LONDON, July 1.

OLD BAILEY.

MR. ASTLETT's TRIAL.

Robert Astlett, late assistant cashier to the governor and company of the bank of England, was put to the bar, at half after ten o'clock yesterday morning. The lord chief Baron; Mr. Justice Rooke, and Mr. Justice Lawrence, presided on the bench. The indictments charged him, under no fewer than *ten different counts*, with the distinct felonies of *embezzling* property of the bank confided to his trust, and of *stealing* property of the bank within the dwelling house of the governor and company. The court proceeded to form the jury. Many of the persons summoned on the assize were challenged by the parties: a jury of twelve was at last sworn in, and the trial went on. He was tried under one of the indictments, for feloniously embezzling three exchequer bills, numbered 141, 2694, 1060, of 1000l. each, the property of the bank.

Mr. Garrow opened the case for prosecution. It was, he said, of the last importance, as it affected the life of the prisoner. By a statute of the last reign, the embezzlement of securities intrusted to the keeping of any officer or servant of the bank was made a capital offence. He would endeavor clearly to explain in what manner the business of the bank was carried on, so far as that was necessary to the investigation of the guilt of the prisoner at the bar. *Mr. Astlett* had been for twenty-five years in the service of the bank. During twenty-three of those years he had been employed in the office of Mr. Newland. To the period of the guilt with which he was now charged, his conduct had been faithful and meritorious. By unfortunate speculations in the funds, he appeared to have been, at least, seduced to dishonor. In 1799, he was appointed cashier. It was a part of the cashier's business to purchase, under the order of the directors, public securities, especially exchequer bills, for the benefit of the bank. Orders were given to the cashier, when exchequer bills came into the market, to make such purchases to some particular amount. The purchases of such bills immediately from government, were usually made thro' Messrs. Goldsmid and Co. Mr. Templeman, the bank broker, was employed to make those which were taken from the ordinary money market. Messrs. Goldsmid & Co. when they brought into the bank any quantity of exchequer bills which they had purchased by the cashier's order, delivered at the same time bills of parcels, in which those exchequer bills were described. It had been the duty of Mr. Astlett, as cashier, to compare the exchequer bills with the bills of parcels, and then to order payment. An entry was then made of the exchequer bills so bought and paid for, in a book which had the name of the Bought-book, and was kept by the cashier. These pointed under his care, in a strong closet, till their amount was sufficiently considerable to make it proper to remove them.—They were then made into bundles of 1000l. bills, to the value of 227,000l. in each bundle. The bundles were then examined. The examination was made by counting off a certain number of each. These being found such as they were represented, the examination ended. The bundles were then carried into the parlor, to the directors in waiting. The bundles, though not the separate bills composing them, were counted by the directors. They were then entered in that which was called the parlor-book. The directors in waiting, having inspected the entry, signed it with their names, and it became a voucher to the cashier. The bundles of bills were then put in a strong closet. That closet was shut under three keys. These keys were so confined that the closet could not be opened, nor the securities removed, without the presence of at least two directors. The bills thus deposited were, by the invariable practice of the bank, separated from all possibility of return into future circulation. They could not come again into the hands of the public, otherwise than by the fraud of at least two directors. These bills were never again sold, never re-issued, were kept, with the interest accumulating, till such time as it was announced from government that it was ready to redeem them by payment at the exchequer.

On the 26th day of February last, there were transferred from the custody of Mr. Astlett, the cashier, to the parlor, one bundle of

Exchequer Bills, to the value of	£.100,000
Another, value	200,000
A third	400,000—700,000

An entry was made in the parlor book. Its correctness was vouched by the signature of two respectable directors, Messrs. Smith and Puget. The entry thus vouched, was afterwards found to bear, that bills had been received to the amount of 200,000l. more than the actual value of the bundles. It was a voucher to the cashier. The directors had confidence in a servant, whose integrity had never deceived them in a period of twenty five years. It was on the 9th of April that the first suspicions of his fidelity were excited.—The hint which led to the discovery came from a gentleman of the name of Bish.—He was a purchaser of stock upon order for others. He knew that exchequer bills, once bought up by the bank, were never returned into circulation. On the 16th of March, this gentleman was requested by Mr Astlett to purchase for him 50,000l. in the three per cent consuls. The state of the stocks was, then, to such a degree fluctuating, that Mr. Bish thought it necessary to require the prisoner to make a deposit, equal to the probable fluctuation of two per cent upon the intended purchase. The prisoner produced the three bills, specified in the indictment, Nos. 141, 2,649, and 1,060, as securities to indemnify Mr. Bish against any loss to which he could, by this transaction, become subject; those bills Mr. B. as it happened, knew to have been previously bought from the market for the bank. He was obliged by the progress of the business which he had undertaken, to inspect those bills more particularly; and suspicions of unfair dealing arose in his mind. He, upon consideration, thought it his duty as an honest man, to make his suspicions know at the bank. Inquiry became necessary. Mr. Alderman Watson, a magistrate, and one of the directors, entered upon the necessary enquiry, in an interview with Mr. Astlett and Mr. Newland. It was asked of Mr. Newland, whether exchequer bills, once entered in the parlor book, and deposited under the keys of the directors, could ever again come into circulation? He answered that Mr Watson himself knew the thing to be impossible. The same question was put to Mr. Astlett. He made a similar reply. It then became necessary to acquaint Mr. Astlett that the bills entered in the parlor book were to have been sent into the market. It was asked whether he had sent any such bills as those of the numbers charged, into the market? "He had; but he had acted in the transaction for a friend, Mr. Hosier," naming a gentleman who was a partner in a respectable banking house in the west end of the town. He was desired to see whether those bills were entered in the bought book. He looked and could find no such entries.—He was desired to withdraw, when he had left the room, the director who had examined him, found in a book, under those Mr. Astlett had himself opened, the three entries which he had pretended not to exist. The prisoner was then of necessity taken into custody. Mr. Garrow here said, that he would pause, and put it to the jury to reflect, if one single security had been in the same manner deposited by any private man with a confidential servant, deposited that it could not go abroad without fraud, and if such a security should nevertheless be sent abroad, whether they would not think such a case, relating to all those trusts which were unavoidable in the greatest and smallest transactions of life, infinitely important? What, then, added he, must they think of a case respecting the interests of so great a proportion of the whole public, and that to a magnitude not less than 200,000l.? Every exchequer bill of 200,000l. he would, he said, trace to the prisoner's custody, to his use of them as securities—to the hands of gentlemen of the names of Ellet, Chambers, Van Sanner, and Oughton, with whom he had pledged them, or put them to be negociated, except only the three bills put into the hands of Mr. Bish, and others to the amount of 16,000l. afterwards found in an envelope, in the prisoner's own desk. All of the exchequer bills purchased by the bank, [illegible] worth, also recovered from the prisoner, were found where they should be. Such was the case which the prosecutors were prepared to make out by satisfactory evidence. He then proceeded to explain why the trial had not been proceeded in, last session. He began the explanation with strong complaints, that the motives of the bank for delay, had been misrepresented, and that outcries for justice against the prisoner had been made, with an outrage and indecency of which their authors ought to be deeply ashamed. He spoke, he said, in this, with the authority of the bench. He had hopes, that in the case of some man in rags, public justice would yet awaken to the punishment of those who could so malignantly interpose to prejudice and poison the public mind. He then proceeded to explain the precise reason of the delay. By the act of 1799, provision was made that only exchequer bills signed by the auditor of the exchequer, or by a person empowered by him, with permission in writing from the lords of the treasury, or any three of them, should have the full validity of the public securities, which their names described them to be. In '99, Mr. Robert Jennings was regularly authorized to sign the bills under that act; & signed them. So far all was well. But, by some such inadvertency, as is easily conceived to be incident to humanity, the same authority was not, for the ensuing loans by exchequer bills, renewed to him; and yet he continued to be the person who signed such as were issued. This fact was not discovered till immediately before the trial should have come on last session. To have then disclosed it, might have been dangerous to public credit, so far as exchequer bills were concerned. The bank chose rather to await till the alarm should be prevented by a legislative provision, than then to agitate the public mind. An act of parliament had since passed to give validity to the bills irregularly signed by Jennings; public credit could not now suffer by the disclosure. A question might arise, whether the prisoner could be now found guilty upon an indictment for the embezzlement of exchequer bills, which acquired validity only from a subsequent act of parliament? On that question it would be for the court to decide. God forbid, that in England, any person should be deprived, on a trial for life, of the advantage even of any oversight in the law!

Mr. Erskine said, he apprehended it was then the proper time to address the court, without waiting for the evidence in the cause. From the very correct statement of his learned friend, he apprehended that this was the clear fact; that the defendant stood charged with a larceny in embezzling of securities, which securities were alledged to be exchequer bills, which brought the case to this clear point, whether the things embezzled were exchequer bills or not? Their lordships had the act of parliament before them, which enabled the government to issue those exchequer bills, and they would then see the directions pointed out to constitute the instrument issued as an exchequer bill. They must therefore be exchequer bills or nothing. The act of parliament required that all exchequer bills should be signed by the auditor of the receipt of exchequer, or by some person authorised by him, having the approbation of the lords commissioners of the treasury, or any three or more of them, in writing. This authority was given in the year 1799; but by some oversight it had not been renewed since that period, and the last two issues of exchequer bills had been signed by Mr. Jennings, without any legal authority to do it. Although Mr. Jennings, therefore, may have had that authority in the year 1799, it could only extend, and was expressly declared only to extend, to the bills then to be issued. Any bills since issued, and signed by Mr Jennings, without a renewal of that authority, were not exchequer bills in the clear meaning and enactment of the act of parliament. For him to waste the time of the court in enforcing such an argument, would be highly unnecessary.—The proposition which he maintained was self-evident, and had received the sanction and approbation of parliament. Parliament had declared itself such bills to be illegal. For him, therefore, to enter into any legal exposition of the case must be unnecessary, and would be improper.—When we consider the very able assistance which parliament had in the legal knowledge of the attorney-general and other crown counsel, we could not suppose that it would so play and trifle with the public as to pass an act for the purpose of alarming them, or causing unnecessary suspicions amongst the funded interest—and that only with the view of adding validity to what was sufficiently legal and valid without the adoption of such a measure. However counsel might have thought it proper to start such a question in law, parliament would never spontaneously have resorted to a remedy for the evil, had they not been convinced that one actually existed. He apprehended, therefore, that this was a parliamentary declaration in justification of the interpretation which he now contended for; and that it could bear no other. With the same love of justice, too, which always marked the proceedings of parliament, they had provided that nothing therein contained should affect any prosecution raised or to be raised on the head of the legality or illegality of the bills in question. He concluded by paying a compliment to the ability and propriety of conduct displayed by the gentleman who managed the affairs of the bank upon the present occasion.

Mr. Serjeant Best followed on the same side, and stated, that he should trouble the court only with a single observation. He contended that the bills charged on in the [illegible] the act of parliament, which bore, "provided always, that such exchequer bills shall and may be signed," by certain persons, not one of whom had put their names to the bills in question.

Mr. Garrow, in reply, admitted that, to prove the embezzlement, he must make out that they were exchequer bills. But whatever doubts might arise upon this head, on the general ground, he thought that they could not apply to the present case. It was not necessary that he should prove these to be to all intents and purposes good exchequer bills. As to the exchequer that issued them, they must always be good exchequer bills. With respect to the bank who bought them, they must be good; as against the persons from whom the bank purchased them; & more particularly against the person to whom they were entrusted, as exchequer bills, they must unquestionably be esteemed good. With respect to a class of cases which had been decided upon this subject, their lordships would recollect that in the case of a promissory note, the stamp acts had declared that it should be null and void, and not available either in law or equity, without certain stamps. A man had been indicted for forging a note, but upon examination it appeared not to have the proper stamp upon it. The prisoner had taken advantage of this, and contended that if by the stamp acts it was not available in law or equity, as a good security, much less could it be available in a criminal proceeding; but the court had determined that a man should not call in aid a mere revenue regulation, to protect himself against the consequences of his own fraud. This, their lordships would recollect, was Colin Reculus's case, who was convicted at the Old Bailey.

Mr. Erskine stated, the learned counsel had admitted that he must convince them that these were good exchequer bills, but had, at the same time, contended that it was not incumbent upon him to shew that they were so *to all intents and purposes*. Such a distinction he could not comprehend. If they were exchequer bills at all, they were so to all intents and purposes. Holders of exchequer bills might tender them in payment of taxes. But, if not legal and good, to all intents and purposes, would they be received? True, the justice of government would not allow them to avail themselves of such a plea; but suppose a question had arisen upon that ground in a court of justice, though it might be unworthy of a government, such as England, to resort to such a measure, could effect be given to bills illegally and unwarrantably issued? Such bills were of no more validity than if signed by his honorable friend, or any other person. They were, to be sure, signed by Mr. Jennings; but of what import, in the present cause, is his subscription?

Lord Chief Baron. The same as if not signed at all.

Mr. Erskine.—Exactly so, my lord.—He then contended that the case referred to by Mr. Garrow did not apply. The circumstance of the promissory note depending upon fixing the name, and upon the tenor of the note, not upon the stamp.

The lord chief baron said, that the magnitude of the offence could have no weight upon the decision. Whether it were for millions or half a crown, the law was the same. If the crime did exist, and to the extent stated, however much they must regret that it could not be investigated, and investigated to conviction, yet they must recollect that it was but a small sacrifice they made to the principles of common law, as handed down to us by our ancestors. And although, now and then, a guilty person might escape by the defective forms of law, yet we had reason to think it was the only price we paid, and surely it was but a small one, for the stability of our criminal code. The case cited by Mr. Garrow did not apply, but was exactly converse. In a case for forgery, the charge was for uttering a forged instrument purporting to be true. Here the bills were charged on as real and genuine instruments.

Mr. Justice Rooke was clearly of opinion, that the instruments charged on could not be regarded as exchequer bills.

Mr. Justice Lawrence said, that to have supported the indictment, the bills must have been shewn to be exchequer bills. To have been so they must have been signed as required by act of parliament. The essence of the charge here was, that the instruments charged on were good, genuine exchequer bills.

The prisoner was then acquitted upon every one of the charges.

Mr. Garrow said, that although criminal justice had been disappointed, he was happy to think that civil justice would not. He had to request their lordships, that Mr. Astlett be remanded, for a debt of upwards of 100,000l. due to the bank of England.

Mr. Astlett was accordingly ordered to be detained as a civil debtor.

August 4.

Foreigners, and many at home, have constantly under-rated the population of the United Kingdom, by calculating it only at eleven millions, whereas it has been proved to contain more than fifteen millions of inhabitants. We possess an army of about two hundred thousand effective men, the best paid and appointed of any in the world, of which about forty thousand effective are regulars. Our navy is omnipotent, and superior in every respect to the navies of all other maratime powers united. Our revenue has increased to forty millions per annum, which, supported by the commerce of the whole world, proves that our resources are inexhaustible. If, with these means of warfare, our insular situation be considered, it may be fairly presumed that the power of England counterpoises the [illegible] strength of France.

The person who induced the King of France to resign his crown to Bonaparte was, it is said, the commander de Meyer, an officer in the Prussian service, and employed on this mission by the King of Prussia, at the instance of the chief consul.

CORK, August 9.

At a general meeting of the ROMAN CATHOLICS of the city of Waterford and its vicinity, convened by public notice, and held in the great chapel, the 29th of July, 1803,

EDWARD SHIEL, Esq. in the chair,

They prepared and adopted the following address:

TO HIS EXCELLENCY
PHILIP EARL OF HARDWICKE,
LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND GENERAL OF IRELAND.

THE ADDRESS

Of the ROMAN CATHOLICS of the city of Waterford and vicinity.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, his majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Roman Catholics of Waterford and its vicinity, respectfully beg leave to approach your excellency with the expressions of our utmost abhorrence and detestation, of the atrocious proceedings which have lately taken place in the capital of this kingdom.

Impressed with the said sentiments of unalterable attachment which we have so often professed to our gracious sovereign, and to the constitutional authorities of the empire, we think it an imperious duty at the present moment to declare, that in every contest in which the principles of the constitution, of order and civilized society, are involved, we shall be ever found amongst the most zealous of his majesty's subjects as firmly opposing that daring spirit of insurrection and disorder, which if not subdued, would once more involve our country in all the horrors of anarchy and confusion.

We beg leave to assure your excellency, that it is our utmost ambition strongly to co-operate with our fellow-subjects of every description in such measures as may be deemed necessary for the security of our country against the attempts of any foe, either foreign or domestic. In the earnest hope that our countrymen of every persuasion will join in discouraging that unfortunate and disgraceful spirit of party which has so long disturbed the public peace, and which by exciting dissentions amongst the people has a manifest tendency to paralize our exertions, and prevent the combined energies of the country from being carried into effect, we ardently desire to unite with them, in the common cause. Resolved to rise or fall with the friends and supporters of his majesty's throne and government, we look forward with confidence to that point of unanimity, strength and national vigor, which must impress with terror that ambitious and ferocious enemy who has dared to insult us with threats of invasion.

We request your excellency will represent these our sentiments to our most gracious sovereign, and at the same time permit us to take this opportunity of expressing the high sense we entertain of the advantages and security enjoyed under your excellency's mild, firm, and impartial administration.

The Address was signed by several hundred Roman Catholics of the city of Waterford and its vicinity.

His Excellency's Answer.

The sentiments expressed in your address on the part of the ROMAN CATHOLICS of WATERFORD, on the late insurrection in the metropolis, and on the atrocious acts which accompanied that desperate attempt, are not only honorable to you as loyal subjects of our most gracious sovereign, but will tend to counteract whatever spirit of disaffection the acts of malice of our enemies may endeavor to excite in the country, where the influence of your example and authority may be more immediately expected to operate.

Your profession of attachment to the king and to the constitution under which we live, which men of all persuasions are bound by interest as well as duty to defend against the promoters of anarchy and confusion, are equally wise and seasonable; and you may rely upon my faithful representation of them to his majesty.

I return you my particular thanks for the flattering terms in which you express your approbation of my public conduct in this country. HARDWICKE.

A letter from Dublin, of August 1, says, "On Saturday last, a printer and bookseller of this city, and who had printed, for ARTHUR O'CONNOR, the famous newspaper called *The Press*, was arrested and committed to Kilmainham jail; it is said that he is charged with having printed the rebellious proclamation. The same day a Roman Catholic priest was arrested on information at a house in Watling-street; he was in company with four or five other priests when taken and near them; on the ground, a letter of a misterious import is said to have been found, and which they all denied any knowledge of; the arrested persons had lately arrived in this city from Kilala or its neighborhood."

FRANKFORT, July 17.

The English general Stuart, at the moment of his departure from Alexandria, addressed the following proclamation to the inhabitants of that city:

"His majesty, the king of Great-Britain, after having, by the glorious efforts of his arms, joined with those of his grand and august ally, the grand seignior, delivered Egypt from its invaders, has, conformably to the faith of treaties, given orders to his army to return to his own territories, and to give up this entire province, happily rescued, to the absolute dominion of the Porte. We cannot leave the city of Alexandria and the different posts occupied by our troops, without publicly testifying to the inhabitants our satisfaction at the friendship which they have constantly shewn to the British army, and their prompt submission to all the orders and regulations which the maintenance of discipline and the police rendered necessary. And, in order to prove to all the inhabitants the interest we continue to take in their welfare, we have acquired and obtained from the representatives of the Porte the following concession:

1. The remission of the arrears of the Karath (a kind of poll tax) and the public contributions of the city of Alexandria down to the landing of the French.

2. Security and confirmation of their appointments, for all the persons who have filled offices during the stay of the British troops.

3. The exclusive appropriation of the quarter of the Francs to Europeans, and those belonging to them, according to the usages and customs of the Levant.

4. That Europeans, and those who belong to them, shall have the right of passing at all hours, on foot or on horse-back, upon business or amusement, through all quarters of the city, without being molested.

5. A general amnesty, and a promise that no person shall be molested, whatever part he may have taken in the French or Mameluke government.

6. The freedom of the old harbor for all European nations.

"The assent of the officers of the porte to these demands is the most striking proof of gratitude which the British army could have received for its eminent and distinguished services in Egypt; and we ardently and sincerely hope that the harmony which existed between the troops of our sovereign and those of the Sublime Porte, and the immortal glory which their united arms have acquired by the recovery of that important province, will be cherished and maintained by the constant and inviolable friendship of the Britannic and Ottoman empires.

"Given under our hand and at the head-quarters of Alexandria, the 6th of March, 1803.

(Signed) "J. STUART."

JACOB NORRIS

Having got possession of that established Stand, No. 64, Market-street, formerly occupied by Mr. James C. Neilson, has now on hand, and will be constantly supplied with

A choice assortment of Groceries,

For the consumption of private families.

He will also be constantly supplied with a general assortment of GROCERIES, suitable for country merchants, and tavern-keepers; and hopes from attention to business, to obtain a share of public favor.

September 12. d1tt