

occurred, in consequence of the precipitate sending of Dr. Alexander to Jerusalem. A report had reached him that the bishop had been received with much ill treatment. He wished to ask the right hon. Baronet whether such a report had reached the Government? and if so, whether the Government had taken any measures to protect the person of the bishop, or for his removal from a scene where it would be very difficult for him to guard against the hostilities of the various Christian sects, and of the Jews?

Sir *R. Peel* was aware, that in some parts of Syria efforts had been made to stir up hostilities against the mission, but no account whatever had reached the Government that the bishop had been ill treated. There might, no doubt, be a hostile feeling against the bishop, but he had received no account to the effect that his personal security had been endangered.

TEMPERANCE (IRELAND).] Mr. *Caleb Powell* begged leave to ask the right hon. Baronet, the First Lord of the Treasury, whether he was in possession of any official information from which he might infer that habits of temperance were or were not progressively extending among the people of Ireland.

Sir *R. Peel* said, that he was not in possession of any official information upon the subject, and he begged leave to add that he had not, on any former occasion, expressed an opinion on the matter. He had said, that there had been of late a considerable increase in the spirit duty in Ireland, but he dared say that the spirits were taken with a due regard to temperance.

CHURCH EXTENSION.] Mr. *Hawes* begged leave to ask the hon. Baronet, the Member for the University of Oxford, whether he intended to bring forward at an early day his motion on the subject of church extension?

Sir *R. H. Inglis* said, that he had stated, on a former occasion, that it was his intention to call the attention of the House to the subject after Easter; but he could not say whether he should be enabled to do so at an early period. He would, however, fix a day as soon as he might find convenient, and he would give the hon. Member and the House due notice on the subject.

TURNPIKE TRUSTS.] Mr. *F. Maule* said, that understanding the Government intended to bring forward a bill to regulate turnpike trusts, he wished to know whether the Government intended to take any measure with respect to the Private Turnpike Roads Bills which were now passing the House.

Sir *J. Graham* said, he had given notice a few days ago of the intention of her Majesty's Government to introduce a general turnpike act; and he thought that such a notice would act as sufficient warning to any parties who had bills before the House on that subject. But if they persevered, they did so at their peril.

COPYRIGHT.] Sir *R. Peel*, in moving that the Orders of the day be read, appealed to his noble Friend (Viscount Mahon) to allow the Government precedence, in order that the resolution with respect to the Income-tax might be brought forward. He had no right to interfere with his noble Friend's privilege to move the committee on the Copyright-bill as the first business of the evening, but he thought it would be for the public convenience if he were allowed to proceed with the important subject of the Income-tax.

Viscount *Mahon* felt great reluctance in postponing his measure, especially when he recollected that, in former Sessions, postponement and delay were the principal causes of the failure of a similar measure; but, considering the great importance of the question which the right hon. Baronet desired to bring forward, and the present state of that question, he thought he should best consult his own sense of duty, and the feelings of the House, by complying with the right hon. Baronet's request. He should therefore only propose that his bill be committed *pro forma* that evening, with the view of having it reprinted with some amendments; and he should then fix a day after Easter for its consideration.

Lord *J. Russell* lamented that the bills on this subject had never been in a shape which could induce the House to agree to them, and he did hope that his noble Friend who had the conduct of the present measure would take every means in his power to prevail upon the parties who took an interest in the bill to concur in their views, so that there might be some prospect of its passing. In the object of

the bill he concurred, but some difficulties had always arisen as to the details.

Viscount *Mahon* said, he had been in communication with several parties, and he hoped that the changes he proposed to have printed would materially obviate those objections which at different periods had been taken against such a measure. He should be most happy to attend to any suggestions that might be offered.

Orders of the day read, and the House resolved into committee on the Copyright-bill *pro formâ*. Amendments made, and bill ordered to be printed.

FORGERY OF EXCHEQUER-BILLS.] Mr. *C. Buller* asked, what course the Government intended to pursue with respect to the Forged Exchequer-bills Bill? No opposition was, he believed, intended to be offered to the measure, and it was very hard that it should be postponed. It should be recollected that there was a number of individuals whose fortunes and characters were depending on the settlement of the measure.

Sir *R. Peel* said, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been anxiously seeking for an opportunity to bring on the bill, but none had presented itself, although the House had sat every day until half-past one or two o'clock. It was necessary that the bill should be brought on at an early hour, because the late Solicitor-general had given notice of his intention to move some amendments.

Lord *J. Russell* said, it was true that his learned Friend the Member for Worcester intended to move some amendments to the bill, and, therefore, it was desirable that it should, if possible, be brought on some day at an early hour. The amendments were confined to a particular point, and would not give rise to a general discussion. He wished to ask the right hon. Baronet a question upon another point. The right hon. Baronet had referred to the machinery established under the Property-tax Act of 1806, as being the model for that which he intended to introduce into his bill. Now it would be very desirable that the House should have an opportunity of comparing that act with the right hon. Baronet's bill; and he, therefore, wished to know whether the right hon. Baronet would have any objection to the reprinting of the act of 1806?

Sir *R. Peel* thought, it might be pro-

ductive of convenience to have the act reprinted, and it should be done.

Sir *G. Clerk* said, that probably there might happen to be a sufficient number of copies of the act at the Queen's stationers, in which case it would be unnecessary to reprint it.

Sir *R. Inglis* asked when the Exchequer-bills Bill would be proceeded with?

Sir *R. Peel* said, he could not do better than propose that the bill should come on at five o'clock on Monday the 4th of April.

INCOME TAX.] Sir *R. Peel* moved the Order of the Day for the House to resolve itself into a committee of Ways and Means to consider the resolution for a property and Income-tax.

Order of the Day was read, on the question that the Speaker do leave the Chair,

Mr. *Blewitt* said, he thought as he did on Monday night, that the proposal for an Income-tax was pressed forward with indecent haste, and that the right hon. Baronet relied upon the charity of the House for enabling him to carry the tax upon which the people of the country had had no opportunity of expressing their opinion. He thought that the right hon. Baronet was not acting in accordance with constitutional principles. He understood that the object of a committee of Ways and Means was to raise money to provide for the supplies; but the right hon. Baronet proposed an Income-tax in order to enable him to take off other taxes. That was not providing for supply to be granted to her Majesty. Being of opinion that the proposal for an Income-tax was pressed forward with indecent haste, he would move then that another order of the day should be proceeded with. He accordingly moved that the Public Works Bill should be read a third time.

The *Speaker* said, the hon. Member could not make that motion, because the order for the House resolving itself into a committee of supply had already been read, and the question now before the House was, that the Speaker leave the chair.

Mr. *Blewitt* said, that he would move that the new tariff should be taken into consideration before the Income-tax.

The *Speaker* said, that that motion also was irregular and out of time.

Mr. *Blewitt* wished to know in what respect the motion was irregular.