



BRITISH NEWS.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY, SEPT. 22.

THE REFORM BILL.

Long before 5 o'clock there was a very numerous attendance of the Lordships, and the space in front of the throne was crowded with Members of the House of Commons, among whom we observed none but opponents of the Reform Bill. The Lord Chancellor entered the house exactly at 5 o'clock, and his lordship had no sooner taken his seat on the Woolsack, than Mr. Putnam, the Deputy Clerk of the Black Rod, appeared at the bar and announced "a message from the Commons."

The Lord Chancellor rose to the bar with the usual formality, and received "The Bill" from the hands of Lord J. Russell, in a firm and audible voice, "This, my Lord, is a bill to amend the representation of the people in England and Wales, which the House of Commons have agreed to, and to which they desire the concurrence of your lordships."

These words were followed by loud cries of "Hear, hear," from the Members of the House of Commons who had come up with the bill, and this unusual proceeding was met by a faint cry of "Order" from some of the Lords.

Instead of retiring from the bar, which is usual in such cases, the members of the House of Commons preserved their position at the bar.

The Lord Chancellor, holding the bill in his hand, retraced his steps to the Woolsack, and communicated to the House the nature of the message of the Commons.

The Bill having been laid upon the table, a long pause ensued, in consequence of the absence of Earl Grey, who, however, shortly afterwards entered the House.

Earl Grey said—"My Lords, I was not present when the Bill for effecting a reform in the representation of the people was brought from the Commons. I beg, however, now to move that the bill be read a first time. Having made this motion, it will be necessary to fix a day for the second reading of the bill; and in doing this, I have no other wish than to consult the convenience of your lordships. I think the second reading should be taken on Monday next, at 11 o'clock, or later than Monday next, if it will be so ordered. The convenience of all parties is I think secured by Monday's adjournment." (Hear, hear.)

The bill was then read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

Earl Grey said—"If the second reading should be carried, as I have every reason to hope it will, I trust that there will be no objection to take the committee with as little delay as possible." (Hear, hear.)

The Members of the House of Commons now retired from the bar.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY, OCT. 3.

ADMITTED DEBATE OF REFORM BILL.

Several petitions having been presented relative to reform.

EARL GREY rose to move the second reading of the English reform bill. "The great, the important day," however, he said, "is not the day of the bill, but the day of the debate. It will be so ordered. The convenience of all parties is I think secured by Monday's adjournment." (Hear, hear.)

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posed that your lordships should be deprived of any part of your legitimate power or influence? God forbid! The respect due to your rank, and the satisfaction which from property you necessarily possess, will be long to you after the passing of the bill as fully and in as great degree as they now do. The peers of this country have not, and I thank God that they have not, any of those exclusive immunities or privileges which belonged to the old nobility of France. The nobility of this country is mixed and blended with the people. (Hear, hear.)

The noble Earl then proceeded to show that the voice of the nation was in favour of reform, after which he continued—"As a citizen of a free state, and feeling that freedom is essentially connected with order, I must violently oppose the measure which is now before me. It is my duty to maintain tranquillity; but as a citizen, I am bound to look at the consequences which may flow from rejecting this measure. And although I do not state, as the noble duke did on another occasion, that the rejection of the measure will lead to a civil war—I trust it will not produce any such effect—yet I see such consequences likely to arise from it as will be a trouble to the security of this house and of the country. (Hear, hear.)

They now to take the liberty of addressing a few words to the House. They had in their power to give to this bill what they pleased, and they were all now anxious to abandon it. He implored of their lordships to consider—and he would not address to them a topic at all derogating from their dignity—but he implored them to consider the situation in which they were placed, and the probable consequences of rejecting this bill. He would refer their lordships to a question which had been under their consideration, namely, that of admitting Roman Catholics to a full participation in the benefit of the constitution. He wished to observe that their lordships were placed, with respect to this question, in a wholly different situation. They had in their power to give to this bill what they pleased, and they were all now anxious to abandon it.

The Duke of Wellington then rose, and spoke as follows:—"My Lords, I entirely concur in what has fallen from the noble Lord who has just sat down, that this measure is a most extensive one, for it goes to overthrow the whole representative system of the country. (Hear, hear.)

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proposed, and he also approved of giving additional members to large counties. But though he was not for increasing the number of members, he could not assent to so sweeping a measure as the disfranchisement of a whole county. Such a course could be resorted to only in the case of a county which was so situated as to be unrepresented by the franchise. He objected to giving votes to £20 tenants, and the ten pound clause would convert the constituency into a mere democracy. For these reasons he would vote against the second reading, because the bill would destroy that happy equilibrium which had made England the happiest nation in the world.

The Earl of Harroway opposed the bill in a long speech. It would, if carried, convert the constituency into a democracy. From the present agitation comprehended nothing dangerous to the tranquillity of the country. Lord Melbourne contended that the question was, whether they were to have any kind of reform. (Cries of "No, no.") such he repeated, was the purport of the amendment which they were all now anxious to abandon. He implored of their lordships to consider—and he would not address to them a topic at all derogating from their dignity—but he implored them to consider the situation in which they were placed, and the probable consequences of rejecting this bill.

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by using into committee on this Bill. You cannot alter it so as to make it such a measure as you ought to pass, and therefore I say you ought to vote against the second reading. (Cheers from the opposition.) It is quite obvious to me, not only from these measures, but from the opinions of various noble lords, expressed in this house, that not a great period of time will elapse before this question will again come under your lordships' consideration. I entreat you, therefore, my Lords, in deciding on this question, not to pledge yourselves upon any other question which may hereafter be brought before this house, whether by His Majesty's Ministers, or by any other persons.

After a few words from Lord Melbourne and the Marquis of Lansdowne, the house adjourned at a quarter past one.

OCTOBER 3.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a Committee of Ways and Means, moved that there be granted out of the consolidated fund £1,800,000 to meet the supply of the present year. In doing so his Lordship entered into a general financial statement as to the actual state of the receipts and expenditure of the present year. From this brief statement it appeared that, notwithstanding the severe depression of the trade, the receipts exceeded the outlay—namely, that while the revenue for the present year would be £47,250,000, the expenditure would not exceed £46,750,000, leaving a surplus (speaking in round numbers) of half a million.

It appears from returns presented to the House of Commons, that the official value of the imports into the United Kingdom from the British colonies and possessions, in the year ending the 31st January, 1850, was £19,668,840 12s. 9d.; that the British and Irish produce exported to them, in the same period, was, in official value, £15,534,882 2s. 11d., and in declared value, £10,966,245 10s. 10d. The Foreign and Colonial merchandise exported to our colonies and possessions from the United Kingdom during the year, was, in official value, £1,765,087 17s. 4d.

The Glasgow and Grampian railway was formally opened by the proprietors, in the presence of the Lord Provost, magistrates, and a number of distinguished strangers on Tuesday week. The locomotive engines performed their journey in capital style, conveying elegant carriages and barouches filled with passengers at the rate of 20 miles an hour. It presented another splendid triumph of science and art.

OCTOBER 6.—There is nothing thought of and talked of here but reform, and the proceedings thereupon in the House of Lords. As, however, nothing more is known upon the subject in the City than elsewhere, it would be a waste of time and room to go into any lengthened detail of the various rumours and speculations which have prevailed to day. But it is, perhaps, worth remarking, that the chance of the Lords passing the Bill is not considered quite so desperate as it was yesterday and Monday. On the other hand, however, we have some reason to believe that the King is about to come to town for the purpose of proroguing Parliament, in case the Lords should throw out the Bill. His Majesty, we are told, has determined to be on the spot, lest the Peers should be inclined to follow up their rejection of the Bill by an immediate prorogation.

OCT. 6.—The question of reform is the prevailing topic in the City. As we intimated yesterday, nothing else is either thought of or talked of. Indeed there is nothing else to discuss, for we have no foreign intelligence of the slightest importance. Every body is struck with the extraordinary ability which the Peers have displayed upon the great question. For our part we have no fear for the House of Lords. We are satisfied, whatever convulsions may happen in this country, that the House will remain a permanent establishment, provided the real Aristocracy—the Old Peers—remain above to have fair play.—*Morn. Herald.*

OCTOBER 7.—Another adjournment of the debate on the reform question took place last night, after a discussion in which the Earl of Carnarvon was the chief opponent of the Bill, and Mr. Plunkett its most distinguished advocate. It is now generally supposed that their Lordships will divide to-night, or rather Tuesday morning, on the second reading; and conjecture still inclines to favor the opinion that the Bill will be lost.—But the hour draws nigh when speculation must give place to certainty on a subject so interesting to the community at large.—*Id.*

On the Commons' Book there stands for this evening a government notice, which is quite as indicative as Lord Clarendon's notice for Monday, of the Ministerial opinion respecting the fate of the Reform Bill with the Lords, and the consequent near approach of the conclusion of the present Session, namely, Mr. St. John's notice to move the introduction, in the Committee on the Consolidated Fund Bill, of the "Appropriation" clause, which is a clause that is always viewed as the finishing of the Session.

The Ministers of the Five Great Powers have held frequent Conferences lately. The following Resolutions on the Irish establishment have received orders to be in readiness to march to Cork, for embarkation on board Sir Edward Colington's fleet—viz, 27th, 36th, from Fernoy, The 74th, from Limerick, and the 70th, lying in Kilkenny, are to be sent to the coast of receiving similar orders.—*Dublin Evening Register.*

Population of Scotland, by the late census the population of Scotland is 2,365,700, being an increase since 1822, of 272,244.

LONDON, OCT. 6.—Poland.—Notwithstanding our fond hopes for the fate of poor Poland—hopes too delusively encouraged by some of the recent intelligence from that quarter—the star of its independence seems to have wholly set, at least for the present, and that extraordinary nation has nothing now to expect but in the generosity or mercy of a barbarian conqueror. The last ray of hope is undermined.

There is no longer, say the latest accounts received, any doubt remaining of the fate of the corps of the Polish General Romarin, since, according to the Austrian Observer, positive information from Lemberg had been received at Vienna, on the 23rd of Sept., that on the night of the 16th inst., Romarin, with his corps, had fled into the Austrian territory at Chevallier in Galicia, not having been able to cross the Vistula at Zawezoch. This corps, according to General Romarin's own statement, consists of 15,000 men, and 75,000 horses, and was encamped at Chevallier, having laid down its arms, and was entirely surrounded by Austrian troops.

LIVERPOOL, OCT. 5.—FOREIGN.—Hitherto the fall of Warsaw, which a great loss appears to have been inflicted on the Russians, has not been followed by the submission of the Polish army. The hope of some that the latter will be able to maintain the contest, rests upon very slight foundations; but it is stated, that France, England, and even Austria are employing themselves to obtain as good terms as possible for them from their conquerors.

Military Force of France.—By an official return of the effective military force of France, presented to the Chamber of Deputies by Marshal Soult, it appears that, according to the estimates for the budget of 1851, when the French army is completed on its new establishment, it will amount to 300,000 men, including artillery, cavalry, and infantry.

A steam vessel has been laid down at Chatham, to be named the *Phoenix*; she will be propelled by a steam engine of no less than 250 horse power. The length of her deck will be 137 feet, and her breadth 32 feet—she is intended to throw shells of ten inches in diameter.

COLONIAL POLICY.—Among the various colonies possessed by Great Britain, we know of none more pre-eminently entitled to the minute attention of the legislature than the Cape of Good Hope, whether we consider it as a commercial, geographical, or military position. Its situation, in the direct route of our navigation with the whole eastern hemisphere is particularly important; indeed our sailors and voyagers have emphatically termed it the "half-way house" to India, China, the Eastern Archipelago, Australasia, &c., as it so frequently affords them a friendly home, after traveling a trackless and stormy ocean of several thousand miles, on which they can renew their almost exhausted strength—refit their shattered vessels—replenish them with water and wholesome fresh provisions; and under the benign influences of a most genial climate, recruit the enfeebled frames of those patriots who have devoted youth, health, and strength, in extending the glory and prosperity of England on the torrid and sickly plains of Hindostan, by her aid, to our distant Parliament to consider the importance of the Cape Colony to the mother country; that the colonists are Englishmen and British subjects; that, to the number of 20,000, they are annually taxed without their consent to the extent of £120,000; that they are obliged to support several sermons of the aristocracy, among whom is a governor, at a salary greater than the President of the United States, who guides the destinies of 12,000,000 of people; that the whole expense of the civil administration of the settlement is fixed by his Majesty, but paid by the colonists, without their possessing any control in the matter; that, by the narrow, miserable colonial trade, which is the only outlet, they are prevented trading with other nations on a fair footing; and, above all, that the state which refuses a just protection to its offspring or dependant, forfeits all claim to the allegiance of the latter, and resistance becomes as positive a duty, as, by an opposite course of policy, loyalty would be.—*Alexander's East India Magazine.*

DEPLACEDLY SUPPHE OF JOHN CALVERT, ESQ., M. P. Late Paymaster-General in the Forces. On Monday night, at 8 o'clock, Mr. H. Gale and a highly respectable Jury assembled at the dwelling house of John Calvert, Esq., M. P. to investigate the cause of the death of that gentleman, who put a period to his existence under the circumstances detailed in the following evidence. The lamentable event occurred in the family of the deceased in the utmost despair and agitation, and the Jury, at the suggestion of the Coroner, viewed the body two to a time.

George Renison being sworn, stated as follows.—I am footman to the deceased. Had been in his employ nine years. The deceased had been three months in the house, No. 17 Whitehall-place. On Sunday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, I was in the kitchen, when Miss Arabella Calvert, the daughter of the deceased, came home from church, and went, as I thought, to the drawing room, but not finding the deceased there, she called me, and asked "Where is my father?" I replied, "I suppose he is in his bedroom." She then inquired "how long it was since I had seen him?" I replied, "Three quarters of an hour." She then proceeded to his bedroom door on the same landing-place, and knocked, but it was fast, and she received no answer. She then proceeded to his dressing room, which adjoins his bedroom, in a complete pool of blood, and we removed some things which were placed near the bedroom door, which enabled us to enter it. On going into the room Miss Calvert shrieked out "George, George," and we advanced about two paces into the room. I then saw the deceased lying on the floor, with his face downwards, in a complete pool of blood. Miss Calvert, in the greatest agony, threw herself on the body of the deceased, crying out, "Father, Father," five or six times. She directed me to run with all possible despatch, and fetch somebody. I went instantly, leaving her kneeling by her father. In the course of a few minutes, Mr. Freeman, a medical gentleman, arrived; but prior to his arrival I had returned and got into the house, having taken the precaution not to shut the doors. I went instantly into the bedroom of the deceased, and found Miss Calvert still kneeling over the remains of the deceased, screaming and crying. She requested me to lift the body on to the bed, which I was unable to do. As soon as Mr. Freeman arrived, he proceeded up stairs to the deceased's bedroom. Miss Calvert was still there, and it was with extreme difficulty that Mr. Freeman prevailed upon her to retire. Mr. Freeman then examined the body, and said, that the deceased was quite dead, and consequently he could do nothing for him. What the examination was going on, Miss Calvert again entered the apartment, and reluctantly quitted it again; as soon as she was gone out, I and Mr. Freeman lifted the body on to the bed. On lifting him up, I saw a dreadful gash in his throat, and he had a heavy razor firmly grasped in his right hand. It is my own conviction that he committed the act himself.

COUSIN.—Have you observed any difference in his behaviour lately? Witness.—I have seen a great difference within the last three or four months. He appeared less and despondent, which I remarked to my father-in-law. COUSIN.—Did the loss of his situation, as Paymaster of the Forces, appear to affect him? Witness.—I cannot say.

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CHARLES SIMONDS, St. John, October 4th, 1851.

COD OIL. 20 BARRELS of COD OIL, for sale by JAMES T. HANFORD, November 1.

LIGHT HOUSE CONTRACT. PROPOSALS will be received until the 1st day of December next, by JAMES ALANSHAW and JOHN WILSON, Esquires, the Commissioners at St. John, from persons desirous to Contract to erect TWO LIGHT HOUSES on the Machias Seal Island, agreeably to Plans and Specifications to be seen at St. Andrews, or at the subscriber's residence, the same to be completed on or before the first day of August, 1852.

Proposals will also be received as above from persons wishing to contract for TWO LANTEINS for these Light Houses, to be completed and fitted on or before the said 1st August, 1852.

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