

THE EVENING MAIL. Park, County of Down, June 13. -COUNTYMEN, AND BROTHERS— period in the history of our country...

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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS—TUESDAY, JUNE 17.

The Earl of DURHAM presented a petition from Birmingham and Great Torrington for relief from the Dissenters; from Newcastle-upon-Tyne for the repeal of the stamp duty on newspapers; and from Ulbridge, and two places in Scotland, complaining of the evils arising from pluralities and non-residence, and praying for church reform.

The Bishop of GLOUCESTER presented petitions against the claims of the Dissenters from Tewkesbury, the Forest of Dean, and other parishes in the same county, and from the inhabitants of Stroud, complaining of the beer shops.

THE RIBBON TRADES.

Viscount STRANGFORD said that the petitions which he was about to present were so very numerously signed, described with so much force and truth the unmerited sufferings of such a large portion of the community, and involved considerations of such vast national importance, that he could not content himself with the mere routine process of introducing them; they should be read at their lordships' table, only to be swept away the next moment into the bag which lay beneath it.

The petitions were from the city of Coventry, and from a number of places and districts connected with it, and, like Coventry, mainly dependent on the ribbon trade for support. They complained of the great and intolerable distress into which trade had fallen, and they attributed it to the overwhelming importation, legal and illegal, of French ribbons into the British dominions. The petitioners believed that the only remedy to this evil was prohibition, and they manifested that they had peculiar and distinct claims to that remedy, altogether different from those possessed by other branches of trade.

The House of Commons in 1833 to a committee of the House of Commons a bill; if such it might be called, for which that trade was indebted to the persevering efforts and to the talents and research displayed by a noble earl (the member for Cheshire), who brought to the examination of the question a degree of ability which it would indeed be well for those petitioners if their humble advocate this night possessed. The labours of the committee produced one of the largest volumes of printed evidence that ever yet was laid on the table of parliament.

He could assert that he had gone through the construction of that bulky volume, and he did not hesitate to aver that four-fifths of it were as strongly in favour of actual prohibition (at least so far as the ribbon trade was concerned) as it was possible for human testimony to be. The description of ribbons that now was, and had for years been, most in vogue, was what was called fancy gauze. In that article there was but a very small proportion of silk, and a very great one of labour, 43 per cent, he believed, on the total value, and therefore was a most improperly selected subject for exportation. In the fabrication of these ribbons the French had several great advantages over us—cheapness of labour, better materials (which they took good care to keep to themselves), and, above all, the privilege and priority of prescribing the fashion, the consequence of all which was, that by far the greatest part of the gauze ribbon used in this country was imported from France.

It would show, how little there was in France of a real desire to deal liberally with this country; it would prove how attentive the French government was to secure every possible advantage to its own subjects, when it was stated that although there had been this great and magnificent display of liberality in letting out the raw silk of France, burdened with a duty which still made it come higher to the English than to the French manufacturer, yet that in the case of the peculiar material necessary for the fabrication of gauzes and gauze ribbon (which material was called marabout, and which exceeded the sort in use in England much more than the French raw silk exceeded the raw silk which we had, and with-out which material these gauzes never could be made as good as theirs), the prohibition was still most rigidly enforced. So, in addition to cheapness of labour, the lead and priority of fashion, and their acknowledged or supposed superior skill and aptitude, the French were to have also an exclusive monopoly of the only material out of what the article could be fabricated. And yet we talked of competition, and called for bricks when straw was what to make them was denied. Competition indeed! Of the impossibility of anything like fair competition between the English and French ribbon-manufacturers Dr Bowring was again his witness. But there were other and stronger reasons for the impossibility of equal competition, and it was no less truly than pathetically stated in one of these petitions, (that from the Foleshill weavers), that, bowed down to the earth by the pressure of increasing and intolerable misery, all their thoughts occupied in devising the means of procuring a morsel of bread for their perishing families, they had little energy and spirits to devote to anticipating the caprices of fashion, or to the cultivation of taste and invention. In looking over this vast mass of evidence nothing had struck him more forcibly than the contrast between the systematic protection and support given by the French government to their own artisans, and that afforded to those of Great Britain by his Majesty's ministers. The schedule of duties fixed a duty of 11s. per lb. on plain, and 15s. on figured silks. It was discovered some months ago that very large quantities of figured goods passed as plain on the payment of the lower duty, and it appeared that this had been done in consequence of representation from the importers to the board of customs that the goods in question, though apparently "figured," were in reality made in "plain looms," the fact being that they were really and undeniably "figured," and that the representation was false and fraudulent, to save four shillings in the pound weight on the duty. Upon the silk manufacturers complaining to the board of customs of this infraction of the law, and upon full proof being given of the fraud which had been practised, an order was immediately issued that such goods should in future pay the whole duty chargeable upon figured silks. This order was acted upon for several months, and under it the full legal duty was collected. To the astonishment, however, of the silk manu-

facturers they had since learned that the commissioners of customs received instructions a few weeks ago from the treasury, founded on representations from the board of trade to rescind their order for the enforcement of the legal duty on figured silks; and the board had given instructions to its officers accordingly. It was pretended that considerable doubts arose as to whether certain goods were plain or figured. No doubt, however, need be entertained, as persons well and practically acquainted with the subject could testify that the distinction was clear and certain. But when the board of trade had the matter under consideration, they consulted, as he was credibly informed, not with the manufacturers, but with the importers; not with the parties receiving, but with the parties inflicting, injury. The French government too had renounced, and had given to our their disinterested and trustworthy testimony that the goods were plain. So the French construction of an English act of Parliament prevailed; the English manufacturers were not consulted; the importers were; and the interests of the former were sacrificed to advance the profits of the latter. The silk trade, at least all of those connected with it with whom he had conversed on the subject (and he had spoken with many of every sort and description of party and political feeling), the silk trade declared that in addition to this general indisposition to consult their interests, and this covert desire to force by some means or other a further reduction of that scanty and grudging protection which they still possessed, there were two great grievances of which they had to complain. The first was, that the amount of protection (he was speaking of the broad silk trade) granted to them by parliament was arbitrarily diminished by the Board of Trade directing that less than the legal duty should be taken. The second, which applied mainly to the ribbon-weavers, was, that although every facility was given to the French in bringing their goods into this market, and that the ruin of thousands of industrious families was the consequence, still they denied to us the very material out of which alone ribbons as good as theirs could be manufactured. What a contrast did all this present! The only party which could by any possibility be benefited neither belonged nor were connected with us; and he could not understand why, he would not say Coventry, but the innumerable villages in the empire, should be doomed to destruction, merely that a French town should rise triumphantly on its ruins. This might be called liberality; but he was no professor of that liberalism which would take the very life-blood of tens of thousands of our industrious population at home to pamper the prosperity of competitors and rivals abroad. (Hear, hear.) He remembered that a few weeks before the noble earl at the head of the government was sorely displeased because he had said that we had derived no benefit whatever from what was affectionately termed our intimate connection with France, for which we had not been obliged to pay dearly, either in the shape of national honour or of national interests. The noble earl, in a tone of virtuous and lofty indignation, then dared him to his proofs. He now gave them to him. They were embodied in those petitions, unless, indeed, the noble earl was disposed to contend that the condemnation of thousands of English families to pauperism and the workhouse, or the transfer into foreign and hostile hands of one of our most valuable home manufactures was an advancement of national interests. The noble lord then moved that the petitions (seven in number) should be read.

The petitions having been received, Viscount STANGFORD moved that they be referred to a select committee of their lordships' house. Lord AUCKLAND opposed the motion. The best course to be adopted to meet the case of the petitioners could be to revise the old rate of duties; but he had seen so much danger and alarm to the trade originate in sudden alterations in the scale of duties, that he would rather scale than hastily propose a change. For nearly a similar reason, namely, the excitement likely to be caused in the general trade by the appointment of a select committee of their lordships, and the danger of exciting expectations which it would be impossible to realize, he felt called upon to oppose the motion of the noble Viscount.

The Duke of WELLINGTON regretted very much, for the sake of the distressed petitioners for the sake of good policy and common justice, that the noble lord who had just sat down could not recur to himself the propriety of granting a committee of inquiry on this important subject. It was the duty of legislators to watch the times narrowly—it was their duty also in every time and in every country to protect the home manufacturer, and to encourage domestic industry. The complaints of the petitioners were founded on real distress and existing grievances, and it appeared to him certain that the best mode of remedying it was to raise the protecting duties.

The LORD CHANCELLOR then put the question, and a division being demanded, strangers were ordered to withdraw. On our return to the gallery, we found that no division had taken place. Their lordships were then holding a conversation on the propriety of postponing the discussion on the secondary punishments bill, and some other bills, till the latter end of the week.

WARWICK DISFRANCHISEMENT BILL. Counsel and evidence were then heard on this subject. William Parr, Lucy Good, John Wright, Thomas Box, and Catherine Phillips, were examined. When the last witness had concluded, the LORD CHANCELLOR wished to know from Mr. Serjeant Heath, did he intend to go on much further with similar evidence; and if so, when would it be all gone through—in the year 36 or 37? and what did all this tend to? Nothing but the simple fact that was already conceded, that there was treating, not a single instance of bribery, had as yet been established. Really some mercy ought to be shown, some regard to the time of their lordships' hour, and the country—(Hear.) He should be the last in the world to shut out evidence by the slightest impediment

of every man who was not bound by mere technicalities. He contended that unless the motion of the hon. and gallant gentleman was accepted, the character of this house would be compromised. (Hear.) Mr. WARBURTON would be glad to know what other course the gallant admiral could have adopted than that which he put into operation for the purpose of preventing the Turkish and African ships sailing out to spoil Greece? The only way that he could have prevented that which he contemplated was by sailing into the Bay of Navarino. He did so, and he was fired upon, and he returned the fire. Could he do any thing else? (Hear, hear.) But were not the sailors entitled to compensation for shedding their blood in the cause of their country. (Hear.) Let the gallant admiral be excepted if they would—let the government call him to a court-martial, which he sought—but let them not do an injustice to the men under the gallant admiral's command. (Hear.) Mr. O'CONNELL said that he was as much opposed to an extravagant outlay of the public money as any one, but still he was anxious that those who had served their country should be paid, and well paid, and he conceived that the British sailor who fought under the gallant admiral had acted in such a way as to deserve to be well paid. It was said there was no precedent for this grant—then this was a very good opportunity for making one. (Hear.) Did not the gallant admiral do all that he was expected to do? Did he not rid Greece of the Egyptians—(hear)—and save that country from being oppressed? (Hear.) But the case was met by special pleading in this house. The sailors who fought at Navarino had not been guilty of special pleading. (Hear, and a laugh.) They did all they were expected to do—they beat their foes. (Hear, hear, hear.) He trusted that the house would accede to the motion before it, and by doing so give a stimulus to our seamen to act with their usual spirit upon all occasions.

Mr. H. BULLYER supported the motion. Mr. J. SEBRIGHT related an anecdote told him by his father. An admiral who had a seat in that house, but was no orator, addressed the men for said, Mr. Speaker, "If you don't pay the men for serving you, you can't be expected to be served well by them." (A laugh and a cheer.) Mr. G. F. YOUNG thought that if even the gallant admiral was deserving of being called to a court-martial, still the sailors and officers who fought under him, were entitled to remuneration. (Hear.) Sir R. P. RICE expressed a hope that his noble friend would accede to the motion of the hon. and gallant admiral, and particularly as the sense of the house had been so strongly manifested in favour of the motion.

Admiral ADAMS said it was evident from the dispatches of the gallant Admiral (Codrington), that he only wanted Navarino to see the enemy and not to fight, and that he only accepted the latter course in consequence of being obliged to do so. (Hear.) It was impossible for the gallant admiral to blockade the port of Navarino, and therefore he was obliged to enter the port. (Hear.) Mr. HUME said, that although he entertained the same views with respect to the motion before the house as the noble lord (Althorp), still he thought the noble lord ought to bow to the opinion which the house had expressed in favour of the motion.

Lord ALTHORP being loudly called for, rose, and said that he had stated the grounds upon which he had opposed the motion of his gallant friend, but as the opinion of the house was so decidedly in favour of the motion he should no longer oppose it. (Hear, hear.) He congratulated his hon. friend upon the result of his persevering exertions in the cause of his officers and men. (Hear.) The motion was then agreed to, and it was further agreed that the house should go into committee on the subject to-morrow evening.

Sir E. CODRINGTON thanked his noble friend for the course he had pursued. He was sure that his noble friend, if left to his own feelings, could only have acted in such a manner. DUELING. On Mr. DUCKINGHAM rising to bring forward his motion respecting duelling. An Hon. MEMBER moved that the house be adjourned. The gallery was accordingly cleared, and forty members not being present. The house adjourned at a quarter past eight.

HOUSE OF LORDS—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18. The house met for public business at twenty minutes after four o'clock. The Roman Catholic marriages (Scotland) bill was read a third time and passed. Lord SUFFIELD presented a petition from the Society of Friends, agreed to at their annual meeting held in London, protesting against, rather than praying to be relieved from, all imposts and taxes for religious services. If relief should be granted, of course they would be glad to avail themselves of it, but entertaining little expectation of it, they had felt it impossible to abstain from protesting against the payment of tithes, church rates, &c., when they heard that a measure was in contemplation, which in their opinion would fix the payment of them upon a firmer ground. The Bishop of LONDON thought that the Society of Friends were by no means taking the best means of preserving the peace of the country, which they stated in their petition to be their greatest wish, by taking away from the church its property. The house then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18. EVENING SITTING. The SPEAKER took the chair at a quarter past five. A message from the Lords communicated their lordships' assent to the Catholics' marriage bill (Scotland), and to some private bills. RAISE TITHES. Mr. O'CONNELL gave notice that he would withdraw all the resolutions which he had intended to propose on coming into committee upon Irish tithes, except the third resolution, which was to the effect that the surplus revenues of the Irish Protestant church, above the wants of that church, should be applied to public purposes.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—JUNE 17. BATTLE OF NAVARINO. Sir EDWARD CODRINGTON said, that he wrote, in a short time after his return to England, soon after the battle of Navarino, to ask for remuneration for the men engaged in it. The answer he received from his Royal Highness, our present illustrious Sovereign, was, that there was no precedent for granting such pecuniary remuneration, and his Royal Highness commanded him (Sir Edward Codrington) to memorialize, as was done in the case of the army, when head money was granted upon such memorials. He accordingly memorialized, and Sir John Gore took him (Sir Edward) that the memorial was delivered, and Sir G. Cockburn said that the memorial was received. However, when he enquired, there was no official record of the receipt of the memorial, and he again made an application to the Lord High Admiral; a copy of the memorial was sent in, but no answer was given to it for a great length of time. At length it was replied to by the statement that it was not usual to grant head-money, and that there could be no grant made in the present instance. Now he (Sir Edward) contended that there were many instances of such grants having been made, no matter whether under the denomination of head-money or royal grant. He again applied to the illustrious personage who was then Lord High Admiral, and that personage commanded him to memorialize him as King. He did so, and the present government gave for answer, that there was no precedent for granting money under such circumstances by the crown. When the officers and men who fought under him (Sir Edward Codrington) at the battle of Navarino, asked him what remuneration they were to have, he could only tell them that the King had commanded him to apply in the way he had done. If the house negatived the motion, all he could say was, that they negatived measures sanctioned, or rather commanded, by the King. The gallant admiral instanced many cases, from Admiral Boscawen to Admiral Warren, in 1804, when such grants were made; and called on the noble lord opposite to deny that in the case of Com. Staines and Admiral Gambier were not cases to prove that precedents for granting such money were established. He did not for personal motives seek for his remuneration—indeed, he would relinquish all claims of his own; but he could not sacrifice those of the men who fought under him. Had he not prevented war and enforced peace, he would have been entitled to the usual gratuity. It would have been easy for him to have made it a war, and then he would have been entitled to the usual amount of prize money. Had he not therefore made out a case for this inquiry? He then alluded to the wretched manner in which disabled seamen were rewarded, and adverted to the bad influence which this conduct produced in the navy. The hon. and gallant officer concluded by moving that the house do resolve itself into a committee, to inquire into the propriety of moving an address to his Majesty praying that he may be pleased to take into his consideration the propriety of granting compensation to the officers, seamen, and marines engaged in the battle of Navarino.

Mr. LABOUCHERE proceeded to address to the instruction given to Sir E. Codrington, from which he read extracts, for the purpose of showing that the object of these instructions, as given by the allied powers, was to intercept seamen coming from Egypt and other places to the Ottoman Porte. He did not mention this for the purpose of saying that the gallant admiral had exceeded his instructions, but merely to show that the allied powers never contemplated the assault upon the Turkish fleet which took place at Navarino. With respect to that exploit there was he believed but one opinion, namely that it was a bold, daring, and gallant affair. Had the gallant admiral met the enemy at sea and beaten him, it would have been another thing. It was with great pain that he felt himself obliged to oppose the motion of the hon. and gallant admiral.

Sir F. BURDETT said that if the honourable gentleman had felt pain in opposing the motion, he (Sir F. Burdett) also felt great pain in siding the motion of the hon. and gallant admiral opposed by the government. Lord ALTHORP said that he, as well as every one who had been acquainted with the action in which his gallant friend had so gloriously distinguished himself, admitted that it was a most brilliant one. (Hear, hear.) There could be no blame whatever attached to his hon. and gallant friend for the manner in which he acted, for he was placed in a most delicate and difficult situation. He had conducted himself upon the occasion in a manner that reflected honor upon himself. (Hear, hear.) Although from peculiar circumstances, he looked at the action in question with feelings of great satisfaction, he yet must say that, as a public man, he felt bound to come to the decision which he had done upon this case. It was with regret that he felt called upon to oppose this motion.

Mr. BUCKINGHAM contended that the first shot fired was in effect an announcement of war—at least such would be the impression upon the mind

of every man who was not bound by mere technicalities. He contended that unless the motion of the hon. and gallant gentleman was accepted, the character of this house would be compromised. (Hear.) Mr. WARBURTON would be glad to know what other course the gallant admiral could have adopted than that which he put into operation for the purpose of preventing the Turkish and African ships sailing out to spoil Greece? The only way that he could have prevented that which he contemplated was by sailing into the Bay of Navarino. He did so, and he was fired upon, and he returned the fire. Could he do any thing else? (Hear, hear.) But were not the sailors entitled to compensation for shedding their blood in the cause of their country. (Hear.) Let the gallant admiral be excepted if they would—let the government call him to a court-martial, which he sought—but let them not do an injustice to the men under the gallant admiral's command. (Hear.) Mr. O'CONNELL said that he was as much opposed to an extravagant outlay of the public money as any one, but still he was anxious that those who had served their country should be paid, and well paid, and he conceived that the British sailor who fought under the gallant admiral had acted in such a way as to deserve to be well paid. It was said there was no precedent for this grant—then this was a very good opportunity for making one. (Hear.) Did not the gallant admiral do all that he was expected to do? Did he not rid Greece of the Egyptians—(hear)—and save that country from being oppressed? (Hear.) But the case was met by special pleading in this house. The sailors who fought at Navarino had not been guilty of special pleading. (Hear, and a laugh.) They did all they were expected to do—they beat their foes. (Hear, hear, hear.) He trusted that the house would accede to the motion before it, and by doing so give a stimulus to our seamen to act with their usual spirit upon all occasions.

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IRISH GRAND JURIES. Mr. F. O'CONNOR gave notice that he would tomorrow move that copies be laid on the table of the questions put to the candidates for the office of surveyor under the Irish grand juries bill, and of the answers given. He gave this notice, because notwithstanding what had been said by the right hon. Secretary for Ireland, he had every reason to believe that his statement on a former occasion was correct, and that the gentleman from whom he received the information was of a highly respectable character.

GENERAL REGISTRATION BILL. In answer to a question from an hon. member, Mr. BROUGHAM said that as the session was now drawing to a close, he did not intend to press the general registration bill until next session. POOR LAWS. The house then went into a committee upon the poor laws amendment bill. Clauses from 69 to 71 inclusive were agreed to. The 72d clause was struck out, on clause 73 being proposed.

Mr. COBBETT said he did not rise to oppose the clause; but he wished to add a proviso.—(A laugh.) When the honorable member for Colchester brought forward his motion upon the pension list, that is, when he asked for a committee merely to inquire how these charities were disposed of, he was told that such a motion was not consistent with gentlemanly feeling. In south, the hon. member for Colchester was not a gentleman, because he had not asked for an inquiry into these things. They ought to have a tridling addition to the clause, and he meant to move it. It ran thus:—

Provided always, and in manner aforesaid, that the father and grandfather, the mother and grandmother, child or children, of any person on the pension list, the widow, or the list of pensioners, or the widow, or any other list of pensioners received without services rendered to the public, or in any other way receiving money out of the funds raised upon the poor's rate, if such father or grandfather, mother or grandmother, child or children, be persons of substance, be liable and compellable to yield relief to their relations under all the penalties and forfeitures provided by the act of Elizabeth, and that all such pensions and allowances shall cease to be paid. He Mr. (Mr. C.) would tell the noble lord that he would press his amendment to a division, even though it might be considered unparliamentary.

Lord ALTHORP did not rise to reply to the hon. gentleman, but merely to remind hon. members who might be opposed to the pension list that they would not support it by voting against the present motion. The house then divided, when there appeared, For the amendment 118 Against it 17 Majority against the amendment 95 Clause 73, as amended, was then ordered to stand part of the bill.

The following clauses down to 92, inclusive, were agreed to. Lord DARLINGTON proposed an additional clause to make all interests of the lowest description rateable property, and be assessed to the relief of the poor, but that in all cases where the annual rent does not exceed £10, the owners, and not the occupiers, shall become chargeable for the said assessment. This clause was opposed by some, on the ground of its evil tendency as regarded the poor, as if it passed, the owners of such tenements, to avoid the rate, would pull them down. The sense of the house being taken, the numbers were— For the clause 69 Against it 10 Majority 59 It was then proposed and agreed to, that the Chairman should report progress and ask leave to sit again on Saturday at noon. The other orders of the day being read, BUSINESS OF DEATH BILL. Mr. LENNARD moved to go into committee on the punishment of death bill. The house divided, when there appeared— For the motion 50 Against it 17 Majority 33 After some discussion, Sir R. INGLIS moved that the Chairman should report progress. Upon this motion the house divided— For the motion 28 Against it 33 Majority 5 The house then resumed, and Mr. LENNARD moved that the house do adjourn.

The house having divided, and it being found that there were not 40 members present, an adjournment took place at four o'clock. HOUSE OF LORDS—THURSDAY, JUNE 19. The house met at half past four o'clock. Their Lordships resumed the consideration of the evidence on the Warwick bill. Joseph Stacell, John Stanley, William Piekering, Anne Mauser, and William Hewlett, were severally examined, after which the further proceedings on the bill were postponed to Monday. Their Lordships then adjourned at half-past nine o'clock till to-morrow.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—THURSDAY, JUNE 19. REFORM ACT. Colonel EVANS rose to move for leave to amend the Reform Act, in that part which made the payment of rates and taxes an essential qualification for voting at elections. He had last year tried without effect, to induce the house to adopt this amendment of the Act. He feared that he should not be more successful on the present occasion, though he had now a still stronger argument in favour of the motion—the evidence which had since been afforded of the practical operation of that clause in disfranchising vast numbers who would otherwise be entitled, and to whom the bill intended to give the right to vote. Yet he still felt it his duty to move a resolution embodying his opinion as to the necessity of a more perfect reform, for the purpose of placing it on the journals of that house. He would therefore move the following resolution—

That this House deem it expedient to repeal or mitigate such clauses of the Reform Act as have been found to have an unexpected restrictive operation, particularly those regarding the payment of rates and taxes; and that a revision of the Reform Act with this view is the more urgent, because the new constituency has been found to fall short, by almost half a million of voters, of the number Government contemplated, and the public

of Mr. Luke Dillon. dead rumours have been at various respecting Mr. Luke Dillon, who from this country. Applications have been for some time under the of government, the result of which communicated by Lord Wellington's letter just received at Dublin Castle, that on the 11th of the doctress laid before his Majesty to grant a pardon to the however, the restriction had been permitted to read out of Sir Luke's dominions. The foregoing paragraph Despatch, and have to express the sense in the feeling which prompted on of the very unfortunate person use name reads it. The original case was, in our judgment, consistent, and the sentence of death being in the extreme. A more severe never witnessed—that Mr. Dillon very wicked offence, no one doubt, and a well founded doubt that the actual crime for which he was condemned. Pauperism was the cause of the death of the poor, and the death of the poor was the result of the want of the poor.





