

uch warrant, if required, shall shew the same to the person whose goods and chattels are distrained, and shall suffer a copy thereof to be taken.

III. And be it enacted, That wherever any Act of the Imperial Parliament as aforesaid, any penalty or forfeiture is or may be recoverable before any Justice or Justices of the Peace, and no authority is thereby given to commit any offender or offenders in default of payment of such penalty or forfeiture, or of goods and chattels whereon to distrain, such Justice or Justices is or are hereby empowered, in default of payment of such penalty or forfeiture, and for want of sufficient goods and chattels of the offender whereon to levy such penalty or forfeiture, together with the charges of distraining and selling the same, to commit the offender to the Common Gaol or House of Correction, for such space of time not exceeding three months, as he or they in his, or their discretion shall think fit.

IV. And be it enacted, That wherever in any Acts as aforesaid, any penalty or forfeiture, is or may be recoverable before any Justice or Justices of the Peace, and such Justice or Justices is or are empowered by such Acts as aforesaid, or by this Act, in default of payment of such penalty or forfeiture, or for want of sufficient goods and chattels of the offender whereon to levy such penalty together with the charges of distraining and selling the same, to commit the offender to the Common Gaol or House of Correction; then in case it shall appear to such Justice or Justices, either by confession of the party or otherwise, that he hath not sufficient goods and chattels within the jurisdiction of such Justice or Justices whereon to levy such penalty or forfeiture, costs and charges, such Justice or Justices at his or their discretion, and without issuing any Warrant of Distress, may proceed in such and the like manner as if a Warrant of Distress had been sued, and a *nulla bona* returned thereon: and it shall be lawful for such Justice or Justices to issue forth his or their Warrant for committing such offender to the Common Gaol or House of Correction for such time and in such manner as in such Acts as aforesaid, or this Act, are respectively mentioned and directed; and such Justice or Justices may also in such case keep and detain the said offender in custody after conviction until the warrant for his commitment is prepared.

V. And be it enacted, That in the case of any offender committed to the Common Gaol or House of Correction for default of payment of such penalty or forfeiture, and any costs or charges attending the conviction, if such offender shall at any time during the period of his or their imprisonment pay or cause to be paid to the keeper of the prison the full amount of such penalty or forfeiture together with the costs and charges, it shall be lawful for such keeper of such prison, and he is hereby required forthwith to discharge such offender from his custody; and such keeper shall immediately give notice thereof to the Justice or Justices by whom the commitment may have been made, and pay over to him or them the money so received from the offender to be by such Justice or Justices paid, distributed, or applied as the Acts aforesaid may direct.

VI. And whereas cases may occur where the recovery of such penalty or forfeiture, by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels, may appear to the Justice or Justices of the Peace to be attended with consequences ruinous, or in an especial manner injurious to the offender and his family: Be it enacted, that the Justice or Justices shall be empowered, and they are hereby authorized, in all cases and upon all such occasions as to them shall seem fit, and where such consequences are likely to arise, to cause to be withheld the issue of any warrant of Distress, and to commit the offender aforesaid, immediately after conviction and in default of payment of the penalty or forfeiture with costs and charges, (where such shall be adjudged,) to the Common Gaol or House of Correction, for such time and in such manner as are in such Acts as aforesaid respectively mentioned and directed; Provided always, that it be by the desire, or with the consent, in writing, of the party upon whose property the penalty or forfeiture is to be levied.

(To be Continued in our next.)

EUROPE.

From English Papers by the Packet to the 9th March.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FEB. 15.

THE BUDGET.—The House having resolved itself into a Committee of Supply,

Lord Althorp said he would call the attention of the House to the financial statement he was about to make. He would speak of the financial year, but in general terms only, for the House knew that it did not end for six months to come. At the end of 1830 the balance in favour of the country, that is, of receipts over expenditure, was £2,914,000, but many taxes had been reduced which did not begin to operate till 1831. At

the end of that year, therefore, there was a deficiency of £700,000. In April of 1832 the deficiency had increased to £1,240,000; but in April 1833, there was, instead of a deficiency, a surplus of £1,487,000. The taxes repealed during 1831-32 amounted to £1,700,000, and in 1833, £1,515,000; total in three years, £3,335,000. Notwithstanding which the balance sheet to the 5th of January, 1834, gives a surplus of £1,513,000. (Cheers.) There was no reason to fear any reduction of this surplus, and the estimates for the next year would be made up at £500,000 under the estimates of last year—(cheers)—making a clear surplus of £2,000,000. By the new arrangement there would be a larger quantity of tea sold, and the price would be lower; but the increase to the revenue would be greater, because the duty was at so much per pound. There was an intention, too, of reducing the duty on tea. (Hear.) The quantity of tea now sold was about 36,000,000 lbs. in the year, and the increase to the revenue was 600,000. Now the first demand on this increased revenue would be the compensation money to the West Indies. The interest would amount to £300,000, leaving £1,800,000 surplus. Now, the reductions he proposed to make, and he hoped the House would not press for more than he proposed to make, would be small in order that the House might go on, year after year, reducing, which, if they attempted too much at once, they could not do. He would reduce the taxes 1,200,000; and this, notwithstanding the 20,000,000 devoted to a great cause, and for a glorious example. The House tax would be reduced, but he would not introduce any bill for this purpose until he should see the fate of certain motions of which notice had been given. The window tax could not be reduced with the house tax. By the reduction of the house tax, the dwelling-houses of the empire would not pay more in 1834 than in 1792. (Cheers.) The landed interest would not be neglected, although trade was first considered, for the measure respecting tithes would relieve the land. (Tremendous cheering.) The amelioration of the poor laws and the commutation of tithes he looked to as likely to afford much more permanent relief than the reduction of taxes. With regard to Ireland, a measure of relief was projected which would not lessen the revenue. The noble lord concluded his general outline of the financial state of the country, by moving for a supply of 14,000,000.

February 17.—Sir James Graham brought forward his resolutions on the navy estimates in a committee of Supply. The right hon. gentlemen entered at some length into the general expenditure of the country, before he adverted to that of the navy in particular, but the interest of his speech was considerably diminished, the facts having been anticipated nights ago. His great object was to prove the importance of the reductions which had been made, especially since the present ministers came into office. Thirty-five millions of the fifty which constituted the expenditure of the country consisted of items of which the government had no control, and upon the remaining fifteen a reduction of 20 per cent had already taken place. Notwithstanding the extent of those reductions, it was consolatory to be able to state that the other reductions were in progress; and that, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer had already stated, half a million would be deducted from the expenditure of the present year. This operation of economy was the more beneficial and real, as it was gradual and permanent. In the navy estimates the reductions during the last three years amounted to upwards of 1,000,000. This year there would be a further reduction of 180,000; so that in four years the reductions would be 1,200,000. A leading item of the savings was under the head of half pay. In the amount of half-pay for the year 1834 and 1835, as compared with the estimates of the former years, there would appear a reduction of between 24,000l. and 25,000l. There were various other items to come under the consideration of the House, and he would simply say that the result of the savings made in the present estimates showed a reduction of 180,000l. on the total, as compared with those of the former year, in addition to that of 1,000,000 then made; and in addition to the savings of 1,400,000 effected by the predecessors of the present government.—He next adverted to the plan for reducing 500 seamen, and adding 1,000 boys to the service. The difference, as compared with former estimates, was that, in this instance, it was proposed to have 17,000 seamen and 1,000 boys, which did not amount in expence to more than 18,000 men, so that there was no increase made. The rations of boys it is true, were the same as those for the men, therefore there would be an increase under that head, but still it was included in the saving victualling of 42,000l.; and they were without increase of wages. The right hon. gentlemen concluded by exhorting the House to continue that confidence to his Majesty's Ministers by means of which they had been enabled to preserve peace, and not to press for further reductions in the naval power of the country than was consistent with

vigorous exertion, should the affairs of Europe require such an exertion to be made. He then moved that 27,000 men, including marines and boys, should be employed in the service for the present year.

February 27.—*Church patronage in Scotland.*—Mr George Sinclair said that the subject to which he should now have the honor to call the attention of the House, was one which, at the present moment, excited throughout Scotland an intense and universal interest. In proof of this assertion, he might appeal, first, to the personal knowledge of all the Scotch members, whom he saw around him: next, to the many public meetings lately held in every quarter of that country, and which had been attended by many eminent ministers, enlightened elders, and other individuals distinguished by their piety, their intelligence, and their attachment to that admirable and Apostolic church, which God has planted in their land; and lastly, to the multiplicity of petitions transmitted to the House during the present and former sessions, remarkable not only for the number but the respectability, of the signatures appended to them. It had been his intention, and would have been his duty, to have entered at great length into the merits of the question; but as his Majesty's ministers, with a readiness which reflected the highest credit on their patriotism, and which must secure to them the grateful attachment of the people of Scotland, had acceded to his proposition for the appointment of a committee to investigate the subject, he thought it better to abstain from any remarks, which might lead to unnecessary discussion, and should, therefore, content himself with moving for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the state of the right of patronage of Churches in Scotland.—The Lord Advocate said, he should follow the example of his hon. friend in abstaining from any argument or statement of opinion on the present occasion. He had, however, great pleasure in acceding to his friend's motion.—Sir R. Peel could not see the signs of this general desire for reform of the Scottish Church. Only ten petitions had been presented since the commencement of the session on the subject. But supposing that many petitions had been presented, yet it was plain the object of them was to deprive one class of men of their rights in order that they should be transferred to others. These rights had been recognized for upwards of 130 years, and they were as sacred as the rights of advowson in the Established Church of England. A very short time would be sufficient to show that the rights of the crown could not be exchanged for popular election without serious injury to the Church.—Mr Colquhoun and Mr Gillon supported the motion, as tending to separate the church from the crown, and give to the mass of the people of Scotland the election of the clergy. Agreed to without a division.

Mr Littleton brought in his bill to abolish tithes in Ireland, and substitute a land-tax in their stead; which was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on the 11th April.—Adjourned.

Mr Green obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish official oaths in certain cases, and to substitute simple affirmation.

Civil Pensions.—Lord Althorp moved the appointment of a Select Committee, to examine the printed list of civil pensions, and to report thereon to the House. The noble lord added, that he should recommend that the pensions granted by Parliament by way of compensation should not be included in the consideration of the committee.—Mr. Hume thought that the committee should take into consideration all pensions by whomsoever granted. Such pensions as were deservedly granted might be continued; but the people were entitled to have the benefit of every possible chance of getting rid of these pensions.—Lord Althorp's motion, however, was agreed to, and the committee appointed.

Army Estimates.—The House went into a committee of supply on the Army Estimates, when Mr Secretary Ellice entered into various details, to show the reduction which would be effected in the present year. He stated that in 1792 the estimate was 2,330,349l. and proceeded to give a detail of the various estimates since that period, and contended that all was then done which could fairly be expected towards the reduction of the military establishments of the empire. In 1825 a larger estimate was voted. The addition was made to add to the allowance of the soldier. The depreciation of the times did not enable him to exist on his pay, and it was thought hard that he should suffer when the country could act justly towards him. He (Mr Ellice) had received many suggestions from the country to reduce the estimates by curtailing the emoluments of the soldier. But that he thought unfair and should never lend himself to such a measure. (Hear.) The private soldier's pay he would not consent to lower. He observed that the decrease in the total expenditure was 299,722l. 12s. 8d.; and the vote was less by 350,000l. than in 1830; and concluded by moving the vote for the number of men, 86,952.—Mr Hume moved