

all restrictions and disabilities whatever, on account of religious opinion, and to the unlimited right of admission not only to offices of the highest responsibility, but even into the legislature itself, under a monarchy and a constitution of which Protestantism has hitherto been, and, it is earnestly hoped, will never cease to be an essential and distinguishing character; and that, as the petitioners humbly apprehend, it is altogether impossible to admit such claims without destroying some of the strongest defences by which our civil and religious establishments have long been happily secured; and though many of the most enlightened advocates for these claims have always professed, and sincerely professed, a desire that other securities should be substituted in their place, yet, as far as the petitioners know or believe, not even the general nature of these new securities (much less their specific character and tendency) has ever yet been publicly explained, though such explanation, if truly convincing and satisfactory, would most powerfully have contributed to reconcile varieties of opinion, and to remove the apprehensions of danger which now justly prevail with respect to this momentous question; so that, even on this ground, without adverting to the great, and, as they think, insuperable difficulties inherent in the thing itself, the petitioners deem it not unreasonable to declare their full conviction that, if the above mentioned claims should be conceded, it would be utterly impracticable to provide new defences on which equal dependence could be placed for the lasting safety of the Protestant Government and Protestant Church, as they are now established in this United Kingdom; and that the petitioners rely, with perfect confidence, on the wisdom of parliament, but they feel it to be their duty, with the utmost deference, to submit to the House their deliberate opinion on a question, which they cannot possibly view as limited by mere political considerations, because they are well assured, that whatever may affect the safety of the Established Church, must materially affect also the interests of that pure and reformed religion, of which the Church is a faithful guardian and depositary; and praying, that the House will be pleased effectually to guard against the adoption of any measure tending to weaken or undermine the firm and tried bulwarks of that constitution in Church and State, under which, by the blessing of Divine Providence, this

country has, since the æra of the Revolution, enjoyed a degree of freedom, peace, and happiness unknown to other nations, and unexampled in former ages."

Ordered to lie upon the table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, December 16.

PETITION OF CAPTAIN INGLIS.] Sir *F. Burdett* said, he held in his hands a Petition from captain Inglis, who was to have gone out to survey Port Jackson. While his vessel was in the river, some of his crew, all of whom had protections, were attacked by a press-gang. They resisted this press-gang, and beat them off, but he himself took no part in the resistance. A complaint was lodged at the Thames Police Office, to which he was brought. His treatment there was shocking and shameful. He was confined from four in the afternoon till eight in the evening, in a place which it was scarcely decent to mention; and when he came from this place—a common privy—he was so overcome with the stench, that he was ready to faint. He was conveyed to Clerkenwell Prison, and obliged to share a bed with one of the felons, in irons. His affairs were much injured, if not ruined, by being detained till his trial should come on in March next. This gentleman was well known, during a long life, as possessed of a most respectable character. He was well related, and had served first as a midshipman in the king's service, and afterwards in a high situation in a vessel belonging to the East India Company; and while he was in the Company's service, he had received a considerable reward from lord Minto, for having saved the lives of several persons wrecked on an unknown rock in the Bay of Bengal. He had references for character to admiral Hunter, lord Erskine, the hon. Henry Erskine, and several other respectable individuals. He hoped that the Admiralty would of themselves take this case into consideration, and prevent its coming before the House.

On the suggestion of the Speaker, the Petition was withdrawn, for the purpose of endeavouring to state the circumstances of the case with greater brevity.

LONDON BOOKSELLERS' PETITION, RESPECTING COPY-RIGHTS, &c.] Mr. Davies Giddy presented a Petition from the booksellers and publishers of London and Westminster, setting forth,

“ That, by an act of 8 Anne, for the encouragement of learning, by vesting the copies of printed books in the authors or purchaser of such copies during the time therein mentioned, it was enacted, amongst other things, that if any person should reprint any book without the consent of the proprietor, as therein mentioned, the offender should forfeit such book, and also one penny for every sheet found in his custody; but it was provided, that no one should be subject to such penalty unless the title to the copy of such book should be entered in the register book of the Company of Stationers; and it was further provided and enacted, that nine copies of each book, upon the best paper, that should be printed and published as aforesaid, or reprinted and published with additions, should, by the printer thereof, be delivered to the warehouse-keeper of the said Company of Stationers before such publication made, for the use of the royal library, the libraries of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the libraries of the four Universities in Scotland, the library of Sion College, in London, and the library belonging to the faculty of advocates in Edinburgh; and that, by an act of 41 Geo. 3, for the further encouragement of learning in the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, by securing the copies and copyright of printed books to the authors of such books, or their assigns, for the time therein mentioned, it was, amongst other things, enacted, that, in addition to the nine copies then required by law to be delivered to the warehouse-keeper of the said Company of Stationers, and each and every book which should be entered in the regular book of the said company, one other copy should be in like manner delivered for the use of the library of the college of the Holy Trinity in Dublin, and one other copy for the library of the society of the King's Inn, Dublin, of every book that should be thereafter printed and published, and entered in the said register book of the said company; and that it was the general persuasion of authors and booksellers, that, by the said act of queen Anne, copies of those books only were required to be delivered which the proprietors chose to enter at Stationers' Hall to entitle themselves to the protection of the said forfeiture of one penny a sheet of the pirated copies, and therefore, when by the increased expences of publication, the said forfeiture of one penny a sheet be-

came an inadequate protection, the practice of entering the books gradually lessened; and that the University of Cambridge, having lately contended that copies of all books, whether registered or not at Stationers' Hall, should be delivered, commenced an action against a printer of a recent publication for not delivering the several copies thereof, upon which case it has been determined that the said act of queen Anne enjoins the delivery of copies of all works printed and published, whether registered at Stationers' Hall or not; and that this determination will subject the petitioners to great expence, and operate very seriously to discourage literature; and that the best paper copies, at the period of the passing of the said act, were not similar to the expensive fine paper copies now printed, nor were any works of that costly description, which now issue from the British press, at that time known, many of those works are now printed by authors at their own expence, and many others upon their sharing the profits after the deduction of all expences; and the petitioners humbly submit that to enforce a delivery of eleven copies of all books will, in the cases in which, from the nature of the works, and limited sale, a small number only is printed, operate as a great discouragement to the undertaking of such works; and that, by the said act of queen Anne, the term of twenty-eight years' copyright is secured to the author, and his assigns, in case he should be alive at the end of the first fourteen years, but, in case he should then be dead, the copyright ceases at the end of the first fourteen years; and the petitioners humbly submit that this distinction is, in many cases, productive of great hardships to the families of authors, and is not founded upon just principles; and that the petitioners could state innumerable instances of works lately published and now publishing, to prove the heavy burthen which will be thrown upon authors and publishers, by enforcing the delivery of the copies required on best paper; upon ten works published by one bookseller, the amount would be 5,698*l.*; upon twelve works published by another bookseller, the amount would be 2,990*l.*; and the petitioners need only add to this statement some single works on best paper, viz. Daniel's Oriental Scenery 2,310*l.*; Sibthorpe's Flora Greca 2,500*l.*; British Gallery of Engraving 1,065*l.*; Mr. Johnes's Froissart and Monstrelet Chronicles 1,100*l.*; Dibdin's Typography

426*l.*; Lord Valentia's Travels 577*l.*; Costumes of the World 532*l.*; Hodges's Views in India 462*l.*; Salt's Views 300*l.* 6*s.*; the new editions of Dugdale's Monasticon will be 1,430 guineas; the new editions of Wood's Athenæ Oxonienses 770 guineas, Daniel's Voyage to India 132*l.*, taken from an infinite number of works of great expence lately published and now publishing, of the best copies of which, such as required by the statute and the determination, frequently only fifty copies, and in some instances even a less number, are printed, prove to the House that the petitioners are not complaining upon frivolous grounds; and praying, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill for granting relief to the petitioners."

Ordered to lie upon the table.

TELLERS OF THE EXCHEQUER—LETTERS FROM THE MARQUISSES OF BUCKINGHAM AND CAMDEN.] Mr. Wharton presented the following Letters of the marquisses Buckingham and Camden, addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer; relative to giving up a proportion of their net Incomes as Tellers of the Exchequer: as well as all Proceedings of the Treasury thereupon.

No. 1.—The Marquisses BUCKINGHAM and CAMDEN, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Exchequer, Nov. 21, 1812.

Sir; under the impression which we entertain of the encreased sacrifices, to which the country will in all probability be called by the pressure upon its resources, in a moment of unexampled expence and difficulty; we are anxious to express, through you, our desire and intention of contributing our voluntary aid to the expences of the war: we therefore request you, as the regular official channel of communication from the Exchequer to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, to signify to them, our intention of paying in aid of the general services of the year, and in quarterly payments, one-third of the net profits arising from the salary and fees of our respective tellerships of the Exchequer. We propose, and intend, to continue this voluntary contribution for and during the present war; and to commence it from and after the present quarter ending on the 5th of January next. We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) NUGENT BUCKINGHAM,
CAMDEN.

No. 2.—TREASURY MINUTE, 24th November 1812.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer lays before the Board, a letter addressed to him by the marquisses of Buckingham and Camden, dated 21st inst. in which they state, "that under the impressions which they entertain of the encreased sacrifices to which the country will in all probability be called by the pressure upon its resources in a moment of unexampled expence and difficulty, they are anxious to express, through him, their desire and intention of contributing their voluntary aid to the expences of the war; they therefore request him, as the regular official channel of communication from the Exchequer to this Board, to signify to us their intention of paying, in aid of the general services of the year, and in quarterly payments, one-third of the net profits arising from the salary and fees of their respective tellerships of the Exchequer; and that they propose and intend to continue this voluntary contribution for and during the present war; and to commence it from and after the present quarter ending the 5th January next."

My lords read the 218th section of the Act of the 43d of the King, cap. 122, directing the mode and receipt and application of the voluntary contributions for the purpose of carrying on the war.

My lords are pleased to direct, that letters be written to the marquis of Buckingham and marquis Camden respectively, expressing to them the high sense which their lordships entertain of their public spirited and patriotic intention of contributing one-third of the net profits of the salary and fees of their respective tellerships of the Exchequer, in aid of the general services of the year: and transmitting to them respectively copies of the 218th section of the said Act; and requesting their lordships will be pleased to give directions that the said voluntary contributions may be paid into the Bank, from time to time, conformably to the provisions of the said Act.

No. 3.—GEO. HARRISON, Esq. to the Marquisses BUCKINGHAM and CAMDEN.

Treasury Chambers, Nov. 30, 1812.

My lords; the Chancellor of the Exchequer having laid before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, your lordship's letter of 21st inst. stating, "that