

Mr. Dempster said, that if the Subscribers disapproved of their bargain as meant by the Right Hon. Gentleman, they might recede from it.

The Minister observed, in reply, that though they had misunderstood him in the bargain, it would be better for the Government to lose the difference above mentioned, than do any thing that might even wear the appearance of breach of faith.

Mr. Francis thought that there was still some ambiguity in the business.

Mr. Drake observed that the Minister ought to be more explicit in his bargains, by which means all future misunderstanding would be avoided.

Mr. Sheridan said, there would be 10,000l. more interest to be paid now, than there ought to have been.

Mr. Rose and Mr. Huxley also spoke, after which the Committee on the Bill took place, and a clause was introduced to the purport of Mr. Pitt's motion above stated.

It was resolved that one share only of the loan should never produce more than 10,000l. per annum.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill for appointing an annual commemoration of the glorious revolution, several amendments were made to the Bill, and the Sunday preceding the 16th of December, or the 16th of December, if it fell on a Sunday, was fixed on for the Anniversary day; the Bill was then ordered to be reported.

The House next resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill for regulating the duties on tobacco; Counsel against the Bill were called in; and after a long examination of witnesses, the Chairman reported progress, and the House adjourned.

Friday, June 26.

Passed the Scottish Episcopalians Bill.

Mr. Dempster moved, that the regulations respecting Quebec be taken into consideration early in the next session. Agreed unanimously.

Mr. Sheridan brought in his Bill for reforming the interior government of the Scotch boroughs.

Sir James Johnstone said it was very improbable that the Hon. Gentleman would be able to make out his allegations respecting the boroughs of North Britain. He ought to have had better grounds for his interference in a matter of such importance as a reform in the established constitution of a number of very ancient corporations.

Mr. Sheridan replied, that the case he intended to make out was not a frivolous one, but one of the strongest cases, he be-

lieved, that ever came under discussion. He was ready to produce many witnesses, whose testimony would prove the existence of several abuses in the administration of these boroughs, abuses which were not the less heinous, because they were of long standing. He was confident that he should make it appear to the House, that a reform was absolutely necessary for the good government of the boroughs in question. He moved that the second reading of the Bill be on Monday last night, which was agreed to.

The House then went into a Committee upon the Tobacco Bill. Mr. Sheridan moved, that the evidence given at the Bar upon the subject of this Bill be printed from day to day, for the use of the Members. This motion was opposed as unnecessary by Mr. Pitt. Mr. Postlethwaite, a tobaccoist, was then called in and examined at the bar, and the House, after hearing evidence for some hours, adjourned to

Monday, June 27.

Mr. Dempster read a petition subscribed by a considerable number of newsmen, complaining of that clause in the Newspaper Tax Bill, which prohibits the letting out papers to hire. This, they said, was not only a severe, but an unprecedented regulation, against which they prayed to be heard by Counsel. He therefore moved, that this petition be brought up.

Mr. Drake seconded the motion.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer opposed the reception of the petition on this ground, that no petition against a tax bill could be received; consistently with parliamentary form, till at least the next session after the passing of such Bill.

Sir Grey Cooper thought the petitioners might fairly be heard.

On a division the numbers were, for receiving the petition, 13—Against it, 4—Majority 24.

The petition was therefore not brought up.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee on the Tobacco Bill, and Mr. Spencer, a tobaccoist, was called to the bar, and examined.

After hearing evidence for some hours, the House adjourned till

Tuesday, June 30.

The House formed a Committee on the Bill for imposing additional duties on Probates of Wills and Legacies.

Mr. Sheridan thought it fair, that legacies bequeathed before the operation of this Bill, but not yet paid, should be exempted from these new duties.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was not inclined to agree to the exemption of any