

## AFTERNOON SITTING.

THURSDAY, March 19.

Debate resumed on the motion to go into the order of the day on the second reading of the Orange Incorporation Bill.

Hon Mr COLES made some additional remarks in reply to the Hon Col Secretary, and concluded by moving, in amendment to the motion before the House, that the House go into the order of the day this day three months.

Hon Mr KELLY rose to second the motion. He did not feel that he would be much affected by the measure before the House, though he was a Roman Catholic, but as the Hon Col Secretary had read some extracts from his *pocket book*, he (Mr K.) wished to give some extracts also. The first extracts he would read were from "Hansard's Parliamentary Debates," from the speech of Lord Morpeth (now the Right Hon. the Earl of Carlisle) respecting disturbances in Armagh, the county of Ireland in which the first Orange Lodge was established:—

"First meeting of the Magistrates of the County Armagh, Oct. 19th, 1795.—Whereas the peace of this country has been and continues to be disturbed by mobs of riotous and disorderly persons who assemble in considerable bodies, attack the houses of well disposed inhabitants, and rob them of arms, money, and other matters of property.

"Second meeting, Oct. 26, 1795.—As we find that bodies of armed men still continue to parade through different parts of this country, both by day and night, committing great outrages and disturbing the peaceable inhabitants. Resolutions signed and subscriptions entered into by Gosford, William, Armagh, the Primate, Charlemont, Capel Molyneux, Bart., W. Brownlow, Bart., H. Hamilton, Dean of Armagh, &c., &c., &c.

The next extract he should read was from the Earl of Gosford's address, as Chairman of the Quarter Sessions of the County of Armagh, on the 21st Dec., 1795:

Lord Gosford said:—"Gentlemen it is no secret that a persecution, accompanied with all the circumstances of ferocious cruelty which have in all ages distinguished the dreadful calamity, is now raging in this county, neither age nor sex, nor even acknowledged innocence, as to any guilt in the late disturbances, is sufficient to excite mercy much less to afford protection. The only crime which the wretched objects of this ruthless persecution are charged with is a crime indeed of easy proof. It is simply a profession of the Roman Catholic faith—or an intimate connexion with a person professing that faith. A lawless banditti have constituted themselves judges of this new species of delinquency, and the sentence they have pronounced is equally concise and terrible, 'It is nothing less than a confiscation of all property and an immediate banishment. It would be extremely painful and surely unnecessary to detail the horrors that attend the execution of so wide and tremendous a proscription—a proscription that exceeds in the comparative number of those it consigns to ruin and misery every example that ancient or modern history can supply—for when have we heard, or in what history of human cruelties have we read of more than half the inhabitants of a populous country deprived at one blow of the means as well as the fruits of their industry, and driven in the midst of an inclement season to seek a shelter for themselves and their helpless families where chance may guide them."

Such was the noble Earl of Gosford's opinion of the state of the country and of the Orangemen of that day. He (Mr K.) should also quote an extract on the same subject from a speech of Mr. Grattan wherein that distinguished Statesman said:—

"Of these outrages he had received the most dreadful accounts, that their object was the extermination of all the Catholics of that county. It was a persecution conceived in the bitterness of bigotry, carried on with the most ferocious barbarity by a banditti, who being of the reli-

gion of the state, had committed with the greatest audacity and confidence the most horrid murders, and had proceeded from robbery and massacre to extermination: that they had repealed, by their own authority, all the laws lately passed in favour of the Catholics, and had established, in the place of those laws, the inquisition of a mob resembling Lord George Gordon's fanatics, equaling them in outrage, and surpassing them far in perseverance and success: that these modes of outrage were as various as they were atrocious. They sometimes forced by terror the masters of families to dismiss their Catholic servants, they sometimes forced landlords by terror to dismiss their Catholic tenantry, and they seized as deserters numbers of Catholic weavers, and sent them to the county gaol, transmitted them to Dublin, where they remained in close prison until some Lawyers, from compassion, pleaded their cause and procured their enlargement, nothing appearing against them of any kind whatsoever. Those insurgents, who called themselves Orange boys or Protestant boys, that is a banditti of murderers, committing massacre in the name of God and exercising despotic power in the name of liberty."

But lest any one should distrust the authority of Mr. Grattan, and the pregnant and fervid language in which he embodied his sentiments, in the same debate he was followed on the same side by the Knight of Kerry, who said:—

"He could not reconcile it to himself to remain silent at the statement made by the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Grattan) of the outrages which had occurred in the county of Armagh. He was sorry to say he must subscribe to it in its fullest extent. He lamented that in that picture which the right hon. gentleman had drawn, he could trace no exaggeration. It was, he feared, the melancholy truth that numbers of the unoffending and peaceable inhabitants of that county had been expelled from their habitations and their property by the violence of a bigoted sect that then existed in that county, a furious and unrelenting persecution of a particular denomination of His Majesty's subjects. It is lamentably the fact that in the county of Armagh multitudes of families are driven from their homes the victims of a dreadful persecution, while the Magistracy rest in a kind of lethargy, supinely indifferent to this outrageous violation of justice. He deplored that the Magistracy should be so blind to the danger which they were suffering to grow. He trembled at the pernicious effects of mixing any religious prejudices with the distractions which already agitated the Kingdom. There was no man ignorant but must be aware of the poisonous animosity which religion adds to any contest in which it shall mingle, nor can any man in the utmost scope of speculation calculate the horrors to which that conduct may give birth, which would infuse into the agitation of the country a spirit of bigoted religious animosity."

This gentleman was followed by Sir William Smith, Baron of the Court of Exchequer in Ireland, who said:—

"He was persuaded that Government would never prefer one treason to another, or use less severity towards the bigotry and excess of Peep-of-day boys, or Orangemen, than towards other equally abominable outrages. He had heard it insinuated, on both sides of the House that the Defenderism might call for the extraordinary interposition of the Legislature, yet the opposite class of insurgents might be left to the vigilance of the Armagh Magistrates and to the ordinary efficacy of the Law as already established. To such a doctrine he must express entire dissent. He viewed both species of offence with equal abhorrence, and thought the Legislature ought to meet them with equal indignation. The scene next shifted (says the right hon. gentleman) to the special assizes of the county of Armagh, at which more than 100 persons were tried for capital offences, when Mr. Attorney General Wolfe was sent down to prosecute on the part of the Crown, who there said: That by order of the Government who were determined to exert their power to the