

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JUNE 1.

THE BUDGET

The House having resolved itself into a committee of ways and means, the Chancellor of the Exchequer rose, for the purpose of laying before the house, the budget for the present year. After stating that the task imposed was one of great difficulty at all times, but particularly at present, when the financial state of the country was not one of unqualified satisfaction, the complexion of it being undoubtedly dimmed in some parts by black spots, he proceeded to follow the example of his noble predecessor, which was, without preface, to lay before the house with sincerity, 1st, the precise financial situation of the country at the end of last year. 2dly, to combine and compare that with the several years preceding it; and lastly, to suggest the provision for the present year; and to state the grounds on which he thought himself authorised to look at the situation of the country in a more flattering point of view, than he had at first thought it deserved, or than was generally believed out of doors.

The country appears, said Mr. C., to be in a state of hopeful, but not of confirmed convalescence: I trust and believe it will gather strength and return to its former security—of course I mean its financial security, provided that at this critical period it is not tampered with by the application of any injudicious remedy, or receives no shock in the course we are now gradually, but directly pursuing. [Hear.] I see indications of improvement, I am not sanguine enough to suppose that they will overtake the whole deficiency; but I hope that some portion of it will be cut off by natural means, and I feel strongly the wisdom of awaiting the realization or disappointment of those expectations, before we determine what other course we shall pursue. The supplies for the year are:

Army.....	£8,194,000
Navy.....	6,125,000
Ordinance.....	1,694,000
Miscellaneous.....	2,274,000
Interest on Exchequer Bills	650,000
	£18,937,000

In addition to this, I shall have to call on Parliament, before its rising, for a vote of credit for £500,000. The military and naval pensions are £4,550,000. The sinking fund £5,700,000. The grant on the consolidated fund £11,600,000. The sugar duties £800,000. Now, the question the Committee has to decide is, whether in all the circumstances of the case, it be more prudent to go on this year, not in ignorance, but with a perfect knowledge of the situation of the country, looking to her growing efforts towards a return to prosperity than by pressing forward that financial measure which awaits your decision next year, run the risk of deranging the present state of things, without being able to foresee the consequences of such derangement. [Hear.] The supplies of this year exceed that of the last year by £800,000, arising from the Army Extraordinaries, and the Contingencies of £500,000 occasioned by the expedition to Portugal. I am far from saying, that to return to the expenditure of the last year is all that Parliament has a right to expect, or the Government has to perform. [Cheers.] I shall abstain from making promises, which might be exaggerated to those to whom they may be made, and which, therefore, generally end in disappointment.

All I shall say is, that it is the determination of his Majesty's Government happily to give this subject their best efforts, and in so doing, to take this House to their counsel. [Cheers.] The country is rather in a state to be left to itself, than to be aided, and I

trust I am not too sanguine in my expectations when I state my belief, that the time is not far distant, when it will exhibit prosperity in a manner more unequivocal than at present. [Hear.] I found this opinion on her known intrinsic energies, her well ascertained, although not now put forth power, rather than upon these circumstances of the present time, which might lead to the expectation.

June 2.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer opened the Budget to the House of Commons last night. It appeared from his statement, that, last year (1826) there was, after defraying the expenses of the country, only one million over, towards the Sinking Fund of £5,500,000 and the deficiency was therefore four millions and a half. But this was an apparent deficiency. Certain advances were made which would be repaid, and payments were made for expenses incurred in former years, which, deducted from the four millions and a half, left a real deficiency of £2,100,000. Taking the four last years, in round numbers, the income was 230 millions, and the expenditure 210 millions, leaving twenty millions applicable to the Sinking Fund. The amount applicable by law for these years, was twenty-four millions and a quarter, and the apparent deficiency for the whole was £1,269,000. But against it was to be placed money advanced on available securities, when there is an actual surplus in the four years, of £1,100,000 after allowing for the Sinking Fund. So much for last year taken by itself, and in conjunction with the three preceding years.—With respect to the year 1827—the receipts estimated after 1826, amounted to £54,600,000. The expenditure, exclusive of Sinking Fund, £51,700,000; but including it, £57,465,000. This leaves a deficiency of £2,100,000. Mr. Canning proposes to meet the anticipated deficiency, by an issue of Exchequer Bills. He admitted the unnecessary complexity introduced into the public accounts by the Dead Weight Scheme, but stated, as a set-off for the inconvenience caused by it, that the Taxes yielding then only two millions, had they remained unrepealed, would now produce £2,200,000. The views he took of the situation of the country, were moderate and guarded.—Mr. Canning, on sitting down, was cheered by the House, which wished, with few exceptions, to give Ministers the interval till next Session, for considering the momentous affair of expenditure.

FRANCE.

Disbanding of the National Guards.—The meagre accounts given of this important event in the Paris papers, and the opening and stoppage of all letters which refer to it, render it necessary for us to premise that the 29th ult. (last Sunday) was fixed upon by Charles the Tenth, to review the National Guard, a body of troops, consisting of between 40 and 50,000 foot, and 5000 horse. These were reviewed by the King in the *Champ de Mars*. He was, however, received very indifferently by them. Charles X., on passing along the whole extent of the column, was constantly saluted with these words—*Vive le Roi! Vive la Charte! A bas les Ministres!*—These three vivats were pronounced in a manner so rapid and firm, and so free from any appearance of tumult, that the King must have seen that the cry of *Vive le Roi!* was only used as a passport to the other two. The Duchess of Angoulême had thought fit to pass along the ranks, but she was everywhere received with cries of *Vive la Charte! A bas les Ministres! A bas les Jesuites!*

A grenadier, at the moment the King was approaching his part of the line, left his ranks, and advancing towards His Majesty, exclaimed with great energy, *Vive le Roi! mais a bas les Ministres!* Charles X. stopped and said that he always received with pleasure the felicitations of his subjects, but that he also knew how to repress seditious cries. He immediately turned towards Marshal Oudinot, who commanded the National Guard, and ordered him to arrest the grenadier. The other grenadiers, however, immediately opened their ranks for their comrade to pass. When the gendarmes came forward to seize the grenadier, the National Guards interposed, saying, "*We allow no arrest here!*" and sent back the gendarmes.

A Colonel of the Staff wishing to put an end to the cries of "*Vive la Charte! A bas les Ministres!*" with which the King was constantly assailed, addressed one of the legions in a very haughty manner. He was himself saluted with the cry of "*A bas! A bas!*" and "*get off your horse, and we will talk to you!*" &c. The cries which the Colonel wished to stop were redoubled. At last, when the National Guards were leaving their ranks to surround him, he galloped off. This, however, was not all the offensive conduct on the part of this important body of men. On their way home they stopped before the hotels of the Ministers uttering the most insulting cries. Nor did they spare the King, who, on his way to the Tuilleries, was compelled to hear many home truths as to the Priests, &c. The consequence was, a Council was immediately summoned, and an Ordinance issued disbanding the whole Army.

In a private letter from Paris, dated on Monday, the writer says;—"The alarm produced by the recent acts of the French Government has by no means subsided, and its effects are sensibly felt in all the operations of Commerce. An Englishman, unacquainted with the French character, will be surprised, perhaps, to hear that the attempt to enslave the press, and the subsequent affair of the National Guard, have materially tended to check all enterprise and speculation; but persons who know how much the Commercial interest in France dread the result of any act calculated to recall the turbulent scenes of the revolution, will not be astonished to find that a gloom has been thrown over this important class of the French people, which cannot easily be removed. Many circumstances illustrative of this fact have been communicated to me, but I shall content myself for the present, with stating one which I have from the parties themselves. Near Paris there is a large steam engine manufactory at the head of which is a Paris banker of great eminence and wealth, and an Englishman of considerable skill. This factory has almost exclusively supplied France with steam engines for many years past, and at a certain period the demand was regular and constant. Lately, however, owing to the unwillingness of established manufacturers to enlarge their operations, and to the little encouragement given to beginners, the trade has been comparatively trifling. Just before the affair of the National Guard, orders were given by different individuals for six steam engines and a period was fixed for signing the written contract. The ordinance, however, appeared; it was considered that another blow had been struck by the Ministry at French commerce, and the orders were withdrawn. Paris is by no means the gay place it used to be. All building speculation is at an end, and it is found difficult to finish the public passages which were com-

menced about a year ago. In the *Champs Elysees*, the "*Nouvelle Angleterie*," of which so much was said at the time, present only an irregular mass of unfinished buildings, and not a hammer or a trowel is heard going. The projectors are nearly all ruined. As to the price of building ground, it has fallen two thirds. A piece of ground, for which 100,000 francs were offered to government not two years ago, was, a few days since offered for public sale, and only 26,000 francs were bid for it. The unemployed workmen are prudently sent out of Paris, for if they were allowed to remain, there would be great danger of rioting. The occupier of every house in which workmen reside, is compelled, once within 15 days to furnish to the Police an account of his inmates, and to state particularly whether they are employed or not. Such as are without employment are immediately sent away from Paris to their native places, whatever the distance may be, and are allowed only three sous per league for the expenses of the journey."

The services of the French National Guard have been eminent; it has more than once saved Paris; and in 1815, on the 20th March, it saved the Royal Family from massacre. As a military corps the National Guard of course cannot rank high; but being composed of master tradesmen of Paris, its influence in the preservation of social order has been often happily exemplified.

FROM THE NOVASCOTIAN.

On the Present State OF THE BRITISH COLONIES.

In the conduct of this political argument with the party in Lower Canada, that stand in open opposition to the Government, we have been labouring to establish certain doctrines on Constitutional grounds, by which to unravel the perplexities of the disputes, that, if appearances can be trusted, is fast approaching to a rupture. The dispute itself, to such readers as have only adverted slightly to the previous details, must by this time be readily comprehended and may be summed up in these few words; that the House of Assembly assert a right to lay hold of the Casual and territorial revenues of the Crown, and of the duties levied by the British act of Parliament, 14 Geo. 3. both of which constitute a Permanent Fund at present for the support of the Civil Government, and under the control and direction of His Majesty, and to appropriate this fund by annual votes in the same way and manner as the other taxes confessedly at their disposal. In this brief announcement, the controversy will be seen to resolve itself into two distinct heads:

- 1st. They claim the specific appropriation of the Casual and territorial revenues.
- 2nd. And they claim also the same power over the duties of Customs raised by virtue of an Imperial act passed in 1774, anterior to the Colonial charter often alluded to, 18 Geo. 3rd.

In my last letter on the first of these heads I advanced, that, according to the acknowledged principles of the British Constitution, the King was the supreme and original Lord of the soil over which he swayed his sceptre—that he granted it to others under conditions, and with reservations, in the free exercise of his sovereign prerogative—that these conditions and reservations—whether implying services to be performed, or rents to be paid—formed sources of revenue vested in and disposed by the Crown in England as well as in all the other European feudal Kingdoms—that these Royal revenues could be no more seized by the Repre-