

FROM A LATE LONDON PAPER.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

A very numerous and respectable meeting of the Hampden Club, and other persons friendly to Parliamentary Reform, took place at the Freemason's Tavern, for the purpose of considering the best mode of calling forth the voice of the people to effect the deliverance of the country from the evils under which it is suffering, by promoting a reform in the representation.

Parliament having an unconstitutional duration, and the right of suffrage being by a variety of unjust exclusions, so extensively undetermined and taken away, that the People, instead of having only such laws to observe, and such taxes to pay, as agreeably to the English constitution had been imposed with their own consent, find themselves brought under the arbitrary legislation and oppressive taxation of an oligarchy.

The oligarchy thereby hath stolen into a participation in the executive power; of which participation, by means of wars and patronage, it well knows how to profit.

That oligarchy, by stabilizing the constitution in the most vital organ, and so invading the regal office, doubly betrays the state. It violates at once the rights of clergy and people; and, in fact, wholly subverts the lawful government of our country.

The people having been despoiled of their freedom, and therefore, having had no defence of their property against an unconstitutional power, their present melancholy condition is but the natural consequence of their subjection to oligarchical despotism; a despotism, the more pillaging and destructive, as it wears the mask of freedom.

Under the smooth appellation of influence, it works by an unbounded corruption; and this corruption audaciously rears its front even in that very house, wherein no influence whatever, other than that of free and jealous constituents, ought to be found or imagined.

Wise and honest, therefore, was the enactment in the year 1700—"That no person who has an office or place of profit under the king, or receives a pension from the crown, shall be capable of serving as a member of the House of Commons."

A House of Commons once degenerated from the dignity of the people's representatives; once fallen from the high estate; short of its lustre, and, by a restless faction, divested of its Godlike attribute of being the nation's protector, must become,

in the hands of that faction, an instrument to do that faction's will, a mere engine of its despotism.

Hence, abuses in all departments, grievances without redress, without number, and evils unspeakable! To the most conspicuous only we shall at present advert.

Certain that for more than twelve centuries England knew nothing of a national debt: It is to non-representation and long parliaments, or, in other words, to an un-sound House of Commons, she owes a knowledge of that curse.

In a little more than one century, such a house of commons has incurred a debt, exceeding a thousand millions sterling, and imposes forty-four millions a year in taxes to defray the interest; exclusive of twenty-seven millions for the expenses of the government itself.

Thus, on the whole, seventy-one millions a year pass from the pockets of the people into the exchequer of the oligarchs; for theirs, and not the King's, is that exchequer, to be filled and emptied just as the faction pleases.

And when, in a revenue of seventy-one millions a year, thus extorted, the oligarchs who vote it, find indeed, their prosperity, with an effluvia, of which none else are capable, they cry aloud, "Behold the prosperity of the nation, whose annual expenditure is seventy-one millions!" while it is that very expenditure which keeps the nation poor and wretched; for such must be the condition of a nation whose debt no one deems it possible to pay, one sixth, if not one fifth of whose industrious population are parish paupers, and of whose husbandmen and traders a vast proportion are bankrupts.

What is still in the womb of time, can be, at the best, but matter of conjecture. With a standing army, however, we are already but too well acquainted; and all history, without exception, bears testimony to this fact, that no people on earth, who once adopted the use of a standing army, ever preserved their liberties.

If, therefore, England means to be the first exception, it can only be by the force of an extraordinary wisdom and virtue, and can only be by a sacred adherence to her own admirable constitution, which is, in fact, a two-fold system of civil and military polity—a polity which, while for civil objects, it embraces that "happiest discovery of political wisdom," legislative representation for military purposes, places the sword of defence in the hands of freemen. Great-Britain alone can furnish fifteen hundred thousand such defenders.

Provided England respect her own two-fold constitution, she may therein discover a solution of that most difficult of all political problems, how to reconcile the existence of a standing army with the existence of liberty.

Let her listen to the patriotic voice of her illustrious Jones, hailed by a sage, as "the most enlightened of the sons of men." Jones, who faithfully unfolded her long hidden treasures of constitutional law, anxiously exhorts his country to restore to full vigor and energy her proper militia, the country power.

Touching what in England, respecting a military, is unconstitutional; it ought to be kept in perpetual remembrance, that the laws and constitutions of these kingdoms know no such state as that of perpetual standing soldiers; and that "our judges never read of them in all their law books; for the constitution having regard only to the communities, freedom, tranquillity, happiness and defence, had no need of a standing army; a species of force applicable only to interference with other countries, to foreign war, or to aggrandisement by conquest; for, says Bacon, "a mercenary army is fittest to invade a country, but a militia to defend it."

Hence it follows, that a standing army in time of peace, hath, in the protection of the state's dependencies, its legitimate object, so that protection must determine its proper strength. Seeing that standing soldiers are utterly unknown to the law, it is most evident that, for carrying that law into execution, they never can be the right instruments.

And it is universally true, that whatever be forms or appearances, the state hath lost its liberties, where, for enforcing the law, the last resort is to the sword of a standing army; as on the contrary, that state alone is free, where the law, in extreme cases, can be effectually carried into execution by free instruments—that is, by a force of free men.

Such a force is the county power of our country. Restored to full vigor and energy, having the attribute of resistless power, a successful insurrection must be impossible; and possessing also ubiquity, a mischievous riot would be a miracle.

When, on the expulsion of a misguided prince, the bill of rights declared a standing army in time of peace to be against law, unless with consent of parliament, it, of course, meant to use the words of the prince then just seated on the throne, "a lawful parliament"—that is, a parliament of a constitutional duration, in which the people should be truly represented.

When the bill of rights made this declaration, parliaments of a duration not exceeding one year, were the only parliaments which had ever been known to the law.

Legal means of suppressing Riots, 28, 290. Black Com. I. 406.

Keeping in mind that the county power, which is a moiety of the constitution of England, is now nowhere to be found but in our law books, and has been purposely neglected to furnish pretexts for the planting and rearing up a standing army, a system against which, from its commencement to the present day, all true patriots have loudly remonstrated; a system which even the late Earl of Liverpool, before silenced by a place, ably exposed, and severely reprobated as a detestable policy; and having at length witnessed the voting, in time of peace, an army of 176,615 men, including the provisions for India, every Englishman will do well, seriously to ask himself two questions, first, "By whom voted?" and secondly, "for what voted?"

What statesman hath ever disputed the conclusion of the sagacious Hume, when he pronounced "our standing army is a mortal distemper in the constitution, of which it must inevitably perish!"—Essays II. 376. Of that distemper perish it must, unless parliament be reformed; and, in preference to busying itself with balancing the powers of Europe, it balances the powers of our constitution; that so "restored to vigour and energy," it no longer fear to perish by a force which is foreign to its nature and principles, and of which external service is the sole legitimate object.

Thus, and thus alone, can the prophecy of Hume be falsified. Thus, and thus alone, can the mad career of tyranny folly be stayed, and our country preserved from groaning in poverty, wretchedness and degradation, under a government by corruption and the sword!

These grievances alone which we have specified, have tongues that proclaim too loudly to be unheard, too distinctly to be misunderstood, that the time is come for all who desire the deliverance of their country, to manifest in virtuous action that desire.

Being certain from the high deeds in arms achieved by the present generation of Englishmen, that Runcymead beheld not a braver race; and equally certain that in letters this age stoops not to that of the revolution, neither courage nor ability is wanting for aught that is worthy of our energies.

But public virtue, it is said, we also require. What is public virtue? It is rightly to act for the interest and security of the nation. What is the nation? It is the aggregate of the individuals of whom it is composed. Now each individual desires freedom, that so the hand of arbitrary power enter not his pocket against his will, and take his money without his consent.

As taxes then are voted by a House of Commons, so the individual cannot have this security, unless it be had by the community, who appoint that House; but if this security, the effect of liberty, be enjoyed by the community so must it be enjoyed by each individual.

Does it then so much require public virtue as common sense—a spirit of patriotism, as a desire of self preservation, that we shall unite to stem the devastating torrent of taxation without representation, and the never ceasing oppressions of an oligarchy, whose despotism is as intolerable as the means of it are iniquitous?

In the comparative few in whom this despotism centers, public virtue indeed must be necessary, ere, from sheer principle, they sacrifice their private advantage to their public weal. Yet, as in that body, there are those who obtained the monopoly of power, not by unconstitutional acts of their own, but of their ancestors, and whose private characters are amiable and excellent, examples of a generous virtue for saving their sinking country, may now, doubtless, be expected.

As for those who are totally blind, bigotted, incurable and politically infatuated, they are every way too odious and contemptible to be regarded, and utterly incapable of resisting the voice of a united people.

We, therefore, exhort all Englishmen, who desire the deliverance of their country, to raise their constitutional voice by petition, for claiming, as a lawful inheritance and undoubted right, that representation be co-extensive at least with direct taxation; that such representation be equally distributed throughout the community; and that Parliament may only have a continuance according to the principles of the constitution.

Mr. CANNING, from Warwickshire, seconded the motion, and defended the supporters of the Hampden Club from the charge of innovation; and justified their principles. Those who made this charge were the real innovators; the friends of the alien bill, and the men who thought it no innovation on the constitution to put whole countries in Ireland under martial law, and to place despots on their thrones at the point of the bayonet. He lamented the apathy of the people, and thought they ought to be roused to a sense of their danger, as in the case of the property tax, which, by their united voice, was alone abolished.

The Rev. Mr. SHAPER warmly supported Sir Robert Adams in defending Lord Bessborough.

ported the declaration. He knew of no qualifications for a member of Parliament but intelligence and integrity.

Lord COCHRAN thought that other means should be adopted for seeking Parliamentary reform, than the mere obtaining signatures for a petition to the House of Commons. They should follow the plan of the Americans, and abstain from the use of such articles as were subject to an impost on the present system of taxation. They ought to follow the constitutional plan acted upon by a gentleman in Ireland, who killed his horses, dogs, &c. and actually burnt his carriage, and discharged all his servants. If the people, therefore, abstained from all taxable articles, profligacy and corruption must soon cease. The noble Lord, after making a variety of political observations, concluded by reading several resolutions which he had prepared in furtherance of these principles.

Mr. GALE JONES applauded the Declaration, and paid a high compliment to the talents and character of Sir F. Burdett. The opinion of the noble Lord (Cochran) was highly visionary, for from luxuries the taxes had fallen upon necessities which could not be resigned. Remonstrances, not petitions, ought to be the language of the people, under the circumstances in which they were now placed. The Declaration was then unanimously adopted.

ONE HUNDRED & FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD.

I AM directed, by the commanding officer of Artillery in the harbor of Charleston, S. C. to offer the above reward, together with all reasonable expenses, for the apprehension and delivery to him of the following deserters from the company under my command, to wit:

ARCEBARD McEACHIN, a private, born in Bladen, N. C. about 28 years old, 5 feet one inch high, of fair complexion, black hair, grey eyes, and by profession a Schoolmaster. He deserted from Fort Moultrie in the Harbor of Charleston, in July 1815.

WILLIAM HATES, a private, born in about 23 years old, five feet six inches high, of dark complexion, black hair, black eyes, and by profession a labourer. He deserted from Fort Moultrie, in August 1815.

HIRSH SHEPHERD, a fifer, born in South-Carolina, about 24 years old, 5 feet 10 inches high, of fair complexion, sandy hair, blue eyes, and by profession a fifer, having been in the service thirteen or fourteen years. He deserted from Fort Moultrie in Sept. 1815.

JAMES SPARKS, a private, born in Caswell N. C. about 23 years old, 5 feet 8 inches high, of dark complexion, black hair, black eyes, and by profession a labourer. He deserted from Fort Moultrie in November, 1815.

CHARLES CREECHWOOD, a private, born in Rutherford, N. C. about 26 years old, five feet nine inches high, of swarthy complexion, dark hair, grey eyes and by profession a blacksmith. He deserted from Fort Moultrie, Dec. 25, 1815.

ROBERT GRADY, a drummer, born in Wockingham, N. C. about 25 years old, 5 feet nine inches high, of dark complexion, sandy hair, blue eyes and by profession a labourer. He deserted from Fort Johnson, in the Harbor of Charleston, on the 3d of March last.

JAMES POTTER, a private, born in Burke N. C. about 26 years old, 5 feet 10 inches high, of dark complexion, black hair, blue eyes, and by profession a labourer. He deserted with Grady.

NATHAN GORHAM, a private, born in Rockingham, N. C. about 20 years old, 5 feet 7 inches high, of fair complexion, dark hair, blue eyes, and by profession a labourer. He deserted from Fort Johnson on 22d February last.

THOMAS JENKINS, a private—This man having been transferred from the Rifle Regiment about any descriptive roll, I can give no account of him, except that he deserted from Fort Johnson on the 3d of May last.

JOHN P. CHAMBERS, a private, born in Person, N. C. about 26 years old, 5 feet 8 inches high, of fair complexion, dark hair, hazel eyes and by profession a hatter. He deserted from Fort Johnson on the 28th June last.

JOHN COLE, a private, born in Orange, N. C. about 34 years old, 5 feet 9 inches high, of dark complexion, black hair, black eyes and by profession a cobbler. He deserted with Chambers.

CHESLEY WOODWARD, a private, born in Charlotte, Virginia, about 26 years old, 5 feet 10 inches high, of dark complexion, light hair, blue eyes and by profession a labourer. He deserted from Fort Moultrie about the 1st of this month, July 1816.

DEANIS GRADY, a private, born in Rockingham, N. C. about 20 years old, 5 feet 8 inches high, of swarthy complexion, light hair, blue eyes, and by profession a labourer.

OWEN ORRANT, a private, born in Halifax, Virginia, about 29 years old, five feet eleven inches high, of fair complexion, black hair, black eyes, and by profession a labourer.

ADAM BARN, a private, born in Chatham, N. C. about 24 years old, 5 feet ten inches high, of fair complexion, sandy hair, blue eyes, and by profession a labourer. This man, Overby and Dennis Grady, deserted from Fort Johnson on 3d July instant.

A Reward of TEN DOLLARS, together with all reasonable expenses, will be paid for the apprehension and delivery of each and every of the above named deserters to the Commanding Officer of Artillery, in the Harbor of Charleston, or to any other officer in the Army of the United States.

SANDERS DONOHO, Capt. Army, Fort Johnson, July 13, 1816.

NOTICE.

THE subscriber at the last term of Wake County Court, administered on the Estate of George Hall, dec'd. All persons therefore, who are indebted to the said estate are requested to come forward and make payment without delay—and those having claims are requested to present them for payment within the time prescribed by law.

WILLIAM SCOTT, Raleigh, August 20, 1816.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

July 10, 1816.

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE.

THAT separate proposals will be received at the office of the Secretary for the Department of War, until the 31st day of October next, inclusive, for the supply of all rations that may be required for the use of the United States, from the 1st day of June, 1817, inclusive, to the 1st day of June, 1818, within the States, Territories and Districts, following, viz:

1st. At Detroit, Michilimackinac, Fort Wayne, Chickamauga, and their immediate vicinities, and at any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited, within the Territory of Michigan, the vicinity of the Upper Lakes and the state of Ohio, and on or adjacent to the waters of Lake Michigan.

2d. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the States of Kentucky and Tennessee.

3d. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the Illinois, Indiana and Missouri Territories.

4th. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the Mississippi Territory, the state of Louisiana and their vicinities north of the Gulf of Mexico.

5th. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the District of Maine and state of New Hampshire.

6th. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the state of Massachusetts.

7th. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island.

8th. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the state of New York, north of the Highlands and within the state of Vermont.

9th. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the state of New York, south of the Highlands, including West Point and within the state of New Jersey.

10th. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the state of Pennsylvania.

11th. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the states of Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

12th. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the state of Virginia.

13th. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the state of North Carolina.

14th. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the state of South Carolina.

15th. At any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the state of Georgia, including that part of the Creek's land lying within the territorial limits of said state.

A ration is consist of one pound and one quarter of beef or three quarters of a pound of salted pork, eighteen ounces of bread or flour, one gill of rum, whiskey or brandy, and at the rate of two quarts of salt four quarts of vinegar, four pounds of soap, and one pound and one half of candles to every hundred rations. The prices of the several component parts of the ration shall be specified, but the United States reserve the right of making such alterations in the price of the component parts of the ration as shall, as shall make the price of each part thereof bear a just proportion to the proposed price of the whole ration. The rations are to be furnished in such quantities, that there shall, at all times, during the term of the proposed contract, be sufficient for the consumption of the troops for six months in advance, of good and wholesome provisions, if the same shall be required. It is also to be permitted to all and every of the commandants of fortified places or posts, to call for, at seasons, when the same can be transported, or at any time, in case of urgency, such supplies of like provisions in advance, as in the discretion of the commandant shall be deemed proper.

It is understood that the contractor is to be at the expense and risk of issuing the supplies to the troops, and that all losses sustained by the deprivations of the enemy, or by means of the troops of the United States, shall be paid by the United States at the price of the article captured or destroyed as aforesaid, or the depositions of two or more persons of credible character, and the certificate of a commissioned officer, stating the circumstance of the loss, and the amount of the article, of which compensation shall be claimed.

The privilege is reserved to the U. States of requiring that none of the supplies, which may be furnished under any of the proposed contracts, shall be issued, until the supplies which have been, or may be furnished under the contract now in force, have been consumed.

WM. H. CLAWFORD, Secretary of War.