



DEBATE ON GREECE

Duke and I are neither of us young men; but I think we may live to see the day when Candia shall be no longer in the power of the Turks. If the three powers were to make the proposal for its cession to the Greek territory, I do not believe that it would be difficult, in the actual state of the Turks, to procure their consent to give it up without the necessity of going to war. The Noble Duke says that the object of the treaty was the pacification of Greece. True; but I say that Greece will not be pacified without independence; and, with independence, the power and the power to support it. I am not sorry that I have occasion to bring forward this discussion; and I am glad that the Ministers, since they will not agree to the resolution, have taken the method of "the previous question," to get rid of it—a method which, I believe, in parliamentary practice, implies that a proposition ought not to be entertained, not because it is not true in itself, but because it contains opinions which, at the particular time, it is not expedient to express. I hope his Majesty's Ministers will adopt such measures as will make Greece great abroad and happy at home, and by so doing increase the fame, honor, and influence of their own country, not only among the Greeks, but among all the nations of Europe—a consequence which must follow if, through the means of this country, the great work should be consolidated.

The Earl of ABERDEEN, in explanation, stated that he did not derive his intelligence as to the opinion of Mr Fox from a speech, but from an official answer written by himself to a despatch from Talleyrand, in 1806. Talleyrand had said, that it ought to be a great object of policy to preserve the integrity of the Turkish empire, and even to guarantee it—to which Mr Fox assented. The previous question was then put and carried; after which the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, FEB. 12.

New writs were moved for the borough of Fovey, in the county of the Honourable Mr. Eden, who had accepted the situation of steward of the Chiltern Hundreds, and also for the borough of Weolock, in the county of E. Hereford, Esq., who had accepted a similar situation.

Mr O'CONNELL presented a petition from Young, against the Subletting Act.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr Secretary PEEL gave notice that on an early day he would move for leave to bring in a Bill for consolidating and amending the laws relative to forgery.

Mr G. BANKES moved for several returns relative to the state of our trade with India, and China; and also for a return of the number and amount of salaries of all civil officers at the presidencies of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, from the year 1817 to the year 1827.—Ordered.

Mr STEWART gave notice that on the 4th of March he would bring forward a motion relative to late interferences with the judges of Bombay. Hear.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY. Sir A. GRANT brought up the report of the Committee of Supply. On the resolution, that it be read—

Mr J. GRAHAM rose in pursuance of his notice. He could not for his own part turn a deaf ear to the cry of general distress which were reiterated throughout the country. He called it general, notwithstanding the declaration contained in his Majesty's speech that it was confined to certain parts of the country; he called it general, notwithstanding this attempt to fritter down the distress—an attempt accompanied by a cautious abstinence from any statement of the specific amount of those reductions which it promised. Notwithstanding he contended that the distress was general, he could not fail to remark the qualification of this distress as announced by the Right Honourable Gentleman opposite (the Chancellor of the Exchequer). He explained those words—some parts of the Kingdom—in his Majesty's speech, by saying, that although in England the distress was general, in Scotland and in Ireland it did not exist. This declaration of the Right Honourable Gentleman had struck him as most remarkable. If Scotland and Ireland were, as the Right Hon Gentleman asserted, exceptions to the general state of the distress, he would only beg leave to ask his Majesty's ministers whether Scotland and Ireland were not also exceptions from those measures about which, on a former occasion, the Rt. Hon. Gentleman and himself had so much contest. When in 1826, his Majesty's Government, per saltem, came to a resolution, contrary to the authority of Sir Francis Baring, Adam Smith, Mr Horner and many other men of eminence, and contrary to the opinion of the committee of 1810, that convertibility on demand was an adequate check to over issues, they did consent to inquire into the small note circulation, as it affected both Scotland and Ireland. If ministers narrowed the currency in England, did they consent to inquire into its influence to Scotland and Ireland.—The first proposition he should make was, that the bank restriction act of 1797 produced two very striking effects. First, it depreciated the value of money; and next, it raised the price of all commodities in the market. What miserable shifts the Government were put to to relieve the country! At one time the harvest was superabundant, at another the harvest was deficient; at one time there was too much drought; he would call to the mind of the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer that general principle, which had been so beautifully stated by an eminent authority, that every addition to the burthens of taxation was an increase to the sterility of the soil and to the inclemency of the climate. The Hon Member for Colchester had told the House that the landed interest must reduce the rents, as the interest of the funded debt had been reduced. He would tell that Hon Member, that since the cessation of war the country gentlemen had reduced their rents 25 or 30 per cent. This had been merely to meet the alteration of prices since the peace; but if the landed interest were again told to make a further reduction of 30 per cent, it was saying to nine-tenths of the landlords of England—sell your estates. If the great body of the labourers throughout the kingdom were distressed, all other classes must be distressed

also. Since the war no reduction of taxation had taken place upon the articles of existence, nay, even fresh taxes had been imposed. He had never supported the Corn Laws; but the country had been driven to them by necessity. There could not be a protection of a more dangerous kind; but the country had been driven to them by absolute necessity, and landlords were placed by them on the most slippery ground. Free trade relieved some articles of secondary necessity, whilst there was a monopoly of the article of the first necessity, and thus there was a transfer of a burthen from the strong to the weak. War taxation entered largely into the prices of articles of necessity, and they could not become cheap. The Hon Member for Aberdeen, in his resolution of 1823, had substantiated this fact beyond dispute. There was less malt in proportion consumed now than before the French war; and this was the case with respect to tea and many other articles. When Government increased the value of money, and did not reduce taxation, they encroached on the comforts of the labouring classes. He had heard something of luxuries, but he knew not whence the notions of luxuries were derived. Were they drawn from the gorgeous palaces of Kings, or from the rival palaces of Ministers, or from those of East India Directors, rich with the monopoly of the China trade, or from those of Jew loan contractors, who supplied to foreign states the gold from the coffers of the Bank of England? What was now the boast of this happy country? Where was the furniture that adorned the poor man's cottage? All was gone—pitching hunger and despair now held their place in the labourer's habitation. So extremely low were wages, that even the power looms were underworked. They had now come to the point where something must be done. "The locus est, parvulus est, et finis est maxima." There were two roads, one on the right and one on the left. Retrench and lower rent if you please, but then there must be lower salaries paid to the public servants. It was not becoming in the treasury benches to say that the only exception to retrenchment must be among those classes to which they belonged. The next course was to alter taxes and high prices, and to return again to the ancient standard of England. To reconsider the small note bill, the House must reconsider the standard, and the whole system of banking. But Government was inexorable. The Duke of Wellington had said, "You shan't inquire." If you argue the question keenly in print, the Attorney General is ready to pounce upon you—cheers. He will file ex officio informations for publishing what has a tendency to bring ministers into contempt. Loud and reiterated cheers. In this road they must consider how far they could go with the reduction of salaries. Two moles presented themselves—to reduce the number of employed, or to diminish the salaries. The Honourable Gentleman bore down his resolution, which was to the following effect:—That whereas, in consequence of the 37th Geo. 3, whereby a restriction had been placed upon cash payments by the Bank of England, large augmentations had been made from time to time to salaries and payments on account of civil and military services to the country, in consideration of the diminished value of money; and whereas, the alleged reason for this increase is now removed by the operation of 5th Geo. 3, which has restored a metallic standard of value; it is expedient, in order to relieve the people from the great burden of taxation, that all augmentations should be revised, and that all reductions should be enforced, which could be effected without the violation of existing engagements, and without detriment to the public service. Now, the first question which would be, in all probability, asked him, was, what did he mean to exclude by those exceptions? In the first place, he would say, the King's privy purse, the salaries of the great officers of the crown, and the expenditure on the royal establishments. These, he conceived, they had no right to touch—they could not do so without violating a solemn and sacred engagement, because these grants had been made in commutation for the revenues of the crown lands, and the more oppressive portions of the royal prerogative. He considered the contract with the soldier to be a sacred contract. A man entered the service under the promise of certain pay and contingent advantages, and he certainly ought not to be disappointed. For his own part, to prevent the necessity of imprisonment, and to induce the sailor to prefer the service of his Majesty to that of the merchant, he had rather see the pay raised than lowered. Now, in respect to the army—he also considered that our engagements with the soldier was sacred, and he therefore could not approve of any reduction in the pay or other emoluments of the soldier, which was retrospective. The same feeling he, of course, entertained with respect to the officer, though he did think that the halpenny list had of late years been too much used as a mode of granting pensions. In 1793 the expense of the army amounted only to £2,000,000, it now exceeded £8,000,000. In 1793, the expense of the navy was £2,450,000, it was now near 20,000,000. In 1793, the expense of the ordnance was £153,000; in 1829, it was one million four hundred thousand. So that the entire expenditure in 1793, was five millions three hundred thousand, and in 1829 it was fifteen million five hundred thousand. In 1793 wheat was 39s. a quarter; in 1830 it was 55s. a quarter. Our bushel of wheat, therefore, at that time, went as far as three now; and for our horse's labour that paid the taxes then, three are now required. The Right Honourable Gentleman then read an extract from the finance report, recommending a reduction in the expenditure on the army and ordnance departments, and advising a return to the regulations respecting enlistment which prevailed before 1806. The salaries of public officers, too, had been raised in an extraordinary manner since 1821. He did not wish to be held upon the humble clerk, but he thought the extravagant salaries of the higher officers might be advantageously diminished. There was one to which he would call the attention of the House. The case to which he alluded was, that in 1806, when the father of his Honourable Friend the member for Northamptonshire (Lord Althorp) was first Lord of the Admiralty, he was contented with a salary of 3000l. a year; and this was at a time when we sent Nelson to annihilate our enemies at the Nile, and Duquesne to conquer at

Comperdown and at a time when we had fleets on every sea in the civilized world; and yet now, in a time of profound peace, my Lord Melville received £5000 a year. He pointed out that he was one of those who had not witnessed without jealousy the elevation of the Noble Duke at the head of the Government to the situation he held. He remembered what the historian had related, and feared that such a person would be too apt to introduce the maxims of the camp into the cabinet, and to incline to recognize no connection between a prince and his people but that of stern authority on the one part, and of rigid obedience on the other. But, upon a little reflection, he felt disposed to alter his opinion, and to conclude that he, who had witnessed the courage and noble nature of the British people under so many crises—hear—that he who had felt them so often, and led them invariably to victory, most more than any other man respect those institutions under which his fellow-countrymen had become brave and wise, and free; and he might proudly and truly add, the lords of the human kind.—Loud cheers. He found that he had not been mistaken. In the very first session of his administration the Noble Duke supported the Bill for the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, which had been introduced by his Noble Friend (Lord John Russell), who also added one more obligation to the many which the nation already owed to the illustrious family of Russell. Loud cheers. In the next Session the Noble Duke established a further claim upon their gratitude, by conferring the merited honors of his profession upon a learned gentleman lately a Member of that House (Mr Denison), whom it had been attempted to crush, for having defended an unhappy woman. And then the Noble Duke led carried that measure which, when Mr Pitt was forming the union between Ireland and this country, he (Mr Pitt) had declared to be the key-stone upon which all the anticipated benefits must rest—a measure which Mr Fox, when minister, never ventured to bring forward—a measure which, when introduced by Lord Grey and Grenville, was the cause of their being hurled from power—a measure which Granton, the advocate and champion of Ireland, would, in the full warmth of his impetuous feelings, have tried to accomplish—a measure which Mr Canning despised of carrying, and which he despised an untimely sacrifice to vanity and disappointment in great designs. But this measure, the Duke of Wellington, undaunted by the success of so many great men, did triumphantly carry, and thus, after years of darkness and bondage, has bestowed the blessing of religious light and liberty upon the country, by establishing religious peace upon the basis of civil rights. For all this they owe the Duke a deep debt of gratitude. If, then, they found all classes of members—political economists—lawyers—historians—Whigs and Tories—all rallying under the Government, he did not think that there was any thing improper in other persons forming what might be called a taxation party, and endeavouring to reduce the burthen of the country.—Cheers. And he was the more inclined to this, when he observed the strange fashion in which the Noble Duke sought after his recruits. Today he got Lord Roslyn for the Ordnance—the next he stepped into the ranks of the Opposition for an Attorney General—the next he dropped amongst the free trade men for a tame elephant to preside over the Board of Control; in all these adventures he was successful, and seemed, in fact, to have discovered some mystic to dissolve the links of party, while an experiment was carried on with all those different materials thrown into the furnace, and mixed down into one heterogeneous mass, for the benefit of the alchemist who blow the coals.—Loud cheers. But he, Sir J. Graham, thought that there could be much public virtue when there was no such thing as party. He was ready to act in concert with Sir E. Knatchbull, or with his Honourable relative, the Member for Yorkshire.—The Hon. Bar. concluded by moving the resolutions which have already given in the body of this speech.

Mr G. DAWSON admired the eloquence of the Honourable Baronet, which he could not imitate. His business was to apply himself to facts. The proposed measure would affect the interest, and he might say the existence of a fixed interest. It was easy to talk of establishing a fixed principle in paying salaries, but it was not so easy to reduce it to practice. He contended that almost all the recommendations of the Finance Committee had been acted upon. The Government of the Campo Forme was abolished, as were the auxiliary forces in England and Ireland; and in all thirty-two regiments, many of which were as high as £4000 a year, and in all cases it was required that persons holding situations should themselves perform the duties of their respective situations. Here the Honourable Gentleman went into a detail of the several reductions made by Government. The effect of this resolution, he said, would be to give the high officers of Government a higher salary than they had at present; the fact was, it was the salaries of the inferior officers which had been increased, whilst the principals had not as much as in 1793, and he did not think the House would decrease the salaries of those who could less afford it. The truth was, also, great reductions had been made by Government in the consolidation of public offices; there had been a reduction of £230,000 in the ordnance alone, and 5073 officers had been removed from that department, and when vacancies occurred, those gentlemen who were superannuated were appointed, and their allowances saved to the public; the present system of payment will not allow of fees, which had formerly been collected to large amounts. For his part, he thought that the inferior officers in all the departments were badly paid, and if Honourable Gentlemen would consider the price of munition—of gunpowder—he would repeat it, nation, and the other necessities of life, which had increased in price since 1797, they would not be inclined to reduce public salaries. Complaints of great distress in Ireland had been made, and on a former occasion had been particularly alluded to. Now, the fact was, that he had the authority of an Irish banker for saying that for the last 30 years there were never better paid. He was greatly surprised at hearing the Member for Birmingham following the Member for the County Clare in saying distress was increasing in Ireland. The Honourable Gentleman said that he could not (formally) move an amendment; he should, therefore, merely negative that of the Hon. Member, and if he were successful in that, he should then move—

That whereas, his Majesty was graciously pleased, in answer to an address of that House, to assure the House on the 27th of June, 1821, that his Majesty would cause an inquiry to be made into all the departments of the civil government, with the view of reducing the number of persons employed in the various offices, and the amount of salaries paid—Resolved, That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, that his Majesty might be graciously pleased to lay before him an account of the progress which had been made in such inquiry, and of the measures that had been taken in consequence. Also, that it was the opinion of that House, that, in every establishment of the state, the permanent of the public service, and without the exception of existing engagements—

(These resolutions were received with much cheering.)

Mr J. W. CROKER maintained that public salaries were much lower now than in 1797.

Mr S. RICE denied he ever said that general distress existed in Ireland; what he said was, that distress had existed, but not so great as in England. In fact, he denied that he had expressed any evidence which he had respecting the improved state of trade in Ireland. He would vote for the amendment, because he wished for retrenchment. At the same time, he wished not to be understood as wishing to resort to a paper system.

Mr DAWSON explained, He did not for one moment mean to cast the least reflection on his Hon. Friend, the Member for Lincoln.

Mr G. W. CRENSHAW said he did not know from the Treasury Bench whether it was the determination of this Session to propose any increase of salaries to the Judges in Scotland.

Mr O'CONNELL said that Mr Latouche, the banker alluded to, was contradicted in Dublin by the unanimous voice of a Society established for the improvement of Ireland, and from the knowledge he had of Ireland he could take upon himself to say that great distress existed there.

Lord MORPETH would most strenuously support any measure of economy, convinced as he was that nothing but rigid economy could possibly save the country from a general suspension of property.

Mr HUME should prefer this amendment of the Hon. Secretary to the motion of his Hon. Friend the Member for Cumberland because it was more clear and more comprehensive. Seeing the extreme and universal distress which now pervaded the country, he could not think that it would be inconsistent in that House to petition his Majesty to reduce his establishment.

Sir J. WROPPESBURY said a few words, which were inaudible in the gallery.

Mr DENCOMBE thought Ministers ought to have come down and acknowledged the distressed state of the country, and proposed some measures to assist in its removal.

Mr A. TAYLOR said he had been in the House 15 years, and had been one of a set of men called Whigs. He could not understand why, if he opposed the amendment on the Address, he should be considered as not admitting the distress to be great and pressing. He had no connection with Ministers. At his time of life he wished for nothing but happiness—a laugh—the happiness, peace, and prosperity of his country. He wished to do what was right and just.—Government said they were for economy; now he wanted to try them. Hear, hear, hear. But in what situation were Ministers? Were they the persons who brought on the misdeeds of the country? Were they the authors of the war? They were not. He was in a minority of six who opposed a war when proposed by Mr Pitt. The expenditure of the Crown ought to be looked to. He expected retrenchment in this part of the public expense, and he expected that the more the Ministry did to lighten the Country's burthen, the more the Agriculturalists were now looking for peace and quietness and good prices. How were they to be had? Ministers were to be held; the distress was not owing to them. What would they do? Had they Abigail's lamp in their every hand? As to a return to paper currency, he could never consent to it.

Mr Secretary PEEL did not think it had been necessary to abolish the house at any length, as there seemed a disposition to accept the amendment of his Rt. Hon. Friend, Mr Dawson.—A speech, however, having been made to him by the Member for Cumberland, he would trouble the House with a few observations. He did not expect that the Hon. Gentleman would upon this occasion have entered into the question of the currency. Taxation was not a convenient time for entering into it; but when it occurred he should be obliged to discuss that most important subject. In the course of his speech the Hon. Gentleman reads an advertisement, which appeared in the Times, Mr Pitt, an advertisement for the bill of 1819. When the paper arrived for publishing this question he should not say that it was a party consideration, and pay by all those propositions of fraud and violence cast upon the promoters of the measure of 1819. He called now upon the House to reflect the position in which the country stood at that period, and he would ask whether any other alternative remained for escaping the evils which then pressed upon them. It was not, as had been observed by his Right Honourable Friend, Mr Huskisson, the measure of 1819 which produced the evils that succeeded. They were occasioned by preceding evils which rendered it indispensably necessary to take some decisive step. The Honourable Gentleman said he would not interfere with the Civil List as settled in 1820—In that he fully agreed with him; but if he was prepared to adhere to the engagements with the Crown, could he refuse to adhere to the engagements with the public creditors—hear, hear, those engagements which were entered into during the present of war? The Honourable Gentleman did not deny that evils followed from the partial return to a paper currency in 1822; for, said he, the evils of 1823 followed 1822, and he (Mr P.) felt convinced that if a small note circulation were to be again had recourse to, still greater and more extended calamity must have been the consequence. In almost every word which fell from him upon this he fully concurred. There was no more material difference between them, and he must therefore claim the cordial support

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Table with 4 columns: Bank Stock, Irish Stocks, and various financial data.

The Waterford Chronicle

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1830.

The London Mail of Monday has arrived.

THE ELECTION.

We would call the particular attention of the district Committees to the last letter which has been sent to them.

Also, to another subject not mentioned in that letter, we would call their attention thus publicly. At the present Election, the most effectual means will be taken for the exposure of every species of bribery.

DUNGARVAN.

This is the only place of the County where the Beresfords have been able to hire a few of the most abandoned characters.

At the late Dungarvan Sessions, there were some prosecutions for riots and disturbances of the peace.

A fine bullock, given by James Esmonde, Esq. for the support of the Freeholders belonging to the Independent Interest during the approaching contest.

Piers Hely, of Rockfield, Esq. has been sworn in High Sheriff of the County of Waterford.

THE ELECTION—BRIBERY.

Dungarvan, Feb. 16, 1830.

Our town had been for some days the theatre of public riots and intoxication. A furious and intoxicated mob, set forth by some of the Beresford adherents, to intimidate the inhabitants.

The several contrivances to evade this—(such as the electors accepting money under the colour of borrowing it, and giving a promissory note or other security for it, which is cancelled after the election—receiving money from a stranger, or a person in disguise—

Such is the explanation of so eminent a Protestant writer. At the last Mass, the Rev. Mr Fogarty addressed a numerous congregation; no less than four thousand persons were present in the spacious new Chapel of Dungarvan.

At the late Dungarvan Sessions, there were some prosecutions for riots and disturbances of the peace. The only parties convicted were some of those hired rioters of the Beresfords.

RUMOURS.

A report to which we have already adverted, is still persevered in by the Beresford party, who conceive, perhaps, they may be able to draw some advantage from it—viz. that a communication was at one period made to Mr Winston Barron, that the son of a certain Nobleman would be willing to come forward as a candidate for the County.

THE BERESFORDS—GAOLERS.

The Beresfords have taken houses adjoining the gaol, in which they intend to imprison the freeholders until the day of election, and have got a hole broken through the County Gaol wall, through which they intend to drag their freeholders to the polling booths.

TO THE GENTLEMEN, CLERGY, AND FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF WATERFORD.

GENTLEMEN—Unknown to many among you but by name, my first duty in this address is to apologise for intruding myself on your attention—My vindication may be summed up in one emphatic word—I am an Irishman—a friend to the freedom and honour of my native land, and the determined opponent of those whom I consider as her acknowledged and devoted enemies.

With either of the Candidates for your town, I have not the honor of a personal acquaintance. But of the public acts of one of those Candidates, and of the public acts of his family, I am very far from being ignorant.

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MR. JOHN BARRON AND LORD GEORGE BERESFORD.

We publish this day the address of Mr John Barron, in reply to that of Lord Geo. Beresford for which we refer to our advertising columns.

We take this opportunity of cautioning the freeholders against the schemes of the Beresford agents. Some of them show themselves in the County in the company of Priests, for the purpose of more effectually imposing upon the people.

The spirit of this town, instead of subsiding, is rising more and more. It was never half so enthusiastic as at the present moment. Yesterday, Mr Winston Barron, accompanied by Mr Donnelly, arrived here.

At two o'clock the chair was taken by Mr Wm Saurin, father of the bar, and the Esq. Attorney General.

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WATERFORD

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The spirit of this town, instead of subsiding, is rising more and more.

At two o'clock the chair was taken by Mr Wm Saurin, father of the bar, and the Esq. Attorney General.

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