specting officers entitled to Half-Pay, serving under Foreign Powers?

Lord Palmerton said, that the prohibition had only extended to officers holding places of emolument under the Crown. It might be a subject of consideration whether it should be extended further.

MARCH 6.

Sir I. Coffin wished to learn from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if the same indulgence that had been conceded to Officers of the Army would be extended to Naval Officers on half-pay.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that the Navy would be put on the same footing with the Army.

CATHOLIC EMANCIPATION.

Lord Nugent presented a petition from certain English Catholics, praying for relief from certain grievous civil disabilities to which they were well known to be subject. The petition was signed by upwards of 10,300 persons, many of whom represented families of the highest rank and antiquity in the kingdom. [Hear, hear, hear.] At the head of this list, which contained 11 peers and 13 baronets, was his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, Hereditary Earl Marshal of the kingdom.

The petition was then read and ordered to lie on the table, and to be printed.

CURACOA, MARCH 6.

What we anticipated in our last has not been realized, no official account having as yet reached this island of the reported battle between Morales and Paez: the only additional intelligence that transpired relative to the contending parties on the Main is contained in the following extracts of letters:---

ST. THOMAS, Feb. 26.

"Commodore Jolli has captured a great many vessels prizes to the privateers of Artigas, and also the privateer La Pope which lately captured the schooner Two Sisters of Curacoa; the Captain will be treated by Brion as a pirate. Jolli is also cruizing in quest of a brig which has committed acts of piracy. Captain White, an Englishman, is second in command at Margaritta, which island may now be justly called the Gibraltar of the West Indies. It is to be garrisoned in a short time by English troops."

FEB. 27.

"Yesterday appeared off this harbour the Independent squadron under Jolli, consisting of a sloop of war, four brigs and four schooners. From the sloop of war a boat was sent on shore under the tri-coloured flag, with fourteen men and four officers, all dressed in uniform: of the latter, three landed, one of whom was a Captain of one of the brigs, and the other an Aid-de-Camp to Jolli. They were very cordially admitted, and received the most polite treatment. They purchased some provisions, and came probably on some important commission.

"In an extraordinary Caracas Gazette of the 13th inst. I perceive that Morillo was in pursuit of Paez. In the last battle the Patriots are stated to have lost 20 men, but no prisoners, no arms, nor ammunition, nothing taken. Paez, you will see, leads them on to destruction. On the 5th Morillo was at the Hato of Merecure de Matero."

Copy of a letter, dated Margarita Feb. 25.

"Six hundred troops, belonging to the expedition of Col. English, arrived here on the 9th inst. in four transports from England, 1600 more are daily expected, of which 800 are stated to be already safely landed in Guayana; we expect our squadron here in a fortnight.

"By a mail from Maturin we learn that a bloody engagement took place at Guayabal, between our army and the Royalists under Morales, in which we were victorious, having set fire to all the Spanish vessel constructed there.

"In the province of Cumana, Domingo Montes makes frequent incursions, to the very environs of the city. Our numbers in Cumanacoa are considerably increasing, and will probably amount to no less than 3000 men when called for active service.

"All is well here."

In consequence of the great pressure under which the Viceroy of Peru finds himself, he has been compelled to open the port of Collo de Lima to all vessels bearing the British flag, and coming from any port of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or the ports of Chili and the Brazils.

LONDON, FEB. 1.

We have heard, since our last publication, that the price of silver has experienced another rise, and was, in the course of Saturday sold at 5s. 9d. per ounce. This fact, if it be true, will throw some reasoners into much perplexity, and will rivet, we are afraid, a certain class of politicians in errors on which they have already acted with more than sufficient perseverance; yet, to compel them to abandon which, something more than reason may, we suspect, be found necessary. Gold, (we are assured by the favourers of the forced paper system) leaves the country, because the exchanges are against us; and now silver leaves the country, in spite of a seignorage of 6 per cent. from the same cause of unfavourable exchanges; and "is this a state of things in "which it would be possible to repeal the "law which protects the Bank of England "from paying its notes in the precious me-"tals?" Now we will frankly say, that amongst many other reasons, it is because this protection given to the Bank of England, does not protect *the people* of England against an unfavourable state of the exchanges or against an exportation of the precious metals that we would at once revert to that good old system under which the two latter evils were not prevented by artificial means from bringing about their own correction. In our opinion, it is the Restriction Act which carries gold and silver out of the country, and which thus perpetually forges the armour in which its friends and advocates have clothed themselves. It is the act which forces paper upon every man's acceptance, and which renders the old coin of the realm *useless*, that sends away our guineas and sovereigns to those nations who prize them at their proper value. Rescind this impolitic and pernicious law, and we shall soon find money flow into the country by virtue of that very principle which now sends it away to foreigners, viz. the demand for it as a medium for carrying on the transactions of commerce. The Bank may at first be put to some inconvenience, but to no more than every other Bank in the world is exposed to, by the very condition on which it exists at all; but credit, we doubt not, will be more prosperous than ever, property more secure, the price of labour more adequate to the wants of life, and the people more contented.

FEBRUARY 8.

The proceedings before Parliament during the late week are the Message respecting the reduction of the Windsor establishment,---the appointment of His Royal Highness the Duke of York as *Custos* of the King's person,---and the commencement of the proceedings of the Committee for inquiring into the affairs of the Bank of England. Upon the first of these measures, the Ministry have, with due prudence, met the general call of the public voice, and proposed a reduction of the Windsor establishment, better suited at once to the means of the nation, and to the actual circumstances of the royal suffer. The ministerial papers abound with columns of rapid sentiment, and frothy nonsense, upon the subject of curtailing what they term the due radiance of majesty. But in the first place, what is the only proper and suitable objects of such pomp and appendage? Is it the due splendour of the crown? But if so, is it not well, and very sufficiently, supported by the double establishment, at Windsor and Carlton-house? We should be inclined to answer such objecters in the words of Alexander to the ambassadors of Darius: "*That the world cannot support two suns, nor Asia two kings.*" Or is the more immediate object the satisfaction and enjoyment of the royal personage himself? To this we shall give no other answer, except that the unfortunate high subject in question will have as much satisfaction in £50,000, or even in a tenth part of the money, as in £100,000 or £500,000. We will assert, therefore, that no reasonable man,---no one who has not a direct personal interest in the question, either by himself or by his connections, has two opinions upon the necessity and perfect delicacy of this reduction, in no degree affecting the venerable personage himself, but an abridgement only of those vain external splendours, and that cumbersome expence, which surrounded him. Instead of six lords attending one day in the week, and, one hour in that day, to hear the bulletin, and to make a bow before the unconscious eye of their sovereign, the committee appointed upon this question will probably reduce them to three. There is necessarily this difference between a suite of pomp and establishment of real service, that the diminution of the former reduces nothing of necessity, comfort, and personal enjoyments, whilst a reduction of actual attendants does produce this effect. But no one either proposes, or would consent, for a moment, to any thing of the latter character; and the former, as we have said, however it may affect the servants of the household, will in no degree affect their master.

The proposal of the Ministry under this head is, that £50,000 shall be taken from the £100,000 as at present established, and that the £10,000 allowed to the Queen for travelling expences shall be continued to the Duke of York, as *Custos* of the Royal person. As respects this latter proposal, the country, and we believe a very large portion of the House of Commons, do not agree with the Ministry, and can see no necessity for this allowance to the Duke over and above the £50,000 and the privy purse of the King, the whole expenditure of which necessarily belongs to the Royal person, and of course the controul of it to the Duke of York, as *Custos* and Committee. The £10,000 is, in every sense of the word, a *bonus* a remuneration---and this for the performance of a filial and natural duty, and which duty, moreover, is so well paid by the patronage attendant upon the office. If the country could afford it we should not say a word upon the subject, but in the present spirit of the times---in the general clamour (and a very just clamour) against the enormous expences of the civil government, as compared not only with America, but even with the more absolute monarchies of Europe, we cannot approve of such augmentations,---we cannot support the ministry in this uniform eagerness, to avail themselves of every opportunity to flatter the Court and Crown, at the expence and sacrifice of public interests. We cannot forget that the Civil List, and every branch of it, has never been introduced into Parliament of late years, but for the purpose of giving it either a direct increase, or by a still more objectionable covert, an opportunity of some augmentation. Either so much has been at once added, or so much (by transferring an article of expenditure to the Consolidated Fund) not taken away. And the further mischief is, that in all such attempts, the people have been very unfairly dealt with by the opposition themselves; the latter party (as well as the ministry) concurring, with an affectation only of reluctance, in such grants. The real truth is, that in all such questions, where the court and the public are directly pitted against each other, the people must look only to the strong expression of their own general voice; and must expect nothing either of the party who are in, or of that which is seeking to be in;---neither of those who are serving, nor of those who are *courting*.

We cannot conclude these observations without expressing our own sense, in common with that of the country, at the princely generosity of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, who anticipated every proposal of the ministry, by consenting to take the custody of the royal person without any augmentation of income, or personal benefit whatever. So far indeed as we have any knowledge of the Duke of York, he has always exhibited much of this liberality of nature, and has never made any application to parliament for any addition to his income.

FEBRUARY 15.

It is stated that an eminent army accoutrement maker is at present preparing, for the Insurgent Governments of South America, twenty stands of colours, to be shipped to Buenos Ayres. The greater proportion have the red cross in the centre, a blazing sun, and the motto *Morir a Vincer*; the ground light blue, diversified with stripes of yellow.

It is stated that the Buenos Ayrean Government have contracted for the building of four large frigates, on the plan of those constructed in the United States. They are to have steam engines on board, and furnaces for heating shot. Each ship is to carry 38 thirty-six pounders, and they are to be stationed in the River Plate, to counteract any force the Spaniards may send against the country, and to be manned by foreigners, previously naturalized.

MARCH 10.

Sir George Cockburn does not retire from the Admiralty. The appointment of Sir George, Clerk, takes place in the room of the Marquis of Worcester, a lieutenant of the army, on half pay.

Some mis-statements have been published regarding the vessels taken up by the Spanish Government at the port of London, which are to form a part of the Expedition to South America. It is not true that there may be 30 ships have been chartered for this [illegible]: the number is 12 averaging 400 tons each. The Commissioner employed has received instructions to procure three times this number. He has proceeded to Liverpool to obtain the supply necessary. If he fails there he will try other ports.

MARCH 14.

Letters from Madrid, dated the 22d ult. state, that part of the long-talked-of expedition to South America is to be employed in recovering possession of the territory of Monte Video, as the Portuguese do not seem inclined to make an amicable cession of their conquests.

MARCH 15.

It is reported that some officers of the Navy have been struck off the list for having accepted the command of some ships employed by the Insurgents in South America, in violation of the Prince Regent's proclamation, forbidding such proceedings.

The chief feature of the stock market, during the week has been the great influx of orders for money stock, which, combined with the operations of the Commissioners of the Sinking fund, have induced a scarcity, and have supported the price of the funds. The purchases made by the Commissioners are at present about £400,000 in 3 per Cents. weekly, and will continue at that rate till the 5th April, when they will be increased to £500,000. The dividends on Banks and Government Stock, due on the 5th April, will amount to 5½ millions. Great anxiety prevails in the City concerning the expected Report of the Secret Committee on the affairs of the Bank; and the fears of many, not to impute it to a less creditable cause, have given currency to the rumour, that the return to cash payments in July next, will be recommended. Nothing so decisive can have transpired on the subject; but as far as individual opinions can be ascertained, the disposition of the Committee is completely opposed to so summary a method for setting the question at rest.

MARCH 20.

This day's Gazette announces the following to be Lords of the Treasury: Lord Liverpool, Mr. Vansittart, Mr. Bankes, Viscount Lowther, Lord H. Somerset, the Hon. J. Maxwell Barry, and Alexander M'Naghton, Esqrs.

MARCH 22.

Fifteen British ships are said to have been taken up by an Agent of the Spanish Government for the conveyance of troops from Cadiz to South America.

MARCH 25.

The value of the Foreign and Colonial Corn, Grain, Meal and Flour imported into Great-Britain the last year, was £10,908,140. This is important as it shews how Eleven Millions have been drawn out of the Country, which has turned the Exchange against us, raised the price of Gold and made the resumption of Cash payments very difficult.

Thirteen thousand troops destined for South America, were cantoned in the environs of Cadiz on the 18th February.

Three heavy shocks of an earthquake were experienced in Sicily between the 20th February and 4th instant, and several Villages wholly destroyed.

MARCH 30.

The Prince Regent has been pleased to institute an Order, to be conferred exclusively on Natives of the Ionian Islands, on those of the Island of Malta, and British Subjects holding the Civil and Military Offices in those Islands.

The senate of Hamburgh has strictly prohibited in that city, all attempts to raise Forces for the Insurgents in South America.

ST. HELENA.---A private letter from Rome, dated Feb. 27, says, "Four individuals have left this city for St. Helena:---Doctor Vitiali, a young physician of eminent talents; a native of Corsica (a priest); Professor Antomarchi, a surgeon; The Abbe Con[illegible], a priest, aged 69, a native of Cors[illegible], attached to the Princess Borghese:---[illegible] is nominated Apostolical Missionary on the part of the Congregation