

# EUROPE.

ENGLAND.



## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS, WEDNESDAY, Feb. 5.

His Majesty this day opened the session of Parliament in person.

The interior of the house on this occasion had a most splendid appearance. It was almost entirely filled with female beauty, attired in all the elegance of fashion. So numerous indeed was the attendance of ladies, that several Peers, unable to obtain sitting room, were obliged to stand during the ceremony.

At half past 1 the Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack.

His Majesty, attended by the usual Ministers of State, entered the House at a quarter after two o'clock. His Majesty, we are happy to say, looked very well. He appeared to be in excellent health.

The Commons having been summoned, about two hundred of them, headed by the Speaker, immediately presented themselves at the bar, when His Majesty proceeded to read, in a distinct and audible voice, the following gracious speech:—

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

In calling you again together for the discharge of your high duties, I rely with entire confidence on your zeal and diligence—on your sincere devotion to the public interests, and on your firmness in supporting on its ancient foundations, and in the just distribution of its powers, the established Constitution of the state.

These qualities eminently distinguished your labours during the last session, in which more numerous and more important questions were brought under the consideration of Parliament than during any former period of similar duration.

Of the measures which have in consequence received the sanction of the Legislature, one of the most difficult and important was the bill for the abolition of Slavery. The manner in which that beneficent measure has been received throughout the British Colonies, and the progress already made in carrying it into execution by the Legislature of the Island of Jamaica, afford just grounds for anticipating the happiest results.

Many other important subjects will still call for your most attentive consideration. The reports which I will order to be laid before you from the Commissions appointed to inquire into the state of the Municipal Corporations—into the administration and effect of the Poor Laws, and into Ecclesiastical Revenues and Patronage in England and Wales, cannot fail to afford you much useful information, by which you will be enabled to judge of the nature and extent of any existing defects and abuses, and in what manner the necessary corrections may, in due season, be safely and beneficially applied.

It has been the constant aim of my policy to secure to my people the uninterrupted enjoyment of the blessings of peace. In this I have been much assisted by the good understanding which has been so happily established between my government and that of France; and the assurances which I receive in the friendly disposition of the other Powers of the Continent give me confidence of the continued success of my endeavours.

I have, however, to regret that a final settlement between Holland and Belgium has not yet been effected, and that the civil war in Portugal still continues. You may be assured that I shall be careful and anxious to avail myself of any opportunity which may afford me the means of assisting the establishment of a state of security and peace in countries the interests of which are so intimately connected with those of my dominions.

Upon the death of the late King of Spain I did not hesitate to recognize the succession of his Infant Daughter; and I shall watch with the greatest solicitude the progress of events which may affect a Government, the peaceable settlement of which is of the first importance to this country, as well as to the general tranquillity of Europe.

The peace of Turkey, since the settlement that was made with Mehemet Ali, has not been interrupted; and will not, I trust, be threatened with any new danger. It will be my object to prevent any change in the relations of that empire with other powers which might affect its future stability and independence.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I have directed the Estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you.

They have been framed with a view to the strictest economy and to such reductions as may not be injurious to the public service.

I am confident that I may rely on your enlightened patriotism, and on the cheerful acquiescence of my people for supplying the means which may be required to uphold the honour of my Crown and the interests of my dominions.

The accounts which will be laid before you of the state of the Revenue as compared with the Expenditure, will be found to be most satisfactory.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

I have to lament the continuance of distress amongst the proprietors and occupiers of land, though in other respects the state of the country, both as regards its internal tranquillity and its commerce, and manufactures, affords the most encouraging prospect of progressive improvement.

The Acts passed in the last session for carrying into effect various salutary and remedial measures in Ireland, are now in operation, and further improvements may

be expected to result from the Commissions which have been issued for other important objects of inquiry.

I recommend to you the early consideration of such a final adjustment of the tithes in that part of the United Kingdom as may extinguish all just causes of complaint, without injury to the rights or property of any class of my subjects, or to any institution in Church or State.

That public tranquillity has been generally preserved, and the state of all the provinces of Ireland presents upon the whole a much more favourable appearance than at any period during the last year.

But I have soon with feelings of deep regret and just indignation the continuance of attempts to excite the people of that country to demand a repeal of the Legislative Union.

This bond of our national strength and safety, I have already declared my fixed and unalterable resolution, under the blessing of Divine Providence, to maintain inviolate by all the means in my power.—In support of this determination I cannot doubt the zealous and effectual co-operation of my parliament and my people.

To the practices which have been used to produce disaffection to the State and mutual distrust and animosity between the people of the two countries, is chiefly to be attributed the spirit of insubordination, which, though for the present in a great degree controlled by the power of the law, has been but too perceptible in many instances.

To none more than to the deluded instruments of the agitation thus perniciously excited is the continuance of such a spirit productive of the most ruinous consequences; and the united and vigorous exertions of the loyal and well-affected, in aid of the Government, are imperiously required to put an end to a system of excitement and violence, which, while it continues, is destructive of the peace of society, and if successful, must inevitably prove fatal to the power and safety of the United Kingdom.

LONDON, THURSDAY, Feb. 6.

A scene of an extraordinary nature took place last night in the House of Commons, in the progress of which that Assembly found itself compelled to resort to the extreme measure of placing two of its Members, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Shell, in the custody of the Sergeant at Arms.

The public have long been familiar with the imputation cast upon one of the Irish Members of Parliament by Mr. Hill, upon the alleged authority of a Cabinet Minister, and upon several of them by Mr. Pease, upon his own personal knowledge, that while they were speaking and voting in the House against the Irish Coercion Bill, they were strenuously urging His Majesty's Ministers to persevere in that measure, which they characterized as necessary, in their estimation, to the peace and welfare of Ireland. The parade with which a considerable number of the Gentlemen to whom this grave imputation might have been supposed to apply have denied the charge—the progressive master-roll of disclaimers promulgated through the Irish Newspapers in their interest—the letters of many of them to Mr. Hill, requiring him to expiate them individually—have had the effect of keeping the attention of the public alive to a subject to which it may now be suspected most of the parties concerned would, without much reluctance, if it were still possible, permit to pass into oblivion.

Too much, however, had been said upon the subject in Ireland to admit of silence, in the House of Commons, and Mr. O'Connell accordingly brought it last night in the most effectual manner under the notice of that assembly. He called upon Lord Althorp to verify or to contradict the statement of the Hon. and learned Member for Hull. Lord Althorp unfortunately could do neither. He denied that any Irish Member who voted against the Coercion Bill had urged His Majesty's Ministers to persevere in that measure; he also, by plain implication at least, denied that the Hon. and learned Member for Hull had the authority of a Cabinet Minister for his statement; but he affirmed that some of the Irish Members had expressed opinions in direct opposition to their speeches and votes upon the question; that this fact had come to the knowledge of His Majesty's Ministers, that he personally believed it, and would take the responsibility of that belief, as he must decline to mention his authority. On being further pressed by Mr. Shell the Noble Lord said that the Hon. and learned Member was one of the persons upon whom the imputation had been cast.

The excitement was now at its height, and a scene ensued for an account of which we must refer to our Parliamentary report. It ended by the Noble Lord and the Hon. and learned Gentlemen consenting to give the required pledges not to prosecute the matter out of the House, and being therefore liberated from the danger to which they had been committed.

**LORD ALTHORP'S EXPLANATION.**

Mr. Stanley, Sir James Graham, and the other Ministerial Members who had accompanied Lord Althorp out of the House when he was taken into the custody of the Sergeant at Arms, now entered and resumed their seats on the Treasury benches.

Mr. Stanley then rose and spoke as follows:—*Mr. Speaker,* it is not my intention, Sir, to offer any observation, or to renew in any shape whatever any discussion upon the merits of the question which has so long and so painfully been under the consideration of this House upon the present evening. I am, Sir, the bearer of a communication, which I trust will give the same satisfaction to this Hon. House which it has unqualifiedly given to me and to our mutual friends.—(hear, hear.) Sir, my Noble Friend (the Chancellor of the Exchequer), whose conduct was under the review of this House this evening, felt that he had done as much and that he had gone as far as he could fairly be called upon to do when he had stated to the House that he was willing to enter into an engagement that in consequence of what had passed he would take no active steps in the affair whatever. The House in its wisdom had judged this not to be sufficient, and looking to the exercise of its authority, and the vindication of its dignity, in the enforcement of its own views, it had taken that extreme step, almost the extremest it could take, which had placed both parties under an authority which made it physically and morally impossible that any hostile collision could take place. Sir, I am authorized to say on the part of my Noble

Friend that although he had expressed opinions of his own, he bowed to the authority of the House with the respect he owed to it. (hear.) In fulfilling this duty I am also bound to state that my Noble Friend has acted by the advice of his colleagues, who on no occasion would for any consideration on earth hint to him advice which could in the slightest degree be creditable to his character, or could cast the slightest shade on his untarnished reputation. (hear, hear, hear.) In consideration of the respect which the Noble Lord owes to the authority of the House, and to the course of the public business, which might be materially impeded without his presence, he authorizes me, Sir, to give on his part, the assurance that he is ready to make the declaration which the House requires, and which it has enforced, namely, that he will not take any steps himself, nor respond to any hostile message, in consequence of the proceedings that had taken place in the course of this evening. Having made this attempt, which I trust will be to the House as satisfactory as it is to me, and feeling confident that my Noble Friend opposite will view it in the same way, I have only to move that the Noble Lord (Lord Viscount Althorp) be discharged from the custody of the Sergeant at Arms.

Mr. Hume rose to second the motion. He had given his vote with great pain, but he had felt that there was no alternative but to support the rules and regulations of the House.

The manner in which the Noble Lord had yielded to the wishes of the House must add to his high character.—(Hear, hear, hear.) The Speaker said that before he put the motion he hoped that the House would allow him in two words to express his satisfaction at the termination of the occurrence. After the speech made by the Right hon. Gentleman he was sure that there could not be two feelings in the House that the course pursued by the Noble Lord, had added greatly to his private and public character.—(hear, hear, hear.)

The question was then put and carried. Mr. Ruthven said he had an application to make to the House in behalf of his friend the learned member for Tipperary who it discharged the Noble Lord from custody. As an Irishman he felt a strong interest for the honour of his country, and he, therefore, felt anxious that his friend should receive equal treatment with that in which the Noble Lord had been indulged.

Mr. Shaw thought that the Honourable Member for Hull (Mr. Hill), ought to make the same assurances as those which had been made by the Noble Lord (Althorp).

Mr. Hill, in answer, said that, in the judgment of the House, it was deemed incumbent upon him to make such concessions, though he certainly felt that there was no necessity for them, yet he would with due humility bow to the opinion and the wishes of the House.

Col. Evans here made inquiries as to what were the intentions of the Ministers with respect to the Government finances.

Lord Althorp said an early opportunity would be afforded by His Majesty's Ministers of bringing the subject before the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Young moved for leave to bring in a Bill for investing in the Funds the produce of the tolls of the harbour of London, in order that the tolls might thereby be redeemed; and likewise to bring in a Bill for the repeal of the Act.

**MR. SHELL'S LIBERATION.**

Mr. Hume stated that in consequence of what had passed he and other friends of the Hon. and learned Member for Tipperary (Mr. Shell) had communicated with that Gentleman, and he had the satisfaction on the part of his Hon. and learned Friend that he felt anxious to show his respect to the orders of the House, and that, without giving any opinion upon the subject which had led to the situation he was then in, he had come to the determination of submitting implicitly to their wishes. He (Mr. Hume), together with the other friends of the Hon. and learned Gentleman, had stated to him that by adopting this course, so far from acting in a manner derogatory to his character, as a man of honour, he would be taking the most effectual means of supporting it, and placing it in a higher and more worthy station than before. In following the advice tendered to him by his friends and the Hon. and learned Gentleman was actuated solely by a spirit of obedience to the orders of that House, which had always been found salutary for the general body, and the individual composing it; and which it was upon all occasions the duty and the interest of every member individually to uphold. He moved that Richard Lalor Shell Esq. be discharged out of the custody of the Sergeant at Arms. He (Mr. Hume) offered on the part of that Hon. and learned Gentleman an assurance that no proceedings should be taken by him with reference to the subject which had placed him in custody out of the walls of that House.

Sir E. Knatchbull seconded the motion. The Speaker said he could not but express his gratification at the course which the Hon. and learned Member had adopted. The House and the country at large would feel that he had been rightly advised by the Hon. Member for Middlesex (Mr. Hume) and his friends when he was told that he would best maintain his own honour and best consult his personal dignity in upholding the dignity and character of that House.—(Hear.)

The question was then put and carried *nem. con.*

After the delay of a few minutes Mr. Finn entered the House accompanied by Mr. Shell, who was slightly cheered on taking his seat.

**ANNUITIES FROM SMALL SAVINGS.**—Few of the institutions of modern times have been more signally advantageous to the less wealthy part of our community, than Savings' Banks. Yet, a measure recently adopted by the Legislature exceeds even these, in the benefits it promises to afford. Savings' Banks furnish a temporary security for small deposits, and enable the industrious and frugal to realize an accumulation by means apparently trifling; but something was still wanting to render the savings of the poor a certain source of support amidst the infirmities of age, and a safe guaranty against the contingencies of life. The most inestimable boon to the industrious classes has been granted by a recent Act of parliament. Henceforth, (by Act 3 Will. IV. c. 14), the meagre savings of the provident labourer, may be applied to purchase an annuity, under the guaranty of Government, of not less than 4l., or more than 20l. per annum to commence at any age the purchaser may desire, for life or a term of years; the purchase may, at the option of the purchaser, be effected either by the payment of a certain sum, in the first instance, or by weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly instalments.

If the purchaser lives to the specified time, he becomes entitled to receive an annuity equivalent to all his payments, with the compound interest accumulated thereon; but if he dies before the annuity becomes payable, it is provided that all the money he has contributed, shall be returned to his family or executors; and in the case of his death after the payment of the annuity has commenced, the executors become entitled to all the arrears due at the annuitant's demise, and also to one fourth of the expired annuity in addition, if claim is made for it within two years of his decease. Still further to diminish the possibility of any disadvantageous result, to the purchaser, it is provided that should he feel unable to continue his yearly instalments, he may at any time receive back the whole of the money he has paid, on giving three months notice. By this beneficial enactment the inducements to frugality among the humbler classes are rendered complete. There is henceforth no room for misgiving as to the security of their accumulated savings,—no doubt as to their profitable investment—no vague conjectures as to the income they produce; a given rate of saving will insure a given income, to commence at pleasure, to terminate at pleasure, or to be commensurate with life; and this without the possibility of loss, if a change of purpose, or of circumstances should intervene: in short, it is an expectation beyond the reach of contingencies, definite in amount and in time. The advantages in a political point of view, of a labouring population rendering themselves, through the medium of industry, while available, independent of adventurous aid, when it has ceased to be so, must be most sensibly felt at the present moment, when the poor laws hang like a dead weight on the energies of the Country; but the pecuniary benefits become almost insignificant if compared with the moral results which might be expected to flow from an habitual system of frugality. When it is considered how large a portion of vice is either the effect or the cause of extravagance, it must be admitted that every additional inducement to economy does incidentally rank itself among the checks of immorality; and now that these inducements have been so combined as in a manner even to resist the course of events—to lend a stability to prospects which are in their very essence contingent—we may well say, that the Legislature has done its part towards making frugality an instrument of happiness to the industrious classes.—The success of this benevolent effort to serve the working classes will mainly depend upon its being explained to them, by those who are acquainted with the details of the plan.

The recent adjustment of the Slavery Question, by the Legislature of Great Britain, has left the advocates of Emancipation one additional duty to perform; and that is, to seek the diffusion of the blessing throughout those quarters of the Globe where our National Council cannot interfere. The spirit that strove to obtain freedom for the slave, is a part of that universal philanthropy, which embraces in the grasp of its benevolence the whole family of man. Hence it is not enough that Slavery be abolished in the British Colonies; the true emancipator will alone be satisfied, when the evil shall be extirpated from the civilized world.

There is one large and important part of the Globe, whose inhabitants are allied to us by peculiar ties, and where Slavery still exists in its worst forms and to a fearful extent. America has more than two millions of its subjects held in bondage; whose emancipation can only be achieved, as it has been in the British Dependencies, by legislative enactment. With the polity of the American Republic, we cannot, as a nation, authoritatively interfere; yet we are not destitute of the means of interposing effectually in behalf of its slave population. Our Government can offer its friendly counsel, and we as a Christian people, can have our influence with the Americans in the amicable expression of our opinions and communication of our advice. Our mutual relation and facility of intercourse may possibly give us the opportunity of bringing them to share in our feelings on this subject, and to imitate our example. We can convey thither emissaries of freedom, who shall strengthen the hands of the friends of Emancipation in this country, by joining them in judicious and pacific efforts towards bringing about the glorious consummation.

With such an object in view, Mr. Thompson, the successful advocate of Emancipation in this Country, is about to take his departure for the United States. He has a field of arduous and perilous labour before him; but he will there meet with powerful encouragements, as well as formidable difficulties. His path has been cleared of many of its most serious obstacles by recent events, especially by the news of what has transpired in the Mother Country. Our Emancipation Act has awakened amongst the Americans an ardent interest in the subject of his errand. Anti-Slavery Societies have been established in various quarters, and the pulpit and the press have exerted their mighty influence in favour of this cause.

The struggle for the accomplishment of this object, however, is likely to be more laborious and painful than in our own Country. Inconsistent as it may appear, with the history and professed character of the Americans, they are possessed of a deep rooted prejudice against persons of colour,—of a callous indifference to the hardships and sufferings of the despised negro. Hence the appalling fact, that nearly a sixth of their whole population are cut off from the enjoyment of all the sympathies and charities of life, and denied the exercise of every political privilege.

To counteract the influence of this inhuman prejudice, and to abolish this cruel system, other efforts will be requisite, beside those of popular Lectures, and Associations, amongst the free people of America. Instruction must be given to the coloured population, to elevate their intellectual and moral character, and to prepare them for the freedom to which they are entitled. The project is one which cannot fail to interest every true friend of humanity. America one of the remaining strong holds of Slavery, is not only bound by every sacred obligation to abolish the system, but is also capable of giving a fatal blow to the evil in other parts of the world. Let that powerful Republic, which boasts of its freedom, but remove from itself the incongruity of encouraging and praising Slavery, and we hope soon to see this stain upon human nature obliterated from the face of the earth.

**SIR JOHN HERSCHEL.**—The long projected voyage of Sir John Herschel to the southern hemisphere is at length proceeded in. A ship, which has recently sailed for the Cape of Good Hope, with General Sir Benjamin D'Urban, the new Governor of that colony, on board, carries at the same time another illustrious freight, in the person of our distinguished astronomer. To the learned of all countries the voyage of our astronomer may be regarded as an event of unusual interest; but on more general grounds, it ought scarcely to be less so to every lover of his kind, to the sincere and enlightened philanthropist it may afford matter for proud and consoling reflection, to consider this philosopher—this emissary from European civilization—tranquilly seated in Africa, at the further extremity of that barbarous and inhospitable continent; and nightly—in what was formerly a howling desert, only tenanted by the lion and the hyena, and by the wandering savage, scarcely more humanised—pursuing undisturbed his high investigations. It is at some distance from Cape Town, and in the centre of an extensive plain, that is situated the fine observatory of the Cape. Thither we cannot help following in imagination our distinguished countryman, and endeavouring to conceive the enthusiasm with which he will there first, with the aid of his powerful telescopes, range over the southern sky, so singular in its general aspect, and so interesting even to the unlearned observer. The great constellation of the Ship—the cross of the South—the Clouds of Magellan—the frequent spaces of total blackness—which he has been hitherto acquainted from description only, will be successively surveyed and examined by him with that pure and elevated sentiment of intellectual delight, which a man of science and imagination only can know. It is said, we know not with what truth, that, before returning to Europe, Sir John Herschel will also visit the neighbouring island of Mauritius. We trust that long before he does so, the political storm that still agitates that little colony will have settled into peace.—*Literary Gazette.*

**WHALING EXPEDITION.**—A paragraph, entitled "Extraordinary Preservation," has found its way into the columns of some of our south-country contemporaries, in which are detailed the marvellous adventures of two seamen, belonging to the Middleton, of this place who are said to have cruised about for ten or eleven days in the northern ocean on the back of a whale! The story, unfortunately, is not true; but the real facts of the case are worthy of publication. On the 21st July, Captain Kerr, of the Middleton, had a boat and crew employed in watching two fish, which it was impracticable to get alongside of the vessel, in consequence of their being at some distance in the ice. The fish were distant from each other about a mile and a half, and two men were on the ice near one of the fish when it came on to blow a gale of wind, which drifted the boat and the other fish out of their sight. They remained about 50 hours after all the provisions were exhausted, excepting what they obtained from the dead body of the whale; and at this time another dead fish floated up alongside the one they had in charge. On the 26th July the men were picked up by the Lord Gambier, of Newcastle. Captain Kerr, understanding, by a signal from the Lord Gambier, that his two men were on board that vessel, immediately sent a boat for them, and this boat's crew discovered that the Lord Gambier's boats were endeavouring to get at their two fish, the harpoon and another man jumped upon the ice. These two men did actually embark, on board one of the whales, and were a considerable distance from the ice and in the open sea when Captain Kerr picked them up. They were about ten hours afloat upon the whales, and during a considerable part of this time each of the men enjoyed a sound sleep.—*Aberdeen Observer.*

**THE DISSENTERS.**—The Leeds Mercury, which is generally well informed as to the opinions and wishes of the Dissenters in the North of England, states that memorials from the Dissenters of the Independent and Baptist connections are likely to be forwarded to the Ministers for "an abolition of all exactions from Dissenters for the support of the Church; an admission to all the national seminaries of education; the right of marriage without the Church service or the payment of fees to a Clergyman; the right of burial in parochial burying grounds, their own ministers officiating; a general registration of births."—A Petition in course of preparation in a Northern Borough, for presentation to both Houses of Parliament early in the ensuing Session, praying the Legislature "to remove all the existing legal hindrances and obstructions that may prevent clergymen of the Establishment from officiating for or with Dissenting ministers in their places of worship, or Dissenting ministers from officiating occasionally in parochial churches or chapels, at the invitation of the stated minister, and in accordance with the customary forms and practices of each congregation; and to repeal such parts of the Rubric of the Book of Common Prayer as make the posture of kneeling, in receiving the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, absolutely indispensable." It appears from the Report of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, just published, that the amount of the Society's receipts for the year 1832 was 66,399l. 11s.; that they have amounted to 70,399l. 12s. 8d. in the year 1833, and that they are now at the rate of an increase of above 4000l. This circum-