

to review the facts of the case, and to give him the advice which the particular situation in which he was placed, the interests of the country, and the constitution of the kingdom, required them to give to their sovereign. All the information possessed upon the subject would be laid before the committee, and of course that information, whether contained in written documents or not, would be solely viewed as to its respectability and character. He now applied to the intended course of proceeding, but before entering upon it, could not help expressing his astonishment, considering the able legal advice which her majesty was known to have, that it could have been impressed on her mind, that the slightest imputation could have been cast on that illustrious personage, or on the meanest subject in the realm, or that they should be referred to any secret tribunal, or to one, where the fullest communication could not be sifted, and sifted with that publicity which was the distinguishing characteristic of British justice.—(Hear, hear!) He was astonished it could have occurred to any one, that her majesty would not have full power, in the event of any necessity for a trial existing, to examine witnesses minutely—to search their character, and weigh the value of their testimony—so that she would be sent to trial without all those safeguards of general liberty and individual protection, which would afford her, together with that publicity necessary to the ends of justice, a full opportunity of cross-examining evidence, rebutting testimony, and impeaching the character of the witnesses, with a degree of liberty which her majesty must share, not in precedence, but in common with every subject in the country. Should the committee report that there was nothing to impeach the conduct of the illustrious party whom they assist with their advice, and that there was no occasion to proceed farther, this happy decision would receive no additional recommendation, either in the estimation of her Majesty or in that of the public, from having been come to in conjunction with the two learned gentlemen, who held the important and honourable office of her Majesty's legal advisers. On the other hand, if the report stated that there was enough of grave matter laid before the committee to advise some ulterior proceeding, they would be placed in the most embarrassing dilemma between their private and their public duty. If they concurred in the opinion that there was sufficient ground for ulterior proceedings, how much more painful would such a decision prove to the house, when sanctioned by two honorable and learned gentlemen, who stood in such a situation. If they thought it their duty to protest against the decision of the committee, under what disadvantages would they not labor at being among the number of those through whom that decision had been formed. The transactions of the last forty-eight hours furnished a pretty sufficient comment on what might have been expected from a negotiation, as it was called, since it was seen, that the illustrious personage, who was the subject of this discussion, was so little under the counsel of the honorable and learned gentleman (her legal adviser), that by his own confession, those documents connected with the arrangements lately proposed, which had been published, had been so published without his consent.—(Mr. Brougham) had felt it due to himself to declare, that he had not advised that publication, and to admit that it was garbled, imperfect, and untrue. Under whatever lamentable, and he might add criminal, advice, that publication had taken place, it was evident that the object of it was to appeal to the lower orders of the people.—(Hear, hear, hear!)—and the purposes which it was intended to answer could be concealed from no one who did not wilfully shut his eyes. If any feeling but regret could have place in his breast at this moment, he should rejoice that, from the circumstances of the case, no doubt could exist as to the course which Ministers had taken on this melancholy occasion; that the illustrious personage herself had been fully apprised of their resolution; and that the conduct of Ministers, free from all disguise, had made her distinctly understand the consequences to which the step that she had resolved upon must inevitably and immediately lead. (Hear, hear, hear.) The House was aware that under her marriage settlement, in the lamentable event of the death of his Majesty, she would be entitled to an income of £50,000 a year, as widow of the King. He had therefore thought it desirable that an annuity to that amount should be granted now, that the subject might never again come before Parliament. This, then, had been proposed to the Queen, and he had no hesitation in saying, that when proposed, the only condition coupled with it was the stipulation that she should remain abroad. Now, with respect to the proposition that the Queen should give up her title and all the rights attached to her situation, he did not know that such a proposition had been made, or could be made. Nothing had been proposed to her but an arrangement by which it was hoped that all debates of a hostile nature might be avoided. It was understood that no proposition to the Queen to surrender her rights as Queen could be valid without the interference of the Legislature, and without an act of Parliament. Ministers had been anxious that such measures be adopted that should prevent all future conflicts, both at home and abroad, between the illustrious parties. It was obvious, that if her Majesty resided

in England, both the King and herself would frequently be exposed to much painful embarrassment, and it was but too evident that there was in this country no lack of disposition to turn such circumstances to answer the most mischievous purposes.—(Hear, hear.)—Whatever had, through warmth of feeling, been propagated on this subject, either abroad or within those walls, he trusted that it would be obviously proved to all, that Government had been most anxious to avoid this altercation, and most anxious to soften down the distress which such a step as that meditated by the Queen was likely to create in every delicate and feeling mind. Every thing, he assured the house, had been done to avoid coming before a tribunal, which ought never to have had cognizance of the case, and there was no sacrifice which they were not desirous to advise the Crown to make, in order to avoid this crisis, consistently with its character and dignity. Mr. Brougham assured the House that the noble Lord opposite had not addressed them on the very grave and momentous subject before this House with more pain than himself. He would have the House first to know that this illustrious Lady coveted not the countenance of those to whom the noble Lord's speech had so forcibly alluded. Her sagacity, which yielded to none in that House, and her extreme propriety of mind, rendered it little likely she should have suffered either to be defeated by adopting fallacious advice. Her condition, however, was such as entitled her to their warmest sympathy. She had been long estranged from her family, and that intimate association which was most calculated to cherish the principles and habits of domestic life. He called upon the House to bear in mind her peculiar situation. A female, a foreigner, unprotected, and nearly friendless, who had sustained six years' almost involuntary exile from England. Bearing these things in their recollection, he thought they would not very severely blame her if she had fallen into the error of listening to the honest and well meant recommendations of a friendly individual who had desired to serve her, though he (Mr. Brougham) could never characterise those recommendations as those of absolute wisdom.—(Laughter.) Was it on papers and letters—pieces of evidence, called evidence, brought from beyond the Alps by a Secret Commission, sent out by God knows whom, but now well known for what purpose, viz.—to save the Committee of the House of Commons the trouble of examining evidence. He stated himself to be utterly ignorant of the contents of the paper to be laid before the Committee; he had only seen the outside of that green bag, nothing more, and all his objections against it was, that the whole of the evidence was in that bag, and that there was not a living witness to be examined. He knew that some one would be called to prove that this was the signature of such a one—a gentleman, perhaps, who had been sent out to make a residence of ten months at Milan—a member of the learned profession, who, till that ill-fated hour, stood high in the reputation of the world, and the esteem of his friends. That this individual should have lowered himself, he confessed had both surprised and pained him. He begged pardon for the expression he was using, but they were canvassing so freely the character of illustrious individuals, that minor considerations must yield. He must again recur to the unpleasant subject, deprecating as he did the individual and the office. To go as he did and sit prying into the most secret actions of domestic life in a foreign country—seeking for information among the filthy wine-houses; joining in familiar confabulation with the barge-men of the lake, porters, cast-off servants of mistresses—those detestable characters, who, to the credit of courts of law, scarcely ever showed their faces within them, without having them stamded with infamy—to sit, he repeated, writing down all the tittle-tattle of these reprobate characters. Before this he had thought better of human nature, more of the merits of professional honor.—(Hear, hear!)—In saying this he was saying what he felt, at the degradation of a professional brother. Such low offices, he acknowledged, must be performed; but then let them be done by hands that could not be sullied by any species of baseness. Let no man dip a finger in such filth, who was not born to degrade the human species. If the committee should only turn out their report, couched in the mildest terms of affirmation, which it was in the power of the noble lord's oily rhetoric to frame;—(Laughter.)—so long as it only said yes to the charge, that man's character would be forever blasted. It was in vain to liken this tribunal to a Grand Jury. If Ministers thought her Majesty guilty on the report of the commission, let them act upon that assurance.—(Cheers.)—He strongly deprecated the course of Ministers on this occasion; they wished by the appointment of the committee to screen themselves behind names better than their own—to seek shelter from the public gaze—to cover themselves up from the public eye. But they had of their own responsibility come down to the house with this message, and they ought to face it as men, and as ministers should do. Not only the interests of the royal family, but the peace, the well-being and the morals of the country were involved in the present question. If the proposed enquiry was once entered upon, who could presume to say where it would stop; who, though they were on the

dreadful brink, could venture to point out the gulph which was yawning beneath them.—(Hear, hear!)—Those who counselled the crown to the present measure, ought to weigh well those circumstances, by which it was likely to be attended.—Those who recollected what took place on a former occasion would bear in mind the nature of the enquiry then entered into, and from that they might judge to what that now proposed would extend. They would have to enquire—not into the character of the Queen—not into the treatment she had met with—not into matters with which the house was connected, or of which it wished to be informed; but they would have brought up the whole private history of certain illustrious individuals. He did not say that they must do this, but that it was probable all these matters might be forced upon the public eye.—Let them look, as he before stated, to what had taken place a few years ago. On that occasion public business was suspended—every feeling on any other subject was annihilated—the political gossip and scandal of the day became stale—party spirit ceased, and even political rancour no longer existed—the general topic of the year being the private life and history of the first subjects in the country.—(Hear, hear!)—He must indeed be a sagacious man, who could from the commencement at point out the end of the proposed enquiry; he must indeed be a man of miraculous sagacity who could do so.—He did not believe that the noble lord (Castlereagh) himself would venture securely upon such a prediction; he was sure that no other man could venture to state how the conflicting interests of the parties would end or to what extent they would be carried.—He knew that many persons would look upon this question, with the best feelings, many well-meaning persons would, perhaps, advise it,—but there are others who would view it in a different light; persons who were so much like rabid animals, that there was more danger to be apprehended from their saliva than their teeth. If this inquiry were entered upon, there were many who, perhaps, would view it compassionately, but would blame the parties who had set it on foot. There were some who, in certain cases, would feel themselves bound by professional ties to regard nothing but the interests of their clients. He did not allude to Members of Parliament, and therefore not to himself or his honorable learned colleague (Mr. Denman,) but to other persons, into whose hands the affairs of his royal client might be entrusted. What the consequence of this might be, he would not trust himself to say; those who recollected what took place eleven years ago, would be able to form an idea of that to which he alluded. In such cases the advocate had but one thing to look to—the interests of his client; and any professional man would be ruined, disgraced, in a word, he would be fit for the tribunal of Milan who neglected those interests, or took any course detrimental to them. He said he must be a bold man who would pretend to point out the issue or probable duration of the proposed inquiry; but he must be a bolder man still who would rashly plunge the country into a state of irritation and confusion while there remained a possibility of adjusting matters in a private and amicable manner. (Hear, hear, hear!) For God's sake, then—for the sake of the country—for the sake of those who had wives and daughters to protect, he implored them to pause before they decided upon this question. Let them recollect what took place eleven years ago, when no man could open one of the daily papers without turning with disgust from the scenes which it described. The morality of the country was at stake; let the House then pause, and inquire whether there was not yet some means of avoiding a proceeding pregnant with such evils to the country (hear, hear, hear!) He put this to the House, as they valued their honour, as they valued all that was dearest to them, as they valued the existence of England as a nation.—(Loud cries of hear, hear, from all parts of the House.) There were two instances which he wished to point out respecting the conduct of Hanoverian ministers towards her Majesty while in Italy.—The Baron Ompteda, who was on his way to Rome, as Hanoverian Minister was most graciously received by her Majesty. He intimated himself into her house—he partook largely of her hospitality for several months. Notwithstanding this attention and kindness, this honorable Baron was detected, not only in spying into the conduct of her Majesty, but only in bribing and corrupting her servants to give him information, but in having hired a blacksmith to make a key to open her private desk, in order to investigate her papers. Fortunately, however, those papers so taken, shewed this gentleman was on the wrong scent, as in fact they proved her innocence instead of her guilt. A young gentleman, a lieutenant in the navy, then about her Majesty's person, feeling for the honour of his Royal Mistress challenged the honorable Baron; the latter, however, retreated to Milan, where he took up so secret a position, as to be with difficulty found out. Driven from this retreat, he made a backward movement, and hid himself in the mountains; here again he was followed by the gallant lieutenant, whose generous ardour surmounted all obstacles; but while an engagement was daily expected, the Baron Ompteda was kicked out of the Austrian territories, not, he is observed,

for having acted as a spy upon the Queen—not for the crime of having forced her Majesty's private papers—but for having refused to fight a duel when openly called upon.—(Hear, hear!) Her Majesty had commended him to call for a full, fair, open investigation. The speedier the beginning of it was, the more completely would she be gratified—the more ample it was, the more decided would be her satisfaction. But that it would be a short investigation, he, who knew the course of such proceedings, felt it to be impossible. Therefore, no time was to be lost: for, if the investigation went on, they might expect to fit to no ordinary period of the session. But in calling for inquiry, her Majesty protested strenuously against a secret one.—(Hear, hear, hear!) Mr. Canning said, that in all the discussions which had taken place before this crisis, he had looked to the situation of the queen, as to that of the nearest and dearest friend. To his sovereign he owed the duty of a privy councillor—to her majesty he owed every esteem and respect. The wish nearest his heart was, that this extremity could have been avoided; his next wish was, that her majesty might come out of this inquiry with honour to herself, and satisfaction to her friends. An honorable member (Mr. Tierney) had said, that no compromise could take place without injuring the king's honour, or else inflicting the queen. Another honorable member blamed government because they did not themselves bring in a bill of pains and penalties. But this was not the duty of ministers; they had not undertaken the task of bringing forward those charges; they were not the collectors of the evidence to be laid before the committee, (hear, hear, hear! from the opposition benches.) They felt it their bounden duty to lay them before the house. What was the first step taken by ministers? They recommended a compromise, which the learned and honorable gentleman (Mr. Brougham) knew this had been offered, and his assistance to bring it about had been since requested. If that had been accepted, it would have spared the house the painful duty which now devolved upon them. The proposal was said to be revolting, and a modification was recommended. Why was not this modification proposed before. It was now, he feared, too late to propose any. The honorable gentleman had expressed his regret at the failure of all amicable arrangements, and it was but justice to the hon. and learned gentleman to declare, that he (Mr. Canning) believed that he had undertaken the management of the business with every sincere and ardent desire to bring about a favorable result. But it was a pity that the hon. and learned gentleman, before he had set out from London, did not so much as tell them that those terms could not be heard without indignation; or surely that which it was right to speak at St. Omer's could not be unfit to be spoken in London. He deprecated the idea of a bill of pains and penalties against her Majesty. Parliament were not called upon to become the accusers of her Majesty; and, said he, "I, as one individual, to help me God, I never will place myself in that situation." He regretted that all hopes of conciliation had failed. Inquiry was challenged. If there should appear matter of crimination, there must be an open inquiry—the illustrious person should have the full opportunity of defence. His first wish was to avert inquiry—his next, that her Majesty might pass through the ordeal clear and triumphant. Never had he been involved in difficulties so distressing as those which he had felt during the whole of this discussion. Mr. Tierney said, it was impossible that any man of good feelings could come to this question without the deepest anxiety. His only satisfaction was, that he had nothing to do with the negotiations which seemed to have brought all the parties concerned in them into a pitious plight. [A laugh.] Mr. Wilberforce said, there was nothing he would say, but the absolute despair of any reconciliation or adjustment in this case, which would compel him to abandon the course he now felt it his duty to adopt, with a view of preventing the dreadful discussions with which they were threatened. [hear, hear!] He believed there was not a man in the house, who did not participate in his feelings of wishing, if possible, to prevent the matter from going on. [hear, hear!] He proposed that they yet pause for a day or two, before proceeding farther in this business, (loud cheers,) in order that the parties might have time to cool, (hear, hear!) The honorable gentleman concluded with moving that the farther debate on this question be adjourned till Friday next, (loud cheers.) Lord Castlereagh expressed his willingness to accede to the wishes of the House. It was impossible for him, however, after the experience which he had had, to hold out any sanguine expectations of an adjustment, or to make himself responsible for it. The motion for adjourning the debate to Friday next, was then agreed to.—Adjourned at 10 o'clock.

#### LONDON, May 23.

**CORONATION—COURT OF CLAIMS.** Official orders for the making of His Majesty's Coronation robes have been issued to three tradesmen. The value of the new crown to be worn by His Majesty at the Coronation is estimated at £54,000. One jewel in it is worth £14,000. The old crown is not worth more than £1,000. Thursday the first meeting of the Court of Claims was held in the Painted Cham-

ber of the House of Lords in obedience to His Majesty's Proclamation. At 12 o'clock, several of the Lords Commissioners having assembled, the Earl of Harrowby, Lord President of the Council, took the Chair, having on his right hand his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, and on his left, his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester. Silence having been proclaimed, the Commission was opened, and was also read by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. Several petitions of persons claiming to perform certain services at the Coronation were then presented, and were read also by the Clerk of the Crown. Among the claims made, we understand, were those of— The Cities of London and Oxford to assist the Chief Butler. The Earl of Abergavenny to act as Chief Lardener, which was counterclaimed by Mr. Estcourt, M.P. The Duke of Norfolk, as Earl of Arundel, to be received as Chief Butler. The Duke of Norfolk, as Lord of the Manor of Workop, county of Nottingham, to find a Glove for the King's right hand, and to support his Majesty's right arm while the King holds the sceptre. The Duke of Montrose, as Master of the Horse, to act as Sergeant of the Silver Saddle. Mr. Campbell, as Lord of the Manor of Lyston, in Essex, to make Wafers for the King. The Bishop of London, in respect to the service of the Organ in the Abbey. The claims of the Dukes of Norfolk and Montrose were presented by Sir G. Naylor on behalf of those Noble Peers. Among the Commissioners present we noticed the Dukes of Clarence and Gloucester, the Lord President of the Council, the Marquis Camden, the Earls of Shaftesbury, Macclesfield, Courtown, Viscount Strangford, Lords Gwyder, Arden, Heuley, St. Helen's, Amherst, and Charles Bentinck, the Right Hon. Sir W. Scott, Sir W. Grant, Sir J. Nicholl, F. Robinson. After those proceedings were closed, the court was adjourned to Thursday next. **COURT OF CLAIMS.** Yesterday the Court was again held, for the purpose of receiving petitions from the claimants to attend to the Coronation. Amongst the Commissioners were the Duke of York, the Duke of Clarence, Lord Amherst, Lord Arden, &c. &c. &c. **CLAIM OF THE CITY OF LONDON.**—The Common Sergeant, attended by the Remembrancer of the city of London, presented a petition, stating the claim of the Lord-Mayor to serve the King after dinner with wine, from a golden cup, and to have the cup at his departure for his fee and reward. This claim was founded upon that of the chief magistrate's predecessors, who had exercised it from a time whereof the memory of man was not to the contrary, and it was demanded for George Bridges, Esq. the present Lord Mayor. A claim was annexed for divers others of the citizens of London, to serve in the office of Butlers, and to have the usual fees. His Lordship claimed, besides, to sit at the table next the large cover at the left side of the hall. This custom, it was stated, had been held from the time of William III. to that of George III. A petition was presented by three clergymen, in their canonicals, from the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, stating his claim by letters patent to assist in the performance of divine service on the day of the coronation in Westminster. After which he claimed possession of a quantity of sarcenet and worsted, as well as all oblations and offerings that might be made upon the occasion, together with four small bells, the third part of a tun of wine, and other things, the bounty of the King. A claim was made upon the part of Lord Gwyder, as hereditary Lord Chamberlain of the King, to be furnished with a lodging near the King during the coronation, and to have for his fees a large quantity of stocking and shirts, 40 yards of crimson velvet, the cushions, &c. &c. within the chamber. The next claim was from the Earons of the Cinque Ports, who petitioned to have the right of supporting a canopy of purple silk, supported by four staves, at each of which four Barons to be stationed. A petition was presented from the Rev. Mr. Dymock, claiming, as Lord of the Manor of Scivelshy, in Lincolnshire, the right of appearing in Westminster-hall, on the day of Coronation, as the Champion of the King. It was further stated, that if the petitioner should not be able to come himself, well armed for war, he claimed to send a substitute, who should enter in the person of William Reader, Esq. into Westminster-hall, in a full suit of armour, on a charger, with the Earl Marshal, the trumpet sounding before the King at dinner, and say, "If any person, whether he be high, or whether he be low, deny that George the Fourth is the rightful King of England, I, as the King's Champion, am ready to prove him a false traitor." The Champion then shall throw down his gauntlet, and, if nobody do deny that George the Fourth is the rightful King, the Champion shall drink out of a golden cup to the King, and when he has drank his Majesty's health, shall take away the cup, and the charger, and the armour, as his fees. A petition was presented from the Lord of the Manor of Eyke, in the county of Essex, claiming to hold water to the King, and to have for his fees the basin, towel, and ewer. The Duke of Athol, in person, claimed, as Lord of the Isle of Man, the right to present two falcons to the King. There