

Sweet Treasury Benches, how calm could I rest,
On thy surface of green with the friends I love best;
When the radical howl for Reform shall quite cease,
And the Bill, like my speeches, be buried in peace.

SPIRIT OF THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

FROM THE LONDON COURIER.

The result of Lord Herwood's motion was the appointment of a committee 'to institute a full and impartial inquiry for the purpose of ascertaining the laws and usages of the Colonies, the condition of the slaves, the improvements that have been made in their condition—to consider what further steps could be taken for the amelioration of that condition, consistently with the best interests of the slaves themselves, and with the rights of private property—and, generally, to take into consideration the present depressed state of the West India Colonies.' The difficulty in the outset of this enquiry is to separate the question of slavery in the abstract from its practical existence as authorised by Parliament—on the faith of which authority, let it ever be borne in mind, the West India proprietors, and others interested, have invested their capital. Doubtless it would be infinitely to be preferred, that the necessary operations on the sugar plantations should be carried on by free labourers. Without a shadow of doubt, it would be better for the interests of humanity that slavery should no where exist. No one, in these times, would be so unhumane or so insane as to advocate the founding of a system of slavery for the purpose of carrying on the operations of labour in the West Indies, or in any other part of the world. But the system does exist. Unhappily, and unwisely, it has been fostered and encouraged, and over and over again its practice has been legalized by the highest authority in Great Britain. But the present planters of West India proprietors are answerable neither for the original conception and legalization of this wrong, nor for its continuance: they found the system, they did not institute it; their estates, with their attaching slaves, have been handed down to them by those who have gone before them. It is contended that any stigma can attach to them for following the only mode in their power of continuing the cultivation of their lands! Now we should not for a moment think of defending the original encouragement given by former Parliaments to the traffic in slaves. We, in common with all who have any claim to Christian feelings, deplore that slavery ever existed; and more, that it should have received the sanction of the Legislature. We consider that the question of the profits and advantages which the mother country directly or indirectly, has derived from her tenure of the West India Colonies—though that profit amounts to nearly seven millions of revenue, and though among those advantages is comprised the employment of between two and three hundred thousand tons of shipping—we say that we consider such profit and such advantages, great and precarious as they are, to weigh but as dust in the balance against the plain and indisputable inequity of a traffic in human flesh. We would desire to use the strongest terms of which language is capable, to express our utter abhorrence of Slavery, in any shape or in any country. But still this abstract consideration is not the present consideration; the question is not one of abstract right, but of present expediency. Slaves, whether rightfully or wrongfully, have been carried to the West Indies, and do there exist in considerable numbers. And the question now is, not how they came there, nor whether they shall gradually be made free or not, for that question has long since been decided, but how they, (the slaves) being there, shall best be dealt with for the sake of their own comfort and welfare. Let us suppose that the owners of slaves, were at once to relinquish all claim on them, to throw up all interest in their services, to withdraw their capital and establishments; in short, to abandon them to their own resources—what would be the inevitable consequences? The inevitable consequences would be, that the negroes, deprived of their support of European intelligence and European capital, without moral habits, diligence, or foresight with a peculiar, and, it may be called idiosyncratic disposition to work, would quietly be reduced to the necessity of preying on each other, unless they would be philanthropically supported by those humane persons, who, with charitable, but indiscreet zeal, are endeavouring to press forward their premature emancipation. Before the slave can be made a free man, he must be fit for freedom: the change from the savage to the civilized man, can be brought about only by the gradual influence of religious and moral education: that good effected, his benefactors will not only have liberated his body; they will have done more—they will have emancipated his mind—liberty is a plant of slow growth; in our own free country, it may be distinctly traced to the gradual increase of intelligence, and consequently moral power in the emancipated serf. Such it would appear, must be the progress of freedom with the Slaves in the West Indies. We feel confident that the West India proprietors would be the first to rejoice at the liberation of the negro population from a state of slavery. It is not to the system of slavery that they are attached. It is not the slave *quasi* slave that they desire to retain;—it is the cultivator and artificer, the loss of whom they could not replace. Give them substitutes for their present labourers, and they will gladly part with their slaves. But they will not without a struggle, consent to be deprived of the means of procuring their own subsistence (for it is come to this) by the application of capital, which they cannot withdraw, an operations which have been established, carried on, and still continue, under the sanction of the Legislature; nor ought to be required of them. If they are arbitrarily and forcibly deprived of their rights of property, common justice requires that they should receive compensation.

FROM BELL'S LIFE IN LONDON.

THE CUNNING MAN; OR, WELLINGTON TURNED CONJUROR.

'The Duke of Wellington, with all his apparent bluntness, is an exceedingly *CUNNING MAN*, or his physiognomy greatly betrays him.'—*Morning Chronicle*, April 13th.

'O, cunning man! I've hobbled here
To learn exactly what my fate is;
And as my funds are rather queer,
I hope you'll tell my fortune GRATIS.'

'Troubles assail me in a heap;
But though I've seen your face before,

I never thought you were so deep,
Nor took you for a *Conjuror*!

'The good old times I think upon
With fond regret and sorrow blended;
For, ah! Corruption's reign hath gone,
And all our Tory hopes are ended!

'O, tell me if your wondrous art
In this extremity can save us;
When Whigs, with unrelenting heart,
Of all our influence would shave us!

'Tis hard, in my declining years,
To pine in poverty and rags;
O, try your skill upon the Peers,
And raise the hopes of poor *Old Bags*!

'I sometimes am inclin'd to doubt
That hateful thing Reform's succeeding;
O, will their Lordship's throw it out?
Or will it pass the second reading?

You wave your wand—may all prove right!
What is the card turn'd up before us?
The curse of Scotland!—blow me tight!
Then 'Nine' majority will floor us!

'Lord help our poor deluded King,
And on backsliding Peers have pity!
Let us *PROTEST* against the thing,
And try to crush it in Committee.'

FROM THE LONDON COURIER.

All the property of the country, says the noble Duke is opposed to reform—all the trades, adds a learned Baron. A right reverend prelate taxes his ingenuity for a distinction between popular opinion and public opinion—public opinion is opposed to the bill, the popular, of course, being in its favor: the learned bishop not having condescended to explain the difference, it will scarcely be expected we should supply the deficiency. All that we know upon the subject is, that a very large portion of the empire, through the medium of their organs in parliament, through the press, through petitions, through every legitimate mode of expressing their sentiments, have declared their opinions in favour of reform. Whether this sentiment is public or popular, the right reverend prelate may perhaps, be better able to explain than ourselves. It is enough for us, that it could not be made known in a more public manner. Its publicity, indeed, was so clear to Lord Lyndhurst, that he found it impossible to proceed with his argument, unless he at once allowed the fact. Well then, we have the acknowledgment from him, that a very numerous body, all the dissenters in the country—that a further large portion of the community, all those who are dissatisfied with things as they are—and that, yet not an insignificant addition to them, those who hope to be benefitted by change—are all in favour of the measure. This being admitted it remains to be seen, who are these numerous bodies forming such small fractional parts of the empire: the Whig aristocracy, possessing by the way, some little property, are those most eminent in the country, to whom sundry counties, and divers large towns, chiming in to give the preponderance to their own borough representatives, have confided the management of their affairs in Parliament. The dissenters comprise that very large body, whose community of right and equality of interest with the rest of their fellow subjects, have lately been acknowledged even by a Tory Parliament in the removal of Catholic disabilities, and the repeal of the test and corporation acts. All those who are dissatisfied with things as they are, may be either popular or public; the learned bishop may give us a clue to the discovery. Last of all—firebrands, revolutionists, demagogues, make up the sum of the discontented: these are hard names, but the more energetic the denouncement, the more success is thought to attend the delusion. It is almost an insult to the country to think that it is to be deceived by such foolish, such false, and such ridiculous epithets applied to any body or number of men: the exception is here put forward impudently by the rule. Some ambitious and designing men, taking advantage of public excitement, raise themselves into momentary importance upon the ignorance of others, who know that they are wronged, but who are unable without assistance, to apply the remedy. The remedy is supplied from the hands whence it ought to proceed—from the natural guardians of society—and the power of these leaders vanishes as the chaff before the wind.

FROM THE LONDON SPECTATOR.

If the question had been decided by Englishmen only—there would have been a majority of twenty in its favour: that the Irish noblemen are equally divided; and that the smaller majority is a consequence of the hostility to reform exhibited by Scotch Peers and Irish Prelates. Another point for Lord Grey's consideration—where would he and his ministry have been at this moment, but for the creation of Peers in September? Let him look to the various ranks of the majority, and see where the balance in his favour lies. Of the absent peers, very few can attend in committee to strengthen

either side. Except the young Marquis of Waterford, who comes of age on the 26th, and the Marquis of Westmeath, who is returned as absent on Friday, we are not aware that any other will attend. Of the proxies, several on the Ministerial side will give their personal aid to Lord Grey, and perhaps some may do the same office by the Duke of Wellington: the Marquis of Salisbury's instruction to Committee, if pressed to a division, will in all probability settle the question, whether a creation of peers must take place, or the ministry must resign. If it embody, as is most likely, the whole of the amendments to be moved by Lord Harrowby and Wharncliffe, it can hardly fail of receiving the support of those noblemen; the business of the committee will thus be settled before it begin. Of the absent peers, eleven are minors, five of whom will come of age during the present year; eight are incapable of attendance from their advanced age—Lord Wodehouse, the father of the house, is ninety-one; the Earls of Pembroke and Devon have resided abroad many years; Earl Berkeley has never taken his seat: Lords Belmore, Clare, Dalhousie, and Heytesbury, are abroad attending to their official duties; Lord Doune, who voted for the bill in October, is since dead.

SCHEDIASMA.

MIRAMICHI.

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 5, 1832.

'The Halifax papers contain London dates two days later than our last number contained; but they furnish nothing of the slightest consequence, in addition to our stock of European intelligence.

CROWN LANDS.—Recurring to our hebdomadal notice of this subject—a subject of such magnitude, and of such engrossing interest, that not one, resident in the country, is altogether superior to the consideration of its numerous ramifications—we find, that our thoughts have been so far forestalled in regard to the Possession Ticket, that that document, as we have been informed, is no longer issued. A weaker or a more absurd form for conveying tenure, few ever knew; but the nature of the deed to be used in substitution—for it is to be presumed that a purchaser by instalments is to have something in assurance of a grant,—we profess our utter inability to impart. We stated in our last, our forebodings of serious inconveniences and litigations accruing to us and to posterity as the consequence of the present mode of alienating the Crown Lands; and fuller consideration adds conviction to our former surmises. It cannot be denied that the business of the Department of Crown Lands must be transacted by active and able-bodied men, capable of enduring a degree of labour and fatigue altogether inconsistent with delicate habits and sedentary pursuits. Very young men, although the most active, are yet too strongly disposed by inexperience, to an assuming, dictatorial, and imperious line of conduct, at variance with the temper of the people, and injurious to the interests of the Crown. Unfortunately, the agile and robust exercises necessary to nerve the body to render it capable of enduring the unceasing labour and hardship of surveying and bivouacking in the wilderness, are in strong opposition to those habits of study, without which no person can attain a competence in this profession. The education and breeding of a gentleman, also unhinge him from enduring the hardships, and create a distaste for the uncleanly habits as well as the intimate associations with others less delicate, which are accidents inseparable from the life of a woodsman. A skillful surveyor, independent of being a perfect arithmetician, should be possessed of an intimate knowledge of the lower Geometry, with an acquaintance with its higher rules as applicable to the doctrines of Ratio and Analysis; the science of Logarithms, the basis of the practice of Trigonometry; a general knowledge of Spherics to render the study of astronomy, not only a means of advancement in his profession, but a source of the highest intellectual amusement, within the compass of human enjoyment. Habituated to the ready application of the elements of Geometry to the varied purposes and arts of life, he can never be at a loss in the small daily difficulties of his calling, while a knowledge of Trigonometry enables him to connect minor and detached surveys, constructing—as a builder does a dome or an arch—with his various materials, a map of a whole country. Astronomy comes to his aid by correcting those errors inseparable from a continued connection of small parts, multiplied alike by the errors of instruments for taking the angles on the ground, and for applying those angles to paper; the linear measures adopted on the surface, and for plotting the quantities; the differences discoverable on a large survey, between the horizontal line and the spheroidal curvature of the earth; the distance of meridians on different parallels of latitude; the ascertainment of the latitude and longitude of the various