

frequent occurrence in this town.* It can scarcely be necessary for us to add, that any powers which may be given to the justices for this purpose ought to be qualified by a right of appeal from their decision to the Supreme Court.

* Instances likewise so often occur of the desertion of their wives and families by dissolute and unprincipled men, that some legislative check, to such a pernicious practice seems also to be exceedingly necessary.

IMPORTANT!!!

UNITED KINGDOM. IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY, JAN. 29.

Parliament was opened to-day, by Commission, with the usual formalities; the Commissioners being the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Richmond, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Earl Grey, and Lord Auckland.

Shortly after two o'clock the Lords Commissioners, and the Lord Chancellor, with about half-a-dozen Peers, arrived.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, addressing their Lordships, said that his Majesty, not thinking fit to be present in person, had directed a Commission under the Great Seal to be prepared for the opening of Parliament, which Commission would shortly be read.

The Noble and Learned Lord and the Commissioners then took their seats: upon which the Lord Chancellor directed Sir Augustus Clifford, the Usher of the Black Rod, to summon the Members of the House of Commons to their Lordships' Bar, to hear the Commission read.

In the course of a few minutes the Usher of the Black Rod returned, accompanied by upwards of a hundred Members; among whom were Lord Althorp, Lord John Russell, Sir James Graham, the Attorney-General, Mr. Hume, Lord Morpeth and Sir F. Burdett.

The Commission was then read by the Clerk at the table; after which

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that as soon as a sufficient number of Members of both Houses should be sworn, his Majesty would declare in person the cause of both Houses of Parliament being assembled. It being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Commons should be elected, the Members of the Commons would repair to the place where they usually sat, and there proceed to the choice of such fit and proper person to be Speaker of that House, and present him at the Bar of the House of Lords, on Thursday, at two o'clock, for his Majesty's Royal approbation.

The Members of the Commons withdrew, and the Lords Commissioners quitted their seats.

Strangers were then excluded, and prayers were read by the Bishop of Hereford.

The oaths were then administered to the Lord Chancellor, who took his seat on the woolsack.

The Lords Commissioners likewise took the oaths in the course of the morning, the following Peers, among others, also took the oaths, and subscribed their names on the rolls of Parliament:—The Earl of Eldon, the Bishops of Chichester, Hereford, Llandaff, and London; Viscount Clifden, the Earl of Rosslyn, the Marquis of Salisbury, Viscount Strangford, the Earl of Albemarle, the Marquis of Thomond, and Lord Stuart de Rothsay.

At four o'clock the House adjourned to Thursday, at two o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The gallery of the House was thrown open at half-past one o'clock, and long before two a great number of Members had entered the House. Amongst others we noticed Mr. Cobbett, who took his seat upon the Treasury bench, close to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The old Members who have been re-elected took possession, for the most part, of the seats they had previously occupied.

The House immediately proceeded to choose a Speaker. The Right Hon. Charles Manners Sutton was proposed by Lord Morpeth, and Edward John Littleton, Esq., Member for Staffordshire, by J. Hume, Esq., after a very long discussion the House divided, and the numbers were

For the Right Hon. C. M. Sutton 241
For Edward John Littleton, Esq. 31
Majority for Mr. Sutton—210

KING'S SPEECH.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT. Tuesday, February 5.

This day his Majesty, accompanied by the usual great Officers of state, proceeded from the palace of St. James's, to open in person the first reformed parliament. The crowd assembled was more than ordinarily great, and their conduct was most respectful and decorous. His Majesty, on his way to the House of Lords, was everywhere received in the most flattering manner. The passage from the Palace to the Palace-yard, was kept by a guard of honor of the Royal Horse Guards. His Majesty was received, at the entrance of the House of Lords, where he

arrived shortly after two, amid the customary Royal salute from the guns in the Speaker's garden, by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chamberlain, Earl Grey bearing the Sword of State, and proceeded through the Painted Chamber, which was nearly filled with ladies in full dress, who applauded his Majesty on his passage to the Robing-room, when, having put on the Crown, he entered the House of Lords, and taking his seat on the Throne, the Usher of the Black Rod was sent to the House of Commons to notify to them that His Majesty desired the presence of his faithful Commons, at the bar of the Lords.

The House of Commons, preceded by the Speaker, then entered the House, making their obeisances as they advanced to the bar which having reached, his Majesty read the following

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"The period having now arrived at which the business of the parliament is usually resumed, I have called you together for the discharge of the important duties with which you are entrusted.

"Never, at any time, did subjects of greater interest and magnitude call for your attention.

"I have still to lament the continuance of the civil war in Portugal, which has for some months existed between the Princes of the House of Braganza. From the commencement of this contest, I have abstained from all interference, except such as was required for the protection of British subjects resident in Portugal, but you may be assured that I shall not fail to avail myself of any opportunity that may be afforded me, to assist in restoring peace to a country with which the interests of my dominions are so intimately connected.

"I have also to regret that my anxious endeavours to effect a definitive arrangement between Holland and Belgium have hitherto been unsuccessful. I found myself at length compelled, in conjunction with the King of the French, to take measures for the execution of the Treaty of the 15th of Nov., 1831.

"The capture of the Citadel of Antwerp has in part accomplished that object, but the Dutch government still refusing to evacuate the rest of the territories assigned to Belgium by that treaty, the embargo which I had directed to be imposed on the Dutch commerce has been continued. Negotiations are again commenced, and you may rely on their being conducted, on my part, as they have uniformly been, with the single view of insuring to Holland and Belgium a separate existence, on principles of national security and independence. The good faith and honour with which the French government has acted in these transactions, and the assurances which I continue to receive from the chief Powers of Europe of their friendly dispositions, give me confidence in the success of my endeavours to preserve the general peace. I have given directions that the foreign papers, which are necessary for your information, on the affairs of Holland and Belgium, should be laid before you.

"The approaching termination of the Charter of the Bank of England, and of the East India Company, will require a revision of these Establishments; and I rely on your wisdom for making such provision for the important interests connected with them as may appear, from experience and full consideration, to be best calculated to ensure public credit, to improve and extend our commerce, and to promote the general prosperity and power of the British Empire.

"Your attention will also be directed to the state of the Church, more particularly as regards its temporalities, and the maintenance of the clergy. The complaints which have arisen from the collection of tithes appear to require a change of system, which, without diminishing the means of maintaining the established clergy in respectability and usefulness, may prevent the collision of interests, and the consequent disagreements and dissatisfaction which have too frequently prevailed between the Ministers of the Church and their parishioners.

"It may also be necessary for you to consider what remedies may be applied for the correction of acknowledged abuses, and whether the revenues of the church may not admit of a more equitable and judicious distribution.

"In your deliberations on these important subjects it cannot be necessary for me to impress upon you the duty of carefully attending to the security of the church established by law in these realms, as to the true interests of religion.

"In relation to Ireland, with a view of removing the causes of complaint which had been so generally felt, and which had been attended with such unfortunate consequences, an act was passed during the last session of parliament for carrying into effect a general composition for tithes. To complete that salutary work, I recommend to you, in conjunction with such other amendments of the law as may be found applicable to that part of my dominions, the adoption of a measure by which, upon the principles of a just commutation, the possessors of land may be enabled to free themselves from the burthen of an annual payment.

"In the further reforms that may be ne-

cessary, you will probably find that, although the Established Church of Ireland is, by law, permanently united with that of England, the peculiarities of the respective circumstances will require a separate consideration. There are other subjects hardly less important to the general peace and welfare of Ireland as affecting the administration of justice, and the local taxation of that country, to which your attention will be also required.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons, I have directed the estimates for the service of the year to be laid before you. They will be framed with the most anxious attention to all useful economy. Notwithstanding the large reduction in the estimates of the last year, I am happy to inform you that all the extraordinary services which the exigencies of the times required have been amply provided for.

"The state of the Revenue, as compared with the public expenditure, has hitherto fully realised the expectations that were formed at the close of the last session.

"My Lords and Gentlemen, In this part of the United Kingdom, with very few exceptions, the public peace has been preserved; and it will be your anxious but grateful duty to promote by all practicable means, habits of industry and good order amongst the labouring classes of the community.

"On my part I shall be ready to co-operate to the utmost of my power in obviating all just causes of complaint, and in promoting all well considered measures of improvement. But it is my painful duty to observe that the disturbances in Ireland to which I adverted at the close of the last session have greatly increased.

"A spirit of insubordination and violence has risen to the most fearful height, rendering life and property insecure, defying the authority of the law, and threatening the most fatal consequences if not promptly and effectually repressed.

"I feel confident that to your loyalty and patriotism I shall not resort in vain for assistance in these afflicting circumstances, and that you will be ready to adopt such measures of salutary precautions, and to entrust to me such additional powers as may be found necessary for controuling and punishing the disturbers of the public peace; and for preserving and strengthening the legislative union between the two countries, which with your support, and under the blessings of Divine Providence, I am determined to maintain, by all the measures in my power, as indissolubly connected with the peace, security, and well being of my people.

From *Merrill's Weekly Register*.

The Ministry have nobly redeemed their pledge to the public on the subject of Reform. Earl Grey said that he considered the Reform Bill only as a means to an end, and he has kept his word. Oh, the poor Bishops! How prophetic was the article which we published on the year 1833!—that Radical destructive article, as the Tories called it, in which we spoke of the dismay of the Church, and described the consternation of the Bishops flying before Reform. Ten Bishops extinguished out of twenty-two—two fat Bishops cut down one-third—the highly benefited Clergy made to pay a tax upon their revenues, and a total reformation effected in the Irish Church! This for Ireland—England will come next. Old Canterbury already sees his revenue reduced, and dreads the return of those simple times when the ministers of God were content with the honor of preaching his holy word—when the head and founder of our religion rode meekly and humbly before men upon an ass, and addressed assembled multitudes from a mount. Well does he know that the reign of priestly pomp approaches to its end and hard has he struggled to avert his fall. But the day of reformation is at hand. The Millennium of Reformers is near, and the aristocracy of the priesthood will soon cease to exercise an influence over the temporal affairs of their flocks. But if we rejoice that Church Reformation has begun, it is not because we desire injury to the Church.—We loathe and detest the worldly pomp of some of the superior clergy; we abhor the grinding and grasping conduct of many of the heads of the Church; we condemn the abuses of the Establishment, and ardently desire to see them lopped off; but we admire and profess the creed of the Established Church, and desire its welfare. We are not among those who would reform in order to effectually destroy it. Fools and rogues may wish for the overthrow of the Church—the first, because they are incapable of appreciating its value to the community at large; the second, because they know that the anarchy which they desire can only be the result of the destruction of the Church. This class, however, is not large, and even among the fools there are many who are not quite so witless as not to know that, if the Church should fall, there would be little protection even for themselves. Society is held together by links, one of which is Church dominion—take that away, and society, as it is now established, will fall to the ground.

There is now a more general opinion entertained than ever, that a proposition will

be made by ministers to parliament, for an extension of the Charters to the Bank and East India Companies for a short period, until further time is allowed for the discussion on these most important subjects. The multifarious questions before parliament would, but for this arrangement protract the session to the very end of the year. The mercantile interest seems fully prepared for the announcement as far as regards the East India Company.—*Chronicle*.

It is understood that the first proceedings in the Upper House of Parliament contemplated by the Opposition Peers, will be a notice of motion on the foreign policy adopted by Government.

Portugal.

OPORTO, FEB. 4.

Now for the few facts that have occurred since my last of the 29th. Admiral Sortorius has not come on shore, but there are accounts from him. It is denied that the fleet did not obey the signal to them when made, but that, on the contrary, they bore down on the instant. The fact of mutiny is, however, indisputable, and 15,000 dollars are in readiness to be sent out to appease the discontent, but the weather has been so bad as not to allow the transmission of the money. The army has been newly organized, as you will perceive by the *Cronica*, No. 29. The Duke of Terceira is to command the 1st division, consisting of three brigades with the Queen's Lancers, and a brigade of light artillery of 4 guns, 2 howitzers, and 3 hill guns. The 2d division, under Count Saldanha, to consist also of three brigades of infantry, with the 10th cavalry (about 50 horses), and the same proportion of artillery as the first. The 3d division, to be commanded by Gen. Stubbs, to consist of two brigades, the first consisting of British, the second of the 1st and 2d regiments Queen's Light Infantry, with the 11th cavalry (about 50 horses), and a brigade of artillery, with the reserve park of field artillery. The Queen's Light Infantry consists of French and other foreigners. The 1st is composed chiefly of French, the 2d of Belgians, Germans, and people of almost every nation, save English, Portuguese and French. This latter regiment does not seem likely to prove very beneficial, as several desertions have taken place from it, whole pickets having gone over together. Telles Jordao had a flag fixed near Lordello as the point at which all the British and French were to present themselves; at least so he made his people believe. This was discovered, and means taken to prevent any mischievous consequences, but some, I regret to confess, have resulted. The enemy must have agents, both active and daring in the neighbourhood of the Foz and Lordello, but none, I fear, so injurious as the want of pay, and the quality of provisions within our lines. This will be manifest when you learn that the contagion has spread to the British battalions, from which parties of four, three, and six, have deserted on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. On the other hand, while some of the enemy were amusing themselves on Wednesday plundering a house at Lordello, they were surprised by a picket of French and driven off, leaving three of their number dead. Captain George, of the navy with a feeling which does him credit, has volunteered, in consideration of the present exigencies, to serve without pay. He is to have the command of the gunboats now preparing, the first of which is called the *Solignac*. Captain Warner, of whose new artillery great hopes are entertained, has made a similar offer, with the gratuitous expenditure of all his *matériel*, provided he is allowed the proper means of carrying his plans in execution; if not, he goes home. I much wish that some of the vessels with fodder, which are off, could land even part of their cargoes, as that brought from England is exhausted, and Indian grass, with oats damaged by sea-water, produce a bad effect upon the horses. Fresh decrees have been published against forestallers, and no one is now allowed to purchase aught that may be landed, until it arrives within the city. I mentioned, some time ago, that a subscription for the poor was on foot, and am happy now to say that means have been taken to supply them with food, an object most desirable, especially when cholera has begun to commit its ravages. The Government has given the Carmelite Convent as a depot, and the preparations are now nearly complete for the distribution of soup, &c. Speaking of cholera, I must observe that the Consul will not give clean bills of health any longer, and this has caused some murmurs; but of course he must do his duty. Admiral Parker having heard of the distress of the poor, sent 100 cruzados as his subscription towards their relief. The officers of the squadron here did not wait for his example to come forward in the same good cause. As to provisions, they continue extremely high, and of inferior quality: poor beef cannot be had under 15 or 16 vintems the pound; it has not been, for some time, except very rarely, served out in rations; the substitute is bacalao. There has been a small rise in the price of this latter article, but nothing to indicate approaching scarcity, which would