

rise would take place in the price of that commodity. But whatever ultimately might be the decision of the House, it would be satisfactory to the people to know that every inquiry had been previously gone into.

Mr. *Huskisson* rose merely with a view to notice the observation which had fallen from the hon. gentleman who spoke last, regarding the speculations in corn. It was quite impossible, in his opinion, for any person not to perceive that, from the supply of grain at present in this country, there was no probability of any rise in price before harvest. This was one reason for his wishing to proceed with the subject at present. There were many persons in the House desirous of defeating the measure; and at the present advanced period of the session he should despair of any report of a committee being laid before the House in any reasonable time to admit of subsequent discussion; and thus agreeing to a select committee would be the same thing as putting off the measure altogether to another session.

The question was then put, and the House adopted the Resolution without a division.

The *Chancellor of the Exchequer* moved for leave to bring in a Bill in conformity to the Resolution. In answer to a question of lord Milton, he said, that he was undetermined whether he should propose three or five years, for the period of the Bill. Three years he thought the shortest term which could enable the country to experience the effects of the measure.

Leave was then given to bring in the Bill.

COPY RIGHT BILL.] The House resolved itself into a committee on this Bill, in which

Mr. *D. Giddy* stated, that, from a reconsideration of the clauses, it was wished that this commitment should only be *pro forma*, and that it should be re-committed when the Bill was more completely in the possession of the members. For the satisfaction of those present, however, he wished shortly to run over the clauses of the Bill, as it had been altered and now stood. The clauses provided—1. That it should not be necessary that the copies of books presented to public libraries should be on fine paper.—2. That no book need be presented to these libraries, unless such as were required from the booksellers.—3. That all copy rights should be entered

at Stationers'-hall; and that if the author, by a special entry, waved his copy right, he should then only be required to present one copy to the British Museum.—

4. That the term of copy right be extended from 14 years certain, and another 14 years if the author was living at the end of the first term, to 28 years certain. There was another clause which the hon. member said had been presented to him by the booksellers; to provide, that improper use should not be made of the books presented to the public libraries, as it had been said that they were sometimes sold. These clauses, on the suggestion of Mr. *Bankes*, were then received for the purpose of being printed. The House then resumed, and the Report being received, was ordered to be taken into consideration on the 27th instant.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, May 19.

BRISTOL PETITION AGAINST THE CORN BILL.] Mr. *Protheroe* presented a Petition, signed by 22,445 of the inhabitants of Bristol; setting forth the evils that were to be expected from any alteration in the corn laws, and expressing their confidence that the wisdom of the legislature would avert the threatened evil.

Mr. *Hart Davis* could not forbear saying a few words in favour of the petition of his constituents, to whose interests the passing of the Bill before the House would be a serious injury. He hoped that the new measure would at least be postponed till the next session; as there was not yet that strong necessity which alone could authorise its adoption.

Mr. *Western* congratulated the hon. member on the circumstances of his constituents having so implicitly followed his advice. He understood that the hon. gentleman had thought proper to write a letter to his constituents, informing them that there was a combination between the Irish members and the landed interest of the House, to bring in a Bill for the regulation of the price of corn, which would have a necessary tendency to enhance that price, and advising them to petition against the Bill. It would seem, therefore, that they had lost no time in following the advice of their representative, by subscribing and sending up the petition to him.

Mr. *Protheroe* observed, that the hon. member ought to have known what the