

PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS—TUESDAY, MARCH 12.

STATE OF THE NATION.

The Order of the Day having been read for resuming the adjourned debate, on the motion of the Duke of Bedford, for a Committee of the State of the Nation.

The Duke of BEDFORD said, he trusted their Lordships would allow him briefly to go over the principal points to which the present motion must necessarily refer. He had on the former night adverted to the proposed peace establishment, the pressure of taxation that would be required to support the military establishment proposed, the great internal distress of the country, and the state of Ireland. He proposed, if their Lordships should agree to the motion, to call their attention to a comparison of the peace estimates with the estimates of the war establishment, and with former peace estimates. He did not mean, far from it, to dispute the glories the Country had acquired: the Ministers had had great resources placed at their disposal, and they had incurred a heavy responsibility as to that disposal. It was not a question as to glory, but whether we had obtained a wise and secure peace. If the military establishments now proposed were necessary, it could not be conceived, he maintained, that we had achieved the great object, that of a wise and secure peace. He could not conceive, that twenty-five thousand men were necessary at the present moment for Great Britain, nor could he imagine, that so large a force as that now required was necessary, either for our old, or our newly-acquired colonies. Contrary as it was to the practice and the principles of our Constitution, and to those maxims on which rested the liberties of the People, he could not but deeply lament, that such an attempted imitation of the great military powers of the Continent should now be brought forward, with no prospect of support in the real interests of the People. With respect to Ireland, it would be a subject for the deep and mature consideration of the Committee, as to what could be effected for the amelioration of the state of that country. He could not approve of treating that part of the empire as a conquered Country, nor of keeping down the inhabitants by the bayonet, instead of conciliating their affections, by means of measures calculated to remove their grievances, and benefit their interests. He had hoped, that, in the course of the late negotiations, what had passed between Lord Castlereagh and Cardinal Consalvi, the Secretary of State of the Holy See, would have terminated in making some arrangement, by which the Catholics of Ireland might have been admitted to the rights and privileges of Parliament. He deeply regretted to find that that was not the case. But was it to be wondered at, in this situation of affairs, that the Catholic population of Ireland should feel a soreness and irritability, which would be often manifested in a variety of instances. Still, however, they observed, that when the Catholics came to Parliament to petition, they displayed a dignified calmness and a conciliatory disposition, which clearly manifested, that the soreness and irritability that appeared amongst them might be without difficulty got rid of by admitting them to the privileges of other classes of his Majesty's subjects. What they remained a proscribed class, it was naturally to be expected they would at times manifest considerable irritability.—Neither could he approve of the manner in which the 25,000 soldiers destined for the service of Ireland were to be employed. He thought it a bad method of employing them, to engage their services in assisting the police and hunting out illicit stills. In these excursions, they would be frequently opposed by large bodies of people; they would sometimes have to imbue their hands in the blood of their fellow-countrymen. Instead of being good soldiers, they would by this practice become bad officers, and acquire habits quite inconsistent with their duties as citizens. With respect to the internal distress of the Country, it was scarcely necessary for him to say any thing; all their Lordships must be convinced of it. A number of facts had come to his knowledge, which incontrovertibly proved it. It was a distress pervading every class of the community. Landlords could obtain no rent; tenants, no profit; labourers no work. The goods were crowded to overflow with farmers impoverished for debt, and labourers who had resorted to poaching, robbing farm yards, and other depredations. Land was constantly throwing out of cultivation, because it not only could not be cultivated with a profit, but must be cultivated at a positive loss. Two instances he knew of estates in Norfolk, one of 5000 acres, and another of 3000, which had generally been allowed to stay one who would take them free of rent, and no one could be found as a tenant even upon such terms, as even without rent the Clergyman could get no money for their tithes or for their farms; and the Right Reverend Bench of Bishops knew full well the distress to which many of this class of persons were reduced.—Unable to obtain money for their tithes, or rent for their farms, they were unable to keep up the payments on the insurance of their lives, upon which alone they depended for making provision for their families. Yet, in such a situation, with distress pervading every class of the community, and borne down as they were by the pressure of taxation, it was proposed by Ministers to continue the Tax called the Property Tax, in defiance of the sense of the Country, declared as it was by numerous and continually accumulating Petitions to the House of Commons against the measure. In the House of the 4th, a measure of this kind—a tax on property and profits was resorted to; but even in that case, when our

liberties had scarcely dawned, so much as it detected, that even the authors of the tax detected, that the records it should be destroyed, that it might not serve as a precedent to future ages; and requests were refused to be issued to assist in its collection. How much more then might be expected from the spirit of the People at this time against this odious and detestable imposition. It had been observed on a former evening, that the expense of our establishments, with the addition of the interest of the national debt, amounted to more than the whole rental of the kingdom, and it might be added, that if the whole land of the kingdom were now to be sold at a fair valuation, the amount would not be enough to pay the existing national debt. This was a state of things which surely called for the most rigid economy in every branch of the administration, and not for the lavish waste of enormous military establishments. To such expensive establishments the advantages of our insular situation rendered it unnecessary for us to resort, whilst they were equally contrary to the principles of our Constitution, to those principles and those maxims upon which the liberties of the People depended. Adverting again to the situation of Ireland, his Grace lamented, that some system had not been introduced calculated to allay the irritation in that country, to conciliate the affections of the People, and remove their grievances. He had already referred to what was called the Catholic question. With respect to agricultural distress, there could be no doubt that it was much greater in Ireland than in England. But upon a variety of points in that country, much remained to be done. When he held the office of Lord Lieutenant, his time was almost constantly occupied with propositions for ameliorating the situation of the People. With regard to tithes, which pressed heavily upon them, he was free to confess, that he had never yet seen a plan of relief to which he could entirely assent, but it was a subject highly deserving of attention and the most mature consideration. But against spreading the disease of large Standing Armies in time of peace to this country, he decidedly protested; it tended to impoverish our resources, as it had impoverished those of all states that had resorted to them; it was abhorrent to our free Constitution, and dangerous to the liberties of the People. Our insular situation and our maritime force formed our means of safety, and on these we ought to rely, without resorting to that worst and most dangerous of all establishments, a large Standing Army.

The Duke of SUSSEX said he should think himself acting indecorously towards their Lordships in going at such length into the subject, as the second of the motion; but it would at the same time be indecorous in him not to state briefly the principles upon which he founded his opinions. The two points to which he thought their attention ought principally to be directed, were our external connections and our internal arrangements; and one of the first questions that arose was, whether the peace we had concluded was founded upon principles which were likely to render it permanent and secure, or whether it had given a sufficient opening to commerce, credit and confidence? With respect to our commerce, considerations arose which rendered it materially a question how far it had been benefited by the Treaty of Peace that had been concluded. During the long and protracted warfare in which we had been engaged, our commerce had taken, to a great degree, a new direction.—At present, from the extreme pressure of taxation, the articles of manufacture had necessarily risen in value, whilst the manufacturer, through the same pressure, was obliged to recall his capital within a shorter period, and was consequently unable to give long credit; nor did that confidence prevail in many instances that would justify it. The next point, respecting our commerce, related to our home consumption; and here also there was a great falling off. He was perfectly aware, that a Government could not go on without some Standing Army, but he could not view a large Standing Army without all the jealousy which was natural to an Englishman; he thought pregnant with danger to the Constitution, and to the liberties of the People. He thought it also unnecessary, because we had always in our power to resort to our constitutional force, the Militia and Yeomanry of the Country.

The Earl of LIMERICK observed, that his motive in offering himself to the attention of their Lordships, was to follow up the remarks made by the Noble Duke who opened the debate on the state of Ireland. He would state to their Lordships what he conceived to be the cause of the present distracted state of that too-much-neglected Country. The Noble Duke had said, that Ireland had been treated like a conquered Country. He (the Earl of L.) did not concur in this statement, nor could he think, that his Majesty's Ministers had acted towards that part of the United Kingdom unnecessarily severe in proposing for it an establishment of 25,000 men. The Noble Duke had said, other methods of circulating 25,000 bayonets into it. With regard to this number of troops he (the Earl of L.) did not object to any conciliatory measure. But if the Noble Duke meant Catholic Emancipation as a measure which would put an end to the present disturbances of Ireland, he (the Earl of L.) conceived that it was grossly libelling the Catholics of that Country. The disturbances of Ireland did not proceed from the state of the Catholics alone; it proceeded from the ignorance and the distresses of both Catholics and Protestants in the lower classes, and would not be removed by Emancipation. The Noble Duke had also objected to the manner in which part of the army was to be employed in Ireland, in assisting

the Police and in the collection of the revenue of the Country. This assistance of the army could not be fairly objected to. It had been frequently found necessary to employ them in a similar manner in England. But in Ireland this assistance was more necessary, in order to prevent the great practice of illicit distillation, which had latterly risen to such an alarming height. This practice was one cause of the great distress of many parts of Ireland, for the effects of it were generally felt by the innocent as well as the guilty. The lands of many industrious poor farmers were often distrainted for fines levied in consequence of illicit distillation, in which they were in no manner concerned, and of which they either had no knowledge or were afraid to disclose what they knew for fear of the punishment which would await them, if they were found to have made any discovery. The Noble Duke had alluded to the distresses of the Roman Catholics.—He (the Earl of L.) respected that body as much as any man. He did not wish to make any distinction between Catholic and Protestant; but he was free to confess, that, in the South of Ireland, where most of the inhabitants were Catholics, their distresses were extremely great. They had not only to pay tithes to the Protestant Clergyman, and to bear all the severity of their collection, but they also had to support their own Pastor, and both were to be supported by the distresses of the People. [Hear, hear!] The agricultural distresses of Ireland were exceedingly great. Numbers of farmers had been thrown out of their lands, in consequence of their inability to make up their rents, and the landowners of course felt this in the difficulty of getting tenants who could pay them. This great distress was not caused by the Ministers. He would take their Lordships to a remote period.—He would take them to that period of history which had been most glorious for England, but which had been a period of disaster and distress for Ireland.—He alluded to the time of the Revolution. At that time, the jealousy of the prosperity of Ireland became so great in England, that applications and addresses were sent to the Throne against the importation of Irish cattle; afterwards their woollen exports were objected to, and next their iron.—These, it was alleged, would destroy the trade of England in a great measure; and King William, anxious to gratify his English subjects, assured them, that he would take such steps as would prevent the ruin of their trade in the articles alluded to. These prohibitions were for some time enforced, and Ireland was reduced to a state of distress from which she has yet not recovered. What was the consequence of this neglect? That she was left to be ruled by a set of Squires, who, content to exercise a tyranny over their dependents, suffered them selves to be swayed in their turn by those who had not their interests at welfare at heart. [Hear, hear.] Indeed, so true a height did this distasteful state, that in the reign of the First George it was proposed, that England had a right to forbid Ireland in all cases. The Noble Duke then proceeded to take a view of the neglected state of Ireland during the American war, which he said had been left to take care of itself, with a comparatively small force. He next adverted to the concessions which had been made of the commercial rights in 1782, which was productive of considerable advantage to the country; but this advantage had been in a great degree outweighed by the neglect with which the disputes between Catholic and Protestant had been suffered to arise, until they terminated in the dreadful ruin of 1798. In consequence of that rebellion, the Act of Union had been proposed; and what had been the consequence? That since the Union, in the short space of 16 years, the debt of Ireland had arisen to such an amount, that its revenue was not sufficient to pay the interest of it for one year.—[Hear, hear.]—This great increase in the debt of Ireland had not proceeded from a want of increase in taxation. The taxes had increased seven-fold since the Union, and, with the exception of the Property Tax, were in almost every respect as great as in England. The Assessed Taxes were the same, and Ireland had also a tax which he was glad was not known in England, because he did not wish for companions in distress; that was a tax on hearths, which was not a very light one. He was sorry to trespass much farther on the time of their Lordships, but he could not conclude without calling their attention to another cause of the distress of Ireland, that was the Grand Jury Taxation, which he conceived to be one of the greatest engines of oppression which had ever been used in that country.—[Hear, hear.] By this mode of taxation, burdens of the heaviest nature were imposed on the People, and they generally fell with most weight on that class which was least able to bear them. He would also recommend the residence of the Irish Clergy, superior and inferior, on their several livings, as a measure which would be attended with the most salutary effects. He trusted, he had already urged enough to show to their Lordships the necessity of inquiry into the state of Ireland. If anything of that kind were not done, if some measure for putting an end to the evils under which that Country laboured were not resorted to, she would, instead of being what she was capable of becoming, a fruitful source of wealth and strength to England, be only a heavy and unprofitable burden. In conclusion, he should observe, that the evils of Ireland were not to be remedied by a sudden spur of the moment. They had crept on by degrees, and arose from causes now almost forgotten. They could only be removed by little and little. As to the establishment of 25,000 men, he did not think it too much for Ireland in its present state; on the contrary, he feared, that if the mode which he had pointed out was not adopted, that number would be found too little.

The Earl of BLESINGTON contended that the Noble Duke's motion was premature. He repeated his former declaration, that the proposed establishment was not to be considered as the permanent peace establishment. The Earl of HURST denied that any practical good would result from the proposed inquiry. If the conduct of Ministers was considered reprehensible, the course to take would be to address the Throne for their removal. As to Ireland, if that Island was in such a state as to demand Parliamentary inquiry, let it be done by a distinct proposition. If the attention of their Lordships was to be called to the state of that country, it ought to be their unqualified attention. With respect to the agricultural distresses, he was far from underrating them, but similar distresses had always occurred at the termination of a war, and in proportion to the duration of that war, must be the embarrassments felt at its close.

The Earl of CARNARVON reproached the doctrine, that Parliament must not inquire into the state of the Nation because it would show a distrust of Ministers, and take the task out of their hands. Ministers! What had they to do with the question? Had Ministers been able to discover that any distresses existed? What did they do on the very first day of the Session? Had they in their own persons expressed, or had they recommended the gracious Prince Regent to express, a sense of the distresses of the country, and a determination to take into consideration the best means of relieving them? No, but they had promised to visit those distresses with continued taxation and a standing army! When such ungracious expectations were held out by his Majesty's Ministers, it was very proper indeed to resound a Parliamentary inquiry!—With respect to the dangers to be apprehended from large military establishments, he would defy the Noble Duke to produce a single instance, in ancient or modern history, of a great standing army being co-existent with a free constitution, in which the constitution did not perish. [Hear!]

The Earl of WESTMORELAND calculated the idea which seemed to be entertained, that our liberties and the constitution were seriously endangered by the maintenance of such a force as it was now proposed to keep up; and contended, that in point of fact it was a much less efficient army, in the proportion of what it had to do, than the army of 1791.

The Earl of DARNLEY had heard that it was said by one of the Ministers of the Crown, that the People of England manifested an ignorant impatience for a relaxation of taxation. The reason of their impatience, to which such an ungracious epithet had been affixed, was perfectly clear and plain; after having made exertions which all allowed to be unexampled in the history of this country, and perhaps of the world, they now found themselves, in consequence of those exertions, in a situation of great and universal distress. The subject of our Military Establishments did not properly, perhaps, come before the House at present, but he could not help taking the earliest opportunity of protesting against the military spirit, which was now but too much prevalent, and which was so alarming to every lover of our Constitution. While no interest seemed to be taken in our naval affairs, the taste for military spirit was growing on us every day.

The Lordships then divided, Non-Contents 140 Contents 141 Majority against the motion 69 Adjourned.

Irish Stocks—March 15. Bank Stock 204 Government Debtors 24 per cent 224 Do Stock 3 per cent 224 Do Do 4 per cent 224 Government Debtors, 5 per cent 213 Do Stock, 5 per cent 213 Treasury Bills, 5 per cent 213 Grand Canal Loan, 4 per cent 213 Do 6 per cent 213 Grand Canal Stock 213 Do 4 per cent 213 Do 5 per cent 213 City Bonds 6 per cent 213 Belfast Office Deb. with Govt. 5 per cent 213 Exchange, Course, 124 1/2 per cent.

On such an acquisition of strength to the support of his motion, as the Noble Earl who had just alluded to. As to the general question of inquiry into the state of the country, he conceived that there was there a time at which it was more necessary.—The speech from the Throne recommended economy. How could that recommendation be carried into effect without going into a Committee to inquire how economy could be best practised? Let their Lordships answer the call. The only symptoms which his Majesty's Ministers had evinced of a disposition to attend to the advice, which they had themselves put into the mouth of the Prince Regent, was to be found in the increase of the salaries of the Board of Excise, in the increase of the salaries of the Board of Customs, and in the increase of the salaries of the Board of Taxes; and, as the last specimen of their sincerity, in the Order of Council (issued, he believed, since the meeting of Parliament), by which the salary of the Secretary of the Admiralty, who, being £1000 a year in time of war, ought, according to the existing regulations, to be reduced to £2500 in time of peace, was to be continued at the former rate! With all this before their Lordships' eyes, was it possible, that they would refuse to go into an inquiry into the state of the Nation? The attention of the People was directed towards them.

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Waterford Market Prices—March 20. Butter, best Quality, 0s 0d second, 0s 0d third, 0s 0d fourth, 0s 0d fifth, 0s 0d sixth, 0s 0d seventh, 0s 0d eighth, 0s 0d ninth, 0s 0d tenth, 0s 0d eleventh, 0s 0d twelfth, 0s 0d thirteenth, 0s 0d fourteenth, 0s 0d fifteenth, 0s 0d sixteenth, 0s 0d seventeenth, 0s 0d eighteenth, 0s 0d nineteenth, 0s 0d twentieth, 0s 0d twenty-first, 0s 0d twenty-second, 0s 0d twenty-third, 0s 0d twenty-fourth, 0s 0d twenty-fifth, 0s 0d twenty-sixth, 0s 0d twenty-seventh, 0s 0d twenty-eighth, 0s 0d twenty-ninth, 0s 0d thirtieth, 0s 0d thirty-first, 0s 0d thirty-second, 0s 0d thirty-third, 0s 0d thirty-fourth, 0s 0d thirty-fifth, 0s 0d thirty-sixth, 0s 0d thirty-seventh, 0s 0d thirty-eighth, 0s 0d thirty-ninth, 0s 0d fortieth, 0s 0d forty-first, 0s 0d forty-second, 0s 0d forty-third, 0s 0d forty-fourth, 0s 0d forty-fifth, 0s 0d forty-sixth, 0s 0d forty-seventh, 0s 0d forty-eighth, 0s 0d forty-ninth, 0s 0d fiftieth, 0s 0d fifty-first, 0s 0d fifty-second, 0s 0d fifty-third, 0s 0d fifty-fourth, 0s 0d 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themselves of all the information they could procure on the subject, in order to frame some more effectual measures. Let the House recollect what was the state of the law before this Act passed. It was the undisciplined imprisonment of debtors; for a creditor was a release from the debt; so that a creditor was often left with hardly any choice, after taking the debtor in execution. In the former proceedings on this subject, we had, every two or three years for a long time past, an Insolvent Act open to all abuses, and, by the gross conduct of violating all contracts between debtor and creditor by an *ex post facto* law, setting the debtor at large. Would it not more become the dignity of Parliament, and the interests of the Public, to appoint a Committee which might make every proper inquiry, and might examine debtors and other parties, as well as professional persons whose experience would enable them to suggest eligible modes for the security of payment, and to remove oppressive measures peculiar in England, where alone there was nothing like a *cessio bonorum*, or something of the nature of a bankruptcy, for the relief of insolvents in prison. It appeared to him that the measure did not seem to arise from its being impossible to frame it. He had nothing to do with framing the Act, he was never consulted about it, and never saw it till it came to the House. He had only opposed some alterations in it which were proposed; and he believed that nobody in the House was against the Act altogether. It should be remembered, that it was only a temporary Act; but it ought not to be repeated without inquiry. The Learned Gentleman had suggested some remedies. He (Sir S. Romilly) thought it could be remedied more beneficially. The creditor should have the power to compel the debtor to give up his property. He wished the Learned Gentleman would consent to a Committee, to put the House in possession of useful information. Much valuable information might be obtained from the Commissioner of the Insolvent Court; but the old mode of an *ex post facto* Law was bad.

Sir WILLIAM GARROW considered the question as one of the greatest importance. He was desirous that the fullest information should be obtained, as it might lead to means of a tendency to remove distress in many quarters more than the Act at present could. He wished the subject to meet with a deliberate consideration. He was disposed to move for a Committee, according to the suggestion that had been made; but he thought it would be more decorous in him to second the motion, if made by the Learned Gentleman.—(City of note, more.)

Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY said, that if a Committee were appointed, he felt that, from his professional engagements, it would be impossible for him to attend it.

Sir WILLIAM GARROW said that the same reason applied to himself. But he was exceedingly willing to consult with the Learned Gentleman on the subject, if he would allow him to-morrow, if he pleased.

Mr. BROUGHAM hoped that, after what had passed, the Learned Gentleman (Mr. Lockhart) would be induced to withdraw his Bill, and accept the substitute offered for it. He had presented a Petition against the Act from Westminster, and some were more conscious than he was, that many frauds had been committed. He wished now for the Committee, as the effect of the Bill was to repeal the Act altogether. The inquiries of the Committee might either prove the necessity of the repeal or the propriety of amending the Act. He strongly urged the withdrawing of the Bill.

Some conversation followed between the preceding Speakers and Lord CASTLEREAGH, Mr. PROTHEROE, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE, respecting the appointment of a Committee, in the course of which Mr. Abercrombie proposed to adjourn the debate. Lord Castlereagh could see no necessity for an adjournment. He considered the introduction of the Bill rather as laying the grounds for inquiry, than projecting the question.

Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY then moved an amendment on Mr. Lockhart's motion, leaving out all the words after "that," and proposing a Committee for the purposes he had before stated.

On the suggestion of Sir W. GARROW, it was agreed to add, that the Petitions should be referred to the Committee.

Mr. LOCKHART thought that if it went abroad, that the House was yet so doubtful upon this subject, they would give the reins to the progress of dishonesty and fraud.

On the division the numbers were—for the amendment, 82—against it, 71—Majority in favour of a Committee, 11.

Mr. Lockhart's Bill was therefore lost.

Lord CASTLEREAGH appeared at the Bar with a Message from the Prince Regent.

The Message having been brought up, was read by the Speaker—(For which see Lords' Records.)

Lord CASTLEREAGH said, the course usually pursued on similar occasions, was to appoint an early day for going into a Committee on a Message relating to a circumstance so auspicious as that which had just been communicated to the House.—But while they did this, their attention and the deep interest which they took in all that so nearly concerned that illustrious Family, by whom we had now the happiness to be governed, and whose way had so largely contributed to the happiness and liberties of this Kingdom, had always suggested on the moment an expression of gratitude for the Message which had been brought down, coupled with an assurance, that they would proceed without delay to take into their most serious consideration, in order to

make such provision as might appear suitable to the high rank of the parties, and consistent with the dignity of the nation. On the present occasion, he anticipated no difficulty in persuading the House to take this course on that auspicious and gratifying event which he had been authorized to communicate this day. No argument was necessary on his part to make their attachment to that illustrious Personage, who now so gloriously presided over the Government of this Country, or to that distinguished individual who was the object of the present Message. The alliance about to be contracted was one which promised to be not less conducive to the comfort and happiness of the parties than to the advantage and glory of the nation. He felt it impossible to abstain from congratulating the House on the character of that individual who was now about to be united to the Royal Family of England by marriage. In speaking on this subject, it would become him to offer any thing like flattery to Prince Leopold, but he spoke in the hearing of those who he asserted, that there was but one opinion on his merits throughout Europe; and that his principles, his manners, and habits, all commanded admiration, and proved him to possess those qualifications which fitted him for domestic enjoyment, and which were necessary to form a suitable consort for the Princess Charlotte of Wales. What provision it might be proper to make, it would be for the House to consider on going into a Committee on the Message. In deciding on this question, he doubted not they would mark their attachment to the Royal Family by uniting that liberality which became the character of the Country and the splendour of the Crown, with that determination to economy which ought never to be lost sight of in Parliament. There was only one consideration which he would press on them, as that which he was anxious they would keep particularly in view. He hoped that in making a provision suitable to the high situation of the parties, it would be so framed, on their first settlement in life, as to guard against the necessity of recurring to the liberality of Parliament a second time. He then moved that an humble and dutiful Address should be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to convey to him the thanks of that House for his most gracious Message on the subject of the intended marriage of the Princess Auguste Charlotte of Wales, with George Frederick Leopold, Prince of Saxe-Coburg, of Nauffeld; to express their entire satisfaction at the alliance about to be formed with a Protestant Prince so illustrious a family; an alliance which, while it promised to increase the happiness of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and of her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte, promised also to prove in union with the best interests of the Country. To assure him that that House would immediately proceed to the consideration of his most gracious Message, and to make such a provision as should mark their just sense of the great and eminent virtues of her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte, and be suitable to the honour and dignity of the Royal Family and the Nation.—(Loud cheering from all parts of the House.)

The question was put on the Address, and carried *acmeum contrabundante*.

The Message was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Mr. DOMINICK BROWNE moved for leave to bring in a Bill to shorten the duration of the Poll, and to regulate the scrutiny, in Elections in Ireland.

Sir FREDERICK FLOOD said he should not oppose the bringing in of the Bill, but should reserve his observations he had to make on it till a future day.

Sir J. NEWPORT was anxious that the inconvenience of a long poll should be avoided; but while this was done, to guard particularly against the elective franchise being virtually taken from the Irish freeholder, and Members returned on the nomination of the Society, care ought to be taken effectually to guard against abuses on the part of the returning officers.

Mr. V. FITZGERALD agreed to the Bill being brought in; but doing this, he was anxious to guard against being supposed to pledge himself to support the provisions of the Bill.

Lord CASTLEREAGH foresaw evils connected with too great a contraction of the poll, or too long a duration of it. In the former, the voters might not be brought up, or have opportunity of exercising their right; in the latter, much inconvenience might be experienced, and party turbulence encouraged. He could mention the case of his own election as one that called for the enactment of some legislative measure like the present. The poll began on the 1st of May, and did not end till the 24th of July. The subject deserved the most serious consideration.

After some conversation between Mr. THERNEY, Mr. V. FITZGERALD, Mr. BROWN, and Sir J. NEWPORT, leave was granted to bring in the Bill.

Mr. D. BROWN brought in his Bill for regulating the duration of polls at elections in Ireland, which was read a first time.

Sir ROBERT PEEL moved for an account of the names and other vessels employed under the Customs and Excise, together with their duties.—Ordered.

Mr. GRENFELL inquired whether it was the intention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to press the discussion in this House of the Bank Loan Bill. He had no objection to postpone the motion of which he had given notice, if the Right Honourable Gentleman's reply should be in the negative.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER observed, that he should have been more happy to

without a fuller attendance, but from the variety and urgent importance of the public business now depending, any further delay would be highly inconvenient.

Mr. GRENFELL observed, that he held Resolutions in his hand, which he had not apprehended, when he gave his notice, were likely to meet with any opposition. Understanding, however, now, that they were to be opposed both by the Directors of the Bank and by his Right Hon. Friend (Mr. Vansittart), who was, he believed, their unwilling auxiliary, he felt it necessary to occupy a very short time with a few preliminary observations. He should endeavour to compress them in the smallest possible compass, because he was satisfied that his Right Honourable Friend, if he appeared in front of the battle, appeared there not to defend the Exchequer, but the interests of the Bank. It was his intention to confine himself at present to his first proposition, upon which he should think it his duty to take the sense of the House. His Resolutions were indeed a mere statement of facts, exhibiting, as he thought, a correct and combined view of the transactions between the Bank and the Public. When he considered, that his Resolutions contained nothing but matter of undisputed fact, setting forth in figures the enormous gains realized by the Bank at the public expense, and through a system of imprudent regulation, he was at a loss to imagine upon what principle, or what pretence of decency, his proposition should be resisted. For his own part, he could only attribute it to that system of mystery and concealment which had been too long pursued. The Hon. Gentleman concluded by offering a resolution, stating, that it appears that there was paid by the Public to the Bank of England, for managing the National Debt, including the charge for contributions on loans and lotteries, in the year ending 5th July, 1792, the sum of £99,803 12s. 5d.; and that there was paid for the like service, in the year ending April 5, 1815, the sum of £281,568 6s. 11d. being an increase of £181,764 14s. 6d. In addition to which, the Bank of England have charged at the rate of 1250l. per million, on the amount of property duty, received at the Bank, on profits arising from professional, trades, and offices.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, the effect of such an amendment would be no arrangement with the Bank, and he put it to the Hon. Gentleman, whether such a measure could be advisable at the present moment. The charge now entered into was more advantageous than any which had been made at a former period, and the Public could not expect better terms now than at other times.

Mr. BARRING remarked on what appeared to him the extravagance of his Hon. Friend (Mr. Grenfell), in contending that the Bank, in return for a deposit of five millions, was to make an advance of one million to the Public.

Mr. BANKES thought the bargain very imprudent, which had been concluded by his Right Hon. Friend with the Bank.

Mr. GRENFELL withdrew his motion, after which Mr. BANKES proposed that three per cent. should be inserted instead of four, which was rejected without a division.

The other clauses of the Bill were then gone through, and the report was ordered to be received to-morrow.—Adjourned.

LONDON.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15.

Stocks this day at One.

3 per cent. Consols 84½	5 per cent. do 104½
Do. for Acct. 84½	Do. (money) 104½
3 per cent. Red. shut	Do. Ditto 104½
4 per cent. ditto	India Stock

Messages from the Prince Regent to both Houses of Parliament were delivered yesterday, announcing the intended Marriage of the Princess Charlotte of Wales to Prince Leopold of Cobourg. Both Lord Liverpool and Lord Castlereagh paid very warm and just tributes to the excellence of his Highness's character.

The provision intended to be proposed to Parliament for the illustrious pair, is £60,000 a year. It is said the Prince's situation will have this singularity, that if the Princess should come to her Throne, he will be his wife's subject. To be so he will, as Prince George of Denmark was, who was the husband of Queen Anne. She appointed him Lord High Admiral.

We received this morning the Paris Papers of Monday and Tuesday last. They contain the conclusion of the trial of Admiral Linois and Colonel Boyer; the former has been unanimously acquitted, and the latter found guilty and condemned to death. Before the Court retired to deliberate upon their verdict, Colonel Boyer acknowledged that he had committed great faults; but greater crimes, he added, had he the benefit of an amnesty, or have been punished merely with exile. The regicides have only been banished. Ogilby, then, who faithfully served my King and Country, to be punished for a moment of error?

The acquittal of Admiral Linois will give great pleasure to all moral men in this country, who recollect the invincible kindness and humanity which he showed to prisoners of war.

There is a long circular letter in these papers from the Minister of the Interior to the Prefect, from which we might infer that some fresh attempts have been made by the factious, or fresh plots discovered. He says, "the factious have neither lost their hopes nor their audacity; they neglect no opportunity, no pretext; they dare to assign movements for certain fatal epochs; and the testimony I am now addressing you is marked by fresh attempts to mislead the People by the most absurd reports." The Minister recommends increased activity and vigour; strict and repeated visits are to be made throughout every department, first by the Military Commandant, next by the Sub-Prefect, and lastly by the Prefect himself.

Boussels Papers are arrived to the 12th. They mention a report, which we give no credit to, of the Emperor of Russia having obtained from the King of Prussia the country between the Meuse and the Rhine, in order to make a wedding gift of it to the Princess Maria Louisa of the Netherlands, his daughter.

The Empress Maria Louisa (as she is styled in Vienna articles) has been injured by her father's visit to Parma. She was to set out on the 8th. All her French domestics have been dismissed.

The Right Rev. Dr. Murray, and Archbishop Blake, have arrived from their mission to Rome. Their proceedings are covered by complete mystery.

Corn FORTNIGHT, MARCH 15.—Having had no fresh arrivals since Monday, our market was still supplied with wheat, which article fully maintains today's prices. Oats are dull sale, and rather lower. In barley, peas, and beans, there is little or no alteration.

Waterford Chronicle.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21.

The London Journal of Saturday and Sunday were due when we went to Press. Those of Friday did not furnish any intelligence which calls for attention in this place.

The Hon. Baron GLENZEL and the Hon. Judge DALY arrived here yesterday, and will proceed to business in their respective Courts at ten o'clock this day.

In the beginning of February, as we then stated, this City was infected by a gang of plunderers, to whom every thing they could rob or steal was an object of rapacity. Their career was speedily interrupted by the patient watchfulness and resolute efforts of HERBY ALCOCK & PRICK BARROWS, Esqrs. To these Gentlemen the inhabitants were peculiarly indebted for retaining a deliberate system which might otherwise have seriously affected the property of individuals, and greatly encroached upon private security. On Monday last, the culprits were brought before THOMAS KING, Esq. acting as Deputy Recorder, and received the sentences which their crimes deserved. Their names could confer no honour on the registers of iniquity, and they will probably regard obscurity as an additional punishment. The Gentlemen whom we have named have set to others an honourable and meritorious example, which, if universally followed, would be powerfully instrumental in relieving society from such dangerous members.

There is the strongest ground for believing, that Government is in full possession of information relative to the outrages which have afflicted the County of Tipperary, and especially all the circumstances connected with the atrocious murder of Mr. BARKER. We understand, that a Committee of security pre-arranged for the purpose of ascertaining the object was to regulate the settling of lands, and to establish the abolition of Tythes. Their rank in society was not superior to that of those who have already suffered for their transgression, and they had no purposes in view beyond what we have stated. This daring assembly had doomed many Gentlemen to death, because they were opponents of their nefarious designs. On the day of Mr. BARKER'S tragical end, the same daring assembly waited, but they escaped their fate by remaining in Castle all night. On that day, as we have heard, fifteen persons, appointed by lot from this new Jury, were stationed on different roads, to intercept and cut off the intended victims of their diabolical resentment. One only fell, and that was far more than enough. The Southern Reporter has stated, that in the course of last week, one hundred stand of arms had been delivered to the Magistrates in the disturbed districts of the County of Tipperary. It is said, that three men only were concerned immediately in the murder of Mr. BARKER, two having retired from the party to procure spirits for the re-animation of that courage which the coldness of the season had chilled, but which could not be repressed either by the principles of religion, or the feelings of humanity.

The subject situated in which those who have assumed the leadership of Catholic affairs are resolved will be seen from what we have published on the subject. They are now nothing. The Petition from Lord Linnis, and which is at present at the office of this paper for signature, is, we understand, to be transmitted to Parliament immediately after the Assizes. Those Catholics, therefore, who intend to sign it, ought to do so without delay.

At the Assizes of Trim, Hugh McGee, William Sheridan, and Thomas D'Arcy, were capitally convicted of robbing the Enniskillen Mail Coach. J. Callaghan was tried for the same offence, but acquitted. He was, however, detained on a charge of having been an accomplice in a conspiracy to rob the Wicklow Mail Coach. The trial presented nothing but what is already known to our readers.—At Longford Assizes, — Dennis was executed for the murder of his uncle. Four men were sentenced to death for the murder of Callaghan, previous to the former Assizes, at which he was to have presented several Caskets. Three men were sentenced to death for a burglary, and for cutting off the ears of a man named McCormick. Six men were sentenced to transportation for administering an unlawful oath. Pat McKenny was convicted of being an accomplice in the robbery of Mr. Brayson, about two years ago. The whole of the benefits implied in that flagitious outrage consisted of about 20 persons, most of whom have been brought to justice. At the Assizes for Trim, in the County of Wick, Lord Nelson was Foreman of the Grand Jury.

The Kilkenny Militia is to arrive in Kilkenny on the 27th and 28th, there to be disembarked.

The Correspondent of the Lines on Springs, which possess considerable merit, would have obtained a prize, had the subject been too common even for poetry, and our obligations for it to attend, probably, to matters of public moment. The Address to Parliament, as to agriculture, is full of nonsense, and we are glad to see the only rational treatment it contains, which relates to the danger of a scarcity. The letter of Callaghan, some prison was always the same, and who represents the Lines as the sole distributors of private and public aid, is unworthy of notice. Callaghan is not out of season, but we must refer him to his *Letter of Callaghan*, a bold and cruel work. All these may have their interest, as usual, in the *Chronicle Office*.

WATERFORD, MARCH 15.—Our Assizes commenced today. The Right Honourable Judge DALY presided. Before him the following Grand Jurors were sworn:

John Hutton, Esq. Foreman.
Robert S. Carow, jun. Esq. M. P. Lord Viscount Stafford, Hon. George Arthur Annesley, Sir Thomas Edmond, Bart. Charles Tottenham, J. Thomas Nunn, Robert Doyle, Harry Alcock, J. C. Bowman, Francis Leigh, William Blacker, Richard Donovan, Solomon Richards, Charles Dawson, Thomas Delany, W. P. Pigott, George St. George Irvine, Robert Phayre, Richard Newton King, Walter Redmond, Wm. Harrey (Kyle), Henry Lambert, Esqrs.

Bridger, Michael, and Thomas Rolley, were tried for the robbery of the Rev. John Doyle, of Monbeg, on the morning of the 25th of December last, by entering the dwelling-house, whilst the Priest was celebrating Mass in an adjacent barn, and breaking open his desk, from which they took a Bank of Ireland Note for £100 and 300 guineas in gold. The evidence being incontrovertible to convict them, the woman was liberated, but the man were ordered to be detained till they procured bail.—Herald.

COLUMBA, MARCH 20.—On Saturday were committed to Clonmel Gaol, under a strong escort, by the Right Hon. Earl Glengall, Patrick Frater, James Callan, and John Herrick, charged with the murder of the late Wm. Baker, Esq. of Lisnacree.—Advertiser.

IMPROVED LINE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN WATERFORD AND KILKENNY.

We observe, in the schedule of Presentments to be submitted to the Grand Jury at the ensuing Assizes, one which, if passed, of which there can be little doubt, will greatly facilitate the communication between this City and Waterford, and be productive of considerable advantages to the manufactory, the tradesman, and the agriculturist. We allude to the proposed new line of road between Thomastown and Mullinahut, by which the ascents and inequalities of the line along the Walsh mountains will be avoided. Instead of having to climb the hill at Jerpoint, which presents an appalling aspect to the weary carman, the new line will, by a tedious sweep to the right, carry him along a level, to the common of Knock-off, and by Ballysheale to Mullinahut, and thence by the present line to Waterford. This new line is proposed to be made under the Post Office Act, by which Government advances the whole of the sum required, which is repaid by twelve instalments; and according to the estimated expense, no greater than £470 15s. 5d., or something less than one halfpenny per acre, on any one Assize, he being upon the County on this account—a sum, his share of which no individual can feel, whilst the benefits, in which all will share, will be great and permanent. Waterford is obviously the natural port of this City and County. The former looks to Waterford as the best market for the produce of his farm—his corn, his butter, his pigs, and his cattle. To him, then, it is of great importance to have easy access to such a market. The distance between this City and Waterford is not quite half so much as that between Kilkenny and Dublin, but such is the present difference between the two roads, that the charge for the carriage of goods is the same, while it ought to be only one half, and to which it would, of course, fall, if the roads were equitably good. Let the farmers consider this attentively, and they will see the importance of the proposed new line. For example, if one cart of barley, or two barrels of wheat, can be carried cheaper at one shilling less than the present charge, that saving goes into their own pockets, as one shilling per acre more for their butter, six pence per bushel more for their wheat, and so of the other articles they may have to send. To the merchants of Waterford, and to the manufacturers and dealers of this City and County, the advantages to result from the formation of this new line will be equally great and reciprocal—to the former, as it will induce the labourer to look to what we have termed, and we think justly, their natural port for the supply of such goods as they may require—and to the latter, as the reduction in the price of carriage there will necessarily fall so much. We need not point out the immediate benefits that will follow to the County from the circulation of so much money among the labouring classes, who are at present so destitute of employment, and which cannot be felt by the landlords, as it will be advanced by his Majesty's Government, and is only to be repaid by low and gradual instalments. The importance of the projected improvement in an agricultural and commercial point of view is its most striking and promising feature. Deficient in water-carriage, good roads are our only resource; and these, connected with the great and knowing improvements in the construction of wheel carriages, supersede, in a material degree, the necessity and the expense of running an artificial water communication, even if that were practicable in the direction of the road of which we speak. These few hints will, we trust, convince landlords and others of the singular importance to the County of the projected new line of road, and we hope it will be set about without delay, and prosecuted with spirit. We feel as deeply as any one for the distress of the agricultural interest, and would freely contribute any presentment calculated to do it, were we partly from the pockets of the farmers; but this presentment cannot by any means come under that description. It will cost little more than £100 among the working classes, and yet at no one Assize can the County be called upon for £100, or 1/2 per acre of the money; while, as we are anxious to show, the farmers and landlords will reap immediate, great, and permanent benefits from the accomplishment of our projected improvement.—Kilkenny, March 15.

CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION, SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1816.
The Meeting at Mr. Fitzpatrick's, Capel-street, was but thinly attended. The only County Gentlemen we recognized in the room was Edward Cox, Esq. of Clara-House, who departed before the business commenced.

Mr. Nicholas Mahon was called to the Chair. Mr. E. McDonnell addressed the Meeting. He said that, on the last day of meeting, it was agreed, that a Deputation, consisting of several Gentlemen, should be formed, to present the Address to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent—that application had been subsequently made to several of those Gentlemen, and, amongst others, to the Chairman, Mr. Nicholas Mahon, and to Mr. Sully, and that both the a Gentlemen declined the office. As no Deputation, was, therefore, likely to be formed, it was deemed the most prudent and proper course to transmit the Address to the Prince Regent through the hands of Lord Liverpool, the Prime Minister. There was, he said, an obvious objection to this course, which he disregarded.—It will, no doubt, he said, that we cannot muster a number of Gentlemen for the purpose, but he strongly contended, that this was not the case.—He said, it was expedient to address a Letter to Lord Liverpool, shaped in such a manner as must exert his Lordship's reply, and he would read to the Meeting the draft of a Letter which was prepared accordingly.

Mr. Mahon, the Chairman, objected to having the Address go through the hands of Lord Liverpool. Mr. Euss McDonnell.—It is not for love of him or of the Prince that we would present the Address.

The draft of the Letter to Lord Liverpool was then read; the substance of it, as nearly as we could collect, was, that, by a Resolution of the Aggregate Meeting of the Catholics, the manner of presenting the Address to his Royal Highness was entrusted to the Association, and that the Association accordingly begged to transmit the same to his Lordship, for the purpose of laying it before his Royal Highness, conceiving that the advice of his Lordship, as to the merits of the Petitioners, would have a sensible effect on the mind of the Prince.

After this Letter was read, Mr. Bernard Coile then spoke. He did not stand up when he addressed the Meeting. The Dublin Evening Post was so unfortunate as to fall under the notice of the Gentleman! Alluding to this Paper, he said, that *Regis* is worse than the *Dog's Journal*, the *Correspondent*, and the *Pat-Roy* put together! It is a base, blackguardly, corrupt, dirty *Regis* of a Paper! It is worse than the *Dog's Journal*, and as bad as that blackguard Paper, which is supported by that *Regis Doctor Myles*! And, Mr. Chairman, attended him, or put him to trouble, about some trifling matter!!!

Mr. Mahon never had any money transactions with the Gentleman you mention; he never owed me money, and, of course, I never had him arrested.

Mr. Coile was heard throughout without any other interruption; and after he concluded it was resolved, that a Committee should be appointed to prepare the Letter to Lord Liverpool, and that Sir Henry Parnell be requested to deliver it to his Lordship, together with the Address.

The Meeting then adjourned.—D. E. P.

Government Debentures 31 per cent. ————
Do. do. 28 per cent. ———— 28
Do. do. 4 per cent. ———— 4
Government Debentures, a per cent. ———— 34
Treasury Bills, 5 per cent. ———— 44
Exchange, Course, 154 & 1/2 per cent.

BIRTHS.—At Summers, of County of Wexford, the Lady of Percival Swan, Esq. of a son—At Curkney, in North, the Lady of Captain Sir G. Eyre, R. N., of a daughter.

DEATHS.—At New Ross, on the 10th of this month, in the 67th year of his age, much regretted, Mr. James Headrick, Esq. a Gentleman was not less distinguished for his great classical acquirements, and the nobility of his manners, than for the strictness of his integrity through life. His death is an event deeply deplored by his much afflicted family.—At Spaw House, Mrs. Agnew—in London, aged 80, the Dowager Lady Hamilton, widow of the late General Sir Robert Hamilton, Bart.—In Cork, Robert M. Alcock, Esq. Surgeon, aged 25 years.—In the County of Kilkenny, Esq.—Colonel Labouchere, Colonel of the Carlow Militia, and one of the Regiments for that County.—In Dublin, Eliza, a dear daughter of James Davis, Esq. late of Merrion street—in London, Antonia M. Brazier, of 84 Strand, in the County of Cork.—On the 14th inst. Catherine, Lady Longford.

FOR BOURDEAUX, of Emuon, William A. Kewee, Master, has constant Accommodations for Passengers, and will positively sail on SUNDAY, the 24th Instant. For Passage apply to the Master on board, or at Mr. Richard Porter's, Soap Broker, Quay. Waterford, March 21, 1816.

ASSIZES BALL AND SUPPER.
By Permission of the Worshipful HENRY ATCOCK, Esq. Mayor.
DANIEL W. GARLAWAY
DEBS leave to acquaint the Nobility and Gentry of Waterford and its Vicinity, that there will be a subscription BALL and SUPPER, (where will be all the NEW ROOMS,) on MONDAY next, the 25th Instant.
ADMISSION:
Gentlemen, 5s. 4d.
Ladies, 5s. 10d.
Tickets to be had of Mr. Cox, Mall, Waterford, March 21, 1816.

WANTS EMPLOYMENT, AS THOROUGH SERVANT.
A SINGLE MAN, who has lived Ten Years in the last Place, from which he has been discharged, on the 8th instant, at his own request. Please inquire for J. L. at the *Chronicle Office*. Waterford, March 21, 1816.

AGENT WANTED.
TO receive the RENTS of ESTATES situated in the Neighbourhood of DUNGARVAN, 1815-16, and upwards of £2000 a Year, for which a Shilling to the Pound will be allowed. Brokers Duties, which are considerable. A resident Agent will be preferred, and a Lodgment of £200 required for the faithful discharge of the Trust, for which legal interest will be allowed, and Security given.
Or, the whole Lands will be LET for Five Years, with a Capital DWELLING HOUSE and FENCEABLE Field, £2000 a Year will be required, and legal interest allowed.
A Line, directed to E. W. R. Post office, Dungarvan, and post paid, will be attended to.
March 19, 1816.

A BATHING LODGE BY THE VILLAGE OF FEATHERD.
TO BE LET, from the 25th of March next, the TOWN and FIVE ACRES of excellent LAND, proposed to be made to the Marquis of ELY, of the Rev. J. KENNEDY, Featherd. March 20, 1816.

THE REV. WILLIAM PRICE, A. B. having been elected to conduct the CORPORATION SCHOOL of WATERFORD, in the room of the late Rev. JOHN FRAZER, informs the Public, that he intends commencing School in STEPHEN-STREET, on MONDAY, the 26th of February.

BOARDING-TUITION IN ENGLISH, LATIN, and GREEK; ELOCUTION and COMPOSITION; HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, ASTRONOMY, MATHEMATICS, and the USE of the GLOBES—Three per Guinea per Annum and Five Guinea Entrance. Washing and Mending—16s. 3d. per Quarter. Each Boy to be provided with two Pair of Sheets and Four Towels—Firing Money, 10s. for the Winter.

DAY-SCHOOL—TUITION, as above, six Pence per Annum, and One Guinea and a Half Entrance. Firing Money for the Winter, 6s.
WHOLE, ARITHMETIC, and BOOK KEEPING—10s. 7d. per Quarter.

TRENCH—One Guinea per Quarter and One Guinea Entrance.
The Vacation—Six Weeks in Summer. Payments Quarterly.

N. B. Any Boy leaving the School, after entering into a new Quarter, is chargeable with the whole, and no Deduction made for occasional absence.

Mr. PRICE takes this Opportunity of returning his sincere Acknowledgments to those Parents who have already condescended to the Education of their Children, and desires both them and others who may be inclined to place a similar Confidence in him, that no Exertions shall be omitted towards the moral and intellectual Improvement of his Pupils.

Satisfactory Information, with respect to Mr. PRICE'S Literary Character, whilst in College, may be obtained by referring to the Rev. Doctors DUNNPORT, S. LLOYD, SENIOR, FELLINGS—Rev. Doctor REE, Rev. Doctor MOONEY, Rev. CHARLES ELLINGTON, Rev. J. H. SINGLE, and Rev. ROBERT ROBINSON, Junior Fellows, of Trinity College, Dublin.
Waterford, Feb. 3, 1816.

THE fast sailing Cutter BIDEFORD, of Emuon, William A. Kewee, Master, has constant Accommodations for Passengers, and will positively sail on SUNDAY, the 24th Instant. For Passage apply to the Master on board, or at Mr. Richard Porter's, Soap Broker, Quay. Waterford, March 21, 1816.

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