

THE PAST.

BY PROFESSOR WILSON.

How wild and dim this life appears!
 One long, deep, heavy sigh,
 When o'er our eyes, half closed in tears,
 The images of former years
 Are faintly glittering by!
 And still forgotten while they go;
 As, on the sea-beach, wave on wave
 Dissolves at once in snow,
 The amber clouds one moment lie,
 Then, like a dream, are gone!
 Though beautiful the moon-beams play
 In the lake's bosom, bright as they,
 And the soul intensely loves their stay,
 Soon as the radiance melts away,
 We scarce believe it shone!
 Heaven-airs amid the harp-strings dwell;
 And we wish they ne'er may fade—
 They cease,—and the soul is a silent cell,
 Where music never play'd!
 Dream follows dream, through the long night-
 hours,
 Each lovelier than the last;
 Eut, ere the breath of morning-flowers,
 That gorgeous world flies past,
 And many a sweet angelic cheek,
 Whose smiles of love and fondness speak,
 Glides by us on this earth;
 While in a day we cannot tell
 Where shone the face we loved so well,
 In sadness, or in mirth!

NARRATIVE OF MR. BUCKINGHAM'S TOUR IN AMERICA.

(Continued.)

From Philadelphia I proceeded to Baltimore, and there also a very crowded assembly greeted my arrival, at a great Temperance meeting held in the Methodist Church; at which most of the leading families of this beautiful and hospitable city were present, and where several of the clergy of different denominations, rendered the aid of their valuable services to the cause. The next scene of my labours was the city of Washington, the legislative capital of the Union, where the Congress of the United States was then in session. To the President, as well as to the members of both Houses, the Senators and Representatives, my labours in the British Parliament were not unknown. Many of them had read, and all had heard of, the investigations of the Committee appointed by the House of Commons in 1834, to enquire into the extent and causes of intemperance in England; and some had carefully perused the evidence and report, which, as Chairman of that Committee, I had drawn up and laid before the House. But instead of having to encounter the difficulties by which I was surrounded and opposed, when bringing this question before the Parliament of my own country, I received here, every assistance that I could desire. The spacious and beautiful Hall of the House of Representatives, was freely granted to us for the purpose of a Temperance meeting; and from the Speaker's chair, I had the honour to deliver an address on this occasion. It was listened to for about two hours with the most profound attention, by a large assemblage of the members of both Houses of Congress; several of whom moved and spoke in favour of resolutions connected with the cause; and a great accession of members was made to the Temperance ranks. At present, there exists at Washington a Congressional Temperance Society, formed wholly of members of Congress: the sale of intoxicating drinks is prohibited by law within the precincts of the Capitol; and a growing feeling in favour of legislative measures, to co-operate with moral means, for the promotion of the Temperance Reform, is manifested by the rulers of the nation.

A fatal duel having occurred between two members of the Congress, during our stay at Washington, I availed myself of the occasion of the public funeral of the unhappy victim of this barbarous practice, to address to both Houses in session, some observations on the importance and necessity of abolishing this relic of feudal times; and submitted to them the provisions of a bill for this purpose, of which I had given notice while a member of the House of Commons, and twice ineffectually attempted to introduce into the British Parliament; but was more successful here, as before we left Washington, a Bill was prepared and ultimately carried through Congress, for the suppression of duelling among its members, under penalties and disabilities, which have been found sufficiently powerful to prevent the recurrence of any hostile conflict between any of the members ever since.

From Washington after a stay of several weeks, I retraced my steps through Baltimore and Philadelphia, to New York, delivering my lectures and attending several public meetings, for philanthropic purposes, in each; visiting, at the same time, the asylums, hospitals, jails, and penitentiaries, and collecting information on all the various subjects of interest that presented themselves continually to my mind. From hence, we ascended the romantic and beautiful Hudson, or North River, passed a few days on the summit of the Catskill mountains; remained some weeks at Albany, the capitol of the State of New York; enjoyed the hospitalities of the great Apostle of Temperance in America, Mr. Delavan, whose advice and co-operation I had always the pleasure to find freely and cheerfully given, in every benevolent work; and after mingling for a short period in the gay and varied throng that assemble from every part of the Union, to enjoy the pleasures of Saratoga Springs, we made a visit to the towns of Utica, Syracuse, Auburn, Geneva, Canandaigua, Rochester, and Buffalo, delivering lectures and attending public meetings in each; and then reposed for a short period, amidst the wonders, beauties, and sublimities of the splendid and glorious Falls of Niagara.

From thence we returned across the country, from the borders of Lakes Erie and Ontario, to those of Lakes George and Champlain, by which we entered the State of Vermont; and after traversing its green hills, and visiting the White Mountains in New Hampshire, we proceeded by Concord, the River Merrimack, and the great manufacturing town of Lowell, the Manchester of America, to Boston.

In this noble city, the early abode of some of the pilgrim fathers, the cradle of American liberty, and the Athens of the west, we passed several months, and those full of interest and pleasure. My lectures were delivered here, in four successive courses, morning and evening, to crowded and brilliant audiences; and here, as in all the other cities we had yet visited, every source of information as to the public interest was freely opened, without reserve, and of this advantage I availed myself fully. Among the public meetings that I had the pleasure to attend, in Boston, were two splendid assemblages, called together for the purpose of forming and supporting establishments for seamen, to protect them from the intemperance, dissipation, and consequent want and destitution into which they are drawn, by the arts of those who beset them on their landings, lure them to the brothel and the tavern, and there plunge them in a few days of all the hard-earned wages of months and sometimes years. These meetings were among the most effective of any that I remember to have addressed, both in the feeling created on behalf of the object proposed, and the large a-

mount of funds raised to sustain "Sailors' Homes," for which this aid was required.

The interesting cities of Salem, New Bedford, and Providence, were next visited in succession; and in each, lectures were delivered and public meetings held, to promote the great objects of my tour: those at New Bedford, on behalf of the seamen of the port, ending in the adoption of a plan to raise a fund of several thousand dollars, by a small tax of a penny per ton on all the shipping belonging to the port, which was readily acquiesced in by the ship owners, to be devoted to the building and support of a Sailors' Home; and the meetings at Providence, leading to an animated and protracted discussion, before the most crowded assemblies, on the great question of how far it was proper to call in the aid of legislation, to restrain men from the indulgence of intemperance and the commission of crime,—a triumphant majority being obtained in favour of such legislation, on the just and humane principle, that "Prevention is better than cure."

Our next visit, was to the ancient and interesting city of Plymouth, founded more than two centuries ago by the pilgrim fathers, who sought an asylum of religious freedom in the new world, from the intolerance and persecution of the old. We attended here the whole of the festivities observed on the occasion of the anniversary of the landing of pilgrims, December 22; and here also I was invited to deliver a Temperance address, which was given in one of the churches, and attended by large numbers. My lectures were given in the Pilgrim Hall; and this ancient seat of the learning and piety of the first founders of the British colonies on the American continent, could boast during my stay in it, that it did not contain a single dram-shop, or place where ardent spirits are sold: that it had not a dwelling destroyed by fire for nearly a century past; that it had no poor to sustain, and not a single occupant in its jail, which had been empty for many months, and was soon about to be let for some other purpose.

This concluded my first year's labour in America, which was confined to the Atlantic and New England States. In the second year, a new sphere of observation and occupation, was opened to us in the South. We made our voyage from New York to Charleston in South Carolina by sea, in January, 1838; and the reception I met with here, was even still more enthusiastic than in the cities of the North. My lectures on Egypt and Palestine were attended by the largest audiences that had ever been known to be assembled in that city—literary and intellectual as it is, in a very high degree—since its first settlement; larger indeed than one of the largest of its many spacious churches would comfortably contain. I had expected that my known opinions on the subject of slavery, and the part I had taken in the British House of Commons, on the question of Emancipation in the West Indies, would have made many persons cold towards me here. But I found this stain on my character—as some would consider it in the South—almost and if not entirely wiped away, by the share I had taken in opposing the East India monopoly, denouncing impressment, and advocating the abolition of tariffs and protecting duties, so as to give Commerce its free scope, unfettered by any legislative hindrance or restraints. The motto of "Free Trade, and Sailors' Rights" is a popular one throughout the Union, but especially so in the South: and the share I had taken in advocating both, was by many deemed a full equivalent for the heresy, as they deemed it, of my advocating also Slave Emancipation. I found myself, therefore, far more at ease publicly in this great southern city than I had expected, while the private hospitalities of the first families were cordially tendered to us, and our stay was rendered as agreeable as those by whom we were surrounded could make it.

On the subject of Temperance, I had the pleasure to attend a large and interesting meeting at Charleston, when some of the leading merchants, magistrates, clergy, and legal and medical men of the city assisted; and where, after an Address delivered by me, funds were raised for the establishment of a New Temperance Journal, to be published at Columbia, the capital of the State; which was soon put into operation, and has since increased in circulation and usefulness. There, too, the subject of "Sailors' Homes" engaged our attention; and at a public meeting held at the close of my lectures, to consider the best means of advancing this object, a plan was proposed, of raising the requisite funds, partly by immediate donations partly by annual subscriptions, and chiefly by the voluntary imposition of a light tax or duty, of one cent. per barrel on all the rice shipped, and two cents. per bale on all the cotton exported,—these being the staple articles of the port; and when I urged the example of New Bedford, a much smaller town, in fixing an impost on the tonnage of its shipping, to accomplish the same object, it was readily assented to, and the opulent liberal members of Charleston were determined not to be behind their more economical brethren, as they consider them, in the North.

Savannah followed next, in the order of the cities visited; and being within a day's sail of Charleston, the fire of enthusiasm kindled here, had warmed, by its influence, the kindred spirit of the Sister-City before we reached it. My lectures here were crowded to excess. The hospitalities of its elegant and polished society were of almost daily recurrence; and the flattering and friendly attentions we received, were such as to make our stay there, agreeable in the extreme. Here, too, the cause of Temperance, and the formation of Sailors' Homes were not forgotten. Two meetings were held on these subjects in the Church of the Presbyterians, one of the largest and handsomest in the United States; and at these, such a spirit was awakened, as induced the liberal merchants and ship-owners of Savannah to determine to follow the example of Charleston, and go beyond it, if necessary, in the promotion of both these kindred objects.

Augusta, Macon, Columbus, and Montgomery, were next visited, in a land journey of several hundred miles across the States of Georgia and Alabama to Mobile; in each of which, lectures were delivered; and in the latter—then happy and flourishing, but since afflicted and almost desolate city, scourged by pestilence and fires in continual succession—all the hospitalities and popularity of Charleston and Savannah were renewed; while in all, some effort was made, publicly and privately, to promote the Temperance cause, and in Augusta, the capital of Georgia, with great success.

(To be Continued.)

At Weymouth, aspirants for church-rate martyrdom appear by the score. On Tuesday last about twenty persons were summoned for non-payment of rates. Their objections were all overruled; and they were ordered to pay under pain of distress.

On Friday, says the Newcastle Chronicle, considerable excitement was created in Tynemouth garrison, by the Vicar of Tynemouth refusing to allow the body of John Larkin, a private in the Ninety-fifth Regiment, who had died in the early part of last week, to be interred in the Castle burial-ground. The deceased was a Roman Catholic, as most of the depot are, and during his last moments he received the consolations of the Romish priest. The corpse was consequently interred in the new cemetery. It is in contemplation by the Roman Catholics of Shields to bring the affair before the authorities.

FROM PAPERS BY THE FIRST MAY MAIL.

(From the London Spectator.)

LONDON, April 21.

Both Houses of Parliament have met after the Easter recess; and that the members of both immediately began their London business with zeal—that is, their dining and visiting—may be inferred from the fact that they could not find time for the business of the nation. The first night that the Commons assembled, Tuesday, passed off with little talk upon some third-rate business; the next night there was no House; and on the following night, when a few began their duties in earnest, the first division shows just sixty members present. A little more chaffering on some small Irish irregularities passed away a little time in the House of Lords at its first meeting, on Thursday.

The catalogue of business transacted is of course trifling. In the House of Lords it is blank. In the other House, Mr. Ewart has moved, but not for the present insisted upon, an address to the Queen for the opening of the Regent's Park to the people of London; Mr. Hume has obtained a Committee to see if the public cannot be admitted to view the national monuments in various churches; Mr. Fox Maule has edged in a word in favor of his brother Nonintrusionist Mr. Caudlish, and intimated that the Professorship which was withheld from that clerical infactor of the laws of Scotland is not definitely refused to him; Mr. Macaulay has put forth an apology for Lord Cardigan's Sunday recreation in the flogging way; Lord Charles Fitzroy has failed to obtain a committee to investigate the grave charges brought against Sir Howard Douglas, of arbitrary conduct as Governor of the Ionian Islands; Mr. Grote has failed to relieve New South Wales from maintaining prisons for the convicts of the United Kingdom, or to release its emigration-fund from being kept in pledge for the payment of the prison expenses; and Lord Morphet has given up his Irish "universal suffrage," substituting an eight pound qualification in his Registration Bill for the original ten pound qualification.

Of these subjects, Mr. Grote's motion alone gave occasion to any thing like a debate. The motion was cleverly met by Lord John Russell; who made out, that although New South Wales does pay largely for goals for English prisoners, yet in point of fact England pays so much in various ways for New South Wales, that the latter is the gainer, and is the gainer even on the special point of emigration, about which she makes such complaint of loss. If Lord John is right, the question arises, whether it would not be as well to free both the Mother country and the Colony from the burden which each bears for the other, allowing each to pay its own expenses; letting New South Wales pay for what it requires of local services, protection, and the like; and England pay for its goals. That would make clear accounts, and would remove all pretext for the grumbling which Lord John says is so groundless. But then, perhaps, some matters of patronage would be placed in too glaring a light.

Another vote of the "working majority" is in jeopardy. Whigs are not immortal; and though the appointment to the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds might be denied, the fiat of the grim tyrant cannot. Gallant General Ferguson has been gathered to his fathers, and there is a vacancy in the Whig seat for Nottingham. Nottingham is greatly agitated by the contested introduction of the New Poor-law just now; and Mr. Walter, the great Anti-Poor-law leader, seizes the occasion to offer himself as a Cabinet Minister's colleague. By favour of the dread of "the Three Kings of Somerset House," he has actually effected a coalition between the Tories and the Chartists of the town; and all the Radicalism of the Whig candidate, Mr. Larpent, is tasked to make head against the man who appeals to the popular dislike of the workhouse and water guel. The Whigs deprecate the "unholy alliance" of Tories and Chartists, but without much shaking it. Tuesday's poll will be watched with anxiety by those whose working majority is becoming so very attenuated and fragile.

The journals of the week record more public meetings in the country than have occurred in any one week lately. A few Tory Members of Parliament have gone to meet their friends and exchange speeches with local orators at "Conservative demonstrations;" but, excepting Joseph Brotherton, whose people are always very assiduous in dining, no account has yet reached us of any Liberal who has met his constituents at the political dinner-table. The proceedings at the Tory dinners, exasperated as the party may be by exclusion from office, and especially by so tantalizing an exclusion as that which the feeblest of Ministries maintains against them, have been tame and insipid to the last degree uninspired by the smallest novelty of invention or illustration to diversify worn-out invectives against Ministers or little peddling talk about local canvassings. The attempt to get up some political excitement here and there, only serves to throw a dull light upon the deadness of politics everywhere.

The sole subject that seems to possess any genuine attraction for public meetings, is the repeal of the Corn-laws—or rather an alteration of the Custom-duties, for there is a very general disposition to extend the purpose of the agitation to a reform of the whole tariff. Deputations from the League are conferring with the electors in several parts of the country; and it is observable, that Chartism seems less obtrusive and pertinacious than it has been. A meeting at Bury in Lancashire was an example of this unanimity; and indeed a working-man took a very prominent and effective part in the proceedings.

But the remarkable meeting of the week is one at Liverpool, on the special occasion of Commodore NAPIER's return to England after his achievements in the Levant. Parties threw aside their animosities for the day; even the question which gave rise to the war itself seemed forgotten, in the universal desire to welcome the bold sailor who had so dashingly borne the country's flag by flood and field. The Commodore landed amidst music, and the waving of flags, and the shouts of the assembled townsfolk, which resounded as he passed from the quay to the Town-hall, and then to his hotel, and back again to his Hall; and ever and anon he dispersed a speech to the multitude. The day seems to have passed like a continuous public meeting. A dinner in the Amphitheatre crowned the whole. The drinking of Com-

modore Napier's health drew forth a lively speech, including a sketch of his career in Syria and Egypt. He stood up stoutly for the merits of his old opponent Mehemet Ali; and the reckless hero must have staggered some of his auditors not a little, by borrowing divers economical remarks which the Pasha let fall, to have a side-bite at the Corn-laws. The occasion however, made it impossible to spoil the triumph of the day by checking the unseasonable outburst of politics. Perhaps indeed, commercial Liverpool was more pleased than otherwise by the rough sailor's libation to free trade.

The report of the Visiting Justices of the Middlesex House of Correction, which was read at a meeting of the County Magistrates, in Clerkenwell Sessions-house, on Thursday, divulged a curious circumstance. The passage in the report runs thus—

"It having been stated to the Visiting Justices, that an offer had been made by a party to a prisoner in the House of Correction to obtain his liberation for the sum of £3,000, and that the Governor, Chaplain, and the other officers of the prison were aware that such offer had been made, the Visiting Judges immediately instituted an enquiry into all the circumstances connected with the rumour; and from the examinations taken in writing of several of the prison-officers, and of the prisoner and his solicitor, it appeared manifest that such offer had been made; and the Visiting Justices then felt it to be their duty to transmit a copy of the statements to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for his information; and who has intimated his intention to take the opinion of the Law-officers of the Crown thereon."

It was stated at the meeting that the offer was made by a Magistrate of the Middlesex Bench, and that his name was well known. The Visiting Justices promised not to screen him; but the name was not mentioned.

The prisoner, who has been thus offered his release for a consideration, is said to be Francis Medhurst, who is undergoing the sentence of the law for mortally stabbing a fellow-pupil in a school at Hayes.

The girl who was discovered in disguise as a man among the male prisoners in Tothill Fields prison, bearing the name of George White, was brought by Lieutenant Tracey, the Governor of the prison, before Mr. Burrell, at Queen Square Police office, on Tuesday, charged with threatening to drown herself on being released. The term of imprisonment had expired that day. She is a young girl of about eighteen, and the police reporters say that her features are regular and her appearance is "interesting." Mr. Burrell asked her if she adhered to her determination to destroy herself? After some hesitation, she replied in a low voice, that she did. He then asked "if she had any objection to state her reason for coming to such a determination?" She declined answering.—Mr. Tracey said that he had no reason to suppose that she was insane; and she had evidently received a superior education.—Letters had been written down to Sussex, and he understood that the editors of several newspapers had received letters on the subject: he himself had one from a clergyman in Sussex. Mr. Burrell could not under the circumstances, allow the girl to be set at liberty; and so he ordered her to find sureties for her good behaviour for one month, committing her in default.

Two sailors were fined 10s. each at Union Hall Police-office, on Saturday, for jumping off the Greenwich train whilst going over Bermoudsey Bridge at full speed. The fine would have been heavier, but the sailors pleaded ignorance of railway affairs, as they had just landed from Valparaiso, and had never ridden in a car before.

An inquest was held in the Fleet Prison, on Tuesday, before Mr. Payne, on the body of Zacharia Edwards, formally a Captain in the Twelfth Lancers. According to the evidence of other prisoners, Mr. Edwards, who once was rich, had latterly been in want of common necessaries. He had sold out of the Army, and engaged in some patent bleaching speculation, which failed. His guardian and other friends, though well able to assist him, refused to do so while he was in prison. Want of food and misery of mind brought on typhus-fever, of which he died; and the Jury returned a verdict to that effect. Among the witnesses was the well-known Mr. Richard Oastler; who said that several other persons in the prison were in as miserable a plight as Mr. Edwards had been, and were dying of broken hearts.

LONDON, April 17.

The newspapers this week record two fresh instances of ecclesiastical overbearing, of a very offensive kind. In one case, Mr. Dudley Ryder, the Vicar of Easton, a village in Hampshire, refused to admit into the church the body of an old lady whom he buried, because she had let part of her house to some Dissenters and had allowed her daughter to marry a Dissenter; he would only deal out to his departed sister half the measure of religious valediction ordered for such occasions—that half which may be performed in the Churchyard. His abrupt exclusion of the dead from her church, not merely insulted but grievously afflicted her mourning children, and two of her daughters fainted at the grave desecrated by clerical insolence.—In the other case, a soldier was altogether refused burial by the Vicar of a church at Tynemouth, because he was a Roman Catholic.

The time for these exhibitions is, to say the least, ill-chosen. A general irritation about church-rates makes it peculiarly expedient for the Church to preserve a good aspect in the eyes of the people. But, as if to render the affair, in the first case, as damaging as possible, Archdeacon Wilberforce—a member of the Chapter of York, lately pronounced from the judgement-seat to be in a state of disorder and disorganization, while his chief has been convicted and degraded for simoniacal practices—sanctioned by his silent presence the quibbling and impertinent explanation which Mr. Ryder gave of his conduct to the injured friends. Is there no way of stopping these derogatory exposures in the church? cannot a better discipline and a more politic demeanour be enforced against its less discreet and decorous members? They bring a discredit upon the Establishment which it can ill afford to present, and risk the welfare of those of their less obtrusive brethren who better observe the spirit of their law.—Spectator.

The expense of the mere preparation for war, coupled with judicious moderation on the part of the present Government, appears

to have been made a change in the feeling. The fit of Military ardour in Thiers says that France is always under the influence of some passion, which dies only to give place to another. After the revolution of 1830, it was a passion for politics; then came a passion for public works; and now that the neglected military passion of the Empire is revived, all the paraphernalia for its gratification have to be repurchased or repaired, at immense cost. This damps the ardour of the passion military; and even M. Thiers, who was once willing to play the part of pander to the passion which he so critically describes, begins to count the expense. He left the ministry with vast schemes on foot, with entangled and difficult foreign relations, and with a people excited to a pitch of furor by the passion which he had fomented. His successors found the torrent for which he had opened the sluices too powerful to be suddenly stemmed, and they yielded for a while to the stream, proceeding in the same direction to which he had pointed.

Having once committed themselves, perhaps almost unavoidably, to that seeming adoption of his policy, they were obliged for the sake of consistent appearances to continue it for a time, until they could gradually turn the stream. Just at the turn, M. Thiers takes an artful advantage of their position, and asks, if you do not mean to carry out my policy, why do you carry on my expenditure? He knows well enough, that he made it dangerous for them to do otherwise in the first instance, and that it is not yet time for them to have effected a change; but no answer is ready for him, and he has the advantage of cleverly reducing them to a non-plus.—Meanwhile, the conditional demand for reduced establishments conveyed in this query and still more the indifference with which M. Thiers speaks of the warlike policy as a thing out of date—together with the French Chancellor of the Exchequer's assertion, faintly contradicted, that France cannot support an enormous outlay like England—all evince a remarkable alteration in the state of opinion in France. The daily sight of the rising wall which is to hem in the Parisians, and of the regiments of workmen to be fed with taxes, will perhaps extinguish the remains of the passion military. It seems not impossible that the next passion to possess the excitable people may be a passion for pulling down bastioned walls.

The intended change in the guards of the dockyards of Deptford and Woolwich took place on Wednesday, the old constables being supplanted by the Metropolitan Police.—The introduction of the Police into the dockyards of Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Pembroke, must be prepared by Special Acts of Parliament.

The Ministerial Globe, quoting the Chart-ist Northern Star, describes the failure of an attempt to get up a "Protestant Operative Association" at Bath. The Rev. Hugh Stowell and Mr. Lord, a Barrister of the Inner Temple, and the author of a law-book against Maynooth College, procured a Meeting to be called lately in the Assembly Rooms of that town, to receive their proposition in the matter. About two thousand persons attended; but the Operative Protestants were forestalled by the Chartists, who appointed a Chairman of their own, and carried, by a large majority, a resolution that a Protestant Operative Association was not wanted in Bath. Mr. Stowell then addressed the meeting; but if the subjoined extract of the Report can be trusted, he was not heard with much patience, or indeed with much decorum—

He feared that many present had lent themselves as the tools of Popery. (Laughter. "Oh dear!" He had met a gentleman of Bath in a railway train, who told him that a good Protestant Operative Association might be formed in Bath. (Cries of "Go back by the next train.") He had made such liberal speeches, that he could not fail to please the people of Bath, for many who had heard him had him set down for a thoroughgoing Radical. ("Soft soap!" But he was open to declare himself a red-hot Tory, (Cheers from the parsons, and groans and yells from the meeting, with cries of "a bad lot altogether.") His motto was to fear God and honour the Queen. He had done much to relieve the distresses of his own starving flock. He wished more attention had been paid by the nobility and gentry to the wants of the people. He must say they were too widely severed, and the best way to unite them was to form such associations as he had come there to establish. He was an advocate of religious liberty, but he would beat down Romanism.

At East Sussex Quarter-sessions, on Tuesday, Mr. Batty, the proprietor of the Circus at Brighton, appealed against the decision of the Magistrates, who had fined him £50 for performing a pantomime in an unlicensed place. It was contended in support of the conviction, that the case came under the operation of an act passed in the reign of George the Second, which declared any persons performing "any interlude, play, tragedy, comedy, opera, farce, or other entertainment, except under letter-patent, the licence of the Lord Chamberlain, or in a place privileged," to be rogues and vagabonds, or liable to a fine of £50. An act of the reign of George the Third gave the Magistrates power to license; but the Circus had not been licensed at all. The former act was meant to repress the licentiousness of the stage: pantomimes were in use at the time of its passing; and made as they were the vehicles of personal and political satire, it must have been the intention of the Legislature to include them in the operation of the act, by the term "other entertainments."

On the other side, it was averred that the entertainment which formed the subject of the penalty, was not a stage entertainment at all: it required no scenery; there were only fourteen lines of dialogue in it; and it was a mere exhibition of posture-making and horsemanship. It was no more a pantomime than Billy Button's Ride to Brentford, or Punch. The act being penal must be construed strictly; in an act against sheep-stealing the term "other cattle" was held by the Judges to be of no effect, for want of precision; and in an act to prevent cruelty to animals, a list comprising "ox, cow, heifer, steer, or other cattle," was held not to include a bull. On the same principle of strict construction, the terms of the penal act to restrain stage-plays could not be held to include the pantomimes in its operation. The indictment was quashed.