GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

LONDON, February 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CATHOLIC QUESTION.

The DUKE OF CLARENCE said—My lords I rise to address your Lordships under feelings of no ordinary nature. It was my intention to have delivered my opinions upon this subject to which the Noble Marquis [of Londonderry] had just referred, in the course of this evening, in a more regular course, when, as I have been given to understand, your Lordships will receive the reports of the Committee on the Bill for suppressing the Catholic Association—a measure of which I believe no man in his senses but must decidedly approve. But more of that hereafter. But, my Lords, I rise thus early in consequence of what has just fallen from my Noble Friend—I hope he will allow me to call him so—who has expressed his pleasure that this measure is now to be a unanimous measure on the part of His Majesty's Government, who had heretofore been generally opposed to it. This is, my Lords, the cause of my now rising to address you, otherwise I should have waited to have delivered my sentiments upon the Bill you are about to be called on to consider in one of its stages. My Lords, I consider this unanimity with reference to the condition of Ireland to be of more consequence than all petitions, *pro* and *con*. that have been laid upon the Table of this House—petitions of which those who signed them knew no more about than the paper on which they were written. God knows I feel this to be the fact. But I rise, my Lords, now, because his Majesty's Ministers have become united. I wish to God that his Majesty's Ministers had been united in 1825. I wish to God his Majesty's Minister, or rather His Majesty's Administration that might have been formed in the year 1804, could have been united on this subject. From that hour my opinions were in favour of what is falsely called Catholic Concession, for it is not concession, My Lords; it is the taking away a degradation; and I pledge myself, I pledge my life, that it is not a concession to the Catholics, but the removal of a degradation—it is the binding in strength together of eight millions of His Majesty's subjects. Now I am up, I will state how much pleasure I feel this day in supporting the Noble Duke and his colleagues, who have been so unjustly, for I will not say so infamouly, attacked. My Lords, if his Majesty's Ministers are, fortunately for the Country, united upon a measure of such deep importance, I thank them from the very bottom of my heart. I think it will be hardly possible for any man who hears me this day to doubt that I am deeply and thoroughly interested in the welfare of my Country. (Hear.) It will be forty years next month since I have had a Seat in this House, and I trust in God I have never given a vote here, that I have had reason to regret; but certain I am that I have never given any vote with half so much pleasure and satisfaction, as I shall give, at every stage of it, to the measure now contemplated by the Noble Duke. I consider it, my Lords, a fortunate circumstance for England and for Europe, that His Majesty's Cabinet are united in a measure which every man of common sense must look upon for the interest of England, and if for the interest of England, also, for the interest of Europe; for the interest of Europe is so closely connected with the interests of England, that every thing which conduces to her welfare, conduces to the interest of Europe. It is then, I say, a fortunate thing for this country, that the Noble Duke has been selected by his Majesty, and placed at the head of its affairs. I rejoice, my Lords to see him there, and so long as he continues the course he is now pursuing so long shall he have my support. My Lords, in the only conversation that has taken place between the Noble Lord on the woolsack, and myself, which took place when I resigned office, (and which resignation it pleased his Majesty graciously to accept,) I told that Noble and Learned Lord that I would never turn one of a Government—that I considered such a line of conduct to be my bounden duty. I appeal to the noble Lord to confirm my words. (The Lord Chancellor bowed.) I trust these words have not been falsified by an action of mine; and, indeed nothing but the absolute conviction of the importance of the present crisis to this country, and the necessity of supporting the noble Duke and his Administration in the course in which they have had the boldness, the fairness, and the candour to pursue, should have induced me to come forward, thus publicly, before God and before man to declare my sentiments. Professionally educated as I have been, it has fallen to my lot to have visited Ireland, and I should be the most ungrateful of men were I ever to forget the reception I there met with.—During all my professional experience, I can bear testimony to the character, to the bravery, to the energy, and to the thorough good humour of Irishmen. If the venerable Duncan, who gained immortal fame by his victorious action with the Dutch, but who had served his Country more by the energy & discipline with which he kept his fleet at sea at the time of the mutiny at the Nore, were in existence—if Earl Saint Vincent, whose blockade of Cadiz reflected the highest honor on him, were living—or if one who was more dear to me than any other officer in the service, (I mean the great Nelson, the hero of the Nile)—were in being, would they not hold up their hands in admiration, and say, that the dawn of peace, happiness and tranquillity in Ireland had arrived—that justice was about to be done to the country of those men who had been fighting the battles of the Empire on the lower decks of the ships which they commanded? However I might on one occasion, have had the misfortune to differ from the noble individual at the head of his Majesty's Government, nothing can ever induce me to alter the exalted opinion I entertain of his great personal worth and high military talent, when I recollect the victories achieved by the illustrious Duke, from as it were the first dawn of his great military talent, —when I recollect the brilliant circumsrances attendant upon his first charge, at the time he commanded a column in India, and contributed so materially to the destruction of the power of the celebrated Tippo Saib,—when I recollect all his splendid achievements, from his first victory of Vimeria down to the glorious day of Waterloo—that day which for a length of time had closed the horoscope of Europe. The Noble Duke is a soldier; and, when he bears in mind the regiments that fought under his command, he must consider that he is now only discharging a debt of gratitude, which, as a soldier, he owes to those brave and gallant men, who achieved his victories, and contributed to raise him to his present exalted situation. The Noble Duke has brought forward the question when he possesses the full power to carry it. It is recommended in the Speech from the Throne, and it is announced at length from such high authority, that the thing can be done with perfect safety to the country—as it is my firm conviction that it can be so done, not only consistently with the safety of the country, but with its future security and advantage. (Hear.) At present I have no more to say, but I trust I have said enough to convince your Lordships and the country, that I seriously intend to give my cordial support to those just measures of relief in favor of his Majesty's Roman Catholic Subjects. I am convinced, indeed, that every thing which can be done for the good of the country, and the prosperity of the people, will be done by that Noble Duke, and I shall therefore make no further observations at present on this subject. I trust, however, I have said enough this evening, to convince the House and the country, that I am serious in the support I intended on all occasions to give His Majesty's Government, in their endeavours to settle this question. [Cheers.] I shall have a great deal more to say, however, when the measure intended by the N. Duke is regularly before your Lordships. The subject is one to which I have repeatedly turned my mind, and which I have at various times considered for the last twenty years, in all its bearings, and with reference to England as well as Ireland. It may, I have no doubt, be said, that if your opinions were always in favor of concession to the Roman Catholics, why is it that you have not before avowed them? My reason, my Lords, is this—the settlement of the Catholic question has not, until now, been made a measure of Government—(Hear)—and although I had been uniformly in opposition for a long period, and connected in early life with many of the distinguished leaders of opposition who espoused the cause of the Catholics, this consideration withheld me from declaring my opinions. In the year 1807, however, when it pleased the Almighty to produce that concurrence of circumstances which called his present Majesty to the Regency of this country, I felt myself bound, under the peculiar situation in which I was placed, to support His Majesty's Government—and having continued to do so until the present moment, I could not with the opinion I held upon this subject, come forward and express my sentiments in favor of the Catholics, as long as the Members of His Majesty's Government were not united upon the expediency of granting the claims of the Catholics. I saw, however, that the policy of granting their claims was every year gaining fresh advocates—I saw that the disunion existing upon the subject of concession among the Members of His Majesty's Government was, every year, becoming of greater consequence—and I felt that I should do harm, instead of good, by any interference in a point which must ultimately be conceded, but which I felt never could be conceded with security, or with propriety, unless through the medium of the Ministers of the Crown. So convinced am I indeed of the propriety of this course, that if the Noble Duke had come down to your Lordship's house and declared that he had formed a Government unanimous in their opinions that the claims of the Catholics should be resisted, I feel I must have adhered to the same line of policy. My opinions upon the propriety of concession to these claims might and would have remained unaltered, but I should have always felt it to be my duty to resist their being factiously brought forward; for until the opinions of the Members of the Government were united upon the subject, I could not bring myself to believe that the proper time was arrived for an attempt to accomplish the object of our wishes. Now, however, I thank God, the day is altered, and I trust we shall all join heart and soul in the furtherance of those measures contemplated by the Noble Duke, but which I, not being in secret, can pretend to describe. I hope, however, they will prove, when laid before the House, to be infinitely less objectionable than some noble Lords seem to imagine. I trust, too, that in the interval between the passing of the Bill which we are to consider to-night, and the announcement of those measures by which the Noble Duke purposes to effect to this most desirable object, that the Right Reverend Prelates will apply themselves seriously, deliberately, and without the mixture of any unseemly passion or prejudice, to the consideration of the condition in which we are now placed, and what would be the result of its continuance. (Hear.)—I trust in this deliberation they will call to their mind that they are the appointed Ministers of peace. I trust they will also call to their recollection what might be the situation of Great Britain if those events which are every day taking place upon the Continent of Europe, and which begin to assume an appearance of greater interest to this country, should, by any possibility, give rise to such difficulties as would involve us in war. I would ask the Right Reverend Prelates whether they can, conscientiously, bring themselves to oppose that measure which may place us in a situation to avoid all hostilities in the present situation of Europe; and I would ask them still further, whether, knowing that by opposing it they may be the means of introducing hostilities abroad, and enmity at home—I ask them how they can then dare to call themselves the Ministers of Peace? (Hear, hear, hear.) I feel I ought to ask pardon of your Lordships for detaining you so long at the present moment, and the more so, as I shall very often be obliged to trouble the House in the discussions which must take place upon the measures which the Noble Duke intends to propose. I could not, however, avoid congratulating your Lordships upon the prospect before you, and expressing my pleasure and satisfaction that the door of the Constitution is at last to be opened to the People of what ought to be the dearest, as I believe it to be the richest, province of our united empire. (The illustrious Duke was heard with profound attention, and loudly cheered by their Lordships at the conclusion of his speech, which seemed to make a strong impression upon the House.) When silence was in some measure restored,

The Duke of CUMBERLAND said that he had not the smallest intention of troubling their Lordships on the present occasion. He had already openly, publicly, and, as he hoped, unequivocally, expressed the line of conduct which he meant to pursue in reference to this question. On the present occasion it was truly painful to him—and he trusted his Noble Relative would believe him when he said so—to be obliged to rise to express his astonishment when he heard the words "factious" and "base" applied to the opposition to His Majesty's Ministers, and when he heard the words "unjust" and—(here the Duke paused until some Noble Lord on the opposition bench, we believe the Duke of Clarence, repeated "infamous")—when he heard the words "unjust" and "infamous" applied to the conduct of himself and of those who with him felt it their duty to oppose his Majesty's Ministers in this instance—he would put it to Noble Lords whether there was any thing in his (the Duke of Cumberland's) conduct in reference to this question to justify the application of such epithets? (Hear.) He conscientiously opposed these measures; and he had openly, fairly, and candidly stated his conscientious opinion as to the evils with which they were fraught and he would now put it to his Noble Relative, and to all other Noble Lords in that House, whether, in so doing, he had acted either "basely" or "infamously". He for one, in considering these measures, conceived it but fair and right as a Peer of that House to declare his sentiments, as he trusted he ever should declare his sentiments, in the manner in which a Gentleman and a Nobleman ought to express them. He viewed the subject in a totally different light from that in which some Noble Lords viewed it, and unless things should greatly change their appearance, he should never flinch from stating fairly, conscientiously, and openly, his determined opposition to these measures of concession. He trusted that he should stand excused with their Lordships for troubling them on this occasion—but he could not sit silent, on finding the expressions 'factious' and 'base,' applied to the conduct of those who were manifestly uninfluenced by any such unworthy motives. (Hear, hear.)

[From the London Atlas of March 3.]

The details of the proposed measure for the Emancipation of the Roman Catholics of these Kingdoms from the disabilities under which they labour, are now before the country. It is a source of some satisfaction to us, that our exclusive announcement some weeks ago of the substance of the bill agrees in its main features with the propositions submitted on Thursday night by Mr. Peel. The only material point of difference is the nomination of the Catholic Clergy, which has been abandoned by Government upon the deliberate conviction, that nomination would not increase the security of the Protestant Establishment. If it be true, that all conditions calculated to excite distrust are incentives to disaffection rather than securities for allegiance, than the fewer inefficacious compromises that are demanded the better. In this respect, the Ministry appeared to have acted with an honorable confidence that may astonish their old colleagues, but must obtain the applause of the country. The true object of concession was to subdue by a wise and timely interposition, the feuds of Ireland, a half measure would have irritated in proportion as it disappointed: His Majesty's advisers saw the evil of a system which had been disingenuously acted upon by Pitt and all his successors; they determined to adopt the open course; and have submitted, as the result of that determination, a scheme for what Protestants will call Unqualified Emancipation.

The outline of the measure is simple. All civil distinctions are to be abolished; Catholics are to be placed on an equal footing with Dissenters; all offices to be open to them except those of the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland and the Lord Chancellorship, and they are to be generally excluded from all places belonging to the Established Church, Ecclesiastical Courts, or foundations, &c.; in fact, from all places connected with the Church; the obnoxious oaths are to be removed, and one of a general nature substituted; Church patronage mainly vested in the reserved offices, is not to be placed in the hands of any Roman Catholic who may be appointed to any office to which it is attached, but must, under such circumstances, be vested in a commission; Catholics will not be eligible to advise the Crown relative to the appointment to any situation of dignity in the Established Church; Catholic Bishops are not to assume the titles of the Sees held by the Protestant Bishops; the robes of civil office are not to be worn in any other place of worship than the Established Church; and the 40s. franchise in Ireland is to be raised to a 10*l* qualification by a separate enactment not connected with, or dependant upon, the Emancipation bill.

This measure will extend to England and Scotland, and as it offers no obstruction to the future advancement of Catholics to the highest offices in the State, except merely those that controul the distribution of Church patronage, to which they could not consistently aspire, it may be considered as conceding full and unshackled liberty.—From the date of its passing into Law, all His M. Christian subjects will be equally eligible to the highest place of trust and power.

THE OATH.

"I, A. B. do declare, that I profess the Roman Catholic Religion." "I, A. B. do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the IV. and will defend him to the utmost of my power against all conspiracies and attempts whatever, which shall be made against his person, crown, or dignity; and I will do my utmost endeavour to disclose and make known to His Majesty, his heirs, and successors, all treason and traitorous conspiracies which may be formed against him or them. And I do faithfully promise to maintain support, and defend, to the utmost of my power, the succession to the Crown, which succession by an Act intitled—'An Act for the further limitation of the Crown, and the better securing the rights and liberties of the subject,' is, and stands limited to the Princess Sophia, Electress of Hanover, and the heirs of her body, being Protestants; hereby utterly renouncing and abjuring any obedience or allegiance unto any other person claiming or pretending a right to the Crown of these realms. And I do further declare, that it is not an article of my faith, and that I do renounce, reject, and abjure the opinion, that Princes excommunicated or deprived by the Pope, or any authority of the See of Rome, may be deposed or murdered by their subjects, or by any other person whatsoever. And I do declare that I do not believe that the Pope of Rome, or any other Foreign Prince, prelate, person, state, or potentate, hath or ought to have, any temporal, or civil jurisdiction, power, superiority, or pre-eminence, directly or indirectly within this realm. I do swear, that I will defend to the utmost of my power the settlement of the property within this realm as established by the laws; and I do hereby disclaim, disavow, and solemnly abjure any invention to subvert the present Church Establishment, as settled by the Law within this Realm; and I do solemnly swear that I never will exercise any privilege to which I am or may become entitled, to disturb the Protestant Government in this Kingdom; and I do, solemnly, in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare, that I do make this declaration and every part thereof, in the plain and ordinary sense of this Oath, without any evasion, equivocation, or mental reservation whatsoever."

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MARCH 10.

A great many petition were presented against and in favor of concessions to the Catholics.

Catholic Claims.—Mr. Secretary Peel brought up a Bill for the Relief of His Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects, from the disabilities under which they at present labour: The Right Hon. Gentleman was cheered by the House when the name of the Bill was read.

Mr. Pelham rose to make an observation, but was inaudible.

Mr. Secretary Peel said that he hoped to be enabled to have the Bill printed, and the copies sent to each Hon. Member early to-morrow morning. It was understood that time would be given before the second reading of the Bill, and that, therefore, no discussion was to take place that evening.—[Hear, hear.]

Sir E. Knatchbull, thought that the more convenient plan would be to postpone the discussion until the second reading.

The Bill was then read a first time, and was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday next.

Forty-shilling Freeholders.

Mr. Secretary Peel brought up a Bill to amend the laws made by the Parliament of Ireland, relative to the Elective Franchise.

Mr. C. Pelham again claimed the attention of the House, but was wholly inaudible in the Gallery.

The Bill was then read a first time, and was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday next. [Left Setting.]

It is said that Sir W. Curtis had insured his life in different offices for £100,000.

Rowland Stephenson's defalcations have been put down, by persons who have access to the books, to upwards of £220,000!

We understand that Lady Curtis has received an autograph letter of condolence from His Majesty, on the death of her lamented husband.

The vacant blue ribbons will be bestowed upon the Duke of Richmond and the Earl of Ashburnham.

GREENOCK, March 13.

The attention which, it was said, during part of last Session of Parliament was directed to "Corn and Catholics" exclusively, has, so far as this one is elapsed, been limited to the latter topic alone; and, we may add, not merely is the attention of the Legislature so directed that of the whole empire is at present engrossed by this important subject. The politics and motions of the continental states—the war between Russia and Turkey, now springing into fresh activity with the opening of the vernal season—nay, even the difficulties and depression of our own commercial and manufacturing interests, can scarcely command, or at the best do obtain but a passing remark, while there is probably not a dozen communities between the Land's-End and John O'Groats, which are not agitated, one way or another, in meeting and petitioning for or against the concessions which Ministers are prepared to yield the Catholics. As to Parliament, it is admitted on all hands that nothing else can or will be attended to, until the measures for Catholic relief are disposed of.—This being the case, we trust they will advance with as much rapidity as is consistent with the consummation of changes of such vital importance, that the other great interests of the kingdom may come in for their fair share of consideration.

Pirates.—The Plumper brig, Lieut. Medley, which arrived at Falmouth on Monday, from Sierra Leone, after a passage of 30 days has brought to England 40 pirates, taken by one of his Majesty's cruisers, on the coast of Africa, out of a schooner under Buenos Ayrean colours. She brought home Lieut. (now Commander) Turner, late of the Black Joke, tender to the Sybille. It appears that this tender has recently had a very sharp rencontre with a slaver and pirate (almost synonimous,) of nine guns and ninety-five men, the Black Joke having had only a guard of forty-five men; the latter, however, after a smart action (rather sought than avoided by the slave dealer) carried his opponent in the most gallant style imaginable, and we hear that Capt. Turner has captured 2,000 slaves. On the 29th of November the Sybille was very healthy at Sierra Leone.

Redpole Packet.—If our information be correct, a melancholy light has been thrown upon the fate of the Redpole Packet, Bullock master, which has been so long missing. It is said that she was captured by the piratical schooner *President*, and sunk, her crew having been previously compelled to walk the plank, and her commander shot. The President was lately taken on the coast of Africa by the *Black Joke*, and her crew having been sent to England, were, on Saturday last, committed for trial at the Admiralty Sessions on charges of Piracy. One of them is said to have communicated the above intelligence respecting the Redpole.—*Plymouth Journal.*

LIVERPOOL, MARCH 21.

The debate, on the second reading of the Catholic Relief Bill, terminated at four o'clock on Thursday morning, and the majority on the division was 180. The speeches do not contain any new views, but that delivered by the Attorney General is in a new style, at least in the House of Commons. We cannot attempt, at this late hour of the week, to give any report of the debate, particularly as the Assize Intelligence, which is of unusual interest, occupies so large a portion of our columns.

It is said that the Catholic Relief Bill will be passed through both houses of Parliament before Easter. Ministers reckon on a majority of more than 40 in the Peers.—*London pap.*

The following are extracts from the German papers:—

FRONTIERS OF SERVIA, FEB. 17.

The most recent letters from Constantinople, of the 29th of January, say, that the most extensive preparations coutinue to be made for the ensuing campaign, and that the SULTAN is indefatigable in forwarding them. M. JAUBERT has received no answer to his proposals besides that which the REIS EFFENDI dictated to M. VON TESTA, the Dragoman of the Legation of the Netherlands, and which certainly expressed the wish of the Porte to renew the friendly relations with England and France. But it seems that the Ambassador of the Netherlands excpeted greater concessions. However, Couriers were sent to London and Paris with this answer. The surprise of a Russian post at Kosludjik, is represented by the Turks as an important affair; but in Pera little importance is attached to it.

HANOVER, FEB. 22.

It is said that our Government has already had its memorial against the Duke of BRUNSWICK presented to the Diet, and that the affair will probably be soon discussed at Frankfort.—We are anxious about the issue of this business, but hopes are still entertained that the parties interrested will not suffer things to come to extremities, but will be induced, by the intervention of friendly Powers, to come to an amicable arrangement.

POLAND, FEB. 18.

A report has been spread here for some time, that an august personage (the Grand Duke Constantine) who enjoys in a very high degree the attachment of the Poles, and particularly of the army, intended to retire from his high post to enjoy the tranquillity of private life, and Switzerland was spoken of as his intended [illegible] It is now believed that we may hope that this intention has been for the present abandoned. The regiments of regular Cossacks from the Don and the Black Sea, which are to reinforce the army in the field, are said to have already commenced their march to the Danube. It is thought, on the other hand, that the Cossacks of the Ural will be ordered to join the army of the Caucasus in the next campaign. With respect to the Cossacks of the Ukraine it is probable that only small detachments will be employed, because they chiefly consist of irregular cavalry, whose services, considering the peculiar nature of the present war, could not be very important.—*Nuremburg Correspondent March* 1.

The French Papers of Friday confirm the reported capitulation of Tournoul to the Russians, and the assembling of the forces of the latter on the Danube, to resume the siege of the fortress on that river, and to clear both its banks of the Turks before they commence their operations against the Balkan. Meanwhile the SULTAN is said to be making preparations for defence on a scale equal in magnitude to the danger. Three thousand sailors had already arrived from Egypt, to man the fleet armed at Constantinople to dispute the mastership of the Black Sea with the Russians. Besides this very important aid, the Pacha of EGYPT was expected to send 40,000 troops to join the Imperial Army, and similar levies were to be made by other Pachas according to the relative strength and population of their provinces.

UNITED STATES.

Extract of a letter to the Editor of the Baltimore Patriot, dated Washington, 9th April:—

A factious importance is attached to the mission to Holland, and it has been asserted in some of the Eastern papers that three Commissioners were to proceed to that Court, to assist in arranging the disputed Boundary Line on our Northern Frontier.

The facts are, that the evidence has been collected and was delivered in London and Washington on the 1st day of January last, to the Ministers at the two Courts. On the 1st of July next, the arguments on both sides will in like manner be submitted; and on the 1st January, 1830, the replies to the arguments will have been prepared, and the evidence, the arguments, and the replies, will as soon thereafter as convenient be laid before His Majesty the King of Holland, the Arbitrator, selected by the two nations, to decide this important question. And it cannot be anticipated that after Messrs. Gallatin & Preble shall have devoted years to the elucidation of the subject, that a special mission will be required to throw additional light upon it—in fact, by these arrangements, it would seem to be a work of supererogation, further to perplex the Arbitrator by the presence of negotiators, who can only protract the final decision.

TERRIBLE CONFLAGRATION.—The N. York papers of the 13th inst. contain accounts of a most melancholy occurrence in Augusta, Georg. The most particular detail is contained in the following letter, dated April 3, to the Editors of the Commercial Advertiser:

Half-past 6, P. M. I have just returned from one of the most destructive fires, that has, I presume, ever occurred in this country. It broke out in a pitch-pine building in Ellis-street, two squares below the Post-Office, at about a quarter past 2, P. M. the wind blowing a gale from W. to W. S. W. over a large portion of the City, built almost entirely of pitch-pine—the whole of which is destroyed. The number of houses burnt, cannot be short of three hundred, perhaps greatly to exceed that number.—Those of your readers who are acquainted with the City, will know better the range the fire took by giving the boundaries: it has laid waste that part of the city lying east of Jackson-street, and on the south side of Broad-street, to Centre street, or Bridge row; there it crossed Broad-street, 160 feet wide, on the north, and extended almost to Greene-street on the south, destroying both sides of Bridge row to the Bridge; and from that, in one continued line, to Course's bar a distance of one half to three quarters of a mile—the Bridge Bank buildings arrested the flames on the north of Broad-street; and, with great exertions of the firemen and citizens, they were stayed on River-street, on a line with Bridge Bank Buildings. No cotton has been burnt; several hundred bales were rolled out of Beers, Booth, & St. John's Warehouse, which, however, was only partially injured. The greatest sufferers are the poorest classes, who have almost to a family, lost their all; for, when the furniture was removed, unless it was put in boats at the river side, it was invariably burnt in the streets. The market house is destroyed with the rest, and all the powder under the control of the City Council, was burnt in blowing up houses. I hope the liberality of your citizens will be called forth instantly in aid of the suffering poor, who, to the extent of, I think, at least, 250 families, have lost all they had in the world, and you can judge of the little chance there was of saving property, when, in the space of four hours, from 3 to 500 houses have been reduced to ashes, which were spread over a portion of the city fully one half mile long and one quarter wide, and there was I believe, only one brick building, (Phinizy's, in Bridge row) in the whole space.

Extract of a letter from St. Croix, 24th March.—"This Island is now suffering under the most protracted and obstinate spell of drought that has been experienced for many years. Vegetation is almost suspended, and without early relief the planters will be unable to look forward to a crop next year sufficient to meet their current expences. In fact the season is deplorable at present, and this years crop has already been curtailed by this calamity at least one third."

INDIANS.—An account of the number of Indians estimated by the war department, as within the territory of the United States.

2,573	within the States of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, & Virginia.
4,820	within the State of New-York,
300	within the State of Pennsylvania,
3,100	within the State of North Carolina,
300	within the State of South Carolina,
5,000	within the State of Georgia,
1,000	within the State of Tennesse,
1,377	within the State of Ohio,
23,400	within the State of Mississippi,
19,200	within the State of Alabama,
939	within the State of Louisiana,
4,050	within the State of Indiana,
5,000	within the State of Illinois,
5,631	within the State of Missouri,
9,403	within the Peninsula of Michigan,
7,200	within the territory of Arkansas,
4,000	within the territory of Florida,
20,200	within the country east of the Mississippi, north of the State of Illionis, and west of the three upper lakes.
94,300	within the country west of the Mississippi, east of the rocky mountains, and not included in the States of Louisiana, or Missouri, or the territory of Arkansas
[illegible]	within the Rocky Mountains,
80,000	west of the Rocky Mountains, between lat. 44 and 49.
313,130	within the United States.

Capture of Pirates.—An arrival at Charleston from Havannah brings the following intelligence to the Editor of the Southern Patriot.

The British brig Nancy, Pierce, from Guernsey, arrived at Havannah, on the 23d ult. Capt. P. was boarded on the 18th ult. by a Lieutenant from H. B. M. brig Victor, in latitude 22 20, longitude 82, who informed him that they had captured a piratical vessel, and had the prisoners on board, bound to Jamaica; that they had been obliged to hang several of them, for attempting to take possession of the brig. The Officer likewise stated that they had information of four other piratical vessels, which had been cruising off Cape Antonio, and warned Captain P. to give the Cape a wide birth. The Captain did not inquire how many Pirates were taken, but supposed there must have been from 80 to 100, as the crew of the brig amounted to 110 and 18 guns. Captain P. had given the above particulars on affidavit.

Our informant also states that an attempt had been made by a Spanish Monk, but which was fortunately frustrated, to assassinate the Intendant of Havannah.

In addition to the above we learn from the Havana Noticiosa Mercantil of the 27th of March, with which we have been favored, "that the Spanish armed Schooner Habinera had been cruising in search of a piratical Schooner which was said to be stationed near the Colorados (keys.) From information given to the Commander, at a late hour of the night, on the 22d ult. he was enabled on the succeeding day to find the above piratical vessel, and preparing himself for action bore down upon her, having in company two barges. On approaching her however, she was found deserted. Two dead bodies lay on the deck near the pivot gun, and three more floated alongside the vessel. The deck was strewed with blood, which had been so abundant as to run out through the scupper holes. From this circumstance, the officer of the Spanish schooner conjectures that the pirates had fought and destroyed one another. They had previously robbed a brig and stranded her off Cape Antonio."

The impression at Havannah was that the pirates of the above vessel had been all executed immediately after their capture, by order of the Commander of the Spanish vessel of War."

COLONIAL.

HALIFAX, April 20, 1829.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

At two o'clock on Saturday, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, came down to the Council Chamber, when a message was sent commanding the attendance of the Representative body, and the House having attended, His Excellency after giving his assent to several Bills closed the Session with the following Speech:—

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council,
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

MY best acknowledgments are due to you for the zeal and assiduity with which you have disposed of the business that required your attention, and enabled me to consult the convenience of the different branches of the Public Service, by closing, at the present period, this Session of the Legislature.

My concurrence in the several bills which have resulted from your deliberations, has been attended with the satisfaction that I must always feel in joining with you to promotee the general good, by the adoption of wise and salutary laws.

I thank you, in the name of His Majesty, for the supplies you have given for the service of the present year; you may rest assured that no attention shall be wanted to render them effectual or the purposes for which they were granted.

Your Bill, making permanent provision for the Custom House Establishment, I shall transmit, with pleasure, for the consideration of His Majesty. It will not fail to convey a fresh proof of the enlightened public spirit and sense of justice towards the Mother Country, which have guided your legislative proceedings, and tended to confer on them a character so honorable to this Province.

Immediately on the arrival of his Excellency, an order was despatched by the House for the liberation of Mr. Barry and Mr. Major; such of these gentlemen's friends as were acquainted with the circumstance immediately repaired to the Jail and escorted them into town. Mr. Barry's case being one in which we consider every inhabitant of this Province deeply interested, we hope such measures will be taken before the next Session of the Legislature as will set the question at rest.

From the Halifax Journal April 13.

MR BARRY AGAIN.—On Monday last we informed our readers that a considerable excitement had taken place in consequence of Mr. Barry having attempted to take his seat in the House, and that he had been placed in charge of the Sergeant at Arms. On Wednesday Messrs. Ward and Holland puplishers of the Free Press and Recorder were summoned to the Bar and reprimanded for certain publications which had made their appearance in their respective papers, reflecting on the House in this case—it is a dangerous thing meddling with the liberty of the Press, and never ought to be resorted to by Public Bodies, except in extreme cases; on the same day several Petitions from a number of Mr. B's. constituents were presented to the House, on which, and the conduct of that gentleman, the Committee of Priveliges, made a Report. In the Recorder of Saturday last Mr. B. remarked at a great length on the Report, denying in positive terms, the truth of several assertions therein contained, for which he was, about 5 o'clock on that evening, brought to the Bar of the House, and, having acknowledged himself to be the author, was placed in custody of the Sergeant at Arms for the purpose of being conducted to jail; on his reaching the outer door of the building, opposite his own house (by which time a considerable number of persons had collected) he declared he would not go to prison, considering the measure an illegal one, and having, after some little struggle extricated himself from those two officers, some persons in the crowd stepping between him and them he walked into his own house. The Sergeant at Arms having reported to the House, what had taken place, the High Sheriff was sent for, who accompanied by the Sergeant and his Deputy, proceeded to Mr. B's house, but on being assured that he was not within, returned to the Assembly Room.

We should have been glad had the affair ended here, but the collection of people momently increased, and in a very short time far exceeded any thing ever before witnessed in Halifax.—About six o'clock several of the Representatives, whom the mob considered had made themselves conspicuous in their opposition to Mr. Barry, were intercepted on their way to Government House, where they were going to dine, and most grossly insulted and ill-treated—we never before, and hope never again, to witness a scene equal to it. About 9 o'clock a company of the Rifles, and one of the 52d made there appearance—but by this time the mob had nearly dispersed; soldiers paraded the streets near Government House until the company had retired. We are happy to learn the mob consisted principally of boys.

In order to prevent any further tumult Mr. Barry went this morning, privately, to Jail—where he has been put in *close confinement!*

It is much to be regretted that the House should have thought it necessary, in opposition to Public opinion, to adhere to its first Resolution with regard to Mr. B. and have resisted the repeated applications of his Constituents to vacate his seat in order that they might have an opportunity of returning another member to represent them The House have been sitting with closed doors during the past week; however constitutional this measure may be we consider it a very impolitic one.

PROVINCE LAW.

(FROM THE ROYAL GAZETTE.)

BY AUTHORITY.

An ACT in amendment of an Act for establishing Parish Schools.
Passed 10th February, 1829.

WHEREAS in and by the second section of an Act passed in the fourth year of His Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act for the encouragement of Parish Schools in this Province," Trustees of Schools are required to visit and inspect the same twice in each and every year; and to inquire into the discipline and regulations thereof, and of the proficiency of the Scholars; but are not empowered to dismiss any master whom they may find conducting himself negligently or improperly.

I. *Be it enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly*, That the Trustees of Schools established pursuant to the said Act, shall, and they are hereby authorised to visit and inspect the Schools, whenever they may consider it necessary; and also to require from the Teacher, quarterly lists of the Scholars, and any other information relative to the said school, which the Teacher is hereby required to furnish; and also, if the said Trustees should find it necessary, to displace the said teacher for misconduct or neglect.

II. *Provided always, and be it further enacted*, That whenever the Trustees shall displace any Teacher, they shall make report thereof, together with the particular cause of his being removed, to the Justices at their next General Sessions; which Justices shall cause a statement of the same to be transmitted to the Secretaries office, for the information of the Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief, and His Majesty's Council.

III. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Trustees of Schools shall be, and they are hereby authorised and empowered to admit such number of free scholars, being the children of indigent persons, as they may think proper; and also to fix and settle the rate of tuition money, to be paid by other scholars to the Teacher.

IV. *And whereas*, difficulties have frequently arisen, from the school houses being the property of private individuals, as built on their land, *Be it further enacted*, that the Justices of the Peace, in their respective counties, and also the Trustees of Schools in their respective parishes, shall, as much as in them lie, endeavour to cause the school houses to be built on the public ground of any county; or on property conveyed to the Justices of the Peace, for that purpose; who are hereby empowered to receive conveyances of the same, and to hold the same for the use of such schools; and that no school-house shall be removed from one part of a parish to another part, without the order of the Justices in their General Sessions, to be made, if they should so think fit, upon the application, and with the consent, of the Trustees and Proprietors.

V. *And be it further enacted*, That the Trustees of Schools, shall, and they are hereby required, to deliver to the Justices, at their first General Sessions of the Peace, in each year, a particular statement of the Schools in respective parishes, specifying whether the school-houses have been built, and if so, upon whose property; or appropriated for that exclusive purpose; also the amount subscribed; the rate of tuition money; number of scholars, particularizing free scholars; the name of the Teacher, and when licensed; the days on which the Schools were visited, together with such other remarks and observations as they may think necessary.