

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS, Monday, May 2.

STATE OF THE NATION.

LORD GRENVILLE in continuation.

As to the next point, the pay of the army, the noble marquis was certainly wrong, when he contended that nothing had been done on this head as proposed by the commissioners of accounts, for that both Mr. Burke and Col. Barre, to whose abilities he paid the warmest eulogiums, had brought in bills which had passed for the better regulation of that particular department. He defended the next point, as to the loans, very ably; and said that they were made at present in a more open manner, and by a public mode of competition, far superior to what they had ever been before. The unfunded debt, he also maintained, was equally benefited by the present mode of conducting it; for formerly it was usual to leave it floating, as well as the navy bills, to a considerable amount; whereas it was now regularly funded at stated periods, and even the expense taken in that was foreseen to accrue within the remainder of the year. His Lordship then adverted to the office of third Secretary of State, which he asserted was, in time of war, essentially necessary. From thence he proceeded to the barracks, which he said were ineighd against without due consideration. Much had been said about them which they did not deserve—as to the measure being unprecedented, how did the matter really stand; There were so many new, and so many old barracks—the old ones were built to contain 20,000 men, and many of their situations were not healthy, and otherwise inconvenient—the new ones were therefore substituted for the old, and contained only 15,000; so that it appeared clearly this was no new measure. Much had been said of its being unconstitutional; but it could not be so, having been in use so long. His Lordship then defended the army extraordinaries from the arguments which the noble marquis had brought against them, by shewing, that it was impossible to form any estimate of the expense of a campaign, without being obliged to recur to extraordinaries; and stated, that an army being sent abroad, was not sent thither to starve, but must have provisions and ammunition sent with it. Suppose these to be sacrificed or lost, with or without blame, they must be made good, and in all such cases, which were not unfrequent in all wars, they must be added to the original estimates as extraordinaries. He then adverted to the transport board and said, that nothing could be more necessary than it was, and, if he wanted a witness to prove this, he would not desire a better than the noble marquis who has shewn that, during the American war, for want of such a board, the affairs of the country had like to have suffered in the most essential degree for want of transports. This was not a new board, but a revived one. In the course of mentioning this as a branch appertaining to the Naval department of the War, the Noble Marquis had made use of an expression, not particularly propitious. This was an observation which had astonished him, indeed; for when there was a period in the English History, in which this nation had been more singularly and peculiarly fortunate, even to a degree of splendour, in their naval achievements and superiority over their enemies. Look to the Channel; to the Mediterranean; to the East and West Indies—look to the accounts of last week, when so many of the navy of the enemy had been brought into our harbours, and it would be allowed our superiority was never greater, nor the honor and spirit of our brave tars at a higher pitch. His Lordship next defended the India bill as a measure of infinite wisdom, calculated to ensure the prosperity of that country, and to protect it for the benefit of this; and described it as a source of wealth and consequence which was almost incalculable. With regard to the Police bill, his Lordship thought that the introduction of it on the present occasion, was certainly premature at least, and might have been as well omitted until it came before their Lordships for discussion, which it was soon likely to do.—The noble Marquis had objected to it as not being the same with the Police of the City of London—but he had forgot to mention the revenues which the Corporation of London possessed towards the support and maintenance of the City Police; give the City of Westminster an equal revenue, and he had no doubt but Aldermen enough would easily be found to fill every Ward in which it should be divided, and to administer such revenue in a similar Police. The Noble Lord then concluded an argumentative and spirited defence of the present Administration of the country, by observing, that the Noble Marquis, when he declined going at present into an examination of the finances of the country, should have also delayed giving any opinion which he might have formed in the general result of his own private examination. He had stated that the picture was frightful, but had not given the house an opportunity of viewing the monster: when, however, on a future night he should think proper to shew that picture to the House, he (Lord Grenville) would undertake to point out its beauty and proportion; he would take care that the exaggerated misrepresentations which had been made of our finances, should be opposed by stubborn and solemn truths; he would then clearly prove to the satisfaction of their Lordships, that the best founded public confidence could be placed in our resources, and the state of our revenue and permanent taxes were such as to exhibit to the enemy how ill-founded they were in that arrogant presumption which was, he believed, in a great measure built upon fallacious statements and impressions. Lord Lauderdale spoke in support of the statements and arguments of the Noble Marquis, and in opposition to those of Lord Grenville. He arraigned the conduct of administration in the erection of so many barracks throughout the kingdom;—and, though he did not wish to charge the Noble Lord with wilful misstatement, yet he thought it necessary to inform the House, that to the number of 15,000 men, for which he had stated them to be built, he had to add 9000 more, which might be contained in the barracks intended to be erected. There were also barracks erected, and to be erected in Guernsey and Jersey, containing above 6000 men, making in the whole above 30,000. With respect to the extraordinaries and unfunded

debt, and the boast which had been made of particular good conduct in providing for them beforehand, he allowed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had proposed to fund two millions of Extraordinaries, and four millions of navy debt, which he had stated as the probable expenses in these services up to the end of the present year. But did any person believe that they not would amount to much more? He trusted the Noble Lord would not attempt to state to that House, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer had done to the Commons, that such would be the probable amount of the services. He did not believe there was any other man but the person to whom he alluded, that would have the impudence to make a probable statement of the navy debt up to the 31st of December 1796, amounting only to four millions, when for the first three months of the year that debt incurred, amounted already to 2,800,000*l.* After urging many other objections to the different parts of Lord Grenville's statement, Lord Lauderdale said, that men who were attached to the country by property, were afraid of contemplating the true state of their finances. Men did not wish to speak out who had any property at stake; this put him in mind of what Corneille, a celebrated French author, said of his patron Cardinal Richlieu.

“ Tout le monde en parle, vrai,
“ Pour moi, je n'en parle pas,
“ Il m'a fait trop de bien, pour en parler mal—
“ Il a fait trop de mal, pour en parler bien.”

Lord Lauderdale then entered into a panegyric on the excellence of our Constitution, which he maintained might be upheld by good practice, tho' objectionable in theory. He condemned the system of funding, as carrying with it something destructive; it might proceed to a certain length, but going beyond its bounds, it would produce inevitable ruin.

Lord Kinnoul entered into a general defence of the war, and of the consequences resulting from it, in which he took occasion to defend the present administration in the erection of barracks, and the institution of a transport board.

Lord Auckland entered into a comparative statement of the finances, commerce, manufactures, imports, exports and general revenue of this country, between the years 1783 and 1796, by which he clearly shewed that its situation was improved considerably.

Lord Moira wished that the question of the finances had been entered into. He hoped, however, that it would be brought forward as soon as possible, and before many noble Lords were induced to retire from town, possibly on electioneering views or on motives of pleasure and business. He was one of those unhappy elder brothers, who looking forward to great possessions, threw away their own books and their multiplication tables as unnecessary.—But still he had paid to the finance of this country a particular attention, and he would undertake to shew that the statements of the noble Lord who spoke last was erroneous, when the circumstances of the different times were taken into consideration.

Lord Spencer defended the propriety of instituting a transport board; and vindicated the conduct of that board in fitting out the West-India expedition.

Lords Lauderdale and Spencer explained.

Lord Hawkesbury also defended the conduct of Administration, and delivered his sentiments in favour of the finances of the nation, and the justice and necessity of the War.

The Lord Chancellor entered into a strict and minute examination of the Resolution proposed by the Noble Marquis, which he dissected and criticised with accuracy and judgment. He insisted that to agree to the motion would be to satirize the conduct of that House in all its decisions since the beginning of the war; and that such a resolution was unjust, and in many respects false, in its allegations. He ridiculed the idea expressed in the resolution, of trade being now upheld by that which was fundamentally injurious to it; and could never agree that the Parliament had forfeited any portion of the public confidence.

Lord Lauderdale repeatedly cried, “ Hear! Hear!”

The Lord Chancellor observed, that the cry of Hear! Hear! was not decorous; he spoke to be heard—every man who spoke in a public assembly spoke to be heard; but the cry of “ Hear, Hear!” was merely for the purpose of interruption. He was not, like the Noble Earl, in the habit of speaking in clamorous assemblies; he did not look for applause in shouts and noise.

Lord Lauderdale, after speaking on the subject in debate, said that it had been customary in either House of Parliament to cry “ Hear, Hear,” when Members assented to or particularly disapproved of any argument or statement advanced. It was because he wished to meet the learned Lord on those points which he urged, that he had cried Hear, Hear, and not with any view to interruption: but when that learned Lord thought proper to insinuate that he had not like him been accustomed to a clamorous audience, he supposed he had forgot the whole history of his former life; he had forgot that he had been more accustomed to clamour and noise than he (Lord Lauderdale) could have been. Had he so soon forgot his former clamours in Yorkshire? He certainly had. Or, having deviated as he had done, from the straight path of life, he would have recollected the winding paths which he had followed, and not have made an unjust charge which would leave him in open to retort.

The Lord Chancellor declared that he felt such a sense of the habits of his past life, that his mind was entirely at ease with respect to any insinuations or charges which might be made by the noble Lord; but he thought it more becoming his own feelings, and the duty he owed the house, not to enter into any detail or vindication of his former conduct, and to treat such observations with silent negligence.

The Marquis of Lansdown replied at considerable length. He differed from the Noble Lord (Grenville) in all his statements; and he hoped the house was convinced that he was right. His Lordship next combated the objections of the Lord Chancellor, and then stated, that if ill health, or other business did not prevent him, he would soon bring forward a proposition respecting the finances,

If he could not, the task would devolve on a Noble Earl (Lauderdale) who would, (he was convinced) execute it with great ability.

Lord Lauderdale then gave notice, that he would on Tuesday's night move certain resolutions respecting the finances of the Country, grounded on the statements on the table. After which, a division took place on the Marquis of Lansdown's motion—

Table with 2 columns: Contents, Non Contents. Contents: 9, Proxies: 3, 12. Non Contents: 72, Proxies: 52, 104. Majority against the Resolution: 93. Adjourned at half past 12 o'clock.

For the GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

THERE is no security for the continuance of a tranquil enjoyment of the blessings of freedom, but in the general diffusion of knowledge among the people. Government is best supported where the principles are understood, and approved. A free government is perhaps necessarily more complex than an arbitrary one, because the multiplicity of rights and privileges require a proportional number of laws to define, and protect them. The vocabulary of despotism is comprized in one word—obedience.

The *why* and the *wherefore* of the freeman, require the whole compass of language to afford a satisfactory solution. His understanding must be convinced that the law is necessary and just, and his reason dictates the propriety of obedience. Thus both conspire to protect and support the work of his own hands.

“ With such, no fallacies of schools prevail,
“ Nor of a right divine, the malicious tale,
“ Can give to one among them, yet the pow'r,
“ Without controul his fellows to devour.”

Of all the objects of legislation in a free government, there is not one of so great importance as that of providing competent means for the general education of the great mass of the people; yet astonishing as it must appear to the reflecting patriotic mind, none is less attended to. The subject is confessed by most persons to be interesting to the community; and when it is urged on the consciences of legislators; when a clamour is excited, their attention is occasionally roused, and some efforts are made to bring the business forward; but these efforts being opposed by real or pretended difficulties, and counteracted by ignorance, ambition and avarice, we have seen them baffled and prove abortive; the business has been laid aside, to be taken up *de novo*, at a less favorable juncture. I say less favorable; for as a certain book says, *to day if ye will hear the voice of justice and true policy, hereon not your hearts.* Now is the accepted time.

Of all procrastination, that of deferring to a more favorable season public provision for the support of schools, is the least defensible.

Time is lost which never can be retrieved; it is worse than lost, for it will always be found that so far from diminishing prejudices and obstacles, they will be increased with the necessary encrease of ignorance. As this subject appears to me all-important; as the circumstances of this commonwealth are, past all controversy, as favorable to undertaking, maturing and perfecting a general plan of education for the benefit of the rising generation as any we can reasonably expect, I shall occasionally offer some desultory remarks relative to the business, through the channel of the Gazette of the United States.

Foreign Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE (Eng.) March 19.

A person of Rochdale is committed to Lancaster Castle, charged with the murder of his father, a respectable housekeeper in that town. The provocation the son received for committing so foul and unnatural a crime, was the interference of the father between the murderer and his brother, who were quarrelling with each other, when the son struck the father so deperate a blow, accompanied with threatening words, as instantly to deprive him of life.

LONDON.

FORGERY.

Old Bailey, Saturday May 14.

Henry Weston was indicted for forging a certain deed, purporting to be a power of attorney, and executed by Gen. Tonyn, with intent to defraud the governor and company of the bank of England. A second count charged the same offence at being intended to defraud Gen. Tonyn.

The case was rather complex: it occupied the attention of the court a considerable time, and a variety of evidence was necessarily adduced. The following is the outline of the case. It appeared that Gen. Tonyn was possessed of 16,000*l.* stock in the three per cent consols; the prisoner was acquainted with the General, and in the habit of doing business for him. In the month of February last, it appeared that the prisoner forged a power of attorney, as signed, &c. by the General in the month of January last (at which time Gen. Tonyn was at Ipswich) authorizing him to sell the above property in the funds. In the beginning of last month, Gen. Tonyn wishing to transfer his property, took the necessary steps for that purpose; he sent a friend to Mr. Weston at the bank, to desire him to be prepared to make the transfer on the following day; this was the 7th: Mr. Weston wished to have the matter postponed, as the 8th would prove an inconvenient day for transacting the business, in consequence of which the Gen. agreed to postpone the affair, until the following Monday, when it appeared that the General's property had been sold, and Mr. Weston had fled.

Mr. Sylvester, who tried the cause, summoned up the evidence: the case appeared to him to admit of very little doubt; but if any remained on the minds of the jury, they were bound to give the unfortunate gentleman the benefit of them, and of the very good character which he bore, until the unhappy transaction in question.

The jury, after a few minutes consultation, found the prisoner guilty.

Weston then, in a very genteel manner, addressed the court, and expressed that he might be suffered to lay a few words. The learned judge having complied with his request, he proceeded: “ I am my lord, as my appearance will easily show, a very young man; I was much younger when I entered into business, and was troubled with affairs of great consequence. I hope that my unfortunate situation may prove an excellent example to young men, to deter them from indulging in the fatal vice of gaming, and will also be a warning to those of more advanced years, not to confide the management of their concerns to the care of men too young and unexperienced in the world. I have been ruined by too much precipitation in myself, and by too great want of attention in those who have had the superintendance of my conduct.” The unfortunate young man then bowed, and retired.

LAW REPORT.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH, MAY 3.

The King v. Beard, for sending a Challenge. Mr. Justice Ashurst pronounced the judgment of the court as follows.

John Beard, you have been tried and found guilty on an information that has been filed against you for challenging George Johns to fight a duel, and for saying of him that he was a poltroon and a coward, with an intent to provoke him to fight.

Of this charge the jury have found you guilty. It is certainly a matter very much to be lamented, that the practice of duelling has of late become so frequent in this kingdom. That practice, however it may be countenanced by the mode and fashion of this country, certainly to call it by its proper name (if attended with that effect which is meant to be carried into execution) is no better than wilful murder. It is contrary to the laws of God.—It is contrary to the laws of man; and therefore, whatever you may think of it, it is certainly a disgrace to the civilization of this country. If the act had produced the effect you intended and your antagonist had fallen, the law would have condemned you as a murderer. Your crime is very much aggravated, because it appears this was not the consequence of sudden heat or passion, but that you intended to take away the life of your fellow-creature: and for that purpose you were seen practising and shooting at a mark to make your hand more sure and certain in the act of wilful murder.

The crime of which you have been found guilty deserves the severest interposition of the law, and whether this court may be successful in their endeavours or not, at all events it is fit we should pronounce such a sentence as may convince the world we do not chuse to give countenance to this practice. The sentence of this court therefore is, that you be imprisoned in the jail of the King's bench for the space of nine calendar months, and at the end of that imprisonment, that you give sureties for your good behaviour for the term of five years, yourself in the sum of 500*l.* and your two sureties in 250*l.* each, and that you be further imprisoned till such sureties shall be given.

PARIS, May 7.

Seventeen rebels belonging to the Legion of Poitiers, which has excited considerable disturbances of late, have been condemned to be shot, and have suffered accordingly at the Plains of Grenelle.

MAY 8.

The Terrorists have not yet renounced their attachment to the Legion of Poitiers. The day before yesterday, a party of 200 El-fecs, their orders were usually marching the Legion on Chairs. They invited them to knock down all those whom they called Spies;—that is, all the men who inform the government of the manoeuvres of the anarchists.

The soldiers of the Legion, excited by their discourse, directed their march towards the Tuilleries, and there took several quarters to the number of four or five hundred men, a singing dirge, and insulting the respectable citizens. Arrived at the garden of the de-vaux, Paris, Robespierre, sent a deputation of four soldiers to demand the liberty of their comrades detained for the rebellion of the Legion of Poitiers. The proposition was adopted. We are assured the Minister of Police has taken the necessary steps to prevent such scenes in future: they have always preceded the most ferocious movements.

LONDON.

Admiralty Office, May 14.

Copy of a letter from Vice Admiral Kingmill, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Cork, to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated May 9.

Please to inform my lords commissioners of the Admiralty, that another French national cutter, Le-Cigne, of 14 guns and 60 men, clinker built, is just brought in here; she had been out 9 days from the Isle of Bas, but had not taken anything when she was fell in with and was captured by his Majesty's ship Doris, having the Hazard sloop in company, on the 7th inst. after a chase of 24 hours, Scilly bearing S. E. distant eight leagues.

This prize parted from the Doris off Cape Clear at one P. M. yesterday, and shall be sent along with L'Abelle to England.

The city of Milan, the conquest of which is the great object of the French, is but weakly fortified. In former wars it has been besieged forty times and taken twenty-two. There is a citadel in the middle of the town, to keep it in awe. Behind it is a covered gallery, supported by brick pillars, on which are two hundred pieces of cannon. There are several very beautiful buildings, particularly the cathedral. The city is about ten miles in circumference, and is abundantly supplied with all kinds of provisions. The chief inhabitants are very rich, and are descended from the most ancient houses. It is situated seventy-two miles N. E. of Turin, and two hundred and seventy N. W. of Rome. The Duchy, of which it is the capital, is extremely fertile, about one hundred and fifty miles in length, and seventy-eight in breadth.

KINGSTON (Jam.) April 30.

The following address was this day presented to his honor the Lieut. Governor.

We, his majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the assembly of Jamaica, beg leave to offer to your honor our most sincere and cordial congratulations on the happy and complete termination of the rebellion of the Trelawny-Town Maroons.

This great and important event must be productive of substantial benefits and salutary consequences to the country, in every point of view in which it can be contemplated: tranquillity and the enjoyment of our civil rights are restored; public credit, so essential to the support of government and to the prosperity, is not to the very existence of the