

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
Feb. 17.

CONDUCT OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TOWARDS SPAIN.

Lord NUGENT said, in laying before the House a motion on this subject, he must disclaim any intention of interfering with the opinion expressed by the House on a former night; but he must at the same time advert to, and dissent from, that part of the Address which declared that, in looking to the result of the contest in Spain, we could see nothing but congratulation. He, on the contrary, could not but consider that our conduct towards Spain had been insincere, and the result of the contest contrary to our interest; and he could not but regret, that Spain had been suffered to fall almost without a struggle. We were prepared, by the declarations of Ministers, for neutrality, but we were not prepared to see a gratuitous surrender of commercial advantages, which we had a right to command; nor was the country prepared to see this Government become the mere partisan of France. It was not his intention to advert to the transactions of last year, to the improper concessions which we had, in his opinion, made, or to the abandonment of Spain; but he would ask whether, if a different tone had been held by us at the Congress, the fate of Spain would not have been averted; and he would ask how our conduct at Paris afterwards was to be justified. He was prepared to contend that not only had we abandoned Spain, but we had aided France against her; and France had in return done all in her power to injure our commercial interests. This, he thought, he should be able to prove. With regard to the conduct of the Duc d'Angoulême, he would only advert to the edict issued by him in August last, in which he declared the functions of the Regency of Madrid at an end. He did not blame the Duc d'Angoulême for issuing this edict; but this he would say, this edict declared at once the object of the war, which was, to make Spain a province of France, and the Duc d'Angoulême was, in fact, from that time the French Regent of Spain. In the last Session the Right Hon. Gentleman had declared that come what might, this country would take no part in this contest against Spain in favour of France. What then must Spain have thought, when, in less than a month after this declaration she saw Sir William A'Court, our accredited Minister, throw himself into the arms of the French General, and entirely abandon the Cortes to whom he was accredited. Was not this an act hostile to Spain, and declaratory of a feeling in favour of France? Was this act of Sir W. A'Court, he would ask, done in compliance with instructions from this Government, or was it his own unauthorized and unsanctioned act?

If it was so, then why was not Sir W. A'Court recalled; aye, and even impeached for his conduct? But it was said this was done, because the Cortes had declared Ferdinand no longer deserving of confidence, and that a Regency should be appointed. God forbid that he should cast reflections on any man unmeritedly, but Ferdinand the Seventh, without any excuse, proved himself the scourge of his people, the very curse of that people who had done and suffered so much for him, and they in return had been justified in the course they had adopted. What, he would ask, would have been said, if, in 1810, the accredited Minister of any Foreign Power had chosen to quit the Court of St. James's, on the ground that he was not a Minister to a Regent, but to the King; would not this be considered as an hostile act?—Sir William A'Court had done thus; he had withdrawn himself from the Cortes; and where did he station himself—at Cadiz, the proper spot on which to negotiate? No, he went to Seville, joined the French party, the Army of the Faith, and the Services, and thus gave the sanction of this country's accredited Minister's presence. What was the effect produced by this conduct on the part of Sir W. A'Court? Why, desertion and defection. General Morillo soon after deserted the Cortes; and in his defence cited the conduct of Sir W. A'Court; yet no enquiry had been made into this conduct of our Minister, nor had he been recalled. What had been the conduct of Gen. Aliva on this occasion, and what course had Sir William A'Court adopted towards this gallant Officer? He was convinced Sir W. A'Court had been actuated by friendship towards Gen. Aliva; but he would ask, could private feelings operate as an excuse to Sir W. A'Court, for thus drawing such a man as General Aliva from the cause of Spain at such a moment? It was plain, however, that we had decided on the course we should pursue, and we had, by that course, restored an absolute King, who, before another year was over our heads, might, by his conduct, plunge us in a war with all Europe. His Lordship observed, it was well known that the Cortes had determined to remove all the restrictions on the commerce of South America in favour of this country; but all these advantages we had determined to give up, that the Holy Alliance might accomplish their object, the restoration of Ferdinand the Seventh to absolute power; and to enable him to gratify his atrocious passions, which were all unkenelled by our conduct in this, for Spain, destructive contest.

The Noble Lord then adverted to the indignities which had been heaped upon British

vessels by the French blockading squadron at Cadiz. It might be said, why were not complaints made to the British Authorities for redress on this subject? why, because there were no British Authorities to apply to. Sir W. A'Court, instead of being at Cadiz, was at the French headquarters. Mr. Brakenbury, the Vice Consul, was passing his autumn in Italy, and the only British official character in Cadiz at all was a Mr. Egan, who was called a Vice Consul; but he had no power to protect or redress the injuries of any Englishman. He could not say what the feelings of the House and the country might have been, but he could not express the indignation he felt when he saw a British subject obliged to apply to the Captain of an American vessel for protection. And what, he would ask, had been the result of this conduct on our part? Why, that as he understood French vessels were admitted into all the ports of Spain, duty free, whilst we were excluded from excepting Barcelona, of which an old Spanish proverb said, "There are but three safe ports in Spain, June, July, and Barcelona." By our conduct France had obtained possession of all the forts, all the arsenals, and all the strong holds of Spain; and the family compact, to break which one of the most ruinous and expensive wars in our history had been waged, was established. He could not but consider that the honour of this country had been compromised, and under that conviction it was that he now moved for the correspondence with Sir W. A'Court, which, he trusted, would be granted.

The motion having been put, Mr. CANNING said, the Noble Lord having put a question to him, in which the credit of an individual rested, he would first answer that part of the Noble Lord's speech. The Noble Lord had asked if Sir W. A'Court acted with or without instructions. He would reply, by saying that he had, and he had not. Sir W. A'Court had, previous to leaving Cadiz, been furnished with instructions, which it was supposed would meet every case which could arise; but there was one case occurred which had never suggested itself to the mind of any one, and that was the deposition of the King for a short period, and his restoration to power. When this unforeseen circumstance occurred, Sir W. A'Court went to Seville, where he was waiting for instructions during his residence there. The factious party did take advantage of the circumstance, to raise a false and unfounded report of the sentiments of this country. On discovering this circumstance, Sir W. A'Court withdrew himself to Gibraltar, waiting for his instructions either to go back to Cadiz or not. Instructions were ultimately sent to him; and, when ever the day should arrive for doing so, his Majesty's Government would be prepared to defend them.

Mr. S. BOURNE did not intend now to attempt going into a review of our foreign policy, but he would answer some of the points of the Noble Lord's speech. The Noble Lord attached serious blame to his Majesty's Government for not having given efficient support to the Spanish Constitutional forces. Did the Noble Lord think that a British army could have been brought to serve under Morillo or Ballasteros, especially after the example we had of the latter in the campaign of 1812? The Noble Lord had next complained of Sir W. A'Court not going to Cadiz; why, the fact was, Sir W. A'Court was the accredited Minister of this country to the King of Spain; the King was deprived of his authority, and there also ended Sir W. A'Court's appointment and powers; he went to Gibraltar to wait for instructions, and most wisely had he acted in doing so. As to the advice given to General Aliva, there was no proof that he had been advised by Sir W. A'Court, and that charge fell to the ground; but then the Noble Lord came to his third point, the blockade. This country, said the Noble Lord, had not prevented the blockade of Cadiz. Why did the Noble Lord mean to deny the right of one belligerent to blockade the ports of another? and would the Noble Lord advise, that this country, which had always so rigidly enforced the Blockade System, should interfere to prevent other Powers from exercising that right? These were the grounds on which the Noble Lord moved for the production of Papers which were to be made known to the House and to all Europe. But there had been no breach of neutrality. The mediation of this country had been offered; and, unhappily for Spain, had been refused. Other offers had been made, and all had been refused. A spirit that prevailed in some classes of the community at home, made it still more difficult and important to preserve neutrality.

The Right Hon. Gentleman concluded by moving an Amendment, That the House was fully sensible of the advantages derived from the Neutrality in the War, betwixt Spain and France; which Neutrality appeared to the House to have been scrupulously and inviolably preserved.

Lord NUGENT thought that it would have been a more obvious course, had the Right Hon. Gentleman directly negatived his motion. He believed that the Cortes had offered to recognize the independence of South America. But a condition had been demanded of the Cortes, with which it was impossible for them to comply, that a future Cortes should new-mould the Constitution. Sir W. A'Court had remained three weeks at Seville, and during that time made no offer of mediation. After the present motion was disposed of, probably against him, he should propose a Resolution, upon which he should not trouble the House to divide.

The House divided. For the motion, 30—Against it, 171.

William Foster,

INFORMS the Public, that he has removed from Messrs. Collins & Allison's Wharf, to that central situation, long known as Creighton's corner,

Where he offers for sale,

Bar, Bolt & Square IRON, Shear Moulds, and Plough Plate, & Rod IRON; Steel, Cast Iron Backs, Hinges, &c.

All kinds of

Blacksmith Work

at the shortest notice.

—ALSO—

A few Kits Salmon Spiced and Soured, Jan. 9, 1824.

Passage for Liverpool G. B.

THE fine Coppered Brig Adelphi, Francis Stewart, Master, will sail from hence, for the above port, about the 20th May, and has excellent accommodations for Cabin passengers apply to COLLINS & ALLISON.

April 23.

Sw.

Notice.

ALL persons having any demands against the Estate of the late JOHN MINTYRE M'COLLA, of Windsor, deceased, are requested to render their accounts, duly attested, to the Subscriber on or before the twenty first day of June next; and all persons indebted to said Estate, are requested to make immediate payment to

May 30, 1823.

HARRIET M'COLLA, Administratrix.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MADAME DE STAEL.

When Major-General Sir John Malcolm returned the first time from Persia, at a fashionable and crowded "at home," he met Madame de Staël. After he had been introduced to Madame, and she had been informed of his late arrival from the Persian Court, "Sare John," said she, "you must inform me all about Persia! and every thing about it, and all you saw worth notice—and to begin at the top of all, what is de king of Persia like? What does he look like?" "Madam," replied Sir John, "he looks like a man worthy of his destiny!" "Well, what is his destiny?" entreated Madame. "He has," replied Sir John, "five hundred wives."

MAYOR OF SHREWSBURY.

Lord Mansfield went the Shrewsbury circuit, and having been asked to dinner by the Mayor of the town, his Lordship observing an antique clock in the room, observed to the Mayor, "that he supposed Sir John Falstaff fought by that clock;" to which the Mayor replied, "He could not tell, for he had not the pleasure of knowing Sir John." Lord Mansfield then tried his host on another subject, and remarked, "that the town appeared very old;"—to which the Mayor replied, "it was always so, please your Lordship."

THE ARMY.

The publication of the improved System of the Army, which has been delayed a considerable time, in consequence of the plates that are to be prefixed to the work not having been completed, will shortly take place, and will, subsequently, be immediately forwarded to the whole army.

BREWERIES.

Number of Brewers in England and Scotland, 1990—Quantity of Strong Beer brewed 4,265,871 barrels, Small Beer brewed in Britain 1,290,275 barrels. The quantity Beer brewed in Britain it is said would float all the British vessels of war now in Commission.

PROFITABLE FISHERY.

James Murray, fishing in the Clyde, caught a very large codfish, weighing 17 lbs. 4 oz. in the gut of which he found a gold watch, bearing the inscription, on a paper in the case of it, "Hugh Davies, of Wrexham;" there was a chain and seal attached to the watch.

The Thieves in London are said to have had the audacity to assume a costume.

PORTSMOUTH, March 6.

The Hecla and Fury, under the orders of Capt. Parry, for a northern voyage of discovery, are about to be fitted with propelling wheels, to be worked either with a capstan or winches. They will leave Deptford on their interesting voyage about the 1st of May.

THE BOURBONS.—The House of Bourbon, it is calculated, reigns over forty-seven millions of people in Europe; namely, Naples and Sicily, (new census) 5,432,889; Spain, 10,500,000; Tuscany, 500,000; and France above 30,000,000.—And, it should be added, that in support of this tottering, imbecile Domination, Great Britain has expended upwards of £800,000,000 sterling, and the blood of more than 200,000 of our bravest soldiers, has enriched the fields of the Continent and Peninsula: "Surely the wisdom of the sons of the earth, is but foolish!"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEEKLY CHRONICLE.

Halifax, April 26, 1824.

SIR,

HAVING seen in your paper the death of an old Lady, leaving a long train of descendants, it induced me to transcribe the following from an English Paper; more especially, as I have a perfect knowledge of the family myself:—

G. P.

DIED,

At High Littleton, Somerset, ELIZABETH CHEVENS, midwife, who had by her Husband nine children; which, with Grand, Great-Grand, and Great-Grand Children, amounted to One Hundred and Forty Two!!

Robert Noble,

OFFERS for sale, on moderate Terms, the following articles, received on Consignment from Liverpool, by the brig Adelphi,

80 Bolts Superior navy bleach'd Canvas, 12 do do do brown do 52 do Imitation Russia, Ravensduck, 10 pieces Osunburghs, 4 Tons Staple Cordage assorted from 6th Rat. line, to 4 inch Hawser, 100 boxes yellow Soap, 20 do Candles Moulds & Dips, 30 Crates assorted Earthenware, well adapted for the Country Trade, 2 Casks patent lead Shot, 350 pieces brown stone Ware, Halifax, April 20, 1824.

N. B. Has also got to hand ex Cruikston Castle and Louisa, a good assortment of Glasgow and Aberdeen Manufactured Goods; and he expects by the first arrivals from London and Liverpool, Teas, Indigo, Salempores, Nails, Paints, Netts Lines, Slops, &c. &c.

Fresh Seeds, Fruits, &c.

JAMES CROSSKILL,

HAS received per the James, M'Dormand, from Annapolis a quantity of prime Russettin AP- PLES, Racked Cyder, and Smoked Hams, and Ten M. Laths. He has also on hand a good assortment of Garden, Flower, and Field Seeds—Assorted Rose, Sweet Briar, and Currant Bushes, and Green Trees, imported in the Louisa, Oswald, from Aberdeen:—

The James will immediately load for Annapolis Digby, and St. John; for Freight or Passage apply as above, or to the master on board, at the Market Wharf. April 23, 1824.

BILLS OF LADING,

For sale at this Office.

LIVERPOOL.

TO THE EDITOR OF GORE'S GENERAL ADVERTISER.

SIR,—Every shipowner must at this moment be well aware of the enormous charges on his ships in American ports, particularly to the United States, but the eradication of the evil in that quarter not being immediately within reach, I would advert to those in British America, the charges there are extremely high, for which ships receive only trifling benefit, and in some instances none. I particularly allude to a want of Buoy, Beacons, and Lighthouses. The money paid by shipping at this time is not only sufficient to maintain the present few miserable Buoys, incorrectly laid down, but could very well maintain three times the number and gild them all. It is a matter of surprise to me, and I have no doubt to many commanders of ships, that this evil is so long standing, considering our great trade to British America. A ship last year of 365 tons loading at Miramichi, paid to the

Customs,.....	£7 17 5
Naval Office,.....	1 10 10
Harbour Master,.....	0 10 0
Hospital,.....	1 10 5
Buoys,.....	0 15 2½
Ballast landing,.....	1 6 0
Pilotage,.....	5 10 0

£18 19 10½

The ship left the port on or about the 16th November, leaving ten large ships nearly ready for sailing, when there was neither Buoy, Beacon, nor Lighthouse to guide her out of the port,—she grounded at the entrance in consequence. I would say the same of all our ports in British America, (HALIFAX excepted.) If all of those interested (say the shipowners of Liverpool, London, Newcastle, &c.) would unite and petition the proper quarter, I have no doubt an order would be given for the benefit ships have so long paid for. Unfortunately the Trinity-House (ever watchful for the safety of shipping) have no jurisdiction beyond England; the Secretary for the Colonial Department therefore, is the only person to apply to in this case. An alteration having almost generally taken place in Charters to that port respecting port charges, resident merchants are not interested; so little can be expected from the representations of that country.

Your insertion of the above will oblige your obedient, humble servant,

A SHIPMASTER.

* The Harbour Master is now in Liverpool—he has not been in America since £100 of his last year's income was paid by shipping.

† There is no Hospital.

‡ There are never more than five Buoys, and seldom more than three; and there are no Beacons nor Lighthouses.

Liverpool, January 15th, 1824

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

[RECEIVED via NEW-BRUNSWICK.]

LONDON, March 24.

Letters from English residents at Lisbon dated the 4th and 5th inst. mention the murder of the Marquis de Loule, one of the King's Chamberlains, which has excited great consternation. The King went to Salvatierra to pass Shrovetide, with his daughters, where festivities were to take place. The corpse was found in an open part of the palace, burnt some time ago, and never rebuilt, lying on the ground in full uniform. The King is greatly affected, as the Infanti Don Miguel is partly implicated in the affair; and has conferred on the son of the deceased, all the dignities held by his late father. The body has however, been buried, and no questions asked! It is rumoured that the Minister Pampeluna, has been marked for a similar fate; but has hitherto escaped.

It appears from the Naval return made in Parliament, on Mr. Hume's motion, that during the last year 3 Captains were promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral, who had held their former rank 26 years; 13 Commanders made Post Captains, the senior of whom was 11 years Commander, the Junior two years; 34 Lieutenants made Commanders, the senior of whom has been a Lieutenant 25 years, the junior 2 years; 99 Mids. made Lieutenants, the senior having been in the service 16 years, the junior six years.

A Court Martial has been sitting some days, on board his Majesty's ship Queen Charlotte, (whereof Admiral Sir James Hawkins Whitehead, K. C. B. is President,) for the trial of Capt. Percy Grace, of his Majesty's ship Cyrene, on charges of taking goods out of a Prize Slave vessel, on the coast of Africa, and of starting the Marines and Seamen of the Sloop of War under his command, contrary to the orders of the Service.—The prosecution closed on Saturday, and Captain Grace was to enter upon his defence on Monday.—Hampshire Telegraph.

Lieut. Gen. Sir E. Paget is about to return to Europe on account of ill health, and to relinquish the chief command in India. Lieut. Gen. Sir W. Hope, is to return to the Government of the Royal Military College, vice Sir G. Murray; but this appointment is considered temporary, Sir E. Paget being named as the permanent Governor.

Accounts were received at the Admiralty yesterday from Sir H. B. Neale, dated off Algiers Feb. 25; where Sir Harry was maintaining a strict blockade; and where it was supposed the whole Algerine naval force was collected in port.

Accounts from Genoa say that the Algerines have taken no less than 10 Spanish vessels.