

The petition from the masters and journeymen of London, relative to apprentices was referred to a Committee.—Adjourned.

#### TUESDAY, MAY 4. THE WAR.

On Mr. LUSHINGTON bringing up the report of the Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. PONSFORD wished Lord Castlereagh to give some information relative to our connections with Sweden and Denmark.

Lord CASTLEREAGH in reply said, as explanation on this subject might be given at a future period, he should be exceedingly glad not to be called on for any explanation at the present moment.—Adjourned.

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 5.

Sir F. BURDETT moved that a copy of the minutes of the Court of Inquiry, on the allegations of Mr. Hancock against Captain Phillimore, be laid on the table.

Mr. LITTLETON and Mr. W. DUNDAS defended the conduct of Captain Phillimore, and the question was negatived.

#### THE TRINITY.

Mr. W. SMITH moved, for, and obtained "leave to bring in a Bill for the further relief of persons who dissented from the Church of England, and to remove the penalties to which persons were liable for impugning the Holy Trinity."

#### COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The House having resolved itself into this Committee, the following sums were voted, viz. 1,632l. for the Westminster Improvements; 1,718l. for the relief of the French Refugee Clergy; 3,000l. for the Board of Agriculture; 25,257l. 2s. 7d. for the support of the Naval Asylum for 1000 Children; 22,513l. for Building the Naval Asylum; 28,437l. for Building a Penitentiary House at Milbank.—Adjourned.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 6. AMERICAN CAPTURES.

Mr. BARING said, before any motion could be made for an Inquiry into the conduct of the Naval War with the United States of America, it was necessary that certain papers should previously be produced. There was a very general complaint among all persons connected with the trade to every part of the West Indies, and North and South America, of the insufficient protection afforded them by our Navy, and of the manner in which that trade had been interrupted by the vessels of the United States. There never was a time in which there prevailed a more decided opinion of an undoubted failure of protection. Whether this had happened from Government's having underrated the consequence of the war with America, or from whatever other cause, it was inconceivable how the trade of the whole coast of Brazil and our West India Islands had been interrupted. He should, therefore, move for a list of vessels captured by the enemy, and copies of all the remonstrances and memorials presented to the Admiralty on this subject.

Lord CASTLEREAGH opposed the motion, which was negatived without a division.—Adjourned.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 7.

The Registrar of the Admiralty Bill was ordered to be committed this day se'night.—Adjourned.

#### SURREY SESSIONS, MAY 3.

##### THE KING v. ROBERT WILLIAMS.

This was an indictment tried before a full Bench of Magistrates at the Sessions-house, Horse-monger-lane, on the prosecution of Robert Stone, Esq. against the Defendant, for a gross and violent assault, on the person of Anne Stone, the wife of the Prosecutor, on the 22d of August last.

Mr. LAWES addressed the Jury on the part of the prosecution, as follows:—"Gentlemen of the Jury, before I go into this case, I am desired to state to you who the Defendant is, to prevent any mistake, and to avoid the possibility of his being confounded with a Gentleman of the same name and profession, who resides in the Borough. The Defendant is Mr. Robert Williams, a Surgeon and Apothecary, residing at Brixton, and the Prosecutrix is the young Lady sitting before you, and truly sorry am I, to see a Lady of her appearance, called on to become the Prosecutrix in such a cause as this. She is the wife of Robert Stone, Esq. a Gentleman of respectability, and a Magistrate of the County, residing also at Brixton, and probably not unknown to you. The Defendant is, as I said, an Apothecary, and besides that, he is also a member of a congregation in the neighbourhood, a Deacon, or some sort of pillar of the church; and I should have thought one of the last likely to commit so abominable an outrage as that I am about to detail to you. He had been in the daily habit of attending in his professional character, a Lady named Dubois, the daughter of Mr. Stone, by a former wife; this Lady, in the painful hour of sickness; in her dying moments, had sought comfort and consolation in the society of her nearest relative, Mrs. Stone. She had also wished for the aid and comfort of religion, but by the persuasion of the Defendant, who had declared that in his opinion, he could read the Bible, or administer the Sacrament to her, as well as any Church Minister, no Clergyman was called in. On the 22d of August, he was at Mrs. Dubois's house, Mrs. Stone was there also, and on his leaving the room, Mrs. Stone followed him, to inquire what was his opinion of her dying friend; as soon as they had closed the door of the sick room, he put her question to him, when this man, I wish I could call him Gentleman, instead of returning her an answer, instantly seized her hands, forced her back, and giving way to his abominable passions, his beastly feelings, proceeded to take liberties with the person of

this delicate female, the nature of which I will leave you to conceive, suffice it to say, it was not a common salute which he forced from her, that would have been outrage enough; but this fellow, at the very instant he had quitted the bed of sickness and of death, gave way to passions the most vicious and criminal; the consequences were natural ones; Mrs. Stone almost lost her senses, and as soon as she could get from him, she retreated into the room of her dying relation, who perceiving her situation, inquired what was the occasion of her distress, and was told what had passed. Consequences ensued which I can only allude to; I wish I could do more; I wish you could take cognizance of them. I should like to see the honest indignation you would express on the subject, but it is needless, without the aggravation you will find him guilty, and your verdict will seal his ruin. I alluded to consequences, Mrs. Stone was pregnant at the time this outrageous assault was made on her; by it her health was much injured; she continued ill for six weeks, and then miscarried; other fatal consequences ensued, but I will not mention them, I have already said enough to shew the degree of outrage and indecorum of which the Defendant was guilty.

##### Mrs. Stone examined.

In April last, Mrs. Dubois was unwell—I visited her frequently; she was in a consumption. She died on the 30th of August last; she had the advice of several Physicians, amongst others Doctor Stone attended her, all of whom said, it was impossible she could recover; Williams, the Defendant, attended as Apothecary. I went to see her on the morning of the 22d of August; Williams came whilst I was there; on his leaving the room to go away, I followed him to ask his opinion of Mrs. Dubois, as I did not think she would live till Mr. Dubois came home to dinner. Before I could ask any question he seized me, confined my hands, and pushed my head back in a brutish manner, that I thought I was strangled; whilst he held me in this position, he forced his tongue into my mouth; he held me thus as long as he thought proper; as soon as he let me go, I went into Mrs. Dubois's bed-room—before I entered, I looked back, for not hearing him go down stairs, I was fearful he was following me. He was standing still, and held up his hands thus, as if silently beseeching me not to mention his conduct. I got into Mrs. Dubois's room, fell into a chair, and burst out crying. Mrs. Dubois after inquiring what was the matter, rung the bell and sent for Mr. Stone. I told Mrs. Dubois that Williams had ill-used me, and that I feared I should miscarry. I continued ill till I did miscarry; before this time I had very good health. Williams is a neighbour, and I understand married; he has two children. When Mr. Stone came, I fainted before I could speak to him.

##### Cross-examined by Mr. NOLAN.

Two or three days before, Williams asked Mrs. Dubois if she wished for the attendance of a Clergyman, she asked if it was necessary? Williams said, it was not—any friend might read a chapter in the Bible to her, and if she found herself in a passion, she need only say, "O Christ, save my soul!" and that would bring her out of it. It was the nature of her disorder to be passionate. Mrs. Dubois was twenty-seven. Mr. Stone had another daughter also dead—she was twenty-nine; that is about my age. I have been married ten years. I was married very young. I never heard of Mr. Stone being married before. Mr. Stone and the Defendant were in habits of intimacy. I never heard of any animosity between them. I recollect a bottle of ginger-wine being sent by Williams to Mrs. Dubois; but I do not know who took it in—what was done with it, or whether the bottle was returned. I could not cry out, or give any alarm—it was impossible for me to speak. I did not hold out my hands to shake hands with Williams—I may have held out my hand to a Gentleman; I did not conceive there was any harm in doing so, but I am positive I did not to Williams. I have sworn it, and am sure every thing I have sworn is true. The cook was the first person who came up stairs upon the bell being rung; she did not, however, stay a moment in the room; she has since quitted Mr. Dubois's service, and I do not know where she is gone.

Sarah Cheeseman—I was nursing Mrs. Dubois, at the time this transaction took place, I was not at home—I had been sent to the butcher's, and on my return went down stairs into the kitchen, to get my luncheon—I heard Mrs. Dubois's bell ring violently, and Mr. Williams go out of the house; I went up stairs, and found Mrs. Stone sitting by the side of the bed crying violently. Mrs. Dubois ordered me to go down and get a little beef tea—I did so—and on going up again, Mrs. Stone was still crying, and greatly agitated; I asked her if she was unwell; she replied no—but Mr. Williams had taken a great liberty with her; she then described to me how he had treated her, and said, if Mr. Stone did not come, she should die. Mr. Stone was sent for, and when he came, Mrs. Stone fainted in his arms, and continued in a fit for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour.

##### Cross examined by Mr. NOLAN.

Did not know any thing of the ginger-wine.—Mrs. Dubois was quite revived by what happened, and seeing Mrs. Stone's situation, desired me to attend her, as she had more occasion for a nurse than any one else.

Mr. Dubois—I was present at the interview between Mr. Stone and the Defendant; Mr. Stone had sent for him to charge him with his behaviour towards Mrs. Stone. I was coming from town in my chaise, and drew up at Mr. Stone's gate just as Williams came up. I did not at first know what had happened; when Mr. Stone charged the Defendant with his conduct—he did not deny it; but requested Mr. Stone not to be too harsh; but to allow him to see Mrs. Stone face to face. Stone said, "if you had gone a little further I could have hanged you;" Williams, upon this, begged

him, for God's sake, not to speak so loud, but to go into the house, to which Mr. Stone replied, he should never enter his doors again.

In his cross examination, he said he had never, till this day, heard any thing to the contrary but that Williams and Mr. Stone were on good terms previous to this transaction. The ginger-wine which had been alluded to was sent by Williams, and taken in by one of the servants, but was never used.

Eliza Taylor lived nursery-maid at Mr. Dubois's; I was in the drawing-room at the time this transaction took place; the drawing-room is on the first floor, Mrs. Dubois was lying on the second floor; I heard no noise till I heard the bell ring violently. I was going to answer it, when Williams passed me on the stairs, to go out of the house. I went up stairs, but not till after Mr. Stone came; Mrs. Stone was crying, and in great distress.

##### Cross-examined by Mr. NOLAN.

Williams passed me on the stairs; I heard him say, good morning; I supposed it was to Mrs. Stone, but I did not see her. He sometimes said good morning to me; I did not suppose the bell rung to let him out—it was not usual for it to do so; the good-morning might have been addressed to me; I don't know that it was or was not; I thought then it was to Mrs. Stone. I did not hear any noise; I do not think that it was likely I should have heard any when I was in the drawing-room.

Mr. Pratt, a surgeon, had attended Mrs. Stone as a medical man; he was called in on the 7th of Oct.; Mrs. Stone complained of suffering great pain, and miscarried on the 11th; he could not take upon himself to say this was in consequence of any injury received by her so long previous as the 22d of August.

Mr. NOLAN then proceeded to address the Jury on behalf of the Defendant, and declared he had never, on any occasion, risen under greater anxiety than he now did; satisfied in his own mind of the innocence of the Defendant—convinced that the charge was not founded in fact, yet feeling that the evidence of a lady like the prosecutrix must have considerable weight with the Jury, unless it could be disproved by positive evidence, he also felt oppressed by the importance of this cause to his client, as unless he could convince the Jury of the innocence of the Defendant, though he had for twenty-eight years exercised his profession with the honour to himself, and advantage to those who had employed him; though, during the whole of that period he had maintained a most respectable character; though he was the father of a family, and the husband of a respectable and venerable woman; yet if the Jury should find a verdict against him, its effect must be his utter ruin. Such, however, could not, he was convinced, be the result of the present case, in which he looked forward confidently for a verdict of acquittal for his client; and if he should fail of obtaining such a verdict, it could only arise from a want of ability on his part to do justice to the cause in which he was engaged. The Jury would see with what aggravation this cause was brought forward; his Learned Friend, in his opening, had been instructed to point out who his client was, where he lived, and every particular, by which to identify his person in the strongest manner, so that if found guilty, the venom of the shaft might by no possibility miss its object; his Learned Friend had done more than this—even the religion and the piety of the Defendant's former life had been alluded to, and made an aggravation of his guilt—in short, vengeance had commenced, punishment had been inflicted before trial took place, and the Prosecutrix had already triumphed. The Learned Counsel then proceeded to take a review of the evidence, and commented particularly on the circumstances of Mrs. Stone's not having given any alarm when she was attacked in the serious and brutal manner by the Defendant, which she had described, on the neglect of the Prosecutor to call the cook; he had almost called it design, since the cook was the first person who saw Mrs. Stone after the described assault had taken place, and therefore was certainly best qualified to inform them what was the state of Mrs. Stone at the time.—Another and a very strong circumstance in his favour, was the acceptance of the bottle of ginger wine. Was it likely, was it credible, that if an assault of the brutal nature described by Mrs. Stone had been made upon her, that the Defendant should have departed with an unruddied countenance, pronounced the usual complimentary expression of good morning, gone home, and added insult to injury, by sending a present of a bottle of wine, and that a bottle of wine so sent should have been accepted? The Learned Counsel commented on the rest of the evidence, and contended, that, under all the circumstances, it was impossible to find the Defendant guilty. The Defendant had but one wish remaining for his support—that wish was the verdict of the Jury. It now remained for them to say whether by a verdict of acquittal, they would restore him to his family and to comfort, or, by finding him guilty, consign him to otter ruin, and thus verify the prediction of his friend, and gratify the malignity of the Prosecutor.

The CHAIRMAN shortly addressed the Jury, and observed, that, in his opinion, no doubt could remain of the assault having been committed; the evidence of Mrs. Stone had been given in a most distinct manner, and there was no reason whatever to doubt its correctness. As to her not calling out, that circumstance might arise from her agitation and confusion. Two other circumstances had been mentioned by the Defendant's Counsel, namely, the not having called the cook, and the acceptance of the ginger wine. With respect to the first, it did not appear that she could have proved any thing particular, and if the Defendant supposed she could have done so, he might have called her; as the ginger wine, it would be recollected it was