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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons – Tuesday, Feb. 2.

LORD STANLEY'S IRISH REGISTRATION BILL.

According to promise we lay before our readers the most important portions of the debate arising from the motion of Lord Stanley for leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to the registration of voters in Ireland; the principle features in the bill, it will be seen, are precisely the same, but with some slight modifications as that introduced by the noble lord during the last session.

Lord STANLEY, pursuant to notice, rose to move for leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to the registration of voters in Ireland, and spoke as follows:—In bringing forward the present motion, I feel myself relieved from the necessity of trespassing on the time and attention of the house at any length, because the subject is not only not new, but I am afraid somewhat too familiar both within and without these walls, and because I cannot believe that the house will in the present session refuse me permission to introduce a bill founded upon the same principle, and following very much the same provisions as that which, without division, I was allowed to introduce last year (hear, hear); which obtained the support of a majority on the second reading, which was much discussed in its various stages, and which I am almost warranted in saying, but for the lapse of time and delay, would at this moment have been the law of the land (hear, and cheers.) I shall therefore very briefly remind the house of the main provisions of the measure by which I sought to correct certain abuses. It is not necessary for me now to argue them, because they have been admitted on all hands—because all parties of all political opinions considered it impossible that the registration laws, as regards Ireland, should remain as they are. There exists a universal and unanimous belief and conviction, that the abuses stated over and over again to have arisen out of the registration laws in Ireland, are great and notorious; in fact, that they have become so intolerable, that remedy and regulation are indispensable (hear, hear). The first point to which the provisions of the bill of last session which in a great measure obtained the sanction of the house, were directed, was to abolish altogether certificates as evidence of the right of voting. It was considered that the system of certificates was itself a fertile source of abuse, and of the main evils connected with registration. I proposed in lieu of it no new and untried plan, but to transfer to Ireland the mode adopted in England, by making the right of voting depend upon an annual registration. The lists, we know, are here made out by certain specified officers, and they are revised by the barrister, and having been so revised are taken as evidence beyond dispute of the right of the individual claiming. I then proposed to introduce into Ireland another portion of the English system. It was, as in English counties, that any person seeking to obtain the elective franchise should give a certain notice—neither longer nor shorter than in England, and with the same degree of publicity.—The simple reason for this was that objectors, if they thought fit, might come forward to resist the demand of any party claiming to be registered. I sought also that the registration should not as now, be confined to what are called quarter session towns, nor carried on at a quarter sessions, but that the registration should be annual, as with us, and not form any portion of the business of the quarter sessions. It was not to be carried on before the barristers who now preside in those courts, but was to form the business of a separate circuit. I do not intend to alter the authority, but to change the time, and to afford greater facilities to all parties, by including in the circuits, not only quarter session towns, but others, and certain assigned districts, according to the discretion of the barristers. But there was also another portion of the bill I brought forward. Conceding, as I am willing to do, to the assistant barristers of Ireland, all competence to discharge their duties, I felt it utterly impossible that the decision of any one individual, however learned and conscientious, ought to be final in determining the right of an individual to exercise the elective franchise. What was the remedy I suggested? The assistant barrister now places on the register the name of any person having the right to vote; and supposing he has been in error, the sole remedy now is most inconvenient, expensive, and uncertain—that universally deprecated remedy, a committee of the House of Commons, and then only in case of a petition after a contested election. I believe that on every side it was considered desirable to withdraw this highly objectionable remedy. But if you withdraw this, the only existing appeal, it follows almost as a matter of course that you must substitute some other more proper, more impartial, more learned, and more certain tribunal by which a remedy can be immediately applied, which would not be costly, and which would not compel the parties to wait until the occurrence of a contested election. I take it to be universally admitted that some appeal from the assistant barrister ought to exist. I found a provision in the law, that in case of rejection, the party rejected might go before a judge of assize; and when this question was discussed last year, many arguments were used, to some of which I was not insensible. with reference to the inconvenience and expense to parties in going before a judge. With a view to these arguments, I anxiously endeavoured to find some court equally learned, equally impartial, equally free from suspicion which at the same time would afford a cheaper remedy; but I confess that my search was vain. I have heard no suggestion of any court to be substituted for thet of the judge of assize, which combined advantages to an equal extent, and free from as many inconveniences. Therefore I still propose that the appeal should be to the judge of assize, but that that appeal, instead of being one sided only in cases of rejection, should be extended also to cases of admission. But in taking this course, I am anxious to afford some protection against vexatious appeals;—and I know of no other mode of giving protection but by enabling the judge of assize to use his discretion in imposing limited costs in the event of an appeal on either side being found vexatious and void of any solid foundation. A serious objection was taken, that a person claiming the franchise ought not to be saddled with costs; but I confess I could see no valid ground for that objection The two parties, the claimant and the objector, are both discharging a public duty: one insists upon his title to the franchise, and the other comes forward on behalf of the public to prevent a legitimate claimant of that right from being deprived of his right. I see no reason why one side should be favoured more than the other, and I felt it necessary that the check arising from costs should be applied equally to the claimant and to the objector. But I was struck with one point, which, however, had not escaped my notice when I originally introduced the bill. It was alleged that it was extremely hard that a person who had obtained the sanction of the assistant barrister for his right to vote, should afterwards be subject to costs, because he affirmed the decision of the barrister (hear, hear.) The answer which occurred to my mind was, that costs were only to be awarded by the judge when it appeared that the case was frivolous and vexatious. No judge would give costs against a claimant or an objector, if he came forward not only with a plausible but a substantial ground for overthrowing or affirming the previous decision; but that there may be no difficulty on the subject, I am perfectly prepared, on the bill I wish to introduce, to place some limitation on the subject of costs, and that limitation is, that the party who comes forward to support the decision of the court below shall not be liable to costs in an appeal to the judge of assize (cheers). If that alteration seems to remove any ground for complaining or hardship I shall be very ready to introduce such a provision (hear, hear). We must remember that we do not now stand on precisely the same footing as last year, and I must be permitted to direct the attention of the house to a society formed since the conclusion of the session. It includes among its members a great number of names of persons, for some of whom I entertain a sincere respect, and for some of whom I feel strong regard. I find among them Lord Charlemont, Lord Gosford, (the noble mover of the address on the first day of the meeting), the hon. member for Armagh, Lord Clements, Mr. Sharman Crawford, and many other gentlemen, of whom I can only speak with respect. That society was formed for the purpose of entering into the details of the registration question, for the purpose of sifting it to the bottom, establishing grounds of objection, if they could be found, to my bill, and of supporting the views of government on the subject. It is the Liberal Association of Ulster, warm friends of the present ministers, while at the same time they deprecate the agitation of the question of the repeal of the union. Where I differ from them I wish to speak of their opinions with all respect, and where I agree with them I hope I may consider them valuable supporters (loud cheers). I am not to be told that these are men who are extremely illiberal—that they profess strong Tory doctrines, because having given some of their names, the house will be aware that such is not the fact (hear, hear, and cheers.) They state in their report that they are in favour of an indefinite extension of the franchise—that they are for vote by ballot, and for shortening the duration of parliaments; therefore, on points on which I have the good fortune of their concurrence, it cannot be urged as a ground of objection that they are in favour of an illiberal policy. What, then, are the points on which we concur, and what those upon which we differ?—Here let me observe that I am anxious to avoid all irritating topics—that I am most desirous of excluding angry feelings from the discussion of this question, but I am desirous also of showing and proving that on the main grounds which were last year made the foundation of imputation and personal acrimony against me, I have, without exception, the concurrence of the Liberal Association of Ulster (hear, hear, and loud cheers). My first proposal was to abolish certificates, and the Liberal Association of Ulster express their decided conviction that certificates ought to be abolished (hear, hear). I proposed that the registration should be superintended by the assistant barristers, and they recommend that precisely that course should be adopted (hear). I proposed that in all cases of claim notice should be given, and notice having been given, that the party should, by himself or by other evidence, substantiate his right to vote. The Liberal Association of Ulster prefers the system pursued in English counties, requiring public notice to be given; that body also prefers that the claimant, before he is placed on the register, should appear, and, by his own or other evidence, establish his claim to exercise the franchise. I shall take the liberty of quoting one or two passages from the report of the committee of the Liberal Association of Ulster, because they are strong in favour of the plan I recommend. It was prepared with much care and diligence, and it was read to the general committee on the 19th and 20th of November, 1840, Lord Gosford in the chair. The whole subject is there considered in detail, and the report was printed as recommended by the committee. I think no point was more attacked last year than that of the double appeal to the judges, and on this subject what states the committee of the Liberal Association of Ulster? The committee stated that they considered it objectionable in the first instance that there should be no means of appeal, except to a committee of the House of Commons. They could not approve of the English system, which gave no redress either to the claimant, or the objector, against the erroneous opinions of the revising barrister, nor would they approve of the Irish system, which confined the right of appeal to the rejected claimant. They, therefore, recommended the formation of a court of appeal, and that a right of appeal upon points of law (matters of fact being determined) should be conferred both on the claimant and on the objector; and further, that the court of appeal should be so constituted that the appellants should have costs at the discretion of the court. Here, then, are three of the main provisions of my bill approved of. The Ulster Association consider it desirable to avoid the necessity of a reference to a committee of the House of Commons. They agree that no amendment will be perfect unless an appeal tribunal be constituted, and if we do not constitute an appeal tribunal, they state that it will be only just that the appeal should lie both ways, and they say that the Irish system is objectionable, because the right of appeal is given only one way, and that the English system is objectionable, because it gives the right neither one way nor the other. I have thus enumerated the points on which I am agreed with this committee out of the house. We agree upon the abolition of certificates—we agree upon the construction of the court of registry before the assistant barrister—we agree that there should be an appeal from the decisions of the revising barrister to an appeal tribunal, and that the appeal should lie both ways as a matter of course. We have then, to all these main points of my bill the assent of the Liberal Association of the province of Ulster. What are the points in which we differ? I have endeavoured to show how much our ground of difference has been narrowed in the present session. I hope that these differences are a fair matter for calm and temperate discussion, and I trust that they will not cause the imputation to be thrown upon me that I am secretly and covertly destroying the franchise, when I am only desirous of providing a fair and efficient system of registration (hear, hear, hear.) The first point of difference between us is, whether the registration should be annual, as it is in England; or quarterly, as it is in Ireland Upon this point, I confess that I have no hesitation in saying that I have formed a strong opinion that an annual registration is more desirable, and I therefore propose that the registration should be annual and not quarterly (hear, hear, and cheers.) I do not wish to argue these objections; I only wish to point out what are the topics which are most likely to be discussed. This point, however, was discussed last year. I now stand here as the representative of my own opinion alone upon the question—a majority of the House of Commons during the last year upon a division affirmed the opinion that an annual registration was preferable to a quarterly (hear, hear.) Now with regard to the form in which the notices of claim should be given; very much has been said on this point. I have carefully looked over the form, and I have endeavoured, as far as I could, consistent with the ends of justice, to simplify it. But I must absolutely require that certain particulars should be produced, if upon these particulars is to rest the right of a person to be registered, or of an objector to insist on the removal. Then as to costs; it is proposed by the Ulster Association that, in all cases costs should be given wherever the decision is in favour of the parties claiming the franchise; it was not limited to objections that may be merely frivolous or vexatious, but if an objection failed, however well founded it might have been thought by the objector, and from whatever cause it might have failed, it would be the imperative duty of the magistrates to give the claimant pecuniary costs; not because the objection is frivolous and vexatious, but because it turns out that the objector has formed an erroneous opinion of the law. On the other hand, however frivolous or unfounded the claim may be, the claimant may give notice to be registered either at one registration or at a dozen; however frivolous or ridiculous the claim may be, the claiment is not to be visited with any of the costs to which he has put the objector, who has been obliged to appear over and over again to prove the same case, although the same objector is to be saddled with costs, if he fail, upon any single occasion, to sustain his proofs. Now, I proposed last year that in either case—and my opinion remains unchanged—the claimant or the objector may be fined in costs, not exceeding in the value of £5, or not exceeding the amount that either party may be actually put to, if less than that sum, if in the opinion of the judge either party shall have given a frivolous or vexatious claim or objection (hear, hear.) That provision, I confess, appears to me to be more fair than the proposal of the Ulster Association.—There is another impotent point to which, as it was raised last year, and as it caused a division, I wish to draw the attention of the house, particularly as in regard to this, as upon all others, I am anxious to meet the views and wishes of the house. The right honourable gentleman, the Solicitor General for Ireland (Mr. Pigot) upon the very first clause of the bill, moved to insert certain words by way of an amendment to the clause. The first clause declared that from and after the 1st day of November, 1841, no person should have the right of voting for any place unless registered according to the provision of the bill. By the bill, persons holding certificates under the present law were not to be called upon again to appear and substantiate their right, but they might be objected to. The learned gentleman the Solicitor General thought that the object of this provision to the protection of the existing voter—should be carried to a greater extent; perhaps he meant to extend it to all persons who should at any time obtain a place upon the register, for he moved to insert these words, that "in making the register of votes for any county, city, town, or borough, under the provisions of this act, the name of every person who, with such register shall be made, shall be registered as a voter for such county, city, town, or borough, shall be placed and retained upon such register, so long as his right of voting as such registered elector would continue under the present law, unless he shall have lost his qualification since he was so registered, or unless he shall have been personally disqualified as such voter, or have died; or unless his registry was effected by fraudulent personation." This amendment was carried by a majority, certainly not a large majority, of 296 to 289. As on the one hand I have come forward to maintain the views of the majority of the house when they agree with myself, so I am ready, as far as I can do so consistently, with my duty which I feel to bow to the sense of the house, even though expressed by no large majority, when it is opposed to my own wishes and my own views; but to the extent of what I conceive to be the object of this amendment I cannot concede; and with this declaration, I conclude by moving for leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to the registration of voters in Ireland (loud cheers.)

Viscount MORPETH then said—My noble friend has shown that he is so much enamoured of the subject to which he devoted so large a portion of his energy in the last session of Parliament, that he has not been enabled to resist the temptation, although her majesty's ministers have given notice—(cheers from ministerial benches, echoed by ironical cheers from the opposition) in the very first week of the session of their intention to bring forward a bill upon this subject. I say, sir, that my noble friend is so enamoured of his success and so pleased with the reception which his project obtained in the session—so delighted with the majorities he obtained—so charmed with carrying 12 clauses in the course of four months (cheers, and "Not six" from Lord Stanley)—that, determined not to be forestalled this year, he rejoices in the pleasure of having the prior words. I am not disposed, sir, to dispute with him that priority.—The extremely temperate and moderate observations with which he has made his motion (hear) would not oblige me to do so, and I hope that I do not fail in courtesy towards any member in this house, and certainly not towards the noble lord. Considering then that the bill of last session undoubtedly obtained possession of the house—that it met with what even the noble lord himself would deem unexpected success (hear, hear, and cheers,) that it drew overflowing houses, and brought down overwhelming plaudits, I am not now disposed to oppose the motion of the noble lord for leave to bring in this bill; and I have no doubt that the noble lord, and that those who support him, will be disposed to make the same concession to me when I shall, on Thursday, move for leave to bring in a bill (loud cheers.) Believing that I shall then have the fullest opportunity of explaining the views of her Majesty's government on the subject of registration in Ireland, I do not consider it necessary upon the present occasion to enter into any observations upon that subject. There are only two things arising out of the speech of the noble lord which I will mention for the sake of obviating any misunderstanding. From the statement of the noble lord I collect, that although he admits of some alterations and amendments, the main features of his present bill are the same as the bill of last year.—He alludes specially to the points that the voter should be annually called upon to prove his right to be upon the register, and to the propriety of an appeal to a judge of assize, both ways, from the decision of the assistant barrister, and he fortifies himself by a coincidence of opinion which he discovers in these particulars with the Liberal Association of Ulster, from the report of whose proceedings the noble lord has largely quoted. But I imagine that, upon a closer examination, it will appear that, between the opinions of the noble lord and the recorded sentiments of the Ulster Association, there will be by no means found that similarity of view upon which the noble lord relies (cheers.) The Association of Ulster do not recommend an appeal both ways, upon matters of fact as well as upon matters of law, and, above all, they do not recommend a double appeal, without a clear definition of the franchise. Nevertheless, if the noble lord is prepared to take the recommendations of the association of Ulster, there will be no less ground of difficulty and dispute between us than he is willing to admit. On one other point I wish to observe, that in conformity with the notice which I gave in the early part of the evening, I shall, in the measure which I shall propose on Thursday, ask the house to concur in a bill to determine the qualification as well as the mode of registering the voter; and I hope that upon such occasion I shall have it in my power to show to the house, and to show to the noble lord, in perfect consistency with what I have always said and done before upon this branch of the subject, that we cannot expect any alteration to be complete, not even that which the noble lord has recommended, and especially the appointment of any new appelate tribunal, without, in the first instance, defining the franchise (cheers.) Having stated thus much by way of precaution, and reserving to myself and to my colleagues the fullest right to object to and oppose the noble lord's measure, I shall not now divide, against leave being given to bring in his bill.

Mr. O'CONNELL complained that the noble lord (Lord Stanley) should have made no attempt to prove the alleged multiplication of fraudulent voters by statistical details. They ought to have the government measure before them before the noble lord obtained leave to bring in his bill, and, therefore, he (Mr. O'Connell) should move that this debate be adjourned till after the 4th inst.

Mr. HUME seconded the amendment.

After a few words from Mr. Smith O'Brien,

Lord J. RUSSELL said that it was evident the main features of the bill of last year had been all retained in that which the noble lord was about to bring in, and that all the same calamitous consequences must therefore still be apprehended. He did not deny the existence of abuses in the present system of registration, but he thought it singular that the abuses that existed in England and Scotland had all been passed over, while such extreme anxiety was manifested to remedy those of Ireland. At the same time, he saw no parliamentary ground for objecting to the introduction of the bill, and he should, therefore, oppose any attempt to cause unnecessary delay.

After some brief remarks from Mr. Lucas, and Colonel Rawdon, the house divided—

For Mr. O'Connell's motion to adjourn the debate,	71
Against it	261

Leave was then given to bring in Lord Stanley's bill, and the house adjourned.

House of Commons—Wednesday, Feb. 3.

Lord GRIMSTON moved that a new writ be issued for the borough of St. Alban's, in the room of the Hon. Mr. Grimston, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

FACTORY CHILDREN.

Lord ASHLEY, seeing the hon. Under Secretary (Mr. F. Maule) in his place, wished to ask him a question. At the close of the last session he moved for a return connected with the number of children engaged in factories. This return was granted, but as it included only those under 13 years of age, he wished to add to it the words "young persons."

Mr. F. MAULE did not see any objection to the noble lord's amending his motion in the manner he pointed out. As the act relating to factories classed as children those only who were under 13 years of age, those engaged in the inquiry into the factory system did not think themselves justified in giving the number of those above that age in the return moved for by the noble lord. He took that occasion of bearing his testimony to the great excellence of the inquiry, the ability with which it was conducted, and the means which it afforded of allaying a great deal of bad spirit —(hear, hear, from Lord Ashley.)

Lord J. RUSSELL, after a high eulogium on the late Mr. Rickman, moved "that this house entertains a just and high sense of the distinguished and exemplary manner in which John Rickman, Esq., late clerk assistant of this house, uniformly discharged the duties of his situation during his long attendance at the table of this house."

After some complimentary speeches of cordial assent from Messrs. GOULBURN, HUME, Sir R. INGLIS, and Mr. BERNAL, the resolution was agreed to *nem. con.*, and the house adjourned at 5 o'clock.

House of Lords—Thursday.

Their Lordships met at 5 o'clock.

Lord Holland took the oaths and his seat.

ADDRESS OF THANKS TO ADMIRAL STOPFORD AND THE OFFICERS AND MEN UNDER HIM.

The Earl of MINTO rose to move an address of thanks to Admiral Stopford, for the skill and bravery evinced by him, and the officers and men under him, in the recent operations before Beyrout. On the present occasion bravery had been signally evident; the rapidity likewise of the movements of the British was not more remarkable than the eminent success which attended their arms. Admiral Napier had at the head of 1000 men, composed of Greeks, Turks, and Austrians, succeeded in gaining a decided victory, taking with the above small force no fewer than 3000 prisoners. The noble earl (Minto) then referred to Admiral Stopford's dispatches, which have recently been published, in testimony of the accuracy of his statements. Admiral Walker also had signalised himself in a most meritorious manner, as was testified throughout the whole of the operations at Sidon, Acre, &c. He should not detain the house by going into events of so recent a date, and which redounded so much to the skill, credit, and gallantry of the British arms, he should merely move that the thanks of the house be given to Admiral Sir R. Stopford, to Admiral Walker, to Commodore Napier, to Major Sir Frederick Smith, and to the engineers and artillery employed in the fleet, for their gallant conduct and services in Syria, and that the Lord Chancellor be requested to communicate the same.

The question having been put,

Lord COLCHESTER rose and seconded the motion. The officers and men included in the motion were well entitled to the distinction. There was one thing particularly gratifying to him (Lord Colchester) and that was that one of the officers who had distinguished himself was a son of the noble earl (Minto.) He (Lord Colchester) agreed with every word which had fallen from the noble mover of the address, and to none with greater willingness than those which recorded the activity of the British in these operations. He was satisfied that the gallantry so recently shown afforded a triumphant refutation of the alleged falling off in the British navy, which he for one did not accredit (hear.) Admiral Stopford had long since signalised himself, and had long been without any particular mark of his sovereign's favour. He (Lord Colchester) took the liberty of making these remarks, being himself a member of that profession to which Admiral Stopford belonged.

The Duke of WELLINGTON bore testimony to the value of the services rendered by Admiral Stopford and the officers and men serving under him, at Beyrout and Acre. He begged to remind their lordships, and to warn them, that British ships, however well equipped, and however gallant the conduct of their officers, could not be expected to attack stone walls (hear.) There was one thing which deserved attention, namely, the smallness of the number of men lost at Acre, he had heard that the amount was not more than 60; this was owing, he believed, to the great distance, whenever the enemy's shot was fired, the havoc amongst the enemy was doubtless owing to the well directed fire of the British. But he told their lordships again that these were things which would not occur every day, and he made the assertion to guard the navy and the public from entertaining any such expectations.

The Earl of HARDWICKE said, after what had been stated, it was unnecessary for him to detain their lordships; he could not help, however, giving his concurrence to the eulogy paid to the British navy.—He perfectly concurred in the observation touching the efficiency of the British navy, which had been made by his noble friend (Lord Colchester) all those persons who doubted that efficiency were now completely answered.

Lord HILL bore testimony to the gallant conduct of Sir Frederick Smith and the officers and men employed in the land service. He cordially agreed to the motion.

The Earl of MINTO said, that within the last ten years the practice in naval gunnery had been much improved; hence the system of warfare had been somewhat changed. He said this in answer to the observations of the noble duke opposite.

The Duke of WELLINGTON said that his observation was a general one.

Some other routine business having been gone through, the house adjourned.

House of Commons—Thursday.

The Speaker took the chair, at a quarter before four o'clock.

Mr. Gladstone was introduced by Sir R. Bateson and Mr. W. Gladstone, and took the oaths and his seat for Walsall. The hon. member was loudly cheered as he approached the table.

A number of petitions praying for leave to bring in private bills were presented.

Mr. H. HINDE rose to move a resolution for the modification of the standing order upon railway bills which requires "a sum equal to one tenth part of the amount subscribed to be deposited with the Court of Exchequer," by substituting the words "one twentieth, for one tenth." The honourable member at some length stated his reasons why he considered it advisable that only one twentieth amount of the proposed capital should be paid into the Exchequer instead of one tenth. He thought the present standing order of the house operated most unfairly against parties who brought forward *bona fide* schemes, and that, if it was modified in the way he proposed, it would not give any encouragement to bubble speculations. A large amount of British capital had been invested in foreign railways, particularly in Germany and in the United States? and his object was, to find safe employment for capital at home.

Mr. J. JERVIS seconded the resolution.

Mr. LABOUCHERE said he felt bound, in the discharge of his duty, to oppose the motion in the strongest manner possible; at the same time he wished it to be distinctly understood that it was the farthest from his wishes or intentions to do any thing to prevent any plan for a *bona fide* railway from being carried into effect. His object, he said, was to prevent bubble schemes receiving any encouragement from parliament.

Mr. O'CONNELL was of opinion that the law as it at present stood gave a monopoly in railroads to the rich; he wished, therefore, to see a relaxation of the standing order

After a few words from Mr. Freshfield, Mr. J. Jervis, Sir G. Grey, and Mr. H. Hinde,

Strangers were ordered to withdraw, and the house divided, when there appeared—

For the resolution...............	15
Against it.......................	144
Majority.................	129

The motion was consequently lost.

Several petitions on various subjects were presented, amongst which were several for the repeal of the corn laws.

Mr. O'CONNELL presented a petition from the plasterers of Dublin, praying for a repeal of the legislative union.

In answer to questions by Sir R. Inglis, relative to the connection of the British government of India with idolatry therein,

Sir J. HOBHOUSE said he could have no objection to lay on the table of the house a dispatch received from Lord Auckland on the subject of idolatry in India. In fact, he should feel it his duty to night to move for full returns on this important subject. He considered what had been done in Bengal respecting the pilgrim tax and the attendance of British soldiers at funeral obsequies, to be quite satisfactory. The right hon. baronet then stated that he should be happy to lay the correspondence between the government at Bengal and that of Madras before the house, and it would then be seen that the subjects alluded to by the honorable baronet had not been lost sight of. It had been distinctly ordered by the government of India. that British troops should not be compelled to attend at the religious ceremonies and funerals of the natives; and he was not aware that these directions had been in any one instance violated. He was confident that the directors of the East India Company were most anxious to carry the orders of the governmen into effect.

PUNISHMENT OF DEATH.

Mr. FITZROY KELLY begged to ask whether it was the intention of the government to propose any measure for the further abolition of capital punishment.

Mr. FOX MAULE said that he was not, however, prepared to say that it would be co extensive with the measure which the hon. and learned member had formerly introduced.

Mr. FITZROY KELLY then gave notice that he would, on Tuesday next, bring forward the motion of which he had given notice for leave to bring in his bill.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS—(IRELAND.)

Lord MORPETH said he confessed that he rose, on that occasion with some anxiety, both on account of the intrinsic merit of the question itself, as well as the special interest which had been more recently attached to it, from its having, in fact, served as a pivot on which the struggles of political parties, of late had materially turned, and from its bringing him into something like rivalry with the noble mover of another registration bill on the opposite side of the house in the way in which rivalry could alone subsist between them—that was between the qualities of their respective measures—certainly not between the proposers. He would therefore beg that the house would follow him on the occasion with indulgence and attention. Whenever the subject had been before them on previous occasions, as they had been correctly reminded by the noble lord the member for North Lancashire on a previous evening it had been allowed upon all hands that great imperfections and abuses attached to the present question of registration in Ireland, which both admitted and called for remedy (loud cries of hear, hear, hear.) As to the precise extent of those abuses, as to the degree in which any fraud was practised, and as to its comparative extent either in this country or in Scotland, there might be, and he declared there had been differences of opinion; but still it had been admitted generally that great means and facilities for fraud existed in the present system of registration in Ireland, and it had scarcely been denied by any one who had addressed himself to the subject, that occasional instances of fraud had taken place. The point which had been most frequently adverted to, was a system of certificates, and the facilities afforded thereby for fraudulent personation of either dead or absent voters, and the retention of persons on the registry, who, after they had once been placed on the list were left there without any opportunity for subsequent correction or revision, during the whole period for which the registry remained in force—that was under the present Irish reform law for a period of 8 years. Now those certainly were practices for which no one would stand up and which every one who had spoken on the subject professed himself anxious to correct (hear.) In any measure, therefore, which her Majesty's government would bring forward, they would endeavour to put an end to such palpable and obvious abuses as those to which he referred. The unequal and one sided system of appeal which was confined to an appeal in favour of the franchise, which was limited to the claimant, and denied to the objector, had also formed a subject of general complaint. As to the precise extent of those imperfections and abuses, to the degree in which frauds had been practised, and to the comparative extent, with reference to those existing in the registrations in England or Scotland, there had been, he admitted, great differences of opinion. Into that question it was not his intention at that moment to enter. It would be sufficient on that point to admit, as he freely did, that great facilities for fraud existed in the present system of registration in Ireland, and it could not be denied by any who had seriously considered the subject that many instances of such frauds had occurred. Those frauds took place in the system of certificates, in personating dead or absent registered voters, and the retention on the registry of persons who, after they had been once placed on the list, were left there without any opportunity of subsequent revision during the whole period for which the registry continued, which was for the period of eight years. Those were evils which all were anxious to correct, and therefore in any measure which the government introduced on the subject the putting an end to those abuses would form a prominent feature. The present unequal and one sided appeal in favour of the franchise, which was restricted to the claimant and denied to the objector, formed another ground of complaint and source of abuse. When the case had been gone into at the registration, and when all the necessary deeds and documents had been produced, whether those documents could be produced at another tribunal or not, he did not think it fair to grant such an appeal or re-hearing as the matter of fact. He thought, however, that it was but fair to give an appeal both ways—that was, for and against the franchise, on all matters relating to the legal merits of the case, but with this proviso, that they first placed the franchise on a clear, distinct, and intelligent ground. and not as at present, on a very doubtful and ambiguous basis. He was prepared, as was the noble lord, (Stanley,) to abolish the use of certificates, and to make the register at the same time of voting the test of the

right. He was also ready to admit of periodical revision, and he repeated, ready to allow of an appeal both ways, provided the franchise were clearly and fully defined. As to the periods of revision, he was willing to let it be once a year, as in this country, and as the noble lord (Stanley) had proposed in his bill; but while he went thus far with his noble friend, and he was glad to go with him as far as he could, he was not prepared to give up one point for which he had contended last year, though he admitted without success, which was to leave to the voter the right of registration at the quarter sessions' court—that court with which he was most familiar, and which had been so long, he might say, in his possession. When a voter was once on the registry, he (Lord Morpeth) proposed that he should be entitled to have his claim reviewed for any change made in his tenure or his franchise; but if nothing occurred to disturb that—if it remained the same as when registered, he would not make his right to vote subject to any further disturbance. He did not go with his noble friend (Lord Stanley) in rendering the voter liable to be disturbed, year after year, upon a point which had been already decided and settled, and thus to go on to the end of all recorded time. Suppose one revising barrister who took a very liberal view of the franchise, and admitted the claimant; another, who took a more confined view, would dismiss him. But, after admission, an appeal might be made under the noble lord (Stanley's) bill to the going judge of assize, who might strike him from the list. The noble lord was ready, it now appeared, to give up the clap trappings of his hydra headed measure, by abandoning the various and annoying notices; and he also admitted that the objector to the voter on the list was bound to state the ground of his objection. So far he agreed with the noble lord but he could not go along with him in making the judges of assize the court of appeal. This had a tendency to contaminate the important functions of the judges; not in fact, but at least in the estimation of the voters, and to have their decisions regarded as the result of party feelings and prejudices. He would propose that the court of appeal should consist of three barristers appointed by the speaker, and sitting in Dublin. Speaking of the court of appeal, he was naturally led to the elective franchise. His noble friend had charged him with having mixed up the question of the franchise unnecessarily with his bill. He denied that he was liable to that charge. What he had said, and now repeated, was, that before they constituted a court of appeal they were bound to put the franchise on a clear and distinct basis.—(hear, hear.) In fact, any one who had attended to this subject could not doubt the propriety of considering those two points distinct from each other. Before they took any important step as to the right of the voter, his franchise ought to be most clearly defined. This was the most necessary as they found that such differences of opinion were known to exist respecting it. They found that in Ireland the judges were divided on it; the assistant barristers did not agree on its definition. In that house the two great parties were opposed on the question, and even if they looked to the friends of the Reform Bill, they would find difference of opinion on the same point. Thus they found the very framers of the Reform Bill not agreeing as to the question of the franchise. He would ask whether, under such circumstances it was not the duty of Parliament to put an end to such a state of doubt, and whether this should be by one or by two bills. He (Viscount Morpeth) further expressed the wish of government that a basis should be found for the settlement of this question which should be unconnected with electioneering matters, and still more, that it should furnish in itself a check against the operation of motives of that kind. Now, he thought that a basis, which united in itself those requisites was to be found in the valuation for the poor law rate, as prescribed in the recent Poor law act for Ireland. This valuation was made for a fixed and definite sum; the rate was assessed for purposes totally distinct from the franchise, or any other electioneering matter. As to the check which he had mentioned as desirable, if a wish to obtain the franchise would induce men to endeavor to be placed on the register, so the wish to spare themselves a pecuniary burden, which he thought would be found an equally potent motive, would induce them to endeavor not to be assessed to the poor rate for more than they were worth. In the course of the discussion on this subject which took place last year, the hon. baronet the member for Mallow (Sir D. Norreys.) said that he "regretted to find that the qualification for voting was still to be left depending on opinion and not on fact. Whichever form of oath the solicitor general adopted, still the vexatious proceedings consequent on the proof would be left unremedied, Proof on oath of value would still be given—still to be met by proof on oath of the contrary. Landlords would still be arrayed against their tenantry, and the tenantry against their landlords Why not, now that the country had been placed under the Poor Law Act adopt some standard of qualification which should be a fact not capable of contradiction? It would be a boon to the country, which he hoped might originate with his hon. friend the solicitor general, if some measure were introduced, which, should make the amount at which every man was rated, or the valuation of his property under the Poor Law Act, the standard of qualification, instead of the present uncertain and most vexatious system." In previous years the house was not furnished with any sufficient information as to the probable working and result of the poor law valuation, and consequently it would have been premature, and proceeding too much in the dark, to resort to any final legislation on such a measure. He was afraid that even at the present day they were not furnished with such complete information as was desirable upon a point of so much importance; but government had thought it their duty to exert themselves to the utmost to acquire such information as it was in their power to gain and collect, and digest the results. As soon as possible after the close of last session, his right hon. and learned friend the attorney general put himself in communication with the poor law commissioners with the view of ascertaining in what unions the valuation was in such a state of progress as would throw most light on the subject, and show the working of the system in different parts of the country, and under different circumstances. His honourable and learned friend selected two friends of his profession, on whose character and intelligence the fullest reliance could be placed, who were directed to refer to the unions pointed out by the poor law commissioners as those where the fullest information could be obtained, and there to inquire into the valuation made, and into the manner in which it had been drawn up, comparing them, where it was possible, with the lists of electors registered under the Reform Act. The gentlemen to whom he alluded, Messrs. Hayle and Vesey, visited the unions of Balrothery, Belfast, Clonmel, Carrick on Suir, and Carrick on Shannon, It certainly was to be regretted, that the imperfect state of formation in which most of the unions were at that time had prevented them from extending their inquiries, but the uniformity of the results they had observed gave reason to think that similar conclusions would have been arrived at throughout the whole of Ireland. The noble lord then read an extract from a report addressed to him by the commissioners of inquiry, which stated that in several unions visited by them they had inspected the rate books of the boards, and the regulations made with respect to valuation. In every case they had found that there was a tendency to a low valuation, in consequence of the anxiety of persons not to be rated at high amounts. The valuators had almost universally reduced their valuation below the amount of rent levied by even the most indulgent landlords of Ireland. In the High street of Belfast, on the property of the Marquis of Downshire, the valuation was sometimes 13 per cent. under the rent actually levied. In the union of Balrothery, among 200 electors occupying houses of £10, 56 were rated at a less value, and 17 were rated under £5. In Longford these gentlemen found the valuation under the poor law act lower than the rent, and in one instance they found the rate at 26s per acre, while the rent paid was 35s. In Carrick, Balrothery, and Naas, they also found the rents much above the valuation under the Poor Law Act. In Balrothery there were 200 electors, whose rating had been ascertained. Of those 200 there were rated for sums under £10. 50 persons, and for sums under £5 17 persons. In Lurgan there were 328 £10 electors, of whom 70 were rated under the sum of £10. In Parsonstown, of 220 £10 electors 79 were rated under £10 and 17 under £5. In Searriff, of 66 £10 electors 33 were rated under £10 and 20 under £5; and in Longford, of 167 £10 electors 9 were rated under £10. There were no returns from Bandon, Fermoy, or Clonmel. Now he (Lord Morpeth) thought that these facts went to show that the rated net valuation of £10 would raise the franchise very far above the solvent tenant test, or the occupier's profit test, and he thought it was equally clear that there were instances in which even the rated net value of £5 might in fact raise the standard of the elective franchise higher than was now practically enforced in Ireland under the Irish Reform Act. He was aware, however, that if the test of rating in the poor law valuation was applied to the elective franchise, there would be in some instances, and to a certain extent, a counter motion brought into operation for making a person wish to have himself rated higher in order to acquire the franchise; but, as had been expressed by the right hon. baronet the member for Tamworth, in the speech from which the (Lord Morpeth) had already quoted, it was an inherent feeling of the human breast which would seldom induce any person to seek to incur the smallest possible pecuniary burden. particularly when it was remembered that the exercise of the elective franchise was an advantage and a privilege which could only be enjoyed occasionally, while the pressure of the rate, which was annual and permanent, would serve as a drawback on the desire to acquire the franchise. When the legislature was called upon to make any large alteration or settlement of the elective franchise in Ireland, he thought it would not be expedient to raise its standard. He had already quoted his reasons for believing that, taking the test of the poor law valuation, there was a very considerable nominal reduction of value, and that practically, and in fact, scarcely lower the *bona fide* amount of value beyond that now proscribed by the Irish Reform Act. It would be hopeless and chimerical to attempt to fix any precise sum as an exact equivalent for the amount of value prescribed by the Reform Act, but he thought the Poor Law Act, of which he availed himself for testing the reality of the value, would also supply some criterion for fixing its amount. The 72d section of the Irish Poor Law Act ran thus:—"Provided always, and be it enacted, that in any case where the net annual value shall not amount to £5, if the occupier or lessor by any writing under his hands require and the board of guardians should agree to the same, the immediate lessor should be rated instead of such occupier." Now, he proposed to fix the standard at the same amount of value where the Irish Poor Law Act fixed the liability of the occupier to the payment of the rates from which, as a matter of necessity, he could not discharge himself or shift the liability upon the owner or any other person—that was to say, taking the test of the poor law valuation, he would also take, as the amount of rate requisite to give the elective franchise, the rated net value of £5. He did not propose to make any material alteration in the tenures under which the franchise was at present enjoyed. He knew that some persons would fix the franchise purely on the rate without reference to the nature of the tenure, and then make the right of voting entirely independent of the period of interest which the occupier had in his holding, and he also knew that one or two plausible reasons might be stated in defence of that principle; but he thought the principle was unfair in a constitutional point of view, and the working of the £50 tenant at will clause in the English Reform Act did not fill him with an irresistible wish to extend that innovation to the entire population of Ireland.—(hear.) It was true this innovation would make the occupier entirely independent as to his right of voting of his landlord giving him a lease, but from all that had been stated, whether truly or not it was not for him to decide, about the mode in which some landlords dealt with those of their tenants who did not coincide with them in politics, he thought the adoption of the principle to which he had adverted would expose a much larger and more helpless class of voters to much greater real dependance upon the landlords, and to much severer risk of retaliation, for voting against their will. He owned he valued much the right to the elective franchise, but he set a still higher value upon the maintenance of harmony and good will among all classes, and while he would repress all undue aggression upon one class by another, yet he would not origisate any proposition which might have the effect of creating or inflaming differences. He should therefore propose, as a qualification, to annex to the possession of a tenement rated at the net value of £5 the possession of an interest in the holding of which the original period or term was not less than 14 years—in other words, the lowest tenure in the Irish Reform Act. His plan he thought, would relieve the voter from the meshes of an unsettled machinery, which carried with it the seeds of endless doubt and conflict, and the continued array of antagonist parties, who would choke and smother the elective franchise altogether. The system he (Lord Morpeth) now rendered in preference to that propounded by the noble lord opposite (Lord Stanley) would put an end at once to every possible litigated point—it applied a test which at once distinctly ascertained the value, and supplied in itself a countervailing check against the introduction of any abuse; and lastly, it came down to the house recommended by the confirmed suffrages of the best authorities. He now moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to the qualification and registration of Parliamentary voters in Ireland (hear, hear, and cheers.)

Lord STANLEY, under any circumstance, should have been inclined to follow the examples of the noble lord the secretary for Ireland and the noble lord the secretary for the colonies, on a previous occasion, and on the present motion for leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to parliamentary elections, or as it had been altered within the last 48 hours, a bill to amend the registration and to alter the qualification in Ireland—(hear, hear)—under any circumstances, he should have been inclined to follow the examples of the two noble lords opposite. and to abstain on a motion for the introduction of such a measure from offering any objection to that motion, or any observation on the contents of the bill itself. But if under any circumstances he should have adopted such a course, more especially was he called upon and bound to abstain from making any observations on the measure proposed when the noble lord the secretary for Ireland, by a postscript—an indispensible postscript ineded, but still a postscript—introduced by way of a clause or appendage to his bill, and scarcely under the pretence of defending the elective franchise, proposed what was, in fact, a new reform bill for Ireland—(hear)—founded upon principles unknown in Ireland, unheard of in England, and which no human being had ever dreamed of applying to, or establishing in, Scotland (great cheering.) To imagine that the noble lord could have appended such a postscript to a bill for amending the registration, not as a remedy for the abuses which he fully acknowledged, but, as he said, with a view of amending the franchise, was certainly a course of proceeding which he could not comprehend. He would ask whether, without notice having been given before to the house or to the country—whether, without any information on the subject being before the house, and without the noble lord himself being in possession of any certain and positive information relative to a matter of so much importance, it was possible for any one, even for the noble lord himself, to judge of the effects of a measure which went to alter the whole system of the elective franchise established in Ireland? (hear, hear). But what was the authority upon which the noble lord proposed to found a measure of such an extensive nature, and to justify this wide deviation from every principle of law as established in England and Scotland with respect to parliamentary elections? (hear, hear.) The noble lord founded his measure on the information furnished to him by two gentlemen, who were friends of the right honorable gentleman the attorney general for Ireland, and who had been sent privately by the noble lord to ten of the poor law unions in Ireland, and who had brought back a return which the noble lord read only in parts, and in manuscript, as he had received it, and which he was not even prepared to say that he should lay, imperfect as it was, upon the table of the House of Commons, to enable the house to judge of the propriety and of the necessity for this enormous alteration of the law of parliamentary elections. (Loud cheers.) It was impossible for him, as the noble lord has read the statements of those two gentlemen, and which they had derived from the poor law commissioners, or more properly from the poor law guardians of the ten unions they visited, and in all of which places a different mode of valuation and a varied principle of assessment seemed to prevail—it was impossible for him to ascertain on what principle the valuation had been founded on which the noble lord proposed to rest the fabric of his bill. It appeared to him. and in this matter he hardly knew from the noble lord's reading whether he ought to believe the evidence of his senses or to hold that he was under a missapprehension as to the noble lord's meaning, but it appeared to him that the noble lord had told them that this valuation was founded, as the noble lord considered, on the net valuation of the property according to the rent which a fair and just dealing landlord would expect to let it for. Such, at least, was his view of the statement of the noble lord, and yet the noble lord told them that such a valuation, independent of a deduction of £5, £6, or £10, was nevertheless found to be 50, ay, even 100 per cent too high for many of the persons at that moment on the registry, and by the present law entitled to vote at any election.—(Loud cheers.) The noble lord, told them, that in the union of Balrothery, near Dublin, there were 200 £10 electors registered, each of whom was supposed to have "beneficial interest" of £10 a year in the property giving the vote. But what did the noble lord say further? The noble lord told them that of those 200 electors he found no less than 50 registered, the whole value of whose property in the tenement and land was less in each case than £10—(hear, hear)—and 17 whose property was not worth more than £5; and yet those persons were registered as having a beneficial interest of the value of £10 a year over and above the rent of the tenement, and land which entitled him to vote (loud cheers.) The noble lord had said that such a statement might be a triumph for him, (Lord Stanley) and it was indeed a melancholy triumph—(hear, hear)—for until he had been told so on the authority of the noble lord he could hardly have believed, great as he knew the abuses of the existing law had been, that fraud had been carried to such an enormous extent as he now learned for the first time it had been carried in Ireland (cheers.) The noble lord said that the measure which he proposed was a very large alleviation of the existing law and a fresh settlement of the franchise in Ireland, and no doubt that was the fact (hear, hear.) He should not follow the noble lord through the reports which he had borrowed from the hon. and learned gentleman the member for Dublin, and which indeed the noble lord confessed were the peculiar property of that hon. and learned gentleman, and which were prepared with a view to institute a comparison betwixt the population and representation of several counties in England and Ireland; but he should like much to know whether the members of her Majesty's government held that it was the object of the Reform Bill for Ireland to base the franchise on population and not on property?—(Hear, hear.) He, (Lord Stanley,) as a member of Lord Grey's government, remembered well that it was clearly and explicitly laid down, and distinctly stated in that house, that the elective franchise was to be based on property, and not on population; that the right to vote was to be given only to that part of the population in possession of a certain amount of property sufficient to afford some test of the respectability and intelligence of the claimant to exercise the franchise in a proper manner—(hear, hear.) If that was the subject of the Reform Bill, then he would ask the noble lord, and the noble lord would correct him if he was wrong, whether he was correct in understanding him to say that the object of his proposal was to form the parliamentary election lists so that every man who occupied a domicile with a portion of land attached, and which together were of the value of £5, should be entitled to exercise a privilege which was now restricted to a property of the value of £10, with a 14 years' interest? That then was the proposal of the noble lord, and he must confess that he had heard it with very great astonishment—(hear, hear.) He had heard a great deal against the £10 electors in counties, but the noble lord proposed to deluge the country with a still inferior class of voters, and to give to every person who had a fourteen years' interest in a cabin with a patch of land in Ireland, which might be valued at £5, a right to be placed upon the register, and all this the noble lord proposed to accomplish with the view of creating a body of free and independant electors—(loud cheers.) He hoped he had not misunderstood the noble lord's proposals, and from his silence he believed he had not done so; and, if he had rightly comprehended his statements, he should not prematurely comment on a single point or detail of the measure which it was proposed to bring forward, nor should he offer any opposition to its introduction. When the bill was printed and laid upon the table of the house, he would leave it to tell its own tale, and to make its way, if it could make way, in that house, and with the people of England, the people of Scotland, and the people of Ireland—(tremendous cheers.)

Lord HOWICK had stated last year that he was persuaded the existing system of registration afforded facilities for fraud and temptations to false swearing and to breaking through and evading the law as it stood; and, taking that view of the matter, he could not regret the opinions which he had then expressed.

Mr. O'CONNELL before adverting to the bill, wished first to notice what had been stated by the noble lord the member for North Lancashire with respect to the parish of Balrothery. It was stated that 50 out of 200 electors who voted for members to serve in Parliament were rated in the poor law valuation. Now, the registrations for the county of Dublin were presided over by a gentleman who, before he was placed on the bench, was said to entertain Conservative opinions. That gentleman was chairman of Kilmainham, and had been accused of wearing and exhibiting an Orange badge on circuit. He (Mr. O'Connell) did not know whether the charge was true or false, he hoped and believed it was the latter; but, whether true or false, it served sufficiently to indicate the tendency of his political opinions. Be that as it might, no man looked more strictly to, or held a higher hand with the qualification, which he construed in the solvent tenancy acceptation, adhering strictly to the act. The fact would show sufficiently the state in which the registrations stood, and that the poor law valuation was made at an extremely low rate, or, in other words, that the property was much undervalued.—(Hear.) With respect to the present bill, he was in the same position as the noble lord the member for North Lancashire as regarded the details, having only been made aware of them that night. He, however, had heard them with great satisfaction, He was sure they would be received with the same feeling in Ireland, and he admitted that the bill would have the effect stated by the noble lord the member for Northumberland, of depriving him of one of his most powerful levers (hear.) He would not then enter into a discussion with the noble lord as to the feelings of that house towards Ireland, in affirming the bill of the noble member for North Lancashire,

Mr. SHAW was not at all surprised that the bill of the noble secretary for Ireland was satisfactory to the right hon. gentleman, for, in fact, the noble lord might as well call it a bill of universal, or at the least of household, suffrage. The noble lord proposed to reduce the franchise to £5 for a vote in the election of a member of Parliament, whilst last year they all agreed that the qualification for electing a town councillor should be £10. The bill of the noble lord would have the effect of repealing the Irish Reform Act, and would altogether introduce a novel principle into the system of representation. The proposition was altogether monstrous.

Mr. HUME wished to know what was there monstrous in granting to the people of Ireland a full and fair representation. He was satisfied this bill, if passed, would put an end to the agitation and discontent which existed in Ireland, would serve more effectually than anything else which had been done to allay the excitement in that country and deprive the hon, and learned member for Dublin of much of the power which he at present possessed.

Sir R. BATESON could not sit and silently hear it insinuated that Ireland was misrepresented in that house. He would ask hon. members opposite to name any county in Ulster from which a petition had been sent against the bill of the noble member for North Lancashire (hear, hear.) The province of Ulster contained as much respectability, as much intelligence, and as much property, as any other province in Ireland, and at a public meeting called to represent the opinion of that province, a vote of thanks had been passed to the noble lord for having brought in the bill, which had been assailed with such gross scurrility, and such unfounded abuse. He was aware of his own knowledge that the general feeling of Ulster was favourable to the bill of the noble member for North Lancashire, and Ireland could not be said to be misrepresented by members who voted for a measure which had the sanction of a province whose wealth, intelligence, and commerce contributed more to the welface of the country than any of the other three.

Mr. J. O'Connell said that as to the extreme respectability of the meeting to which the hon. member for Londonderry (Sir R. Bateson) had referred, the house must take the hon. member's word for that, inasmuch as, with the exception of the hon. member and one or two others, the names of those who attended the meeting were shrouded in mystery.

Mr. Sergeant JACKSON did not rise to oppose the bill, but to state that he had hoped that the ridiculous and absurd attacks which the house had formerly heard made upon the noble lord as to his enmity to Ireland had by this time ceased. The present debate he hailed as a proof that they were now in earnest and *bona fide* about to remedy the defects of the existing system of registration in Ireland. No man could any longer deny those effects; the whole empire agreed about it; and the noble viscount was coerced by public opinion to bring in this bill. He (Mr. Sergeant Jackson) confessed he had expected something very different. He had expected a bill for defining the franchise; for defining not what the law is, but what it is not. The hon. and learned gentleman had stated that the chairman of the quarter sessions for the county of Dublin, Mr. Blacker, had worn an orange badge on circuit. Of this he (Mr. Sergeant Jackson) had never yet heard; he had never heard that Mr. Blacker had been guilty of any such indecency. But talk of badges! It became the hon. and learned gentleman to talk of party badges still less than any other man, when he came down to the house every day with his repeal buttons (hear, hear) [Here Mr. O'Connell displayed the gilt button which he wears on the breast of his coat.] The hon. and learned sergeant concluded by saying, that he was quite ready to join with the noble viscount in examining the bill, with a view, if the bill of his noble friend should not pass, to improve the franchise by means of his.

Mr. O'CONNELL said that he had not spoken of Mr. Blacker with a view to disparage him, but in illustration of a fact. It was the hon. and learned sergeant who seemed to think that wearing an orange badge was derogatory to a public character.

Mr. Sergeant JACKSON said he merely meant to say that he was very sorry if any member of the bar wore any particular badge, by which he must render himself offensive to others.

Mr. V. STUART said that he and other hon. members admitted the evils pointed out by the noble lord opposite, but then they could not consent to apply the noble lord's remedy. From his own observations on the state of things in the county of Waterford he could state, that, owing to the trouble and inconvenience of the present system, there was an apathy come on which was dangerous to the country. If the Irish were to have a representative system, the house ought to give parties entitled to the franchise an easy mode of acquiring their rights. If they did not concede this they would have what he must call an illegal Parliament, sitting in Dublin.—(hear, hear.) That would be the end of it.—(hear.)

Mr, LITTON had some knowledge of Ireland, and he could say that the bill of the noble lord (Stanley) was received by all the influential and respectable classes of the people, and by the mass of intellect in that country, as a useful bill, well calculated to put down the demoralising system which existed in the registrations; and he denied that the lower classes of electors in Ireland looked with regret at the prospect of the passing of the bill. The petitions in favor of the bill had been most numerous, from the north and south the east and west. With respect to the definition of the franchise in the bill of the noble lord opposite (Morpeth) he would assert that no man who knew Ireland would think it a proper one.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

Mr. BROTHERTON moved for a return of all agreements for the commutation of tithes which have been confirmed by the tithe commissioners, from the 1st day of July, 1840, to the 1st day of January, 1841.

The House adjourned at half past ten o'clock.

House of Lords—Friday.

Lord REDESDALE postponed Lord Ripon's motion with respect to Persia. Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition for the equalization of the duties on East and West India produce, and was speaking in support of the petition when he was interrupted by the Duke of Wellington being seized with a fit. His Grace was led out of the House by the Peers near him. Lord SHAFTESBURY brought up some regulations to be observed at Lord Cardigan's trial.

Their Lordships then adjourned.

House of Commons—Friday.

A new writ was ordered for the King's County.

Lord STANLEY gave notice that on Monday he would put some questions relative to the arrest of of Mr. M'Cleod by the American authorities.

Lord J. RUSSELL moved votes of thanks to Admiral Stopford and the officers and men engaged in the Syrian war.

The motion was seconded by Lord STANLEY, and supported by Lord F. EGERTON, Lord INGESTRE, Mr. HUME and Sir H. HARDINGE, and unanimously adopted.

Sergeant TALFOURD moved the second reading of the Copyright Bill which was lost upon a division.

Lord MORPETH brought up the Irish Registration Bill which was read a first time.

The house then adjourned.

PRICE OF IRISH STOCKS—MONDAY.

Bank Stock	—
3 per Cent Consol	88⅜
3½ per Cent. Stock	96¼½
3½ Debentures	89½

The Mail.

WATERFORD, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10, 1841.

Lord Morpeth's mountain has laboured and produced—not a mouse, but—a MONSTER. On Thursday evening his lordship produced the Government measure for correcting the Registration and *defining the franchise* in Ireland; and instead of its affording any remedy to the admitted evils which it affects to cure, it proceeds to repeal the Reform Bill and enact a revolution in Ireland. By this bill it is proposed to define the £10 franchise to be a franchise of £5 yearly value—whether in house or land, or both together, provided it be held for a term of fourteen years; and this, together with the other facilities to fraud, which the bill affords, would be to create a household franchise far more extensive, degraded, and mischievous than the old forty shilling freehold franchise. Mr. O'Connell, of course, approved of the bill. He said it was precisely the measure of justice which Ireland required; and though his cry has uniformly been for such franchises as are enjoyed in England, in Scotland, and in Wales, he now sets up his rest upon a franchise hitherto unknown in Ireland, unheard of in England—undreamed of in Wales, and which no human being—as Lord Stanley observed—ever thought of applying or establishing in Scotland. A franchise thus universal, thus more pernicious than the forty shilling freehold would, if created, be the violation of the Catholic Relief Bill, and the repeal of the Reform Bill of 1832. If enacted, it would be so, only to gratify the clamours of the Roman Catholic party. But what! Are they to have emancipation and not pay what they agreed to pay for it? Are they to have seats in parliament and the forty shilling franchise—or one more extensive—besides? Are they to hold the privilege, but void the security? Yes: this is Mr. O'Connell's moral. Hold the franchise, but withhold the price. Take possession of the advantage, and then, with the power thus acquired, resume the equivalent. This must not, cannot, will not be. Neither house of Legislature will countenance the desperate fraud. England will not endure—Scotland will not endure—Wales will not endure—that their restricted and moderate franchises shall be overpowered by the loose and unfettered franchise of Ireland: they will not tolerate that their representation shall be a representation of property, and that of Ireland a representation of numbers. No, no. The proposition is too bare-facedly monstrous. It is too Irish altogether for the strongest English stomach.

The Reform Bill of 1832 found the £10 franchise, (enacted but three years before—namely, in 1829,) as the basis of a national compact by which the Roman Catholics might be admitted into parliament and the Protestants secured in their constitutional rights. The Reformers of that day—Lords Grey, Althorp, Stanley, &c.—would not disturb it. It was reserved for the successors in office, the Melbournes, the Normanbys, the Morpeths, to play the Roman Catholic game, and resume the price without resigning the privilege. In England even Lord John Russell asserts the *finality* of the Reform Bill: in Ireland he permits it to be a moving sand, variable with every tide, or rather changing with the exigencies of his party. Will this be tolerated in England? Shall they have a stationary and Ireland a fluctuating constitution? We trow not.

In short, the bill will never pass into an act. It was never meant to do so. It will give Mr. O'Connell a grievance—a topic of excitement. It will enable him to extol the *monster* Whigs, whilst he defamates the "Scorpion" Stanley. But it will do no more. It can never supersede the effectual measure which received the sanction of four majorities of the House of Commons, except by absorbing its principal provisions: and this it will do, if it ever be to pass. But not without this further amendment: that taking the poor rates as the test of value (as it does) the qualification be raised from Lord Morpeth's £5 franchise, to the present amount—namely, £10 or something not far short of it.

On such conditions one good bill could be made out of the two now before the House of Commons.

SEA WEED.—The Law Officers of the Crown have given their opinion that magistrates have no right to interfere or adjudicate strand or seaweed rights.

CHINA, INDIA, AND EGYPT.

EXPRESS FROM MARSEILLES.

(From the Times.)

By an extraordinary express we are enabled to anticipate the intelligence from China and India brought by the overland mail, as well as that from the Levant and from Malta, which reached Marseilles by the same conveyance. Our despatches, which arrived at the latter port only on Tuesday last, are dated from Canton, Nov. 3; from Calcutta, Dec. 22, 1840; from Bombay, Jan. 1; from Alexandria, Jan. 23; and from Malta, Jan. 23. The latest intelligence from the island of Chusan is dated October 24, and from Macao, Nov. 3. By these it appears that the posture of affairs in China remains unchanged since our last advices, and the most gloomy apprehensions as to the final result of the proposed negotiations were entertained. Both in China and in India the conduct of the Admiral is commented upon in most severe terms, and it seems to be the universal opinion that in consenting to withdraw his forces from the immediate neighborhood of Pekin he has committed a gross error, and allowed himself to be duped by the Chinese Commissioners. The negotiations would probably be protracted indefinitely be every artifice common in Chinese diplomacy, and a fresh expedition, after all, would be required to effect the original objects of the present. The Admiral was still at Chusan, which had been found extremely unhealthy. Out of 3,650 men landed there, only 2,036 were fit for duty, chiefly owing to bad diet and want of fresh meat. The Admiral was expected to leave for Canton about the middle of November.—Letters received at Tinghae from the prisoners at Ningpoo stated that they were treated well, but suffered for want of proper clothing. Mr. Staunton still continued a prisoner at Canton. The British naval force consisted of 20 sail of pennants, exclusive of steamers.

Lin had been deprived of all authority, but he had petitioned the Emperor and appealed to his mercy; pleading his good intentions, but admiting his inability. He declares that he is unjustly accused of robbing the English of opium, since he has in his possession Captain Elliot's petition entreating him to receive it. He admits the superiority of the British in war, but suggests that they may be tired out by delays and sickness, and counsels the Emperor to make no concession, as the English would thereupon increase their demands: and he expresses an opinion, that our interference and blockade will draw on us the hostility of other nations. At present the external trade of China is quite at a stand.

CHINA.

(From the Bombay Overland Courier, Jan. 1).

There has been no change in the posture of affairs in China since the despatch of the last mail. The latest intelligence, received *via* Calcutta, is from Chusan to the 24th of October, and Macao to the 3d of November The Admiral was still at the former place, but it was expected that he would leave for Canton about the middle of November. The repairs of the Melville had been completed, and his Excellency's flag will again be hoisted in that vessel. Chusan is extremely unhealthy, and it does not appear that its occupation will be at all conducive to the success of the expedition. Sickness has prevailed to such an extent amongst the troops that there are only 2,036 men fit for duty out of 3,650 who were landed on the island. This is in a great measure to be attributed to bad diet, the men seldom getting any fresh meat. Neither have the proper means been taken for supplying them with the best description of salt provisions. These have all been despatched from England and are much deteriorated during the six months' voyage. It would be decidedly much more advantageous to send supplies from India, as they would frequently reach Chusan in 40 days.

Canton advices to the 30th ultimo state that Lin had been deprived of all his offices and honors, and, after actually starting for Pekin, had been recalled to wait at Canton an investigation of his conduct on the arrival of Koshin, who is soon expected.

Both the Chinese authorities and merchants appear to feel certain that there will be an immediate settlement of differences and reopening of trade. But among foreigners the impression is still general, that this arises from a confidence of being able, as usual, to circumvent by negotiation; and that, without a heavier blow than has yet been struck, it is impossible they can really intend to grant at once the heavy demands of the British.

It is, therefore, expected that much difficulty and delay will be experienced in the negociations about to commence, and that a resort to force will be ultimately requisite.

Meanwhile the expectation of a settlement almost entirely paralyses trade.

INDIA.

The intelligence from India is generally pacific, and no event had occurred since the last dates of much political importance. Affghanistan remained tranquil. The news from Khiva and Central Asia was of a satisfactory character; and although the Punjaub was the scene of innumerable intrigues, the force stationed upon the frontier would probably be able to protect British interests from the designs of either of the pretenders to the throne. Some doubt seems to be cast upon the authenticity of the story as to the decease of the two last sovereigns of Lahore. Kurruck Singh is said to have died of poison, and the means by which the death of his heir Nao Nehal Singh was brought about appear to be yet unknown, although there was little doubt but that both father and son were the victims of a conspiracy in which Deehan, the minister of both sovereigns, was the chief.

An action had occurred in Scinde, on the 1st Dec., at Kotriah, between 4,000 Beloochees, posted among the Hills, and commanded by Nusseer Khan, 900 Sepoys, 60 irregular horse, and two field pieces, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Marshall. The Sepoys attacked the position, and a desperate attempt was made by the Beloochees till four of their chiefs and 500 men were slain. Six other chiefs and 132 followers were taken prisoners. Nusseer Khan escaped on foot, but all the baggage, &c., was captured by the British, who only lost one officer and ten privates—thirty more were wounded.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

BOMBAY, JAN. 1, 1841.—The beginning of 1841 promises well for India; tranquillity prevails in the interior, and success on every part of the frontiers where war is carried on.

The Bombay army, which has been collected on the western bank of the Indus, under the command of Major General Brooks, is about to enter into campaign, in order to tranquillise the mountain districts, from which the tribes have sallied forth, under the command of Nusseer Khan, to plunder and devastate the plains. Nusseer Khan, the young chief, a boy of 15 years, is said to be eager to make peace with the British, but his one eyed minister will not allow him. His position was attacked on the 1st of December by a body of troops under Colonel Marshall, when the young chief fled, leaving a number of the Zeheree tribe to defend themselves. They lost 400 killed and 130 prisoners. General Brooks's army, after having subdued the hills, will, it is expected, occupy Khelat, Quetta, and Candahar, and thereby leave the Bengal troops at the disposal of government. The conduct of the government at Herat having attracted great suspicion of its fidelity during the late proceedings of Dost Mahomed, it is likely that during this year it will receive the reward of its treachery.

Affghanistan is quiet. Dost Mahomed has surrendered himself, and is now coming, *via* Peshawar, under an escort, to India, with his family. He has written to his son, Hyer Khan, who has been in this island since Lord Keane's arrival from the campaign last year, desiring him to join him. He declares himself satisfied with the treatment of the British authorities.

From Khiva and central Asia, the intelligence is favourable to peace and civilisation, which the great efforts of the British agents there appear directed to uphold. The Russian slaves have been restored to their country by the Khan of Khiva, who shows the best disposition. The Russians appear satisfied: the British agents are labouring, with a probability of success, to establish a proper understanding between all the Khanates of Turkistan, There was a rumour got up here, of £1,700,000 being to be paid by India to the Czar as an indemnity for his subjects, but the truth of the fact is denied.

In the Punjaub there is every probability of internal disturbance since the death of Kurrick Singh and of Nao Nehal Singh. Deean, a most Machiavelian minister, who is accused of having compassed the death of the two late sovereigns, Kurriek and Nao Nehal, wished to place an illegitimate son of Runjeet Sing on the throne. The name of the latter is Shere Singh. But the mother of Nao Nehal has seized the fort, taken under her protection a widow of Nao Nehal, who is said to be pregnant, threatened to call in the assistance of the British to her assistance, and declared that as there is a Queen in England, she shall be Queen of the Sikhs in Lahore. Sher and Deean Singh will, it is feared, excite some disturbances. There is luckily a very large British force on the frontiers of the Punjaub. The British convoy to Affghanistan has been allowed to pass unmolested through the Punjaub.

Major General Sir Hugh Gough sailed from Madras to China on the 23d ultimo, to take the command of the troops.

(EXTRACT OF ANOTHER LETTER.)

Lord Jocelyn arrived this morning from China, he came with despatches from Macao, which port he left on the 31st of Oct. Having arrived in the Clarissa at Singapore he embarked in the Lady Clarke, which, luckily for his lordship, arrived here in time for him to go to Egypt in the Victoria steamer, which starts this morning. The contents of his despatches are already public; those which he takes from Chusan are to the 23th of Oct. The Governor, Sir J. R. Carnac, is stated to be seriously ill since last night, Lord Jocelyn is anxious to arrive in London before the sitting of Parliament.

THE BRILLIANT AFFAIR OF KOTRA.

We have just received full particulars from Kotra of the brilliant action between our troops under Col. Marshall and the Brahoe army of Nusseer Khan. Capt. Smith, Aide de Camp to Gen. Brooks, having received his instructions, left Sukkur, and in 88 hours effected the journey to Kotra, a distance of 130 miles. Having delivered his instructions, the force, compesed of the 25th regt., two companies of the 21st, 2 companies of the 2d Grenadiers, and 90 of the Ponah horse, at half past eight in the morning of the 1st of December, made a chupao on the rebel camp in two parties, one under Colonel Marshall with two guns, 350 men, and 50 horse; and the other under Captain Teasdale, of the 25th, with 500 men. Captain Teasdale's party went round by the pass of Pen Chuttur, a distance of twenty one miles, and Colonel Marshall advanced about six miles in a direct line between two irregularly formed hills, which were covered by the Brahoes in lines, their heads and shoulders just appearing above the ridges. The rebels were estimated at 3,000, 1,500 being their best warriors, the rest followers of the camp. The position they had taken up was extremely strong, but the sepoys fought nobly, exposing themselves in the most fearless way, and cheering each other on with the watchword of Lieutenant Loveday's fate. The enemy at length were driven up a steep hill to the right, and proceeded to crown it, waving their flags Here the brunt of the affair fell upon Captain Ennis, but, by the gallant conduct of our sepoys and their leaders, the rebels, notwithstanding their advantage of position on the summit of a hill broken by gullies, ravines, and scarps, were compelled to put their Korans on their heads and cry for quarter, when 132 were taken prisoners, among whom were four of the most influential chiefs. Nusseer Khan with two followers unfortunately escaped, climbing over the summit of a lofty hill, where he was seen followed by a small mountain pony; it is supposed Gool Mahomed was of the party. Our own loss consisted of one officer (Mr. Lodge, of the 25th, who was shot through the leg, and bled to death in a few minutes,) 8 sepoys, and one horseman. The wounded were from 30 to 40 men, with one or two officers slightly hurt by spent balls,

It would be injustice to pass over this affair without remarking strongly on the energy and real bravery displayed throughout the action by our sepoys. The enemy made a strong defence, but were driven from their post, where they evidently considered we should not dare to follow them, by the firmest and most undaunted courage and numbers alone prevented the total annihilation of the whole of the Khan's forces.—*Bombay Times.*

EGYPT.

Our express from Alexandria, by the Oriental steamer, brings the gratifying intelligence that the Turkish fleet had all left the harbour, and set sail for Marmorice, under the orders of Admiral Walker. The British steamer, Stromboli, and the Egyptian steamer Nile, had been continuously employed during the 19th, 20th, and 21st of January, in towing them outside the reef. The greatest activity and co operation prevailed in the work, insomuch that the fleet was under sail in ten days after the firman was read for its restoration: one half of the time in which the Egyptian Admiral declared it possible to accomplish it, and one sixth of the period in which the Turkish and English officers expected it. Six vessels sailed out on the first day, after which Mazloum Bey (the new Turkish commissioner) delivered to the Pacha a letter from the Grand Vizier (received by the Sultan's steamer Tahiri Babi two days before) stating that the Porte had granted the request made by its allies to confirm Mehemet Ali in the hereditary pachalic of Egypt as soon as the fleet had been delivered. The firman to ratify this concession was expected to follow, as soon as it was known at Constantinople that the fleet had arrived at Marmorice. On the evening of the 21st of January, only Admiral Walker's flag ship Nusretiel (the victorious) remained in the harbor; and that was preparing to sail out on the morning of the 23d of January, together with the Sultan's steamer Tahiri Babri, bearing the Turkish Commissioner Mazloum Bey, who returns forthwith to Constantinople.

The Pacha was about to visit Cairo and his estates in the Delta, in which such mismanagement and defalcation had lately been discovered. He had granted free permission to the Oriental and Peninsular Steam Company to introduce their steam boats on the Nile for the conveyance of their passengers between Rosetta and Cairo, and had, meantime, placed his own steam yacht at their service, for the accommodation of forty three passengers who went out in the Oriental, and were anxious to reach Cairo to proceed under escort with the mails across the Desert

ANOTHER CONSERVATIVE VICTORY.—REIGATE ELECTION.

The nomination of a burgess to serve in the present parliament in the room of Lord Somers, took place on Wednesday, at the Town Hall, Reigate.

The usual formalities having been gone through, Mr. Dixon proposed Lord Eastnor as a candidate, and Mr. Price seconded the nomination.

The Returning Officer having inquired whether any elector had any other candidate to propose,

A person named Piper stood forward and proposed Dr. James Bedford (hisses.)

After a short silence, the High Bailiff inquired whether any elector would second the motion (no no.)

There being no seconder, the High Bailiff, amid roars of laughter, declared that this was the case.

Dr. Bedford claimed a right to explain the reason why he had come forward, and he went into a long rigmarole story as to his proceedings in connexion with the election, which caused a great deal of merriment

The High Bailiff then declared Lord Eastnor duly elected, and the proceedings terminated.—*Standard.*

We have been favoured with a specimen of the new postage stamped envelopes, which are intended to replace the adhesive stamps at present in use. The alteration is a decided improvement: the stamp, placed at the right hand of the envelope, presents an elegantly raised profile of her Majesty in white, on a crimson ground, encircled with rate of postage—one penny.—The two penny envelope has not yet been issued. The labels now in use will continue to circulate till the stock on hands is exhausted.

Mr. John Hogan, of Waterford, is appointed Tide Surveyor of Galway, vacant by the promotion of Mr. Francis M'Kowen, to Dundee; and Mr. Robert Joynt, First class Tide Waiter, is nominated Chief Coast Officer of Clifden, vacant by the death of Mr. Digby Devenish.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ASSURANCE COMPANY.—We are glad to perceive that this very valuable institution is coming before parliament for legislative sanction. Mr. Greene, the Conservative member for Lancashire, it appears, presented a petition for a bill of incorporation on Wednesday night. An insurance office, founded upon sound principles, patronised by the *elite* of the established church, and providing so handsomely as it does for the necessitous and hard working clergy, deserves the popularity it so largely possesses.—*Morning Herald.*

DEATH OF SIR DAVID ERSKINE, BART.—We have to announce the death of the above baronet. The deceased was born in 1792, and married, in 1821, to Miss Jane Williams, daughter of the late Mr. Hugh Williams, and is succeeded by his eldest son, now Sir Thos. Erskine,

SUDDEN ILLNESS OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

(From the Times of Saturday.)

It pains us exceedingly to announce, that the Duke of Wellington was yesterday evening seized with sudden indisposition in the House of Lords. The noble Duke, as is his custom, occupied his usual seat before five o'clock, and appeared to be in good health and spirits, conversing cheerfully and familiarly with the Earl of Aberdeen and Lord Ellenborough. About a quarter past five o'clock, the head of the noble Duke was seen suddenly to droop forward, as though he were fainting. His arm was immediately laid hold of by the Earl of Aberdeen, who, assisted by Lord Ellenborough, removed him instantly from the house. When the indisposition of the noble Duke manifested itself, Lord Brougham was speaking in support of a petition which he had just presented. The noble and learned lord immediately ceased, and exclaimed, in a tone of voice indicative of deep emotion "Send for a surgeon! send for a surgeon!" The noble Duke was, we understand, conveyed to Apsley house in the Duke of Richmond's carriage. It may very easily be conceived the afflicting circumstance created a very strong and visible sensation amongst the few peers who were present. We sent to Apsley house at ten o'clock, and we were rejoiced to hear that his Grace was a great deal better, and had had some hours of refreshing sleep.

(From a Correspondent.)

Last evening the Duke of Wellington, as usual, was in his seat in the House of Lords even before the commencement of public business, and he went there in an open carriage. About half past five o'clock, and while Lord Brougham was speaking, the Duke suddenly rose from his seat as if to quit the house by the door near the throne; the circumstance, however, did not attract any particular attention until his Grace dropped his hat, which he kicked before him, appearing anxious to get it out of his way, so that he might pick it up at the further end of the house, and thus escape observation as to the state of his health. It however did not go far, upon his Grace kicking it again, and it went near Lord Redesdale, who was sitting on the woolsack near the table. His lordship immediately rose, as if to assist his Grace in getting the hat; but as the Duke was by this time staggering and not stooping for the hat, Lord Brougham called across the table that his Grace was ill—to lead his Grace out of the house, and to send for a surgeon immediately. Several peers surrounded the Duke, and he quitted the house, chiefly supported by the Earl of Aberdeen. They found on getting into the long gallery, that his Grace could walk, but with considerable difficulty. The attack was one of giddiness. His Grace, however, had perfect self possession, and could converse. On hearing that the carriage nearest the house should be put in requisition to convey him to his home, the Duke observed that his own carriage was there, and that he should prefer going away in that. It however was not immediately forthcoming, besides, as it was the open one (his Grace's newly invented carriage), the Lords near his Grace urged on him the imprudence of proceeding in such weather in that vehicle. Lord Beresford's was called for, but it also was not within sight. There was one close to the entrance to the House of Lords, which proved to be Lord Brougham's close body carriage. It was immediately ordered up, his Grace handed into it; and it forthwith conveyed the Duke towards his residence. Most of the opposition peers directly left the house, for the purpose of following the Duke. It was surmised, by those who knew his Grace's habits, that the giddiness resulted from that abstemiousness in regard to food, especially during remarkable changes, which, it was intimated, too often characterises the Duke's mode of living.

It is unnecessary to add that the occurrence caused the greatest consternation in and about the house.

(From the Globe of Saturday.)

We learn on inquiry at Apsley house to day that his Grace had passed a tranquil night, and, having enjoyed some refreshing sleep, was very much restored. From an early hour this morning the gates of Apsley House were perfectly besieged by noblemen, gentlemen, and their servants, making inquiries and leaving cards.

It very fortunately happened that at the time of the Duke's being taken ill a medical gentleman was present (below the bar) in the house, and immediately tendered his professional services.

On arriving at Apsley House restoratives were administered, and everything done which the nature of the case required; and the attack was doubtless rather a severe one, for it appears that the Duke was speechless until nearly eight o'clock, at which time he so far recovered as to be able to speak freely of the circumstances attending his seizure and the nature of the indisposition itself.

It was very generally supposed in the House of Lords last night that his Grace had been long fasting, and that his illness was the result of exhaustion or insufficiency of nourishment. This we learn to day was not the case, as the Duke had dined at half past three o'clock, made a hearty meal, and went down to the house immediately after dinner.

It seems that there is no ground whatever for apprehension of any serious consequences resulting from this attack, if his Grace will take a little more care of himself; but he is so little disposed to play the part of a valetudinarian that he no sooner recovers from illness than he goes out and uses as little precaution as if he were a young and strong man. But a constitution, however fine, must not be trifled with.

The following is the bulletin issued this morning:—

"Apsley House, 6th Feb., 1841.

"The Duke of Wellington has passed a quiet night, and is better this morning.

(Signed)

"J. R. HUME."

It was stated to day that it was not at all improbable that the Duke would go out to morrow. But it is to be hoped that this will be prohibited by his Grace's medical attendants and friends.

THE TRIAL OF LORD CARDIGAN.

(From the Standard.)

The trial of the Earl of Cardigan is properly a subject of great interest. The case is one of *the first impression* to borrow the technical phrase; no prosecution for a duel, unattended with fatal consequences, having been, as we believe, instituted in modern times. The duty which the noble judges will have to discharge is thus a difficult and painful one. On the one hand, they must decide the question of strict law, without regard to what may be called the substantial justice of their decision; or, on the other side, they must virtually license duelling, by deciding that its formalities, if fairly observed, absolve from the guilt of attempted homicide—guilt about which, in any other case but that of duelling, there is no doubt either in law or practice. A court of justice is not to be influenced by the wishes of the public; but even if the public had the choice, it would scarcely know how to form a wish as to the manner in which the question shall be disposed of; assuming even all that has been stated in the preliminary proceeding to have been fully proved, nobody can be so cruelly unjust as to desire the punishment of the gallant defendant for an act which, though illegal, has been through a long period not only sanctioned, but enforced by the usages of society; yet all must earnestly desire that the supreme court of justice in the kingdom should give life and energy to a law now slumbering in desuetude, by which, once awakened, the senseless, savage, and unchristian practice of duelling would doubtless be more effectually restrained than by any other law which wisdom could devise. The affair, however, is happily in the best hands, and we may hope that the august tribunal before which Lord Cardigan is to appear may find some safe mode of reconciling indulgence (which in the case is but justice) to his lordship, with such an affirmation of the law as shall go far to put anend to duels.

MARRIAGE OF CHARLES KEAN AND MISS ELLEN TREE.—It is stated in *Kidd's Dramatic Journal*, on the authority of a correspondent, that these distinguished performers have been privately married at Manchester.

There was an increase of 276 drunkards committed to Cork Bridewell for the month of December, being 100 over the number committed the same month in the preceding year,

BAIL COURT—LONDON, MONDAY, FEB. 1.

(Before Mr. Justice Williams.)

Eiffe v. *Jacob.*

Mr. Heaton applied, under the 48th George III., c. 121, for the discharge of the defendant, Mr. Ebenezer Jacob, late member of parliament for Dungarvan, now in custody at the suit of the plaintiff, Mr. Christopher Eiffe, the managing director of the Caledonian Insurance office in Dublin, the defendant having lain in prison for the space of twelve calendar months for a debt. The learned counsel stated that an action for trial had been brought by the plaintiff in the Court of Queen's Bench, in Ireland, against the defendant in which the plaintiff recovered damages; that the present action was commenced in this court for £105 7s 6d, the amount of the judgement in the first action, and for which the plaintiff had recovered a judgement, with costs.

Mr. Bagley, on behalf of the plaintiff, stated he had five answers to this application: first, that the defendant's affidavit did not show that he had lain in prison for twelve successive calendar months; secondly, that the affidavit did not set forth what was the amount of debt in this cause, and what the amount of costs; thirdly, that there was no affidavit of the service of the notice of this application on the plaintiff, as required by rule 90 of Hillary Term, 2nd Wm. IV.; fourthly, that the debt for which the defendant was charged in execution amounted to £106 7s 6d, exclusive of costs, and, fifthly, that the defendant had not lain in prison for twelve successive calendar months but had resided during the greater part of that time in the rules of the Queens' Bench Prison.

Mr. Justice Williams called on counsel in the first place to argue this last objection, when, it appearing from the cases cited Gilbert v. Pape, and Sumption v. Monzani, 2 M. and W., p. 311; and also from Barnard v. Symonds, 5 Dowl, that a residence within the rules was not the custody contemplated by the act of parliament, and it also appearing from the affidavit made by plaintiff's attorney, that the defendant had resided in the rules since May last, the Court refused the defendant's application, and remanded him back.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

DARING OUTRAGE—OPPOSITION TO RENTS.

(From the D. E. Packet.)

On the night of the 3d inst., a party of 100 men, armed with guns, pistols, and swords, attacked a house at Donoughmoine, in the barony of Farney, county of Monaghan in which two keepers of a distress, made for rent due to the Rev. John Grey Porter, were lodging, and, having severely beaten the bailiffs, (one of them a Protestant, is not expected to survive) and fired several shots over their heads. A guard was placed upon the house, whilst the rest of the party, with horses and carts, removed all the goods under seizure, including several heaps of potatoes, and conveyed them away.

The person whose goods had been distrained is a low public housekeeper, named Patrick M'Kenna, and the agents for this audacious outrage were, no doubt, collected through the means of that baneful system of Ribbonism which prevails so extensively in this district. M'Kenna is now in custody, and from private information received by the authorities, it is expected that several of the depredators will be brought to justice. Before separating the party fired several shots, and gave three cheers for O'Connell, declaring that no rents should, for the future, be collected in that part of the country, as their friends were in power, and they did not care for the bloody police.

This comes of the abuse and misrepresentations so liberally bestowed by those in power, and their pert secretaries and underlings upon the laudlords of Ireland, from which the ignorant and misguided peasantry naturally conclude, that resistance of rents, and other agrarian outrages connected with land, are serviceable to their political friends, and in accordance with the wishes of their leaders.

Let but a firm and consistent government say, with a voice of authority and determination, that there shall be peace—that the law shall be obeyed, or the violators of it punished—that they have no sympathy with murderers or other lawless depredators, even though the object be an Irish landlord, agent, or clergyman, and such outrages will cease; but now, unfortunately, there is a general feeling amongst the peasantry that such manifestations of popular feeling, as it is called, though openly denounced, are not disagreeable to their present rulers.

That such a state of things has been made use of by the agitators for their own selfish and unpatriotic purposes, there is no doubt. They wish to represent Ireland to the English people as a bloodhound, straining in the leash, ready to spring, when the master shall cry havoc, and let him slip. An occasional murder or outrage of the kind we have just recorded best serves to show, say they, the deadly fangs of the beast, and his disposition and power, if permitted the full indulgence of his savage propeusities, while artificial returns of general tranquillity are relied upon as proving that the savage animal is still under control.

MINES OF IRELAND.

Copper Ores the produce of Irish Mines, sold at Swansea, 3d February, 1841:

Mines.	21 cwts.	Price.	Produce.
Knockmahon ..	350 ..	£10 0 11 ..	£3516 5 0
Cosheen	126 ..	9 15 6 ..	1231 13 0
	476 21 cwts.		£4747 18 0

For Sale 17th Feb., 1841.

Allihies, 331; Knockmahon, 109; Lackamore, 83; Cronebane, 29; Tigrony, 23—Total, 757 21 cwts.

AWFUL OCCURRENCE.—During the late snow storm a man named Reddy Divver, went to the village of Cresslough, in the county of Donegal, and remained drinking in a public house, till he became intoxicated to such a degree, that when about to return home, the people of the house, fearing he might fall on the frost, and be injured, as the road that night was very slippery, made a bed of straw for him beside the kitchen fire, on which they placed him, when retiring to their respective places of rest. On arising in the morning, an awful spectacle was presented to their view, the unfortunate man was literally burned to a cinder, his body being so mutilated from the effects of the fire, that it could not be removed till it was placed in a coffin.—*Derry Sentinel.*

Edward J. R. M'Donnell, Esq., late of Graigue, has been elected a member of the ancient Company of Innholders, and has been presented with the freedom of the city of London. E. J. R. M'Donnell, Esq., and family arrived in Carlow on Friday last, where they remained a few days, preparatory to their proceeding to the residence of his brother in law, Mr. Synge, of the county Limerick. On Saturday Mr. M'Donnell was entertained at dinner by the Social Club, and on Monday evening at supper by the members of the Carlow Masonic Lodge—the brethren being anxious to pay every mark of respect to one so distinguished for his social qualities and Masonic worth.—*Carlow Sentinel.*

DREADFUL CASE OF SUICIDE.—On Wednesday, the 27th ult., Alexander Stewart, of Bridge Street, Moneymore, put an end to his life, by cutting his throat with a razor. He committed this dreadful act about ten o'clock in the morning. He had told his sister he was going to another room to pray. The sister observed, through the keyhole, that he was upon his knees and was folding down his shirt collar. She immediately went out, and alarmed the neighbors, who, when they came in, found the unfortunate man bleeding profusely; his throat seemed as if he had made several cuts in it, as there were pieces of his flesh lying upon his breast and knees. Three doctors, Messrs. Maxwell, M'Geagh, and Sloan, were promptly in attendance, but could be of no use. He died in two hours.—*Derry Sentinel.*

EARTHQUAKE IN WALES.—On Sunday morning last, between the hours of three and four o'clock, a smart shock of an earthquake was felt in this town, accompanied by a very visible tremor of the earth, and a rumbling noise similar to the sound of distant thunder. A like occurrence was felt at Pontantwyn on the same morning; and it seems to have passed onwards to Llanstephan and Ferry Side, as shocks were felt at each of those places at about the same time, the vibration or tremor accompanying them being very considerable, and occasioning momentary alarm and consternation in the minds of the hearers. Similar shocks were observed about the month of November last, in the neighbourhood of Llanstephan, but of so slight a nature as scarcely to warrant notice.—*Carmarthen Journal.*

NEW SEEDS, &c. 1

R. FENNESSY & SON

HAVE just received per the *Harmony*, from London, their First Spring Supply of GARDEN and FARM SEEDS, including all the new and most approved sorts.

At their NURSERY GROUNDS they have to offer a very extensive stock of Forest Trees, fit for immediate planting—Fruit Trees, of all the best sorts—Evergreens and Shrubs in great variety—Thorn Quicks, &c., &c.

A few Tons of early Seed Potatoes.

Quay, Feb. 9, 1841.

SEE AND BELIEVE 2

THE CHEAP BARGAINS,

BY PRIVATE SALE,

AT THE FURNITURE AND GENERAL BAZAAR,

90, CUSTOM HOUSE QUAY,

[Late G. Clarke's.]

IT is not within the limits of an Advertisement to do justice to the Extensive Stock at this Establishment. It may suffice to say that there is constantly on view the largest collection and the greatest variety of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND FURNISHING APPENDAGES, SADDLERY, and other Goods, to be met with in any other house in any Provincial Town in Ireland, selling astonishingly cheap for Ready Money.

Waterford, 10th Feb., 1841.

REWARD. 3

WHEREAS PRINTED NOTICES have been extensively Circulated and Posted, in various parts of the Counties of Cork and Waterford, but especially in Dungarvan, Youghal, and Clashmore, with a view to prevent the LETTING of the LANDS of SUMMERHILL, the property of ABRAHAM FISHER, of Youghal, Merchant, and to depreciate the circumstances and injure the Credit of the said ABRAHAM FISHER, which Notices are Subscribed "O'Leary, Printer, Cork;" but on inquiry, the supposed Printer could not be found in the City of Cork,

A REWARD OF £20

Is hereby offered, and will be paid to any Person or Persons who, within One Month from this date, will give such information to me at my Offices here, or in the Town of Youghal, as will enable me to prove the Authorship of these Notices.

The Printer need not apprehend proceedings if he will give up the Author.

MURDOCK GREEN,
56, Upper Sackville-street,
Dublin.

5th February, 1841.

BANKRUPTCY. 4

IN THE MATTER OF

JOHN FRENCH, of New Ross, in the county of Wexford, Merchant, a Bankrupt.

THE Commissioners of Bankrupt will sit at the Court of Bankruptcy, at the Four Courts, Inn's Quay, in the City of Dublin, on MONDAY, the 15th day of FEBRUARY instant, at the hour of ELEVEN o'Clock in the forenoon, for the proof of Debts and choice of an Assignee or Assignees of the Bankrupt's estate in this matter, of which sitting all persons concerned are to take Notice. All Persons indebted to the said Bankrupt, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to whom the Commissioners of Bankrupt may appoint, but give notice to ARTHUR SMITH, AGENT TO THE COMMISSION, No. 41, Summer Hill, Dublin; and 33, William Street, Waterford.

BARRY COLLINS, Registrar.

IN CHANCERY. 5

PIERCE NEWPORT BARRON, and others,
PLAINTIFFS;
WILLIAM NEWPORT BARRON, and others,
DEFENDANTS.

PURSUANT to the Decree made in this cause, bearing date the 20th day of June, 1840, I will, on MONDAY, the 19th day of APRIL, 1841, at ONE o'clock in the afternoon, at my Chambers, on the INN'S QUAY, City of DUBLIN, SET UP and SELL, by PUBLIC CANT, to the highest and fairest bidder, ALL THAT AND THOSE, the several Towns and Lands of Williamstown, Rathnasillogue, Ballyvoneybeg, Drumlohan, the North East part of Carriganhaha and Robertstown, with their several sub denominations, situate in the county of Waterford, for the residue of a term of 500 years in the pleadings mentioned, according to the conditions of sale settled by me, pursuant to the order of this court made in this cause, and dated the 30th day of November, 1840.

Dated this 30th day of January, 1841.

WILLIAM CURRY.

For Rentals and particulars apply to Messrs. TERRY, SEYMOUR and WEBB, No. 25, College Green, Dublin, Plaintiffs' Solicitors; or to ALEXANDER MANN ALCOCK, Esq., Solicitor, Waterford.

SPRING ASSIZES—1841.

HOME CIRCUIT.

County of Meath—At Trim, Tuesday, 23d February.
County of Westmeath—At Mullingar, Friday, 26th February.
King's County—At Tullamore, Wednesday, 3d March.
Queen's County—At Maryborough, Monday, 8th March.
County of Carlow—At Carlow, Thursday, 11th March.
County of Kildare—At Naas, Monday, 15th March.
The Right Hon. the Lord Chief Justice,
The Right Hon. the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. } Justices.

MUNSTER CIRCUIT.

County of Clare—At Ennis, Saturday, 20th February.
County of Limerick—At Limerick, Wednesday, 24th February.
County of Limerick—At Limerick, same day.
County of Kerry—At Tralee, Friday, 5th March.
County of Cork—At Cork, Thursday, 11th March.
City of Cork—At Cork, same day.
The Hon. Mr. Justice Crampton,
Mr. Sergeant Greene, } Justices.

CONNAUGHT CIRCUIT.

County of Roscommon—At Roscommon, Tuesday, 23d February.
County of Leitrim—At Carrick-on-Shannon, Friday, 25th February.
County of Sligo—At Sligo, Wednesday, 3d March.
County of Mayo—At Castlebar, Monday, 8th March.
County of Galway—At Galway, Monday, 15th March.
Town of Galway—At Galway, same day.
The Hon. Baron Foster,
The Right Hon. Mr. Justice Ball, } Justices.

LEINSTER CIRCUIT.

County of Wicklow—At Wicklow, Monday, 23d February.
County of Wexford—At Wexford, Thursday, 25th February.
County of Waterford—At Waterford, Monday, 28th February.
City of Waterford—At Waterford, same day.
County of Tipperary (Southern Division)—At Clonmel, Friday, 5th March.
County of Kilkenny—At Kilkenny, Thursday, 11th March.
City of Kilkenny—At Kilkenny, same day.
County of Tipperary (Northern Division)—Nenagh, Monday, 15th March.
The Right Hon. Mr. Justice Perrin,
The Right Hon. Baron Richards, } Justices.

NORTH EAST CIRCUIT.

County of Longford—At Longford, Thursday, 23d February.
County of Cavan—At Cavan, Saturday, 27th February.
County of Fermanagh—At Enniskillen, Ssturday, 6th March.
County of Tyrone—At Omagh, Thursday, 11th March.
County of Donegal—At Lifford, Tuesday, 16th March.
County of Derry—At Derry, Friday, 19th March.
City of Derry—At Derry, same day.
The Lord Chief Baron.
The Hon. Mr. Justice Burton. } Justices.

The looms in the Ormonde factory, Kilkenny are increased from 22 to 43 since the recent impulse for Irish trade. The teetotallers have sent an order there for blankets. Fine pilot cloth is now being manufactured in Kilkenny.

THE MARKETS.

WATERFORD, FEB. 10.

The supplies of grain at our market on Saturday were rather poor and still continue very limited. We have little alteration to quote in the prices, they are as follow.—No butter of prime quality has appeared at the crane since Saturday.

Wheat, millers new	30s 6d to 34s 0d
Ditto, white	30s 0d to 33s 6d
Ditto, shipping	24s 0d to 30s 0d
Barley, malting	12s 0d to 14s 6d
Ditto, shipping	11s 0d to 13s 0d
Ditto, Chevalier	12s 0d to 14s 0d
Oats, black, new	11s 4d to 11s 9d
Ditto, white, new	10s 9d to 11s 9d
Oatmeal, (by retail) per ton	£12 0d to £13 0d
Flour fine, per sack (old)	00s 0d to 00s 0d
New do. do.	45s 0d to 47s 0d
Seconds do. do.	39s 0d to 43s 0d
Thirds, ditto	35s 0d to 38s 0d
Coarse, thirds do	30s 0d to 35s 0d
Fourths, ditto	24s 0d to 30s 0d
Bacon Pigs, per cwt.	40s 0d to 41s 0d
Scalded ditto	36s 0d to 37s 0d
Heads, ditto	24s 0d to 26s 0d
Offal, ditto	22s 0d to 25s 0d
Tallow, P.Y.C., per cwt.	48s 0d to 49s 0d
Scotch Herrings, per barrel	27s 0d to 27s 6d
Newfoundland fish, per cwt.	13s 0d to 17s 0d
Newport Coals, per ton	16s 0d to 17s 0d
Cardiff ditto, ditto	16s 0d to 00s 0d
Hay, per ton,	65s 0d to 70s 0d
Straw, per ton,	35s 0d to 37s 0d
Cork Whiskey, per gal	6s 6d to 6s 9d
Potatoes, per stone, 14lbs.	00s 2d to 0s 4d
Mutton, per lb.	0s 4½d to 0s 0d
Beef, per lb.	0s 4½d to 0s 6d
Veal, per lb.	0s 5½d to 0s 6d
Pork, per lb.	0s 4½d to 0s 7d

BUTTER MARKET.

	Firkins.	s. d.	s. d.
Saturday,	11	100	0 to 106 0
Monday,	1	100	0 to 106 0
Yesterday,	2	100	0 to 106 0

CORK MARKET, FEB. 7.

BUTTER. To the Merchants—105s—104s—99s—93s—87s—79s. To the Country—95s—94s—89s—83s—77s—69s—per cwt.

KILKENNY, FEB. 5.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Second Flour	39 0	— 00 0	Wheat	34 0	— 35 6
Inferior	36 0	— 00 0	Do. inferior	28 0	— 32 0
Thirds	20 0	— 00 0			

WEXFORD, FEB. 5.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Butter	98 0	— 00 0	Beans	21 0	— 22 6
Wheat	29 0	— 33 0	Oatmeal	13 0	— 00 0
Barley	13 6	— 15 9	Pork, per cwt.	42 6	— 44 0
Oats	10 0	— 11 3			

CLONMEL, FEB. 5.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Butter	100 0	— 105 0	Barley	12 0	— 13 3
Oatmeal	12 0	— 00 0	Wheat, per st.	1 7	— 1 8½
Pigs' Heads	27 0	— 00 0	Oats, per do.	0 9½	— 0 10

CARLOW, FEB. 6.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Butter	104 0	— 106 0	Wheat	30 0	— 34 0
Flour	38 0	— 00 0	Barley	10 0	— 12 6
—— Thirds	30 0	— 32 0	Oats	10 6	— 11 6

DUBLIN CORN EXCHANGE—FEB. 5.

From the severity of the weather within the last few days, the supplies of every description of grain were small, and the prices remain without alteration.

White wheat	34s 0d to 37s 0d	Oats	00s 0d to 00s 0d
Miller's red	31s 0d to 35s 6d	Do. New	10s 0d to 12s 6d
Inferior	25s 0d to 30s 0d	Oatmeal	11s 0d to 13s 0d
Barley	13s 6d to 16s 0d	2d Flour	19s 0d to 22s 0d
Bere	00s 0d to 00s 0d	Rape	27s 0d to 30s 0d

LIVERPOOL CORN EXCHANGE—FEB., 5, 1841.

With intense frost during the week, accompanied by a heavy fall of snow on Wednesday, and the wind continuing to blow strongly from the east, scarcely any grain vessels have entered this port since Tuesday, so that the supplies fresh in for to day are extremely small: in the course of the last two days, however, fair quantities of wheat and flour, have been offering from granary, which though not met by any active demand, were steadily held for previous rates; and in the value of other articles no decided change was observable.

The duty on foreign wheat is 1s per qr., on flour 2d per barrel lower; on peas 1s 6d per qr. higher, for the ensuing week.

At this morning's market the wheat trade continued to exhibit considerable firmness, and upon a fair inquiry from our local and neighbouring millers, besides several parcels taken for holding over, sales to a tolerable extent were effected, principally in samples of new Irish and the middling descriptions of foreign, at an improvement of 1d per 70lb on Tuesday's currency; in the value of English and fine foreign wheats, however, no advance could be made: the demands on country orders were very limited. Flour was in moderate request, and fully supported late prices.

Barley, malt, beans and peas met a very slow sale, without alteration in value.

The stock of oats being reduced within a narrow compass, holders require rather more money; but being without country buyers, the demand is insufficient to take off even the limited quantity remaining in store. Oatmeal was the turn dearer, and more readily saleable than of late.

ROBERT MAKIN & SONS.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET—FEB. 5.

We still continue very inactive in the Irish provision market whilst the holders remain exceedingly firm in price owing to the unusual lightness of stock. Bacon, hams, and lard in steady request, as well as beef and pork for ship stores.

Belfast Butter, 106s to 108s, Derry, 104s to 0s, Banbridge, 100s to 101s, Sligo, 100s to 101s, Carlow 104s to 108s, Waterford 00s, Kilkenny 108s to 110s, Cork pickled 2nds, 105s 106s, beef per tierce 120s to 125s, pork, per barrel, 70s to 76s; bacon, per cwt., 49s to 51s, new hams, 60s to 63s, firkin lard, 63s to 65s, Bladdered 67s to 68s.

PORT NEWS—PASSAGE.

ARRIVED.

5th—Margaret Packet, Dunn, Harbour Grace, oil, for Liverpool—William, Woodcock, Glasgow, g.c.—Abeona, Atteridge, Liverpool, salt, for Portsmouth—Star, Sellar, Messina, sulphur and fruit, for Liverpool.

6th—Isabella, Reade, Whitehaven, iron ore, for Cardiff—Britannia, Skellery, Liverpool, ballast, for Newport.

7th—H.M. Packet Advice, at half past one, p.m.—Triton, Snell, Lydney, coals—Aurora, Pepin, Jersey, oil & cows, for Liverpool—Heligan, Roche, Liverpool, coals and goods, for Havre de Grace.

8th—Queen, Rees, Bristol, g.c,—H.M. Packet Adder, at noon—Trust, Bilheche, Jersey, apples, for Liverpool—Star of Brunswick, Hearson, Liverpool, g.c. for Barnstaple—Amity, Richards, Cardiff, iron and coke.

9th—Prince Leopold, Fitzpatrick, Newport, coals.

SAILED.

7th—None,

8th—H.M. Packet Advice, at half past seven, p.m.—Town of Wexford, Beckett, Wexford. g.c., from Liverpool—Wm. Fenn, Clarke, Liverpool, ditto.

9th—Flora, Manning, London, provisions—Queen, Rees, Bristol, g.c.—H.M. Packet Adder at half past seven, a.m.

Wind—E.N.E. to N.E. & E.N.E.

MARRIED,

On Thursday morning, by the Rev. Wm. Connolly, P.P. Mr. Wm. Holden, woollen draper, Carrick-on-Suir, to Miss Margaret Stephenson, eldest daughter of Mr. Francis Stephenson, of Carrick on-Suir.

DIED,

At his residence, in King Street, on Tuesday morning, the Rev. Thomas Walsh, R.C.C., aged 30 years. Mr. Walsh was educated at St. John's College, in this City, and had been only a few years ordained.

At Tallow, in the 80th year of her age, Elizabeth, relict of the late Richard Devereux, Esq.

SPORTING FIXTURES.

THE TIPPERARY FOX HOUNDS.

Thursday, Feb. 11th, Dovea. Saturday, 13th, Parkstown. Tuesday, 6th, Markhams Rock. Thursday, 19th, Killaghy Castle. Saturday, 18th, Tullemaine, At Eleven o'Clock.

Hugh O'Loghlen, Esq., of Port, brother of the master of the Rolls, is appointed High Sheriff of the County Clare, and Mr. Tydd continues Sub Sheriff.

AGRICULTURE,

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE DUBLIN EVENING POST.

"DEAR SIR—To follow up the subject of my former letters, I have occasion to trespass a few remarks upon the attention of the public. I should explain, that the question of agricultural improvement mooted by me has received so much encouragement, and so many cordial proofs of support from quarters of the greatest influence, that the project no longer depends upon my feeble advocacy. I might truly say that a host of signatures, from the high and wealthy in the land, has poured in on me, and, in almost every instance, accompanied by letters conveying to me the most unqualified approval of those suggestions, which an honest wish to serve my country induced me to offer for the consideration of those interested in her prosperity. I have been so urged by noblemen and gentlemen, whose very names guarantee the disinterestedness and importance of their opinions, that I no longer pause or hesitate to bring the subject to a practical issue; and when we reflect what incalculable advantages have been derived through the agency of the English and Scottish Highland Agricultural Societies, and what success has attended their establishment, I can see no reason why the landed interests of Ireland should not anticipate similar consequences from the formation of an association of the same description in this country. I am greatly influenced by the advice and suggestions I have continued to receive with regard to the existence of a society separated and distinct from any other, and intended solely for the promotion of agricultural purposes; and, in conjunction with others, I do not doubt that even private subscription would place it in a position to spread those beneficial operations throughout Ireland which the English and Scotch associations have extensively effected in their spheres; and I pronounce no rash judgment in asserting that under such an influence our own country would progress and prosper in a ratio that would leave our neighbours far behind. I venture this declaration from the conviction that the soil and population of Ireland afford facilities and natural advantages not experienced either in England or Scotland; and I am persuaded that proper and necessary precautions would prevent remote districts in Ireland suffering that neglect and those disadvantages which it is complained that a system of centralisation, arising from the establishment of a parent society in the metropolis, such as I contemplate, might expose them to. I do not imagine that the present association could be more conveniently situated than in Dublin; but the great and principal object of the council, or committee, must be to promote, foster, and protect the district associations connected with it in the distant and uncultivated parts of Ireland; and here we have materials ready made and formed at our hand—for the unions declared under the poor law describe probably the most convenient range for the operations of each district society.

"Taking advantage of the existing machinery which the working of the poor law has created, will render the operation of the agricultural societies at once simple and effective. The guardians, in all likelihood, will be the very persons usefully engaged in the duties of the agricultural societies; and though the nature of their avocations, in either capacity, will be essentially distinct, yet the great object in both situations will be the same—to relieve the poor. In the one instance, relieving their necessities by alms—in the other, relieving their wants by providing them with employment, and thus enabling them to support themselves; in the latter case producing, I need scarcely say, a result equally gratifying to both parties.

"I have already, in my former letters, adverted to the insignificant pecuniary amount which would realise the illimitable benefits I have described; and it affords me great satisfaction to state, that I have obtained the sanction and co operation of men of all parties and creeds in the attempt in which I am engaged.

"The subject of agricultural improvement, the importance of instructing the farmers and labourers in the improved modes of husbandry, has been recently brought under the consideration of every assistant poor law commissioner in Ireland by an eminent individual, whose position and character entitle his recommendations to serious attention; and it only remains for me to invite the support of every person who considers the neglected state of agriculture in Ireland, and the unemployed condition of the people, of such importance as to merit the united efforts of those able to semedy a state of things so discreditable to the country and its inhabitants. I think this great, and, in my mind, paramount object can be speedily attained by the simple and unexpensive means I have already referred to; by the formation of a society devoted to one special purpose, by carefully guarding against the disadvantage of centralisation, and by making available the facilities that the poor law unions and guardians offer. These essentials will preclude all complication, prevent wearisome procrastination, and render the design practically useful, without that outlay and expense which might oppose impediments that would take time to remove.

"I have, Sir, to apologise for occupying your space, but it is necessary to show the public that a project, capable of so largely benefitting the country, has been lost sight of, and that active measurs are being taken by men of character, station, and influence, to bring the question to a crisis.—I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant.

"PETER PURCELL.

"Halvertstown, 3d February, 1841."

We find the following letter addressed by Mr Nicholls to the several assistant Poor Law Commissioners:—

"Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin.

"DEAR SIR—1. Enclosed you will receive six copies of the "Principles and regulations of the Ballinasloe Union Agricultural Society." This society has been formed chiefly through the instrumentality of Lord Clancarty, the chairman of the board of guardians. I am informed that it is proceeding very satisfactorily, and that it is highly popular in the union, all parties being alike sensible of the advantages it is calculated to produce, by directing attention to improved methods of cultivation and rural management.

"2. It may be well to state, at the outset, that although the society takes the name of the union, and is expressly constituted for, and limited to, the extent of the union, it is in no way mingled up with the union poor law proceedings, from which it is kept in all respects perfectly distinct. The society may, however, eventually become a valuable accessory to the poor law, by increasing the produce of the land, and the field of employment for the people, thereby lessening the calls upon the ratepayers of the union.

"3. It is admitted on all hands that great room for improvement in agricultural mangement in all its branches exists in Ireland. It is also certain that, unless attention not partial merely, but general and continuous attention, can be directed to the subject, there is little chance of the improvement so much wanted being attained. Union societies seem especially calculated to accomplish this object; and if one like this at Ballinasloe was established in each union, the germs of improvement would be diffused throughout all parts of the country, and the best results might reasonably be looked for.

"4. In such case each union would possess the means of originating and promoting improvements within itself, and would thus become the source of its own amelioration. Its owners and occupiers, who are alike interested in improving the cultivation of the land, would be the managers of the society; and its operations, restricted to the boundaries of the union, would become known to all, and be participated in by all. A spirit of emulation would thus be excited throughout the union. Each man would strive to produce a better crop, and show better management than his neighbour; for this would insure his being held in better estimation. This would not be the case, at least not in an equal degree, in a more extended society, which would necessarily want the stimulus of local interest and emulation, in proportion as its limits were enlarged.

"5. The existence of the poor law machinery is calculated to afford important facilities for the introduction of all such improvements into the several unions; for, although the duties of the guardians are strictly limited to matters connected with the administration of relief, yet, as they constitute the head and, as it were, the executive of the whole union, they will naturally possess much influence in other matters not immediately connected with their office as guardians. In this way, as is in fact the case at Ballinasloe, the Guardians, in their individual capacity, would have the chief management of the agricultural society, giving tone to its proceedings and ensuring its influence and efficiency.

"6. The existence of such a society would moreover serve to connect the different classes within the union in one common interest, by giving them a common object of exertion. The improved methods of management and cultivation which benefit the occupier will also benefit the landowner—such, therefore, will labour for the accomplishment of the same object, under a certainty that each will be benefitted in proportion as that common object is attained. This community of interest and effort will extend to other matters, and produce the confidence and kindly feeling between landlord and tenant, which it is of such vast importance to the general weal should always exist.

"7. It is worthy of notice likewise that the operation of such a society will prevent a certain and definite object for exertion to all those persons within the union who are striving, or who wish to strive, for their own, or for the general improvement. It will thus serve to localise their thoughts, and to concentrate their efforts upon home objects, and the improvement of their own habits, and the exercise of greater skill, industry, and forethought, in the use and application of all the means placed within their reach.

"8. The regulations of "The Ballinasloe Union Agricultural Society" appear to be comprehensive and sufficient for the purpose, although it is not improbable that some alterations and additions may hereafter be found necessary, which of course can be really made at any time. Variations may possibly be also requisite, to suit existing circumstances in different parts of the country. One addition might, I think, with advantage be immediately introduced into these rules, entitling the collector of the best heap of manure to a prize.

"9. The importance of collecting and preparing manure, and its economical application, can hardly be over estimated; and the almost total disregard of this essential element of practical agriculture in most parts of Ireland is greatly to be lamented. Until there is an improvement in this respect—until the cultivators become sensible of the necessity of renovating the land by a due application of manure, and adopting a rotation of crops, and applying more labour to the working of the soil, no great increase of produce can reasonably be looked for; and consequently no great extension of the field of employment, and no great improvement in the condition of the agricultural population, can take place. I would, therefore, recommend that a premium be given for the best heap of compost.

"10. The way in which this important branch of agriculture is managed in Holland and Belgium is well worthy of imitation in Ireland. The small Belgian farmer, aware that his crop will depend upon the care and industry which he exercises in the management of his land, is especially careful that no particle of manure is lost or wasted. All animal, vegetable, and earthy matters—everything capable of enriching the soil, whether in a fluid or solid state, are collected with the greatest care, and repeatedly turned over, and mingled and mellowed for application; and to this circumstance, and the judicious rotation of crops which he invariably observes, joined to his habits of industry, sobriety, and strict economy, may be attributed the comparative comfort and respectability in which he lives, as described in my third report, to which I refer you.

"11. There has been another Union Agricultural Society recently established at Loughrea, similar in all essential particulars to this at Ballinasloe, but having a branch of the Education Commissioners' Agricultural School connected with it. This may be in many instances advantageous; but either a model farm, as at Ballinasloe, or an agricultural school, as at Loughrea, is, I think, necessary in every case; for, without example, precept will operate but feebly in bringing about the improvements in agricultural management which are so much wanted in Ireland.

"12. You will find that county, baronial, or other societies for promoting improvements in agriculture, already exist in some places; but this need not prevent the establishment of a union society. The institutions may work together, having the same object, each stimulating and improving the other; or if it should not afterwards be found to be necessary, it may with advantage be absorbed into that of the union which will have a definite field of operation. Such societies, established by the meritorious exertions of benevolent individuals, have been the greatest use in this country, giving an impulse to industry, increasing production, and enlarging the demand for labour; and the formation of the Union Agricultural Societies now recommended, will be merely taking advantage of the facilities recently created, for effecting in the best way an extension of a system which has been already proved to be productive of so much good.

"13. In conclusion, I have to request that you will use your best efforts to promote the establishment of such a society as is above described, in each of the unions under your charge. The best mode of accomplishing this object will generally be, to explain the subject in the first instance to the chairman of the board of guardians, or to some other influential individual, and advise with him as to the course to be pursued, and the other persons to be spoken to. There is no objection to your showing this letter, or giving copies of it in any case you may think desirable to do so, with a view of forwarding the object. After one good and effective society has been formed in your district, the example will influence the formation of others. I scarcely need observe, that whatever you may do in this matter must be done unofficially and in your individual capacity. Your interference will be solely for the purpose of imparting useful information, and directing attention to an object which, if zealously and judiciously followed up, is calculated to produce important benefits to the respective unions, and eventually to the whole community.

"I am, Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

"GEORGE NICHOLLS."

THE POPE'S LETTER—NATIONAL EDUCATION.

The following is an authorised translation of the Pope's letter on the subject of National Education, directed to each of the four Roman Catholic Archbishops of Ireland, and to which we alluded to on Saturday:—

MY LORD—Your grace is so fully aware of the grave importance of the questions involved in the controversy which has been raised in Ireland on the subject of the new system of National Education, as it is so called, that you should not be surprised that the answer of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda thereon has been so long delayed.

For your grace is fully in possession of the whole matter and intimately acquainted with all the weighty reasons that have given rise to that controversy, and which demanded that the subject should be examined with the utmost deliberation.

Because the protection of the Catholic religion—the facility afforded for the instruction of youth—the gratitude due to the British parliament for having granted a large sum of money for the support of schools for the people of Ireland—the necessity of preserving concord among Catholic bishops—the duty of fostering the public tranquillity—the apprehension, in fine, lest the entire funds, together with the authority, should be transferred to masters, not being Catholics, could not but have filled the sacred Congregation with the greatest solicitude, during the long and earnest consideration, which, in accordance with the duties of its office, it gave to the question submitted to it.

Having, therefore, accurately weighed all the dangers, and all the advantages of the system—having heard the reasoning of the contending parties—and having, above all, received the gratifying intelligence that, for ten years since the introduction of this system of education, the Catholic religion does not appear to have sustained any injury—the Sacred Congregation has, with the approbation of our most Holy Father, Pope Gregory the XVI., resolved, that no judgment should be definitively pronounced in this matter; and that this kind of education should be left to the prudent discretion and religious conscience of each individual bishop, whereas its success must depend on the vigilant care of the pastors, on the various cautions to be adopted, and on the future experience, which time will supply. That, however, so momentous a question should not be dismissed without suitable counsel and precautions, the Sacred Congregation has decided on giving the following admonitions:—

1st—That all books which contain any noxious matter either against the canon or the purity of the Sacred Scripture, or against the doctrine of the Catholic church, or morality, ought to be removed from the schools; and this can be the more easily effected, because there is no law of the said system opposed to it.

2d—That every effort is to be made that none but a Catholic preceptor shall give religious, moral, or historical lectures to the Catholic schoolmasters in the model school; for it is not fitting that a Catholic should be taught the method of giving instruction in religion or religious history who is not a Catholic.

2d—That it is much safer that literary instruction only, should be given in mixed schools, than that the fundamental articles, as they are called, and the articles in which all Christians agree, should alone be taught there in common, reserving for separate instruction the tenets peculiar to each sect; for this manner of acting, in regard to children, appears very dangerous.

4th—That generally the bishops and parish priests should carefully watch that no taint be contracted by the Catholic children from this system of national instruction, through any cause whatever; and that it is also their duty strenuously to endeavour to obtain from the government, by degrees, a better order of things and more equitable conditions. The Sacred Congregation is also of opinion that it would be very useful that the school houses should be vested exclusively in the bishops or the parish priests. It is further of opinion that it would be of very great advantage that the bishops should frequently confer together on this very important subject, in the provincial synods; but that should anything unfavorable occur, the Apostolic See should be carefully made acquainted with it, that it may at once provide for the exigency.

In fine, the Sacred Congregation desires that, henceforward the bishops and other ecclesiastics should refrain from contending on this controversy in the newspapers, or other such publications, lest the honour of religion, their own characters, or Christian charity should be injured, to the disedification of the people.

These are what I had to make known to your Grace, in the name of the Sacred Congregation, that they may be communicated by you to the right reverend the suffragan bishops of your metropolitan province.

Now, the matters which I have above communicated to you, your Grace will easily understand to be of such a nature that, if they are carefully attended to, it is to be concluded, that, in this most important affair, the interests of religion, of peace, and of the youth, are for the present sufficiently provided for.

In the meantime, I pray GOD to give your Grace a long and happy life

Given at Rome, at the Propaganda, the 16th of January, 1841.

(Signed)
J. PH. FRANSONI, Præfect.
J., ARCHBISHOP OF EDESSA, Secretary

We perceive that at a meeting of the Irish Roman Catholic prelates, on the reading of his Holiness's letter, the following resolution was moved by the Archbishop of Tuam, and seconded by the Archbishop of Dublin, and unanimously adopted:—

"That the assembled Prelates do, before they separate, transmit to his Holiness a most dutiful and respectful address, tendering to him the expression of their most profound gratitude for this fresh proof of the Holy Father's paternal solicitude for the spiritual interests of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, and pledging themselves to the most sincere, strenuous, and persevering exertions in carrying into effect all his Holiness's wishes and instructions.

† J. M'LAUGHLIN, Derry.

PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND.

[In consequence of several inaccuracies in the pape, from which we copied the report that appeared in our last number, we give insertion to the following, at the request of several shareholders:—]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING CHRONICLE.

SIR—As there are some inaccuracies in the account which the reporter has furnished to you of the extraordinary general meeting of proprietors of this bank, held there on Thursday, the 28th instant, I am desired by the directors to hand you a correct report of what took place, and to request the favour of your inserting it in your next publication.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
JAMES MARSHALL, Secretary.
Provincial Bank of Ireland, London, Jan. 30, 1841.

An extraordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the above bank was held on Thursday at their establishment in Broad street, for the purpose of electing a director in the place of John Wright, Esq., who had resigned. O. Farrer, Esq., being called to the chair,

The Secretary of the bank read the advertisements which convened the meeting, and which also stated its objects.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, you have heard the advertisements. We are now here assembled for the purpose of electing a director in the room of Mr. John Wright, who has retired. There is but one candidate to fill the situation; I will, therefore, put his name to the vote. "Is it your pleasure, gentlemen, that James Helme, Esq., be elected a director?"—It was unanimously carried.

Frederick Read, Esq.: I believe I shall now be in order if I refer to a subject which appears to affect the character of this establishment. It arises from a letter which, in common with the other proprietors, I have received from Mr. Baldwin, who has been a candidate for the vacant directorship, but who has now withdrawn. Yet he may again become a candidate when another vacancy takes place (hear, hear.) I have been struck with the manner in which that letter is couched, and I wish to call the particular attention of the meeting to two points in it (hear, hear.) The first applies to what may occur at a future election, and reflects upon the mode in which elections are conducted. Mr. Baldwin's statement implies that any recommendation coming from the board is favour of a candidate, as being best qualified to fill the situation, will be sure to secure his election. I believe we passed a resolution binding ourselves to support the best qualified candidate. If that resolution is proposed to be rescinded, I would oppose it with the same warmth which I showed in its favour when it was first proposed to the proprietors. The resolution referred to is as follows—"That in future elections it would conduce to the good management of the bank affairs, if a recommendation should be made by the directors to the proprietors in favor of those candidates whom, after due inquiry, they shall find to be best qualified to fill the situation" (hear, hear.) The next question is one of more importance, which, with your permission, I will read. The paragraph in the letter to which I refer, and of which I most complain, runs as follows:—"The manifest disposition of discouraging Irish gentlemen who come forward on similar occasions, is a subject which has for some time occupied the attention and attracted the notice of my countrymen, and is worthy of your mature consideration, for it has engendered a strong spirit of jealousy, which, though slowly, is working deeply to the injury of your establishment. It is a fact which cannot be denied that this feeling mainly gave rise to a powerful opposition bank—more powerful than wealthy, on account of its national influence—the effects of which have been severely felt on more than one occasion, The best proof I can give of what I assert is, that this was one of the chief arguments used by the promoters of that institution, when they applied to me and other friends to co-operate with them in forming the establishments." This has been sent forth in a general circular, which I consider is calculated to injure the present establishment, an establishment standing at present high in public estimation (hear, hear,) and upon which I should be sorry there should be cast any imputation whatever. I therefore rise on this occasion to give the court of directors an opportunity to refute or explain what the worthy proprietor refers to in his circular; and if he should be present he will explain why he has cast upon the court of directors a reflection which they do not deserve (cheers). I have no knowledge of the gentleman but this I know, that the same number of Irish gentlemen continue at our board, or indeed more than were there when we were first established (hear, hear, hear.) I believe the whole board of directors to have displayed so much zeal, ability, and courtesy in the general management of our affairs, that they do not merit the imputation that has been by such a course attached to them (hear, hear.)

The Chairman: I am extremely sorry my friend Mr. Baldwin is not present, which I presume he is not, as I do not see him, and this will prevent my saying many things which I should otherwise do (hear, hear, hear.) From the way in which this question has been asked, I shall feel it my duty to answer it. But ever since this letter has been circulated we have felt ourselves placed in a difficult situation, having to suffer under a serious charge, which, if correct, we should not deserve that which we have always received—the entire confidence of the proprietors (hear, hear, hear.) If we had not considered that a contest was about to take place, we would have sought an earlier opportunity to rescue ourselves from this charge; but we felt that if we did so it might militate against one of the candidates [cheers]. I am thankful to Mr. Read for giving me an opportunity to speak to the question; at the same time, I am sorry that my friend Mr. Baldwin did not first investigate the facts, which he might have learnt upon both these points. I must think he was labouring under some misapprehension (hear). I will not criticise his words, however hard they may appear to bear on the board of directors, for we can throw ourselves upon the proprietors, who, I feel satisfied, will not deprive us of their confidence (hear,) But Mr. Baldwin is under a mistake when he states the court of directors recommended a candidate to you. Yet, I will distinctly state, in answer to what appears in that letter, that had your directors felt that your interests and the interests of the establishment required it, they would not have flinched from so doing, whether such a resolution had passed or not; for we do feel that, as directors of this establishment, we are bound to uphold its general interest (cheers) whether we receive the entire approbation of every individual proprietor or not (cheers); for we conceive your interests demand it. We do not hesitate in saying the statement has given us very great pain, for we must remember that the parties to which it is addressed are, many of them, residing in Ireland, who have warm hearts, a generous spirit, but a quick sensitiveness, and they may consider, as a body, that they are slighted by the directors (hear, hear, hear.) I do not conceive that any proposition could be put forward against the directors of this establishment that would have a more prejudicial effect, than that Irish gentlemen were discouraged from coming forward as candidates for offices in it, and that in consequence it was gradually sinking in their estimation, and if true, deservedly so (hear hear.) Since that establishment has been formed there has been but one instance where an Irish gentleman came forward as a candidate and was not elected; and what was remarkable, the two candidates on that occasion were both Irishmen, and of course we could not elect the two to fill one vacancy (hear, hear, and laughter.) This could not be considered rejecting an Irish gentleman. I am sure you have reason for rejoicing in your choice, when I state to you that the gentleman elected was Mr. Young, member for Cavan (cheers.) The other gentleman withdrew his name prior to the election, and as he did not reside in England, and did not again offer himself, you could not, therefore, elect him. On another occasion an Irish nobleman wished to become a director, but he died before a vacancy took place. You will, therefore, see that every Irish gentleman who has been proposed has been elected. This will relieve the directors from the charge that they have discouraged Irish gentlemen from coming forward as candidates for offices in this establishment (hear, hear). We are told by Mr. Baldwin that we are losing ground in Ireland. We had naturally expected that Mr. Baldwin would have pointed out where, for we do not find it among the shareholders in Ireland; to prove which I will take their number at Christmas for the last three years. In 1838 they were 355. In 1839, they amounted to 398; and in 1840 they rose to 440 (hear), being an increase of 95 upon the three years. This does not indicate any strong decline of confidence in this establishment. Last year three fourths of the shares disposed of in London were sent to Ireland (cheers); this is also satisfactory, giving us a stronger hold upon the good opinion and affections of the Irish people. If this establishment were so sinking in the estimation of the Irish public, would it not be felt among the grand juries of Ireland? But have we not been appointed receivers by them? Our sole anxiety is, that where the bane has gone the antidote should come (cheers). But I have my doubts whether we can prevent altogether the mischief which this letter may have done, as it has gone to every proprietor. Under a late act of Parliament, the grand jury of each county were directed to select a banker for the account of the county treasurer. It then became a matter of competition among the banks to obtain the county treasurer's accounts; yet, out of twenty three which are without the exclusive circle of the Bank of Ireland, we have fourteen, and nine are left for all the other banks in Ireland, in the south and west, as well as in the north, where the local banks have numerous branches, and partners intimately connected with gentlemen who form the grand juries. This does not indicate a decline of confidence in us. If we refer to the boards of guardians of the poor law unions, of which there are many yet to be formed, we find that thirty four of them have preferred this establishment, which has so sunk in public estimation (cheers). I wish my friend Mr. Baldwin had taken the trouble to inquire, before he brought forward his statement; for, had he done so, I feel quite certain that he would not have said one word against the directors to any proprietor or person interested in the Provincial Bank of Ireland, for the chances of gaining a few votes. However, he has now, though late in the day, retired from the contest, from what reason I know not but probably because he did not find himself supported as he expected. I felt it was right you should know so much. There is another fact I wish to state to you. You are aware that this was the first joint stock bank introduced into Ireland to be carried out on the principles of Scotch banking. It was, therefore, necessary to obtain men who were acquainted with that system; we therefore sought for persons from that country where the system had been so beneficially carried out. We employed Scotch and English gentlemen, because Irish gentlemen had to be taught the system, but never intended to exclude the talent of Ireland. I will name to you the number of each country engaged in this establishment: 127 Irish, 51 Scotch, and 14 English (hear, hear.) In addition to this, there are fifty six local directors in Ireland. Of these, two are Scotch gentlemen, who have been long settled in Ireland. This shows we do not want to exclude Irish talent in the working of this establishment (hear), I will now, gentlemen, conclude by asking whether you consider the directors deserve the reflections and charges brought against them by Mr. Baldwin (cheers)?

Mr. F. Read: I am sorry Mr. Baldwin is not in the room; but I am sure you must all feel rejoiced at hearing so triumphant a refutation of the charges made in that letter (cheers.) I feel any further observations would only lessen the force of those which have fallen from the chairman (cheers.) I also feel that when this goes forward to the world, it will give an increased confidence in the establishment, and that what Mr. Baldwin has done will do us no injury. I feel that, after the manner in which the chairman has explained, it will do us much good. I will therefore move "that the most cordial thanks of this meeting be tendered to the chairman and court of directors, for the complete and triumphant refutation which has this day been given to the statements conveyed by the letter of a proprietor, addressed to the shareholders at large, with reference to the administration of this establishment, which statement, however, this meeting is disposed to believe must have been made under misapprehension or misinformation on the subject."

Captain Porter—You speak, Mr. Chairman, of the number of Irishmen who are shareholders, but you must be referring to those only who by your books appear to be resident in Ireland. I am an Irishman, unfortunately a younger brother, and have another younger brother. We may be said to be transported here. We are both shareholders, and both resident in England though Irishmen. Our family have eleven stars among us in the list of proprietors, and there are no doubt many other Irish shareholders similarly situated (hear, hear). Allow me the honour of seconding that resolution—It was put and carried with acclamation.

The Chairman—In the name of my brother directors and myself I thank you; and we will still endeavour to promote the interests of this establishment, as we have hitherto done. I believe we cannot say any more (cheers.)

THE LAW OF MARRIAGE—ART. VII.

The small section who are opposed to any alteration in the law of marriage accuse us of propounding novelties, and endeavouring to take the Church by surprise. We, therefore, propose to strengthen our positions by a few authorities, proving incontestibly that these new theories of ours, by which Bishops and even Archbishops have been led astray, are the identical doctrines, readings or interpretations, which have been adopted by the best biblical commentators for centuries.

Michaelis, "the very learned Michaelis" (as Archbishop Magee calls him), remarks as follows in his commentaries on the Laws of Moses:—

"Marriage with a deceased wife's sister he (Moses) permits, but prohibits on the other hand, the marrying two sisters at once. The words of the law, Levit. xviii 18, are very clear—'Thou shalt not take a wife to her sister, to be her rival, &c., along with her, in her life time.' After so distinct a definition of his meaning, and the three limitations added (1) as to being the other's rival; (2) as to his taking both; and (3) as to his doing so in the life time of the first, I cannot comprehend how it should ever have been imagined, that Moses also prohibited marriage with a deceased wife's sister; that very connection which we so often find a dying wife entreating her husband to form, because she can entertain the best hopes of her children's welfare from it.

"What Moses prohibited was merely simultaneous polygamy with two sisters; that sort of marriage in which Jacob lived, when he married Rachael as well as her sister Leah. The reason of this prohibition is not difficult to discover. Sisters, in whom nature has ever planted a principle of the strongest affection, are not to be made enemies to each other, by polygamy. That two wives of the same husband should love each other is inconceivable. The man, therefroe, who wishes to live in polygamy, and make two wives hate each other from jealousy, should make use of strangers, not of sisters. The history of Jacob, who contrary to his inclination, was brought into this predicament, furnished a very animated representation of the reasons on which this law is founded. Enmities between sister-wives, will besides, always be more violent, and from their having known each other too intimately all their lives, more unmannerly than when they are strangers to each other, and, cannot so fully venture to outrage decency in their mutual hatred."

Dr. Dodd's commentary is—

"Custom and practice are the best interpreters of law; and it appearing from these that polygamy was allowed amongst the Jews, as well as from Deut. xxi 15 and xvii. 17, it is plain that the marginal interpretation (viz., one wife to another) cannot be true, but that the marriage of two sisters at the same time is here prohibited; and Grotius justly observes, that as the feuds and animosities of brothers are, of all others, the most keen, so are generally the jealousies and emulations between sisters. Therefore, the historian used the strong expression to vex her: but though a man might not marry two sisters together, it seems a natural conclusion, from the phrase in her life time, that he might marry the sister of his deceased wife: and thus, we learn from Selden, the Jews in general understood it."

Adam Clarke says—

"Thou shalt not marry two sisters at the same time as Jacob did Rachael and Leah; but there is nothing in this law that rendered it illegal to marry a sister in law, when her sister was dead; therefore the text says, thou shalt not take her in her life time to vex her, alluding probably to the case of the jealousies and vexations which subsisted between Leah and Rachael, and by which the family peace was so often disturbed."

In Walton's Polyglot, the Septuagint, Vulgate, Syriac, Samaritan, Arabic and Chaldee paraphrases agree in this interpretation, which is adopted by Grotius, Montesquieu, Mr. Justice Story, and Chief Justice Vaughan. The last observes:

"Within the meaning of Leviticus, and the constant practice of the commonwealth of the Jews, a man was prohibited not to marry his wife's sister only during her life, after he might: so the text is (citing it). This perhaps is a knot not easily untied, how the Levitical degrees are God's law in this kindom, but not as they were in the commonwealth of Israel, where first given."

So far, therefore, as the divine precepts in Leviticus continue binding, they are with us. But our argument is that they are no longer binding, and that the question rests on general considerations of morality Here—to begin—we have E. B. P's favourite saint upon our side:—

"Whatsoever things the law enjoins (writes St. Basil with reference to this very text) it enjoins to those under it, otherwise we should be subject to circumcision, and the observance of the Sabbath, and abstinence from certain kinds of food."

Bishop Burnet says—

"It is certain, and can bear no debate, that the Mosaical dispensation, as to all parts of it, that are not of their own nature moral, is determined and abrogated by the Gospel."

Jeremy Taylor is full and precise upon the point:—

"The judicial law of Moses is annulled or abrogated, and retains no obliging power either in whole or in part over any Christian province, commonwealth, or person."

"All these degrees on which Moses' law hath forbidden marriages, are supposed by very many now a days, that they are still to be observed with the same distance and sacredness, affirming because it was a law of God, with the appendage of some penalties to the transgressors, it must still oblige us Christians. This question was strangely tossed up and down upon the occasion of Henry the Eighth's divorce from Queen Catherine, the relict of his brother, Prince Arthur; and, according as the interests of Princes used to do, it very much employed and divided the pens of learned men, who, upon that occasion, gave too great testimony with how great weakness men that have a biss to determine questions, and with how great force a King that is rich and powerful can make his own determinations; for though Christendom was then much divided, yet before then there was almost a general consent upon this proposition—That the Levitical degrees do not by any law of God bind Christain to their observation."

Another statement of ours—that the prejudices prevalent regarding marriage during the early ages of the Church may be traced to the asceticism then in vogue, has been disputed or rather cavilled at. We will therefore confirm it by a proof or two.

The most exemplary Christians, long antecedent to the corruptions of Popery, undoubtedly regarded celibacy as a virtue—a sexual feeling as transgression—and a second marriage as a downright sin. Athenagoras writes as follows towards the end of the second century of the Christian era:—

"Each of us confines himself to his own wife; and marries, not to satisfy desire, but to beget children. Many among us, both men and women, have grown old in a state of celibacy, through the hope that they shall thereby be more closely united to God..... Either we remain as we were born, or we contract one marriage; for a second marriage is a decorous adultery. 'For whoever.' Christ says, 'puts away his wife and marries another, commits adultery:' neither allowing us to put away our wives, nor to marry again; for he who cuts himself off from his first wife, even though she be dead, is a concealed adulterer."

In his canonical epistles, speaking of second marriages, Basil says, that some were punished by one, others by two years' penitence. Third marriages, by three or or four years' penitence. As to fourth marriages, they seem to have ranked with polygamy, which was reckoned too bestial to be brought under any regulation.

"There are many hard expressions," says Bingham, "in Athenagoras, Irenæus, Origen, Gregory Nazianzen, Chrysostom, Jerome, and others, concerning second and third marriages, which the learned reader may find collected by Cotelerius in his notes upon Hermes Pastor and the Constitutions; the latter of which writers declares also against second and third marriages as transgressions of the law; and brands fourth marriages with the hard name of *prothanes porneia* manifest fornication."

Gibbon states generally, "that the practice of second nuptials was branded with the name of legal adultery, and the persons who were guilty of so saandalous an offence against Christian purity were soon excluded from the honour, and even from the alms, of the church."

Our own opinion is, that E. B. P. and his friends would willingly bring back the same state of things, if they could; but even this brief exposure will make it rather difficult for them to persuade the public that the example of the dark ages, is to be preferred to that of the leading Protestant States of modern Europe, who, as has been clearly shown, have thrown off the restraints in question, and find their morals improved instead of deteriorated by the change.

We shall shortly offer a few remarks on the attempt to confound affinity with consanguinity.—*Courier.*

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