

endure a life of harassing ill-treatment and vexation and misery? This is no imaginary case: I know many such cases, which, at this moment, present themselves to my memory. There can scarcely be a Member in this House to whom some such case is not known; there are hundreds of women now suffering in silence, pining for the children whom a stern law has torn from them, now looking anxiously to the decision of this House—now eagerly hoping that the representatives of the people will save them from the terrible alternative which forces them to choose between being the abject slaves of a brutal husband or of being deprived of the very sight of their own children. This is no party question; and I do sincerely hope that the noble Lord the Secretary for the Home Department and the right hon. Baronet the Member for Tamworth will coalesce on this occasion at least, and exert their united authority to induce the House to give that protection to the feeble and to afford that justice to the aggrieved which the learned Member for Reading, in the name of many, too many, of our country women, now prays for at our hands.

Sir *E. Sugden* believed that men had very little notion of the intensity of a mother's affection for her children. But the question to be considered was whether the Bill proposed by the hon. and learned Member would not present a motive to induce separations between husbands and wives. The cases which the hon. and learned Member had cited were cases in which the fault was on the side of the husband; while those acquainted with life must well know that there were many cases in which the faults were on the part of the wife. In a future stage he should take the sense of the House respecting the Bill.

Mr. Sergeant *Talfourd* observed, that the Bill he proposed made no change in the custody of the children, but permitted access to them, and that only to be obtained upon application to the Lord Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, or some of the twelve judges.

Leave given.

LAW OF COPYRIGHT.] Mr. Sergeant *Talfourd*, in moving for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law of copyright, observed that the Bill he now proposed was in substance similar to that which had been read a second time in the last

session. It differed however in two points. The bill of last session was not confined to literary works, but also combined within its objects painting and engraving. It was suggested to him that the clauses referring to these matters only encumbered his Bill. He considered that the law relative to painting and engraving, and especially statutory, was in a most degraded state. When he had carried through the present bill he intended to introduce another, which would consolidate the laws relating to the fine arts. With respect to the second point, international copyright, it had been suggested to him that it could be most safely left in the hands of the Government. He suggested that a power should be given by which the Queen by an order in council, should extend protection to the works of the natives of any country in which protection was afforded to the copyright of British authors. He moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the law of copyright.

Mr. *E. L. Bulwer* sincerely thanked the hon. and learned Member for his introduction of such a Bill. He was sure the House could not be aware of the extent to which literary piracy had gone. As soon as a book was published the press of France reprinted it at one-fifth the original price, and the country thus became deluged with foreign piracies. He thought the Government ought to take steps to prevent such occurrences.

Mr. *P. Thomson* said, the hon. Gentleman had acted wisely in leaving the part of this Bill relating to piracies to the Government, which had already taken the matter into serious consideration. He removed many objections to the Bill by confining it to copyrights at home, for the other matter was so mixed up with Custom-house regulations that it was full of difficulties. He trusted, however, that Government would be enabled to succeed, and it had already considerable negotiations going forward upon the subject. He would early after the recess, introduce a measure on the subject, which would, he hoped, insure the result of the explanation he had caused to be entered into with foreign countries, establishing with those countries a reciprocity of interest with respect to copyrights.

Sir *Robert Peel* thought that the hon. and Learned Gentleman had acted wisely in separating that part of his Bill which related to the fine arts from that which

applied to authors. He was of opinion that it would have been more convenient to enter into the discussion upon these two subjects as two separate measures; but he was sure that the same principle applied to the fine arts which applied to others. The sculptor and painter were entitled to similar protection. The present state of the law was exceedingly complicated with respect to the right of those parties to protection. At present the rights of the painter and engraver appeared to stand on very different grounds from those of the author. He believed the subject had not been thoroughly inquired into before a Committee, and doubted very much if his hon. and learned Friend's purpose would not be materially aided if he moved for the appointment of a select Committee to consider the question of sculpture and painting. The subject might have been inquired into by some former Committee; but, if not, it was so difficult that they could not approach it without great disadvantage, unless some inquiry was previously made.

Mr. B. *D'Israeli* would be extremely happy if an expeditious and inexpensive mode of redress could be established against the system of piracy that was carried on. He had been requested to give his support to the Bill by some of the most eminent literary characters. It would give him great pleasure if the subject was taken up by her Majesty's present Government, and he would be glad if the law was perfected even under their auspices.

Leave given.

RUSSIA.] Mr. *Thomas Attwood* rose and said, that recollecting how he had been admonished in the course of last Session, he would on the present occasion confine himself to the object of his motion. It was said that we ought not to be surprised at anything in human affairs. Now, he was not so far advanced in life as to be incapable of feeling surprise. He had felt surprised on many occasions, and he certainly felt much surprised that her Majesty's Ministers should have met Parliament, and that neither in the speech from the Throne, nor from any of her Majesty's Ministers since, had they heard a single word respecting the distress that existed amongst the industrious classes. He was also surprised at the indifference of her Majesty's Ministers as to the position which Russia was assuming in the affairs

of Europe. They had been engaged in petty discussions about nasty matters that were unworthy the attention of the politicians of a village pot-house; and this, too, while Russia was gathering up her strength to make a horrible war on England at her proper time. He would take the liberty of reading one or two paragraphs from a pamphlet which had been written by an excellent officer, Captain Crawford, respecting the present strength and condition of the Russian navy. In that pamphlet it was stated that Russia had at present, in the Baltic Sea, no less than twenty-six ships of the line, with a proper proportion of frigates and sloops of war, all well manned and instructed in the mode adopted in the English service. The object in bringing forward this motion was to vindicate the honour of England and to see that our interests were not seriously compromised through the supineness of the present Government. The hon. Member read a long extract from the pamphlet referred to, the object of which was to show that Russia had at this moment, besides twenty-six sail of the line in the Baltic, eighteen sail of the line in the Black Sea, whilst England had but seven sail of the line on our own coasts in a state of preparation, and even these were not fully manned. Captain Crawford said, that on seeing this he trembled for the preservation of our ancient sovereignty of the seas. He (Mr. Attwood) did not care whether Russia was our friend or our foe, this he did not take into consideration for a moment, for the moment that any country depended upon the friendship of a tyrant, that moment the people became slaves. The moment that Russia acquired power to injure us, that moment she acquired dominion over us, and yet while this was going on, her Majesty's Ministers Session after Session sat apparently sleeping on the Treasury benches. He had warned them three or four years ago to take care what they were doing about the Russians—that the Russians might be awkward fellows to deal with, and that if they continued to pursue their career of degradation, they would not dare to look an enemy in the face. [*Laughter.*] What did they laugh at, he would like to know? [*Great laughter.*] They might reserve their laughter for a better occasion. They would not laugh when they heard of eighty Russian men