

veniences attending it, and let every circumstance be thoroughly investigated, that could throw a light on so important a subject. He should, therefore, move, that this petition, and all others that might be offered, relative to this Bill, be referred to a committee.

The *Chancellor of the Exchequer* said, it was usual to give notice of every motion, of a similar nature to the present, which his hon. friend had now made. He, therefore, hoped his hon. friend would wave his motion till to-morrow; and that, in the mean time, all proceedings on the Bill should be staid till that motion was disposed of.

Mr. *Baring* said, there were 3,000 names to the Petition, signed by merchants and bankers of the first fortune and character in the country, who would not have signed such a petition if they had not felt that the most serious inconveniencies must be the consequence of this measure. As there was to be a committee, he would not, at present, take up the time of the House, by entering into further particulars. He would only wish to mention, that there was a counter-petition, originating, he believed, about Temple-bar; at the meeting for which, Mr. Twining was in the chair. It seemed they had received all their information from the Post-office, and it was not therefore difficult to foresee what sort of materials it would be composed of. He hoped, however, that the business would now be thoroughly investigated; and he saw no reason why it should not be put off till next session.

The Petition was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. *Butterworth* then presented a Petition, from nearly 4,000 bankers, merchants, and traders, resident at the west-end of the town, praying, the enactment of the Bill for the removal of the Post-office. The hon. member stated, that this Petition came from persons not at all connected with the original framers of the Bill, to which it referred, but who were interested in the early delivery of letters; and anxious for an arrangement, which would keep the receiving-houses open for half an hour later in the evening. This was naturally conceived a very material advantage to the inhabitants at the west-end of the town, which entitled the petitioners to particular attention, and the more so as the convenience of the merchants in the city was fully provided for in the Bill. It was notorious, that five out of seven of the let-

ters received at the General Post-office were addressed to the west end of the town, and which circumstance pleaded strongly in support of the petitioners; and the manufacturing districts would be considerably benefited by the additional opportunity which the extension of the time, for receiving letters in the evening, would afford to their correspondents to answer their communications. Such he understood to be the impression among several Manchester houses with which he had had a communication upon the subject.

Mr. *Wrottesley* observed, that, by paying a certain sum annually, any man might insure the early delivery of his letters; and that the difference between the early and the ordinary delivery of letters at Lincoln's-inn, for instance, was no less than an hour and a half. This difference surprised him and others, with whom he had conversed upon the subject. Indeed, he could not account for the reason why all the letters might not be delivered at the same time, if due diligence were employed at the Post-office. But to whose hands the guinea a year, usually paid for this early delivery, finally fell, he could not say, but he thought that it would be much better to create some fund to insure the early delivery generally, than allow it to rest upon the discretion of any individuals.

Mr. *Rose* said, that when the Bill was originally introduced he was adverse to it, because he apprehended that its enactment would be inconvenient to the merchants of London. But that inconvenience was provided against, and he now thought the measure highly desirable; and the several points referred to by the petitioners, as well as that stated by the hon. gentleman, who spoke last, certainly called for enquiry.

Mr. *Butterworth* stated, that, exclusive of the other considerations, which called for the enactment of the Bill, the citizens of London, who considered the present state of St. Martin's-le-Grand as a nuisance, were extremely anxious for the improvements which this Bill was calculated to produce.

The Petitions were referred to a committee.

COPY-RIGHT BILL.] Mr. *Giddy* proposed, that the report of this Bill should be postponed to next session.

Mr. *J. Smyth* expressed a wish rather

that the Bill should now be re-committed, than that it should be postponed altogether.

Mr. *Giddy* said, he was ready to meet the wishes of the hon. gentleman, and begged he might be allowed to withdraw his original motion.

Mr. *Marsh* said, several gentlemen had left the House, under the impression that the Bill would be postponed till next session.

Mr. *Giddy*, under these circumstances, proposed to postpone the committee for a few days.

Mr. *J. Smyth* said, he would have no objection to agree to the Bill being got rid of for the present.

After a few observations from Mr. *Wetherall*, sir *W. Scott*, lord *Palmerston*, Mr. *Manners Sutton*, and Mr. *Horner*, who suggested the expediency of the Bill being then re-committed; Mr. *D. Giddy* moved, that the Speaker do leave the chair. This motion was carried, and the House resolved into a committee. Several verbal amendments were proposed and agreed to.

Mr. *Giddy* said, he had a clause of rather a curious nature to propose. It was for the purpose of protecting the interests of authors, who were in the habit of writing plays, merely intended for the closet. A gentleman, who had written several pieces of this description, which he conceived to be extremely good, had informed him, that as the law was at present constituted, though the copy-right of any play, he might produce, was secured to him, yet there was no enactment to prevent the manager of either of the regular theatres from bringing it out on the stage, which might seriously injure the sale of the drama. He, therefore, requested him to introduce a clause, "to prevent any play, or any production, purporting to be a play, which should hereafter be published for the closet, from being represented on the stage without the consent of the author being first obtained."

Lord *Palmerston* said, that the clause proposed by the hon. gentleman, was so utterly unconnected with any thing contained in the Bill, that it would, perhaps, be better to reserve it until a bill, to allow the erection of a third theatre, was introduced.

Mr. *Giddy* said, he had no particular attachment to the clause; but, as it was put into his hands, he thought it was right to mention it.

The clause was withdrawn. The House then resumed; the Report was received, and ordered to be taken into farther consideration on Friday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, July 13.

IRISH PRESERVATION OF THE PEACE BILL.] On the motion for the second reading of the Bill, to provide for the preserving and restoring of peace in such parts of Ireland as may, at any time, be disturbed by seditious persons, or by persons entering into any unlawful combinations or conspiracies,

Mr. *Horner* immediately rose and opposed the Bill, which he arraigned as an unconstitutional measure, and brought forward towards the close of the session, when most of the members for Ireland were absent, without any statement, that it was called for by any sudden emergency, or any new or extraordinary occurrence in Ireland. It was a measure which, as it stood, would go to deprive his Majesty's subjects in Ireland of the invaluable privilege of grand and petit juries, and transfer the office of these juries to county magistrates; who, with the aid of a serjeant or barrister at law, were to try and condemn to transportation, for an indefinite time, any persons whom they should deem guilty of offences, not defined by law, and at most, merely constructive. He deprecated the habit of bringing bills into the House of late, to pass new laws for Ireland, without laying any foundation to satisfy the House of the necessity of such laws; and in the absence of the members for Ireland, who were most competent to judge of such necessity; and such was the Bill introduced this night, for extending to Ireland the English law of extents, the policy of which was extremely questioned in this country by the ablest lawyers and statesmen, and must be therefore still more questioned in a country where it never was introduced before. As to the present Bill, he was convinced it must tend rather to exasperate the people, and considerably exaggerate the mischief it proposed to remedy, than to produce any salutary consequences; and he never could consent, without grounds, infinitely stronger than he had heard, to such a violation of the constitution of the country, as to abolish the trial by jury, or suspend the ordinary and constitutional operation of the laws, which must be fully adequate