 9.

LONDON THEATRE BILL.

Mr. MALLIS moved the second reading of the London Theatre Bill.

Mr. WREATH said he was not surprised at the motion of the Hon. Gentleman, notwithstanding what had passed on that day six weeks; but he was sure that when he heard the reasons upon which an application for further delay was grounded, he would have no objection to agree to its postponement to another Session of Parliament. The object with which it was postponed on that day six weeks was, which the Committee engaged in investigating its affairs might be enabled to state to the House whether there was a probability that Drury-lane Theatre would be reconstructed. That Committee had proceeded in its enquiries, and had come to a Resolution, that all objections to its reconstruction were removed; and they had proceeded to take towards the completion of the object, that a plan had been drawn out which was likely to meet with numerous subscribers, and every thing was going forward in regular progress to its success. He hoped by the beginning of next session to be able to state positively that a new theatre would be erected by the Patrons of Drury-lane.

Mr. BAYNE gave full credit to the statement of the Hon. Gentleman, but strong as it might appear, it fell far short of that degree of certainty which the House had a right to expect.

Mr. PATER MOORE said that the Committee (of which he had the honour to be Chairman) had two points to consider; the first was the amount and nature of the claims upon the theatre; the 2d, the probability of its being rebuilt. He could assure the House that the obstacles to the rebuilding were entirely removed; and as to the undertaking of it, he hoped they would give another year for the commencement of the splendid structure, which it was in contemplation to erect. He moved that the second reading should be postponed till that day three months.

Mr. SERRIDEN said, he was grateful for the civility and attention he had experienced from both sides of the House, and felt it a flattering testimony, that though he had been for many years a decided party man, he had also conducted himself as to leave no unjust impression. His Honourable Friend on his right hand (Mr. Whitbread) had pressed for the indulgence of the House; and his Hon. Friend behind him (Mr. P. Moore) had solicited his favour, under the circumstances of the case before them; but, with all the gratitude he felt for the personal civility of individuals, he must be still proud enough to say, that he appealed not to their indulgence, but strictly and solely to their justice. It had been said that boxes could not be had, and that the table of the town was prevented. The first he hoped to remedy it they would give him time; and as for the second he could say, that if the table of the town was prevented, it was not by the Managers; he could say for a fact, that Mr. Kemble would rather act on his own legs than bring the horses to perform on four. The table of the town was dispensed by luxury, and by the disinclination of the people in high life from taking that rule in the Theatre which they were accustomed to take, and not by any misconduct on the part of the Managers themselves. It had been said that there was but one Theatre; but in fact there were two, and one of those two was exactly of the size which excluded cavalry, and enabled every one to hear and see; yet that Theatre was deserted. He recollected that when the play of De Montford, by Miss Bailey, was brought out, the most admirable acting of Mr. Kemble, and the most splendid decorations of scenery, were insufficient to support it, and it failed, he thought, to the disgrace of the public taste. What he stood upon was, that if a third Theatre should be thought necessary, he, and those for whose interests he contended, had the power to erect it; and he was confident no right would be taken by that House from any individuals, without proper compensation being made. Application had already been made to the Privy Council on the subject, and the present applicants appeared to him the most out of favour in the whole field. The object of the present application was to get that termination, and obtain a perpetual patent, as an eternal disgrace to the judgment which related them a limited one. But the Bill was called the New Lon-

don Theatre Bill. He did not mean to say any disrespectful to the parties concerned; but if they were to Parliament, they should not come in unprepared. They never had an idea of building in the City, for they knew they would not be permitted. If it did not transpire the orders of the House, much, he would ask a worthy Alderman whether that was the case or not?

Sir JAMES SHAW said, the Corporation of the City of London disclaimed giving any countenance to a Theatre in the City.

Mr. SERRIDEN said, this was a strong ground for agreeing to the motion before the House; and he was sure that if ever the City should be included in a Theatre, compensation should be made to those with whose interests he must interfere. He concluded with returning thanks for the kindness he had experienced, and referred the House for an opinion of the case to his Hon. Friend on his right hand (Mr. Whitbread), whose character was a stamp and guarantee that he would not lend himself to any unworthy purpose.

After a few observations from Mr. Dent, Mr. G. Johnstone, and General Philpotts.

The House divided, when there appeared—For the Amendment 80.—Against it 23.—Majority for Amendment 57.

DIRECTIONS.
The CHAN. of the EXCHEQ. (addressing to the Report of the Committee appointed to search the Lords' Journals on the Bill relating to Dissenters) intimated the necessity of introducing another Bill to amend the 48th of the King, and empower the Lords of the Treasury to release certain persons distilling from sugar. He did not mean to bring in any Bill to day; yet he had no objection to having that he introduced a temporary suspension towards Ireland, the intercourse between England and that country being brought directly under consideration. Sir John Newport expressed his approbation of such temporary suspension.

IRISH MILITIA.
Mr. W. POLK brought in the Irish Militia Bill, introducing Bill; which was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday, and printed.

Mr. W. POLK obtained leave to bring in a Bill for making provision for the wives and families of sergeants, corporals, drummers, and privates, in the Irish militia. The sum of 74,000l. was allowed for the beginning of next session to be able to state positively that a new theatre would be erected by the Patrons of Drury-lane.

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The House divided, when there appeared—For the Amendment 80.—Against it 23.—Majority for Amendment 57.

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The CHAN. of the EXCHEQ. (addressing to the Report of the Committee appointed to search the Lords' Journals on the Bill relating to Dissenters) intimated the necessity of introducing another Bill to amend the 48th of the King, and empower the Lords of the Treasury to release certain persons distilling from sugar. He did not mean to bring in any Bill to day; yet he had no objection to having that he introduced a temporary suspension towards Ireland, the intercourse between England and that country being brought directly under consideration. Sir John Newport expressed his approbation of such temporary suspension.

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Mr. W. POLK brought in the Irish Militia Bill, introducing Bill; which was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday, and printed.

Mr. W. POLK obtained leave to bring in a Bill for making provision for the wives and families of sergeants, corporals, drummers, and privates, in the Irish militia. The sum of 74,000l. was allowed for the beginning of next session to be able to state positively that a new theatre would be erected by the Patrons of Drury-lane.

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Waterford Chronicle.

THURSDAY, MAY 18.

The London Journals of the 10th conveyed intelligence which may be regarded as a direct refutation of the rumoured conflict at COLUSSA. German papers, which are wholly silent on the subject, were received on the morning of the day just mentioned, and it is added, that accounts to the 29th ultimo had reached Government from the neighbourhood of the scene of action, in which there is not the slightest notice of the occurrence. The 16th and 16th of April are vaguely alluded as the days on which the transaction took place; but the more recent news reader's statements totally incredible.

The most important article communicated by the ANNOUET mail, which brought the foreign papers alluded to, relates to Turkey and Russia. It is again expressly asserted, that the GRAND STOWAK has rejected the propositions of peace made by Russia, and that he is determined to prosecute the war with augmented energy. This war, it is generally believed, was undertaken by Russia at the instigation of Bonaparte; and it is somewhat surprising, that Alexander should now be desirous of abandoning a contest in which he so eagerly engaged, and which would appear to have been concerned between him and his ally at the treaty of Tilsit. Nor is it less extraordinary, that Turkey should at present decline that pacification for which, but lately, he so earnestly laboured, and towards which her formidable increasing intestine commotions ought naturally to lead her most anxious wishes. These circumstances lead strongly to important conjectures, but which it is in the mean time necessary to entertain in no higher character, as they are not supported by that strength of evidence that would entitle them to a more confident reception. It may be, that Bonaparte has disappointed the expectations of Russia, or that he has been failed, either from incapacity or from design, to fulfil his contracted stipulations. This, combined with various other causes that have at different times been enumerated, may have produced a change of policy in the Court of St. Petersburg, and dispelled the illusion by which it has been long led astray. The resolute disposition of Turkey in the prosecution of the war may, also, without any very serious encroachment on probability, be supposed to have recoiled from Bonaparte's influence at Constantinople, exerted with a view to weaken the contending Powers, in order that both may ultimately become the prey of his ambition.

These conjectures, particularly as they regard Russia, continue to derive support from the general complexion of Continental communications. The idea of an approaching war between France and Russia is almost every where prevalent in the North of Europe, and the various movements of troops, together with other military preparations on those quarters where hostilities are likely to originate, give the anticipation a strong claim to attention. It is, besides, said, that the French forces are secretly but rapidly withdrawing from the Peninsula, and that Bonaparte is himself making preparations for his departure towards Germany. Letters from Russia are represented as stating, that was in relation upon accounts from Stockholm add, that there has been a serious dispute between Alexander and Bonaparte, and that hostilities will be the inevitable consequence. Other accounts, again, assert, that a reconciliation has taken place, and that preparations were making at Petersburg to receive General Lauriston, the successor of Caulincourt, with friendly and distinguished honours. These adverse statements are incapable of reconciliation; and it can only be remarked, that the balance of probability exhibited by them is on the side of war. On the issue of such a contest, it were idle to speculate, as no rational calculation can be made on that topic till the nature and extent of the new combination against Bonaparte, if such be in truth in agitation, shall be fully and accurately ascertained.

There are no recent accounts from the Peninsula. Those brought by the *Stagelouis*, which is now said to have left Lisbon on the 11th of this month, state, that Lord Wellington had returned to Celorico, and that it was not his intention to besiege Almeida, but to persist in the blockade, in order to avoid destroying the works of that valuable fortress