

DEBATE ON THE VESTRY BILL.

...of litigation, should have their expenses paid out of the parish rates; but it was an important point to remember that the Churchwarden was only the agent of the Vestry, and acted on instructions. He was satisfied that the principle of the measure was good, although some alterations might be necessary in its details. The alteration of two or three clauses would answer all useful purposes—best, best—instead of repealing, as the Hon. and Learned Member proposed, the whole Bill. His Government had shown every disposition to make all the amendments and alterations which appeared desirable. A circular letter had been sent to the various parishes explaining to them the powers which they possessed respecting the levying of rates for defraying the expenses for the due performance of Divine Worship in the Church, and their attention had been directed to those parts of the Rubric and Canon law which touched upon this point. No doubt that angry feelings had arisen in various parishes in Ireland in consequence of the operation of the law on the subject of church rates; but there was nothing in the present Bill which had tended to increase those feelings. He was satisfied that so far from the proposal of the Hon. Member tending to ally those feelings, it would have directly the contrary result. The present system was so guarded by the law that the inconsequence could not seriously be felt. He knew perfectly well that a disposition existed among Roman Catholics in the vestries in Ireland against providing these things absolutely necessary for the performance of divine worship in the churches. The Hon. Baronet opposite suggested, when he, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had introduced his Bill, that every item for which a rate should be levied should be mentioned. Hear, hear.—At that time he did not think such a clause necessary, but at present there appeared stronger grounds for supporting such a proposal. He naturally felt anxious to vindicate himself from the charge of acting unjustly, and with a view to aggrandize the church at the expense of the other classes of the community. He should merely add, that he should oppose the motion of the Hon. and Learned Member on the grounds which he had stated.

Mr SPRING-RICE said that the latter part of the speech of the Right Hon. Gentleman had afforded him great satisfaction, which he was sorry he could not say of the former part. The Right Hon. Member had thought it necessary to vindicate the Bill. This indeed might be quite right for him to do; but he (Mr. Rice) did not think that it deserved the eulogiums which had been passed upon it. The question before the House was, whether the case had been made out—best—that the state of the law on the subject of select Vestries was such that it ought to be altered or repealed, or that it ought to be continued in its present state? He thought that they ought to have a distinct pledge from the Right Hon. Gentleman that some alteration should be made in the law, and that this should be done without loss of time. Hear, hear. He, for his own part, should have preferred to see some measure taken up by Government rather than by his Hon. and Learned Friend. He said this with no intention of being invidious against his Hon. Friend, but because he thought that a measure proposed by Government would be attended with a greater number of success than one emanating from any other quarter. The whole object of the Bill of the Right Hon. Gentleman was to give a remedy to acknowledged abuses in the system of Irish vestries. This had been the object of the circular in which reference had been made. The Bill had certainly remedied many evils, and had produced good to a certain extent; but it had many defects, and occasioned great inconvenience. He was convinced that the proposed one of the Hon. and Learned Member, Mr. O'Connell, one of the most important alterations which he (Mr. Rice) would suggest, would have for its object a change of the present mode of levying the rates on the Roman Catholic occupier of land, and of making them fall upon the landlord or renter of the land. He would take the burden from the shoulders of the lessee, and make it fall upon the owner of the land. He could not help lamenting that the subject matter of the letter of the Noble Lord (Lord K. L. Gower), the Secretary for Ireland, had not been made into a statute law, instead of remaining a government circular. He could not help feeling surprised at the Right Hon. Gentleman seeming to say that it was simply sufficient to refer to the rubric or canon law for instructions on this subject. He (Mr. Rice) was then addressing the House of Commons of England, instead of an Irish Vestry, and he was satisfied that there were not ten Members who could say what was or what was not in the rubric or canon law on this subject. If it was the case in the House of Commons, how could it be expected that such would not be the case in an Irish Vestry? The present uncertain state of the law had produced a spirit of litigation and ill-will, which it was the duty of the House and the Government to do all in their power to allay and remove. Had the motion of the Hon. Member for Clare not been brought forward, he should have felt it his duty to introduce a similar one himself. In what condition would they be placed with their constituents if they should abandon the Bill, and without proposing an amendment of the objectionable clauses? It would be an abandonment of principle to do so. He would be happy to receive any proposition from the opposite side of the House. The vestry law was very well known, and the proposition of his Hon. Friend, the Member for Clare, was a simple one. He hoped the speech of his Hon. Friend would be made generally known all over the country, as it was one of the most brilliant displays he had ever heard.—The Learned Gentleman concluded by supporting the motion.

Mr MOORE felt a strong apprehension that the measure of the Hon. Member for Clare, though introduced with all the ingenuity and skill which that Learned Gentleman possessed, would be productive of effects the contrary of those anticipated. There was not a period of good sense in the community but he, Mr. Moore, would appeal to; that if this measure was carried, it would be calculated to produce infinitely more irritation than any other legislative

enactment that had ever passed that House, and it would completely destroy that soothing influence, as the Hon. Member had called it, which had passed the House in the last year to permit Roman Catholics and other dissenters to interfere with the Protestant Church, and would be to hazard the safety of that establishment. Hear, hear. He would not enter into the details of church law but to observe, when the Hon. Member for Limerick complained of the power which the statute invested the Protestant Bishops of Ireland with, the Honourable Member was in error. As to the extent and objects of that statute, by an Act of George the Fourth Bishops had the power of conferring a right to parishioners, in whose parish there was no Church, to go and attend the church of the neighbouring parish; and they also had the power of recinding that right; nor were those parishes called on to pay rates for the repair of that church longer than they attended divine worship in it, or until a church had been built in their own parish. More had been said relative to the clause in the Vestry Act than he thought it required. All it required was that a fit and proper place of divine worship should be provided; and therefore the law as it now stood did not invest people with greater powers than were necessary to carry this object into effect.—He would be happy to support any measure which he conceived to be for the general good, yet he was anxious to preserve the Protestant Establishment, and he thought that the principle introduced in the amendment was hostile to it.

Sir J. NEWPORT would call upon Government to amend the law when they admitted there was a necessity for it. He would press them to take the measure into their own hands, and the responsibility of the legislative enactment would lie upon them.

Lord F. L. GOWER opposed the motion of the hon. member. When he first took office his impressions of the law were the same as they were at present, though since that time their objectionable parts had been considerably mitigated. Since he went to Ireland he had heard them discussed by every class, and he was sorry to say that many cases of failure had unfortunately been brought before him, as every case coming under his view must be so. He could assure his hon. friend, the member for Limerick, that he was quite unwilling to pledge himself to the introduction until he perceived of the necessity of it. He could assure his hon. friend that he had given the subject every attention in his power; and, though he admitted there might be an improvement made, yet, without reference to any distinct object, he should not pledge himself to any specific measure. He had no objection to have a discussion with the hon. member for Clare on the subject; yet he begged to assure the hon. member that he should not rest on any pledge of his that he should introduce any enactment on the measure. He should be most happy to have the support of the hon. gentleman upon any measure he might think expedient to introduce, yet he would not purchase that support by any pledge of his relative to the present motion. He would not enter into a defence of the statute, yet from the tone and temper in which the hon. member had expressed himself, not the most happy consequences resulted. Hear, hear, hear. He would not allude to himself by doing so he should be betrayed into a discussion of topics which might excite feelings of irritation. As to the hon. member's proposition relative to the King's Bench, that he considered highly objectionable, and therefore upon many grounds, with which he would not trouble the house, as they had already heard them from his hon. friends, he would oppose the motion.

Mr TRAFF observed, the Hon. Member for Clare had said that he did not mean for the present to introduce any other measure, or to alter the present system. From such a declaration it was quite obvious that the Hon. Member had such an intention in contemplation. Such a declaration reminded him of the observation of an old friend whom he had a conversation with on that measure which was called the healing one. He said to him that, if there were a single Roman Catholic admitted into the House, he would not allow a single session to go by without making some progress to—(the Honourable Member here stopped for some minutes, as if to find words to express what he meant, when he said, "I have not got a word—oh, yes—undermine.") Yes, he would say, undermine the Protestant Church, and which church was called by the Honourable Member for Clare and his fellow religionists the intrusive church. He was not anxious to interfere with any church, and yet he was anxious to preserve his own. The Irish—he meant legislators, or politicians. Continued laughter.

Mr Secretary PEELE did not see why the observations of his Hon. Friend should create a laugh. He perfectly concurred with him that the greatest vigilance was necessary to guard the Established Church. He was not to be deceived by the plausible arguments of the Hon. Gentleman that all those objections could be much better discussed in the committee. The adoption of such a measure in Ireland would produce endless confusion; and as to the application of the term of Irish Protestant Church, it was not so; it was the English Protestant Established Church, a branch of which was in Ireland. It was a united Church; and with reference made to Ireland, that there were not sufficient places of public worship, on whom should the erection of those come, except upon the possessors of the land? Ireland could not expect that England would find the accommodation. She had already done a great deal, she should Ireland not do so. The respect entertained for religion and the weal of society, required that the means should be procured, and should they not be found voluntarily, they would be compelled to find them, and the only way was by parochial taxation, which, if the motion of the Hon. Member for Clare was carried, the proposition might meet with an entire negation, and, in his opinion, be productive of great irritation and confusion. As to the remedy proposed to guard against such effects, that he altogether objected to. To refer any matter in dispute to the Court of King's Bench would be to turn a court of law into a political arena. Hear, hear, hear. He would never agree that the Court of Chancery should have the power the Learned Gentleman seemed anxious it should have. How were they to know whether a church ought to be built in a certain parish or not? The Court had really quite

enough to do in the management of its own affairs. He objected to a court which was for the administration of justice having a power which might be turned to political purposes. He was therefore prepared to give a most decided negative to the bill. He would not purchase the opinion of any gentleman by saying that he was prepared to substitute another measure, for he was prepared with no such thing; but that would not keep him (Mr. Peel) from expressing his opinion on the Vestry Act. The Learned Gentleman wished to know how vestries should have the power of voting for repairing the church. The reasons of the rubric had not this forth, but it was so difficult to be understood that the Learned Gentleman had thought it necessary to send round a circular.—There might be points in the Vestry Bill that needed amendment, which ought to receive the most considerate attention of the Government.—He pledged himself that they should have that attention—cheers—at the same time keeping always in mind the leading principle. He should on the present occasion content himself with giving his decided negative to the motion.

Mr O'CONNELL, in reply, said the Right Honourable Secretary did not differ with him altogether, as he stated, for his principles were half the way with his own. It was a barbarous thing that a Catholic should be assessed and not have the right of voting. He was not advocating any religious point. The question was one of pounds, shillings, and pence. Money and religion, in his opinion, were what differed. No religion had a right to tax another discretionary, hear, hear, and if the Protestants were in the same situation numerically as the Catholics of Ireland were, he would say that they would be a most spiteful set if they allowed Catholics to tax them as they thought proper. A great deal was said about the poor Protestant Church of Ireland. It was pretended as if it were in such a state that it wanted help and assistance; but he begged to remind the Right Honourable Secretary that the Protestant Irish church was the richest in the world. Was it not, therefore, consistent that it should pay for its own vestry inside, its own pew officers, and for the winding up its own clock, for that was one of the expenses in the schedule? Laughter. It was said that there was the power of appeal against an assessment; but how was this to be done? Not without two efficient sureties of 100l. each were previously given. He (Mr. O'Connell) had the act with him, and would refer to the clause if the Right Honourable Secretary had forgotten it. (Mr. O'Connell here upon read the 16th clause of the act, which set forth that no appeal can be made unless two efficient sureties were produced previously.) Mr PEELE begged the Learned Gentleman to read the clause through.

Mr O'CONNELL—He would do so; but, in case sureties were not procurable, the appeal was left to the discretion of the magistrates. Cheers from the ministerial benches. The gentleman opposite might cheer their glorious discretionary substitute; but what was the consequence? It was perfectly clear that no discretion could be exercised towards the debtor's appeal, as he would always be provided with the requisite sureties. Thus the discretion could only be brought into action against the poor man; who, by that means, would be denied his right of appeal. The learned gentleman concluded by saying that he had owned no distinction as to religion. He thought it unfair that one religion should endeavour to exercise an undue authority over another. If a Protestant, Roman Catholic, or a Dissenter passed a tax upon a fellow-man, and afterwards sued for it in case of inability to pay it, he considered him not a Christian, but a extortioner.

The gallery was then cleared, and, on our return, the numbers were—
Nays, 171; Ayes, 411. Majority against the bill, 130.
After some conversation as to the propriety of bringing forward as late as an hour Mr. C. Grant's motion on the subject of Treasuries, it was postponed till Wednesday (next day).
Mr C. Grant's motion relative to the sugar duties was postponed until Thursday.

After some discussion, the Administration of Justice in Wales Bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Monday. Adjourned.

THE PROPOSED TAXES—DISTILLERIES.

Observations on a Letter of John Innes, Esq., to the Right Honourable the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Dated the 12th April, 1829.
The letter of Mr Innes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and other publications, in defence of the scheme now before Parliament for benefiting the West India interest at the expense of the barley growers and distillers of Great Britain and Ireland, contain statements calculated to impose on those not acquainted with the real merits of the case, and seem, therefore, to require that it should be set in a clear point of view.
The real merits of the question at issue between the barley growers and distillers on the one hand, and the West Indians on the other, lie in a very narrow compass. The distillers neither ask nor expect any preference. They are ready, if placed under the same circumstances as the West Indians, to come fairly into competition with them; but they protest against the threatened injustice of being obliged to pay, first, a duty, or what is exactly equivalent to a duty, on the raw produce of which the spirit is made, and then a duty on that spirit nearly equal to what is charged on rum.

In 1825 an arrangement was made by Government, after the most deliberate and anxious consideration, by which the duties on rum and corn spirits were adjusted so that neither would obtain any preference over the other in the market, but that both would come into competition on a fair footing. That arrangement was made on sound principles, and is identical with the fact, that the quantity of rum consumed in England during the last four years has increased in nearly the exact proportion that the consumption of corn spirits has increased. It should, however, be borne in mind, that a considerable portion of the increased consumption of British spirits is apparent only, being, in fact, a consequence of the decrease of smuggling consequent to the reduction of the duties in 1825; and taking this circumstance into account, it is obvious that if any party was favoured in the arrangement of 1825, it was the West Indians. If any further confirmation of what is now stated were wanted, it would be found in the fact, that the

quantity of rum consumed in 1829 was 237,287 gallons greater than the quantity consumed in 1825; while the consumption of corn spirits in 1829 is less by 58,223 gallons than the consumption of 1825—and yet Mr Innes is pleased to say, with considerable confidence certainly in the capability of his country, that the Government had been "completely imposed upon in 1825 by the statements of the distillers!"

According to the arrangement of 1825, rum pays a duty of 8s. 6d., and corn spirits a duty of 7s. The West India interest contends that this is an excess of duty with which rum is loaded in its country or premium given to the distillers of corn spirits at their expense; and they, as might be expected, vehemently contend against the injustice and impolicy of such a preference. In truth and reality, however, this indignation is entirely misplaced—the distillers have no preference, and they ask for none. The West Indians are allowed to distil rum from sugar and molasses raised in Demerara and other colonies at the least possible expense, and without being subject to any sort of excise or local regulations. Now, will Mr Innes, or any one else, pretend to say that the British distillers are in a singular situation? Are they allowed to see the cheapest barley to be found in Europe? Are they permitted to carry on their manufacture without the interference of the excise? So, far from being the applicants to which they are exposed is most extensive and expensive.

It is not for the distillers to say whether the Legislature did wisely in excluding foreign corn from the English market. At this moment, however, the barley for which they are paying 32s a quarter, is selling in Denmark at 14s. 6d. for 11s. or 12s. The Corn laws do, therefore, really impose a tax of at least 18s. (allowance being made for the expense of importation) on every quarter of barley consumed by the distillers; and, as a quarter of corn produces about eighteen gallons of spirit, it is obvious that this tax is in itself equivalent to a duty of 1s. on every gallon of corn spirits.

Suppose there were two species of hats in the market, one produced wholly from materials that paid no duty, and the other produced from materials that paid a duty corresponding to 1s. a hat.—What would be thought of the statesman who should propose to lay the same amount of duty on those hats when finished? But this is precisely the case of corn spirits and rum. The price of the material of which the former is made is doubled by duties and restrictions on importation, while the material of the latter is wholly unaffected by any duties or restrictions imposed under the duty paid upon spirits produced under such different circumstances to the same level, would not be to equalize them, but to render them in the last degree unequal. It would be proclaiming a principle never yet avowed by a civilized legislation, that how much soever the materials of a manufacture might be taxed, such taxation was not to be taken into account in laying additional duties upon it.

But this is not all—the material which the corn distiller has to use is not indirectly only, but it is also directly taxed; besides being compelled to use the barley, the price of which is artificially enhanced at least 2s. a bushel by the Corn Laws, he has to pay a further duty of 2s. 7d. per bushel on the malt made out of this barley; and adding to these duties the direct duty on spirits, and reducing them all to the standard of the gallon, it will be found that the duty on corn spirits is fully equal to the present duty on rum, and that the duty on malt spirit is much higher.

It is needless, it is conceived, and can only serve to perplex and embarrass a question otherwise so very obvious, to enter into any statements to show at what cost grain, wheat, or rum, may be produced. Let the consumers have power to buy whichever is really cheapest, and whichever they prefer. What the distillers wish, and what, no doubt, they will obtain from the justice of Parliament, is, that the taxes laid on the materials of which the spirit is made be taken into account and allowed for, in fixing the duty on the spirit itself. Or, if it should appear preferable to the Legislature, let licence be given to the distillers to import barley free of duty, to be used in distillation, and they will have less cause to fear the imposition of the same duty on corn spirit and rum. They want nothing but a clear stage and fair play—place them under the same circumstances as the West Indians, and then subject their spirits and rum to an equal duty.—But to lay the same duty on corn spirits that is laid on rum, while the materials for their manufacture are burdened with heavy duties, from which those used in the manufacture of rum are wholly exempted, would be an act of the greatest injustice.

But though the distillers might regret if the West India planters were distressed, they cannot contend that that distress should be mitigated by their own ruin. A reduction of the duty on sugar might do the planters more good than they can possibly expect to realize from the proposed exportation; at the same time that this relief to them would have been a benefit to the rest of the community, and would not have been productive of any loss of revenue, as the increased quantity consumed would have more than made up for the reduced duty.

The present attempt of the West Indians to gain an undue preference to rum over corn spirits is made at a peculiarly unreasonable period.—If the planters are distressed, are the distillers on a bed of roses? Has one of them made any thing by his business for some years past? And have the growers of barley been lately in a state of prosperity? Are they in a situation to bear the loss of that demand for their produce, particularly for the inferior sorts of barley, unsaleable for other purposes, that will be caused by the ruin of the corn distillers—an event that will not be doubtful if the proposed measure be carried.

We are not hostile to the West Indians, and we, therefore, take the liberty of cautioning them as to their pressing too much upon the public forbearance. They already cost the nation several millions a year. They have got a monopoly of the British markets for sugar, not only to the exclusion of the foreigner, but to the exclusion of their fellow subjects in India; and they have a discriminating duty of no less than nine pence a pound in favour of their coffee. Let them not seek to add the monopoly of the British market for spirits to their other privileges. By grasping

at too much they will probably lose all. Are the barley growers and distillers of England, numerous and respectable as they are, to be sacrificed for the safety of the planters and others engaged in the West India trade? This is the real question now at issue. To talk about the equalization of the duties is a mere pretence. We have already shown that they are at the moment in favour of the West Indians; and while we admit that the latter are entitled to fair and liberal treatment at the hands of the Legislature, we have yet to learn why an irreparable injury should be done to two of the most important branches of industry carried on in this country—branches in which millions of capital and hundreds of thousands of our countrymen are employed—that the demand for rum produced by slaves may be universally extended?

The West Indians, and Mr Innes amongst others, allege that the supply of rum is limited, and that though it were wholly taken off, it would not materially interfere with the demand for corn spirits. But though this statement were really true it would be no justification of the policy of admitting rum at a lower duty, taking all things into account, than that which is laid on corn spirits. In point of fact, however, the statement is altogether erroneous. Who can believe that, with Demerara as well as with the West Indies, we are our other colonies, the production of the quantity of rum brought to market can have any limit other than the demand? We have already seen that the consumption of rum last year was 237,000 gallons greater than its consumption during the preceding year, and yet the stock on hand in January last, as the four principal ports, instead of being less than in January, 1826, exceeded it by 708,743 gallons! The total stocks of rum at three ports amounted, in January last, to the enormous quantity of 4,720,592 gallons.

But this is not all—Exclusive of the vast importation of rum, the quantity of molasses imported during the last five years h, as the subjoined official account shows, short eight or ten times as great as it was two or three years before. If, however, the West Indians succeed in their present attempt, the importation of molasses will entirely cease. They will be distilled in the West Indies and brought to England as a pure spirit. And we allege, and if called upon will prove, that a cut of molasses as now imported will produce ten gallons of pure spirit. Hence it follows, that if Mr Goulburn's project take effect, and British spirits be burdened with nearly the same direct duty with which rum is burdened, exclusive of the heavy duties laid on the material of which they are made by the corn laws and the malt tax, the West Indians will benefit to import four or five millions of gallons of pure spirit in addition to the present quantity of rum; and when such is the case, can it be said that the corn distillers exaggerate the dangers with which they are threatened? Or, that they are raising a clamour without just cause? Even with the duties imposed in 1825, they will have a serious struggle to maintain. Should, however, the proposed measure be carried, and a stilling of the discriminating duty be given up to the West Indians, British spirits will very speedily be as completely shut out of the English market, as the sugars of Brazil or Cuba.

But it is impossible, without a sacrifice of justice be trampled under foot, and it be resolved to force a market for rum by rendering 1,400,000 quarters of grain unsaleable, and ruining the corn distillers, that the measure now under discussion can be carried—we repeat it again, the distillers are seeking neither favour nor preference of any sort. If they were all-wid to supply themselves with the materials of their manufacture, and to conduct it in the way that the West Indians do—that is, if they were allowed to buy their corn in the cheapest market, and the duty on malt and the excise regulations by which they are affected were abolished, they would have lost nothing for the equalization of the duties on all sorts of spirits. But to equalize them under any other circumstances would be an act of oppression and injustice.

Table with 4 columns: Years ended Jan 6, Quantities of Molasses imported into Great Britain from the British West Indies, Quantities of British Molasses re-exported from Great Britain, and Rate of Duty when entered for Home Consumption. Data for years 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829.

An apparatus called the Patrisseur was lately invented by a M. Cailliet, of Paris, for making bread without the process of kneading with either the hands or feet. It is very simple in its construction, is not expensive, and has been found to answer the purpose admirably. Under these circumstances the inventor wishes to bring it into use in England, and for this purpose a small machine is to be deposited as a model in the National Repository, Charing-cross, London, in order that the public may have an opportunity of inspecting it.

Prince Eieven is about to leave this country for some time. His departure is owing to nothing political, but is entirely in consequence of some family affairs, connected with the recent death of his mother the countess.

A letter from Naples says—"A new opera has been formed in the crater of Vesuvius, whence the smoke and bituminous matter which form in the crater escape. For several days no loud detonations have been heard."

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instance, he should find it his duty to transport him for seven years.

COUNTY BUSINESS.

The Court was occupied the remainder of the evening in hearing appeals from the Quarter Sessions.

Daniel Mullooney, Richard Moloney, Matthew Bow, and John Connell, were placed at the bar for having stolen goods in their possession.

James Hallinan examined.—Was in his father's house at twelve o'clock at night in the month of January last, when he heard a knocking at the door; he awoke who was there; they found him to open the door; he did not open the door, when they attacked the house, broke the half door and the window; he asked them what they wanted; they said they wanted arms, and that they would blow his brains out if he did not open the door; they threw in the door and caught him by the shoulder, and threw him up to the fire—a laugh—did not see their faces; could not say whether the prisoners at the bar were the persons or not; before they left the house, they took blankets, sheets, quilts, shoes, stockings, shirts, hosiery, and coats. Witness identified a coat as his property. The robbery was committed on a Thursday.

Henry Gillan, a policeman, deposed that he, accompanied by Constables Shiffles and Margaret English, went to Bow's house, in Butcher's Lane, in this City, the Sunday following, when he arrested the prisoners, and found the articles which he produced in Court.

Margaret English deposed that she purchased several of the articles from prisoners, and pledged them at a pawnbroker's shop in Carrick; was told that the goods were stolen; went to Sergeant Vokes, of the Carrickbeg Police, and attended him to Waterford with another of the Police, and showed him the house in Butcher's Lane where she bought the articles in question. Sergeant Vokes found part of the goods at Mrs. Handum's, pawnbroker, Carrick.

Mary Hallinan identified all the goods on the table and there were three or four bags of them at her's, and that there were still some wanting.

Mr. Fleming, a road contractor, gave a good character of the prisoners.

Verdict—Guilty—sentenced to be transported to New South Wales for seven years.

FRIDAY—THIRD DAY.

At halfpast-ten o'clock Judge Torrens took his seat on the bench.

A few unimportant appeals being disposed of.

Mr. Scott, K. C. rose to appeal from the decision of the Assistant Barrister O'Grady, in refusing to register James Magrath, Bryan Ryan, and several other freeholders at the Sessions in Dungarvan. The Assistant Barrister in this instance had acted most strangely and unaccountably—did he feel (as far as he was instructed and which he, Mr. Scott, believed would not be denied) refused to register this and other freeholders without assigning specific reasons for so acting. He had no tangible grounds for objection and he could hardly tell why the Barrister should refuse to register the man, except he acted on conjecture, which was far from being a satisfactory mode of proceeding. He the Assistant Barrister, expressed himself perfectly satisfied as to value, and the title was undisputed.

The Court enquired whether any person could acquaint them of the Assistant Barrister's objections.

The Clerk of the Peace said, the ground from which they claimed their freehold was a part of a mountain.

Court—I should be sorry to disqualify any person on account of the freehold being a part of a mountain—a laugh—nevertheless, as the case stood, he doubted whether he could ascertain the question in its present shape, best it should make this a Court of original registry.

Mr. Scott continued—My Lord, it will be shown to the satisfaction of the Court that the appellant in the present case would fully satisfy the Court as to value and title of freehold. He has a lease of 40 acres of ground, taken from Piers George Barron, and Roger Dalton, who held the ground by a lease, dated 1781, from the Right Hon. the Earl of Grandison. Some of the trees in the lease are still living. The Assistant Barrister felt, or affected to feel, a difficulty as to title, because, as he stated, there were some outrages and riots, and fences and enclosures broken down on the mountain of Slieveginn. The mountain of Slieveginn, now the property of Mr. Villiers Stuart, the direct descendant of Lord Grandison, contains 20,000 acres—Lord Grandison deeded the property to Mr. Stuart, who now holds it. Mr. Stuart thought it necessary to bring an ejectment against a resident to assert his title, and after a trial of two days, it was not satisfactorily settled and decided in his favor and clearly proved that he had descended in an uninterupted chain through his ancestors from three or four centuries—this has not been disputed or disputed. It is true that outrages have been committed on the mountain, but that the perpetrators of those outrages have been tried and found guilty and punished for the misdemeanors—he could not therefore see any or the least grounds for rejecting the tendered freehold.

Court—how long is the man in possession of the ground?

Counselor Ronayne—My Lord, the man is 40 years in possession of the lands.

Mr. Dennehy produced the original lease granted by the late Lord Grandison to Piers George Barron and Roger Dalton.

Court—Let this man be sworn.

James M. Grant swore through an interpreter.

Court—Who will you give for the next question, if I give you your vote? A laugh.

Identified the lease as the one he received from Piers George Barron; held forty acres of the lands of Coole, on the mountain of Slieveginn; himself and his father were thirty-six years in possession of the lands; it was well worth £10 a year, clear of rent and taxes, and they had thirty cows on the lands; his father had a lease of the ground for thirty years; could not speak English.

Court—Tell him he will not be allowed to enter at the next election if he do not speak English. A laugh.

He knew the three hundred acres leased by Piers George Barron to Piers George Barron and Roger Dalton; his forty acres were part of these

lands; was quite sure they were; grew neither oats nor potatoes on the lands—let them out for pasture; would not sell his interest in the lease for £100.

Court—I can see no objection against this man—let him be registered.

The next appellant was Bryan Ryan.

Bryan Ryan swore—His lease was of the same date as the former.

The Court enquired, whether the testifying witness to the lease was to be brought forward, as it was a matter of paramount importance, in fact it was indispensably necessary.

Mr. Dennehy said, he could prove the signature of the testifying witness, or the lower himself could be brought forward.

His Lordship felt disinclined to admit the validity of the instrument, unless the testifying witness could be brought forward.

Counselor Ronayne stated that, agreeably to the Act of Parliament, persons who felt wholly uninterested, were selected as testifying witnesses; perhaps they would feel a bias which would keep them back—and if they choose to stop away, the franchise should not suffer. I saw your Lordship would rather lead towards the franchise than oppose it.

The Court would rather extend than abridge the franchise; he, however, should be guided by the law in his decisions. If the Act of Parliament was a bad one, which he was not prepared to deny, it was against that Act, and not against him, that gentlemen should complain; but the Act of Parliament should be first abolished before he could come to a different conclusion. He should be satisfied that exceptions were made to produce the testifying witnesses.

Mr. Dennehy said he would satisfy his Lordship on that point.

Court—Let Mr. Dennehy be sworn.

Mr. Dennehy swore—He despatched a special messenger to William Henry Barron, the testifying witness, entreating him to be in attendance, to which he got a verbal message, stating that Mr. Barron was unable to attend from illness; could swear to the hand-writing of Mr. Barron; that was his hand-writing which appeared to the lease.

Court—Let Ryan go on with his evidence.

Bryan Ryan proceeded—Held twenty acres of the lands of Coole—free of which he generally sows; was eighteen years in possession; often sold eight barrels of oats or one acre; the ground he holds is worth £10 above all rent, taxes, and tithes; could get persons to give that for it.

Court—Could you get any one to give you more for it? Would any one give you £11 above the rent for it?

Witness—I could, and they would wish they had it in the morning for that. A laugh.

Court—Could you name any person that would give you that for it?

Witness—I could, my Lord, several; James O'Connell is in Court—he, for one, would take it.

Court—Let James O'Connell be sworn.

James O'Connell was acquainted with the lands out of which Ryan was about to register, would take them at 11l. a year.

Court—I am satisfied; register that man.

James Ryan holds 40 acres of the lands of Coole, at the yearly rent of forty shillings; his farm is worth 10l. clear of all tithes and taxes.

Court—(seen, do you know any thing of this man?)

O'Connell corroborated the testimony of Ryan; the lands were fenced, and had a good house and out offices. Part of the land was moorish; lime was within three or four miles of the ground; could not say whether or not the lime belonged to the estate. Sea sand, which was an excellent manure for the ground, was only three miles distant.

Ordered to be registered.

Patrick Wheeler held 2l. acres of the lands of Coole, at one shilling an acre; the sum was worth 10l. clear of all rent and taxes. Could readily get 10l. above the rent of it. Had seven cows on the ground, a good house, and out offices.

James O'Connell bore witness to the truth of this statement.

Ordered to be registered.

Patrick Owens held 20 acres of the lands of Coole, which was worth 10l. above rent and taxes.

In answer to a question from the Bench, the ground was worth five shillings per acre.

Mr. Scott—Ask him if the ground worth more; I fear he declines to register.

Court—He has given a very explicit answer.

Mr. Ronayne said, consistently speaking, any man in the county might say the same; the ground might be worth 5l. an acre, and he might as fairly swear it was worth five shillings.

Witness—I would give five shillings myself for it; I would not give it for eleven or twelve pounds a year.

Court—and it was worth 12l. a year—Ryan was the oldest tenant on the ground.

Court—That does not speak much for him; he does not appear to be much the better for that, as he seems to be growing worse as he grows old. A laugh.

O'Connell continued—Thought it was worth more than he swore; took the ground to be worth 12s. or 13s. an acre; would be quite satisfied to be the tenant of the ground at that price.

Court—Sixteen acres at 12s. an acre, amounts to only 9l. 12s.; 14 has four more for his farm, and make it more valuable; for the present he is rejected.

William Walsh held 25 acres of the lands of Coole, which was part of the 200 acres leased by Mr. Piers George Barron and Mr. R. Dalton; paid 25s. yearly for the 25 acres; the ground was worth 12s. per acre.

By the Bench—O'Connell, what do you think?

O'Connell considered it them to be worth that.

The learned Judge examined the lease, and expressed his confidence in it; was the same bond that wrote the title and gave for the 25 acres to the lease.

A long colloquial conversation then place—at length, Piers George Barron, Esq., was examined, and deposed that he told the lands to Mr. Smith in 1787, and gave him up all the papers he had in his possession relating to the papers; kept no counterpart of the papers; the 25 acres was the same; although in his possession, he never saw the grounds; knew them only from a report, and from what he could learn, he thought these persons had excellent bargains.

Court—As the case is so doubtful as far as regards the title, we had better give up the benefit of the Act, and allow him to be registered.—Registered.

A Jury were sworn to try the case of Kane, near Tramore, who had been objected to for insolvency of value; but after the Jury were sworn, on an examination of the lease, Kane, owing to a defect in the lease, was rejected for insolvency of title.

Edward Finn was also rejected on the same grounds. Elizabeth Ryan, Anne Corry, Elizabeth Kinsella, Margaret Hogan, and Bridget Walsh, were represented by the Grand Jury as idle and disorderly vagabonds having no place of abode—guilty. Sentenced either to find two sureties (within the space of three months) of 25 each for their future good conduct, or be transported for seven years.

The remainder of the day was occupied in fitting the benches concluded at three o'clock.

Both Judges proceeded to Kilkenny this day (Saturday).

An interesting record, being an action for breach of promise of marriage, brought by a Miss Elizabeth Northcott, against Thomas St. John Grant, of Kilmurry, Esq.—was to have been tried here at the present Assizes; but has been withdrawn, the defendant having, as we understand, consented to pay the lady 1,000l. besides full costs of attorney and client.

REBUTTING AND VESTRY ACTS.

A Meeting, most numerous and respectfully attended, was held on Sunday last at the Parish Chapel, Carrickbeg, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of petitioning Parliament, against the Substituting and Vestry Acts.

The Rev. Mr. BURKE in the Chair.

Mr. BURKE on taking the Chair explained in a plain and eloquent manner the object of the Meeting. He concluded by proposing Edward Power, Esq., should act Secretary, which was carried with acclamation.

Mr. POWER returned thanks.

After the petition had been read and adopted, Mr. NICHOLAS O'CONNOR came forward and spoke at great length and eloquence. There was then repeated calls for Mr. Brian McWhir, who came forward and spoke at great length and eloquence. Petitions against the Substituting Act and against the Vestry Bill having been adopted by the Meeting, it was resolved that they be introduced to Daniel O'Connell, Esq. for presentation to the House of Commons.

It was moved that Mr. Burke take the chair and that J. Power, Esq. be called thereon—the motion being seconded and carried by acclamation. Mr. Power then took the Chair; it was moved that the thanks of the Meeting be presented to Mr. Burke for his very proper and dignified conduct in the Chair.

The Meeting then dispersed, after giving three cheers for Daniel O'Connell, the man of the people, and three cheers for Peter Kenny, Esq. for his truly patriotic and zealous conduct at the late Election.

CARRICK-ONSUR SUBSCRIPTION?

To prosecute the Petition against the return of Lord George Bessborough.

Table listing names and amounts for Carrick-on-Suir subscription, including John Power, Patrick Feehan, and others.

DUNGARVAN SUBSCRIPTIONS

To prosecute the Petition against the return of Lord George Bessborough.

Table listing names and amounts for Dungarvan subscription, including Rev. Dr. Moran, Matthew Brien, and others.

THE BUDGET.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer brought his usual Budget on Monday night. We shall give a full report of the details in our next.

The principal feature of the Budget was the proposal to raise the Poor Law tax on land to 10s. in the pound.

The total amount of the royal revenue has been estimated at £22,000,000.

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Table with columns for 'PRICE OF IRISH STOCKS', 'Friday', 'Saturday', 'Monday', 'Tuesday', 'Wednesday', 'Thursday', 'Friday'.

The Waterford Chronicle

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1850.

The London Mails to Saturday, inclusive, have been received.

HIS MAJESTY'S HEALTH.

By reference to the bulletins, &c. which we annex, it will be seen that the King is in a most precarious state of health.

London, Thursday, April 30.

The Levee and Drawing-room, which were to have been held next week, have been postponed.

The following notice on the subject was issued yesterday, from the Lord Chamberlain's Office:

Notice is hereby given, that the Levee and Drawing-room, announced for the 4th and 5th of May, will not take place;

but His Majesty's birth day will be celebrated on the 7th May in every other respect.

A bulletin will be issued this day, which will be shown in state to the nobility and gentry, at the King's Palace, St. James's.

The Duke of Wellington arrived at the Palace about half past eleven o'clock yesterday morning, and remained till one o'clock, when His Grace left the Palace for London.

The Duke of Cumberland arrived about half past twelve o'clock, on a visit to the King, and after remaining at the Palace about three hours, returned to his residence at Row.

The Duke of Leeds came from London yesterday, and staid some time at the Palace.

Sir Matthew Tierney, after issuing the Bulletin of the King's health yesterday morning, left the Palace for town, and returned shortly before seven o'clock in the evening to the Castle.

Sir Henry Hallford remained in attendance on the King during the day. The statement in a paper of yesterday, that Mr. Brodie had been sent for to attend the King on Tuesday evening, is not correct; the complaint under which His Majesty is now labouring does not require the attendance of a surgeon.

The following Bulletin has been issued this morning:— Windsor Castle, April 29, 1850.

The King continues much in the same state, with occasional embarrasment in His Majesty's breathing.

(Signed) H. HALFORD, M. TIERNEY.

(From the Globe of Friday)

There are no official accounts from Windsor, but we are sorry to say that the private accounts are very unfavourable.

The hopes now entertained of His Majesty's recovery from the present attack are very faint. We should rejoice to find that our informants have been deceived on this subject; but we have no reason, at present, to doubt the correctness of the intelligence which they have received.

FOUR O'CLOCK.—We have just received the following Bulletin, which is rather more favourable than we expected:— Windsor Castle, April 30, 1850.

The King had several hours of refreshing sleep last night. His Majesty's symptoms appear to be somewhat alleviated.

(Signed) H. HALFORD, M. TIERNEY.

The inquiries after His Majesty's health at St. James's Palace, this day, have been exceedingly numerous.

(From the Court Circular)

We regret that we are unable to announce any improvement in the state of His Majesty's health.

The medical gentlemen whose names are appended to the bulletin were in constant attendance on His Majesty during yesterday, and it was arranged would sleep there last night.

The King signed a number of official papers and warrants on Wednesday. The bulletin was shown in state in the Presence Chamber at the King's Palace, St. James's, to the Nobility and Gentry, by Earl Howe, as Lord in Waiting, and the Hon. Cecil Forrester, as Groom in Waiting, who appeared in full court dress.

One of the State Pages in full dress, the Gentlemen Portiers, the Under Portiers, and the Marshalsmen, were in waiting, the same as at a Court. A party of the Yeomen Guard lined the Guard Chamber, through which the company passed to the Presence Chamber. The company entered their names in both these apartments, between the hours of two and four o'clock, during which the bulletin was shown. Among those who called to make their inquiries were:—

- Ambassadors and Ministers—Austria, French, Swedish, Prussian, Hanoverian, Sardinian, and Spanish.
- Archbishop—York.
- Dukes—Leeds, Montrose.
- Duchesses—Montrose, Dowager Richmond.
- Margraves—Brandford.
- Marshalsmen—Sir Fort, Cornwallis.
- Earls—Hardwicke, Roden, Abingdon, Belfast, Mansfield, Blyth.
- Countesses—Abingdon.
- Lords—Montagu, St. Helens, Arden, Templeman, Stanley, Salton, Grantham, A Lenox, Clinton, Lake.
- Bishops—Winchester, Chester.
- Ladies—Clinton, C. Bertie, E. Bertie, Kerrison, S. Lennox, Strang, Farquhar, A Vernon, E. Monck, B. Baggin, Dowager Cadogan, Tiggis, Kinloch, Arden, Carbery.
- Sirs—W. Wynn, T. Parquhar, E. Kerleson, H. Campbell, A. Hume, R. Ferguson, D. Kinloch, P. Baker, C. Hastings, W. Pringle, W. Robinson, G. Barrant.
- Reverend Doctors—Wellistey, Coghlan.
- Reverend—Mr W. L. Coghlan.
- Doctors—Mackinnon.
- Admiral—Sotheron.
- Colonels—Higgin, Arbuthnot.
- Medicars—Hage, Menzies, F. Booth, T. Brent.
- Mistresses—Meynell, Hope, Gosling, Foulquier.

The King felt himself better all yesterday, but His Majesty has passed an indifferent night.

(Signed) HENRY HALFORD, MATTHEW J. TIERNEY.

Saturday, 2 o'clock.

Up to this hour no official intelligence has reached us from Windsor, but we regret to state that the private accounts are not favourable.

VESTRIES.

A Vestry was held yesterday in the Cathedral of this City, for auditing the accounts of the Churchwardens for the past year. Mr J. V. Nugent stated that the assessments were illegal and consequently that they should not sanction such assessments; the reception of accounts, every item in which was illegally charged.

Mr Thomas Wyse and others argued in favour of the reception of the accounts. Mr Peter Konney supported Mr Nugent's view of the matter. After a considerable state of argument, it was resolved that the accounts of the Churchwardens should not be received, but that the matter be referred to the Quarter Sessions, as the more competent tribunal to decide upon the legality or illegality of the question.

We give in detail this day, the report upon the motion of Mr O'Connell in the House of Commons which had for its object the repeal of the present Vestry Act.

To the eternal shame of the Irish Members be it told that on this occasion only TEN of them supported this motion. Only ten Irish Members opposed the present odious Vestry Bill.

These ten were, Sir Henry Barnell, A. Dawson, Lord Clements, J. Lambert, Sir John Newport, Spring Rice, J. Gratton, Talbot, and Power, H. M. Tuohy.

An Election approaches, and we trust the conduct of those who voted against this motion, or absented themselves from cringing motives, will not be forgotten when they come to the Hutings.

Where was Lord George Bessford on this occasion? Supporting injustice and oppression, of course, as he has always been. But this Vestry system must be broken down. It is nothing short of plunder—it is in its nature impolitic—in its principle unjust—in its purpose inefficient, and in its effects detrimental. It is a libel upon the common sense of the Country to say that such a system can endure.

At the Vestry to which we have above alluded, which was held yesterday, a very important proposition was made, which deserves to be recorded. Mr William M. Ardagh stated the Protestants of the parish were strongly impressed with the injustice of lording continuations on the Catholic Parishioners, for the support of a Church to which they do not belong.

He stated this to be his own feeling, and that of the great majority of the Protestant Parishioners. And although the present law empowered them to impose these unjust taxes upon their Catholic fellow-parishioners, still it did not compel them to do so; and acting upon this he proposed that the deficiency in the accounts of the Churchwardens for the past year be re-assessed, not upon the Parish generally, but upon the Protestants exclusively, and that the Protestants should send forward a petition or memorial to have the law altered.

Mr Ardagh, and those whose sentiments he represented, deserve much credit for the generous and liberal feeling manifested by them in refusing to avail themselves of the power granted by this odious law. This being, however, a Vestry convened especially for auditing the accounts of the Churchwardens, it was not considered competent to entertain the proposition of Mr Ardagh. However, a Vestry will be held on next Wednesday, tomorrow, at the Cathedral Church, for the purpose of lording assessments for the present year. At this Vestry Catholics are not allowed to vote. This Vestry, however, will be competent to entertain the proposition of Mr Ardagh, and we rejoice that an opportunity will be so soon afforded him and his fellow Protestant parishioners, of which no doubt they will avail, of carrying into practical effect the anxious desire to which Mr Ardagh's assertion bears us out in stating, they are so much alive of relieving the Catholic Parishioners from so unjust a burden.

A sense of justice compels us to say that this desire on their parts bespeaks a high sense of honour and liberality, and we look forward with pleasure to the pleasing task of recording in our next this desire reduced to practice, which will at once redound to the honor of those who do it, and stamp iniquity upon the Vestry Act.

NEW TAXES UPON IRELAND.

The meetings to protest against these unjust burdens are daily multiplying. Cork has met. The County Dublin met on Thursday, and we join in another place, an important statement made at a meeting of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, held on Thursday, the 29th inst.

By reference to our report of the Parliamentary proceedings, it will be seen that the matter came before the House of Lords, on the presentation of a petition by the Earl of Malinebury. To the observations of Viscount Godolphin, on that occasion, we would point particular attention, as may also be seen. In the Commons, the matter was discussed on Thursday, or rather a conversation took place, on which occasion the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not think proper to give any explanation as to his intentions. However we trust the Country generally will tell him distinctly what they require. His intentions should be. By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that this County and Carrick-on-Suir met on next Thursday. We feel convinced that the attendance at both these places will be such as must demonstrate the impropriety of the lording of continuity which exists upon the subject. We have no regret to say of those districts which have not yet met to do so at once, and of those which have accepted of the lording of continuity, that they will now come on shortly, and consequently there is no time to be lost. We would beg to refer for information on the measures, as far as respects the duty on spirits, to a statement in another column, entitled "Remarks on a Letter of John Luce, Esq. &c."

HARBOUR OF WATERFORD.

It is in the recollection of our readers, that a public meeting of the merchants, traders, owners, and masters of vessels, and citizens generally, was held in this City, some time since, for the purpose of taking into consideration the provisions of a Bill lately introduced into Parliament, for improving the Port and Harbour of Waterford. As we stated at the time, in our report of the proceedings, a Committee was appointed on that occasion to report to a future meeting. Accordingly, the Mayor, pursuant to a requisition from this Committee, convened a meeting, by public notice, which took place yesterday (Monday). The Right Worshipful the Mayor, in the Chair, and certainly it was one, in point of numbers and respectability which we have seldom seen equalled in this City. The subject engaged the most universal attention, as was clearly evinced by the attendance on this occasion. The Committee submitted to the meeting a Report which we subjoin, and which would call for some remarks, were it not that we had ourselves so completely cramped in point of room. We rejoice, however, that the Chronicle, by publishing, at an early stage, a copy of the Bill, afforded the Citizens, and those generally concerned, an opportunity of forming a just estimate of its merits. This Report having been received, it was agreed upon at the opinion of the meeting, that the Bill now before Parliament should be withdrawn, and the Mayor was instructed to communicate the same to the Right Hon. Sir John Newport, and request him to withdraw it accordingly. The following is the Report of the Committee:—

The Committee appointed by the Merchants, Traders, Shipowners, &c. of Waterford, at a public meeting, held at the Town Hall, on the 20th March last, to confer with Committees of the Corporation and Harbour Commissioners to consider the provisions of a Bill lately introduced into Parliament, to amend the Waterford Harbour Act.

That they met and Committee on the 6th, and 15th April, to discuss the proposed amendments of said Bill, in the preamble of which it is declared that, by the law in force, the number necessary for the existing Act are found to be insufficient, and that it is necessary the same should be amended and explained.

In the first section of the new Bill it was proposed to reduce the number of Commissioners required by the law in force, from thirteen, to seven, and to provide that, in the event of the number of Commissioners being less than seven, the Commissioners should be appointed by the Corporation and Harbour Commissioners, and that the Corporation and Harbour Commissioners should be empowered to appoint a sufficient number of Commissioners to complete the number of seven.

The second clause, empowering the Commissioners to pay pilots in proportion to their exertions and services, your Committee concurred in, as a great improvement in the present very defective and inefficient system.

Your Committee, considering the third section, by which the Corporation and Harbour Commissioners were authorized to make regulations, having the authority of a by-law, pending the meeting of the Board, as being objectionable, that section was unanimously rejected.

The 4th and 5th sections received the approbation of the Joint Committees, but vesting the power in the Board of Commissioners instead of a Committee, was also concurred in.

The Joint Committees proposed the 10th section, requiring notice of the attendance of pilots to be given at the Harbour Office.

The 6th and 8th sections, requiring the holding of signals by vessels arriving in the Harbour, and the payment of rates of pilotage, were approved of.

The 10th section, requiring the payment of pilotage by vessels not supplied with pilots, in case of the arrival of a vessel, provided one should be a pilot, and requiring those vessels to follow the course of such, was unanimously rejected, being a regulation capable of being evaded, and which would attempt to compel compliance.

An arrangement proposed in the 11th section, tender any arrangement made between masters of vessels and pilots, in case where the latter rendered extraordinary services, and in a void, and that compensation for such services should be solely awarded by the Commissioners, your Committee suggested that such agreements should stand, if satisfactory to both parties (such being the custom of other ports); but if such was not the case, each party should have a right of appeal to the Commissioners.

The 12th clause, imposing penalties on pilots refusing to act as approved of, excepting the words "Committee by them appointed."

The 13th clause, awarding pilots compensation in certain cases, was disapproved of.

Your Committee concurred in the 14th section, giving pilots compensation in certain other cases.

The 15th section, requiring pilots to conduct vessels to certain distances specified, had the sanction of your Committee.

The 16th section, respecting the landing of pilots, was unanimously disapproved of.

That portion of the 17th section, giving compensation to pilots unnecessarily and idly, and away to sea, had the concurrence of your Committee.

The 18th section, imposing penalties on masters of vessels giving false returns of draught of water, was approved of, such penalties to be only recoverable before two Justices of the Peace.

That portion of the 19th section, requiring the payment of a shilling per ton of pilotage, which was not actually required, was concurred in—the rest expunged.

The mode of enforcing the payment of pilotage in certain cases, as regulated by the 20th clause, and the approval of your Committee.

The 21st section, empowering pilots to form a fund for their mutual benefit, was allowed to stand, omitting the word "Committee."

The 22d and 23d sections were unanimously rejected, as being entirely out of the direct or contingent jurisdiction of the Harbour Commissioners, and contrary to the established usage of the other ports of the Empire.

The 24th and 25th sections, for ratifying an agreement entered into between the Corporation and Board of Harbour Commissioners relative to the revenues and duties of the Water Docks, your Committee most decidedly disapproved of, and they were unanimously expunged.

The 26th and 27th sections, for defining the authority to be exercised by Water Docks in the building of vessels, and for authorizing the appointment of a Harbour Master to discharge these duties, were concurred in.

In the 28th section, it was proposed to extend the time for the removal of goods from the Quay.

Your Committee disapproved of the 29th and 30th sections, respecting the regulating of Water Bands' dues, these sections were struck out.

The 31st and 32d sections, containing the Establishment of the Quay and River Watch, and providing for the expense of gas lights on the margin of the Quays, received the approbation of your Committee.

The remaining sections requiring the publications of bye laws, &c. call for no observation from your Committee.

In suggesting the improvements which your Committee have recommended, they received the concurrence of the

Committee appointed by the Board of Harbour Commissioners, but they felt that they had no other and more important duty to discharge on the part of their fellow Citizens than the more amendment of a Bill which the Commissioners had introduced relative to the management of the pilot system—they conceived that the discharge of the duties of their office was too important for the Board themselves to appear to entertain from the declaration in the first section of the proposed Bill, declaring it to be "inconvenient" that thirteen should be present at making a by-law, and wishing to reduce the number to ten. With this feeling they proposed to the Joint Committees that five Citizens (resident merchants and ship owners) should be added to the Board to assist in the discharge of its duties to the public. In urging this proposition, your Committee were sustained by the fact, that the Board declared it inconvenient to frame a by-law without lessening the number requisite for that purpose, a principle always objectionable in a large, independent, mercantile community; and they were also induced to press the demand from the conviction that the large and respectable body of merchants, traders, and ship owners of this City, not members of the Corporation or Chamber of Commerce, were fully entitled to be represented in the Board of Commissioners, to whose revenues they so largely contributed.

Your Committee is fully aware of the manner in which the Board of Commissioners is constituted, the whole number being 24, twelve of whom are elected by the Chamber of Commerce, seven by the Corporation, and five by the merchants of the City.

In 1818 the Chamber of Commerce fairly presented the commercial importance of this City, and was justly entitled to the appointment of twelve Commissioners. It then consisted of 30 members—12 of whom were elected by the Chamber of Commerce, 12 by the Corporation, and 6 by the merchants of the City.

Your Committee is fully aware of the manner in which the Board of Commissioners is constituted, the whole number being 24, twelve of whom are elected by the Chamber of Commerce, seven by the Corporation, and five by the merchants of the City.

In the further discharge of the trust confided to them, your Committee feel it their duty to recommend your attention to the existing Bill, with a view to its amendment, and to recommend that the Bill be amended so as to be consistent with the interests of the City, and to be approved by the Board of Commissioners, and to be approved by the Board of Commissioners, and to be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Your Committee cannot avoid remarking how heavily the taxes levied on the City, and on the County, particularly on the articles of consumption, are increased, and how much they are increased, and how much they are increased, and how much they are increased.

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provision of the Bill, and should an additional clause be added to the Bill, it will have the effect of totally preventing the publication of Pamphlets, &c. thereby depriving your Petitioners of a great source of employment, and inflicting a deep injury on the mental improvement of the Country.

Your Petitioners therefore implore your Hon. House to take into your most serious consideration the statements thus respectfully submitted, and to avert from your Petitioners and from the Country in general, the deplorable consequences which the proposed Assimilation would inevitably produce.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

NEWSPAPER PRESS OF IRELAND.

At a meeting of the New-paper Proprietors of Ireland, held at Mr. Thompson's Rooms, Dawson-street, on Tuesday, the 27th day of April, 1850, the following petition was unanimously adopted as the petition of the meeting:—

To the Right Honorable and Honorable the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses, in Parliament assembled.

The petition of the Newspaper Proprietors of Ireland, sheweth,

That your Petitioners have heard, with great surprise and alarm, that His Majesty's Government contemplate the project of levying an additional impost of 83 per cent on Newspaper Stamps, 40 per cent on the new advertisements to be printed on the 1st of January, 1851, and a new rate of 5d on advertisements for charitable purposes, which have been hitherto exempt from duty.

Your Petitioners humbly represent, that newspaper property is declining in Ireland, under the pressure of existing taxes, and that any augmentation of its burthen must consign it to destruction, and produce injury to the public interest.

Your Petitioners submit that this alteration is not necessary for the return of newspaper stamps ordered by your Honorable House to be printed up to the 31st of March last. According to their return, the stamps issued in the year ending the 31st of January, 1850, were 2,123,429, which was greater than the number issued in the year preceding. Your Petitioners, however, beg leave to call the attention of your Honorable House to the fact of the past year having been one of unexampled political excitement, and consequently of unexampled newspaper reading in Ireland; and they confidently expect that the level of circulation for the present period of the current year has not been at all equal to that of the corresponding period of last year.

Your Petitioners humbly represent that it is not to be inferred from the consumption of last year, and the profits of newspapers in Ireland are considerable, or that they would be enabled to pay the proposed rate of 5d on advertisements for charitable purposes, inasmuch as the profits accruing to Newspaper Proprietors in Ireland arise not from circulation, but from advertisements, which are considerably falling off. According to the return before your Honorable House, the number of advertisements published in Ireland, during the year ending the 31st of January, 1850, was 149,224. In the year ending the 31st of January, 1849, the number of advertisements published in Ireland, during the year ending the 31st of January, 1849, was 149,224. In the year ending the 31st of January, 1848, the number of advertisements published in Ireland, during the year ending the 31st of January, 1848, was 149,224.

Your Petitioners beg leave to state, that the produce of the advertisements duty in Ireland in the year ending January, 1850, was 149,224. In the year ending the 31st of January, 1849, the produce of the advertisements duty in Ireland, during the year ending the 31st of January, 1849, was 149,224. In the year ending the 31st of January, 1848, the produce of the advertisements duty in Ireland, during the year ending the 31st of January, 1848, was 149,224.

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