



The London Journals of Monday and Tuesday have arrived. No mail due.

Numerous Petitions have been presented to both Houses of Parliament against the renewal of the Insolvent Debtors' Act. One of these Petitions being presented to the Commons on Monday, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL announced his intention of submitting to the House a renewal of the Insolvent Debtors' Bill, in which considerable alterations would be made in the law as it at present stood, more particularly with a view of affording proper protection to Creditors. A vast number of persons had taken the benefit of the Act, and considerable property was vested in Assignees. If the Act were allowed to expire altogether, there would be no power to compel the Assignees to distribute the property in their hands. Besides, there would be no power to take from Debtors the property acquired by them after taking the benefit of the Act. It was, in his opinion, absolutely necessary, that the place of the present Act should be supplied by a measure of like tenor.

Sir THOMAS BARNES, the Chairman of the Committee appointed to take into consideration the Petition complaining of an undue Return for the City of Limerick, reported, that the sitting Member was duly elected, and that the Petition was not frivolous or vexatious. The following proceedings took place upon this unexpected result having been declared:—

Mr. NICHOLSON CALVERT, a Member of the Committee, said, he could not allow this opportunity to pass without making some observations on the subject of it. He conceived the most mischievous consequence might arise out of this decision, if some remedial measure were not introduced. The poll book was in the custody of the Sheriff, as Returning Officer, and none of the poll clerks were present to verify the poll. No Gentleman from that part of the country, who petitioned against a return, need come forward without poll clerks to prove the poll. The poll clerks were usually not persons of high station, and they generally disappear soon after the election; so that, in order to secure their evidence, it would be necessary to keep them from the period of the election, and bring them over to this Country at a high expense. This was throwing such difficulties in the way of petitioning, that no Gentleman from that Country would think of petitioning. The object in that case would be per fas et contra to get possession of the Returning Officer. He concluded with moving, that the minutes of the Committee be laid before the House, with the view of afterwards moving for a Committee to take the law on this subject into their consideration.

The Right Hon. J. M. HENRY seconded the motion. He agreed with the Petitioner, that this was a case of great hardship. He thought some other mode of proving the state of the poll less onerous to Petitioners ought to be devised. The poll-books had not been properly authenticated to the Committee.

Mr. C. W. WYNN recapitulated several previous decisions. A copy of the poll delivered by a Returning Officer to the agent of one of the parties had been held sufficient evidence of the state of the poll.

Mr. ANSCROMBY said, no person acquainted with the law on the subject had ever heard of the decision in this case with great concern. In his opinion, there never was a case decided so contrary to justice and precedent.

The motion was then seconded. Some brief proceedings took place with respect to Mr. GRADY, who was sent to Newgate by order of the House. Mr. HURDISON presented a Petition from him, in which he declared, that he had no intention to offend the House, or in the slightest degree to trench upon its privileges. It was agreed, that he should on Tuesday last be brought to the Bar, reprimanded by the SPEAKER, and discharged.

Lord CASTLEREAGH, after a long and able speech on the state of crimes and prisons, moved, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the state and description of gaols and other places of confinement, and into the best method of providing for the reformation, as well as the safe custody and punishment, of Offenders. The motion was agreed to, and the following Members were named as a Committee—Lord CASTLEREAGH, Mr. CANNING, Sir J. MACKENZIE, Mr. BUXTON, Mr. BROUHAM, Mr. BENNETT, Sir W. SEAGRAM, Mr. SERJEANT CORLETT, Sir A. PALMER, Mr. CLIVE, Mr. WILSON, Mr. V. FITZGERALD, Sir J. NEWPORT, Mr. ANSELL, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, Mr. WILKINSON, Sir W. COCHRAN, and Mr. S. WORTLEY. Our letters presented us from giving the proceedings, but future opportunities will occur for paying attention to this important subject. It was stated by a Member, that there are no less than 758 Statutes of Criminal Law. Lord CASTLEREAGH seemed to think, that Botany Bay had outgrown the object for which it was originally intended, and he was understood to have stated it to be in the consideration of Government to propose some place nearer home, to which convicts might be transported at a more moderate expense than at present.

Lord SEAFIELD presented a bill, on the 25th of February, of the Hotel de France, in Paris, in consequence, according to one account, of an information on the brain, but, according to another statement, of apoplexy. Mr. CHURCH has arrived in London, and is to bring forward a motion on Catholic Emancipation

early in the month of April, when it is expected that the Irish Members will be enabled to attend, as the Assizes will have closed some time before.

COUNTY OF TIPPERARY ELECTION.

On Tuesday, previous to public advertisement, a special County Court was held at the Court-house of Clonmel, for the purpose of choosing a fit and proper person to fill the vacancy occasioned in the Representation of that County by the accession of the present Earl of Glengall (late Lord Viscount Caher) to the rank and titles of his lamented Father.

About eleven o'clock, the High Sheriff, Robert Parnell, Esq. appeared on the hustings, and called upon the Right Hon. Colonel Bagwell, (the only remaining Candidate,) accompanied by a large number of Gentlemen of the highest respectability in the County.

The writing being read by the Sub-Sheriff, Nathaniel Taylor, of Naom, Esq. rose and addressed the Sheriff to the following effect: "Sir, I beg leave to propose the Right Hon. William Bagwell, of Marlfield, as a fit and proper Person to represent this County in Parliament; in doing which I feel the most unfeigned pleasure in saying, and I am persuaded that every person who hears me will join in the opinion, that no one can be found more eminently qualified to fill that distinguished situation. Of his private character I feel it unnecessary to speak, as it is too well known to require any observation—but his public conduct I can with justice assert, that it has ever been such as a Member of Parliament ought to pursue; and I rest confidently assured, that he will continue to follow the same line of conduct during his life. Gentlemen, I consider any further observations unnecessary, and I must, as well as my want of acquaintance with the habit of speaking in public, prompt me to decline pursuing the subject any further."

John Lalor, of Craugh, Esq. seconded the nomination, and briefly observed, that he was convinced that Colonel Bagwell would fill the situation to which he aspired with as much privacy and respectability as any man on whom it had ever been conferred. Mr. Lalor made a few further observations, but in so low a tone of voice as could with it be heard by the audience, & concluded by reasserting his full confidence in the nomination of the Right Hon. William Bagwell, which was carried in the affirmative unanimously and with acclamation; when he was accordingly declared by the Sheriff to be duly elected.

Colonel Bagwell then rose and addressed the Assembly, in a very dignified and animated manner, to the following purport:— "Gentlemen—Standing here, as I now do, on your Representatives in Parliament, as I do, on the nomination of the High Sheriff of this County, I feel impelled by my mind to return you my most grateful and heartfelt thanks for the honor that you have conferred on me. I like to be here to return my best acknowledgments to the worthy and truly respectable Gentlemen who proposed and seconded me. Having discharged this obligation, I think it necessary, under the suggestion of an honorable friend, to explain the grounds upon which I have been induced to offer myself as a Candidate for this exalted situation; for I am free to say, that high and proud as it is, it has not been a subject of ambition with me—(Hear, hear!) satisfied and contented as I was, that a great measure had been achieved in restoring the Independent of this County, by the accession of my noble friend Lord Caher to its representation.

"Gentlemen—At the close of the Election in the year 1812, it may be in the recollection of some of you now present—it is most strongly fixed in my own recollection—that I did then make a solemn declaration, that, if no other Person should be found to stand forward to oppose the junction which had, in two successive Parliaments, trampled upon and broken down the independent exercise of your elective franchise. I say I did then promise and pledge myself, humble as I was, to offer my person to your consideration and favour, if no other Person should appear to contend for the Independence of the County. Accordingly, Gentlemen, on the approach of the last General Election, the late lamented Earl of Glengall had an early communication with me on the subject. That respected Nobleman well knew my sentiments; he knew the important sacrifices that had been made by my poor Father to establish the Independence of this County; he declared like a man, that, if I thought proper to come forward, he would contribute his property and influence to my assistance; and he told me further, that, if I declined the contest myself, he would propose his son, Lord Caher, as a Candidate, to whom I, in return, promised, my best aid and support. (Hear, hear!) Lord Caher did accordingly present himself, and the manly spirit, I may say the heroism of the County, defeated and beat down that junction. My pledge was redeemed—Lord Caher was triumphantly elected a Member for this County—and, had it not been for the death of that Nobleman whose loss we all deplore, Lord Caher would still continue to be your Representative.

"Gentlemen—Of that lamented Nobleman I may say with truth, that if a constant residence on his paternal estate—if a fervent desire to promote the happiness of his native County and its dependents, by incultivating on their minds the principles of social and religious duty—the impartial and zealous discharge of his magisterial duties, in the exercise of which he was the means of

bringing to justice some of the most atrocious villains that cross the Country—if he was, as we all know, chiefly instrumental in restoring the County of Tipperary to its former state of independence, as a long period, as I may say, beyond the pale of the Constitution—if the possession of the most honorable and upright feelings—if the desire be manifested for planting, ornamenting, and embellishing the vicinity of his residence, for which he had the honour to obtain the first premium from the Patriotic Society established for the improvement of the Country—if all these things combined constituted any title to the admiration of the Public, to the character of a true Patriot, and the grateful recollection of Posterity, such was the Earl of Glengall. For my part, I will explain, in the classical language of the Poet—

Non minor ipse moti, dum spiritus hic regit artus, Scrupulis, membris, formis, laudare maritum.

"Gentlemen—I am anxious to explain the grounds on which I returned from making a personal canvass through this County. Entertaining such feelings towards the late Lord Glengall which I have stated, and being called upon by many of the most respectable Gentlemen, one of whom I have now in my eye, to offer myself as a Candidate for the Representation of the County in Parliament, I thought it the best and most respectful mode to write letters to the several Gentlemen of leading interest in the County, in order to ascertain how far they might think me worthy of the trust which I aspired. The result of those applications proved satisfactorily how well I was warranted in pressing on their countenance and support; of which you will be convinced when I tell you, that, out of nearly five hundred letters which I received in reply to my applications, there were not more than sixteen refusals. I scarcely know any Gentlemen who thus favoured me, and I am equally at a loss how to distinguish, in my gratitude, between them and those who felt themselves under a necessity of refusing me—a grateful and flattering to my feelings were the terms in which these refusals were couched, with the exception only of one or two, from whom I had just reason to expect gratitude, but met with opposition.

"Much has been said, Gentlemen, on former occasions, on the subject of Independence, which, like the glorious luminary thro' which we live and breathe, had, as we all know, sunk in darkness and in night; but which, on the appearance of Lord Caher in this place, had at length dawned, and now has reached the meridian of its glory, and now with its rays the face of this beautiful and extensive County. In point of personal Independence, I can only say, that I do not feel inferior to any man—(Hear, hear!)—but, with respect to relative Independence, if I may so express it, I consider it unnecessary to enter into any comparison with others, as no other Candidate appears—particularly as my expectations on such a subject might possibly be misrepresented or misconstrued. However, where public grounds exist, I shall not shrink from my duty, in animadverting on any matters which have appeared in print or otherwise. The first matter which occurs to me to observe upon is a sort of Secret Committee, which has been established in Nenagh—for what purposes I cannot pretend to say, but one of which appears to have been, to procure subscriptions for the support of a certain Candidate. Gentlemen, there is not a County in the British Dominions that would not view this proceeding, as I do, as an attempt to stifle and put down all feelings and sentiments of Independence. (Loud applause.)

The Right Hon. Gentleman here produced a copy of the Resolutions entered into at Nenagh, on the 1st of October last, and remarked particularly upon the following:— "Resolved—That it appears to the Secret Committee, that ample funds for defraying the expenses of an independent Candidate on the next Election are forthcoming."

"This, I think, shows pretty plainly what were the objects of this Secret Committee, and in my mind demonstratively proves, that they had not in view the support of the Independence of the County, as they professed. Subsequent to these Resolutions, an Address was published, signed by Francis A. Pittie, which spoke of unparalleled exertions since the last Election. 'Unparalleled, indeed; unparalleled in their extent; unparalleled in their application! To what are we to attribute those extraordinary exertions? Certainly to the proceedings of this Secret Committee, which so strongly excited the feelings of the Independent of this County, as to induce me now to address you; and I now stand here merely an humble instrument in their hands.

"There is another document, Gentlemen, to which I wish to draw your attention; and I repeat that it is not my intention to comment upon any thing but what has appeared in print or in writing; that it is not my desire to give offence to any man; and that I wish to abstain from every thing like personality. It is, I hope, not a part of my character, to say that behind any man's back which I would not more willingly say before his face. (Hear, hear, hear!) I beg your attention, Gentlemen, to this document:—

[Here Colonel Bagwell read the announcement of Mr. Pittie's resignation, as it appeared in our last publication.]

"Now, Gentlemen, those communications alluded to, I am credibly informed, did not reach the Hon. Gentleman till ten o'clock on Friday night; I am also informed, that notice was sent to one at least of the Newspaper Printers in this Town, at the early hour of five o'clock, to keep a space open in his columns for an advertisement

which was intended to appear the next morning. What the nature of that advertisement was, I cannot, of course, pretend to state with certainty; but I appeal to the candour of every man who hears me, whether it is not universally believed to have been an advertisement to announce the resignation of Mr. Pittie as a Candidate for this County; and whether I am not, of course, warranted in saying, that the communication alluded to, which, as stated, did not reach that Gentleman until a late hour that night, were not the grounds upon which he withdrew himself; and that his determination was not come to in consequence of communications from the other side of the water, but was previously decided on.

"With regard to those heads of families, or of interests, who have been alluded to in the religious address, I shall, in the first place, lay before you the expressions of my Lord Glengall; only promising, that the communication of his sentiments was entirely uncoloured by me. I had too much respect for his private feelings, to make any application to him on such a subject, so recently after the loss of his lamented parent; my letter to him was merely one of condolence, not of solicitation. That Nobleman, however, did send at an early time for a Right Hon. Friend of mine, whom he assured that every thing within his power should certainly be done for me. I cannot, I repeat, call that passed in the communication of my noble friend's sentiments to any one, but such was the purport of it. [Here the Right Hon. Gentleman read an extract from the Letter of Earl of Glengall.] It is evident, therefore, Gentlemen, that Lord Glengall could not be one of those heads of interests who communicated with the Hon. Gentleman, who has declined the contest. In the next place, I have to mention the reply of my Lord Lalor on my soliciting his interest. That Noble Lord, with a feeling equally creditable to his heart and his head, first enters into expressions of condolence on the decrease of my Lord Glengall, and then goes on to say, that he felt it necessary, before he could give me a decisive answer, to consult the opinions of his steady friends in Ireland, with whom he was in the habit of communicating on all political subjects. Surely, Gentlemen, when I have not a hesitation in saying, that it is one that ought in my mind to be immediately abolished, I consider that the weight of taxation in England has been greatly reduced in comparison to that in Ireland; in other words, that the People of Ireland are weighed down with burdens disproportionate to their means. I think, therefore, this tax should be abolished, and upon the further grounds, that the health of the poorer classes is in some measure affected by it, and that it injures many of our industrious tradesmen, and that it destroys the architectural beauty of our buildings; I shall therefore, on every exertion in my power to accomplish its repeal. (Loud applause.)

"Another subject of high importance relative to the measure of the legislative Union with Great Britain. When we complain, Gentlemen, of the pressure of Taxation, we should visit the greater share of the blame on the supporters of the Union. The amount of the debt of Ireland in the year 1810 was from ten to eleven millions; it is now, I believe, upwards of two hundred millions; and Ireland at this time presents a picture of distress unparalleled in the annals of any other country in the world; that the public taxes have been actually quibbled, yet the revenue falls infinitely short of paying even the interest of the debt; and this in consequence of the improvident bargain made at the time of the Union. This Country, in fact, may be truly said to be in a state of positive bankruptcy, and must continue in that deplorable state, should the resources of England not be applied to its assistance. Such are the consequences of a reflecting, however, that I stand acquitted of any participation in that baneful measure, as I opposed it with my utmost force; as did also my father and my brother. At that period, Gentlemen, some strange things occurred in this County. I have in my possession a written statement, signed by the then High Sheriff, Francis Holy Hutchinson, purporting to declare, that the unanimous feeling of the County was in favour of the Union. [Here a voice in the crowd vociferated "No!"] Was a moment my honest fellow; you mistake my meaning; but if you listen a little I shall convince you. Another document has also reached me, for the genuineness of which I can appeal to the worthy Gentleman (Arthur Riell, Esq.) who stands near me, and whose signature I believe it is. [Here Mr. Riell intimated, that it was his brother, General Riell, Governor of Grenada.] This document, Gentlemen, is a Requestion, to which the names of many of the most respectable inhabitants of this Town were attached, requesting the Mayor to call a Town Meeting, in order to afford an opportunity to the Inhabitants to express their opposition to the measure. Who the then Mayor was, I do not know; but this I know, that the present Mayor would not act as he did, or refuse to convene a Meeting of his Townsmen. However, in his answer (and, such as it was, I believe it was extorted from him), he declined to attend to the wishes of the Inhabitants; and the then Commanding General on the station, Sir Charles Agill, availing himself of the extraordinary powers which were then entrusted to him, for the suppression of seditious and tumultuous assemblies, actually threatened, in case the Inhabitants attempted to assemble, to disperse the Meeting by force! Such was the unanimity of public opinion in favour of the Union at this juncture, my Lord Lalor, much to his

regret, had not been able to change a Catholic Representative, unless he subsequently renounced the religion of his followers. It is, in my opinion, an absurdity in terms, an absurdity in legislation; and I hope that we shall soon see that time, when every honest, loyal, and patriotic Catholic shall be restored to the full participation of those privileges and immunities which are his undoubted birth-right. (Loud applause.)

"Gentlemen, there is one suggestion of my worthy friend, which, as it relates to my deceased father, I shall, with his permission, take the liberty of expressing. [This suggestion was from Mr. Lalor, who remarked, in a low voice, that Mr. Bagwell voted in favour of the Catholics, at a time when his father was opposed by them; and that this conduct was a proof of his civility and independence, as he had not given any previous pledges on the subject, but was found freely, voluntarily, and in a manly manner.]

"Colonel Bagwell resumed—Gentlemen, I have been termed in a public print a Court Candidate. I solemnly declare to you, Gentlemen, that I have had no communication, directly or indirectly, with the Government on the subject of this Election. I have stood forward totally independent of Court favour; and I shall go into Parliament with a determination to vote for Ministers when I think them in the right, and against them when I believe them to be wrong. I shall on all occasions act according to the dictates of my conscience, and shall support measures, not me. (Loud applause.)

"There is another question of importance, the inferior moment to that last mentioned, I mean the Window Tax, on which I shall offer a few observations. I do not indeed feel myself competent to say whether this Tax should or should not be considered as a war tax; I only know, that when the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Vansittart, was applied to for the repeal of that tax, he denied a section of it being a war tax, but consented to make a reduction of 25 per cent, and likewise (I believe without solicitation) reduced the tax on Hops, Churches, and Sarcenet, &c. But though I do clear myself from that tax, I pronounce a direct opinion on the question, whether or not this impost should be entirely abolished. I have no hesitation in saying, that it is one that ought in my mind to be immediately abolished. I consider that the weight of taxation in England has been greatly reduced in comparison to that in Ireland; in other words, that the People of Ireland are weighed down with burdens disproportionate to their means. I think, therefore, this tax should be abolished, and upon the further grounds, that the health of the poorer classes is in some measure affected by it, and that it injures many of our industrious tradesmen, and that it destroys the architectural beauty of our buildings; I shall therefore, on every exertion in my power to accomplish its repeal. (Loud applause.)

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"Another subject of high importance relative to the measure of the legislative Union with Great Britain. When we complain, Gentlemen, of the pressure of Taxation, we should visit the greater share of the blame on the supporters of the Union. The amount of the debt of Ireland in the year 1810 was from ten to eleven millions; it is now, I believe, upwards of two hundred millions; and Ireland at this time presents a picture of distress unparalleled in the annals of any other country in the world; that the public taxes have been actually quibbled, yet the revenue falls infinitely short of paying even the interest of the debt; and this in consequence of the improvident bargain made at the time of the Union. This Country, in fact, may be truly said to be in a state of positive bankruptcy, and must continue in that deplorable state, should the resources of England not be applied to its assistance. Such are the consequences of a reflecting, however, that I stand acquitted of any participation in that baneful measure, as I opposed it with my utmost force; as did also my father and my brother. At that period, Gentlemen, some strange things occurred in this County. I have in my possession a written statement, signed by the then High Sheriff, Francis Holy Hutchinson, purporting to declare, that the unanimous feeling of the County was in favour of the Union. [Here a voice in the crowd vociferated "No!"] Was a moment my honest fellow; you mistake my meaning; but if you listen a little I shall convince you. Another document has also reached me, for the genuineness of which I can appeal to the worthy Gentleman (Arthur Riell, Esq.) who stands near me, and whose signature I believe it is. [Here Mr. Riell intimated, that it was his brother, General Riell, Governor of Grenada.] This document, Gentlemen, is a Requestion, to which the names of many of the most respectable inhabitants of this Town were attached, requesting the Mayor to call a Town Meeting, in order to afford an opportunity to the Inhabitants to express their opposition to the measure. Who the then Mayor was, I do not know; but this I know, that the present Mayor would not act as he did, or refuse to convene a Meeting of his Townsmen. However, in his answer (and, such as it was, I believe it was extorted from him), he declined to attend to the wishes of the Inhabitants; and the then Commanding General on the station, Sir Charles Agill, availing himself of the extraordinary powers which were then entrusted to him, for the suppression of seditious and tumultuous assemblies, actually threatened, in case the Inhabitants attempted to assemble, to disperse the Meeting by force! Such was the unanimity of public opinion in favour of the Union at this juncture, my Lord Lalor, much to his

regret, had not been able to change a Catholic Representative, unless he subsequently renounced the religion of his followers. It is, in my opinion, an absurdity in terms, an absurdity in legislation; and I hope that we shall soon see that time, when every honest, loyal, and patriotic Catholic shall be restored to the full participation of those privileges and immunities which are his undoubted birth-right. (Loud applause.)

"Gentlemen, there is one suggestion of my worthy friend, which, as it relates to my deceased father, I shall, with his permission, take the liberty of expressing. [This suggestion was from Mr. Lalor, who remarked, in a low voice, that Mr. Bagwell voted in favour of the Catholics, at a time when his father was opposed by them; and that this conduct was a proof of his civility and independence, as he had not given any previous pledges on the subject, but was found freely, voluntarily, and in a manly manner.]

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