

The Hon. Company's ships Experiment, Capt. John Logan, and Tigris, Captain Macdonagh, will probably be dispatched for Europe early in September. Both ships, we understand, are to touch at the Cape, and present a favourable opportunity to Invalids or others, desirous of proceeding to that Settlement.

A Sloop of War arrived at Kedjee on Monday last, from Madras, whence she sailed on the 19th inst. At that date there was no particular news, nor any further arrivals from Europe, or the Coast.

Mr. Pringle, formerly Agent of the Hon. Company at the Cape, had been re-appointed to that Office, and was to proceed to his station by the March fleet.

Gen. Nicol, Lieut. Colonels Palmer and White, and Major Mercer, of the Bengal Artillery; Mr. Hope and Mr. Sanford, of the Bengal Civil Service, who were at the Cape on leave of absence, had derived much benefit from the change of climate.

No accounts had been received at the Cape, at the date of the present accounts, later than the beginning of February, from St. Helena, at which time the General Stewart, Indianman, from Bengal, had not arrived at the Island.

The ship Anna under British Colours, which arrived in the river on Thursday last from Madras the 8th, and Esqually the 21st ultimo, has got aground on her way to Town, but is expected to be got off.

The French Carrel, owing to the loss of Copper, and the worms getting into her bottom, has become so leaky, as to render Docking necessary. — Had she proceeded to sea, in the state her bottom has been discovered, it is probable she would not have reached the Mauritius.

By the latest Mediterranean accounts, the whole of the Turkish Coasts, from the Dardanelles to Alexandria, was blockaded by a division of the British fleet.

A naval force sufficient to overawe any attempt of the Enemy against Sicily, was in readiness at Malta, where Governor, Sir Alexander Ball, had hoisted his Flag as Port Admiral.

A late London paper offers the following Paragraph, respecting a difference of opinion, among the principal members of Administration, on subjects of high importance, and which may probably lead to a change in the Cabinet.

“We understand, from good authority, that in consequence of certain representations which have been recently made in a most respectable quarter, to the head of the present Administration, respecting the state of Ireland, and the sentiments of the Roman Catholics, taken as a body, the Duke of Portland, Mr. Canning, Lord Castlereagh, and some others, are convinced of the necessity of immediately adopting a more enlarged and liberal system of policy in regard to them, than what has been hitherto acted upon, and that Mr. Canning, who is justly acknowledged to be the most efficient Member of the Cabinet, has ventured to carry these representations to the foot of the Throne. The same conscientious scruples which have been before manifested, are still understood to exist with undiminished force; and it is rumored that the result of the suggestions made upon this delicate but interesting subject, was a communication to Mr. Perceval (who as well as Lord Hawkebury, differs with Mr. Canning in opinion), that a Noble Lord, who formerly presided over the King's Councils, still possesses his confidence. This may be regarded as a hint by no means equivocal, of the quarter where they are to apply, should a change be found to be necessary.

“We may, perhaps return to the subject on Monday. At present we forbear to make any observation upon the report, which we have simply stated as it is in circulation.”

To this article the Bombay Gazette of the 8th inst. subjoins the following communication:

In addition to the above extract from the English Papers; we have had a private communication from a quarter of unquestionable authority, which goes still further respecting the differences prevailing in the Cabinet, not only on the subject of the Irish Catholics, which seems destined to destroy Ministers; but on the mode of receiving Louis XVIII. whom Mr. Canning was desirous of receiving as King of France, while Lord Hawkebury and Mr. Perceval dreaded too wide a departure from the caution of their Amiens principles. The divisions on the latter subject was so considerable, that the Newspapers known to be respectively attached to Lord Hawkebury and Mr. Canning, had opened their battery against the partiality of the one, and the rashness of the other, Lord Wellesley's friends had disclaimed the Attack on Copenhagen as his measure, and it was generally ascribed to the secret counsels of Lord Melville. Mr. Willerforce's friends and Lord Sidmouth's voted against the attack on Copenhagen.

COLUMBUS.] Arrived July 4th, Brig Gettray, Capt. D. Sutherland, from Tuncoreen. — 5th Cutter Trial, Capt. J. G. Pistorson, from Madras.

DISCOVERY IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

The Royal Hydrographical Office of Madrid has published, by command of the Prince of Peace, in the Gazette of that city the following notice, relative to a discovery recently made in the South Seas.—“The frigate La Paja, belonging to the Philippine Company, and commanded by Don John Baptiste Moncey, on her voyage from Manila to Lima, discovered on the 18th of February, 1806, a group of Islands, the southernmost of which is situated in 3 deg. 29 m. N. lat. and 162 deg. 5 m. E. long. from Cadiz. These Islands, 29 in number, occupy a space of ten leagues from N. E. to S. W. and are separated by channels, one or two leagues in breadth. They are low; woody, and intersected with rivers. Their inhabitants are of the most pacific disposition. The first approached the frigate, to the number of 21, in two canoes. When they came within musket shot, they ceased rowing, and held some cocoanuts towards the Spaniards, shouting and making signs. The frigate closed her sails, and hoisted the Spanish colours. This manoeuvre having apparently excited some apprehensions in the Islanders, the Spanish colours were struck, and a white flag was hoisted, the crew, at the same time calling and making signs to the canoes to approach. They accordingly came along-side, and gave the Spaniards some cocoanuts, without demanding any thing in return, but some of them could be persuaded to come on-board. The crew of the frigate then distributed among them some old knives, iron rings, and pieces of red cloth; and this liberality excited much joy and gratitude in these good people, that they immediately stripped their canoes to make presents to the Spaniards, their nets; their fish-hooks, their cocoanut-shells, which served them for cups, their enormous hats, made of the leaves of the palm-tree, were all in a moment removed on board of the frigate; and they at length proceeded to strip themselves of their only garment, fastened round their waist in order to testify their gratitude to their benefactors. Still they were not content with themselves, and gave the Spaniards to understand that they would return to their island to fetch other presents, and requested that the frigate would wait for them. These Indians are tall, well made, robust, and active. They are of an olive colour, have flat noses, black curled hair, but of considerable length. In each canoe was a venerable old man, naked like the others; and who appeared to be their chief. One very remarkable circumstance is, that these two old men were white, and had aquiline noses. They had rather the air of Spaniards than of savages. Captain Monteverde adds, that these Islanders and their aged chiefs bore a considerable resemblance in their features and conduct to the Indians of the Island of St. Bartholomew, and those of Cafa and Ibiati, where he landed in 1800, with the frigate La Philippine, commanded by Don Juan I bergoitia.”

From the EDINBURGH REVIEW. COBBETT'S POSITION REGISTER.

We have not the slightest hesitation in saying, that the doctrines maintained by Mr. Cobbett, for the last four months, and especially since he has espoused the cause of Sir Francis Burdett, are in the highest degree pernicious and reprehensible; and that it is solely for the purpose of exposing and discrediting them, that we have been induced to enter upon our present irksome task. The sum and substance of our objections to the recent numbers of the Political Register, is, that they are all obviously intended to beget a distrust and contempt of every individual connected with public life, except only Sir Francis Burdett and his adherents;—to spread abroad a general discontent and disrespect for the constitution, usages, principles and proceedings of Parliament,—to communicate a very exaggerated and unfair impression of the evils, abuses and inconveniences, which arise from the present system of government,—and to hold out the absolute impossibility of correcting or amending these, without some great internal change, of the nature of a political revolution. Under the present system, Mr. Cobbett maintains, that our only rational feelings, are contempt and detestation of our rulers, and despair of any relief or improvement, except by its total subversion; and with this impression, it will easily be understood, that he looks forward to a revolution, not only without sadness or dismay, but with a kind of vindictive eagerness and delight. He foretells it with much confidence and complacency; and does his utmost, we must say, to accomplish his own prediction. The natural conclusion from all this is, that a state of things so miserable and so desperate, is not worth contending for; and that foreign conquest would be so very great an evil as our rulers would vainly persuade us to imagine. We do not say that Mr. Cobbett directly draws this last conclusion; but it seems to follow inevitably from his premises; and he does make use of expressions, which testify us that he has had it in contemplation, without being much appalled or startled at its aspect. We shall, first, endeavour to satisfy our readers, that we impute these doctrines to our author upon sufficient grounds; and then we shall consider, in how far it is possible for him to justify them on the score either of patriotism or of truth. As to the proof of the fact, it might perhaps

be sufficient to refer, in a general way, to the import of the passages we have already had occasion to quote from the recent Numbers, and particularly to those in which the author expresses his entire assent and approbation of Sir Francis Burdett's addresses to his electors. In these addresses, as well as Mr. Cobbett's defence of them, both the parties who now divide Parliament, are stigmatized as equally possessed by a ferocious spirit of self-interest and individual aggrandisement; and, though differing in every thing else, disposed to unite heartily against any one who might attack the system of jobbing and corruption to which both of them are devoted. Now, these parties, it is to be observed, include every member of either of the Houses of Parliament; and, indeed, very one individual who is at all known to the public in a political capacity,—except only Sir Francis Burdett, and those who professedly adhere to him. Yet both these parties, and all their adherents, are uniformly represented, in the work before us, as corrupted, venal wretches, intent upon fattening on the public money, and never quarrelling in earnest about any thing but their shares of it. The present Ministers, and their adherents, are honoured with the appellation of ‘ousted Treasury-clerks,’ and the no ‘popery faction;’ while all who are opposed to them, are massed under the general name of ‘the romp of whiggism,’ and treated with a still more plentiful shower of contumely and abuse.

That these censures do actually apply to the whole Legislature, and were really intended to have this extensive application, is manifest, we think, from the terms in which they are conceived; but Mr. Cobbett has left no room for doubt on the subject, and has delivered his sentiments of the whole collective assembly, in terms that admit of no misconception. After saying of the late Parliament, that for its treatment of Mr. Burt alone, ‘it deserved a death something more than political,’ and that its proceedings would have become an assembly of bawlers, he adds, ‘I rejoice that it no longer exists. I rejoice that I have an opportunity of speaking my mind of it. But its successor!—No matter! I care not for that!’ &c. &c. Of this successor, however, he favours us with his sentiments by and by, in pretty plain terms. In speaking of the motion for adding Sir Francis Burdett's name to the committee of finance, he says, ‘With respect to the rejection of Sir Francis by the House, the thing was quite general. It was what the people would in such a case expect. Had he not been rejected I should have been extremely sorry; because it would have led me to suspect that all was not right, &c. &c. In a subsequent number, he is pleased to say, ‘I do not the least regret to suppose, that any insinuations, however foul, can stick the character of the House in the opinion of the country; No, the House is not to be affected by insinuations of any sort. Its character has long been such as to set all insinuations at defiance. I venture to assert that its character is far beyond the reach of detraction,’ &c. &c. p. 74. After this, we need not quote any of his sneers at the Honourable House, and its faithful guardianship of the public purse,—or at the House of Lords, where the whole hereditary wisdom and honour of the nation are seated. Still less can it be necessary to retail any of his good old democratical sayings as to the inadequacy of the representation, or his prophetic denunciation to Mr. Fox, that if the system of Pitt was not abandoned, the consequence infallibly would be, the annihilation of all confidence on the part of the people in the then existing race of public men.

What we have now referred to may suffice as evidence of Mr. Cobbett's opinion of Parliament and public men. He has disqualified the whole of its present members, of all parties and descriptions, and the whole of those who were opposed to them, with the single exception of Sir Francis Burdett and his friends; and no good, he tells us, can be expected from that quarter, till it be filled with persons of their principles and descriptions. The established constitution and usages of Parliament meet with as little toleration as its present composition. No placemen or pensioners are to have seats in either house. In other words, the ministers, who, from their situation and talents, must consent for the need there is for new laws, and most thoroughly understand their operation, are to have no voice either in proposing or resisting them; and the blessed effect of this is to be, that ‘the House of Commons will be as dull as a Quaker meeting; no fixed days for debating, as it is called; no speeches of three hours long; and the King might then change his servants when he pleased, without any communication in that house, which has no more business with such changes than the mountebanks of Bartholomew fair have;—’ and this, adds Mr. Cobbett, ‘would be the way to begin to fight France.’ vol. xi. p. 1087.

As to the usages and forms of proceeding in Parliament, which are matters indeed of far inferior importance, they are treated throughout with the same spirit of derision and contempt. As to the right and the form of petitioning, for instance, Mr. Cobbett takes occasion to say, that really the being permitted to pray does not seem a privilege worth boasting of; and when it is considered that the persons praying are addressing their own representatives, he can see no occasion for such excessively humble and cringing language. He then proceeds—

‘But gentlemen, though we may be permitted

to write a prayer, we can none of us utter that prayer to the objects of our application. It must be so uttered by some member upon whom we may (by force means or other) prevail to become our propitiator, that is to say, before we can bring our prayer before the House, we must obtain the special consent of one of its own members. Having succeeded so far, our petition is allowed to be read by a clerk, who fits at a table in the middle of the House; and, a very great comfort it is to one to know, that one's prayer has passed through the lips of a man who wears a black gown and a three-raised wig, and who, as it were for the purpose of preserving a clean hand, always writes in gloves. But, though read, it is not yet certain that our petition will be attended to. Attended to, did I say? It must first undergo the ceremony of a motion and of a vote; it must have a majority in its favour before it can be permitted to lie upon the table; and, when it has arrived at the honour, another motion and another vote of the majority is required, before anything can be done in consequence of this, or ‘humble prayer; for humble?’ it must be, that being a quality absolutely indispensable.’ vol. xi. p. 390.

We have quoted this passage at some length, not because it contains any thing very important or very offensive in its substance, but as a fair specimen of the irrelevant and derivative style in which the author habitually speaks of an institution, from which no good man would wish to alienate the affection or respect of the country.

With regard to the gross and inflammatory exaggerations by which he constantly endeavours to excite the indignation and discontent of the people, as to the disadvantages of their situation, and the abuses to which they may be referred, it would be endless to quote the multitude of passages in which they occur. The immense numbers of the poor, and the incapacity of a labourer to submit a small family from his wages, are repeatedly held forward, and imputed with the most unblushing confidence to the number of sicknesses, the extent of population, and the system of tithing. He loves to talk of the necessity of changing ‘a system by which forty millions a year of the people's savings are collected and distributed into hands, through which they naturally pass to the metropolis, and there as naturally produce all the vices which we complain

The following passage, however, is very good. If Mr. Cobbett believes the statement to be true, it may be regarded as the key to the extraordinary revolution in his opinion, which we set out with remarking; and, a all events, may serve to show the opinions which he wishes to inculcate, and the lengths to which party or prejudice can carry him. After observing that public men in general, seemed not to be sufficiently sensible of the great change which had taken place in the general way of thinking on politics since 1801, and especially since the affair of Lord Melville, and that anti Jacobinism, which had previously been a thriving trade, had since been on the decline; he takes occasion to observe, ‘There was a time when a cry about Jacobinism or danger to the Church would have had great weight. But those cries have lost their day; and every body's attention being now turned to the abuse in the expenditure of the public money.’ And afterwards ‘This, I repeat it, is the sole point upon which men's attention is now earnestly fixed. On the affairs of the Continent, means of defence at home, they have no leisure to think. The reading of tax papers, and the providing for the incessant demands of the tax together, take up all their time. Their present grievous burden is the only subject upon which they can be expected to think; and while they feel these burdens, they know that enormous pecuniations remain unprovided; they see no hope of preventing them for the future; and they feel as men must feel under such circumstances.’ vol. xi. p. 816.

A people thus defrauded of its political rights and oppressed in its private circumstances, certainly could have no great inducement to fight for a constitution which imposed and perpetuated such abominations? nor could it look forward to the subversion of such a constitution but as to a deliverance from its rainy, and a chance of restoration to happiness. If Mr. Cobbett had intended, therefore, to render his countrymen indifferent as to foreign conquests, and desirous of internal revolution, he could not have employed other means than those to which he has actually resorted. We pretend not to judge of his intentions as to others; but for his own individual part, he has spoken his opinion pretty freely, at least as to the probability and desirableness of a revolution. There are scattered throughout all his late numbers general expressions, of prophetic exultation to this effect;—that the day of the people will come,—that a terrible contest will follow succeeded to the wars of faction,—that a radical change must be made in our internal system. The following passage however, is more full and explicit. After alluding to certain advertisements about the purchase of seats in Parliament Mr. Cobbett observes—

From one corner of the kingdom to the other, corruption extends his baneful, his serpent haunting wings. Can this last? Ought it to last? Of what avail is it that the miscreants engaged in this infamous traffic call us Jacobins and levellers; Will any one of them say that this ought to be? Is any one of them the ingenuity to find out any thing even in imagination, worse than this? Politicians may endeavour to alarm us with cries of

revolution, and divines may preach to us about hell but if the one can find any thing more disgraceful, or the other any thing more damnable, than what is described in these advertisements, I beseech them to speedily exhibit it to our view. Fifty seven of these advertisements have I read in London daily Papers, and I defy any man living to produce me in the history of the noble world any thing so completely descriptive of national degradation. Well may Mr. Foxes say in his address to his late constituents of the country of York, that a feat in parliament which he once regarded as the height of laudable ambition, he now views in quite a different light; and the only wonder is, that he should have been till now in the dark on the subject. Again I call upon our accusers, upon those who, for hire, denigrate us Jacobins and levellers, and who cry aloud for the preservation of the constitution, to say, whether the constitution functions these things. If it does what an intemperate impostor it is! and if it does not, it is we, and not our revilers, who are endeavouring to support the constitution of England. Aye it is we who would restore and support the constitution; the real constitution; that constitution which so strictly forbids the buying or the selling of a single vote, much more a seat in parliament; that constitution which inhibits peers from any sort of interference in elections, and that supposes it impossible that any peer should, in any way, send a member to the Commons House; in short, which forbids, in the strongest terms, and under severe penalties, every one of the abuses, of which we complain; and yet have the fiercest revilers the audacity to reproach us with a wish to overturn the constitution! In fact a state the country cannot long remain. No country has ever long remained in such a state. Those who have an evident interest in perpetuating abuses of all sorts, may endeavour to terrify the people with the consequences of what is called a revolution; and, from a revolution, in the usual sense of the word, as applied to politics, God preserve us; but a change, and a great change too, must come; and come it will, in one way or another, and that at no distant day. Vol. xi, p. 836-7.

With regard to the probability and the effects of invasion, Mr. Cobbett says, he is firmly persuaded that Bonaparte never meditated a march to the Rhine with more determination than he meditates the invasion of England or Ireland, and that it would be invasion unparalleled to suppose that he should leave these kingdoms untried; and then, on divers occasions, he expresses his apprehensions, that if their grievances be not redressed, the people may not think the country worth fighting for; and maintains, that to uphold the present system of things, is not the way to call forth their zeal in defence of the Government. The most offensive, and, we think the most suspicious, passage, we have met with upon the subject, is in the last Number which has reached us. The author is there pleased to say—

“I have, from long thinking upon the subject, brought myself to a conviction, that the French never will succeed in subduing us. The way and the wherewithal I might have some difficulty in detailing; but the conviction I entertain, and under it I may say; and, what is more, I am fully persuaded, that, however some persons may tremble, this conviction is felt by ninety-nine out of every hundred men in the nation. I do not reason much upon the matter. I have done asking how the French can get here or to Ireland, and how we are able to repel them. I know the enemy to be powerful by land, and that he may soon become powerful by sea; I see the force of all Europe collected against us, and I have considered in detail the probable acts of such a conqueror. But when I consider who we have for Commander in Chief; when I consider the extent of our immense resources; and the manner of distributing those resources; when I consider, in short, the whole of the scene that lies before me,—I stop not to reason but involuntarily exclaim, Bonaparte, I set thy utmost ingenuity, power and malice, at defiance!” Vol. xii, p. 845.

Now we know Mr. Cobbett's opinion of our Commanders, and of our Commander in Chief; and we have no quarrel with him in that opinion; but knowing what it is, we ask, whether any man, capable of serious counsel or of proper feeling, could possibly conceive such a crisis of such a country as a suitable subject for derision, or for such *afaine* attempts at irony and humour as are exhibited in this passage?—At such a time, it is the duty of all who possess, or who hope for, any influence over their fellow-citizens, to point out the dangers of the country, and the means by which they may be averted. To affect to be jovial upon such a theme; and, with a full conviction of the danger, to present us, instead of counsels of exhortations, with paltry gibes and personalities, appears to us to be at once despicable and insulting; and to indicate a lamentable deficiency both in the head and the heart of the author.

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

From COBBETT'S REGISTER, Feb. 27, 1808.

PROCEEDINGS IN PARLIAMENT.—I. Orders in Council. II. Petition of the Middlesex Grand Jury.—Upon the orders in Council discussions have tak-

en place, in both Houses of Parliament; and, of course, as these orders have been advised by the King, the King discover that they are very mischievous and wicked things. After volumes have been spoken and written upon the subject, there are very few persons, comparatively speaking, who seem to have a clear idea of what these famous orders are, or, of the effect which they are intended to produce. In spite, therefore, of the fulfilling effects of the many speeches which I have read, relative to these orders, I will endeavour to communicate to the reader my ideas respecting them; which I shall do, however, with great diffidence, being far from certain, that my ignorance of the matter is not equal to that of almost any one of the orators whose speeches I have read. Here, then, at a venture. The Emperor of France having, by his several decrees, prohibited, as much as lay in his power, all commerce with England, carried on by neutral ships, and having, by one particular decree, declared his whole Kingdom in a state of blockade, and ordered, his cruisers, of course, to seize, as lawful prize, neutral vessels, bound to or from any port of this Kingdom; having, in short, declared to the neutrals, that he should consider the slightest mark of their having had, or being about to have, communication with England, as a proof of their ships and cargoes meriting confiscation, the late ministers intimated to the neutrals (there being only Denmark, Portugal, and the American States,) that, if they submitted to these mandates of France, England, in exercising her undoubted right of retaliation, would, of course, seize and confiscate all neutral ships and cargoes, bound to or from any port of France, or under the known control of France, or in a country allied with France in the war. The neutrals do submit; for, neither of them make any public remonstrance, or protest, against the decrees of France. There are instances cited, in which the decrees were acted upon; but that is of no consequence; for, if the decrees had their intended effect, namely, that of putting an end to all communication between England and neutral states, there would, of course, be no such instances; and, if they did not produce that effect, to the desired extent, they would naturally produce it in some degree. Let communication with neutrals would exist in consequence of them; some ship would be prevented from coming to England, and all would come charged with an additional weight of insurance. Thus matters stood until November last, when the present ministers caused the orders in Council to be issued, which orders contain a set of rules intended to prevent France, all her allies, and all the countries under the known control of France, from having any communication with neutrals, except through the channel of the custom house of England, where the goods of the neutrals, intended for those countries, are to pay a duty, which duty, finally paid by the enemy, will go into the English treasury. There are numerous rules contained in the orders in Council; but this one will suffice for our purpose, because the arguments, on both sides, which apply to this, will, with some insignificant variations, apply to all the rest.—There are two objections, which the neutrals make to this rule; the first is, that it is contrary to the law of nations; a very vague charge, and one that cannot be substantiated, even if we were to admit the book of a Frenchman; whose name was Vattel; and which contains merely the opinions of the said Vattel, to be the book of the law binding upon England; for, neither in that book, nor in any other book upon the subject, is there any instance of a case such as that now before us. The better way of stating the objection is, therefore, to say that the rule which we have laid down is unjust. This, indeed, the neutrals do say. They say, we have no right to punish America, for instance, because France has broken through all the rules relating to neutrality. Very true; nor do we intend to punish America; we intend to punish France; and, if America suffers, it is neither our fault nor our wish. The decrees of Napoleon are intended to injure us. That is very fair; and we have a right to retaliate. But, the decrees of France relate to America; they make America an instrument in producing the injury to us; therefore, we have a right to make America our instrument in producing injury to France. Let France repeal her decree and America ceases to suffer. As matters stood, previous to the Orders in Council, a ship load of tobacco came from America to England with all the additional price which arose from the high insurance, occasioned by the danger of capture in consequence of the French decrees; while another ship load of tobacco went to France, free from such high price, because there was no danger of capture from us. Was this just? To suffer things to remain in such a state would have been a most base desertion of our naval superiority. But say the neutrals, the Americans did remonstrate against the French decree, and obtained assurance, that it should not be enforced with regard to them. This is not the fact. No such assurance is contained in the note of the French Minister to the American Minister, upon this subject; and, if such an assurance had been given we had nothing to do with it. The decree contained no exceptions. The decree remains unrepugnant, and there was not, and is not, any public act of the government of the American states protesting against either the principle or the practice of that decree. Here, therefore, was a complete acquiescence, on the part of America; and I think it evidently appears, that the correspond-

dence between the America and French Minister was intended for no other purpose than that of putting the former possession of something in power to us in order to induce us to forego an intended and threatened retaliation. But, how the out faction can stand up, in the face of the correspondence now published, and complain of the measures of retaliation, must be matter of astonishment to every one accustomed to observe the conduct of political parties. At the outset of that correspondence (which, as having been laid before Parliament, will, of course, appear in its place, in the Parliamentary Debates), Lord Howick writes to Mr. Erskine thus: “I transmit to you the copy of a letter N. is presented by their Lordships to the American Commissioners proposing to the signature of the treaty, on the subject of the extraordinary declarations and orders of the French government issued at Berlin of the 17th of November last. The note I must recommend to your particular attention; you will state to the American government, that his Majesty relies with confidence on their good sense and firmness in resisting pretensions, which if suffered to take effect, must prove so destructive to the commerce of all neutral nations, His Majesty has learned that the Measures announced in the decree have already, in some instances, been carried into execution by the privateers of the enemy, and there could be no doubt that his Majesty would have an undoubted right to exercise a just retaliation. Neutral nations cannot, indeed, expect that the kind should offer the commerce of his enemies to be carried on through them, whilst they submit to the prohibition which France has agreed against the commerce of his Majesty's subjects. But though the right of retaliation would unquestionably accrue to his Majesty, yet his Majesty is unwilling, except in the last extremity, to have recourse to measures which must prove so distressing to all nations not engaged in the war against France.” Has America rejected the pretensions of the decree, it is notorious that she has not; and it is equally notorious, that the President in his last speech to the Congress, says that he has nothing to complain of in the conduct of France, though the French decrees, otherwise, would have been manifested. The consequence is, then, that, according to Lord Howick's own letter we had a right to adopt the measure of retaliation, especially as events had occurred, which rendered such more and more necessary to our safety; and yet, Lord Howick and his patriotic colleagues are now blaming the measure, and that, too, upon the ground of its injustice towards America. The other objection to this measure is that it is unjust, that it is calculated to injure us, more than it can injure France. I will not repeat the arguments that I have already, more than once, made use of to prove the contrary of this proposition; but I think the negative of it might be pretty fairly inferred from what Lord Henry Petty said in support of the affirmative. He is reported to have told the House of Commons, that the “arts of substitution,” to which the French would have recourse, would do lasting injuries to this country and to her colonies. Why, now if by these arts, the French should find out chemical sugar and coffee and cotton, what harm will that do us? None that I can see; but while the discovery is going on, the inconvenience of France must be very great indeed, while the Orders in Council must go near to the producing starvation in Spain and Portugal. Holland also must suffer severely. Hamburg, Denmark, Russia; all must endure, not only inconvenience, but suffering; and the two-fold consequence of that suffering will naturally be, a perfect conviction of the great power of England, and a hatred of France whose ambition exposes them to the effects of the exercise of that power. But, his Lordship apprehends, that we are in greater danger from a glut than France is from a scarcity. He is afraid that we shall die smothered with sweets; or, if we survive the effect of the sweets, that a superabundance of cloathing will kill us. The fact is, however, that we near a general outcry raised in France, and in all the countries under her control, against these Orders in Council; we hear an outcry in America also; but we hear none in England, except amongst persons like the Barings, and amongst the opposition, both animated by motives purely selfish.—The Bill for giving effect to the Orders in Council has been carried by a very great majority in the Houses of Parliament, and is certainly approved of by a still greater majority out of doors. The measure is looked upon as an act of defiance of all the world; as an assertion of our right of maritime dominion. The enemy, encouraged by our long forbearance, issues, in the heyday of triumph and from a capital which he has conquered, a decree declaring England in a state of blockade. As if he had said: Now, that I have conquered the continent, I will set seriously about my last labour, and will begin by ordering the Hlanders to be clo'd off shut up, until I have leisure to invade them.” Our answer to this is, an Order in Council, making him pay a duty into the English treasury upon every article of foreign goods that he receives; and this we enforce. “I will suffer nothing,” says he, “to come to the continent from or through England,” to which we answer: the continent shall have nothing that does not go from or through England.” Why, the very effect of such words,

if adhered to, outweighs, in the scale of national consequence, all the commerce of all the Biscays on earth. Lord Henry Petty, however, thinks nothing of this. Nay, he thinks that it would be bad policy to induce America to declare war against France; because it would diminish the sale of our manufactures. A fine statement he must be, who has a mind of this stamp!—The publication of the correspondence with America has brought to light a fact, which I have often said I believed to exist; namely, that the late ministers went a considerable way in giving up to America the great point of the right of searching for fœna. It is clear that Lord Holland and Auckland did pledge themselves to do something more than enforce the strictest possible orders for regulating the manner of searching. Now, what was that something more? They are hard pushed by Mr. Canning, to explain what they meant; and, it must be confessed, that they give an answer far from satisfactory; and, in short, it is evident, that, rather than have gone to war with America, they would have abandoned the right altogether. For this, if for no other reason, it was a fortunate circumstance for the country they were dismissed. When some of them tell us, that it would be a misfortune to see America at war with France, because, by that event, we should lose the sale of certain manufactures, what are we to expect from them? It is abundantly evident, that the politics of the little clan of Scotch writers prevailed in the late cabinet; that the Ministers were the mere funnel, through which they blew; and that all would have been peddling and patch-work. It was so long ago as December, 1806, that I took the alarm as to their intentions with regard to America; I endeavoured to communicate that alarm to the public; and I flatter myself that my endeavours were not without avail. I stated my reasons for fearing, that a good treaty would not come out of the hands of Lord Holland and Auckland; that my fears were well founded the proof is now before the world. Well might the President refuse to ratify the treaty, not finding it to contain all that he demanded. He sent it back to us, like a set of articles of capitulations, underwritten here and there: “this I agree to; this I do not;” this I agree to, provided so and so. What was the result? Yet, this disfigured instrument came back, my firm belief is, that they would have resumed the negotiation upon the former basis, and would, like the commanders of a town, summoned to surrender and reduced to its last dead hour, have put their hands to the humiliating conditions imposed. The right of searching for English fœna on board American ships ought never, for one moment, to have been entertained, as a point for discussion. Not only was it to be entertained by the late ministers; but it was expressly left open for future discussion, and a note of that purport accompanied the treaty. What was this but to acknowledge that there were entertained by our own government doubts respecting the excellence of the right? Upon the same principle, that commerce ought to be preferred to every thing else, they would, in all likelihood, have acted after the peace of Tilsit; and, then, instead of throwing Napoleon and his vassal states into consternation, as we now have, we should have been totally occupied in sending negociations to Paris, and in looking out for the enemy's florins.—II. A Petition from a late Grand Jury of the county of Middlesex, complaining of certain enormities in the management of the Cold-Bath-Field prison, was, a few days past, brought before parliament by Mr. Sheridan (who, while in office, said not a word about abuses of any sort); but it was withdrawn, at the suggestion of the Ministers, because it purported to be the petition of a grand jury who were no longer a grand jury. The object of this was, of course, to obtain delay, and to take from the petition a part, at least, of its consequence. It was presented the next day, signed by the foreman of the grand jury, in his private capacity; so that, it is now the petition of one individual, instead of being that of the Grand Inquest of a Country. The substance of the petition has been given in the news-papers; but, I do not choose to offer any remarks upon it; until I can lay it before my readers at full length. It is truly curious to observe how different and cold the opposition appear to have been upon this subject. No animation; none of that eagerness which they discover in pleading the cause of the “poor, harmless, suffering Danes.” The prisoners in Cold-Bath-Field prison are their countrymen, and are entitled to their protection; but, then, there was, in all probability, nothing to be gotten; no debating triumph to be obtained, in this case; and, there was, on the other side, the fearful consideration of what might happen in the way of indirectly giving credit to the former exertions of Sir Francis Burdett. The petition, however, neither party, nor both together, can silence. It must appear in print; and it is one of the things, which will, in the end, produce those effects, which every good man so anxiously wishes for. Along with the petition should appear the names of all the persons who signed the first petition; for the public will very well know how to decide upon the question of “informality.”

Batley, 25th February, 1808.

QUESTION OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

AS AGITATED IN JAMAICA. The proceedings of the assembly of Jamaica have been so warm, and the result so interesting, that we think it will be acceptable to our readers particularly to all those who feel, in common with us, a lively zeal in maintaining the cause of human freedom against slavery, to have a short detail of the same.

The Assembly met on the 22d of September. The Speech of his Honor the Lieutenant Governor was in the usual file, and contained nothing particularly important. He earnestly exhorted them to make exertions to depend as little as possible for provisions on foreign supply; and he concluded with stating the arduous struggle in which the Empire was engaged, and declared that he expected from them all that could be effected by public spirit, united exertions, and the sacrifice of individual interest to the general weal.

This Speech was referred to a Committee, and the report thereof was committed to a Committee of the whole House.

In the mean time they appointed a Committee of the whole House to inquire into, and take into consideration, the State of the Island.

This Committee was immediately formed, Mr. Murphy in the chair, and the House being resumed, he made a report, "That it be recommended to the House to appoint a Select Committee to inquire into the effects of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of the United Kingdom, (entitled, An Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade,) as the proprietors, inhabitants, and others essentially interested in the welfare and prosperity of this Island; to state what resources remain for application, and what taxes can be substituted in lieu of those of which the operation of this Act of Parliament have deprived us; and to endeavour to point what measures the House can resort to in relief, or in alleviation of the grievances and losses thereby inflicted."

Mr. Murphy, Mr. Whiteborne, Mr. Stewart, of Trelawny, Mr. C. Grant, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Shand, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Perry were appointed a Committee for that purpose, and they had power to send for persons, papers and records.

The House then proceeded in its ordinary business; appointed all its committees, brought in several bills, and appointed a committee to bring in a bill to prevent preaching and teaching by persons not duly qualified; and to restrain Meetings of a dangerous nature on pretence of attending such preaching and teaching.

On the 24th, a Motion was made, that the Printer of the House do forthwith print fifty copies of the Act of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, passed the 25th of March last, for the use of the Members of the Legislature.

A debate hereon ensuing, and the question being put.

The House divided, Ayes 12—Noes 10. So it was resolved in the affirmative.

After this, viz. on the 25th of September, the House presented an address to the Lieutenant-governor, in answer to his speech, which was an echo thereon, but with a short amendment, respecting the new and peculiar distresses of the Colonies.

The same day the Governor, in a message, transmitted copies of papers and documents relating to the disturbances in the parish of St. George. On the 30th an address was voted to him, thanking him in the most loyal terms for his constant solicitude for the safety of the Island; and they ordered a bill to manumize two Negroes, at his request, who had discovered the conspiracy.

On the 15th of October, Mr. Murphy, from the Committee, made the first report on the alarming consequences apprehended from the Abolition Act.—It was reported to a committee of the whole House.

A Bill for the protection, subsisting, clothing, and for the better order and government of Slaves, was introduced into the House and read.

21st October, the Bill to repeal several Acts respecting Slaves, to declare slaves assets for payment of debts and legacies, and in what manner they shall descend and be held as property; and be sold and conveyed in certain cases, was read a second time and committed.

On the 23d October it was ordered that the Report of the Committee on the Abolition Bill should be taken into consideration on Wednesday the 28th.

A most violent debate took place, and lasted for two days, the 28th and 29th of October, in the course of which such high words occurred between Mr. Shand and Mr. Stewart that a duel ensued. Mr. Shand was a warm advocate for maintaining the Abolition, as ordered by the United Parliament; Mr. Stewart was equally warm against the measure. They met, and were both wounded; Mr. Shand slightly in the shoulder; but Mr. Stewart received a dangerous wound in the thigh, but he was pronounced to be out of danger.

Government Advertisement.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

THE Honorable the Governor in Council having concluded an agreement for the formation of a Lottery at this Presidency, the following Scheme of the Lottery is published for general information.

The Governor in Council deems it to be proper, at the same time to explain that the Profits which may be derived by Government from the Lottery, are to be applied to the Repair of the Roads and to the purposes of Charity.

All other Money Lotteries are prohibited at this Presidency during the continuance of the above Agreement.

MADRAS LOTTERY

FOR THE YEAR 1808.

For Star Pagoda three Lacks, 3,00,000 STAR PAGODAS,

UNDER THE SANCTION AND PATRONAGE OF THE

Honorable the Governor in Council, DIVIDED INTO

Twelve Thousand (12,000) Tickets,

IN TWO CLASSES.

TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE IMMEDIATE SUPERINTENDANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED BY GOVERNMENT.

S C H E M E.

THE FIRST CLASS.

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------|-------|--------|
| 1 | Prize of | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 1 | Do. of | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| 1 | Do. of | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 4 | Do. of | 1,000 | 4,000 |
| 8 | Do. of | 500 | 4,000 |
| 20 | Do. of | 250 | 5,000 |
| 50 | Do. of | 100 | 5,000 |
| 300 | Do. of | 50 | 10,000 |
| 300 | Do. of | 40 | 12,000 |
| 2,415 | Do. of | 20 | 48,300 |
| LAST DAY LAST DRAWN, | | | 1,700 |

THE SECOND CLASS

| | | | |
|-------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1 | Prize of | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 1 | Do. of | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 3 | Do. of | 5,000 | 15,000 |
| 4 | Do. of | 2,500 | 15,000 |
| 10 | Do. of | 1,000 | 10,000 |
| 20 | Do. of | 500 | 10,000 |
| 50 | Do. of | 200 | 10,000 |
| 100 | Do. of | 100 | 10,000 |
| 2,100 | Do. of | 50 | 1,05,000 |

5,280 PRIZES, 2,00,000
6,711 SHARES,

12,000 TICKETS, STAR PAGODAS, 3,00,000

Part of the above Capital Prizes in the Second Class to be allotted and determined as under.
First drawn on the tenth day 5,000
First drawn on the last day 10,000

The price of a Ticket in the First Class, Pags. 10
The additional sum of a Ticket bought and not drawn in the First Class, Pags. 20

The price of a Ticket after the drawing of the First Class, 30

COMPUTATION.
12,000 Tickets at 10 Pagodas, 1,20,000
3,000 Deduct of the 1st Class, 30,000

9,000 at the additional sum of 20 Pags. 1,80,000
Star Pagodas, 3,00,000

The Prizes will be paid at the Madras Government Bank after the usual deduction of 10 per cent.

The Tickets will be ready for Sale at the Lottery Office, opposite to Messrs. Adrain de Fries and Co. on the 1st August next.

The drawing of the First Class will commence on Thursday the 15th September next.

The Prizes of the First Class will be paid thirty days after the drawing of that Class, and those of the Second Class in forty days after the conclusion of the Lottery.

The Tickets left undrawn in the First Class if not renewed in the Second, previously to the commencement of the drawing thereof, will not have the right to any beneficial chance in the Second Class.

Published by order of the Honorable the Governor in Council.

G. G. KEELE, Sec. to Government.
FORT ST. GEORGE, 2d July, 1808.

To be Sold by Public Auction, BY J. BRANSON,

AT HIS AUCTION ROOM,

This Day WEDNESDAY, the 20th July.

AT 12 O'CLOCK.

THE PROPERTY OF

A N OFFICER,

ABOUT TO RETURN TO EUROPE.

A STRONG Chestnut Bandy or Saddle Horse, A—Ghefnut Bandy or Saddle Horse.

A White Pegue Horse.

AND

A HANDSOME

DUN CHILD'S HORSE.

To be Sold by Public Auction,

BY J. BRANSON,

AT THE NAVAL STOREHOUSE,

NEAR THE BEACH,

On and after MONDAY, the 1st day of August next,

AT 11 O'CLOCK,

SUNDRY articles of condemned and un-serviceable Naval Stores, landed from His Majesty's Squadron in India. A List of the whole may be seen on application at my office, and at Mr. J. BRANSON'S Auction Room.

CONDITIONS OF SALE,

A deposit of 10 per Cent. to be made at the time of sale on the amount of each lot, and the whole to be taken away in three days after the day of Sale, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the articles remain the property of the Crown.

HENRY HALL,

ACTING NAVAL OFFICER,

His Majesty's Naval Office, Madras, 29th June, 1808.

For Sale on Commission.

AT J. BRANSON'S, THE FOLLOWING PLATE.

ONE Pair of Curry Dishes and covers, Two Milk Bowls, covers and stands, One Coffee Pot, One Toast Rack, One Egg Stand, for 8 Eggs with Spoons, One Egg boiler, Two Pair of Muffineers.

Madras, 20th July, 1808.

For Sale on Commission.

AT J. BRANSON'S, A SMALL COLLECTION OF VALUABLE BOOKS,

AMONG WHICH ARE,

ANDERSON'S Poets—Dr. Johnson's and Robertson's Works—Bell's British Theatre—Hume and Smollet's England, &c.

Madras, 16th July, 1808.

A Card.

JOHN BRANSON, in Order to finally close the Sales of Captain LOGAN'S INVESTMENT, has again reduced the Prices of the remains, to nearly Prime Cost.—Among the remains are a few Elegant Ladies Gold Watches with Chains Seals & Keys, a small assortment of Jewellery, Very handsome Gentlemen's Silver Shoe & Knee Buckles, Ladies Straw and Beaver Hats.—Silk Hose,—Mits & Sleeves,—Half Cotton Hose,—a few pair of Elegant Pistols by Mortimer in Cases complete, a few Kegs of Europe Butter in high order,—& a Variety of other Articles.

N. B. The Sales by Retail will be closed on the 25th Instant.

Madras Theatre.

SIXTH SUBSCRIPTION PLAY.

On MONDAY, the 1st of August, WILL BE PERFORMED THE COMIC OPERA OF INKLE and YARICO.

For Private Sale.

A NEAT, Light, Europe Built Carriage with a pair of good Horses and Harness, to be sold for 400 Pagodas.

For Particulars Enquire at the Office of this Paper.

To be Sold by Public Auction,

BY J. DOBBIN,

AT HIS AUCTION ROOM,

To-morrow THURSDAY, the 21st Instant,

Sale to Commence

AT HALF PAST 10 O'CLOCK,

Sundry Piece Goods, two Pieces of Bed Steeking, Penang Canes Silver Mounted—Silk Umbrellas, Childrens Hats of Colours Brass Door Locks Complete and a Variety of Articles.

To be Sold by Public Auction,

BY J. DOBBIN;

AT HIS AUCTION ROOM,

On MONDAY next, the 25th Instant,

Sale to Commence

AT HALF PAST 10 O'CLOCK,

PLATE,

VIZ.

TWO Tea Pots and Stands, Two Coffee Pots, Two Sugar Cups and covers, A small Bowl cover and bottom, Soup Laddles, Gravy Spoons, Table, Desert, Tea, Salt & Marrow Spoons, Two Fish Knives, Sugar Tongs, Cheese and Butter Knives, A handsome Egg frame with Cups, Spoons and Toast Rack, Nineteen Silver Watches, A large Teakwood Almira, A large Medicine Chest, A Triangle with Scales and Weights.

AN INVOICE OF

PIECE GOODS,

CONSISTING OF

Blue Cloth, Blue Mooreas, Southern Cloths, Palamcottah and Bengal Pocket Handkerchiefs, Strip'd Mullins, Gingham, Camboys, Chintz for Couch Covers,

Part of an Invoice of Ship Chandlery Consisting of Spirits of Turpentine, Red, Yellow, Green and Blue Paint and White Lead in Kegs of 18 and 28lbs. Deep Sea Line, Hand lines, Marline Log line, Roping twine, Palms, Sail Needles, Roping do. Marline do. Horn Lanthorns, with Spare Horns &c. &c.

Two Casks of Vinegar, Twenty Eight Casks of American Salt Beef, and three hundred dozen of Real Coniac Brandy, (Red and White.)

N. B. Musters of the Brandy may be had by the Bottle, on application to JAMES DOBBIN.

To be Sold by Public Auction,

BY J. DOBBIN,

AT HIS AUCTION ROOM,

On MONDAY next the 25th Instant,

AT 11 O'CLOCK,

THE following Articles of Plate viz. Two Gravy Spoons, 36 Table Do. 34 desert Do. 24 Tea Do. 24 Table Forks & 24 desert Do.

* It is requested that those SUBSCRIBERS to the COURIER who are occasionally changing their residence, will give early notice of the place to which they remove to the PRINTERS who will pay attention to their orders, and any Subscribers at the Presidency to whom the Papers may not deliver the Paper in proper time, are requested to give information of the same in order that this irregularity may be prevented in future.

(Continued from the Supplement.)

“ stance gave rise in the House of Com-
mons, on the part of some of those who
now direct the affairs of this country, that the
conduct of Mr. Fox on that occasion was be-
yond their comprehension, and consequently not
likely to be the object of their imitation.” Why
no. The sham assassin had not succeeded in im-
posing upon any person of common sense, and,
therefore, it was not likely that the trick would
be imitated. But, you Sir, who anticipate com-
plaints against you upon the score of partiality
towards France, because you have used no harsh
language towards her or her ruler; you, who
beg to be excused from joining in the abuse of
Napoleon; you, mild and modest gentleman,
scruple not to accuse your political opponents of
a disposition to employ assassins, if the occasion
were to offer itself, though those opponents are
the persons to whose hands the affairs of the
country have been committed by the king, for
whose person and authority you profess so much
respect. “It was but too apparent, that they
would not have imitated Mr. Fox.” That is
to say, that it was but too apparent, that they
would have accepted of, and rewarded, the ser-
vices of the assassin. Now, what were the cir-
cumstances that made this so very apparent?
Why, Mr. Perceval blamed the word “attach-
ment,” which Mr. Fox made use of in his
letter to Talleyrand. That was all that was
said about the assassin part of the correspondence;
and, as no one, whose heart is not made of the
very basest materials, can, in my opinion,
entertain any sincere “attachment” towards Tal-
leyrand; I must, of course, believe that Mr.
Fox was not sincere in his use of the word; and,
so believing, I also blame him for using the word.
I am not speaking of personal affection. That
was out of the question between Mr. Fox and
Talleyrand. It must, if existing at all, have
been an attachment from a similarity of thinking;
an attachment founded upon Talleyrand’s cha-
racter or conduct; and, if Mr. Fox did entertain
such attachment, I am sure he was unfit to be en-
trusted with the confidence of either the King
or the people of England. And yet, according
to you, Mr. Perceval’s having expressed his dis-
approbation of this phrase is to be considered as
a proof, that he and his colleagues would if the
occasion were to offer, hire an assassin to take the
life of the Emperor of France. Here you are ex-
cessively bold; here there is no mark of the
meek, unoffending philanthropist. You are timid
and tender hearted only towards Napoleon and
his allies. The poor King of Prussia you abuse
without mercy; the Prince Regent of Portugal
you represent as “persevering” in his attachments
hostile to France, “in spite of all remonstrances;”
the editors of the English press you call “in-
terested and unprincipled individuals;” and the
ministers you clearly accuse of a disposition to
employ assassins to take off their enemies. It is
not, then, your want of the faculty of abuse; it
is nothing of mildness and moderation in your
nature that disqualified you for joining in
“recrimination against the French people and their
ruler;” but, the cause is to be fought for in your
partiality for that people and their ruler; of which
indeed, you appear to have been conscious, when
you were protesting, by anticipation, against such
a charge. And, Sir, if it be glaringly incon-
sistent “in those who have been uniformly hostile
to the cause of rational liberty, and the constitu-
tional rights of the subject in this country,
“ now to abuse the despotism of France,” is it
not equally inconsistent in you, who have

been so loud in your professions in favour of
liberty here, and who, with such unbounded
joy, hailed the dawn of liberty in France, now
to discover so decided a partiality for the des-
potism established there? You do not say, indeed
that you love that despotism; but it is quite im-
possible that you can have any great aversion to
it, otherwise you could not discover such cau-
tious tenderness towards the person, who is known
to be its founder. Nor only do you discover a
tenderness towards him; but you miss no oppor-
tunity of bestowing your praises on him; and,
though all that you have said of him were true,
instead of being; for the most part, false; or,
supposing you to think it true, still, had you
been a hater of despotism, at the bottom of your
heart, you would have been more sparing of
those praises. We are often struck with admira-
tion at the bravery and hardihood of highway-
men. There were few persons who were not so
frightened, upon reading the account of the man
lately killed in the woods in Sussex, who had
lived in those woods, in the dead of winter,
many days and nights with scarcely any covering
upon any part of his body, who, when hard
pursued, and, at last, closely beset by a troop of
horsemen, sunk himself under the water, all but
his head and one hand, there remaining, for
several hours, keeping his fire-arms ready to
discharge upon his pursuers, and who, when
finally overpowered by numbers, rejected the
offer to spare his life, and was killed in the act
of defending himself to the very last extremity.
There were few persons who could read this
account without feelings of admiration; but, I
will venture to say, that, in the thousands of con-
versations, to which it gave rise, there was not
one, wherein detestation of the robber and the
murderer was not almost the only feeling that
was expressed. You, however, a philanthropist
by trade, seem to be of a different taste. You
are lavish in your praises of the valour, the skill,
and the wisdom of Napoleon; upon all these
topics you speak for yourself; but, when you have
to speak of any of his misdeeds, though the fact
be notorious, you take care to put the words in-
to the mouth of somebody else; and, in all cases,
where it is possible to make an Old-bailey-like
defence for him, that defence is made by you,
with as much apparent earnestness and zeal, as if,
at the several paragraphs of your pamphlet, you
had received a refreshing fee. I do not mean to
insinuate, that you have received, or that you ex-
pect, any fee at all; but, I think, the public will
agree with me, that this conduct of yours is a
pretty good proof, that you have no very deeply
rooted hatred to despotism, and that all your cry
about liberty must be regarded as merely poetical.
I should here have proceeded to the concluding
and most important subject treated of in your
pamphlet, the main object of which might be
dismissed in a few pages; but, there are so many
misrepresentations and falsehoods to expose, as I
proceed, that another letter will be necessary for
the purpose.—In the mean while, I remain,

Yours, &c,
WM. COBBETT.

Bailey, 23d Feb. 1808.

Post Script. The following letter, Sir, it ap-
pears to me to be your duty to answer; for, again
I beg you to believe, that this letter expresses the
opinions of the public in general.—“Sir, in your
last, you have some pertinent remarks, respecting
“ the assassin who offered to Mr. Fox to put
“ Buonaparte to death. On this point both Mr.
“ Fox and Mr. Roscoe attacked you, as instiga-
“ ting the assassination of Buonaparte, in saying,

“ that, “ if you were a Frenchman, you would
“ attack him by another instrument than a pen,”
“ —The writer of this has heard, that a
“ king’s messenger, a chief, or favourite, and
“ well informed person, did say, soon after the
“ publication of the Negotiation Papers of Mr
“ Fox with France for peace, about a year ago,
“ that no one ever could discover, that there
“ was any such person as the one described by
“ Mr. Fox; that he, the messenger, had inquir-
“ ed of the other messengers, and that they had
“ made every inquiry, but that no one could
“ find that such a person had been in custody,
“ and they were all persuaded that no such per-
“ son ever appeared before Mr. Fox. Neither at
“ the Alien office could any account be found of
“ such a person. It would, indeed, have been
“ strange, if any such person had offered himself
“ to Mr. Fox, after the notoriety of Mr. Fox’s
“ abuse of those, whom he, by a strained con-
“ struction, pretended had excited assassination.
“ —Mr. Fox, I am persuaded, fabricated the
“ story, in order to commence a correspondence
“ with the French government for a negotiation
“ for peace and had he succeeded in making
“ peace, and the fact been known, he would have
“ been praised for his ingenuity, as he is now, by
“ Mr. Roscoe, for his humanity. In either case,
“ the trick was to tell to his advantage.—Mr.
“ Fox was sworn Secretary of State, Feb. 7,
“ 1806, and gazetted the 8th. On the 20th, he
“ wrote the letter to Talleyrand about the assassin
“ saying “ a few days ago” the assassin came,
“ &c. &c. Mr. Fox could not have been a week
“ in office when the assassin addressed him; and
“ it is singular, that during the half year he after-
“ wards lived, though his conduct to this assassin
“ was a profound secret, no other assassin offered
“ his services. But, pray look at the letter!
“ The assassin came to his house, not to the office,
“ and was with Mr. Fox alone in his closet. He
“ would not be in custody of a police officer, but
“ a king’s messenger, as it is such the Alien
“ office employ.—How far did Mr. Fox, by
“ this step, reflect on the general character of the
“ English government? And what becomes now,
“ of Mr. Roscoe’s half dozen pages on Mr. Fox’s
“ humanity and morality? I repeat my belief,
“ Sir, that the whole story was a pure fabrication;
“ if it was not so, the contrary not only admits
“ of proof; but of easy proof, unattended with
“ any circumstance that can possibly be injurious
“ to any one upon earth, not excepting the as-
“ sassin himself, who, seeing that he was so
“ very lucky in escaping from France to
“ England and from the justice which he
“ ought to have had dealt him here, need, fore-
“ ly, not be afraid of any consequences which can
“ result from the desirable and desired proof of
“ his having been here. Who took him away?
“ Where was he landed upon the continent?
“ Why such squeamishness about keeping him
“ here, until Mr. Talleyrand’s was received?
“ Our laws did not permit us to keep him long
“ in prison.” No? They have permitted men to
“ be kept a good while, in prison, Mr. Cobbett,
“ without any trial or examination.—Where
“ I to state all the suspicious circumstances that
“ present themselves to my mind, I should ex-
“ tend this letter to a length that might be in-
“ convenient to you, and that certainly would
“ be useless.—I am, Sir, your friend, and No
“ Sham Philanthropist.—Feb. 22, 1808.”