

FRANCE.

The Spanish bondholders of Paris, like their fellow-subscribers in London, have accepted the offers of the government...

The Chamber of Deputies was to be dissolved (says Galvani's Messenger) on the 23rd instant. The new Parliament will probably open early in July.

Lyons has been visited with slight disturbances, expressive of discontent with the existing order of things. The Chonans still agitate the west of France...

Throughout Normandy the King has been received with the liveliest enthusiasm, and Paris, during his absence, was perfectly tranquil. The elections engross public attention...

The Poles have appealed to France for the recognition of their independence. At the same time the application was made to London, and probably every other power.

NETHERLANDS.

Lord Ponsonby was not authorised to state the acceptance of the Belgian crown by Prince Leopold, as some of the Belgian papers have asserted.

Congress opened on the 18th. The President and officers were re-elected. M. d'Hane de Steenhuysen retired from the war department.

The late Lord Clifford—A solemn dirge, at which most of the Roman Catholic nobility and gentry now in London were present, was on Wednesday performed at the Bavarian Chapel...

The Secret Committee sat on the 20th, but did not report. The inhabitants of Luxembourg have returned to their burghomaster the sums presented them from Brussels...

At the sitting of the national congress on Monday, M. Lebeau read letters from General Belliard and Sir R. Abercromby, the former requiring notice of the indemnity which Belgium might be inclined to offer...

will be allowed to enter the ports of Great Britain. There was some opposition in the assembly to the pacific endeavours of the government...

ITALY.

The Prince de Carignan was a liberal, and a leader of active insurgents in 1821. In 1831 he became Charles Albert, King of Sardinia, and his first step is to publish the following act of oblivion.

Charles Albert, by the grace of God, King of Sardinia, Cyprus, and Jerusalem, Duke of Savoy, Genoa, &c. Desiring, as has always been practised by an act of clemency towards persons guilty of less serious offences...

However, the remittance of the pecuniary penalties and confiscations granted by the same must be understood only of those belonging to our treasury, according to the royal letters patent of the 23d of November, of the same year...

One must write by night in weather like this. We will sit down with you to our Table at twelve—the clock is striking it at this moment.

Next winter may be the crisis of our fate; and if you begin to improve the constitution, you may be driven, step by step, from the disfranchisement of Old Sarum to the King in Newgate, the Lords voted useless, the Bishops abolished, and a House of Commons without Articles (sans Culottes).

How much sweeter they are than by day! How things by daylight! The wind is clearer, the body cooler, with silence and sweet air and starlight—and who would be regular and sleep betimes?

The late Lord Clifford—A solemn dirge, at which most of the Roman Catholic nobility and gentry now in London were present, was on Wednesday performed at the Bavarian Chapel of Chudleigh, who died last week, aged 72 years.

England's Heroes—The following scraps history: Died on Saturday, the 28th May, after a short but severe illness, in the 74th year of his age, the Right Honourable William Earl of Northesk, Baron Roselhill and Englishmaldie, G.C.B., &c.

The discovery of volcanoes, hitherto considered to be always in proximity to the ocean, in the central plains of Asia, is among the most interesting features of the late journey of De Humboldt.

OPINIONS ON REFORM.

One of the most efficient modes of meeting the Reform Question has been by quoting upon its mad-headed supporters the deliberated opinions of wise men, headed by Burke and sanctioned by experience.

Amongst those which have already been collected, there are many which are incontrovertible and unanswerable, but even yet we sorely remember to have seen one so very strong and striking as that which follows—rendered more question to which it refers precisely the same as that which now agitates the country...

TO LORD SHEFFIELD.

I shuddered at Grey's motion, disliked the half support of Fox, admired the firmness of Pitt's declaration, and excused the usual intemperance of Burke.

LAUSANNE, May 30, 1792.

From Blossom sleep I placed my voyage swain feet, I inwardly resolved to play the host, I moaned stranger when I was sent forth to cheat.

Nov. 25, 1792.

Next winter may be the crisis of our fate; and if you begin to improve the constitution, you may be driven, step by step, from the disfranchisement of Old Sarum to the King in Newgate, the Lords voted useless, the Bishops abolished, and a House of Commons without Articles (sans Culottes).

Gravel of Mercy.—In seven years, ending in 1756, there were 428 capital convictions in London and Middlesex; 306 were executed. When George III. began to reign, one-half the convicted suffered death.

Naval Appointments.—Commander Bertram is appointed to the Teed; Commander Ellice is appointed to the Victor; Lieutenant George Vaughan Hart is appointed to the Victor; Lieutenant H. O. Nolluth is appointed to the Galatas; Lieutenant Horatio Blair has been appointed to the flag Lieutenant to Rear-Admiral Parker, in the Alfred.

Marrriages of Foreigners in France.—A circular has been addressed by the Minister of Justice to the local authorities in France, stating that the laws of several neighbouring countries forbid natives from marrying abroad without an authority from their own Government, and that French women having married such persons, on going to their husbands' countries, their marriages were declared invalid, and their children illegitimate.

A DEFINITION OF THE WORD "RUSSIAN." A Russian to a Pole once said, "I can't bear a Pole;" "Nor I a Pole a bear," the Pole replied—"I can't upon my soul!" "Polar bear."

The discovery of volcanoes, hitherto considered to be always in proximity to the ocean, in the central plains of Asia, is among the most interesting features of the late journey of De Humboldt.

The Bahama Argus.

GEORGE BIGGS, Editor.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1831.

VOL. I—No. VIII.

THE BAHAMA ARGUS.

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY IN NASSAU, N. P.

Eight Dollars per annum—In advance.



ORIGINAL POETRY.

GOVERNMENT ADDRESS TO THE SAINTS IN SYNOD ASSEMBLED.

All were attentive to the saintly man, When from his elbow chair, he thus began:

Patrons, and BATHERN: Now in assembly met, I'll to your holy, righteous ears disclose, My works, and acts, examples I have set, Replete with old Lucaya's wrongs and woes.

When first upon her rocky, sandy coast, From Blossom sleep I placed my voyage swain feet, I inwardly resolved to play the host, I moaned stranger when I was sent forth to cheat.

For full six months I gulled and entertained, The swinish herd, led by a rough-shod boar, As I then thought; from Plutus he had gained, What e'en among us would be deemed a store.

From crowded dinners, and my wife's "at homes," To red bred next, I made my firm resort, And Colonel Robert Hogg direct becomes My firm friend, by militia honours caught.

A pamphlet next, for which I gave a groat, I sent among them, taking th' author's name, Who was not one of us, but whose black coat, Was, whether saint's or sinner's, still the same.

In plenteous verbiage, I their Assembly gulled, Full of vain protestations, loud and empty, Telling them their rights could never be annulled By all your sayings, acts, or what you dreamt, ay.

Full of feigned zeal for their poor worn out soil, I then an agriculturist became, Talking both loud and much of Maltese toil, Their pounding rock, and giving it my name.

And now, GREAT MINISTERS, and most worthy Saints! My ever honoured and revered good masters! My tale comes—where, to think of, my soul faints— My mask's torn off! and I'm plunged in distress.

I issued forth my hand-bills (plainly printed), Requesting all (whom I could not command), To pay five pounds, with which I'd not be stinted, In showing how I'd till their barren land.

I next assumed the chairman's right as mine, Without e'en waiting to collect subscriptions, Or knowing whether my orders they'd decline, As well as invitations—the Turks' th' Egyptians!

Not one of all the vermin whom I pressed So strongly, would one worthless rial pay, And one in place more saucy than the rest, Did e'en my right as chairman dare gainsay.

To be thus slighted by those whom I despised, And held at naught by one I should command, Filled me with ire—my soul was exercised, By all the furies, who entered me hand in hand.

Bent on revenge, when'er a chance should offer, I seized the first: some negroes seized a craft, And from Exuma fled; the daring scoffer Was agent for their owner—Gad I laughed!

By some Colonial law these slaves were tried, Sentenced to get but nine and thirty lashes, Altho' the day before a soldier cried, To me for mercy from three hundred lashes.

His mutinous petition I rejected! In proclamations I all those abused, Who so inhumanly poor slaves subjected, To punishments to which they were unused.

I then my agriculturist suspended, Displaced three Magistrates, all whom I libelled; And all because this DANIEL had offended, The calf which I (KINO NEUVON) had idol'd. (To be Continued.)

REFORM BILL.

SPEECH OF LORD JOHN RUSSELL.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock, at which hour the house was unusually full, the ministerial benches were quite filled, and the gallery was also crowded to hear the debate on the reform bill. Lord J. Russell moved having read the terms of His Majesty's speech relating to the subject, his lordship said,—I rise, Sir, for the purpose of proposing in the name of the government, a measure which, in their opinion is calculated to maintain unimpaired the prerogatives of the crown, the authorities of both Houses of Parliament, and the rights and liberties of the people.

[Having pronounced a high eulogium on the poorer classes, for their disinterested conduct during the Elections, His Lordship then proceeded to notice the variable character of the constitution, during the different reigns, beginning with that of Edward III. and that at no period was the House of Commons so little popular as now.]

Now, Sir, let me turn to Ireland, and I ask has the representation of that country ever been touched? And by whom? by some audacious Whig, or Radical in the House of Commons I no: the boroughs and cities were parcelled out by the hand of Mr. Pitt, whose memory gentlemen meet to celebrate, and whose name they count as their talisman, by which they hope to oppose reform; but there is another charge I touched upon in the discussion in the late House of Commons. I say upon what ground was the House of Commons called upon by large majorities to disfranchise the forty-shilling freeholders of Ireland, while Beerlston and such other places returned members, and I never had an answer to my question—the argument used to disfranchise the forty-shilling freeholders was that they were dependent upon their landlords—that they were driven up to the poll—that they were carried by crowds, by the agents of their landlords to vote without knowing for whom they voted.

I say, that the persons who vote in nomination boroughs are more completely under the dominion of landlords than were the disfranchised Irish forty-shilling freeholders. We propose about 150 members to be sent by the counties which, by being divided, give to each member as much population as a whole county did a hundred years ago. I have gone through documents, and find such to be the case; I find it as nearly in every instance from 70 to 120,000 persons: we then say that there shall be about 180 members sent from the great cities and towns, not omitting Manchester, Leeds, or Sheffield, but giving members to those great towns, and giving also to the woolen, cotton, coal, pottery, and other manufacturing districts, a share in the representation which they have not hitherto had.

The provisions in this bill for taking the poll in two days is, I think, eminently calculated to prevent bribery, and to reduce expense. The attention of His Majesty's Government has been directly employed in the causes for preventing bribery, and I hope we shall be enabled, before the close of the session, to offer to the attention of the house a bill more effectual for the prevention of that crime than the present bill will go far to prevent that crime itself. It has been said by Mr. Fox, how can you call a poor man to the bar who has taken a bribe of ten guineas for his vote, when there are numerous members sitting round the house who have paid from £3,000 to £4,000 for their seats, and other sitting in these benches who had sold seats to others. This bill, at all events, will prevent such practices. I come now to speak of some of the objections to this measure. The first objection to it is, that it is a far greater measure than is called for by the necessities of the people. Sir, I have been always an advocate for reform, and now that we have been obliged to propose a measure to Parliament to carry reform into effect, we consider it better, and that we were bound to propose a measure effectual for the country; if we had proposed a measure short of what we had done, we believe that so far from allaying it, what we had done, we believe that the distractions of the country, and would have laid the foundation for more misery to the country than man can conceive. But, Sir, if this measure is found fault with as going too far, it, on the other hand, has likewise been found fault with, as not being full enough. No person had ever opposed this bill who did not allow that some reform was necessary. They all, or almost all, thought different plans necessary; and he thought it one great argument in favour of the bill that such was the case; and he might almost say with Cromwell, when he saw the Scottish army coming from the hills into the plain, "The Lord has delivered them into our hands."—(Great cheering.)

Sir, I believe I have finished the exposition of the measure, and gone through the main objections which I anticipate will be made. The remaining one is an objection of a comprehensive nature. It is this: What, after all, is the benefit to be derived from changing the representation? Will you relieve the people from their burdens? Will you give them more to eat or drink? Or will you leave them precisely as they are, in reference to these things? Sir, I say in the first place, that this objection is totally irrelevant.

I think the question is solely one of constitutional principle, and I should think it just as reasonable to say to my noble friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he proposes to take off the taxes upon coals, Oh! this tax will not, in any way, improve the constitution; as to say to me, at the period when you bring in this bill, you do not, by any means, pretend to give to the people superior comforts. But Sir, I am not one of those who adopt the theory on which this objection is built. I have always been far from holding out to the people, together with this measure, any temptation of immediate benefits, to drive them to its support, when I could not afterwards fulfil such promise. But, Sir, principle expressed in those words quoted by Lord Liverpool in the other house;

"How few of all the ills that men endure, Are those which King or Lords can cure."

Sir, I consider that this, however well expressed in poetry, is totally out of place when applied to positions. I hold that upon the King and Laws and Government of a country, the comfort, prosperity, intelligence, liberality, and worth of the people depend. Let who will compare this country with such as Spain, where the traveller is murdered on the highway, and let him, if he can, deny the truth of this principle. Sir, when I propose that the people should send into this house their real representatives, to deliberate on their wants and interests,—to consider their grievances and desires, we make a great change indeed, but one which will be permanently a support to the well being of the people of the empire. Their laws will be considered serious, weighed deliberately, and with a view to rescue us from any evils, and to provide for their future welfare. For instance, say that Government adds nothing. Only look to the state of Ireland. What has been the cause of that state, but for want alone of a paternal kind attention on the part of the Government of this country—the want of a fellow-feeling on the part of the superior legislature there, with the great mass of the population in Ireland? Now I say, Sir, then, that if we identify this house with the people, however slowly it may be accomplished, I do say, that in extending to a great people the privilege of having their representatives in Parliament, we do furnish the means for the future for carrying on unimpaired the constitution, undiminished the prerogative, uninjured the authority of Parliament, and the rights, liberties, and interests of the people duly guarded and protected by the faithful representatives of a free people, and the loyal subjects of a generous Sovereign. With regard to the general features, as also the details of the measure of reform, to be submitted, I will not enter into them to-day, because they are the same as the bill which was before the late Parliament, and because the slight improvements since made in the bill are solely intended to carry into effect the principles of it.—(Cheers.) Sir ROBERT PEEL, said he should reserve his opposition to the bill till the second reading. After some observations from Mr. STANLEY and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER the bill was brought in and ordered to be read a second time on Monday week.

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PUBLIC MEETING OF PLANTERS, MERCHANTS, &c.

St. George's, Grenada, July 5, 1831.

At a general meeting of the Planters, Merchants, and others interested in the welfare of this Colony, held at the Court House, this day, for the purpose of taking into consideration the present alarming crisis of Colonial Affairs, and for adopting such measures as may be deemed most effectual for averting the impending ruin with which these Colonies are threatened,

JOHN ROSS, Esq. in the Chair, It was unanimously resolved, 1st.—That in the present alarming situation of West India affairs, when His Majesty's Ministers, regardless of the claims which the Colonists have upon the favourable consideration of the present Government, and apparently careless as to the result of measures, so politically injudicious, and so systematically oppressive, as those which have long marked their administration of the concerns of this portion of the British Empire, now avowedly contemplate such further regulations, as are alone wanting to consummate the destruction of these once favoured and flourishing islands—it is become a bounden duty, and imperative upon all the free inhabitants thereof, to come forward with one heart, and with one voice, and, bearing in mind not only the many undeserved and unredressed grievances they have to complain of, but also those others with which they are unjustly threatened—manfully to assert, as well as energetically to insist upon their inalienable rights as Britons, to the need of open and impartial enquiry, upon all that they may be charged with, and to be otherwise evenly and justly dealt with, upon all occasions, where their persons or properties are concerned; and likewise, to express their determination of resisting, by every proper and constitutional means, the insidious progress of proceedings, which tend eventually to place the lives and fortunes of the Colonists, at the mercy of an interested, or a misguided and fanatical party in Great Britain.

2d.—That these Colonies, forming an acknowledged constituent part of the Empire, have been peopled and cultivated, under the solemn assurance and guarantee of the British Government.—That the capital which has been employed, and the means adopted for rendering it available to the climate and the soil, have alike been endured and sanctioned in their operation, by repeated acts of the British Legislature; and that, however repugnant these may of late have been found to be, to the excited spirit and feel-

ings of the Mother Country, they cannot now be either over- turned or abrogated, without the most glaring, the deepest injustice to those immediately concerned...

4th.—That if in the present embarrassed state of the Finances of the Kingdom, the means cannot be found for making compensation to the Colonies, and the country can no longer, from conscientious motives, suffer slavery to exist under its dominion...

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6th.—That copies of these resolutions be printed, and forthwith transmitted, with a circular letter, signed by the Chairman of this meeting, to the respective Chairmen of the Planters and Merchants of the Colonies of Barbadoes, Demerara, Berbice, Trinidad, Tobago, St. Vincent, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Christopher, Nevis, Tortola, St. Lucia, and also to Jamaica...

THE ARGUS. SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1831.

It has become our task (we consider it a painful one) to advert upon the line of policy adopted by our present Governor, Sir James Carmichael Smyth, and we hope our labours have not been wholly unsuccessful (limited as they have yet been) in exposing in a few among a multitude of most glaring acts of arbitrary sway...

ing to us to witness the profound knowledge of the Collector, in the Mandingo, Ebo, and Koromantyn slangs. The object of the visit of these able knights errant, was to tell the Collector (so we inferred from their gestures and the holy horror visible in his countenance during their narrative) that they had been flogged to make them work!!!

Ver a fause loon, Sir Sanyel Bodie, Ye suld be ca'nd Sir Sanyel me Bodie, An ye sae scart the backs o' my Cateerans, I'll hang ye on a tree, Sir Sanyel me Bodie.

As the complaints of the Negroes were not confined to having received a due quantity of "Fum, Fum" alone, but that there was an insufficiency of food, and plenty of hard work (felling large trees and clearing the land)...

THEATRICAL. SCENE.—A Room papered—crimson to suit a cold climate. Enter a fellow with a huge, awkward, slovenly figure—a red face (to suit the paper)—scouring eyes, and a sheep-stealing countenance—walks up and down, with his hands under his coat-tail.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT. HOUSE OF LORDS. TUESDAY, JUNE 21. The doors were opened soon after twelve o'clock, and in a short time the body of the house was filled by processes and ladies of distinction, who made a splendid display in their court dresses and plumes...

Return in the Representation, I have now to recommend that important question to your earliest and most anxious consideration, confident that in any measures which may be proposed for its adjustment you will carefully adhere to the principles of the Constitution, by which the prerogative of the Crown, the authority of both Houses of Parliament, and the rights and liberties of the people are equally secured.

Princess Talleyrand related to the Family of Stanley, Earls of Derby.—The maternal grandmother of Prince Talleyrand was the Princess Orsini (la Princess des Ursins, as the French style her), who acted so distinguishedly in the court of Phillip V. of Spain, and whose first husband, as appears from Archdeacon Cox's History of the Bourbon King of Spain, was Adria Blaise de Talleyrand, Prince of Claulin.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. We return our best thanks to a Friend, for his information, and assure him that his remarks will always meet with attention. QUOZ has been received, and when we are more at leisure, shall be noticed as he deserves.

MARRIED. On Thursday evening, in St. Matthew's Church, by the Rev. Mr. Strachan, Mr. PETER PEARCE, to Miss CATHERINE HALL.

DIED. On Thursday last, after a short illness, in the 52d year of his age, Capt. THOMAS SWEETING, a native of this place, leaving a wife and seven children to lament the loss of an affectionate husband and father.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE. Every person about to leave these Islands, after having received therein for the space of THIRTY DAYS, must give security at the Secretary's Office, or put up his name in said Office for FIFTEEN DAYS previous to his departure—after which, at any time during forty-five days, a Ticket may be obtained.

Death of William Roscoe, Esq.—With no ordinary feelings of regret we have to announce the death of our distinguished and philanthropic townsman, William Roscoe, Esq. on Thursday, at his residence, Longmead, in the 79th year of his age.

Princess Talleyrand related to the Family of Stanley, Earls of Derby.—The maternal grandmother of Prince Talleyrand was the Princess Orsini (la Princess des Ursins, as the French style her), who acted so distinguishedly in the court of Phillip V. of Spain, and whose first husband, as appears from Archdeacon Cox's History of the Bourbon King of Spain, was Adria Blaise de Talleyrand, Prince of Claulin.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. We return our best thanks to a Friend, for his information, and assure him that his remarks will always meet with attention. QUOZ has been received, and when we are more at leisure, shall be noticed as he deserves.

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BY HENRY GREENSLADE & CO. On Monday next, the 15th instant, At 10 O'clock, A. M. Will be sold at the Vendue House, 25 Barrels Philadelphia fresh Flour, 50 Bags Flint Corn, Rice in Bags, 11 Barrels Jamaica Sugar, A few dozen London Brown Stout, 2 Cases Pickles assorted, 6 Kegs oz. Tongues, Barrels Mackarel, Lard, Soap and Candles.

On Monday, the 12th September next, AT THE VENDUE HOUSE, AT 12 O'CLOCK, M. Will be sold, without reserve, That pleasantly situated House and Lot in Bay Street, at the corner of Culmer Street, at present occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Watson. A Plot of the Premises will be left at the Subscribers' Store for inspection.

On Monday, the 22d August inst. AT THE VENDUE HOUSE, AT 12 O'CLOCK, M. Will be sold, (without reserve,) the following valuable Property, situate on St. Salvador, viz: A tract called MOUNT NELSON, near the Hawk's Nest. Three adjoining Tracts, named—LUCKY MOUNT, MOUNT VIEW, and SMALL HOPES. And Three other Tracts—One late the property of Mr. Munroe; one known by the name of SAILOR'S RETREAT, and one commonly called DEAN'S PLANTATION.

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH. THE VESTRY. HAVING fixed the assize of bread at the rate of 28d per barrel of superfine Flour, Ordered, that the shilling Loaf do weigh 2lbs. 8oz., and the sixpenny Loaf 1lb. 4oz.

LAST NOTICE. PERSONS still remaining indebted to the estate of the late DEGRAD BLAIR, deceased, are required to make immediate payment, as the subscriber is instructed to close that estate without delay. All accounts liquidated on the 1st of September next, will be put in suit.

NOTICE. THE SUBSCRIBER, intending to leave the Bahamas in all November next, calls on all those to whom he may be indebted for their respective demands; and those indebted to him, he earnestly requests, will settle the same by the end of September ensuing, to enable him to meet the demands against him, and all accounts remaining unpaid at that period will be sued for indiscriminately.

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Table with columns: ARRIVED, PASSENGERS SAILED, MARRIED, DIED, SECRETARY'S OFFICE, NAMES OF PERSONS, PASSENGERS SAILED.

