BRITISH NEWS.

HOUSE OF LORDS,—Thursday, Sept. 22.

THE REFORM BILL.

Long before 5 o'clock there was a very numerous attendance of their Lordships, and the space in front of the throne was crowded with Members of the House of Commons, among whom we observed none but opponents of the Reform Bill. The Lord Chancellor entered the house exactly at 5 o'clock, and his lordship had no sooner taken his seat on the Woolsack, than Mr. Putman, the Deputy Usher of the Black Rod, appeared at the bar and announced "a message from the Commons." The Lords had till this moment been collected in groups in various parts of the house, and many of the peers on the opposition side gave certain indications, by the expression of their countenances, and by the earnestness of their manner, that they were engaged in speculations which they deemed to be of no ordinary character. The announcement of a message from the Commons, however, broke up the various *tete-a-tete's* in which their Lordships were engaged. Each noble lord hastily took his seat, and a perfect stillness reigned throughout the house, until the doors by which the Commons enter, and towards which every eye was turned, were thrown open and upwards of 100 of the Members of the House of Commons,—all stanch supporters of the Bill,—with Lord Althorp and Lord John Russell at their head, rushed through the narrow entrance, and made their appearance at the bar. The effect was striking beyond description, and some of their Lordships appeared to think it even startling; but the winning which the steady eye of every cool spectator must have observed in more than one quarter, may be attributed to the cloud of dust which the somewhat boisterous entree of the Commons raised from the ill-swept matting.

The Lord Chancellor came to the bar with the usual formalities, and received "The Bill" from the hands of Lord J. Russell.

Lord J. Russell, in delivering the Bill to the Lord Chancellor, said, in a firm and audible voice, "This, my Lord, is a bill to amend the representation of the people in England and Wales, which the House of Commons have agreed to, and to which they desire the concurrence of your lordships."

These words were followed by loud cries of "Hear, hear," from the Members of the House of Commons who had come up with the bill, and this unusual proceeding was met by a faint cry of "Order" from some of the lords.

Instead of retiring from the bar, which is usual in such cases, the members of the House of Commons preserved their position at the bar.

The Lord Chancellor, holding the bill in his hand, retraced his steps to the Woolsack, and communicated to the House the nature of the message of the Commons. His lordship, however, made the communication with unusual solemnity of tone and manner, and the words of mere form and ceremony, which are repeated upon the bringing up of every bill, and which no one perhaps ever thought of listening to before, were, on this occasion, heard with breathless silence.

The Bill having been laid upon the table, a long pause ensued, in consequence of the absence of Earl Grey, who, however, shortly afterwards entered the House.

Earl Grey said—My Lords, I was not present when the Bill for effecting a reform in the representation of the people was brought from the Commons. I beg, however, now to move that the bill be read a first time. Having made this motion, it will be necessary to fix a day for the second reading of the bill; and in doing this, I have no other wish than to consult the convenience of your lordships. I think the second reading should not be taken sooner than Friday se'nnight, nor later than Monday se'nnight. It will perhaps suit the convenience of all parties if I fix the second reading for Monday se'nnight. ("Hear hear," from all parts of the house.)

The bill was then read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday se'nnight.

Earl Grey.—If the second reading should be carried,—as I have every reason to hope it will be,—I trust that there will be no objection to take the committee with as little delay as possible. ("Hear, hear," from all parts of the house.)

The Members of the House of Commons now retired from the bar.

HOUSE OF LORDS—Monday, Oct. 3.

ABRIDGED DEBATE ON REFORM BILL.

Several petitions having been presented relative to reform,

Earl Grey rose to move the second reading of the English reform bill. The "great, the important day," however, had so extraordinary an effect upon his lordship, that for some time he was unable to proceed. Having rallied his lordship apologised for the consequence of that anxiety which he owned he felt on the present occasion; for, having submitted the question repeatedly to the other house, and now that the whole burden of it appeared to rest on his own shoulders, he could not but feel agitated respecting a measure which some deemed to be subversive of the best institutions of the country. He, however, considered that such was not its character; that this bill was absolutely requisite; that without it the country would not be tranquil and secure; and that it would give the cheapest and best security the country could possess. His lordship stated that when he took office he stipulated that he should be allowed to make the reform measure a government question—a condition with which his Majesty most generously complied. He then strongly urged their lordships to allow the bill to proceed, contending that the question would no longer admit of delay with any thing like safety to the country; and he warmly maintained that there was nothing in the measure calculated to endanger the institutions of the country. The system, continued his lordship, which prevails in the borough representation of England is not upheld by any of the writers on our constitution. On the contrary, it is reprobated by all authority, by all reason, by the statutes, and by the common law of the land. The removal of this vicious and corrupt system, so far from tending to endanger the constitution in my opinion, would tend materially to improve and strengthen it. And here, my lords, I request you to consider how much the continuance of the system of nomination boroughs contributes to the real power and influence of this house. In the first place it is to be considered that the power of committing the peers to sit in parliament is not enjoyed by this house in general—it is not enjoyed by your lordships as a body in the state—but is enjoyed by a few wealthy individuals amongst you, who exercise the power for the improvement of their own separate interests. (Hear.) The power, therefore, is exercised and enjoyed only by a few, whilst the odium falls upon the whole body. The system is odious to the people, and shocks their senses, and on your lordships, as a body, the odium rests. By getting rid of the system, then, you remove the odium, and the peerage, as a body, loses nothing. As I said before, only a few of your lordships exercise this power of nomination; and the power is not exercised exclusively by peers; other wealthy persons possess it; and share it sometimes with loan contractors or speculating attorneys, who make use of this power with no other object but to promote their private advantage. Then the power of nomination is liable to continual transfer and change. It may leave your lordships hands altogether, or it may accumulate in the hands of an individual to such an extent, that this power would not only become odious to the country—for that it already is—but it might become inconvenient to the government of the country, by rendering it, in a greater degree, dependent upon the person who possessed this power. By getting rid of this nomination system, then, you lose nothing—none of your independence as a body in the state, and no part of your legitimate influence—and you gain what is of infinite value—the estimation of the public. Though I am the last man then to propose to retain the influence which enables any member in this house to interfere in the election of members of the House of Commons—an interference that cannot be too strongly condemned—yet, do I propose that your lordships should be deprived of any part of your legitimate power or influence? God forbid! The respect due to your rank, and the influence which, from property you necessarily possess, will belong to you after the passing of the bill as fully and in as great degree as they now do. The peers of this country have not, and I thank God that they have not, any of those exclusive immunities or privileges which belonged to the old nobility of France. The nobility of this country is mixed and blended with the people. (Hear.) The odious power which is possessed by some of your lordships does not help to increase that legitimate influence which I have endeavoured to describe; and I verily believe that if you resolve to maintain the nomination boroughs, the whole voice of the United Kingdom will be raised against you. Then, indeed, will that security which you now possess for the maintenance of your rights and your property be shaken. It is not quite so great a sacrifice as some would represent that you are now called upon to make. You are asked only to give up that which is odious, unjust, and unconstitutional; and by retaining which the security of this house may be shaken. His lordship then proceeded to show that the voice of the nation was in favour of reform, after which he continued:—As a citizen of a free state, and feeling that freedom is essentially connected with order, I resist violence. As a member of the government it is my duty to maintain tranquillity; but as a citizen, as a member of the government, and as a statesman, I am bound to look at the consequences which may flow from rejecting this measure. And although I do not state, as the noble duke did on another occasion, that the rejection of the measure will lead to a civil war—I trust it would not produce any such effect—yet I see such consequences likely to arise from it as make me tremble for the security of this house and of the country. (Hear, hear.) I beg now to take the liberty of addressing a few words to the Right Rev. bench near me. I can say, and proudly say, that they have not a more devoted friend than I am.—Let me entreat them—if this measure should receive a negative from any narrow majority of lay peers—if any such majority should unfortunately prevail, which I should very much regret—and if the question is to be decided by their votes—let me entreat them to consider what may be their position. They have already shown that they can read the signs of the times.—(Hear, hear.) They have, I said, already shown that they can read the signs of the times. They must be conscious that there are at present many questions in motion which may take a fatal direction, if, upon a question which is interesting to the feelings of the people, and still more to their welfare, the decision of this house should, by means of their votes, be in opposition to the feelings and wishes of the country. I will not press this matter further, except to repeat that such a course may be followed by the most serious consequences. With respect to myself, or the administration the effect which the rejection of the bill may have is a matter of comparative insignificance.—I have declared before, and I now again declare—and I am not a man apt to recede from what I say—that by this measure I must stand or fall. (Loud cheers.) If it should be rejected, the question of my continuing even for another hour in office must depend upon my seeing any reasonable prospect of being able to effect a measure to which I am pledged, as I think, by every tie of private honour, by every obligation of public duty to my sovereign and my country. (Loud and prolonged cheers.) I wish to be distinctly understood, my lords, as I have stated, and which seemed to be received with a degree of eagerness. I certainly do not think that the mistakes which we have made, and the dangers we have incurred, can be obviated by any measure of less efficacy than this. (Cheers.) I distinctly stated before, and I now repeat, that, if such a measure is to be proposed, it will not be by me.

The Lord Chancellor put the question that the bill be now read a second time.

Lord Wharncliffe observed that the noble earl had applied himself to abuse the present system, but had said nothing in behalf of the one he had proposed to supercede it.

The people, notwithstanding the number of petitions, were far from being unanimous, and he contended that the bill would ultimately lead to a republic.—By the regulations of this bill the whole strength of the legislature would be in the House of Commons. The House of Lords would be nothing, and it would be well if the crown itself could stand before it.—(Cheers from the opposition.) Did he make these statements merely from his own authority? Would the noble earl and his colleagues use their eyes and ears? Would they see, and hear, and read, what the people who were most clamorous for this measure said? (Loud cheers.) They felt that this reform, as it applied to their wants and wishes, was nothing; but they knew that, all checks upon the popular power being removed in the House of Commons, every thing would be in their power, nothing could stop in front of the people. They laughed at those supporters of the bill who imagined that it was the ultimate object of their desires. The franchise was too democratic, and too many members were given to the manufacturing counties, such as Lancashire and Yorkshire. All large towns had no right to representatives. He would tell those who denounced the peerage as unnecessary, that if it were an anomaly in the constitution of the country, it was an anomaly useful to the state. To them the people, he sincerely believed, owed that share of liberty they possessed. They had never found the House of Peers enemies to the liberty of the people of England. They had, however, been denounced and menaced on different sides, more particularly by a part of the press, by threats of revolution, and openly told to mind what they were about, lest they should be cashiered. The language, though coarse, was intelligible. If the people were tired of the House of Lords, in God's name let them say so, and they would be ready to work out of that house.—(Loud cries of "No, no," from all sides.) Thus much, however, he would say—the country looked up to that house, and expected it would do its duty. He fearlessly left to their decision his conduct on this occasion; and he now moved, as an amendment to the motion of the noble earl that the words "now read a second time," be erased from the motion, and the words "be now rejected," inserted in their stead. (Hear.)

Earl Grey—Then the noble baron's motion is to the effect that the bill be rejected altogether.

Lord Wharncliffe intimated such to be the fact.

The Earl of Mulgrave strongly supported the bill, maintaining that those who resisted its second reading were prepared to tell the people of England that they resisted all reform.—The Earl of Mansfield succeeded and resisted the measure as one that was calculated to disturb all the institutions of the country.—Lord King lamented that the bill was so resisted, for the country could put no other construction on such opposition, than their lordships were against all reform—they were for utterly rejecting the bill.

Lord Wharncliffe wished to withdraw his amendment, as apparently offensive to the House of Commons, and substitute "the bill be read a second time that day six months." A long conversation ensued, but the amendment was ultimately admitted, and the debate adjourned to Tuesday.

Tuesday, October 4.

Several petitions were presented in favour of reform, and among others the Liverpool petition, by the Earl of Sefton. It deserved, he said, more than ordinary attention, for out of 800 merchants who frequented the Exchange rooms, 600 had signed it.

The Marquis of Salisbury asked if the noble earl knew what the population of Liverpool was, since he laid so much stress on the meeting held in a square; and a petition signed by 17,600.

The Earl of Sefton was publicly aware of the extent of the population, and knew that all the people could not be present; but the meeting was called by public notice, and the petition was regularly got up.

Lord Holland said that the petitions from meetings publicly convened, and to which there was no opposition, were understood to represent the places from which they came.

REFORM.—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The Earl of Winchelsea, in opposing the measure, was free from all private influence. In his opinion, the great principle of civil and religious liberty had been broken in upon by the measure of catholic emancipation, and the result was, that the hands of demagogues and of the catholic priests had been strengthened. He had long been convinced that reform was necessary, particularly with respect to the influence possessed by individuals in the return of members.—He was also for giving representatives to large manufacturing towns, and of this part of the bill he approved; and he also approved of giving additional members to large counties. But though he was not for increasing the number of members, he could not assent to so sweeping a measure as the disfranchisement of schedule A. Neither could he consent to [illegible] to towns not known as places distinguished for manufactures. He objected to giving votes to £50 tenants, and the ten pound clause would convert the constituency into a mere democracy.—For these reasons he would vote against the second reading, because the bill would destroy that happy equilibrium which had made England the happiest nation in the world.

The Earl of Harrowby opposed the bill in a long speech. It would, if carried, concert the constituency into a democracy. From the present agitation, he apprehended nothing dangerous to the tranquility of the country.

Lord Melbourne contended that the question was, whether they were to have any kind of reform.—(Cries of "No, no,") such he repeated, was the purport of the amendment which they were all now anxious to abandon. He implored of their lordships to consider—and he would not address to them a topic at all derogating from their dignity—but he implored them to consider the situation in which they were placed, and the probable consequences of rejecting this bill. He would refer their lordships to a question which had once been under their consideration, namely, that of admitting Roman catholics to a full participation in the benefits of the constitution. He wished to observe that their lordships were placed, with respect to this question, in a wholly different situation. They had it in their power to agree to this bill without the reproach of inconsistency. (Hear, hear.)—They might come to an impartial judgment, for they were bound by no previous votes, as in the case of catholic emancipation, nor were they tried down by previous rejections. (Loud cheers from the ministerial benches.) He would then pray their Lordships to use that liberty which was in their power, and to come to a decision free from fear, free from menace, and free from that fear to which noble and generous minds were most subject, and which was most apt to lead them into rash and unwise conduct, namely, the fear of imputation of fear. (Long and continued cheering.) It had been said that the measure of the catholic emancipation, had not answered the views of those who had advocated the measure; but its non-efficacy might fairly be attributed to its not having been passed at a much earlier period, when its results would have been more certain and more complete. If, however, its being efficient was to be attributed to the conduct of one man who was opposed to all its proposed beneficial effects, he had only to say that that one man was the creature of their Lordships' own hands.—(Hear, hear.) They had created the power of that one man, by delaying the measure;—(loud cheers)—they had built up his constituency; and he begged to caution them against now falling into a similar error, by which they would build up obstacles to the tranquillity of the country, the erection of which they might have reason afterwards deeply and severely to lament. (Hear, hear.)

The Duke of Wellington then rose, and spoke as follows:—My Lords, I entirely concur in what has fallen from the Noble Lord who has just sat down, that this measure is a most extensive one, for it goes to overthrow the whole representative system of the country. (Hear, hear.) When the noble Earl did me the honour to quote my language, used twelve months ago, he should at all events, have quoted it accurately. (Hear, hear.) I then said that "I approved of the constitution of Parliament, and I said that if I had to invent a constitution, I would not say that I would adopt the same constitution ever again, for the invention of man could not equal that which existed, but that I would adopt something like it, in which property would have a preponderating influence." Those were the words I then made use of; and afterwards the noble Marquis opposite (Lansdowne) expressed himself nearly of the same opinion; for he said that property in land, and learning also, should have a preponderating influence. (Hear, hear.) I stated also, as minister of the Crown, that I resisted all Parliamentary Reform. (Hear, hear.)—I spoke as a minister of the Crown. (Hear, hear,)—and as a minister of the crown I resisted Reform. (Loud cries of "hear, hear.") The noble earl states that this sentiment, thus delivered by me, created that spirit of reform which has since pervaded the whole country. I must beg his pardon there—I contend that the spirit of reform originated last year, on the breaking out of the French revolution. (Cheers from the opposition.) Ever since the American war the mind of the country has been occasionally disturbed by the spirit of reform. Whenever any political disturbance arose in any neighbouring country, a desire of reform instantly manifested itself in this.—(Hear, hear.) But I contend that neither what occurred in London in November, nor the resignation of the then ministry, was at all owing to the question of reform. ("Hear, hear," from the opposition benches.) The statement I made was on the second of November, and I heard of what occurred on the 5th, being the following Friday. I reported the case to his Majesty, and received his commands on the Friday, so that to attribute what occurred in November to my statements relative to reform, is utterly inconsistent with the fact. The state of mind in London, and all over England, was entirely to be attributed to the breaking out of the French revolution, and also to the revolution in Belgium, and not to the question of parliamentary reform. This measure, my lords, goes to [illegible] throughout the country. There is not a single interest, of any description, of the old system, remaining, in the country, either in town, county, or borough—either in England, Ireland, or Scotland, except the two universities. I object, my Lords, to the uniformity of the constituency made through all the towns of the kingdom. By this arrangement you may afford grounds for the exertion of that committee which was formed in this city to conduct and superintend the election. As soon as the bill passes, the committee will again exercise their powers—(hear)—to the injury of the freedom of election. But, my lords, I also object to this plan of reform on another ground—I object to the division of counties. (Hear.) I say that the landed interest is very imperfectly represented at this moment by the return of county members, but it will not be improved in that respect by the bill. With respect to the representation of Scotland, I do not profess to be thoroughly conversant, but I believe, with my lamented friend, the late Earl of Liverpool, that Scotland is the happiest, the richest, and the most prosperous country in the world. (Hear.)—Then how will the measure affect Ireland? With respect to the corporations which were formed in the reign of James I., 12 of which are now remaining for the support of the protestant religion, these bodies will be inundated with Roman Catholic voters, by allowing householders to vote in the way prescribed by the bill. This measure gives to the roman catholic an advantage over the protestant. Whilst the constituency of the Irish portion of the new House of Commons was to consist of £10 freeholders, returning to Parliament not less than 105 members, can it be doubted that this contribution will aggravate the violent and democratical nature of the united parliament, constituted as it was to be by this bill. In England too, it will be found that, in many of the counties, particularly in Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Kent, the constituency will consist of the whole of the population possessing houses at all, they being almost all, at the least, houses of £10 rental, the consequence will be the introduction into the constituency of waiters, hostlers, and the whole train of persons performing for us the menial offices of life. And can it be supposed such a circumstance must not affect the constituency generally, and through it, the very constitution of that House? I had said that the measure proposed by this bill would not enable the King to carry on any government in this country according to the principles on which government has been conducted up to the present day. My opinion then is—and I agree with my noble friend who spoke from this side—that your Lordships will do no good by going into committee on this Bill. You cannot alter it so as to make it such a measure as you ought to pass, and therefore I say you ought to vote against the second reading. (Cheers from the opposition [illegible] It is quite obvious to me, not only from these measures, but from the opinions of various noble lords, expressed in this house, that not a great period of time will elapse before this question will again come under your lordships' consideration. I entreat you, therefore, my lords, in deciding on this question, not to pledge yourselves upon any other question which may hereafter be brought before this house, whether by his Majesty's Ministers, or by any other persons.

After a few words from Lord Melbourne and the Marquis of Lansdowne, the house adjourned at a quarter past one.

October 3.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a Committee of Ways and Means, moved that there be granted out of the consolidated fund £1,800 000 to meet the supply of the present year. In doing so his Lordship entered into a general financial statement as to the actual state of the receipts and expenditure of the present year. From this brief statement it appeared that, notwithstanding the actual decrease of taxation, the receipts exceeded the outlay—that, while the revenue for the present year would be £47,250,000, the expenditure would not exceed £46,756,251, leaving a surplus (speaking in round numbers) of half a million.

Trade.—It appears from returns presented to the House of Commons, that the official value of the import into the United Kingdom from the British colonies and possessions, in the year ending the 5th January, 1830, was, £19,363,840 12s. 9d.; that the British and Irish produce exported to them, in the same period, was, in official value, £15,534,882 2s. 11d., and in declared value, £10,996,245 10s. 10d. The Foreign and Colonial merchandize exported to our colonies and possessions from the United Kingdom during the year, was, in official value, £1,765,087 17s. 1d.

The Glasgow and Grankirk rail-way was formally opened by the proprietors, in the presence of the Lord Provost, magistrates, and a number of distinguished strangers, on Tuesday week. The locomotive engines performed their journeys in capital style, conveying elegant carriages and barouches filled with passengers at the rate of 20 miles an hour. It presented another splendid triumph of science and art.

October 6.—There is nothing thought of and talked of here but reform, and the proceedings thereupon in the House of Lords. As, however, nothing more is known upon the subject in the City than elsewhere, it would be a waste of time and room to go into any lengthened detail of the various rumours and speculations which have prevailed to day. But it is, perhaps, worth remarking, that the chance of the Lords passing the Bill is not considered quite so desperate as it was yesterday and Monday. On the other hand however, we have some reason to believe that the King is about to come to town for the purpose of proroguing Parliament, in case the Lords should throw out the Bill. His Majesty, we are told, has determined to be on the spot, lest the Peers should be inclined to follow up their rejection of the Bill by a hostile Address, which the King would prevent by an immediate prorogation.

Oct. 6.—The question of Reform is the prevailing topic in the City. As we intimated yesterday, nothing else is either thought of or talked of. Indeed there is nothing else to discuss, for we have no foreign intelligence of the slightest importance. Every body is struck with the extraordinary ability which the Peers have displayed upon the great question. For our part we have no fear for the House of Lords. We are satisfied, whatever convulsions may happen in this country, that the House will remain a permanent establishment, provided the real Aristocracy—the Old Peers—are allowed to have fair play.—*Morn. Herald.*

October 7.—Another adjournment of the debate on the reform question took place last night, after a discussion in which the Earl of Carnarvon was the chief opponent of the Bill, and Lord Plunkett its most distinguished advocate. It is now generally supposed that their Lordships will divide to-night, or rather Saturday morning, on the second reading; and conjecture still inclines to favor the opinion that the Bill will be lost.—But the hour draws nigh when speculation must give place to certainty on a subject so interesting to the community at large.—*Ib.*

On the Commons' Book there stands for this evening a government notice, which is quite as indicative as Lord Ebrington's notice for Monday, of the Ministerial opinion respecting the fate of the Reform Bill with the Lords, and the consequent near approach of the conclusion of the present Session, namely, Mr. S. Rice's notice to move the introduction, in the Committee on the Consolidated Fund Bill, of the "*Appropriation*" clause, which is a clause that is always viewed as the finishing of the Session.

The Ministers of the Five Great Powers have held frequent Conferences lately.

The following Regiments on the Irish establishment have received orders to be in readiness to march to Cork, for embarkation on board Sir Edward Codrington's fleet:—6th, 27th, 56th, from Fermoy. The 74th, from Limerick, and the 70th, lying in Kilkenny, are in consequence in expectation of receiving similar orders.—*Dublin Morning Register.*

Population of Scotland.—By the late census the population of Scotland is 2,365,700, being an increase since 1822, of 272,244.

London, Oct. 6.—*Poland.*—Notwithstanding our fondest hopes for the fate of poor Poland—hopes but too delusively encouraged by some of the recent intelligence from that quarter—the star of its independence seems to have wholly set, at least for the present, and that extraordinary nation has nothing now to expect but in the generosity or mercy of a barbarian conqueror. The last stay of hope is undermined.

There is no longer, say the latest accounts received, any doubt remaining of the fate of the corps of the Polish General Romarino, since, according to the Austrian Observer, positive information from Lemberg had been received at Vienna, on the 23d of Sept. that on the night of the 16th inst., Romarino, with his corps, had fled into the Austrian territory at Chevalonice in Gallicia, not having been able to cross the Vistula at Zawechost. This corps, according to General Romarino's own statement, consists of 15,000 men, and 75,000 horses, and was encamped at Chevalonice, having laid down its arms, and was entirely surrounded by Austrian troops.

Liverpool, Oct. 5.

Foreign.—Hitherto the fall of Warsaw, where a great loss appears to have been inflicted on the Russians, has not been followed by the submission of the Polish army. The hope of some that the latter will be able to maintain the contest, rests upon very slight foundations; but it is stated, that France, England, and even Austria are employing themselves to obtain as good terms as possible for them from their conquerors.

Military Force of France.—By an official return of the effective military force of France, presented to the Chamber of Deputies by Marshal Soult, it appears that, according to the estimates for the budget of 1831, when the French army is completed on the war establishment, it will amount to 500,000 men, including, artillery, cavalry, and infantry.

It is mentioned in the English papers, that at a late Drawing Room, held by the present King of Great Britain, a Peeress (not recently married) whose conduct in private life has not always been of the strictest moral character, despite of the remonstrances of her friends, would be presented. The Queen treated her in such a manner as to evince in the circle of the Court, that determination to discountenance doubtful characters, even in the highest rank, which was so deservedly lauded in the demeanour of Queen Charlotte.

A steam vessel has been laid down at Chatham, to be named the *Phœnix*; she will be propelled by a steam engine of no less than 250 horse power. The length of her deck will be 137 feet, and her breadth 32 feet—she is intended to throw shells of ten inches in diameter.

Colonial Policy.—Among the various colonies possessed by Great Britain, we know of none more preeminently entitled to the minute attention of the legislature than the Cape of Good Hope, whether we consider it as a commercial, geographical, or military position. Its situation, in the direct route of our navigation with the whole eastern hemisphere is paramountly important; indeed our sailors and voyagers have emphatically termed it the "half-way house" to India, China, the Eastern Archipelago, Australasia, &c., as it so frequently affords them a friendly home, after travelling a trackless and stormy ocean of several thousand miles, on which they can renew their almost exhausted strength—refit their shattered vessels—replenish them with water and wholesome fresh provisions; and, under the balmy influences of a most genial clime, recruit the enfeebled frames of those patriots who have devoted youth, health, and strength, in extending the glory and prosperity of England on the torrid and sickly plains of Hindostan. * * * We entreat Parliament to consider the importance of the Cape colony to the mother country; that the colonists are Englishmen and British subjects; that, to the number of 50,000, they are annually taxed without their consent to the extent of £120,000; that they are obliged to support several scions of the aristocracy, among whom is a governor, at a salary greater than the President of the United States, who guides the destinies of 12,000,000 of people; that the whole expense of the civil administration of the settlement is fixed by his Majesty, but paid by the colonists, without their possessing any controul in the matter; that by the narrow, miserable colonial policy pursued by England, they are prevented trading with other nations on a fair footing; and, above all, that the state which refuses a just protection to its off-spring or dependant, forfeits all claim to the allegiance of the latter, and resistance becomes as positive a duty, as, by an opposite course of policy, loyalty would be.—*Alexander's Eas India Magazine.*

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE OF JOHN CALCRAFT, ESQ. M. P.

Late Paymaster-General to the Forces.

On Monday night, at 8 o'clock, Mr. H. Gale and a highly respectable Jury assembled at the dwelling house of John Calcraft, Esq. M.P. to investigate the cause of the death of that gentleman, who put a period to his existence under the circumstances detailed in the following evidence. The lamentable event involved the family of the deceased in the utmost despair and agitation, and the Jury, at the suggestion of the Coroner, viewed the body two at a time.

George Rennison being sworn, stated as follows—I am footman to the deceased. Had been in his employ nine years. The deceased had only been three months in the house, No. 17 Whitehall-place. On Sunday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, I was in the kitchen, when Miss Arabella Calcraft, the daughter of the deceased, came home from church, and went, as I thought, to the drawing room, but not finding the deceased there, she called me, and asked "Where is my father?" I replied, "I suppose he is in his bedroom." She then inquired "how long it was since I had seen him?" I replied, "Three quarters of an hour." She then proceeded to his bed-room door on the same landing-place, and knocked, but it was fast, and she received no answer. She then proceeded to his dressing room, which adjoins his sleeping room. I followed her, and we removed some things which were placed near the bed-room door, which enabled us to enter it. On going into the room Miss Calcraft shrieked out "George, George," and we advanced about two paces into the room. I then saw the deceased lying on the floor, with his face downwards, in a complete pool of blood. Miss Calcraft, in the greatest agony, threw herself on the body of the deceased, crying out, "Father, Father," five or six times. She directed me to run with all possible despatch, and fetch somebody. I went instantly, leaving her kneeling by her father. In the course of a few minutes, Mr. Freeman, a medical gentleman, arrived; but prior to his arrival I had returned and got into the house, having taken the precaution not to shut the doors. I went instantly into the bedroom of the deceased, and found Miss Calcraft still kneeling over the remains of the deceased, screaming and crying. She requested me to lift the body on the bed, which I was unable to do. As soon as Mr. Freeman arrived, he proceeded up stairs to the deceased's bed room. Miss Calcraft was still there, and it was with extreme difficulty that Mr. Freeman prevailed upon her to retire. Mr. Freeman then examined the body, and said, that the deceased was quite dead, and consequently he could do nothing for him. While the examination was going on, Miss Calcraft again entered the apartment, and reluctantly quitted it again; as soon as she was gone out, I and Mr. Freeman lifted the body on the bed. On lifting him up, I saw a dreadful gash in his throat, and he had a bloody razor firmly grasped in his right hand. It is my own conviction that he committed the act himself.

Coroner.—Have you observed any difference in his behaviour lately?

Witness.—I have seen a great difference within the last three or four months; he appeared low and dejected, which I remarked to my fellow-servants.

Coroner.—Did the loss of his situation, as Paymaster of the Forces, appear to affect him?

Witness.—I cannot say.

Alexander Philip Wilson Philip, M. D., of Cavendish-square, examined.—I have been in attendance upon Miss Calcraft for some months past, when, during my visits, I had an opportunity of seeing the deceased, who appeared low-spirited, which increased to such a degree that about three weeks ago he was confined in his bed with slow nervous fever and aberration of mind. I prescribed for him, and in a short time the fever left him, and the aberration of mind settled down into a deep melancholy, when I cautioned Miss Arabella Calcraft to look well after him, lest he should do mischief. The last time I saw the deceased was on Friday, and he was then certainly labouring under great depression of spirits, and this depression of spirits, when compared with his late aberration of mind, leads me to the conclusion that at the time he committed the act he laboured under a momentary return of that aberration of intellect, and that in fact he was at the time of an unsound mind. I feel convinced that the deceased committed the act himself.

Juror.—Did he ever feel disappointed at not being elevated to the peerage?

Witness.—I believe he never had any expectation of being raised to the peerage. He had latterly fancied that he was continually watched by a man sitting on the top of a house. The deceased was a thorough believer in religion.

The Coroner having summoned up the evidence, the Jury returned a verdict—"That the deceased committed the act himself, he being at the time in a state of temporary mental derangement."

The death of Mr. Calcraft causes a vacancy in the representation of Dorsetshire.—*Leeds Mercury.*

LIGHT HOUSE CONTRACT.

PROPOSALS will be received until the 1st day of December next, by James Allanshaw and John Wilson, Esquires, the Commissioners at St. Andrews, and by the subscriber at St. John—from persons desirous to Contract to erect TWO LIGHT HOUSES on the *Machias Seal Island*, agreeably to Plans and Specifications to be seen at St. Andrews, or at the subscriber's residence, the same to be completed on or before the first day of August, 1832.

Proposals will also be received as above from persons wishing to contract for TWO LANTERNS for these Light Houses, to be completed and fitted, on or before the said 1st August, 1832.

For the Commissioners,
CHARLES SIMONDS.

St. John, October 4th, 1831.

COD OIL.

20 BARRELS of COD OIL, for sale by
JAMES T. HANFORD.

November 1.