

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, April 19.

Several petitions in favour of Reform, and a few, from different corporations, against it, were presented.

REFORM BILL—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

Mr. Bulmer and Mr. John Campbell spoke in favour of the bill. Mr. Fane against it. Mr. Wilbraham opposed the motion of the gallant General.

Mr. Hawkins, in a speech of great power and eloquence, advocated reform. He said, we seek not this reform, as a matter of abstract right, but of practical expediency; we claim it, not as the fruit of historical research, but of historical experience; we ask it, not because it was so in our forefathers' time but because it would have been so now, had our forefathers lived in ours. (Cheers.) Sir, it is not enough to tell us that our borough system is now what it was 200 years ago. It is not enough to tell us that a system of tyrannical compulsion and corrupt influence which is in harmony with the remains of feudal power and the remembrance of feudal fidelity, which was suited alike to the selfishness of their political virtues and the sternness of their political vices; it is not enough to tell us that such a system is not grown worse, or even that it is considerably improved. If the political struggles of those days were, compared with the polite encounters of our own, the warfare of giants, they displayed the selfishness and tyranny of giant natures; and when the budgeon was the empire of popular meetings and the axe of legislative assemblies, it was natural and unavoidable that corruption and intimidation should be reckoned the two main pillars of established government and social order, and that political honesty should be identified with blind fidelity to the landlord or the party leader. But now, Sir, that the Sunday pamphlet has superseded the budgeon of the mob; now, that the daily Journal has been admitted, by mutual consent, as a fitter arbiter between contending factions than the axe; now, that the prim school-master is found a more effective bugbear to political disturbers than the grim headsman, it is too much to demand of us the continuance of those means of government whose worst corruption was unnoticed amidst the greater hideousness of the ends to which they were rendered subservient. (Hear, hear.) Sir, I never contemplated the discussions which have passed on this question, but I feel myself half a convert to the now unfashionable doctrine of the wisdom of our ancestors. I am told that they had, of necessity, less experience, and less wisdom than ourselves. Less experience I admit they had; but that they had less wisdom I almost doubt. When I see that, unlike their descendants, they made, to the best of their ability, a practical application of that experience to the necessities and difficulties which occurred; and were Sir Thomas More really to rise from his grave for the purpose of instructing a Post-Laureate in Political Economy, he might well ask us what do we gain by our superior knowledge and accumulated experience, when a few sounding phrases and a few hard names are sufficient to deter us from putting to a practical use the results of that experience, and the deductions of that knowledge. (Hear, hear.) We have been told, for instance, of the talent habitually introduced into the House through the narrow portal of a close borough; but we have not been told what proportion this talent bore to the aggregate mediocrity, not to say occasional imbecility of such introductions. Hon. members opposite stirring up their dozen of choice pippins in a golden row to win our admiration; but we have not been called to notice the bushels of crabs which have sprung from the same rock. (Cheers.) And surely, Sir, it would not have weakened our opponents' case if they had bestowed some pains in showing that this talent had been generally applied to the service of the country, and not of its possessors and their patrons. Napoleon's servile Senate was a collection of the talent, the science, and the experience of France; but we shall hardly refer to that as a pattern of a legislative assembly. (Hear, hear.) Sir, there is no one remark which our adversaries are more assiduous in submitting to our attention than the necessity, that a legislative assembly should represent the opinions of the community upon an average of years, and be responsible for the ultimate tendency rather than the particular line of its conduct. Sir, in this doctrine I most cordially agree; and I do, therefore, protest against the continuance of that system of representation which compels the people to interfere with a jealous expression of their opinions on each particular action of this house that does not fall in with their momentary humour; because they feel, that whether the ultimate results of that action be such as to justify us or not, they at least will have no future opportunity of controlling the actors, or of adopting precautions against the repetition or continuance of the action. It is, Sir, for these reasons that the press admonishes us by threats instead of advice—(hear, hear)—that the manufacturing artisan enrols his name in affiliated Societies, instead of subscribing to petitions—(hear, hear.)—that the agriculturist winks at, if he does not encourage, the outrages of his labourers, as a circuitous means of lightening those taxes which had disabled him from meeting their demands; it is, Sir, for these reasons, that [however our adversaries may persist with a politic allocation of fear to transpire the terms] revolution has been called for when reform was wanted; it is, Sir, to the obstinate continuance of this antiquated corruption that we owe those periodical outbreaks of popular discontent which, since the first French revolution, have kept that people, and among them the greatest intellects of the age, in a state of wonder at the continued existence of a constitution which only throws off its peccant humours by this system of chronic convulsions. These very trumpeters of this House—these champions of our motley franchise—allow that they are astonished when they contemplate the apparently inadequate causes which produce these vaunted results; they allow that they cannot explain by what miracle of our politico-moral nature such purity is engendered from such corruption. [Hear, hear, hear.] We infer the existence of bad effects from bad causes. Our adversaries join with us in our character of the causes, but infer therefrom nothing but good effects. [Hear.] The sole difference between them and us is, shall the decayed parts of the system be mended or not? Both are agreed how much the system wants mending, but one party is unwilling to begin so perilous a job. Both are agreed that it is in rags and tatters; but when we begin to thread the darning-needle, they exclaim, "Leave it alone, in the name of prudence—in the name of caution—in the name of Robespierre and Danton—it is so rotten, that if you attempt to put a stitch in, the whole will fall to pieces. I will not stir, Sir, to remind such objectors what manner of compliment they are paying to the old garment which has served their turn so long, and for which they profess such a veneration." (A laugh.) After all the discussions of the theoretical, and the intrigues of the practical statesman, we come ultimately and in the last resort to public opinion, as the tortoise which is to carry the elephant, which carries the ministerial world; and, however we may consult our distaste for unpalatable remedies—however we may think to avoid the bitter necessity of physic, by attributing our strength to the disease of which we are dying—however we may flatter our imagined dignity by a vaunted independence of popular opinion; it is that popular opinion which is our best staff of support, though we will continue to insult it by clinging to a broken reed. (Cheers.) And now Sir, before I sit down, one word concerning that people of England, to whose hopes and wishes, as it seems, his Majesty's Ministers must not even allude in this house, without danger of being taunted from the opposite bench, with an appeal to their physical force. I, Sir, shall put forth myself no vaunting defiance of that giant power which now sleeps a faithful servant at our feet—that power which never yet put forth its strength but in our defence, and against which, if once it turn in madness on its master, no defiance will avail. [Cheers.] If, as a legislator, I am called upon to forget that the people have hands, as an Englishman, I cannot forget that they have hearts; and at all times, indeed, I do think those hearts worth the winning, even at the price of my own power. [Loud cheering.] For the honour of this ancient monarchy, whose perils and whose triumphs for so many generations are chronicled in the proceedings of this house; for the sake of this faithful people who have stood by us in the hour of our trial, and borne with us in the hour of our pride, let us seize the opportunity which now presents itself, to inscribe ourselves on the page of history as the first recorded example of "power correcting its own usurpation." The honorable gentleman resumed his seat amidst loud and general cheering.

Sir George Warrender and Mr. Wynn complimented the last speaker, and addressed his speech as an instance of the advantage of rotten boroughs. (Mr. Hawkins is a member for St. Michael's, but they opposed the bill. Sir G. Clerk and Sir John Malcolm supported the resolution.)

Sir R. Wilson's objections to the reduction of the English representation were insuperable. (Hear, hear.) He had never heard the noble lord allege a single reason for that reduction; and certainly he (Sir R. Wilson) could not understand why a diminution of the number of members was to be considered advisable at a time when the business of the country was confessedly increasing. (Hear, hear.) Whether, in those views, he was right or wrong, the moment he heard the proposition of his noble friend, he determined rather to relinquish his seat in that house, than give his support to that part of the reform bill; (cheers) for he had been sent to that house as a reformer, and he would not appear to his constituents an enemy to reform, by withholding his support from the reform proposed by Government, with which he was associated on the general principles of his administration, and on the general question of reform. In supporting the present motion, he did not think he was opposing his Majesty's Ministers. (Cheers, and loud cries of Oh, oh.) He had prepared to support the Government even on that point, to which nothing could have ever reconciled him but the fear that opposition to it might cause the bill to be lost—he meant the disfranchisement of the pot-walloping boroughs, which he had always considered a most useful and efficacious part of the constituency. (Loud cheers.) At the same time he had never advocated (we understood him to say) universal suffrage, or the ballot, because he believed, that if those measures were once conceded, they would lead to others, by which the overthrow of the Constitution would speedily be effected. (Cheers.) He was not the reformer who could change his opinions on the subject of reform every week. (Prodigious cheering, and cries of Oh, oh.) He was not the reformer who put on and cast off his principles with as much readiness as his garments. (Repeated cheering.) He was not the reformer, who, by his indiscretion, disparaged his own character, and threw doubt upon his own opinions. (Oh, oh! and repeated cheering.) Neither was he the reformer, who, having passed his word to his gallant friend, who could afterwards appear to barter his political independence, in assisting the opposition of the Government to that motion. (Hear, hear, hear, from all sides.) He regretted that the uncertainty of councils, as it endangered the measure upon which the peace and tranquillity of the country depended. (Cheers.) He felt himself in a position of extreme difficulty; he could not retract his promise to his gallant friend, nor could he, after the declaration of the noble lord, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, last night consistently with his duty to his constituents, vote for the amendment. (Repeated cheers.) He could understand what was signified in those cheers. Who, then, were the men who dared by such cheers to impugn the integrity of his conduct? [Cheers.] He did not shrink from the difficulty into which he had been involved; though he felt that he had been inveigled into his present dubious position by his mistaken confidence.

Mr. Stanley said,—to him it was astonishing that the gallant member, who had been a reformer (hear, hear, hear)—well, who still was a reformer—could reconcile his opposition to the present measure of reform with his own professions. (Hear, hear.) He did not know what the honorable baronet would say to his constituents, who would, he thought, be somewhat startled at the course followed by their representative, notwithstanding his readiness to relinquish his seat after he should have defeated the measure to which they were anxiously attached; (hear, hear!) unless, indeed, the hon. and gallant baronet had prepared them for the lamentable departure by one of those confidential communications, (cheers and laughter) respecting which he (Mr. Stanley) wished to say a word. The gallant member seemed to complain that his Majesty's Ministers had deceived him on a question of which no man heard a word until two or three evenings ago. (Yes, yes, from the opposition.) In whatever communications the gallant member might have had with persons connected with the administration, he (Mr. Stanley) believed that he had been spoken to in confidence; for he was sure their confidence in the gallant member was only qualified by the supposition that he was too radical. (Hear and a laugh.) But it appeared now that the hon. general had been also in confidential communication with the gallant member who moved the amendment, and that he had pledged himself to support a proposition avowedly brought forward to defeat the measure of his Majesty's government. (Hear, hear!) But had the gallant officer heard the noble lord opposite last night, who made so much of his little last night, (yes, and a laugh) did he ever hear the noble lord say that the motion had been brought forward with

no friendly feeling—although the noble lord thought that no doubt many who were friendly to the bill would support that unfriendly measure? (Hear, hear.) The object of the social compact entered into at the confidential meeting at which the measure was resolved upon, was to embarrass, and, if possible, to defeat the measure of the government. (Cheers.) He did not know what gentlemen were present at that meeting. [A laugh.] Parties at the other side of the house were strangely mixed. [Cheers.] Their motives and principles were strangely mixed. Their measures seemed carefully calculated not only to reconcile them to each other, but to catch as many stray voters as possible from that [the ministerial] side. He would ask those gentlemen who were so unwilling that ministers should drive the house into a hasty division—he would ask the gallant general who introduced the present amendment, whether, from the time when his motion was first placed in the notices, it had not undergone four distinct modifications? [Cries of "Yes, yes."] Well, then, Yes. (Much noise and cries of "Hear, hear!" and "Order!") Would the gallant general go still farther to his not-confidential communications. ["Hear, hear!" "Yes, yes!" and cries of "Order!"] and tell them whether it had not been the object of each of those changes to take more certain means of defeating the bill, than were afforded by this originally intended measure? [Loud cries of "Hear, hear, hear, hear!" Was it not then resolved to bring the amendment in its present shape, as the most likely to embarrass and endanger the whole bill? [Hear, hear, hear.] The hon. member proceeded to repel the arguments of the opponents of the measure. The gallant general, and those who supported him, were unwilling to increase the number of the members of Catholic Ireland at the expense of England; and yet a distinguished member of the Catholic body had somehow or other, by means to which it was not necessary to allude, been selected to represent the English borough of Milbourne Port. [Hear, hear.] Did not this form a complete answer to all the arguments which had been put forward on the subject of the balance of representation? [Hear.] The rotten boroughs, in fact, belonged to no country, and it was mere mockery to talk of the proportion of the members of Ireland or Scotland, when it was in the power of any one who pleased, or possessed the means to enter that house for one of the rotten boroughs of England. [Hear, hear.] It was clear to every man, that on the vote to which the house would come that night upon the question of reform; (Hear, hear, hear!) and he warned the timid, although perhaps, sincere reformers, that however they may be led to judge of the nature of the question before them by any specious arguments, that this was the time when they were called on to show their desire for reform. [Hear.]

Mr. C. Wynn and Mr. Stanley explained. Sir G. Murray opposed the bill. Mr. Barnall supported it.

Mr. North begged to ask the friends of the bill in what way they supposed the representation under it for populous places would be supplied? No candidate could possibly expect favour at a popular place, without flattering the people by the adoption of popular prejudices. Any man who had been sent to prison for riot or libel—any preacher of sedition from the pulpit of democracy—any proprietor of a republican press, would be sure of success. What provision would there be for resisting men of that description, leagued together in a bond of common purpose? Vain would be the hope that the country gentlemen in the House, not bound by any distinct tie, vacillating, doubtful, and incoherent, could stand against such a combination. The result of the measure in respect to Ireland, would be to throw the nomination of 18 or 19 members into the hands of the member for Waterford, and to facilitate the repeal of the union.

Mr. O'Connell was not surprised that the honorable and learned member should have been one of the first to introduce religious altercation into this discussion; for he had done the same on the Catholic question. In all that concerned Ireland, nothing was more insulting than the air of patronage assumed by some men, who had no other claim to superiority than a pompous diction and theatrical gestures, and who pretended to take the poor agitators under their protection. The honorable and learned member for Drogheda, though he now sat for an Irish City, had been introduced into Parliament for one of the rotten boroughs—[hear, hear]—and nobody better than the hon. and learned member could defend them. [Hear, hear.] He was quite misinformed, and the House was misinformed, as to the effects of a reform in Ireland. The honorable member said that he [Mr. O'Connell] advocated reform in Parliament as a means of obtaining a repeal of the union. He had done no such thing. [Hear, hear.] He had advocated a reform as a means of getting justice for Ireland. (Oh, oh!) He repeated it, he required justice for Ireland, and he believed that there was a chance of obtaining that from a reformed Parliament. (Oh, oh!) He had said that a reform of Parliament would be beneficial; but did the anti-unionist join him? Did not Mr. George Ensor, who was one of the most intelligent and clever advocates of the repeal of the union, call on the people of Ireland to oppose reform, as likely to raise up obstacles to oppose the repeal of the union? Would they do justice to Ireland? Would they give her a full share in the legislation of the empire, so as to take from her the necessity of demanding a domestic legislature. (Hear, hear.) Every tongue demanded and every heart throbbled for a domestic legislature. (No, no.) The hon. and gallant General had referred to what he called the combination of 85 Irish members, to compel the Ministers to agree to their terms. There was, indeed, a meeting of 85 Irish members, but only one was willing to pledge himself to resist giving taxes to Ministers till they had done something for Ireland; and this was what the honorable and gallant member called a combination. There were twenty counties with a population of above 150,000. If they were English, they would have two additional members each; and if the union was not a name and a mockery, they would have additional members. It was a base calumny to say that Catholic electors would prefer a Catholic candidate to a Protestant of higher qualifications. He referred to the elections to Catholic candidates. He called on any man to prove that this was not the fact. He called on the honorable member for Drogheda who was the chief calumniator of Ireland at present. (Loud cries of "Order," and "Chair, chair.")

The Speaker explained to the hon. member, that his language and manner were both unjustifiable, and expressed his hope he would himself feel it.

Mr. O'Connell said, he confessed that in the heat of debate he had been betrayed into expressions which were not parliamentary; he was sorry for it, and begged to retract them.

Mr. Hunt denied that the measure would

facilitate the object sought for by radicals.

Sir R. Peel said, the government had at one time said, that they did not consider the question of the bill itself, but that if the sense of that house was in favour of the maintenance of the present number, they would agree to the opinion, and bring in a bill in accordance with it. Such at least had been his understanding of the noble Lord's statement, and he had asked the noble Lord if that understanding was right, and the noble Lord answered in the affirmative. Yet, after all this, the fate of the bill was now made to depend on the principle of the measure made to depend on the principle of the measure hostile to the bill but he exercised a fair hostility to it. (Cheers.) He was prepared to persist in a fair and direct opposition to the bill. [Immense cheering.] There had been a talk of a conclave, [hear, hear.] There not only had been a talk about it, but it had actually been a charge against them, and a charge of enormous delinquency, that the party who opposed the bill had met together to consider the means of defeating it. (Cheers.) This was a strange charge, and if the present ministry could direct the course which their opposition should pursue, he would predict that they would be a much more fortunate ministry than any that had preceded them—(cheers and laughter)—but if they could do so, it would be fatal to the free discussion of the House of Commons. (Cheers.) But it had been also charged against them, that those who composed the late ministry had formed a "strange union" with those who had voted against them on a particular question. What was it a charge against them that they had united with the anti-Catholics; and it was meant that they should say to these gentlemen, there is an old grudge between us which must yet be kept alive. (Hear, hear.) Surely it was not meant that they should act on such rules of conduct. [Hear, hear.] If, however, it was not meant that they should do so, he begged leave to assert his opposition to the principle, that men were not to unite together for the purpose of defeating a measure to which they were opposed. It had been asked why he had not brought forward some other plan of reform according with his notions upon the subject. [Hear, hear.] He did not intend to do any such thing—[hear, hear.]—and for this among other reasons, that if he did propose any such measure, he should be taunted with framing a bill as a measure and with the view of getting back to office. [Hear, hear.] He assured them most sincerely, that the charge would be most unfounded; for so much did he deprecate these changes of administration, and so highly inconvenient did he deem those changes, that he had stated some time since that they would be nothing more gratifying to him than to be able to support the ministry in some moderate change of the existing system. [Cheers.] He was opposed to the reform bill on general principles. One of these was the uniform right of voting it attempted to establish. An aristocratic influence was attempted to be destroyed, while all democratic influence was carefully retained. The former object was attained by the extinction of the small boroughs. The latter was the whole aim and scope of the bill. He now returned to the bill itself, to which he had the strongest objections; and first and chiefly, that it went to create a great change in the mode of voting, and thus decidedly altered the consistency of the country.

Sir Jas. Graham and the Attorney-General next addressed the house, amidst much confusion.

Lord John Russell said, this was a motion of Parliamentary tactics, brought forward, indeed by the honorable and gallant General, but concocted by more wily advisers, by which an attempt was made to bring together all the enemies of the bill, and to entrap such of its friends as might be dupes and gulls enough to fall into the snare. [Much cheering.] With deep regret he found that the first dupe, the first gull who ran headlong and blindfold into it, was his honorable and gallant friend the member for Southwark, whom until this moment he [Lord J. R.] had looked upon as a not more staunch but a more strenuous reformer than himself. [Cheers and laughter.] He [Lord John Russell] gave warning to the members for Scotland and Ireland, that if they supported and carried the motion before the house, they must relinquish for ever the hope that new representatives could be given to either. (Hear, hear.) He was convinced that the Irish members would feel it as he had put it; but not so the Scotch, who, by a little sophistry and a great deal of special pleading, had been led to believe that the two objects were compatible. The motion, worded as it was, had been designed merely to put the advocates of the bill in a dilemma, and to retry the question of the second reading. Ministers had thought that the voice of the house in favour of the second reading was conclusive, that the measure should be referred to the Committee, and he [Lord J. R.] said with the noble Earl at the head of the Government, that any improvement which left the efficiency of the bill unimpaired would be adopted; but that by its efficiency, the Government was ready to stand or fall. (Hear, hear.)

The House then divided.

For Gen. Gascoyne's Amendment—299

Against it ————— 291

Majority against Ministers ———— 8

On re-entering the gallery, we learned that, on the motion of Lord Althorp, the bill was ordered to be committed on Thursday.

[The decision on this important motion was received without the least manifestation of disappointment or of triumph, either by the members in the house or by the strangers, who, even at that advanced hour, remained to hear the result of the division.]

KING'S MESSAGE—QUEEN'S DOWER.

In Committee, the King's message was read, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed as a provision for the Queen, in case of her surviving the King, the dower voted to the Queen's Caroline and Charlotte, and moved— "That it is the opinion of this committee that there be granted, as a provision for her Majesty, in case she should survive his Majesty, the sum of £100,000 per annum for life, to support her royal dignity, and that Bushby-park, and Marlborough-house be also assigned as residences for her Majesty for her life." Carried nem. con.

NEGRO SLAVERY.

Mr. F. Buxton, in bringing forward this question, disclaimed all feelings of hostility to the West Indian interest. His case was, the miserable condition of the whole of the slave population; that the whole system was destructive of their moral and physical welfare, and that it ought to be abolished. In the sugar colonies the slave population had decreased, in the last ten years, by the number of 45,830 persons. In Tobago, a colony distinguished for the good treatment of slaves, the female part of the population died ten years ago, exceeded the male. In 1819, the population was 15,415, at the lowest calculation; in 1829, 12,556 at the highest; thus one sixth of the population perished in ten years, in spite of the best attention of the kindest planters. Deme-

ra, in 1817, had 83,272 slaves; in 1829, 68,446; 13,906 having perished in the interval. At Trinidad, in 1816, there were 25,000, of whom 6,000 died out in twelve years. At this rate, how soon would the slave population become extinct? In brief, one seventh part of the slaves of our colonies had ceased to be since the abolition of the slave trade. While this was the case in the sugar Islands, in Haiti the population had increased. He concluded by moving, that the house, convinced of the humanity and policy of colonial slavery, would proceed forthwith to devise means for its abolition.

Lord Morpeth seconded the motion.—Mr. K. Douglas was for a committee.

Lord Althorp thought the resolution too vague, and, therefore, moved, "that those Islands which have legislative assemblies, have acted contrary to the wishes of Parliament; that in the rate of duties levied on the produce of the labour of slaves, such a distinction should be made as will operate in favour of those colonies in which the resolutions of this house have been adopted, and the wishes of the government complied with."

A long debate ensued, and the question was ultimately adjourned to Tuesday week.

EAST INDIA COMPANY'S CHARTER.

Mr. R. Grant moved, "That it was expedient that the debt of £1,200,000 in the three per Cents should be provided for by the house within three years after the 23d of April next, and that the Speaker should upon the 23d inst. give notice of such a resolution to the East India Company."

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

[From the London Gazette Extraordinary, April 23.]

BY THE KING.

A Proclamation for Dissolving this present Parliament, and declaring the calling of another.

WILLIAM R.—Whereas, we have thought fit by and with the advice of our Privy Council, to dissolve this present parliament, which stands prorogued to Tuesday the 10th day of May next: We do for that end publish this our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby dissolve the said Parliament accordingly; and the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses, and the Commissioners for Shires and Burghs of the House of Commons are discharged from their meeting and attendance, on the said Tuesday the 10th day of May next: and we being desirous and resolved, as soon as may be, to meet our people, and to have their advice in Parliament, do hereby make known to all our loving subjects our Royal will and pleasure to call a new Parliament. And do hereby further declare, that with the advice of our Privy Council, we have given orders to our Chancellor of that part of our United Kingdom called Great Britain, and our Chancellor of Ireland, that they do respectively, upon notice thereof, forthwith to issue our writs in due form, and according to law, for calling a new Parliament: and we do hereby also, by this our Royal Proclamation, require writs forthwith to be issued accordingly by our said Chancellors respectively, for causing the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, who are to serve in the said Parliament, to be duly returned to and give their attendance in our said Parliament; which writs are to be returnable on Tuesday the 14th day of June next.

Given at our Court at St. James's the 23d day of April, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-one, and in the First year of our Reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

(This Proclamation is followed by another for the election of sixteen Peers to represent Scotland in the ensuing Parliament. The Peers on whom the right of election devolves, are commanded to assemble at Holy-roodhouse, on the 3d of June, between twelve and two, and then and there to make their return.)

The name of the Princess Victoria is to be changed to Charlotte, by act of Parliament; a very needless proceeding, for what is in the name? The princess is in excellent health.

On Tuesday week, Broughton suspension bridge, while a part of the 60th rifles were passing over it, gave way. No lives were lost, but six of the men were severely injured.

D. W. Henry, Esq. M. P. for Colchester, has been appointed by Lord Brougham Solicitor to the Commissioners for investigating Charities, with a salary of £1200 per annum.

New Coinage.—The Gazette of Friday contains the order for the issue of the new coinage. It is to consist of double Sovereigns, Sovereigns, and half Sovereigns, and the same description of silver and copper money that is now in use.

Such is the increasing rage for printing documents for Parliament, that the estimated expense of the present year exceeds that of the last by the high sum of £28,800. The comparative expense of printing stands thus in the official return—1830, £76,000; 1831, £104,300!

The Common Council of London have presented Lord John Russell with the freedom of the city.

Sir Henry Parnell has been re-elected for Queen's county without opposition.

Females in London.—On a careful and minute inquiry into the condition of a portion of the female sex in London, it has been calculated that the number of females of a certain class exceeds 80,000, that there are at present 15,000 girls, children of the poor, who have no visible means of subsistence, the greater part of whom are trained to every variety of vice, and are without shelter or home. It is also ascertained that the number of female servants in London is 165,732; that the time each servant remains in one situation, by an average taken seven different periods, is 462 days; consequently, on an average, 858 leave their situations every day.

The new Chain Bridge over the Tyne, at Scotswood, Newcastle, was opened to the public on Tuesday last with considerable pomp and ceremony.

LOCKED JAW CURED.—A case of locked-jaw has been cured in Norfolk, by the hourly administration of 10 drops of muriated tincture of iron, in a little water. After continuing this medicine 24 hours [which was done without difficulty, by the extraction of a few teeth] the spasmodic affection of the muscles evidently diminished; and on the following day the patient was nearly free from pain, and was perfectly recovered a few days after.

Sir J. Dillon has written a pamphlet to show that the act under which proceedings were instituted against Mr. O'Connell, had expired previous to the time of his arrest.

Mr. Canliffe Oiley has been canvassing the citizens of Chester during the present week, and with every prospect of success. Sir O. Egerton refuses to give any explanation.

POLAND.

POLISH AFFAIRS.

LONDON, APRIL 22.—The report of a new and decisive victory obtained by the Poles over

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Mr. R. Grant moved, "That it was expedient that the debt of £1,200,000 in the three per Cents should be provided for by the house within three years after the 23d of April next, and that the Speaker should upon the 23d inst. give notice of such a resolution to the East India Company."

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

[From the London Gazette Extraordinary, April 23.]

BY THE KING.

A Proclamation for Dissolving this present Parliament, and declaring the calling of another.

WILLIAM R.—Whereas, we have thought fit by and with the advice of our Privy Council, to dissolve this present parliament, which stands prorogued to Tuesday the 10th day of May next: We do for that end publish this our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby dissolve the said Parliament accordingly; and the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses, and the Commissioners for Shires and Burghs of the House of Commons are discharged from their meeting and attendance, on the said Tuesday the 10th day of May next: and we being desirous and resolved, as soon as may be, to meet our people, and to have their advice in Parliament, do hereby make known to all our loving subjects our Royal will and pleasure to call a new Parliament. And do hereby further declare, that with the advice of our Privy Council, we have given orders to our Chancellor of that part of our United Kingdom called Great Britain, and our Chancellor of Ireland, that they do respectively, upon notice thereof, forthwith to issue our writs in due form, and according to law, for calling a new Parliament: and we do hereby also, by this our Royal Proclamation, require writs forthwith to be issued accordingly by our said Chancellors respectively, for causing the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, who are to serve in the said Parliament, to be duly returned to and give their attendance in our said Parliament; which writs are to be returnable on Tuesday the 14th day of June next.

Given at our Court at St. James's the 23d day of April, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-one, and in the First year of our Reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

(This Proclamation is followed by another for the election of sixteen Peers to represent Scotland in the ensuing Parliament. The Peers on whom the right of election devolves, are commanded to assemble at Holy-roodhouse, on the 3d of June, between twelve and two, and then and there to make their return.)

The name of the Princess Victoria is to be changed to Charlotte, by act of Parliament; a very needless proceeding, for what is in the name? The princess is in excellent health.

On Tuesday week, Broughton suspension bridge, while a part of the 60th rifles were passing over it, gave way. No lives were lost, but six of the men were severely injured.

D. W. Henry, Esq. M. P. for Colchester, has been appointed by Lord Brougham Solicitor to the Commissioners for investigating Charities, with a salary of £1200 per annum.

New Coinage.—The Gazette of Friday contains the order for the issue of the new coinage. It is to consist of double Sovereigns, Sovereigns, and half Sovereigns, and the same description of silver and copper money that is now in use.

Such is the increasing rage for printing documents for Parliament, that the estimated expense of the present year exceeds that of the last by the high sum of £28,800. The comparative expense of printing stands thus in the official return—1830, £76,000; 1831, £104,300!

The Common Council of London have presented Lord John Russell with the freedom of the city.

Sir Henry Parnell has been re-elected for Queen's county without opposition.

Females in London.—On a careful and minute inquiry into the condition of a portion of the female sex in London, it has been calculated that the number of females of a certain class exceeds 80,000, that there are at present 15,000 girls, children of the poor, who have no visible means of subsistence, the greater part of whom are trained to every variety of vice, and are without shelter or home. It is also ascertained that the number of female servants in London is 165,732; that the time each servant remains in one situation, by an average taken seven different periods, is 462 days; consequently, on an average, 858 leave their situations every day.

The new Chain Bridge over the Tyne, at Scotswood, Newcastle, was opened to the public on Tuesday last with considerable pomp and ceremony.

LOCKED JAW CURED.—A case of locked-jaw has been cured in Norfolk, by the hourly administration of 10 drops of muriated tincture of iron, in a little water. After continuing this medicine 24 hours [which was done without difficulty, by the extraction of a few teeth] the spasmodic affection of the muscles evidently diminished; and on the following day the patient was nearly free from pain, and was perfectly recovered a few days after.

Sir J. Dillon has written a pamphlet to show that the act under which proceedings were instituted against Mr. O'Connell, had expired previous to the time of his arrest.

Mr. Canliffe Oiley has been canvassing the citizens of Chester during the present week, and with every prospect of success. Sir O. Egerton refuses to give any explanation.

POLAND.

POLISH AFFAIRS.

LONDON, APRIL 22.—The report of a new and decisive victory obtained by the Poles over