

GREAT BRITAIN.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31.

The House was occupied up to nearly 6 o'clock in receiving petitions on the subject of the mutilations and alterations made in the Corporation Reform Bill, all praying the house not to accept the bill as it at present stood.

A petition from Salford prayed the house to institute inquiry into the 'utility of the hereditary branch of the Legislature.'

MUNICIPAL REFORM BILL.—AMENDMENTS.

LORD J. RUSSELL then proposed to take into consideration the amendments of the House of Lords in the Municipal Corporations bill, and at great length took a review of the alterations made by their Lordships, stating as he proceeded, those to which he should wish the house to assent, those that he was disposed to modify, and those that he hoped to see restored as originally passed by the house. [As these will appear in the subsequent report, it is not necessary to insert them here.] In conclusion, his Lordship hoped that they might come to a satisfactory adjustment regarding the bill, such as should advance the interests of the country, and not compromise the dignity of that house; but if he could not accomplish the correction of these amendments, he should not regret the course he had taken. Improvements there must be, and he wished them to be effected in the spirit of peace; and as far as he was concerned, to accomplish reforms and improvements, he was ready not to press what others might deem extreme opinions.

SIR R. PEEL wished the House to treat this grave question with a temperate feeling, and, notwithstanding the efforts of the press, to use their own judgment, and by so doing, contribute to support and establish that happily mixed form of government under which they and their ancestors lived. It would be nothing but tyranny to refuse to others the power of acting on their own judgment, and it would be nothing but wisdom to allow others to act on their own discretion. Their course must be that of mutual concession. They must on these grounds act. They must not act on the presumptuous supposition that they alone were right, or that others were wrong, a presumption which was the foundation of all intolerance. (Cheers.) The right hon. bart. then stated that while to some of the amendments of the Lords he was disposed to assent, there were others to which he was decidedly opposed.

Much desultory discussion took place, in which Mr. Hume, Mr. Grote, Mr. O'Connell and Mr. C. Buller took part, Mr. O'Connell declaring that the collision between the Lords and Commons had already commenced.

LORD J. RUSSELL proposed that the words which went to create Aldermen for life should be struck out, and that the term of six years be inserted instead.—MR. SAUNDERS opposed the proposition, and maintained that the office of Aldermen ought to be for life.—MR. LAW, though he felt the utter hopelessness of offering any successful opposition to the motion, must still say that it would be an act of the greatest injustice to the Aldermen if their term of office were to be thus limited.—SIR R. PEEL said he regretted to differ from his two hon. and learned friends in the view which they had taken of the question. The amendment adopted by the Lords did not give the Aldermen a life interest in the office. It abandoned vested rights, and only proposed that one fourth of the number might be re-elected by the existing council.—MR. CHARLTON opposed the motion.—The motion was then agreed to.

LORD J. RUSSELL proposed in the same clause that one-half of the members of the council should go out every three years. After a few

words from Mr. Grote, Dr. Baldwin, Mr. P. Howard and Mr. Hume, the motion was agreed to.

LORD J. RUSSELL, after observing that he objected in the strongest manner to the clause for continuing the rights of Aldermen to be members of the Town Council, moved that provision to that effect be struck out and a negative substituted.—MR. SAUNDERS maintained that it would be of great advantage to preserve, as part of the corporation, a certain number of Aldermen, for they were accustomed to the business and capable of performing it with effect.—COLONEL SMITHON thought that the Lords were entitled to the gratitude of the House and the country for these amendments.—Motion agreed to.

LORD J. RUSSELL next proposed that no licensed ministers of any dissenting congregation should be eligible as members of the council.—MR. WILKS said he must oppose the word "licensed," as it was very well known that by many certain classes of Dissenters—the Wesleyan Methodists, for instance—no license was taken out, and therefore the proposition would lead to a principle of unfair exclusion. LORD J. RUSSELL said he had no objection to postpone the clause.

On the next clause, LORD J. RUSSELL moved to leave out that portion of the amendment of the Lords, which proposed that the Justices should be for life, and to continue them in office till the first of May, 1836.—The alteration was agreed to.

On the clause dividing boroughs into wards, LORD J. RUSSELL proposed that the particulars of such division should be transmitted to one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, to be approved of by the King in Council.—After some discussion, in which Sir Robert Peel said, that if the question were put to him, he must say that, upon a review of the whole circumstances of the case, it would be better to accept the amendment of the Lords.—The gallery was cleared for a division, but none took place, and the clause as amended was adopted.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL then intimated that as the House would meet to-morrow at 12 for business, it would be better to postpone all further discussion at present.

The Tithe Instalment Suspension Bill was read a second time.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1

CORPORATION BILL.

The order of the day having been read, clauses 8, 39, 42, 43, 44, 45, and 51, as amended were agreed to. On the 25th clause being put, a desultory discussion ensued, Mr. Wilks proposing to make some verbal alterations relating to Dissenting Ministers.—MR. BATHWICK was of opinion that persons of the clerical profession ought not in any way to be mixed up with local or parochial affairs.—After a few words from Mr. Goulborn and Mr. S. Rice, the alteration suggested by Lord John Russell was agreed to.

Some considerable discussion then ensued, and two divisions took place on the Qualification clause; one proposed by Mr. Roebuck, which was lost.—the other by the Attorney-General, which was carried; after which LORD J. RUSSELL moved that the clause be postponed, which was agreed to.

LORD J. RUSSELL then made a few observations respecting the 52d clause, which refers to town clerks. The noble lord said he should merely propose words to the effect that the town clerks should hold office "during pleasure." The alteration made by the Lords enabled him to hold the office "during good behaviour." Agreed to.—Some other clauses were agreed to with slight alterations.—LORD J. RUSSELL was understood to propose that compensations should be granted to the present

town clerks. SIR R. PEEL thought the power under which the town clerks now held office, ought not to be interfered with, and proposed an amendment to that effect.—MR. S. RICE said the amendment proposed by the Rt. Hon. Baronet was certainly an improvement upon the amendment made by the House of Lords, but he thought there was reason to induce the House to agree to the proposition of his noble friend (LORD J. RUSSELL) in preference to that amendment. If they accepted the modifications of the Lords in this respect, they would injure the whole machinery of the bill.—LORD SAUNDON was in favour of the amendment of the right hon. Baronet.—Several members rose amid loud cries of "Divide," when SIR R. PEEL withdrew his amendment.

A good deal of discussion took place respecting the qualification, which at length terminated in the House adopting a suggestion of SIR ROBERT PEEL's, that an additional qualification should be adopted, namely, the being rated at £30 in the large towns, and in the smaller towns at 15. MR. ROEBUCK, however, divided the committee on the question that the amount of rating be £10. He was supported by 37, and opposed by 271. The clause embodying SIR ROBERT PEEL's proposition, was agreed to. There was another division, on an amendment proposed by MR. BONHAM CARTER, the effect of which was to confine the qualifications to the time of making the declaration. MR. LAW & others wished it to exist at all times. He and the Lords were supported by 53; MR. BONHAM CARTER by 153. According to this amendment, if the person has the qualification at the time of making the declaration, it will be sufficient, but we believe that Ministers are to propose some additional words.

The words "Common Council" were introduced for "Aldermen" in clause 52.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2.

MR. ROEBUCK said, he intended early next session to bring in a bill to reform the House of Lords. His object would be to deprive the House of Lords from putting a *veto* on the bills passed by the people's representatives.

MR. HUME thought as the House of Commons had been reformed, and made responsible to the public, a similar reform ought to take place in the House of Lords. Early next session he should move for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the constitution and privileges of the House of Lords. (Hear, hear.) Also to enquire into the manner in which the members of the House discharged their duties. (Hear, hear.) And to report whether those duties were discharged in a manner likely to give satisfaction to the country. And particularly to examine and report the manner in which conferences were held. He should place this notice of motion on the books in a day or two, and move it as early as possible next session.

MR. C. RIBBON gave notice of a motion for next session for the removal of the Bishops from the House of Lords. The hon. member also gave notice of a resolution for next session, to the effect, that Deans and Chapters having no cure of souls, were of no use, and that the revenues attached to them, should be placed in the hands of Commissioners, due regard being had to existing interests.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CORPORATION BILL.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL, after moving the order of the day for the further consideration of the Lords' Amendments to the Corporation Bill, proceeded to propose the consideration of the second clause, and the other clauses which had been postponed. In reference to the exemption from toll, it was his intention to propose that it should be put on the same footing as when the bill went from that house.—The suggestion was agreed to without a discussion.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL remarked that the pro-