

vigour when they were sowed, it was that system by which the clergy and lay-impropriators of that religion professed by the minority of the people were enabled to grind the majority who professed a different one. He was desirous of not pressing any thing with a feeling of hostility to the Protestant Church of Ireland; if such feeling were entertained, it would be most undesired. He was bound to state that whatever evils attached to the condition of the property, the Protestant Church of Ireland has not to answer. That it was found that many persons were led into abuse by circumstances, yet at the same time it must be acknowledged that, generally speaking, the conduct of the Protestant Church of Ireland was such as to do honour to any church in Christendom. In many parts of Ireland, where no spiritual duty could be performed, many individuals he knew felt that they had still a ministry to perform, a ministry of kindness and benevolence; and if they could not carry their religion into the cottage of the poor man, they still could bear their compassion and protection. Such conduct it was that served to neutralize the evils of the system; but notwithstanding the virtues of the majority, individuals could be found whose power to vex and harass, in consequence of the tenure of the property, exceeded any thing existing in other parts of Europe. The Noble Earl (Liverpool) thought this system had not the main share in producing the present disorders of Ireland; without meaning to impute to it the whole of the evil, he could assure the Noble Earl that in many instances confusion and outrage had arisen out of the title system alone, in places undisturbed before. In confirmation of this, his Lordship referred to the resolutions of two Magistrates of Kilmalshock, which stated that the disturbances there had their origin mainly in an increased valuation of tithes by the curate, who happened also to farm the tithes. An addition of 75 per cent. had been made to what the Rector offered to lease them at in 1805. It was hardly necessary to show that a system which gave great powers to tithe-lenders and tithe-proctors (often the lowest and most ferocious of mankind), could not exist without abuse, and must necessarily produce these bitter consequences under which the Country now groaned. In mentioning the abolition of this system in other parts of Europe, their Lordships would not suppose the course there pursued was intended to be recommended as an example to follow. In the governments which had been called revolutionarily, as well as those contra-distinguished by the same, legitimately, the abolition of the tithe-system had been attended with a character of spoliation which he should be sorry to see attached to the proceedings of the British Nation in which the Government was concerned. The only principle that could with safety be looked to, was doing ample justice to all parties; and if no other good were extracted from an alteration than the saving of the great expense in the ruinous mode of collection, and the consequent irritation, that would be a most important object. He would remind their Lordships, that it was not with the conscientious regard, or lay-impropriator, that from motives of benevolence took two-thirds or one-half of what they were entitled to, but they were to deal with the absent clergyman, who was indifferent to the duties of his station and the distresses of his flock. If it were attended with any other consequences, it would be worth their Lordships' while to interpose, and not to let the humane man stand in the situation of renouncing his profits, whilst men of another description exacted to the last farthing. On the nature of the remedy, so far from the Noble Duke, to whom allusion had been made by the Noble Earl (Liverpool), having formed an opinion that nothing could be done on the subject, he had considered of a plan, and he (the Marquis of Lansdown) believed he was authorized in stating that plan, or something similar, might with advantage be adopted. The mode suggested of substituting land for tithes he had formed no opinion upon, and without meaning to say that it would be applicable to Ireland, yet he might be allowed to say that even in England, objectionable as it had been found to be, it had never appeared an opinion so insulting to the Marquis Wellesey as to believe this subject could be relieved from the necessity of bringing the subject before Parliament. He had also heard with satisfaction from the Noble Earl opposite, that he did not consider the present agitation a bar to the consideration of the subject. Relying on that assurance from the Noble Earl, he felt inclined to abate himself, and would also express a wish and hope that others would obtain from pressing the subject now; but at the same time he would not do its duty if they suffered much time to elapse without investigating this subject. Obstacles and difficulties there might be, but there could be no difficulty or obstacle comparable in magnitude with the evils which were now afflicting the very elements of civil government in that distracted Country.

The Earl of Limerick joined most sincerely in the applause which had been bestowed on the Noble Duke, for the manner in which he had brought forward the subject. He agreed with the Noble Earl (Liverpool), that the disturbances did not altogether originate in the tithe system, though that system had mainly contributed to the evils which at present afflicted that Country. But there was another glaring mischief that had a share also; he alluded to the abominable mode in which the Excise Laws, as to distillation, were carried into effect. The mode was sufficient to barbarize the Country, and to demoralize the army, who were scattered about under the orders of the Excise Officers, making seizures on the conduct of Protestants, he most complain that the tithes were a bounty on Catholicism, for the present would naturally connect the oppressions of the tithe-proctors with the Protestant religion; how little that was to the advantage of the latter he need not say. He was happy that the present question was not to be kept in reserve, as the evil of that was apparent to every one.

The Earl of Bessington said he had no intention to enter fully on the question; he merely wished to make one observation as to the mode of Ireland. But previously he must remark, that with respect to the observations on the conduct of the clergy, though he did not mean to impute any ill motives to individuals, yet he must remark, that in the South of Ireland the majority of incumbents were tithes cases. In the North of Ireland the Presbyterians were as much oppressed as the Catholics of the South, and it was only from their forbearance that their Lordships' table was not inundated with Petitions. His Lordship alluded to the abuses with respect to college livings; the fellows coming to take possession of them contrary to the statute, which forbade their being married, yet they generally had twelve or fifteen children with them.

The Petition was then laid on the table.

The Marquis of Lansdown then presented a Petition from the Proprietors of tithes in Lonsdown, and eleven other parishes, of the same tenor as the Petition presented by the Duke of Devonshire. It was read and laid on the table, after which the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, MARCH 15.

IMPORTATION OF WOOL.

Mr. STUART WORTLEY wished to ask the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Wallace) a question relative to the importation of wool. He understood that the general opinion which had gone abroad, and particularly amongst his constituents, was, that the measure lately introduced would give the power of importing woollen cloths, wares, gloves, and selling them duty free. He had understood the object of it was merely to give the privilege of importing, warehousing, and afterwards re-exporting them duty free. He wished for some explanation on that subject.

Mr. WALLACE was much obliged to his Honourable Friend for giving him an opportunity of contradicting that error. The object of the measure was nothing more than his Honourable Friend had stated.

STATE OF IRELAND.

Sir JOHN NEWPORT postponed the motion of his Hon. Friend (Mr. Dominick Browne), upon the state of Ireland, from the 17th to the 24th of April.

MALT TAX.

Mr. LUSHINGTON moved the Order of the day for the House resolving itself into a Committee.

Mr. GIPPS wished to state, before the Speaker left the Chair, that he considered the report of a shilling upon malt would afford no relief, and that if it were commuted for the salt tax, it would confer the greatest benefits on agriculture.

Mr. CALVERT said, he was anxious to have a complete understanding respecting the malt upon hands, and he had had that day a conversation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that Right Honourable Gentleman told him, that all the malt in transitu was to be taken into account, and the duty remitted. He should not, therefore, oppose the going into a Committee.

Sir J. YORK said, he was one of those whose income had been reduced in order to afford relief to agriculture, and if it would have that effect he would be happy to bear it. But with respect to the repeal of a shilling upon malt, he was quite at a loss to know how it could benefit the Country. He should be happy to hear when that joyful day would arrive when they might expect a fall of the fractional part of a penny a pot upon beer—(a laugh)—and he should be happy to learn from the Gentleman opposite (Mr. Calvert), the representative of the barley interests, when a reduction would be made by the manufacturer.

Mr. CALVERT said, he would give the Honourable and Learned Gentleman a little information, which, would probably be the best answer to his question. Out of the five pence a pot the Government got something more than three halfpence; 6s. 6d. a quarter of the duty was remitted; twopenny then only remained for the brewer, and he should be glad to know how any reduction could be made.

General GASCOYNE considered the new measure with respect to the malt tax impolitic and uncalled for.

Colonel WOOD said the measure would have a very happy effect if it led, as there was reason to suppose it would, to make people brew their own beer; for the more home-brewed beer there was drunk the better.

After a few words from Mr. C. SMITH, the House went into a Committee.

The Bill, with its Amendments, having engaged the Committee for some time, the clauses were agreed to, and the House resumed.

Lord A. HAMILTON wished to acquire some information from the Right Hon. Gentleman for the benefit of the brewers of Scotland, who were acting in a manner which was strictly illegal, under instructions from the Commissioners of Excise.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER wished the Noble Lord to postpone his question, as the Chairman of the excise of Scotland was just yet arrived in town, and his papers had not yet been examined.

The report was ordered to be received on Monday next.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.

Lord J. RUSSELL wished to put a question respecting a transaction which had come to his knowledge, that nearly concerned the privileges of the House. An Hon. Friend of his had received a letter, purporting to be a Treasury circular, requesting him not to countenance or support the measures of Lord Althorp, Lord Normanby, Mr. Croxall, and others of the Opposition; that they (the Opposition), in despair of getting into power, were taking measures which would undermine and destroy the interests of the State, and which would make it impossible for any set of men to carry on the government of the Country. It was signed "Charles Arbuthnot." He took it for granted that this was an atrocious forgery, and that no Secretary of the Treasury would ever dare to represent the Members of that House as wishing to undermine and destroy the best interests of the Country, and make it impossible for any men to carry on the government.

Mr. ARBUTHNOT said, that he had certainly written a private letter to several Members of the House, in which he had warned them of the measures of certain Members—though if the letters were produced, it would be found to state the subject in a very different light from that of the Noble Lord. He had intended nothing disrespectful to the motives of those Members; he had only alluded to their motions. He was as far as the Noble Lord from wishing to do any thing injurious to the privileges of the House. He had stated nothing but what he was quite as ready to state in the House, and wished it to be understood that he took the whole responsibility on himself.

Lord NORMANBY left the question of privilege to be settled by the House. He thought it due to himself to state, that having acted consistently with the discharge of his public duty, he should have thought it extraordinary if any one had dared to attribute to him a desire to undermine and destroy the best interests of the Country, merely because he brought forward a motion which had been twice before discussed in that House.

Mr. ARBUTHNOT was confirmed that the Noble Lord would see, if he read the letter, that it was such imputation was applied to him.

The Marquis of Londonderry said, that there was liberty enough used both in and out of the House, in commenting on principles and measures. It was too much for the Hon. Gentleman opposite to expect that they were to take what course they pleased in the discharge of what they thought their duty, and that those who were opposed to them should, in this land of freedom, be degraded from remarking on it.

Lord NORMANBY said, that he had not read the letter. He was only endeavouring to reply to a charge of assisting in a system to undermine and destroy the best interests of the Country.

The Marquis of Londonderry said, that the remarks seemed to have been applied to the conduct, and not to the motives of the parties mentioned.

Colonel DAVIES conceived that the words "in despair of getting into office" implied an improper motive.

Mr. ARBUTHNOT said, that his only meaning was, that he disliked the tendency of the measures of the Gentlemen opposite. He did not wish to withhold himself from the responsibility of having felt and expressed that sentiment, whether in or out of the House. He left it with the Chair to determine if there was any breach of privilege in it.

Lord J. RUSSELL agreed to leave it to the authority of the Chair if the course taken by the Hon. Secretary was orderly, or if it was not a gross breach of order to impute unworthy motives in that or any other way.

The SPEAKER thought that that branch of the sentence, "despairing of office," could have nothing to do with the privileges of the House. If the other parts of the sentence described the parties as wishing to undermine and destroy the interests of the State, undoubtedly they were most disorderly. But they might affect the tendency only, and not the motives. As the case stood, the letter not being before the House, it was impossible for him to give an opinion, as he might give it on a mistaken view of the contents of the letter.

Mr. ARBUTHNOT maintained that it was a private letter, and that he had not even kept a copy of it. He repeated it again, that he was the last to shrink from the responsibility of having been the sole author of it.

Mr. C. WYNN said, that it was the first time an application of the kind had been made to the Chair on a suppositious case. He apprehended that they did not want examples, either in or out of the House, of the liberty used in commenting

on the motions of the House, and that it was a Treasury circular and not a private letter.

Mr. C. WYNN said, that it had been sent as a private letter.

Mr. G. LAMB said, that the apology of the Right Hon. Secretary of the Treasury would have been satisfactory to the House, were it not for the alarm attempted to be created by the Right Hon. the President of the Board of Control. He (Mr. Wynn) had, during his speech, begged the whole of the question; for in his trade against any infringement of private communication, he had forgotten that the question was, whether this was a private letter on a Treasury circular. (Hear, hear!) This had been decided by the Right Hon. Member (Mr. Arbuthnot), in the satisfactory explanation which he had given to the House.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL entreated the Right Hon. Gentleman opposite (Mr. Wynn) would not conceive that he had brought forward a motion of privilege on the present occasion; he had taken no such course, but in the first instance merely put a question upon a letter, which he said nearly concerned the privileges of that House. (Hear, hear!) on account of the public character of the letter, as a Secretary of the Treasury, and his words in motives which, if applicable to those to whom they were addressed, were dishonourable, dishonest, and unworthy. Understanding that the Right Hon. Gent. disavowed meaning to impute such motives, he had certainly no motion to make upon the subject.

Lord NORMANBY rose to give notice, that he would bring the subject of the Postmaster-General again before the House on Thursday, the 20th May.

Dr. PHILLIMORE gave notice of a motion for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Marriage Act, for Wednesday next.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Lord PALMERSTON moved that £236,339 be granted to his Majesty for military contingencies.

Mr. HUME rose to move for a reduction of the table allowances to the life and foot guards on duty at St. James's. The charges were, for St. James's £6000, and for Dublin a charge of £1000, of a similar nature. He thought that £3000 a year was enough to keep them a plain table, and it could never be desirable to teach them the use of wasteful and extravagant luxuries. He thought that the expense of £3400 for the riding-house establishment at Pincho ought to be reduced, and also the sum of £60 to Sir G. Naylor, for regulating the colours. He moved an amendment, that instead of the sum proposed for contingencies, the sum of £211,400 should be substituted.

Sir C. BURRELL said, that the pay of a Lieutenant of guards would yield more interest for the expense of his commission than that of a Captain in the army, with whom he was ranked, were it not for those allowances of which the subalterns derived the chief benefit. Had the officers of the guards the same allowances of other kinds which were common to the rest of the army, the expense would be greater, so that he might safely say the Government saved £3000 a year by the present arrangement.

General HARDING said, that the privileges of the guards, now in question, had been enjoyed since their first formation. What they received different from the army would amount to £18,000. If they had the same allowances as the army, in all respects, the expense, instead of £18,000, would be £30,000, leaving a deficiency of £12,000, by which the public would be gainers. But deducting the expense of £6000 for the table at St. James's, there was ultimately a saving of £6000, as compared with the contingencies for the same number of forces in the army. The regulations were of the best kind. No wine was drawn after ten o'clock, and the mess-room was cleared as soon as the clock struck eleven. The army was administered with as much economy and propriety in peace, as it had been with efficiency and glory in war.

Mr. BERNAL was happy to agree with the propositions of his Hon. Friend, but he could not assent to this motion. There were seven battalions among three regiments of the guards. If they had the usual wine allowance of £250 for each battalion, that would be £1750 a year of itself. The other regiments had barracks. Several of the officers of the guards had no lodgings assigned them. There were 62 subalterns, 32 Captains who were field-officers, and 8 who were not, to be provided for. The lowest allowance that could be made to them for lodgings would be £1 per week. If the saving of those allowances were deducted, it would be seen that Government saved £6000 a year after paying the expense of St. James's table.

Mr. BENNETT said, that he was sure it was not the intention of his Honourable Friend (Mr. Hume) to breathe an aspersion against any part of the Army. He (Mr. Bennett) agreed with his Hon. Friend in thinking, that £6000 a year was too much for the support of a table of thirteen officers, and should therefore support the amendment.

Colonel DAVIES said, the simple question which he had to propose to the Committee was, whether they would be content to pay for an army of 68,000 men in 1822, £18,000 more than they paid in 1819 for an army of 80,000 men?—thinking that such a demand was extravagant, and disapproving of the riding establishment at Pincho altogether, notwithstanding all that he had heard in favour. There were rough-riders in every regiment for the purpose of teaching the men to ride, and the reduction of the useful establishment would

deficiency might be created, and that was certainly much better than saying, because such a number was raised last year, therefore we will calculate on so many for the present year.

Mr. HUME defended the observations he had made on the present and on a former evening, on the subject of the guards' table. When he made those observations, he did not mean to give them any personal application, but to apply them to the general principle. All that he had heard since confirmed him in his opinion; and it was not a little extraordinary that his expression should have been found fault with, when the Board of General Officers who had examined into the subject, in the report on the system, condemned it altogether, and nearly in the same terms, recommending, in preference, that the officers should provide for themselves, and that such an allowance as might be thought proper should be made to them. With respect to the arguments in favour of the riding establishment, it appeared to him to be equally necessary to have a depot for the infantry to teach an uniform system of marching. With respect to the recruiting, he understood the calculation to be, every recruit £9; which for 5000 recruits would be only £45,000; but the charge was £58,000. As a great difference of opinion seemed to be entertained on the subject of one item, upon which he had calculated a part of the reduction included in his amendment, he did not wish to press that, but he thought himself bound in justice to the Country to propose a diminution in the amount of this vote.

Colonel DALRYMPLE said, that the Hon. Gentleman had forgotten the most material article in the cavalry, a horse. In the infantry, marching only was to be taught; in the cavalry, riding also.

Mr. HUME said the question was, why extraordinary means should be used to create more uniformity in any one line than the other. He understood that horses were more easily to be taught than men.

Both the amendments, proposed by Mr. Hume and Colonel DAVIES, were agreed without a division, and the original vote of £236,339 was, 10, agreed to.

The vote of £84,445 for the Irish Establishment being agreed to.

Lord PALMERSTON, in proposing the vote for the staff, observed, that one Major-General had been reduced in Germany, and two in the Colonies; considerable reductions had also been made in the Medical Department. It was also intended to make some further reductions in the colonial establishments, but they could not now be stated with sufficient accuracy.

Colonel DAVIES said, he observed that there were still retained four permanent District Assistants to the Quartermaster-General in England, which he considered to be entirely useless, except perhaps the one at Liverpool, who might be of use in superintending the passage of troops to and from Ireland. There were also two Inspectors of Army Clothing, whose offices he looked upon as sinecures. On the colonial staff he should only remark, that in the Windward and Leeward Islands, considerable reductions might be made in the Quartermaster-General's department. In several islands there were very small garrisons, there could be no combined movements to superintend; the four Brigadier Majors, therefore, the two Assistant Quartermaster-Generals, and the five Deputies, could not be necessary. In the island of Trinidad, there was an Assistant and a Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, and the whole staff consisted of 138 men. (Hear!) At St. Lucia there were about the same number of men, and the like establishment of Quartermaster-Generals.

Lord PALMERSTON said, that two of the Quartermaster-Generals in the West Indies were ordered to be reduced. They were almost all Barrack-Masters also, so that the expense of Barrack-Masters was saved.

Mr. HUME said he was not to be quite so easily satisfied. He thought a larger reduction should be made in the staff. He would put it to the Committee whether for the home staff they would continue to pay the exact sum of £215,000 which they paid last year? He wished to ask whether there was now any necessity for four permanent District Quartermaster-Generals? But they had besides four Quartermaster-Generals at headquarters. In 1792, there was only one Quartermaster-General, and one deputy, and now they were called on to keep eight. Then there were two Inspectors of Army Clothing; he should like to know why they could not now resort to the same system as prevailed in this respect before the introduction of those appointments. If they kept four Adjutant-Generals and four Quartermaster-Generals at headquarters, why could not one of them do the duty of inspecting the clothing of the army, and the two inspectors be reduced. There were also six Aides-de-Camp to the King. In 1792 he thought they were provided for in the civil list, for they did not appear in the army estimates. He also wished to know why the Chancery-General should not be reduced. In 1792 this establishment had begun, at the expense of a General a day, or £383 a year, for the Chaplain-General. He had now £800 a year, an assistant, and three chaplains to the forces, making an expense of £1776 a year. He had never been able to find what the Chaplain-General did. It was said that he examined the qualifications of the chaplains; but as the Bishops would take care not to ordain improper persons, this labour was thrown away. In the Colonies he saw a great field for reduction. In Canada there were four Quartermaster-Generals, two Aides-de-Camp, and

two Secretaries (a Secretary and Assistant). Two of the Quartermasters, one Secretary, and one Aide-de-Camp, might be reduced. In Jamaica, Gibraltar, and the Cape of Good Hope, there were the same establishments all in duplicate, which admitted of the same reduction. He confessed it seemed of little use for him to go into these details. The House had voted £133,000 for the Staff last year, and £118,000 this, when in 1792 the whole business was done for £24,000. Was this to be borne? He proposed to reduce the vote by £12,800, the amount of the items he had commented on.

Lord PALMERSTON said, that in 1722 there had been six Aides-de-Camp to the King, as there were now, and that then also they were borne upon the staff. The Hon. Member was led into an error by omitting the contingencies in 1792. The expense of the Staff at home was in that year above £14,000, when by the accounts it should appear only £6000. The Noble Lord contended in favour of the utility of Chaplains-General establishments, and the Inspectors of Army Clothing. As to the Assistant Quartermaster-Generals, they were stationed at the posts from which troops were embarked, Liverpool, Bristol, Portsmouth, and Plymouth; there was one also in Edinburgh. As to the reduction proposed by the Hon. Gentleman, they were so vague and indefinite that he could not surely think that the House did not concur with him. Surely it was a very unsatisfactory way of proceeding to say that there were so many officers in such a place, and that therefore they should reduce half of them; or that there was so much money spent, and that therefore he would reduce so many thousand pounds. (Hear!)

Sir R. FERGUSON presumed that he was the person alluded to as having made the charge against the Colonies, to which the Hon. Member for Counties had referred, begged to say, that the observations which he had made were meant to apply to the new Colonies only, and not to the old Colonies. With respect to the latter, he fully concurred in all that the Hon. Member had said respecting the multiplication of their resources; and he did say if the four and a half per cent. duty were applied to the proper and legitimate use to which it was originally assigned, those Colonies might keep up a staff and an army fully sufficient for their defence; instead of which it was distributed among certain ladies and gentlemen, who were instrumental in bringing Members into that House. When the Cape of Good Hope first came into our possession, Sir James Craig, who commanded there, stated that £3000 was a sufficient salary for the Governor, and that the revenues of the Colony would suffice for the maintenance of the force necessary for its defence, and to defray the charges of its government. But at present, as was notorious of the system of colonial administration; because the moment a colony came into our possession, the minister created a number of places, with large salaries attached, to provide for the dependants of Government. One half of the expense of the present establishment in that colony would amply provide for all that was requisite to its civil administration and its military protection. The Governor alone had a nominal salary of £10,000; but with all the other advantages which he had besides, of houses, plantations, slaves, &c. and the difference in the value of the currency, it was equal at least to £25,000 a year. In this Country, (Hear!) He repeated that if the funds were properly applied, they would keep the staff and the whole army necessary for its defence, instead of which they were so directed as to make it a useless burden to this Country.

Mr. GOULBURN rose to make some observations in reply to what had fallen from the gallant General, whom it had been his lot more than once to meet upon the present question. He could not help thinking that the gallant General had fallen upon an odd way of reckoning, when he stated that because the Governor of a distant colony received £10,000 in the depreciated currency of the place, and it was very well known that the currency in all the Colonies was at all times in a greater or less degree of depreciation, the salary which he received was equal to £25,000 here. Whatever the value of the currency was, as regarded an inhabitant of the Colony, by the value of the same sum in this Country; for it would not go farther there than the same sum would here. Whatever might be the expense of the military establishments of the Colonies was amply repaid by the advantages derived from them.

After a few words from Lord PALMERSTON, Mr. HUME said, that as many Members had come into the House since he made his statement, he now felt it necessary to repeat them. The Hon. Member then repeated the reductions that might be made.

The House then divided upon the amendment—

Yeas 31
Nays 109

Majority for the Minister 76

On our return to the gallery we found

Mr. MABERLY on his legs. He said the Noble Lord had stated that all the reductions which could be made had been effected, and the Noble Lord had taken to himself great credit for these reductions. But he (Mr. Maberly) denied that the Noble Lord was entitled to any credit at all, and he wished his Hon. Friend (Mr. Hume) would not waste himself or exhaust himself night after night, but come at once to the items which might be reduced, and let the country decide between his Majesty's Government and his Hon. Friend. Let him propose what reductions could

be made with honour and safety to the country, and that would be the effectual mode of reducing taxation; that was the course he would recommend to his Hon. Friend, who, in his statement, had done more substantial benefit to his country than any man who had sat in that house for these 20 years.

Mr. HUME would be very happy to (Hear, hear) doing his Hon. Friend (Mr. Maberly) the justice he could render the distresses of the country. But his opinion was that he should introduce the estimates, and let the surplus stand be applied to reduce taxation—(Hear, hear!)—and although it was certainly a laudable task, it was the duty of the House to pass over, because it was impossible the Noble Lord would not ultimately yield to the just wishes of the Country, and reduce the public burdens.

The Hon. ROBERT SMITH wished to ask the Noble Marquis whether any communication had been made to him of the intention of his Royal Highness Prince Leopold to propose a reduction of his salary to the scale of the other Royal Dukes? He had understood that such was the sympathy of that illustrious Prince with the distresses of the Country that he wished to limit his own income to afford them some relief.

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY could only say, that no communication had been made on the subject. It was a strict novelty to him.

Mr. HUME thought that the expense of the office and salary of the Commander-in-Chief admitted of considerable reduction. In 1814 the Commander-in-Chief had a salary of nine guineas per diem, and during the peace it was raised to its present rate, sixteen guineas a year. And it was not at all unreasonable that that salary should now be reduced to the same rate as during the war. He also objected to the increased salaries of Generals abroad, and he thought the reductions should go through the whole, commencing with the Commander-in-Chief. Now he wished to know what was the necessity for three secretaries to the Commander-in-Chief. One had £2000 a year, another £600, and a private secretary £300 a year. He thought that in these a reduction should be made in that establishment of £1000, still leaving £1900 to pay the secretaries. There were besides other clerks, whose salaries amounted to £6319. Stationary and candles £700. There was also a chaplain to his Royal Highness, although he was at a loss to know what was the necessity. He had a salary of £115 a year, besides holding other offices. There were no circumstances which, in his opinion, required the services of this individual. On the whole, he thought that with great propriety a reduction might be made in this establishment of £3658, including the reduction of the pay of the Commander-in-Chief, the Secretaries, and the Chaplain, and he should therefore move an amendment to that effect.

Lord PALMERSTON said that the Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Hume) was the most rigid antipapalisan he had ever met, for whenever an ecclesiastic came in his way, he was sure to strike him out of the list; but the House would not consider his services were too dearly required when he assured them that the Chaplain to his Royal Highness attended the guards, read prayers for them, and attended at their schools. It was true he held other appointments; but the great plurality of situations did not amount to more than £300 a year. The House then would not think the salary too much because it was divided into different items. With respect to the pay of the Commander-in-Chief, it must be remembered that it was not paid to him personally, it was the pay to which his rank entitled him; and a reduction could not be made without a complete alteration in the service. No situation could be filled with more ability, and no body acquainted with the army could be so ignorant of the great mental anxiety attendant upon the office, or the attention with which its important duties were discharged. (Hear, hear!) Any further reduction in that establishment would, in his opinion, only tend to cripple it, and render it inefficient.

Mr. HUME wished to know when it was that that rate of pay had been allotted to a Field Marshal.

Lord PALMERSTON replied that the alteration had taken place in 1815.

Mr. HUME was ready to admit that the conduct of his Royal Highness was most meritorious, but in his opinion that advanced pay had no connection with his rank, and he was sure the Government would best consult the wishes of the Country by making the proposed reduction in that establishment.

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY said, that it appeared to him the Hon. Gentleman had taken an odious, overcharged, or unfounded view of the question. For if there were any two officers in the public service that enjoyed more particularly the confidence of the Public and the approbation of the House, they were the Commander-in-Chief and his Secretary. Besides, it must be remembered that all Field Marshals were entitled to the same pay as the Commander-in-Chief, and he should be glad to know was there any thing in the conduct of the Duke of York to justify an exception. (Hear!) Every officer on the staff was paid according to his rank, and it would be contended that they were to be paid by halves. Here they had the Hon. Member pondering over and confusing accounts belonging to the office of the Commander-in-Chief which any child could propound and explain; as to the pay of the Under-Secretary of the Commander-in-Chief, he was astonished that it should have been noticed, if it was not for his knowledge of the industry of the Hon. Member for Aberdeen, for

are £1000 more, he should move as an amendment, a reduction of £19,000 on the estimate before the Committee.

Lord PALMERSTON said, the appointment of rough-riders in every regiment of cavalry did not render the riding establishment at Pincho less necessary; for the art of riding in their regiments, unless they were first taught themselves, and the Pincho establishment was necessary to ensure the practice of a uniform system of riding throughout the service. With respect to the charge for the Albany barracks as a depot for recruits for foreign service, if those recruits were formed into battalions for the purpose of training, they would require a staff, which, for 2300 men, the number of recruits for this year on the corresponding scale of the British establishment, would cost £7000. The total expense of this depot was £4200, being less than the arrangement which had been suggested by nearly £3000. The whole expense of the recruiting staff, recruiting officers, &c. in the several districts did not exceed £9000.

Colonel DAVIES said, it ought not to be so much, for in 1819 there 3000 recruits raised, and for the present year only half that number were calculated upon. With respect to the riding establishment, and the necessity of keeping up an uniform system of riding throughout the service, the riding-master could not, under the present plan, superintend the riding of all the regiments, for he never visited them; and the detachments that were trained at Pincho, when they returned to their regiments, might forget the lessons which they had there been taught.

Lord PALMERSTON said, the gallant Officer (Col. Davies) confused the estimate made at the commencement of a year with the charge for the actual expense at the end of the year, which did not always agree.

Colonel DAVIES said, then an account ought always to be given of the difference. If the expense exceeded the estimate, the necessity for the excess should be shown, and the consent of the House obtained; and if it fell short, then the surplus of the supply should be accounted for.

Lord PALMERSTON said, the estimates were always formed in the best manner they could make to meet the probable exigency for the year. But many contingencies might arise to interfere with the arrangement originally laid down, which could not be always foreseen, and therefore it was impossible always to make the actual expense turn out according to the estimate; if it exceeded the estimate, the excess formed a part of the charge for the extraordinary of the ensuing year; if it fell short, the surplus of the supply went in diminution of that charge.

Sir H. HARDING said, that with respect to the charge for recruiting, a great saving was effected by the present plan. The officers on the recruiting service had formerly no power of finally approving or rejecting a recruit until he reached the head-quarters of his regiment, which was now done by the inspecting field-officer of the district, and it often happened in those times that after a recruit had at a considerable expense been brought up to the regiment, he was rejected, and the whole expense lost. He understood that on the average one recruit in twelve was so rejected; so that if the old system were restored, as had been suggested, one-twelfth of the expense of all the recruits brought up to the several regiments in the service would be thrown away.

Mr. C. H. HUTCHINSON eulogized in warm terms the exertions of the Hon. Member for Aberdeen in the cause of economy and retrenchment, and in addition to the good effected in the way of saving to the Public, by his minute examination of the details of the several branches of the public expenditure, he would venture to assert that the Right Hon. Gentleman opposite had thereby acquired an insight into their respective offices which they otherwise never would have had. If any improper imputations had been thrown out against the guards, he entirely disapproved of them. He thought that the table at St. James's for those on actual duty ought to be kept up; but it was the duty of the Noble Lord to take care that it was placed on a scale as economical for the Public as was consistent with a proper provision for the number and rank of those who were to partake of it. He hoped therefore his Hon. Friend, if he divided the Committee on his amendment, would leave out the £3000 which he had calculated as a deduction from the allowance for the guards' table at St. James's, and he should be prepared fully to agree with him in the rest of his amendment.

Mr. T. WILSON concurred in the observation of the gallant officer, as to the difference between the estimates and the actual expense. All sums, whether greater or less, which remained from the supply over the actual expense for the particular branch for which they were voted, ought to be brought to account; and if any deficiency arising in the amount of the supply voted were allowed to be made up out of the extraordinary, he saw no use in voting any particular sums. (Hear!)

Lord PALMERSTON said the gallant officer had quite mistaken the mode in which the estimates were framed. The amount of any particular estimate in a former year, was not a guide in framing the estimates for an ensuing year. The mode in which the estimate for the recruiting for this year was made was this: first, he took the number of the establishment; then he calculated from an average of former years the probable number of casualties on that number of men, according to the particular services on which it was likely that they might be disturbed, by which