

EUROPE.

THE GALLANT TWENTY-EIGHTH.

The old colours of this distinguished regiment having, after proudly and victoriously floating over many a well-fought field, at length yielded to the resistless attacks of time, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, on Tuesday last, presented them with new standards. The following is a sketch of the ceremonial observed on the occasion:—

THE CONSECRATION.

The new colours, enclosed in their cases, were escorted by a guard of honour, composed of the grenadier company of the regiment, from the Barracks to the Castle Chapel, at the entrance of which they were uncased, and then placed one on each side of the altar. The sergeant-major and colour-sergeants mounted sentry over them, and at the chapel door; and as soon as his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, accompanied by his family and household, had entered and taken their places, the grenadiers and light company of the 28th being also present, the Rev. C. Vignolles read the morning service, at the conclusion of which he performed the ceremony of the consecration in the usual form.

The colours were then re-cased and delivered to Major Casel and Croles. The Senior Major with the King's colour, took the right—the Junior Major, with the regimental colour being on his left, and in this order, escorted by the guard of honour, proceeded to the Upper Castle Yard, where the battalion was drawn up, forming three sides of a square, facing inwards, and the centre fronting the Portico.

His Excellency, dressed in the splendid uniform of the Seventh Hussars (his own regiment) and mounted on his favourite charger, then appeared, and was received with the usual salute of arms and colours, after which he addressed the Regiment in the following words:—

Twenty-eighth—A more pleasing task could not have been imposed upon me than that of presenting colours to this distinguished regiment.

Such a ceremony is always interesting, but this is peculiarly so to me, from the following circumstances:—First, it is the first battalion with which I was ever brigaded, having been placed with the regiment I had raised in 1793, under the command of General Lord Cathcart, whose brigade then consisted of the 27th, the 28th, the 50th, and the 94th regiments.

Secondly—This celebrated regiment was commanded by my excellent brother, your present Colonel, but then its Lieutenant-Colonel. Were I to dwell upon all the exploits of this gallant corps, the recital would be tedious; nor is it necessary that I should do so, for the old soldiers, no doubt, keep up the good old custom of relating the achievements of themselves and of those who preceded them; and thus the young men of the regiment are already pretty well acquainted with its history.

However, I cannot refrain from touching lightly upon some of the most remarkable incidents of your career of glory.

I cannot fix the exact period at which the Twenty-eighth regiment was raised; however, I find it engaged in the wars of Marlborough, and it served with that great Captain from 1704 to 1709. That it was much distinguished, and frequently noticed in despatches, and thanked in orders.

In 1759, I find it engaged under the immortal Wolfe. That excellent general—that model of an officer, was killed at the storming of the lines of Quebec, whilst leading on the Twenty-eighth regiment.

I need not relate the result of that day.—The Twenty-eighth were advancing. The victory was certain.

The Twenty-eighth were employed during the greater part of the subsequent American war upon that continent, and maintained their high name.

In the French revolutionary war the Twenty-eighth were also much employed. In 1794, they formed a part of a corps under the command of General the Earl of Moira, which was encamped near Southampton.

It became of great importance to reinforce his Royal Highness the Duke of York, then commanding the British and Hanoverian troops in Flanders. Earl Moira, since Marquis of Hastings, landed with his little army at Ostend, and by a skilful and rapid movement, eluded the vigilance of a French army, purposefully placed to intercept them, and successfully joined his Royal Highness. It was there I first became acquainted with the Twenty-eighth, and I soon learnt to admire them. I will not dwell upon all the details of the severe winter campaign which ensued. I will merely relate a few facts which came within my own observation.

The Twenty-eighth was seriously engaged in the sortie from Minigen; the French works were stormed, the batteries destroyed. The position, however, of the army made it necessary to retreat, and in this long retreat the Twenty-eighth had various opportunities of distinguishing itself, although no great battle was fought.

I well remember one handsomely exploit.—Lord Cathcart's corps was in position at Buesen, the 27th had an advanced post at the village of Guidermalen, where there was a small river and bridge. This brave battalion had been seriously attacked all day; it became necessary to reinforce it; the 28th (of course the 28th I) was ordered to advance; they formed in front of the 27th, taking up the line of the river, and immediately opened a well-directed, uninterrupted, heavy rolling fire for 20 minutes. They totally dislodged the corps opposed to them, and remained the unmolested masters of the post. The retreat, however, continued, but I cannot make this assertion, that although from the defection of our allies, and from overwhelming numbers, it was impossible to make a permanent stand, yet throughout the whole campaign, there did not occur a single instance in which the British did not beat the enemy upon the field of battle.

I also well remember an order of General Lord Cathcart upon the occasion of his departing, for a particular service, the 27th and 28th regiments. It ran thus:—"Whenever the danger is to be apprehended, and difficult to be encountered, the 27th and 28th are sure to be called upon," &c. &c.—and true it is, they never were called upon in vain.

There is one characteristic of the regiment I am now addressing, which I advert to with the greatest pleasure. Whatever were its difficulties, however it was harassed and distressed, it always turned out stronger than any other corps. I appeal to the Gallant General before me if this is not one of the most valuable qualities of a regiment. Hospitals were their aversion. Their homes were their battalion and they were never happy away from it. In those days the commissariat and the hospital establishments had not arrived at that perfection they have since attained.

It was commonly said by commanding officers, that you might as well bury a man in the field as to send him to a general hospital; he was at least lost to the battalion for the campaign.

Not so the 28th. These poor ragged fellows, (for they had lost their new clothing,) whatever had been their casualties, were always crawling back to their homes—their battalion. You saw them in small groups deserting, as it were from the hospital, helping each other along—half naked indeed—but always bringing with them their arms in high order. The locks were clean, the bayonets were sharp. Finally, this regiment embarked for England.

The next exploit was the reduction of Mifnor, under Gen. Sir G. Stewart; Lieutenant-Colonel Paget always at their head.

They then went to Egypt. The landing of the army, on the 28th of March, under General Sir Ralph Abercrombie, was the most brilliant and imposing sight that ever was beheld. It was gallantly opposed. The 28th was one of the first regiments that formed upon the beach. They drove all before them—cavalry, infantry and guns. A position was taken up in advance. In it the army was furiously assailed at the dawn of day, on the 13th March. The 28th occupied an ancient ruin, with scarcely any cover in front, and entirely open on the flanks and rear. Having repulsed the first front attack of cavalry, they were again assailed in front, flanks and rear.

The simple order given was "Rear rank—about—fire." Not a man gave way! and the enemy was totally repulsed.

On the 21st the army advanced upon Alexandria. On that day the good, the gallant, the amiable Abercrombie fell, regretted, deeply regretted by all. Subsequently the army advanced upon Cairo, which they reduced making 10,000 prisoners.

Finally the British having expelled the French army from Egypt was withdrawn from it.

The Twenty-eighth was next employed at the reduction of Copenhagen, and after that it formed part of an expedition to Sweden under Sir John Moore. It returned to Portsmouth, and without disembarking, was pushed on to Portugal to reinforce the Duke of Wellington, then Sir A. Wellesley. It was not, however, in time to partake of the brilliant affairs of Vimiera, and Roclo, which he achieved.

The army then advanced and took possession of Lisbon, and by a convention, the French troops evacuated Portugal. General Sir J. Moore was now sent out to command in that country. The Twenty-eighth formed part of his army.

It having been determined that an attempt should be made to relieve Spain, a corps under the command of General Sir David Baird was sent to Corunna, to advance through the Gallicias, whilst Gen. Sir J. Moore should move forward from Portugal.

A junction was formed near Toro. I well remember it. It was an interesting moment to me, I had the advanced guard of the former column. My brother that of Sir J. Moore. Our patrols fell in with each other, and I soon found myself in the presence of General Paget and of his faithful Twenty-eighth, which formed part of the reserve which he commanded.

The whole with the cavalry, were then placed at my disposal.

The army advanced upon Sahagun. A battle was to be fought, but General the Marquis de Romana, having announced the total inefficiency of his Spanish army, and his inability to second the efforts of Sir John Moore, it became necessary to fall back upon Corunna.

Whilst in the plains the cavalry covered the movements of the army. When within the mountains the infantry took the rear guard.

they prized the well earned fame of their brave corps.]

His Excellency having delivered the new Colours to Ensigns Wodehouse and Hailes, received the old standards from them, which he handed to the Majors, who stood in attendance to receive them.

Lieut. Colonel Harris Hailes, then addressed his Excellency, as follows:—

My Lord—The honour which you have this day conferred upon the Twenty-eighth regiment is deeply felt by every individual composing the Corps; and for them, and in their behalf and my own, I beg to tender you our best acknowledgments.

The gallant and Noble name of Paget has been long associated with this regiment, as well as with the brightest page of the military history of the country; the recollection of this day will not the less cherish the feelings borne by us all towards your House; and I will add that the Colours which your Excellency has now entrusted to our keeping, shall be defended as honourably, and with the courage and constancy as those hitherto borne by the twenty-eighth.

The troops again saluted, the Colours were trooped to their station, the regiment took close order, and forming into open column marched past in ordinary time, and home to their barracks.

[From the London Times.]

The confessed evils of the poor system,—through the produce of Legislative blunders,—it is now difficult for the most skillful legislation to reach, to arrest, or to eradicate. The overseers or vestries of almost every parish in England experience an impossibility of finding profitable employment for all its poorer inhabitants, and have often to answer greater demands made on their funds by able-bodied labourers out of work, than by the young, the aged, and infirm, who cannot be expected in any circumstances to toil for their bread.

Whatever employment might be found for them under a different system of laws, or however much the population of the country may still fall short of the number of inhabitants whom it could maintain in happiness and comfort, it is quite certain that at present, and in our existing social organization, no extension of parochial or ministerial ingenuity, has discovered the means of making all able-bodied labourers provide for themselves or of setting them to profitable occupation. The consequence is, that a greater revenue is levied and expended for the support of the poor of England, than for the half of our national establishments, civil, naval, and military;—that upwards of 1,000,000 or 1,200,000 of persons come upon the parish, who ought to be maintained out of the fruits of their own labour; and that in some places the poor rates amount to a sum nearly equal to the rent of the land; and that nearly the whole of our agricultural labourers are reduced to a state of degradation and destitution unheard of in former times, or in other countries,—struggling against poverty and misery,—running a race of fraud and falsehood against what they conceive to be injustice and oppression,—trying to enlist the alarms of their superiors in their cause, or to attract attention to their complaints by acts of insubordination and incendiarism,—boldly incurring the penalties of imprisonment for transgressions of the slave laws, and increasing, by their darker crimes, the victims of the scaffold, or the population of our penal colonies. In the accounts of many parishes which we have seen the sums expended for the relief of the young, the aged, the sick, and the infirm,—the most if not the only legitimate objects of relief,—bears no proportion to the amount of the fund raised for the support of able-bodied labourers who cannot find employment.—The latter, to be sure, are not allowed to enjoy their pittance in idleness, but they are sent to work on roads which require no repair, to toil in sand-pits where their labour is equally unprofitable, and even in some cases mentioned by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, to drag carts, which horses would have done better. In many instances, they might as well have been sent to Lord Castlereagh's operation of "digging holes in the earth, and then filling them up again."

To remove or mitigate so monstrous an evil tainting or about to corrupt the whole agricultural population of England, we have seen several attempts at legislation, both in the last session and in this. The most recent essay of this kind which has come to our notice is the bill of Lord Kenyon, about which a short conversation took place in the House of Lords on Tuesday, and was inserted in our paper of yesterday. We have looked into his lordship's bill, which bears the tempting title of "An Act for encouraging and facilitating the employment of labourers in agriculture," and can scarcely guess why it lays claim to so high and patriotic a destination. Its more appropriate name would have appeared to us to be, "A general enclosure act, with a reservation of a portion of land for the parson and the poor." It might as well be called a "tithing act," because it allots the tenth part of the said enclosures to the overseers of the poor. It is not a measure of questionable policy to enrich the proprietors of land bordering on commons, under colour of adding gardens to the cottages of the poor? Is it a boon "to steal the common from the poor man's goose," in order to give him an eventual chance of getting back an acre of it by paying a rent to the overseer? What tendency may be his lordship's motives, such appears to the tendency of the bill, if we were to judge of the very small portion of it which gives the title to the measure.

The bill is neither more nor less than an act to authorise the enclosure and division of all commons in England and Wales, upon the consent of the owners of two thirds of the property entitled to the right of common. From this a reserve is made of one tenth for the church, and another for the poor, the whole being consequently exempted from the payment of tithes. It is to be regretted that these latter provisions did not form part of every private enclosure bill which has passed for the last century, but we are not sure that they ought to be considered as a passport to a general measure otherwise objectionable.

With the general policy of the measure we shall not at present occupy ourselves, but hasten to an observation or two respecting its vaunted power "of encouraging and facilitating agricultural labour." The relief which it gives, to the poor is not we think, equal to the benefit of which it deprives them. In the first place, this "encouragement and facility" to labour must be very partial and limited—confined to districts where unenclosed commons still exist. In the second place, the bill unjustly restricts the allotment for the poor to 200 acres, whatever be the size of the common, and to whatever extent of area its tenth part would reach. In the third place, the pauper portion of the common being placed at the disposal of the overseers, and laid out by them in plots at or below two acres, would merely relieve the poor rate by the amount of the rent of this land and would become a source of jobbing and partiality in the management of the parish funds. It is wisely provided that no new cottages shall

be built on these experimental pauper farms, otherwise the bill would be positively pernicious, as it would increase the parish poor list, by the 100 additional cottagers whom the overseers might introduce into the new allotments. It is also wisely arranged that the overseers may exchange the land of the common for other ground contiguous to the cottages of the labourer. With these two exceptions, we see nothing in Lord Kenyon's misnamed attempt "to encourage and facilitate the employment of labourers in agriculture," which warrants its ambitious title or can command our approbation.

[From the Morning Herald.]

We are inclined to think much more favourably of the speeches of the Earl of Harrowby, Lord Wharfedale, and the Bishop of London, on the first reading of the Reform Bill, now that we see the tone of bitter vituperation with which the sentiments contained in them are received by the ultra-Tory press.

But it is rather in the tone of hope than in that of triumph that we would hail the present prospect. Our wish throughout has been to see the reform question carried in such a way as should unite the suffrages of all reasonable men, and, above all, ensure the tranquillity of the country. The way in which the former bill was treated by the Lords was, we may now say, anything but just and conciliatory—it was indiscreet, insulting, and degrading.

We now hail a better spirit, in the pure spirit of good will. The Lords have now given the word of promise to the ear—we trust they will not break it to the sense.

To Earl Grey on the other hand, we would say that he is bound to receive these in the genuine spirit of cordiality—*namely, of concession.*

The great principle of the Reform Bill, the disfranchisement of the rotten boroughs, is the one thing needful. This accomplished, all that is necessary must follow now, or speedily; and therefore, if the main feature of the Bill can be quietly obtained, a little yielding, on the score of minor details, is what no honest friend of reform need for one moment grudge. In short, let us but get rid of our present system of misrepresentation, and real representation will, as a matter of course, speedily follow.

[Comment on the above by the Courier.]

The announcement made by Lord Harrowby and Wharfedale brought no surprise to us, acquainted as we had been for some time with the fact, that a majority for the second reading of the Reform Bill had already been secured by the adhesion of many of its late opponents. We cannot admit a suspicion of the sincerity of that adhesion, or imagine for a moment that any of those Noblemen who avow themselves in favour of the principle of the measure, by promising to vote for its second reading, can be guilty of assuming the garb of friendship for Reform, in order that by treachery they may the more surely encompass its defeat. Equally foreign from our estimate of Earl Grey's character would it be to impute to him any of those characteristics of littleness of mind—any of that punctilious doggedness which could regard reasonable concession as an abandonment of principle, and would make him take his stand more upon the letter than the spirit of the Reform Bill. We cannot, however, go the length of granting that the Bill could sufficiently be represented by schedule A. or that the disfranchisement of the rotten boroughs, although the first, the one thing needful. For that party which still maintains hostility to Reform, we have no angry feelings.

[Courier, March 27.]

The truth is, that the country is in an awful crisis, from which it will be difficult to redeem it entirely by any course of policy, however wise, prudent or just. It is suffering under the effects of an extraordinary change brought about by circumstances totally unconnected with the question of reform, and the settlement of that question will not, as some persons suppose, be sufficient to restore it to a healthy state; but it is certain that the refusal or improper protraction of Reform, would at once produce that ruin which a long course of wisdom and energy can alone avert. The House of Lords must feel this as sensibly as ourselves; and it will not be we are sure, be accessory to an act which would bring disgrace upon the Parliament, and inflict irretrievable injury upon the country at large.

Let us get the Reform question comfortably settled by mutual concession and conciliation, and we shall then be able to consider what means are to be adopted to improve an almost stagnant trade—renovate a wasting political strength—and place the finances and the general affairs of the country, upon a footing which future casualties will not be able effectually to shake.

[Times, March 30.]

"Where is the Reform question?—What space does it occupy? By what power is it sustained? And by what force sent onward? Why, every school boy can tell, that it does not exist alone in St. Stephen's Chapel—or in the tapestried Chamberst;—that it is not confined to the walls of the old Palace at Westminster, nor will be controlled merely by what is passing there. It is every where—in the cottage, in every shop, on the mountain, in the dell, in the village, in the factory, in the city, in the breast of every Englishman, and Irishman, and Scotsman;—it spreads over, pervades, inflames, and propels the whole community—it forms the atmosphere, the food and the life-blood of Britain. He who can annihilate the nation—he alone can quench this spirit and stay its advance."

The hall of the House of Commons, which was originally a Chapel consecrated under this name, but long since desecrated to this secular purpose.

The Hall of the House of Lords, the walls of which are covered, with the richest and most extensive tapestry or needle work, representing the naval engagements, which destroyed the Spanish Armada.

Creation of Peers.—The Duke of Newcastle, in a pamphlet just published, on the subject of an increase of the Peerage, says "It is not for a moment to be supposed, that the King will venture upon such a measure, the very conception of which, as a purpose, would be treason, even in him who occupies the throne."

The King understands his prerogatives and his duties to well. And nothing would be more dishonourable, or more disloyal than to impute to his Majesty such design, or the remotest approximation to such consent."

AMERICA.

WEST-INDIES.

STATE OF THE WEST INDIES.

[From the London Courier, March 28.]

We understand that the very embarrassing and difficult situation in which the affairs of the West Indian Colonies are placed, is attracting the general attention and interest among all the trading community of the city of London; and we hear that one of the most extensive and influential meetings of that community will be

convened in the City on Thursday, the 5th of next month, for the purpose of giving a public expression of their opinions on this subject.

We are afraid that the Government have been rather rash in the determination they have of late come to in the management of this very difficult question. Their measures have spread angry feelings both in the Colonies and at home, to a very unnecessary extent, which by prudence and fair consideration might have been entirely avoided—much to their own credit and advantage.

It appears by the papers laid before Parliament, that the Governors of the Crown Colonies consider the Order in Council of the 2d of November, 1831, to be unfit for adoption in many particulars, and subversive of the rights of property. These points are so clearly explained that the Government do not now hesitate to say that this order must undergo modification! Under such circumstances it certainly does appear to be very unfortunate that Lord Goderich should have written the Circular Despatch of the 10th of December, 1831, to the Governors of the different Legislative Colonies, to say that their Legislatures must pass laws, embodying in the strictest manner, and without modification, every provision of this order, under the penalty of fiscal regulations which would impose additional burdens on such Colonies as do not obey the ill-matured mandates of the Government. This is a most harassing way of acting. It apparently seeks to impose odium on the Colonists; and may in the opinions of some, serve the purpose of acquiring a momentary popularity, but it disregards the real duty of a Government, namely, to be well informed before it ventures to issue edicts that are to regulate the whole state of society in our distant possessions.

It appears to be highly desirable that a complete code of laws for the protection of the negroes in our Colonies (calculated to embrace the resolutions of Parliament, of May 1825) should be made law in all these Colonies; but it is only by prudent and conciliatory conduct that the Government can accomplish this desirable object. Rash and harassing measures such as those alluded to, only defeat the accomplishment of this desirable end. If a code of laws, such as we have indicated, were generally established, amelioration would proceed under fair protection; and that constant system of detraction and irritation, which is practised by too many persons both in and out of Parliament, would be avoided; a resting-point from constant meddling would be established, and the fair objects of humanity would be attained in the most secure manner.

We trust the Government may well and seriously consider the path they have lately pursued, and not hesitate to recede from such positions as ought not to be maintained. It is much better to confess an error when committed, than to persist in doing wrong for the purpose of maintaining an ill-judged consistency.

The following is a copy of the proclamation of the Governor of Barbados, opening the Ports of that Island to the admission of American Lumber, &c. on the same terms as Colonial.

By His Excellency J. Lyon, K. C. B. and G. C. H. Governor and Commander in Chief of this Island, &c. &c. &c.

JAMES LYON.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS by virtue of full power and authority to me given, by His Most Sacred Majesty William the Fourth, by the Grace of God, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c.—I do, by this my proclamation, order and direct that the Ports of this Island be opened, until further orders, for the importation, Free of Duty, of Fish, Lumber, &c. &c. from the United States of America, strictly according to the provisions of the late Act, 1st and 2d, Wm. 4. cap. 46; and the Officers of His Majesty's Customs, and all other persons concerned are hereby required to take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my hand and seal at Arms, at the Government House, this Eleventh day of April, 1832, and in the second year of His Majesty's Reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING!!

By His Excellency's Command.

Wm. HUSBANDS, Deputy Secretary.

The port of Spain Gazette Extraordinary, of the 24th ultimo, contains intelligence of a very serious nature—by which we find that the spirit of insubordination is not confined to only one colony. About 11 o'clock on the morning of Friday the 23d, "a fire was discovered as having taken place on the properties of Madame Louis Philip, named Concord, by which upwards of 35 acres of best canes (estimated to have made 80 hogheads of sugar) were totally destroyed. A second fire at the same time was perceived to have commenced on a small estate belonging to a person named St. Andre, adjacent to Petit Bourg, which for some time kept the inhabitants of that village in the utmost alarm; but owing we understand, to the very prompt and praise worthy assistance afforded by the Military stationed there, under the command of Lieutenants Burton and Donovan, it was speedily got under. Also, of the Retrench Estate, a little past 5 o'clock, &c. of the same day, while the Manager was riding round the property, he fortunately came upon a spot in the canes, which fire had just been communicated; but which, with the assistance of his own gang, he succeeded in extinguishing.

Active assistance, we are happy to say, was afforded from many of the neighbouring properties; but we learn with much uneasiness and regret, that the slaves of the Concord estate evinced by their conduct during the conflagration, a total want of any desire to save the property of their respectable and humane owner.

"Heavy rain fell in that quarter on Thursday night, which, probably under God, saved the entire of that extensive district; this deprives of the consolation of thinking that these several fires could have originated in accident."

By the Dominica Colonist of the 24th ultimo we are informed that on the Picard Estate, a slave charged with the care of the cattle, had allowed them to enter a piece of young canes which they very much damaged. It appearing to the manager that the cattle were purposely let loose into the canes, he resolved on punishing the offender;—he was placed upon the triangle for punishment, when his brother with two well sharpened Cane-Bills, made his way to the triangle and in the presence of the Manager cut the cords and released the prisoner. He then placed one of the Bills in the hands of the prisoner and by the efforts of the two the triangle was destroyed. This act of insubordination was a signal to the Gang of the Estate, who broke into open revolt against the authority of the Manager. Information of these circumstances reached His Excellency the Governor at night on the 13th inst. and His Excellency with a degree of promptness, not to be surpassed, or too highly commended, availed himself of a part of the Left Wing of the 93d Highlanders (then on board the Lord