

Regency Bills had been, they were more wise and more politic than the present. When they instituted a weak Government, they knew not the extent of the mischiefs that might ensue. His Lordship declared, he did not fear any thing from open bold ambition, but he dreaded every thing from that dark mean ambition, which worked like a mole under ground, undermining all above it, and attempting, by anticipation, to weaken that Government, in which it was not to have a share, and to cripple what it dared not oppose. The patronage of the Household, he said, extended to all the offices, and was not less than 100,000*l.* a year, which amounted to more than all the offices suppressed by the Bill of 1782. [Mr. Burke's Civil List Reform Bill.] It was an influence that was not trifling, but extending far and wide; and, as the promoters of it themselves thought, of most pernicious consequence. His Lordship reprobated the idea of appointing Great Officers of the realm, who could be of no service to the King whatever during his present situation, to be under the Queen's controul, because her Majesty was entrusted with the care of the King's person. He alluded to the Lord Chancellor's celebrated speech a few weeks since, when the resolution, on which the clause was founded, was under consideration, and said, it was rather an Address to the public, than to that House. These Great Officers of the Household, he said, were Officers of State, annexed rather to the Kingly Office, than to the person of the King. Did any of those Officers attend the King, except when he appeared in public the representative of Majesty? It was, he said, an extraordinary mode of keeping up the Majesty of the Crown, by not suffering the Regent to have the state that customarily surrounded the Crown. What was the reason that the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland always appeared with so much splendour? It was to signify the greatness and majesty of the King he represented? If the multitude were to see the Regent going to the House in his father's state coach, drawn by the cream coloured horses, they would cry, "There he goes in his father's coach, we hope we shall soon see the father himself there." The father's image would recall the memory of the father. It was true, his Lordship said, the Regent would make as great a figure as the King of Prussia, except on certain particular occasions. But the cases were not similar. In Prussia, which was a Military Government, the most captivating and politic appearance the Sovereign had to maintain, was rather that of a camp than a court. The case was different with us, in a great manufacturing country like this, splendour and outward shew were absolutely necessary. Nor was it for the Prince that it was asked; to him, the situation of a Regent was a situation of *painful pre-eminence* and *Royal servitude*; the object was to have that splendour and ostentation which pleased the multitude. The Lord Steward, and Lord Chamberlain, his Lordship said, were Great Officers of the

the realm, (so defined in the statute of precedence) always Members of the Privy Council, and constantly of that Select Council, in which the King was to exercise the greatest prerogative of the Crown, that of mercy! The office of the Lord Steward was as an office of Jurisdiction. He had ever understood, his Lordship said, the King was the fountain of office. The Bill made the Queen the fountain of office, and yet some noble Lords had said it was constitutional. There was, his Lordship observed, an impetuosity in the present Administration that bore down every barrier of the Constitution. He enumerated the various offices under the controul of the Lord Chamberlain, mentioning the Board of Works, the Jewel Office, &c. Even the Master of the Ceremonies, he said, would be under the Queen, and, therefore, if the Regent had occasion to receive a foreign Ambassador, he must send to her Majesty, and *borrow Sir Clement Cottrell* for the day! His Lordship added a great variety of arguments, and, before he sat down, observed, that it had been said in another quarter, that the Queen could have no political views. Her Majesty, he well knew, deserved veneration, and he would say of her, what the Constitution directed them to say of the King, *that she could do no wrong*, but her advisers might, who had power without responsibility. Her Majesty would have flatterers about her. Cabal and artifice would find the way into her house, since he knew of nothing in the air of Kew Palace that had the power to keep away the vermin that were always about a Court. His Lordship took notice of Lord Hopetoun's observation, that it must be a miserable Administration indeed, that needed such supports, as the patronage of the Household could furnish, and turned it into ridicule.

Lord Hawkebury said, all the powers given by former Regency Bills, where the Regent was to be hampered with a Council, in his mind, by no means enabled a Regent to set up so strong a Government as he could do under the present Bill, where he stood free and unfettered, excepting only by a few Restrictions. With regard to the opinion of a noble Lord [Lord Rawdon] that all Governments were nothing more than a combination of precedents; in absolute and despotic Governments, his Lordship said, it was not always so; but, in a free Government like ours, sure he was, the security of obedience, and what enabled the few to govern the many, was the sense the people entertained of their own power, exercised through the medium of their representatives in Parliament; and so the best writers on the Constitution had defined it. With regard to the question of the Household, unless their Lordships altered the whole system of his Majesty's family, they could not put the Household on any other situation. The Household, in fact, was under the operation of the clause, to be the Household of her Majesty. It was to be carried on in the

House

House in which the Queen lived, and would their Lordships say that the Queen ought not to have the controul over that Household? His Lordship denied that the Lord Chamberlain and Lord Steward were mere Officers of State, never on duty, but when the King appeared in public as the Representative of Majesty. They had, he said, many other essential duties. Had they forgot a noble Earl, Earl Talbot, who, by his own management and œconomy, reformed much of the Household, and saved a considerable sum to the nation? Besides, by the Bill 1782, the Lords of the Treasury were expressly directed to issue no money for the payment of the Household, but to the Lord Chamberlain and Lord Steward, or according to their warrants. To put those Officers, therefore, under any other person, would be wronging her Majesty in her Household. The whole amount of the Household offices, his Lordship said, was about 100,000*l.* of which no more than 33,000*l.* related to Officers having seats in either House of Parliament. Would the country deny such an additional expence as 33,000*l.* for a short time only, to support the dignity of a Regent, rather than suffer his Majesty to be stript of all his Household Officers? Or, was the Administration that was to be, afraid of the operation of the influence arising from so paltry a sum.

Earl Fauconberg rose to deprecate any suggestion that tended to call in question the purity of her Majesty's intentions, which he declared to have been doubted by Lord Stormont. The Earl spoke of her Majesty's character in terms of the most ardent zeal, and the most marked respect, and particularly expressed his astonishment, that such a moment as the present, when her Majesty's breast might well be supposed to be occupied by the most poignant and distressful feelings, should be chosen for insinuating, that her Majesty could be capable of harbouring and countenancing a political faction, whose object, it had been said, it would be to counteract and embarrass her son's Government. What was there, his Lordship asked, that could be supposed to warp her Majesty's amiable disposition, and induce her to act in a manner, at once so unnatural, and so inconsistent with her own conduct hitherto? It appeared to him to be a circumstance so improbable, that he had heard it seriously stated, with an equal mixture of regret and astonishment. His Lordship took notice of various arguments that had been urged to prove, that the Lords of the Bedchamber were capable of being bought. He declared, there was but one description of Peers, who were fit to be Lords of the Bedchamber, against whom no suspicion of the kind would lie, and that was the Roman Catholic Peers. He repeated the suspicions suggested against the parliamentary independence of the various Officers of the Household, and rejoiced in having had it in his power to support the measures of one of the ablest

ablest and best Ministers that, perhaps, ever had been at the head of affairs. As proofs of the Minister's ability and wisdom, he desired the state of our manufactures and commerce, the prices of stocks, and the credit of the country at home and abroad, to be considered. After expatiating upon these topics for some time, his Lordship concluded with repeating his warmest assurances to the Committee, that he well knew her Majesty to be incapable of acting in the manner, in which it had been stated, as possible for her to act, declaring, that he had long had the honour of being a witness to a conduct, not only the most irreproachable, but the most praise-worthy that ever distinguished a female, and that he should, therefore, be ungrateful indeed, if he sat silent, when her Majesty's character was called in question.

Lord Stormont in explanation said, that he had spoken of her Majesty in terms of the greatest respect; he had said, she merited veneration, and that she was incapable of doing wrong, but he had supposed she might have bad advisers. There was an end of the freedom of debate, if that supposition might not be stated. His Lordship declared he had, in the course of his life, had many opportunities of knowing the amiable character of the Queen, and how much veneration she was entitled to. He had once before praised her for having never meddled in the most distant way in politics; he therefore wished, and he again repeated his wish, that her Majesty was removed from the possibility of being surrounded by ill advisers, and that she had not been intrusted with one atom of political authority.

The *Earl of Carlisle* said, it was to him rather extraordinary, that those who sat near him should so often have occasion to declare, that it was not their wish to take any thing from the splendour and decoration of his Majesty, that was now necessary. Their wish was merely to borrow that splendour and decoration which was not necessary for the King in his present unfortunate situation, and lend it to the Regent, to whose situation and condition it was necessary. When the King became well, it would return to him as quick as light. His Lordship laid considerable stress on this transition, and said, the noble Lord who had lately spoken, [*Lord Hawkesbury*] had talked of the difference between the power of a Regent under former Bills of Regency, and under a Bill with a few Restrictions; let the noble Lord recollect, that in the former Regency Bills no one power of the Crown was suspended, and then let him look to the present Bill, and say, what possible Restriction could be added to cripple and weaken the Government?

Lord Sydney in reply, said, there were many Restrictions that might have been added, of ten times the tendency to cripple the Government, compared to those contained in the Bill. The Regent was left with all the great power of Government, and there

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was not, in his opinion, the smallest ground for asserting that the Bill would really weaken his Government. Let them consider who the Regent was? a Prince of Wales, of high character, of amiable manners, greatly beloved, and in the flower and vigour of his youth! The Restrictions imposed were, it was well known, only imposed with a view to his Majesty's temporary illness. If the Household were not put under her Majesty's controul, though the Regent might not wish, himself, to change the Great Officers of the Household, in this *ever-green* age, who knew but some person about him might persuade him to do so. Political speculatists were governed by their hopes, and would look forward, as long as they had existence. There was now no man so old and decrepit, no man but who *sans* teeth, *sans* eyes, *sans* ears, *sans* every thing, would hobble on, and not merely to court his favour by political cringing, but do so, by affecting to partake the youthful pleasures of the Prince. The noble Lord's amendment, as explained by his Lordship, Lord Sydney declared, shocked him. Did they recollect his Majesty's present situation? That he had been declared *convalescent* in a report signed by Dr. Warren, whose word, he believed, would scarcely be doubted. Though his Majesty, therefore, might not yet be in a state to take upon himself the conduct of public business, he might be able to indulge himself with the private conversation of those he had been accustomed to converse with. Suppose he should ask for a Duke of Roxburgh, or a Lord Winchelsea? What answer must be made? He must be told they were gone. Some stern Cato had removed them from their offices! Would their Lordships hear such a case stated, and hear it with patience? Were the Lords of the Bedchamber to be treated as a body of Janissaries? He remembered, in his time, the Bedchamber filled with some of the highest characters of the country. At present, the Lords of his Majesty's Bedchamber were most respectable, and yet, it was supposed, that they were to be influenced by persons out of office. His Lordship took notice of Lord Stormont's mention of her Majesty, and said, he always doubted, in proportion as the noble Viscount dealt in expressions of respect; he had, in fact, began to tremble, when the noble Viscount had said, what the law of the Constitution obliged him to say of his Majesty, viz. that the Queen *could do no wrong*, and the noble Lord had verified his fears, by instantly adding, but her advisers might; which was the best way to get off. His Lordship expatiated on the Queen's character, and asked, if it were likely, that a woman, who had been twenty-seven years among us, and never meddled with politics, would change her house, which was, and must be, a house of distress, as long as the King's illness continued, into a house of faction, for the purpose of opposing her own son. He declared, he had as much respect for his Royal Highness as any one else, but

but he did not see that the state of a Regent ought to be exactly the same as the state of a King. He asked, if any one had heard, in the reign of George the Second, when the Prince of Wales was Regent, that he had the attendance of the Lord Steward. With regard to the wish being only to *borrow* some of the splendour and decoration of the King to *lend* it to the Regent, he said, if he were to be ill, and during his illness, any thing that belonged to him should be borrowed without his consent, he should think it was something very like *taking it away*. His Lordship added other arguments against the amendment.

Lord Rawdon made a short speech, in the beginning of which, he ironically complimented Lord Sydney on the graceful turn of his eloquence, and the peculiar beauty of the flowers of his rhetoric, with which he generally addressed their Lordships; but ~~not~~ being able to reach the same sublimity himself, his Lordship said, he must be content to address the Committee in an humble tone, but that he hoped, in a manner that was not level to their understandings. In the course of his speech, his Lordship denied that he had said, that all the power of Government depended on prejudice in all countries; he had only meant, that it was necessary by the outward state and splendour that surrounded the person of him who exercised the supreme authority, that the prejudices of vulgar minds were worked on. The noble Lord, [Lord Hawkebury] he observed, had stated the virtues of the present Administration; he declared, he had no objection to hear *a political swan sing forth the funereal dirge of his own departing power*. If the people, however, had hitherto thought highly of the conduct of Ministers in the Regency business, it was, because they had misconceived it, and saw it in a wrong point of view. If any thing could open their eyes, it was, his Lordship said, the decisive manner in which the Parliament of his country had acted, in respect to the same subject. Ireland had thereby shewn that she deserved to have that Constitution, which she had so nobly earned. His Lordship added an explanation of the object of his motion, which was, he said, that such part of the Household as could not, in the present case, attend on his Majesty, should attend on the Regent.

Lord Sydney said a few words in defence of himself, from the charge of having used coarse language, which he conceived, Lord Rawdon had imputed to him.

Lord Carlisle and Lord Hawkebury rose together, but the latter obtained the hearing, by crying, that he hoped the *political swan* would be permitted to sing a few more funereal notes. His Lordship repeated his former observation, that in every degree of Government whatever, the confidence of the people in their Governors, arose from the opinion they entertained of their own share in that Government. His Lordship also repeated his argument, that a

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her Majesty was to have the care of the King's person, she ought, of necessity, to have the power of managing the King's Household, which, while she held the care of his Majesty's person, in fact became, as it were, her own Household.

The *Earl of Carlisle* defended the allusion to the supposed influence, that separating the power over the Household from the other powers of the executive Government, from the charge of being unparliamentary, contending that nothing could be more parliamentary.

There was here a considerable call for the Question.

Lord Kinnaird however rose, and, in a short and animated speech, reprobated the clause as the grand climax of those dangers to the Constitution, with which, his Lordship said, the whole Bill was fraught. He declared, he conceived himself to be a friend to the Constitution when he said so; and as to the case put by a noble Secretary of State, that if the amendment were adopted, and his Majesty, on his recovery, should call for a Duke of Roxburgh, or a Lord Winchelsea, they would not be to be found, that was, in his mind, a direct charge upon those noble persons of a want of disinterested affection to his Majesty; it was directly saying, that they were influenced solely by the emoluments of their offices, and not by any other and more honourable ties of regard and reverence. He contended, however, that the imputation was unmerited, and that if his Majesty should call for those noble persons, and they should have been removed from their places, they would be to be found, and be as ready to gratify the wishes of his Majesty as if they were in office. With regard to the amendment's taking away the appointment of the Officers of the Household from his Majesty, the clause itself took from the King that appointment, and vested it in the Queen, as all the Officers of the Household were removeable in her Majesty's name, and not, as was the case, in other parts of the Bill, in the name, and on the behalf of his Majesty. His Lordship concluded with reading a printed paper, containing sentiments adverse to the general tenour of the Bill, but what the paper purported to be, we could not hear, from the great importance of the Committee for the Question.

The Question was at length put, and the Committee divided.

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The amendment was consequently negatived.

Earl Bathurst then moved to report progress and adjourn.

This occasioned a considerable degree of conversation.

Lord Loughborough and *Lord Stormont* stated, that there were certain places for life in the Household, which, as the clause stood, it would be in her Majesty's power to give away, and they rea-

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ioned upon the impropriety of vesting her Majesty with a power, from the exercise of which they had restrained the Regent.

The *Duke of Richmond* said, the objection was perfectly new to him, and, at the same time, it appeared to be of so much serious importance, that he wished for time to consider it thoroughly. He should be extremely sorry to give his assent to any Bill, containing a clause that indirectly gave the Queen a power, which he was by no means willing, either directly or indirectly, to invest in any person during his Majesty's temporary indisposition; he, therefore, hoped the Committee would agree to the motion, "that the Chairman be directed to report progress."

Lord Thurlow said, when the clause came to be examined, he did not believe it would be found liable to the objection that had been stated; but even should that be the case, it would be extremely easy to remedy the inconvenience by afterwards introducing a new clause, by way of proviso, for the express purpose of excepting any such use being made of the power vested in her Majesty.

Lord Walsingham on this put the Question, that the clause thus amended (as it had been by Lord Osborne (Marquis of Carmarthen) on Tuesday) stand part of the Bill? This was agreed to.

Another conversation arose in this place upon the Question of Reporting Progress, many noble Lords calling out to adjourn, and others to go on.

Lord Stormont said, he wished to deprecate nothing so much as mispending their Lordships time, and, therefore, it would be wise to decide directly one way or the other, or they might lose as much time in agitating a contest whether they should report progress or not, as it would take them to go through the next clause.

The *Earl of Carlisle* said, the preceding evening, it had been privately understood, that it would be for the convenience of certain individual Lords, that they should report progress, and adjourn at nine o'clock, upon which it was agreed to adjourn, each side of the House understanding, that they were to come down next day, and get through as much of the Bill as possible. But was it to be a regular custom, that they were to deem half after nine too late an hour to go on, and that, when their Lordships had a Bill before them of such infinite importance?

The *Duke of Richmond* declared, it was by no means his wish to report progress, merely because it was half after nine, but because the next clause was a very important one, and would call forth so considerable a degree of discussion, that, in all probability, they would not be able to go through it that night, if they entered upon it at all.

The *Earl of Carlisle* remonstrated against such extraordinary conduct, which had all the appearance of an artificial delay. His Lordship said, they did not begin business till five o'clock, and after four hours debate, at half after eight, or within a quarter of nine, they were to be told of the lateness of the hour. His Majesty's Ministers, he said, were to blame for not coming down to the House till five, although they had not now the usual excuse of having his Majesty to attend; by such conduct on their part, the noble and learned Lord on the woolsack could not begin business till five o'clock, or after that hour.

The *Duke of Richmond* and the *Lord Chancellor*, each said a few words, to prove that they were always ready to enter upon business earlier, but that without imputing more blame to one set of men than to another, the House, generally speaking, was so thin till five o'clock, that it was not proper to begin any business of importance before that hour.

The *Earl of Carlisle* declared, he had not intended to point what he had said, at either the noble Duke or the noble and learned Lord.

The *Marquis of Stafford* said, as it had been urged as a matter of complaint, that business began at too late an hour, the best and most effectual way to prevent there remaining any cause for a similar complaint, would be for them to resolve to meet at half after three, and proceed immediately to business. Instead, therefore, of going into the important debate, that the next clause would, in all probability occasion, suppose it were generally understood, that the noble and learned Lord would take the woolsack the next day, at half after three precisely?

Lord Stormont would not agree, that because it was half after nine, or ten o'clock at night, that, therefore, it was too late to go on with a Bill of that importance. His Lordship said, he had known the House sit till two in the morning, and no man who weighed the business then before the House, would deny that the Bill was of greater importance than the Irish Propositions, important as those Propositions undoubtedly were. The delay that had already taken place, he declared, had been extraordinary. If, however, Ministers were willing to take upon themselves the responsibility for the delay that had taken place, and might yet happen, he had no objection. Let them adjourn for a month if they pleased, so as they confessed themselves responsible for the consequences. They knew the business best, and, if they chose to delay, and drive the Bill off till so late a period, that it would put other great and important Bills, that must soon be passed, in danger of not being passed in time, they did it at their own risque, and it was not for him, standing in the situation that he did, to urge the critical state of affairs at home and abroad, and the various dangers that might ensue. If they did not then go on,
• however,

however, they would lose a whole day, and that he thought it far to mention.

The *Marquis of Townsend* said, if they imagined they could get through the clause in three or four hours, he would as readily consent to go on as any Peer in Parliament, but the clause would involve the Committee in a great deal of discussion, and, perhaps, they would save no time by entering upon it then. The *Marquis* acquitted Ministers of intentional delay, and said, if they had been monopolizing Ministers, who were determined to carry every thing with an high hand, and force the Bill rapidly through the House, he should have held them to blame, but considering the magnitude and importance of the Bill, he really thought they had made every reasonable dispatch.

On the Question put, "that the Chairman report progress," it was carried without a division.

The House rose immediately, it being Ten o'Clock.

IT is here necessary to remark, that the daily Report of the Physicians, which had been with very little variation, that his health was much the same, had, for the foregoing week, to the great joy of every loyal subject, been extremely favourable. That of this day was,

"His Majesty continues to advance in recovery."

R. WARREN,
H. R. REYNOLDS,
F. WILLIS.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

REGENCY BILL.

As soon as Prayers were over,

The *Lord Chancellor* left the woollack, and informed the House, that since his Majesty's Physicians had pronounced him to be in a state of *convalescence*, the accounts of his Majesty's progressive improvement had encreased from day to day, and the intelligence from Kew was that day so favourable, that he conceived every noble Lord would agree with him in acknowl-

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ing, that it would be indecent and improper to go on with the proceedings in which they were engaged, under the present circumstances, when the principle of the Bill might possibly be entirely done away. Every one of their Lordships, he was persuaded, would entertain the same sentiment on the subject, and amidst the general joy that the happy and reasonable expectation of his Majesty's speedy return must occasion, he had no doubt that the House would agree with him, that it would be better to wait a few days, to see what progress towards a perfect and complete recovery, was made in his Majesty's health, before they went further with the Bill appointing a Regency. Congratulating their Lordships and the Country, therefore, on the favourable prospect of that event, to which the wishes and prayers of all his Majesty's subjects were directed, he would humbly submit to their Lordships the propriety of the Committee's being adjourned till Tuesday next, and by his Majesty's then situation, in point of health, their Lordships would be enabled to judge, how far it would be necessary or proper to go on with the proceeding.

Lord Stormont said, he rose with more satisfaction, and with a degree of joy nearer to his heart, than he had ever felt in any period of his life. He rejoiced, that they had now a reasonable ground of hope for his Majesty's speedy recovery, an event which he the more rejoiced in, as he considered it as likely to secure the salvation of the country. Regencies were at all times his Lordship said, expedients which the necessity of the case might require, but which no man who knew any thing of political effects, would wish that occasion should arise to create. With regard to the present Regency Bill, he must take the liberty of stating, that he considered it as an aggravation of the calamity, with which the country had been afflicted; he rejoiced, therefore, for him, who, if the favourable prospect that had been opened to them by the noble and learned Lord, should be realized, would find himself delivered from the hard duty, which the necessity of the case would have imposed on him, and which nothing but a necessity so urgent, could have induced him to undertake. Even under the difficult and embarrassing circumstances prescribed by the present Bill, he was convinced the Prince of Wales would have shewn at least an earnest of that political wisdom and constitutional zeal, which might be expected from him, when he should, by a course of nature, sit upon the Throne. It was reasonable to expect, that his eyes would be closed long before that time arrived, but there were Lords present, who might live to see the day, to which he alluded, and who, he had no doubt, would feel the benefit and acknowledge the truth of his prediction. His Lordship said, he would sit down, making only this single observation, which he had thrown

out the preceding evening in general argument, viz. that those who had the government of the country in their hands, who knew the real state and pressure of affairs both at home and abroad, much better than they could pretend to do, must take upon themselves to answer for every inconvenience that might arise from the present or any future delay. They must be responsible for the consequences; considering, therefore, that this was fair to suggest at that moment, and that it should be allowed that it was so, he should cheerfully give his consent to the Motion of the noble and learned Lord, and to every delay that might be proposed. His Lordship added, that he was exceedingly happy to find, that things were likely to flow back into their regular and natural channel, a circumstance that could not but afford general and sincere satisfaction.

His Royal Highness the Duke of York. I trust your Lordships will do me the justice to believe, that no person in the House could feel equal pleasure with myself from the favourable account which the noble Lord on the woolsack has given, and the Motion he has made to the House, in which I entirely concur. I should have had great satisfaction in making the same communication to the House, if I had been enabled to do it, from any certain information. I thought it my duty yesterday, upon the favourable Reports given to the public, to request to be admitted to his Majesty's person. From reasons, very justifiable I have no doubt, it was not thought proper that I should have that satisfaction.

From the knowledge I have of my Brother's sentiments, though I can have had no immediate communication with him upon the subject of this Motion, I am convinced, that he will feel equal, if not greater pleasure than myself, at the hopes of his Majesty's recovery, as it must relieve him from the embarrassment of the situation in which the Bill would have placed him, which nothing but a strong sense of his duty to the public would have induced him to undertake.

The Committee was adjourned to Tuesday next, and the House rose immediately, having also adjourned to that day.

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE *Chancellor of the Exchequer* moved, "That the House adjourn to Tuesday next."

Before the Speaker had finished putting the Question.

Mr. Vyner rose, and said, "Motion for adjournment to Tuesday at that period of the Session, when none of the public business was gone through, without a single reason assigned in justification of such adjournment, appeared to him to be a most extraordinary and unprecedented proceeding. He said, he had a guess at the reason for so singular a step, and if he was right in his conjecture, the reason was a most *joyous* one to that House and the country in general, [an universal cry of *hear! hear!*] but he could not help wishing, that they might have the satisfaction of hearing the reason stated by such high authority as the Right Hon. Gentleman, in order to enable them to communicate it to their constituents with confidence and certainty."

No answer being given, the Question was put, and the House adjourned to Tuesday.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

HIS MAJESTY'S HEALTH.

THE order of the day being read for the House to resolve itself into a Committee on the further consideration of the Bill, intitled, "An Act to provide for the care of his Majesty's Royal Person, and for the Administration of the Royal Authority, during the continuance of his Majesty's illness."

The *Lord Chancellor* left the woolsack, and said, the accounts of the progress that his Majesty made towards recovery, continued to be so favourable from day to day, that he presumed the same reasons that before actuated their Lordships, and induced them to adjourn last Tuesday, would prevail for a farther delay,

and incline them to adjourn for a few days longer. He should therefore move to adjourn till Monday next.

The *Duke of Norfolk* said, though they had not any regular evidence before them to contradict the testimony of his Majesty's Physicians, delivered formally upon their examination; yet the account of his Majesty's health came so well authenticated from the noble and learned Lord, who was known to have had personal interviews with his Majesty, that no doubt could be entertained of the fact. He should be happy to hear, however, what were the present appearances of his Majesty's health, and if his Majesty should continue in the same progressive state of amendment, though not able to take upon himself the actual business of the regal station, what steps would be pursued after the period of adjournment proposed, and whether another examination of his Majesty's Physicians would take place. His Grace alluded to the Bills that must of necessity pass by a certain time next month, and said, he conceived it could not be improper to communicate the intentions of his Majesty's Ministers.

The *Lord Chancellor* said, he had no difficulty in rising to answer the Questions of the noble Duke, that as far as his apprehension and judgment (not being a physician, nor conversant with such subjects) could enable him to form an opinion of his Majesty's understanding, the posture of his Majesty's mind appeared to be clear and distinct. Perhaps, his Lordship said, he was the best person to put such a question to, because, not having the opportunity of being near his Majesty's person, he had apprehended more for his Majesty, than it now appeared had been absolutely necessary, and thence it was, that he had, from time to time, received much consolation from the reports of those most competent to give him information upon the subject. With respect to the late interviews that his Majesty had commanded him to have with him, he had been in his presence at one time for an hour and a quarter, and that day for a full hour; during both which times he had found the posture of his Majesty's mind to be clear and distinct; so much so, that he appeared to be perfectly capable of conversing on any subject that might be proposed to him. With regard to the second point to which the noble Duke's Question referred, whatever step might be proposed, it ought, he should conceive, to be grounded on a view of his Majesty's health, as near to the moment of the proceeding as possible, and therefore it was impossible for him at that time to anticipate the measure, or say what it might be.

The House adjourned to Monday next.

FROM hence, on account of the happy indications of convalescence in his Majesty, it was deemed respectful and necessary to suspend the business of the Regency, accordingly Parliament was, from time to time, adjourned until

TUESDAY, MARCH 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THIS day the Lords being met, a message was sent to the Hon. House of Commons by Sir Francis Molyneux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, acquainting them, "that the Lords, "authorised by virtue of his Majesty's Commission, do desire the "immediate attendance of this Hon. House in the House of "Peers, to hear the Commission read;" and the Commons being come thither, the Lord Chancellor made the following speech to both Houses:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HIS Majesty not thinking fit to be present here this day in his Royal Person, has been pleased to cause a Commission to be issued under his Great Seal, authorizing and commanding the Commissioners, who are appointed by former Letters Patent to hold this Parliament, to open and declare certain further causes for holding the same: which Commission you will now hear read.

[The Commission was composed in the usual form, and stated, That whereas his Majesty had found it convenient to call his Parliament in May, 1784, and that it had afterwards been adjourned and prorogued, from time to time, until the 20th of November last; and that as his Majesty, for certain reasons, could not then attend in person, it had undergone various adjournments, until the February following, when he had been pleased to issue his orders, that it should be opened by Commission, appointing the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Privy Seal, the President of the Council, Lord Steward of the Household, Duke of Richmond, Lord Chamberlain, Viscount Wentworth, Lord Bathurst, the two Secretaries of State, and the Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, Commissioners for that purpose; and that, as there were still certain reasons why he could not attend in Parliament in person, as usual, he had thought proper to command another Commission, appointing the same Commissioners to communicate his Royal

Message to Parliament.—The Commission was dated at Westminster, signed by the King's own hand.]

And the said Commission being read accordingly, the Lord Chancellor then said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IN obedience to his Majesty's commands, (and by virtue of both Commissions already mentioned to you, (one of which has now been read) we proceed to lay before you such further matters as his Majesty has judged proper to be now communicated to his Parliament.

His Majesty being, by the blessing of Providence, happily recovered from the severe indisposition with which he has been afflicted; and being enabled to attend to the public affairs of his kingdom, has commanded us to convey to you his warmest acknowledgments for the additional proofs which you have given of your affectionate attachments to his person, and of your zealous concern for the honour and interests of his Crown, and the security and good government of his dominions.

The interruption which has necessarily been occasioned to the public business, will, his Majesty doubts not, afford you an additional incitement to apply yourselves, with as little delay as possible, to the different objects of national concern which require your attention.

His Majesty has likewise ordered us to acquaint you, that, since the close of the last Session, he has concluded a Treaty of Defensive Alliance with his good brother the King of Prussia, copies of which will be laid before you: That his Majesty's endeavours were employed, during the last summer, in conjunction with his allies, in order to prevent, as much as possible, the extension of hostilities in the North, and to manifest his desire of effecting a general pacification: That no opportunity will be neglected, on his part, to promote this salutary object; and that he has, in the mean time, the satisfaction of receiving, from all foreign Courts, continued assurances of their friendly dispositions to this country.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

WE are commanded by his Majesty to acquaint you, that the estimates for the current year will forthwith be laid before you; and that he is persuaded of your readiness to make the necessary provisions for the several branches of the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE have it particularly in charge from his Majesty to assure you, that you cannot so effectually meet the most earnest wish of his Majesty's heart, as by persevering in your uniform exertions

ons for the public welfare, and by improving every occasion to promote the prosperity of his faithful people, from whom his Majesty has received such repeated and affecting marks of invariable zeal, loyalty, and attachment, and whose happiness he must ever consider as inseparable from his own.

Lord Chesterfield then rose, for the purpose, he said, of moving an humble Address to his Majesty, to thank him for his most gracious speech, which had just been read to their Lordships; the heartiest gratification which he was certain now glowed in the breasts of every one of their Lordships, upon the joyful information they had received of his Majesty's recovery, rendered it totally unnecessary for him to attempt any arguments as persuasive to what they were all equally inclined; the recent conduct of Parliament, nay, of the whole kingdom, upon his Majesty's melancholy indisposition, fully proved that he really reigned in the hearts of his people, and that there was a kind of emulation, to shew their attachment and gratitude for the blessings they had enjoyed for these eight-and-twenty years, under a mild and paternal Monarch; and for his own part, he thought the greatest possible honour that he could enjoy, was, the moving an Address upon his Majesty's happy and joyful recovery. His Lordship touched very slightly upon the Regency Bill, which he declared he had supported with all his heart; and after a few words, expressive of his perfect happiness, that it was no longer necessary, moved the Address, which was, in fact, little more than a repetition of the message itself.

Lord Cathcart, after a speech of some length, in which he took a view of the situation the country had been in, the proceedings that Parliament had taken, and paid Administration the most high-flown compliments for their virtues, conduct, and steady perseverance, seconded the Motion.

Lord Stanhope declared, that although he had no objection to the Address, nor was less ready to testify his pleasure at his Majesty's happy recovery, than any other noble person, yet he had his doubts as to the propriety of doing it in the present instance.

In December, the House had claimed to themselves the Right of supplying the deficiency, which they had declared to exist in the executive part of government; they had not then proceeded upon any *assertion*, that there was an incapacity, but absolutely adopted an examination of the best evidence that could possibly be produced, namely, the Physicians, and the Question was solely, is, or is not his Majesty capable of attending the duties of his Royal Function? And upon its appearing by that examination that he was not, the House had proceeded; and, in his opinion, there ought to be a similar conduct pursued in the present case; for, although he had not any doubt of the truth as an

individual, yet, as a Parliament, he thought they were bound to have the grounds for their proceedings equally appear.

Upon a case where Ministers might be injured, an *assertion* was not to be taken; but in one where an advantage might accrue, the most implicit confidence was to be placed. If there had been no necessity for something of this kind, why was the clause introduced in the Bill, in which they had gone so far, expressly stating, that a communication should be made by the Queen and her Council, of his Majesty's recovery; if it would have been necessary or constitutional, had that Bill passed, it was equally so now. There were many other parts of the Bill which went to the same point; he approved them, considered them as proper, and therefore he could not acquiesce that the Rights of the People and the Constitution should be forgot in a general joy and rejoicing, but would submit to their Lordships, whether the Address had not better be postponed for a short time, until some examination should be undergone.

Lord Thurlow doubted not the purity of the noble Earl's intentions, yet he could by no means agree in the propriety, of adopting his idea. In the first instance, their Lordships should remember, they had proceeded upon a fact; Parliament had been prorogued to a certain day. When that day arrived, his Majesty was not in a situation, either to meet them in person, or to deliver his orders upon the occasion. It was part of the duties of his office to receive those orders; and when their Lordships met, he had presumed to communicate that circumstance, conceiving that also to be his duty. Upon this fact their Lordships had wisely considered it necessary that something should be done for the advantage of the kingdom at large, and had, by their attention, assiduity, and exertions, shewn their honourable attachment to the King, People, and Constitution, and he hoped never to hear those points alluded to, in which there appeared a difference of sentiment during the progress of the business, but wished it was in his power to bury them in oblivion, for he believed every one intended the best for the country. As to the clause particularly alluded to by the noble Earl, he would not now undertake to say, whether it was or was not the wisest measure that could have been adopted, but he could answer for the purity of the intention; and he believed, no man ever had an idea of continuing his Majesty a single hour from possessing the Royal Functions longer than his indisposition continued.

His Lordship professed himself strongly in favour of the Address, and hoped that no impediment might be given to their testifying their joy for his Majesty's happy recovery, and gratitude for his most gracious speech at the present moment, whatever any noble Lord might conceive as proper, after mature consideration, upon a future period.

Lord Stanhope said a few words in reply, and declared he had no intention of making any Motion.

The Motion for the Address was then put, and agreed to unanimously.

The Lords with white staves were then required to wait upon his Majesty concerning the same.

ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

Lord Moreton, in a short speech, complimentary to her Majesty, moved, that an humble Address be presented to the Queen, congratulating her upon his Majesty's happy recovery.

Lord Hawkesbury most cordially joined in its propriety, and seconded the Motion.

This was agreed to unanimously, and several Lords ordered to draw up and present the same.

REGENCY BILL.

Lord Hawkesbury then moved the order of the day for going into a Committee on the Regency Bill, which being read, he moved, that the order be discharged.

Ordered.

His Lordship then moved that the Bill should be rejected, which was agreed to.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

KING'S COMMISSION.

AT Half past four o'clock, a message was brought by the Black Rod, desiring the attendance of the House in the Peers' Chamber, to hear his Majesty's Commission read; and the Speaker, with several Members, repaired to the Upper House for that purpose.

On

On their return, the Speaker informed the House, that he had procured a copy of the Speech, which was then read with the usual forms.

Lord Gower then rose, and in an elegant and modest speech, moved for the Address. Though conscious of his inability, he said, he felt too strongly the general impulse, and the general joy, to remain silent on the present occasion. For *five* months, he observed, the nation had been in the situation of a vessel at sea, which had been dismasted by a sudden gust of wind, but which now, by steering right onward, had been so fortunate as to regain her harbour. Words, therefore, could not express his joy, to hear, from good authority, that the empire was again to enjoy the best form of government, under the best of Sovereigns. The other topics mentioned in the speech were, in his opinion, relatively trivial to this one great object. He should not, therefore, insist upon them at present, but should directly proceed to move the Address.

His Lordship then recited the points of the Address, which, as usual, corresponded exactly to those of the Speech. "It assured his Majesty of the continued loyalty of his faithful Commons;—thanked him for the promised communication of the Prussian Treaty;—and declared their readiness to proceed on the public business with all possible dispatch."

Mr. Yorke seconded the Motion. He did this the more readily, he said, as it was one which could not possibly suffer from his incapacity. It was not his wish, he declared, to allude to former arguments on this business, nor to adopt so absurd a rule of proceeding as to judge by the event. Yet he could not but express his happiness in the conduct which had been pursued by Parliament. He rejoiced that they could now look with a calm and firm retrospect to that caution which had tended to preserve the dignity of the Crown and the rights of the People.—He then remarked on the Treaty with Prussia, as being the first mention of a foreign Treaty which had been made for some years in the Speech from the Throne. It was to him, he said, a new proof of the zeal with which the Minister had attended to the interests, and raised the respectability of this country. A Right Hon. Gentleman opposite (*Mr. Fox*) had recommended the extension of our alliances, at the time when he had approved of the measures pursued during the late disturbances in Holland; and he must therefore hope, that this measure would meet with the same unequivocal approbation.—He concluded with giving his decisive opinion in favour of the Address, as no language, he said, could be too strong to express the feelings of the nation on the present joyful occasion.

Mr.

Mr. Fox immediately arose. It was not his intention, he said, to disturb in the smallest degree the unanimity of the House. It was, on the contrary, his ardent wish, that the motion should pass *nemine contradicente*. He rose only for the purpose of deprecating the effects which might arise from the speech of the Hon. Gentleman who had last spoken.—He had not the smallest objection to the speech, nor would he with a single word omitted of the Address. Still less did he object to the opening of the noble Lord by whom it had been moved, and which had been made with no less elegance than candour. But a very different line had been pursued by the Hon. Gentleman who seconded the motion, and who attempted to intermix the praises of the Minister, with those sentiments of gratulation which all must feel on an occasion so fortunate. The noble Lord had very properly intimated, that there was a business before them of paramount importance to all others; whilst the seconder of the motion had deemed it proper to overleap this consideration, for the purpose of complimenting the Minister. But surely, under the present circumstances, that Right Hon. Gentleman might have been well contented to have remained in the back-ground, and to suffer the Sovereign to appear as the principal object in the picture!

With whatever purpose, however, this digression had been made, he would assure the Hon. Gentleman, that he was not to be forced to a dissent to the present motion, or even to enter into any farther discussion respecting the merits of the Minister in the present instance. The latter question might come on at a more suitable time, when he could assure the Hon. Gentleman it would be fought, not avoided.

Neither would he object to the general approbation which was given by the speech to the conduct of Parliament. It spoke the language which the Sovereign should use on such an occasion to the two Houses. He could not think that this praise was meant to be applied to one set of men exclusively of another.

He could not think this, in the first place, because, regarding it as was usual, as the speech of the Minister, he could not imagine that the Right Hon. Gentleman would attempt to compliment himself on any measure; and the less, when, as fortunately in the present instance, that measure was incomplete! He could not think that such a praise was meant, for a second reason; and this was, that he knew too well the rectitude of his Majesty's mind, and the justice of his decisions, to suppose that he would have passed his judgment without a previous explanation from both parties.

Something Mr. Fox observed, had also been insinuated, as if there was such a connection between the King and the Minister, that those who opposed the latter, must be deemed inimical to the former! This insinuation, lest he should be thought to dwell on
first

first principles, he would only repel, by denying that any such connection existed, and, by asserting, that as great a portion of loyalty might, and did dwell in the bosoms of those who resisted, as with those who supported the measures of administration.

The Question was then carried *nem. con.* and a Committee appointed to prepare the Address.

ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

The *Marquis of Graham*, after a short preface, moved, that an Address of congratulation might also be presented to her Majesty.

Mr. Fox said, that he should not oppose the motion, though it appeared to go farther than perhaps was necessary; but he thought that every argument which could be urged in favour of this Address, went as strongly in favour of one to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who, in a situation not less difficult, had demeaned himself in such a manner, as to give additional lustre to his character in the eyes of Europe.

Mr. Pitt said, that he could have no other objection to an Address to the Prince of Wales, than that there were precedents on the Journals, of Addresses to the Queen, when no notice was taken of any other branch of the Royal Family. He then quoted, as a precedent, the Address presented to Queen Anne, on the recovery of her husband, Prince George of Denmark.

The Question was carried *nem. con.* and a Committee appointed to prepare the Address.

A . P . P E N . D I X .

THE very important matters in discussion having unexpectedly occasioned such long and interesting debates in both Houses, it was judged proper to alter the original plan of this work, and not permit any extraneous matter to interfere with the regular succession of the Parliamentary Proceedings.

As the subject of the King's malady, and the appointment of a Regent, has occasioned many public meetings, created a variety of discordant opinions, excited the spirit of party, and generally engaged the conversation of all ranks of persons throughout the kingdom; it was thought necessary to reserve an account of all particular transactions until the conclusion of the debates, and to add them by way of Appendix, both in performance of the promise made at the commencement of this compilation, and in order, in some measure, to shew how far the sentiments of the people at large corresponded with those of the Representative Body. To these are also added, some papers necessary for the Reader's information, as being referred to in the debates.

THE first public Body, which became active on the occasion, was the Common Council of the City of London. As the transactions were not confined to the Corporation alone, it was imagined, that relating the circumstances together, without paying attention to the order of dates, as they occurred with those of other places, would be most agreeable; the weight and importance of the metropolis demanding a preferable attention.

• THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18.

• GUILDHALL.

• A Court of Common Council was this day held at Guildhall, the Lord Mayor, fourteen Aldermen, and the Recorder, with a number of Commoners, being present.

• *Mr. Dornford* rose, and apologized to the Court for bringing forward the Motion which he held in his hand; but it being on so critical and trying a nature, he thought too early an approbation of the constitutional behaviour of the Minister, and the 267 worthy Members in the Committee of the House of Commons on Tuesday last, could not be obtained. He would, therefore, without further hesitation, move the

the Thanks of the Court, " To the Right Hon. William Pitt, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the two hundred and sixty-seven worthy Members of the Honourable House of Commons, for their strenuous support of the important Rights of the Lords and Commons of this Realm, to provide the means of supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the Royal Authority, arising from his Majesty's indisposition."

Mr. Sheriff Curtis expressed himself happy, in having an opportunity of seconding the Motion; which he did most cheerfully.

Mr. Alderman Newnham reprobated the Motion; he said, he thought it was impolitic in the Court, thus early to express their approbation or disapprobation of any measure now pending on a question, which involved in it a very important one to the Constitution. The Alderman was very warm, and, in an animated speech, dwelt much on the amiable virtues and manly character of the Heir Apparent.

Mr. Goodbehere followed the Alderman; he observed, that before the Court knew the magnitude of the question of Limitation, which is to follow the appointment of a Regent, they ought not to hurry into a vote, which there may be reason to repent of. *Mr. Goodbehere* spoke much on the Constitution, and was decidedly against the vote of thanks.

Mr. Deputy Birch highly approved the Motion; the Court were bound in gratitude to the Minister and the other Members, for their steady and manly interference, to prevent the Constitution being stabbed.

Mr. Deputy White was of the same opinion; as were *Mr. Box*, *Mr. Alderman Hammet*, *Sir Watkin Leves*, &c.

Mr. Alderman Sawbridge, *Mr. Alderman Pickett*, *Mr. Alderman Newman*, *Mr. Alderman Skinner*, and *Mr. Thorpe*, spoke against it.

The Recorder, being in his place, addressed the Court, and apologized for some few observations he was about to make, and which he felt it his duty to do, both to himself, and the Court, as their Law Officer. He then entered into a discussion of the constitution of the King, Lords, and Commons; and, in a speech of considerable length, gave it as his opinion, that the question, as proposed, was going a great way in commending what was a stab to the executive branch of the Legislature; and contended, that it was absolutely vesting in the two branches, the Lords and Commons, the whole Legislature of the Country.

The Court, being impatient for the question, *Mr. Dornford*, on a suggestion from a Member of the Court, altered his Motion, and confined it to the question of *Right* to provide a remedy for the exercise of the Regal Power; his original Motion taking in the whole of the Resolutions of the Committee of the House of Commons; and on the question being proposed,

Mr. Alderman Sawbridge moved the previous question, which being carried in the affirmative, the question of Thanks was again put, and a division demanded, when there appeared

For the Question, 7 Aldermen and 45 Commoners	52
Against the Question, 5 Aldermen and 21 Commoners	26

Majority	26
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The Court ordered the Resolutions to be signed by the Town-Clerk and delivered to Mr. Pitt; and also to be published in all the Newpapers. 1

On Monday the 22d a Wardmote was held in Billingsgate Ward, the particulars of which are as follow:

Billingsgate Ward, 22d Dec. 1788.

At a Wardmote, held on the morrow of St. Thomas's Day, before the Right Hon. WILLIAM GILL, Lord Mayor of the City of London, the following Resolution was moved, seconded, and unanimously carried, viz.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Thanks of this Wardmote be given to JOSIAH DORN-FORD, Esq. one of the Representatives of this Ward, for moving the Thanks of the Court of Common Council, on Thursday the 18th instant, to the Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the two hundred and sixty-seven worthy Members of the House of Commons, for supporting the important Rights of the Lords and Commons of this Realm.

Resolved, That the foregoing Resolution being signed by the Ward Clerk, and published in all the morning papers.

Philpot-Lane.

THOMAS GALE, Ward Clerk.

On the 24th, at a Wardmote held at Leatherfellers-hall, a Motion was made, and carried, of a different nature.

"That at this important crisis, when the great Council of the nation is deliberating upon the means of calling upon the Heir Apparent to take upon himself, as of right or otherwise, the legal and constitutional exercise of the powers of the Crown, during the much lamented affliction of the Sovereign, it is the duty, as well of bodies corporate as of individual subjects, to wait the final result of such deliberations; and that all corporate attempts to publish resolves and declarations, upon a subject of such magnitude and intricacy, are premature, highly improper, and ought to be resisted by all good citizens."

The 29th of December, at a Wardmote held at Brewers-hall, for the Ward of Cripple-gate Within, which had been adjourned, in order to obtain a full meeting, for the express purpose of considering what mode should be adopted, as most proper to signify the high sentiments entertained of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and of the Members of the Lower House, who supported him in his late Herculean labour.

The inhabitants being fully assembled, a Gentleman of the Ward stepped forward, and in a prefatory speech stated the important events of the present times, and delicately touched upon the indisposition of his Majesty. He mentioned with much abhorrence the doctrines broached of late, that a subject had a right to snatch the imperial ornaments and functions from a languishing Monarch, and that any person could be more legally fit, or better qualified from affectionate regard to the King's person, to place his Prerogatives and his Crown in security, than the representatives of his loyal people. After being heard for

some time with the greatest attention, he concluded by moving the following Resolves, which being seconded, passed unanimously, viz.

Resolved, That the safety of the King's person, Crown, and his Prerogative, can never be so well secured, or so constitutionally trusted in any hands as in those of his two faithful Houses of Parliament, or in the person or persons whom they in their high wisdom shall think it expedient to appoint for that purpose.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Wardmote be given to the worshipful the Court of Common Council, for their Resolution of the 18th of December, 1788, whereby the Thanks of the City of London were voted to the Right Hon. William Pitt, and his 267 worthy Coadjutors of the House of Commons, who in so manly and able a manner defended the Rights of the King and of the Parliament.

From this time nothing remarkable occurred in the City, until Tuesday the 13th of January, when a Common Council was held, at Guildhall, to receive the Report of Mr. Pitt's answer to the Address.

G I L L, M A Y O R.

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London, on Tuesday the 13th day of January, 1789.

THIS day Mr. Town Clerk acquainted this Court, that he had, pursuant to the order of the 18th of December last, waited on the Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT, Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the Thanks of this Court then agreed to, and that he had since received a letter from Mr. Pitt, in answer thereto, which he delivered into this Court, and the same was read as follows:

S I R,

Downing-street, Dec. 20, 1788.

HAVING had the honour of receiving, through your hands a copy of the Resolution of the Common Council of the 18th instant, I beg the favour of you to take the first opportunity of expressing to the Court my grateful acknowledgments for this distinguished mark of their approbation, and of assuring them how much encouragement and satisfaction I derive from the public declaration of the sentiments of so respectable a body, on an occasion which immediately affects the rights of the Lords and Commons, and the essential principles of the Constitution.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient, faithful Servant,

W. Rix, Esq.

W. P I T T.

Ordered, That the said Letter be entered in the Journal of this Court, and published in all the public papers. R I X.

In consequence of a number of previous advertisements, in the public papers, addressed to the Bankers, Merchants, and Tradesmen of London, a Meeting was held at the London Tavern, on the SEVENTH of JANUARY, 1789.

L O N D O N

LONDON TAVERN,

January 7, 1789.

AT a numerous and respectable Meeting held here this day by public advertisement.

SAMUEL BEACHCROFT, Esq. was called to the Chair.

The following Motion was made and seconded, and upon the Question being put, was carried in the affirmative by a great majority.

"That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT, Chancellor of the Exchequer, for his able, spirited, and manly defence of the Constitutional Rights of this Empire, and to those Members of the Honourable House of Commons who have supported him on the occasion."

The Address will lay at this place for Signatures between the hours of eleven and two o'clock, by such Gentlemen as may approve thereof.

SAMUEL BEACHCROFT, Chairman.

As this Meeting was attended with much heat of argument, it is imagined the following account will not prove disagreeable; to which is subjoined another, which having the signature of an Alderman, may be deemed more authentic.

At a Meeting of the Merchants, Bankers, and Traders of London, assembled at the London Tavern, which consisted of more than eighteen hundred persons; upon the call for a Chairman, after much clamour, Sir James Sanderfon, Mr. Alderman Skinner, and Mr. Beachcroft, having been severally named, it was at last agreed to place Mr. Beachcroft in the Chair, as being one of the Committee who had advertised the Meeting.

Mr. Edward Payne then moved, that an Address of Thanks be presented to the Right Hon. William Pitt, for his conduct respecting the Regency, which having been seconded by Mr. William Waddington, without any argument whatever in favour of the Motion, either by Mr. Payne or the seconder, Sir James Sanderfon rose to speak in favour of the Motion, which he endeavoured to support upon the principle of right in the people, and very unfortunately quoted the conduct of the Minister, as agreeable to the spirit of the Revolution. He proceeded by saying, he hoped, that the citizens of London would that day shew their magnanimity, by voting the Address to the Minister; but at the same time he wished it to be understood, that he did not mean to approve his conduct, in general, as he thought the continuance of the Shop-Tax was partial and unjust in the extreme.

Mr. Stack then attempted, for a considerable time, to address the Meeting in reply; but the friends of the Motion for an Address were so clamorous, that he could never obtain a quiet audience. As far as his arguments could be collected, he was understood to declare, that not one of the precedents were understood to be in point; that the present Motion was premature, to address a vote of thanks upon a

proposition

proposition not yet determined by the two Houses of Parliament, that it was an unexpected wound given to the constitution, and it was an improper attempt to bring forward such an interference of the power of the people, which ought, in times of danger, to be very cautiously used; but that it was highly indecent to attempt any exercise of that power, when there did not exist the least necessity for it; that there was a plain road for the House, smooth and easy, which, if the Lords and Commons had travelled, would have satisfied the nation, have kept all ranks of people quiet, and have transmitted a plain and obvious rule to posterity; the contrary road had been taken, and no one could foresee the mischief which might attend the discussion of such a question.

Mr. Wilson then attempted to speak, but the indecent tumult of the friends to the motion likewise prevented him from being heard. As far also as his arguments could be collected, they went to deprecate the intention of an Address, upon a measure not yet determined upon by either House of Parliament. He followed *Mr. Stock* in his arguments, and added, that after the declaration that had been made in the House of Peers, by a most illustrious character, that the Prince of Wales had not only forbore to urge any claim of right, but that he desired no such question might be agitated, as he was ready to adopt the sentiments of the two Houses of Parliament. Every good subject in the realm must think *Mr. Pitt* highly reprehensible, for having so indecently brought forward the Resolutions, for which they were called this day to address him, and which, it was premature in them to come to any resolution upon, before these resolutions had been finally determined in the two Houses of Parliament, and that it was an unconstitutional and improper attempt, which he hoped the citizens of London would have the good sense to reject.

Mr. Alderman Newnham and *Mr. Alderman Sawbridge*, two of the representatives of the city of London, attempted to address the meeting in vain; for such was the clamour of the friends of the Address, that contrary to every good order, necessary to be preserved in public meetings, the Chairman had not sufficient influence over the meeting to obtain either of those gentlemen the opportunity of delivering their sentiments to their constituents.

Mr. Alderman Skinner then, in a very modest manner, returned his friends thanks for the good opinion they entertained of him, by their wish to place him in the chair; that it would be ever the rule of his life to serve his fellow citizens, and honestly to discharge any public trust reposed in him; that his sentiments were totally against the question of Address, which he considered as unnecessary, premature and dangerous. That the conduct of the Minister, so far as the city of London was concerned, was sufficient, in his mind, to condemn him, with them, for ever.

Sir James Sandeyson, although neither the mover nor seconder of the Address of Thanks, rose a second time to address the Meeting, but notwithstanding he stood himself the champion of the phalanx of city consequence; the friends of the Constitution, and of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, could not permit him after their friends had experienced such rude treatment, to proceed, and *Sir James* was very reluctantly obliged to get down from the table.

The question having been very loudly called for at so many different times, and the Committee thinking it a very fit time, the Chairman came forward and put the same, as also the contrary: the majority of hands evidently appeared to be very considerable against the question, but the worthy Chairman declared the majority of hands was in favour of the question. Several Gentlemen having before applied to the Chairman, to know if he would permit a division, to which he assented; they now called upon him for that division, and to appoint tellers; upon which the Chairman and his Committee abruptly left the room.

After some few minutes Mr. Sheriff Curtis returned into the room, and there reprobated the conduct of the Chairman, although he was one of the persons, who, with the Chairman, had signed the last of the two advertisements to call the Meeting; but Mr. Curtis being applied to, to take upon him the office of a Teller under the new Chairman, elected by the Meeting, after the first Chairman had abdicated the Chair, he also shrunk from the business, and went away immediately.

The Meeting then (Mr. Alderman Pickett in the Chair) passed a Resolution of censure upon the late Chairman, and thus ended a Meeting of the Merchants, Bankers and Traders of the city of London, upon which Mr. Pitt and his friends had built such great hopes!

London Tavern, Jan. 7, 1789.

A T a meeting of the Merchants, Bankers, and Traders of London, held here this day,

SAMUEL BEACHCROFT, Esq. in the Chair.

A Motion was proposed by Edward Payne, Esq. and seconded by William Waddington, Esq.

"That an Address of Thanks be presented to the Right Hon. W. Pitt, for his able, spirited, and manly defence of the sacred Constitution of this Empire, and to those Members of the Hon. House of Commons who supported him."

After a tumultuous debate, the question was put, and the Chairman thought proper to declare, that, on a shew of hands, the majority was in favour of an Address.

The Meeting being dissatisfied, a division was demanded by Mr. Stock, and seconded by Jacob Wilkinson, Esq. which division had been previously claimed by Mr. Alderman Skinner, and promised by the Chairman; but while the Tellers were naming, the Chairman and his Committee hastily and abruptly withdrew.

A large majority now called Mr. Alderman Pickett to the chair, on which the motion was again put, that a division should take place. Alderman Curtis was appointed Teller for the question—Mr. Stock against it.

The Chairman then directed, that those Gentlemen who approved of the question should go to the right-hand—those who disapproved, to the left.

The Tellers were directed to proceed to a division, when Mr. Alderman Curtis suddenly left the room, without assigning any reason for so doing.—

doing.—The friends of the Address declined appointing another Teller. Mr. Stock proceeded to ascertain the numbers, when there appeared a very considerable majority against the Address.

A motion was now made by Mr. J. N. Mitchell, and seconded by Mr. Alderman Skinner, "That the conduct of Mr. Beachcroft, in quitting the Chair without waiting for the division, was partial and highly censureable," which was carried by a great majority.

WILLIAM PICKETT,

The Chairman having quitted the chair, a motion was put and carried, "That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Alderman Pickett, for his acceptance of, and impartial conduct in, the Chair."

ON THURSDAY the 15th. Mr. BEACHCROFT, attended by several Merchants and Bankers waited on Mr. PITT, at his house in Downing street, and delivered to him the Vote of Thanks from the Merchants, Bankers, and Traders, of the City of London, on which occasion Mr. BEACHCROFT addressed Mr. PITT nearly as follows:

"SIR,

"IT is with the highest satisfaction that I present to you the Vote of Thanks of the Merchants, Bankers and Traders of the City of LONDON, convened by public advertisement, at the London Tavern, on Wednesday the 7th instant.

"Although the Resolution I have now the honour to deliver to you, Sir, is confined to the single object of your very able defence of the right of the two Houses of Parliament to supply the defect in the Legislature, occasioned by the indisposition of his MAJESTY, it was my wish, and I am persuaded, it was the wish of many respectable Gentlemen who attended that Meeting, to have extended our Thanks to the many advantages this country has derived from your wise and upright Administration: particularly for your great attention to our commerce, to the improvement of the public revenue, and the advancement of public credit. But the confusion that followed the determination of the Meeting upon the question, rendered any farther proceedings impracticable."

To which Mr. PITT returned the following Answer:

"SIR,

Downing-street, Jan. 17. 1789.

"I TAKE the liberty of addressing myself to you, as Chairman of the Meeting of Merchants, Bankers, and Traders of the City of LONDON, to express the grateful sense I entertain of the distinguished honour done me by the declaration of their sentiments contained in their Resolution of the 7th instant. I shall ever consider it as one of the most flattering circumstances of my life, to find my public conduct sanctioned by the approbation of so numerous, and so peculiarly respectable a class of my fellow citizens, the continuance of whose good opinion it will be my constant ambition to deserve. I am more particularly happy in this mark of their concurrence, on an occasion immediately affecting the most important Rights of Parliament, and the essential Principles of the Constitution."

Constitution. Permit me, Sir, to add, my warmest thanks to you, and the other Gentlemen of the Committee, for the very favourable expression of your sentiments with which you accompanied the communication.

" I have the honour to be,
With great regard and esteem,

" SIR,

" Your most obedient,

" A faithful servant.

" WILLIAM PITT."

SAM. BACHCROFT, ESQ.

On Thursday the 29th of January, a court of COMMON COUNCIL was again held at GUILDHALL.

About half past twelve, the Lord Mayor took the Chair, and the Clerk read the minutes of the last Court.

Mr. Sheriff Curtis then rose and moved, that the letter from the Prince, he held in his hand, be read by the proper officer of the Court, which was done, and ordered to be entered on the books, and to be published in all the public papers. After which

Mr. Birch began, by stating the purport of his motion to address the Prince of Wales when appointed Regent, which embraced three distinct objects: The first was, to condole with him on the unhappy situation of his Royal Father, which, he trusted, would find its irresistible way to the feeling heart of every one present, and not be the worse accepted by the Prince for making respectful mention of their gracious Sovereign, as it would naturally evince to him their allegiance to the illustrious House of Brunswick, and give him the strongest earnest of their future loyalty to his own sceptre. Besides, *Mr. Birch* stated, when he remembered the oath administered but at the last Court of Common Council, and the breath of which was scarcely cold upon the lip, to watch over the 'Dignity,' as well as the Crown and Person of their beloved King, he could not readily become a convert to the new fangled doctrine of respect, as laid down by a sarcastic leader of Opposition, namely, to pay reverence to the Royal Image, in the person of the first born, and be a tame and silent witness to the Royal Image itself, being stripped of all its dignity.

The second object of his motion was to congratulate his Royal Highness upon his being invested with the government of these realms, and to assure him of their attachment to his person and government.

The third object which it embraced was, to call the Court of Common Council to a consistency in their own proceedings; to express to his Royal Highness the very high sense the Corporation entertained of the wisdom, zeal and integrity, of the present Administration, which had raised this country from poverty to affluence, from the lowest state of national debility to a situation of envy in the eyes of surrounding nations, unknown since the golden days of the immortal Earl of Chatham. When he alluded to consistency, he said, he wished to call their attention to three several records upon the Lord Mayor's table, bearing

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ing the most unequivocal testimony of confidence and applause of that Court. The first was, upon their appointment in the Spring of 1784, when that Court unanimously addressed the Throne with Thanks for the dismissal of those very political servants, with whose re-establishment to power they were now threatened.

The second instance in the unanimous Vote of Thanks, and the Freedom of the City to Mr. Pitt, as a mark of gratitude for, and approbation of, his zeal and assiduity in supporting the legal prerogative of the Crown, and the constitutional Rights of the people.

The third instance, which was conferred no longer ago than December last, for his manly conduct on the important question of Right, for a deed so eminently glorious in itself, that had every other act of his Administration incurred the censure, instead of obtaining the applause, of that Court, that only would have placed him foremost as the true Patriot of Britain.

Mr. Birch said, that whatever might be the fate of the question that day, however divided the Members of that Court might be in sentiment, when party prejudice was done away, and posterity should review the great concern of the present hour, in the impartial page of the historian, they would turn with disgust from the ostentatious pillar at Runnymede, when they contemplated the accommodating politics of its founder; when they beheld the same man, with one hand, laying the first stone of that structure, becoming, as it were, heaven-directed, the unhappy planter of an eternal monument to his reproach, which should proclaim, in indelible characters, to the very heavens, the sacred principles which he had *professed*, and, in the same cross-grained moment, the sacred principles which he had *deserted*; when posterity should behold the same man laying this foundation with one hand, and, with the other, endeavour to pluck the seal from the sacred bond itself, by which those very principles, our dearest liberties were secured, they would turn to the fair and unspotted page, illumined with the wonderful administration of a second William Pitt, and revere his character as *the immortal champion of the British Constitution*.

He said, with respect to the time of passing such a vote, there could be but one opinion in the breast of such Members, as were with a consistent opinion, to address at all to that purport; it was a debt they owed to their country, their constituents, and themselves—he should therefore move the Address.

Mr. Dornford seconded the motion. He was persuaded there could be but one opinion upon the motion of addressing the Prince; all that would, he conceived, divide the Court, was, whether this was the proper time to bring forward that business. As he had the honour of bringing forward the former business of thanking Mr. Pitt and the 267 Members of the House of Commons for their late conduct, so he hoped to have had the honour of bringing forward the address to the Prince, when the Bill passed to declare him Regent of this country, but Mr. Birch had been before him; however, from the reasons which he had suggested, he felt it his duty to coincide with him on the present motion, hoping it would have this good effect in doing it at the present moment, by expressing the high sense the city of London had of the abilities and wisdom of his Majesty's present servants, it might cause his Royal Highness, from a benevolent desire to gratify the wishes of the citizens

of London, together with those of other corporations, counties, and towns, to retain in his service those servants of the Crown, which he must be convinced were so acceptable to the people, and which had so signally benefitted this kingdom. That he hoped to have seen the country, which had been reduced very low by an unfortunate and unsuccessful war, raised by Mr. Pitt to that pitch of greatness in which it once was, when his late father quitted the helm of this nation. He was followed by Mr. Powell.

Mr. Powell said, that the same principle which induced him to rise at the last Court, occasioned him to request the attention of the Members to the question before them, which was founded upon a business that had caused the greatest variety of opinions among men, not only of the soundest learning, but the most experienced statesmen that ever sat in Parliament, respecting the legality of their proceedings. He said that the Court ought to be particularly attentive to their determination, as the business was now in an unsettled state in the great assembly of the nation; therefore, in his opinion, it must be premature, ill-timed, and unnecessary, at the present moment. Mr. Powell said, he could not help expressing his surprise at the conduct of several Members who had signed the requisition to the Lord Mayor, to assemble them together for the purpose of addressing his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, to continue in power the present Minister, whose conduct those very Members had, in the strongest language, reprobated a short time since, for oppressing and burthening the people, by that partial and unfair impost, the Tax on Retail Shop-keepers; and although the Minister had been deaf to the prayers and petitions of the people, he was now become an angel and a saviour of his country. He said, that until that day, he had ever admired the abilities, the good sense, and candid conduct of those gentlemen, and had repeatedly, and with the greatest pleasure, joined them in many great and public points; but when those Gentlemen came forward to hold out dictation to the Heir Apparent, who must, at the demise of our most gracious Sovereign, become our King, and treat him as they would a puppet, not to permit either his hands or his feet to move, but when the Common Council thought proper to direct the strings, and that, contrary to the assertion of the Minister himself, they were to shackle him with such an Administration which should be approved only by the Members of that Court, he could not, in his conscience, or agreeable, he was persuaded, to the general sense of the Citizens of London, support such a doctrine. He concluded with declaring that he was convinced all moderate men would unite in their vote that day, upon the principle that the business before them was premature, ill-timed, and unnecessary. He therefore recommended the previous Question.

Mr. Box observed with Mr. Powell, that the business, at that moment, was quite unseasonable and out of time.

Mr. Lincoln was of the same mind, condemned the motion as quite improper, and said, that it was absurd to think of preparing an Address to a *non Entity*. He observed, that the Prince was not Regent, and never might be, and they were about to do a thing wholly improper, and therefore he would move the Previous Question, which was seconded by

Mr.

Mr. Deputy Leekey, who reminded the Court, that the city had lost much by differing with the opposition administrations, particularly the bank of the river, the 500l. a year, the rent once offered by builders of the Adelphi, with many other disadvantages.

Sir James Sanderson, in a long and convincing speech, very ably supported the motion, shewing that the present moment was the critical moment for such a motion; that he hoped it would be attended with the most salutary consequences to the kingdom, and convince the Prince, not only of the good will of the city of London towards his Royal Highness, but of the high veneration they had for the person of their Sovereign, and also of his servants, who had so ably conducted the affairs of the country. That as the eyes of all were upon the city of London, it would be almost criminal in them to be silent at this time, and therefore he thanked the worthy Comoner for so seasonably bringing forward the motion. That by this means the exalted personage, who was to be their Regent, would be possessed of the genuine sentiments of the city of London, and he trusted, of the people at large. That London was considered as a tower of strength, when divested of little party prejudices, and what they did would be followed by the nation in general. That Mr. Pitt had been treading in his father's steps, who had saved the country, and had done great good to the nation, and he hoped would be enabled to do still more, if he was retained in the service of the Crown.

Mr. Alderman Newnham followed *Mr. Alderman Sanderson* in a very able and manly speech; he reprobated the motion as wholly unseasonable, and combated every part of it with a great share of wit and strong irony. He also commented on *Sir James Sanderson's* speech with no inconsiderable share of humour, observing, that if they did not mean to dictate to the Prince, they meant nothing. Was it not better to stay till he was Regent, when all parties would be sure to be unanimous in the Address? He stated that the two Houses had already deprived him of many of the prerogatives belonging to him as Regent: that now the Court wanted to deprive him of the only one left, that of choosing his own political servants. He animadverted on the inconsistent conduct, as he termed it, of *Mr. Merry*, in arguing formerly so much against *Mr. Pitt*, concerning the Shop Tax, and then afterwards speaking so much for him, and pointedly condemned his conduct; concluding with declaring it to be his resolution to vote for the previous Question.

This brought up *Mr. Merry*, who very ably vindicated himself from the charges of the Alderman; contending, that though he had condemned *Mr. Pitt's* conduct respecting the Shop Tax, which was partial and unjust, that was no reason why he should not commend *Mr. Pitt* when he did right, which he had done in many instances. *Mr. Merry* also replied to many objections which had been made to the motion, in a long and sensible speech.

He was followed by *Mr. S. Thorpe*, who strongly contended on the absurdity of bringing forward the motion of an Address at this time, and declared he should vote for the previous Question.

Mr. Alderman Pickett, in a long speech, condemned the conduct of *Mr. Pitt* in general, saying, that he had done worse than even his predecessors in office; that he had raised a new power unknown to the Constitution; that the present motion was big with mischief, and would for ever drive *Mr. Pitt* from the Prince.

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He was replied to by Mr. Alderman Le Mesurier, whose arguments were good, though his manner was somewhat liable to question.

Mr. Goodbhere followed the Alderman, and went over the same ground with Mr. Alderman Newnham, reprobating the impropriety and unreasonableness of the motion, and declaring for the previous Question. Mr. Goodbhere asserted, that by voting the Address moved, the City of London, instead of being a strong tower, they would become a tower of inconsistency and of ridicule.

Mr. Slade then rose, and in a strong and pointed speech, endeavoured to turn the present business into ridicule, by comparing it to the Irish Propositions, and took the side of the previous Question.

Mr. Alderman Sir Benjamin Hammet spoke strongly in favour of the motion, as he did his colleague in office Mr. Sheriff Curtis.

Mr. Alderman Sawbridge, in a manly and rather severe manner, combated the motion much in the way of Mr. Alderman Newnham, reprobating the conduct of Mr. Pitt; observing, that they did not know if the Prince would accept of the Regency, or if it might not be much altered before he accepted it. The Alderman informed the Court, that it was in contemplation to move, that it be only an annual bill, which would make the kingdom then entirely a Republican Government; that the City of London were going to follow the County of Devon, who had an Address sent down to them, from the Treasury, to his knowledge, and that they had altered that Address, to make it palatable to Mr. Bastards, one of the Members, who was not quite pleased with it. The Alderman severely condemned the conduct of Administration on that account,

This brought up Mr. Alderman Watson, who, in the best speech the writer ever heard from him, supported the motion, spoke in the most affectionate and exalted terms of his Majesty, celebrated the conduct of Parliament for what they had done, professed his admiration for the character of Mr. Pitt, answered all the objections of Mr. Alderman Newnham, and recommended it to the City to forget their particular interests on the present occasion, as swallowed up in that of the empire. The Alderman concluded with his hearty concurrence with the motion.

Mr. Alderman Newnham commented very severely on the speech of Mr. Alderman Watson, charging him with having called the interests of the City, low, mean, dirty, and pitiful, when compared to those of the nation.

Mr. Dornford called the Alderman to order, asserting that Alderman Watson had not used one of those expressions respecting the interests of the City.

Mr. Alderman Watson rose to explain.

Mr. Parish, in a speech that did him honour, vindicated the motion from the absurdities which his friend, Mr. Powell, had charged it with.

Mr. Alderman Pickett rose again, and went over the same ground, condemning Mr. Pitt for his conduct respecting the Shop Tax.

Mr. Alderman Clarke said, he approved of an Address, but not now; that he was for thanking the present Ministers, which, he doubted not, would be carried, and wished Mr. Birch to make that alteration.

Mr.

Mr. Wilkes spoke a few words for the Address.

Mr. Tute called for some motions, agreed to by the Court, on the improper conduct of *Mr. Pitt*, and condemned his conduct, declaring he would vote for the Previous Question.

Mr. Cowley was of the same mind, that the motion was at that time unseasonable.

At length *Mr. Birch* concluded the business by replying to some objections made by different members of the Court.

Soon after, the Question was put upon the deferring the business by the Previous Question, when the Lord Mayor declared the majority was, that the question be not now put.

A division being claimed, the Lord Mayor directed that *Mr. Lincoln* and *Mr. Deputy Leekey* should be Tellers for, and *Mr. Merry* and *Mr. Dornford* Tellers against the Previous Question, when it appeared.

For the Previous Question,

10 Aldermen,

78 Commoners,

2 Tellers.

—

90

—

Against it,

9 Aldermen,

73 Commoners,

2 Tellers.

—

84

—

Majority for the Previous Question, Six.

Having given a particular account of the transactions in the City of London, which took the lead in addressing the Minister, it will be only necessary to specify the particular places which followed the example; only particularizing those where the Motion met with opposition; as the contents of the rest were nearly the same.

The first Address, subsequent to that of the Corporation of London, was from

The borough of New Windsor, in the county of Berks.

To this succeeded the following:

The city of Cambridge.

The city of Edinburgh.

The Magistrates and Council of the town of Glasgow.

The Chamber of Commerce at ditto.

The Merchants House at ditto.

Against the latter the following Protest was entered.

GLASGOW PROTEST

REASONS OF PROTEST by JAMES RICHARDSON, and those who adhered to him, against the Resolution of the TRADES HOUSE, on the fifth of January 1789, of returning thanks to the Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT.

1st, Because the measures were carried on in a most precipitate and irregular manner.

In all public and important questions, it is an invariable rule of the Trades House, to take the opinion of the Fourteen Incorporations before a decision is given, which was not done in the present case.

Besides, so lately as the first instant, the question concerning the propriety of thanking Mr. Pitt and his adherents, was introduced before this House, and it was then carried by a majority of the House to delay the determination of it to the sixth or eighth; but instead of waiting for that day, when a full meeting might have been expected, the subject was again prematurely introduced on the fifth, when many persons who had declared their sentiments against the measure, could not attend. Had it not been for the advantage gained by such a stolen march, there is every reason to believe, that instead of this Resolution being carried by a plurality of five votes, it would have been negatived by a majority of the meeting.

2d, Because we think it the height of presumption, for persons in our situation to obtrude upon the public our opinion, concerning those great national points which have lately fallen under the discussion of the two Houses of Parliament, and about which we find that men of the greatest learning and abilities entertain very different and opposite sentiments

3d, Because we are of opinion, that this Resolution of the Trades House was really and truly produced by the influence of that very Minister and his adherents, whom it thanks for his late Parliamentary conduct. It appears evidently to be the game of that party, in the present crisis, to procure, by their emissaries and connections, such votes or addresses as, to persons at a distance, and ignorant of the real state of facts, may seem to indicate the voice of the country in their favour.

4th, We have reason to fear, that the industry and zeal which are employed in the present emergency, to call meetings of corporations, to suggest votes of thanks to the Minister, to excite alarms by false suggestions and ill-grounded representations, and to lay hold of opportunities, when a packed majority can be procured, may be attended with the most fatal consequences.

James Richardson,
James Scott,
William Davidson,
Robert Hardie,
James Cooper,
Andrew Hood,
John Shearer, jun.
John Robertson,

Peter Brown,
John Fleming,
William Steel,
James Steven,
William Buchanan,
John Maxwell,
James Patton.

The Town of Southampton.

The Town of Stirling.

The Magistrates and Town Council of Perth.

The Town of Maidstone.

The Corporation of Kingston upon Hull.

The Gentlemen, Clergy, Merchants, and Inhabitants of Halifax,
in Yorkshire.

AGAINST

AGAINST THE ADDRESS TO MR. PITT.

At a Meeting of the Gentlemen, Merchants, Freeholders, and others, of the Town and Neighbourhood of HALIFAX, held at the Old Cock, in Halifax, the 15th of January 1789, to consider of the most proper mode of representing their disapprobation of the Address to Mr. PITT,

Sir GEORGE ARMYTAGE, Bart. Chairman;

It was Unanimously Resolved,

THAT it is the opinion of this Meeting, that the Advertisement alluding to the Address from Halifax, lately inserted in the two Leeds and York Papers, was highly necessary, to prevent any wrong impressions, which the Address to Mr. PITT, purporting to be "An Address of the Gentlemen, Clergy, Merchants, and Principal Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Halifax," might otherwise have made, such Address being, by no means, the sentiments of any such body of people.

That Meetings called hastily, and Addresses signed by the Chairman only, may in future be productive of evils, and prejudicial to the peace of this town and neighbourhood, by misleading the minds of the Public, and therefore ought to be discountenanced.

That this Meeting express a deep concern at the long continuance of the mutilated and hazardous state of the Constitution, and anxiously wish that it may be speedily restored to its necessary state of perfection, either by the recovery of his Majesty, or by the exercise of the Royal functions in the person of the Prince of Wales, during the present unhappy indisposition of the Sovereign.

That this Meeting be adjourned to the 28th instant, at the White Lion, in Halifax, at Eleven in the Forenoon.

That the Thanks of the Meeting be given to Sir George Armytage, the Chairman.

GEO. ARMYTAGE, Chairman.

Signed by Sir GEORGE ARMYTAGE, Bart.

Sir JOHN RAMDEN, Bart.

Sir J. VISTER KAYE, Bart.

And a great number of Gentlemen.

The Borough of Gateshead in the County of Durham.

The Corporation of Leicester.

The Mayor, Freeholders, and Inhabitants of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Ditto Master, Pilots, and seamen of the Trinity House.

The Inhabitants of the Borough of Southwark.

The Borough of Bridport.

The Freeholders of the County of Sterling.

The Rotherham in Yorkshire.

The Gentlemen, Clergy and Freeholders of the County of Devon.

As the Resolutions of the Meeting, held at Exeter, were different from the former, and contain a clause to address the Prince of Wales, it is deemed necessary to insert it.

AT a Meeting of the High Sheriff, Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Devon, assembled by public notice, at the Castle of Exeter, January 16, 1789, during the Quarter Sessions, the following Resolutions were agreed to:

Resolved, That we feel it our duty, in the present alarming crisis, to declare, that the Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT has, in our opinion, justified, by his conduct in office, that confidence in his ability and integrity, which this county expressed at the time of his first appointment.

Resolved, That the Thanks of this County be given to the Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT, for his wise, economical, and laborious discharge of the duties of his present situation, for his attention to our Navigation, Trade, and Manufactures, and for his prudent and vigorous measures in the administration of foreign affairs; in consequence of which, this country now enjoys, under the blessing of God, peace, plenty, and increasing opulence, extended commerce, security at home, and respect abroad, to a degree which has been unexampled, since the Administration of his illustrious Father the Earl of Chatham.

Resolved also, That the Thanks of this County be given to him for his whole conduct, in consequence of that awful and calamitous event, which suspends the exercise of the Executive Government; for his having invariably asserted and maintained the Rights of the people, and for his zealous and faithful attachment to the person and interest of our Sovereign, particularly manifested in the anxiety which he has shewn for enabling his Majesty, with returning health, to reassume, without embarrassment, the full exercise of his constitutional authority over a free and loyal people.

Resolved, That the Sheriff be desired to communicate these Resolutions to Mr. PITT, and to cause them to be inserted in the public papers.

Resolved, That Sir John Chichester, Bart. High Sheriff of this County; the Right Hon. Lord Fortescue, Lord Lieutenant; and John Rolle and J. P. Ballard, Esqrs. Members for this County, be desired to wait upon the Regent immediately after his appointment, with an humble Address, submitting to his Royal Highness, in the most respectful manner, the earnest and anxious wish of this County, for the continuance of his Majesty's present Ministers, as enjoying the marked approbation of their Sovereign, the confidence of both Houses of Parliament, and the general good opinion of their country.

Resolved, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the High Sheriff, for his upright and impartial conduct.

JOHN CHICHESTER, High Sheriff.

The borough of Scarborough
The town of Birmingham
The town of Lancaster
The borough of Sudbury

The city of Lichfield
The city of Exeter
The town of Coventry

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At

To this Address the following Protest was made.

Coventry, January 24, 1789.

THE first intimation received by the Citizens of Coventry of an Address of Thanks, was through the London Newspapers. The Corporation, if wholly assembled, amount to forty-two. The Protest is signed by above fifteen hundred Inhabitants, and yet remains open for the numerous signatures which daily offer.

P R O T E S T.

We, the undersigned Inhabitants, Traders, and Freemen of the City of Coventry, finding that an Address of Thanks to Mr. Pitt and to the 267 Members of the House of Commons, from the Corporation of this City, has been privately agreed to, and presented, and not having been called upon at any general Meeting, to consider of the propriety of such an Address, do think it our duty, in this only public manner left to us, to declare our disapprobation and dissent.

We are of opinion, that a hasty interference in matters of nice discussion, now actually under deliberation in both Houses of Parliament, is calculated to excite party animosity, and to occasion dissensions among the people, at a time when from the unhappy malady of our Gracious Sovereign, the energy of our Constitution is suspended, and we are involved in difficulties, from which we cannot hope to be extricated, without the calm and united endeavours of the whole nation, we particularly disclaim any concurrence in such proceedings, as tend to diffuse distrust, and to embarrass and impede the administration of the executive power, to which, by the universal opinion of all his Majesty's loyal subjects, the Prince is so properly to be called.

The town of Woolverhampton
The county of Dorset
The city of Aberdeen
The town of Nairn
The city of Chichester
The town of Dumfries
The borough of Leominster
The city of Oxford
The town of Henly-upon-Thames
The borough of Selkirk
The borough of Dumbarton
The city of Canterbury
The county of Haddington in Scotland
The borough of New Woodstock
The borough of Reading
The town of Leeds
The borough of Andover
The city of Worcester

The town of Sunderland
The borough of Tiverton
The town of Plymouth
The county of Northampton
The city of Londonderry in Ireland
The borough of Fortrose, Scotland
The town of Inverness
The county of York
The borough of Devizes
The town of Saddleworth
The borough of Newcastle-under-Lime
The borough of Anglesea
The borough of Newark on Trent
The borough of Warwick
The borough of Honiton
The borough of East Retford

The

The county of Northumberland against an Address.

Morpeth, January 21, 1789.

AT a Meeting of the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Northumberland, held here this day, Gawen Aynsley, Esq. in the Chair, a motion was proposed by Rowland Burdon, Esq. and seconded by William Ord, of Fenham, Esq. that an Address of Thanks be presented to the Right Hon. William Pitt, for his conduct in Parliament on the present emergency. This motion being put, was negatived almost unanimously.

A motion was then made by Jonathan Thompson, Esq. and seconded by Sir H. Geo. Liddell, Bart. that the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Sir William Middleton, Bart. and Charles Grey, Esq. our worthy representatives, for their conduct in Parliament; which motion the Chairman refusing to put, he and his friends left the Town-hall abruptly.

Sir Henry George Liddell being then called to the Chair, the same motion was put and carried *nemine contradicente*; and the following Resolution was then agreed to.

Sir Henry George Liddell, Bart. in the Chair.

Resolved, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Sir William Middleton, Bart. and Charles Grey, Esq. our worthy Representatives, for their conduct in Parliament.

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Sir Francis Blake, Bart. and Sir Charles Grey, K. B. for the trouble they have taken in explaining the true principles of the Constitution, and declaring the real Rights of the people.

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to John Ord, of Weerwood, Esq. and Jonathan Thompson, Esq. for their great exertions at this Meeting.

That (the Chairman having quitted the Chair) the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Sir Henry George Liddell, Bart. for his acceptance of, and impartial conduct in the Chair; and that he be requested to sign the above Resolutions, and cause the same to be inserted in the London, Newcastle, and every other newspaper in this kingdom.

H. G. LIDDELL.

THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER.

As there has been much difference of opinion in this opulent town, respecting the Address; the insertion of the following particulars will, no doubt, prove agreeable.

Manchester, January 14, 1789.

THE promoters of an Address of Thanks to Mr. Pitt, industriously insinuate, that it conveys the sense of the Inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Manchester—How far that insinuation is well founded, will appear from the following numerous and respectable list of the Inhabitants of Manchester and the neighbourhood, who have already signed a Protest against that Address.—And it is hoped the example will be followed universally, by all who wish to approve themselves the friends of the town of Manchester, rather than of Mr. Pitt, or any other Individual.

We, the undersigned Inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Manchester, hearing of an intended Address of Thanks to Mr. PITT, from several Individuals of this town and neighbourhood, cannot but express our surprize at such a measure; more especially, as it remains unsanctioned by the voice of a public meeting, called expressly for the purpose of considering of the propriety of such an Address. We were in hopes, that in the present unsettled state of National Affairs, the good sense of the Inhabitants of this place, would have prevented any political interference on their parts; but as the intended Address to Mr. Pitt may be deemed to convey the sense of this town and neighbourhood, if no step be taken to counteract such an opinion, we think it our duty thus publicly to express our disapprobation of this proceeding, and to declare, that in our opinion Mr. Pitt has no claim to the Thanks of the Inhabitants of Manchester or the neighbourhood, and that such an Address is, at this time, peculiarly unnecessary and improper.

Signed by 500.

To which Protest the following Counter Protest appeared, Signed by 360.

Manchester, January 19, 1789.

IT having been repeatedly represented that the following Address does not convey the sense of the respectable Inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood, it has been thought proper to publish a copy of it, with a list of the subjoined signatures.

When the approvers of Mr. Pitt's ministerial conduct in general, called on the public to join them in the measure of thanking him for his services, they addressed themselves to the Gentlemen, Clergy, Merchants, Manufacturers, and principal Inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood; and the sentiments of persons of that description only, were those which they wished to collect. For the town's meeting which had been holden, having been described as consisting of the most opulent merchants and traders, by a majority of which it had been said to have been dissolved, it was, therefore, the aim of the Friends to the Address to procure respectability, rather than numbers; sensible how easy names may be obtained by those who will condescend to solicit the signatures of the populace, and who value themselves upon what they style the universality of their Supporters.

Against this Address, a Protest has been signed by a great number of individuals among which are the names of several Gentlemen, who are justly entitled to respect; but this being acknowledged, it is hoped that it will be allowed on the other hand, that the Addressers have an equal right, and equal capability, with their opponents, of judging of the wisdom, propriety, and necessity of any measure which may be submitted to their deliberation. And lists of the Addressers and of the Protestors being now before the public it is left to the candour of every one, acquainted with the Inhabitants of this town and its vicinity, to determine on which side the scale of respectability preponderates.

Manchester,

Manchester, January 8, 1789.

TO THE RIGHT HON. WILLIAM PITT.

S I R,

Persuaded that it is not only the privilege, but the duty of all good citizens of this free country to express their approbation of the conduct of Ministers of State, when such conduct shall have appeared particularly meritorious and conducive to the public good: We the undersigned Inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood, beg leave to offer you this testimony of our gratitude; and, to express our high approbation of your Ministerial and Parliamentary conduct in general, and of that ability and integrity with which you have supported the Rights of Parliament and of the Constitution; and, thereby essentially promoted the dearest interests of that community to which we belong.

Permit us, at the same time, to congratulate you on the honourable support your constitutional measures have received from very respectable majorities in both Houses of Parliament.

The Borough of Bridlington.
The Borough of Lanark, Scotland.

To the foregoing succeeded the following ADDRESS to the PRINCE of WALES.

A D D R E S S.

From the Loyal Burgesses, Heritors, and Traders of the Borough of Perth, assembled at their Guildhall.

To his Royal Highness GEORGE PRINCE of WALES.

May it please your Royal Highness,

WE, hereunto subscribing loyal Burgesses, Heritors, and Traders of the ancient borough of Perth, beg leave most humbly to approach your Royal Highness, with unfeigned sorrow and sentiments of sincere condolence, on account of the severe affliction with which it has pleased Divine Providence to visit your Royal Father, our well-beloved and most gracious Sovereign.

We, at the same time, rejoice, that in your Royal Highness, we have a Prince of the most benevolent disposition, and of the tenderest filial affections, capable of acting as Representative of your Royal Father; and when that event shall take place, we repose such confidence in your wisdom and patriotic virtues, that we firmly trust you will fill your Councils with such men as will manage the public affairs on the principle established at the glorious Revolution.

Guildhall, Feb. 2, 1789.

Signed by 283 of the Burgesses, &c.

Unto his Royal Highness the PRINCE of WALES.

The humble Address of the Magistrates and Town Council of the Burgh of Burnt-Island.

WE, the Magistrates and Council of the burgh of Burnt-Island, beg leave to approach your Royal Highness, in the present afflicting situation of these kingdoms, over which your Royal Highness was born to govern

vern, and to mingle with our fellow-citizens our heart-felt lamentations for the dreadful calamity with which your Royal Father is afflicted. We trust, that it will please Almighty God soon to restore our gracious Sovereign to his wonted health, that he may resume and occupy the functions of his high and exalted station.

Under the pressure of this national calamity, we feel ourselves animated and supported in the fullest conviction of your Royal Highness possessing, in an eminent degree, those princely virtues, those matured and well-calculated talents, which render you able to preserve, to the subjects of these kingdoms, the invaluable blessings which they have enjoyed under the mild and constitutional government of your illustrious House. Anxious in our wishes, and ardent in our prayers, for that happy period which may restore the health of our Sovereign, we confide in the wisdom of your Royal Highness, to place, during the continuance of the King's illness, in the high and important offices of the State, men, in whom, from well-tried experience, your Royal Highness can repose trust; Ministers devoted by principle to the sacred Constitution of their country, and attached by the purest motives of regard and affection to your Royal Person and Dignity. Whilst, with due humility, we lay at your feet, sentiments of the deepest sorrow and concern for the distress of the Royal Family, permit us to assure your Royal Highness of our firm and unalterable attachment to your person, and the free government of the realm, under your auspicious conduct; and that we shall be ready, with our lives and fortunes, to maintain the establishment in church and state, as recognized at the glorious æra of the Revolution, and supported and strengthened in the illustrious House of Hanover.

Unto his Royal Highness the PRINCE OF WALES,

The humble Address of the Heritors and Burgesse, of the Burgh of Burnt-Island.

WE, the Heritors and Burgesse of the Burgh of Burnt-Island, while we lament the melancholy situation, in which it has pleased Almighty God to place our most gracious and beloved Sovereign, yet trust, that Divine Providence will soon restore him to an afflicted people, over whom he hath, for many years, governed with a most paternal affection.

During this unfortunate calamity, it affords us no small consolation, that we have your Royal Highness, the Heir Apparent, to the Crown of these Kingdoms, possessed, in a superior degree, of every amiable and necessary quality, to fill the office of Regent, during his Majesty's illness, to look to for the protection of our civil and religious liberties, and we cannot doubt but you will take into your councils, men, whose principles will ensure their conducting the government of the country, agreeable to the spirit of the Constitution, as established at the glorious Revolution.

Signed by a great number.

To his Royal Highness the PRINCE of WALES.

The humble Address of the Heritors and Burgeses of the Burgh of Kinghorn.

WE, the Heritors and Burgeses of the Burgh of Kinghorn, beg leave to approach your Royal Highness, and to sympathize with you, and the other branches of your illustrious family, upon the melancholy state of his Majesty's health, which has rendered the elevation of your Highness to your present situation necessary.

At the same time we congratulate ourselves, and the nation in general, that upon so unhappy a crisis we have an Heir Apparent to the Throne, who is every way qualified to fill it with honour to himself, and for the happiness and prosperity of these kingdoms, while it shall please God to continue his afflicting hand upon our beloved Sovereign.

The unequivocal demonstrations which your Royal Highness has already given of your firm attachment to the principles of the glorious Revolution, affords us the most satisfactory proof that you not only understand our happy Constitution, but will, to the best of your power, with the aid of such persons as you shall call to the administration of public affairs, and the firm support of a loyal and affectionate people, maintain it pure and uncorrupted, during the period of your present high trust, and that you will not forsake those principles, nor forget that conduct, when it shall please the Almighty to place an unfettered diadem upon your brow.

Signed by a great number.

To these may be added a similar Address from the county of Hants.

As the city of Westminster, in point of opulence, is next to the city of London, it claims a particular attention, especially as the sentiments of the public meeting are in direct opposition to those of the city of London.

WESTMINSTER MEETING.

CROWN and ANCHOR TAVERN.

Saturday, February 14, 1789:

A NUMEROUS and respectable Meeting of the Electors of Westminster, was held this day, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, in the Strand.

HARRY HOUSE, Esq. in the Chair.

When a Petition to the Right Hon. the House of Peers, was submitted to the consideration of the Meeting, expressive of the most strong, direct, and unqualified disapprobation of a Bill now pending in Parliament, entitled, "A Bill to provide for the care of his Majesty's Royal Person, and for the administration of his Royal Authority, during the continuance of his Majesty's illness."

The question was put from the Chair, that the said Petition be presented to the Right Hon. the House of Lords, which was carried in

an assembly composed of near two thousand Electors, without one dissentient voice.

The following Resolutions were afterwards moved, and were all carried unanimously.

RESOLVED, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to our worthy Representatives, the Right Hon. LORD JOHN TOWNSHEND, and the Right Hon. C. J. FOX, for their able and zealous support in Parliament, of the true principles of the Constitution.

RESOLVED, That the Chairman of this Meeting do transmit a copy of the above Resolutions to the Right Hon. C. J. FOX, now at Bath, for the re-establishment of his health, expressing, at the same time, their sincere concern for the occasion of his absence, their anxious wishes for his speedy recovery; and the high sense they entertain of the distinguished talents and unshaken integrity with which he has, in every instance of his public conduct, uniformly and steadfastly maintained the real interest of the nation.

RESOLVED, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the truly patriotic Minorities in both Houses of Parliament, who resisted the daring and unprecedented attack made upon the most sacred principles of the British Constitution, by a Bill now pending in Parliament, entitled, "A Bill to provide for the care of his Majesty's Royal Person, and for the administration of the Royal Authority, during the continuance of his illness."

RESOLVED, That it is the unanimous wish of this Meeting, that his Grace the DUKE OF BEDFORD should present the Petition adopted at this Meeting to the Right Hon. the House of Lords; and that he be requested to present the same.

HARRY HOUSE, Chairman.

The Chairman having left the Chair, it was unanimously

RESOLVED,

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to HARRY HOUSE, Esq. for his great attention; and for his fair, upright, and candid conduct at the above Meeting.

The Petition lies at the following places, which the worthy Electors are requested to sign immediately.

The Crown and Anchor Tavern, Strand; the Shakespeare Tavern, Covent Garden; St. Alban's Tavern, St. Alban's-street; Mecklenburgh Coffee-house, Cockspur-street; Osborne's Hotel, Adelphi; Hungerford Coffee-house, Strand; Coachmaker's Arms, Long Acre; Black Lion, Ruffel-street, Drury-lane; Queen of Bohemia's Head, Wych-street; Ship, Palace-yard; King's Arms Tavern, Compton-street, Soho; Braun's Head Tavern, Bond-street; and Mr. Debrett's, Piccadilly.

The following is the LETTER sent by Mr. PITTO to the Prince of WALES on the subject of the RESTRICTIONS on the REGENT, and which is adverted to in the preceding debates.

To

To his ROYAL HIGHNESS the PRINCE of WALES.

SIR,

THE proceedings in Parliament being now brought to a point, which will render it necessary to propose to the House of Commons the particular measures to be taken for supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the Royal Authority, during the present interval; and your Royal Highness having, some time since, signified your pleasure, that any communication on this subject should be in writing, I take the liberty of respectfully entreating your Royal Highness's permission to submit to your consideration the outlines of the plan which his Majesty's confidential servants humbly conceive, (according to the best judgment which they are able to form) to be proper to be proposed in the present circumstances.

It is their humble opinion, that your Royal Highness should be empowered to exercise the Royal Authority in the *name* and *on the behalf* of his Majesty, during his Majesty's illness, and to *do all acts* which might legally be done by his Majesty; with provisions, nevertheless, that the *care of his Majesty's Royal Person*, and the management of his Majesty's *Household*, and the *direction and appointment of the Officers and Servants therein*, should be in the *Queen*, under such regulations as may be thought necessary. That the power to be exercised by your Royal Highness should not extend to the granting the real or personal property of the King, (except as far as relates to the *renewal of leases*) to the granting any office in reversion, or to the granting, for any other term than during his Majesty's pleasure, any pension, or any office whatever, *except such as must by law be granted for life, or during good behaviour*, nor to the granting any rank or dignity of the Peerage of this realm, to any person, except his Majesty's issue who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years. These are the principal points which have occurred to his Majesty's Ministers.

I beg leave to add, that their ideas are formed on the supposition that his Majesty's illness is only *temporary*, and may be of *no long duration*. It may be difficult to fix before hand, the precise period for which these provisions ought to last; but if unfortunately his Majesty's recovery should be protracted to a more distant period than there is reason at present to imagine, it will be open hereafter to the wisdom of Parliament, to reconsider these provisions, whenever the circumstances appear to call for it.

If your Royal Highness should be pleased to require any farther explanation on the subject, and should condescend to signify your orders, that I should have the honour of attending your Royal Highness for that purpose, or to intimate any other mode in which your Royal Highness may wish to receive such explanation, I shall respectfully wait your Royal Highness's commands.

I have the honour to be,

With the utmost deference and submission,

SIR,

Your Royal Highness's

Most dutiful

And devoted Servant,

Downing-street.
Tuesday Night, Dec. 30, 1788.

W. PITT,

The

The Answer of his ROYAL HIGHNESS was as follows :

“ THE Prince of Wales learns from Mr. Pitt, that the proceedings in Parliament are now in a train which enables Mr. Pitt, according to the intimation in his former letter, to communicate to the Prince, the outlines of the plan which his Majesty's confidential servants conceive proper to be proposed in the present circumstances.

“ Concerning the steps already taken by Mr. Pitt, the Prince is silent — nothing done by the two Houses of Parliament can be a proper subject of his animadversion ; but when previously to any discussion in Parliament, the outlines of a scheme of Government are sent for his consideration, in which it is proposed that he shall be personally and principally concerned, and by which the Royal Authority, and the public welfare, may be deeply affected, the Prince would be unjustifiable were he to withhold an explicit declaration of his sentiments. This silence might be construed into a previous approbation of a plan, the accomplishment of which every motive of duty to his Father and Sovereign, as well as of regard for the public interest, obliges him to consider as injurious to both. In the state of deep distress, in which the Prince, and the whole Royal Family were involved, by the heavy calamity which has fallen upon the King, and at a moment when Government, deprived of its chief energy and support, seemed peculiarly to need the cordial and united aid of all descriptions of good subjects, it was not expected by the Prince, that a plan should be offered to his consideration, by which Government was to be rendered difficult, if not impracticable, in the hands of any person, intended to represent the King's Authority ; — much less the hands of his eldest son, the Heir Apparent of his kingdoms, and the person most bound to the maintainance of his Majesty's just prerogatives and authority, as well as most interested in the happiness, the prosperity, and the glory of the people !

“ The Prince forbears to remark on the several parts of the sketch of the plan laid before him ; he apprehends it must have been formed with sufficient deliberation to preclude the probability of any argument of his producing an alteration of sentiments in the projectors of it. But he trusts with confidence to the wisdom and justice of Parliament, when the whole of the subject, and the circumstances connected with it, shall come under their deliberation.

“ He observes therefore, only generally, on the heads communicated by Mr. Pitt, and it is with deep regret the Prince makes the observation, that he sees, in the contents of that paper, a project for producing weakness, disorder, and insecurity in every branch of the administration of affairs. A project for dividing the Royal Family from each other ; for separating the Court from the State, and thereby disjoining Government from its natural and accustomed support. A scheme disconnecting the authority to command service from the power of animating it by reward ; and for allotting to the Prince all the insidious duties of Government, without the means of softening them to the Public, by any one act of grace, favour or benignity.

“ The Prince's feelings on contemplating this plan, are also rendered still more painful to him, by observing that it is not founded on any general principle, but is calculated to infuse jealousies and distrust
(wholly

(wholly groundless he trusts) in that quarter, whose confidence it will ever be the first pride of his life to merit and obtain. With regard to the motive and object of the Limitations and Restrictions proposed, the Prince can have but little to observe. No light or information is afforded him by his Majesty's Ministers on these points. They have informed him *what* the powers are, which they mean to *refuse* him, not *why* they are *with-held*.

"The Prince, however holding, as he does, that it is an undoubted and fundamental principle of the Constitution, that the powers and prerogatives of the Crown are vested there, as a trust for the benefit of the people, and that they are sacred only as they are necessary to the preservation of that power and balance of the Constitution, which experience has proved to be the true security of the liberty of the subject, must be allowed to observe, that the plea of public utility ought to be strong, manifest, and urgent, which calls for the extinction or suspension of any one of those essential rights in the Supreme Power of its Representative; or which can justify the Prince in consenting, that in his person, an experiment shall be made to ascertain with how small a portion of the kingly power, the Executive Government of this country may be carried on.

"The Prince has only to add, that if security for his Majesty's repossessing his rightful government, whenever it shall please Providence, in bounty to this country, to remove the calamity with which he is afflicted, be any part of the object of this plan; the Prince has only to be convinced, that any measure is necessary, or even conducive to that end, to be the first to urge it as the preliminary and permanent consideration of any settlement in which he could consent to share.

"If attention to what is presumed must be his Majesty's feelings and wishes on the happy day of his recovery be the object, the Prince expresses his firm conviction, that no event would be more repugnant to the feelings of his Royal Father, than the knowledge that the government of his Son and Representative had exhibited the sovereign power of the realm in a state of degradation, of curtailed authority, and diminished energy — a state hurtful in practice to the prosperity and good government of his people, and injurious in its precedent to the society of the Monarch, and rights of his family.

"Upon that part of the plan which regards the King's real and personal property, the Prince feels himself compelled to remark, that it was not necessary for Mr. Pitt, nor yet proper to suggest to the Prince the restraint he proposes against the Prince's granting away the King's real or personal property.

"The Prince does not conceive, that, during the King's life, he is by law, entitled to make any such grant; and he is sure that he has never shewn the smallest inclination to possess any such power. But it remains with Mr. Pitt to consider the eventual interests of the Royal Family, and to provide a proper and natural security against the mismanagement of them in others.

"The Prince has discharged an indispensable duty in thus giving his free opinion on the plan submitted to his consideration.

"This conviction of the evils which may arise to the King's interests, to the peace and happiness of the Royal Family, and to the safety and welfare of the nation, from the Government of the country remaining

maining longer in its present maimed and debilitated state, outweighs, in the Prince's mind, every other consideration, and will determine him to undertake the painful trust imposed upon him, by the present melancholy necessity, which, of all the King's subjects, he deprecates the most) in full confidence, that the affection and loyalty to the King, the experienced attachment to the House of Brunswick, and the generosity which has always distinguished this nation, will carry him through the many difficulties, inseparable from this most critical situation, with comfort to himself, with honour to the King, and with advantage to the public."

The second examination of the Physicians having occasioned much debate in the House of Commons, in which particular circumstances in the examination are alluded to; the following is extracted from it. The whole is of too great length to be admissible in this work, and it has already been published. The most interesting parts are, therefore, extracted from the official copy, printed by order of the House.

E X T R A C T S

From the REPORT of the COMMITTEE, appointed to re-examine his MAJESTY'S Physicians.

The Rev. Dr. FRANCIS WILLIS called in and examined.

WHETHER in your opinion, the state of his Majesty's health does, or does not, continue to be such as to render his Majesty incapable either of coming to Parliament, or of attending to public business?

Certainly not capable.

Whether you can now inform the Committee, or can by ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~re-act~~ ^{re-act} grow enable yourself to inform them, when, and how often coercion has been used since your last examination?

I believe I could not; I will endeavour to do it, but I have no idea that I can.

When did you last use means of coercion to your patient?

Either Saturday or Sunday, I do not recollect which.

Whether there has been any direct, or indirect attempt made by any of the Physicians, at any time, to controul or influence you with respect to the account to be given of his Majesty's situation?

I have once or twice refused to sign the certificate, thinking that his Majesty was better than the certificate implied.

Do you mean that you did not sign?

I persisted in the refusal till it was altered, and then I did sign it; but latterly I have scarcely read it over, and did not mind whether it was exactly agreeable to my opinion, or not, rather than have any words.

Did you, in the instances to which you refer, differ in opinion from all the other Physicians attending?

The two Physicians present I differed from; there are but two attending in the morning to sign it, except my son.

What

What means did you use to persuade the Physicians to alter the account, and adopt your opinion?

That if I had a patient at home that had passed so many hours in such a state, I should conclude that patient was better.

Did Dr. Willis use any other means than arguments of that kind; did he hold out any idea of pleasing, or displeasing, considerable persons?

No, none at all.

Are you sure, that on Friday last, the 2d of January, you did not use such arguments?

I will not be sure that I might not say the alteration that was sent down by a certain personage, was not worth while disputing; and, at the same time, that I thought it nearer the truth; for Dr. Warren did hold out, that he should think no person better, till they were perfectly well, under such an indisposition. I asked the Doctor, if a person, so indisposed, should not say one sensible word in twenty-four hours, and the next twenty-four hours say but one word, that he would not say, if he was not indisposed, whether he would not think him better; and he told me—No.

When you answered the last question but one, had you in your memory the circumstances you have mentioned?

I had not; I do not know that I certainly did say it? but I thought it, and very likely might say it.

Whether those alterations, sent down by a certain personage, were, or were not, suggested by you?

They certainly were not; they were brought down by two ladies.—The paper, as sent up, was concerted among the Physicians then present; was carried up, I believe, by General Gordon, and was returned by the two ladies, I believe.

Do you recollect whether the alterations were made on the same paper on which the account was drawn up by the Doctors, or on different paper sent down?

As well as I remember, it was not altered at all—but proposed by the ladies to be altered.—I believe the alterations were not adopted—I am not sure, but I think not.—I believe the account went to St. James's in the same form.—I really do not charge my memory with it; it was not worth while for me to remember.

Whether Dr. Willis does not conceive the account sent to St. James's to purport to contain the true and exact opinion of the Physicians who sign it, upon the state of his Majesty's health?

Yes; as well as three can agree in opinion.

Do you mean to say, that you signed your name to any statement of the King's situation, to which you do not agree?

If it was not so favourable as I thought, I signed it, rather than have any dispute.

Then, in point of fact, have you signed accounts of the King's health, which, in your own mind and conscience, you did not believe to be correct?

I believe no three Physicians ever writ a prescription for a patient that was exactly conformable to each of their wishes.

Whether you consider the account sent to St. James's as a prescription, or as a statement of facts?

As a statement of facts, as near as we could agree.

Are

Are the Committee to understand that the public have been, in any measure, deceived by those accounts sent to St. James's, as far as the authority of Dr. Willis's name was concerned?

I have done my utmost to prevent their being deceived.

What do you mean by having done your utmost?

I argued with the Physicians as much as I could for other words to be put in, but in vain.

Do you recollect whether the alteration, which you stated to Dr. Warren not to be worth disputing, was a material one?

If I had thought it worth disputing, I should have thought it a material one.

Do you remember what the alteration was?

I cannot answer that, but it may be known.

Whether you have, at any time, made any complaint or protest to any person in authority about the King, or to any of his Majesty's Ministers, upon the subject of the accounts sent to St. James's, or given them information that such accounts were not to be depended upon as correct, as far as your name was concerned?

I do not remember any thing at all about it.

Doctor RICHARD WARREN called in, and examined.

Whether, in his opinion the state of his Majesty's health does, or does not, continue to be such as to render his Majesty incapable either of coming to Parliament, or of attending to public business?

Incapable.

Whether, in his Majesty's disorder, Dr. Warren sees any present signs of convalescence?

No.

What circumstances in your judgment, would constitute a cessation of his Majesty's complaint, as contra distinguished from a cure?

My rule of judging whether a person in this situation is recovering, is as follows:—If the patient recovers his reason, or becomes himself again, only for an hour, I pronounce that the complaint has ceased, and that he is mending; if the next day, or any short time afterwards, the interval becomes two hours, I pronounce him better; if the interval becomes longer and longer, I pronounce him advancing in his cure.

What circumstances, in Dr. Warren's judgment, form a cure?

The patient remaining perfectly himself without any return of his former complaint.

Whether, if nine persons out of ten, placed under the care of a person who had made this branch of medicine his particular study, had recovered, if they were placed under his care within three months after they had begun to be afflicted with the disorder, Doctor Warren would not deem such persons either very skilful or very successful.

If he was a sensible man I should deem him skilful; if he was not, I should deem him successful.

Whether Dr. Warren has not understood from Dr. Willis, that he was more confirmed lately, in his hopes of his Majesty's recovery, than he was at the time of his former examination before the Committee?

Dr.

Dr. Willis spoke very sanguinely of a speedy cure, soon after the time of his former examination; he has held the same language ever since, but spoke in stronger terms of amendment being actually obtained, last week, than at any other time.

Has Dr. Warren known any instance of any Physician, or other person attending on his Majesty, sending any written account of his Majesty's situation, stating his Majesty to have been in a calm and mending state, at a time when he (Dr. Warren) had reason to know that his Majesty's situation and state were the reverse?

Dr. Willis has written letters to the Prince of Wales, expressing his Majesty to be much better than I apprehended his Majesty to be at that time, declaring progress in cure that I could not discover.

Has Dr. Warren had any discourse, or difference of opinion, with Dr. Willis, respecting any other letter, of the same description, to any other person?

I was informed that Dr. Willis wrote such a letter, at twelve o'clock at night, the day of the debate in the House of Commons; I spoke to Dr. Willis on the subject of this letter the next morning, and told him that he did wrong to write such an account, when it was not true: I afterwards enquired, and could not find that the Doctor had written such a letter, and told him that I had done him an injury in charging him with it, as I could not prove it.

Does Dr. Warren recollect to whom that letter was supposed to be written?

The report was, that it was written to Mr. Pitt.

Does Dr. Warren recollect from whom he received that information?

There was a report current, throughout the town, that Mr. Pitt had read such a letter at White's, at five o'clock in the morning.

Does Dr. Warren recollect what was stated to be the substance of that supposed letter?

In general terms, that his Majesty was greatly better, and was likely to be speedily well.

Does Dr. Warren recollect, in what terms he stated to Dr. Willis his disapprobation of his writing such a letter, or the substance of them?

That, as his Majesty was remarkably bad, and under coercion that night, he could consider it only as a political letter, which he thought wrong from a physician.

When did Dr. Warren tell Dr. Willis that he had done him an injury, in charging him with having written such a letter?

To the best of my recollection, it was the next time of my going to Kew after I had charged him with writing it, which, if so, must have been the second day after the charge.

Had Dr. Warren then had an opportunity of seeing the original letters written to Mr. Pitt, on the day of the debate to which he alluded, and on the following day?

I had seen a letter, written, as I thought, by Dr. Willis's son, dated at half an hour after five in the afternoon of the day of the debate—I do not know whether I saw a letter written the day after or not—I believe I might have done so if I pleased.

Whether the letter which Dr. Warren did see, did contain a just description of his Majesty's situation, according to Dr. Warren's opinion?

When

When I came to Kew the morning following, I was informed by Dr. Willis that his Majesty had had a violent paroxysm that night, which came on at seven o'clock in the evening preceding; but now his Majesty exactly was at half an hour after five, I do not know.

Whether the letter, dated at half an hour after five, gave a favourable account of his Majesty?

To the best of my recollection, it contained a favourable account.

Whether Dr. Warren had any information given him of the time when this letter was received?

I do not remember that I had.

Did Dr. Warren understand, from any of the other attendants on his Majesty, that his Majesty had been, in any part of that day, in a particular amended state?

No.

Did Dr. Willis make any reply, when Dr. Warren told him he had done wrong to write such a letter, when it was not true?

Dr. Willis, by his behaviour, appeared to me at that time to own it.

Whether there has been any direct or indirect attempt made by any of the physicians, at any time, to controul or influence you with respect to the account to be given of his Majesty's situation?

Dr. Willis, on Friday last, made a very unwarrantable use of the name of a great person: I call it unwarrantable, because I cannot believe that he could have authority to use it to influence me, while the Report to be sent to St. James's was composing;

Will Dr. Warren relate the circumstances of that transaction?

The Report proposed to be sent was written thus:—"His Majesty passed yesterday quietly, has had a very good night, and is calm this morning." Dr. Willis desired that some expression might be made use of, indicating that his Majesty was advanced, since the day before, in his cure; I objected to this, because I had ample reason, from my conversation with his Majesty, and from the information which I had received from Mr. Charles Hawkins, to think the contrary true; Dr. Willis then said, "a certain great person will not suffer it to go so, and it will fall upon you."

Are you sure you are correct in these words?

I believe I am: I took the words down as soon as I came home. Dr. Reynolds was present when the words were spoken. I made no observation to Dr. Willis on those words; but, after talking with him a little more on the subject of his Majesty, composed, together with Dr. Reynolds, the following Report:—"His Majesty passed yesterday much in the same manner as he did the day before; has had a very good night; and is this morning as he was yesterday." Dr. Reynolds, Dr. Willis, and Warren, signed this Report; it was sent up stairs, and was returned, with an order to change the words, "as he was yesterday," into "continues to mend." Dr. Warren desired the honour of an audience; and, upon stating his reasons why no amendment had taken place, the words "continues to mend," were given up, and the sentence, "is this morning in a comfortable way," was substituted in their place.

When Dr. Willis used these expressions, "a certain Great Person will not suffer it to go so, and it will fall upon you;" whether Dr. Warren understood those words to convey to him, that a perseverance.

in his opinion, would draw upon him the displeasure of the Great Person alluded to?

I was clear that Dr. Willis meant I should think so.

Whether the fear of the displeasure of that Great Person would, or would not, be a powerful motive of action with Dr. Warren, in any case where his conscience and honour did not prevent him paying attention to such a motive?

It most certainly would.

Were the words Dr. Warren stated to have been given up, given up immediately after his stating his objections?

After I had stated my objections, and supported them with several arguments, the words were given up; and upon my saying, "that though his Majesty was not mended since yesterday, yet that he was in a comfortable way this morning, which I hoped tended to a cure," the word "comfortable" was immediately adopted.

Whether, upon Dr. Warren's stating, that he objected to those words, they were immediately given up? or, Whether there was any inclination shewn to induce Dr. Warren to sign the altered Report, after he had stated that he objected to the alteration?

There was no inclination shewn to give up the words, till the word "comfortable" had been used,

Is the Committee to understand then, that during that period in which it was understood that Dr. Warren objected, but the arguments upon which he objected were not understood, an inclination was still shewn to induce him to sign the altered Report?

The Great Person seemed to be so strongly persuaded, that there was a real amendment that morning, that it was necessary to produce several arguments to convince that Person of the contrary; until that conviction was obtained, there appeared an expectation, that I should adopt the words "continues to mend."

Whether Dr. Warren did, or did not, peremptorily refuse to sign the altered Report?

No;—that Great Person adopted the word "comfortable," and I immediately retired to put it into the Report.

Whether, subsequently to this audience, any thing passed relative to this transaction?

Yes;—Lady Harcourt, and Lady Charlotte Finch, followed me down stairs, and enquired of me, who the person was from whom I had my information relative to his Majesty's health that morning? I answered, from Mr. Charles Hawkins. When Mr. Charles Hawkins appeared, he was asked by the two ladies what he had said to me that morning respecting his Majesty's health? He gave them an account, and they retired. The next time that I went down to Kew, I was treated with marks of attention and respect that I had not received for some time before.

Sir LUCAS PEPYS again called in, and examined.

Whether Sir Lucas Pepys does not hold himself responsible in his character to the public, for the truth of the Report sent to St. James's, to which he signs his name?

Certainly

Certainly not for the whole truth ; as we considered it as unnecessary to wound the feelings of her Majesty and the rest of the family, by saying more than was absolutely necessary.

Whether, if there has been any error or imperfection in the accounts sent to St. James's, Sir Lucas Pepys conceives it to have consisted in representing his Majesty's state to be worse than it is ?

Directly the contrary.—I have always endeavoured to represent his Majesty's situation in the most favourable light.

Whether Sir Lucas Pepys considers it to be his duty to take care, as far as depends on him, that the Report sent to St. James's shall convey such an account as may not tend to mislead the public respecting the state of his Majesty's health ?

Till after the examination before the Privy Council, every account was purposely framed to give the public no sort of information of his Majesty's situation. Since that period, we have endeavoured, as much as possible, to represent his Majesty's situation as favourable as possible, consistent with truth, though without mentioning particular circumstances.

Whether, under any explanation of the words " continues to mend," Sir Lucas Pepys would think himself warranted to sign a Report containing those words, if he was not convinced, either by his own observation, or the information of others, that there had been previous signs of amendment as leading to a convalescence ?

Nothing could induce me to sign the words, " continues to mend," unless I had, from my own observations, discovered evident signs of gradual approaches to convalescence, under any explanation whatsoever.

Whether you know when the order mentioned by you yesterday, that no person should be admitted without the leave of Dr. Willis, was first made ?

I cannot justly say whether it was five, six, or seven days ago, but somewhere thereabouts. As far as I can recollect, it must have been on Friday last—I never saw it till I was down the time before last—it was when I came down at four o'clock on Friday.

Do you recollect the terms of the order ?

The purport of it is, that it is ordered that no person shall go into his Majesty's apartment without the leave of one of the Dr. Willis's.

Whether to your knowledge, any improper persons, either by means of the Physicians, or of others, had obtained admission into his Majesty's apartment, to make the issuing such an order necessary ;

I know of no person having been admitted into his Majesty's apartment, except those who are in usual attendance upon him, unless Dr. Willis's son, the Clergyman, may be considered as such ?

Is that son a Physician ?

No.

Whether you have not observed that patients under this malady may enjoy a state of considerable bodily health, the free use of all their bodily organs, and of all the bodily functions, and yet still labour under a mental distemper ?

Undoubtedly.

Whether in this malady there may not be a temporary and partial use of understanding, when at the same time the general mental faculties continue much deranged ?

Certainly,

Certainly.

Whether you have not observed, that the favourable circumstances which occur in one day, have frequently been overturned the next?

Continually.

• Sir GEORGE BAKER called in, and examined. •

Whether in his opinion, the state of his Majesty's health does, or does not, continue to be such as to render his Majesty incapable, either of coming to Parliament, or of attending to public business?

Certainly.

Can you inform the Committee, whether a majority of persons, who have been afflicted with this malady at his Majesty's time of life, have recovered?

I can only answer that by conjecture; I believe not.

Whether the medical attendants are persons who could give the most correct information to this Committee, of the fact how his Majesty passed the night?

Certainly, if the medical attendant did not sit up, he could not.

Whether you do not think that those four medical attendants on his Majesty are capable of giving information, respecting his Majesty's situation, worthy the attention of this Committee, in addition to the information they receive from his Majesty's Physicians?

The four medical attendants are very sensible men; each of them stays in the House 24 hours in his turn; and I think each of them capable of giving this Committee satisfaction with respect to any questions they may ask.

Whether they do not examine into the state and manner in which his Majesty passed the night, previous to the arrival of the Physicians?

They used to do so till lately.

How long have they ceased to do so, and upon what account?

I think it was last Saturday morning, that I saw a paper stuck up over the chimney of the pages room, with an order to this effect; "No one, but the pages, is allowed to go to his Majesty, except introduced by one of the two Dr. Willis's".

Does Sir George Baker know of any instances of improper persons having been introduced to his Majesty's apartment, either by the Physicians or others, to cause the issuing of that order?

No.

By whose authority was that order issued?

I asked Dr. Willis; he said that he wrote it, without any further answer.

Did Sir George Baker converse with any of the medical attendants respecting that order, or understand from them that they were excluded by it from entering, as they were used to do, his Majesty's apartment, unless with the permission of Dr. Willis or his son?

It was generally understood by the Physicians that the order was intended to exclude them and the medical attendants, unless introduced by Dr. Willis or his son.

If there has been any error or imperfection in the account sent to St. James's, does Sir George Baker conceive it to have consisted in representing his Majesty's situation worse than it is?

“ If there has been any error or imperfection, it has been in representing his Majesty’s state better than it is.

Whether the Physicians, or some of them, since this order was made, have daily seen his Majesty ?

Always, with Dr. Willis.

Whether, previous to the issuing of that order, and since Dr. Willis has been attending his Majesty, Sir George Baker has not had frequent opportunities of seeing and conferring with his Majesty, not in the presence of Dr. Willis or his son.

When his Majesty first came from Windsor to Kew, I conceived that I was at liberty to visit his Majesty at any time; but afterwards I found it was disagreeable to Dr. Willis that I should go in without him, and therefore I have of late very seldom, if ever, visited his Majesty but in company with Dr. Willis.

Does Sir George Baker conceive, that Dr. Warren, or himself, or any other Physician attending his Majesty, would now be deprived of the same means of information, respecting the state of his Majesty in their absence, upon which Dr. Warren then formed, in part, his judgment, unless with the permission or consent of Dr. Willis or his son ?

If that order, set up by Dr. Willis, takes place, it will not be in the power of any of those medical gentlemen to give us any information.

How long have you been employed as Physician to his Majesty ?

Ever since the death of Sir Richard Jebb—about a year and a half, I think.

Has Sir George Baker attended his Majesty only, or has he been employed in attending the Royal Family ?

Both his Majesty and all the Royal Family; I mean the family at Windsor, and at Kew.

Is Sir George Baker now employed to attend on the Royal Family ?

Only the King—not the Royal Family.

DOCTOR HENRY REVELL REYNOLDS called in, and examined.

Whether, in his opinion, the state of his Majesty’s health does, or does not, continue to be such as to render his Majesty incapable either of coming to Parliament, or of attending to public business ?

It does render him incapable, unquestionably.

Would Dr. Reynolds think a person, who has made this branch of medicine his particular study for twenty-eight years, and under whose care nine out of ten of the persons who have been put under that care within three months after they had begun to be afflicted with that disorder had recovered, a person skilful in such cases ?

Yes, if I could believe the fact.

Whether, to induce Dr. Reynolds to believe such a fact, he would not require some further evidence than the assertion of the person who stated himself to have been so successful ?

I certainly should require further evidence than the assertion of any man, to induce me to believe such a fact.

Whether, in the case before us, a state of quiet has not often succeeded a state of irritation, and a state of irritation a state of quiet—
and

and what was the difference observed in each state with regard to mentality in this case?

There have been frequently such vicissitudes, and there have been nearer approaches to reason in a state of quiet than in a state of turbulence; but I think not invariably so; this is to the best of my recollection at present.

Was Dr. Reynolds present at a discussion which took place on Friday the 2d instant, between Dr. Willis and Dr. Warren, respecting the account which was that day sent to St. James's?

I was.

Relate what passed on that occasion?

When Dr. Warren came down to Kew on Friday morning the 2d instant, I saw him before he visited his Majesty, and told him how I found his Majesty the evening before, and that morning when I visited him. After Dr. Warren had waited upon his Majesty, he came into the room where we usually consult, and, after agreeing upon the prescription for the day, we proceeded to consider what report we should send to St. James's; there were then present in the room, Dr. Warren, Dr. John Willis, and myself; and, as nearly as I can recollect, Dr. Warren and I agreed upon this report: "His Majesty passed yesterday quietly, has had a very good night, and is calm this morning." I wrote it, read it over, and Dr. John Willis objected to it, alledging that it was not descriptive of his Majesty's amendment, for that he certainly was much better, having, on the preceding day and on that morning, said many pertinent and rational things. Dr. Warren contended, that several things said properly proved nothing; but that some things said immediately afterwards improperly were decisive. Dr. John Willis contended, that a mitigation of symptoms was amendment. Dr. Warren did not consider that any amendment could take place till there was an interval of an hour, or more, of reason and judgment. While they were in this argument, Dr. Willis, senior, came in, was shewn the report intended to be sent to St. James's, and did not at first reading it disapprove of it; but upon Dr. John Willis's observing, that it did not contain so favourable an account of his Majesty's situation, as the report which had been sent on the preceding day, he objected to it, contending that there was a material amendment, which ought to be reported.—Dr. Warren and myself, not seeing his Majesty's state in the same light, thought that the report held out sufficient hopes to the public. Doctors Willis (I think both, but I am certain Dr. Willis, senior) observed that the Queen would not suffer it to go so; and I cannot exactly recollect what words immediately followed, but Dr. Willis, senior, addressing himself to Dr. Warren, said, "that it would fall upon him:" That expression I particularly remember.—We talked again upon the subject; and drew up the following report: "His Majesty passed yesterday much in the same manner as he did the day before, has had a very good night, and is this morning as he was yesterday." This report was carried up stairs, and when returned, it was accompanied with a desire that we would add to the end of the last sentence, "continuing mending:" I speak to the best of my recollection.—This seemed to Dr. Warren and myself more than the state of his Majesty authorized us to say. Dr. Warren therefore desired the honour of an audience of her Majesty, which was granted;

and when he returned, the last part of the report was altered as follows: "and is this morning in a comfortable way," instead of "is this morning as he was yesterday." I speak from memory—I have no notes. Dr. Willis continued arguing warmly with Dr. Warren, while I was writing the three reports—they were in the next room to that in which I was writing—the door wide open; and I heard Dr. Willis say to Dr. Warren, amongst other expressions of disagreement with him in opinion, that if Dr. Warren held the opinion which he maintained, that it impeached his common sense, or something else; to which Dr. Warren made no reply, only desired the persons present, among whom were Lady Harcourt, Lady Charlotte Finch, and General Gordon, to observe that Dr. Willis had made use of such an expression. Dr. Warren conducted himself, through the whole of this unpleasant business with admirable temper.

Should not Dr. Reynolds consider the signing his name to any account sent to St. James's which tended to mislead the public into a less favourable opinion of his Majesty's state than the fact warranted, as equally culpable in him, as the giving untrue information to this Committee?

I should think it highly culpable to do so.

When did Dr. Reynolds first hear of the order, that no person should be admitted into his Majesty's apartment, without the permission of Dr. Willis, or his son?

I first observed that written order fixed above the chimney, in the pages room, on Sunday last.

Does Dr. Reynolds know when it was first put up?

I understood it was put up on Friday last; it was not put up when I was last in that room on Friday.

Was that the day on which the difference of opinion happened between Dr. Willis and Warren?

It was.

Did Dr. Reynolds or Dr. Warren in any measure ground the opinion, which induced them that day to differ from Dr. Willis, upon information received from Mr. Charles Hawkins, or other of the attendants, who were then permitted to have access to his Majesty's apartment?

I formed my opinion from what I personally observed in his Majesty.

Did Dr. Reynolds hear Dr. Warren quote the authority of Mr. Hawkins's representation of the state in which the King had been in, in support of his objection to signing the altered report?

I did hear him.

Does Dr. Reynolds know, or did he ever hear, of any improper persons having intruded, or being admitted, into his Majesty's apartment, to make the issuing of that prohibition necessary?

I do not know any thing that has made that prohibition necessary or proper.

By what authority did Dr. Reynolds understand that notice or order to have been fixed up in the Pages room?

As it did not seem to me to be signed by any person of authority, I paid no attention to it myself, and made no other enquiries about it, except who put it there; and was told Dr. Willis; but I took a copy of it. I did hear Dr. Willis to-day, in the outer room here, say that it was put up by the authority of the Lord Chancellor, which I did

not

not hear before; he said so in my presence, and, I think, in that of Dr. Gisborne.

Whether, in Dr. Reynolds' opinion, the four medical assistants, who are in constant attendance on his Majesty, are not competent to give information worthy the attention of this Committee, in addition to that of the Physicians?

I think them all men of sense and judgment, and believe them to be men of integrity.

Doctor THOMAS GISBORNE called in, and examined.

Whether, in his opinion, the state of his Majesty's health does, or does not, continue to be such as to render his Majesty incapable, either of coming to Parliament, or of attending to public business?

I think him incapable of coming to Parliament, or of attending to public business.

When did you see or hear of the order, that no person should be admitted into his Majesty's apartments without the leave of Dr. Willis or his son?

I forget; I believe about a week ago,

Do you know, or have you ever heard, that any improper persons have been admitted into his Majesty's apartment, to make that order necessary?

No; I know of no improper persons.

By what authority do you understand that order to have been issued?

I was told it was put up at Dr. Willis's desire.

Whether you ever learned what authority Dr. Willis had for putting up that order?

I think I heard him say he thought too many people went in to the King, and that the Chancellor advised him to do that, or something else, to prevent it.

Had too many, or any improper people been admitted, to your knowledge?

Not to my knowledge;—I was not constantly there, therefore cannot tell.

Were not three persons of Dr. Willis's own family, himself included, of the number of those who went in to the King?

Yes.

Is there not one of that family who is no medical assistant?

One of them is a Clergyman, and, I believe, does not call himself a Physician.

Did Dr. Gisborne understand, by that order, that the Physicians themselves were not to be permitted to see the King, without Dr. Willis's or his son's permission?

The words of the paper are, that no persons, except the pages, shall be permitted.

Then you did understand it to extend to the Physicians?

Yes.

Does Dr. Gisborne, when he goes to Kew, make enquiry of all or any of the four medical attendants, who are in constant waiting on his Majesty, to assist himself by their information in forming his opinion on the King's state?

Yes, I do.

Does Dr. Gilborne conceive, that he should be deprived of the means of material information, if all those Gentlemen were excluded from access to his Majesty's apartment?

Yes.

Whether, in Dr. Gilborne's opinion, the four medical assistants, who are in constant attendance on his Majesty, are not competent to give information worthy the attention of this Committee, in addition to that of the Physicians?

Yes, surely.

The Rev. Doctor FRANCIS WILLIS again called in, and examined.

Dr. Willis having said, in his examination before the Committee, that he kept a house for twenty-eight years for the reception of persons afflicted with this disorder; whether he can give to the Committee an account of the gross number of persons entertained in his house, from his first admitting such patients to the present time?

I can give no account.

If you can give no account at present, have you no means, by consulting your papers, of giving that information to the Committee?

Not any—I have not kept any account at all.

Can you inform the Committee what number of persons have been dismissed from your house as radically cured, from the beginning of your undertaking this business?

I can give no account; nor have I been confined to one house or ten houses, because I put the patients to such places as suited their pecuniary circumstances.

Having said, that this business was not confined to one, but to many houses, whether you can give any account, upon the whole, of the number of persons radically cured?

Not at all.

Doctor RICHARD WARREN again called in, and examined.

Whether Dr. Warren has observed any difference in his Majesty, at such times as he has seen and conversed with his Majesty in the presence of Dr. Willis or his son, and at such times, when neither of those Gentlemen were present?

A very great difference; when Dr. Willis or his son are present, his Majesty is under great awe; when they are absent, he talks and acts very differently.

Since the order alluded to, has Dr. Warren seen his Majesty, except in the presence of one of the Dr. Willis's?

Yesterday I desired Dr. John Willis to retire, while I was with his Majesty, that I might observe the difference of his behaviour, and report it to the Committee, if required—Dr. Willis retired accordingly, and his Majesty immediately held a language very different from that which he used while Dr. Willis was present.

Was any other person in the room besides Dr. Warren, when Dr. Willis retired?

Two of the pages.

Whether,

Whether, notwithstanding the order alluded to, Dr. Warren still continues to think himself fully authorized to visit his Majesty as often as he shall judge necessary, without either of the Dr. Willis's being present?

I have made it a rule, ever since Dr. Willis came, not to go in without asking the Doctor, or his son, whether it was a proper time; but I should go in, notwithstanding that order, if I thought there was a necessity for it.

Whether Dr. Warren has ever been present with his Majesty, when he has entertained himself with reading?

Yes.

Has it been for any considerable space of time, and upon a subject which would require much thinking?

I have never seen him read more than a line and a half at a time.

Has that been lately?

The third time from hence that I was there—on Sunday last, I think.

Whether Dr. Warren thinks that the King's malady is less at those times of reading than at any other times?

His manner of reading, when I have been present, is a strong proof of the existence of his malady.

Whether any fever has come upon his Majesty since the commencement of his malady?

Yes.

Has the disorder abated, in any remarkable manner, in consequence of that fever?

No.

Has not his Majesty had frequent and refreshing sleep from time to time?

Yes.

Has not that been known to be of sovereign use in the cure of this malady?

A person sick in this manner is not likely to get well without sleep; but he may frequently have refreshing sleep without advancing in his cure.

How has it been in this case?

Sleep has produced no advancement towards the cure.

Has any rational mode of controul and coercion been omitted?

Not that I know of, since his Majesty came to Kew.

Whether any progress towards a cure has been observed in consequence of this controul?

No.

Whether Dr. Warren, in the difference of opinion which he had with Dr. Willis on Friday the 2d instant, told Dr. Willis that he should think no person better, till they were perfectly well, under such an indisposition?

No.

Doctor WARREN again called in, and examined.

Have you seen the King to-day?

Yes.

In

In what state did you find his Majesty this morning, and what account had you of the antecedent day?

I found his Majesty in a very irritated state this morning, and was informed, that he has had, in the whole, but five hours sleep in the three last nights—that having had no sleep at all, or very little, the night before last, it was proposed to give him something last night to compose and quiet him—such a medicine was written down, but was not given him.—It was proposed yesterday to carry his Majesty out to take the air—I was not informed that this was mentioned in the consultation in the morning, but I was informed by Dr. John Willis, that his Majesty's pulse was yesterday 120 in a minute—I was likewise informed, that he had lain all night under coercion, and had sweated a great deal. Some prudent person advised his Majesty should not be carried out to take the air.—I have reason to think that the pulse became quieter in the course of the day.—I found it this morning between 106 and 108 in a minute, and observed marks of fever on his Majesty's tongue. Dr. John Willis told me, that he had promised to carry his Majesty out to-day, and desired me to consider, whether the not complying with his expectations might not irritate him a great deal.—I was sorry that he had had such a promise; I was necessitated to take the least of two evils, and advised that his Majesty should not be carried out, the thermometer being 17, as I am informed, below the freezing point; and particularly, as Dr. Willis has always observed, that keeping the pores open always does his Majesty great good. His Majesty this morning suffered me to come from him with great difficulty, and could not easily be prevailed upon by me to let go my hand.

When did you see his Majesty before?

The day before yesterday—on Saturday morning.

In what state was he then?

His Majesty had some fever then—pulse between 80 and 90, I believe; but was very irritable, could not be kept to the same object for any space of time—tried to play at cards with me, but could not, and shewed many strong marks of his distemper.

Whether the presence of any object, which tends to excite strong emotions in his Majesty's mind, is favourable, or otherwise, to his recovery?

Unfavourable.

Has there, in fact, been any introduction of persons, to your knowledge, which had a tendency to excite such emotions, and to produce such irritations?

Yes.—I should like to give an account of the first consultation we had with Dr. Willis.—The day that I introduced Dr. Willis to the King, I summoned the rest of his Majesty's Physicians to a consultation at my House.—It was there first settled as a principle, that quiet of body and mind were to be endeavoured to be obtained by every means possible; and that every thing should be carefully kept from his Majesty that might tend to prevent this desirable acquisition.—It was settled that a regular coercion should be made use of—that every thing should be kept from his Majesty that was likely to excite any emotion—that though his Majesty had not shewn any signs of an intention to injure himself, yet that it was absolutely necessary, considering the sudden impulses to which his distemper subjects people, to put every thing out of the

the way that could do any mischief.—To all this Dr. Willis assented—yet the very next day he put a razor into his Majesty's hand, and a penknife.—When I saw the Doctor next, I asked him how he could venture to do such a thing—he said, he shuddered at what he had done.—As he made use of this expression, I did not think it necessary to say much to him upon the subject.—On the 12th of December, as I apprehend, the King took a walk in the garden, and some of the Royal Children were shown to him—this produced a considerable emotion, which was accompanied with acts demonstrating that emotion, as I was informed, to the best of my memory, by Mr. Keate.—Notwithstanding this effect of seeing the Children, Dr. Willis, the next day, introduced that Person, whose great and amiable qualities we all know must necessarily make her the dearest and tenderest object of his Majesty's thoughts.—The interview was short: his Majesty was soon afterwards in a great state of irritation, and the strict coercion was, I believe, for the first time actually applied that night—the blisters were put on that night likewise. The next time that I saw Dr. Willis, I spoke to him upon this subject with some degree of sharpness, because it was contrary to my opinion, and contrary to what had been settled in consultation; for it had been settled, that whatever could be done by deliberation, should be referred to consultation; that the conduct of his Majesty, in the interior room, should be left to Dr. Willis's discretion, because it did not admit of deliberation.—I do not know that he convinced the Doctor that his opinion was wrong, but that the act was contrary to what was laid down in consultation could not be denied.—I was always considered, by the highest authority, as the first Physician, and therefore thought myself particularly responsible: I thought myself obliged to look into, and to enquire after every thing that related to his Majesty: I did not suppose myself in a different situation upon the arrival of Dr. Willis, and therefore took the liberty of speaking to him with some degree of authority.—I remember, when his three attendants arrived, I sent for them into the Physicians room, examined them very carefully, particularly as to the temper with which they conducted themselves towards those whom they attended, and spoke to them, as they were strangers to me, in such a manner as to let them know that their conduct would be strictly observed.—My being first Physician made me talk to Dr. Willis about every thing that I heard of, that did not appear to me to be quite accurate, and sometimes led to disputes.—I informed the Doctor, that he was there in a double capacity, as Physician, and attendant on his Majesty, in the interior room—that I must take my share in directing whatever related to him in the capacity of Physician, though I should not interfere with respect to the conduct of his Majesty in the interior room.—Not many days after this transaction I observed a book in his Majesty's hands, which affected me much, and immediately determined me to bring a charge against Dr. Willis, for what I thought bad practice.—I do not mean to bring the story of this book as a fault, because I believe there was no intention to convey such a book to his Majesty: It was the play of King Lear, not in a volume of Shakespeare, but it was a corrected Lear, by Colman, and mixed with his plays. I can have no reason to think, that Dr. Willis could suspect that such a play was in that volume.—His Majesty told me that Dr. Willis brought him the book, and Dr. Willis did not

not deny it, when I spoke to him on the subject.—I do not bring this as a fault, but it was the circumstance that determined me to put in execution what I had been thinking of before, with respect to Dr. Willis; for his Majesty's observation on the book affected me strangely. I carried an account of this to the Prince of Wales, and he desired me, as he had done in every case of difficulty that had happened, from the beginning of the illness, to lay the affair before the Lord Chancellor. The Lord Chancellor went to Kew, I believe; and the result was, when I saw the Lord Chancellor, that the rules of the consultation should be strictly obeyed. Dr. Willis has, a second time, introduced the same great and amiable person. I was informed, that some degree of irritation came on in the night; but having collected, as I thought, from several small circumstances, that the power of introducing persons to his Majesty was to be left entirely to Dr. Willis, I did not make any complaint about it.

Can you ascertain the time of the last interview?

I cannot.

What time of day was the first interview?

I apprehend the first interview was in the evening—and that the interview happened, not only without consulting his Majesty's Physicians collectively, but that Dr. Gisborne, who was in the house that evening, and sitting in the anti-chamber when the introduction took place, was not consulted upon the occasion.

Had you any particular account of that interview, or of the effect which it produced at the time?

If I mistake not, Dr. Willis informed me it lasted about five minutes—that, during that five minutes, every thing passed agreeably, but that something was then said, that induced Dr. Willis to put an end to the visit.

Had you any account of the circumstances or motives which led to that interview?

I had no account previous to the interview.—Afterwards, in talking upon the subject with Dr. Willis, he mentioned his motives, or reasons, for thinking the interview would be of service; which I could not agree to.

THE conduct of the Parliament of Ireland being so directly opposite to that of this Kingdom, it is thought necessary to mention, that, after a warm debate, a Motion was carried in both Houses of Parliament, and in the lower one by a very great majority, to address the Prince of Wales to take upon him the Regency without any Restrictions. The address was transmitted to the Lord Lieutenant.

FEBRUARY 19.

THIS day both Houses of Parliament having waited on his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, with their Address to the Prince of Wales, desiring his Royal Highness to take upon himself the government of this realm, during his Majesty's present indisposition; and having requested his Excellency to transmit the same into Great Britain, his Excellency was pleased to return the following answer:

" My Lords and Gentlemen,

" Under the impression which I feel of my official duty, and of the oath which I have taken as Chief Governor of Ireland, I am obliged to decline transmitting this Address into Great Britain.

" For I cannot consider myself warranted to lay before the Prince of Wales an Address, purporting to invest his Royal Highness with powers to take upon him the government of this realm before he shall be enabled by law so to do."

In the HOUSE OF LORDS on the 20th.

The Duke of Leinster moved, " That as his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant had declined transmitting the Address of both Houses of Parliament to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Commissioners be appointed from this House to carry the said Address to his Royal Highness."

This Motion was carried by a majority of 19; and the Duke of Leinster and Lord Charlemont were appointed.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on the same Day.

A message was sent to the Lords with a Resolution of a similar nature, and requesting them to appoint Members of their own body to accompany the Commons in presenting the Address to his Royal Highness. An answer was returned by two Masters in Chancery, " That the Lords had agreed with the Commons in their Resolution, and had named his Grace the Duke of Leinster and Lord Charlemont from their House, as Commissioners to wait upon his Royal Highness. The Commons then named

Right Hon. J. O'Neil,
Right Hon. Thomas Conolly,
Right Hon. Wm. Brab. Ponsonby, and
Mr. James Stuart, of Killymoon.

Mr.

Mr. Grattan then said, that since the Lord Lieutenant had refused to transmit the Address of the two Houses, it became necessary for them to vindicate their conduct and assert their rights; he therefore moved a Resolution to the following effect—"That the two Houses of Parliament having addressed his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, to take upon himself the government of this realm, on behalf and in the name of his Majesty, during his Majesty's indisposition, had exercised an undoubted right, and discharged an indispensable duty, to which in the present emergency, they alone were competent."

This Motion brought on a long debate. On the Question being put, the yeas were 130 and the nays 71.

Yeas	—	130
Noes	—	71

Majority for the Motion 59

Mr. Grattan, after congratulating the House on the spirit with which they maintained their dignity, said, it was now necessary to take notice of the Lord Lieutenant, by passing a censure on the manner in which he had answered the House. He therefore moved, "That his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant's answer to the message of both Houses of Parliament, requesting him to transmit into England their Address to the Prince of Wales, was ill-advised, contains an unwarrantable and unconstitutional censure on both Houses; and attempts to question the undoubted privileges of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and of the Commons of Ireland."

This was opposed, and the *Attorney General* moved an amendment as follows: "Although this House cannot feel the impression of official duty, nor the obligation of the oath under which his Excellency was obliged to act, and although this House is not informed, that his Royal Highness is invested with the Regency of England."

The Question being put on the Amendment, there appeared,

Ayes for it	—	78
Noes	—	119

Mr. T. Burgh then moved a further Amendment to follow the word Ireland, "To appoint a Regent of Ireland without law, and before he was appointed Regent of England."

The Amendment was negatived without a division.

The main Question was then put and carried,

Ayes	—	115
Noes	—	83

Majority for the vote of censure 32

THE following the Addrefs, as prefented to his Royal Highnefs by the before-mentioned Lords and Gentlemen.

I R E L A N D.

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS GEORGE PRINCE OF WALES.

The humble Addrefs of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Knights, Citizens, and Burgeffes, in Parliament affembled.

“ May it please your Royal Highnefs,

We, his Majesty's moft dutiful and loyal fubjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons of Ireland in Parliament affembled, beg leave to approach your Royal Highnefs, with hearts full of the moft loyal and affectionate attachment to the perfon and government of your Royal Father, to exprefs the deepeft and moft grateful fenfe of the numerous bleffings which we have enjoyed under that illuftrious Houfe, whofe acceffion to the throne of thefe realms, has eftablifhed civil and conftitutional liberties upon a bafis which, we truft, will never be fhaken; and at the fame time to condole with your Royal Highnefs upon the grievous malady with which it has pleafed Heaven to afflict the beft of Sovereigns.

“ We have, however, the confolation of reflecting, that this fevere calamity hath not been vifited upon us, until the virtues of your Royal Highnefs have been fo matured as to enable your Royal Highnefs to difcharge the duties of an important truft, for the performance whereof, the eyes of all his Majesty's fubjects of both kingdoms are directed to your Royal Highnefs.

“ We therefore beg leave humbly to request, that your Royal Highnefs will be pleafed to take upon you the government of this realm, during the continuance of his Majesty's prefent indispoftion, and no longer; and under the ftyle and title of Prince Regent of Ireland, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, to exercife and adminifter, according to the laws and conftitution of this kingdom, all regal powers, jurifdictions, and prerogatives, to the Crown and Government thereof belonging.”

ANSWER of the PRINCE OF WALES to the IRISH COMMISSIONERS.

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ The Addrefs from the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons of Ireland, which you have prefented to me, demands my warmeft and earneft thanks. If any thing could add to the efteem and affection I have for the people of Ireland, it would be the loyal and affectionate attachment to the perfon and government of the King, my father, manifefted in the Addrefs of the two Houfes.

“ What they have done, and their manner of doing it, is a new proof of their undiminished duty to his Majesty, of their uniform attachment

tachment to the House of Brunswick, and their constant attention to maintain inviolate the concord and connection between the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, so indispensibly necessary to the prosperity, the happiness, and the liberties of both.

"If in conveying my grateful sentiments on their conduct, in relation to the King, my father, and to the inseparable interest of the two kingdoms, I find it impossible to express adequately my feelings on what relates to myself, I trust you will not be the less disposed to believe, that I have an understanding to comprehend the value of what they have done, an heart that must remember, and principles that will not suffer me to abuse their confidence.

"But the fortunate change which has taken place in the circumstance which gave occasion to the Address agreed to by the Lords and Commons of Ireland, induces me to delay, for a few days, giving a final answer, trusting, that the joyful event of his Majesty's resuming the personal exercise of his Royal Authority, may then render it only necessary for me to repeat those sentiments of gratitude and affection to the loyal and generous people of Ireland, which I feel indelibly imprinted on my heart."

The Duke of Leinster read the Address and Resolutions of the Irish Parliament to the Prince of Wales in a very correct and animated manner. The Prince delivered his answer with much dignity and effect.



(1718)