

ENGLAND.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—June 26.
AFFAIRS IN PORTUGAL.—Earl Darley rose to put some questions to the Noble Earl opposite (the Earl of Aberdeen) relative to the affairs in Portugal.

The Earl of Aberdeen—My Lords, I hope to be able to give satisfactory answers to the House and the Noble Earl. The British Ambassador, my Lords, has not left Portugal, but his functions are suspended. With respect to Don Miguel no person is more sensible than myself how highly culpable his conduct has been.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, June 16.
BETRIUM SUMING.—General Gascoyne brought forward a motion on this subject, which went to divide the House to proceed, early in the next Session of Parliament, to inquire into the causes of the diminution of ships, tonnage and men, in the commercial navy of this country.

Mr. P. Courtney moved the previous question. He contended, that the gallant General had made out no case which called for the immediate attention of Government, or of the House. The commercial marine of the country was now double its amount to the year preceding that in which Lord Howe fought the glorious battle of the 1st of June; and he had no doubt but we possessed sufficient means to man a formidable Navy.

Mr. C. P. Thompson opposed the motion, and contended that the number of men employed in the commerce of the country was nearly the same as in 1825. Mr. C. Grant denied that there was any thing in the present state of the navy, or the country, to call upon the House to depart from the course on which it had been embarked, or to retract its steps.

JUNE 19.
Petitions were presented against several clauses in the new Licensing Bill, and against slavery in the West Indies.

Mr. Buxton, in presenting a petition from the Society of Friends, better known by the name of Quakers, observed, that as this respectable class of the community seldom troubled the legislature with petitions on any subject, their application was deserving of particular attention and respect.

Mr. Macintosh presented a petition from almost all the native inhabitants of respectability, and all the unplaced and unappointed Europeans, in Calcutta. The object of the petition was to complain to that House of a stamp-duty which had been imposed upon the city of Calcutta, about fourteen months ago.

JUNE 19.
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.—MILITARY ESTIMATES.
On the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply; Sir A. Grant in the chair.

The vote of £145,500, for defraying the charge and pay of general officers, not being colonels or regiments, for the year 1828, was agreed to without opposition.

On the resolution that there be granted £26,898 10s. 6d. for defraying the charge of his Majesty's garrisons, at home and abroad, for the year 1828.

Colonel Davies objected to the extravagant amount of such a grant. This vote ought certainly to be reduced. Mr. Howe was very much inclined to concur with his gallant friend as to the hopelessness of availing the House upon the important subject of military expenditure.

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right hon. gentleman opposite, he would ask him what possible reason there could be for paying garison-governors, lieutenant-governors, &c. of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Blackness, Dunbarton Castle, Caillie, &c.?

Mr. Howe wished to know whether the practice which had been productive of a loss of a million and a half to the country, that of allowing the sale of half-pay commissions, was put an end to?

Mr. H. Hardinge said that it was. No more such sales would be allowed; but the hon. member had greatly exaggerated the loss to the public upon them.

The following grants were then voted:—£101,870 for half-pay and reduced allowances to foreign officers; £18,145 for military allowances to reduced and retired officers of land forces; £49,415 for the expenses of the pensioners of Chelsea and Kilmahoin hospitals; £25,976 for the out-pensioners of Chelsea hospital; £27,659 2s. 1d. for the support of the Royal Military Asylum, for the year 1828; £145,888 for the payment of pensions to officers, &c. £195,500 for the compassionate list, royal bounty, and pensions to officers for wounds; £54,180 19s. 11d. for allowances by way of compensation, superannuation, and retired allowances in persons formerly belonging to the service; and £25,000 for Exchequer fees on the sums for the army service.

LONDON, June 26.
One of the periodical triumphs which some of the abstract enemies of Mr. H. Hardinge has taken to him place last night. General Gascoyne brought forward his motion to pledge the House to inquire next Session into the causes of the distress which the ship-owners feel.

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It is, no doubt, true that freights are low—that in spite of the increased employment, the remuneration for shipping is not such as to pay the owners of British-built vessels a good interest on the money they have expended. Ship-owners have suffered by a decline of freights, which seems to have taken place in nearly the same proportion as the decline of the price of money since 1825; but the diminished employment of foreign shipping has absolutely decreased, while the employment of British shipping has increased considerably.

It is not to be admitted, that in the practical result of the Duke of Wellington's administration, there is nothing which need make the country regret it. One great measure of liberality and peace—a triumph sufficient for one session—the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, has been carried, and has become more important than any other measure of the session.

That part of the Duke of Wellington's administration which is most suspicious in the manner of getting rid of Mr. Canning's friends, is perhaps not personally disagreeable to the Whigs. As to Mr. Canning's friends, said Mr. Tierney in the explanations of the 19th of February, "I trouble myself no more about them than the passengers that meet me in the street; for I do not think that they have believed to us in any way calculated to conciliate our esteem." In the explanation of Mr. Canning's friends, the Whigs may see a retribution not disagreeable to themselves—but we cannot forget that the Duke of Wellington is not the man from whom it ought to have proceeded.

The result of this expulsion, too, is not to be despised—it is the substitution, for very able and useful Ministers, of men either not known at all or known to be very inferior persons. Under those circumstances, the mere acceptance of office by a Whig or two, will not induce us to believe there is any ground for a relaxation of the public vigilance as to the measures of the Ministry. There is, too, in the present sequence of the Parliamentary parties this obvious danger—that the financial and economical reforms which the country needs, may not be pressed assiduously enough upon the Government.

REDUCTION OF EXPENDITURE, AND REVIEW OF THE SECOND REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

From Bell's Weekly Messenger, June 15.
The Finance Committee have presented a Report to the House of Commons upon the receipts and expenditure of the country for a series of years past. This Report is of a true elephant size, and required no ordinary strength upon the part of the honourable Chairman to place it upon the Speaker's table.

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ciency of the national funds, though prompted to do by some daily writers; they have not promulgated one principle which has any tendency to blench our credit, or to affect the security of the public debt.

We think it indeed creditable to the Chairman, when he states, that the Committee have not comprehended within the scope of their inquiry the twenty-seven or twenty-eight millions appropriated for the National Debt; that they deemed such interest invidious; but had directed their attention to the twenty-two millions which went to defray the general expenditure of the State.

There is not the slightest doubt but that the taxes should be reduced; but, however reduced, the income of the country must be kept above its annual expense. Why not have a surplus, and a general reserve, in the Treasury, to be drawn upon in case of any emergency?

The Committee or their Chairman, proceed to read a sensible lecture to the Treasury, and they appear to touch their Lordships upon a sore place. The bill is originally instituted as a check upon all the other departments, and should rigidly exercise its trust.

Now this advice is most judicious and salutary. For example, why should the Governor of an Island, or the Superior of the Customs, make an estimate of the amount to be expended in the ensuing year, viz: so much for building a new fort, so much for barracks, so much for provision and ammunition—and draw upon the Treasury for the gross amount?

A beautiful machine sight was presented to the eye of the spectator on Friday last, at Liverpool, upwards of one hundred and forty sail of vessels having gone out that day. Near five o'clock, which was about noon, the river seemed to be covered from the darks down to the Rock channel, and the sight lost none of its interest when the vessels incked to the westward, and took up their anchorage round, beyond the banks, for the night.

On Wednesday, the anniversary of the glorious battle of Waterloo, his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence gave a splendid regatta and dejeuner on the Thames, in honor of the day, and of the immortal hero who led our brave countrymen to that unparalleled victory. The City Navigation Barge was stationed off Whitehall-stairs, and crowded with many royal flags and streamers.

The Finance Committee have resolved, by a majority of one, that there being no surplus of revenue, the sinking fund ought to be abolished. It is intended to water in dry weather the whole line of road from Liverpool to Manchester.

The health of the metropolis is said to have been in a gradual state of improvement since the middle of the 17th century. It is now 163 years since the plague has shown itself; and three frightful diseases which used to be epidemic in London (the bloody flux, ague, and sea scurvy,) have ceased for above a century to be so.

The late rains have produced favourable crops of hay will be extremely heavy. The wheat crops, to which the cutting winds of April had given a very unhealthy appearance, are fast recovering themselves, and the oats are now looking very healthy in most situations, though the grub has done considerable mischief to spring corn.

The following are the new appointments in the list of Commissioners for the affairs of India, consequent upon the recent change in the ministry. The commissioners are, Lord Melville, Mr. Peel, Lord Aberdeen, Sir George Murray, the Duke of Wellington, Mr. Goulburn, Lord Wallace, Mr. Sullivan, Lord Ashley, the Marquis of Graham, Mr. Lawrence Peet and Mr. Courtenay.

The appointment of Mr. CALVERT as Paymaster of the Forces, has led to the belief, that other Whigs may follow his example, and get into office, if, or when, they can. The Old Times sanctions this opinion, to the great ire of the Examiner, and other Ultra-Liberals. We can see no objection to such appointments. Under the Duke of WELLINGTON, all will be drilled into right principles.

The Turkish Sultan has ordered the Greek Patriarch to read masses in the Christian churches, without their deficiencies, and has superadded some valuable qualities of his own, in which they were one and all wanting.

It is affirmed that the Duke of Wellington and the Earl of Aberdeen have, within the last ten days, made considerable progress in the negotiations with Count Orlavia for the settlement of the British claims due by Spain; in consequence of which, it is confidently hoped that this arduous and important matter will be speedily closed, and the sufferers relieved from the long and painful state of anxiety in which they have been kept.

We regret to state, that at this moment, when the Catholics are told, that if they are not quiet they cannot hope for any relief from their disabilities, an attempt is making to revive the Orange Lodges in England, under an illustrious Personage, for the purpose, as it is avowed, of organizing a strong opposition to the Catholic Claims. We hear from an authority which we fear is too well founded, that his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland has consented to become the Grand Master of the English Orange Lodges, and that his installation is to take place on King William's day.

The Hon. Mrs. Anne Damer died on Wednesday, at an advanced age, she was one of the few ladies of high family and rank who have devoted themselves to the cultivation of the fine arts in a superior degree; and her productions are well known to the public.—They are generally graceful and elegant.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH, JUNE 13.
SCOTLAND AS IT WAS AND IS.—There are few employments more gratifying than to mark the progress of improvement in all parts of the empire. The present situation and expedients of our fathers, with the happier circumstances under which we live ourselves—and duty to estimate the blessings of peace, the advantages of civilization, and the almost marvellous choice which the application of scientific knowledge to every department of the real business of life has effected in every corner of the kingdom.

In former times, many parts of our native land were frequently desolated, and the fruits of industry destroyed and carried away by marauders. The bandman had then to sow and reap with a sword at his side. Happily these days are gone by, and the interests of the rival kingdoms are completely amalgamated, and fierce contentions of predatory factions terminated with the removal of local distinctions that encouraged them.

It is generally said that Parliament will be prorogued about the 22d July, and it is expected that his Majesty will attend in person, and submit both the estimate and expenditure to the Secretary of the Treasury? The expenditure of the public money should not be entrusted to those who are interested in overcharging the estimates and swelling the details. The treasury should have no bank but the Treasury itself.

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Professor DUGALD STEWART.—The funeral of this distinguished and lamented individual took place on Tuesday at three o'clock. It was privately conducted until it reached the Tron Church, on its way to the Canonagie church-yard. There the procession was joined and headed by the professors of the University in their gowns, two and two, preceded by the mace-bearer, the junior members being in front.