

Ministers; after which, he entered into stronger invective against the conduct of the noble Duke; and concluded a very long speech, by proposing to leave out the whole of the Address after the word—'In Parliament assembled,' and to substitute another in its place.

The Lord Chancellor explained, that in point of order, the first motion must be first disposed of.

The Duke of Richmond rose to vindicate himself from the aspersions cast on him by the last noble Speaker. He had not acted inconsistently, or become an *ingrate* to the cause he had formerly supported. At the period alluded to, the nation was oppressed and bleeding at every vein, by an impolitic and ruinous American war. A Reformation was then actually necessary. The virtue and efforts of Parliament afterwards put a stop to the mischief. The object which was then so loudly called for by the people ceased to exist.

It was indeed, the people themselves that called for that Reform; and, in compliance with their loud call, he, as a sincere friend to his country, had taken an active and a zealous part. The people were now, or lately were, in a state of tranquility. Did the modern reformers wish to imitate the reformers of a neighbouring country? His Grace had indeed, too much reason to apprehend, that such was the case. A Mr. Paine appeared the foremost of those whom he beheld in the light of incendiaries.

His Grace held the forming camps to be a very wise and necessary precaution. The year *Eighty* was still fresh in every noble Lord's memory, and it was necessary that Government, for the happiness of the whole, should be upon its guard, otherwise the most fatal consequences might ensue. His Grace finally declared, that he was still of opinion that a temperate reform might be effected for the general welfare; but it must be a work of great caution, and it must come through the medium of the People's Representatives, and not by the intrigues of any factious society, be the members ever so respectable.

The Marquis of Landsdowne, on a measure so extraordinary, considered it to be his duty to give his sentiments. Before such an alarm was given to the country, Administration should have had the most unequivocal proof, that the dangers they alluded to actually existed. If there were incendiaries, take them up, try them, and if guilty, hang them. But where was the danger?—Were clubs and associations that circulated papers and handbills any thing new?—To go back no further than the glorious Revolution—was not the chief means by which that great event was effected, the associations and publications? The same at the Hanoverian succession—the same in a variety of instances, down to the year 1768, when the club of the Bill of Rights openly wrote letters to the Mayors and Corporations in the kingdom, inviting them to join in, and further the Constitution. At that hour

of infatuation, there were open Assemblies of thousands in London, and yet no such measures were taken. So again, when his Lordship and the present Minister acted in union; at that time, it was one of the strong measures agreed upon, that a moderate and temperate Reform in the Legislature, as well as the Executive Branches, was become a measure absolutely necessary to preserve the Constitution, by wiping off the rust and canker, and bringing it to its primitive beauty and splendour. At that period upwards of thirty counties were associated, and regular meetings were held, to obtain the very object which the associated gentlemen now wanted to effect. There was then no Proclamation issued to command the discontinuance of such Associations; and if there had, it would have been useless; if not highly dangerous.

So far from this idle jargon having the desired effect, he would venture to predict, that if there existed a *Viper* to the Constitution, or a *Toad* to poison with its venom the public happiness, this Proclamation would draw them from their lurking holes.

And where was this tremendous danger at a Reform? Every man knew that the History of the whole of the Constitution, from the earliest period to the present day, was a continual series of alterations, innovations, and reforms; sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse; and he was sorry to observe, that the latter had been the case too frequently within the last century. Let the people have a proper share in the Government as well as the burthens; let them elect their own Magistrates; let them see that the fruits of their labour is honestly applied; there would then be no danger of the Monarchy being injured, or its prerogatives impaired.

The Duke of Portland perfectly approved of the Proclamation.

Lord Grenville, in an able and masterly speech replied to the objections of Lord Lauderdale. His Lordship observed, independent of the particular situation in which he stood, he felt it a duty incumbent on him, as an individual, fully to state his opinion on a subject, which involved in it all the blessings we enjoy under our most excellent Constitution, and under the government of the House of Hanover. He congratulated their Lordships on the earnest they had just received of the continuance of these blessings, from the sentiments of an illustrious Personage, who had spoken early in the debate. His Lordship then proceeded to consider the necessity for issuing the Proclamation, its nature and tendency, and the propriety of requesting their Lordships to concur with the House of Commons in voting an Address to his Majesty.

He said, he had read Mr. Paine's Pamphlet, on which so much stress had been laid, and was free to confess, that he never met with a performance so futile—had never seen a subject discussed with so little ability—but that was not the only Pamphlet in circulation. Handbills, also, had been circu-

lated, with uncommon assiduity, and thro' uncommon channels. It was not to men capable of reasoning, that these papers were addressed, but to the lower order of the people, whose passions were their only guide. He warned their Lordships, that particular pains had been taken to promote disaffection among the soldiers, and thereby to deprive the Constitution of the strength it derived, from a well regulated military force;—similar measures had likewise been attempted in the navy.

His Lordship stated, that among others, he had met with a paper, he then held in his hand, which, from the extravagance of its contents, he professed he first believed to have been intended as a burlesque on the principles it inculcated. It was a handbill since authenticated to him, as having been circulated at Yarmouth, and other parts of Norfolk, inviting the people to join in an application for a Parliamentary reform, from which they were to derive the following benefits: *A reduction of taxes*—an increase of the price of labour, and an absolute agrarian law, by an equal division of lands. He asked, could any noble Lord say, that when such principles were disseminating, and such lures held out, it was not necessary that his Majesty, as the father of his people, should exert his paternal care, to warn them from imbibing delusions so destructive to their happiness, and so inimical to the Constitution?

His Lordship concluded a speech replete with the soundest argument, by declaring his firm conviction of the propriety and necessity of the measure.

The Earl of Lauderdale concluded the debate by a short and animated reply. He was particularly severe upon the Duke of Richmond, who had not said one word that tended to clear himself or Mr. Pitt from the charge of inconsistency which he had established against them.—Lord Lauderdale's amendment was negatived without a division. The original motion was then put and carried.

Adjourned.

LONDON, MAY 12.

INTELLIGENCE FROM WARSAW.

“The intelligence received from our Minister at Vienna, and the dispatches which have since been received from our Minister at Petersburg, have confirmed our fears respecting the negotiations of the Polish malcontents at that Court. These dispatches were communicated to the Diet by the King in an extraordinary sessions held the 21st instant, when his Majesty announced that Counts Rzewski and Potocki, and other malcontents, were likely to succeed in their endeavours to get Russia to attack our new Constitution. The Courts of Vienna and Berlin had in vain proposed a negotiation; the Empress had declared she would never depart from the