Wednesday & Thursday's Posts.

LONDON, MARCH 15, 1819.

Stocks.—3 per Cent. Consols. 74¼

Saturday's Gazette announces the appointment of the Earl of Fife, as one of the Lords of his Majesty's Bedchamber, in the room of Earl Poulett, deceased; and states the following to be the Lords of the Admiralty—Lord Melville, Sir George Warrender, John Osborn, Esq Sir Graham Moore, Sir George Cockburn, Sir Henry Hotham, and Sir George Clerk.

Crown Office, March 13.

MEMBERS RETURNED TO SERVE IN PARLIAMENT.

Borough of Clonmell —John Kiely, Esq. in the room of the Right Hon. Wm. Bagwell, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

City of Cashell—E. J. Collett, of Lockers House, in the County of Hertford, Esq. in the room of Richard Pennefather, Esq. who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

PRIVATE LETTER FROM PARIS.

Dated March 8.—"Count Lamoignon made, on Saturday last, a most extraordinary proposition in the House of Peers, which was rejected by both parties, with sentiments of surprise and indignation, as an unprecedented encroachment on the royal authority. This Peer (who enjoys an unimpeached reputation for probity and loyalty, and who in Buonaparte's time withdrew into the country, and never filled any public functions) proposed in the Upper House, to address the King to declare the regret with which their Chamber viewed the nomination of so many strangers, and to request his Majesty not to mistake the sentiments and devouement of the ancient Peers. Universal cries of disapprobation, interrupted the Orator; the President declared he could listen no longer to such unconstitutional language, and many of the Peers waited on the Minister of the Interior, in quitting the House, to request him not to suffer the Journals to publish any account of it."

It is remarked, that of the Peers who sat during the hundred days, eight yet remain excluded from the present Chamber.

Letters have been received to the 23d ult. from Gibraltar, by which it appears that the plague on the coast of Africa, instead of diminishing with the cold weather, was increasing to an alarming extent. The only information with regard to the ravages committed by it, was brought to the British fortress by the vessel appointed by the Governor to sail at stated periods, as no private trading ships were allowed to have any communication with the Barbary coast. According to the latest advices, one or two hundred persons died lately of the disease.

The trial of Marinet and Cantillon, accused of being accomplices in the affair of firing the pistol at the Duke of Wellington, is definitively fixed for the 5th of next month. Above sixty witnesses will be examined, and, what is more remarkable, the Noble Duke himself is inscribed amongst the number of the witnesses.

The Loyal Ladies of Nottingham are coming forward in the cause of Mr. Smith, with a spirit and liberality worthy of every praise; and a subscription has been entered into by them, which bids fair to amount to a considerable sum, in aid of the general expences of the Scrutiny now carrying on.

One or more wretches, unworthy the name of human beings, a few days ago, after cutting off the shoulders of a sheep, belonging to Mr. Franks, of Morton, near Bourn, Nottinghamshire, in a pasture not far from his house, left it to finish its miserable existence.—From the beaten track, marked in agony, and stained with gore, which terrified the shepherd in the morning, the poor animal is supposed to have continued struggling alive for upwards of an hour!

James Pyre and Thomas Evans, the reputed husbands of the two female swindlers who were committed to Wakefield House of Correction on the 5th instant, were apprehended at Newcastle, by the Deputy Constable of Leeds, the next day. They were examined before the Magistrates of Leeds on Tuesday last, and remanded till Saturday, when they were re-examined, and again remanded till Tuesday, for further examination. One of these gentlemen was outwardly a *Dandy* of the most exquisite order.

The Hon. and Rt Rev. the Bishop of Durham has entered on the fiftieth year of his Episcopate; on which occasion a congratulatory address has been presented to his Lordship by the Clergy of the diocese.

Phineas Adams, whose remarkable case of resolute artifice, or of extraordinary stupor, occasioned so much observation in the neighbourhood of Taunton a few years since, was on Monday last committed for trial to Ilchester goal, charged with stealing a sheep from Mr. Uttermare, of Ashill.

Dreadful Fire.—Four Persons Burnt.—Monday morning about two o'clock, a most alarming fire broke out at the house of Mr Agland, the Star public house, corner of Wilk's Street, Brick Lane, Spitalfields, London, which was attended with fatal and distressing consequences. The flames were discovered bursting the shutters by the watchman, who gave an instant alarm, but before any assistance could be procured, the adjoining house, a chandler's shop, kept by Mr. Ruthen, was also observed to be in flames, and female cries could be distinctly heard from the upper part of the house, occupied by Mrs. Sarah Salmond, aged 70, and a young woman named Elizabeth Hocklin, both silk winders, who, shocking to relate, perished before any assistance could be afforded them! The extensive premises of Messrs. Trueman, Hanbury, and Co. brewers, which are nearly adjoining, narrowly escaped. Two men who lived in one of the houses are missing, and there is too much reason to believe have fallen victims to the fire. In the course of the day, the body of Mrs Salmond was dug out, burnt to a cinder. The whole of the houses were let out to poor persons, whose goods have all been destroyed.

A Coroner's Inquest was held on Thursday afternoon, at the Committee-room of St. Olave's work house, Southwark, on the body of John Paull, Esq a merchant in the City, who put an end to his existence by drowning himself. The deceased was brother of James Paull, Esq. who, it may be recollected, was formerly a Candidate for Westminster, and fought a duel with Sir F. Burdett, and who shortly afterwards shot himself at his house in Charles-street, St. James's-square; the deceased was also brother of T. Paull, Esq a merchant of Birmingham, who poisoned himself a short time ago. The Jury having consulted, through their foreman, returned the following verdict, "The deceased drowned himself, being at the time in a state of insanity."—The deceased was embarrassed in his circumstances.

LONDON, MARCH 16, 1819

Stocks —3 per cent. Consols ...... 74¼.

Brussels, March 10.

A private account from Madrid, of February 25, contains what follows:

General Morillo, in his last dispatches to the Government, affirms, that if they will send him from Spain a reinforcement of 6,000 good troops and two frigates, he will answer with his head for the submission of all that part of America the command of which is intrusted to him.

The pending prosecutions touching the right of the Freemen of Worcester to their Commonage in Pitchcroft are amicably adjusted, and no action will be tried.

Very considerable dissatisfaction has been excited at Birmingham by the introduction of a bill into the House of Commons, by the Trustees of Christ Church, to enable them to raise money by rate to pay off the debts incurred in building the church, and for other purposes. A most numerous meeting of the inhabitants took place on Wednesday, when it was resolved strenuously to oppose the bill. This dissatisfaction is now, however, happily dissipated, the Trustees having abandoned the bill, in deference to the opinion of the town. The payment of the debts incurred, and the erection of the minister's house, now remain to be effected by the produce of seats and by voluntary contributions.—The Bishop of the Diocese has already given £600, towards this object, the two county members £200, each, and Legge, Esq £100.

Friday and Saturday's Posts.

LONDON, MARCH 17, 1819.

Stocks —3 per cent. Consols 74¼
Do. for the Account 74½
Exchequer Bills .... 2s. 3s dis.

We have received this morning New York Papers to the 11th ult. They contain, among other things, an ingenious report about a number of "sharp vessels" which have left the different ports of the United States, to meet in a certain latitude, for the purpose of carrying off Buonaparte from St. Helena. They will be very sharp indeed if they succeed in their enterprise, supposing any such enterprise to be undertaken. Not that we doubt the probability of an attempt; but we think they who would engage in it would know how to keep their own secret.

The Congress are still debating upon the affair of Gen. Jackson. They seem to transact business in the House of Representatives, much in the same way as the French Chambers. When a certain hour arrives the discussion closes, and if a Member happens to be caught in the middle of his oration, he takes it up again on the following day. Hence it rarely happens that more than two speakers are heard in each sitting; and sometimes one Member, (as was the case with Mr. Clay), will occupy several days.

The following Message was sent to the Senate on the 3d ult. by the President. It is not mentioned of what nature are the British claims alluded to.

"*To the Senate of the United States,*

"I communicate to Congress, copies of applications received from the Minister of Great Britain, in behalf of certain British subjects, who have suffered in their property by proceedings to which the United States by their military and judicial officers have been parties. These injuries have been sustained under circumstances which appear to recommend strongly to the attention of Congress the claim to indemnity for the losses occasioned by them, which the legislative authority is alone competent to provide.

"JAMES MONROE."

The United States appear to be rapidly acquiring all the vices of the corrupt monarchies of Europe. The roads are so infested with robbers, that the papers are continually filled with the accounts of their depredations, and we find this evil has increased to so alarming an extent, that in the Senate, Mr. Talbot moved a Resolution, which was agreed to, for enquiring into the expediency of employing an armed guard for the protection of the mails along certain roads.

It was proposed by a Mr. Kerr in the Legislature of Ohio, "That each convict shall be liberated when he shall have committed to memory one chapter of the New Testament for each month for which he may stand sentenced to hard labour, any provision to the contrary notwithstanding." There is nothing in this a whit more ridiculous than some of the doctrines avowed by our sentimental gaol reformers.

LONDON, MARCH 18, 1819

Letters were received yesterday from Port au-Prince, dated Jan. 7, the markets there are said to be completely overstocked and the prices generally 35 per cent lower than at the same period last year. Coffee, the article in which the foreign importer is principally remunerated, is quoted at 45 Sous the pound.

At the sales yesterday in Mincing Lane, Bengal Cotton produced only 5¾ per lb. the same article twelve months ago was purchased at 11d.

French Papers to the 15th inst. arrived at a late hour last night.

Count Regnault de St. Jean d'Angely was buried on the 13th with great pomp, in the church-yard of Pere Lachaise. Mr. de Tory, Member of the Institute, pronounced his funeral oration.

An article from Hamburgh states, that the celebrated traveller ALY BEY died some time since at Damascus, on his way with the caravan to Mecca, and that the Pacha, according to the law of the country, has seized all his property and his valuable MSS.

The whole of the late Queen's servants have received notice, that the full amount of their respective salaries will be continued to them, by way of pension, for life; and at the same time they have been informed, that they will be expected to quit the apartments which they still occupy in the different Royal Establishments, on the 5th of next month.

A Tynwald Court was holden at the usual place (St. John's Chapel), in the Isle of Man, on Friday the 26th ult. when the Act was published "for preventing the recovery of *tippling debts*."

The Army.

The following are the quarters of every regiment in the English Army, corrected to 1st of this month:

1st Life Guards, Hyde Park, London; 2d King-street Barracks, London.

Royal Horse Guards, (Blue) Windsor, Reading.

1st Dragoon Guards, Hamilton (N. B.) Kilmarnock; 2d, Cahir; 3d, Dublin; 4th, Nottingham; 5th, York; 6th, Birmingham, Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton; 7th, Exeter, Plymouth

1st Dragoons, Ballinrobe; 2d, Dundalk.

3d Light Dragoons, arriving in New Bridge Barracks, Kildare, from England; 4th, Cork, intended for Canada this spring; 5th, extinct 6th, Edinburgh; 7th, (Hussars) Manchester; 8th Bengal; 9th (Lancers) Brighton; 10th, Weymouth; 11th, India, on passage; 12th, Canterbury; 13th, India, on passage; 14th, Dublin, ordered to England; 15th (Hussars) Ipswich; 16th, Clonmel; 17th, Bombay; 18th, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Carlisle, Penrith, Whitehaven; 19th, Hounslow

Royal Waggon Train, Croydon.

1st Foot Guards, 1st Battalion, Westminster; 2d Battalion, Windsor, Reading; 3d Batt. Holborn, Finsbury.

3d Foot Guards, 1st Batt. Portman Barracks; 2d Batt. Tower of London.

2d Foot Guards, 1st Batt. Knightsbridge Barracks, 2d Batt. Chatham.

1st Foot, 1st Batt. Dublin; 2d Batt. East Indies; 2d, West Indies; 3d, Naas; 4th and 5th, sailed for the Leeward Islands; 5th, Sunderland; 7th, Dublin; 8th, Gibraltar; 9th, sailed for the West Indies; 10th, Malta; 11th, Gibraltar; 12th, Limerick; 13th, Guernsey; 14th, India, Cawnpore; 15th, Halifax; 16th, Athlone; 17th, India, Ghagapore; 18th, Waterford; 19th, India, Ceylon; 20th, St. Helena, on passage; 21st, about to embark for the Leeward Islands; 22d, Isle of France; 23d, Limerick; 24th, India, Balapore; 25th, Cork, intended for Canada this spring; 26th, Gibraltar; 27th, on passage to Gibraltar; 28th, Ionian Isles; 29th, Armagh; 30th East Indies, Fort George; 31st, Chatham, Sheerness, Harwich, Languard Fort, Heligoland; 32d, Ionian Islands; 33d, Hilsea; 34th, India, Vellore, Nuudial; 35th, Cork, intended for Canada this spring; 36th, Malta; 37th, Quebec; 38th, Cape of Good Hope; 39th, Castlebar; 40th, Glasgow; 41st, Londonderry; 42d, Dundalk; 43d, Belfast; 44th, Kilkenny; 45th, proceeding to Ceylon; 46th, India, Bengal, Fort George; 47th, India; 48th, New South Wales; 49th, Fermoy; 50th, on passage to Jamaica; 51st, Plymouth; 52d, Chester; 53d, India, Trichinopoly, and Camp; 54th, on passage to the Cape of Good Hope; 55th, Isle of France; 56th, Isle of France; 57th, Clonmel; Jersey; 56th, Isle of France; 57th, Clonmel; 58th, Jamaica; 59th, Ceylon; 60th, 1st Batt. Demarara; 2d Batt. Quebec; 3d Batt. Halifax, to be disbanded; 61st, West Indies; 62d, Halifax; 63d, West Indies; 64th, Ionian Isles; 65th, India; 66th, St. Helena; 67th, India, Bombay; 68th, Nova Scotia; 69th, India, Bangalore; 70th, Niagara; 71st, Weedon Barracks; 72d, India; 73d, India, Ceylon; 74th, Canada; 75th, Ionian Isles; 76th, Canada; 77th, Galway; 78th, Mullingar; 79th, Chichester; 80th, Kingston upon Hull; 81st, Enniskillen; 82d, proceeding to the Isle of France; 83d, India, Ceylon; 84th, India, Bellary; 85th, Plymouth; 86th, Madras, five Companies Ceylon; 87th, India; 88th, Edinburgh; 89th, Hadinbad; 90th, Brighton; 91st, Dublin, 92d, on passage to Jamaica; 93d, Dublin.

Assize Intelligence.

LANCASTER.—CALENDAR

Of the Crown Prisoners for Trial, at Lancaster Assizes, which commenced on Saturday:—

William Folds, charged with house breaking, at Worsthorn.

William Gilligan, charged with putting off counterfeit money.

William Walmork, charged with house breaking, at Lever.

William Dunbobbin, charged with highway robbery, at Manchester.

John Howarth, charged with horse stealing at Eccles.

Edward Butler, charged with highway robbery, at Manchester.

Joseph Taylor, charged with having two wives.

Ellen Stuttard, charged with rioting, at Burnley.

Henry Ridings, charged with killing Mary Ridings, at Dean.

Peter Howcroft, charged with having forged bank notes in his possession.

John Tattersall, charged with having fired a loaded gun at divers persons.

Stephen Harbour, Benjamin Heaps, John Sill, and *Anthony Lea*, charged with house breaking at Prescot.

Thomas Roberts, charged with house breaking, at Manchester.

William Entwisle, charged with having uttered a forged note, at Blackburn

Henry Entwisle, charged with having uttered a forged note, at Bolton.

James Grime, senior, charged with having uttered a forged note, at Bolton.

James Grime, junior, charged with having uttered a forged note, at Bolton.

Solomon Mather, charged with having uttered a forged note, at Bolton.

James Twist and *William Morris*, charged with breaking counting houses, at Liverpool.

Mary Bell, charged with the murder of a new born child, at Barrowford.

William Stephenson and *Robert Reeves*, charged with house breaking, at Liverpool.

Mary Lilty, charged with having two husbands.

Daniel Murray, charged with killing James Balantine, at Liverpool.

Charles Bridge, charged with uttering base coin, at Manchester.

William Lewis, charged with house breaking, at Hindley.

John Nield, charged with horse stealing at Manchester.

George Cooper, charged with house breaking, at Whiston.

Thomas Rawsthorne and *John Walker*, charged with house breaking, at Latham.

George Goodfellow, charged with horse stealing at Manchester.

Joseph Thomas, Thomas Thomas, George Carnes, Lewis Thomas, Mary Thomas, and *Ellen Carr*, charged with house breaking, &c. at Liverpool.

Catherine Kelty, charged with having forged notes in her possession, at Manchester.

Thomas Exton, charged with uttering forged notes, at Chorley.

John Golding, charged with uttering a forged note, at Liverpool

Ellen Barrett, charged with uttering a forged note, at Liverpool.

James Urmston, charged with killing Mary Urmston, at West Derby.

Henry Moncrieffe, charged with having ravished Alice Helme, at Ellel.

John Molloy, William Barker, William Fox, and *Samuel Jones*, charged with house breaking, at Manchester.

William Allen, charged with horse stealing, at Manchester.

Benjamin Williamson, Mary Williamson, and *Martha Williamson*, charged with killing Mary Williamson, at Manchester.

John Clarke and *John Horseman Drake*, charged with uttering forged Bank of England notes.

John Smith, John Suckley, and *Ann Paine*, charged with house breaking, at Manchester.

Michael Clancey, charged with uttering a forged bank note, at Liverpool.

Patrick M'Cormick and *Mary M'Cormick*, charged with uttering a forged bank note, at Liverpool.

William Sadler and *William Yates*, charged with house breaking, at Walton-le-Dale.

Thomas Spence, charged with horse stealing, at Tarleton.

James Hartley, charged with killing James Haworth, at New Accrington.

James Crawshaw, John Welch and *Ann Hibbert*, charged with house breaking, at Manchester.

Margaret Martin, charged with killing John Martin, at Liverpool

James Crawford, charged with house breaking, at Liverpool.

John Kay, charged with uttering a forged bank note, at Liverpool.

Henry Perry, charged with house breaking, at Manchester.

John Newell, charged with horse stealing, at Preston.

James Pilling, charged with uttering forged bank notes, at Newchurch.

Edmund Kelly, charged with highway robbery, at Liverpool.

James Graham, charged with having two wives.

Hugh Seed and *John Kirby*, charged with horse stealing at Blackburn.

James Bracken and *Margaret Bracken*, charged with uttering base coin, at Over Darwen.

Henry Bryden, received under a special warrant for uttering base money.

John Goulden, William Smith, Robert Williams, John Carter, Thomas Williamson and *Isaac Williamson*, charged with highway robbery at Winwick with Hulme.

Joseph Smith, charged with receiving a quantity of stolen fustian.

John Derry, charged with house-breaking, at Blackrod.

Abram Barrow, senior, *Abram Barrow*, junior, *John Barrow*, *James Barrow* and *Roger Eckersley*, charged with stealing cotton weft, at West Leigh.

William Spencer, charged with levelling a loaded gun, at James Lord, at Clivíger.

Joseph Owen, charged with killing Betty Marclew, at Childwall.

James Devine, charged with house breaking, at Liverpool.

Francis Morgan, charged with house breaking, at Liverpool.

Thomas Lawton and *John Owens*, charged with house-breaking, at Liverpool.

Miles Blundell, charged with killing John Blundell, at North Meols.

Robert Taylor and *Henry Glover*, charged with warehouse breaking, at Wigan.

John White, charged with highway robbery, at Gorton

Robert Johnson, charged with highway robbery, at Heaton Norris.

John Kenyon, charged with a conspiracy to raise the price of labour

Wilkinson Simpson, charged with a conspiracy to raise the price of labour

All the convicts were reprieved before the Judges left Worcester, except John Harris, for uttering forged notes, who is expected to suffer the sentence of the law. About six months ago, Harris returned from transportation, to which he had been sentenced for fowl-stealing.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS, Monday, March 15, 1819.

CHIMNEY-SWEEPERS' BILL.

Lord Auckland, in rising to move the order of the day for committing this Bill, observed, that whatever prejudices existed against the use of machinery, it was generally among persons unacquainted with its use; and that an appeal to experiment was always sure to overcome that prejudice. He would advert to two facts in support of his position. The first to which he should refer was this: the inhabitants of the parish of Christchurch met to petition against the Bill. In the course of the proceedings it was suggested, that it would be proper to try how far it was practicable to sweep chimnies by machinery. A machine was produced, and experiments made; and the result was so satisfactory, that the very persons who assembled for the purpose of petitioning against the Bill, actually signed a Petition for it. The other fact had occurred in making the experiments on the chimnies connected with the House of Commons. In consequence of the directions of the Speaker, a person had proceeded to sweep with a machine, and he could only sweep 19 chimnies out of 61. The housekeeper, was, however, determined to continue the experiment, and under his superintendance no less than 60 of the 61 were swept. The chimney that remained unswept required some alteration to render it accessible to the machine. Having stated these facts, he moved that the Bill be now committed.

The Earl of Lauderdale said, the supporters of the Bill contended, that the chimnies of the metropolis could be all, or nearly all, swept by machines. Now, were this the fact, he should at once withdraw his opposition; but if the Report of the Surveyor-General was to be relied upon, and their Lordships could certainly have no better authority than the opinion of so intelligent a man as Colonel Stephenson, no such power was to be attributed to the machines. Colonel Stephenson had distinctly stated, that the total abolition of climbing boys was at present impracticable, and could not be attempted without endangering the general safety of the metropolis. But it will be replied, that it is not intended that the Bill shall operate immediately; that in passing it, time will be afforded for the preparation of machinery; but Colonel Stephenson's report contained satisfactory reason for refusing to pass a prospective Bill for such an object. It was stated in the report, that no machine had yet been invented which was capable of completely supplying the place of climbing boys. The merits of the present Bill might, perhaps, be illustrated by a story which he would take the liberty of telling their Lordships, though he was himself the subject of it. The physician who had attended him in his late illness, had prescribed large doses of calomel, so much indeed, that he thought it necessary to ask him the reason of such prescriptions. "O! (said the physician) I can easily prove to you the advantage of my practice. The calomel is like the climbing boys, it finds its way into every corner and cranny of the frame, and sweeps every deleterious particle clean out; whereas the other sort of medicines resemble the machines, and accordingly do the business very imperfectly. They do not follow all angles and turnings, but pass over many important parts untouched, and leave heaps of matter, which afterwards kindle into mischief." *(Loud laughter.)* If this story had any effect in explaining the policy of the measure, he might relate another, which perhaps would serve to render its humanity more intelligible. In some parts of Ireland it had been the practice, instead of employing climbing boys, to tie a rope round the neck of a goose, and thus drag the bird up the chimney, which was cleaned by the fluttering of its wings. This practice so much interested the feelings of many persons, that for the sake of protecting the goose they seemed ready to give up all humanity towards other animals. A man in a country village having one day, according to the old custom, availed himself of the aid of a goose, was accused by his neighbour of inhumanity. In answer to the remonstrances of his accuser, he observed that he must have his chimney swept. "Yes, (replied the humane friend of the goose,) to be sure you must sweep your chimney; but you cruel *baist* you, why don't you take two ducks, they will do the job as well?"—*(Laughing.)* The zealots for this Bill had in their blind eagerness to relieve a partial suffering, as completely forgotten the general interests of society, as had the poor Irishman disregarded the ducks in his anxiety to save the geese. He certainly should be happy to see the use of climbing boys totally abolished; but if a machine can be invented to sweep chimnies, that invention could not be promoted by this Bill. He must, therefore, oppose it altogether; and therefore moved as an amendment, that, instead of now, the Bill be committed this day six months.

The Earl of Harrowby said, if he saw any danger to the metropolis from the measure, he should be as unwilling to support it as any Noble Lord; but he could see no ground for any such apprehension. He thought, however that unless the Bill passed, the experiment would never be fairly made, and on that ground he supported the motion for going immediately into the Committee.

Their Lordships divided on the question, that the Bill be now committed.

Contents, 20; Non-contents, 37.—Majority, 17.

Lord Lauderdale's amendment was then put and the Bill is *lost*.

TUESDAY.

A Bill which passed the Commons, almost without observation, for continuing an Act of last Session, which suspended a power hitherto enjoyed by Aliens, of acquiring the rights of naturalized subjects, by investing a sum equal to about £80 sterling in the Bank of Scotland, was ordered to be read a second time.—On this question the House divided, for the Bill, 14; against it, 6.—It was stated by *Lord Sidmouth*, that a case is now pending in the Court of Session, in Scotland, for the purpose of determining the validity of this right, which is claimed by the Bank of Scotland.

COAL DUTIES.

The Earl of Rosslyn presented a Petition from the Borough of Dysart, in Scotland, against the Equalization of the Coal Duties. The Noble Earl observed, that great apprehension had been excited throughout the country by the proceedings which had taken place for the purpose of altering the present system of Coal Duties, and levying a tax at the pits. He hoped, therefore, that the Noble Lord opposite would explain what were the views of Ministers on the subject.

The Earl of Liverpool said, that whatever apprehension might have arisen on the subject, no proposition of the kind alluded to had received any countenance from his Majesty's Government. More than twelve months ago an Association had been formed in the metropolis with the view of obtaining an equalization of the duties on coals. A Committee from that Association waited on him and his Right Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and stated the nature of their object. His Right Hon. Friend concurred with him in declining to give any opinion until those who were interested in opposing the proposed measure should be heard. On hearing the other parties, he and his Right Hon. Friend intimated that his Majesty's Government would give no support to any proposition for altering the coal-duties, or encourage any inquiry or proceeding on the subject. Of course they did not give a pledge that they would not, under any circumstances which might arise, agree to an alteration in the system of taxation, but declared distinctly that they had at present no intention of supporting any proposition for equalizing the duties.

The Earl of Rosslyn could not expect Ministers to give a pledge indefinitely for the future; but he was glad to hear the declaration which the Noble Secretary of State had now made, the communication of which would, in his opinion, prove highly useful and important to the country.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Wednesday, March 10.

REGULATION OF MADHOUSES.

Mr. C. W. Wynn, in submitting his Motion for leave to bring in a Bill upon this subject, observed some years had now elapsed since an inquiry into the subject had developed such scenes of gross abuse as had seldom fallen within the knowledge of the Legislature; but it could scarcely be imagined, that after such abuses had come to light, and after two reports had been published upon them, that they had not been followed up by measures calculated to afford a remedy. They had repeatedly passed measures for the purpose of applying the remedy, but those measures had been lost in the House of Lords. The Bill he should present would be nearly the same as the former one, with the omission of some, and alteration of other clauses. One object of it would be to establish a board of inspection, with power to inspect all the madhouses in the kingdom, at uncertain periods; and another, the imposition of a penalty in cases where a lunatic was received without a certificate from a physician, that the person so received was in reality a lunatic. He would also have a penalty imposed, where false names had been given, or where any attempt at concealment or misrepresentation had been made. Another clause was, that no person should receive a lunatic without a certificate of his or her being so, which certificate should be transmitted to the office of the Secretary of State, there to be kept in a secret register, not to be opened to the inspection of any one without the permission of the Secretary, upon special cause being assigned. He would also have a clause ordering that where any person undertook for hire the custody of an individual said to be lunatic, such person should previously have a certificate of his being so, and also of the degree of relationship, if any, in which the person so delivering him up stood to the lunatic. The Hon. Gent. concluded by moving for leave to bring in a Bill to repeal the acts of the 14th and 55th of his present Majesty, and for making such other alterations as might be necessary for the better regulation of madhouses.—The question was put and carried.

THURSDAY.

The Poor Laws' Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed.

MUTINY BILL.

Lord Palmerston, in the Committee on this Bill, said, that he had an alteration to propose in it, which he should shortly state to the House. It was, that Courts Martial should be allowed to extend their sittings till four o'clock in the day, instead of being obliged to rise at three o'clock, as they are at present.

GENERAL GOURGAUD.

Mr. Lambton stated, that he had received a Petition from General Gourgaud, denying all the statements which had been made on a former evening by an Hon. Gentleman opposite (Mr. Clive) regarding the seizure of himself and papers. When he saw a Noble Lord, now absent, in his place, he should take an opportunity of presenting the Petition, and should state the points in the Hon. Member's speech which were contradicted by the assertions in this Petition.

COAL DUTY.

Sir Robert Peel, in presenting a Petition against a Coal Tax, said, that long as he had been a Member of that House, he had never heard of such a duty as the one deprecated by the Petitioners—a duty to be imposed, in the time of profound peace, upon a raw material of the first necessity.

Sir Robert Holt Leigh presented a similar Petition from Wigan.

Mr. Blackburne presented a Petition of the same import.

Mr. Alderman Wood, in presenting a Petition from a Parish in Devonshire, complaining of the high duty on Coals, and praying that the House would take the hardship they hence endured into its consideration, said that he had never supported an equalization of the duty, but that he was anxious that the duty should be taken off altogether.

Mr. Calvert said, that the first Petition on the subject had been from the borough of Southwark, and that its prayer had been, not for equalization, but for the consideration of the House.—*(Hear, hear.)*

Mr. Davenport also presented a Petition from the Manufacturers of Salt, in the Counties of Cheshire and Lancashire, against the equalization of the Coal Duty.

The subject which almost exclusively occupied the attention of the House this evening, was the inquiry, at the bar, into the alleged misconduct of Mr. Windham Quin. Mr. Carew Smith was called, and underwent an examination of above five hours. To him succeeded Mr. Goold, and at half-past twelve, the further examination of evidence was postponed till next day. In the course of the evening Mr. Stuart Wortley gave notice, that if any of the proceedings were published, during the progress of the inquiry, he should bring the parties so offending before the House, as being guilty of a breach of its privileges.

FRIDAY.

COAL DUTY.

Mr. W. Dundas presented a petition from the collieries in Scotland, against any alteration in the Coal Trade. If any tax were laid upon an article so essential to the comfort of the inhabitants of that country, it would make their habitations cheerless, and be the source of real distress.

POOR LAWS.

Mr. Sturges Bourne, in consequence of the protracted investigation which was to occupy the attention of the House, and in order to afford full opportunity of considering and discussing the subject of his Bill, gave notice that he would on Thursday, the 27th, bring in a Bill to regulate the Settlement of the poor.

CATHOLIC QUESTION.

Mr. Grattan postponed his motion upon this subject from the 22d to the 27th of April.

HUSBANDRY HORSES BILL.

On the motion of Mr. Lushington, the House resolved itself into a Committee upon this Bill.

Mr. Lushington said, that he did not conceive that any objection could be made to any of the clauses, or if any, the report could be received at present, and ordered to be taken into consideration on a future day.

Mr. Stuart Wortley had a clause to propose at another period of this Bill, to which he was happy to understand there would be no objection; it was to except from the operation of the tax brood mares. These had hitherto been taxed, when he conceived they ought to have been considered like other stock; for it is well known that in many parts of the country, particularly in the county where he resided, (Yorkshire), there were several persons who kept mares for no other purpose but breeding. He thought that that ought to be encouraged, and that the tax upon them ought to be removed.

Several clauses were then brought up, and agreed to.

After a few observations from Mr. Wynn, which were not audible in the gallery,

Mr. Stuart Wortley said, (in allusion to what had fallen from Mr. Wynn,) that nothing could be more ridiculous than the whole system of the assessed taxes, from the manner in which surcharges were at present made. He hoped that his Majesty's Ministers would take this matter into their consideration, so that those taxes might be compounded for by a certain sum. He was certain that, if that method were resorted to, in most instances Government would gain considerably on the whole, though a nominal loss might be apparent in some cases.—It was a hardship to find the charges increase upon every additional article which was in use. If a gentleman got an additional carriage, or a poor stable boy, the duties upon the others which he might have had before were considerably increased, besides the duty upon the immediate subject itself. If he rode a horse but once, and that the animal got lame, and was turned out for 9 months of the year, he was to be paid for as well as if used every day. The consequence was, that many persons who would keep double the number of horses, carriages, and servants, were obliged to limit their number. The Government might think this was all right, but then they should recollect what an additional stimulus it would be to trade, to have a greater number of carriages used, and what a number of persons might find additional employment in consequence.—*(Hear, hear.)*—He trusted his Majesty's Ministers would give attention to this matter, which was of importance to the country.

Mr. Lushington said, he had no doubt his Right Hon. Friend (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) would pay attention to what the Hon. Gentleman had suggested.

The Bill then passed through the Committee, and the report was received, and ordered to be taken into further consideration on Monday.

In the course of the evening the proceedings were interrupted by an occurrence which took place in the witnesses room, Sir G. Hill represented to the House that the petitioner, Mr. T. Grady, jun. had threatened personal violence to one of the witnesses, Mr. Goold, on account of the evidence he had given. The House considering it necessary to protect the latter gentleman by marking its displeasure at such conduct, Mr. Grady was called to the bar, and having acknowledged that he had threatened to kick Mr. G. if he repeated his offensive testimony, he was committed to the custody of the Sergeant at Arms for the offence.

MONDAY.

ROCHESTER ELECTION.

Mr. Gooch appeared at the bar, and reported from the Committee on this election, that Lord Binning (one of the sitting members) was duly elected, and that the petition of Major Torrens was frivolous and vexatious.

COAL DUTIES.

Mr. Littleton presented three Petitions against any alteration in the Coal Duties, from Staffordshire.

Mr. Stuart Wortley presented Petitions from Sheffield, and three other places.

Mr. Courtney presented a petition from the Mayor, Alderman, and Corporation of Exeter, complaining of the hardship to which the inhabitants generally, and the lower orders particularly, were subject from the severe and unequal operation of the Coal Duties. They did not pray for any specific matter on the subject, but begged that the House might take the matter into consideration.

Mr. Holme Sumner did not intend to raise any discussion upon this subject at present; but wished to state, as he knew they were many persons anxious about a measure which he intended to introduce respecting it, and several persons were waiting in town for that purpose, that he would not bring forward that motion until early after the Easter holidays

The petition was then ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Egerton presented a petition from the County of Chester, praying that the House would make no alteration in the Tax on Coals.

BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE.

Mr. Vernon presented a Petition from the Burgesses of Barnstaple, praying that their Charter might not be violated; and that the elective franchise which they enjoyed might not be extended to the neighbouring hundreds.

Mr. Sturges Bourne gave notice, that it was his intention to bring in a Bill on the 25th of March to prevent the mis-application of poor-rates.

MUTINY BILL.

On the motion of Lord Palmerston, that this Bill be read a third time.

Mr. H. Gurney said he could not let this opportunity pass, without objecting to that part of the Bill which sanctioned enlistments for life. He should therefore move that schedule B be left out and the form of the oath.

Lord Palmerston felt himself called upon to resist the Hon. Gentleman's amendment. The matter had been long before the House; enlistment for life was not compulsory, and no great inducement was held out for it, as the House would judge, there being only 16s. difference in the bounty for that and limited service.

Sir R. Wilson was anxious that some further alterations should take place in the practice of the army on the subject of corporal punishments. He would put it to the experience of every military officer in the House, whether, in a corps under the orders of a Commander who resorted to severe measures, crime did not increase in proportion as that severity was exercised; and, on the other hand, whether the same corps had not become improved in its conduct according as mild and gentle measures were resorted to; The Hon. Member concluded by stating, that in a short time he should move for returns of the numbers of Court Martial which had been held, and their results.

Mr. Beckett, (Judge Advocate-General) said that the glorious triumphs of our armies on the Continent were in a great degree owing to the excellence of their discipline, and a part of that discipline was the system of corporal punishment; and stated it to be the opinion of all Regimental Officers that the infliction of this punishment could not be entirely dispensed with—and he himself was decidedly of that opinion.

Sir Lowry Cole, having had considerable experience of the effect of strict discipline, would give his opinion—an opinion which it would be unmanly in him not to express, though it might be unpopular. He declared, that however much corporal punishment might be regretted, the British army could not be kept in a state of perfect discipline without it.

The Amendment was then negatived; and after a few words from Sir Isaac Coffin, it was read a third time and passed.

FRAME-WORK KNITTERS.

Mr. Mansfield moved for the appointment of a Select Committee, to inquire into the grievances complained of by the Framework Knitters of Leicestershire, and to report upon the same.

After a little conversation, principally with respect to the depressed condition of the Petitioners, the motion was agreed to, and a Committee appointed.

TUESDAY.

Sir Alexander Hope made his promised motion for continuing six Equerries on the King's Establishment, instead of four, as proposed by the Committee. His motion was warmly supported by *Mr. Perceval*, son of the late Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, who was assassinated by *Bellingham*, in the lobby of the House of Commons. The motion, however, was lost on a division, there appearing in favour of it, 66; and against it, 259.

INSOLVENT DEBTORS.

The Attorney General said it was not his intention to move for the abrogation of the present law as it respected Insolvent Debtors, but to recommend the expediency of inquiring whether it was not susceptible of some improvement. An Act of Parliament had passed in the year 1813, which might be called new, as far as it became a part of our legal system. It was a law not before known in the ordinary administration of justice, and its object was to provide for the discharge of persons under confinement for debt. From time to time, however, during the last one hundred years, Acts of this kind had been passed as occasion seemed to require. Before the introduction of that practice, a creditor to a certain amount might, by the law of the country, not only arrest his debtor, and detain him till he found bail to try the cause, but, on obtaining judgment, might keep him in execution till he should pay the debt. At different times the Legislature had therefore interfered, and applied the principle of the Bankrupt Laws, to the ordinary cases of insolvency, and the debtor was discharged on surrendering his effects.—Such laws were in the strictest sense of the word, *ex post facto*; and the question was, whether the honest debtor would not be more effectually protected from oppression, and the creditor from injustice, by some permanent and established system of law upon the subject. The present Act would expire at the end of the Session, and if not renewed, with such alterations as might appear expedient, the law must return to its former state, by which the debtor who could not pay was subject to imprisonment for life, at the discretion or mercy of his creditor. After the first Act had been some time in operation, a motion was made for appointing a Committee to consider it; and the result was, that it was so far changed as to give the Judge who presided at the Insolvent Debtors' Court, a power of refusing to debtors, in case of misconduct, the benefit of the Act. It seemed now to be agreed that the law required still further amendment; and for the purpose of making it more beneficial, he thought it better to refer it to a Committee, than to bring in a Bill formed upon his own or upon private suggestions.

The Hon. and Learned Gentleman concluded by moving for the appointment of a Select Committee, to consider the state of the law relative to the discharge of insolvent debtors, the acts of the 53d and 56th of the King, and to report to the House their opinions as to the means for rendering those acts more effectual.

The motion was agreed to, and the Committee appointed.

The following returns and papers, upon the motion of *Mr. Hume*, were ordered to be produced:—Copies of all dispatches to the Court of Directors touching the administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in India, from the year 1810 to the present period; an account of the expence of the judicial and police establishments in Bengal, Babar, and Orissa, from the year 1792 to the latest period at which it could be made up; an account of the expence of his Majesty's Courts at the different Presidencies.

WEDNESDAY.

It was ordered, that there be laid before the House an account of the quantity of Cotton Wool exported and imported from 1812 to 1817, with the weights and duties paid upon them, and the names of the ports from which they were exported; and also accounts of the importation and exportation of Cotton Goods within the same period, with the duties, and the quantity in each year and similar accounts with respect to Scotland.

WESTMINSTER ELECTION.

Sir F. Burdett presented a Petition from certain inhabitants of Westminster, complaining that at the late Election, the Hon. G. Lamb did give to several of the electors money, eating, and drinking, for the purpose of influencing their votes, and that he (the Hon. G. Lamb) did hire several persons to prevent the voters of J. C. Hobhouse from coming to the poll; ; and also, that the High Bailiff of Westminster was in some measure instrumental to the above prevention. The Petition prayed that the House would consider the Election of the said G. Lamb null and void. The Petition was ordered to be taken into consideration on Thursday the 6th of May.

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