IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, July 20.

GENERAL DEFENCE BILL.

[CONTINUED.]

Mr. Sheridan said that the right honorable gentleman was not in the house when his honorable friend (Mr. Kinnaird) spoke, and might as well not have been in the house when he (Mr. Sheridan) spoke. That right honorable gentleman supposed him to have said, that any person reading the bill would find it secure against every objection which had been suggested. He was not so foolish as lightly to hazard any such assertion. Against the bill he might have things to object which he would rather bring forward at a fitter time; as he could defer his objections against the general conduct of ministers to a season when they might not impede the immediate necessary service of the state.

Mr. Kinnaird explained his expressions in regard to the tendency of the bill to injure the volunteer service, to have approached nearer to the strength in which they were understood by the honorable gentleman who spoke last, than to the more moderate spirit in which they were understood by his right honorable friend (Mr. Pitt.)

Mr. Windham thought it not easy to discover on which side of the question, or on which side of the house the honorable gentleman on the floor (Mr. Sheridan) meant to speak. He knew well which side he meant to attack; he seemed to wish that the house should decide and enact without previous deliberation; he was equally favorable to the idea of preventing that discussion which was requisite to enable gentlemen to consider the bill clause after clause, in the committee, with a sufficient previous knowledge of its general scope, and of the mutual relations of its different parts. He said that the spirit of the country wanted to be roused to a sense of the danger. Yet he would suppress or evade a discussion which might tend the most effectually to rouse it. Him, he and others might accuse of depressing the minds of the people to despondence. But, he had only endeavored, at all times, to awaken government and the country to a sense of the magnitude of the danger, and the inefficacy of the means, that the danger might be prevented by the adoption of means more effectual.

Mr. Sheridan explained. He entertained as exalted an idea of the spirit of the country as any man could. He admired that spirit, but thought it had not been sufficiently roused. The present bill was not calculated, in every respect, to call forth the energies of the country, but of its principle, he, upon the whole, approved. He had been accused by the right honorable gentleman (Mr. Windham) of inconsistency. He should be extremely glad, upon any convenient opportunity, to have this and other topics, in some respect connected with it, properly discussed.

The question was then put and the bill recommitted.

The secretary at war stated, that the great objections urged against the present bill seemed to be, that it was not completely qualified to call forth the force of the country in a manner sufficiently speedy or efficacious, and that it required great amendments. He was conscious it did not require amendment. He wished, however, at present, to remind the committee of the grand principle upon which it was founded. The object of the present bill was to enable his majesty to exercise his prerogative of calling out his liege subjects for the defence of the country in time of danger. Inrolment must in such a case be necessary, for the purpose of ascertaining the number of persons qualified for such an undertaking. Time too must be allowed for this purpose. The returning officer must make an intimation or requisition to the householder and the householder again must make a return to the proper officer. No person could be blind to the folly of entrusting the lists to be made up, entirely to the constables or inferior officers employed. The corruption to which that class was exposed, joined to their ignorance, must render it improper that the public should be exposed to the frauds which might be expected to be practised by them. If time were not furnished, therefore, the lists of those liable could not properly be made up. Tho' he was extremely open to conviction, & to enter into any measure by which the mode of collection might be shortened. he did not feel himself inclined to give up the present system until a better one should be proposed. He knew the spirit of the country, and if gentlemen would be ready to put their shoulders to the wheel, he was convinced their endeavors would call forth that energetic spirit which, he was happy to think, actuated the country in general. Upon the efforts of honorable gentlemen much must at present depend, and by their assistance much time might be saved. He hoped that even upon the mode suggested in the bill, it might be possible to reduce the period requisite for carrying the collection into execution to three weeks. He should, however, be extremely happy to hear any more expeditious mode of calling them out. In the case of any general sentiment of alarm, it was his intention to suggest, that his majesty should empower the lords' lieutenant to call out and assemble their different corps, and move them to any specific place of meeting. The next material point was the subject of volunteers. In this he entirely agreed with the view taken of it by the honorable gentleman. With that view it had been his intention to propose, that, in every list the names of those ready to engage in voluntary service should be specified; and that, where a sufficient number should offer in any parish, their services should be accepted of. He had suspended a bill regulating the service of yeomanry and volunteer corps for the purpose of introducing a clause to this effect; and declaring that in such cases they should be bound to appear and march to any place within that district for which they were engaged. It was not his opinion that they should not be compelled to march to any part where their services might be required, but in cases where volunteers were already engaged for a limited service, he apprehended that public credit was pledged that they should be entitled to such exemption, and that their services should not be extended beyond the place to which they had limited them. He was at the same time anxious to provide, that, in such case, it should not be in the power of persons who thus volunteered their services, afterwards to absent themselves without any means remaining of compelling them to march. He did not much dread such a case. He believed there would be more ready, in such a moment, to flock to the standard, than to turn their backs; but he thought such a provision necessary. He should propose leaving out the clause relative to the training and exercising, as he was convinced the periods proposed in the bill were too short, and that the harvest also would intervene. For the ease of tender consciences, he should also propose, that in Scotland, where the people were more accustomed to attend to public worship, an exemption from training on Sunday should be introduced, leaving it to the lords lieutenant, in their discretion to fix upon any other proper day in place of it. As the bill at present stood, the first class only was to be at first exercised. He saw no objection, why it should not be left in the discretion of the crown to call out the first, second and third, all at once. In many cases such a measure would be unnecessary, and of course would not be resorted to. In cases where voluntary enrollments had taken place, it surely, at all events could not be improper. He should be glad that any gentleman could suggest a more expeditious mode than the bill suggested, for completing the enrolments.—He was, however, convinced, that the measure would suffer, rather than gain, by hasty and precipitate proceedings.

Lord Castlereagh agreed in the propriety of a voluntary enrolment, so far as it could effectually be adopted. He should propose for the sake of expedition, that every person should be called upon, previous to the lists being taken, to give in his name under a penalty, and if he failed in obeying that mandate that the penalty should be inflicted, after it had been ascertained by the list to be taken, that it had actually been forfeited. He thought it better to ascertain whether a clause to this effect should be adopted before proceeding to the other clauses of the bill. Such a clause would go far, and in a more expeditious manner than any other to ascertain the population, and to give an idea of the number of names which the list might contain.

Mr. Pitt thought the suggestion of his honorable friend unexceptionable, and that it tended to remove one principal objection to the bill. From the time of taking down the list to the time of actual inrolment so great a period of time elapsed, as the bill at present stood, that almost an utter impossibility existed of more than one day's drilling taking place previous to march 1804. He could not, however, help doubting how far it was proper to have recourse to a compulsory mode, which, upon reflection, he could not help thinking the plan suggested by his right honorable friend certainly was, before it was known to what number of persons falling under the first clause might extend. That persons who, upon being called on, did not come forward, should be subject to penalty, was undoubtedly compulsory. Such was not the mode which ought first to be adopted. There was, in his opinion, no mode so effectual as that of trying what could be got by a voluntary call. He had always thought that the best and most effectual support was to be expected, not from that man who was forced to enrol, but from him who was willing to step forward in defence of his own cause and that of his country, and to volunteer his services, without any hold or constraint being put upon his conduct. Whether a sufficient number of volunteers would be found willing to step forward, whether we were to owe our defence to voluntary exertions, or to measures of compulsion and constraint would then appear. Upon speedy and effectual means, however, being adopted, all must depend. Every opportunity of voluntary enrolment ought to be afforded. We should not wait till spontaneous offers were made; but by calling at their houses and knocking at their doors, remind them of the exertions which they are called upon to make, and of energies and exertions which their country demands from them. His notion therefore was, that while the lords lieutenant were proceeding in the execution of the law by appointing the proper officers to take down the necessary lists, they should also authorise proper persons to go round and canvass, if he might use the expression, every parish, in order to ascertain how many in that particular district were willing to volunteer their services, and to step forward willingly, and zealously, to bear arms in defence of themselves, their families and country. The country in general would thus see that their exertions were required; and it would not be left to chance, whether we were to be supported by voluntary services or not. If, in any particular parish or district, his majesty should find a sufficient number ready and willing to step forward in this manner, it would be in his power to postpone the operation of the bill till such time as his majesty might think proper. Two objects of the utmost importance would be gained by adopting this measure. Government would see how far voluntary service was to be expected or depended upon; and the public, on the other hand, would be able to judge, from the proportion of voluntary inrolment which seemed to satisfy the expectations of government, how far their exertions, in persevering in voluntary enrolments, would avail them, and afford relief against compulsory measures. His majesty would then be able to say what proportion of the force proposed to be called out, he would think adequate, when arising from voluntary offers. Three-fourths, or at farthest four-fifths of the expected number, he had no doubt would be deemed adequate and satisfactory, and that with such a proportion government would remain satisfied, rather than persevere in those compulsory measures so tedious in their process. For this purpose, it would be necessary to ascertain what the amount of the first class from 17 to 30 might be.—His right honorable friend, he was convinced, was well qualified to say how many of that age might be found. They had been told, that the whole number, under the three different classes, might amount to 400,000. What proportion those from seventeen to thirty would bear to this number was merely matter of calculation. It might not be exactly correct, but it would afford a pretty good criterion from which to judge. When the army of reserve was voted, the Cinque Ports, which had been exempted from every former levy, were ordered to raise a certain proportion of the force. There was then no rule by which to proceed, but cases of error were provided for. If the number was found too small, it was to be made up; if too great, compensation was to be allowed them. Here, however, more precise modes of proceeding might be resorted to. The exact number of males and females, of different ages, could be ascertained, and the proportions for the different parishes and divisions, pretty accurately computed. Let his majesty after the present act passes, say the precise number he wishes raised for each county, and then publish what number of volunteers, probably three-fourths of that number, he is willing to accept of, instead of entering upon the compulsory mode of levying. Each county or district will then, by furnishing the number required, have it in their power to put an end to the act, so far as they are concerned, and its operations must thus terminate. He submitted whether such a plan would not be productive of good consequences in every respect? government would be freed from the necessity of resorting, and the country from that of submitting to compulsory measures. The armament, on the part of the country, would be voluntary, and free from every species of restraint; and its advantages would be immediately felt, as there would be no security for adopting that tedious, and, from its delay, dangerous system of enrolment at present pointed out by the act. If, even after all, compulsory measures should be found necessary, he should suggest a measure by which he apprehended the great danger arising from delay, might in some respect be removed. The act appoints the first general meeting for the purpose of carrying it into execution to be held ten days after the passing of the act, or as soon thereafter as convenient. Of course, ten days are the earliest period after passing of the act, at which the meeting can be held. Time must then be allowed for giving instructions to the constables, after which ten days are allowed to them to convey notices to the householders. After delivery of the notices, fourteen days more are allowed for making the returns, seven days of which are granted to the householders. After the expiration of these fourteen days, lists are to be put up for the purpose of appeals, but how long is allowed on this account does not appear. Seven days are then allowed to the district clerk to make returns to the general meeting of lieutenancy, and the clerk to the general meeting is allowed fourteen days more, to make transcripts of the returns to be sent to the secretary of state. These delays amounted altogether to nearly 60 days upon the whole, or about six or seven days from Michaelmas, leaving only one Sunday for drilling. The ten days required to elapse before the first general meeting might, he contended, be greatly shortened, the ten days required for giving notice to householders; and the fourteen days for transcribing and giving notice to the secretary of state, might be rendered altogether unnecessary. If the number required by his majesty were known on the very day on which the appeals were determined, the number could be struck off by ballot, and the object of the act be thus at once complete. If he were correct in all this, twenty-four days delay were at once got rid of, and the delay reduced within the compass of a month or three weeks In suggesting this measure too, nothing was done which could weaken or embarrass the object in view.

Lord Castlereagh explained, and stated that the operations of the act would by no means interfere with his majesty's proceeding in the mean time in voluntary enrolments. The great feature in the present force, he stated to be, that it went to furnish an almost inexhaustible resource for the defence of the country, without being attended with any inconvenience to those who formed it, and without being any burden to the public. He agreed that it was fully more advisable to resort to voluntary enrolment, than to compulsory means. He only meant to shew that the former was not inconsistent with the prosecution of the latter.

Mr. Pitt explained. He viewed the great object of the present force, to be the safety it ensured to the country. He did not wish it to be free from expence.

[*To be continued.*]

SALEM, August 29.

Arrived, ship Eliza, Joseph, from Barcelona. July 16, in sight of Madeira, was boarded by a ship from London, bound on a whaling voyage, of 16 guns and 50 men, the mate of which informed, that *they had orders to detain all Spanish vessels*, after they had been out 14 days. August 14, lat. 42, 28, long. 52, 20, spoke ship Governor Mercer, from New-York for Liverpool, 11 days out. 24th, on George's Bank, in 30 fathom water, spoke brig Edmund, from Boston, two days out, all well.

September 6.

Entered, brig Lydia, Boden, St. Petersburg; Three Friends, Patterson, Guadaloupe.

Cleared, schr. Lively, Smith, Baltimore.

NEW YORK, September 9.

The committee of health report, that 9 deaths and 20 new cases of the prevailing fever occurred during the 24 hours, ending at 8 o'clock last evening. The deaths were those of

Mrs. Rossier, 77, Greenwich-street
Thomas Blakeley, 46, Front-street
James Blott, corner of George and Barclay-streets
Edward Jack, grocer, 219, William-st.
Ann Meek, Gouverneur's alley
Daniel Trimbly, corner of Greenwich and Washington-streets
John Adams, jun. 66, William-street
Miss Boorman, 64, Greenwich-street
John Long, Bellevue.

By the committee,
GEO. A. VALENTINE, Sec'y.
September 9.

Yesterday morning the foundation-stone of St. John's Church, to be erected on the east side of Hudson-square, was laid by the right riv. bishop Moore, in the presence of the members of the corporation of Trinity church, the workmen who are to be employed in the building, and many other spectators, who attended on the occasion. The ceremony of laying the stone was succeeded by a short address by bishop Moore; and the whole solemnity was concluded by prayer for the divine benediction on their present undertaking.

Extract of a letter from Elizabeth-Town, (Maryland) August 31.

"On Wednesday the 24th inst. Peter Light, of Sharpsburgh, was arraigned at the bar of Washington county court, for making counterfeit dollars; and after a fair and impartial trial, was found guilty. On Thursday following he was sentenced to be whipt, pillored and cropt—which sentence was accordingly put into execution by the sheriff."

Mr. James Prince, of Newburyport, last week lost his pocket-book, between that place and Kingston Plains, containing a very considerable sum in bank bills, and notes of hand to the amount of ten thousand dollars! He has offered one hundred dollars reward to any person who will return it.

On Sunday morning before sunrise, a young man picked up a pocket book, opposite the Hay Scales, near Washington Square, in Salem, Massachusetts. Before opening it, he called another young man to witness its contents. It contained five hundred dollars in bank bills, and notes of hand to a considerable amount. He was proceeding on his morning's walk down Bridge-street, when he met a man on horse back, who inquired of him if he had heard of any one's picking up a pocket book—the young man asked what kind of pocket-book, and what were its contents, &c. &c. and finding the man to be the real owner (a drover from the country, who had received the money the day before at Marblehead) he readily delivered it up. The owner gave him a ten dollar bill, and told him if that was not satisfactory (proffering the pocket book at the same time, to take as much as he wanted. We regret we have not been able to learn the name of this worthy young man.

[*Salem Register*]

Arrived, sch'r Romance, Johnson, 11 days from Georgetown, S. Carolina, bound to Middletown. Off the Capes of Virginia, saw an engagement between two brigs supposed to be an English and a French privateer; after a few rounds, one of them hoisted sail, and made off, and the other pursued her closely. Captain J could not distinguish them minutely, being at a considerable distance. Left there, schooners Sally, of Beverly, to sail in a few days for New-York; Ropes, of Philadelphia; Little Sam, of Salem; sloop Betsy, do. taking in her cargo, to sail in a few days; brig William, of Charleston, for Guadaloupe; pilot-boat schooner Fanny, of Hampton, bound to Martinique.

At quarantine,

Schooner Lioness, Bingley, in 9 days from Charleston. Left there, ship Alexander, Copp; brig Charleston Packet, Wasson; Comet; Venus; Concord; and schooner Little Edward, Godby, all for this port, in 5 or 6 days. September 4, spoke a sloop from St. Croix, for this port. 6th, spoke a schooner Tobago for Boston, out 24 days; the captain informed that the French captured all American vessels they fell in with, bound to Tobago or St. Lucie. Six passengers came in the Lioness.

List of American vessels left at Surrinam, taken from Bunker's marine list, July 27th, 1803.

Schooners Success, Brown, Gloucester; Two Friends, Moulton, Portland; Chance, Wallace, New-Haven; Northampton, Caulkins, Boston; Greenwood, Green, Philadelphia; Atlantic, Stutson, Boston; Sparrow, Coleman, Alexandria; brigs Industry, Dunn, Providence; Albert, Webb, Norfolk; Sally, Lovett, New-York; schr. Topham's Beauty, Somes, New-York.

PHILADELPHIA, September 10.

Arrived, ship Fortuna, Earl, Hamburg, 72 days; brigs Lark, Brown, St Thomas; Favorite, Patten, Richmond, 20; schr. Betsy, Herbert, do. 7.

Cleared, schr. Farmer's Delight, Brown, Grenada.

It is reported that Chancellor Livingston, minister at the court of the first consul, and distinguished for his successful negociation and purchase of Louisiana, is to be recalled. We do not know whether this measure is at the solicitation of Mr. Livingston, or whether it is produced by the dissatisfaction of the administration, at his presuming, in the above negociation, to anticipate their advice.

Extract of a letter from Dominica, dated August 21.

"On Friday night we had a severe hurricane—I held on all that night, though several vessels had put to sea. But next morning I was obliged to slip one cable and cut the other, and was fortunate enough to get out to sea. Seven sail of vessels went on shore, and a great deal of other damage done.

"I was two days at sea before I got in to my anchors. On Monday the 15th I went to clear out at the custom-house, when I found there was a proclamation out declaring both Martinique and Guadaloupe blockaded."

We are happy to see the Journal of Andrew Ellicott, esquire, when employed in determining the boundary between the United States, and the possessions of his Catholic majesty on the waters of the Mississippi, at last published. This Journal will be invaluable to the politicians, the naturalists, the merchants and seamen of the United States. It contains, besides an entertaining history of the difficulties and dangers connected with the public business executed by Mr. Ellicott, many interesting facts and observations upon the geography, natural productions, weather, and diseases of that extensive country. The stile of this work is simple and perspicuous. The maps of the Mississippi and the rivers which pour their waters into it, and of the adjacent counties, are accurately drawn and printed; from a careful perusal of this Journal our citizens will be able to form a concise and satisfactory opinion of the nature of the late purchase of territory made by the United States. We sincerely wish it a general circulation.

Importation of cotton wool during 1802, into London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Bristol and Lancaster (Great-Britain.)

From whence imported.	*Bales.*
West Indies	1755
East Indies	8535
Africa	86
Mediterranean	4719
Cadiz	350
Lisbon and Oporto	72,660
North Ports	2272
Jersey	170
Ireland	304
Newfoundland	2
North-America	105,187
Bahamas	4241
Caicos	104
Tortola	1633
St. Thomas	752
St. Bartholomew	302
Jamaica	21,402
St. Croix	42
St. Kitts	113
Nevis,	84
Antigua	78
Montserrat	196
Dominique	73
Martinique	1134
St. Lucia	996
Curracoa	7295
Barbados	8087
St. Vincents	745
Grenada	4487
Tobago	141
Trinidad	6709
Cayenne	46
Demerara	17,495
Berbice	1996
Surrinam	4382
St. Martins	20
	278,503 bales or bags.

A question is constantly recurring whether the people of the United States ought not *domestically* and by the necessary trades to commence the manufacture of so immense a raw material. The American cotton in the above 105,187 bales, imported by Great-Britain alone, weighed 28 millions of pounds, avoirdupois weight.

MR POULSON,

An accurate chemical analysis has been made in this city, of the external and internal parts of the stones, and of what is improperly called the cement, of the famous wall of North Carolina, of which there is an account in your paper of Wednesday, from which it appears that it is composed of Basaltes, and is altogether a production of nature.

The discovery of this wall, does not "seem to strengthen the opinion of those who believe that this western world has once before been inhabited by a civilized people, or visited oftener than history informs us of, and prior to its authenticated discovery by Columbus."—This conclusion is absurd in the extreme, and can answer no other purpose than to confirm learned foreigners in their opinions of our total want of science, and ignorace of the most common productions of nature.

The Giants Causeway and the Cave of Fingal, both formed of Basaltes, are as great curiosities as the wall of North Carolina.

A MINERALOGIST.