

become a subject of serious and immediate investigation and inquiry : and as we are desirous of showing the apparent state of this great question, in one quarter, up to the departure of the last advices from England, we will here transcribe at once the principal features of a discussion which took place in the House of Lords, relating thereto.

HOUSE OF LORDS, February 20.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex presented a petition from the City of Bristol, in favour of the Roman Catholics. The petition was signed by 1700 persons, in support of the measure which had been proposed by His Majesty's Ministers. He thought that the Noble Duke at the head of the Administration, and the Administration itself, deserved his best thanks for bringing forward a measure which must tend to the tranquillity and happiness of the empire.

The Petition was ordered to be laid on the Table.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland—I can assure your Lordships that I never felt more unwilling to trespass your attention than on the present occasion, and nothing but the duty which I feel I owe to your Lordships, to the country, and to myself, could have made me stand up on the present occasion. But, my Lords, I have always been willing to speak out on this subject, and ever shall be, for I think it a duty I owe to the country to let it know what my feelings are. It shall no longer be said that I am this thing or that, but it shall be distinctly known what I am. I cannot change an opinion which I conscientiously think to be right; and more especially, my Lords, when the question is, as it undoubtedly is in the present case, neither more nor less than this—Is England to be a Protestant or a Popish country? [Loud cheers.] For, my Lords, the very moment we admit one Roman Catholic into this House, or into the other House of Parliament, I maintain that this becomes not a Protestant Parliament. [Cheers.] I have carefully and attentively viewed this question every way in the world in which it has been considered; and the result is, that I never will give my consent either to a Roman Catholic Peer sitting in this House, or to a Roman Catholic Member sitting in the other House, or to any Roman Catholic being a Minister of the Crown, or to a Roman Catholic Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, or to any Roman Catholic holding any office that may give him power to injure the Established Church. As an honest man, I feel it my duty to state openly my opinions, and I trust that your Lordships will excuse me for detaining you while I repelled the insinuations which it was necessary I should no longer suffer to go unnoticed. [Cheers.]

Earl Grey—I rise, my Lords, to say, that having heard the Noble and Illustrious Duke [the Duke of Cumberland] state, that while he was convinced the measure about to be introduced by His Majesty's Government would cost them a great deal of painful feeling, he felt it his duty as a conscientious man to declare that his own opinions on this question are entirely unchanged, I do sincerely lament that they should so remain; because the measures proposed do appear to me to be calculated to promote the best and most vital interests of the country. I do not rise, however, my Lords, for this purpose only, for I wish to make some remarks on one sentiment which the Noble and Illustrious Duke expressed. The Noble and Illustrious Duke says, the question is neither more nor less than this; whether this shall be a Protestant or a Popish Country? [Cries of hear, hear, from both sides.] Now, my Lords, I do deny this proposition. (Great cheers.) If in any possible state of the Country, I thought there could be suspicion—if there was likely to be a chance that the measures about to be proposed by His Majesty's Ministers could have any tendency to subvert the Protestant Constitution of this Country, I can assure the Noble and Illustrious Duke there could not be a more firm and determined opponent of them than myself; but that, I think, is not a true character of them. The question is not whether this shall be a Protestant or a Popish country, but whether it shall be a divided or a united Empire—[Cheers]—whether we shall combine all classes of His Majesty's Subjects in common bonds of loyalty and affection to the Crown, or whether we shall convert into foes those independent spirits in Ireland, who, if admitted to the enjoyment of their political rights would be ready to maintain the Constitution which the Noble and Illustrious Duke supposes they would subvert, against all its enemies. (Hear, hear.)

The Earl of Eldon observed, that if the Noble Earl who preceded him had a right to admit in his opening, that he felt pain in approaching the subject, he might well regret the necessity now imposed on him to address their Lordships again on a subject on which his decided sentiments were already so well known. He had pledged himself from the first day of the Session to oppose the measures of the Catholic concession in every stage. Nor could he concede upon principle that Catholics should be permitted to hold high official situations. This he felt to be his duty in conformity with those principles which placed upon the Throne the family of the Illustrious Individual who had just now addressed them in such constitutional language. To those sentiments that illustrious person had done eminent justice, despite of the scandalous and unjust insinuations which had been so industriously circulated abroad as to an alteration of sentiment in that high quarter. The Whigs of former days, of whose loins some of the Whigs of the present day were the offspring, had constantly been the advocates of a Protestant King, a Protestant Government, and a Protestant Parliament. The present race of Whigs had totally lost sight of their original distinctive characteristic. He cared not whether he appeared in that House, or ever again entered its walls, but he would maintain, to his latest breath, that if they once permitted Catholics to enter that House as Catholic Peers, it must cease to be a Protestant House of Lords. [Hear.] His opposition to the proposed Bill was founded on the principle recognised by the Revolution of 1688, which had placed the present Royal Family on the Throne; and in that opposition he felt it a conscientious duty steadily to persist.

The Lord Chancellor felt himself called upon to assert, that notwithstanding what had fallen from the Noble and

Learned Earl opposite, according to his views of the Constitution and his knowledge of the laws of his country as well as of its history, to which attention had been drawn by more speakers than one, he entertained an entirely different opinion from that Noble and Learned Lord. He was quite sure that taking the past as a criterion whereon to form his judgment, and having examined scrupulously and deliberately the measure of relief contemplated by his Majesty's Government, no proposition would be made for the adoption of the Legislature which would be inconsistent with the Constitution. He should ill become the high situation in which he had been placed by the kindness of his Gracious Majesty, if he could advise any measure in that high capacity which could endanger the interests or well being of this Protestant Constitution; or be indiscreet enough to oppose himself to the principle of those patriotic individuals by whose agency the Revolution of 1688 had been brought about. When the ulterior question as to the expediency of extending relief to the Roman Catholics came before their Lordships' House, he would be ready to combat the opinions advanced by the Noble and Learned Lord, which he must say were very different from those which he [the Lord Chancellor] entertained. This he would now say, and he would assure their Lordships, with the most perfect confidence, that there was nothing in the measure which it would shortly become the duty of his Noble Friend at the head of His Majesty's Government to propose to Parliament—nothing whatsoever in that measure to affect the succession to the Crown of England, as a Noble Lord appeared to suppose. What was the recommendation contained in the Speech delivered from the Throne at the commencement of the Session? His Majesty recommended Parliament, in the most earnest manner, to consider the whole condition of Ireland, and review the laws which impose civil disabilities on our Roman Catholic fellow-subjects. His Majesty added: "You will consider whether the removal of these disabilities can be effected consistently with the full and permanent security of our establishments in Church and State, with the maintenance of the reformed religion established by Law, and of the rights and privileges of the Bishops and of the Clergy of this Realm, and of the Churches committed to their charge." This being the pledge which His Majesty's Ministers had given, if, when the nature of the measure were submitted to their Lordships, it did not appear to come up to the expectation naturally excited by the recommendation contained in the Speech from the Throne—and further, if it appeared that the object held in view could not be effected consistently with the security of the Protestant Constitution of these Realms, then it would doubtless be their Lordships' duty not to adopt it. But if, on the contrary, their Lordships should think, when the measure came before them, that it could be carried into effect without danger to the State, it would be their duty to adopt it. He repeated, if Parliament thought the measure to be proposed by Government could be adopted with safety, it was their duty to adopt it; and sure he was that its adoption would give satisfaction to the whole empire. [Hear, hear.]

The following has already transpired relating to the Bill for the proposed relief of the Roman Catholics, and which, altho' it certainly cannot be regarded, in its present shape, as either official or authentic, may, nevertheless, in some degree, assist conjecture on this important subject.

ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIEF BILL.

The provisions of the intended Bill for the removal of the disabilities affecting the Roman Catholics, must for some time be matter of mere conjecture. The following account, however, of the chief enactments on this subject has been given.

1. All public stations, offices, and dignities, (including, of course, the right to sit in both Houses of Parliament,) with one or two exceptions, to be thrown open to Catholics.
2. A clause will be introduced to prevent Catholic Members of either house from taking a part in, or voting on any measures relating exclusively to the affairs or privileges of the Protestant Church as by law established. The framing of such a clause is found exceedingly difficult; and up to this moment the endeavours to overcome the difficulty, have not been attended with success.
3. All the Catholic Clergy of all ranks are to be paid by the Government; but it is not intended that the Crown should have any power of interference with their spiritual concerns, or take any part in the appointment of Clergy, beyond this—that on the election of a Bishop, his name is to be submitted to the Government for the approbation of the Crown, when, if it should happen that the Bishop so elected is not approved of, then the Crown may withhold the salary of the individual Prelate in question. With respect to the inferior Clergy, they are not to be interfered with in any way whatever, but to draw their allowance subject to no limitation. It is certainly intended that there shall be a provision, raising the qualifications of the freeholders to £20; but whether this provision shall be an integral part of the Bill for removing the disabilities, or a separate measure, we cannot learn.

Having thus endeavoured to show our readers the present political state of affairs in England, as revealed to us in the last arrivals, and suspended other matters for this purpose; we have, in consequence, no room for advertising, in this

number, to other subjects, which, though less important, are at the same time of a very interesting nature.

The Roman Catholic Association had anticipated the operation of a proposed Bill for its suppression, by most judiciously dissolving itself of its own accord.

We sincerely trust that all classes of His Majesty's loyal Roman Catholic Subjects will derive such benefits, from the contemplated plans in their behalf as may impart general satisfaction and contentment, throughout every part of His Majesty's extensive empire.

LONDON, February 21.

**CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION.**—The Catholic Association dissolved itself on Thursday, after reading a long letter from Mr. O'CONNEL, in which he says, he cannot bring himself, for the present, to advise that measure. But he acknowledges that "all our old and constant supporters in Parliament advise the immediate dissolution." The Association have yielded to the dictates of prudence.

Halifax, April 8.

We are concerned to state, that His Majesty's Packet Myrtle, commanded by Lieut. Sison, on her passage from Bermuda to this port, unfortunately struck upon the Western end of the Rugged Island Rocks, near Shelburne, on the night of Friday last, and in a very short time, was completely wrecked. The Officers and crew, were happily saved, as also the Mail. In consequence of this untoward event, the mutine Packet will return immediately to Falmouth.—Royal Gazette.

COPIES OF THE

"Act regulating the Exportation of Lumber," are for Sale at this Office.

IN THE YORK GENERAL SESSIONS, JANUARY TERM, 1829.

ASSIZE OF BREAD.

IT IS ORDERED that the following Regulations be in force from and after the 24th instant:—

ALL Loaves of Bread baked for Sale to be of the following Weights, viz:—

- ONE POUND LOAVES,
- TWO POUND LOAVES,
- THREE POUND LOAVES,
- FOUR POUND LOAVES,
- FIVE POUND LOAVES,
- SIX POUND LOAVES.

Each Loaf to be distinctly marked with the figure denoting the Weight thereof, and also with the Initials of the Baker's name; and each and every Loaf of Bread which shall be found deficient in Weight, shall be seized by the Clerk of the Market, as the Law directs: And for each and every Loaf not marked as herein before directed, the Baker shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Shillings.

IT IS ORDERED that the price of the One Pound Wheaten Loaf shall be three-pence half penny—and for other Loaves in proportion.

Extract from the Minutes.

H. G. CLOPPER.

CHEMICAL EMBOCATION,  
OR WHITWELL'S LIQUID IMPROVED  
**OPODEDOC.**

This article is asserted to be a sovereign remedy in Bruises, Sprains, Gout, Rheumatism, Cramp, numbness, Stiffness or Weakness of the Neck or Joints, Slight Burns, Scalds, Fresh Wounds, Chilblains, &c.

CAUTION.

Be on your guard against cheap imitations, as spurious and servile imitations are in existence, manufactured by other people in their own names. Therefore be sure to ask and receive WHITWELL'S LIQUID IMPROVED OPODEDOC, which words are stamped on each Bottle—Or you assuredly will be imposed upon.

Also may be had, the valuable and popular article, AROMATIC SNUFF, recommended by Doctor Waterhouse, which Snuff is so celebrated throughout the American continent, in cases of catarrh and head ache & which possesses that desirable property of sensibly stimulating the spirits without subsequent depression.

The above valuable Medicines may be had of Dr. Shelton, Fredericksburg.

March 24, 1829.

FOR SALE.

AN excellent Billiard Table, Balls and Cues, and a number of scores.—Apply to PETER PEDOLIN, Regent Street, Fredericksburg, March 30, 1829. 3 w.