

sides, the parson bethought himself that he was next the enemy, and, wheeling suddenly round, he almost overturned the exciseman, letting fall the candlestick in his haste, which left the whole party enveloped in darkness, save the uncertain light afforded by the moon which waded through thick masses of fleecy clouds. The noise of the stranger's feet grew nearer and more rapid. This fresh disaster, and the movements of their leader, served to accelerate the panic of heroes in the rear. But it was too late—the enemy was upon them in a twinkling. The parson was trampled under foot, roaring out as fast as his fear would permit—"Avant, Sathanas! I conjure thee! *Conjurissimo tibi*, &c." and the overthrow of the exciseman toppled down those on the stairs, who were rolled over in their confusion by the stranger in his descent, like so many ninepins.—Before they recovered themselves, the noise of a horse's hoofs, in rapid retreat, told them it was in vain to think of pursuit, had they been so inclined.

"The first news we heard in the morning," said he of the Ship, concluding his narration, "was, that the churchyard had been harried during the night, and the bodies of one of our aldermen and a child, only two days under ground, carried off. The object of the chap in the blue coat in coming to the Ship-ground, was, no less than to spy how the land lay; and he would, I'll be bail, have decamped sooner had our watch been appointed. My stars! it has been a sore subject in the borough ever since, howsoever; and though the rascal cheated me of his reckoning, yet the gentlemen paid me that, like, to keep dark on the matter. They say he was a *centroquizzard*."

(From the Morning Chronicle.)

The Scotsman of Saturday last contains an admirable article, having the title "A few more words on the Brougham and Durham Controversy." "We can perfectly understand," observes our Northern contemporary, "why the Conservative journals should seize every opportunity to depreciate the Lord Chancellor; but the rancour with which he is pursued by a portion of what is called the Wing press, fills us with surprise and disgust. Frail would be a statesman's reputation, if it depended on the consistency and judgment of those who profess to be the organs of the public voice; and popularity would be precarious, and worthless beyond measure, if it were in the power of such parties to give or withhold it. Happily, however, there is an inborn sense of justice among mankind, which though it may be occasionally bewildered by sophistry or prejudice, seldom fails to assert its supremacy in the long run, and to identify those who have been the victims, for a time, of malice or representation." The attacks which have been so incessantly directed against Lord Brougham, have injured him in the estimation of no persons respecting whose good opinion he need be anxious. His services during the last twenty-five years are not to be blotted from the public recollection by a series of rancorous paragraphs. Lord Brougham can only destroy the reputation of Lord Brougham. But is there one sober-minded person throughout the country, who seriously believes that Lord Brougham has any other object in view than the improvement of our laws and institutions—the remedying of every recognized abuse? We have a very favourable opinion of several members of the Cabinet. We do not believe there is one member of it more disinterested than Lord Brougham; we are sure is not one of them who has rendered half so much service to this country; and we will add, that we do not believe there is one of them who is so much inspired by the wish to do good to the country as his Lordship. He may have failings which some of them are without; these are connected with ardent temperament which belongs to him; but, on the other hand, the balance of positive excellency is certainly in his favour. We wish neither to flatter Lord Brougham nor to libel his colleagues, but to speak what we deem the truth. His colleagues are well aware that the labours of a long life are not obliterated from the public recollection in a day, and we are sure there is not one of them who does not (whatever may be insinuated to the contrary) feel that the loss of his Lordship to the Cabinet would be irreparable. Of all the attempts to lower him, that of the TIMES, on account of the Central Criminal Court Bill, is the most ridiculous. When was it ever before made a charge against a Minister, that the scheme which he proposed and persuaded Parliament to adopt was not his own? The history of the authorship of the measure is not worth a moment's notice. If all that the TIMES states is true (which it is not), what does it signify? The merit lies in the adoption of the measure.—A hundred persons might frame such a bill. But there is material difference between conceiving a scheme, and obtaining the benefit of it for the country. We wish that our limits would allow us to insert the whole of the excellent article from SCOTSMAN. We must content ourselves, for the present, with the following extract:—"We are almost ashamed to dwell on charges like these,

which, in the eye of common sense, amount to nothing. That public man must, indeed, be tolerably pure, against whom grave delinquencies cannot be produced; but if any can be alleged against the Chancellor, we pray his WING accusers to enlighten our ignorance; for we are unable to discover them. We can understand the TIMES. It acts under the impulse of mortified pride, and is blessed with a happy exemption from those feelings which restrain the indulgence of malignant passions in others. We can understand the Radical journals, too, when they talk of the Chancellor's baseness, falsehood, duplicity, treachery, and so forth—words which merely import in their mouth that he is in bad terms with his hero Lord Durham. All that passed between the two Peers were set aside. The Chancellor's conduct was prudent; but, whether as regards private honour, or official confidence, we hold that Lord Durham is by much the greater offender of the two. Let it be, however, that both are in the wrong. Even adopting the representations of their respective enemies, neither has done more than men of pretty warm feelings have done, and always will do, when they have a quarrel.—Lord Brougham's friends may regret some words he used, but it is pure factiousness in those who vindicate Lord Durham, to pretend that the Chancellor's character is injured by anything he has said or done in the controversy. If every tangible charge made against Lord Brougham were true (for obscure insinuations of treachery and intrigue go for nothing in such cases), it would scarcely affect the character of a public man of the most ordinary stamp. What is it, then, when weighed against the incessant, varied, and gigantic services of Henry Brougham, for the last five and twenty years! Passing over his early labours in the EDINBURGH REVIEW, he may be said to have entered upon life in 1808, when he made his celebrated speech at the bar of the House of Commons against the Orders in Council. He was returned a Member in 1810, and, with the exception of one short interval, has been in Parliament ever since. His energy, his courage, his talents, soon placed him at the head of the liberal party both in the House and at the Bar. For nearly a quarter of a century, he has been in the front rank of every battle fought on English ground, in the cause of liberty and mankind. In the ten dismal years which preceded the death of Castlereagh, when Insurrection Bills, Gagging Bills, Disarming Bills, Habeas Corpus Suspension Bills, tyranny at home, and leagues with tyrants abroad, were the order of the day, the nervous eloquence of Henry Brougham was the main stay of the people's cause, cheering the friends of liberty, paralysing their enemies, and stifling many bad measures in their birth. What was said of an illustrious Frenchman might be applied to him in those dark times—that "his genius was a power in Europe." We have seen one great lawyer after another, Gibbs, Copley, Best, Scarlett, Plunket, desert the popular side for office and emolument; and now forsooth, Henry Brougham, who has stood all trials for thirty years, and was a reformer in the worst times, is accused of abandoning his principles on the paltry ground we have alluded to! And all his vast labours in behalf of freedom, civil, political, and religious, of education, law reform, the abolition of slavery, and a thousand other objects of deep interest to mankind, are forgotten! It is not too much to say that his services in some one month of his career, outweigh all that Lord Durham has done, or CAN DO in the course of his life."

NEW-YORK, DECEMBER 27.

IMPORTANT FROM JAMAICA.

We have received papers from this Island up to November 14th, and regret to perceive, what however must have naturally been anticipated by any reflecting persons, that the chimerical scheme of the apprenticeship law continues to produce serious disturbances, keeping the inhabitants in a perpetual state of ferment. How was it possible for such an utopian project, engendered by the hypocritical fanatics of Aldermanbury, and which is at once a mockery on the plundered planter, and of the promises of abolition held out to the slave, to prove otherwise than a miserable failure? Lord Sligo, the governor, appears to be quite unpopular, and disposed to connive at, rather than to allay, the irritation which exists on the part of the slave owners. One of the consequences of the apprenticeship law, is a very alarming failure, say two-thirds, in the crops of sugars. A petition is before the Assembly to "import twelve thousand Germans," as a barrier against negro encroachments. The coffee estates, it is averred, can be worked by whites. From all that we can gather, it is clear that the negroes, even those that have always been treated with the greatest kindness, refuse to do even the moderate share of labour prescribed; that there is wanting an efficient corps of magistrates, and that many of the stipendiary magistrates sent out from England, being worn out, half-pay officers of the army and navy, and besides totally ignorant of the character of the negroes,

encourages them in their insubordination.—Such is the desperate state of feeling that exists among the planters, and the extent to which the combinations of the negroes have proceeded, that the most disastrous consequences, if not a catastrophe as dreadful as that of St. Domingo, are by many apprehended. The Governor, the Marquis of Sligo, has rendered himself obnoxious, among other causes, arbitrarily interfering with the Board of Health, in case of vessels from ports where cholera prevailed, which disease it is feared may be introduced into Jamaica. The "Despatch" thus speaks of the Governor; "It is true (and thanks be to the Lord for it) that we are not Lord Peter's subjects. He treats us badly enough as the King's lieutenant, and seems to care very little whether we are to be swept from the face of the earth by the cholera or destroyed piecemeal by his collar and cuff men the stipendiary magistrates." At the estates of Golden Grove and Gibraltar insurrections had actually broken out, but were quieted. In Treilwayne the memorial of the proprietors states, that sugar crops, it is well known cannot be manufactured by forty-five hours of labour per week, and that the negroes refuse to perform extra work even for wages! Thus are they combined together to turn this fertile island into a miserable waste worse than St. Domingo.—A memorial is contemplated to Parliament on the deplorable state of the Island.—*New-York Star*.

The will of the late Sir Robert Wilmot, Bt., was proved in the Prerogative Court on the 22nd inst. The present Baronet, the Right Honorable Sir Robert Wilmot Horton, Governor of the Island of Ceylon, succeeds to the Osmaston and Weston estates, in Derbyshire, and becomes possessor of the valuable collection of paintings at Osmaston. The beautiful villa at Great Malvern, recently purchased by the late Baronet, devolves upon Lady Wilmot. The personalities, amounting to £100,000, together with a considerable sum in Foreign securities, to be divided amongst the late Baron's four younger children.

The Philadelphia papers mention a new discover in the Pacific, made by Captain Coveil, of the Alliance, in lat. 5. 30. N., long 168 40 E., of a group of fourteen Islands, not laid down in any chart. They were all inhabited, and the natives spoke the Spanish language. He called them the Coveil Group.

The East India Company have sold their wharf at Blackwall. It brought £25,000, and was purchased by Mr. Nicholson, the Tea dealer.

The widow of the great navigator, Captain Cooke, is still living, aged more than 100 years.

LONDON, Dec. 27.

The subjoined list gives the names of the Cabinet Ministers, and their subordinates as far as they have been appointed.

CABINET.

Sir Robert Peel, First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer.
Duke of Wellington, Foreign Secretary.
Earl of Aberdeen, Colonial Secretary.
Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Chancellor.
Mr. Henry Goulburn, Home Secretary.
Mr. J. C. Herries, Secretary at War.
Sir Edward Knatchbull, Paymaster of the Forces.
Lord de Grey, First Lord of the Admiralty.
Sir H. Hardinge, Irish Secretary.
Lord Maryborough, Post-Master-General.
Lord Rosslyn, President of the Council.
Lord Wharfedale, Lord Privy Seal.
Mr. Alexander Baring, President of the Board of Trade.
Lord Ellenborough, President of the Board of Control.
Sir George Murray, Master-General of the Ordnance.
Mr. Charles W. W. Wynn, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

NOT OF THE CABINET.

Mr. George R. Dawson, Secretary to the Admiralty.
Sir George Cockburn, Lord of the Admiralty.
Mr. Maurice Fitzgerald, Ditto.
Sir John Puer Beresford, Ditto.
Sir Charles Rowley, Ditto.
Lord Ashley, Ditto.
Mr. Yates Peel, Lord of the Treasury.
Lord Lincoln, Ditto.
Lord Stormont, Ditto.
Mr. Charles Ross, Ditto.
Mr. W. E. Gladstone, Ditto.
Sir George Clerk, Secretary of the Treasury.
Sir T. Fremantle, Ditto.
Viscount Lowther, Treasurer of the Navy.
Lord Granville Somerset, Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests.
M. W. Praed, Secretary of the India Board.
Mr. J. Planta, One of the India Board.
Lord Edward Somerset, Surveyor-General of the Ordnance.
Sir Edward Owen, Clerk of the Ordnance.

Mr. F. R. Bonham, Storekeeper of the Ordnance.
Colonel Perceval, Treasurer of the Ordnance.
Mr. Stuart Wortley, Under-Secretary of the Colonies.
Lord Mahon, Under Foreign Secretary.
Earl of Haddington, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
Sir Edward Sugden, Lord Chancellor of Ireland.
Sir James Scarlett, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.
Sir Frederick Pollock, Attorney-General.
Sir W. Follett, Solicitor-General.
Sir W. Rae, Lord Advocate of Scotland.
Sergeant Pennefather, Attorney-General for Ireland.
Mr. Devonsher Jackson, Solicitor-General for Ireland.

Earl of Jersey, Lord Chamberlain.
Earl of Roden, Lord Steward.
Duke of Dorset, Master of the Horse.
Lord Forrester, Master of the Buck Hounds.
Earl Howe, Queen's Lord Chamberlain.
Earl of Denbigh, Queen's Master of the Horse.
Viscount Castlereagh, Vice Chamberlain.
Hon. Henry Curry, Comptroller of the Household.

Dec. 30.

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

Sir Robert Peel and the other Cabinet Ministers proceeded to Brighton yesterday, and at one o'clock His Majesty held a Council at the Pavilion, at which a Proclamation was signed, dissolving Parliament.—The New Parliament is to meet on the 19th Feb. for the despatch of business.

The country will be forthwith involved in all the bustle of one of the most exciting Elections which has taken place in our annals.—The writs were forwarded by this night's Mail—Several of the Ministers left town to-day, for the purpose of canvassing the constituents.

WORCESTER CITY.—Colonel Davies, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Bailey, and their friends, are all exerting themselves earnestly, and confidence of a favourable result is expressed by them all. The struggle will certainly be one of the most vigorous ever known in this city. The number of electors is about two thousand four hundred.

The London COURIER has the following remarks on the proposed Matrimonial alliance for the presumptive heiress of the Throne.

The Brussels papers contain a report to be found in another part of our paper of a wished for, rather than an intended Matrimonial alliance of the presumptive heiress of the Throne of Great Britain. We have heard no similar rumours in England, and presume, therefore, that they came from the friends of the Prince of Orange, and the would-be-bridgroom.

THE STAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1855.

The study of Astronomy has developed more of the powers of the human mind, and elicited more of the wonderful results of man's intellectual labours, than the study of any other science. It is almost inconceivable that a little creature who is moving on the earth's surface, and toiling during the greater part of his earthly existence, for the production of his necessary food and clothing; should have a mind capable of scanning the planetary system, and ascertaining not only the diameter and periodical revolutions of the planets, but of predicting the appearance and return of heavenly bodies that leave our solar system, and travel out into the region of space to return again, after the lapse of more than half a century. The bulk of mankind would not believe that human knowledge could be so extended, if it were not repeatedly proved by the accomplishment of such predictions. The simple Indians thought Columbus something more than human, because he foretold to them when an eclipse would happen; that knowledge was to them indeed wonderful, not more so, than the knowledge necessary to predict the periodic return of Comets, is to the greater part of mankind.

Halley's Comet was discovered by him in the year 1682, and reappeared, according to his conjecture, in 1759; it seems therefore, that the period of its revolution is about 76 years, con-