

laughter.) Weymouth shook hands with him; Norwich affectionately regarded him; Marlborough he took under his wing; Warwick was with him; Hereford had an anxious consort with him, while Taunton, Dover, Carlisle, St. Alban's, Truro, Poole and Sandwich, *cum multis aliis, quos prescriber longum exit.* (Laughter.) The learned knight then proceeded with great vehemence to condemn the bill as most atrocious and tyrannical. The title, he maintained, was mendacious, as the hopes of reform held out by it were fallacious.—What would remain to the municipal bodies throughout the kingdom if this tyrannical measure were past, would be the *nomina umbra*. The ancient character, to be sure, would be said to be left, but it would be so gutted, or disembowelled that the original objects for which such charter was granted would be altogether lost. The learned gentleman went on to describe the spirit which originated this and similar measures of reform, and which he compared to that which pervaded the days of 1792, and urged on the march-of-intellect-men of that period to the destructive measures which marked their desperate and reckless career. It was one of the most palpable principles of this measure that small rate payers would, in most instances, have a more powerful voice in the election of the municipal officers than citizens of wealth, rank, and intellectual worth. After arguing at great length, and with his accustomed ingenuity, against the principle of the bill, the learned gentleman proceeded to comment on page 52 of the bill, which gave to the mayor and common council the power of making by-laws for the good rule of the inhabitants and the improvement of the borough. These were to be sent to the Home Office for the sanction of the Secretary of State. The learned gentleman contended that this power was monstrous and unconstitutional. He then proceeded to advert on the clause mentioned in page 57, which began by complaining of the existing abuse of corporations selling their properties. He did not know many instances where such a circumstance had occurred; but if it were indeed an abuse, why not do away with it at once? Instead of this, corporations were forbidden in future not to dispose of their properties but by the sanction of government. It was said that corporations required reform.—why not then reform them? Why destroy them? Were they such a heap of moral putrescence—were they so far beyond recovery, that they were to be nailed up in their coffins and buried for ever? No; but the democrats and radicals hated them as they were now constituted. They were the bulwarks of loyalty, rank, true aristocracy, and the prerogative of the crown against the wild inroads of wild republicanism and popular tyranny, which would raise the standard of anarchy on their ruins and the ruins of every ancient and sacred institution in the land, and hail the triumph of annual parliament and universal suffrage. The learned gentleman then commented on the injustice of depriving a large and respectable body of citizens of the franchise which was guaranteed to them by the reform Bill and handed over to another class, which were hitherto only considered barely above the level of property, from which sprung the march-of-intellect-men of the present period, and the Messrs. Tomkines and Jenkines of no distant period. It behoved their lordships to look to themselves—to their honour, their rank, and privileges; it behoved them to remember that their ancestors, whose achievements were emblazoned in the history of the country who had ever been the safeguard of that country and its monarch against foreign invasion and domestic treason, and who had transmitted to them an inheritance of virtue and renown; it behoved them he maintained to look out ahead to where the machinations of their enemies would tend. It behoved them to keep off those evil days, when dignity would be replaced by democracy, and rank to republicanism, when an honest man would be pointed at by the scorn of popular tyranny, and degraded, not for his vices but for his virtues. This would be the consequence of evils which would follow in the train of this falsely-called Reform Bill of the corporations. More execrable tyranny, more political brutality, never were embodied in a legislative measure in any age or in any country. The learned gentleman said that this was a nut which the Messrs. Tomkines and Jenkines might crack as well as they could. What was the measure founded on? A heap of falsifications and absurdities jumbled together in the report of corporate commissioners—an affair to which nothing in the wide range of our present fashionable romance or novel reading could equal. It was one of peculiar merit, quite of the Roderick Random and Tom Jones's school, and peculiarly constituted for the constitutions of the superannuated classe of bathing readers. The learned gentleman said that in making these remarks, he should be subjected to the animadversions of a certain portion of the press, and that every species of trash, ignorant and contumely jargon would be heaped upon him. (Hear, hear, hear.) He did not, however, repine under the weighty displeasure of the party

from which it emanated—a party to which he always was and always should be opposed. He raised his voice in defence of vested rights and sacred institutions, and above all to rescue a large and respectable class of citizens from being sacrificed in the race of two parties for power, and their political homestead, under the semblance of being reformed and improved, from being made an unconstitutional power in the hands of a dominant faction. After some further observations, the learned gentleman said that of 185 corporations which this report pointed out to be disfranchised, 36 were allowed to stand irreproachable. To prove the foolery and worse of this report of the corporate commissioners he should have to examine a number of witnesses, who would also prove that property to the amount of half a million and upwards would be destroyed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—JULY 31.

IRISH CORPORATE REFORM BILL.

Mr LEFROY said, that the effect which was likely to be produced from such a measure as that proposed to be introduced might be gathered from the hope expressed by the hon. and learned member for Dublin, that all the corporations in Ireland would soon be in the same situation as that of Tuam, which he described as being composed almost exclusively composed of Roman Catholics.

Mr O'CONNELL—I said nothing of the kind, and the hon. member knows I did not. (Loud cries of order, and chair.)

Mr SHAW.—I rise to order. My right hon. friend made an observation, whether right or wrong I care not; but the hon. and learned member for Dublin has accused him of stating a fact which he knows is not true. I appeal to you, sir, whether such conduct is not disorderly, and I would ask the house whether we really have not had enough of these scenes. (Hear.)

Mr O'CONNELL—I withdraw it.

Mr LEFROY said, that he had had too much experience in that house, particularly within the last year or two, to be surprised at any statement which fell from him being met by the hon. member for Dublin in the way, both as to manner and matter, in which his observation had just now been met by the hon. and learned member. (Hear hear.) The hon. and learned member stated that the corporation of Tuam was, with the exception of one member exclusively composed of Roman Catholics, and unless his ears had grossly deceived him, he also said he hoped the other corporations in Ireland would soon be similarly circumstanced. (Cries of hear, hear, and no no.) As however, the hon. and learned member denied he had said so, he (Mr Lefroy) would not dwell upon the point. But there was a statement which the hon. member had certainly made, and he was never more surprised in his life time than when he heard it, namely—that the corporation of Limerick was anterior to the establishment of the English power in Ireland. He was at a loss to know from what King the Corporation obtained its charter. There had been suits in Ireland which led to an investigation into the antiquity of the Corporation of Limerick, but he never before heard that it was established at a period anterior to the British dominion in Ireland. It was said that the bill about to be brought in ought to be adopted with respect to Ireland, because a similar measure had been passed for England, but he implored the House to recollect that the circumstances of the two countries were widely different. The right hon. gentleman concluded by expressing his belief that if the bill should be adopted by the legislature, the connexion between the two countries would soon be severed.

Lord MORPETH then moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better prevention of offences against the peace of Ireland.—His Lordship stated at the outset, that it was not the famous "Coercion Bill" of which he admitted the less was said the better.—The machinery of the new bill was two-fold:—By the first, it enabled the Lord Lieutenant, from time to time, to issue special commissions, (not to the judges, as hitherto, but to sergeants-at-law,) to hold sittings in disturbed districts, and empanel (not the grand juries of counties) but of the several quarter sessions now established. A tribunal so constituted would be equally efficacious towards the repression of crime as a special and occasional assizes, and would be infinitely less expensive. So much for the punishment of crime. As to its prevention, it was intended to invest the court in question with the powers not exactly of proclaiming a barony or division, but to warn the inhabitants to keep at home at nights; to require them to make out lists of their families, and to adopt other precautionary measures; but domiciliary visits would not be permitted by this bill.

After a good deal of desultory conversation, the motion was agreed to.

Otho, King of Greece, following the example of Louis Philippe, has commenced prosecuting the press for libel; but the decisions of the courts have been against him.

(From the *Noascotian*, August 27.)

A notice of the return of Captain Back, and the results of his expedition, for which we are indebted to the *Montreal Gazette*, will be found on another column.

RETURN OF CAPTAIN BACK.

Captain Back, accompanied by William Mally, one of the volunteers from the Royal Artillery, who left Montreal with him in 1833 has returned to Lachine, in excellent health and spirits. Doctor King and the rest of the expedition were left at Fort Reliance, all well—they are to leave for England by way of Hudson's Bay. No mortality or accident occurred to any of the persons actually accompanying the expedition, although one of the volunteer Artillerymen, Williamson, who was somewhat advanced in years, and who was unable longer to bear the fatigues and hardships of the journey, unfortunately died when on his return back to Hudson's Bay Station.

During the first winter, the expedition had to endure great privations and sufferings, owing to the great scarcity of food, and the severity of the weather. On the 25th April, being exactly one year after we had left Lachine, and during a heavy storm, the Despatch communicating Captain Ross's safe return was delivered to Captain Back. The primary object for which their journey was undertaken being thus happily fulfilled by their agents, Captain Back made preparations for complying with the secondary part of his instructions—the examination of the coast between point Turnagain, and Ross's Pillar. Several boats were with the utmost activity built during the winter, but in spring, finding that they had an insufficient supply of provisions, they could only take one with them. It was not until the month of July, 1834, that the expedition got to open water on the Thlew-de-chodzeeth, or Great River. Captain Back, we believe, succeeded in determining that this runs to the northward, and if we understand the purport of the scanty information which has reached us, it has its source on a height of land, about 150 to 200 miles from Fort Reliance, the winter establishment of the expedition at the eastern extremity of Great Slave Lake. Captain Back is the first European who has visited Great Fish River, and examined its course to the Polar Seas. Its very existence was doubted by many geographers. It is said to be large, but of dangerous navigation—greatly impeded by ice and having little but mounds of sand along its banks. It falls into the Polar Sea, at a point, as far as we can learn, that coincides very near to the place assigned to it by Captain Back and the Arctic Committee in London, in their prospectus already referred to. How far the labours of the expedition will increase our knowledge of the line of coast, we are unable to say; but from what has been stated above, it is obvious that a new route has been opened to the Polar Sea, and that a large blank which formerly struck the eye, on surveying the map, will now in a great measure be filled up. The extreme cold experienced, we learn, was 700 below zero.

The expedition returned to Fort Reliance, which place Captain Back left on the 20th of March, 1835, and travelled on snow shoes to Fort Chipewyen. From this station he departed on the 28th May, and arrived at Lachine, as already mentioned, on the 9th instant.

Captain Back arrived in Montreal this morning, and will leave for New-York in a day or two, in order to embark in the packet ship of the 16th inst. for Liverpool.—*Montreal Gazette*.

The Queen has presented Miss Kemble with a set of brilliant ornaments, accompanied with a high testimonial of Her Majesty's approbation of this young Lady's vocal talents at St. James's Palace on the evening of the King's birth-day.

AN INTERESTING CASE.—The British brig Gov. Temple arrived at New-York a few days since from Demerara, bound to the River Gambia, in Africa. She put in here to procure some articles for her cargo. She is chartered by upwards of 20 natives of Africa, and their descendants, who were sold some 20 or 30 years ago as slaves in the Colony of Demerara, and have since purchased their freedom, chartered this vessel, and are on their return to their native land to spend the remainder of their days. They are nearly all related to each other, and embrace both sexes, from childhood to the age of 70. All appear well dressed, comfortable and industrious; some of them are mechanics, and have, besides earning a stipulated sum for their masters, earned a sufficiency to pay for their freedom. One of them paid 1300 dollars for himself, wife and two children; another 500 dollars for himself; and others in like proportion. They all appeared happy and anxious to get back to their native shore.

It is a subject of no small interest, and one that must cause the mind of every beholder to reflect, on seeing a group of Africans, who were stolen from their homes, transported in a slave ship, sold, and served 30 years in a foreign land, and who, by their industry,

have acquired a sum sufficient to purchase their freedom, charter a vessel, and return home. All the older ones still hold to the religion they were educated in, that of the Mahometan faith, and all on board except one (the captain) are blacks.—*Daily Advertiser*.

BARBADORS.—The first anniversary of the memorable day, on which slavery ceased in every Colony of His Majesty, has arrived.—Twelve months have flown most rapidly; and, except in the late instance of injury to cattle, which however had, as we understand, no connection with the relations between master and servant, and we may venture to say that the year has passed happily. By the blessing of God on the just conduct of the employer, and the contented obedience of the apprenticed labourer, we trust the remainder of the apprenticeship will result in the improvement of the spiritual and temporal interests of all parties. A judicious system of instruction, the foundation of which will be laid in christian principle, will be the most effectual agent in the work of improvement.—*Barbadian*, Aug. 1.

A MILE A MINUTE.—A steam car has been built in England for exportation to the United States, which performed the distance between Manchester and Liverpool at the rate of a mile a minute, (nearly forty miles.) At the rate when the New-York and Erie Rail Road is finished, one can breakfast in New-York, dine at Buffalo, and be at Detroit, Michigan, the next day, a distance of nearly 800 miles, which is not now travelled in much less than a week.

Sir Astley Cooper was one of the most eminent physicians and physiologists in England. He said that he never suffered ardent spirits in his house, thinking them to be evil spirits, and added, that if the poor could witness the *white livers*, the *dropsies*, the shattered *nervous systems*, the *insanity*, which I have seen as the effects of drinking, they would be satisfied that ardent spirits and destructive poisons are synonymous.

INDEMNITY.—By a law of the State of Maryland the City of Baltimore is bound to make good to individuals all the damages they have suffered by the mob. The amount by a rough estimation, is not much short of 150,000 dollars, a very moderate tax, however, if viewed in the light of a chastisement for the most extraordinary dereliction of duty on the part of the public guardians, that ever was heard of.

CAPTAIN BURNS.—The interest which the public has ever taken in the family of the poet Burns, has been so great, that we are sure we are communicating an event which will give pleasure to thousands, when we mention that Captain James Glencairn Burns youngest son of the poet, has been promoted to the rank of Major in the East India Company's service.

The Greek brig Alexandros, Capt. Alexandros, from Syria—having on board five Greek lads, four of whom are sent by the Mission to Greece, to the American Board of Missions, for the purpose of receiving an education. The Alexandros is about 800 tons—was built at Syria, and is a very fast sailer. This is believed to be the second Greek vessel that ever visited our harbour.

ARRIVALS AT BOSTON.—The pleasure yacht Gem, Lane, from London, last from St. John's, Newfoundland, on the 4th instant, owned by the Marquis of Waterford, who is on board, accompanied by Lord Beresford, arrived at Boston on Friday. The Gem is schooner rigged, and about 125 tons burthen.

MASSACRE IN CUBA.—The N. Y. Mercantile states that a letter from Matanzas of the 21st ult. furnishes information that an insurrection of the negroes had taken place on a small plantation, who murdered all the whites, and proceeded to a neighbouring village, where, after committing various depredations and killing some of the inhabitants, they were finally overcome and made prisoners. On the arrival of the news at Matanzas, an armed force was immediately despatched to take care of the prisoners, and to suppress any further attempt at insurrection.

SLAVE TRADE IN SOUTH AMERICA.—We have been shocked with the extent which this horrid traffic in slaves is carried on.—On the 15th June, a large schooner called the Marinero, arrived at Bahia from the coast of Africa in ballast, reporting as left at the Bite of Benin, five vessels waiting the arrival of slaves from the interior. Eleven vessels remained at Bahia, 20th June, waiting cargoes of tobacco and rum, with which to sail for the coast of Africa—no doubt for the purpose of trafficking in slaves. The vessels had previously sailed under the flag of Donna Maria, to engage in the same wretched business. The difficulty with which the slavers are defeated and taken is very great.