

settled in the House of Commons. Accordingly it was taken up on the 22d June, 1813. "The appearance of the House at the beginning of the evening," we are told, "was as bad as could be, but Lord Castlereagh opened the subject very discreetly and judiciously!" Mr. Wilberforce being fully prepared, "went through the whole subject at length; proving the degraded character of the Hindoo superstition; and calmly reasoning out his own conclusions; yet relieving the unavoidable prolixity of such a speech, by the highest flashes of eloquence. "He who knows my heart," he said in closing his account of Hindoo superstitions "knows that I have not drawn this melancholy picture to exult over its blackness; it is with grief and shame I view it; mourning sir over my own country, which for fifty years and more has left so many millions of our fellow creatures in this state of misery and vice. I am not bringing a bill of indictment against the Indian race,—but I have lived long enough to learn that flatterers are not friends. I am the true friend of this people, who am willing to allow their present degradation, that I may raise them to a higher level." Nine hundred petitions had been presented to the House in favor of Missionary operations in Indian—including to them, Mr. W., warns the House against slighting their prayer. "Let no man think" he says, "that the petitions which have loaded our table, have been produced by a burst of momentary enthusiasm; or that the zeal of the petitioners will be soon expended. No, sir, it will be found to be steady as the light of heaven. While the sun and moon continue to shine in the firmament, so long will this object be pursued with unabated ardour, until the great work be accomplished." The result was, to use Mr. W's now words—"we carried it, about 89 to 36, beyond all hope. I heard afterwards that many good men had been praying for us all night. Oh what cause for thankfulness; yet almost intoxicated with success."

Mr. W's company about this time was much coveted by persons of distinction. He dined several times at the Pavillion with the Prince Regent, whom he characterizes as an accomplished gentleman. The celebrated Madame de Stael being in Britain, was also very desirous of conversing with him, Mr. W. would fain have declined an invitation to dine with her, but her high standing in the literary world, joined with the desire of pleasing his friends, appear to have influenced his mind in yielding his con-

sent. Mr. W's account of the company shews the truth of the scriptural remark that poverty is better than riches. Had he dined among a company of plain christians, he would doubtless have returned rejoicing, but here we find only expressions of regret.

"I have consented to dine with Madame de Stael; I could not well do otherwise. Bowdler said much to persuade me. Let me try to speak plainly though tenderly to her. 18th. Dined with Madame de Stael—her son and daughter, and two other foreigners, Lord Harrowby, Lord and Lady Lansdown, Sir Jas. Mackintosh. Lord and Lady Granville Leveson were to have dined, but Lady Spencer died that morning. She asked me to name the party. A cheerful, pleasant dinner. She talking of the final cause of creation—not utility but beauty—did not like Paley, wrote about Rousseau at fifteen, and thought differently at fifty. Evening, assembly, but I came away at half-past eleven. A brilliant assembly of rank and talent." "The whole scene," was his next day's reflection, "was intoxicating even to me. The fever arising from it is not yet gone off, (half-past 8, A. M.) though opposed by the most serious motives and considerations both last night and this morning. How dangerous then must such scenes (literally of dissipation, dissipating the spirits, the mind, and for a time almost the judgment) be to young people in the hey-day of youth, and life and spirits! How unfit for those who are to watch unto prayer, to walk soberly, to be sober-minded! Something in my own case may be fairly ascribed to natural high spirits, and I fear, alas! and a good deal to my being unaccustomed to such scenes; yet after allowing for these weaknesses and peculiarities, must not the sobriety of my age, my principles, my guard, (prayer preceding my entering into the enchanted ground,) be fairly considered as abating the effect, so much as that I may be a fair average sample of the effect of such scenes on young people in general of agreeable manners, and at all popular ways and characters? I am sure I durst not often venture into these scenes.—Then the seasoning is so high that it would render all quiet domestic pleasures insipid. Even poor Paley used to say, (though I hope jokingly,) 'Who ever talks to his wife?' This showed even in him the danger of being fascinated by social gaiety. O Lord, enable me to view last night's scene in its true colors, and shapes, and essences. I have not time to trace out the draught. May I remember that they and I are accountable dying creatures, soon to appear at the judgment-seat of Christ, and be asked whether we avoided temptation, and endeavored to preserve a frame of spirit suited to those who had to work out their salvation with fear and trembling."

In April 1814, Mr. Wilberforce addressed a letter to the Emperor Alexander of Russia to agree to a convention for the abolition of the slave trade among all nations. It was graciously received, and the Emperor who was a truly christian prince, being then in Britain invited him to an audience, and charged himself with the abolition. It appears, however, that the Emperor, notwithstanding his excellent character and political ascendancy, was unable to bring the crowned heads of Europe to this righteous covenant, and it was reserved