against himself. He should not have brought forward his present motion if he had not thought it his duty to do so. Before giving notice of it he had carefully looked over the rules laid down by Sir Robert Peel himself, to regulate his conduct with regard to Church appointments, and he had compared the principle therein enunciated with the appointment of this Reverend Gentleman. The principle and the conduct were so incongruous that he considered it his duty to notice the matter. And in doing so, his object had not been to say anything adverse to that Reverend Gentleman, but to get a justification from the Government for their conduct.

The Duke of Richmond said he did not rise to speak on the subject, but to offer a suggestion on an expression or two which in the heat of debate had unfortunately fallen from a Noble Marquis on his right. From that Noble Marquis expressions had fallen in the heat of debate which certainly partook of a personal character, and which all must regret the use of—(Hear, hear.) Latterly some occurrences of a similar nature had taken place in that House, which he was greatly afraid would give reason to the public to say that there was not the dignity and decorum which ought ever to characterize their Lordships' proceedings.—(Hear, hear.) He asked how could the country look up to them with respect if they did not try to keep their tempers, and to carry on their proceedings with mutual forbearance and decorum?—(Hear, hear.) He really should recommend the Noble Earl to say, that in the heat of debate he had used remarks of a personal nature, which he regretted to have done.—(Hear, hear.)

The Marquis of Westmeath said, that having been called upon by the Noble Duke (Richmond) in the handsome way in which he had been, he begged to say he had no desire to show any disorderly feeling in the conduct of the business of that House. He certainly did feel very much as to the mischief caused in Ireland to the peace and safety of families by the constant discussions on the subject brought under their notice by Noble Lords opposite. Following, however, the advice so kindly tendered to him by the Noble Duke (Richmond), he had no objection to state his regret, that in speaking on the matter before the House, he had exceeded the bounds of fair discussion, and that what had fallen from him he regretted.

The motion was then withdrawn by leave, and the House adjourned.

DEATH OF LORD SIDMOUTH.

The death of Lord Sidmouth, who died on Thursday last, at the advanced age of eighty-seven, reminds us that a peer of the realm has just passed from among us who by sheer luck and the proverbial caprice of fortune, attained those honours which are often denied to talents a thousand times superior to any of which he could boast. Without eloquence—without statesmanship—without energy of character or family connexions—without even a military claim on the gratitude or confidence of his country—the deceased nobleman gained the highest and proudest post which a British subject can possibly gain—namely, that of Prime Minister! And, as if this fact were not of itself sufficiently astonishing, he succeeded the second Pitt as Premier—a statesman, who whatever other disqualifications he may have possessed, was certainly not wanting in a certain commanding energy and loftiness of mind, in which his twaddling, common-place ancessor was notoriously—not to say, ridiculously—deficient! Among the many strange events that marked the commencement of the present century, few are more strange than Mr. Addington's acquisition of supreme power, at such a period, too, when the restless and enterprising Napoleon was Chief Consul of the French republic!—and none more completely exemplifies the truth of the old adage that "the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." The late Lord Sidmouth was the son of an able Berkshire physician, who had the honour of practising in the family of the first Lord Chatham. In due time young Addington was elected Member for Devizes, in which capacity he exhibited not the slightest talent of any sort; being punctual, however, in his attendance in Parliament, and tolerably well acquainted with its forms and usages, he was appointed, through the influence of his patron, Pitt, Speaker of the House of Commons, and by all accounts discharged the duties of his office with decorum and impartiality. On the retirement of Mr. Pitt from place, Mr. Addington was appointed his successor—doubtless as much to his own surprise as to that of the whole country.—The peace of Amiens followed, but the distrust of the French Government continuing as active as ever, hostilities soon re-commenced; and then came the Premier's hour of trial.—A very brief period sufficed to convince both parties in the House of Commons of his utter incapacity; his measures were all marked by imbecility and short-sightedness, such as might be expected from a mere red-tape official; and the consequence was that Pitt and Fox coalesced in order to drive him from the helm. On his resignation, Mr. Addington was raised to the peerage by the title of Viscount Sidmouth. Shortly after he joined the Fox and Grenville party; and when, on Mr. Pitt's death, that party came into power, he was made Privy Seal. On their retirement, in consequence of their attempts to force a Catholic Relief Bill on the King, Lord Sidmouth was once again dispossessed of office, notwithstanding that he held the same sentiments as his Royal master on the subject of Emancipation. His last official appointment was that of Secretary of State for the Home Department, which he held during many years of the Liverpool Administration. He finally quitted public life in the year 1822, from which period to the day of his death he lived in a state of tranquil domestic retirement. As Home Secretary, Lord Sidmouth obtained just about the same amount of popularity that he obtained during his dull, but brief, burlesque of the Premiership. His colleagues may have respected him as a man, but they could not but have contemned him as a Minister; and as for the country, it scarcely thought of him at all, except when he came prominently forward with the thanks of Government to the Manchester magistrates for their conduct during the Peterloo massacre, on which occasion he was visited with just and generous opprobrium.—We sum up our brief, hasty notice of Lord Sidmouth by observing that he was a useful party dodge—a sub-servient, undeviating Tory tool—whom Providence confided in for his mediocrity, and Bigotry for his narrow-mindedness. A capital office-clerk was spoiled when he first aspired to political distinction. His proper place was at a desk in the Treasury or Somerset-House, with a pen behind his ear, and a bundle of red tape-tied documents under his nose. When, instead of copying official instructions he dictated them, he got completely beyond his depth. A notorious fact, which furnished an inexhaustible theme for the sarcastic wit of Canning. If Lord Sidmouth be ever remembered at all, it will be—first, as a prodigy of political mediocrity, and secondly, as the hero of the *Anti Jacobin*'s famous parody on Nyeat's colloquy.

* [illegible]

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

(FROM PUNCH.)

Writing, as we of necessity do, before the speech from the throne is delivered, we can only gather its contents from the small talk we have been permitted to enjoy with different members of the Cabinet. The following dialogue that recently took place between ourselves and Sir Robert Peel, will furnish some clue to the subject.

Punch.—Rhoo-too-too-it.

Sir R. Peel, (ringing a bell)—Show this person down stairs.

This is all that has passed between ourselves and the Premier with reference to the speech to be delivered by her Majesty. Thrown, therefore, upon our own resources, we venture to furnish our own draft of the royal speech, according to prescription. Of common-place, there will be two drams; of sense a single pennyweight; and of the sublimate of humbug, not many scruples. The dose may with safety be labelled the mixture as before for Mr. I. Bull.

PARLIAMENT AND PEEL'S VICTIM.

Ere *Punch* shall have issued his next sheet, her Gracious Majesty will have enacted a part of *Juliet* before the mob of Parliament. "She speaks; yet says nothing." Dear lady! Deeply, indeed, shall we sympathise with her, drawn to the House, with nothing better than Sir Robert Peel's words in her mouth for public delivery. Great, indeed, is the privilege of an English Prime Minister. He may not only be a first-rate smasher with impunity, dealing wholesale in the vilest pocket-pieces, but—hard fate for the monarch!—enamare his gracious sovereign to utter them. There is a Bow-street for the coiner of Field lane: for the plebian Robert Surface, who inveigles an artless house-maid—some Victoria Windsor—to put off his pewter half-crowns on a dull-eyed tradesman; but, but—as we have said—a Prime Minister is privileged! Thus, the pocket pieces palmed off on Parliament by the smashers of Downing street are countless. Little did that excellent monarch George the Third dream of the part thrust upon him by Prime Ministers: otherwise, sure we are, he would have committed a violence on his nature, and with fellow-feeling, saved many an utterer of base coin from Tyburn!

Punch is a philosopher. It is not often that we make such trite avowals; but *Punch* is a Philosopher. Hence, with what a sadly meditative feeling do we contemplate the royal procession on its progress to Parliament! The unthinking crowd hurrah and shout, and, whilst they look upon the silver trumpets, and the gold-lace of the blowers, think themselves, for an intoxicating moment, a part and parcel of the state about them. Jack Nokes has, for a second, a vague notion that he is a bit of a monarchy; that the show is a part of his property; that the Life Guards and the state coaches, and the Lord Chamberlain and the Ladies of the Bedchamber, and more—first her Gracious Majesty herself—are, at least a portion of them, his goods. Other men may be landholders, house-holders; he—Jack Nokes, with a vestibulating rent in his other garment—is neverthless one sight-holder; and therefore hawls and hurrays lustily when he catches a fitful glance of his lawful chattels. It may possibly be this feeling—exalted Enthusiasm—that, on lounging days, makes people congregate about the gilded.

With very different feelings does *Punch* watch her Majesty's progress to Parliament! There sits Victoria framed and glazed, in that beautiful coach, and looking happy, and throwing smiles about her, wide as the sun; and there sits Prince Albert, contented as Jack Horner with his finger on his plum; and there, too, sits the Mistress of the Robes to blessed sight for the shirt makers!; and the Women of the Bed-chamber and the Maids of Honor look something more than mortal preserves—creatures that, for a day, have left their wings in a happier sphere, and have condescended to behold those things of humanity (some of them very queer, mortalis specimens, the Peers and Members of Parliament. And the cream colored horses look fat on guineas taken out of silver mangers (no stables are, or how could the £70,000 for royal stables go!) and even the royal footmen seem heathen gods, in scarlet coats and silver hose.

And this spectacle, glorious as it is to thoughtless eyes, to the vision of *Punch* is sad, yea dolorous. The excess of his grief arises from the superabundance of his loyalty. He sees her Majesty—radiant victim!—and the shout dies in his throat, for he remembers that the gracious Victoria is, at the moment of her screaming felicity, condemned, given over by state necessity to the spleen of Robert Peel! She has dressed herself, she and her household too have prepared themselves,—she, her women and her maids, her Life Guards, and her black cymbal-players, her horses, her asses, and the rest of the ministry,—and all to deliver a shabby message from Tamworth! Could it not have been done by letter, or whispered the blessing of the penny post? Or, if too heavy for such a medium, is there not a company for the punctual delivery of parcels? We are too prone to rate antiquity for specious examples of human endurance, whilst about us are all modern specimens of this virtue. What, we ask, was the martyrdom suffered by those whoshod with a hot pinying on his vitals, to the lot of our companions of Queen Victoria on her way to Parliament—for, with the speech of Peel to deliver, had not our gracious Sovereign the fox at her lips?

It is not true we are too apt to give our sympathies to great people in distress, to compensating ourselves by apathy towards the meaner multitude. Was a tear shed for Victoria on her way to Parliament? Was the tear manly but not of course, except the tear and breast of *Punch*, heaving with the thoughts of a coach? On the contrary, Ignorance hooted—and Folly, never separating the victim from the show that marks it, flung up its cap, and shouted *First Regina*—the Queen going to Parliament!

Let us now put the case of opening a private Parliament: let us assume a common case as parallel to the sensibility of the reader:—

Bon Stanzas is a shrewd, cunning, winding fellow, with a civil word and a jocund clack for everybody. His independence is that of the weathercock, for he veers when and how he pleases. He wooed a very great favorite with the Graces, and used to sing at their wakes and merry-makings; and Farmer Gramon, Heath, shelters that Bon was no better than a scamp. And so Bon has lived upon an equivocal reputation, constantly hoodwinking the scraps. He has now, however, his designs upon a certain house. There is a fine looking old gentleman, a capital placeholder; a house crammed with gold and bank notes; all excellent things for himself and particular friends. It is necessary that the house "should be opened" that he may proceed with his plans. What does Bon? He sets down and concocts a rosy and soft story to impose Bon, by the way, is great on bells, which he intends to use on artless villagers—a frank hearted female, by name, Victoria Windsor—and from the out-door, poor thing! makes her adopt the story as her own. With this tale the young creature, who, by the way, wishes Bon as one good to the poor, goes upon her visit to the house of a wealthy Stephen Lodge—kept by the friends of the Stranger, and is received with cordial hospitality, for she is a great favorite, by old Mr. S. The young woman has her tock glibly enough, and laughing as possible:—

"Pray, Mr. Lodge, Mr. Stephen," the old gentleman having was politely rose from his chair, "I am come to tell you that I am very glad to meet you. Some time last year, my mother, Eve, lost a bit of a trifle—have been to France, and brought a present to the King, Hodge, Bodge, Podge, and—" Here she lost a great deal with great earnestness, for Lord and Lady Kingston, had entered in Arthur, your cousin, has been in the navy, [illegible] good reason, that I've no doubt they [illegible] The matter was wanted to have a little reporting, but I'd do that. "However, you [illegible] that I've no [illegible] made of my [illegible] There is Monsieur Bonstanzas, [illegible] can't do [illegible] The poor little thing [illegible] Lady Kingston [illegible] the [illegible] for mother [illegible] "Your [illegible] on the Bonstanzas will lay the [illegible] that we have keeping a [illegible] all by the [illegible] a bag of matter had [illegible] I'd [illegible] the [illegible] Bonstanzas [illegible] and [illegible] Bon Stanzas [illegible] and the [illegible] and [illegible] Lady Kingston [illegible] Mr. Stanzas [illegible] Bon Stanzas [illegible] Mr. Stanzas [illegible] Bon Stanzas [illegible] Majesty with [illegible] Parliament

THE COMIC BLACKSTONE.

OF THE CLERGY.—(FROM PUNCH.)

The people are divided into the clergy and the laity—the former of whom will be the subject of this chapter; and a very lively chapter may be expected in consequence.

The clergy have several privileges, some of which were taken from them at the Reformation, in consequence of their having become impudent from the great liberties allowed to them. Many of the personal exemptions still continue. For instance, no one can be compelled to sit on a jury, after he has taken orders—though, *semble* that the persons at the free-list office in the theatres, notwithstanding their having taken orders, are liable to serve as jurymen. A clergyman cannot be chosen to any temporal office, such as bailiff or constable—so that a curate cannot be a bailiff at a lock-up house—nor could a rector act as a policeman in a street riot. A clergyman is also privileged from arrest, in going to, or returning from the performance of duty, or, as the Norman Jurist expresses it, "il ne faut pas commettre un tel faux pas de nabler il parsone, et lui porter hors de la pulpite jusqu'a maison de fermer au cle." (One must not commit such a false step, as to nab the parson, and carry him out of the pulpit to the lock-up house.) Formerly, a clergyman had what is called the benefit of clergy in cases of felony—a privilege, which if a layman had asked for, he would have been told, that the authorities would "see him hanged first."—The last remnant of benefit of clergy, was the benefit allowed every May-day to the sweeps—who were vulgarly called the clergy, but this has been almost swept away by the Ramoneur—a very upright invention, which, disdaining to force itself into holes and corners, leaves the soot to ignite in the crevices of the chimneys.

The clergymen have, however, several disabilities; for instance, they cannot sit in Parliament, but "that's not so much," as Othello—(one of Nature's clergymen) very properly observed—for there are many occasions, such as a financial discussion, when exclusion from the House of Commons must be regarded as a privilege, rather than a disability.

Formerly, a clergyman was not allowed to trade, but was restricted to the cure of souls. It does not seem, however, that even in the days of doubtful orthography—for our ancestors never *could* spell—a parson might have occupied himself in the drying of fish, which is certainly in one sense undertaking the cure of soles—for we do not find that Shakespeare's beautiful line in Hamlet, "Excellent well, you're a fishmonger," was ever applied to any reverend contemporary of the Swan of Avon.

It having been determined that a contract with any company, of which any spiritual persons were partners or members, was void,—and this having been decided to be law,—another law was passed in the reign of her present Majesty to decide that it was not, or, if it was, it never ought to be. It might be a fair worthy of adoption by the repudiating States of America; for as there are, no doubt, spiritual persons among them, they may as well shuffle out of their liabilities, by reference to the fine old principles of English law, and thus give a sacred character to one of the sublimest swindles ever attempted in any age or country. By the new act, persons may trade in joint-stock companies, their evanescence giving them, no doubt, a sort of ethereal character. The clergy may also trade in books, or in anything connected with keeping a school, which admits of their adding to their income by selling ink and various other scholastic commodities.

We shall now consider the various ranks and degrees of the clergy, commencing with an archbishop, who is the greatest gun in the Church, according to all the canons. Archbishops were formerly elected by all the people; but the tumultuous scenes that arose were a great scandal; and indeed we cannot fancy his Grace of Canterbury placarding the town with posters, calling upon the public to "vote for Hornby," or defacing the walls of the episcopal palace with the words "Howley for Canterbury."

Archbishops afterwards came to be conferred by the sovereign; for Henry VII. enacted a law, declaring that princes should not meddle in the manufacture of prelates. Henry VIII., however, put an end to the Pope's pretensions, by giving the power of electing an archbishop or a bishop to the bishops themselves; that is to say, when his Majesty has made his own choice, he gives the prelates the power of confirming it—or, in other words runs a bishop down their throats, thus forcing them to swallow him.

An Archbishop is a sort of inspector of all the bishops in his province; but he does not call them out like an inspector would so many policemen, to examine their mitres, and see that their lawn sleeves are properly starched, before going on duty to their respective dioceses. An archbishop may call out the bishops, just as a militia colonel may call out the militia; and it is his duty to look after the spiritualities of the vacant see, while the crown takes care of the temporalities, which are the only remunerating part of the business. If a bishop does not fall up a vacant living in his diocese within six months, the archbishop may; but the bishop has generally too much archness to give a chance to his superior.

The archbishop also takes the first presentation to a living which may occur in a bishop's diocese, so that a bishop's mouth waters a good deal before he is suffered to quaff the sweets of patronage.—The Archbishop of Canterbury has also the privilege of putting the crown on the heads of the Kings and Queens of England; but this seems to be more a butler's business, and we, therefore, do not enter into it.

Bishops have authority over the manners of the people; and we wonder, therefore, that the Bishop of London does not favor us with a book on etiquette.

Several alterations have been made, and others contemplated, by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament in the reign of William IV., to make certain sees, by cutting thro' the barrier or isthmus that divided them.

We now come to deans and chapters, which would form a chapter of themselves, only there is no occasion for it. A dean and chapter are a sort of council to advise the bishop, who, however, seldom asks their advice; or, if he asks it, scarcely ever takes it. A dean formerly superintended ten canons, but this must have been in the days when the Church was disposed to be indulgent. The bishop is the superior of the deans and which surely cannot mean, admonishing soda-water, after they have been rather convivial!

An archdeacon comes next to a bishop, and visits the clergy—having his card formally with some, and dropping in to tea, in a friendly manner, no doubt, with others.

Rural deans in these anti-rural days, are nearly out of use. They had nothing to do but pry into the domestic affairs of the parochial clergy. They were called rural, very likely, from their love of country occupations, such as fishing for preferment, and training hay during sunshine.

We now come to the person, a name derived from the word *persona*,—a person; because the person is a person; that is to say, he is in the parish decidedly "somebody." He is sometimes called the rector or ruler, but why, we cannot tell; for there is no rule to account for it.

Formerly, the monasteries appropriated to themselves the valuable part of a living, and contracted with some curate to do the work; the monasteries acting the part, much as the "sweaters" do now, making a very good profit upon a task which they gave a beggarly sum to another party to execute. Henry VIII., however, determined to sweep all the monastic sweaters, by at the dissolution of monasteries, he swept away the institutions, and pocketed the good things that belonged to them. The Crown having afterwards granted these things out to laymen, gave rise to what are called lay-appropriations, land having been laid on them by those who were most inappropriately possessed of them.

These appropriations need to get the duty done very cheaply by a vicar; and there being much competition among the clergy, vicar's work was done so much cheaper by far than that there was an alarming sacrifice of the interests of the parishioners. This did not can not being passed to protect vicars, by providing for their being better paid, and some of the smaller tithes were settled on the vicars; who, on the principle of "little fellow being sweet," no doubt eagerly clutched at them.

The duties incumbent on a parson are first to act as the incumbent by being in the place where he lives his living. By a recent Act, a parson absenting himself from his parsonage for upwards of three months in a year, forfeits a third of the value of his benefice, and so in proportion; so that if he stays away a whole year, he will have more to pay than to receive, and thus to close the homely proverb of the man who is said to have won a shilling and lost eighteen pence.

There is only one way of becoming a parson or vicar, but five at least of ceasing to continue so.—1st. By dying, or going quite out, like an exhausted rushlight. 2. By taking orders and a better benefice, or, following the allegory of the light, being removed from a candle to a candle-stick. 3d. By being made a bishop, or undergoing a sort of conversion from simple tallow to superior sperm. 4th. By resignation, or, still pursuing the simile of the light, suddenly going out, nobody knows why. And 5th. By deprivation, that is to say, being deprived of one's benefice altogether, and expelled from the clerical profession, which is like a gas lamp completely cut off from the company's main.

A curate is the lowest grade in the church, for he is a sort of journeyman parson, and several of them meet at a house of call in St. Paul's Church Yard—ready to job a pulpit by the day—and being in fact "clergymen take as to bait"—by the landlord of the house alluded to.

From the clergy, we come next to the churchwardens, who keep the church, and represent the parish. They also keep the accounts; and, in some cases, like that of Alderman Gibbs, these accounts are so literally kept, that it is hard to get hold of them. The churchwarden may keep order in the church; and if a boy giggles, it is the duty of the churchwarden to frown, or even kick his shins, if he should be near enough.

Parish clerks and sextons are also particularly regarded by the common law—which must be very common to regard such exceedingly common people. The parish clerk was formerly often in holy orders, but any one may be a parish clerk, excepting, by the-bye, Macbeth, who was utterly disqualified for the post, inasmuch as he could not say "Amen," according to the authority of Shakespeare.

United States.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

FURTHER INTELLIGENCE ON THE ANNEXATION OF TEXAS TO THE UNITED STATES.

From the New York Herald, April 1st.

We have received from our private correspondent further intelligence from Washington by last night's mail, of a very important character relative to the Texas negociation.

Mr. Calhoun, who is not accompanied by his family, but only by a son, had an interview of full two hours with the President on Saturday morning. The subject of conversation was the Texas and Oregon questions—but we are not authorized to give any further intimations of the matter. It is understood, however, that his reply to the authorities at Charleston, S. C., on his journey north, Mr. Calhoun stated that the Texas and Oregon questions were the most important that ever had been before the people of the United States, and of course, every one might draw an inference, that all the present party arrangements would be dissolved or be broken up before them.

Mr. Calhoun is undoubtedly the ablest, the purest man that ever was in the State Department, and his ambition will be to surpass Daniel Webster in every element of greatness during his brief sojourn at the capitol. We have every reason to believe that under the premiership of Calhoun, Texas will be annexed to the Union, and all the Oregon territory retained, without any breaking of the peace or any approach to war with any country. He will never give up a part of the United States territory to get the remainder, as was done in the Ashburton negociation. Mr. Calhoun will be the master-spirit of the government, while he is a member of it, and will wield a moral force of the "fierce democrie" that will astonish the Lindenwold sage as well as "old bullion," of Missouri.

General Henderson, the new Texan plenipotentiary has full powers to bring the annexation before our Congress, in any way he chooses, either by resolution or by treaty. If the mode of admission by Treaty should be adopted by our government, a mass of facts and reasons will be placed confidentially before the Senate; that is supposed will be sufficient to *produce an almost unanimous vote in favor of the treaty*. These facts and reasons are supposed to be the confidential correspondence of the British agents with the Texan government, in which certain singular overtures are made by the former power to the latter, in which Captain Elliot will cut a figure. It is also denied that Mr. Packenham, the British minister, has made any disclosure of the intentions of England upon Texas.

One of the terms of annexation will probably be some provision for the public debt of Texas, which now amounts to nearly $8,000,000, partly owned in England and the United States. But in requital for this assumption, a territory in public land's will be given to the United States, more than ten times the value of the debt. Another very important fact we learn. Texas is territory enough to make *two or three free States, as well as the like number of slave States*. By arranging the terms of the annexation on this principle, the jealousy arising from the increase of Slave States will be effectually silenced. The relative power or influence of the Union, as regards slavery, will remain as it now exists.

Another point—many fear that Mexico would declare war if the admission takes place. Indeed Mexico has said as much—but those who know Mexico state, that the threat is a mere *nonum fulmen*—it will never, and cannot be carried into effect. Mexico would fret, fume, and attempt to annoy—nothing more. The only dangers would be from the attempt of England to foment difficulties—to stir up war in Mexico, on Texas, or sedition and secession in the United States. In that case, the quarrel would soon become European, and France, with her formidable navy, would be called into the field of action to be the umpire.

The question of annexation must also be determined before the termination of the present session of Congress. *This is the third time which Texas has knocked at the door of the Union for admission since 1837, and if the treaty of annexation be refused now, the decision is final and fatal both to Texas and to the United States.* IT IS THE LAST CHANCE. Such is the condition of Texas, the accumulation of debt—the pressure of taxes—the paralysis of industry—all caused by the constant hovering of the Mexicans upon her borders; that she must either be admitted into the United States or *seek protection or alliance with England or France*. This we have every reason to believe is the secret instruction given to her Plenipotentiary, General Henderson, a gentleman of great sagacity, varied talents, and high diplomatic capacity for the very delicate and important mission he has to perform.

This is the best and most correct intelligence we can procure on these momentous topics, up to the latest date on Saturday last. In Washington every point is as quiet as the state of the greatest excitement. The whigs and democrats are equally afraid of Mr. Calhoun's bold and masterly movements on these high questions. Some desperate attempt may be made by both parties to adjourn precipitately and run away from Washington to avoid the Texas and Oregon question till the next presidency be settled. But if they do so, we believe that Captain Tyler will, on the day after such adjournment, immediately issue a Proclamation for a Extra Session to take into consideration the question of annexing Texas to the United States. We'll hear something soon.

SLAVERY AND BLASPHEMY.

The American papers bring us no news so interesting as that which we have received from our private correspondent. We find several communications exhibiting the heart-rending sorrows of the infernal slave-trade, but, at this late hour, we cannot make room for them. We must work them up into an article for our next. No pressure of matter however, can induce us to delay the insertion of what we cannot but deem the most atrocious and revolting document. It is the sentence of death passed by Judge O'Neall, at New Orleans, on a man named Brown, for aiding a slave to escape! Brown is actually to be executed in April. The address of the judge to him presents the most revolting combination of cold-blooded cruelty, with an affectation of piety, which ever came to our knowledge. This judicial outrage must reduce the state of Louisiana to the lowest pitch of public infamy. Hitherto, in all civilised states, the punishment of death has been annexed only to acts having at least some measure of criminality; it is annexed now to the fulfilling of a sacred duty, both to God and man. Hitherto, even in the United States, we have been accustomed to see the friends of the slave only mobbed and murdered by violence, like the martyred Lovejoy; but at length they are to be murdered by law, and slaughtered with the coolness and pomp of a legal execution. What a fearful element of society must the institution of slavery be, if its maintenance requires that assisting an escape from it shall be made punishable with death! Or what can arrive but a universal combination of the human race for its overthrow, when the blood of the free and the just is thus to be poured out, in order to slake its diabolical thirst for revenge!

The following is the murderous and revolting sentence of "the *Honourable* (!) J. B. O'Neall," as quoted by the *Liberator* from a New Orleans paper:—

"John L. Brown,—it is my duty to announce to you the consequences of the conviction which you heard at Winnsboro', and of the opinion you have just heard read, refusing your two-fold motion in arrest of judgment for a new trial. You are to die!—die a shameful ignominious death upon the gallows. This announciation is to you, I know, most appalling. Little did you dream of it, when you stepped into the bar, with an air as if you thought it was a fine frolic. But the consequences of crime are just such as you are realising—punishment often comes when it is least expected. Let me entreat you to take the present opportunity to commence the work of reformation. Time will be afforded to you to prepare for the great change which may be just before you. Of your past life I know nothing, except that which your trial furnished. It told me that the crime for which you are now to suffer, was the consequence of a want of attention, on your part to the duties of life. The 'strange woman' snared you—she 'flattered with her words,' and you became her victim. The consequence was, that, led on by a desire to serve her, you committed the offence of aiding a slave to run away, and depart from her master's service, and you are now to die for it. You are a young man, and I fear have been an idle as well as a dissolute one. If so, these kindred vices have contributed a full measure to your ruin. Reflect upon your past life, and make the only useful devotion of the remnant of your days in preparing for death. 'Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,' is the language of inspired wisdom.—This comes home appropriately to you at this trying moment. You are young, quite too young to be where you are, and, if you had remembered your Creator in your past days, you would not now be in a felon's place, and to receive a felon's judgment. Still, it is not too late to remember your Creator; he calls early, and he calls late; he stretches out the arms of a father's love to you, to the vilest sinner, and says, 'Come unto me and be saved.' You can perhaps read; if you can, read the Scriptures; read them without note, and without comment, and pray to God for assistance, and you will be able to say, when you pass from prison to execution, as a poor slave said, under similar circumstances, 'I am glad my Friday has at last come.' If you cannot read the Scriptures, the ministers of our holy religion will be ready to aid you; they will read and explain to you, until you will be able to understand, and, understanding, to call upon the only one who can help and save you, Jesus Christ, 'the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world.' To Him I commend you; and through him may you have that opening of the day-spring of mercy from on high, which shall bless you here and crown you in an everlasting world, as a saint for ever and ever. The sentence of the law is, that you be taken hence to the place from whence you last came, thence to the gaol of Fairfield District, and that there you be closely and securely confined, until Friday, the 26th day of April next, on which day, between the hours of ten in the forenoon and two in the afternoon, you will be taken to the place of execution, and there be hanged by the neck till your body be dead; and may God have mercy on your soul."—*Anti-Slavery Rep., Feb. 22.*

VERY LATE FROM CANTON.

From the New York Herald.

The Stephen Lurman, Buxton, from Canton, has arrived from Whampoa, whence she sailed on the 19th of December, nineteen days later than before received.

Letters of the 19th December say that the Delhi and Mary Ellen, and Romaleon, would all get away very soon for the United States, and probably the Helena. The Petre would sail in a few days for Manilla.

Mr. Cushing, U. S. minister has not yet arrived.

The limits of the port of Amoy are thus defined:—

The inner waters, including "Kooloongsoo" island, to Pagoda Island, on the S. W. side, to the six islands on the Eastern side.

The following are published as the pilot regulations for the Port of Amoy:—

1st. Every pilot is to have a license signed by the Hai Hong, countersigned by the consul, and stamped with the respective seals of the officers of those functionaries.

2d. To entitle a pilot to his license, he must produce a certificate of his fitness, signed by at least one captain of her Majesty's ships, which certificate will be lodged at the British consulate.

3d. Every pilot boat is to hoist a red and white flag horizontal, with an English number on the flag.

4th. The following are the rates of pilotage: For every foot of water the ship draws, 50 cents per foot, both inward and outward from the Chaw-Chat Rock; and one dollar per foot from a line drawn from Samtia island, Chapel island, and Paxtia island, or to the proximates of them.

5th. All British merchant ships are liable to the pilotage from and to the Chaw-Chat Rock, beyond or outside which it is optional.

Annexed are the regulations for the reception of foreign coins at Hong Kong, in payment of duties:—

	T.	M.	C.	C.
Rupees weighing	106	7	9	0
Permum dollars, weighing	111	4	5	5
Mexican do	111	9	0	0
Bolivan do	112	1	5	0
Chilian do	112	5	2	0
Chopped do	113	2	0	7

Are to be considered respectively equal to 100 taels weight of Sycee silver, in all cases where the Imperial duties may be paid in any one of the above named coins.

(From the Peking Gazette.)

VICTORY OF THE IMPERIAL ARMS.—The imperial arms have obtained a decided advantage over the mountaineers of Kelonoor, who for a long while most obstinately resisted the Chinese authorities, and at one time even threatened an invasion of the neighbouring provinces of Szechuen. Several Mongul chiefs who gave assistance to the regular soldiers, and by their bravery and perseverance broke the spirit of the rebels, are to be promoted, and to receive all the cattle they took as a reward.

THE NAVY.—The naval officers of Chekiang have been ordered to charter as many vessels for the use of government as they deem it advisable in order to render the fleet respectable.

THE ARMY.—To supply the wants of the provinces, an efficient militia is to be raised and drilled.

New roads for advancement are to be opened to the Manchoo soldiers who are diligent in the performance of their duty and possess the requisite talent.

All the privates stationed along the coast who have shown zeal and bravery are to be rewarded.

INUNDATION.—Both in August and toward the latter end of September the inundation in Ganhwuy as well as Homan was fearful beyond all former experience immersing, whole districts, and spreading devastation throughout the land. The tenor of all the memorials upon this subject is heart rending, and the Emperor has ordered that a large sum of money be forthwith sent in order to relieve the sufferers from starvation. The annual examinations have stopped for the present, until the waters have been subsided, and all the officers, from the Governor down, entrusted with the construction of the dykes along the banks of the Yellow River are sentenced to very severe punishment.

Camphor (according to the decision of the superintendent of customs at Amoy,) if for foreign exportation has to pay a double duty, by the native dealer as well as by the buyer.

Criminals sentenced to death for opium smoking are again to be reported at the Imperial Autumnal revision of all cases of capital punishment.

Shanghai was declared open from the 17th of November, a British consulate being temporarily established. We make the following extracts from the notice of Captain Balfour, the Consul:—

For the present the limits of the port of Shanghai are declared to be within the lines formed by the Paoshan point bearing West, and the battery on the right hand at the mouth of the river below Woosung bearing South West.

The place of anchorage for loading and unloading within the port is as close over as possible to the left bank at the head of the river, adjacent to a creek named Woosung Row, which, at about three quarters of a mile below the walls of Shanghai, discharges its waters into Shanghai River, and when the number of vessels may render it requisite, ships must anchor head and stern, leaving the navigation of the river clear, and the mouth of the Woosung Row well open.

The intendant of circuit and superintendent of customs has established a government banking establishment or Shroff shop for the receipt of tonnage dues and import and export duties, and has fixed the office in the street leading from the little east gate of the city to the bank of the river, the firm being held by six partners named — Yaou-Hang-yeun, Choo-Hoshing, Mauo-Hangho, Kwo-Wanfung, Choo-Yuenjee, King-Yuenke. Any of whom is empowered to grant receipts for moneys paid on account of the above purposes.

The export of teas to Great Britain for the five months ending Nov. 30, 1844. were 13,017, 644 lbs. of black tea and 2,032,767 lbs. of green tea.

BRITISH WHIG.

"Opifer per Orbem Dicor."

KINGSTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1844.

COUNTRY LETTERS RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST.

W. D., West Flamboro'; W. L., Brockville; J. R., Cornwall; P. M., Fredericksburgh; J. C. M., New York.

The Navigation is now fully open, and Steamers and Schooners are arriving and departing every day. That fine vessel, the *City of Toronto*, Capt. Dick, has made two trips between here and Toronto, and the swift *Henry Gildersleeve*, with her old commander, Capt. Bowen, has re-commenced her business between Kingston and the Landing; to be followed in a few days by the complete Line from Toronto to Coteau du Lac. The American steamers *Lady of the Lake* and *Oneida* have visited us. The Bay of Quinte is not yet completely open, and the *Prince Edward*, Capt. Bonter, and *Prince of Wales*, Capt. Chrysler, are waiting in harbor to take immediate advantage of the first intelligence of the clearing out of the ice.

The weather is very fine and tolerably warm for the season, and every indication exists of an early Spring.

THE SESSIONS.

The April Sessions for the Midland District commenced last Tuesday, before Mr. Stafford Kirkpatrick, (appointed Chairman and Judge of the District Court during the absence of Mr. Cartwright,) but the business being unusually heavy, the Court adjourned on Thursday, over the Easter holidays, and resumed its sittings to-day. We are told that a very unusual number of Bills were ignored by the Grand Jury, (no less than nine,) which if correct, proves the necessity of Queen's Counsel being retained at each sitting of these Courts.—Formerly, the criminal business of the Province was transacted at the Assizes, at which Queen's Counsel are present; but owing to the late alterations in the Statute Criminal Law, nearly every case is ordered for trial at the Sessions, and left to the conducting of the Clerk of the Peace, while the Queen's Counsel at the Assizes earn their fees without labor, or with that of a very trivial nature. Let a Clerk of the Peace, be ever so well qualified, it is wholly impossible for him, even with the able assistance of the Chairman, to perform this part of his duty to the public, attendant upon the prosecution and examination of witnesses, while his time is occupied and his attention directed to an infinity of other things connected with the office he fills. The consequence is, that very many criminals, who would otherwise be sent to the Penitentiary, are suffered to run at large. No greater Reform is needed in Canada, than the employment of Queen's Counsel at the general Quarterly Sessions of the Peace.

We shall in our next give a brief abstract of the business transacted.

GROSS ATTACK UPON MR. MAYNE.

That most contemptible of all renegade newspapers, the Kingston *Chronicle & Gazette*, has made a most unwarrantable attack upon Mr. ANDREW MAYNE, the Corporation Tax Collector, a well tried and efficient public servant. In the execution of his very disagreeable duty, Mr. Mayne lately had occasion to issue distress warrants against the goods and chattels of Messrs. SULLIVAN and HINCKS, the ex-Ministers, who in leaving Kingston, forgot to do the needful. In order to show how utterly false and groundless this attack on Mr. Mayne is, we are compelled to repeat the libel:—

"We can assure Mr. Mayne, our Corporation Tax Collector, that he will only earn for himself and his Masters well merited contempt by such uncalled for acts of rigour, as he thought fit this week to practice towards the Ladies of the Honorables Messrs. Sullivan and Hincks. Mr. Mayne admitted to the Mayor at the Town Hall yesterday morning that he had not seen either of those Ladies to ask them for payment of taxes, when he issued distress warrants against them, although his own residence is in their immediate neighbourhood. He had merely left a paper in the common form, stating the amount demanded, but without notice of his intention to resort to legal proceedings. True it is that the husbands of those Ladies are, upon political grounds, distasteful to the Corporation of Kingston and its subordinate officers; but they are detained here till the navigation opens in case of their children, and in the absence of their natural guardians, should be deemed objects of protection to the Town and its Authorities, instead of being selected for the special insult of its officers. Distress Warrants are instruments of rigour, intended as a remedy only in extreme cases, and are the last resort when all other means of obtaining payment of a just demand have failed, and we believe the law contemplates their employment in no cases without previous warning. Disinclination or unwillingness to pay, is not alleged against these parties, who have spent thousands among the t