

printed, 25th July, 1832; and to be re-printed 6th February last.

Anciently it appears from this paper, the greater number of petitions presented to Parliament related to private grievances.—Probably ninety-nine in a hundred were of that description. Receivers and Triers, as they were called, used to be appointed for arranging and classifying petitions—the former being commonly the clerks of the Court of Chancery, and the latter, committees of prelates, peers, and judges, whose business it was to examine the petitions, and to refer the petitioners either to the proper regular tribunal for redressing their complaints, or, if they were not such as could be taken cognizance of by the ordinary courts of Law, to the High Court of Parliament. The form of appointing Receivers and Triers is still observed in the House of Lords at the opening of every new Parliament.

The only private petitions now received by Parliament are such as relate to matters not coming within the jurisdiction of the courts of law. The number of such petitions now bear a small proportion to that of those that refer to questions of public or general interest. The extent to which the latter have increased of late years, appears from the following statement given in the Report:—

The number of public petitions presented to the House of Commons amounted—	
In the 5 years ending in 1789 to ..	880
.....1805— ..	1,026
.....1815— ..	1,498
.....1831— ..	24,492

The greatest number presented in any one of the five years included in the first series, was 298 (in the year 1785); whereas in 1827 there were presented 3635; in 1828, 4074; in 1829, 4011; and in 1830 and 1831 together 12,742.

In consequence of this great increase in the numbers of public petitions, the most serious difficulty has been experienced in devising a mode by which they might be submitted to the notice of the House, with occupying the time demanded for the other business of Parliament. The presentation of a single petition frequently consumes a considerable space of time. According to what was the practice up to the commencement of the present session although the petition itself is rarely read at length, but only its prayer stated by the clerk, its presentation often occasioned no fewer than four successive motions of questions, on each of which a new debate might arise. There was first the motion that the petition be brought up; then, another that it be read; then, a third that it be laid on the table; and lastly, a fourth that it be printed. A resolution proposed by Lord Althorp and agreed to by the House on the 6th February, limited to this right of speaking to the two questions—that the petition be laid on the table, and that it be printed; but still this does not get rid of the principal part of this difficulty. Were there only one opportunity of debate upon each petition, it would still be almost impracticable for the House upon the plan that has hitherto been followed to get through the reception of the vast numbers that are every session put into the hands of members. The order of precedence in the right of presenting petitions has been of late years a matter of constant contest. Formerly the practice was for those members, who wished to secure an opportunity of presenting the petitions and which they had been entrusted, to strive who should be first at the House in the morning, when, by putting down their names on a paper, they entitled themselves to precedence over those who did not make their appearance so early. Upon this system, as one of the witnesses examined before the committee states, a few members were in the habit of getting the priority in a great number of cases; those who lived near the House, constantly took advantage of their proximity to win the race from their competitors, frequently presenting their names at six o'clock in the morning. On late the matter has been arranged by allowing members having petitions to present, to ballot for precedence; but although on the average of the session, about twelve members have been in the habit of attending daily at the ballot, it is stated that only the first five whose names were drawn have in general had any chance of getting their petitions presented in the evening before the public business came on. A member has often attended regularly for many days, and even weeks without being fortunate enough to attain a sufficiently high place on the list. Soon after the commencement of the present session, Lord Althorp proposed a new plan of proceeding with regard to this important subject, namely, that there should be no ballot, but that the members wishing to present petitions should put down their names upon a paper from which they should be called upon by the Speaker in their order, day after day, till the whole list should be gone over. And in order to afford time both for private business, and for the reception and discussions without encroaching upon the time necessary for public business, his lordship further proposed, that the House should for the former purposes, assemble every day except Saturday, with the Speaker in the chair at noon, and sit till three o'clock when it should adjourn till five, at which hour it

should again meet and proceed at once with the business set down in the order book.—This plan has since been agreed to by the House.

In addition to the embarrassment occasioned by the petitions, on account of their consumption of the time of the House, the printing of those of them that are ordered to be printed has been a source of considerable expense. From 1789 down to 1817 the practise was to print all public petitions either at length, or in the form of a short abstract, in which is called the Votes, that is the record of those proceedings of the House which properly comes under the description of business done, but not including resolutions which are merely proposed without being determined upon, and some other matters which are only inserted in the larger record called the Journals. In 1817 the plan was adopted for printing and distributing the Votes every day; and since then, only those petitions have been printed respecting which the House has thought proper to give an order to that effect. They are printed in the form of an appendix to the notes. The proportion of petitions ordered to be printed to the whole number submitted to the notice of the House, appears since the commencement of the new system to have varied considerably in different years. Of 4,074 petitions for instance, presented in 1828, only 1,579 were ordered to be printed; whereas of 4,041 presented in 1829, the number ordered to be printed was 3,394. Of the whole number of 24,942 presented in the five years ending 1831, 10,615 were ordered to be printed. And the expenses thus occasioned, amounted these five years to upwards of £12,000, or between £2,000 and £3,000 a year. Moreover it appears that the mass of matter thus laid before the House and the public excites comparatively but little interest even among those who are most in the habit of attending to parliamentary proceedings. The report states that some members have declined receiving the appendix, considering it as an incumbrance, and that during the year 1831 while there were sold to the public 400 copies of the Votes, there were not sold more than 150 copies of the appendix. The appendix for the year 1829, in which Parliament sat from the 6th June, to the 24th June formed a volume of 1525 folio pages, consisted entirely of public and election petitions. It is suggested in report that a select committee might be appointed at the commencement of each session to arrange and classify the petitions presented, and having a discretionary power to decide as to the printing at length of any containing facts or reasoning, of which in their judgment, the House ought to be apprized. A resolution to this effect was, on the motion of Lord Althorp, passed by the House on the 20th of February and the Committee was appointed.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The private advices received from the Cape of Good Hope to the 7th February, contain additional particulars relative to the operations against the Caffres, as well as some interesting details regarding the state of the Colony. Representations have been forwarded to the British Government, enforcing the immediate necessity of a border force being established, in order to awe the savages from any future encroachments. A body of volunteers had been established for this purpose, and had been reviewed by his Excellency, who was highly pleased with their appearance, and the readiness shown by them in learning the exercise in so short a period. It was the wish of the colonists that military forts should be formed along the line of the frontier. The chiefs Pata, Kama, and Cobus remained of the British Government, though reports were current that they only awaited a more favourable opportunity to commence an attack upon the property of the colonists. Heavy rains had set in, which had rendered the roads impassable in several parts of the colony and this had impeded the operations of the troops. The chief Hintza continued his design upon the colony, and was watching the turn of events, and would again profess the strongest desire to be on good terms with the colonial authorities in the event of the total defeat of the Caffres. All the missionary property at mount Coke, had been removed to Wesleyville. The Caffres were wanting of ammunition to use the few fire arms they possessed. The great excitement which had existed in the colony on the first news of the irruption had considerably subsided. The arrival of reinforcements had increased confidence. The Commander of the Forces had resolved upon the steps to be adopted in the state of affairs in the colony. A strong party, consisting principally of the mounted inhabitants, and commanded by Captain Harris of Port Elizabeth, had proceeded as an escort to Mr H. Fynn and Mr S. Shipstone, who were acquainted with the Caffre tongue, and who were charged with a message from the Governor to the chiefs Pata, Kama and Cobus. The object of the Governor was to open a communication through these friendly chiefs with those of the invading hordes. The chief Cobus was to accompany Captain Harris to the colony,

and to place himself as a hostage for the fidelity of those Caffre tribes which acknowledged the jurisdiction of himself and his two brothers Pata and Kama. The bush stretching up the Chumie heights had been scoured by the forces under Major Burney and Captain Armstrong, and the enemy's outposts completely dislodged. The main body of Tyal's force remained in possession of the post on the Amatoli river, and there was also deposited and guarded a considerable amount of property which had been taken from the colonists. Measures were in progress if possible to gain possession of the booty by the British and other troops under Major Burney. While the troops were dislodging the Caffres from the Chumie heights other savages surrounded Fort Aderuche and had plundered the inhabitants. In this affray the son of Field Cornet Groepe was killed, having been pierced through the heart with an assagai. According to accounts from Branfort, the chief Tyal had expressed his intention to destroy all before him. The chief Hintz it was believed, was removing the greater portion of cattle swept away from the colonists. All the outposts established in the Albany district had been maintained, and in the skirmishes with the savages, the colonial force had been successful. At Bathurst, Silem, and Theophilus, the colonists again enjoyed repose, and the Caffres finding that no cattle could be had without a desperate struggle, had moved into the interior. The forces under captain Baset and Mr Bailey had succeeded in intercepting a considerable body of the enemy, and had recaptured a great number of cattle horses &c. Both these gentlemen had been great sufferers by the invasion, each having erected extensive farms, &c., all of which had been laid in ashes by the savages. The general computation in the colony was that from 75,000 to 80,000 head of cattle had been swept off by the Caffres, and a great number of the Colonists having lost their whole property were in a state of the utmost distress. The Board of Relief for the destitute colonists, had in consequence of excesses that had been committed, issued a notice that it would not consider itself justified in affording aid to persons who were found frequenting the canteens. Such were the active steps taken by the Governor and the Commanders of the troops, that it was confidently believed at the date of the present advices, that in a few weeks the savages would be driven far into the interior and much of their booty re-captured.

A requisition numerously and respectfully signed has been transmitted to Mr G. H. Wood, of Northwood Park, requesting him to stand again for the county of Wight in case of a dissolution. The feeling of indignation at the manner in which the representatives of the people have used their delegated authority is generally strong.

Mr Mangles the member for Guildford, has received an intimation from the electors of that town, that in consequence of his late votes in opposition to the Government of Sir R. Peel, they desire never to see his face again as a candidate for their suffrages. Mr Ramsbottom too, it is said has received a similar hint from the people of Windsor.

Earl Amherst his Majesty's Commissioner to Canada, accompanied by his nephew, the Earl of Hillsborough, and his Secretary Mr Elliott, will embark for that Colony on the 20th inst. His Lordship and suite will take their passage in the Pique, 39 guns, a new frigate, commanded by the Hon. captain Rous. The mission of the noble Earl will be temporary, as he is expected to return in eight or ten months, and the Countess and lady Sarah Amherst therefore will not accompany his Lordship.

The title of Ashburton to which Mr Alexander Baring has been elevated, has been in his family before. Dunning the celebrated lawyer, who was created Lord Ashburton, married a sister of Sir Francis Baring. An old joke is given to Lord Shelburne, by whom the Peerage was bestowed—when somebody asked him why he had yielded to the lawyer's importunities, his Lordship said by way of excuse, that it was not the first peerage that had been got by Dunning.

Lord William Bentick was to leave Calcutta on the 15th March, in his Majesty's ship Curacoa having written from Oolcaumund, to request that his successor might be appointed. Lord Heytesbury is, anxious to see what turn affairs take before his departure, for the ship is reported ready for sailing in which he is to take his passage. It is a question with us which is the wiser course to go at once, and be installed Governour General in India, or wait and be confirmed in England.

The Right Hon. Charles Grant has been raised to the peerage; the creation was to appear in the Gazette of the 21st instant. We understand that Mr Grant has selected the title of Baron Inverness.

Lord Brougham attracts great notice on account of the singularity of his attire—a frock coat of the fashionable colour, a light Aclaiade Brown, a brilliant embroidered velvet vest, and trowsers of Scotch plaid,

very broad pattern; a black silk stock too small for his neck; a massive gold chain crossing from one pocket to the other.—*Morning Post.*

At the marriage of Lord John Russell on the 11th April, an accident took place which those skilled in such matters declare to forebode no good, and which for some time threw a shade over many a fair face in the bridal group. After the bridegroom had placed the ring, in the customary manner, on the finger of his bride, immediately on her ladyship's withdrawing her hand, the ring fell to the ground! It was remarked that the cheek of the lady was deadly pale as the noble lord replaced the mystic symbol on her hand. Though his lordship's complexion, from which the toils of leadership have somewhat removed the bloom, rendered the change of colour on his part not quite so perceptible, the tremor of his hand bore evidence that he "liked not the omen."

On Monday week, Great Tom of Lincoln having been resuscitated, started from the foundry of Mr Mears, at Whitechapel, to his former residence, attended on the first stage by a vast concourse of persons. The weight of this enormous bell is about 5 tons and it has been recast from the metal of the old bell which has long been out of repair. He was conveyed to his destination on a carriage drawn by eight horses, and will travel at a speed of about twenty miles a day.

POOR LAWS IN IRELAND. The grand objection to introducing poor laws into Ireland is the prevalence of the idea that they tend to augment population, to lower wages and to demoralize the people. In reply to this statement it might be sufficient to observe, that Ireland without poor laws, has doubled its population in 33 years, and England with poor laws, has not doubled its population in 150 years. As to the lowering of wages, it is impossible for human labour in a northern climate to be lower than it is in Ireland; (in parishes where the wages of labour have been reduced in England, it has been owing to the abuse, not to the existence of the poor rates;) and as to the demoralization of the people being caused by poor laws, England's peasantry with her progressive property, and uncertain and severe punishment of crime, has not yet reached (and it is to be hoped never will) the terrible state of demoralization which exists in the sister isle.

The population of Ireland was in 1695 1,034,102; in 1800, 4,000,000; in 1833 8,000,000.

EXETER, April 10.—We are promised one of the severest contests ever known, in the event of Lord John Russell taking office.—The Conservatives have addressed a requisition to Mr. E. Parker, of Whiteway, and that gentleman has promised to come forward.—His friends are making the most strenuous efforts. Lord Rolle heads a subscription list for £1,000. Mr Parker will also have Earl Morley's interest, it is said. The conservatives express the most sanguine hopes of turning out Lord John. Exeter is also becoming more conservative, and in the event of another election for the city, C. Saunders, Esq., a banker, and a man of great substance, will come forward.—As to Lord Morley's support, we doubt it.—Lord John Russell and his happy bride went to Lord Morley's house, an Knightsbridge, to breakfast after their wedding—however, nourishing a private friend, and cherishing a political fiend, are different things.

The expenses attending the trying the merits of the Worcester election petition, amounted it is said to not less than £400 a day during the sitting of the committee. Nearly 100 witnesses attended from the country, whose maintenance and lodging, together with the fees to barristers and other expenses, were very considerable.

A well known Member of Parliament who represents the largest agricultural constituency in the Emerald Isle has backed himself for a considerable sum to hop on the same foot two hundred and fifty feet in thirty successive hops, being equal to 8½ feet each hop. The feat is to be attempted in the course of next week, and is considered an extraordinary sporting undertaking.

The Conservatives in all parts of the kingdom are actively endeavouring to strengthen themselves. Associations are establishing for the purpose of watching the registration of voters, and taking any other measures which may seem desirable.

Tuesday evening a numerous and highly respectable assemblage of the gentry and trading community resident in the truly loyal parish of Hampstead met at the Holybush Tavern, to organize a "Constitutional Conservative Society." The meeting was attended by the leading residents of wealth and station, with a great admixture of the respectable shopkeepers, who seemed to anxiously vie with their superiors in a devoted disposition to uphold the sacred institutions of Church and State. A series of resolutions was passed, appointing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Committee of thirty-six members, with power to add to their numbers. Lord Viscount Stormont was unani-