

SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS ON THE PUBLIC REVENUE.

It seems almost superfluous, after what has been stated respecting the system of management and the departments in Ireland, to recommend that the resident General Commissioners in that country should invariably be selected from among those members of the Boards in London who may be presumed to have acquired by experience a competent knowledge of the English system; and that until the new regulations are fully established, one or more practical officers, selected from the English branch of the establishment, should occupy the chief places of control immediately under them.

As the adoption of this measure would admit of displacing with the services of a considerable number of the Commissioners now holding places at the several Boards of each Revenue, it is necessary that we contemplate the retirement of all those Commissioners from the Scotch and Irish Boards also. Such an arrangement had not entered into our views. The present condition of the Irish Revenue departments has been traced to causes for which the existing Irish Boards can hardly be held responsible; and so far as we may be warranted by what has come before us, in expressing an opinion of the Irish Commissioners in general, we should feel bound to bear such favorable testimony to their sufficiency, as was consistent with their occupying a fairly proportionate share in the united Commissions. The Members of the Scotch Boards would have an indisputable claim to be considered with the same impartiality in the new arrangements.

But although it has been necessary for us to say thus much in order to prevent a misunderstanding of our intention, we are conscious that it is not within our province to say more on this topic, nor to offer any observations upon the peculiar importance of filling the General Boards, at the commencement of their institution, with Gentlemen of approved ability and experience in the Revenue Business.

It is incumbent upon us also to advert, in this place, to the expediency of establishing a sufficient safeguard against the disposition which might be expected to exist in Boards having their residence in London, to encourage the employment of natives in England, in preference to those of Scotland or Ireland, in the service of the Revenue. This is a point to which we attach great importance, and we are anxious to state that any such partiality would be directly opposite to the views and feelings with which our recommendation of these measures is accompanied. In order most effectually to obviate such a tendency, we are of opinion that the nomination to all the lower situations, whether in the Customs or Excise, (the highest executive officers being under the new regulations to be filled by promotion alone) should be so far subject to the control of the Government, as to give ample power to your Lordships to provide for the employment of natives of Great Britain and of Ireland, in due proportions.

There is, however, a part of the present duty of the Irish Boards which the reduced number of Commissioners might not suffice for the performance of, and the due discharge of which must therefore be provided for in another manner. We allude to their functions as Courts of Judicature.

In England the Commissioners of Excise constitute a Court of Justice for the decision of causes relating to that Revenue. Their judicial functions are chiefly exercised upon prosecutions which arise in London. Those which occur in the country are usually carried before the Magistrate. But all cases which are of superior importance, or have any special difficulty attending them, are conducted in the Court of Exchequer.

The Commissioners of Customs in England have no such powers. All legal proceedings for breaches of the law relating to that Revenue, are either summarily decided upon by the Magistrate, or prosecuted in the Court of Exchequer.

In Scotland, the judicial functions are not exercised by either Commission, except in the case of certain offences against the Salt Laws, which the Commissioners of Excise at Edinburgh were by a recent act empowered to take cognizance of. The duty of attending to them has been trifling. In all other legal proceedings, the Boards in Scotland have recourse to the magistracy, or the Court of Exchequer, according to the importance or difficulty of the case.

In Ireland, the Boards both of Customs and Excise sit judicially to hear Revenue causes arising in the Dublin District; and there are Courts of Sub-Commissioners, composed of the principal officers in each Revenue, to try such as arise in the Country. From the sentences either of the Chief or Sub-Commissioners a power of appeal is given to Commissioners appointed for that purpose in Dublin, in the same manner as from the English Board of Excise to the Commissioners of Appeal in London. The powers of these Commissioners of Appeal are of the same description, and their duties nearly equally light in both Coun-

tries. They consist of five Commissioners in each. But while the salaries of the English Commissioners are only £200 per annum, subject to deductions, those of Ireland have £800 a-year each; thus furnishing another instance of the disproportionate expensiveness of the Irish Establishments, as compared with the English. Of these Revenue tribunals in Ireland, the Courts of Sub-Commissioners appear to be peculiarly objectionable in the principle of their constitution. The prosecutors in all causes that come before them are Revenue officers, and Revenue officers are the Judges. It is true, that provision is made to prevent those who sit as Judges from being interested in the specific causes which come before them; but they are connected by habits of intimacy, and by a similarity of general interests, with the officers who are the parties in those causes; and they must always feel, that the questions upon which they give judgment in favour of a brother officer on one day, are of the same nature as those upon which the same officer may, on the next, be appointed to pronounce sentence between themselves and some other defendant.

We are told, however, that this anomalous tribunal has not been found practically to produce the degree of injustice which might theoretically be expected from it. This is to be presumed, it is said, from the circumstance of its not having been much complained of. We attach little weight to a conclusion upon that ground. We were in like manner referred to the general absence of complaint on the part of the merchants for a proof that the Officers of the Customs were not negligent or irregular in the discharge of their duties. The examination, however, of the mercantile journals, which consisted of, that if such complaints were either loudly or frequently, it was not because there existed any ground for them, but because in Ireland complaints against public officers generally have hitherto been esteemed not merely honest but dangerous, as being more likely to produce persecution from the inferior officers, than redress from their superiors.

The difficulty which opposes itself to an alteration in these Courts of Sub-Commissioners, with a view of placing the administration of the Revenue Laws in Ireland upon the same footing as in England with respect to the country districts, is the want of a magistracy in all respects similar. It has been suggested that an improvement might be made by the intervention of Assistant Barristers, in lieu of in aid of those Courts. But as there is a Bill now before the Legislature for introducing some improvements in the Police and Magistracy of Ireland, it will be more advisable to defer the consideration of any measure for that purpose, until these legislative improvements shall have been effected, when it may be seen in what manner the disposal of the Revenue causes out of Dublin may be best adapted to them.

It is to be observed also, that the mode of trying Revenue causes in the country would not necessarily be affected by the alteration of the Local Boards. The reduction of their members would only render a new arrangement of the Dublin jurisdiction indispensable.

We have had under our consideration two plans, calculated to relieve the Chief Commissioners from this part of their present duty. One of them is a proposal submitted to the Lord Lieutenant, which had for its object, to make the Commissioners of Appeal the judges in the first instance, and to enable the parties to appeal from that tribunal to the Court of Exchequer, with some abridgment of the forms and expenses belonging to the proceedings of that Court. The other is a suggestion from Mr. Leslie Foster, a person whose opinion, on all occasions, is entitled to the greatest weight, and one of the Board's Counsel. His opinion is, that the causes tried by the Court of Commissioners might be carried at once into the Court of Exchequer, under regulations which would effectually guard the subject against any increase of delay or expense. This has appeared to us to be by much the more eligible course. It would not only be a relief to the Revenue Boards, in their judicial functions, but would lead to the entire abolition of the Commission of Appeal in Ireland, the expense of which is about £5000 a year.

Mr. Leslie Foster's proposal will be found in his evidence given before us annexed to this Report. The other suggestion to which we have adverted is also inserted in our Appendix, together with the opinions of the Irish law officers upon it. We do not think it necessary that we should state in more detail our opinion upon the respective merits of these plans, because we conceive, that previously to the adoption of either of them, or of any other arrangement for the same purpose, the subject should be fully examined and considered by the new General Boards of Customs and Excise, assisted by the British and Irish Law Officers of the Crown.

In the offices immediately under the Boards, and connected with the exercise of their functions, some changes will be required, and some reductions will be found practicable, in consequence of the alteration of the Boards themselves. The offices of the Secretaries in both departments are of this description; and those which appertain to the general receipt and collection of the Revenues in Dublin and at Edinburgh, will be susceptible of a more economical modification, whenever it may be determined to carry into execution the change which we propose. It will be our duty to suggest the regulations and reductions by which these parts of the establishments may be best adapted to it, after completing our inquiry into each of them, and after conferring with the persons appointed to preside over them.

Of the practical difficulties which he new Boards will have to encounter in the full introduction of the English system of collection into Ireland, the most considerable will be found in the Excise department. In the Customs, the difficulties now existing between the English and Irish practice, are rather those of habit and discipline than of principle or regulation. But in the Excise these are wider distinctions. These chiefly consist in the combined method of license and survey (before adverted to) which prevails in Ireland, and not in England, and in the mixed system of port and inland duties of Excise which obtains in England, and not in Ireland. For the former we cannot hesitate to recommend the ultimate though gradual and cautious substitution of the English system of survey alone. We concur with Colonel Doyle and Mr. Carr in thinking that it would not be safe to relinquish immediately the means which the license system affords for securing a part of the Revenue in Ireland. But we are strongly of opinion, that as soon as the system of survey is well established, the charge by way of license should be abandoned; and we apprehend that the system of license must either be of no assistance to a system of survey, or it must have a tendency to relax it.

Of the effect which must be produced by these changes upon individual interests and feelings, we are certainly by no means insensible, and nothing short of a clear conviction of the great benefit to be derived from them would have induced us to recommend a public measure which may be the inevitable cause of much private disappointment and incouragement. In the compensation to be allowed for deprivation of office, or for the retirement of any individual in consequence of these general alterations, there will be grounds for liberal regard to the claims of the parties, in the consideration that such allowances will be additions to the existing public burdens, but only temporary diminutions of the large amount of eventual saving, which we sanguinely contemplate as the result of this measure.

We have thus submitted the grounds upon which we have been led to consider the incorporation of the several Boards of Revenue throughout the United Kingdom, as an indispensable preliminary to the attainment of that uniformity in the management and collection of the public income, which was contemplated by Parliament in the Act of our appointment. We have also submitted the outline of what has appeared to us, after the fullest consideration, the most eligible mode of accomplishing that incorporation, as it concerns the two principal branches of the Revenue, the Customs and Excise. The other departments will be the subject of separate Reports. In framing a plan for that purpose, we have steadfastly borne in mind the several objects which are our peculiar duty to suggest—the means of attaining, viz. a uniform system of Revenue Administration, an improved collection of the public income in Ireland, and a reduction of the charges of management. We have also kept in view the connection between this change in the constitution of the Revenue Departments, and the other alterations, of which we submitted the general heads in the commencement of this Report.

Upon the fullest consideration, the plan submitted has appeared to us the best calculated for accomplishing all the purposes for which, in conjunction with those measures, it is intended. But we desire distinctly to be understood as not insisting upon this particular mode of effecting an incorporation of the departments with the same degree of confidence as that with which we insist upon the indispensable necessity of the incorporation itself. We are sensible, that other modifications of the same principles, and other schemes of arrangement in the application of them, which have not suggested themselves to us, may perhaps be deemed preferable, notwithstanding the anxious consideration which we have given to the subject. But whether the object shall be accomplished in the form which we have proposed, or in any other, we shall be equally ready to devote our best endeavours, aided by the powers of inquiry which which Parliament has intrusted us, to ascertain and report to your Lordships the scale of the subordinate establishments which may be most consistent with it, having a just regard to all those interests, financial and commercial, which are involved in the due execution of the service belonging to these departments.

We are well aware that it is to those interests alone that the province of our Commission extends. In closing this Report, however, we trust it may be permitted to us to observe, that some beneficial consequences, even beyond those immediately affecting the Revenue and the merchant, may be expected to ensue from the union of these departments with the corresponding branches of the Revenue in Great Britain. They comprehend a large number of officers extensively distributed, connected in the discharge of their duties with the interests of a considerable proportion of the community, and possessing a degree of influence in Ireland greatly superior to the weight which belongs to them in this country. Any measure which would have the effect of introducing into such establishments an improved scale of discipline, better adapted to the interests of the Crown, and a more impartial consideration of the just claims of the subject, could hardly fail to produce advantageous results, beyond a mere improvement in the execution of their own functions. We confidently trust, that all of these benefits would follow the extension of the English system of revenue to Ireland, together with the intermixture of British and Irish officers in the administration of it; and we cannot but entertain the hope that such a change would contribute, in some degree at least, to the amelioration of the general state and condition of Ireland, which a closer approximation to the usages and institutions of this country is best calculated to effect, and which is an object of such vital importance to the political welfare of the United Kingdom.

T. WALLACE. (G.S.)
THOS. FRANKLAND JEWELL. (G.S.)
J. C. HURDIS. (G.S.)
W. I. LUSHINGTON. (G.S.)
HENRY BURNS. (G.S.)

Office of Deposits under the Collection and Management of the Revenue, June 28, 1882.

Printed and Published by BENJAMIN PERKIN, Chronicle-Office, Quay.

TO BE LET, FROM THE 21st OF SEPTEMBER NEXT, FOR TWENTY ONE YEARS, THE FARM OF KILCARRAIGH, late in the hands of JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq. and his son, Tenants—containing 129 Acres, Plantation Measure, and situated within less than Three Miles of the City of Waterford. These Lands lie adjacent to the Rental or Demesne Lands of the Lord Bishop of Waterford and Lismore. No portion has been made, or preference will be given, except to the Farmers, Bolders, who must first down one moiety of the value of the same, in the usual way of such cases. Proposals, in writing, and pre-qualified, will be received by the Lord Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, at the Palace, Waterford, and by Mr. GEORGE THOMAS, Treasury, Dublin Castle. The Tenant will be declared on the 10th August next.

TO BE LET, AT WRITING BAY, A BATHING LODGE, CONTAINING TWO SITTING ROOMS AND FIVE BED-ROOMS, WITH SERVANTS ROOMS, KITCHEN, and LARDER. A garden to the House are suitable OUT-OF-DOOR PLACES, a well in the garden, and if required TEN ACRES OF PASTURE LAND. Apply to RICHARD MORGAN, Esq. Turin, Capotaquin. A 10-1-1, 1882.

NOTICE. THE MOUNTAINS OF CROUGH DOVE, GRIGG HALL, and KNOCKANAFFIN, the Property of WALTER H. MANSFIELD, Esq. are thickly Poisoned for the Protection of the Game. August 17, 1882.

NOTICE. It is hereby requested that no Person will SHOOT or SPORT upon the MOUNTAINS of KILROSENTRY or COTTRELL, without written Permission. August 14, 1882.

NOTICE is hereby given, that all Persons found SPORTING upon the ESCARTS of his Grace the DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, in the Counties of Cork and Waterford, who have not obtained Permission, will be proceeded against as the Law directs. August 10, 1882.

APERIENT SODIAC POWDERS. This much esteemed and elegant Preparation possesses the highest perfection, and is of the same time a mild Aperient, relieving Headache, Bile, Nausea, Acidity on the Stomach, &c. To those who suffer from weakness or other causes, a small quantity of these Powders are particularly recommended. They possess all the medical properties of the celebrated SCAMONIA, in fact, they are equally safe and efficacious, and being perfectly tasteless, they may be given to Children as well as Adults, who cannot take a Saline Aperient in any form.

Prepared by Messrs. BATHUR, No. 24, Upper Sackville Street, Dublin 30. Waterbury-Place, Edinburgh 4. Gloucester, and 29, Regent Street, London. Agents: Messrs. Burns, Bull, and Deane, Waterford; Taylor, Westland & Mullins; Messrs. Reynolds, Kilkenny; Baskett, Channon & Quinn, Dungannon; G. Conn, Limerick; Hamilton, Longbotham, Meenan, & Co., Fermoy; Ferguson, Clark & Ginn, Limerick, &c. &c. of whom may be had every Genuine Patent-Medicine.

APPLICATION FOR PRIVATE BILLS TO THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT. NOTICE is hereby given, that previous to any Application to Parliament for any Private Bill, for local purposes, Notice of the same must be given, and other Proceedings taken—[Abstracted from the Standing Orders of both Houses of Parliament.]

INQUEST ON THE LATE MARQUIS OF LONDONDERRY. (From a London Paper of Wednesday.) Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held on the body of the late Marquis, in the mansion of the noble deceased, at North Cray, before Mr. Gifford, of Deptford, Coroner for the County of Kent, and a Jury of the most respectable inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

At half-past two o'clock, the Jury, and a number of other persons, among whom were the whole of the domestics of the establishment, and the lay-brothers of the estate, assembled in the long dining-room, and a melancholy assemblage it was! The deadness of the subject about to be submitted to their consideration, and the almost breathless silence of the assembly, interrupted only by the occasional whisper or the audible sobs of some of the household servants, gave an appalling solemnity to the scene.

There was not the slightest impediment thrown in the way of any person wishing to enter the room in which the inquest was held; on the contrary, publicity seemed to be courted, as directions were given to the domestics to admit every person who desired to be present.

At three o'clock, the Coroner took his seat, and the usual proclamation having been made by the brazier, thirteen Gentlemen, inhabitants of the village of North Cray, were called and sworn. At the moment the Jurors were sworn the room was nearly filled. The Jury sat around a large table, at the head of which sat the Coroner; and round the lower end were ranged nearly all the domestics of the late Marquis, in whose countenances an expression of the deepest sorrow was strikingly apparent. Some of them, when the name of their late master was first mentioned, in the regular course of the inquiry, burst into tears. One elderly woman, who was said to have been several years in his service, was particularly affected, and sobbed aloud during the proceedings.

Among the persons at the upper end of the table were Mr. Planta, and Mr. F. Stewart, son of Lord Stewart by his first Lady. We understand that Viscount Sidmouth and Lord George Seymour were in an adjoining room.

The Jury, with the Coroner, then proceeded to the dressing-room where the corpse of the deceased Nobleman lay. A description of the peculiar situation of the deceased must give pain to every person of whatever political creed, and will excite no ordinary feelings in the breast of all.

The body lay on the floor on the right side, with the face inclined to the carpet. There was a stream of gore that had run from the window of the apartment to the door, perhaps not less than three or four quarts of blood in all. His Lordship's right hand was dyed in blood. The body was in the precise situation it was placed on the morning of the melancholy occurrence. It had not been touched by any person. A cap was on the head, and a long morning gown on the body. Sippets and stockings were on the feet and legs. The countenance was very pale and ghastly; the eyes were open. The melancholy scene was truly appalling, and will not be forgotten for a long time by those who witnessed it.

After being absent about ten minutes, the Jury returned, it is said, affected by the melancholy spectacle which they had just beheld. The first witness called was Anne Robinson, who, being sworn, deposed as follows:—"I am maids to the Marchioness of Londonderry, who has deceased, whose body the Jury here just viewed. He was my master. He had been ill for some time past, and particularly so since last Monday week. On Sunday night last he rang the bell of his bed-room, and I answered. I asked his Lordship what he wanted? He inquired why Lady Londonderry did not come to see him? I answered that she had been with him all day, and in fact she had been so. Lady Londonderry was at that time in an adjoining room. I left him, and in some time after he again rang the bell. I again answered it. His Lordship inquired why Doctor Binkhead had not been to see him? I reminded his Lordship that the Doctor had been here all day. His Lordship asked if he (Lord Londonderry) had talked any nonsense to him, or any thing particular, as he had no recollection on the subject? I replied that I was not in the room during the time he talked with the Doctor. I then left the room. At seven o'clock the next morning (Monday) his bell rang again, and I went into his bed-room; upon my going in, he asked me what brought me there? My Lady was with him at the time. She had been with him since four o'clock, and she answered that my Lord wanted his breakfast. My Lord and Lady were in bed at the time. I left the room, and brought breakfast up. He sat up in the bed, and tasted part of it. He found fault with it, and said it was not a breakfast fit for him. He said there was no butter there. The butter, however, was on the tray, as usual, and I pointed it out to him. The manner in which he spoke was uncommon; it was in a very sharp tone, which was unusual with him. I left the room after this. The bell rang again in about half an hour; that was about half-past seven. My Lady was in the room at this time, and I cannot tell who rang the bell. I entered the room he asked me whether Doctor Binkhead had come from town? I told him that Doctor Binkhead had bed slept in the house. He then said get up and come to me at the door, and said something to me. I went to Dr. Binkhead, and gave him my Lord's message. I went back to my Lord, and told him that Dr. Binkhead would be with him in two minutes. When my Lord saw me speaking to my Lady, before I left the room to go to Dr. Binkhead, he said there was a conspiracy against him. My Lady at that time desired me to tell Dr. Binkhead that he was wanted as soon as he could come. When I returned and told my Lady that Dr. Binkhead would come, my Lady got out of bed and retired to her dressing-room. At this moment my Lord also got out of bed, and turned to the right into his own dressing-room. (Several questions were here put to the witness to ascertain the precise situation of these rooms. From the answers which she returned, it appeared that the common sleeping-room opened into a passage, on either side of

which was a dressing-room, Lady Londonderry's on the left, his Lordship's on the right. At the extremity of the passage was another door, behind which Doctor Binkhead was waiting. I had just opened the door of my Lady's dressing-room, into which she had entered, when my Lord rushed past me into his own room. I opened the outside door, and told the circumstance to Doctor Binkhead, who immediately followed my Lord into his dressing-room. I cannot tell what passed there, but I heard my Lord upon his window before Doctor Binkhead entered his room. Immediately when the Doctor entered the room he (the Doctor) exclaimed, 'Oh, my Lord, or 'Oh, my God,' I cannot recollect which. I heard no reply to this from my Lord. I instantly rushed into the room, and saw the Doctor with my Lord in his arms. I remained in the room till I saw the Doctor lay him with his face upon the ground. I saw the blood running from him while Doctor Binkhead held him. I saw a knife. I heard my Lord say nothing. I was certainly much alarmed. The knife was in his right hand. [A pen-knife with an ivory handle was here shown to the witness.] I believe that to be the pen-knife which I saw in my Lord's hands. After raising a few minutes in my Lord's dressing-room, I followed Doctor Binkhead to my Lady. I had previously raised an alarm, and it was now general throughout the house. To the best of my belief, my Lord did not live four minutes after I saw him. I did not perceive any wound nor any blood while he was in the bed-room. No person was with me in the interval between his leaving his dressing-room and his death but Doctor Binkhead."

The Coroner.—And now, what is your opinion with respect to the state of his Lordship's mind? Witness.—He had been very bad for the last fortnight; very incorrect and very wild in every thing he said and did. He said, on one occasion, he wanted to have a box from me, which Lord Glenwilliam had given me; Lord Glenwilliam had never given me any thing of that kind. He also asked me for some keys which he had in his own possession, to my certain knowledge at the time. I am quite sure he was very wild, and very harsh and severe; totally different from his usual manner, which was extremely mild and kind, excessively so. When he saw two people speaking together, he always said, "There is a conspiracy laid against me." A great many circumstances induce me to believe that he was out of his mind a fortnight before his death. He scolded my Lady on Sunday afternoon, because, as he said, she had not been near him all day—she had entirely forsaken him. Her Ladyship, however, had been sitting with him all the morning. The witness, in conclusion, repeated her belief that his Lordship had been in a state of mental delusion for some weeks previous to his death.

The Coroner here observed, that it was open for the Jurors to put any questions they might think proper to the witness.

No further questions were put, and the witness retired.

The second witness examined was Charles Binkhead, M. D., of Lower Brook-street, Grosvenor-square. "On last Friday afternoon, at five o'clock, I received a note from Lady Londonderry, desiring me to come as soon as I could to see the Marquis of Londonderry, at his house in St. James's square. Her note stated that she was very anxious about his Lordship, as she thought he was very ill and very nervous; that they were to leave town for North Cray at seven o'clock in the evening, and that she hoped I would come about that hour. I arrived in St. James's-square at six o'clock, and found my Lord and Lady alone in the drawing-room. Upon feeling his pulse I conceived him to be exceedingly ill. He complained of a severe headache, and of a confusion of recollection. He looked pale, and was very much distressed in his manner. I told him that I thought it was necessary that he should be cupped, and that I would stay and dine with his Lady and himself whilst the cupper came. The cupper soon arrived, and took seven ounces of blood from his Lordship's neck. After the operation was performed, he stated that he was very much relieved, and I advised him to lay himself quietly down on the sofa for half an hour; and, as he had scarcely eaten the whole day, to take a cup of tea before he got into the carriage to return to North Cray. He followed my advice, and laid himself down on the couch, where he remained very tranquil. After this he drank two eggs of tea. I waited until I saw my Lady and himself get into the carriage in order to return to North Cray. Before his departure he said, that, as I must be sure he was very ill, he expected that I would come to North Cray and stay all Saturday night, and, if possible, all Sunday. I sent with him some opening medicines, which he was to take early on Saturday. In order that I might know the effect they had produced on my arrival. I know that he took these powders on Saturday. I arrived at North Cray about seven o'clock on Saturday afternoon. I understood that his Lordship had not been out of bed all day, and I immediately went to his bed-room—

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which was a dressing-room, Lady Londonderry's on the left, his Lordship's on the right. At the extremity of the passage was another door, behind which Doctor Binkhead was waiting. I had just opened the door of my Lady's dressing-room, into which she had entered, when my Lord rushed past me into his own room. I opened the outside door, and told the circumstance to Doctor Binkhead, who immediately followed my Lord into his dressing-room. I cannot tell what passed there, but I heard my Lord upon his window before Doctor Binkhead entered his room. Immediately when the Doctor entered the room he (the Doctor) exclaimed, 'Oh, my Lord, or 'Oh, my God,' I cannot recollect which. I heard no reply to this from my Lord. I instantly rushed into the room, and saw the Doctor with my Lord in his arms. I remained in the room till I saw the Doctor lay him with his face upon the ground. I saw the blood running from him while Doctor Binkhead held him. I saw a knife. I heard my Lord say nothing. I was certainly much alarmed. The knife was in his right hand. [A pen-knife with an ivory handle was here shown to the witness.] I believe that to be the pen-knife which I saw in my Lord's hands. After raising a few minutes in my Lord's dressing-room, I followed Doctor Binkhead to my Lady. I had previously raised an alarm, and it was now general throughout the house. To the best of my belief, my Lord did not live four minutes after I saw him. I did not perceive any wound nor any blood while he was in the bed-room. No person was with me in the interval between his leaving his dressing-room and his death but Doctor Binkhead."

The Coroner.—And now, what is your opinion with respect to the state of his Lordship's mind? Witness.—He had been very bad for the last fortnight; very incorrect and very wild in every thing he said and did. He said, on one occasion, he wanted to have a box from me, which Lord Glenwilliam had given me; Lord Glenwilliam had never given me any thing of that kind. He also asked me for some keys which he had in his own possession, to my certain knowledge at the time. I am quite sure he was very wild, and very harsh and severe; totally different from his usual manner, which was extremely mild and kind, excessively so. When he saw two people speaking together, he always said, "There is a conspiracy laid against me." A great many circumstances induce me to believe that he was out of his mind a fortnight before his death. He scolded my Lady on Sunday afternoon, because, as he said, she had not been near him all day—she had entirely forsaken him. Her Ladyship, however, had been sitting with him all the morning. The witness, in conclusion, repeated her belief that his Lordship had been in a state of mental delusion for some weeks previous to his death.

The Coroner here observed, that it was open for the Jurors to put any questions they might think proper to the witness.

No further questions were put, and the witness retired.

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