

service in a menial capacity; and attributing to her Majesty a continued series of conduct highly unbecoming her Majesty's rank and station, and of the most licentious character.

"These charges appear to the Committee so deeply to affect not only the honour of the Queen, but also the dignity of the Crown, and the moral feelings and honour of the country, that, in their opinion it is indissoluble that they should become the subject of a solemn inquiry, which it appears to the Committee may be the best effected in the course of a Legislative proceeding, the necessity of which they cannot but most deeply deplore."

The Earl of Liverpool rose and said, in consequence of the Report their Lordships had just heard read, he now rose to give notice, that he would to-morrow introduce a Bill referring to the subject matter of Report. He should therefore move that the Lords be summoned. He need scarcely add, that throughout the entire proceeding, he should, in every instance, consult the convenience of the illustrious individual accused, as far as the means and opportunity of her defence were concerned. He should enter more into the details of the question to-morrow, when he also should submit the Bill to their Lordships.

Earl Grey said he would have abstained from saying a word on this important question at the present time, but his wish for the strictest justice compelled him to make a few observations. He must repeat his former objection against the injustice of the mode of bringing the charge against the illustrious personage who was implicated. The evidence had been long known to his Majesty's Ministers, and why had they not brought forward the charge on their own responsibility, instead of doing it by a proceeding of that House, a Secret Committee? And what was the substance of the Report? That her Majesty stood charged with adultery of a most odious nature with a menial servant, and that it was of long standing. If it were so, it was a case that made all compromise impossible, for in fact an attempt at compromise would be the greatest indignity that could be offered to the Crown. Their Lordships would bear in mind, that although this was the report of the Secret Committee,—That, that Committee consisted of a great part of his Majesty's Ministers, who had slept for a year, having such evidence before them; and even now that the Committee had made their Report, their Lordships would have to suspend their opinion of the guilt or innocence of the Royal Personage for three months longer, and that in the present agitated state of the country; for he had no hesitation in telling the Advisers of the Crown, that they must give her Majesty time to enter upon her defence, that they must inform her of the charges against her, and of the evidence they have to support them; for the description of the crime proclaimed to the world by the opinion of the Committee, was not sufficient: For how could her Majesty enter into her defence, without knowing who was the menial servant alluded to in the Report, or who are the witnesses?

When the Noble Lord (Liverpool) presented his Bill to-morrow, and entered into a detail of his views on the subject, he (Earl Grey) trusted that he would assure their Lordships, that her Majesty should be put in possession of the charges against her, and the witnesses who were to support them. He begged their Lordship's pardon for intruding on them so long; he certainly had said more than he intended on rising; but he could not conclude without protesting once more against the manner of proceeding, which his Majesty's Ministers had adopted.

The Earl of Harrowby said he rose with as deep a feeling of the importance of the case as the Noble Earl (Grey) did; and with a determination to prevent his mind from being turned to the right or to the left, but to look at it when it came before the House in another shape, as if the Committee of their Lordships had never made a Report. If there were gross injustice in the proceedings, he could only say that their Lordships were accomplices in it.—(Hear, hear.) If there was ever a proper proceeding in such a case, the one adopted by their Lordships was that one. Was it because grounds of accusation had been found against the illustrious Personage in the Committee—was that a reason that their Lordships should be incapacitated from sitting judiciously, and examining into the merits of the Report? Much had been said by the Noble Earl re-

lative to his Majesty's Advisers being in possession of the evidence, and not instituting some measure. He would ask, would their Lordships have allowed any individual, however high his office, to open his mouth to make a charge against the Queen Consort, without it was such a direct charge that would be considered the highest crime against the State? They ought not then to be accused of not having voluntarily instituted some proceedings, particularly when the Noble Earl told them, that after the opinion pronounced by the Committee, if any measure was proceeded in, it would endanger the safety of the Country. Then, according to this argument, there was no instance, let the cause be ever so great, that the question ought to be agitated.

The Earl of Carnarvon said, that the Report laid on the table, bore no resemblance to the proceedings before a grand Jury, for they had the whole body of evidence before them, when the Committee had only the charge and not the proof; (Hear.) and by such a Report were they to be driven into the most awful and powerful Enquiry that ever came before Parliament; and against which, the whole country had set its face: and their Lordships were also called to shorten the Session for the purpose, and leave the important public business undone? Was there no blame to attach to her Majesty's Accusers, for having left her name out of the Liturgy, which put an end to all accommodation? He would ask, was it wise that the ceremony of the coronation should be carried on while the Enquiry was pending? Was it not holding out to the world, that her Majesty would not have the benefit of a fair trial, by treating her as guilty before she was tried? Was this proper to be held out by the Advisers of the Crown to the public? There was not one of their Lordships could say that the Sovereign did not owe the greatest gratitude to the constitution and the people. He would ask then, what would be the indignity to the Sovereign in advising the postponement of the Coronation for the present, or until the painful Enquiry was over? Was it not advisable, that on the day when the Sovereign and the People took reciprocal oaths, there should be no disunion of feelings? It was a question full of danger to the welfare and harmony of the country, and would call down upon the Advisers of the Crown, the execrations of the people.

After some other general observations, the House adjourned.

JULY 5.

Lord Dacre presented the following Petition from the Queen:

To the House of Lords—The Petition of CAROLINE REGINA:

"The QUEEN observing the most extraordinary Report made in the House of Lords by the Secret Committee, and now lying on the Table, represents to the House, that she is prepared, at this moment, to defend herself against it, as far as she can understand its import. The Queen also states, that there are various matters touching the same, which it is absolutely necessary, with a view to her future defence, to have stated in the present state of the proceeding. The Queen therefore prays that she may be heard by her Counsel touching such matters.

On the Question that the Petition be brought up, Lord Liverpool stated that after he had obtained leave to bring in THE BILL, he should move, That a copy be presented to the Queen—and then the Petition might be regularly taken into consideration. The Petition was strongly supported by Lord Grey, and other Noblemen on the side of the Opposition; but the motion of Lord Dacre, That Counsel be heard, was negatived without a division.

The Earl of Liverpool then rose to bring in the Bill; the preamble of which would, he said, speak for itself, and the allegations of which would be proved at the Bar. Such a Bill was the only proceeding fairly left open to Parliament. After stating that there was no precedent for Two Hundred years, his Lordship handed the Bill to the Clerk; which was read, as follows:—

"WHEREAS, in the year 1814, Her Majesty, CAROLINE AMELIA ELIZABETH, then Princess of Wales, and now Queen Consort of this Realm, being at Milan, in Italy, engaged in her service, in a menial situation, one Bartolomeo Pergami, otherwise Bartolomeo Bergami, a foreigner, of low station, who had before served in a similar capacity:

"And WHEREAS, after the said Bartolomeo Pergami otherwise Bartolomeo Bergami, had so entered the service of her Royal Highness the said Princess of Wales, a most unbecoming and disgusting intimacy commenced between her Royal Highness and the said Bartolomeo Pergami, otherwise Bartolomeo Bergami:

"And whereas, her said Royal Highness, whilst the said Bartolomeo Pergami, otherwise Bartolomeo Bergami, was in her said service—farther unmindful of her exalted rank and station, and of her duty to your Majesty, and wholly regardless of her own honour and character, conducted herself towards the said Bartolomeo Pergami, otherwise Bergami, and in other respects both public and private, in the various places and countries which her Royal Highness visited, with indecent and offensive familiarity and freedom, and carried on a licentious, disgraceful and adulterous intercourse with the said Bartolomeo Pergami, otherwise Bartolomeo Bergami, which continued for a long period of time, during her Royal Highness's residence abroad, by which conduct of her said Royal Highness, great scandal and dishonour have been brought upon your Majesty's Family and Kingdom: THEREFORE, to manifest our deep sense of such scandalous, disgraceful and vicious conduct, on the part of her said Majesty, by which she has violated the duty she owed to your Majesty, and has rendered herself unworthy of the exalted rank and station of Queen Consort of this Realm; and, to evince our just regard for the dignity of the Crown, and the honor of the Nation, We, your Majesty's most dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons, in Parliament assembled, do hereby intreat your Majesty, that it may be Enacted, and be it Enacted, by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, that her said Majesty CAROLINE AMELIA ELIZABETH, from and after the passing of this Act shall be, and is hereby deprived of the Title of QUEEN, and of all the Prerogatives, Rights, Privileges, and Exemptions, appertaining to her as Queen Consort of this Realm; and that her said Majesty shall, from and after the passing of this Act, forever be disabled and rendered incapable of using, exercising and enjoying the same, or any of them; and MOREOVER, that the Marriage between his Majesty and the said Caroline Amelia Elizabeth be, and the same is hereby from henceforth and forever, wholly Dissolved, Annulled and made Void, to all intents, constructions and purposes whatever."

The Earl of Liverpool moved, That the Bill should be printed, and copies of it delivered to the Queen.

Earl Grey wished to know if any other sort of communications were to be made to the Queen? He put it to the noble Lord, whether the same information ought not to accompany the Bill, to point out to her Majesty the particular occasions and circumstances which were alluded to. He wished to know, also, if a list of witnesses was to be given to her Legal Advisers?

The Earl of Liverpool thought that it would be time enough in the second reading to discuss the matters referred to.

JULY 6.

Lord Dacre presented a Petition from the Queen, in which her Majesty declares that she has heard with inexpressible astonishment, that a bill conveying charges, and intending to degrade her, and dissolve her marriage with the King, has been brought by the first Minister into the House of Lords, where her Majesty has no Counsel to assert her rights. Under such circumstances the Queen doubts whether any course is left, to protest in the most solemn manner against the whole of the proceedings; but anxious to make one more effort to obtain justice, she desires that her Counsel may be admitted to state her claims at the bar of the House of Lords. His Lordship then moved that her Majesty's Counsel be called in.

After a short conversation, it was agreed, that Counsel should be called in, and directed to state what points they wished to address the House upon, and then withdraw.

Mr. Brougham, on being admitted to the Bar of the House, stated that her Majesty wished to be heard with respect to the mode of proceeding as well as other circumstances.

After some discussion upon these points

the learned Counsel were again called up to the Bar.

Mr. Brougham stated that, in point of time, it was of the greatest importance to her Majesty, to have proceedings so long hanging over her head, decided, as quickly as possible. Her Majesty was ready to proceed at once against the Report of any Secret Committee. Had his illustrious client never risen higher than the lowest of the King's subjects, she should have been tried by twelve honest, impartial, upright Englishmen; but her very exalted station deprived her of all those fair and legal advantages. The charges against her Majesty were false, foul, and malignant; and he felt confident the House could never make itself a party to such a cause.

Mr. Denman spoke to the same effect. The Lord Chancellor remarked, that the House had already determined upon its course of proceeding. It used to be just, and it laid down the rule in the present case, that the Counsel should not be unjust.

Lord Liverpool said, that instead of postponing the proceeding for 24 hours, he would have no objection to its coming on to-morrow morning; but in his opinion some delay was better than precipitancy. He should on Monday next propose a second reading of the Bill; whether that should be in a fortnight, or at a later period, he would not now undertake to say; but, if delay was necessary he would state on Monday why it was so. He therefore moved that their Lordships should be summoned for that day, (July 10.)

Lord Grey moved that their Lordships be summoned for To-morrow, (Friday, 7th); Lord Darnley supported the motion; which was lost on a division. The original motion was then carried, and the House adjourned.

Sixteenth Anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

(Continued.)

The Earl of Harrowby, (on moving thanks to the President.)

"Gentlemen, if the motion which has been put into my hands had required to be supported by any arguments or any exertions of mine, I should certainly have declined the task of proposing it to you: but I have the satisfaction of thinking that it is a motion on which it is impossible that there can exist the slightest difference of opinion, and in which not only every person who hears me must be inclined to join with the utmost cordiality of heart, but, if my voice could be heard in every part of Britain, in every part of Europe, in every part of the world, it would be received with equal cordiality and concurrence. I feel, however, some discouragement in addressing you on this occasion; for, while I am aware of what is due to the person to whom we should return thanks, I feel on the other hand what is due to his feelings to whom it is my office to move such an acknowledgement: for did we not know before, (which certainly all of us did,) we should learn, from the Report we have just heard, to what an extent that name has gone—an extent to which probably the name of the proudest conqueror never reached; but with this distinction, (a distinction which must be felt by every heart,) that, unlike the name of these conquerors, wherever the name of your President has been known, it must have been blessed. Accustomed, as I have been, to scenes of argument, where every observation that is made calls up an opponent with an argument of an opposite tendency, I feel little equal to such a Meeting as this: but it is with a feeling of the most gratifying nature, that I find there is one subject on which all may concur; that there is one point on which we may all assemble, and unite with heart and hand, and that a point not chosen for the purpose of fixing a lever to subvert or destroy the world, but a point on which the centre of the gravity of that world must rest: a point round which all its discordant elements may range themselves in harmony and peace. Having said so much, I will only add my wishes and my prayers, that others, better able to do justice to such a subject than myself, may have many, many opportunities of returning thanks to your President on similar occasions."

LORD ASHTOWN.

"I have the honour of seconding the motion proposed by the noble Earl; and it gives me sincere pleasure to second a motion of Thanks to the noble Chairman for his