

PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—MONDAY, MAY 20.

Conclusion of the Proceedings relative to the Consolidation of the English and Irish Exchequers.

Mr. FITZGERALD proceeded.—The annual produce from the duties on tobacco was eight hundred thousand pounds. The next branch of the revenue was the assessed taxes, and in these there were two increases during the last three years—a sufficient evidence that Ireland had not shrunk from contributing her share to the general burden of the State. In 1813 there was an augmentation of 25 per cent. and subsequently an assimilation of the assessed taxes to the rates as paid in England. Their produce in 1812 was 340 thousand pounds; but in 1816 it had increased to 685 thousand pounds, exclusive of taxes which were peculiar to Ireland—namely, the Hearth Tax and the House Tax. This last produced about thirty thousand pounds, and fell solely upon that lowest class of houses, which could not be included within the operation of the Hearth or Window Tax. The Stamp Duties amounted in 1815 to 560 thousand pounds; and although 220 thousand pounds were transferred to the Excise Duties, yet their increase during the last year was forty-five thousand pounds. The other branches of revenue, including the Post-office, averaged for the last three years about 130 thousand pounds; but the Post-office in Ireland was not to be considered as a productive source of revenue, in the present state of that country, it could only be rendered subservient to the immediate convenience of the People. He then adverted to the state of the Sinking Fund, with reference to the proportion it bore to the unredemmed debt. Its amount or redeeming the debt due immediately in Ireland was 736 thousand pounds, being in proportion to the debt as 1 to 35. Its amount as applicable for redeeming the loans contracted in England was 1,665,000, being in proportion to that debt as 1 to 56. The total Sinking Fund, as applicable to the total debt, was £1,401,000, being in proportion to the debt as one to fifty, while the sinking fund of Great Britain was, in proportion to its debt, as one to 62. This statement should not, however, appal them, for it had not long since been truly stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that at the commencement of the war of the French Revolution, the debt of England was double what that of Ireland is at present, while the Sinking Fund then applicable for its redemption was not half so proportionate to its debt as that of Ireland now is. He had thus endeavoured to submit to the House an explanation of the 7th Article of the Act of the Union, and to show that the state of the two countries is at present what had been contemplated by that Article, as obliging the Legislature to consolidate the debts and revenues of Great Britain and Ireland. He showed that the opinion of successive Committees had been respecting the right of Parliament to complete that matter, notwithstanding a casual omission at the time when the contingency had occurred, and having done so, he could not but anticipate a successful result to his present proposition. But it might, perhaps, be expected that he should point out what his resources of taxation, not at present employed, still remained in Ireland. These, he lamented to say, were not so considerable as appeared to many. The assimilation of the taxes of Ireland to those paid in England, was a subject of extreme delicacy. But one great difficulty was escaped by the variation of the Property Tax in this country.—It is, in fact, although sufficiently well adapted to Great Britain, and from the facilities afforded to its collection, the nature of her police, and the assistance of a resident gentry, was altogether unfit for Ireland; it had such a tax continued for more than one hundred years in this country, he would find it difficult to sue against the justice of extending its operation to the other. He was, however, prepared to do that, that, even after the removal of that great difficulty, many others would still continue; and that, in all the present taxes levied in England applied to Ireland, they would not make up the deficiency which must be created in her own revenue. The Committee must be aware, that if all the taxes of England were applied to Ireland, that several which peculiarly belonged to Ireland must be retained—such as the Hearth Tax, and the duties on these Licenses, producing £200,000 annually; these must be also repeated the duties of £110 cent. ad valorem, paid by Ireland on all articles of British produce imported for her general consumption; for were they permitted to exist, land would not only pay the same taxes levied in England, but also an additional tax on whatever articles were exported from Great Britain. The result, however, of all those duties, would, perhaps, be than counterbalance the increase of revenue arising from the additional number of imposts.—It was aware that the duties of 10 per cent. ad valorem on the importation of British produce, were awarded by many in Ireland as protecting duties of the manufacturers of that country, and that, by the Act of Union, they should continue for twenty years; but he ridiculed this designation of them, they appeared to protect manufactures that actually did not exist, and contended generally, that a tax on salt was dictated by a false policy. The other two branches of revenue remaining for Ireland, were salt and coals. It was a very questionable policy to raise the duty on salt equal to that levied in England, but the present duties, as well as on coals, were to continue for twenty years, the Act of Union. The same policy which would increase the duties in the former, were equally applicable to the latter, as they must finally fall on the manufacturers, and would affect

the general comfort of the People. The Right Hon. Gentleman next adverted to the state of exchange between Great Britain and Ireland, which he considered as unusual between countries so closely connected.—[Hear, hear.]—He had been extremely desirous of assimilating the currencies of the two countries, but many difficulties intervened, and particularly the interruption of cash circulation. The present rate of the exchanges had been caused by the diminution in the exports from Ireland, and bore an exact proportion to the state of them; but still it ought not to be affected so much as it had been. If the currency of the countries were assimilated, there would exist no difficulty in applying a remedy to the state of the exchange, for the difference would then be in proportion to the expense of transporting bullion from one country to the other. He hoped that the return to cash payments, by the Banks of England and Ireland, would be concurrent with the assimilation of the national currencies, which, in his opinion, might not be attended with the serious difficulties that many had imagined. Those difficulties had reference solely to the variation in the value of money; that must be effected by the assimilation; but they might be obviated by passing an Act of Parliament for dissolving all contracts that had been made during the old currency, and reducing the pecuniary considerations to a twelfth less than the sum contracted for. The remedy was extremely simple, for the Committee must be aware, that the difference between the circulation of England and Ireland is in the value of the shilling, which passes in Ireland for 13d. and in England for 12d. This remedy would obviate all difficulties, except in cases of debt under a shilling, or in the payment of fees under that sum, many of which, he understood from his Honourable and Learned Friend (Mr. Leslie Foster), were exacted in several of the Law Offices in Ireland. He was aware that many in Ireland had argued in favour of the variation in the currency, contending, that it operated as a bounty upon exports, and as a tax on absentees. These advantages he recognised, but they could not be supported to the destruction of general principles. If the rate of exchange was at present 20 per cent. against Ireland, what, he asked, would it be when the surplus revenue of that country was remitted to this to defray the charges of the general expenditure? In submitting his present proposition to the House, he readily acknowledged the weight that would thereby be thrown on the Empire, until Ireland had so far improved her revenues, as to be able to bear her due share of the burden. If the revenues of Ireland had improved within the last four years, he would not presume to take to himself any merit for that improvement. It principally belonged to the indefatigable zeal and extraordinary industry of the People themselves, that this desirable object had been obtained, added to the ability and exertions of the Noble Person who at present presided over the Government of that Country. Much praise was also due to his Right Hon. Friend (the Chancellor of the Exchequer), towards whom it was impossible for him to express himself in terms of adequate gratitude and commendation. [Hear, hear.] Should the resolutions which he was about to propose meet with the approbation of the House, those arrangements which it would be necessary to adopt, with a view to the minor details of the plan, would hereafter be submitted to Parliament. In conclusion, he had only to express his conviction, that the adoption of those resolutions would tend more to the accomplishment of the great objects which the measure of the Union had in view, than any course which could have been pursued. The Right Hon. Gentleman then moved two Resolutions for equalizing the taxes, and consolidating the Exchequers of England and Ireland, according to the plan developed in the course of his speech. The first Resolution having been read by the Chairman.—

Mr. BANKS rose and observed, that all the evil consequences which he had foretold as likely to result from the junction of Ireland with this country, had now come to pass. Ireland had, as he had stated, been reduced to a state of bankruptcy, and was unable to bear her fair proportion towards the general burden of the United Kingdom.—Indeed, she was scarcely capable of paying the interest of the debt which she had been obliged annually to incur, in order to defray the proportion of the expenses of the two countries, which was assigned her. Bound together, as the two countries' law were, the evil, such as it was, must be borne with as much good humour as possible.—He could not but lament, however, for the good of both countries, that the Union had ever taken place. All he could deduce from the state of things to which we had been reduced was, that it still more became the House to act with strict economy and retrenchment, and to look with attention to the curtailment of every unnecessary expense. He denied that the assimilation of the currency of the two countries would produce any alteration in the rate of exchange, inasmuch as that must at all times depend upon the specific differences, which arose out of the excess of importation or exportation, on the one side or the other.—The Hon. Gent. then proceeded to remark, that it would be impossible to maintain in Ireland many of the duties which were imposed, and which flourished during the war.—He particularly alluded to the duty on distillation, which, both in Ireland and in Scotland, he was satisfied, was the parent of intemperate content. Upon the whole, he should feel it his duty to watch the progress of the Bill which would be introduced upon this subject with great attention; for although he did not suspect any unfair play, yet he considered it important to watch, with a jealous eye, over the interests of the Poor, whom he represented, the more especially, as he very much doubted whether the same system of taxation could be adopted

in Ireland as in this country. The taxes certainly could not be collected upon the same terms, and, therefore, could not be proportionally productive. Mr. FITZGERALD, in explanation, denied that he had said the assimilation of the currency of Ireland and England would alone produce any effect in the rate of exchange between the two countries, which must always be proportioned to the state of their respective balances of imports or exports. He did say, however, that by the assimilation of the currency, much of the difficulty heretofore arising from the dissimilarity of coin would be avoided, and much of the apparent difference of exchange would be obviated. Mr. LESLIE FOSTER entered into a financial statement, to prove the utter impossibility of Ireland paying the proportion of expense imposed upon her by the Act of Union, and to support the principle upon which the measure now suggested to the House had been brought forward—a measure which, he had no doubt, would consolidate all those advantages the Union was calculated to produce. Sir JOHN NEWPORT contended, that the course about to be pursued towards Ireland was no more than an act of justice to that Country, and an act which, in his opinion, ought to have been resorted to long since. At the period of the Union, although not in Parliament, he had given it his support out of doors. He felt it his duty now to state, however, that the hopes then held out on the part of this country were delusive; and that the expectations excited were not fulfilled; and that many public measures, which were to have been the result of the Union, remained unexecuted. Much had been said of the progress of prosperity in Ireland since the Union; but he begged leave to observe, that in many instances the exports had been less since that event than before—he alluded particularly to her iron trade, in which her exports were greater in 1792 and 1793, than they had been since the Union. The Right Hon. Baronet then proceeded, with his usual clearness, to point out the evils under which Ireland had laboured, as well from the absence of its principal landholders, as from the adoption of an erroneous system of taxation, which had enhanced the deficiency of her revenue. With respect to the present measure, he thought it would have been better if it had been adopted three years back, so as to have held out the hope that she could have paid the proportion of the burdens of the State imposed upon her at the Union, was merely to have kept alive a delusion, which could only end in some such course as that now about to be taken. It was his opinion, that in the consolidation of the taxes of the two countries, no tax should be imposed upon Ireland which was not imposed upon every part of Great Britain at the same time. Lord CASTLEREAGH submitted, that the proposition of the burrows of the United Kingdom, imposed upon Ireland, was founded in equity and justice, and such as she would have been fully able to bear, but from the new state of things which had sprung up when we first sent our armies to the Peninsula to fight for the Liberties of Europe. The Noble Lord then went on to contend, that, but for the Union, Ireland would have been placed in a situation of far greater difficulty than at present; which would, in fact, have been irreparable. The Noble Lord concluded with a compliment to Ireland for the manner in which she had borne the taxes which it became necessary to impose upon her. Whatever other complaints the People of Ireland had made, against the taxes, at least, he heard of no objection. Mr. FOSNOBY said, that the present question raised itself into a very simple and intelligible proposition. It was this—that Ireland had been called upon to bear a burden which she was unable to support, and, as she was unable to pay, England must. This was the true state of the fact, and there was no necessity for enveloping it in any obscure statement. With respect to the Noble Lord's assertion, that the People of Ireland did not complain of taxation, he could only assure that Noble Lord, that he was most egregiously mistaken, as to the feelings of the People upon that score.—So far were they from not complaining, that the complaints were universal—and more especially among that class of the community, which, in his opinion, were the most important—he meant the small gentlemen, who had been taxed out of every comfort of life.—[Hear.]—From a paper on the table of the House, it appeared that in the course of the last year notices had been given in Ireland alone, of an intention to put down carriages of two and four wheels, to the number of three thousand. This was strongly indicative of the feeling with which taxation was regarded among the inhabitants of that country. Lord CASTLEREAGH explained. The Resolutions already published were then put and carried.

**THE KING v. TRACY,**  
PRINTER OF THE DUBLIN MERCHANTS' CHRONICLE.  
[From the Dublin Evening Post of May 23.]  
Under the above title, *The Dublin Chronicle* of yesterday evening contains the following paragraph:—  
"We had proposed to extract the Report of the Speeches of Judge Daly and the Crown Counsel in this case from the *Dublin Evening Post*, but it is so glaringly manifest, that we should feel ourselves abettors of a scandalous imposture, were we to do the extraction of statements, obviously made up with a view of advancing the views of one of our individuals. These proceedings must, therefore, be postponed, until something like an impartial notice shall be published by some of the ordinary and honest Press; as we do not mean to take the trouble of making out a statement from the notes of our own Reporter."

In reply, we have good authority for assuring our Readers, that there never was a mean account Report of any Proceeding in a Court of Justice, than that given by us, on Tuesday, of the very Speeches mentioned by our Contemporary in the foregoing paragraph. We said we had good authority for saying we have the best authority in support of the accuracy of our Report, for we have the notes of a Short-hand Writer, equal, if not superior, to any these Countries can boast, and who, as a gentleman, and a man of the strictest veracity and honour, would revolt at the idea of perverting or falsifying a sentence that ever fell within his hearing from a public man. We were to require any secondary evidence of its accuracy, we might appeal to every man who heard the Speeches in question delivered, or to the Learned Personages themselves, who would, we think, vouch for the correctness of the Report as it appeared in *The Dublin Evening Post*. But, were we so inaccurate, were it so scandalous an imposture as our contemporary would have his Readers believe, why should he not disabuse the public mind?—why suffer a scandalous imposture to circulate, and make its frightful way in the Country, when it is evidently the duty of a moral and an enlightened Press to expose every imposture, and to stop the career of every scandal?—why not frustrate the views of this malignant spirit, particularly when the *Chronicle* can boast of having the *Notes of its own Reporter*?—Let him place his notes, as we are prepared to do, if necessary, under the eyes of the Public—we challenge him to expose our inaccuracy; we call upon him for the proof.

**CONSUME, MAY 25.**—On Tuesday night, about twelve o'clock, four armed ruffians made to the cabin of William Nagle, in the East Suburbs of this Town, and obtained admittance by telling Nagle and his wife (who sell salt meat) that they wanted to buy a pig's head. On entering the house they proceeded to search for money, and beat the poor couple unmercifully with their arms, to extort money, but got only a few shillings. In the mean time Nagle's wife contrived to conceal herself—and the ruffians, thinking she had escaped to give the alarm, did, or they probably would have murdered the man. Nagle and his wife are still dangerously ill, though carefully attended by Gentlemen of the faculty.—*Advertiser*.

A very unfortunate accident occurred at Glio on Thursday evening after the fair of that place; about nine o'clock, as five men were crossing the Suir in a small boat, it upset, when three of them, of the names of Carey, Hockett, and Daniel, were drowned. The bodies of the two latter were taken up yesterday morning.—*Id.*

TOBACCO.

JOHN ALLEN and SON are landing Twelve Hog-heads of best LEAF TOBACCO, which their Friends will be supplied with on the lowest Terms. Waterford, May 28, 1816.

CLOVER AND TREFOIL SEED.

SAMUEL WHITE has received, per the *Libertia*, from London, a fresh Supply of CLOVER, TREF, FOIL, and RYE GRASS SEED, which he will dispose of on reasonable Terms. 5th Mo. 23d. 1816.

TOBACCO.

CHARLES TROUTON has arrived 25 Hhds. of Prime VIRGINIA TOBACCO, which are well worth the attention of the Trade, being of excellent quality. Waterford, May 25, 1816.

JAMES FORBESQUE.

RESPECTFULLY informs his Friends and the Public, that he has fitted up a commodious Room at the Cross, for the purpose of COMMISSION and AUCTION SALES; and from his knowledge of that Business, and strict attention, he hopes to give satisfaction to those who may favour him with their commands. N. B. Auctions attended abroad, and FURNITURE, &c. valued on moderate Terms. May 25, 1816.

THE BEAUTIFUL, HIGH-BRED HORSE, FALCON.

WILL STAND THIS SEASON, AT MR. KYRAN KAVANAGH'S STABLES, THOMAS STREET, WATERFORD. At Two Guineas, Groom's Fees included. HIS SIRE, FALCON, when 3 Years old, was known to be the best of his Year in England, was Sire of Freeman, and many noted Runners may be seen by the Racing Calendar. He was got by Highflyer, that covered at 30 Guineas, on *Proserpine*, own sister to *Empire*. FALCON was bred by the late Col. Blythe, in his Duke Street, *Marjoram*, was H. R. H. the Prince of Wales's favourite Stud Mare, and sold for 4700 Guineas. He is in the Bloom and Condition, to hands high, with remarkably strong Legs, fully equal to Sixteen Stone *Steeple* and a very fine Leaper, and temperate. His Produce are known to be as good Runners as any in Ireland, and ask for very high Prices, from their great Strength, Movement, and Beauty. Waterford, April 25, 1816.

FOR NEW YORK, AMERICA.

M. P. M. FARRELL hereby gives the arrival of the new, fast sailing Bug, the SHAW DOCK, from a 200 Tons, Captain Watson, Master.—This vessel was lately taken in a *Caravel* from New York, and proceeded on or about the 20th of May. For Freight or Passage apply to M. P. & M. Farwell, Ship Agents, of the Master on board. Waterford, March 26, 1816.

WATERFORD MARKET PRICES—MAY 29.

Table listing market prices for various goods including Butter, Tallow, Lard, Sugar, and Flour, with prices per cwt, per bag, and per barrel.

MARRIAGES.

In London, the Hon. Henry Grey Bennett, second son of the Right Hon. the Earl of Tankerville, and M. P. for Stroudwater, to the Hon. Gertrude Fanny Bunsell, eldest daughter of the Rt. Hon. Lord William Russell, M. P. and niece of the Duke of Bedford.

DEATHS.

In Cork, in her 10th year, Miss Helena Deane, second daughter of Thomas Deane, Esq. one of the Sheriffs of that City.—At Limerick, the Lady of John Broderick, Esq.—At Cottlewee, County of Limerick, Ryan Sherby, Esq.—At his house, near Dublin, Nicholas Gaudin, Esq. late of Derbyshire, in the King's County.—At Clifton, on his 50th year, Elias Underhill, Esq. an American Consul for the district of Bristol, in the County of Somerset, and Grand Juror of the City of Bristol.

NOTICE.

Printed and Published by the Proprietor, ANTHONY BURNEL, Bookseller and Stationer, &c.

PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—WEDNESDAY, MAY 22.

TITHEBILLS.

Mr. NEWMAN presented Petitions from the Parishes of South Ockendon, Balpham, and Uppminster, in Essex, complaining of the grievances arising from the present Tithe System. The Hon. Member then briefly set forth the inconveniences of the present system of collecting Tithes in kind; and concluded by moving for the appointment of a Select Committee to take into consideration the Petitions on the table relative to Tithes, to consider of the expediency of substituting payment of Tithes in money, for payments in kind, for a period to be limited.

Mr. CURWEN seconded the motion. Mr. SMITH (of Cambridge) held the right of the Clergy to the Tithes set apart for their maintenance to be as sacred as that of any Gentleman to his freehold. He was of opinion, that instead of referring the consideration of this subject to any Committee, it would be better to submit it to the collected wisdom of the House, and to adopt the usual mode of moving for leave to bring in a Bill, to make those alterations which might be thought expedient.

Mr. ROSE was against giving a Committee those general powers which were called for by the present motion. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER felt the importance of the subject now under the consideration of the House. He should move an amendment to the motion, and after the first part of it, propose to substitute words for what followed, "to direct the Committee to inquire into the expediency of enabling the proprietors of tithes to grant leases thereof, under due regulations."

Sir W. SCOTT hoped the proposition of his Right Hon. Friend (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) would tend to allay the dissatisfaction which had been unjustly excited on the subject of tithes, and for that reason, and that alone, would give it his vote. Lord CASTLEREAGH observed, it would be a most objectionable than other species of taxation.

After some further conversation, the Bill went through a Committee, and the report was ordered to be received this day.

The other Orders of the Day were disposed of, and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, MAY 23.

PROTESTANTS IN FRANCE.

Sir SAMUEL ROMILEY wished that some other person had taken in hand the subject to which he should have to call the attention of the House. He did it, because he conceived it of too much importance to allow the Session to pass without entering into its investigation. Gentlemen were aware, that some months since reports had been in circulation relative to the persecution of Protestants in France, which had produced much effect in this country. Meetings had been held in various quarters, and subscriptions opened with the usual characteristic liberality of Britons. It appeared, however, that his Majesty's Ministers were inclined to consider that interference both unnecessary and improper. They seemed to check a course of proceedings which had been adopted, and a letter was published, written by the Duke of Wellington, in which he stated that he was satisfied that every thing possible had been done by the French Government to prevent those disturbances, and that his Majesty Louis XVIII. had extended his protection to all classes of his subjects, and secured the enjoyment of their religious rights. A Noble Lord, a Minister in that House, had there represented the events that had taken place in the South of France as of no light a kind, that he had desired Honourable Members to take lesson from them, how to interfere another time in foreign matters. These official statements had produced some impression on the Public at large, and on the Common Council; and the latter had even seriously debated whether the Address which they had prepared, in favour of the persecuted Protestants in France, should be presented to the Prince Regent. It had been presented, however, and his Royal Highness had been advised to answer, that he was ready to interpose his good offices in behalf of the Protestants abroad, should the occasion require it, but that such an occasion had not occurred. He (Sir Samuel) did not mean by his present motion to criticize Ministers. He did not believe that if they had known what had really taken place in the South of France, what had been the interposition of Louis XVIII. and what protection he had extended to his subjects, they would have pursued a line of conduct so detestable as to support a Government to whom they wished well, by disgusting the enormities which had been committed. All he charged them with was credulity. They had too readily believed the false assurances which they had received. He was led by no party, by no political motives; he should only state the facts which had come to his knowledge; and after the active inquiries which he had made, the information which he had obtained from the places not distant from the seat of the enormities, and the conversation with Sir Samuel's own eyes, he thought that he could not have been deceived. Neither did he believe

that there was any danger in bringing the subject forward, nor that his motion would be fraught with mischievous consequences to the Protestants in France. Commanded and extorted letters from them had indeed depreciated British Interference.—But how had those been prepared? The Duke of Wellington's letter had been printed and generally published at Nismes by the French Government. It had filled the Protestants with the deepest consternation. It had taken the last restaurant away from the persecutors; it had extinguished the last hope of the persecuted. Was it possible that they should be still worse treated because their brethren of Great Britain took interest in their fate, as lower animals, on whom their master revenges himself for the sympathy expressed by strangers in their behalf? He thought, on the contrary, that his motion would do them good, and that which interference had ever hitherto not been entirely useless. The subject would resolve itself into three branches: First, Had those murders and enormities been committed or not? Secondly, Did they spring from political or religious causes? And, Thirdly, Had the French Government afforded due protection to the rights of all its subjects? It was impossible to give an adequate idea of all the transactions which had taken place in the department of the Gard, for, with the exception of small districts of the adjoining departments, the persecution of the Protestants was confined to that of the Gard. There could be no doubt that there had been a most unjust persecution of the Protestants in the south of France, and that Nismes was the principal scene of horror and of bloodshed; but, in order that the subject might be fully comprehended by the House, it might be necessary for him to put it in possession of the situation in which the Protestants were placed previous to the restoration of his present Majesty, Louis the Eighteenth, on the Throne of France. Here the Learned Gentleman detailed the history of the sufferings of the Protestants down to the succession of Louis the Sixteenth, who had the distinguished merit of remedying many of those grievances from the earliest years of his reign.—This state of things continued until Louis XVIII. was restored to his Kingdom in April, 1814. At this period Bonaparte had become odious to the Protestants at Nismes, both from the weight of taxation with which they were loaded, and from the incessant demands of the concubinage, and they were, under those circumstances, unanimous in their wish, under those circumstances, unanimous in their wish, which they expressed on the restoration. Unfortunately, however, during the course of the succeeding ten months, a considerable change of opinion took place. Persons who had been long absent returned with their old prejudices, and the lower orders of the People began to threaten the Protestants, who conceived on their part that there was a strong tendency to go back to the old regime. They were not much alarmed by the circumstances of the Quarter issued by Louis, declaring the Catholic the established religion of France, because the other guards which it afforded appeared sufficient to protect their rights; they could not forget also that the King had just returned from a residence in a land of Protestants, where he must have witnessed the effects of religious toleration; and they looked forward to a season of tranquillity and enjoyment.—But circumstances soon compelled them to change their ideas: They were insulted by the populace on the ground of their religion; songs were sung publicly in the streets of Nismes, in which they were threatened with the renewal of the horrors of St. Bartholomew; gibbets were drawn on their doors. In this situation of things, Bonaparte suddenly made his appearance in France, in the month of March, 1815. It was a trying occurrence for the Protestants of Nismes; but, uniting with the established authorities, they declared their determination to support the Government. He had in his possession the original declaration to this effect, made at Nismes on the 13th March last year, and which was signed by the principal Protestants, the five Catholic Clergy, and three Protestant Ministers of the Town. The Protestants who signed it were more in proportion to their respective numbers than those of the Catholics. It contained an expression of the warmest attachment to the Government of the King, and called on the People of the Department for their support. Soon after this, the Duke d'Angouleme fixed his head-quarters at Nismes; and here it was alleged that the Protestants did not join the Duke with much alacrity. They were, in truth, deterred from so acting by the previous alarm which had been excited among them. On the 31 of April the authority of Bonaparte was declared in the town of Nismes; the few soldiers in garrison there were called out, and shouted "Vive l'Empereur!" It had been represented, that during this second reign of Bonaparte acts of the greatest violence were committed by the Protestants, and that when Nismes again became a royal town on the 17th July, the atrocities which ensued were merely retaliatory. The fact was, however, that no acts of violence were committed during this interval. Having mentioned the return of the Royal Volunteers to Nismes on the 15th of June, the Hon. and Learned Gentleman stated, that the garrison left [The remainder see Last Page.]

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There could be no doubt that there had been a most unjust persecution of the Protestants in the south of France, and that Nismes was the principal scene of horror and of bloodshed; but, in order that the subject might be fully comprehended by the House, it might be necessary for him to put it in possession of the situation in which the Protestants were placed previous to the restoration of his present Majesty, Louis the Eighteenth, on the Throne of France. Here the Learned Gentleman detailed the history of the sufferings of the Protestants down to the succession of Louis the Sixteenth, who had the distinguished merit of remedying many of those grievances from the earliest years of his reign.—This state of things continued until Louis XVIII. was restored to his Kingdom in April, 1814. At this period Bonaparte had become odious to the Protestants at Nismes, both from the weight of taxation with which they were loaded, and from the incessant demands of the concubinage, and they were, under those circumstances, unanimous in their wish, under those circumstances, unanimous in their wish, which they expressed on the restoration. Unfortunately, however, during the course of the succeeding ten months, a considerable change of opinion took place. Persons who had been long absent returned with their old prejudices, and the lower orders of the People began to threaten the Protestants, who conceived on their part that there was a strong tendency to go back to the old regime. They were not much alarmed by the circumstances of the Quarter issued by Louis, declaring the Catholic the established religion of France, because the other guards which it afforded appeared sufficient to protect their rights; they could not forget also that the King had just returned from a residence in a land of Protestants, where he must have witnessed the effects of religious toleration; and they looked forward to a season of tranquillity and enjoyment.—But circumstances soon compelled them to change their ideas: They were insulted by the populace on the ground of their religion; songs were sung publicly in the streets of Nismes, in which they were threatened with the renewal of the horrors of St. Bartholomew; gibbets were drawn on their doors. In this situation of things, Bonaparte suddenly made his appearance in France, in the month of March, 1815. It was a trying occurrence for the Protestants of Nismes; but, uniting with the established authorities, they declared their determination to support the Government. He had in his possession the original declaration to this effect, made at Nismes on the 13th March last year, and which was signed by the principal Protestants, the five Catholic Clergy, and three Protestant Ministers of the Town. The Protestants who signed it were more in proportion to their respective numbers than those of the Catholics. It contained an expression of the warmest attachment to the Government of the King, and called on the People of the Department for their support. Soon after this, the Duke d'Angouleme fixed his head-quarters at Nismes; and here it was alleged that the Protestants did not join the Duke with much alacrity. They were, in truth, deterred from so acting by the previous alarm which had been excited among them. On the 31 of April the authority of Bonaparte was declared in the town of Nismes; the few soldiers in garrison there were called out, and shouted "Vive l'Empereur!" It had been represented, that during this second reign of Bonaparte acts of the greatest violence were committed by the Protestants, and that when Nismes again became a royal town on the 17th July, the atrocities which ensued were merely retaliatory. The fact was, however, that no acts of violence were committed during this interval. Having mentioned the return of the Royal Volunteers to Nismes on the 15th of June, the Hon. and Learned Gentleman stated, that the garrison left [The remainder see Last Page.]

