The Weekly Observer.

BEING A CONTINUATION OF THE STAR:
ESTABLISHED IN 1818.

Office in Hatfield's Brick Building, Market-square.

SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1831.

Vol. III. No. 45.

The Garland.

SPRING.

(From the Greenock Advertiser.)

The Spring from her bower in the south is advancing,
And bright as the sun beam, around her are dancing
The Graces with smiles, and Young Love with his quiver,
All jocund, they roam o'er the green earth together.

Wreaths of flowers, wreaths of flowers, with dark ringlets combining,
Wreaths of flowers, wreaths of flowers, with their fair hands entwining;
While Spring, joyous Spring, with gay garlands has crown'd them,
And beauty and bliss beam above and around them!

The thrush in the fir grove her vigil is keeping,
The blackbird's soft pipe o'er the woodland is sweeping;
Her way up the welkin the lyric lark winging,
To light, life, and joy, the dull chrysalis springing.

A wreath for the fair maid whose bosom's the purest,
For the light hearted hunter, whose aim is the surest;
A wreath for yon pair, in their cot by the wild wood,
Days placid and pure, as the dreams of their childhood!

For the loving and shy maid, with conscious thoughts blushing,
For her gallant, brave rover, whose bold brow is flushing,
For country and freedom soft pleasure resigning,
Weave a wreath, a bright wreath, with the laurel combining.

Wreaths of flowers, wreaths of flowers, with bright ringlets combining,
Wreaths of flowers, wreaths of flowers, with their fair hands entwining;
While Spring, joyous Spring, with gay garlands has crown'd them,
And beauty and bliss beam above and around them!

A wreath for the lone heart, with radiant flowers blend it—
At the blush of the morn, when the dew-drops have gemm'd it;
And the desolate heart, from its radiance will borrow
A hue, that may brighten to hope, on the morrow!

The fair maid will stray, where the flow'rets bloom sweetest,
The hunter will roam, where the wild deer is fleetest,
The soul tuned to love where the streamlet is gushing,
The heart for high deeds, where the torrent is rushing.

The following beautiful lines by N. P. Willis, illustrate the most interesting engraving in the Youth's Keepsake, for 1831.

TIRED OF PLAY.

Tired of play! Tired of play!
What hast thou done this live long day?
The birds are hushed, and so is the bee,
The sun is creeping up steeple and tree,
The doves have flown to the sheltering eaves,
And the nests are dark with the looping leaves—
Twilight gathers and day is done—
How hast thou spent it beautiful one?

Playing? But what hast thou done beside,
To tell thy mother at eventide?
What promise of morn is left unbroken?
What kind word to thy playmates spoken?
Whom hast thou pitied, and whom forgiven?
How with thy faults has duty striven?
What hast thou learned by field and hill—
By greenwood path, and by singing rill?

There will come an eve to a longer day,
That will find thee tired—but not of play:
When thou wilt lean as thou leanest now,
With drooping limbs and with aching brow,
And wish the shadows would faster creep,
And long to go to thy quiet sleep.
Well were it then if thine aching brow
Were as free from sin and shame as now—
Well for thee if thy lip could tell
A tale like this of a day spent well;
If thine open hand hath relieved distress—
If thy pity hath sprung from wretchedness—
If thou hast forgiven the sore offence,
And humbled thyself with penitence—
If Nature's voices have spoken to thee
With their holy meaning eloquently—
If every creature hath won thy love,
From the creeping worm to the brooding dove,
And never a sad low spoken word
Hath plead with thy human heart unheard—
Then, when the night steals on as now,
It will bring relief to thy aching brow,
And with joy and peace at the thought of rest,
Thou will sink to sleep on thy mother's breast.

MISCELLANEA.

HALLEY'S COMET, OR THE COMET OF 1834.

(From a Paper of Dr. Hartwell, of Berlin.)

There are few comets which are visible to the naked eye, and on this account the comet whose return figures among the calculated memorabilia of the year 1834, is entitled to an early and special notice. So far as modern observations reach, this comet was seen for the first time, in the year 1465, and it approached to a distance of 11,700,000 miles from the sun, on the 8th of June in that year. It came near the earth, and under very favourable circumstances; presenting itself with peculiar splendor and remarkable brilliancy; travelling with a tail which extended over a third portion of the firmament, and affording a spectacle of far greater beauty than it has ever exhibited since those times. Its next appearance was in 1531; and on the 25th day of August, it was at a distance of 11,600,000 miles from the sun. The period of its revolution was, therefore, ascertained to be 75 years, 2 months, and 17 days. Calculating each of its revolutions at 75 years, the return of this comet might have been predicted for the year 1606 or 1607; and in fact, it did return, for the third time, in 1607. It approached nearest to the sun on the 26th of Oct. when it was 11,750,000 miles distant from it. The period of its revolution had consequently been 76 years, 2 months and 1 day—one twelvemonth longer than the preceding; whence it is obvious, that its progress had been disturbed by some planet, or other strange body. It was of considerable magnitude; its head being of the size of the planet Jupiter; but its light was weak and nebulous; it had a long tail, and this was also feeble in its rays, as if overcast with vapours.

The revolutions of this comet have been of seventy five or seventy-six years duration, it followed, that its return would occur in 1682, or 1683. This calculation was confirmed by its re-appearance in 1682, when its nearest approximation to the sun took place on the 14th Sept. on which day it was distant from it 11,650,000 miles. It was now, for the first time, observed, with any degree of accuracy, by Halley, from whom it has consequently been denominated "Halley's Comet." This astronomer compared the results of his several observations with those made on the comets of the year 1607 and 1531, and found them closely to correspond with one another; from which he was led to infer, that the three appearances belonged to one and the same body. On this occasion, its revolution amounted to seventy-four years, ten months, and eighteen days—giving a mean duration of seventy-five years and one half. Halley predicted the return of the comet in the year 1759; at first, however, it seemed as if the event would not realize the prediction, as the comet was tardy in appearing; but, to the delight of every astronomer, it became visible at last, and put an end to the doubt which had hitherto existed as to the durable nature of such bodies as comets. It attained its solar elevation on the 13th of March, when its distance from the sun was 11,650,000 miles, and was of inferior size to what it had been on its last appearance. Its tail was but lightly illuminated, and not discernable except when the sky was clear; on which account no precise judgment could be formed of its length.

The weakness of its irradiation was principally owing to its unfavorable position. Its last revolution had been seventy-six years and six months. It may reasonably be asked, why the comet consumed a whole twelve month more in its revolution than was natural to it? To this it may be answered, and upon every accurate calculation, that it first displayed itself close upon the planet Jupiter, which influenced and retarded its movement. Hence it appeared at a somewhat later period than Halley had foretold. The return of the comet in our days ought to take place in the year 1834; but it is possible that it may be so influenced by Saturn and Uranis as not to make its appearance before 1835 or even 1836. Numberless calculations have already been formed on this event; and we must leave it to time to pronounce which of them are correct. Neither can we predetermine what will be the degree of its brilliancy or the extent of its tail; these are matters, which seem to depend on circumstances beyond the sphere of our present knowledge.

British Shipping and Colonial Interests.—At the late public dinner in London by gentlemen connected with these Interests, the following appropriate lines were introduced in connection with the air "Rule Britannia."

"To thee belong Colonial reign
And ships by hardy veterans manned;
These aid thy wealth, thy trade sustain—
A bulwark form to guard thy land."

Value of Colonies.—The economists assume, that, if we were now to divest ourselves of our North American provinces, we might make them an independent state, and that, in intercourse with them as such, we should have every commercial advantage which we are now supposed to possess. First, we cannot make them an independent state; nor, if we could, should we dispose them to be one friendly to us, by the act of throwing them off prematurely for selfish and narrow reasons.—We may train them to become such; but this must be by a mode of treatment very different from that which certain moralists inculcate. There is no higher object of policy than to raise up in that quarter, a powerful, and, finally, an independent state, as there is no doubt, we may do, provided we continue to act on old-fashioned principles, which appear, however, to have been rejected by the political economists. It is assumed that, if we had no Colonies, we should be able to purchase from them, as independent states, at a lower price to the consumer, the articles which we now get from them as colonists. Treating this as a mercantile, and not a political consideration, it is not perceived that, by divesting ourselves of our colonies, we should render ourselves entirely dependent, for what we now get from them, on foreign states, and, consequently, be obliged to deal with foreign traders on their own terms. So long as we possess sources from which to procure what raw materials we require, we can retaliate and compete, but without these we must submit to take what we must have, upon such terms as it may please the seller to dictate. It is undoubtedly a great deal cheaper to descend to be a feeble, and to submit to be an inferior power, than to be rich and powerful! and if perpetual peace could only be established, and we could persuade all other nations to adopt practically the new notions of domestic policy, the wisdom of retaining our foreign possessions might be doubtful. But how, without these, could Great Britain have gone through the late struggle against all Europe? The very source of her industry—the raw materials of her manufactures—half the elements of her greatness, might have been cut off by such a combination as has already been witnessed amongst foreign nations; a combination which nothing but the colonial power of Great Britain could prevent their renewing, or enable her again to defy.—*Sir Howard Douglas's Pamphlet.*

St. Patrick's Society, London.—The forty-eighth anniversary of this benevolent institution took place on Thursday, (17th March,) at the Freemason's Tavern. The company had to sit down to dinner without a Chairman; previous, however, to dinner being finished, Lord Leveson Gower arrived, and slipped unnoticed into his seat. His Lordship, in toasting the King, read the following letter from Lord Melbourne to the Secretary:—

"*Home Office, February* 10.

"*Sir*—I have had the honor of laying before His Majesty your letter of the 7th instant; and I am commanded by his Majesty to convey to you the expression of the satisfaction which His Majesty feels in complying with the wish of the Benevolent Society of St. Patrick, that he should become their Patron: and also to acquaint you further, that his Majesty rejoices in an opportunity of associating the Queen with himself for such objects."

The contributions amounted to £1111. Mr. O'Connell, after long resisting the call, was induced to take the chair when Lord Gower retired.

Lord Chancellor Brougham and Parliamentary Reform.—At a meeting of Saint Andrew's Parish, Holborn, held on Tuesday last, Dr. Bowring, on moving a resolution in favour of the ballot, thus expressed himself:—"The principle of vote by ballot (he said) contained in it the principle of the general emancipation of the mind; and if he were asked whether he would take universal suffrage without the ballot, or a much less diffused system of suffrage with the ballot, he would certainly choose the latter. On this, as on all political subjects, the present Lord Chancellor was deservedly looked up to as a great authority; "but," continued the learned Doctor, "this I know, from a personal conversation with him, that his mind has been much shaken by the discoveries of the people on this subject. Only three days before he accepted his present high office I had a conversation with him, and he then said, 'I shall henceforward be an advocate of Radical Reform.' (Cheers.)—To which I replied, 'That by which we Radical Reformers test the honesty of man, is the ballot, for they are the only Radical Reformers who are ready to remove the voters from the influence of hope and fear, so that they may be able to discharge their duty without fear of punishment or expectation of reward.' His answer was, 'If I cannot support the vote by ballot, or go to the universal suffrage, at all events I would support a plan which would give every householder an opportunity of freely exercising his opinion.' To this my answer was, 'So far so good.' And I have an opportunity of knowing that within these few days his Lordship has said, that to the question of ballot he is indifferent."—*Glasgow Courier.*

Sir Henry Parnell.—How strangely our preconceived notions of the personal appearance of public men jar with the reality. The financier of the "mind's eye" is generally a thin, sallow, care-worn little gentleman; and yet Mr. Rothschild is as round and dumpy in face and figure as a retired tallow-chandler; and the able author of Financial Reform, a tall, portly, florid personage, with the look half grazier, half naval, of a man to whom roast beef, and plum-pudding, and the qualities of good old port are more germane than jejune investigations into the most efficient mode of reducing the national debt. Then there is another contrast between Sir Henry Parnell's appearance and his mode of expressing himself. From so "stout" a gentleman in size and bearing, and from a man so independent in principles, and so well-informed on every subject he expresses an opinion upon, one would expect a loud, fluent, and somewhat dictatorial oration, though the fact is, that he delivers himself in a tone so low and indistinct, in fact, so half whispering and diffident, as to almost neutralize the excellence of the matter; and this, too, in proportion to the importance of that matter; and to the attention which the House bestows on him.—*New Monthly Magazine.*

Sense of Honour.—Self respect is the most powerful, and one of the most useful of our mental habits; it is the principle to which the noblest actions of our nature may be most frequently traced—the nurse of every splendid and useful quality. How far it may be occasionally abused, or how far it may itself be consistent with the principles of our holy religion, are questions which have long been disputed with violent and fanatical acrimony. The first objection, I am neither prepared nor inclined to deny. To imperfection every human invention is liable; nor can it be considered as a subject of blame, that even our best institutions are only a chance of evils. But that a sense of honor is contrary to the spirit of religion, though Mandeville (perhaps insidiously) admits the charge, appears, to say no more of it, a hard and hazardous assertion. It will, indeed, be readily allowed, that there is only one motive which can deserve the name of virtue; but to condemn as illegal and impious every other desire or principle, would be in opposition to all the wants and feelings of mankind; and would by an inevitable inference, lay the axe to the root of civil government itself. Like every other law, the laws of honor are occasioned by the wants and vices of the world: like them, too, they must derive their influence from the weakness of our nature. The perfectly virtuous man, if such there be needs no such stimulus or restriction: but for our sake, for his own, let him not withdraw from us, who are not so fortunate, those salutary restraints and penalties which fence our virtue by our passions, and unite, in the case of human happiness the powers of this world and the next. For a politician neither must nor can destroy the propensities he attempts to guide. He must take mankind as he finds them—a compound of violence and frailty; he must oppose vice to vice, and interest to interest; and, like the fabled Argonaut, accomplish his glorious purpose by the labor of those very monsters who were armed for his destruction.—*Bishop Reginald Heber.*

Effects of Tea.—Taken strong, and in great quantity, it produces exhiliration, an indescribable feeling of lightness of body, as if in one's step he hardly touched the ground; along with a perception of increased magnitude, apparently, of all objects.—Swallowed in very great excess, it produces horror of of mind, an intolerable apprehension of sudden death, and fits of asphyxia or suspended animation.—*Dr. Lardner's Cyclopædia.*

At the last sitting of the Society of Antiquaries, a paper from F. Madden, Esquire, was read; being a translation of an account of a visit to England by a Spanish Nobleman, the Duke of Nagera, in 1543-4, written by his Secretary. This account gives a minute description of the several towns in Flanders and England, through which the Duke passed on his way to London, and informs us that he could not get to Dover by land, on account of the insular situation of England. The writer gives a glowing description of London, the castle (the Tower), and the King's Palace; but was very indignant at not being admitted with his master into the King's presence; and he therefore abuses his Majesty in good round terms. He was, however, admitted to the presence of the Queen, and kissed her hand. He requested permission to salute the hand of the Princess Mary, which she would not allow, but said he should kiss her lips; and the lucky secretary states that he kissed the Princess Mary and the rest of the Ladies of the Court. In describing the Tower, he says he saw, besides four great lions, seven large bears, which were every day brought into an enclosure, and tied to a long rope, and that they turned large and strong dogs upon them, which afforded good sport; and that a pony was turned in, and a monkey tied on his back,—who kicked and pranced among the dogs, with the affrighted monkey clinging to his ears. Such were the sports of our ancestors!—*Ibid.*

In the Chinese laws, one of the grounds on which a husband can divorce his wife, is *her being given too much to talking.*

[If this were the law of our land, how much happiness it would afford to many a man; and what a rich harvest it would yield to lawyers!]—*N. York Mercantile Advertiser.*

Why is the editor of the *John Bull* liable to take cold?—Because he is always *lying* on damp sheets.—*The Age.*

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

House of Commons, March 22.

Sir T. Denman's Speech.—(Concluded.)

The principle of this bill was not one of disfranchisement. ("Cheers" from the ministerial, and loud cries of "No, no," from the opposition benches.) He would repeat, that the principle of this bill was not a principle of disfranchisement. (Cries of "No, no," from the opposition.) The object of the bill was to retain as much as possible all existing rights of voting ("no, no," from the opposition), as far as was consistent with—(Here the learned gentleman was interrupted by a loud cry of "No," from some member on the opposition benches.) The honourable member, continued the learned gentleman, might say "no," but he (the Attorney-General) would assert, that the object of this bill was not one of disfranchisement, but that its object was to keep as much as possible the existing right of voting, as far as that was consistent with the real and effectual reform of the representation of the people in that house. (Cheers from the ministerial benches.) He was fully persuaded that nothing better could be brought forward for such an object,—namely, to establish a real, effectual, and pure representation of the people in Parliament, and he should be much surprised indeed, to find any thing better for such a purpose. (Cheers.) He believed that if honourable gentlemen would retire to their closets, and calmly consider this question, they would be convinced, he was sure, that, as members of the community, they would gain more by this measure than, as members of the House of Commons, they would be likely to lose by it. (Hear, hear.) The honourable member for Corfe Castle had alluded last night, to the argument which was drawn from the great names which were found amongst the supporters of this measure. The measure of 1797, which was brought forward by the present head of His Majesty's Government, reckoned amongst its supporters then, many members at present in that house. There was his venerable friend, the member for Norfolk, there was also the member for Surrey, the member for Middlesex, and several other honourable members, who had through good report and evil report advocated that great measure; and if they should be relieved from any injurious imputations with regard to interested motives for doing so, surely the noble lord at the head of His Majesty's Government, who, when a county member, the member for Northumberland, brought forward such a measure, and supported it against the interests of his connexions, should also get credit for sincere, and honest, and patriotic motives, in supporting that measure now, and thus acting in conformity with his early opinions. He would also name his honourable friend, the member for Berkshire, who had always supported the principle of such a measure; and the noble lord (the member for Lancashire), who, he believed, spoke in favour of it when introduced in 1797; and his honourable friend (the member for Westminster), who gave his first vote on that occasion, in favour of a cause which he had ever since so steadily advocated. Surely, if all those honourable members must be relieved from the imputation of acting through unworthy motives, so also should that noble lord, who was the first to introduce that measure which he now supported, because he believed its principle to be just and good. (Hear.) But the honourable member for Corfe Castle said it was idle to talk of the men of rank and station who had come forward in support of this measure, for that it was men of rank and station who had begun the civil war in the time of Charles I. "Did not, said the honourable member, such men as Essex, and Warwick, and Northumberland, begin that civil war, and were they not ignorant at the time, of the result to which it would lead; and could therefore, such an argument as that drawn from the circumstance of this measure having advocates of rank and station, be justly adduced in its favour? But the case here was, the waters would flow, and the only question was, who would turn the key. (Cries of "hear, hear.") Where was the use of referring them to the arbitrary times of Charles I., with his usurping ministers, his tyrannical courts, his star-chamber, his court of wards,—by which his subjects had been plundered,—to a time when the people were running counter to all such measures, when they suspected the King hated the ministry, and detested the whole policy of the Government. Was that a period to be taken as a parallel for the present time? (Hear, hear.) He thought there never could be a more propitious time than the present, for such a measure as this. (Cheers.) We were at peace, and prospering with a thriving trade, with the country improving, with the currency on a wholesome footing, with every thing going on safely and securely throughout society, with one exception. (A laugh on the opposition benches.) Honourable gentlemen might laugh if they pleased at the fact, but what did their constituents think of it? (Hear, hear.) Their constituents unanimously said, that it was high time to put an end to that debasing, and degrading, and corrupt influence, which had such demoralizing effects upon the lower orders, and which was the natural and inevitable result of a system which was founded on corruption. (Cheers.) He was astonished to see moral and religious men strenuously contending against Parliamentary Reform, with such cases as Retford, and Grimsby, and Evesham; where the most notorious corruption had been practised before their eyes. He was surprised to behold such men endeavouring, under such circumstances, to prevent all species of reform. (Cries of "no, no," from the opposition.) He would maintain, that in no case would they admit reform at all. What was the burden of the seven nights' debate on the part of the opponents of this measure, but that? Did not the right honourable baronet opposite (Sir R. Peel) say that it was possible that he might be induced, as an individual, at some future period, to give his reluctant consent to some measure of reform? And, judging by experience, would not the only measure of reform which they might expect from him, be similar to that which he advocated when he preferred to transfer the franchise from East Retford to Bassetlaw, instead of to Birmingham? That was all the reform that they might count upon from the opponents of this measure; and what reform was that? It was nothing but the grossest prejudice which could make otherwise well-meaning men, advocate the present as the best state of things for the moral and political interests of society. The complaints against the measure were numerous. Some persons said that the public voice ought to be consulted: well, the public voice had been consulted. Others cried out that it was a robbery of corporations; but the corporations had come forward and begged to be so robbed. Others then had said that the bill contained clauses contrary to the rights of the city of London; but the city had met the next day, and had voted not only that the measure was good—but it had declared that it was ready to sacrifice all its privileges that were supposed to be injured by the bill. It had been said that little boys had been induced to sign the petitions in favour of reform; but he did not recollect any instance which had not produced similar assertions. That such things had been done in many instances, he believed; but in the present case, public opinion had been most strongly expressed in favour of the bill. There was scarcely an exception of any body of the people disliking the present measure; and thus far was it essentially different from the Catholic Relief bill. The measure was brought forward to remedy the greatest evils, and never was there a time in which it could be brought forward with greater safety. There was a perfect union of all ranks in favour of the measure, compared to what there has been a few weeks before. He had uniformly restrained himself from the use of language of intimidation, for he should not like to have such language spoken to himself, and therefore he had not addressed it to others; but he must say, that much of the language that had been applied to his side of the house had been misapplied. Ministers could not be supposed to be actuated by any other object, than to preserve the peace of the country, and to secure its peace upon its liberty. If half measures were to be granted, there would be growing up in the country a miserable state of discontent between the higher and lower classes, which must be expected to lead to the most fatal consequences. He most conscientiously believed, if the measure was carried into a law, that the prosperity which the country had enjoyed merely by being more free than other countries, would be preserved to her, and secured to those institutions which the House of Commons had always been the useful instrument in preserving, and of which, with a better system of representation, it would always be the successful guardian. (The learned member sat down amidst loud cheers.)

Sir J. Scarlett's Speech.

Sir James Scarlett said—The present measure ought to be debated free from all personal allusions; and he regretted, that in the debate there should have been introduced so much of party and personal feeling. He could say that he was totally free from any feelings of the sort. He had nothing to gain, and nothing to suffer, by the opinions he delivered in that house; and he neither expected to lose or to retain his seat by the vote he should give, or by his avowing his honest opinions. He considered that a reform would be necessary, and highly useful in the representation of the people; but then, to be either one or the other, it must be such a reform as would be consistent with the constitution.—The House of Commons had done too much good, and too much good was yet to be expected from it, for him to think of parting with it for untried experiments, which were not a reform, but a total reconstruction of the house upon principles entirely new and unknown to the constitution; and he could not bring himself to believe that the proposed reconstruction of the house would be for the benefit of the country.—His hon. and learned friend (the Attorney Gen.) seemed to think that the alternative was reform, or no reform. He could not accede to that proposition. He considered the specific measure was what they had to discuss. In considering the question of reform, ministers took three distinct grounds. The first ground was, the constitutional right of the people to have a reform, and the reform proposed. Another ground was, a theoretical argument, in which it was assumed that the House of Commons did not square with the constitution; and the third ground was, the practical expediency of granting a reform when all classes desired it. If any constitutional right were possessed by the people to demand reform, where was such a law to be found? The house was bound to recollect that the constitution of England was not to be found on any one plain law or code, but in a collection of practices and usages. Of what did the House of Commons consist? on what did it depend? It was formed originally of a variety of writs sent by the King to certain places requiring them to return members. This was confirmed by certain acts of Parliament, it was confirmed by certain charters granted to different places, and upon which those places founded their rights to have writs directed to them. The House of Commons in its constitution depended therefore upon usages, acts of Parliament, and Charters. Upon which of these could be founded any mode of reform,—upon which of these could be founded the specific bill before the House? * * * * * * He would now come to the present measure itself, and not speak any more of what others had been. What did the present bill propose to do? The bill proposed, in the first instance, to cut off 62 members; but from what class did it propose to cut them off?—from the class in which the representatives of monied men were to be found. Places were to be disfranchised from which the House usually derived its manufacturing and commercial members, but not a single county member was to be cut off. He stated his opinion with all openness and candour when he said that he believed the greatness of England to be inseparably connected with the prosperity of the commercial and monied interest. He did not, by any means, intend to say that the land ought not to be represented; far from it: but the land had an exclusive representation in the House of Peers. It was, however, as it seemed to him, in the cultivation of Commerce, and in that increase of it which followed upon the discovery of America and the passage by the Cape of Good Hope, that they were to look almost exclusively for the sources of the power and greatness of this country. He contended, then, that it was a question well worthy of consideration, whether it was expedient to cut off 62 members from that House,—62 members who represented that important interest. In his opinion that proceeding would destroy the equilibrium, and give a decided preponderance to the landed interest. The bill gave 55 additional county members, and it took away 62 from the monied and commercial interest. For the future they would have, instead of 92, no less than 147 members to represent the landed interest, while they cut off 62 from the commercial interest. What security had they that a house so constituted would maintain the public credit, so far as commercial and monied creditors were concerned? He was aware that it was the interest of every country to preserve the public faith inviolate; but he equally well knew that all countries had not seen that such was their interest.—Some, even in this country, might be indinged to propose measures in accordance with that policy which was hinted at in a publication said to have been put forth under the auspices of his hon. friend, if he would allow him so to call him, the *First* Lord of the Admiralty. The policy to which he alluded was that of cutting away the mast of public credit in order to save the ship. Now he could assure his hon. friend opposite that he had much more pleasure in speaking of those parts of the bill of which he approved than of those which he condemned; for, let him receive credit for sincerity when he said that he looked forward to the introduction of this measure in the anxious hope and expectation that he should be able to give it his most unqualified approbation. Let him be believed, too, when he said that nothing but a sense of imperious duty could have led him to oppose the measure. He approved of conferring representation on the great towns. (Hear, hear.) He had always been of opinion that the great towns ought to be represented, and he believed that franchises would have been long since conferred upon them but for the act of union, which by limiting the number of the House of Commons, prevented the Crown from exercising that right which it undoubtedly possessed. He said the right which the Crown undoubtedly possessed,—for he agreed with his hon. and learned friend that the Crown did possess the right of conferring a franchise, though he differed altogether from his hon. and learned friend when he laid it down that the crown had a right to take away a franchise. It was quite clear also that places which had once enjoyed the right of returning members to parliament, but which had ceased to exercise that right,—as many had when the House of Commons was nothing, and when constituents were burdened with the payment of the wages of their representatives,—might resume that right whenever they asked for it. Thus, James I. had granted charters to 12 places. Several had been granted by other monarchs; and the last was the charter to Newark, which was granted by Charles II.; upon which occasion it was decided, after a debate in that house, that the Crown had the right of granting such a charter. It was true, therefore, that the Crown had this right, and it was evident from the fact that those who had once received writs, but which writs had been discontinued for a time, and yet had been re-issued afterwards on application for them,—it was clear, he said, from this fact, that the Crown had not the power of taking away a franchise. Now, his hon. and learned friend, in speaking of the powers which this measure vested in the Privy Council, had asked, "Why do you find fault with the bill for conferring on the Privy Council powers which are already in the Crown?" But if these powers were already in the Crown, what occasion was there for this bill? (Hear.) In his opinion, a more unconstitutional, unwarrantable, and unparliamentary provision than this was never laid upon the table of that house. Was the house so fallen, was it so reduced, that it could be persuaded to allow the Privy Council to decide who should form the constituency of the country?—Surely not, it was the house alone that ought to determine such a matter. He, however, was so decidedly of opinion that the great towns ought to be represented, that if such representations were to be conferred by adding to the numbers of the