The National Intelligencer,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

There are some men who appear to have lived entirely for the world. All their talents and exertions have been employed in improving the condition of their fellowmen. In the performance of the most arduous duties, they have exhibited an undaunted spirit, that neither power nor perfecution could dismay.

Such men, whether they have survived the storm or sunk under its fury, ought not to be forgotten by those whose happiness they have atchieved. Their virtues and their courage give them a claim to immortality.—Such a man was GERRIT LIBERTY, who for the virtuous attempt to introduce, by the force of reason, annual elections and universal suffrage into England, was convicted in 1794, by the High Court of Justiciary of Scotland of sedition, and sentenced to transportation to Botany Bay for fourteen years. Before his departure for this receptacle of thieves and murderers, his health was feeble, and he died a martyr to freedom, either before his arrival at the place of his deflination or soon after wards.

In him we contemplate an illustrious example of innocence without a blot, perfecuted to death, and of power perfecuting to death with fidelity a tyrant.

Such examples should live perpetually in the recollection of freemen. Though we are fortunately free from British tyranny and of perfecution, there are too literally implanted in the human breast dispositions that require constant vigilance.

Let then public opinion, while it consecrates the memory of immortated virtue, execrate tyranny in all its odious shapes.

The following is the close of Mr. Gerrit's eloquent address to the court and jury that convicted him.

"Gentlemen, when I look forward to the political horizon, the prospect seems awful and gloomy to a degree, at which the best men must shudder, and the ablest men must feel themselves incompetent to determine. Every thing is wrapt and perfection. Indeed a blacker cloud never hung over this island. Those who are versed in the history of their country, in the history of the human race, must know that rigorous state prosecutions have always preceded the scene of convulsion; and this area, I fear, will be accelerated by the folly and hardness of your rulers. If the people are contented, the proper mode of quieting their discontents is, not by instituting rigorous and sanguinary prosecutions, but by redressing their wrongs, and conciliating their affections. Courts of justice, indeed may be called in to the aid of ministerial vengeance; but if once the purity of their proceedings is forfeited, they will cease to be objects of reverence to the nation; they will degenerate into empty and expensive pageantry, and become the partial instruments of vexatious oppression. Whatever may become of me, my principles will live forever. Individuals may perish, but truth is eternal. The rude blasts of tyranny may blow from every quarter, but it shall be that hardy plant which will survive the tempest, and strike an everlasting root into the most unfavourable soil.

"Impelled with the justice of these sentiments, dungeons, fetters, exile, carry no horror to me; for I say, with the immortal Sydney, 'though I have a particular love to my country, of which I hope, that I have given some testimony; though I think that being exiled from it is a great evil, from which I would redeem myself with the loss of a great deal of my blood yet, when that country of mine, which seems to be esteemed a paradise, is now like to be made a stage of injury; the liberty which we hoped to establish superseded; the seat of our nation made a prey to the world; the parliament, court, and army, corrupted; the people enslaved; all things rendible and no man safe, but by fawning and insinuations means as flattery and bribery; what joy can I have in my own country in this condition? it is a pleasure to see that I love in the world sold and destroyed! Shall I renounce all my old principles, learn the vile court arts, and make my peace by bribing some of the crew? Shall their corruptions and vice be my safety? Ah! no; better is a life among strangers than in my own country upon such conditions. While I live I will endeavour to preserve my liberty; or, at least, not consent to the destroying of it. I hope I shall die in the faith in which I have lived, and will live no longer than they can preserve me. I have in my life been guilty of many follies, but as I think, no meanness. I will die bold and defiant, and I will endeavouring to provide for the future. I have ever heard in my mind, that should God call me into such a condition as that, I cannot save my life, but by doing an indecent thing, he shows me the time is come when I should resign it; and when I cannot live in my own country, but by such means as I ought not to live in it; I think he shows me that I ought to keep myself out of it.'—*See Sydney's Letters.*

"Gentlemen, I am in your hands, I feel not the highest anxiety, if it would promote the cause, I would cheerfully make the sacrifice; but, I perish on an occasion, for the precious one of my sides will arise a flame to consume the tyrants and oppressors of my country.

Moral light is as irresistible by the mind, as physical by the eye. All attempts to impede its progress are vain. It will roll rapidly along; and as well may tyrants imagine, that by placing their feet upon the earth, they can stop its diurnal motion, as that they shall be able, by efforts the most virulent and pertinacious, to extinguish the light of reason and philosophy, which begins to appear in mankind in every where spreading around us.

"Surely the experience of ages should have taught our rulers, that prosecutions have never effected their purpose; and that the thunders of the state will prove impotent, when we, had against patriotism, innocence and firmness. Whether, therefore, I shall be permitted to glide gently down the current of life, in the bosom of my native country, among those kindred spirits whose approbation constitutes the greatest comfort of my life; or, whether I be doomed to drag out the remainder of my existence amidst thieves and murderers, a wandering exile on the bleak and melancholy shores of Botany Bay, my soul, to which I owe my fortune, is prepared to meet the destiny that awaits it. *Sed me tranquilla senectus, Exercet placidum, sensu sine crimine artis, Dives inopsque, meo sit fortius pulsus.*"

N. B. To no turn a bleeding member from that country which we love, is indeed upon the fellow, painful in the extreme; but all things cease to be painful, when we are supported by the consciousness that we have done an duty to our fellow creatures! and a wide main roling superior to all local prejudices, if affected for his country will turn his eyes from this dim spot which men call earth, and will point, like Anaxagoras, to the Heavens.—*Milton.*

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April 22, 1801.

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Ruth Vivian; or the effects of enthusiasm, by Isabella de Courcy.

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Washington, May 15.

BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Wednesday, June 10.

IRISH MARTIAL LAW BILL.

Mr. Abbott moved the order of the day for resolving into committee on the Irish martial law bill.

Mr. Dawson, (member for the county of Monaghan) Mr. Stewart, of Rathgosset, (member for Tyrone,) and Mr. Bagwell, (member for Tipperary) earnestly expressed their hopes and entreaties, that the right hon. gentleman would not at this late hour, (ten o'clock,) so to join an assembly, and, more especially, in the admit inter absence of those gentlemen who represent that part of the United Kingdom called Ireland, press the bill into a committee. Many gentlemen, supposing, from the extent of other business in the course of the evening, that the present would be postponed, had gone away, and they trusted, that the committee might at least be deferred till tomorrow.

Mr. Lee (member for Dungarvan) observed, that there was at this moment a fuller attendance of Irish members than where probably would be for the remainder of the session, as much the greater part were gone to Ireland, and most of the few who now remained would be out for that country to morrow or next day. Almost all the members of the country had, in a discussion not very remote, spoken in favour of this bill, upon the British conduct of its opponents precedently, and therefore he was convinced, they were present now, they would support it.

Mr. Abbott could not agree to defer the bill, as the tranquility of Ireland materially depended upon it, and as the present bill would expire so soon as the 24th of June.

The question for the committee being put, was carried in the affirmative; and the House resolved into a committee, Mr. Bragge in the chair.

Mr. Abbott stated, that the present bill was a transcript of the former one, which the House had passed about three months since. The only blank there remained to be filled up, was that for the period which the bill should be agreed on to continue in force; and he concluded by moving, that this blank be filled up with the words—during the continuance of the war, and for one month after the signing of a definitive treaty of peace.

Mr. W. B. Ponsonby said, the nature of the motion just made rendered any apology unnecessary for moving "that the chairman do leave the chair."

Mr. George Ponsonby (member for the county of Wicklow) immediately rose, and observed, that hitherto, and in the earlier part of the session, he had forborne to give any resistance to this bill, for various reasons; one was, that the powers it went to invest were placed in the hands of an illustrious nobleman (the marquis of Cornwallis) who, by his mild and benevolent use of those powers, had proved, that his administration it would be idle merely for the purification of the country, without any thing like abuse, or wanton severity. Another reason was, that in the country which he had the honour to represent, and which was composed of those in which the rebellion principally raged, and the mountainous parts of which still continued to be infested with a rebellious banditti, he had witnessed, during every extension of government, and the highest rewards offered for the apprehension, had still continued unapprehended and unfindicted; from which circumstances it was pretty clear that those banditti were aided, comforted and abetted by the farmers inhabiting those mountains; but though he had forborne to resist the bill in its former or present progress through the house, he could not forbear to resist the *Monitrous & abominable* proposition he had just heard moved: a proposition, which, he would assert, was unprecedented, not only in the worst times of Ireland, in the worst times of England, in the days of the most Gothic barbarism, in one of the most enlightated bigotry and political rancour that ever disgraced the annals, of these realms; but even, in the legislative assembly of any civilized nation that ever pretended to the justification of freedom.—What was the decline held out by such a proposition? Was it that the people of Ireland were so incorrigibly, so irreclaimably grounded in their errors, that no change of circumstances, no relaxation of severity, no amelioration of government, no alleviation of distress or oppression, could restore them to peace, to security, and to tranquility? Was it nothing short of military execution, and utter extermination to the unfortunate inhabitants of that country, rethere the authority of his majesty's government there? He besought the house for a moment to pause on the preposterous policy of such a proposition before they should rashly adopt it.

He asked them, was it not a direct declaration to France, that so long as even they continued at war with this country, the people of Ireland, who had actively aided from British liberty and British Constitution, would be always found their steady, attached, and unalienable friends and allies? Would agree to the monstrous principle of perpetuating such a law for the indefinite period which the war might continue, and which might far exceed the number of the bill? What cause to what statute was to prevent the house from doing as it had done before, to enquire into the necessity which called for such a bill, and to act again from year to year, if it should appear to be warranted by the exigence of circumstances? But before the house should precipitately function such a proposition, he begged to abominable, to wholly unprecedented in the annals of this or of any other country, he earnestly besought them to pause and reflect on the principles of government. The people of Ireland were taught to expect, that by the venture of union they were to be liberated from the oppressive dominion, as it was called, of a narrow parliament, and from the political judices, religious objections, and political aperities by which that parliament was too much actuated; and that in the liberality and justice of the parliament of Great Britain they were to be embraced by a mild and parental spirit of legislation. Out of such meditations, they compose the united parliament, only 100 were Irish—and the liberality of the remainder reflted the whole reliance of the people of Ireland. Was then such a proposition as that now moved in the first session of the united parliament, that specimen of liberality, of mild and parental legislation, by which the people of Ireland were to shape their hopes of future benefit from the united parliament? Was an utter precluson from the blessings of the English Constitution the first specimen of British justice that people were to experience? He fingerely hoped the parliament of England would seriously pause before they would indelibly flain their proceedings by the adoption of a measure so monstrous and so execrable.

Mr. Addington rose, and observed that if the honorable and learned member had deferred his for a few minutes the delivery of his speech, forcible as it was, and as much every argument be, with the aid of his eloquence, he would have lived limit of the trouble of replying at such length, and with such asperity. The honorable learned member had him felt furnished one of the strongest arguments to prove, that such a measure be drawn apprehend from this bill, in his acknowledgment of the mild and parental spirit in which a similar bill was sanctioned, and afterwards carried into effect by the illustrious patriarch who lately held the chief government of that country. He could assure the honorable and learned member, that no man felt more deeply that mild and parental spirit of legislation, or its spirit towards the government, and the real happiness and property of Ireland, than his right honorable friend who made the motion objected to; and he hoped the honorable and learned member had witnessed no proceeding in that house in the smallest degree derogatory to the hopes he potefelt for the people of Ireland, and its lenient and parental attention. He was free, however, to own, that his personal opinion was perfectly concordant to the argument of the honorable and