

£5,391,000, for the ordnance 169,500 and for the miscellaneous expenditure £1,930,000, making in the whole £16,950,000," out of nearly seventeen millions of money, an astounding sum at any time; and above all times in the midst of peace. We have nearly *eleven millions* for the army; for almost the whole under the heads of ordnance, miscellaneous services, &c. goes to the army. And this too, when ministers are declaring on all occasions, the principle of *non intervention*! The additional 10,000 men will cost upwards of half a million a year, or the interest of about twelve millions sterling! And yet, for what conceivable purpose? Is it fright at the rick burners, or at the speeches of Mr. O'Connell, or at a rebellion in the moon? We long to know the reason, deep as it may be in the cabinet bosom.

There can be no doubt that a great deal of the distress of the peasantry, and in consequence, a great deal of their insubordination, have arisen from their want of any thing which might be called a stake in the land. The old custom of providing the labourer with ground, however trifling its extent might be gave him a feeling that he belonged to the country, and had duties to fulfil as an Englishman. But the grasping and short-sighted system of refusing land to the cottager, while it was thrown into large farms, and men were displaced for sheep, necessarily produced a total alienation in the men thus thrown out, and we can have nothing new to learn in the intelligence, that they looked on these masters as their enemies. By this system, the whole labouring population would in a few years have perished, or become a loose mob, roving from place to place for employment, or, when employment failed, for plunder, and inclined to take a part in every public disorder. On this system the labourer, when his day's work was done, would have had no refuge but the ale house, or some miserable lodging, where without comforts or any other association but with men in his own situation, equally discontented, equally without connection with the land, and equally exposed to the suggestions of every low tempter, whether peacher, smug-

gler or incendiary; in time the rebel would have found him fit for his purpose, and we might see this body, which forms the strength of the British population, converted into the readiest instrument of public ruin.

But what a striking difference there must be in the habits, as there is in the condition, of the labourer returning, after his day's work on his master's grounds, to a little holding of his own, where the hours between his regular employment and his going to rest may be given to some labour in his own little portion of ground, and where every hour not merely employs him healthfully, but is turned to eventual benefit. The difference is actually as broad as between the honest, kind hearted, and virtuous peasant, and the sullen, brutal, and vicious serf; between the industrious labourer of old times, and the Captain Swing of the present. We are glad to see that the cottage system is beginning to be adopted; and we are scarcely less pleased to see, that its commencement has been made, and peculiarly sanctioned, by an English prelate. It is only justice to the Bishop of Bath and Wells to acknowledge, that from him the idea has derived its chief and earliest support; that he has allotted gardens, of about half an acre each, or in some instances more, to the cottages of his labourers. The plan is so obviously good, that it is almost unnecessary to say it has succeeded. The example has been followed. The Earl of Roseberry, with a view to better the condition of the cottagers on his estate at Postwick, Plumstead, and Saxlingham, twenty-three in number, has allotted half an acre to each in addition to what they previously occupied.

The truth is, that a new principle of treatment must be adopted to the people by their superiors. A landlord must no longer consider his tenantry merely as machines working for his profit, and to be disposed of in whatever way that profit can be most expeditiously made. This infamous and inhuman system originally begun in the Highlands, where the old tenants of the lairds, the poor peasantry, whom it should have been the pride and honour of their masters to encourage, civilize and make happy, were driven like brutes from the soil on