PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

HOUSE OF LORDS, FRIDAY, MAY 10.

Petition of the Roman Catholics of Ireland.

Lord Grenville moved the order of the day for taking into consideration the petition of the Roman Catholics of Ireland.

The petition having been read by the clerk,

Lord Grenville rose and addressed the house to the following effect:

"I rise, my lords, with great satisfaction, to address your lordships, after the very moderate and respectful petition which has been just read. I am happy to recollect that when I gave notice of this discussion on a former day, an opinion was expressed by noble lords, that this great subject ought to meet with a fair, full, and impartial discussion. The persons who have signed this petition, have done every thing in their power to entitle them to such a discussion in this house. They address a body whom no local prejudices can be supposeffect the consideration of their claims, and where party violence cannot be suffered to have any weight in deliberating on so important a subject. I will say for myself, that I am wholly incapable of the folly or wickedness of introducing, or of supporting in this house, for party purposes, any measure that is so materially and essentially connected with the prosperity, peace, and unity of the empire. I might appeal to all your lordships, whether, if this were a question likely to conduce to views of such a nature, and if the individual who addresses you had such an object, his conduct would not have been precisely the reverse of that which he has, in the course of this business, found it proper to adopt. I am well aware, that in such a question I must make up my mind to encounter much personal opposition, and many aspersions; no common degree of clamor & misrepresentation, with many ill founded suspicious respecing my own sentiments in general. All this I must expect, and in return for what must be felt on this head, I must console myself with the gratification of having endeavored to discharge a great public duty. Whatever may happen, I shall not have to reproach myself with the evils that might result from the suppression of this petition; the mischiefs arising from which must be infinitely greater than any that can arise, had no opportunity been thus publicly given to examine and discuss the merits of the petition now before your lordships. I am confident, my lords, that the subject will be fairly and justly considered in this house; and that if not now, yet that the day is not very far distant when its prayer will be granted. What would have been the case had it been in the power of the Roman Catholics of Ireland to say, "there is not one person whom we can find to present our prayers to the attention of the united parliament? the legislature has shut its doors against us!" What must have been the impression made upon them, but feelings of absolute despair? How contrary, my lords, to all the views we were led to expect from the event of the union, which held out the prospect of an impartial and unbiassed parliament, freed from all peculiar prejudices, and ready and desirous to consider the wishes of a numerous, considerable, and respectable class of our fellow-subjects! Whether the petition be complied with or not, surely it demands our most particular and impartial consideration.

"This being the case, my lords, how shall I begin the discussion of this subject, and lay before you the grounds on which I humbly think the claims of the Catholics of Ireland are worthy to be granted. I shall begin by stating as the foundation of the policy of this measure, though it is a fact that seems scarcely ever to enter into the consideration of those who are decidedly adverse to it, that in this united kingdom you have a population of from three to five millions of fellow-subjects, who have been educated in the Roman Catholic religion, who profess that faith, and are firmly attached to it, and whom you must consider, for every purpose of government and legislation, as persons to be treated as Roman Catholics. In Ireland, it must be recollected, that three-fourths of the population of that country is composed of persons of that persuasion, and that it is therefore impossible to attempt to provide for the government of Ireland, or for the happiness of its inhabitants, without adverting constantly to this fact, and giving it that leading consideration which it must always deserve. We are to consider this state of the fact, as it has been since the period of the reformation, as it is at the present moment, and as it is likely to be beyond any time to which we can rationally look. It is impossible for any wise man to shut his eyes upon the fact, that three-fourths of the people of Ireland are of the Roman Catholic faith, and say, "I will provide only for those who profess the established religion, and leave all the rest out of my consideration." I hope no man will be found to maintain such a proposition. If any person should entertain such an opinion, let his eyes turn back to the time of the reformation, and point out, if he can, at what period, since that event, he will not find the state of religion in Ireland to be nearly the same. And how can he look forward to any means of governing that country, without that feature which has been so strongly marked for more than two centuries? I will not detain and trouble your lordships with long, tedious, wearisome details of Catholic history. At the revolution the Catholics were viewed as connected with those political sentiments which were adverse to the revolution. It was not so much against the religion of the Catholics that our efforts were then directed, as against those politics then entertained by the professors of the Catholic faith, in favor of the exiled family. I do not mean to condemn, or even to arraign the policy of those times, which depended very much on a variety of important local circumstances: but the *situation of those days*, is not *the situation of this*. It is only doing bare justice to one of the greatest of princes, to one of the best and most enlightened friends of toleration, when I say that it is not on the memory of king William, that a departure from the principles of toleration should be charged. No part of such a *system* could have obtained the approbation of that illustrious monarch. In the subsequent reigns, an opinion was maintained, that a Roman Catholic must ever be the irreconcileable enemy of Protestant establishments and protestant governments, both in England and in Ireland: that no alteration of circumstances, no acquisitions of benefits, no lapse of time, could extinguish in his heart the implacable seeds of animosity, which the bare profession of his religious faith had implanted there. How incapable such a doctrine must be of support, from fair argument, every thinking man must perceive; it will not bear it for a moment; yet, upon such a principle, the system of conduct towards the Catholics seem to have been founded. The consequence was, to exclude the Irish Catholic from all share in the privileges of his Protestant fellow-subjects. Thus all influence was to be taken from him, because it might lead to the possession of power, and all acquisition of property, because it led to influence.—Even the favor of toleration was denied him, and the rights of domestic life were forbidden; not even the intermarriage of the king's subjects was allowed, where one of the parties chanced to be a Roman Catholic. In short, the system seemed to have for its object, to drive the whole body of the Roman Catholics out of the island, or to reduce those who remained upon it to a set of wretched, ignorant, degraded, illiterate peasantry: and as a great man once said, 'If the object was a wise and good one, undoubtedly no system was ever better calculated to produce its end.' They were kept poor and inconsiderable: they were degraded and excluded: they were by every mode, alienated, their feelings were exasperated, and their hearts imbittered. I state, my lords, the situation in which his present majesty found three or four millions of his subjects. What has been done in the course of his reign, and what a striking contrast does it offer to the injustice and the impolicy of the former system? By wise and gradual measures, the better perhaps because they have been gradual, you have reversed the whole of the system. It is hardly to be credited, that within the present reign it should have been found necessary to pass an act to enable the king's subjects to intermarry.' A full toleration has followed, and the privileges of education, with the repeal of many most odious measures, which were originally passed to correct evils, not by making Catholics good Protestants, but by making them bad members of families. They have likewise received an interest in the land, by affording them a participation in the soil. They are also now allowed to share in the increasing benefits of trade: they have gained the elective franchise, and a large share of the executive offices of the country, with the exception of some of the higher, and of seats in the legislature.—All this you have done, and by degrees you have seen the wealth and the resources of Ireland increased greatly. Few countries, if any, have, in so short a time, made so rapid a progress in opulence, in commerce, and in what is so important, in civilization. Great encouragement has also been given to agriculture, and in so doing the wealth of the nation has been much augmented. You were not so ignorant as not to know that this amelioration would soon shew itself in the lower and in the middle classes of society, and it is no small consolation to know, that you have raised up a middle class of society, a class that till lately hardly existed there. As they rose in wealth they naturally increased in attachment to the country, and in that importance which you possessed to wish. At last you extended all those British privileges except those now solicited. You gave them legibility to offices, with a few exceptions. Here then a stand was made for a time. Not because it was right to say, "here we will take our stand, and go no further," for the system of concession was gradual, and the mode and terms of the concessions never implied that nothing more should ever be granted. It was necessary so to grant as to make the concessions compatible with that harmony which was desirable on all hands in the case of such large concessions, which were made without unseemly hesitation, any grudging and in a manner tending to conciliate those to whom the boon was given. There were considerations of great weight which rendered it doubtful whether we could give all that might be wanted in the Irish parliament, without, something, perhaps, very like a convulsion in the country. The popular part of the Irish legislature did not rise by accident, as in this country, till it became a representation of the various interests of the nation: but a large part of it was expressly framed for the purpose of making the legislature entirely Protestant, and of excluding three fourths of the country. Many reasons, indeed appeared against endeavoring to adopt this measure in the Irish parliament; but these reasons, I am happy to say, are now entirely done away, by the salutary operation of the wise arrangement for the distribution of the representatives of Ireland in the united parliament: and it should be remembered that in proportion as you give additional influence to the Catholics of Ireld now you give the same to the great body of Protestants throughout the Empire. The union not only removed the difficulties, it did more, which your lordships, I am sure, will bear in mind. It excited ardent hope in the persons of the Irish Catholics. On this subject I speak from a knowledge of the facts. There was no positive obligation nor autorised promise, on the part of government, in the event of the union, to the Catholics but it is no less true, that the whole of the argument and reasoning of those who suported that measure, in and out of doors, went to prove, that this important subject would be better considered here than in the Irish parliament. And one great consideration in favor of the union was, the prospect it held out of a mode of destroying those religious animosities, and that party spirit, which had been the cause of so many great calamities. It was from the nature of the subject itself that the Irish Catholics were justified in their expectations of this measure; at least this assurance was given them, that the united parliament would undoubtedly receive their petition, and attentively consider the whole circumstances of their case. It is this pledge, my lords, that I now call upon you to redeem. I do not mean at present to propose any particular measure, though I shall not refrain from stating what I think ought in policy and justice to be done: I ask of your lordships in candor and fairness, to hear them with patience; and to remember that the diffusion of equal rights and equal privileges, under the same constitution, is the most effectual mode of securing equal affection and equal attachment to the government and the country. The motion I shall submit is, that this house do resolve itself into a committee to consider the petition, which I think cannot be opposed, unless by those who are willing to give a full negative to the whole of the matter under consideration. I must say, that with respect to the different parts of the petition, I think it is highly expedient to grant the whole, if you mean to discharge that duty which the union has imposed upon you, and to provide for the real and essential union of all the inhabitants of this kingdom, in bonds of affection and loyalty, and a resolution to defend the king and constitutional interest of the country, against all enemies, external and internal.

[*To be continued.*]

BOSTON, July 2.

TOULON FLEET.

On Saturday last arrived at Providence, the ship Hassard, capt. Rowan, from Canton. On the 19th or 20th of June, 2 degrees to the southward of Bermuda, fell in with the Toulon fleet of 11 sail of the line, last from Gaudaloupe, from whence they had sailed in company with the Cadiz fleet, which had parted and proceeded to the Havana. The Toulon fleet was steering N. E. Capt. Rowan was in company some time.

The French fleet was more than 10 degrees to the northward of the northernmost West-India Island, and steering from them towards Europe. [*N. E. Pallad.*]

By a gentleman from Providence we were last evening assured, that the ship Hazard, Rowan, had arrived at Providence; spoke the French fleet of 11 sail of the line, on the 20th of June about 2 degrees south of Bermuda steering N. and E. The Spanish fleet were not in company. Capt. R. was on board the admiral's ship 2 hours, but got no information respecting their destination. [*Repertory.*]

We last evening received from our respectable correspondent at New-Bedford, London papers of the 16th, 17th and 18th of May, received by the Accushnett, from Liverpool.

LONDON, May 18.

Yesterday a cabinet council was held. A council is summoned to meet this day at 2 o'clock, at lord Mulgrave's office.

Letters have been received from on board the Victory, 100 guns, lord Nelson's flagship, which state, that when the account of the first sailing of the Toulon fleet was received, his lordship went up as high as Aboukir; he then returned through the Faro of Messina. When the boats landed at Aboukir the English found the town deserted, the inhabitants supposing the fleet to be a French fleet. The fortifications, erected only three years ago, have been suffered to crumble to pieces.

In the British house of lords, May 15, the earl of Suffolk gave notice, that he should on the 29th, submit a motion relative to the state of Ireland.

In the British house of commons on the 16th of May, Mr. Grey intimated a wish that some communication might be made to the house, respecting the negotiations alluded to in his majesty's speech at the commencement of the sessions.

Mr. Pitt said that when his majesty's government should feel themselves warranted, to advise his majesty to make any communication to the house, they would do it. But the negociation was now in such a state as not to admit of any distinct answer to the hon. gentleman's question that might amount to any *certainty*.

Mr. Fox asked the right hon. gentleman, if there was any *hope*.

Mr. Pitt said it was impossible to state any thing on the subject decisively.

Our assurance, in opposition to most of the daily papers, that no Treaty of Alliance, offensive and defensive, between our Court and that of St. Petersburg, is confirmed by the conversation which occurred yesterday in the House of Commons between Mr. Grey, Mr. Fox and Mr. Pitt. [*Traveller.*]

The compleat defeat of the Ottoman army in Egypt has been communicated in official dispatches of Feb. 5, transmitted to Constantinople. The immediate consequence of the victory wss a capitulation signed by Hourschid Pacha, the Turkish governor of Egypt, surrendering to the Beys the possession of Cairo.

PHILADELPHIA, July 6.

Arrived, ship Thomas, Jones, Bordeaux, 48 days; brig Experiment, Bockius, Savannah; schrs. Frances-Lewis, Wallace, St. Jago de Cuba, 29; Jane, Pearson, Richmond, 5; Success, Russell, Nassau; Philip, Cottrel, New-York, 4.

Cleared, brig Neptune, Upton, St. Bartholomews; schr. Milford, Hendy, Guadaloupe.

Yesterday afternoon arrived at the lazaretto, the ship Dolphin, Willis, 14 days from Guadaloupe.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

Extract of a letter from our correspondent at New-York, dated July 4.

"The ship Cato, Snow, in 35 days from Liverpool, arrived here this morning. She left Liverpool on the 28th May; our London papers by her are to the 25th. Left, amongst others, ship Hampshire, Talbot, of Philadelphia, to sail in 10 days; Felicity, Jones, do. Annawan, Holmes, do. in 3 days.

"Arrived also, brig Sarah, Rice, in 20 days from Trinity, Mart.

"We do not find in our papers any article worth transcribing; the captain informs us, that the embargo had not been taken off; that the impressment of seamen was uncommonly active; and that in failure of a sufficient number of these, measures were taken to supply them with impressed mechanics—no treaty with Russia—the Brest fleet had not sailed—markets dull."

Extract of another letter from New-York, dated July 4.

"This morning arrived here the ship Cato, Snow, in 33 days from Liverpool.—We have papers from London as late as the 25th of May; but they contain no news of moment. There is another talk of a peace, The Brest fleet had not sailed. The embargo still continued in England, and the hotest press ever known—even mechanics were taken up, and put on board ship. A revolt is said to have taken place in Sweden, under the influence of France—the person of the king had been put under confinement! Admiral Collingwood had sailed with 12 sail of the line to join Lord Nelson. Negociations are said to be going on between France and Russia for the restoration of general tranquility. Bonaparte is willing to enter into negociation on the following basis:

"1st. The full recognition of his titles of Emperor of the French and King of Italy.

"2d. The solemn guarantee of Great-Britain and Russia to maintain himself and his family in the hereditary possession of his dignities and dominions.

"3d. The resignation of Bourbon of all rights and claims to the sovereignty of France.

"4th. He engages in return to leave Malta in the possession of England, and to cede to the emperor Alexander the Republic of the Seven Isles.

"*The ship Erin, of Baltimore, arrived at Dover the 19th of May.* Madame Bonaparte was on board, last from Amsterdam, where she was not suffered to go on shore; she is attended by her brother. Madame Bonaparte is in the last stage of pregnancy; her brother did not think it safe to proceed to Baltimore. The Erin was in the Texel a week, and was placed between a 64 and a frigate, a guard boat kept about the ship at night.

"*From Lloyd's List.* The Fabius, Atkins, for America, is detained by the Ponsonby privateer, and has arrived at Liverpool. At Varel, *Vigilantia, Meyer, Baltimore.* The *Juno, De Jonge, from Baltimore to Amsterdam, has been detained and sent into Portsmouth.* At Amsterdam, the Melpomene, Dauberg, from New-York. At Tonningen, Ocean, Charleston; William, Virginia.

LONDON, May 18.

Star-office, half past 3, P. M.

We stop the press to state that dispatches have been received this day at the admiralty and at lord Camden's office from admiral Chochrane. He arrived with his squadron at Barbadoes, on the 2d ult. and there received intelligence that the French squadron had gone to leeward, upon which he immediately sailed in pursuit of them, and as he had received accurate information of their course great hopes were entertained that he would fall in with them before they could do any more injury.

The account of an engagement between the Brest and channel fleets is hourly expected. A letter from Falmouth states, that at seven o'clock on Tuesday evening, the Brest fleet, consisting of twenty-five sail of the line, and frigates were all under weigh, and standing out to sea. Lord Gardner had formed his fleet, consisting of seventeen of the line and several frigates, in the line of battle in two divisions. The Contest gun-brig arrived at Plymouth, on Thursday with an account of the movement of the Brest fleet, in consequence of which, the fifteen sail of the line in the sound and Cawsand Bay, were expected to sail in the evening to join lord Gardner.

Lost or mislaid,

BETWEEN the 25th ultimo and the 2d instant, the following Tobacco Notes, of Fell's Point inspection:

T. L. No. 570 1032 115 917 inspected in the name of Tubman Lowes, on June 9th, 1804.
W. W. No. 80 1099 112 987 } Do. William
Do. 81 1085 93 993 } Williams, Feb
Do. 82 1120 100 1070 } 29th, 1803.

JOHN BOLTE.

June 11. 2awót

BY THIS DAY'S MAILS.

NEW-YORK, July 6.

Correct news of the fleets in the West-Indies.

Captain Knight, in 12 days from Antigua, informs, that the French and Spanish fleets, consisting of 20 sail of the line, 9 frigates, and 3 corvettes, passed Antigua on the 9th of June—and that the British squadron under the command of lord Nelson, consisting of 12 sail of the line and 4 frigates, arrived at Antigua on the evening of the 13th, and sailed on the morning of the 14th of June in pursuit of the combined fleet—Capt. K. saw both the British and French fleets, and counted their numbers. He also informs, that a British fleet of merchantmen, consisting of 16 sail, bound home, left Antigua the day before the French passed that island, under convoy of the sloop of war Nettler, the whole of which convoy was captured by the French, except the Nettler, which vessel made her escape and returned to Antigua. Among the fleet was a schooner commanded by capt. Harris, belonging to Nova-Scotia, bound to New-York.

The French privateer, which has been in this port for a month, having been repaired, and having taken in powder and guns, sailed on Wednesday last (through the Sound) on a cruize. We shall soon hear, no doubt, of her industry in the old trade of plundering defenceless vessels off Sandy Hook.

A letter from Trinidad of the 6th of June says, yesterday the embargo was taken off American vessels. A squadron of 12 sail of the line, and a number of frigates, was expected from England. The brig Rolla and the ship Hercules, of Pepperelborough were to sail for New-York about the 17th of June.

Extract of a letter from a respectable mercantile house in Bremen, dated

"April 22, 1805.

"There is no remarkable alteration in markets; we had but few arrivals from the United States and the West-Indies, and our stock of West-India and American produce is very inconsiderable. Linens continue in brisk demand.

"The new quarantine laws issued by the duke of Oldenburg, are very severe; all vessels from the Spanish ports that have been infected with the yellow fever are sent back to Christian Sand, in Norway; it is the same case with those from Charleston. Vessels from the northern ports are likewise subject to some formalities and detention, particularly if they have furs, cotton or stuffs on board, and we would advise you not to ship any of these articles, until we inform you of the quarantine being taken off again; the same measures are taken as respects the shipping on the Elbe and Ems.

"In the event of any shipments to this place, we would advise you to accompany the bill of lading with a certificate of origin, proving the goods in question are raised in a healthy country; also to provide the captain with a bill of health, expressing that neither at his time of sailing, nor 18 months before, the port of shipping had been infected by the yellow fevere: without these documents vessels from America and other trans-atlantic ports, are subject to the detention of a quarantine."

We learn by capt. Vinell from T[illegible] that admiral Nelson arrived the[illegible] of June, with 12 sail of the line frigates; and sailed again immed. The embargo was taken off the [illegible] June.

Reports at St. Bartholomews, from G[illegible]daloupe, stated, that the French fleet w[illegible] actually going against Antigua; but on information of the English fleet being out, they landed the troops they had taken from Guadaloupe, (as they had no further use for them at present) and sailed with a determination to meet the British fleet. Soon after they took 20 sail or more of the Antigua homeward bound fleet, and it was generally believed they had gone to Europe with them.

We learn by the Martha Washington from Martinique, that all the bakers in that place were put in requisition, and were baking bread day and night for the French fleet, which was hourly expected back to that island.

The fourth of July was celebrated in this city in the most splendid manner. The parade of 1500 militia in uniform attracted the attention of all classes. Their appearance, and the accuracy of their manœuvres were equal to those of experienced veterans.

Extract of a letter from Liverpool, dated May 28th, received by the Cato.

"I must observe the general situation of trade here at present, is far from holding out a flattering prospect, being almost unprecedentedly dull and languid, arising, as you will readily imagine, out of the state of uncertainty and apprehension which prevails concerning the French and Spanish combined fleets which sailed from Cadiz."

"The snow Pallas, will sail in a day or two for New-York."

The editors of the New-York Gazette, having received by the Cato, London papers and Lloyd's List to the 25th May, are enabled this day to lay before their readers, a variety of matter, interesting both to the merchant and politician.

The London papers are nearly filled with remarks respecting the Toulon fleet—the reports of the route of lord Nelson—the marauding conduct of the Rochefort squadron in the West-Indies—and the debates in parliament on lord Melville's case; but we have found and copied several articles which will interest the American reader.

A courier arrived at Vienna on the 7th of May, with dispatches contradicting the report of a treaty of alliance having been concluded between England and Russia.