

The Ennis Chronicle and Clare Advertiser.

VOLUME XXII.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1865.

NUMBER 2085.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—APRIL 8.

LORD MELVILLE—10TH REPORT.

Mr. WHITBREAD rose.—He said, that it had originally been his intention to move, that the House should resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the variety of matter contained in the Tenth Report of the Commissioners of Naval Inquiry; but as this might have been productive of some difficulty, and as he was determined that the discussion of this important subject should not be allowed to evaporate in a dispute about the forms, but be solely confined to the substance of it, he had changed his purposed mode of proceeding into certain propositions grounded upon that Report, which, before he concluded, he should have the honour to submit to the House. The Hon. Gent. passed a high eulogium on the Commissioners of Naval Inquiry. Feeling every due respect for all preceding Commissions of a similar nature, he must be allowed to say, that the proceedings of none had been so honourable, that the labours of none had been so indefatigable, and that the result of exertions of none had been so advantageous to the public as those of the present. The House well knew that this commission originated in the Board of Admiralty, over which a Noble Earl presided, who, after combating and defeating the open enemies of his country upon the ocean, returned to explode those mines of corruption, the existence of which rendered useless the most brilliant victories.—The Commissioners had made their various reports, all of which contained matter highly deserving of investigation; but on none of these reports had any proceedings been instituted. The Hon. Gent. claimed some merit to himself for having caused the production of some papers tending to elucidate the first of these reports. At that period he had asked Gentlemen on the other side, whether or not it was the intention of Government to proceed on them. The answers had been in the affirmative, but nothing had ever yet been done. That these Commissioners had experienced greater difficulty in the execution of their office than any of their predecessors, he sincerely believed; and their merit was therefore greater. That in the course of their inquiries they had met with rude rebuffs in the different offices, through the corruption of which they waded; that they had been violently opposed by the whole host of those whose depredations upon the public they were unceasing; that they had been taunted with the appellation of inquisitors, and that every possible means had been used, but in vain, to disgust them with the employment which they had so nobly and disinterestedly taken upon themselves; and he was as firmly persuaded, that the public, whose interests had been so essentially served by their perseverance amidst all these obstacles, would not be found deficient in gratitude to them. They had dragged into day facts which had eluded the vigilance of all former commissions, it now only remained for him to endeavour to, bring to justice the delinquents whom their patriotic labours had so completely exposed to light. He was convinced that he need not descend on the importance of this subject: he was convinced that he need not press it on the House, as affecting the Noble Personage himself who was the object of his accusation, the honour of the House who were to be judges of his delinquency, or the welfare, nay, perhaps, the very existence of the country, which was so intimately connected with the result. When any person had been incontestably proved to have flagrantly violated the law himself, and to have conspired at the violation of it in others; when, in addition, he was exposed to the strongest suspicion of being an accomplice in the guilt and a participator in the gains of such inferior culprits; if the House did their duty, they should at least arraign and censure him; and by so doing, confer the greatest benefit on their country. In the present exhausted state of our finances, it would shew the people that the House of Commons were determined that the revenues should be frugally administered, that they would keep a

watchful eye over those entrusted with the disposal of them, and that no man, however high his rank, or however sanctified by the public confidence of many years, should be suffered to infringe the laws enacted for their regulation with greater impunity than what would attend the meanest depredator in existence. Should the House, however, not come to a decision on the subject, or should they, in defiance of the clearest evidence that could possibly be adduced of the guilt of an individual, agree to find him not guilty, what would then be the opinion of the people on their conduct? Would they not say, and say justly, "it is for the emoluments of your situations that you contend for them, and for those alone; regardless of justice, honour, or public virtue, you wish for the places of those who are accused before you, merely that you may reap the same iniquitous advantages, not from the laudable ambition of serving your country, but for the base sordid expectations of gain?" He fervently trusted, therefore, that feeling as they must the extraordinary importance of the occasion, the House would come to that decision which he should ultimately propose to them. The Hon. Gent. here entered into a long and close investigation of the Tenth Report of the Commissioners. It contained matter in which Lord Melville, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Mark Spitt, were deeply implicated; some imputation of blame too attached to the Bank of England, who, according to the evidence given by one of their own officers, had issued money on the draughts of Mr. Trotter, in an illegal and unjustifiable manner. If he had not been very much misinformed, the Right Hon. Gent. opposite came in for a share of the delinquency, for being privy to the practice of drawing the public money illegally out of the Bank of England, without having put a stop to it.—With Mr. Trotter he should have little to do at present; at a future period he must become the object of a distinct charge. In bringing an accusation against Lord Melville, he was sensible he accused no mean person. The Noble Lord, during his whole life, had enjoyed a great share of the public confidence. For near 30 years, he had almost constantly occupied offices for which his industry and his talents had been supposed peculiarly to qualify him. During that period he had possessed more extensive patronage than any man in the kingdom, and of course both in and out of Parliament he was surrounded by friends and connexions, who were he apprehended more willing than able to defend him in his present situation. In proceeding to an examination of the Noble Lord's conduct while Treasurer of the Navy, he should conduct himself with that moderation which so far from being inimical was ever conducive to public justice, and at the same time with that firmness which became a man who brought forward accusations that he was convinced were well founded. When the origin of that Act of Parliament, for the violation of which the Noble Lord now stood accused, was considered, it would be found to be attended with circumstances of peculiar aggravation. At the close of the American war, when the country was in the greatest distress, and when that distress was increased by the profusion which existed in all the departments of public expenditure, petitions were presented to Parliament from all parts of the kingdom, in consequence of which certain resolutions were adopted by the H. of Commons, on the motion of Ld. G. Cavendish. The Hon. Gent. here read the resolutions of the Committee of that period on this subject, stating the expediency of some regulations to keep down the expenditure of the public money, and as one means of doing so, the propriety of abolishing the perquisites of clerks in the public offices, and increasing their salaries. They gave it as their opinion, that the Paymaster General of the Army, and the Treasurer of the Navy, should not be allowed, directly or indirectly, to use the public money lying in their hands for their own advantage. They deprecated the leaving of large balances in the hands of the Treasurer of the Navy, and suggested, as essentially necessary, to

remedy the grievances complained of, that for the future the Treasurer of the Navy should be merely an accountant to the public. He dwelt upon the impossibility that the Noble Lord now accused should for a moment misunderstand the tendency of those resolutions, and the equal impossibility that any plausible defence could be set up for a deviation from them. Immediately after the resolutions had passed, a reform took place in the Navy Office. The salary of the Treasurer was only two thousand pounds a year, but then he was permitted to enjoy the interest of the balances in his hands; the salary was augmented to four thousand pounds, and all the fees, emoluments, and advantages derived from the use of the public money, were strictly forbidden. Mr. Barre, the then Treasurer, immediately paid all the balances in his possession into the Bank of England; and provided, that from that period neither he, nor any one of those under him, had received any emolument whatever of that description. To Mr. Barre succeeded Lord Melville in his first Treasuryship. Whether he kept the public money in the Bank of England, in an iron chest, or at his private banker's, it is impossible at this distance of time to say. In the extraordinary letter which he sent the week before last to the Commissioners of Naval Inquiry, the Noble Lord declares he never derived any advantages from the use of it. Lord Blaney followed, and had made a similar declaration. On the 5th of January 1784, Lord Melville again became Treasurer of the Navy, which situation he retained until the 1st of June, 1800, and it was to this period of sixteen years that the Hon. Gent. intended to confine his animadversions. In 1785, the Right Hon. Gentleman opposite to him proposed a plan of public retrenchment, founded on the report of the Committee before mentioned, in which he held out the most brilliant prospects to the country, but unfortunately he was mistaken as to the character of the persons whom he had selected to carry this plan into execution.—The Noble Lord had been one of the persons, and one too in whose praise the Right Hon. Gent. had been most loud. As if he had been solicitous to place himself apparently in the van of reformers, that he might with more facility suppress all reform, the Noble Lord himself introduced the bill for regulating the office of Treasurer of the Navy. The Bill passed into a law, the language of which was so clear and determinate, that he would defy the most dexterous lawyer in the profession to torture the letter of it into any construction foreign to the obvious one. If it were possible thus to pervert the letter of the Act, and to enforce it to contradict the spirit of it, he was persuaded, that the feelings of the House would revolt at any such nefarious attempt. The preamble of the Act stated it to be founded on the report of the Committee, and intended to render the Treasurer of the Navy an Accountant instead of a Banker, by which means neither he nor any of those under him would incur the temptation of hazard-ing the public money in unsafe speculations. There was one provision in the Act, the operation of which was to commence on the 1st of July, 1785, to which he wished particularly to call the attention of the House.—It was therein directed, that on that day all the public money in the possession of the Treasurer of the Navy, should be deposited in the Bank of England, and that from that day no part of it should be issued from the Bank but on draughts, specifying the service for which it was intended. Lord Melville, however, on his own sole authority postponed making this deposit until the 1st of January, 1786. Why? Because, forsooth, the arrangements in his office could not be completed before that time! What, not in six months? The falsity of the cause thus assigned for this shameful delay was evident, and impelled us to search for the true one. On the 31st December, 1784, the balance of the public money in Lord Melville's hands did not much exceed 70,000l. He was directed by Act of Parliament to transfer this sum to the Bank of England on the 1st of July, 1785, but on

the 31st of December, 1785, he had not done so, and the balance then amounted to above a hundred and thirteen thousand pounds, being an increase of about forty-three thousand pounds. No proof could be established; but the fair inference to be drawn from this delay—undoubtedly was; that Lord Melville had withheld the public money from its proper destination for the purpose of his own private emolument.—This transaction was comprehended in what he would call the first part of Lord Melville's second Treasuryship. In the second part arose the facts which formed the basis of the charges against the Noble Lord. He would state them under three distinct heads.—The first was, that under his own authority, without the consent of Parliament, and even in direct violation of the Act of Parliament, he had diverted to other public services the money appropriated by law to the naval department. Secondly that he had conspired at a system of peculation in an individual, who will hereafter be responsible for his own conduct, but for whom Lord Melville is now responsible. To these two charges he would confine the propositions which he meant to submit to the House to night; but, unless what had been said could be unsaid, and what had been done, undone, there existed but too clear a proof that Lord Melville had participated in the fraudulent profits of his agent.—Should the House agree to his present motion, he pledged himself to prosecute this part of the subject still further. To the honour of men who have held high official situations in this country, it must be said that a charge of a similar nature has not been brought for many years. The last exhibited was by Lord Melville himself against a Gentleman who held an important office abroad, Sir T. Rumbold. In a case like the present he did not conceive that there existed any necessity for a precedent, but if there did, he should be unwilling to follow that just mentioned, as he thought too much severity had been shewn in the proceedings. His intention was to move certain Resolutions grounded on the Report of the Commissioners, and coupled with Resolutions of censure of the conduct of the Noble Lord. The House would have afterwards to consider in what way to proceed. It was highly material to consider the nature of the evidence that had been adduced. In the first place, the Commissioners discovered that, in direct contradiction to the law, certain enormous deficiencies existed in the department of the Treasurer of the Navy, amounting to an average of about 43 or 44,000l. a year, (whether a little less or a little more was immaterial, it was not the sum, but the infraction of the law that rendered the transaction culpable). On that foundation the Commissioners raised their investigation. He should have frequent occasion to name Mr. Trotter in the course of his Speech: he would therefore observe here, that what he applied to Mr. Trotter did not apply to him alone. Lord Melville was worthy of such a second as Mr. Trotter, and Mr. Trotter was worthy of such a principal as Lord Melville. The Commissioners in their report describe the office of Treasurer of the Navy as a mere sinecure, except as he is responsible for the safety of the public money.—It deserves remark, that subsequent to the Act of Parliament of 1785, the economy of that office was regulated by an Order of Council drawn up by Lord Melville himself, and promulgated in consequence of representations made by him to his Majesty. The Hon. Gent. read this order, and commented severely upon the infringement of it which took place. The Noble Lord first introduces an act which he immediately violates, and then he suggests an order of Council on which he never acts. When these deficiencies were discovered by the Commissioners, Mr. Trotter was called on to say from what they arose. By the way the character of the evidence in this report (with some few exceptions) was singular. When the parties were silent, it was impossible to put any but the most unfavourable construction on that silence. When facts were extorted from them, the reluctance with which they

afforded them was the strongest proof of their veracity. He had heard with astonishment that the evidence was *ex parte*! If the persons accused were innocent, when questioned whether or not they had committed such abuses, had they not the power of saying, No! (*hear! hear!*) When Lord Melville was asked if he had gained any advantage from the public money, could he not have said, upon his honour and his oath, no? When Mr. Trotter was asked a similar question, could he not have made a similar answer? Was not the circumstance of their sheltering themselves under the lee of an act of Parliament, a strong evidence of the probability of their guilt? On Mr. Trotter's being first called upon to acquaint the Commissioners with the cause of the deficiencies, he pretends ignorance, and refuses to answer; but in the course of a few days he finds out that they were owing to the money appropriated by Act of Parliament to the service of the Navy having been diverted into other Channels; and he instances a repayment by Mr. Long as a proof of the truth of his statement. It was extraordinary that Mr. Long had not been examined by the Commissioners. The Hon. Gent. read Lord Melville's first letter to the Commissioners remarking on the different paragraphs as they succeeded one another. The assertion of his belief that not a single document existed which would enable him to give the account required by the Commissioners was very suspicious.—Was it credible that a man so conversant in business as the Noble Lord should be unable to furnish, even from memory, the gross sums demanded? He had burnt his papers! it was a high misdemeanour to destroy public papers, and by that means prevent the elucidation of public accounts.

What was the opinion of the Committee of 1782 on the subject of destroying public papers? an opinion in which the Gentlemen opposite most heartily coincided when their object was frustrated by such destruction.—Their opinion was, that all public books and papers should be preserved "for the use of posterity." The Noble Lord goes on to say, that at that time he held other confidential situations; true he was at that one time Secretary at War, Secretary of State, President of the Board of Control, and Treasurer of the Navy! He observes that several "delicate and confidential" transactions had occurred, which it was not consistent with his duty to reveal. His sense of duty should have restrained him not from revealing these acts, but from committing them. He had ventured when there was not more money in the Treasury of the Navy than was sufficient to pay the expenses of the Navy, to divert that money from its proper channel. What would have been the event had Mr. Long been unable to repay it? Where separate persons interchange large sums of money, they are a check on each other; but in this case, although the Treasurer of the Navy lent to Secretary of State, or to the Board of Control, this advantage ceased to exist. They were one and indivisible. Mr. Dundas lent Mr. Dundas; Mr. Dundas paid Mr. Dundas; and all this without the knowledge of any human creature.—The facility with which supplies had always been granted by the House of Commons, left the Noble Lord without the plea even of necessity for this illegal accommodation; but had the strongest necessity existed, it would not have justified his having recourse to such criminal measures for relief. The next article of charge is, his having connived at the public money being drawn from the Bank of England for private emolument, and thus having allowed an infraction of the law for which he is deeply responsible. Mr. Trotter confesses he did lodge large sums of money at Coutts's, because, he says, it was more convenient and more secure; and, notwithstanding all the Acts of Parliament which expressly contradict his opinion, he thinks it was always intended that this should be permitted. That such a man as Mr. Trotter should make so weak, so absurd a defence, was not surprising; but that Lord Melville should imitate him was really wonderful. After having himself introduced the Acts and the regulation before alluded to, how was it possible that the Noble Lord could have the face to say, that in a private banker's hands the public money was more convenient or more secure? It is much easier, he says, to give a draught on a private banker, than on the Bank of England. Why? Is not one as valid, and attended with as little difficulty as the other? It is not now indeed so regulated under the express recommendation of Mr. Trotter himself, and are not the sub-accountants obliged to keep their accounts in the Bank of England? If the experience of sixteen years

had convinced the Noble Lord that the Act of Parliament introduced by him was useless, why did he not move for its repeal? As to security, it was a most extraordinary plan to seek security by going from a place where alone security could be found. If the Bank of England had failed, no responsibility would have been incurred by Lord Melville, because he was justified in placing the public money there; but the moment he went even to the most respectable private bankers, his responsibility commenced. Events might happen, not possibly to be anticipated; the money might be lost, and then Lord Melville and Mr. Trotter would be overwhelmed with destruction. After all, however, the money had not been lying at Coutts's; it had been employed in discounting private bills, and in speculating in the funds (*hear! hear! hear!*) The House would be appalled when they reflected on the extent of the trust reposed by Lord Melville in Mr. Trotter. In the course of Mr. Trotter's continuance in office, Lord Melville states, that a hundred and thirty millions of the public money had passed through his hands. It had been proved, that, of this sum, fifteen millions had at different times been placed at a banker's.—That Lord Melville should have suffered this man to go on in such a manner, was of itself enough on which to rest his accusation (*hear! hear!*) It was infamous that the pittance wrung from the necessities of the poor should be sported with in the hazardous game of stock-jobbing.—The only defence that Lord Melville could have set up (if any thing he could say on the subject deserved the name of a defence), was that he had inquired into the accounts and proceedings of Mr. Trotter, and was satisfied with their regularity; but no, he knew nothing, he had examined into nothing. The Hon. Gent. had exposed at considerable length the absurdity of Mr. Trotter's attempt to render his accounts at Mr. Coutts's complex and confused; but at the conclusion he is sufficiently methodical to feel warranted in telling the public that they are no sufferers. He confesses he has had at his disposal five or seven hundred thousand pounds in the year, but he cannot distinguish the public from his private funds! When the Commissioners called on him to explain, he refused to utter a word. What then must be the inference? They then proceeded to investigate, and found that Mr. Trotter had had money by draughts on the Bank of England to the large amount before stated, with which he had purchased stock of various kinds, and a number of Navy Bills, at a time when the discounts were considerable. He never professes bringing to the account of the public any profits gained by these speculations. Is not Lord Melville heavily responsible for all this? Ought he not to have said to Mr. Trotter, "You are not the person to embark in such speculations as these even on your private fortune. Connected as you are with me, the public will not believe but that you avail yourself of superior information, by which to regulate your movements in the funds; desist, therefore, or leave my service;" for a servant he certainly was, and as such, his master was completely answerable for his behaviour. The sums with which Mr. Trotter speculated in the funds were enormous, even by his own book, which of course would not contain a tenth part of them.—Mr. Mark Sprott, who, by the by, ought to have been compelled to answer all the questions of the Commissioners, purchased for him in one day above 300,000*l.* Another broker transferred above 35,000*l.*—Was this for the sake of security? Lord Melville acknowledges in his evidence, that he knew all this; and yet when Mr. Trotter denied having made any use of the public money, he never came forward, as he ought to have done, and exposed the falshood of his Paymaster, a falsehood, indeed, that might have remained undetected to this day, but for the praise worthy vigilance of the Commissioners of the Naval Inquiry. If there were any who yet doubted that the Treasurer and Paymaster shared in the spoil of the public, he would still advance more convincing proofs of their collusion. In the first place, the large sums of money paid to the account of Mr. Dundas, and which it would be difficult to explain in any other manner; and then that certain complexion which seemed to pervade the whole of the speculation. They were all lucky; this was a most suspicious circumstance, and indicated very strongly that an understanding existed between them to which Mr. Trotter was frequently indebted for secret intelligence. Not to mention again the private agency of Mr. Trotter, or the destruction of Lord Melville's papers, it must be recollected that in the course of a few years upwards of one hundred and sixty thousand pounds had been paid into Coutts's

in the names of the Rt. Hon. Hen. Dundas, Henry Dundas, and Mr. Dundas: now whether these were all one and the same person, did not seem very doubtful. Allowing therefore, that the whole amount of Lord Melville's salary for that space of time had been paid into Coutts's, it would have borne but a small proportion to such a sum as one hundred and sixty thousand pounds. Mr. Trotter was the most improper person that Lord Melville could have selected in the whole kingdom for his agent. What! make his Paymaster his private agent! receive private sums of money from that agent in advance, and then tell the Commissioners that he really did not know whether such advance was from the public or from a private fund. Let us enquire a little into the history of this Mr. Trotter. When Lord Melville first became Treasurer of the Navy, he was a Clerk in the Pay Office, he was a man of tolerable good connections, but by no means rich.—Lord Melville makes him his Paymaster, and soon after (knowing his poverty) borrows considerable sums of money from him.—Why, he must know that it was the public money from which such advances were made. (*Hear, hear.*)—Mr. Trotter had no other money to lend. When Mr. Trotter is asked whether or not he ever derived any advantage from the use of the public money, he replies, "I won't tell you." What was Mr. Tierney's answer to a similar question?—"No." Mr. Bathurst's?—"No." Lord Harrowby's?—"No." But when it came to Lord Melville, the same retort churlish is used, "I won't tell you."—Mr. Wilson too was equally taciturn; but he ought to have been compelled to speak. He had no doubt been influenced to silence by the threats and promises of his superiors. When Lord Melville gives his evidence to the Commissioners, one should have thought that he would have come fortified by the destruction of his papers, fortified by a previous knowledge of the questions that in all probability would be put to him. But when he is requested to account for the deficiencies, with the cause of which the Treasurer of the Navy ought certainly to be well acquainted, he gives a long equivocal answer, and refers them to Mr. Trotter for information? O, no!—When he came to Lord Melville's affairs he stopped short at once and wisely held his tongue. Could there be a stronger proof than this of their participation in guilt?—And yet Lord Melville pretends that it was only in June last that he became acquainted how Mr. Trotter used the public money. Lord Melville was by no means remarkable for the weakness of his memory, perhaps rather the reverse: but when asked, if he had derived any advantages from the public money, he replies, "not to the best of my recollection." It was somewhat strange that his recollection could not assist him better in an affair of such importance. As to the salary of the Paymaster it would be better to increase it to a thousand or two thousand pounds, than to allow such unlimited depredations to be committed on the public. Could it be supposed that the Legislature would remove from the Treasurer the temptation of harrying the public money, and leave it at the mercy of his subalterns? The Hon. Gent. alluded to the case of Mr. Jellicoe, and contended that it was an additional proof of Lord Melville's sharing in the spoil of the public, as he had forborne to press the payment of Mr. Jellicoe's balance, apprehensive no doubt, of making him an enemy.—These suspicions were much confirmed by Lord Melville's last letter to the Commissioners, an extraordinary production, and produced at an extraordinary period, four months after the delivery of his first statement, and on the eve of the present discussion. In the outset of this letter he thinks it necessary to restate the grounds of his former answers, with which the Commissioners were sufficiently acquainted. He proceeds, and again complains of his want of recollection. He then asserts, that he never, "knowingly," derived any advantage from the public money, either directly or indirectly, thro' the medium of Mr. Trotter; that is, he borrowed money from a man, who, when he first knew him, was worth nothing, and whose last dividend exceeded eleven thousand pounds, and yet did not "know" that such loans much have come out of the public purse. The destruction of Lord Melville's private papers, was a most suspicious circumstance, especially when corroborated by that of Mr. Trotter's ledger, in which the accounts of all his employers and connections must have shared the same fate. But when to these were added the loss of Mr. Jellicoe's writings, it was impossible not to feel complete conviction of Ld. M.'s guilt. Having dwelt for some time on this

topic, the Hon. Gent. proceeded to comment on his Lordship's letter, and contended that it left him in the same situation in which he was placed by the Report. There were many points which he had left untouched, from an apprehension of exhausting the patience of the House. If, by the manner in which he had conducted himself on this occasion, he had departed from that moderation with which he proposed to regulate himself, it was matter of sincere regret to him. But he trusted the House would act in a manner consistent with its dignity in disposing of this question. Not only the character of Parliament but of every individual Member of the House was concerned. It was due to the country to prove, that no man in power, no person high in office, or placed in a situation of trust or responsibility, could with impunity violate the law, or prove unfaithful to their duty. He had no wish to wound the feelings of any Gentleman, but he was confident he should obtain the support of every member in the House, except the relatives of the Noble Lord, who could not be expected to vote for his propositions. He could not conceive it possible for any other description of persons to oppose them. The Country Gentlemen, ever distinguished guardians of the public money, could not lend their assistance to shelter from the vengeance of the House, any persons guilty of great malversation in the management of the public money. Neither would those Hon. and distinguished officers of the Army and Navy, who were Members of that House, give any encouragement to transactions inconsistent with the noble sentiment of honour with which they were animated. They would be the first to stigmatise a flagrant violation of law. What would the Commercial Members of the House think of the transaction, if their confidential agents should think proper to destroy their accounts? Would they not regard it with horror: and had not Mr. Trotter speculated in the stocks with the public money so as materially to injure trade? Would they be contented with such practices, merely because it was stated that no loss had accrued to the public? Would it have been a justification of Mr. Astlett, or any other person in the same unfortunate circumstances, to have said, Here is your money, you have sustained no loss through my malpractices? Would they be satisfied when calling for investigation of accounts to their agents, to be told, that all vouchers had been destroyed? They certainly could not, and he had every right to presume that he should have the benefit of their support. With equal confidence he could appeal to those members of the learned profession, whose peculiar province it was to assist in the prosecutions and trials of public offenders, and who every day witnessed the exemplary punishment of culprits for offences far less criminal than those which formed the matter of his charge. Could the Right Hon. and Learned Gent. opposite (the MASTER of the ROLLS) who presided so ably and impartially in a Court of Equity, urge any thing with propriety in justification of a palpable and direct violation of law? Could the Right Hon. and Learned Gent. opposite (the Attorney General), whose province it was more than any other, from the duties of his office, to bring offenders against the law to justice, attempt to palliate or justify this illegal conduct? He was confident he could not, but rather in the spirit of impartiality and uprightness, which characterised the administration of justice in this country, and raised our Civil Jurisprudence to such high estimation in Europe, would vote for his propositions.—He called upon the House to recollect, before they should come to the vote, the circumstances under which the offences he charged had been committed.—He called upon them to contemplate the magnitude of the taxation with which the country was burthened, in consequence of which the rich were obliged to retrench their superfluities, and the country was injured, as the poor thereby lost the employment which they would have in providing them. It should be recollected, that they had come at last to tax the subsistence of the poor, after having exhausted all the other sources of taxation.—They were told that these severe burthens were necessary, and he did not deny that that might be so; but they were peculiarly called on in such a case to shew, before they came to be collected, that the administration of the revenues of the country was purely and fairly conducted, and that there was still enough of vigour and virtue in Parliament to make an example of public delinquents.—The Hon. Member concluded with reading his resolutions, the substance of which was given in our last.

The CHAN. of the EX. could not but admit, that the Hon. Member had, during

the former part of his speech adhered strictly to the observance of that moderation and temper, which he had promised at the outset. Towards the end however of his speech, he had departed altogether from the tone in which he had begun it; and in the address, with which he concluded to the House, appeared to endeavour, by an appeal to the passions on topics not applicable to the subject in discussion, to excite an undue impression favourable to his proposition. The Hon. Member had adverted to the burthens which the exigencies of affairs had rendered necessary, and appeared to insinuate broadly, that the transaction, which was the object of his motion, had been the means not only of augmenting those burthens, but a considerable aggravation of them. It was important to have this matter investigated, as if the fact were so that the public burthens had been aggravated to any extent by the misconduct or malversation of person or persons in office, there was no man in the House would deny, that such practices were a fit object of accusation in that House.—But that appeal to the feelings of Gentlemen, and with reference to irrelevant topics, was by no means calculated to promote a just and impartial decision on the merits of the case, according to any principle of equity or fairness. Whatever opinion might be entertained respecting any part of the materials contained in the Report, it was evident that it did not contain a single allegation of any mischief having arisen to the public, or any loss having been actually sustained.—(*A loud tumultuous cry of hear, hear, from the Opposition.*) This indecent attempt to prevent the freedom of speech by clamour was little suited to the dignity and solemnity of their proceedings, and he looked upon it as no good omen, that the moderation professed by the Hon. Member, and the discussion had been departed from, if those Gentlemen who approved of his arguments should interrupt those who might undertake to reply to them. He was one that would not be interrupted by clamour, and he would repeat it, that such an appeal to the passions was little consistent with the professions of temper and moderation with which the Hon. Member had set out. This would be more evident, when it was recollected also with what industry similar misrepresentations had been propagated without doors, and on subjects the most dangerous and inflammatory, for the purpose of raising a prejudice in the public mind. It had been represented abroad, tho' not charged to the same extent by the Hon. Member, that the pay of the seamen had been delayed in the Navy Pay-Office, (*a cry of No, No, from the Opposition.*) So far from such a circumstance having taken place, he had the satisfaction to state, that that gallant and meritorious class of men, had not suffered the delay of a single day in the discharge of any of their demands. But he had not only to complain of the Hon. Gent. having deserted his moderation in the latter part of his speech, but also of the manner in which he had represented the transaction and stated his charge. The Hon. Member had told the House, that the Noble Lord and the others implicated in his charge, had had an opportunity of being tried, and informed them also of the manner in which this trial was conducted. Questions had been put to them, and they might have answered. They undoubtedly had the opportunity of answering to such and such questions, but whatever might be the character of such an interrogation, it was not a trial. What trial was there in which the party accused was not made acquainted with the charge against him, had not an opportunity of hearing the evidence to the charge, and of cross-examining that evidence; as also of adducing evidence in his favour?—But in a trial a man was not bound to criminate himself, and in this case that was the only feature, whilst every other character of a trial was absent. The parties had no knowledge of the charge against them, could not confront nor cross-examine the witnesses, nor were allowed to call evidence in their defence, but were examined to criminate themselves by their evidence. He stated this only for the purpose of having the opportunity of adding, that it was impossible for the House to accede to the Hon. Member's propositions, because the materials then before them were not sufficient to enable them to come to a fair, impartial and final decision on the merits of the case. He admitted that the contents of the report were of a grave and serious nature, and that it was important to have it fully investigated; and he was ready also to allow that the actual loss had been incurred by the public, though no mischief had been produced, with reference to any instance of irregularity; it was the great duty of the House to

set their mark upon the transaction, after a full and fair consideration of all the circumstances of the case. But in the case of the present Report, he contended that there were not sufficient materials, nor in such a shape as to justify the House in a vote of censure, or to enable them to determine how far it may be necessary to follow it up with further proceedings. He contended, therefore, from the documents on the table, that further explanation would be necessary before the House could be justified in expressing any opinion on the merits, or to state what lengths they should proceed. If he had not entertained that opinion before he came to the House, the arguments of the Honourable Member, founded not on the report, but on a statement of numbers which he had found in the appendix, on calculations taken from much intricate and difficult accounts, would have excited it in him. He had also observed, that the Hon. Gent. had gradually changed the grounds of his charge, which he had narrowed at last to an intention to take the sense of the House in one particular point. The Hon. Member had divided his charge at first into three heads, which he then reduced to two, and at present he proposed to confine himself to one of them, reserving the second for future crimination; and in urging this charge the Hon. Member had stated that though it formed but one of the several heads of charges, it was impossible for the House to form a judgment upon it without considering the whole case. He had at the conclusion of his speech left out altogether the suspicion, which he had so strongly urged in the precedent parts, of the participation of the Noble Lord in the profits that had accrued from the application of the public money to private speculations. With regard to this suspicion, if the Hon. Gent. thought that it was borne out by the report, he ought not to have brought it forward with a view to giving a complexion to other matters of charge, but made a separate ground of crimination. It must be revolting to the feelings of persons connected with the Noble Lord, either by blood or friendship, to have such a charge brought against him in such a way. For his own part, he was desirous that the House should look at the whole of the case in all its circumstances and bearings, and then do, without delay, whatever the interest of the public, a just sense of their own duty and the nature of the case may require. For this purpose, he thought the best course to pursue would be to refer the Report to a Select Committee, inasmuch as there were many points contained in it which required further explanation. The Committee might be appointed previous to the recess, so as to proceed in the business without delay, and to be able a short time after the holidays to make their report to the House, upon which they might come to a decision on the whole case, according to the dictates of impartial justice, and a scrupulous regard to their duty. The Hon. Member had dwelt with much earnestness on the application of certain sums for the accommodation of other branches of the public service, but in his own view of the question, the House was not in a situation to decide upon that transaction. Did the Hon. Gentleman mean to say, that in judging of this transaction, the House was not to take into its consideration the excuses, the motives, the circumstances, and the necessity of the transaction? Was the House, knowing only the bare fact, that the application of the money in such a manner was a violation of the law, to decide upon its merits without taking into consideration whether any loss had arisen from it, whether the motives were justifiable, wanton or necessary; whether the circumstances were such as to warrant a departure from the letter of the law; and what the magnitude of the transaction? It would not be necessary for him to argue the propriety of permitting such a latitude with Englishmen, or with persons of liberal and enlightened minds, for he was confident that all such would agree with him, that cases might occur when the circumstances under which such a transaction might take place, would make it meritorious in the public officer to incur the heavy responsibility. This he stated, with a view to the stress that had been laid on the application of a particular sum to a different service from that for which it had been voted. There was an allegation in the report on this head, and the Hon. Gent. had stated a particular sum as having been advanced in this way, and afterwards by his Hon. Friend (Mr. Long). He had himself been a party to that transaction, and he should be ashamed to address the House on the subject, if he could not explain the matter as related to the share he had had in the business, to their entire satisfaction; so that however illegal the application might have been in the first instance, and he

was ready to take that for granted, it would appear to have arisen from considerations of public interest, and to have been transferred from the service for which it had been voted only for a time, and without any other inconvenience or loss, replaced afterwards. It was impossible to disclose the circumstances under which it had been applied; but if the House would consent to appoint the Committee, he should produce the most convincing statements, so far at least as he was concerned. The whole sum particularized amounted to 100,000*l.* out of which two different sums of 40,000*l.* each had been drawn with his privy, under circumstances which he could fully justify to the House; and as these sums made the much greater part of the whole sum specified, there was every reason to think that the whole had been applied in a manner equally justifiable. The Noble Lord had, at that time, other high official situations, and might have had occasion, and could, without his privy, have applied sums occasionally to a different service from that for which they had been voted, with a view to the public interest; and tho' he was not in possession of the circumstances, he had no doubt that the Noble Lord could satisfactorily account for the transaction. —As to the other part of the Honourable Gentleman's charge, that Lord MELVILLE had connived at the Paymaster of the Navy keeping the public money in his hands, and applying it to purposes of private profit, he confessed that this appeared to him a fit object of attention, when they should come to consider the question in the whole of its bearings. He was prepared to admit that the conniving at such conduct in a Paymaster of the Navy was not justifiable, but thought, nevertheless, that much would depend on the circumstances, the extent, and the danger that had been incurred. He maintained that the Commissioners had not stated that the issue had been greater than the service required; and he insisted that from their report it was evident that they believed that to be the case. It was also agreed to by them, that the money had not been applied so as not to be ready to satisfy any demand or sudden emergency; and they had not even insinuated that any effect had been produced in the increase of expence, or the aggravation or augmentation of additional burthens; nor had they attempted to charge that any demand of any individual had been a single moment retarded. As to this application of the money to private purposes of profit, it did not appear that Lord Melville had been aware of it; the Hon. Gent. however, had dwelt much on this circumstance, founding his observations on the intricate accounts of the Commissioners, by which it appeared that he had not considered the matter in detail. The Hon. Gent. had said much of the risk that had been incurred, and he was not disposed to deny that if the danger had been great, the practice was unjustifiable; but the circumstance that no loss had been sustained, was a strong ground of presumption that no great hazard had been incurred, and again, a more favourable circumstance it was, that no payment had been delayed. Under all these circumstances, as there were many points in the matter of the Report which required considerable further explanation and elucidation, and when he should state one or two of them, the House would be persuaded of the expediency of the course he had proposed; and when the variety of the matter of which the Report was composed, was taken into consideration, it would be admitted to be the duty of any Member to point out any error or inaccuracy that he might discover. The Commissioners had stated, that various sums had come into the Bank of Messrs. Coutts, which had not been procured by draft on the Bank, and they had supposed that these consisted of sums for the services *in transitu*, applied in this way. One million had been brought directly from the Bank to the house of Messrs. Coutts, by one of the forms of the draft prescribed by the statute, and the whole of it had been issued thence in the course of a few days, to take up navy bills then due. So that this was one instance of an error, on which they had rested much, and which being capable of being thus satisfactorily explained, proved the necessity of further investigation. The sums that had been vested in Messrs. Coutts had been neither lodged there for the benefit of the Treasurer of the Navy or of the Navy Paymaster, but in the course of office; and this was another error of the Report, for the same practice prevails at present of drawing in gross from the multiplicity of paying in all the small sums by drawing in detail.—The Act of Parliament directed no such drafts for small sums, but for sufficient sums to enable the Paymaster from day to day to issue the necessary sums to Sub-accountants, so that the balances in hand appeared not to contravene the law, but to be in direct conformity with it, and necessary for the management of the business of the office. The question therefore, was, whether more had been issued than was necessary, whether an expence to the public had been the consequence, or an increase of issue? The House was aware that no money was issued to the Treasurer of the Navy, but on memorial to the different Boards, and that consequently the Treasurer would have no power of increasing the issues to him. (The Rt. Hon. Gent. here described the operation by which the Treasurer of the Navy drew money from the Bank, and proved thence that it is not in his power on any occasion, or under any circumstances, to draw for more than the occasions of the different Boards require). There was no ground therefore in reason for the supposition apparently entertained by the Commissioners, that the Treasurer had such a power, neither was there any foundation for it in fact. It was important to see what they had stated as to the fact, and this would afford another reason for instituting the enquiry he proposed. The balances in the hands of the Paymaster were for two purposes, to advance from day to day to the Sub-accountants, and to have the means of satisfying assignments outstanding to a considerable amount, for which the parties had a right to demand immediate payment.—The Hon. Gent. could have no difficulty in admitting, that the transaction, so far as these assignments went, was solely between the Commissioners and the individuals; and it appeared that the sums in

the hands of the Paymaster, and Sub-Accountants, in any year, had not exceeded the amount of these assignments. The Commissioners had stated, that the balances ought not to exist at all, and yet that balances in the hands of the Treasurer in one year had amounted to 40,000*l.* and in another to 33,000*l.* this was very material to have investigated. The Commissioners have examined a very intelligent gentleman, a Clerk in one of the Offices, as to the number of days for which a Paymaster should have a supply in his hands, and the result of his examination fixed the number at fourteen or fifteen; the Commissioners were of opinion themselves, that ten were sufficient, so that the number of days necessarily in advance, was between ten and fourteen. In the next place, the Commissioners had divided the time during which Lord Melville had been in office into two periods; in making the average, instead of making the average for the whole of the time of his being in office. The first period they calculated up to 1796, the next to 1800; so that they had not given the average on the whole, nor distinctly in separate periods. They calculated the balances on the first period at 45*l.* average, and the last at 33, but they had taken the amount of the gross balances without deducting the assignments. When the Commissioners had stated ten days as the number that ought to be in advance in the Paymaster's hands, they calculated it exclusive of the out-posts, and if the money at the out-posts were to be deducted, the balances would be in the first or the most unfavourable period, an average of seventeen days, and in the latter period an average of eight days, and on the whole period the average was but fourteen or fifteen, five more than the Commissioners had thought necessary and nearly the same number that the clerk had stated in his examination. Now if it should turn out that this statement was correct, he could not admit a doubt that it would be sufficient to determine the House and the public to examine more narrowly and minutely into the matter and allegations of the reports before they would ground upon it either censure or disapprobation.—There were four different errors in this single statement, and these proved unanswerably the necessity of a fuller investigation. This could not be prosecuted in the whole House, nor with the Speaker in the Chair, it could only be followed up with effect in a Select Committee. It was only by adopting such a course, that they would be enabled to do what was right for the public, and at the same time fair for the individual. As the supposition of participation on the part of his Lordship in the profits arising from the use of the public money formed no part of the charge, but was glanced at as matter of suspicion only; it was wholly unnecessary for him to advert to it, particularly as that was to be made the ground of further investigation. He had hoped, after the declaration that had been made by the Noble Lord in his communication to the Commissioners laid before the House, which he had stated himself ready to verify with the sanction of a solemn oath, that he should have heard no more of suspicion. The Hon. Gent. had observed, that the ground upon which the Noble Lord had declined answering, had been well understood; but the Noble Lord by his letter had declared, that his refusal to answer had arisen solely in consequence of the way in which Mr. Trotter had kept his accounts, and because he could not possibly know whether Mr. Trotter might not have made some advances to him out of the public money. The Hon. Gent. had adverted to the sum of 100,000*l.* paid to Lord Melville's account, during the whole period that he was in office, and until the whole of Lord Melville's account with Mr. Trotter should be made up, it was impossible to decide upon that fact. The House should look into those accounts which were loose and difficult, before it could pronounce whether any advances from the public money had been made to his Lordship. If the investigation should be proceeded with, he was convinced that many sums stated to have been paid in the name of Lord Melville would appear to have been applied to official purposes; how far that was the case it was not for him to anticipate then, before the inquiry should be instituted. The House would determine for itself when the investigation should take place. Before they could judge whether any sums of public money had been so advanced, they should see the credit account of Lord Melville, they should also see the different sums paid in by Mr. Trotter, for Lord Melville, on account of his salary as Treasurer of the Navy, as also an account of his unappropriated salary as Keeper of the Signet in Scotland, and for dividends in the funds. Would Gentlemen under these circumstances give way to surmises? would they think strange that Lord Melville, knowing that he had no contract with Mr. Trotter, no participation with, and knowing also the unfortunate way in which Mr. Trotter kept his accounts, had declined answering until he had ascertained the state of these accounts. And if it should appear even that a few thousands had been by inadvertence so advanced, could any Gentleman suppose that that would have been any object to a Noble Lord in a high and distinguished office of trust and honour? He would not think it possible for a liberal and enlightened mind, for even common sense to entertain such an opinion.—If so, then he contended, that the materials before the House were insufficient to form a final judgment; and that a further investigation was absolutely necessary, and that such investigation could not be conducted in the House, but in a Select Committee, which could be managed without much delay.—With these sentiments, he felt it unnecessary and improper to say more on the subject. He should therefore move, as an amendment, that "the Tenth Report be referred to a Select Committee," &c.

Mr. FOX suggested the propriety of moving the previous question, rather than an amendment, in order that the previous Resolutions might be entered on the Journals.

The CHAN. of EX. had no objection to the course proposed, as he should thereby obtain the substantial object of his motion; and understanding, however, that if the previous question should be agreed to, he should afterwards move for the appointment of a Select Committee; he then moved the previous question.

On the question being put, Lord HEN. PETTY rose in answer to Mr. PITT.—His Lordship's speech, together with the remainder of this day's Debate, shall be given in our next.

WEDNESDAY'S MAIL.

LONDON, THURSDAY, APRIL 11.
FROM THE COURIER.

Yesterday was a day of almost equal anxiety and interest in the House of Commons with Monday.—It was also a day big with conjectures and reports. For the purpose, no doubt, of sowing dissension on the Ministerial side of the House, it was asserted, with the utmost confidence, that Lord MELVILLE and his friends inveighed with the greatest bitterness against Mr. PITT, whom they accused of affording his Lordship a hollow and insincere support. The assertion did not obtain much credit; for never did any man furnish a stronger proof of friendship than Mr. PITT did to Lord MELVILLE. His conduct on Monday placed his feelings in the most amiable and honourable point of view; and sure we are, that every man in the country will applaud him, except those who with shallow heads, possess unfettered or malignant hearts. Before the debate began, it was rumoured that Mr. WHITEHEAD's Motion would be rendered unnecessary by a proposition from Mr. PITT, for a long adjournment, for the avowed purpose of forming a new Administration. The confident exultation and hopes of the Opposition knew no bounds; their coming into office, the great and main object of their wishes and their efforts, was considered as certain, and the House was not to rise without the death blow being dealt to the power and authority of Mr. PITT. Their confidence and their joy were, however, doomed to experience a total disappointment.

As soon as the House met, Mr. PITT notified Lord MELVILLE's resignation of his office of First Lord of the Admiralty. The Opposition, however, unsatisfied with this notification, moved, "that His Majesty should be addressed to remove his Lordship from all offices held under the Crown during pleasure, and from his Councils and Presence for ever." This motion gave rise to a spirited and acrimonious debate. Mr. CANNING accused the Opposition of pursuing his Lordship with rancorous animosity.—He referred to the political life and conduct of Lord MELVILLE, who had never shown himself a bitter antagonist; and he alluded to the manner in which his Lordship had defended Lord ST. VINCENT and Sir CHARLES GREEK, in the year 1795. The allusion called up Mr. GREY, who considered his Lordship's defence on that occasion, as an act only of justice.—But the Opposition waited with evident anxiety to hear the sentiments of Mr. WILKES and Mr. THORNTON's party. As soon as those sentiments were declared, and found to be adverse to the Motion, which they considered as unnecessarily severe, the Opposition abandoned their intention of pressing a division, and evinced an intention of withdrawing their Motion.—For this, a respectable Morning Paper compliments them, commending "their ready acquiescence to forbear from what was thought unnecessarily severe, and to adopt the milder course, as more congenial to the general feelings of the House."

We are not inclined to pay them any such compliment. The manner in which they introduced their Motion, shews that they meant to press and persist in it, if the WILKES and THORNTON Party would have divided with them. They abandoned it, because they could not carry it. There was in their whole conduct sufficient to induce a suspicion, that their chief object was not only to punish the guilty, but to involve the innocent with the guilty, to mete out the same measure of punishment to both, to make Mr. PITT suffer for the conduct of Lord MELVILLE, and, in fact, to turn out the whole Ministry, and get in themselves.

Unable, therefore, to carry their motion, the Opposition withdrew it, but in order to mask their defeat, they moved "that the Resolutions be laid before His Majesty." The motion was carried, Mr. PITT crying out *Aye* for it, and they were ordered to be presented by the whole House. But have the Opposition advanced one step by this proceeding?—Not one.—They acted upon the subtle supposition that the KING could not be officially informed of the Resolutions of Monday.—But they knew he must be acquainted with them—they knew that when Lord MELVILLE tendered his resignation, His Majesty could do no other than enquire the motives.

Mr. WHITEHEAD then gave notice, that on the first open day after the holidays, he should move first, That instructions be given to the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, to commence a prosecution against Lord MELVILLE and Mr. TROTTER, calling them to account for their improper intrusion with the public money. And in imitation of a measure adopted by Lord MELVILLE himself, he should feel it his duty immediately to bring in a Bill for restraining Lord MELVILLE and Mr. TROTTER from alienating their property.

We hope every attempt will be made to force every person, be he who he may, Lord MELVILLE, Mr. TROTTER, or any other man, who has made a fortune, or made any money by employing or speculating with the public money, to refund and regeorge his illegal profits. The public have a right to expect it, and we trust their expectations will not be disappointed. We approve, too, highly, of the proposal of a Bill for restraining Lord M. and Mr. T. from alienating their property. We applaud, and shall support every project and principle that shall have for its object the right application of the Public Money, and the punishment of those who are guilty of a wrong application of it.—But we never will approve or support any measure that tends to the pursuit and punishment even of criminality and guilt with cruelty and rancour, or which shall enable a desperate party, under the pretext of punishing guilt, to force themselves into power against the real wishes and interests of the country.

Our Letters from Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Deal, this morning, contain no news of importance. Our Dover Letter contains the following intelligence:

DOVER, APRIL 10.

"We have been alarmed nearly the whole day with a very heavy firing of guns, but it is so thick that we are not able to see any thing from the heights. The firing still continues, but no news has been received of the result. The wind blows fresh to the eastward. Several vessels are going down channel: it is supposed that some of the enemy's craft are going down along shore, and our squadron are endeavouring to cut them off."

Letters were received in town yesterday from H.M. land of the 7th inst. It appears that the Dutch mer-

chants have experienced, from time to time, such severities from the French with respect to their commercial affairs, that they have called a meeting on the subject, and come to the resolution of not shipping any merchandise out of the country to any place whatever.

LONDON, FRIDAY, APRIL 12.

Yesterday, in the House of Commons, a new Whig was moved for Malton, in Yorkshire, to return a Member in the room of the Hon. C. L. DUNDAS, who we understand, has vacated his seat, for the purpose of bringing Mr. GRATTAN into Parliament preparatory to the discussion of the Catholic question.

FROM THE COURIER.

The Resolutions passed by the House of Commons were presented to His Majesty yesterday by the SPEAKER, and about thirty Members; none of those who, to give greater solemnity to the proceeding, had been so anxious and eager for their being presented by the whole House, neither Mr. FOX, nor Mr. WINDHAM, nor Mr. WHITEHEAD, nor Mr. GREY, attending. The SPEAKER left the House of Commons in State a little before four o'clock.—Upon being introduced to the KING, who was seated on the Throne, he informed His Majesty, that by the command of the House of Commons, he was to present to His Majesty the Resolutions of that House. He then read them aloud, and presented them to His Majesty, who returned a most gracious Answer; in which he thanked the Commons for their care and attention to the public interest, and expressed himself to be fully sensible of the importance of the Resolutions which they had presented to him. The Speaker and the Members then withdrew. The House of Commons had previously adjourned for a fortnight.

If the Funds rose on Tuesday in consequence of the Debate on the preceding day, which in the opinion of the speculators justified a belief that the Opposition would immediately come into power, and make overtures of Peace to BONAPARTE, it was natural to suppose, that they would experience a depression yesterday, in consequence of the Debate of Wednesday which rendered it impossible any longer to entertain such a belief. They did experience a depression, which some attempted to attribute to the bad news received from the West Indies. No intelligence whatever was received from that quarter, nor from any other part of the World.

The Opposition and the partisans of Lord ST. VINCENT have sufficiently proved what are their wishes and objects. In the transports of their joy they have not been able to conceal them—they have disclosed them somewhat prematurely, and we thank them, because they have enabled the country to put itself on its guard.—Their sole object is to turn out Mr. PITT and get in themselves—that is their goal and haven—the sum and substance of their morning and midnight prayers. But their wishes will not be gratified. Mr. PITT is not a man to be intimidated by menaces nor appalled by difficulties. He will be a second time the pilot that weathered the storm. But the partisans of Lord ST. VINCENT are, if possible more frantic in their exultation even than the Opposition. According to them no man is fit to be First Lord of the Admiralty but his Lordship: he, they say, "alone becomes, and can alone fill with dignity, and power, and firmness, equal to the contest he has to sustain." If that be the fact, Heaven help the country! But who is to bring his Lordship's dignity and firmness into that office? The constituents of the people voted him out of it, when they forced Mr. ADDINGTON to resign. Will the GRENVILLES, and WINDHAMS, and FOXES, invite his Lordship's return? They were the men who clamoured so loudly against the imbecility and incapacity of him and his colleagues. Will he go over to Mr. PITT?—Mr. PITT will reject him. Will he join the Coalition?—They cannot accept him with any regard to consistency; about which, however, it must be confessed, they were never very solicitous. The partisans, therefore, of Lord ST. VINCENT, are not likely to succeed in their wishes of taking the Admiralty by storm, and of seating the object of their idolatry in the seat which has been rendered vacant by the resignation of Lord MELVILLE.—We believe that Mr. YORKE will be appointed to it, and will be created a Peer.

THIS DAY'S MAIL.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 13.

We do not believe that Lord MELVILLE's successor has yet been appointed. Mr. YORKE, is still mentioned with confidence. Some persons, however, suppose that the Earl of HARDWICK is destined to fill the important post, and that Lord BUCKINGHAMSHIRE will succeed to the Viceroyalty of Ireland. We do not think such an arrangement at all likely. Ministers would act unwisely in removing Lord HARDWICK, who has so strongly endeared himself to the Irish nation.—*Courier*.

French and Dutch Papers, of a date one day later than those which came to hand on Wednesday, have been received. The Austrian cordon, on the frontiers of Turkey has been reinforced, in consequence of the formidable aspect which the hostilities in Servia have lately assumed. The Servians who have lately taken the field, do not, according to other advices, amount at present, to more than ten thousand; but this force can, if necessary, be augmented to 40,000 in the course of eight days. All the inhabitants of the country are stated to be in arms, and ready to march at the shortest notice; and from the method with which this insurrection has been effected, little doubt is entertained of its being the result of Gallic perfidy.—A letter from Cadiz of the 21st ult. states, that a corsaire, fitted out at that port, has captured and sent into Malaga four English vessels, with very valuable cargoes.—

FRANCIS DE NEUFCHATEAU has been appointed President of the French Senate for one year from the 19th of May next. The Emperor (BONAPARTE) has added five General Officers to the number of his Aides-de-Camp, among whom is Gen. JUNOT, Ambassador to the Prince Regent of PORTUGAL. Prince EUGENE BEAUHARNOIS passed through Turin on the 6th ult. at the head of the Imperial Guards, on his way to Milan, and was received with high honours by all the Magistrates, General Officers, &c.

The Hamburg Mail due on Wednesday arrived this morning. The following is the only intelligence of any importance brought by it:

CONSTANTINOPLE, FEB. 25.

On the 20th of January, Adm. NELSON sent advices to the English Ambassador here, that the Toulon fleet had put to sea with a great number of troops on board, probably intended to make a descent upon the Morea, or on Egypt. The Admiral at the same time sent advice of the sailing of this fleet to the Turkish Commander at Coran, in the Morea.

BARCELONA, MARCH 16.

Yesterday evening the English fleet appeared before our harbour, and sent a flag of truce to the Commandant General here, requiring refreshments and necessaries for their squadron, with threats, in case of refusal. His Excellency, in consequence, called a meeting of the Municipal Military Authorities, to take their opinion in what manner it would be proper to act. Advice was sent to the English that an answer would soon be returned; which however has not yet been sent.

AMSTERDAM, APRIL 2.

Our Gazette contains the following article, dated Paris, March 28,

"Private letters from Brest mention, that they are there actively employed, in embarking 18,000 men on board the fleet. The Council of State meets almost every day at St. Cloud. The POPE will not return to Rome by the way of Milan. The Coronation of the King of Italy will be performed by the Archbishop Cardinal CAPRARA. We are assured that the French Government have granted to Portugal, a further neutrality on condition of an annual subsidy of six millions of crusadoes. The new forced loan of 3 per cent. occasions less discontent than perhaps any of the preceding, as it is hoped that it will be the last of the kind."

HAMBURG, APRIL 5.

Two Hamburg ships from England, which were obliged to put into Cuxhaven by stress of weather, have been seized by the French, and their cargoes confiscated, to be shared among the troops occupying Hanover. The value of their cargoes is 800,000 marks banco.

It was yesterday afternoon reported in the City, that advices had been received from the West Indies by the way of Dublin, communicating the intelligence of the safe arrival of the Cork fleet in the West Indies.—The intelligence was contained in the following Letter, from Dublin, of the 8th.

"Messrs. Sayers, Gordon, and Co. of this place, have received a letter from their agent, Mr. Gordon, dated Barbadoes, Feb. 28, announcing the safe arrival there of the 3000 troops, which sailed with the convoy from Cork on the 27th of January. The letter further states, that 500 men had been sent down to reinforce St. Vincent, 500 to St. Lucia, and 500 to reinforce General Prevost, at Dominica; but the latter had not been able to effect a landing."

We are sorry to be under the necessity of disbelieving entirely the intelligence contained in this letter, for it is extremely improbable that the fleet should have reached Barbadoes in so short time as a month after sailing from Cork.—*Courier*.

The Marquis CORNWALLIS, with his Secretary, GEO. ABERCROMBY ROBINSON, Esq; and some other gentlemen leave town this morning for Portsmouth, where they are to embark for the East Indies.

Seventeen of the enemy's flotilla, eight of which are brigs, the remainder luggers and small armed vessels, have been completely wrecked on the north-east of Boulogne. They have been several times reconnoitred by one of our sloops of war, from which the enemy could be perceived making efforts to heave off, but they appear to have received too much damage to render success probable.

DUBLIN, APRIL 16.

Government, we are informed, yesterday received an express mentioning the satisfactory intelligence of the safe arrival at their destined ports in the West Indies of the three regiments which sailed from Cork some time ago, and which were mentioned in a Cork Paper to have been captured.

A letter was yesterday received in this city from Liverpool, mentioning that the French, having made two unsuccessful attempts upon Prince Rupert's Fort in Dominica, had embarked and returned to Martinique, but not until they had levied a very considerable contribution upon the inhabitants of Roseau.

The Catholics will have an able advocate in our revered countryman, Henry Grattan, who goes into Parliament for the purpose of giving the utmost

support to their claims. He sails for England this evening.

Mr. Fitzgerald, our late Prime Serjeant, has brought before the Committee appointed to settle the joint Accounts of Great Britain and Ireland, the question which he had before made in the House of Commons.—That Great Britain should pay her proportion, viz. 15-seventeenths of the money which was given in compensation to the Patrons and Proprietors of Irish Boroughs, and which has hitherto been considered as coming under the description of those charges which were to be defrayed by Ireland separately. If Mr. Fitzgerald should carry this point, not only the million and a half, the price of the Irish Representation, will be to be repaid by Great Britain, but several other large sums advanced by this kingdom which stood upon the same ground.

Whatever may be the result, no man is more entitled to the thanks of his country than our late Prime Serjeant. We know the sacrifices which he made upon the never-to-be-forgotten question of the Union—sacrifices to which indeed he himself alluded, and the effects of which he so strongly represented in the late Debate upon Mr. Foster's Budget. But we owe him gratitude also for that unwearied vigilance with regard to the affairs of this country, which he has exercised in the United Parliament, and that attention to our interests in which he and our worthy Member for Waterford, have been so steady and uniform.

At the Assizes of Mullingar, on Wednesday last, Edward Loughran, serjeant in the 30th regt. was found guilty of the murder of his wife, and executed next day.

At Waterford Assizes, John and James Fudge were found guilty of the murder of Dan. and Darby Ahern, on the 22d of November last.—They were hanged yesterday.

ENNIS, APRIL 18.

Yesterday and this morning we received London Papers of the 11th, 12th, and 13th instant; our readers will find the most interesting part of their contents in the preceding columns of this page.

In our publication of this day, we have given as much of the Debate in the House of Commons on the 8th inst. on the Motion against Lord MELVILLE, as our limits would admit; and as we consider the proceedings on this business, to furnish Parliamentary documents of the highest importance, it is our determination to lay before the readers of the ENNIS CHRONICLE, the most ample and impartial detail that has appeared on this interesting subject, and which shall be followed up in regular succession, until the whole shall have been gone through.

On the 9th, Lord MELVILLE resigned the office of First Lord of the Admiralty, and Mr. PITT notified the event to the House of Commons the following day. The Patriotic Party in the House urged the necessity of an Address to the Throne to remove his Lordship from his Majesty's Councils. Mr. PITT, however, observed that the Resolutions would have every effect that could be desired. This produced a debate of some interest, which shall appear in its proper place, agreeable to our recited plan. The motion for the Address was withdrawn, and it was ordered that the Resolutions should be laid before his Majesty by the SPEAKER, attended by the whole House.—Accordingly, on Thursday, the SPEAKER, attended by about 30 members, waited on his Majesty, and presented the Resolutions, to which his Majesty was pleased to make a general reply, acknowledging the importance of the communication.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, the Royal Assent was given by Commission to the Irish Militia Bill, and the Irish Spirit Permit Bill. After which their Lordships adjourned to Thursday next.

Yesterday the Light Companies of the 21st and 62d Regiments arrived in town from Galway, and this morning continued their route for Cork, where the regiments are to embark for foreign service.

MARRIED.

On Sunday last, at Bushy Island, co. Limerick, the seat of Bolton Waller, Esq; Joseph Gubbins, of Kenmare-Castle, Esq; to Mrs. Bambrick, daughter of the late Wm. Henn, Esq; of Paradise, in this county.

Last Monday, in Limerick, John Short, Esq; of Lisheen, co. Tipperary, to Miss Fowls, daughter to Mr. Thos. Fowls, of Broad-street.

On Tuesday, Mr. John Penrose, Hardware-merchant, of William-street, Limerick, to Miss Bernard, daughter to Mr. Luke Bernard, of Francis-st.

On Monday last, in Dublin, John M'Cintock, Esq; of Drumcor, co. Louth, to the Right Hon. Lady Elizabeth Trench, daughter of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Clancarty.

A SHERIFF'S COURT will be held at ENNIS, on the 20th inst. for the purpose of trying Replevins.—April 18, 1805.

T. STUDDERT, Jun. Sheriff.

A General Meeting of the GOVERNORS and DEPUTY GOVERNORS of the County of Clare is requested at the Court-house, on THURSDAY the 25th inst. Signed by order, April 15, 1805. D. FINUCANE, C. G. M.

T. O. B. E. L. E. T.

From the First Day of May next,

Either in the WHOLE or in DIVISIONS,

The large commodious HOUSE, in Church-street, Ennis, wherein PAT. FLOYD formerly, and JOHN BUTLER lately lived.—Said House is in thorough repair, in a central situation, and fit for any kind of business.

Application to be made to PAT. MARSHALL, Clonroad. April 17, 1805.

The noted Horse, SCOURGE,

Will stand this season at Granahar, near Newmarket, Co. Clare, at Two Guineas each mare, and a Crown to the Groom—the money to be paid at service. His Get prove him to be as good a Sire as any in Munster. His Pedigree (in the Groom's hands) is so well known, it is unnecessary to recite it.—GOOD GRASS, at 4s. a Week.

(4) April 8, 1805.

ENNIS—PRINTED BY F. PARSONS.