

the necessity of increasing the burdens on the people.

Mr. *Powell* said, that the hon. Member for Finsbury, when he talked of the surplus funds of Ireland, ought to remember that the owners of Irish property did not reside in the country, but for the most part spent their revenues in England.

Motion withdrawn.

LAW OF COPYRIGHT.] Viscount *Mahon* said, that in asking for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law of copyright, it was not his intention to raise a discussion. The subject had been frequently before the House, and he would, therefore, only state in a very few words the nature of the alterations which it was his intention to propose. Sergeant *Talfourd* proposed to extend the protection of copyright to sixty years. It was his (Lord *Mahon's*) intention to reduce the period to twenty-five years, and he would introduce a clause to prevent the suppression of valuable works by the representatives of a deceased author, by giving the power to a committee of the Privy Council to interfere to prevent such a suppression.

Mr. *Wakley* said, he should not oppose the present motion of the noble Lord. It had not, however, been proved that an extension of twenty-five years might not

be just as objectionable as an extension of sixty years. He hoped the noble Lord would be prepared to show some good reason why the author of a book was entitled to more protection than the author of a new invention, and if sufficient reason for such a preference could not be shown, he hoped the noble Lord would be unsuccessful in his attempt.

Mr. *Jervis* said, he hoped the noble Lord would not proceed farther with his bill till after Easter.

Lord *Mahon* would not pledge himself so far, but he would give sufficient notice of the next stage.

Leave given.

INTERNAL NAVIGATION IN IRELAND.] Lord *Eliot* moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the act 1 and 2 Will. 4th., empowering landed proprietors in Ireland to sink, embank, and remove obstructions in rivers. There was a general bill in preparation, but the details would occupy a considerable time, and it had therefore been thought proper to introduce a bill to provide a remedy for some particular defects that required correction.

Leave given. Bill brought in, and read a first time.

House adjourned.