

A
SUMMARY VIEW
OF THE
PRINCIPAL MEASURES
RELATING TO
IRELAND,

WHICH WERE DISCUSSED IN THE LATE
SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

WITH
A TABLE AND INDEX OF STATUTES,
Passed in the First Session of the First Parliament of the
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

41 G. 3. A. D. 1801.

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I R E L A N D.

AUGUST 1801.

AS the events which occurred soon after the meeting of Parliament this year, necessarily delayed much of the public business till a late period of the session, it became impossible, from the number of measures which were brought forward, to give a very detailed account of them to the Public during their progress; it may not therefore be improper shortly to review the different measures relating to IRELAND, which have been passed in the United Parliament. They naturally divide themselves under three distinct heads; viz. Constitutional Measures; Internal Regulations; and subjects of Finance and Commerce. Of those measures which relate to the constitution, the first, both in point of time and importance, that was discussed,

discussed, was the bill, which government found itself under the necessity of proposing, for the continuance of Martial Law in Ireland. On 1801, the 12th of March, lord Castlereagh, in 12 March pursuance of a notice he had previously given, moved for leave to bring in a bill for that purpose. The speech with which the noble lord introduced the motion, did the highest credit even to his acknowledged talents.

His lordship stated, that although the rebellion which had desolated Ireland, had been put down by the unremitting exertions of government, and the unexampled efforts of the loyal gentry and yeomanry of Ireland, still those pernicious principles which gave rise to it, were unhappily not yet eradicated. Though the rebels were no longer able to face his majesty's forces in the field, yet such was the unfortunate situation of that country, that neither the property nor the lives of the loyal inhabitants could be secured by means of the ordinary courts of law. In former rebellions, when the rebels were defeated, they submitted; but it belonged to the genius of Jacobinism, that when it was put down in the field, it would still continue to afflict the country by a system of warfare peculiar to itself—a system hardly less fatal to the lives and property of his majesty's subjects, and much more difficult to be contended against, than open

open rebellion. Under these circumstances it was necessary, for the salvation of the country, that government should be armed with a power equal to the danger with which the state was threatened — that power was Martial Law. He acknowledged that this was giving to government a power inconsistent with the spirit of the constitution; but in cases of new and unprecedented danger, new remedies must be resorted to. Government would exercise this great power, undoubtedly, with heavy responsibility; and it could not but afford the greatest satisfaction to the house, to know that it had hitherto been exercised by the noble Marquis who presided in Ireland, with every degree of lenity and mercy which was consistent with the safety of the country. His lordship then proceeded to state the situation of the country. And to shew the necessity of the measure, he said, that within the last twelve months no less than 207 persons had been tried by courts-martial, and that even within the last three months 67 persons had been tried by courts-martial for rebellion, or for crimes connected with it, of whom 34 had been convicted. These were the circumstances which compelled him, however reluctantly, to bring forward this measure: but as it was not his wish that martial law should continue one hour longer than the safety of the country absolutely required, he should only propose to continue this bill for three

months, and it would remain for those who should be entrusted with the government of Ireland at the expiration of that period, to determine whether or not it would be again necessary to continue the bill; though he confessed he was by no means sanguine in his hopes, that Ireland would then be in a state of sufficient tranquillity to enable parliament to discontinue martial law. These were the grounds upon which his lordship made his motion.

A long and very animated debate took place, in which only one member for Ireland doubted the necessity of the bill. Every other member for that part of the United Kingdom, who spoke, not only approved of it, but stated it to be absolutely necessary for the safety of Ireland. Each gentleman stated, from his own knowledge, in his own particular situation, the benefits which resulted to Ireland from this measure, which it was now proposed to renew, after having repeatedly received the sanction of the Irish parliament. The impression which their arguments made on the house was irresistible, and the motion of lord Castlereagh passed without a division. The next day the bill was brought in, and read a first time, without any opposition.

On the 16th, a debate of considerable length
took

took place on the second reading of the bill. The principal objections to it, were to the manner in which courts-martial were constituted. The opponents of the bill, however, again declined a division. When the bill went into the committee, lord Castlereagh, notwithstanding that the number of members on courts-martial had never been so low as the number specified by the act as sufficient, yet, with a view to obviate the objections which had been made to the bill upon this point, proposed a clause, rendering it necessary that every court-martial should consist of at least seven members, beyond which number, the nature of the service would not admit of its being extended. This clause was agreed to, and the duration of the bill was limited to three months. On the 20th of March the bill passed the House of Commons. In the House of Lords the bill underwent considerable discussion: it was most ably supported by lord Clare, lord Carlton, lord Limerick, and indeed by every peer representing Ireland, who took part in the debate. On the third reading, a division took place, when there appeared, including proxies, 90 peers in favour of the bill, and only 7 against it; and on the 24th it received the royal assent by commission. [*Cap. 14. of the Session.*]

Pending the discussion of this bill, and with a view to lay before parliament the general state of the

the public safety in Great Britain and Ireland; the chancellor of the exchequer, by order of his Majesty, laid several papers, sealed up, before the House, which were referred to a committee of secrecy. The second report of that committee, presented on the 15th of May, contained the following passages, with respect to Ireland.

“ Your Committee have next directed their attention to the present situation of Ireland, both as disturbed within, and threatened from without, particularly with reference to the necessity of those measures adopted by the parliament of that country before the union, for the suppression of the rebellion there, which have since been renewed for a limited period by that of the United Kingdom; and also of the manner in which the powers thus given had been exercised, and the effect produced by them. It appears, that though the efforts of the disaffected in that country have happily long ceased to assume the aspect of rebellion, arrayed in the field against the arms of their sovereign, and though the organization established by the United Irishmen may not have been kept up with any regularity, and that many parts of the kingdom present the usual appearance of peaceful industry and loyal subordination; yet that at no time have there been wanting in others, demonstrations of the same systematic plan of insurrection, and marked with the same characters

ractions of unexampled atrocity. The principal traitors in Dublin continually send their emissaries through the country to keep up the spirits of the disaffected by the hopes of support from foreign invasion. About a year since a new system of association was about to be established, and a new Executive Directory formed in Dublin. This was to originate in a head committee, who were to appoint those on whom they could depend, to form regiments, of which each colonel was to provide the major and captains; each captain his subalterns, and they, the private men. The communications were to be verbal, and the business conducted without elections, debates, or committees.—This plot, however, being detected by government, its progress was checked, if not entirely stopped. It affords a remarkable coincidence with the intelligence before detailed [in the former part of this report] of what has been passing in England, that it appears to have been lately held out to the disaffected in Ireland, that whenever an insurrection shall take place in that country, which it is intended shall be universally on the same day, a similar explosion is to be made in several of the principal towns in England, particularly in London, where they are told the disaffected are acting on the same plans and principles as the United Irish.—The manner in which the rebellion was originally organized, the secret springs of the confederacy, which set in motion,

tion, and directed to every enormity of private and public outrage so large a mass of the inhabitants, have long been familiar to the House and to the public. The object of it being to disunite that country from this, by the co-operation of a foreign enemy, it may be imagined that the cause will never appear desperate to those engaged in it, while the continuance of the war still keeps alive the hope of that assistance, encouraged, as it may be from time to time, by assurances of support from their ally, or at least from those traitors to their country, who still form in the capital of that enemy a central committee of rebellion, to instigate invasion on the one hand, and prepare insurrection on the other. Their emissaries are continually passing into Ireland for this purpose, where two of them are supposed still to be concealed. The views of this committee, and the means by which they are not ashamed to endeavour to accomplish them, will be sufficiently obvious from the address to the Irish sailors in our fleet, which has been printed in their name, and prepared on the continent for extensive circulation. Emissaries, on the other hand, have not been wanting from Ireland, to interest the French government in support of their cause. One particularly has lately passed over to the continent, and opened a direct communication with the enemy, accrediting himself with them, as being deputed by a great body of the landed

landed interest of his country, whom he represents as being, like himself, so dissatisfied with the union, that they would engage in any concert with France, to procure the means of establishing, under the guarantee of that power, some new form of representative government. With this view, he affords them all the information in his power, of the state of the country, and of the force employed to protect it, and suggests the amount of that which he recommends to be sent against it.—He stipulates, however, with his proposed allies, for the assurance of their property to all the present possessors, in opposition to any claim of the Catholics, whom he states still to look forward with hopes of establishing a popish ascendancy; and it appears that he has been given to understand that both the late directory, and one of the principal ministers of the present government of France, had coincided in the justice and propriety of that stipulation.”

The report then proceeds to state, that the system of terror has been continued to the present hour, and that it can only be counteracted by prompt and efficacious punishment for the guilty, and a sense of security and protection for the innocent; from whence the necessity of continuing the bill for martial law in Ireland was demonstrated.

On the 27th of May, Mr. Abbot (who in the mean time had been appointed chief secretary for Ireland)
moved

moved for leave to bring in a bill for the further continuation of martial law in Ireland. In doing so, he referred to the statements contained in the reports of the committee of secrecy; to the different discussions which had taken place upon this subject, and to the concurring testimony of almost every gentleman acquainted with the state of Ireland, in order to shew that the disturbances in many different parts of that country had continued; that the system of terror was still in force, and that the flame of rebellion remained, though smothered, yet unextinguished. A short debate ensued upon the motion, which was supported by almost every Irish member present, and was agreed to without a division. On the 10th of June the House went into a committee upon the bill, and the blank left for its duration was filled up with the words "the 25th March, 1802;" and on the 12th it passed the House without any opposition whatever.—In the House of Lords, the bill was opposed only upon the second reading, but upon a division the numbers were, including proxies, for the bill 46, against it 13. On the 23d of June the royal assent was given to the bill by commission. [Cap. 61.]

We have thus followed these bills through all their different stages, without interrupting the statement by noticing other measures which, during that

that period, were proposed and adopted with regard to Ireland. Connected, however, with the preceding measure, two other bills were passed during the session.—On the 13th of March, a bill, of which lord Castlereagh had given notice when he introduced the martial-law bill, was brought in, for continuing the suspension of the Habeas Corpus act in Ireland. The necessity of this measure was so apparent, that it passed through both Houses with scarcely any opposition. [*Cap. 15.*] A bill of indemnity for Ireland, similar in principle to those before passed in Ireland, and to that which passed for Great Britain this session, was brought in, and passed both Houses without opposition. [*Cap. 104.*]

Another measure relating to Ireland, which was brought under the consideration of parliament, was one which was rendered necessary by a clause in the Fourth Article of the Union. It is stipulated in that article, that no more than twenty persons holding places under the crown, in Ireland, shall be eligible to sit in the parliament of the United Kingdom, until some further provision shall be made upon that subject by the United Parliament. A committee was appointed to take into consideration so much of the 4th article as related to this point; and when their report was laid before the House, Mr. Abbot (on the 28th of May) called the attention of the House to the subject. He said it was
evident,

evident, from the manner in which the article was worded, that some future arrangement was necessary: it made no discrimination between places held for life, and those held during pleasure. If by the article, only offices held for life were intended, then the consequence would be, that none of his Majesty's confidential servants for Ireland could sit in the House; if, on the other hand, it meant offices held during pleasure, this would admit of a greater number of placemen, and a larger proportion of influence, than might be consistent with the freedom of parliament; but if the article should be supposed to comprehend both, and the restriction be understood only to apply to numbers, then the eligibility of persons holding offices would not depend upon any principle of distinction, but upon a kind of race of election; for the first twenty members who were returned (whatever their offices might be, whether for life or during pleasure) would of course be the fitting members. The inconvenience of leaving things as they now stood, were such as to render some legislative provision necessary; he therefore proposed, in pursuance of the report of the committee, to make the law upon this subject for Ireland the same as it was in England; and that all persons concerned in the collection of the revenue, contractors, and persons holding new offices created since 1793, should be ineligible to sit in parliament; but this disqualification, he proposed,

posed, should not take place till the dissolution of the present parliament. This proposition was agreed to, and a bill founded upon it passed through both Houses without opposition. [*Cap. 52.*]

The next question respecting Ireland, which occupied the attention of the House, related to the Trials of Controverted Elections for Ireland. When the articles of union were under discussion in the parliament of Ireland, the difficulties and inconveniences which must arise from contested elections were foreseen. It was stated, that, on the one hand, the expence of bringing over witnesses to England would be so great, as almost to preclude the possibility of redress; and, on the other, the inconvenience of sending over members to Ireland to try those elections, was obvious. Under these circumstances, it was thought more advisable to leave the subject to the wisdom of the United Parliament, than finally to decide the question, by making any specific provision for it in the articles of union; and therefore the 4th article directs that all cases of controverted elections in Ireland, should be heard and decided upon as they were in Great Britain, unless from a consideration of local circumstances, the united parliament should think it necessary to make some new regulations upon the subject. In order therefore equally to exonerate the parties and the witnesses
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from the embarrassments which must ensue in the actual state of this business, Mr. Abbot, on the 28th of May, moved for leave to bring in a bill to regulate the trials of controverted elections in Ireland. The principle of the bill was to deliver the petitioner, and consequently the fitting member, from the necessity of bringing over their witnesses to England, as they must necessarily have done under Mr. Grenville's Act, because the expence would be ruinous to the parties, and the inconveniences to the witnesses incalculable; or (for it was impossible to send over members to try every case) the elections would fall into the hands of sheriffs and returning officers. The bill therefore proposed that the evidence should be taken in Ireland; but that the decision upon the case should remain with a committee in England. Upon the question, whether or not the evidence should be taken in Ireland, there was a division in the committee, and it was carried in the affirmative by a large majority. The only serious question that then remained, was, who were the proper persons to take the evidence in Ireland. As the bill was first introduced, it was proposed that out of thirty of the assistant barristers of Ireland (who are the permanent chairmen of the quarter sessions in the several counties) fifteen should be chosen by ballot, and that those fifteen should be reduced to five, by the parties striking off alternately or successively. Objections were

were made to this election of persons, not as wanting respectability, but as being nominated by the crown to offices during pleasure, and as having other duties to perform, with which this might interfere. These objections being considered as entitled to great weight, the bill was recommitted; and Mr. Abbot then proposed that the parties should each name six commissioners, with a landed qualification of 200l. a year, who should be reduced, by striking, to four, which four should choose a barrister of not less than six years standing, as their chairman.

The evidence thus taken was directed to be submitted to a committee chosen in the ordinary manner under the Grenville act, whose determination, as in other cases, would be final. With this alteration the bill passed unopposed. It was also provided in this bill, that members of the united parliament might be equally qualified by lands in either country. — This last provision is made permanent; but as to the rest of the act, as it related to a subject equally new and important, its duration was limited to the 1st of May 1802, in order that it might again be necessarily brought under the consideration of parliament. [*Cap. 101.*]

Having briefly stated those measures which are of a general constitutional nature, such as — the two

martial-law bills; the habeas corpus suspension bill; the indemnity bill; the place bill; and the election bill, — we now proceed to those which come under the head of Internal Regulation.

One of the first benefits which Ireland obtained, in point of internal regulation, was the plan, proposed by Mr. Abbot, for the more effectual promulgation of the statutes throughout Great Britain and Ireland. As to Great Britain, he proposed to increase the number of acts of parliament which were allowed to that most valuable body of men the Justices of Peace. And as to Ireland, he proposed to execute the measure upon a plan similar to that which he had introduced for Great Britain in 1797, viz. sending the acts to the great officers of state, the courts of law, the municipal magistrates, &c. He stated that the only hostile objection to the plan, was the increase of expence; but he declared himself by no means a friend to that species of *œconomy* which would prevent the circulation and knowledge of those laws, which it is the duty of the magistrates to enforce, and which all persons are bound to obey. His object was, that the public acts should be circulated upon one common principle throughout the united kingdom, and he conceived that it would materially tend to create that identity of manners and habits, which were so necessary to an identity of interests. The measure

was

was accordingly adopted, with general approbation.

Another subject of considerable importance to Ireland, was the bill which was brought in to regulate the office of Master of the Rolls in Ireland. That office had hitherto been upon a very different footing from the office of Master of the Rolls in England, for it was a complete sinecure, and filled by persons not of the profession of the law. The advantage of having an able assistant to the Chancellor, in the Master of the Rolls, was so obvious, that even if the union had not taken place, it would probably have been made an efficient legal office. But in consequence of the union, the presence of the Chancellor of Ireland becoming occasionally desirable in England for a considerable part of the session, the necessity of giving him an assistant became more apparent. Lord Castlereagh therefore, on the 23d of February, called the attention of the House to the subject: he proposed to make the office, instead of a sinecure held during pleasure, an efficient legal office, to be held during good behaviour, with a salary of 3,500*l.* a year. This bill, after repeated discussions, passed both Houses, and ultimately received the royal assent. [*Cap. 25.*]

In a very early period of the session, notice was taken of the peculiar situation in which the mem-

bers for that part of the united kingdom were placed, on coming to attend their parliamentary duty, because they not only paid taxes for raising the contribution to be borne by Ireland, but when they came over to England, they were again liable to taxation towards the contribution to be provided by Great Britain, and that thus they became compellable to pay in both countries; a situation in which no other description of his Majesty's subjects were placed. The justice of this observation was apparent: his Majesty's Ministers said, the subject had not escaped their notice, and that in the course of the session it was their intention to propose some regulation to the House upon the subject. Accordingly, on the 30th of April the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Addington, moved for a bill to exempt Irish members from the payment of certain duties. He said it would be very hard if the gentlemen from Ireland, whose residence in England was not optional, but compulsory on account of their parliamentary duties, should be made to pay taxes here as well as in Ireland. This observation applied to direct taxes, for as to indirect taxes, such as duties upon the various articles of consumption, no remedy could in the nature of things be applied; but the duties upon carriages, servants, &c. &c. and more especially the income tax, he thought, upon every principle of justice, they ought to be exempted from. It was also his wish that all duties upon

upon the passing of private effects between the two countries should be suppressed; but in the progress of the bill, apprehensions being expressed by some members, that such a law might clash with the act of union, by which specific duties were imposed upon many articles of that description, such as plate, carriages, books, &c. it was thought, upon the whole, more expedient for the present, not to make any provisions which might even in appearance clash with that treaty, especially when the object in view was the accommodation of members of parliament. This point was therefore left open for future legislation; although in truth there seems to be a very sound and rational distinction between the carriage of such articles as are merely the private effects of travellers, and those which are imported or exported in the course of trade.—The former part of the bill then passed without opposition. [*Cap. 62.*]

On the 7th of June, Mr. Abbot proposed a bill, the object of which was to make the laws respecting Literary Property the same in the two countries. The effect of this bill is, to create in Ireland, for the encouragement of learned men in that country, an exclusive property in their own works, and open to them the whole market of the United Kingdom, while it gives to British authors the additional market of Ireland. The bill also, in conformity

with acts of Parliament, relating to the British universities, gives a right to the university of Dublin to hold in perpetuity the copy-right of all works printed at their own presses, and within their own walls. A further privilege is also given to the University, and to the society of King's Inns, Dublin, entitling them, for the use of their libraries, to one copy of every work published in the united kingdom, which the author should think fit to register for the purpose of establishing his copy-right. [*Cap. 107.*]

Mr. Knox, the member for the university of Dublin, in supporting this bill, said, it was an additional instance of the disposition of the united parliament, not only to do justice, but to consult the interest, and gratify the feelings of the people of Ireland.

A bill was brought in, by Mr. Corry, for the better accommodation of the Judges of Ireland upon their circuits, there being in some places a difficulty of providing them with suitable residence during the assize, and in many parts less attention to the forms and ceremonies necessary to the solemn administration of justice, than is customary upon the circuits in England. The bill met with no opposition in its progress through both Houses. [*Cap. 88.*]

Great difficulties having been occasionally experienced in the Recovery of Debts due to the Crown,

Crown, in either country, when the debtor had moved to the other country, an act was passed, to prevent this evil in future, by enabling the Crown to enforce its claim, by obtaining process of execution from the superior courts of either part of the united kingdom, as subject in that particular to an identity of law in what regards debts due to the public. [*Cap.* 90.]

The other measures which we have to notice under this head, are only so many more instances of the parental affection with which the United Parliament watched over the interests, and endeavoured to promote the happiness of the People of Ireland. Her Public Institutions and Charities, &c. were liberally provided for. In the committee of supply, the following sums, in many instances larger than the former grants, were voted for those purposes.

Foundling Hospital	-	-	-	£. 15,000
Marine Society	-	-	-	2,000
Hibernian Society for Soldiers' children	-	-	-	3,960
Westmorland Lock Hospital	-	-	-	6,699
Roman Catholic Seminary	-	-	-	8,000
Society for discountenancing Vice	-	-	-	300
Female Orphan House	-	-	-	500
Civil Buildings	-	-	-	32,000
Apprehending Offenders	-	-	-	1,047
For working the Wicklow Gold Mines	-	-	-	1,000

Linen Bounties	- - - - -	£. 21,600
Dublin Society, first the usual grant of	5,500	} 10,000
And afterwards an additional sum of	4,500	
Paving	- - - - -	10,000
Wide Streets	- - - - -	5,500
	&c.	&c. &c.

Such was the liberal disposition of the United Parliament towards Ireland, that when, in the committee of supply, Sir John Parnell, with a degree of candour which did him honour, reminded the committee of what had been before stated by Mr. Corry, in opening his budget, viz. that the contribution of Ireland would fall considerably short of the expence which would be incurred for her, and that consequently much of what they were voting must be paid by Great Britain; yet in no one instance was there an objection made to vote any sum, the granting of which was represented as likely to be beneficial to Ireland.

With respect to Provisions, the same indemnifying bounties were granted upon the importation of different articles of provision into Ireland as into Great Britain; and these are expressed in the act, in British money and British measures, for the purpose of communicating to foreigners that these bounties are precisely the same for both countries. See *Cap. 34*; and also *Cap. 45*, § 8; and *Cap. 92*.

FINANCE.

FINANCE.

It now only remains for us, shortly, to recapitulate the different measures which have been adopted relative to the Finance and Commerce of Ireland. The late period at which public business commenced this session, caused the Irish money bills to be postponed to a period so near to the 25th of March, when they were to expire, that it became necessary to continue the whole of the taxes of last session by one act, [*Cap. 17.*] till the 25th of March, 1802. On the 2d of April, Mr. Corry, the chancellor of the exchequer for Ireland, stated the supply, and ways and means, for the year; or as it is usually termed, opened the budget. He observed, that the principle of the union between Great Britain and Ireland was that of a complete and entire union of the two countries into one united kingdom, with only one exception respecting the Finance, which was to continue for a certain limited period, and which arose out of circumstances subsisting antecedent to the union—he meant, the respective debts of Great Britain and Ireland. In point of supplies, the services of the whole empire were to be stated jointly in one imperial estimate; but it became necessary, that for a certain time the finances of the two countries, with

with respect to ways and means, should be administered separately. He then proceeded to state the whole sum which Ireland would have to provide, both for her proportion of the general contribution, and for those charges which remained separate. The separate charges, he said, amounted to 2,400,000*l.* and the proportion which Ireland was to furnish towards the joint expenditure of the empire, amounted to nearly 4,700,000*l.* making together a sum of about 7,100,000*l.*

He then enumerated the sums applicable to the service of the present year, which being unequal to the supply, it became necessary to borrow the sum of 2,500,000*l.* the interest of which, including one per cent. for the sinking fund, amounted to 188,000*l.* for which a provision was to be made by new taxes. But this was not the only sum for which it was necessary so to provide; there were three other items to be taken into consideration. In consequence of the union, he observed, there were to be no duties in future upon the exports and imports from either country to the other; and in the result of that arrangement, including the article of coals, about which he would say a word hereafter, there would be a deficiency of revenue on the part of Ireland, of 60,000*l.* per ann. which it would be necessary to make up. — The next item was the tax upon absentees; the amount of it was
 very

very trifling, and might be estimated in the last year at about 8,000*l*. The countries being now united, it was obvious that as many persons were bound to attend a certain part of the year in England, it would be absurd to make them liable to a tax, for that which they did in the discharge of their duty. This tax, therefore, it became necessary to repeal, and to provide for its amount. [See *Cap.* 100.] The third item was the duty upon hops, which heretofore was higher in Ireland than in Great Britain, and which he should propose to reduce to the same rate as that paid in the latter country, so as to put Ireland, both with regard to British and foreign hops, in the same situation as Great Britain. The loss by such reduction of duties amounted to about 7,000*l*. a year. These three sums, in addition to the interest upon the loan, would make the whole sum necessary to be raised by taxes this year, in Ireland, 263,000*l*.

He then proceeded to state the new taxes, which, he said, it was desirable should be upon the same articles, though not to the same amount, in the two countries, unless there were local reasons for rendering such uniformity improper. The first article was sugar: in point of fact, there was no choice upon this article, because in consequence of the colonial compact between the two countries in 1780, it was stipulated that all articles should

should come to Ireland from the colonies, subject to the same duties that they paid on coming to England; therefore, when the duties were increased in England, as had been the case in this session, they were necessarily increased in Ireland. The duty he now proposed, was two shillings the hundred weight, which he calculated would produce on the common consumption of the country, independent of distillery, 24,000*l*. The next article was tea, the duty upon which, in Ireland, was paid according to the two denominations of tea, black and green. He proposed that the denominations of black and green should in future be exploded, and that all tea under 2*s*. 6*d*. should pay according to the value, a duty of 20 per cent. by which means, tea at 2*s*. per lb. would bear a duty of two per cent. less, and tea at 2*s*. 6*d*. a duty of about two per cent. more than it now did. Upon all tea above 2*s*. 6*d*. he proposed a duty at the rate of 35 per cent. upon the value of the tea, and that would be the whole duty upon tea of every description. The produce of this duty he estimated at about 45,000*l*. Two other sources from which he looked for an increase of income, were, the post-office, in which, however, he did not mean to propose any increase in the rates of postage; and, an additional duty upon notes, bills of exchange, receipts, bonds for the payment of money, and policies of insurance. The increase
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from both these sources he estimated at about 10,000l. a year. — He also proposed that the duty upon sugar used for the distilleries for home consumption, should no longer be drawn back, at the same time continuing the duty upon all the spirits so distilled.

Mr. Corry then stated, that supposing the sugar distillery to go forward for the succeeding year, the produce of the duties on sugar imported for that purpose, would amount to about 100,000l. and the duty on the spirits to nearly 112,000l. more; but if, on the other hand, the sugar distillery should not go forward, he trusted that the duties on malt for the distillery, and on spirits distilled from malt, would fully compensate that amount. The different taxes, and their amount, then were as follow :

Sugar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£. 24,000
Tea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45,000
Post-office and Stamps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
Sugar for Distillery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
Spirits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112,000
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									£. 291,000

Having stated the ways and means, he next called the attention of the committee particularly to the article of coals. He said he was extremely
anxious

anxious not to be misunderstood upon this subject, because any misconception might create considerable alarm. There was heretofore a duty in this country upon that article exported into Ireland, of 10d. per ton, which produced a revenue of about 17,000l. a year. This duty could now, in consequence of the union, no longer be collected in England, and it was proposed to collect it in Ireland, thereby giving the benefit of the produce to that country, whereas it had heretofore been levied upon the consumer in Ireland, for the benefit of the British exchequer. There was therefore no increase in the duty upon coals; it was merely collecting the same duty in Ireland which before the union had been collected in England; and, if the coal trader in Ireland should attempt to make this a pretext for raising the price of the article, it would be impossible for him to avoid detection, and that disgrace which would belong to such imposition.

Mr. Corry next proceeded to point out the saving made by Ireland in consequence of the union, which he said was about 400,000l. as her 2-17th of the general contribution was less by that sum than the expenditure which appeared upon the joint imperial estimate to be necessary for the service of that country, supposing the army, which was

was her principal charge, to remain so stationed as the estimates disposed the forces.

Such was the general outline of Mr. Corry's statement; the burthens necessarily imposed, he was happy to observe, fell lightly upon all clases, especially on the lower orders. No part of it was controverted, and the tax bills were brought in, and passed without opposition. [See *Caps.* 33, 58, 45.]

With respect to the Loan made for Ireland, of two millions and a half, [See *Cap.* 3] it is smaller in its amount and more beneficial in its terms, than the loan of last year, which was for 4,500,000*l.* The produce of the lottery this year will be 130,000*l.* which is more than double the amount of the profit of the lotteries of last year. [See *Cap.* 84, § 18—20.]

With regard to Commercial Affairs, the object of the United Parliament has been (with the same justice and impartiality which have marked its proceedings upon other subjects) to put the merchants of both countries, with respect to all regulations, advantages, and allowances, as nearly upon the same footing as possible; and Mr. Corry, whose exertions were unceasing, lost no opportunity of carrying that disposition into effect.

In the course of the session, an act was passed for carrying

carrying into effect the American treaty of 1787, with respect to which, the acts passed in Ireland had been different from that of Great Britain. [*Cap. 95.*] An act was also passed, allowing port wine to be imported into Great Britain and Ireland, without, in the first instance, paying duty, permitting the wine to be placed in warehouses, and bonded, and the duty to be paid when the wine is taken out for sale. The dangerous situation in which Portugal then was, induced government to grant this permission, in common to the merchants of Great Britain and Ireland, it being the object to get as much wine as possible out of Portugal. But as much of the new wine would not be fit for use in a shorter period than two years, the merchants represented to government the hardship of paying duties immediately upon an article which would not be fit for sale or consumption in less than two years. This representation had the desired effect, and the act alluded to was introduced, and passed for both countries. [*Cap. 51.*]

The regulations respecting Ireland are:

Portugal wines, imported directly from Portugal may be bonded upon importation into Ireland, into the following ports; Dublin, Drogheda, Dundalk, Newry, Belfast, Galway, Limerick, Londonderry, Cork, Waterford, Wexford, Sligo, New Ross, and Youghall, upon bond being given, if it shall arrive before

before the 10th of August 1801, or shipped in Portugal before the 1st of August 1801, to be warehoused in stores to be approved of by the commissioners of the revenue, and provided at the expence of the importers, and may there remain for the space of two years.

Two other acts, of a similar nature, were also passed, the one [*Cap. 74. § 7, &c.*] allowing the bonding of Sugar, and the other [*Cap. 94.*] of Rum.

The sugar bonding act allows the commissioners of revenue in Ireland to take bonds from the importers of British plantation sugar, which is to be lodged in warehouses, and not to be taken out until the duties shall have been paid. The bonds for the amount of the duties are to be payable in three months, with interest at 6 per cent. At the expiration of that time, if the duties are not paid, the sugars are to be sold to pay the duties and interest, and the overplus to be returned to be paid to the importer.—The commissioners may grant a further period of three months, and take a new bond.

The rum bonding act enacts, that all rum, and spirits, the produce of British plantations, may be landed in Ireland, and warehoused at the charge of the importer, upon security by bond for payment

of the duties as soon as the spirits shall be sold, in case the same be sold within twelve months after the warehousing. If it shall not be sold, then the duties to be paid at the end of the twelve months—The duty to be computed according to the gauge of the spirits when warehoused.

An act was also passed, authorizing the lord lieutenant to permit the importation of provisions of every description, free of all duty. [*Cap. 36.*]

WE have now briefly recapitulated all the measures which, in the first Session of the United Parliament, passed relating to Ireland; and though every man must lament that the unhappy state of that country was such as to compel Parliament, however reluctantly, to adopt temporary measures of considerable severity, yet there is every reason to hope that the wisdom and energy of government, co-operating with the known good sense and tried loyalty of a great proportion of the inhabitants of that country, will soon restore her to such a state of internal tranquillity, as to enable her fully to participate in the blessings of the British constitution. The just and impartial conduct of the United Parliament, and the parental kindness which it has evinced towards Ireland, will, we trust, remove those prejudices which were but too successfully excited against the Union, and convince them,
that

that their interests and happiness cannot be more safe than in the hands in which they are now placed.

On the other hand, the people of England are too just to mistake the temporary delirium and phrensy of a fever, for the settled and permanent disposition of their fellow-subjects in Ireland. It is unfortunately but too true, that a large portion of the people of Ireland have been instigated into acts of violence and rebellion; but we know the character of Irishmen is that of a liberal, brave, candid, and generous people; and we trust that the future conduct of those who have been so deluded, will evince the sincerity of their repentance and reformation.—It would not only be unjust to Ireland, but injurious to England, if the character of a whole nation was to be destroyed by the guilt of some individuals: it would tend to prevent the English capitalist from going over to Ireland, and from increasing his own wealth while adding to the general riches and industry of the country. The prospect which Ireland holds out to the English capitalist, is highly tempting, whether he is inclined to speculate in land, or in manufactures. To the proprietor of land, or to the farmer, Ireland holds out advantages superior to those which can be found in this, or perhaps in any country in Europe; the climate renders it particularly favourable for

agricultural pursuits, and the improvements in inland navigation, now proceeding, will undoubtedly produce the most beneficial effects. It cannot but be highly satisfactory to look at Ireland with a hope that it will in time become the granary of this country, and thereby prevent a recurrence of that distress, which we now feel; and that she will render us independent of that precarious supply which we now obtain, subject to the caprice or enmity of foreign powers; and keep within the nation those sums, which we are now obliged to send for provisions to foreign nations.

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41 GEO. III.

The First Session of the UNITED PARLIAMENT.

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