

**Friday's Post.**

**A** Spirited and interesting Debate took place on Tuesday night in the House of Lords on the question for the second reading of the Volunteer Bill. The Bishop of Landaff said, the die was now in the air, which, in its fall, would decide between the fortune of Bonaparte and the safety of this Country. He had not before him documents to decide on the inability so often attributed to Ministers; but this he could say, that they had taken upon themselves the Government of the Country in a situation of the greatest peril. This was not the time for discussing the provisions of the Bill. With regard to the Volunteer System, were he to express his opinion of it, he should say, it was in the plan most noble, in the execution most difficult, and he hoped it would prove in its future operation most successful. The Volunteer Corps were filled by the most respectable individuals in the Country, zealous to support the free constitution of a limited monarchy, of which they were proud to be members. These men were not prompted to embody themselves by a passion for military parade, but were animated by an enlightened patriotism, which knew, that to produce its proper effect, it must submit to severe regulations. Whether the measures adopted for the defence of the Country were or were not sufficient, he did not pretend to say; but he would ask, Do you want arms? Put all the Gunsmiths and Blacksmiths in the Country in requisition, until a sufficient number of muskets and pikes are made. Do you want men? Call out every individual capable of bearing arms. Do you want horses? Put in requisition every saddle horse in the nation. Do you want vessels of war? Put in requisition all the small craft on the coast and in rivers, and let them be fitted up for warlike purposes. As for large ships, the enemy would build enough of them to supply our wants, and our brave tars will not fail to bring them speedily into British ports. Do you want money? Then scruple not to impose taxes, for all property is the creature of civilised society, and the State has an undoubted right to employ it in the public defence. My Lords, said he, I had rather be reduced to the meanest situation, live on oatmeal and water, and wear the wooden clogs of Westmoreland, than exist pampered with all that affluence could procure me, and see my Country subjected to the terrors of French domination.

Same day in the House of Commons, several Petitions were brought up from Harwich, Feversham, &c. against the Marine Fishing Society Bill. Mr. Calcraft opposed the second reading of it; and moved that it be read this day six months. For the motion 38, Against it 35. The Bill, of course, is lost.

The new measure for increasing the means of carrying on the war, was explained by Mr. Yorke in the House of Commons, on Wednesday. An addition of 25,000 men is to be made to the regular force, by raising 8 new regiments of 1000 men each, by adding 10 new battalions to old regiments, 3500 men to the cavalry, and 2000 to the foot-guards. An increase is likewise to be made of foreign troops in British pay; bringing the whole of the proposed recruitment to 40,000 troops. In order to afford means of procuring this number of men, the act respecting the Army of Reserve is to be suspended for a year, to prevent the competition of the high bounties for substitutes. The bounty for the present recruitment is to be fixed at 10gs. Ten thousand of the Irish Militia are likewise to be conveyed to this country; to set free an equal number of regular troops, at present employed in the business of defence. And some offensive measure, of magnitude, is undoubtedly projected.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer having expatiated upon the eminent services rendered the country by Lord Hood and the Officers under him, concluded by moving, that the sum of 265,865£. 14s. 10d. should be granted to his Majesty, to be distributed to Lord Hood, on behalf of himself and the officers, seamen, and marines engaged in the capture of the ships found at Toulon, and armed by him for his Majesty's service, on the 29th of August, 1793. Agreed to.

The Committee of the House of Commons have decided against all the Isleworth votes. By this decision Sir F. Burdett loses near 300 votes.

By papers from the Barrack Department, laid upon the table of the House of Commons, it appears that the Barracks which have been erected, and ordered to be erected, since the ratification of the Treaty of Amiens, are calculated to contain 56,971 men, and 10,463 horses. The sums paid on account to the Contractors, for building them, amount to 1,103,004£.

We have the sincerest pleasure in stating, that his Majesty is now perfectly restored to his domestic comforts. He saw the Queen for the first time on Saturday afternoon, and they have had several interviews since. The Duke of York sees the King almost daily, and the other Royal Dukes occasionally visit his Majesty.

It is with concern we have to state, that letters were on Wednesday morning received in town, brought by the Washington, Capt. Green, from the coast of Africa, which announce the capture of the British settlement of Goree, by the French, on the 18th of Jan. last. *Lloyd's Ev. Po.*

The Island of Goree, the small commands two important rivers, the Gambia and the Bonavisla.

It is reported, that Government have received information, that the capital of Naples has been occupied by a strong division of the army under the command of General St. Cyr.

All the artillery and military stores being removed from Hanover, the French are now taking an inventory of the church plate, church bells, and the very copper sheathing of the church roofs. They are adding very considerably to the fortifications of Hammel, particularly Fort St. George. By order of the French Generals, the loyal Hanoverian Clergy have been forced to countermand the thanksgivings, which they were to offer to the Divinity, for their beloved Prince's recovery.

A letter from the Hague mentions, that on the 16th inst. half of the brigade of French Custom-house Officers, who, under pretence of looking for English contraband goods, have lately plundered the Citizens of the Batavian Republic of property to a large amount, received suddenly orders to leave Holland for Mentz. It is rumoured that these Custom-house Officers are to be sent upon an expedition for seizing English goods at Frankfort during the fair, which begins on Easter Monday, under pretext that they are intended to be smuggled over to the French side of the Rhine.

It appears, by letters from Lisbon, that the English merchants resident there are comprehended under the tax for supplying the French with the stipulated sums for allowing Portugal to remain neutral. The Government having laid a duty amounting to about 2£. 14s. a pipe, on all wines.

Friday and Saturday a great number of vessels of different descriptions had come from the inner into the outer harbour of Boulogne; and it seems, that nearly 100 of them actually put as far to sea, as the range of the batteries extends. But, though this bravado was safe to them in one respect, it was unlucky in another. The gale of wind caught them, the tide was to leeward, and they were glad to take shelter, with different degrees of damage, some in Vimereux and some in Calais; whence they will have to attempt a return to Boulogne.

It in the opinion of most intelligent men, that the stone expedition could have no success whatever at Boulogne. Havre-de-Grace is now talked of; as blocking that harbour may tend to increase the security of Jersey and Guernsey.

The statement of the Toulon fleet having put to sea, is premature. The fact now proves to be, that Lord Nelson's letter of the 10th ult. which gave rise to the report, merely expressed a hope (arising, no doubt, from the forward state of the enemy's preparations) that he should soon have an opportunity of attacking them. The fleet under Lord Nelson, off Toulon, consists of the following ships of the line:

Victory .....	100	Renown .....	74
Canopus .....	80	Superb .....	74
Kent .....	74	Triumph .....	74
Donegal .....	80	Agincourt .....	64
Gibraltar .....	80	Monmouth .....	64
Belleisle .....	74	Hindostan .....	50
Excellent .....	74	Brakel .....	50

There are other ships in the Mediterranean not included in this list. We are to add also the frigates Seahorse, Medusa, Active, Amazon, and Diana, of 38 guns each, the Phebe of 36.

We have received advice, that the Queen Charlotte, Andrews, from Smyrna, for London, was lately cut out of Gibraltar Bay by her crew, and carried into Cadiz. A French 74-gun ship immediately took possession of the vessel and crew, and delivered them both into the hands of the British Consul at that port. *Eloy's Ev. Po.*

Advices from Gibraltar, dated the 23d of Feb. mention that trade was uncommonly brisk there, owing to the communication having been opened with Spain. The Spaniards were hourly arriving to make purchases of English goods for ready money, and the place has not been so lively for some years. There can be no longer any doubt but that the Spanish Government has given permission for Malaga, Barcelona, and the several ports, to be opened, which have been so long shut on account of the epidemic disorder which prevailed there.

We learn from Portsmouth that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have (through the representation of Captain O'Bryen, commanding the Sea Fencibles, on that coast) accepted the voluntary offer of several Captains, Commanders, and Lieutenants, of the Navy, on half-pay, to render every service in their power, should the Enemy attempt a landing on that part of the coast.

Orders are gone from the War-Office, for the Barrack-Masters of Chelmsford, and other garrisons in the Eastern District, to produce immediate temporary buildings for the reception of 10,000 more troops; this reinforcement will probably be composed of the Irish regiments of Militia, now embarking for England.

The misunderstanding amongst the St. Pancras Volunteer corps originated, we believe, in a dispute between the Commandant (Colonel Lejeune) and the Committee of Finance. About 200 of the members met on Wednesday evening at Hyde's Rooms, Tottenham-street, and signed their names, for the purpose of forming a new corps, and offering their services again to Government; to shew that their dislike was not to service in a Volunteer corps.

An account from the Isle of France, states, that it was a Portuguese vessel that saved one of the unfortunate men who accompanied La Peyrouse in his voyage. This person was found upon an uninhabited island, and said that his name was Lagelet, the astronomer of the expedition. He said that of the squadron, the frigate, D'Asolobe had been stranded; that Le Boussole had taken fire from accident, but was prevented from being blown up, and that the wreck had carried M. La Peyrouse, and most of his officers and sailors, to New Zealand, where they had remained near 9 years, in hope that some ship would come and carry them off. After having waited so long in vain, they determined to build a ship themselves, but after cutting down some timber, were surprised by the natives, and every Frenchman was murdered, except Mr. Lagelet, who escaped in a small boat to the desert island, where the Portuguese found him. He was so worn out from wants and misfortunes, that he died on the sixth day after he was taken on board. He delivered, however, before his decease, a sealed parcel with papers, addressed to the "Minister of his Most Christian Majesty for the Department of the Marine and the Colonies." Notwithstanding what the Portuguese said, Lagelet would not believe that Louis XVI. was murdered, and that France was called a Republic.

Cox and Greenwood, the Army Agents, have now 85 Regiments, and probably will have more, from the failure of Ross and Ogilvie, who had 16.

The Humane Society have paid rewards in 4755 cases of aquatic suffocations, &c. and it is a most happy truth, that 2859 children, and others, have been restored alive to their parents and relatives.

Letters from Peterhead state, that several more pieces of wreck, marked York, have lately been cast ashore in the neighbourhood of that place. Among other things, a man's hand has been found on the beach, and an officer's pantaloons, with red Morocco leather on them.

A recent fashionable Elopement is now become the subject of general conversation. We therefore feel ourselves at liberty to mention the following particulars: Lady G. (the fair fugitive) is the second daughter of an Honourable, Reverend, and Venerable Dean, who resides in the South of Ireland, and is presumptive heir to an Earldom. About 5 years ago, Sir John G. was quartered with his Regiment in that neighbourhood, and became acquainted with the family. He was ordered suddenly to England; and on his leaving his quarters, Lady G. then Miss C. followed him to Dublin, where they were married. From Dublin they came to England, where they have since lived apparently in the greatest felicity. The Lady had a beautiful cottage near Windsor, a splendid equipage, &c. Sir John G. is a very

handsome man, several years younger than the Lady or her gallant. The Hon. Captain B., the gallant, was the friend and brother officer of the injured husband. He was his inmate at the time of the discovery. The Lady, it seems, had stolen unheeded to her lover's chamber, and was caught in the act of coming out of it by her husband. The conduct of Sir John G. upon this painful occasion was that of a gentleman and a soldier. He produced a case of pistols, but the Honourable Capt. B. said he would not aggravate the injury, by firing at the man whom he had wronged, and declined the challenge. Sir John then set down and wrote a letter to the lady's friends, requesting their advice. Some time after the lady eloped, and the Hon. Capt. B. sent a letter to Sir J. G. informing him, that as he had neglected poor Pyne, Lady G.'s christian name, it became his duty not to let her pine, but to take her under his protection. The criminal intercourse is supposed to have subsisted about 4 months. Lady G. has a daughter about 5 months old.

On Wednesday se'nnight the wife of Mr. John Scott, of Weetwood, near Leeds, aged 52, was delivered of a daughter, and what is further remarkable, her last child a daughter, is in her 28th year.

Lately died in Ireland, Roger Byrne, the famous Irish giant. He is said to have died of suffocation, occasioned by an extremity of fat, which stopped the play of his lungs, and put a period to his life in the 54th year of his age. His coffin, with its contents, weighed 52 stone; it was borne on a very long bier by 30 men, who were relieved at intervals. He was 13 stone heavier than the noted Bright, of Malden, whose waistcoat inclosed 7 persons.

On March 2, 1803, two women were burnt with the dead body of their husband, near Serampoor; some of the Missionaries there were eye-witnesses to this cruel ceremony, and assert that one of the women struggled hard to get out, but was prevented by the Brahmins who attended, and heaped up more faggots upon them. The children of the unhappy woman appeared in great distress; and the eldest, a lad about 18, who, according to custom, set fire to the pile, was carried off on the shoulders of 2 young men in a state of inexpressible agony.

One of the Newport Volunteers was unfortunately killed, a few days ago, whilst firing at a target with ball, by another of the Volunteers, whose piece had missed fire, beating his flint with a knife. In doing this, his firelock went off, and the ball passed thro' the body of his comrade.

At Stafford assizes, in an action for killing game, (coursing) the defendant not being qualified, Mr. Serjeant Williams, on the part of the plaintiff, insisted, (and Sir Soulden Lawrence confirmed the doctrine) that although a qualified person may take his servant, or servants, for the purpose of assisting him to kill game, he cannot qualify them to kill it, nor will his presence protect an unqualified person (not his servant) who goes for the purpose of taking the amusement of coursing; but if such person take an active part in beating across the fields, or on open lands, and joins in the diversion in the same manner with a qualified person, he is as much liable to the penalties as if no such qualified person were present. His Lordship said the usual practice was contrary, but that practice would not alter the law.

Thomas Smith, convicted at Dorchester assizes of the murder of Ann Clerk, was found on Monday morning, the day fixed for his execution, dead in his cell, having by some means got off the cord which fastened his hands behind him, and fixed it to the bar of the window and round his neck, and then by a sudden plunge dislocated his neck. He was immediately taken to the new drop on the porter's lodge, and there hung up, where he remained about 7 hours, to gratify the curiosity of hundreds of spectators.

At York Assizes, Jane Robinson, a girl about 14 years of age, was indicted for stealing 20 Bank notes of five guineas each, upwards of 20 Bank notes of the value of one guinea each, and two bills of exchange, from out of the dwelling house of her master; and her mother, Mary Robinson, for receiving the property thus stolen. After the examination of numerous witnesses, the child was found guilty on the fullest evidence, and the mother acquitted by the jury. Sentence of death was passed on the prisoner, in a solemn unpressive manner; but the girl remained in the most hardened insensibility.

An alarming fire broke out on Wednesday morning in the Distillery of Messrs. Calvert, Clark and Co. at Vauxhall. It happened by the bursting of the great still, which contained 10,000 gallons of wash, which instantly was inflamed, and threatened the immense establishment, as well as the neighbourhood, with ruin. It was very near the second still, which was charged with a quantity of spirit above proof, the explosion of which would have communicated to 400 tons of manufactured gin, almost equal in strength to spirits of wine. By the exertions of the workmen, the fire was got under with the loss of about 1500£.

**POSTSCRIPT.**

Advices were yesterday received at the India House, by an overland dispatch, stating, that General Wellesley had defeated Scindiah and the other combined Mahratta Chiefs, after a conflict, which, as it was extremely severe, we trust, will prove fully decisive. That the Mahrattas fought with the utmost desperation, will be evident, from the circumstance, that the men, whom our cavalry passed by, and left for dead, afterwards arose, and worked their guns, to the great annoyance of our troops. After the battle, however, the Mahrattas fled in every direction, and did not dare to take possession of any fixed hold. Two of the most important posts in the vicinity of the field of action were in consequence occupied by us without the smallest opposition. The brunt of this encounter fell entirely on the army of Gen. Wellesley, supposed to consist of about 16,000 men, and the loss of Europeans was chiefly sustained by the King's 74th Regiment of the enemy, first put in disorder, and then attacked by our Cavalry, must have been prodigious; but it could not be fully ascertained. They left behind them no less than 90 pieces of cannon. Gen. Lake was engaged with the division under the French General Peron, whom he dislodged with much skill from a very strong position; but, as it appears, without much loss on either side, and with the effect only of alarming and dispersing the confederates. Gen. Peron is said afterwards surrendered. We are strongly inclined to hope that these brilliant successes will have their due effect, in preventing any future combinations