

LONDON.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25.
THE KING'S ILLNESS IN 1804.

Mr. Whitbread rose to make a motion for the appointment of a committee, to examine the Lords' Journals respecting His Majesty's illness at different periods. After noticing the several periods of His Majesty's illness, Mr. Whitbread called the attention of the House to that to which he meant particularly to confine himself. It was on the 14th of February, 1804, that His Majesty became indisposed. On the 15th, Bulletins were issued respecting his health. On the 22d of March, the Bulletin ceased; and from that time it was taken for granted that His Majesty was well. It appeared, however, by the evidence of Dr. Heberden, lately given before the House of Lords, that His Majesty's illness had continued—that he was, in fact, in a state of mental derangement from the 14th of February till the 23d of April, when he appeared in Council; and on that day the Lord Chancellor would have made the public suppose that His Majesty was well, although he must have known the contrary. It appeared, however, that during this illness, from the 14th February to April 23d, Lord Eldon was the only Minister who had access to the King; and that this Noble Lord, during that interval, when he knew the King was incapable of performing any act of Government, did, on the 4th of March, state, in the House of Lords, that he had the King's pleasure for assenting to a legislative measure that went to alienate a considerable property belonging to the Crown. On the 9th of March he was asked in the House concerning the King's health; on this occasion he declared, in language which he seemed fond of making use of, that he took the whole of the perilous responsibility upon himself. He said, he would sooner suffer his right hand to be cut off than do any thing that was contrary to his duty: and he signed a Commission, in the King's name, for the purpose he had just stated. Now, he maintained, that the King was not of sound mind at the time; and it was important to the Public to have the matter enquired into, because Lord Eldon was now one of the Queen's Council; and because, through him, the Public might be again deceived. The Noble Lord had represented the King to be of sound mind when he knew him to have been incapable of exercising the royal functions, at the time when he was under actual restraint. With respect to the King's derangement, he should like to ask the King's physicians as to the fact, whether the King was not, in March, 1804, and from that time till the 23d of April, incapable of Public business? He would wish also to ask Lord Eldon whether he had not a controul over the King's person; and whether he did not keep the keys of the King's escueroire? Besides, he should be able to prove, if an inquiry was set on foot, that the physicians had a controul over the King from that time until June following. Mr. Whitbread concluded a speech of some length by moving, "That a Committee be appointed to search the Lords' Journals for information relative to any proceedings respecting his Majesty's indisposition, and to report the same to the House."

Lord Castlereagh said, that the Hon. Gentleman was very much mistaken if he supposed he could prove all the circumstances he had stated; several of these circumstances he (Lord C.) could contradict on his own knowledge, particularly the assertion that Lord Eldon was the only minister who had access to His Majesty, between the 12th of February and the 23d of April, 1804. He could prove also, that not only was His Majesty competent to do those acts which he had done, but Ministers would have been constitutionally answerable for neglect of their duty to the Public, if these acts had not been done. The question for the House to consider was, whether the case, as stated by the Honorable Gentleman, amounted to *prima facie* evidence against the administration of that day or not. The charge was founded on the evidence of Dr. Heberden, therefore to that he would more particularly direct their attention. Dr. Heberden says, he was called on to attend his Majesty on the 12th of February, 1804, and on the 23d of April afterwards, his Majesty held a Council; whereas, he had said a few days previous to that time, the King was not competent to do so. On the 12th of February the first bulletin was issued, and on the 27th the attention of Parliament was called to the subject; the question had been, whether they should go to Parliament on the subject of his Majesty's illness, or whether there was any thing in the state of the disorder, and of the country, which would admit of their delaying to do so. Parliament were at that time assembled; employed in important national business, and it was not probable any circumstance would occur which would immediately call for the King's attention. The Physicians, however, on being examined on the 22d of February, said, that for five days his Majesty had been improving. On the 27th of February, they were again examined, and again stated the further improvement of his Majesty; they were then asked whether, if any act of Government were then necessary to be performed, his Majesty was competent? Their answer was, that he was so; but, at the same time, declared it as their opinion, it would be better if public business would permit the delay, that his Majesty should not for the present, be perplexed with business. Upon this opinion it was that Mr. Addington stated to the House, that there was no necessary suspension of the royal functions; and on that occasion, Mr. Pitt, although not favourable to Ministers, declared his opinion, that it should be left to their prudence to apply to Parliament if necessary. On the 5th of March a Bill was passed, and on that occasion Lord Eldon stated to Parliament that he had had access to the King on the 4th, and on that day his Majesty had declared his pleasure that the Bill should pass. On the morning of the 5th an examination of the Physicians had taken place,

and they all declared his Majesty competent to do the act about to be required of him. No other public act was done till the 9th of March, when several other Bills were passed, amongst which was the Mutiny Bill, which would have expired next day. On the 9th of April the Physicians were again examined, and unanimously declared his Majesty fully competent. Thus he had laid all the circumstances of the case before the House.—He submitted, that, in acting as they had done, Ministers had only done their duty: in not acting as they had done, they would have been criminal.

After Mr. Yorke and Sir Francis Burdett had spoken, Mr. Whitbread replied. The House then divided—For the motion 81; Against it 198.—The other orders of the day were then gone through, and the House adjourned.

CORPORAL CURTIS'S COURT MARTIAL.

Mr. Wardle rose to call the attention of the House to the proceedings of the Military and General Courts Martial, held on Corporal Curtis. In 1808, Curtis had been induced for a large bounty to enter as a substitute into the Oxford Militia; and in 1810, he was a Corporal in that regiment. On the 23d of June last, conceiving he had reason, he made some complaints of abuses existing in the regiment, and in particular he complained that three pair of shoes each man, which had been ordered for the regiment, were kept back by those whose duty it was to furnish them; and also that the regiment having been put under stoppages for five months, namely, from November to March, for the purpose of purchasing the men breeches; and, although at the time he made his complaint eight months had elapsed, yet no breeches had been delivered to the men: and, upon application, after the stoppages had been made, he was told the breeches were not yet wanted. If such were the case, said Colonel W. these stoppages were made in direct violation of the 106th clause of the Mutiny Act. When Corporal Curtis complained, he was threatened with being tried for mutiny, and was ultimately tried by a Court Martial. The Hon. Member then proceeded to read the charges upon which Curtis was brought to a Court Martial, amongst which were want of respect to his Commanding Officer, and the having uttered mutinous expressions. He was found guilty, and sentenced to receive 1000 lashes, 200 of which he received, when, unable to support more of the punishment, to avoid it, he volunteered to rot in the West-Indies. These were the leading circumstances of the case; and he trusted were such as would induce the House to agree to the motion he had to propose, namely, "That a Committee be appointed to enquire into the facts of the case of Robert Curtis, late a corporal in the Oxfordshire Militia."

Col. Langton expressed his readiness to meet any charge that might be brought against him as Colonel of the Oxford Militia, relating to Curtis; convinced as he was, that such inquiry would tend to the honour and credit of those concerned in it. Thus much he would say, that had not Curtis been brought to a Court Martial, many men of the regiment would eventually have suffered from the insubordination which he had introduced among them.

Mr. M. Sutton said, the Hon. Gentleman who made the motion was incorrect in several statements. [Here the Hon. Member enumerated those particular points which were not correct.] He concluded by saying, that there was never any proceeding which tended more to spread disobedience through the army, and endanger the security of the country, than such a motion as the Hon. Member now brought forward.

Sir F. Burdett said, the only evidence to refute the statements of his Hon. Friend was the bare assertion of the Right Hon. and Learned Gentleman who spoke last. One Member had asserted one thing, another another; the only case, then, the House had to pursue, in such contrariety of statements, was, to grant all that was asked for—a Committee of Inquiry.

Mr. Perceval was clearly of opinion, that questions of this kind should never be discussed in the House unless there was no other mode or course of redress. But the Hon. Gentleman would not apply to the proper source of redress. He would not inform Sir D. Dundas what were the circumstances he had to state. And had he made all those communications, there was not a man in the kingdom who would more readily have attended to them. Here Mr. P. read the correspondence which took place between Mr. Wardle and Sir David; from which it appeared that the latter would not suspend the execution of the sentence until Mr. Wardle had explained to him his reasons for wishing that to be done. In one of his letters Mr. Wardle told the Commander in Chief, after refusing to state the grounds of his application to him, that as a Member of that Assembly which annually voted the pay of the Army, he had a right to watch over the interests of all soldiers in the service; and that he would consequently bring forward a motion about Corporal Curtis, in order to shew the violence and injustice with which he had been treated. Now he would ask, whether there could be a more abominable system of Government in any country than this must be, if any single Member could constitute himself into a walking Committee, and assume that all the privileges of the House of Commons were vested in himself?—Sir David Dundas, not at all angry at the manner in which the Hon. Gentleman had addressed him, wrote again, and said, that the request could not be complied with, as the grounds for which it was made had not been stated; observing, that no individual, whatever his rank or station might be, could demand such an unexplained interference.

Mr. Wardle spoke a few words in reply. The House then divided—For the motion one, namely, Colonel Gore Langton—together with the two Tellers, Mr. Wardle and Sir Francis Burdett.—Against the motion 91.

BY THE HONORABLE
MARTIN HUNTER, Esquire,
PRESIDENT of His MAJESTY'S Council and
(L. S.) Commander in Chief of the Province of NEW-BRUNSWICK, &c. &c. &c.

MARTIN HUNTER,
A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this Province stands prorogued to the first TUESDAY in MARCH instant; I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of His MAJESTY'S Council, further to prorogue the said General Assembly, and the same is hereby prorogued to the first TUESDAY in JUNE next ensuing.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal at Fredericton, the first day of March, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eleven, and in the fifty first Year of His Majesty's Reign.

By the PRESIDENT'S Command,
JON. ODELL.

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MARTIN HUNTER, Esquire,
PRESIDENT of His MAJESTY'S Council and
(L. S.) Commander in Chief of the Province of NEW-BRUNSWICK, &c. &c. &c.

MARTIN HUNTER,
A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS by an Act of Parliament passed in the forty-eighth year of His present MAJESTY'S Reign, power is given to the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander in Chief, with the advice and consent of His MAJESTY'S Council, to allow the importation of certain enumerated articles from the United States of America into this Province, for the purpose of re-exporting the same.

I have therefore thought fit, with the advice and consent of His MAJESTY'S Council, to publish this Proclamation, hereby authorising and empowering British Subjects, for the space of Six Months from the date hereof, to import and bring into this Province, from the United States of America, in British built ships or vessels, owned and navigated according to Law: Scantling, Planks, Staves, Heading, Boards, Shingles, Hoops, or Squared Timber of any sort; Horses, Neat-Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry, or Live Stock of any sort; Bread, Biscuit, Flour, Pease, Beans, Potatoes, Wheat, Rice, Oats, Barley or Grain of any sort; and British Subjects, during the same period, are hereby authorised and empowered to export in British ships, owned and navigated as aforesaid, all or any of the said herein before enumerated articles to any other of His Majesty's Colonies or Plantations.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal at Fredericton, the twenty-sixth day of January, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eleven, and in the Fifty-first Year of His Majesty's Reign.

By the PRESIDENT'S Command,
JON. ODELL.

To be Let, Leased or Sold,
THE WATER LOT, adjoining the one occupied at present by Timothy Parker, in Prince William Street, 25 feet front and rear by about 200 (Grant being to low Water mark)—Terms moderate—Apply to WILLIAM DONALD. 24th September, 1810.

CAUTION.
THIS is to Caution all manner of persons whatever, from trespassing on the Four Lots belonging to the Subscriber, situated in the Township of Sheffield, adjoining the Lands of Bradford Gilbert, Esqr. and James Tilley; from cutting, destroying or carrying off any Timber from the said Four Lots, or in any manner whatever trespassing upon them:—He calls upon his neighbors of Sheffield, whose integrity, from a long experience, he has the greatest confidence in, to expose any person or persons committing depredations thereon; which information will be gratefully acknowledged and rewarded, as he is determined to fence and improve his Lands agreeable to Law:—And if any person should molest the Tenants on said Lots, by throwing down the fence, or otherwise trespassing, they may depend on suffering the penalty of all damages.
8th Feb. 1811. HUMPHREY GILBERT.

ALL Persons having any legal demands against the Estate of the late EBENEZER WHITNEY, Senr. of Miramichi, in the County of Northumberland, deceased, are hereby required to render their accounts duly attested within Twelve Months from the date hereof; and those indebted thereto, are requested to make immediate payment to
RICHARD SIMONDS, } Administrators.
ANTHONY ROGERS, }
MIRAMACHI, 27th August, 1810.

ALL Persons having any Demands on the Estate of SAMUEL HART, Esqr. late of Halifax, deceased, are requested to present them duly attested to the Subscriber, within Eighteen Calendar Months from this date, for adjustment; and all persons indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to
REBECCA HART, Sole Executrix.
Halifax, October 15, 1810.

ALL Persons having any legal Demands against the Estate of the late JONATHAN MOREHOUSE, Merchant of this Town, deceased, are requested to send in their accounts duly attested to the Subscribers, within Eighteen Calendar Months from the date hereof; and all persons indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to
WILLIAM MOREHOUSE, } Executors.
ICHAOD CORBITT, }
Annapolis, 7th May, 1810.