

The pursuit is one of deep and intense interest, and well befitting the enthusiastic and persevering minds of Captain Franklin and his gallant followers. As enlarging the bounds of science, and endeavouring to solve, under the most trying and complicated difficulties, the great problem of a northwest passage, they command all our sympathies and hopes for their success. It is, indeed, desirable to have their testimony, whether the land upon our sphere consists of one continent or two.—*N. Y. Albion, June 2.*

#### HORRID TRANSACTION.

PARIS, April 6.—*Extract of a letter from Grenada (Spain).*—A frightful murder, the details of which have a resemblance to the dreadful affair of Fajides, has recently been tried, *en dernier result* before the Chancery of Grenada.

Jorge Serassio Olivera, aged 24, lived with his father, Manuel Serassio, and his mother, Antonia Olivera, in the town of Mecina, in the Province of Grenada. In the same place resided the widow Josefa Maria, and her daughter, aged seventeen, named Maria de Jesus Aldama. A *liaison* took place between this young girl and Jorge Olivera, the consequence of which was, that Maria de Jesus Aldama became *enccinte*. At first, Olivera's family, being richer than that of the widow Maria, would not hear of a marriage between the young people; however, as the period of her *accouchement* drew nigh, they gave their consent, and a day was fixed for the ceremony to take place. In the mean time the young girl was in the habit of going with her mother's consent, to her lover's house, where she was employed in making dresses and preparing other necessities for the approaching union. On some of these occasions she remained all night. The last time she quitted her mother's house to go to that of Olivera, was on the 21st January 1825. When it became late her mother, supposing that she would remain all night, as she had sometimes done before, retired to bed; but her daughter not returning the next day at the accustomed hour, she went to Olivera's house to look for her. Olivera and the rest of his family protested that she had not called upon them the evening before, and that they knew not where she was. The widow Maria then went into the houses of the neighbours, who all unanimously declared that they had seen her daughter, the evening before, enter the house of Olivera.

The mother alarmed for the fate of her child, informed the magistrates of the circumstance. They, on the neighbours of Olivera swearing to the truth of their declaration, caused Olivera, his wife, his son and his daughter, named Maria de los Dolores, to be arrested and confined separately. Another son of Manuel Olivera, a child eight years old, was then examined, and made the following declaration.—He then said that the evening before, Maria de Jesus Aldama came to his father's house; that she remained there sewing till supper time, when she and all the family sat down to table: that after supper he was put to bed; that he was aroused from his sleep by a great noise in the next room, where he saw his father, mother, brother and sister standing round the table, upon which was some object that they were holding down; that his brother held a knife in his hand, and that his sister, Maria de los Dolores, was stirring something in an earthen pan with one of her hands, in the same manner that he had seen the blood of a pig stirred which had just been killed: that he sat up in bed, and called out to know what they were doing, to which his father replied, that they were only killing a little sow; that he (the child) then said, "What, have little

sows red stockings?"—"Yes," answered his father, "go to sleep." That a moment after he heard his mother say "It will be better to kill the child, for if he has heard or seen any thing, it is possible he may discover us."—These words threw him into such a fright that he hid his head under the clothes, and, on being called by his father two or three times he made no answer, but pretended to be asleep, and began to imitate a person snoring. Some days after, some labourers, in digging a ditch, found the body of a young female which was immediately recognised to be that of the ill-fated Maria de Jesus Aldama. She had her throat cut, and had on red stockings, a colour to which the women of that part of the country are very partial. After this discovery, a rigorous examination of Olivera's house took place. On the floor of the room next to that in which the child slept were found some drops of blood, and in another part of the house was found a *mantilla* (veil) which had belonged to the deceased. The prisoners were now separately examined, and persisted in their former declaration, that Maria de Jesus Aldama had not been with them on the evening in question.

The Corregidor of Ugijar, the chief town of the canton, being informed of the event, ordered the prisoners to be transferred to Ugijar. There a new examination took place, the result of which was, that the Promoter Fiscal, being of opinion that the guilt of the prisoners was evident, moved that they suffer death by the gibbet—that their bodies be quartered, and the members exposed, in various places, in the environs of Mecina, to serve as a warning, and prevent the return of such crimes. After the delay prescribed by the law the proceedings were again resumed, and all the witnesses including the child, Felix Serassio, re-examined. They repeated their former testimony, without any variation. The prisoners, having nothing favourable to produce, the Corregidor of Ugijar, on the 26th February, 1826, condemned them to be gibbeted. This sentence, being referred for ratification to the Chancery of Grenada, a new trial was ordered to take place before this tribunal, and the prisoners were removed to the prison of Grenada. After another considerable delay the trial came on, when Jorge Serassio Olivera (the son) declared that, on the night of the 21st of January, 1825, Maria de Jesus Aldama, after having been employed in sewing all the evening, remained to sleep in the house, and that, as she was pregnant by him, and on the point of becoming his wife, they both retired to the same apartment; that soon after entering their room they began to quarrel—that he, rendered furious by some expressions Maria made use of, fastened the door and cut her throat, and that neither his father, mother, nor sister, Maria de los Dolores, took any part whatever in the crime; that on the contrary, they had, on hearing the dispute, come to the room-door and endeavoured to reconcile them. He added that before day-break, he took the body on his shoulders and interred it in a field—that on his return he intrusted his family to observe the most profound secrecy with regard to the crime. The father, mother, and sister made declarations to same effect. On the 30th of January, 1827, the Alcades of the criminal Affairs of the Chancery of Grenada pronounced the following sentence:—"The Tribunal of the Chancery of Grenada, after having examined most maturely, and with the greatest delicacy, the facts of this case, evokes the sentence of death pronounced against Manuel Serassio, Antonia Olivera, and Maria de los Dolores Olivera, accused of the murder of Maria de Jesus Aldama, and condemns Jorge Serassio Olivera (son

and brother to the prisoners) to suffer death on the gibbet; and orders that the father, mother, and sister of the said culprit should be present at his execution—places them under the surveillance of the police, and condemns them to the costs of the proceedings, &c."

#### FROM THE NEW TIMES.

It is perfectly impossible for a Minister of Great Britain, at the present day, to stand aloof from the progress of new opinions, and shut his eyes to the fact, that there is a spirit abroad which renders established errors not quite so secure, or so triumphant, as in former times. Mr. Canning has had to grapple with the difficulties arising out of this conflict with old and new powers; and he has surmounted them with the most masterly genius. May we not properly assume that to his talent and his discretion—his happy ability not only to perceive what is right in itself, but to seize the proper moment for carrying that right into practice we owe the recognition of the South American Governments, without committing us with any of the European States who were interested in their dependence. May we not ascribe to him the triumphant, because just, attitude with this country, has assumed in the affairs of Portugal, by which the progress of Spanish bigotry has been restrained, without involving any rupture with Spain herself, or those of her allies, who may feel an interest in the existing order of things? And how has Mr. Canning been able to reconcile these conflicting principles? Because he "stands upon the ancient way, and then looks around to see which is the right and true way." His long friendship with Mr. Pitt—his own masterly efforts against the progress of republican anarchy—his intimate acquaintance with the character of the British Constitution—and his knowledge how practical and gradual have been all its improvements—particularly shield him from the suspicion of a love of innovation. But Mr. Canning cannot blind himself to the necessity for improvement which is forced upon every Government by the character of the age; and by directing those improvements, instead of resisting them, he has done more to put down the wild spirit of reform, which prevailed a few years since, than any coercion, however powerful, could have accomplished. He has thrown the oil upon the turbulent waves, and the country feels that it owes to him, more perhaps, than to any other man, its long exemption from popular violence.

Mr. Canning has, it appears to us, effected all these great national objects, without the slightest departure from real principles, which are the best ornament of a servant of the British Monarchy. On what occasion, we would ask, has he sacrificed the prerogatives of the Crown, or the inviolability of the laws, to a desire for popular approbation? But, then, it is objected to him, that he has won the praise of those to whom he is politically opposed, and that he coquettes at once with power, and the applause of men who are hostile to those in power. This is, necessarily, an age of conciliation; and if Mr. Canning has united in himself the suffrage of the two great parties in the State, and, at the same time, secured the applause of His Sovereign, it proves only, that he has the wisdom to perceive the inevitable advances which a British Minister must make, to keep pace with the progress of intellectual cultivation. Mr. Peel's course has been precisely of the same character, and, in the arduous task which he has pursued, and which we earnestly hope he will still pursue, of simplifying the Statute Laws, he has not thought it right to abstain from the accomplishment of a great national good, because

it was begun by a Romilly and left incomplete by a Mackintosh.

The policy of the Administration is before the country. It has been to unfetter Great Britain from continental trammels, without embroiling her with the feelings of the old Governments of Europe—to lead the way in political improvements, without encouraging a spirit of violent and hasty reform. The experiments upon new commercial principles have been made in a temper which is any thing but rash; and if they have provoked much exaggerated complaint, a general admission has been granted of the correctness of the theory upon which they are built. For ourselves, we have no dread that the Administration of Mr. Canning will be one of innovation. We are satisfied that he has won his way to his present high distinction, by the absence of all intrigue; and that the voice of the Sovereign, assigning him the most elevated post in his service, echoes the almost universal opinion of his country. Mr. Canning has a high reputation to maintain, and the eyes of the world are upon him, as "the foremost man of all this age." He will fortify himself in his post by a steadfast adherence to the school of politics in which he was bred; because he must feel that the principles of that school are not opposed to the loftiest aspirations for the liberties of the human race, and the peculiar welfare of our favoured country. It is the character of Mr. Canning's policy, that it is *British*, and not cosmopolitan—that it is *practical*, and not speculative. The cause of intellect with him is never stationary; but he advances, not by flights, but by steps. His genius is that of a Statesman, and not of a Metaphysician—his object may be distant, but his foot is never off the earth in the attempt to reach it.

#### MR. CANNING.

Mr. Canning was born at Paddington, near London, in 1771. His paternal ancestors were originally seated at Foxcote, in Warwickshire, where a branch of the family, we believe, still remains.—Queen Elizabeth conferred the manor of Garvagh, in the county of Derry, in Ireland, on a younger son of the Foxcote family, who thereupon removed into the sister Island, and up to father of the Premier, his descendants continued to reside there. Strafford Canning, Esq. of Garvagh, the grandfather, had two sons, George and Paul, the elder of whom, dis-pleasing his father by marrying a dowd- less beauty, was exiled from the paternal roof, with an allowance of £150 a year.

Under these circumstances he came with his lady to London, and, determining to study the law, entered himself of the Middle Temple. He died poor, on the 11th April, 1771, a few days after the birth of his son George, and was interred in the new burial ground of St. Marylebone, where his tomb, with the following inscription, was placed by his widow:

Thy virtue and my woe no words can tell,  
Therefore a little while, my George, fare-  
well;  
For faith and love like our's Heaven has in  
store

Its last best gift—to meet and part no more.  
His infant son, the subject of this me-  
moir, was placed with a maternal uncle, a  
respectable wine merchant in the city, who  
discovering strong marks of genius, at a very  
early age, sent him to Eton, where he speed-  
ily distinguished himself, and in 1786 be-  
came one of the senior scholars.

In 1788, on his removal from Eton, Mr. Canning was entered at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated. He there formed a social connection with several young men of rank, among whom was Mr. Jenkinson, now Lord Liverpool. Having