## ENGLAND.

*From the Liverpool Mercury.*

### MR. BUCKINGHAM'S LECTURES ON THE EAST.

### CONSTITUTION, MONOPOLY, &c. OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.—*(Concluded.)*

In order to show that nothing can be more unfounded than the idea that the trade to India is now open to every individual, and that to buy or sell, is, in India, considered a crime and punished as such, Mr. Buckingham read a proclamation, signed by Mr. Secretary Lushington, and dated Fort William, Aug. 4, 1826, which was to the following effect; it having come to the knowledge of Government, that certain Europeans are in the habit of visiting the upper provinces in the pursuit of commercial speculations, without leave of the Government, *notice is hereby given to magistrates to stop all Europeans whom they shall find, in the interior,* so DEMEANING THEMSELVES *at the distance of ten miles from the Presidency to which they belong.* The general publication of this document would be sufficient to show that nothing is more unfounded than the notion that the trade to India is now unfettered. It is true that goods may be sent to Calcutta, Bombay, Bengal, and other ports, but it is not in these places that the millions' of consumers are to be found; these are scattered over the interior, and there no Englishman is permitted to go, and there are there no houses of business to which the merchant can consign his goods, the only house established in the interior, that of Palmer & Co. at Hyderabad, have been broken up by the machinations of the company. The conveyance of goods from Calcutta to Delhi occupies as much time as their transit from Europe to Calcutta, and they are so burthened on their passage by custom house charges and excise charges, that their price is enhanced 100 per cent, before they arrive at Delhi. The state of Agriculture Mr. Buckingham described to be most rude and imperfect, in consequence of which both the quality and the quantity of the productions of India are immensely deteriorated; and stated that all that India wanted in order to be the richest country in the world, instead of the poorest, is the application of European skill and capital, and an improved system of government. He then referred to that excellent work on the free trade and colonization of India, of which we gave so copious an analysis in the *Mercury*, a few months ago, as combining in a small compass much valuable information on the Indian affairs. One of the arguments of the Company against the free settlement of Europeans was, that the Indians were a timid race, and would be dispossessed of their lands: "To be sure they would," said Mr. Buckingham, "but not without an equivalent for them. I, myself, on settling in the Waterloo Hotel for a season, have dispossessed the proprietor of his rooms, his breakfasts, his dinners and many other things, but I hope I shall give him an equivalent for them all. I believe any landed proprietor would be very glad to part with a portion of his estate for an equivalent, especially if the portion disposed of were to be applied to purposes which would greatly increase the value of the remainder. But have the East India Company dispossessed the natives of nothing? Have they like the Americans, given an equivalent for the land of the natives? *(Great applause.)* From the speck of land which was first granted to them to found a factory they have proceeded step by step till they have overturned the thrones of the native princes, and possessed the whole country. It is true, indeed, they do not call themselves the owners of the land; but then, they take to themselves nine tenths of the produce of the land." *(Great applause.)* Mr. Buckingham characterized the alleged apprehension of the East India Company, that the settlement of the Europeans would be productive of such outrages on the Hindoo customs and institutions as to excite the natives to rebellion, as sheer hypocrisy and pretence. It is true that the Company have not interfered with the pilgrimages to the shrine of Juggernaut, with the burning of widows, or the licentious ceremonies on the banks of the Ganges; it is true, also, that they derive a large revenue, the collection of which is regularly organized and superintended by the Company's officers, from the practice of these abominable superstitions; but whenever any native institution, such as that which requires that the Hindoos shall be governed by their own princes, or that which says justice shall be administered by their own judges, or that which gives the people some share in taxation and government, or any other which stood in the way of the Company, they have broken through it without ceremony, and yet no rebellion has been the result. Mr. B. then commented on the absurdity of supposing that the settlement of the Europeans would lead to a separation of the two countries; and maintained that such settlement and other measures would enable India to take in exchange for her own productions, as much of the manufactures of Great Britain as could be furnished. The contemplation of the mutual benefits resulting from free trade was enough to make the heart of him who had shared in effecting it, swell with feelings of delight and satisfaction. Mr. B. then quoted the authority of the late Bishop Heber to show that the Hindoos, far from being so bigotted and immutable in their customs and institutions as it is the policy of the East India Company to represent them, were anxious to possess European manufactures, open to imitation like other men, and desirous of the settlement of Europeans amongst them. He then treated at some length on pilgrimages, suttees, and other horrid superstitions of the Hindoos, from which the Company derive no small portion of their revenue, and stated that in Calcutta, Madras, and other places, where Europeans reside, the practice of burning widows has been long disused, and is only continued in the interior, where Europeans are not permitted to come. He ably defined the difference between a toleration of facts, which might be injurious to others, and of mere opinions, with which no one has a right to interfere. He said that the condition of India was a sufficient proof that the system under which it was governed was a bad one, and ought to excite a cry synonymous with that of the Roman senator, "*Delenda est Carthago*,"—let the Company perish.

### CHINA.

Mr. Buckingham then adverted to the China trade, on which he made many excellent remarks, of which the following is the substance:—The Company have always zealously resisted every attempt to interfere with their trade to China, and they have hitherto succeeded in keeping this entirely to themselves, at least as far as Englishmen are connected. In consequence of this, and the immense consumption of tea, the profits of the Company on the China trade have been so immense as to enable them to maintain their overgrown and expensive establishments, and to bear up against all the losses of their trade to India. Every individual in the country is interested in the opening of this trade since the effect of such opening would be the import of twice the quantity of tea imported by the East India Company, which would be sold at half the price demanded for it at present. To prove this, Mr. B. read from a statement drawn up by a gentleman of this town, the prices of tea, free of duty, at Hamburgh, and at London; from which it appears that fine hyson, at Hamburgh, costs 2s. 4d. free of duty; and that at London tea of the same quality costs 4s. 6d. It is a singular injustice that 5000 individuals should have the power of doubling the price of an article so generally consumed, and that they should enjoy this privilege at the expense of all the rest of their countrymen; and that the Americans, the Dutch, and other foreigners may trade with China, whilst Englishmen are denied the privilege of doing so. The Company have frequently admitted, before Parliament, that, in consequence of their expensive establishments, and other drains upon them, their Indian trade has always been a source of loss, and they have always answered every application for a partial opening of the China trade by the assertion that, with such interference in the China trade, the Company must cease to exist. Such are the immense profits of a trade, which vessels under every flag but that of England are allowed to carry on, in which men of every nation but England are allowed to participate. The argument which has hitherto had most force with the Government in inducing the renewal of the East India Company's charter, is the receipt of an *advalorem* duty on the teas sold by the Company; but surely a decreased rate of duty would lead to an increased consumption, and an improvement of the revenue; and were this trade thrown open to private capital and enterprise, individuals, instead of exporting dollars, and some inconsiderable articles of commerce to China, as the Company do, would export the manufactures of Manchester, Birmingham, and Sheffield; and, great as the productive power of G. Britain is, that might be doubled, or even trebled, and still be inadequate to supply the wants of the hundreds of millions spread over India and China, who would become the purchasers of our manufactures, in the event of free trade, and the destruction of monopoly. The Americans take advantage of these restrictions, and derive great profits from a trade in which Englishmen are not permitted to participate. One of the ridiculous pretences of the Company, in support of this monopoly, is, that English seamen in free-trading vessels are such immoral, incorrigible vagabonds, that were they permitted to land in China, they would inevitably produce much mischief. Mr. Buckingham happily ridiculed this monstrous idea. The Company, he said, when asked how it happened that no such consequences followed the resort of Americans to China, replied—"Oh! the Americans are the most moral and exemplary people in the world; you would be surprised to see with what decorum they conduct themselves." And so much, said Mr. Buckingham, did this absurd reasoning prevail, that there were not wanting individuals in the Houses of Lords and Commons, who were quite convinced, that whilst the seamen in free merchantmen were most abandoned fellows, those in the employ of the East India Company were very exemplary characters, and the Americans perfect angels *(Great laughter and applause.)* Having drawn a rapid summary of the subjects detailed in these lectures, enforced the necessity of the strenuous and unremitting co-operation of all classes, and expressed his intention of making a tour to all the principal towns in the country, in order to rouse a general opposition to the renewal of the chartered monopoly of the East India Company, Mr. Buckingham concluded. He was greeted with several rounds of applause.

N. Robinson, Esq. (the Mayor,) moved that the cordial thanks of the meeting should be given to Mr. Buckingham for his patriotism, and the able manner in which he had performed his task.

Mr. J. Cropper seconded the motion of thanks as eminently due to one who had advocated in so able a manner a question involving the prosperity of his own country, and the interests of so large a portion of the human race, as were scattered over India and China. He strongly recommended union and perseverance in order to insure success, and stated his conviction, that, before the China trade had been opened twelve months, tea would be had in double the quantity, of better quality, and at half the present price.

The motion was carried unanimously, and with several distinct rounds of applause. Mr. Buckingham returned thanks. He was evidently greatly affected at the warm approbation bestowed upon him, and it was apparently with great difficulty that he commanded himself sufficiently to give expression to his feelings.

## HOUSE OF LORDS--FEB. 9.

KENT PETITION.—The Earl of Winchelsea said he rose for the purpose of presenting a Petition from a very numerous body, as loyally attached to the Constitution of the Empire as any body of men could possibly be. The petition was from the freeholders of Kent, agreed to at the meeting at Penenden Heath. The Noble Earl, in a speech of some length, eulogised the high constitutional feeling expressed in Kent, Devonshire, and by the Protestants in Ireland. The people found they had been betrayed by those in whom they had reposed confidence, and he could tell the Noble Duke the country was adverse to the measure. "Whatever may be the view of your Lordships, (said the Noble Earl), and however severe may be the animadversions on my conduct, I will apply with confidence to the judgement of those who have a constitutional voice in the country. The letter of mine to which reference was made last night, is not perhaps so clear as it might be; for I have no intention to apply my observations to those who have consistently advocated the removal of all civil disabilities from the Roman Catholics. They are men whom I respect and honor, but, as I before stated, my political confidence is forever gone, since I have seen the Defenders of the Protestant ascendency desert from their principles. I will even go farther, and say I think the ties of private friendship are broken by such conduct; for the man whose public character I cannot respect, because he is found to be unfirm and inconsistent, can never be entitled to my friendship and esteem. No confidence, it seems to me, can now be placed in any man engaged in public life, from the Crown downwards, unless we have a thorough knowledge of that individual, and are certain that he possesses sound, moral, and religious principles. I shall now, my Lords, lay before you the petition which I have the honor to present, and I beg to say that if I have, at any time, in the heat of debate, expressed myself too strongly with regard to any individual, either within these walls or without, if he acts from conscience and principle, I am sorry to have given him offence."

The petition was read at length.

Earl Grey, and Lords Teynham, Falmouth, Bexley and Winchelsea, entered into some explanations, and the House adjourned at half-past eight o'clock.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10.

Various Petitions were presented by the Bishop of Durham, the Duke of Rutland, and the Earl of Longford, against any further concession to the Catholics. In reply to their observations,

The Duke of Wellington said—My Lords, I cannot avoid troubling your Lordships with a few observations on what fell from my Noble Friend, particularly at the latter part of the remarks he addressed to your Lordships. I shall take care to avoid all discussion of what is called Catholic Emancipation, till I submit to your Lordships those measures it will be my duty in a short time to propose; but I must say a few words, my Lords, on what fell from my Noble Relative, at the close of his address to your Lordships. My Lords, I ask my Noble Relation, who has discussed this question so much at large, and who is, as well as many other Noble Lords, well acquainted with the situation of Ireland, I ask him if he has any measure to propose, if he has ever contemplated any measure which would be a remedy for the various evils under which that country labours? In the opinion of my Noble Relation, something must be done. (Loud and continued cries of hear, hear.)—When he blames us for having humbly submitted to His Majesty our advice, that it was desirable that the question should be submitted to the consideration of Parliament, has he considered what he, or what any body, could propose on this subject, except that Parliament should entertain "the proposition?" (Hear, hear.)—My Lords, my Noble Relative complains of the concealment of my sentiments on this occasion. But my Noble Relative cannot, if he recollects himself, say that I have concealed my sentiments—for I have declared repeatedly before your Lordships that I wished to see this question fully settled. (Loud cries of hear, hear, hear.)—I beg, however, to inform my Noble Relative, that though it was my wish to see this question settled, it was my determination—I may have a peculiar taste in this—but it has long been my determination never to vote for Catholic Emancipation, if it were not brought before Parliament for consideration by the Government, acting as a Government. My Noble Relative ought to know, that ever since 1810, the Government of this country has been formed on a principle which prevented the Government from bringing this subject under the consideration of Parliament. The first thing I had to do was to obtain the consent of that individual who is more interested by his inclinations, more interested by his duty, and more interested by his obligations, than any other individual in this kingdom, in having the question settled; it was necessary that I should obtain the consent of that individual, before the Ministers of the Government could consider the question as a Government. Would it have been proper in me, my Lords, to have taken any measures to bring the subject upon consideration, till I had obtained that individual's consent to refer the subject to Parliament? I call on my Noble Relative to answer this question. When he blames me on this subject, because since last July or August, when I had formed my opinion, I kept silence, talking to no man on the subject, except with the consent of the individual I have alluded to, and not till I had obtained his consent to form a Government on the principle of taking this question into consideration—my Noble Relative ought to place himself in my situation—he ought to see what was expected of me; and then, instead of blaming me for acting as I have done, he would see that if I had acted otherwise, I should have been highly blameable. (Hear, hear.)—When the question had been decided—when I received the permission, so as to be enabled to make a declaration, on not having made which alone the accusation of surprise can be founded, the Session was so near that it was impossible to make known what had occurred earlier, or in any other manner than by the Speech from the Throne. I thank my Noble Friend for having given me this opportunity to state these circumstances to your Lordships. The fact is as I have stated it: and it was a reason why I never before stated any of the circumstances whatever. A Noble Friend of mine, now sitting near my Noble Relation, reproached me on a former occasion with the publication of a letter of mine. With the publication of that letter I had nothing to do, and the writing it had been better let alone. Indeed I shall take care not to write such a letter again to such an individual; but as to the publication of that letter having deceived any body, or that it is at all different from what I have stated to the House, I totally deny. (Hear, hear.)

FEBRUARY 20.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex presented a petition from the City of Bristol, in favour of the Roman Catholics. The petition was signed by 1700 persons, in support of the measure which had been proposed by His Majesty's Ministers. There had been no occasion on which he had experienced so much pleasure as in presenting the petition he held in his hand, as he perfectly agreed with the whole of its contents. He also thought that the Noble Duke at the head of the Administration, and the Administration itself, deserved his best thanks for bringing forward a measure which must tend to the tranquility and happiness of the empire.

The Petition was ordered to be laid on the Table.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.—I can assure your Lordships that I never felt more unwilling to trespass on your attention than on the present occasion, and nothing but the duty which I feel I owe to your Lordships, to the country, and to myself, could have made me stand up on the present occasion. But, my Lords, I have always been willing to speak out on this subject, and ever shall be, for I think it a duty I owe to the country to let it know what my feelings are. It shall no longer be said that I am this thing or that, but it shall be distinctly known what I am. It is painful, believe me, my Lords, to differ from my Noble Friend, [the Duke of Wellington,] with whom I have been so long united in the bond of private friendship. But I cannot change an opinion which I conscientiously think to be right; and more especially, my Lords, when the question is, as it undoubtedly is in the present case, neither more nor less than this—Is England to be a Protestant or a Popish country? [Loud cheers.] For, my Lords, the very moment we admit one Roman Catholic into this House, or into the other House of Parliament, I maintain that this becomes not a Protestant Parliament. [Cheers.] I have carefully and attentively viewed this question every way in the world in which it has been considered; and the result is, that I never will give my consent either to a Roman Catholic Peer sitting in this House, or to a Roman Catholic Member sitting in the other House, or to any Roman Catholic being a Minister of the Crown, or to a Roman Catholic Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, or to any Roman Catholic holding any office that may give him power to injure the Established Church. In stating my opinions, I mean to shew no hostility to His Majesty's Government. No man can respect the Noble Duke more than I do; and I am quite convinced that in doing what he is going to do, it will cost him a great deal of painful feeling; but, as an honest man, I feel it to be my duty to state openly my opinions, and I trust that your Lordships will excuse me for detaining you while I repelled the insinuations which it was necessary I should no longer suffer to go unnoticed.—[Cheers.]

Earl Grey.—I rise, my Lords, to say, that having heard the Noble and Illustrious Duke [the Duke of Cumberland] state, that while he was convinced the measure about to be introduced by His Majesty's Government would cost them a great deal of painful feeling, he felt it his duty, as a conscientious man, to declare that his own opinions on this question are entirely unchanged, I do sincerely lament that they should so remain; because the measures proposed do appear to me to be calculated to promote the best and most vital interests of the country. I do not rise, however, my Lords, for this purpose only, for I wish to make some remarks on one sentiment which the Noble and Illustrious Duke expressed. The Noble and Illustrious Duke says, the question is neither more nor less than this, whether this shall be a Protestant or a Papist country? [Cries of hear, hear, from both sides.] Now, my Lords, I do deny this proposition. [Great cheers.] If in any possible state of the country, I thought there could be suspicion—if there was likely to be a chance that the measures about to be proposed by His Majesty's Ministers could have any tendency to subvert the Protestant Constitution of this country, I can assure the Noble and Illustrious Duke there could not be a more firm and determined opponent of them than myself; but that, I think, is not a true character of them. In my opinion, they are directly contrary to the description given of them by the Noble and Illustrious Duke. They are measures, in my opinion, effectual to the preservation of that very Protestant Constitution, which the Noble and Illustrious Duke thinks himself thus early and immediately called upon to defend. [Hear, hear.] The question is not whether this shall be a Protestant or a Popish country, but whether it shall be a divided or a united Empire—[Cheers]—whether we shall combine all classes of His Majesty's Subjects in common bonds of loyalty and affection to the Crown, or whether we shall convert into foes those independent spirits in Ireland, who, if admitted to the enjoyment of their political rights, would be ready to maintain the Constitution, which the Noble and Illustrious Duke supposes they would subvert, against all its enemies. [Hear, hear.] For if ever this Empire should be divided by civil or religious dissensions, that will be the point which our greatness and strength, or our decline and weakness, will be manifested. There will be the danger, in any future contest, that will shake the power of the State, and tear that glorious Constitution itself into pieces, which it is the object of us to uphold. I regret, deeply, that the Illustrious Duke should feel it necessary to resist, when the country is blessed with peace and prosperity, the happy settlement of a question which has so long divided the opinions of Parliament and the country, and which, having so long endangered our Constitution, may at last be settled in so complete and proper a manner, and with such satisfaction to all parties. [Cheers.]

The Earl of Eldon observed, that if the Noble Earl who preceded him had a right to admit in his opening, that he felt pain in approaching the subject, he might well regret the necessity now imposed on him to address their Lordships again on a subject on which his decided sentiments were already so well known. He had pledged himself from the first day of the Session to oppose the measures of Catholic concession in every stage. Nor could he concede upon principle that Catholics should be permitted to hold high official situations. This he felt to be his duty in conformity with those principles which placed upon the Throne the Family of the Illustrious Individual who had just now addressed them in such constitutional language. To those sentiments that illustrious person had done eminent justice, despite of the scandalous and unjust insinuations which had been so industriously circulated abroad as to an alteration of sentiment in that high quarter. The Wigs of former days, of whose loins some of the Wigs of the present day were the offspring, had constantly been the advocates of a Protestant King, a Protestant Government, and a Protestant Parliament. The present race of Wigs had totally lost sight of their original distinctive characteristic. He cared not whether he appeared in that House, or ever again entered its walls, but he would maintain, to his latest breath, that if they once permitted Catholics to enter that House as Catholic Peers, it must cease to be a Protestant House of Lords. [Hear.] For himself, he could treat all the obloquy he received in or out of doors with contempt. Indeed, he was not sensible, ever since he had seen the Noble Earl opposite in another House of Parliament, that his sentiments had appeared to that Noble Earl, in general, to be very erroneous. In opposing the principle, however, contended for by the Noble Earl, he felt that he acted as one impressed with the conviction that he owed a duty to his fellow subjects, himself, and his King. His opposition was founded on the principle recognised by the Revolution of 1688, which had placed the present Royal Family on the Throne; and in that opposition he felt it a conscientious duty steadily to persist.

The Lord Chancellor, Earl Bathurst, and the Duke of Richmond severally addressed the House.

When the Duke of Wellington rose, and, after making a variety of observations as to the intentions of His Majesty's Government respecting the Roman Catholics, he moved the second reading of the Bill.

The Bill was then read a second time, and ordered to be committed to-morrow.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS--FEB. 5.

Mr. Secretary Peel said that no sacrifice could be greater for a public man, than to be obliged to depart from those friends with whom he had long communion, and for whose integrity he entertained the highest respect. But he and his Majesty's ministers had access to information, which his friends had not; and the relation in which they stood to the crown, imposed on them an obligation, to give to his Majesty the best advice which they could form, as to the course which they (ministers) ought to pursue. Whatever reservations persons made when entering into the service of the crown, such should not prevent them from advising his Majesty to pursue such measures as they thought most beneficial to the welfare of the nation. If ministers were of opinion that the continuation of the catholic disabilities would prove more injurious to the interests of the church and state, than a consideration of the state of Ireland, it was their duty to advise his Majesty to that effect. He [Mr. Peel] had no hesitation in declaring, that there was less evil in considering the state of Ireland than in refraining from it.

FEBRUARY 10.

*CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION.*—Mr. Secretary Peel addressed the House in a speech of great length, concluding with a motion for leave to bring in a Bill for the more effectual suppression and prevention of seditious meetings and associations in Ireland. He said he should propose such a measure as would suppress the Catholic Association, and interdict all meetings of a similar nature. He proposed to give to the Lord Lieutenant, and to him alone, the power of suppressing any association or meeting which he might think dangerous to the public peace, or inconsistent with the due administration of the law; together with power to interdict the assembly of any meeting of which previous notice shall have been given, and which he shall think likely to endanger the public peace, or to prove inconsistent with the due administration of the law. In case it should be necessary to enforce the provisions of the law, by which those powers would be conferred, it was proposed, that the Lord Lieutenant should be empowered to select two magistrates, for the purpose of suppressing the meeting, and requiring the people immediately to disperse. It was proposed, moreover, to interdict any meeting or association which might be interdicted from assembling, or which might be suppressed under this act, from receiving and placing at their control any monies by the name of rent, or by any other name. He thought that moderate penalties would be sufficient for the infringement of this law; and he considered that it would by no means be necessary to propose any measures of a penal nature.—(Loud cheers.) He was decidedly of opinion too, that the measure ought to be limited —(Loud cheering.) The late act was to continue for two years, and to the end of the then next Session of Parliament. He proposed to make the present act of shorter duration,—(Loud cheers)—to limit it to one year, and the end of the then next Session of Parliament—(Loud cheers)—because he was satisfied that there would be no objection to continue it, if there should be any necessity for its continuance. (The right honourable gentleman sat down amidst loud cheering.)

### ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIEF BILL.

The provisions of the intended Bill for the removal of the disabilities affecting the Roman Catholics, must for some time be matter of mere conjecture. The following account, however, of the chief enactments on this subject has been given.

1. All public stations, offices, and dignities (including of course, the right to sit in both Houses of Parliament,) with one or two exceptions, to be thrown open to Catholics.

2. A clause will be introduced to prevent Catholic Members of either House from taking a part in, or voting on any measures relating exclusively to the affairs or privileges of the Protestant Church as by Law established. The framing of such a clause is found exceedingly difficult; and up to this moment the endeavours to overcome the difficulty have not been attended with success.

3. All the Catholic Clergy of all ranks are to be paid by the Government; but it is not intended that the Crown should have any power of interference with their spiritual concerns, or take any part in the appointment of Clergy, beyond this—that, on the election of a Bishop, his name is to be submitted to the Government for the approbation of the Crown, when, if it should happen that the Bishop so elected is not approved of, then the Crown may withhold the salary of the individual Prelate in question. With respect to the inferior Clergy, they are not to be interfered with in any way whatever, but to draw their allowance subject to no limitation.

It is certainly intended that there shall be a provision, raising the qualifications of the freeholders to £20; but whether this provision shall be an integral part of the Bill for removing the disabilities, or a separate measure, we cannot learn.

LONDON, FEB. 14.—The bill for the suppression of the Catholic Association was committed yesterday and reported. Some alterations were made in the committee. The number of magistrates to whom the order of the Lord Lieutenant is to be directed, is to be extended from two to four or five. And in cases where the offenders fly, any Magistrate into whose jurisdiction the offenders have fled may take cognizance of the matter. The penalty of £500 upon the receiver or treasurer of any rent or subscription is to be omitted,—but the receiver or treasurer is to be compelled to declare the amount of such rent, which is to be forfeited to the crown. The further consideration of the report is to take place on Monday.

The other proceedings in both houses last evening related to petitions for and against the Catholic claims.

The following are the principal heads of the Bill for suppressing the Catholic Association, and interdicting all meetings of a similar nature, which was read a second time on Thursday evening.

The enforcement of the law to be entrusted to the Lord Lieutenant alone.

In case of its being necessary to enforce the provisions of the law, the Lord Lieutenant is to be empowered to select two Magistrates, for the purpose of suppressing any meeting, and requiring the people to disperse immediately.

He is to be authorised also to interdict any meeting or Association (which might be interdicted from assembling) from receiving and placing at their controul, any monies by the name of rent or any other name.

Moderate penalties are to be inflicted for the infringements of the law, but no measures of a penal nature.

The act to be limited to one year, and the end of the next Session of Parliament.

February 21.

CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION.—The Catholic Association dissolved itself on Thursday, after reading a long letter from Mr. O'Connell, in which he says, he cannot bring himself for the present to advise that measure. But he acknowledges that "all our old and constant supporters in Parliament, advise the immediate dissolution." The Association have yielded to the dictates of prudence.

We are glad to see it stated, that Mr. O'Connell does not intend to attempt to take his seat in the House of Commons, pending the measure which the Government has announced.—*Times.*

TRADE OF MANCHESTER.—We regret that we cannot yet announce that improvement of trade which some of our contemporaries have been confidently promising. The closing of the canals by frost for about a week, no doubt kept some buyers out of the market; but this is not sufficient to account for the continued depression. This ought in fact to be the busiest season of the year; not in actual sales, but in preparing goods for the spring demand, which commences about the middle of next month. Yet it seems that the prospects of the spinner and the manufacturer are not so promising as our newspapers represent them, for nearly ten thousand persons are out of employment at Stockport, who are willing to work at the wages which have hitherto been given. The houses in the country trade have had their hopes of the usual spring demand considerably damped by the failure of several Drapers in extensive business, and by the difficulty of obtaining payments from others who formerly paid their accounts with scrupulous punctuality.—*Times.*

It was stated this morning that Earl Grey had accepted the vacant Cabinet office of Lord Privy Seal, which had been offered to the Earl of Westmorland and declined.

Mr. Peel has resigned the representation of the University of Oxford. The convocation is said to have accepted it.

A powerful and independent party at the University of Oxford, is determined to propose Mr. Peel as a candidate for the representation of the University, when the vacancy takes place.

Mr. Warburton, on the 5th March, intends to move in the House of Commons, for leave to introduce a Bill "to legalize and regulate the supply of subjects for Anatomy."

Nine or ten gentlemen, in Edinburgh, with the Marquis of Queensberry at their head, have undertaken an inquiry respecting Dr. Knox's dealings with Burke. They have commenced their proceedings, having already examined several teachers of anatomy, medical men, and others.

Within the last four days there have arrived not less than 32 vessels, loaded with grain, at the port of Leith. With the exception of two, they are all from ports north of the Forth.

*FRANCE.*—An Irish Catholic Association has, it appears, been formed in Paris. A few days since a meeting was held, Lord Fingal in the chair, when several resolutions were agreed to, and bankers appointed to receive subscriptions.

*TURKEY.*—It is said in an article from Vienna, that the Court of Russia urges the necessity of continuing the war, in consequence of the reply of the Sultan to the notes from Austria and England, in which the Sultan says he is resolved not to treat for peace with Russia until the Russians have evacuated Moldavia and Wallachia, retired behind the Pruth, and restored the fortresses upon the Danube. The Reis Effendi added besides, that if peace were desired, the question of pecuniary indemnity claimed by Russia for the expences of the war, must not be touched upon.

Advices from Smyrna to the 7th ult. mention that the Emperor Nicholas had given to Jussuf Pacha a property in the Crimea, producing 25,000 measures of grain annually, together with a valuable sword and a considerable sum of money.

FEBRUARY 16.

The Turkey mail arrived this morning, bringing intelligence from Constantinople to the 11th ult. The intelligence is quite at variance with the French statements as to peace: the latter, as was suspected, must entirely relate to the settlement of the Greek question. With regard to the war with Russia, the greatest military and naval preparations continue. The Porte will not treat with Russia except through the mediation of France and England. With regard to Greece, the final settlement appears to be very near, and M. Jaubert was expected to leave Constantinople for Paris. Several Cabinet messengers have arrived, both French and English; and the Divan had had several meetings, all reported to be on the Greek question.

A flag of Truce arrived in the Bosphorus, from the blockading squadron. The Captain of the Russian frigate had no communication with the shore, and he sailed with the reply of the Porte on the 6th. Report states that the question was as to the reception of a Russian Ambassador, to be accompanied by the French and English Ministers, and that the reply of the Porte was a peremptory refusal.

It is said that the practice of building ships with the unsightly round sterns of modern invention, is to be entirely abandoned—this must be very gratifying to every body connected with the Navy, as it promises to make *all square again.—John Bull.*

Mr. David Gordon, of Claremont-square, in a letter to the Duke of Wellington, has proposed to detach from the sea the Maplin Sand, at the mouth of the Thames, which would furnish, he says, 45,000 acres of land, worth £50 per acre; and would add two and a half millions to the capital of the nation, besides improving the navigation of the river, and affording, for a long period, employment to all the industrious poor in Kent, Essex, and Sussex.

It was reported that the government were about to take the Excise duty off Candles and lay an additional tax upon foreign tallow.

BURNING OF YORK MINSTER.—This celebrated edifice, one of the chief architectural glories of England, and one of the most magnificent structures in Europe, was nearly destroyed by fire on the 2d February. It was discovered to be in flames between six and seven in the morning, and in a very extraordinary manner. When the building was entered, a dense mass of smoke was found to pervade it, and the beautiful wood work of the choir to be extensively on fire. The wood work of the choir, together with the invaluable organ, was soon a heap of ruins. Communication with the roof was not at first apprehended; but the whole wood work was speedily in one general conflagration. Notwithstanding every exertion, the flames got through the roof of the choir about half-past eight; and the devouring element, rising above the majestic building, and threatening it with desolation, presented an awful picture. The effect of the glare of light on the stained glass of the windows was beyond description. About 9 o'clock the roof of the choir fell in. The damage may be summed up thus:—The roof of the choir quite gone, the wood work on each side consumed, the matchless organ entirely destroyed, many monuments broken, and the communion plate melted. But the east window is entire, to the surprise of every one; the screen is uninjured, and the records and antique curiosities saved. Farther inquiry leads to the suspicion that this lamentable event is indeed imputable to incendiary malice. Rumor estimates the damage at £70,000.

We hear that the quantity of soap, made in Liverpool, London, and Glasgow, in the course of the last year, is forty-four millions of lbs. of which twenty-three millions have been made in Liverpool, eighteen millions in London, and three millions in Glasgow.—*Glasgow Chron.*

## UNITED STATES.

THE SABBATH.—At the last meeting of the Common Council of the City of New-York, the Mayor was authorized to appoint two Special Marshals in each ward, for enforcing the due observance of the Sabbath—the Marshals to act under the direction of the Alderman and Assistant of each ward.

The editors of the New-York Morning Herald have given notice, that in future no work will be done to their office on Sundays.

A Cherokee, residing eight miles from Carrol County, was obliged one night to be absent with his family. During his absence, some of his white neighbours came, and robbed him of every thing he possessed in his house, not even leaving his bed. Now, there is no way, according to the laws of Georgia, in which this poor Cherokee can obtain justice. Why? Because no Indian can be a witness or a party in any Court created by the constitution or laws of that state. If this is not complete tyranny, we confess we do not understand the term.—*Indian's Advocate.*

Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin, who was baptised in the Old Trinity Church, Summer-street, Boston, has made a donation of £500 towards the erection of the New Church.

*REMARKABLE CIRCUMSTANCE.—The present is the seventh President of the United States—and two only of them had sons. Both of these were of the Adams family; and neither father nor son served more than one term. The other Presidents had no sons—two of them had daughters only—the other three had no children.*—Rich. Compiler.