

European News.

From British Papers to the 19th September, received by the Britannia, Steamer.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT NEWS.

The Royal Mail Steamer Britannia, arrived at Halifax on the morning of Wednesday last, after a very boisterous passage of twelve days.

Mr Thompson, of Chatham, being at Dorchester when the mail came up, the Postmaster kindly gave him a portion of our British papers, which he brought on with him, and obligingly left them at our office immediately on his arrival here about noon on Monday. As the news is important, we strike off a half sheet this morning, to put our readers at as early a date as possible, in possession of the intelligence thus obtained. Our extracts are gleaned from the Halifax Morning Post of Saturday last, and several London and Liverpool papers.

The other half of our paper will be issued on Saturday next.

PROLOGATION OF PARLIAMENT. THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

"My Lords and gentlemen—we are commanded by her Majesty, in relieving you from further attendance in Parliament, to express to you the warm acknowledgments of her Majesty for the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to the discharge of your public duties during a laborious and protracted session.

"The result has been the completion of many Legislative measures calculated to improve the administration of the law and to promote the public welfare.

"Her Majesty has given her cordial assent to the bill which you presented to her Majesty for regulating the issue of bank notes, and for conferring certain privileges upon the Bank of England for a limited period. Her Majesty trusts that these measures will tend to place the pecuniary transaction of the country upon a sounder basis, without imposing any inconvenient restrictions on commercial credit or enterprise.

"We are directed to inform you that her Majesty continues to receive from all her Allies and from all Foreign Powers, assurances of their friendly disposition.

"Her Majesty has recently been engaged in discussions with the Government of the King of the French, on events calculated to interrupt the good understanding and friendly relations between this country and France. You will rejoice to learn, that by the spirit of justice and moderation which has animated the two Governments, this danger has been happily averted.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons.—We are commanded by her Majesty to thank you for the readiness with which you voted the Supplies for the service of the year.

"Her Majesty has observed with the utmost satisfaction, that by the course to which you have steadily adhered in maintaining inviolate the public faith, and inspiring a just confidence in the stability of the national resources, you have been enabled to make a considerable reduction in the annual charge on account of the interest of the National Debt.

"My Lords and gentlemen.—Her Majesty desires us to congratulate you on the improvement which has taken place in the condition of our manufactures and commerce; and in the prospect that, through the bounty of Divine Providence, we shall enjoy the blessing of an abundant harvest.

"Her Majesty rejoices in the belief, that on your return to your several districts, you will find generally prevailing throughout the country a spirit of loyalty and cheerful obedience to the law.

"Her Majesty is confident that these dispositions, so important to the peaceful development of our resources and to our national strength, will be confirmed and encouraged by your presence and example.

"We are commanded by her Majesty to assure you, that when you shall be called upon to resume the discharge of your Parliamentary functions, you may place entire reliance on the cordial co-operation of her Majesty in your endeavours to improve the social condition and to promote the happiness and contentment of her people."

The commission for Proroguing Parliament was read; and the Lord Chancellor declared Parliament to be prorogued to Thursday the 10th October next.

THE IRISH STATE TRIALS. REVERSAL OF JUDGMENT ON MR. O'CONNELL.

The House of Lords sat on Wednesday the 4th inst., in order that their Lordships might deliver judgment in the case of "D. O'Connell v. the Queen in error."

The Lord Chancellor stated that, to avoid all suspicion or pretence of suspicion of political bias, in deciding upon the appeal, the assistance of the learned judges had been requested. Seven of these had agreed with the original judgment, and two had dissented, though with much doubt and hesitation, and only upon one point. The judgment of the court below ought therefore to be approved. He was decidedly of opinion that on the face of the record there was no defect; consequently no error could be assigned. A conviction on a good count in an indictment was sufficient to support a judgment, and could not be reversed by a writ of error. A defective count in an indictment could not vitiate a count. There was nothing valid in the objection as to the challenge of array.

Lord Brougham said, no one could for a single moment doubt but that a great and heinous offence had been committed by the traversers, and, therefore, it was only on technical objections that their appeal against the decision of the court below could be entertained by that house. These technical objections had been considered by the learned personages whose daily habits were to consider and administer the law: they had given opinions—seven of the judges had no doubt whatever on their minds, they were confident they had come to a right conclusion. The two who differed with them had no confidence in their opinion, but only doubts on the questions. He therefore asked their Lordships if they were prepared to go from the opinion expressed by the majority of the Judges? For himself, he felt bound to take the opinion of those learned personages for his helpmate and guide in deciding on the question that had been propounded to the house, viz., that the decision of the court below be affirmed. If the challenge of array had been allowed, it was clear, trials must be postponed for twelve months, and then the same objections might be again taken, and thus justice defeated by delay.

Lord Denman was of opinion that the challenge to the array ought to have been allowed, or trial by a jury would become a mockery. If complaint was made against the jury list, it would be better that no trial should take place, until these objections had been satisfactorily settled. If that was not done the greatest injustice in some cases might arise. The challenge to the jury was the sole and only remedy in such cases, and ought to have been allowed in the present case. The judges in Ireland had acted erroneously. They were decidedly wrong in allowing the trial to proceed under the circumstances. If they presumed that in all convictions on indictment, judgment was given on the good counts, and not on bad ones, it would be establishing a dangerous practice. He did not see the good of putting irrelevant stuff in the different counts. A criminal charge ought to be set forth in the most clear, simple, and intelligent form. The defendants in this case had been convicted on an indictment containing good counts and bad counts, therefore he could only view the judgment as partial, and one which ought not to be affirmed.

Lord Cottenham considered that the opinion of the majority of the judges was wrong, and the opinion of the minority right; and therefore he could not support the motion for affirming the judgment of the court below. The opinions of the learned judges were entitled to the greatest possible respect, but they were not to rule the house, only to guide and assist their Lordships in coming to a decision. If the opinion of the court below was wrong, that house ought and were bound to afford a remedy. It was said judgment had only been pronounced on the good counts in the indictment, but he did not see that that was sufficiently clear. If the house, under the circumstances of this case, affirmed the judgment, it would be establishing a dangerous practice. The judgment of the court below was wrong.

Lord Campbell stated his opinion that the indictment contained some good counts, that the plea in abatement was bad, and the continuance of the trial illegal. The parties ought not to have been tried by a jury struck from the defective list, but on the challenge, the panel ought to have been quashed. On that point, however, after the opinion of the learned judges, he should hardly have felt justified in voting for a reversal of the judgment; but agreeing with Mr Justice Colman, and Mr Baron Parke in their opinion on the point of the judgment having been generally upon the indictment, notwithstanding the defective counts, he thought that the judgment could not be sustained. The noble and learned Lord concluded by moving that the judgment be reversed.

The Lord Chancellor then rose and said—is it your Lordships pleasure, that this judgment be reversed? As many as are of that opinion will say "Content." [Several noble lords—we believe Lords Denman, Cottenham and Campbell—responded "Content."

The Lord Chancellor.—As many as are of an opposite opinion, will say, "Not content." [Two or three noble lords said "Not content." The Chancellor paused for a moment, as if uncertain whether the sense of the house was for or against the reversal of the judgment, and he then put the question in the same form. The "contents" and the "not contents," still appeared to be equal in numbers, and more than three or four noble lords responding to each question.]

Lord Warncliffe said he trusted those noble lords who were not present when the case was argued, would abstain from voting, he was of opinion that it would be better for the house to agree with the majority of the law lords.

Lord Brougham concurred with the noble lord. Much as he (Lord Brougham) regretted the decision it would be better to follow the general rule in such cases, and agree with the majority of the law lords. Noble lords who had not heard the evidence, or attended the arguments, would do better to abstain from voting. It would, he was convinced, be the lesser evil of the two.

Lord Campbell said.—I oppose an opinion of a majority of the judges, only because I believe it is contrary to law. The distinctions between law lords and lay lords is known to the constitution; but this should be borne in mind—that no judge ought ever to decide on a case he has not heard. It would, therefore, I think, be better that no noble lords should vote on this question, who have not heard the case.

Lord Brougham trusted their lordships would not divide.

Marquis of Clanricarde considered it would be establishing a most dangerous precedent for noble lords who did not attend the arguments to vote on legal questions. It was impossible they could be qualified to form a correct opinion.

The Lord Chancellor again put the question that the judgment of the court below be reversed, which his lordship declared to be answered in the affirmative.

The judgment of the court below was reversed.

The decision produced considerable sensation among the strangers below the bar and in the gallery, who instantly hastened out, to give expression to their feelings, more freely than was possible in the house.

THE LIBERATION OF O'CONNELL. PUBLIC FEELING IN IRELAND.

The excitement in Dublin when it became known that the House of Lords had reversed the judgment of the Irish court was intense. Great crowds had assembled on Kingstown pier. The packet arrived before five o'clock; some Repeal agents on board, holding up white flags, inscribed "Judgment reversed by the House of Lords—O'Connell is free!" the crowd hurraed—the news spread—and cheers re-echoed throughout the city. Mr. O'Connell's rooms in Richmond Penitentiary were at once invaded by a crowd of congratulators. He is said to have borne the intelligence "with the same calmness that it was manifest he would have shown had it been of an opposite nature." The Repeal Association held a special meeting to concert measures for giving eclat to the occasion; and it was resolved to escort Mr. O'Connell from goal in procession.

The order for the liberation of the traversers reached Dublin on Friday the 6th inst. on the evening of which O'Connell left the prison privately, accompanied by his sons, John and Daniel. The other traversers also left in the course of the day. O'Connell was soon recognized; and as he passed along a crowd collected and followed him; forming a great concourse when they all reached Merrion-square. Having gained his home, he came out into the balcony, and made a short speech; containing little besides an expression of thanks for the tranquillity which the people had maintained during

his incarceration. On being dismissed, the crowd quietly dispersed.

Although the Liberator had left the prison on Friday evening, the good folks of Dublin were not disappointed of their procession; and, that it might have all due effect, early on Saturday morning Mr O'Connell went back to his prison. It has been suggested that he went back that he might finish one of the devotions of the Catholic Church, which, continuing for a certain number of days, terminated that day. This devotion, entitled "the Novena," was offered up for the purpose of beseeching Heaven that justice might be done. In this devotion it seems that all the Catholic traversers had united.

The hour of public departure was fixed for noon, but the very size of the procession caused a delay of two hours; for although the head of the body reached the prison gates at noon, and went past, it was two hours before the triumphal car drew up; and words of impatience escaped from the hero of the pageant. All the city seems to have been in motion, either marching in the line, or standing to see it. The procession comprised the trades of Dublin, each trade preceded by its band; several Repeal Wardens, and private or political friends of O'Connell; many members of the Corporation, and the Lord Mayor, in full costume; and then preceded by wand-bearers, and "Tom Steele" with a branch in his hand, as Head Pacifier, came the car bearing the Liberator. This car was constructed for the charing of Mr O'Connell some years ago. It is a kind of platform, on which are three stages, rising one above another like steps; profusely decorated with purple velvet, gold fringe, gilt nails, and painting. Six splendid dappled grays slowly drew the cumbrous vehicle along. On the topmost stage, elevated some dozen feet above the crowd, and drawn up to his full height, stood O'Connell. Although grown rather more portly since his confinement, and wearing that somewhat anxious expression which has been noticed of late, he looked well. His head, thrown proudly back, was covered with the green velvet and gold repeal cap. He bowed incessantly to the cheering multitude. On the second stage was seated the Rev. Mr. Milley; on the lowest were Daniel O'Connell, jun., two of Mr. O'Connell's grandsons, dressed in green velvet tunics and caps with feathers, and the harper, in the ancient dress of his craft, audibly playing on his instrument. Then followed the other traversers, some with their ladies, and a few friends, in three private carriages; the subordinate Repeal martyrs, also bowing and smiling on all sides; and finally, the lawyers in a coach, carrying the "monster indictment."

The procession traversed the greater part of Dublin, and did not reach Merrion-square until half-past five o'clock.

Having entered his own house, Mr. O'Connell occupied the balcony, and addressed the people. He began with—"This is a great day for Ireland—(tremendous cheering)—a day of justice! All that we ever desired was justice; and we have got an instalment of it at any rate. The plans of the wicked and the conspiracy of the oppressor—the foul mismanagement of the jury-panel—the base conspiracy against the lives, the liberties, and the constitutional rights of the public—have all, blessed be God, been defeated. Justice has thus far been attained; and Ireland may, if she deserves it be free. But do I doubt the people of Ireland deserving it? If I did, I would be the most base of mankind. How could I doubt them?" After a brief allusion to the monster meetings, he remarked that one meeting alone remained un assembled that of Clontarf; and he finished by promising to attend at the Conciliation-hall on Monday.

On Sunday the liberation was celebrated by a high religious ceremony in the "Metropolitan Church" of the Irish Catholics, that of the Conception in Marlborough-Street. The structure is of hewn stone, on the model of a Greek temple, of the Doric order; divided within by fifty columns, into three parallel aisles; the high altar, which rises at some distance from the East end of the Church, after the manner of cathedrals on the Continent, is composed, with the tabernacle, of white sculptured marble, the sanctuary, or space round the altar, being raised in. On the left side of this space was a lofty throne, with crimson canopy; on which gorgeously robed and mitred, sat Dr. Murray, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. At the altar, stood Dr. Laphan, the officiating priest, whilst assistant priests in attendance, and boys in scarlet robes bearing tapers and censurs. On the opposite side beneath the pulpit, were the "chair of state," on which sat Mr. O'Connell and his companions of "the Captivity." Se-

Several noble lords—we believe Lords Denman, Cottenham and Campbell—responded "Content."

The Chancellor paused for a moment, as if uncertain whether the sense of the house was for or against the reversal of the judgment, and he then put the question in the same form. The "contents" and the "not contents," still appeared to be equal in numbers, and more than three or four noble lords responding to each question.]

Lord Warncliffe said he trusted those noble lords who were not present when the case was argued, would abstain from voting, he was of opinion that it would be better for the house to agree with the majority of the law lords.

Lord Brougham concurred with the noble lord. Much as he (Lord Brougham) regretted the decision it would be better to follow the general rule in such cases, and agree with the majority of the law lords. Noble lords who had not heard the evidence, or attended the arguments, would do better to abstain from voting. It would, he was convinced, be the lesser evil of the two.

Lord Campbell said.—I oppose an opinion of a majority of the judges, only because I believe it is contrary to law. The distinctions between law lords and lay lords is known to the constitution; but this should be borne in mind—that no judge ought ever to decide on a case he has not heard. It would, therefore, I think, be better that no noble lords should vote on this question, who have not heard the case.

Lord Brougham trusted their lordships would not divide.

Marquis of Clanricarde considered it would be establishing a most dangerous precedent for noble lords who did not attend the arguments to vote on legal questions. It was impossible they could be qualified to form a correct opinion.

The Lord Chancellor again put the question that the judgment of the court below be reversed, which his lordship declared to be answered in the affirmative.

The judgment of the court below was reversed.

The decision produced considerable sensation among the strangers below the bar and in the gallery, who instantly hastened out, to give expression to their feelings, more freely than was possible in the house.

THE LIBERATION OF O'CONNELL. PUBLIC FEELING IN IRELAND.

The excitement in Dublin when it became known that the House of Lords had reversed the judgment of the Irish court was intense. Great crowds had assembled on Kingstown pier. The packet arrived before five o'clock; some Repeal agents on board, holding up white flags, inscribed "Judgment reversed by the House of Lords—O'Connell is free!" the crowd hurraed—the news spread—and cheers re-echoed throughout the city. Mr. O'Connell's rooms in Richmond Penitentiary were at once invaded by a crowd of congratulators. He is said to have borne the intelligence "with the same calmness that it was manifest he would have shown had it been of an opposite nature." The Repeal Association held a special meeting to concert measures for giving eclat to the occasion; and it was resolved to escort Mr. O'Connell from goal in procession.

The order for the liberation of the traversers reached Dublin on Friday the 6th inst. on the evening of which O'Connell left the prison privately, accompanied by his sons, John and Daniel. The other traversers also left in the course of the day. O'Connell was soon recognized; and as he passed along a crowd collected and followed him; forming a great concourse when they all reached Merrion-square. Having gained his home, he came out into the balcony, and made a short speech; containing little besides an expression of thanks for the tranquillity which the people had maintained during