

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, JUNE 1. FORGERS.

The Speaker read the order of the day for the third reading of the Forgery Bill.

Sir J. MACKINTOSH and Sir ROBERT PEEL said a few words to each other across the table, which were inaudible in the gallery; and the bill was then read, as we understood, a third time.

Sir J. MACKINTOSH said he had an amendment to propose to the bill which was the same as that he had proposed in the committee. He was not aware that the first question that might be for the third reading of the bill; he conceived that the motion would be for the bringing up of the report; and he intended then to move his amendments, but he must now introduce them in another stage. He should be prepared to bring up the clauses in a few minutes, and the first amendment he should move would be in the first paragraph of page 3, line 7, that the words "and shall suffer the punishment of death," be left out. Till the clauses on account of being engrossed could be regularly brought up, he would then move that the clause be brought up for taking away the punishment of death in all cases of forgery, except that of forging wills.

Mr FOWELL BUXTON rose to second the motion. He did not mean, he said, to enter into all the arguments that might be urged on the general question; he should apply his observations to remove the strong impression which had been made on the House on a former evening by the speech of the Right Honourable Baronet. The facts on which the Right Honourable Baronet had laid the most stress, and which made the greatest impression on the House on the last debate—though he thought the Right Honourable Baronet in error—were the enormous amount of the transactions of the London Bankers and the few cases of forgery. The Right Hon. Baronet stated that though the clearing house during four days in March no less than ten millions of money passed. The Right Honourable Baronet also stated, in conjunction with the enormous amount of business, that there were only four cases of forgery prosecuted by the London Bankers last year. Coupling this great amount of money transactions with the few prosecutions, he argued that the system worked well; that property was, in fact, protected, and the crime of forgery prevented by the severity of the law. The Right Honourable Baronet was not aware, he was sure, when he made this statement of the facts of the case, that this enormous sum of ten millions sterling all consisted of bankers' cheques, which were not liable to forgery, and which he might say it was impossible to forge. These cheques were generally drawn by some well-known persons, and the bankers, whom they were drawn did not pay them till the following day. In the first place, then, there was no chance of forgery, because the property passing through the clearing-house consisted of cheques on bankers. In the next place, they were drawn generally by well-known persons; and, in the third place, the currency was not paid till the following day. But to remove all doubts on this head, he would read a letter from a person who was well qualified to give a correct opinion. It was signed Wm. Thomas, who was a well-known bill broker in Lombard-street.

The writer stated that he had been for the last thirty-nine years employed in the banking business; for twenty years he had been clerk in a banking house; and for twelve years he had been inspector of the clearing-house. He stated, that while he was in these two situations he had never known a forged cheque paid in at the clearing-house, and in his opinion it was not possible that the bankers should suffer from any forgery passed through the clearing-house. The Right Hon. Baronet, indeed, admitted that the punishment was disproportionate to the offence; and he confessed, that while he had the power he had mitigated that punishment at all times, without finding any increase of crime follow that mitigation. The speech of the Right Honourable Baronet was indeed, completely at variance with his bill, which had for its object the continuance of the punishment he seemed to admit to be too severe. The Right Hon. Baronet thought, however, that the state of the public mind was not ripe for such a change. The petitions on the table of the house proved that he was mistaken, and he now called on the Right Hon. Baronet to carry his own principles into effect, by yielding to the wishes of a great majority of the well educated parties of the community, as well as a great proportion of the bankers of the united kingdom. Hear, hear.

Mr. LENNARD supported the clause. He had letters from various bankers, all of whom said they had less protection now than they would under a milder system. In one case of a person was mentioned who committed the crime more than thirty times, and engaged in consequence of the severity of the law. The feeling against capital punishment in cases of forgery was most clearly and decidedly expressed. The petitions would have been more numerous in favour of mitigation were it not that bankers were fearful, if they appeared as petitioners, and it became known that they would not prosecute, their property might thereby be endangered. The bill was a good digest of the law of forgery, but as a practical measure he thought it would be inoperative. The same severity of punishment did not exist in any other country. If a forged English note was uttered in France, the punishment was branding and the galleys for five years. In this country if a forged French instrument was circulated here, the punishment was death. He trusted that the Right Hon. Baronet would try the experiment of a further mitigation. Some plan should be adopted to render the prosecutions less expensive.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said it did not follow that because 30,000 notes were returned to the bank, as stated by his Hon. Colleague [Mr. F. Buxton], that 30,000 offences were committed, for the same person might have forged or uttered a large portion of those notes. Every man must be desirous to mitigate the severity of the law. It was therefore an indignity thing to stand up, as he felt it his duty to do, in favour of capital punishment in any case of forgery. Gen-

tleman argued as it his Right Hon. Friend (Sir Robert Peel) was imposing a new penalty. It was said that the punishment of death was repealed only in cases in which it was never inflicted; in that, for instance, of deeds and bonds. His opinion was that the severity of the punishment had the effect of deterring many from committing the crime, and of protecting property. They who committed the offence were generally persons of some education, clerks, or persons in a confidential situation, who from the very nature of their place had the greatest facilities. He believed no person would contend that the punishment of death in such cases was contrary to the law of God. The Quakers did not prosecute in any case of capital felony; but was that a reason why capital punishment should be abolished altogether for every crime as well as for forgery?

Mr MACAULEY, considering the feelings of the country on this subject, could not doubt that, without ministerial influence, the house would vote for the proposition of his Right Hon. Friend. They had penal statutes which were laughed at by criminals. These statutes produced a reluctance to prosecute. It was natural for individuals to dislike taking human life in cases of forgery. The bank, a corporation, certainly did prosecute; but the bank was a body without soul or feeling.

Mr CRIPPS opposed the proposition of the Right Hon. Gentleman, in opposition to the wishes of many of his constituents, but he did not do so from any undue feeling on behalf of ministers. His opposition was founded upon the fact that the crime of forgery, under the present law, had been almost annihilated.

Sir CHARLES WETHERELL did not think upon this question he should fall within the net of the Right Hon. Secretary, although it was said persons would vote against the Right Hon. Gentleman's proposition under ministerial influence. The Right Hon. Secretary's reform of the law had been considered by one Hon. Member nothing but small beer reform. A laugh. Notwithstanding all his Right Hon. Friend had done, it was said he had done nothing unless he gave up the punishment of death in all cases but murder. All cases of spoliation were to escape the punishment of death. It was said that because death alone was denounced in Revelation against murder, it was not to be inflicted in any other cases. No respectable writer on jurisprudence had said that to that extent. It was said that this law was to be abrogated at the desire of Quakers and others who never went to law at all. Their maxims were, that all prosecutions were wrong. (A cry of "No.") Hon. Members might say "No," but he called upon a learned civilian (Dr. Lushington), who had said "no," to cite a case in which a Quaker was prosecutor, and when that learned person had a Quaker client in Doctors' Commons. The proposition of the Right Hon. Gentleman to substitute punishment of 14 years' transportation or solitary confinement for death. It was notorious that if they transported a man with 30,000 which he might carry off, and which was the produce of his forgery, it would be no punishment; it would be a mockery. Then with respect to solitary confinement—if the treadmill was added, a man would tread out the extremity of his existence long before expiration of his sentence. Suppose a man tread out 14 years, was he to go out of prison? Oh no—he was then to be transported for 14 years? Was that mercy? Where was the Quaker or conscientious person that would call the extra sentence of banishment, which he called the postscript of punishment, any thing but the misery of protracted death? He would ask the theorists and sentimentalists why they left the burglar, the highway robber, and others, out of the pale of their sentimentality? If their sympathy was good, it applied to all cases. Hear. Men whose crimes might be impelled by drink or want were to be hanged, whilst the superior forger was to escape. No man ought to say they could avoid including the cases he had alluded to. The case of Faulstich had been admitted by all to be deserving of death; but if the clause of the Right Hon. Gentleman was agreed to, even crimes like that committed by Faulstich would escape. The sentimentalists in this House were obliged to give up their own course. He hoped the Right Hon. Secretary would persevere in his Bill, and that he would not be afraid to do his duty.

Sir ROBERT PEEL said, he was convinced that the punishment of death discouraged the crime of forgery, and gave additional security to property. He referred to facts within his own knowledge. He had stated, when he last addressed the House on the subject, that 36 banking establishments belonged to the committee of London bankers, and that in three days in May their transactions amounted to ten millions. There were four private banking houses in London whose transactions throughout the year amounted to five hundred millions. He entirely differed from the Hon. Member for Weymouth as to the security afforded by the clearing-house. Nay, he was persuaded that it facilitated forgery. For instance, the other day a forged bill of exchange for 800l. purporting to be Rothschild's, passed through the clearing-house. So much skill was displayed in forgeries of that description, by tracing the names, and by other devices, that it was impossible entirely to avoid fraud. In the present year, however, on the extraordinary amount of transactions which he had described, only four forgeries had been committed, and those only to the amount of 400l.; a proof that those who might be disposed to forge did not rely much on the unwillingness of juries and witnesses to convict them. He had stated in his last address that the Bank of England had only three prosecutions about. At present there was not a single person confined in any of the prisons of England and Wales for forgery on the bank. He had applied to the bank to know what had been the amount not merely of the forgeries which they had presented during the last three years, but of the forgeries which had been committed upon them. In 1827, the amount was £2,109; in 1828, £197; in 1829, consequence of a magistrate in the county of York having forged three powers of attorney, by which he obtained £6,500 it was £7,000. Now when this small amount of forgery was considered, could it be supposed that the present state of the law afforded no security?

Mr BROUGHAM said he was unmoved by what he had heard—unmoved by persons' opinions, and the conclusion in which he came was this, that the punishment of death for forgery was a violation of justice and humanity. It was said that the forgery of a will was excepted from the motion of his Right Hon. Friend (Sir J. Mackintosh); so it was; but that was not in consonance with the feelings of his Right Hon. Friend, but in deference to the opinions of others. The clearing-house derived no security from the punishment of death for forgery. In fact the order of the clearing-house was a great security against the forgery of cheques; and, in such cases, the speedy detection of the offender was sure to follow. The alarm of the Associated Bankers was relied upon by the Right Honourable Secretary as the great ground for retaining the capital punishment in cases of forgery. But two of these alarmists were forged upon, and, despite their previous notice, did not follow up persons who had committed forgery upon them, although the offending parties were wholly in their power. The chairman of the bankers' committee was the Member for Tewkesbury, who in this House said that the punishment of death for forgery would prove utterly ineffectual, whatever might have been stated at the Home Department. Cheques were rarely forged; the forgeries were generally in small bills of exchange, as well as upon country bankers, and all these parties were averse to the sanguinary punishment for forgery. This was not the work of the Society of Friends, than when there was no more amiable, intellectual, or powerful enemy of his Majesty's subjects. The positions of the bankers were all in favour of the mitigation of the capital punishment—and not, as was represented, against it. The argument adduced as to the Bank of England said nothing, inasmuch as the great bulk of forgeries was while the one pound notes were in existence. It was said by the Solicitor-General—What harm is done by the capital punishment to remain, when it was so rarely executed? We should not exercise that more monstrous. We should not exercise from one principle because of any administration, he thought of their power however long or however short. It was said, that the minority in this House was so great the other night that the punishment of death would be sparingly exercised. But look at the other side of the question. Look at the fact, and let the House ask themselves if the small majority would not lead to the more frequent infliction of the capital punishment for forgery? The deliberate opinion, the unbiased wisdom of this House pronounced that the capital punishment should be abolished. This capital punishment was unpopular before, now they were routed and fixed in their friends, it would tell amongst prosecutors, witnesses, and juries—it would operate even with judges—hear, hear. And it was only lately he heard one of the Judges say, in a case of conviction for forgery, that pending the discussion in this House, he would not take the life of a fellow creature—hear, hear, and a Question, question.

After a few words in explanation from Sir R. PEEL, the House divided—
For the clause.....161
Against it.....138
Majority against Ministers. 18
On the clause being brought up.
Sir R. PEEL said he must now how to the opinion of the House, as expressed on this subject. He begged leave to say, therefore, that he withdrew all further opposition. He gave to others the benefit of his labours in connection with the question of punishment for forgery; and as he would be one of the last to offer any serious or factious opposition, such circumstances, he begged the bill to the Right Hon. Gentleman (Sir J. Mackintosh); and taking it for granted that the clause he had proposed were the best to accomplish his purpose, he threw the responsibility of the course now adopted on the Right Hon. Gentleman and the House, merely taking leave to say, on his own part, that his opinion remained unchanged, and that he thought the time was not far distant when they would be compelled to retract their course.
The clause was then committed, and the House having required.
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There are, it appears, five candidates up for this independent and patriotic county, Messrs Sheil, Ballaw, M'Clintock, Marmion, and Clinton. Louth is emphatically an independent county, and the people can there return a member to represent their feelings, if they agree among themselves as to whom that Member shall be. Is it Mr M'Clintock? Are tax eating and fanaticism valuable qualifications to the constituency of Louth? Is Kildare place in vogue in that county? Is the man who refuses to pledge his principles, to be treated as possessing any he dare avow? Is the nominee of the Foster family—Which next to the Barretts, have been the greatest curses to Ireland—is the tyrant to be chosen representative of freemen? No, no. Is Mr Bolew the man who would be chosen by an independent constituency, justly desirous of infusing a portion of democratic spirit into the legislature? Has he sympathy, communication, identity, with the honest democracy of Louth?—True, when the Association became the fashion, he sometimes condescended to extend to it the contemptuous arrogance of his patronage—his visits were indeed few and far between. But did not his family habitually embarrass and discountenance every Catholic exertion? Were they not peevish for their hostility to the people? Are not all Mr Bolew's habits, maxims, prejudices, his very associations and parties, aristocratic? Was not his appeal to deal ancestors, instead of living virtues, aristocratic? Why the midnight visit (for we have ascertained the fact), from the Evangelist of Dramcar to the Papist of Barmecha a lawless licence, if there was not an unwholesome league to fix the laws of a discretionary once more in Louth? Why did he refuse to sign the requisition to protest against the impost? Of Mr Marmion, personally, we know little—what we saw of him made a favourable impression. He has been distinguished also for some able writing in favour of reform, and this highly creditable. But the past services of Sheil—the vast powers he can bring to the public cause, and having pledged himself devoted to those powers to the cause of reform, sink the claims of the other candidates into total insignificance. He committed a fault—but a fault, or even twenty, if he did commit them, cannot affect the memory of his splendid career. At a period when very power on one hand held out its bloody hand to all, and when reproach, contumely, and danger, the dungeon, nay, even the gibbet, it rendered on the other, the advocates of Ireland—Richard Sheil, inspired by the one, and waded by the other, stood by his country, and shook with the thunderbolt of an astonishing eloquence, the gothic and gloomy structure of intolerance, even to its very base. It is not cold calculation but generous impulse to support such a man. But it is demanded also by the considerations of sober wisdom. It would be a crime act to enlist such a man in active service for the people. It would be a glorious act for Louth to be the honours instrument of performing such a service to freedom and Ireland. The objection of mere locality of

birth is a petty device of vain and interested aristocracy, when applied to the claims of Sheil—RICHARD SHEIL BELONGS TO IRELAND. And Louth, which has done so much for Ireland, will add another obligation by returning a man, who if faithful, can confer so much benefit on his country; or, if faithless, can be so easily removed.

THE NEW TAXES.

SAINT ANDREW'S PARISH, DUBLIN.

A most respectable meeting of the parishioners of St Andrew's was held on Tuesday in the Vestry Room, pursuant to requisition, to take into consideration the proposed measures of additional taxation upon Ireland.

ARTHUR B. KEBBLE, Esq., Churchwarden, in the Chair.
A committee consisting of the following gentlemen—the Churchwardens, Messrs Parker, Staunton, Finn, Fuzgibbon, M'Clery, Curwen, and Quirk, were selected to prepare resolutions, and retired for that purpose. After a short time the committee returned, and
The Chairman informed the meeting that they had agreed on several resolutions which they considered perfectly applicable to the object for which they were assembled. A gentleman had likewise submitted to them a petition to the House of Commons which should be read to the meeting and submitted for their approval.

Mr Staunton then read the resolutions, and moved that they should be adopted.
Mr M'Clery seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
Mr Fuzgibbon then read the petition.

The petition was heard with marked attention, and
Mr Parker moved that it should be adopted as the petition of the parishioners.
Mr M'Clery said, in rising to second the resolution, he would take the liberty of correcting a mistake into which the people of Dublin, and of Ireland generally, had fallen, when speaking of the feeling on the new taxes. They said they were unhappy; there was not, but there was despair. He did not think that any despair would make them give up petitioning; they should resist those oppressive taxes by every exertion in their power. There were some portions of the British constitution still remaining, and it was a maxim of it, that no people should be taxed but by their own consent. They did not content to those taxes, but by whom would they express their disapprobation? By their representatives? They might tax their constituents to any amount; they might load them with additional burthens; they might even make them beasts of burthen, unless they told them they were too much oppressed already. Hear, hear. They are in error who believe that their representatives will resist taxation, unless they call upon them to resist it; and to prove how anxious these gentlemen were to escape the control of their constituents, he would read an expression of a candidate to the electors. He declared that a more audacious proposal to elect him than that of Mr. M'Clintock to the people of Louth, published in the Star of Brunswick of last Saturday, he had never seen. That gentleman declared that nothing could induce him to accept a seat in the House of Commons, if he were to be bound by any pledge to his constituents as to his public conduct in Parliament. Such a declaration was the most flagrant he had ever heard, and he hoped that Mr. M'Clintock would be relieved of the necessity of accepting a seat for the sentiment. Cheers. But he was not singular, for even the body which he (Mr. M'Clery) had the honour to represent, (and he did still consider it an honour) had had many persons who misrepresented them in the same manner. There were men among them who only represented their own interests, their own passions, and their own appetites—hear, hear, hear—of which they gave an unfortunate example the other day, at the Guild of Merchants, when so many of them could not be collected for the welfare of their fellow-countrymen as would form a house. Hear, hear.
And this was the manner in which their parliamentary representatives treated them also. But there were other persons who deserved to be respected for their adherence to the interests of the people. Look at the declaration of the Marquis of Blandford, the other day, that representatives should be resident on the places they were returned for, and should attend their Parliamentary duties, though it were even necessary to pay them for doing so. He was laughed at for the declaration for many of the persons who listened to him, found very effectual means of payment for their parliamentary duties. Cheers. The ancient senators of Rome were obliged to be constant in their attendance at the senate house, or have themselves disgraced by the public voice. There was a rope pointed out, with which the people struck those senators who neglected their duty, on the back, and the beatings of the populace as a mark of their infamous negligence. Hear. The rope was applied to the backs of his countrymen's representatives they would have a great many reddish sheep among them. But instead of making a speech he would relate an anecdote to them. A German and a Portuguese soldier quarrelled while the town which they defended was besieged by an army of the Turks. Instead of wreaking their vengeance on each other, they sought to rival each other by their exertions against the enemy. In an assault in which they signalled themselves by great bravery, the German had his sword arm struck off and fell senseless from the wound, when the Portuguese threw himself across the body of his fallen rival and defended it from further injury. But the German was not killed, and having recovered he was able, in his turn, to repay the other's generosity by warding off the blow of a lance which must have killed him just as he was disabled from holding his shield by the loss of an arm. They considered the duty of one man though both were disabled, until their exertions exhausted them, and as a final effort they flung themselves together with a large portion of the wall, on the heads of their assailants. This was the state of feeling in Ireland. Germans, Portuguese—Roman Catholics and Protestants were around him, and united in the one principle of determined refusal to fight together—the one striking with his assistance to the flagitious measures of their enemy

Great cheering. He would join them in that solution to save their oppressed country from further burthens. They might be brought to imitate the Lancelotian system by part of the injurious duties, and have their states instead of paper, and trace their lessons in the sand in future, but the slates which were used in their schools might be broken, the characters written by their children in sand might be obliterated, but he trusted, that the intellect of Ireland would engrave its productions on brass—that they would confound the mushroom statesmen, and fergus politicians, which had sprung up in their day. Hear, hear. He did not think that any language that could be used, would be too strong, when speaking of those new taxes, nor did he think that any measures they could adopt, could be too forcible, which they could employ in resisting them. Hear. Who were now pouring down their malignant influence upon Ireland? Goulburn, and his satellites, Peel. These were the servants and the dependants of their great master, Wellington, of whom the immortal Byron said,
Proud Wellington with nose so curled,
His nose the beak, whereby suspends the world.
Cheers and laughter.

But instead of Wellington's nose being a gallow for Ireland, he hoped that the country would erect a gallow as high as that of Mordecai's upon which should be hung every rascal who entered into a conspiracy against the peace of his Majesty, or that of his loyal kingdom of Ireland. Cheers. He did not like to adopt a vulgar phraseology, but this he would say, that if the new taxes were carried into effect, Wellington and Goulburn would have completely BURIED Ireland. Laughter. By these new taxes they seemed to have invented a new Promethean bed—they would stretch their victims on a pillow—if their limbs were too short, they would wrench and strain them to fit it—if they were too long, to lie easy upon it, there was a thing so easy, in their opinion, as to lap them down to a convenient brevity. Hear, and cheers. But these gins of finance would find that they were deceived—the people would not submit to the process, and every man in Ireland would become a "Jack the Giant Killer." Laughter. The Irish people would unite together to oppose those measures—they were bound to act in an united body, and there were no party feelings now to separate them from each other. Cheers. They were encouraged by Wellington himself to oppose themselves to every measure that was inimical to their feelings and contrary to their interests. Wellington had told them that he had conceded one of the greatest measures, and in his (Mr M'Clery's) opinion, the most extraordinary measure that had passed since the revolution—and to what had he yielded to? To agitation and to petition repeated upon petition. Cheers.

Then he (Mr M.) would become an agitator to prove his country. It was a principle of the British constitution, that no man should be taxed without his consent; if these taxes should now pass into law, he asked them, would not they would not all Ireland be taxed contrary to their consent? Hear, hear, and cheers. They should enter into a resolution to oppose every member of Parliament who did not oppose the new measures of taxation with all his heart and powers. Hear, hear. Let them do this; and they would not find any man like Mr M'Clintock, requiring that no pledge should be forced upon him, and that he should not be bound to act in any way. If they took Mr M'Clintock as his word, he might vote for measures which Mr O'Connell had execrated—that the English would have a power of whipping back the poor Irish who went to the sister country to look for work. The gentlemen whom he now had the honour to address, was the guardian of the morals; as he was the professor of age and infancy, in the parish, and was he now to hear, that the Vandal band was to be laid upon the contributions of charity in this country? Charity could not make its small offering without paying ten per cent. to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Hear. There was a benevolent individual—the late Mr Barrett—who left £3000 a year to several charities in this city. If the new taxes were in force at the time those bequests were made, £3000 would have been torn from such of these different charities, and the consequence would have been, that numberless individuals would have perished, and died of hunger. But what cared the Chancellor of the Exchequer; so much would have gone to the revenue. The poor Irish should be whipped from England, and charity shall not even relieve them from starvation in Ireland. Cheers. He concluded, he hoped that every sect and party of his fellow citizens, would combine together to resist those measures which must be so fatal to Ireland. Hear and cheers.

Mr Staunton said that the statement of his friend Mr Parker had suggested to him to mention a few facts with respect to a branch of trade in this country with which he was connected. Hear. That the new measures, if carried into effect, would not only tend to the decline of the paper trade, but to its complete annihilation, he was thoroughly convinced. Hear, hear. Mr Staunton then entered into a most able and convincing statement in proof of what he had advanced and was down amidst loud cheers.

Mr M'Clery hoped that as soon as the petition was engrossed, it would be signed by all the parishioners. According to that protest and blood-curdling tool, the Courier, the reduction of taxes could not be made without an addition on Ireland. Laughter. The manner in which Ireland was now about to be treated, reminded him of the historian's account of the immolation of Wallace. For treason, he was to be first dragged to the place of execution. For murder and robbery, he was to be then hung a certain time by the neck; and because he had burned abbots and religious houses, he was to be taken down alive from the gibbet, his entrails torn out, and burnt before him, his body to be quartered, and the parts afterwards to be disposed of as the clemency of his Majesty might suggest. Laughter.

It was proposed by Mr Staunton, and seconded by Mr Barrett, that the petition should be entrusted to the city members.
Mr Smith was then called to the chair, and thanks having been returned to Mr Keene, the meeting adjourned.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1830.

The London Mail to Wednesday (inclusive) have been received.

HIS MAJESTY'S HEALTH.

(From the Globe of Tuesday.)

The Bulletin of to-day confirms our private account of yesterday as to the King's bodily suffering, and we are sorry to learn that his Majesty still continues to endure much pain. No thing has transpired but of a lamentable description:—

Windsor Castle, June 8, 1830.

The King passed a very distressing night yesterday; but his Majesty has had some refreshing sleep in the night, and is this morning a little relieved.

(Signed) H. HALFORD, M. J. TIERNEY.

The number of persons enquiring after his Majesty's health at St. James's Palace this morning was very considerable, as a report had been circulated, both in the city and at the west end of the town, that he was dead.

Windsor, Tuesday, 12 o'clock.

His Majesty is yet alive, and that is all that can be said. The utmost agitation is apparent in the countenance and conduct of the inhabitants of the town, who are unanimous in the expression of sorrow on the occasion. He cannot survive long, and his death will be particularly felt by a very large portion of the inhabitants.

(From the Globe of Wednesday.)

The public have been so fully prepared for a fatal termination to his Majesty's illness, that we need not repeat the alarming reports in circulation to-day. It is gratifying to know that the King is in less pain, though the best informed persons think it impossible that he can long survive; and we hear that at the Castle the usual preparations for a royal demise have been made. It is not true, however, as reported, that his Majesty has been for some time informed of the fatal nature of his malady, as it was but the day before yesterday that the formal intimation of the King's danger was made to him.

His Majesty's appetite is better than could have been expected, considering his excessive suffering, but the embarrassment in his breathing is at intervals so great, that his attendants are fearful of immediate suffocation. The following is the bulletin of this morning:—

Windsor Castle, June 9, 1830.

The King continued less embarrassed in his respiration all yesterday, and has slept at intervals in the night.

(Signed) H. HALFORD, M. J. TIERNEY.

MR. O'CONNELL'S LETTER.

It is not, we suppose, necessary to recommend Mr O'Connell's letter, published in the last Waterford Chronicle, to the deep and attentive consideration of our readers. The first question they will probably ask themselves is this—whether Mr O'Connell's advice is entitled to that deference which should induce them to make an experiment that may produce great confusion amongst the commercial and mercantile classes? This question we should answer by directing their recollections to those measures which have already succeeded under his auspices, because he was seconded in his exertions by the co-operation of the people. Had not the great mass of the population adhered implicitly to the instructions dictated by him for their guidance, Catholic Emancipation would not have been carried. And, if the people of Ireland shall now adopt the line of conduct so strenuously recommended by him, it is our belief that they will not only compel the Duke of Wellington to abandon his taxation banking in embryo, but that they will force upon the King's Ministers a modification of the Vestry Bill and Subletting Act—those pests of society in this country. If any portion of the people want proofs either of the ability of Mr O'Connell to guide his countrymen on all public questions, or of his unshaken fidelity to Ireland, let them look to his conduct since he went to the British Parliament—which we affirm to be such, for general usefulness, as has not been equalled by any single Irishman since the period of that unconstitutional Union which robbed Ireland of its Legislature. There has not been a single debate in the House of Commons, since the commencement of the present sitting, which has not found him at his post, redempting those pledges which he had given to his countrymen when elected for Clare; and, when we examine and refer to his parliamentary career, and remember what he had previously accomplished for Ireland, it is not expecting too much to calculate upon the immediate adoption of those measures by the people which have been recommended by the Editor.

LORD DUNCANNO.

We regret to perceive by the following letter from Lord Duncannon, that there is reason to apprehend his Lordship will be prevented by the delicate state of Lady Duncannon's health, from taking his seat in the House of Bountons to oppose the new taxation scheme:—

Beshborough, June 10, 1830.

Sir—I had the honour to receive your letter with a petition from the inhabitants of Silverree, against the additional duties on spirits and stamps. Concurring entirely with the petitioners that these measures will be most destructive to the best interests of Ireland, I shall have great pleasure if I am enabled, by the state of Lady Duncannon's health in presenting the petition to the House of Commons, and giving it my best support. If I am prevented from attending my duty in Parliament, I shall forward the petition to some friend of mine, who will present it previous to the day on which these measures are to be discussed.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your humble servant, DUNCANNO.

Mr David Murphy, Ferrymack.

EARLY WHEAT.

On the demesne of Alexander Sherlock, Esq. of Killarney, near this City, there is a field of wheat which has put forth the ear nearly a fortnight back.

BANK NOTES—THE PUBLIC FUNDS.

To induce the population of a Country, where paper is the chief circulating medium, to reject that paper and demand gold in exchange, requires some more convincing argument than an appeal to their passions. We might, for example, affirm, as we do in a foregoing article, that such a procedure would inevitably lead to the abandonment of the New Taxes, as well as to the redress of other weighty grievances, under which Ireland is labouring—and it would be reasonable that every man should exercise his own judgment and pronounce upon the wisdom or folly of such an opinion. We will not, however, rely upon any argument founded upon the assumption that such a thing is possible or probable—but we shall endeavour to prove, that in the present financial state of England, the man who holds gold in preference to bank notes, will have his property so secure that it cannot be affected by any political change which may occur; while the owner of mere parchments or paper, runs every risk of losing all by some one of those alterations which men of great foresight believe to be fast approaching. The National Debt of England, funded and unfunded, is little short of one thousand millions of pounds sterling, so that if every human being, now on the face of the earth, were to subscribe one pound each, the subscription would not pay off the National Debt of England! Whether the Government of England is bound to pay the principal of its debt is not so much the question as whether it is able to pay it. Lord Goderich, who was formerly Chancellor of the English Exchequer, in a late speech of his, declared that the Government never intended to pay the principal of this debt, nor was the Government bound to its payment. So much then for the intention of the Government; and now to the question of its ability. It is tolerably clear that fifty millions of money, in hard cash, were to be received this moment by the fundholders, as a composition for the amount of the whole debt, the Government would not be able to procure so much gold and silver. In what then consists the solvency and financial stability of the British Government? In public opinion, and in nothing else. Take away public confidence, and off goes the debt—leaving, however, those frightful scenes of confusion such as have been concomitant causes in producing the French revolution.

Our readers cannot fail to recollect that in 1825 the consols which are now selling for 92½ were then as low as 65½; and we do believe that if ever a similar panic shall occur in England, it will be the last. The most that can be expected by a public creditor is a very low interest for his money, supposing the revenues of the country to be flourishing and productive as they are universally known to be falling off and declining. It is great folly, then, for the public creditor to expect that things can remain as they are, when it has been asserted in the House of Commons the last session that the public debt of England was greater that day than on the day of the battle of Waterloo, and it is equally foolish to imagine that the high price of the public securities is a proof of national solvency. It is clear, from these premises, that the principal of the national debt never can be paid, and that the interest cannot continue to be paid, except by such financial operations as one of Mr Goulburn's at the last session, which was the paying off certain sums in Exchequer Bills, and issuing double the quantity since that period. This is what we call "robbing Peter to pay Paul." We now come to the question of bankers and bank notes. As to the general solvency of those persons in England and Ireland, who call themselves bankers, we are not doubtful, so far as parchment debentures may constitute that solvency. But suppose there was a panic tomorrow in England, and that every man was endeavouring to turn his public securities to the best account, by exchanging them for hard cash, and that the people ran from all quarters to the banks with their bank notes, would the bankers undertake to say that they could procure gold sufficient to give in exchange for their notes? We do not believe they could procure any such thing, and the people must therefore see the propriety and safety of giving gold a preference in all their dealings. They may certainly receive bank notes in payment of goods (although we would advise their dealing in no circulating medium but gold), provided they exchange these notes for gold instantly. Can the people already forget what has happened to them by the insolencies of bankers in Ireland, and even in this City, within the last twenty years? In the City of Dublin alone there were eleven banking houses, all dealing largely in discounts, and circulating their notes far and wide. There are now in that city but five banks altogether, and three out of the five may be said to be mere commission houses. What became of the others, or what has swept away so many banking establishments, which have beggared thousands in every part of Ireland? An unbounded circulation of paper, which never could have been issued if the people had taken the precaution of not keeping a bank note at any time for four or twenty hours. Let them remember those expressions in Mr O'Connell's letter—"A gold sovereign can never be worth less than 20s; it may come to be worth 20s of a paper currency;" and we suppose it might happen that circumstances would prevent it to be worth 20s one hundred pounds of a paper currency. We trust we have said enough to convince the people of this Country, and the Counties of Wexford and Kilkenny, that they should immediately exchange their bank notes for gold.

GOULBURN'S PLEDGE—NEW TAXES.

Goulburn privately pledged himself to Mr Spring Rice, that he would bring forward the question of Irish taxation on last Monday night. We find, however, by the Parliamentary Report of Monday evening, taken from the Courier, that on being asked by Mr Rice when the question would come before the House for discussion, he answered perhaps on Friday evening.

THE DUBLIN EVENING POST.

Two airs, the impudence, and the presumption of this depository of rottenness and corruption, are quite intolerable. It should have been well content with balancing the account of its earnings by public corruption, against the account of public abuse and public indignation, with which it has been so justly visited, and not have the daring to turn upon those who have inflicted those wholesome punishments, with all the appearance of conscious innocence, and the mimic dignity of insuited virtue. In its number of last Thursday, after favouring the public with the correspondence of its two-prony London scribbler, it talks of "growing grey in the service of Ireland, and the species of reward which would be apportioned to it by those who possess its principles, as well as those opposed to it." What motive for equity can any man have to the Post who professes the same principles as that Paper? It must be a private one, we suppose—for there is no public motive to us at all apparent. For our own part, we can safely aver that our feelings are the very reverse of private enmity; and from those who know us we expect credit for the declaration we make, that nothing short of the most complete circumstantial evidence of corruption could ever have induced us to attack the Dublin Evening Post.—But we believe this country to be in a most desperate condition, and when we saw the foul and traitorous attack made upon the Presumptive Heir to the Crown, we have just so much patriotism left as prompted us to find private friendship "to the winds," for the sake of Irish honour and Irish justice, and to attack that paper which presumed (on its own character and on popular confidence) to trample on one and to abuse the other, by a line of conduct which will and ought to be an eternal stain upon its character. Let it come honestly and fearlessly before the Irish people, and say who it was that instructed it to resist that tusk which it is a waster, and it may be forgiven. But this it will not do, for the deeds of darkness will never bear the light.

Now, as to those vainglorious and frothy spouters, and those ignorant and incapable scribblers, to which it alluded, have it fully to hazard the loss of any little character which may yet remain to it, by a comparison of its original matter with that of the lowest Provincial Journal in Ireland? Is it not well known, that the Post has lived long upon its public character? Is it not well known, that every man of literary taste in the country, has been long in the habit of turning from its columns with disgust, at the mean colloquial style which almost uniformly distinguishes its original productions, and asking "is this the Dublin Evening Post which has been so much praised for its elegance and erudition?" We are, to be sure, one of those ignorant and incapable scribblers' galled at, but our knowledge of general subjects was so limited, and our abilities to display that knowledge as meagre as the knowledge and talents exhibited by the Post, we should consider ourselves much better qualified to be the action or bell ringer in a Protestant Rectory, than the Editor of the Dublin Evening Post. In fact, stupidity, a common-place and mean phraseology, and a confusion of ideas are its prominent characteristics, except in those cases where it receives an extraordinary contribution, such as we lately noticed. It has the country wit, it says, "and it ought to have it." Next to intellectual vacuity, stupid pretension is the most intolerable exhibition on earth. We assert, that if it has not the country wit, it ought to have the country wit; and we further assert, that in the present state of Ireland, the Dublin Evening Post, in the first place, is not worth one farthing a column to the cause of the people; and, in the next place, it is foully corrupt and unworthy of its existence.

NON-CONSUMPTION AGREEMENT.

The City of Waterford is generally the first in Ireland to give a practical example of its devotion to those principles of rational freedom, which distinguish the lover of national liberty from the inert and willing slave. We call upon the honest citizens, therefore, to assemble without delay and enter into resolutions declaratory of an unalterable determination to exclude from their wardrobe, shops, and houses, every description of article which may be the produce or manufacture of England or her Colonies. If the people were not ever forced to the adoption of this rigorous measure by the ruinous imposts with which the country is threatened by the British Minister, they would revert to it for the purpose of preserving their own wretched countrymen from starvation. There is, at this moment, scarcely one manufacturing town in Ireland in which the working artisans are not nearly perishing for want of the common necessities of life. Let our citizens, then, bestir themselves, and recollect that besides protesting a despotic Minister, they will feel the heartfelt satisfaction of having contributed to raise their own countrymen from a state of destitution which is without a parallel in the history of civilized nations. If those persons who call themselves the friends to the people, so much the better. If they will not let the people of Waterford act without them, they have in their city, belonging to the middle class, Peter Kenney, a man who is fit to lead any public assembly in Ireland, and who will not, we are certain, be wanting on the present occasion. Peter Kenney strongly advised the Irish to burn every thing that comes from England but the coin, and he said at the same time that "there ought to be but one banker in Ireland, and that banker ought to be hanged." The consequence, however, which we apprehend are more miserable, and consequently more practicable.

SUDDEN DEATH.

Suddenly, at New Ross, on Thursday last, where he had been to attend the fair, Michael Forrester of Rahinacorney, a decent farmer, he was leaning on a stall when he fell to the ground and instantly expired. He left a respectable widow with six children to be brought their irreparable loss. It was only on the morning of that day, the poor woman gave birth to a fine boy.

WATERFORD MARKET, Saturday, June 12.

Table with columns: Butter, Fat, Oats, Barley, etc. and rows of prices for various goods.

DINNER TO MR. MARTIN DOYLE, AT NEW ROSS.

From the Special Reporter to the Waterford Chronicle.

On Monday last, this honest man was publicly entertained, at New Ross, by a most respectable assembly of Gentlemen, collected from the Counties of Waterford, Wexford, and Kilkenny. The room in which the company assembled to dinner, being in the house of an Acalemical Institution where the Right Reverend Doctor Doyle had been educated, was most tastefully decorated by the Ladies of Ross with festoons of flowers and evergreens, presenting to the eye of the observer a combination of every tint and dye to be found in the realms of Flora. From the delicate pale of the self-examoured Narcissus to the roseate hue of the yellow-haired Adonis.

Behind the chairs of the President and Vice President were wreaths composed of laurel leaves hanging from the wall, and between the festoons, at the chair of the former, the words "Civil and Religious Liberty" were traced in vivid water-colours. The words "A man's a man for a' that," were, in like manner, painted near the Vice-President's chair, with the name of Mr MARTIN DOYLE surmounting the festoon. Equidistant from the Chair and Vice-Chair, on the right side, were the Irish characters "Eir go Bragh!" and on the opposite side the word "Ulton!" with the masonic insignia of two hands grasping each other, and the representation of two hearts beneath them.

At six o'clock, ninety nine gentlemen sat down to one of the most abundant and best served dinners we have seen, provided by Mr Kehoe, of Ross, for which he charged but six shillings per head, including a pint of wine for each person!

Doctor KAVANAGH acted as President, and E. HAY, Esq., as Vice-President.

At the right of the Chairman sat Mr Martin Doyle, Thomas Brehan, Esq. and his brother, with Dr Kenney and Mr H. West; and at the left, Lawrence Strange and James Edmunds, Esqrs.

Immediately after the cloth had been removed, and grace said by the Rev. Mr Brennan, the Chairman addressed the meeting.—The first toast, he said, was one which his inclination, and the universal custom of Ireland, prompted him to propose—

The King, and his speedy restoration to health—nine times nine. Air—God save the King.

The Chairman would next propose the true source of legitimate rights and legitimate power—that source from which Kings derive their right to govern—

The People. Cheers. Air—Garryowen.

The Heir Presumptive—the Duke of Clarence.—Cheers. Air—Tom Tughr.

The Duke of Sussex and the rest of the Royal Family. Cheers. Air—Goswick's March.

The Army and Navy. Cheers. Air—Hail Britannia.

Civil and Religious Liberty—nine times nine. Air—Spig of Shillalagh.

The Chairman then said, he would propose the health of their honest and patriotic guests; and added—We have this day assembled at the festive board, for the avowed purpose of exhibiting those feelings of respect which we all entertain for that honest man, that disinterested and uncompromising patriot, Mr Martin Doyle. Cheers. It is unnecessary for me to expatiate on the services which he has rendered to the cause of civil and religious liberty. They are too well known, and I am happy to add, duly and properly appreciated, as the numerous and respectable attendance on this evening fully evinces. Cheers.

Our patriotic and honest guest, Mr Martin Doyle, Cheers. Air—Garryowen.

Mr. MARTIN DOYLE addressed the meeting in nearly the following words:—

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Countrymen—You have, by your kindness and generosity, almost overwhelmed me—you have nearly deprived me of the power of giving utterance to what I now feel; my heart swells with emotions of gratitude for your friendship and my entire frame is in such a state of agitation that my tongue will scarcely perform its ordinary functions.—Under the pressure of such feelings, do I attempt to address you.—But what have I said?—What did I assert?—No, the sympathy exhibited, the token of friendship held forth, cannot be in order for so humble an individual—it is your own love of freedom—your ardour in the cause of liberty and Ireland which impelled you to pay respect, not to me but to those principles which I hold dear, and which in my humble station I have faithfully and always zealously maintained.—Cheers. This is which has prompted you to mark my conduct.—to stamp my political character, with the broad and never to be obliterated seal of your unqualified approbation. I shall say but one word respecting myself and that is this—that my motives in coming forward to take an active part in the political struggles of my country were pure, ardent, honest, free from selfish views, or any thing like private or personal considerations.—Cheers.—My political career is before you; all I have ever claimed was honesty of intention and purity of motive, as a political warrior in the bloody battle field of Ireland. But you have enhanced the value of my humble exertions by this signal mark of your favour. And, O Heavens! would I exchange this token of your high regard for the grandeur, and the riches of this world, I never die; and may I continue to the end of my life to merit your esteem and favour. But after a struggle, unparalleled in the history of mankind—religious liberty is established; this is the fruit of your own toil and of the unshaken spirit and unbroken exertions of the Irish people—Cheers.—But the great leader should never be forgotten. He who awakened your energy.—He who aroused the nation from a death-like sleep. He who spoke with a voice of thunder, and the almost lifeless corpse of Ireland became

invigorated—Cheers. It was principally through his invincible courage, indomitable perseverance, and mighty instrumentalities, that the great battle was won. But of what value is this achievement, if we lose sight of national amelioration?—Cheers. This is the grand consideration; this is what should occupy the mind of the patriot; he should weigh this matter in the balance of wisdom; he should ponder deeply over the miseries of the Country, in order to devise a plan by which to redress the wrongs of the people—to extend public liberty and to give us all happiness and internal tranquillity. Well, gentlemen, Mr O'Connell has prepared this plan—this mighty colossus of wisdom and courage, of political virtue and moral worth, has pointed out to us our duty—he has told us to cultivate a spirit of friendship amongst Irishmen of every religious persuasion, and we will follow his advice. Loud cheers. We will endeavour to heal the wounds of the nation, we will pardon past offences and bury in the silent tomb the remembrance of every wrong, and even the very names of those who inflicted them.—Cheers. We will still be animosities—we will make a bold effort to put an end to religious strife and discord—we will cherish a cordial feeling of affection—and a generous disposition to reciprocal friendship among all classes and creeds of the Irish people. The same of those religious feuds which have too long dishonoured the national character, will not be so much as heard of in future in our assemblies, at our political meetings, at the festive board, nor in any of the relations of civil or social life. This is the path to be pursued—this is the object which we should all struggle to carry into effect. I speak in all the sincerity of an Irishman, deeply concerned for my country's fate—and I say that no person can be more anxious to bring about a union of the people than I am—and for this particular reason, that it would prevent the possibility of anarchy or confusion in the land during the constitutional struggle which we have yet to encounter, to establish civil liberty, and to regain the plundered rights of the people. Cheers. But, come what may, the patriot should never retrocede his steps; he should ever cherish the path of political rectitude—even at the sacrifice of his life, he should not be deterred from his settled purpose of fighting the glorious battle of freedom. The stroke of death is inevitable; it will overtake the renegade, the political dissembler, and the miscreant traitor, as well as the brave, the faithful, the disinterested, and the devoted patriot. Cheers. Here the day closes, and the night comes on, and the morning never dawns on either in this transitory world. But mark the difference! The deeds of the patriot will be in constant recollection—his fame can never die—his memory will follow him to his grave, and even beyond it—their prayers will, like incense, ascend to the throne of Heaven; and there he offered up as an atonement, in mitigation of his weakness or frailties while here below. Great cheering. But, on the contrary, the exertions of the people will pass away to his grave, the selfish, the ignoble, and the degenerate man who would betray their rights, sacrifices their liberties, and thus steep their country in tears of misery, wretchedness, and degradation. The memory of such a wretch would only be recollected to be hated and despised as a Judas, a Judas, or a traitor. Oh, my friends, the picture of the one is as delightful as the other is monstrous and detestable. And here allow me to tell you that I consider the heroic O'Connell the original of the patriotic picture, while I will not name the monster that I think would suit the other—loud cheers. By now to come to practical work. We will shortly have contested Elections, perhaps in this as well as in many other counties of Ireland. This is the point to be looked to with an eye of vigilance. This is what should be considered with the most anxious solicitude. That will be the hour, the momentous hour at which the children of freedom should rally, and when the great issue comes on, they should take measures to detect the double-dealing hypocrites; those amphibious animals who live on land and water; who bask at one time in the sunshine of ministerial favour, either in reality or by anticipation, and then would faint mingle with the patriotic multitude, and inhaled, for the moment, one breath of the pure air of spoliated patriotism—Cheers. But they should not be so much as tolerated to mingle in the patriotic circle—they should not be suffered to debauch the people with their polluted touch, or to poison them with their perfidious breathings—Cheers. The connection would not only be dangerous but destructive. Hence the necessity of guarding the freshholds of Ireland against their dreadful influence, against the influence of men

Who rob the whole to bribe a part, And thus corrupt the Irish heart.

Loud cheers. As an old agitator, you will now permit me to say that I conceive no man should have the daring to put a scull forward, at the coming elections, as a candidate for the representation of any independent County in Ireland, who is representative in the present Session of Parliament, and who has shamefully betrayed the interests of his constituents, who has deserted the cause of Ireland by not supporting the measures brought forward by Mr O'Connell for her relief and amelioration—such as the nefarious tithes system, the plundering Vestry Act, and the depopulating Subletting Act. Cheers. There is but one opinion among the great body of the people with respect to these matters. They are all considered oppressive, barbarously cruel and unjust, and yet how many Irish Members supported Mr O'Connell when he called for discussion on these momentous topics? Who supported him when he brought forward the great measure of Radical Reform?—that measure, above all others, that would at once staunch the blood and heal the wounds of the Constitution—Cheers—that would give life, vigour, and animation to the whole frame of society, by an extension of public liberty to all worth of possessing it. Cheers. Will not the freeholders of Ireland, when the crisis arrives, ask the present Members of Parliament, should they seek their relief and amelioration, they shrink from Mr O'Connell on the occasions to which I allude? Why did they desert that great man, who is the real representative of the wants and wishes of all Ireland? At least the freeholders of Wexford will put these questions to those who may ask their support. Yes, I fondly anticipate that the brave Wexfordians will