



IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons—Thursday, May 31.

Mr. Nicholl took the oath and his seat for Cardiff.
In answer to a question from Mr. CHASTOT-PHIER, Mr. HAWES said the papers relating to Canada had been delivered to members the day after they were printed, in consequence of the holidays intervening. No instruction had been given by the government to communicate official papers to the *Times* newspaper before they were placed in the hands of members, but it was the custom to give important public documents to the press upon application being made for them; they were given to all the papers that applied for them, and not to one exclusively.

Upon the report of the committee of supply being brought up, and motion made that it be agreed to.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY moved that a reduction of £50,000 should be made in the navy estimates (votes to artificers).

Mr. GODSON seconded the motion.
Sir F. BARING defended the vote.
The amendment was withdrawn, and report was received and agreed to.

The House then went into committee of supply. Amongst the items was one of £2,500 on account of the commission for inquiring into the constitution and management of the Royal Mint, which gave rise to a sharp discussion. Colonel SEYMOUR remarked that there was usually a small attendance of members when public money was to be voted away. He protested against the wanton outlay of money upon books, paintings, and ornaments at a time when Ireland was labouring under extreme distress, and England was not free from suffering. The government ought to keep in mind the maxim, "Be just before you are generous" (hear, hear).

Mr. GLADSTONE complained of the charge of £2,500 for the commission to inquire into the constitution and management of the Royal Mint (hear, hear).

The Master of the Mint was a high officer, with a considerable salary, and ranking as a privy councillor, but his ordinary duties were altogether insignificant. The separation of the office of Master of the Mint from that of the President of the Board of Trade, and its retention as a separate office, with a salary, could be justified only on the ground that the person holding it was to perform the duty of reforming the constitution of the Mint—(hear, hear).

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER defended the appointment of the commission.

Sir GEORGE CLERK complained of certain charges which had been made in the evidence taken and published by the commissioners, reflecting upon the officers of the Mint, who had had no opportunity of justifying themselves.

Mr. SHELL believed that the right hon. gentleman referred to a document furnished by Mr. Pistrucci, chief medalist of the Mint, in which a phrase occurred relative to Mr. Brande, which he regretted, and upon which Mr. SHELL had communicated with that gentleman. Mr. Pistrucci complained that Mr. Brande did not work with his own hands, and that great inconvenience and much additional expense were incurred by a want of skill in hardening the dies.—It appeared that each of the masters of the Mint received a salary of £5,000 a year, and that circumstances were sufficient to show the necessity for some inquiry. The commissioners were of opinion that this sum far exceeded the amount of remuneration which these operative gentlemen ought to receive. With respect to the allegations which had been made to the appointment of a son of his hon. friend the member for Dublin (Mr. Reynolds), there was no doubt that the Master of the Mint was entitled to recommend a gentleman to fill the office in question. The late solicitor of the Mint received a salary of £800 per annum, and did nothing for the Mint. The Chancellor of the Exchequer refused to sanction the appointment of another person to fill this office, and consolidated the offices of solicitor to the Mint and solicitor to the Treasury, by which £800 were saved. Mr. Powell was promoted from the office of second first assistant in the Mint department to the solicitor's office, at a salary of £600 a year, the fees being abolished. The office of second assistant was then vacant, and he (Mr. Shell) had recommended Mr. Reynolds to the situation, whose competency was vouched for by the Attorney-General for Ireland, and was satisfactorily established after a minute examination. Mr. Reynolds, who had been five years in an attorney's office, was therefore appointed with a salary of £320 per annum. On the subject of the patronage of his office, he (Mr. Shell), as Master of the Mint, was in the enjoyment of very considerable patronage; but, one of the commissioners, he had heartily concurred in the recommendation that it should be transferred to the Treasury.

Mr. GOULBURN said the public had a right to expect that the Master of the Mint should reform his establishment, and characterise the payment of £1,880 to Colonel Forbes, the Chief Commissioner, as an act of extravagance.

Mr. LABOUCHERE said although no blame attached to the officers of the Mint, the system required improvement, and the appointment of the commission was the best mode of conducting the preliminary inquiry.

Colonel SEYMOUR observed that there was an item of £300 for travelling expenses of the King and Queen of the Belgians, Duke of Sax-Coburg, and the Prince of Prussia, during their visits to this country—he did not know how often or for what purposes—but he presumed how often these visits were made, from what quarter the money came, and how it was ascertained that all these expenses were really incurred?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the whole of this class of expenses were charged which were formerly paid out of the civil list of the Sovereign. When that list was before the committee some few years ago they recommended, and parliament adopted the recommendation, that it should be confined to the mere personal expenses of the Sovereign, and that other charges of no great amount should not fall on that list, but should be defrayed by the public, as they had formerly been, though in a different shape.

Mr. OSBORNE then moved to reduce the vote from £50,000 to £30,000.
The committee having divided, the numbers were—
For the amendment 15
For the original sum 47

Majority 32
The CHAIRMAN then reported progress, and the house resumed.

Leave was given to bring in the following bills: On the motion of Sir W. SOMERVILLE, a bill to amend an act for the regulation of municipal corporations in Ireland, a bill for the improvement of the city of Dublin, and a bill to provide for the collection of rates in the city of Dublin; on the motion of the SECRETARY OF STATE, a bill to amend the joint stock companies winding up act, 1848; the object of the bill being to supply certain defects in that act. Several of these bills were brought in accordingly, and read a first time.

The house adjourned at a quarter past nine o'clock.

House of Commons—Friday, June 1.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 4 o'clock.

THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.
Lord J. RUSSELL said that he was anxious to answer a question which had been put to him some time before the recess, with respect to a report which had been current in the newspapers, and which was said to be founded on a letter addressed to him by the Rev. J. Anderson, of Balinrobe (hear). In that letter the rev. gentleman was stated, in the first place, to have said that he was particularly desirous to avoid saying anything that might cause anxiety in the public mind. He (Russell) had deemed it necessary to make the fullest inquiries upon the subject, and he found by a letter addressed to him by the rev. gentleman, dated 19th May, that the communication said to have been made the other day was written as long ago as last November (hear).—By this letter it was shown that the dreadful circumstances to which he referred occurred in the Clifden union (hear, hear). It had been stated that a person driven by want had cut out the liver and heart of a shipwrecked body, in order to satisfy the intense cravings of hunger, and that he was with difficulty restrained from feeding upon such means as a maddening repast (hear). The true circumstances were quite different. It was true that a dead body had been cast ashore, and that it had been in reality found by an individual who was represented as being a person of singularly voracious appetite. He found this body, and, without being aware that it was human, was preparing out of portion of it away, but some of the neighbours, who, as he pointed out, was what it was, when he immediately desisted, and, so far from this individual being in want, he had been for a long period in regular employment by the farmers around, and in receipt of good wages for months past (hear, hear). He wished to state these facts in order to dissipate the public of those erroneous impressions which were likely to result from such grievous statements of Irish distress (hear).

Sir G. GREY said that he was anxious to read to the house a portion of a letter which he had received from Lord Clancarty, in correction of a report which had been published in the newspapers of a great increase in the mortality in the Limerick union. By this letter it appeared that instead of increasing, the mortality had decidedly decreased. (The hon. baronet then read a letter to that effect.)

Lord JOHN RUSSELL gave notice, that on Friday, the 15th instant, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would make his financial statement to the house.

In reply to a question from Sir J. TYRELL, THE CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said it was in contemplation to effect a reduction in the cost of the Mint. He had not heard that any union had contracted with parties in France to supply the workhouse with provisions.

Mr. BATESON moved for copies of Articles 35 and 36 of the Sealed Orders of the Irish poor law commissioners, dated the 5th day of Feb., 1847; of all correspondence (if any) between the Irish poor law commissioners and the Roman Catholic clergy relative to article 36; and, of any correspondence on the same subject between the Irish poor law commissioners and their inspectors, and also between the commissioners and the board of guardians of the Belfast union.

In reply to a question from Mr. SCULLY, Sir W. SOMERVILLE said he had no official information of 600 evictions having been made from the estate of a Protestant clergyman in Tipperary.

Resolved on the motion of Lord J. RUSSELL, that the house should, at its rising, adjourn until Monday.

Mr. G. SANDARS asked the noble lord Secretary for Foreign Affairs, if he had heard of the fact of several British ships with British crews, sailing from the port of Barth, having been seized by Danish vessels, and taken into Copenhagen, though the said port of Barth is not one of the ports which has been declared under blockade, or any steps taken to render it so?

Lord PALMERSTON said he had ordered inquiries to be made into the subject.

SUPPLY.
The house then went into a committee of supply.

The first vote of £100,000 was for the purpose of repairing Buckingham and the other palaces. Mr. OSBORNE said that Buckingham Palace had already cost £700,000, which was a waste of public money, for a handsome palace might be built in a good situation for such a sum, instead of repairing and building piecemeal Buckingham Palace. From the year 1824 to 1836 one million and a half of public money had been spent on Windsor Castle, exclusive of the stabling, and the sums granted for furniture. The estimates for building the new houses of parliament was about £750,000, but no less than two millions had been already expended, and they had as yet only the shell completed.

After a short conversation the vote was agreed to.

MARBLE ARCH AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.
Mr. OSBORNE said that in this vote there was a sum, he observed, of £200 for the expense of pulling down the marble arch. This arch had cost upwards of £50,000 in the erection, and now there was to be a further sum for pulling it down. He should very much like to know what was to be done with this arch?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, in reply to the honorable member, he really could not say what was to be done with the arch, for nothing had at present been decided upon; but one thing was very plain, and that was, that the arch could not continue where it was (laughter).

The vote was then passed.

COMMITTEE-ROOMS, &c.
On the vote for £3,384 to defray the cost of committee-rooms and other temporary accommodations in the new houses of parliament.

Mr. OSBORNE said he hardly thought that the house were aware that since the temporary accommodations had been afforded not less than £200,000 had been spent upon them (hear, hear), and, again, there was another item to which he thought no sufficient attention had ever been directed, and that was the charge of £120,000 for ventilation. Not that he was inclined to find fault with the ventilation (hear, hear)—but he wished the house to see what they paid for it.—There was another charge which he wished to bring under their notice, and in doing so he was anxious to hear the opinion of the under-secretary for the colonies, respecting those hideous galleries which were now being erected in the House of Lords. That right hon. gentleman was a member of the Fine Arts Commission, and as in all probability they would see the expense of them charged in his opinion (hear). He objected to money being expended on temporary erections, and would advise the house to refuse their countenance, for it was his firm impression that unless the house put the screw on the Chancellor of the Exchequer he decidedly believed they would never sit in the new house at all (hear, hear, and laughter).

The vote was then agreed to.

HOLYHEAD HARBOUR.
The sum of £45,777 for completing the harbour at Holyhead for the accommodation of Her Majesty's mail-steam-packets was then agreed to.

HARBOURS OF REFUGE.
On the vote for £145,541 for completing the harbours of refuge.

Mr. M. GIBSON wished to inquire whether these harbours were for commercial or military purposes? He understood that these harbours, for commercial purposes, were more likely to be ports of refuge than of safety. The harbours of refuge, he understood, were the harbours of Dover, and the harbour at Dover a harbor of aggression instead of safety.

After a few observations from Mr. THORNLEY and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, the vote was agreed to.

A vote of £210,000 for works and repairs on the Caledonian canal was agreed to without discussion.

Upon a vote of £24,233 being proposed for the expenses of maintaining several public buildings belonging to the department of public works in Ireland, and also for the purposes of inland navigation, under the direction of the said commissioners.

Mr. SPOONER moved as an amendment, that the vote should be reduced by £1,225 18s. 7d., that sum being required for certain repairs in connection with Maynooth College.

Strangers were ordered to withdraw, and the house divided—
For the reduction 27
Against it 96
Majority 69

KINGSTOWN HARBOUR.
A vote for £5,500 for defraying the expenses of the works and repairs at Kingstown Harbour, was agreed to without discussion or division.

SALARIES OF PARLIAMENTARY OFFICERS.
A vote for £93,200 for the salaries of officers and salaries of retired officers, was agreed to without discussion.

Several other votes were agreed to, the Chairman reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

The other orders of the day were then disposed of, the house adjourned.

WEXFORD HARBOUR IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.
The friends of improvement will be happy to learn that this enterprising company have contracted with Mr. Dargan to deepen Galbar this summer; and when we take that gentleman's general activity and zeal into account, we may calculate with certainty on the accomplishment of the work within the period specified. On Thursday, the valuers of the reclaimed mudlands, appointed by the Grand Jury under the act, examined that portion of the lands embraced within the second embankment, preparatory to its valuation this day. As the question is, therefore, *pendente lite*, we will not say another word on the subject until after such valuation be made. The acreable extent now shut out from the ocean amounts to 2425 acres—1461 within the first, and 964 within the second embankment.—(Independent.)

PROSPECTS OF THE IRISH IN NEW YORK.
A person who has just returned from New York gives a deplorable account of many of those who have lately emigrated to America. The Messrs. Young, late Masters of the Workhouse, were in New York, but could obtain no employment, nor had they any immediate prospect of getting it. Several respectable persons who left New York regret their departure, as there is no hope of bettering their condition. Mechanics are well off, particularly stonecutters, who are in full employment at Brooklyn, which was burnt down by the great fire which took place a few months since. Such are the latest accounts from New York, and it will be seen that they are anything but encouraging, where hundreds of respectable people who could, by industry and perseverance, secure a comfortable livelihood at home, are walking about idly in that over-populated city. A respectable person who left Carlow in spring, with the view of obtaining a clerkship in a mercantile house, is employed as a labourer in New York; but there are others who were so fortunate as to get employment who are doing well.—(Carlow Sentinel.)

The *Northern Whig*, after alluding to the Anti-Irish policy of the government, thus concludes a long and significant article. It is not difficult to see how the pulse of Ulster beats at this moment—
"We only claim, if there be indeed a Union, that the common country shall bear in common the burden of an imperial calamity; or if that be not conceded, that we may be at liberty to part company with our neighbour, and to be subjected to provincial degradation and oppression. If we have received the *ultimatum* of British justice, we say, with Lord Castlereagh, that 'it is right that this should be clearly understood by the people of Ireland, in order that they may see the result of the union of the two countries.'"

OPENING OF THE NEWRY, WARRENPOINT, AND RESTREVOR RAILWAY.—Monday last was a great day in Newry, in consequence of the opening of the above line of railway. The day was remarkably fine, and immense crowds of the inhabitants assembled on the platform, in order to avail themselves of the facility for travelling to, and enjoying some of the finest scenery in the world. The station-house was decorated with flags, and the band of the 9th Regiment attended, and contributed to the pleasure of the numerous spectators. The first train, which left Newry, precisely at twelve o'clock, was, in truth, a monster one, and nothing could exceed the enthusiasm of the multitude. Cheer after cheer pealed forth, as the train left the station-house, and in ten minutes the passengers arrived in Warrenpoint. Here, also, the horse and carriage passengers. The numerous ships in the docks and the bay had their flags hoisted, and the steamers and revenue cutter fired several guns in honour of the auspicious occasion. The remainder of the trains ran at the appointed hours, and were all very full. Not the slightest accident occurred during the day.—(Belfast News Letter.)

AN EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE.—Every man likes being taken for a gentleman, and yet no man likes being charged as one—in a railway hotel bill.—(Punch.)

The London Committee have sent down to Exeter sufficient funds to effect the release of the Rev. James Shore from prison, for costs incurred in the ecclesiastical court, at the prosecution of his Diocesan.

The East India Company have given notice of a reduction of the interest on the bonds to 3½ per cent.

The Duke of Portland is about to erect a monument to the memory of his son, the late Lord George Bentinck, on the spot where his lifeless body was found.

Michael White, fisherman, of Corbally, caught a trout weighing seven and a half pounds.—(Limerick Chronicle.)

There is a garden of Potatoes in thick blossom at Corbally, the residence of Mr. John Abell.—They are grown in open air, and were highly matured with root and salt, on the plan of Mr. Cutbill of Chamberwell.—(Ibid.)

The general Board of Health, has, within the last few days, issued a very important report on the subject of quarantine. The question of the contagiousness of cholera, once so much and warmly disputed, has been pretty conclusively decided in the negative.

INDIAN CAVALRY.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.
Sir—With reference to your observations on the cavalry of India, I beg to observe that Skinner's corps of irregular cavalry was trained to perform steadily all the evolutions of regular cavalry, and that when the late Marquis of Hastings reviewed them at Bani, in the Hurriannah, he complimented Colonel Skinner (then Captain Skinner) on the steadiness of his corps, observing at the same time, that the government did not intend that his corps should be trained and employed as regular cavalry, but as irregulars.—Colonel Skinner then asked and obtained his Lordship's permission to put them through their regular exercise, and ordered his men to disperse, which they did at speed, and in less than five minutes were out of sight. His Lordship then asked if the men could be collected again, and, in answer to his question, he said that he could, by a signal being given by a flag at the end of a spear, in another five minutes they were reassembled, passing in speed by and through his Lordship's retinue and drew up in his rear, to the great astonishment of all present. They then went through their sword and spear exercise in single combat; drew tent-pins driven into the ground with their spears, and their horses were put at speed; and tracked bottles placed in the ground with their matchlocks when riding past at the distance of fifty yards at speed; besides many other feats of horsemanship which it would be difficult for men trained at Astley's Theatre to accomplish.

It is not to be supposed that the men or their horses in irregular corps can perform their duties without much previous training. The system under which the horses are trained is the most perfect; they are taught to obey every movement of their riders' body without the aid of the bridle, and the sward or trooper knowing that his life depends on the strict obedience of his horse to his orders, is unremitting in his instruction. The sward also feels that his life is dependent on his expertness in the use of his sword, matchlock, and spear, and without any urging takes a pleasure in perfecting himself in the use of these weapons, being aware that at any moment he may be called on to defend himself in single combat.

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