PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

HOUSE OF LORDS, FRIDAY, MAY 10.

Petition of the Roman Catholics of Ireland.

[Speech of lord Grenville continued.]

"This question is in a certain degree to be placed on the ground of expediency, and not of right. When the safety of the whole requires it, it is in the privilege of the whole to provide disabilities. But the question is, whether there is any necessity for the continuance of those restraints on four or five millions of the king's subjects, from the benefits of the constitution of the country? I might only state, that on the eternal principles of justice, if there be any such necessity apparent, those who would continue these restraints, ought to shew their reasons. If it be our pride and happiness to be judged by equal law, let those who would limit and curtail that equality, explain the grounds of their restriction. This principle I ventured to state on a former occasion, and though some were inclined to dispute it, they could get no farther in their opposition than to deny it: indeed it seems to be impossible for any man, who has the right use of his understanding, to deny its application, in such a constitution as ours. I submit my motion now, stating, that no such necessity exists, waiting for an answer, and ready, should it be necessary, to offer my poor thoughts in reply. But really, my lords, I am ready even to take the proof upon myself. I take the British constitution to be founded on equal laws. It acknowledges some distinctions and privileges, it is true—but where there is a restraint on 4,000,000 of persons, there must absolutely appear some manifest & palpable ground of expediency or necessity for its continuance. The Catholics come before you, restrained from seats in parliament, from various high offices in the state and in professions, from serving as sherriffs, and with some qualifications from corporations. The question is, what should induce you to retain these restrictions? One reason that I have heard I should be unwilling to impute to any person; but I have heard or read somewhere, that no Catholic can be a good subject. Thus let me ask your lordships, if this be true, how can they be fit for all that mass of offices, for which their eligibility has been accorded to them, with the exception of about thirty. To all military rank below that of generals; to all revenue offices, except four or five; or to swearing allegiance at the table of a court of justice? No man should have agreed to their admission, much less have proposed to admit them into courts of justice, who held such opinions of them.—But endeavors have actually been used to persuade the public, that no Catholic can be a true and loyal subject. I have heard of some old musty forgotten records, from which old doctrines have been picked out, which are drawn forth against the solemn and positive declarations of living men, saying, what they profess, and disclaiming what has been objected to them. In fact, saying to the Roman Catholics, "I know your religion better than yourself. If you deny the persecution of heretics, I tell you that your religion enjoins it. If you disclaim the violation of faith with heretics, I tell you that it is a doctrine of your church. If you say you do not believe in the dispensing power of the Pope, I say you do believe it!" I should think, my lords, it is enough to take a man's own sense of the obligations of his own religion, and his own tests and declarations on those subjects which have been disputed, and not your own opinion on some obsolete opinions which they deny. I know not where persecution is to end, if you try, and condemn, and punish men not for being guilty, but for opinions which they do not hold. If it be true that you have actually discovered by the council of Lateran or of Constance, or by some old decretal or canon, that a Catholic cannot be trusted, it must apply to all modes, and to every view of the future, and lead to a crusade, to drive all those irreconcileable enemies of the Protestant government out of the country they inhabit. How am I to argue the point that the whole body of the Catholics is not disloyal? By referring to the repeated acts of the Protestant legislature of Ireland! I know of no mode to exhibit mathematical, or strictly logical proofs of the rebellion in Ireland not having been what is termed a Catholic rebellion. There had been two separate rebellions in Ireland before. Look at the acts of parliament, and you will find that the demeanor of the Catholics is characterised for the loyalty of the body, notwithstanding the convulsed state of the times. Noble lords cannot forget the period of the American war, when the navy of the enemy triumphed in the channel; when Ireland was threatened with invasion: I speak in the hearing of individual witnesses, of those who have been lord lieutenants, and secretaries to lord lieutenants. At that critical time, the Catholic body was not considered to be disaffected to the Protestant government, but were thought fit to be entrusted with arms for the defence of their country. The next I shall notice is what is notorious to every man who has heard of the rebellion, that the conspiracy was framed and carried on by persons naming themselves United Irishmen, a term evidently adopted to comprehend men of all descriptions in religion, an union of sects, and by no means of the Catholic persuasion only. In the course of the insurrection, the principal leaders punished were actually Protestants. The rebellion took its rise in circumstances wholly foreign to religious opinions, and pointed to very different objects; and in the event of success, the overthrow of Catholic power was as certain as that of Protestant ascendancy. Its object was, not merely to overturn the Protestant establishment, but the monarchy, and to atchieve the independence and separation of Ireland from Great-Britain. It has been said that in some places all the rebels were Catholics; but if nearly all the inhabitants there were Catholics, it is not very surprising, that many Catholics should be rebels. But did that rebellion display no instances of Catholics struggling for the constitution, risking their lives against the enemies of their sovereign, and manifesting as much bravery as others did in the ranks of rebellion, sharing with Protestants the danger of the times? If at present three-fourths of Ireland are better disposed towards you than they have been for many years past, is it not as fair to give them credit as to throw reflections upon their loyalty? You have the strongest evidence in their favor, in their own solemn repeated disclaiming of all that you object to them: but you have recourse to old-fashioned absurd arguments. "Aye, let them swear what they will, they can recur to the dispensing power of the pope, in which every Catholic believes!" If that be true, and that four millions of subjects cannot be believed on their oaths, then they are positively disqualified from civil government; and therefore we ought to withhold from them not merely what they now ask, but the partial concessions made to them ought to be retracted: for, I repeat it, in such a situation they are absolutely disqualified by GOD and nature from the advantages of civil government. But this is not a very happy argument for those who use it, since the very restrictions impose an oath. You say you think the Catholic dangerous, unless he takes the oath of supremacy. What? but will he not violate the oath? If he be disposed to violate his oath, what prevents his taking it? I expect to hear it observed, that no priests have signed the petition I have had the honor to present. But I am authorised to state as a reason for this, that the matter relating only to civil rights, and not having any relation to any stations the clergy can fill, they thought it more proper to abstain from putting their signatures to it. But they are perfectly willing to join in it, and I am willing and ready to shew that the respectable. Prelates of that church (for respectable I must call them) have all actually taken the oaths, and believe them to be quite conformable to their church. They have earnestly exhorted their clergy to do the same, who are ready to take them as willingly as the subscribers. But if all the Catholics have not been traitors, & all Catholic priests, it appears, they must now, of necessity, be reckoned traitors, since their master, the Pope, has taken a journey to Paris to crown Bonaparte, and by this transaction their allegiance is transferred to France. Mark, my lords, the wonderful force of this species of argument. Really it is so trifling that I should have taken no notice of it, were it not attempted to make use of it, to revive heart burnings and animosities, not only in Ireland, but even *here* also. As if we had not known enough in this very town, of the mischief and danger of the absurd cry of "No Popery," bandied about for the purpose of raising a clamor and riot, and creating an insurrection to prevent the legislature from passing an act of substantial justice. But is the Pope really more the enemy of this country now than he was when the family of the Bourbons were on the throne of France? Is he more hostile to us than when the claims of the pretender were declared and supported at Rome, and when he resided there? Can any person imagine that the Pope has a more earnest wish to exalt the power of France at present than in former times? I hope there is no man but views with pity the degraded situation of Roman Pontiff in the recent transaction at Paris, and the humiliating circumstances which must, one would think, inspire him with deep mortification and disgust at those who imposed them upon him. What inference can be drawn by any reasonable man from the situation of the Pope, but that his influence has diminished, and his power is much less to be feared in every respect, than that of any preceding Pope? What can be better calculated to destroy his greatness, than to represent him in that degrading and dishonorable ceremony? The times have been when Popes supported France with all their might, without producing any dangerous consequences in Ireland. I remember when the last Pope exerted himself to support your government, and just with as much effect as when he opposed it; his weakness in both cases was equal. In the present state of Europe the power of the Pope has no effect whatever in Ireland. If, my lords, all these allegations were absolutely true, that the Catholic religion does make all men who profess it disloyal, and that the new state of France has thrown the Pope entirely into her hands, then the necessity of striving to counteract that disposition, would demand of us to take such measures as are now proposed. I would say, in that case, the allies of Bonaparte are not the Catholic Clergy of Ireland; but those who exasperate men's minds by trying to excite animosities that were gradually composing, and might be settled and tranquilized. But it was said, should your lordships comply with this petition, the consequence shortly must be the repeal of the Test Act; but without entering at all into the question of such a repeal, whether you may think it advisable, or not, this, at least, I am sure of, that it is advisable to listen to the Catholic petition. Even though you should think fit to continue the disabilities attached to the dissenters, it would be a most unjust, unwarrantable, and unheard of argument, to assert that the Irish Catholics shall not be relieved, because you are unwilling to relieve the disserters in this country, a body of men in a situation totally unconnected with them, and even more opposite to their worship than you are. I know not what schale of comparison ought to be instituted to regulate the claims of different bodies of men. I trust your lordships must see the policy and justice of concession to the Catholics. Does not the continuance of the present system tend to perpetuate and increase all the difficulties of which we complain? Admit all the charges against the Catholics, and then what is the course which this country is to pursue with four millions of subjects inveterate in their hatred of all your establishments? The one is that which was adopted in the reign of queen Anne, and the other is that which has been pursued with such success in the reign of his present majesty. On the first system you must begin by depriving them of their constitutional rights; then of their property, and the means of acquiring property; and lastly, reduce them to the situation of aliens in their own country. There is no stopping in this course. You are put between the alternatives of complete exclusion, or the possession of rights with the alienation of privileges. But if the dispositions of a people are bad, the measure of true wisdom is to alter and ameliorate them. If therefore, you refuse to accede to their requests, you prevent them from forming an attachment to your government; and that you perceive that your present conduct is mistaken; if you find that it fails to conciliate to your interests any one of the individuals whom you should wish to have attached to you, why must this country persist in a plan so obnoxious to others and useless to itself? Your proposition in that case amounts but to this; we deprive the Roman Catholics of their property, that is placed by the laws beyond the reach of the government; we cannot deprive them of their natural weight in society, and of those franchises and privileges which at present they possess; but we torment the more elevated ranks of that persuasion, by restraining them from attaining the objects of their ambition, and hinder them effectually from rising to the summit of the professions to which they may apply themselves.

[*To be continued.*]

This is to give notice,

THAT the subscriber, of Anne-Arundel county, state of Maryland, hath obtained from the orphans' court of Anne-Arundel county, in Maryland, letters of administration de bonis non, with the will annexed, on the perfonal eftate of John Mercer Stevens, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceafed. All perfons having claims againft the deceafed, are hereby warned to exhibit the fame, with the vouchers thereof, to the fubfcriber, at or before the feventeenth day of October next, they may otherwife by law be excluded from all benefit of the faid eftate. Given under my hand this 22d May, 1805.

ZACH. JACOB, Adm'r. D. B. N. W. A.

(May) law 6t

SALEM, June 29.

Arrived, ship Betsy, Page, from Batavia. Left there, Feb. 6, ship Juno, Bates, of Boston, to sail in a few days; and the *Margaret, Dishon, of Baltimore*. Arrived at Batavia, Jan. 26, ship Fame, Briggs, of Salem, from Sumatra, who left there, ship Concord, Carnes, of Salem; same day, arrived brig Hector, Thorndike, from Isle of France. Feb. 1, captains Briggs and Thorndike, sailed from Batavia, all well, for the east coast of Sumatra, and *ship Elizabeth, Mund, of Baltimore, for Calcutta*. Feb. 15, left the Straits of Sanda in company with ships Francis Henrietta, of New-York; George, Berkely, of Philadelphia, and Columbia, Dixon, from Batavia; Gen. Washington, of Boston, and Rousseau, of Philadelphia, from Canton. Feb. 25, lat. 15, long. 99, spoke the Rousseau, 30 days from Canton for Embden—captain Mecleven informed me he spoke the Fame, Briggs, in the Straits of Banca, 3 days from Batavia; the Hector, Thorndike, and Elizabeth, Mund, were in company.

Sailed from the Isle of France, March 22. Left there, the ship Alknomack, of Boston; Phœnix, of Philadelphia; *Hebe, Pearsall, of Baltimore;* Phœbus, Rich, of Boston; Columbia, Dickson, of Philadelphia; Indus, of Boston, for Batavia, dismasted, not condemned; Astrea, Stanwood, for Batavia, dismasted, and seven of her beams broke; not condemned. March 23d, 25 leagues to the westward of the Isle of France, spoke the ship Mary, King, from Mocha, bound to Salem, to touch at Bourbon for refreshments. Capt. Coffin, with his chief officer, of the ship Pennman, of New-York, who was captured by the English squadron, and condemned at Bombay, has arrived at the Isle of France; capt. Coffin was bound from Batavia to Muskat, with a load of sugars. The English fleet was expected off the Isle of France the first of April. Merchandise of Europe very low and plenty, & island produce very high & scarce. Ship Sally, Mix, of New-York, sailed from the Isle of France for Calcutta, March 20. Spoke May 10, lat. 7, S. long. 25, 40, W. *the ship Rebecca, Wise, from Baltimore, 50 days out for Batavia;* June 17th, lat. 22, 21, long. 56, 30, schr. Hunter, Rogers, from New-York, for Antigua, out 15 days; June 8, lat. 23, 40, long. 57, 30, the schr. William, Joseph Bennison, from Portland, for St. Croix, 21 days out, all well; June 14, lat. 28, long. 58, 30, the *schooner Ethan Allen, James Bryden, from Baltimore, for Barbados, 16 days out.*

June 30.—Arrived, schooner Washington, captain Nathaniel Knight, 24 days from Martinique—No ship news.

Same day, schooner Washington, of Yarmouth, 14 days from Richmond.

July 1.—Arrived, ship Endeavor, Buffinton, from Marseilles, and Gibraltar, 63 days from the latter.

Letters from captain Bullock, of the ship Hazard, of this port, taken by a British cruiser, and sent to Jamaica, for an alledged violation of the blockade of Curracoa, state, that he fully expects a condemnation of the property.

Entered, schooner Alfred, Grant, Martinico; ship Betsy, Page, Batavia.

Cleared, schrs. Fame, Felt, Bourdeaux; Sally, Brown, Newbern.

NEW-YORK, July 6.

Arrived on Thursday, the ship Middleton, Spencer, of Charleston, 43 days from Bordeaux. June 28, lat. 37, long. 67, 30, spoke ship Caledonia, 2 days from New-York for Amsterdam. June 9, off the Western-Islands passed the homeward bound Jamaica fleet, of 100 sail. There are 14 passengers in the Middleton.

Same day, the ship Maria, Main, in 33 days from Bordeaux. Captain Main passed in the river bound up, the ship Bordeaux Packet, from Philadelpdia, *and a brig from Baltimore.* Left, besides those reported, the Esther, Godden, of New-York; Gen. Wilkinson, of New-Orleans; Woodrop Sims, Davis, for Charleston; Abigail, Bangs, for Philadelphia, June 5; Ritson, of Petersburg, unloading; and others, of which we have a list. June 30, Nantucket bearing N. by E. dist. 20 leagues, spoke ship America, Stone, of Newburyport, 150 days from Batavia, and 101 from the Isle of France, for Boston—two days before she lost her foretopmast in a squal. Several of her crew were sick. July 3, spoke the brig Phenix, 30 days from Bordeaux for New-York.

Same day, the ship Commerce, Congden, in 59 days from Malaga. Sailed in co. ship Orlando, for New-York. The brig Eliza, Ogilvie, was to sail in 3 days for New-York. May 23, in lat. 34, 48, long. 64, spoke the brig Mary, Crocker, 65 days from the Cape of Good-Hope, for Boston. 24th, spoke the brig Atlantic, Williams, from New-London, for Antigua. In the Gulph, capt. C. saw the schooner Mary and Thomas, of Boston, without masts, and full of water.

Same day, the brig Charles, Perkins, of Kennebunk, in 20 days from St. Croix, (West-end.) The sloop Boudoin, Leach, was to sail next day for Boston.

Same day, the ship Mary, Knight, in 12 days from Antigua. This ship sailed from Antigua the day the embargo was raised, which had existed for 30 days. The Mary was bound to this port from Martinique when carried into Antigua, where her cargo was landed for further proof. Captain K. does not recollect the vessels left. In lat. 37, long. 71, in the Gulph, spoke the coppered ship Isabella, from Charleston.

Same day, the brig Weltha Ann, Boyer, in 17 days from St. Pierres, Martinique. Under the lee of Antigua, captain Boyer spoke three British frigates. Vessels left have been reported.

PHILADELPHIA, July 8.

EXTRACT,

From Meteorological observations made at Springmill, Saturday, July 6, 1805.

Thermometer—before sun-rise 76 degs. 3-10
at 2 o'clock P. M. 100 degs. 3-10
Temperature of the last 24 hours, 88 deg. 2-10

At 8 o'clock, in the evening, thunder and lightning, but no rain.

For the last ten days, a south wind has prevailed—cloudy alternately, very fair, very dry, very warm, no dew at night.

Arrived, ships Sheffield, Cowper, Bordeaux, 60 days; Maria, Calvert, Jeremie; schr. Hope, Lincoln, Boston.

Arrived at the lazaretto, schooner Rhoda, Green, Porto Rico, 20 days.

Cleared, ship Richmond, Noble, Amsterdam; brig Mary, Suter, Cork; Bellair, Deveraux, Havana; schrs. Ranger, Cuffee, New-York; Sea-Flower, Lanfar, ditto; Liberty, Lewis, Norfolk; *Hannah, Somers, Baltimore;* sloops Penelope, Morgan, Bermuda; Unity, Hand, Alexandria.

Brig Charlotte, and schooner Washington, from St. Kitts, are below.

Brig Julian, Dunbery, and brig Hannah, Lewis, hence at St. Pierres.

On Saturday last arrived at the lazaretto, the schooner Rhoda, Green, in 20 days from Porto-Rico; who informs, that the ship Clothier, Dandelot, sailed two days before him, bound to Laguira. Left there, the brig Sally, Edwards, to sail in 10 or 12 days; and the schooner Five Brothers, Jefferys, was to sail in 4 days for the coast.

DOVER, (D.) July 4.

We are authorised to state, that Mr. Bayard has vacated his seat in the house of representatives, and accepted the appointment of senator of the United States, for six years, commencing on the 4th of March, 1805.

[*Museum.*]

FREDERICK-TOWN, July 6.

"*An Essay towards*" *Robbery.*—About midnight of Wednesday last, a daring attempt was made to rob the cellar of Mr. Graham's store, near the public square, corner of Patrick and Market-streets. The owner, suspecting that his cellar was pilfered before, had by means of a string so contrived a pistol on the step, that the raising of the door necessarily pulled the trigger; and just at the moment when the villain, having opened the door by a false key, was entering secure of his prey, the pistol went off, and it is supposed lodged a good portion of its contents where they ought to be. Next morning, a track of blood was traced a considerable distance down Patrick-street, and the key found, which the fellow in his confusion and alarm had left behind. No discovery is yet ascertained.

HAMBURGH, May 14.

The king of Prussia, a few days ago, transmitted the insignia of the French order of the legion of honor to the reigning duke of Brunswick. His serene highness, however, instantly returned them, with a letter to his Prussian majesty, expressing his obligations for this intended additional mark of his majesty's favour, but begging leave to decline accepting it, because in his quality of knight of the most noble and ancient order of the garter, he was prevented from receiving any badge of chivalry instituted by a power at war with the sovereign of that order. This spirited conduct of the duke is highly praised in every part of Germany, and is contrasted with that of the flector of Hesse Cassel, who, though also a knight of the garter, has not disdained to become a member of the legion of honor. The emperor of Germany, the moment he was apprised that the French ambassador at Vienna had orders to present the insignia of the legion of honor to his brothers, the archdukes Charles and Ferdinand, created them nights of the golden fleece, by which they are prevented from accepting any order of a more recent origin.