Guelyh Evening Mercury

TUESDAY EVENING, OCT. 7, 1873

Current Events. We are convinced that Mr. Huntington did wisely in declining to surrender the rights of the Commons, and to carry the national cause before a tribunal at once utterly unconstitutional, appointed by the accused, and packed in their favour There were some, we believe, among his friends who advised him to take a different course, feeling that the case was strong enough to stand before any tribunal, and fearing lest by his refusal to appear, practical advantage might be sacrificed to constitutional forms. But the principle for which Mr. Huntington is contending is no mere form. Take away from Parliament its power of inquiring into .the abuse of Government and there is no check, and in a community such as ours there will be no bound. Political sharpers, once entrenched in place and power, with the patronage in their hands, will reign securely by corruption and plunder the country at their will.

Under the circumstances, Mr. Huntington's bearing has been manly and straightforward ; his conduct, so far, has been right; and he deserves ready enough to produce his case under oath, had the Oaths Bill not NEW LAMPS. been disallowed before the Parliamentary Committee. When Parliament meets aresolution, we presume will be moved, ratifying Mr Hunting. ton's course and affirming the right of the Commons, as asserted by him, against the unconstitutional act of the advisers of the Crown. Upon that resolution, unless the House of Commons is utterly corrupt and false to its trust, the Government must fall. • • • A Court which cannot bring the case before it, labours under at least as serious an incapacity as one which is without the power of examining on oath. • • • • The question returns

with increasing force : Why were the heads of the law not put upon the Commission? Were they passed over, or did they decline to serve? In the first case, what was the reason In the second, was it from any legal misgiving that they declined ! and if so, how could the Governor Gener. al be recommended on a legal question to disregard the misgivings of the heads of the law? In an untenable position the Royal Comcould not possibly missioners play a satisfactory part. The inanity of some of the examinations arose no doubt from the Commissioners having got hold of Mr. Thus people were interroprove.

mities, of which they solemnly denied diate Payment. their cognizance, when in point of fact they may have been set down to

void. The Ministers have not been ex

amined in the proper sense of the term, much less cross examined; they have simply made prepared statments before the Commission. That test, therefore, without the application of which no evidence, not even that of the most veracious and disinterested withous is trust.

George Wishart,

John Knox,

Martin Luther,



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