

State, in the Army and Navy, and in every branch and department of the public service, especially reserved for the Aristocracy, and for their children and relatives, to the third and fourth generations?

If persons of limited means arising from their trades, callings, or professions, are obliged by law to maintain their own children and near relations, whence comes it that men of immense property are permitted to saddle their children, relatives, and dependents, on the public?

Are the Nobility and Gentlemen of England in Parliament assembled, taking their measures and conduct for the last fifty years as a specimen, any wiser or better than others? and if they have legislated during that period for the general good, how has it happened that almost every figment of law enacted by them, has either been of a questionable or obnoxious character?

What are the grand and principal features of Magna Charta, and the Bill of Rights? Ought any man to be taxed without his consent given through the medium of his Representative in the Commons House of Parliament, or to serve in the army or the Navy, or to fill any public office or situation, except on his own free and voluntary accord?

A fair and manly solution of the above, would, I believe, furnish sufficient reasons for the present strange and anomalous state of British politics; and pretty well account for the deranged and unnatural state of society which has unhappily obtained amongst us. I am, &c.

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The consequence of ill-treating the useful classes.—The operative population constitutes one of the most important elements of society, and, when numerically considered, the magnitude of its interests and the extent of its power assume such vast proportions, that the folly which neglects them is allied to madness. If the higher classes are unwilling to diffuse intelligence among the lower, those exist who are ever ready to take advantage of their ignorance; if they will not seek their confidence, others will excite their distrust; if they will not endeavour to promote domestic comfort, virtue, and knowledge among them, their misery, vice, and prejudice will prove volcanic elements, by whose explosive violence the structure of society will be destroyed.

Habitations and condition of the majority of the Working Classes of Manchester.—The houses are uncleanly, ill-provided with furniture; an air of discomfort, if not of squalid and loathsome wretchedness pervades them; they are often dilapidated, badly drained, and damp. Cesspools, with open grids, have been made close to the doors of the houses, in which disgusting refuse accumulates, and whence its noxious effluvia constantly exhale. The narrow, unpaved streets, in which mud and water stagnate become the common receptacles of filth and ordure; often low, damp, ill-ventilated cellars exist beneath the houses. The streets in the districts where the poor reside are generally unweeded, and the drainage is consequently superficial. Much less can we

obtain satisfactory statistical results concerning the want of furniture, especially bedding, and of food, clothing, and fuel. In these respects, the habitations of the Irish are most destitute—they can scarcely be said to be furnished. They contain out or two chairs, a mean table, the most scanty culinary apparatus, and one or two beds loathsome with filth. A whole family is often accommodated on a single bed; and sometimes a heap of filthy straw, and a covering of old sacking, hide them in one undistinguished heap, debased alike by penury, want of economy, and dissolute habits. Often more than one family live in a damp cellar, containing only one room, in whose pestilential atmosphere from twelve to sixteen persons are crowded.

Conscription in France.—A French provincial newspaper contains an extraordinary case of simulated suicide, contrived for the purpose of evading the law of conscription. By the terms of that law the eldest son of a widow is not liable to serve. In this case, the father of more than one family live in a damp cellar, making it believed that he had destroyed himself, in order to obtain the young man's exemption, as the son of a widow. The plan was laid with considerable ingenuity. A letter was written to announce his resolution and to assign his reasons for it, and, on the same day, his clothes were found on the banks of a neighbouring river, but a diligent search having led to no traces of the body, a suspicion arose in the minds of the authorities that the man was still alive, that there was really no *corpus delicti*, and that the whole was a mere contrivance to protect the son from the performance of his military duties. The attempt, however, proves what sacrifices the lower classes are willing to make for the purpose of avoiding this compulsory service. In this case, a father was ready to abandon his home, and to separate himself from many years from his wife and family, in order to effect his son's exemption from military service. The mutilation of the first finger of the right hand has in many places been resorted to for a similar purpose, but the young men of Paris have lately adopted a more ingenious contrivance, although originating in the same barbarous principle. By the means of spectacles of a high magnifying power, they are able by constant use, to produce such an effect on the optic nerve, as to make themselves incapable of serving in the army. By such regulations of the service, very short-sighted people are not in fact admitted into the ranks. Availing themselves of this regulation, or rather of the principle of expediency by which it is dictated, there is, I believe, in Paris, a much greater number of young men who have made themselves short-sighted by this artificial process, than those who have become so in the ordinary course of nature.

The powers of Translation.—A Welsh curate, having preached several sermons, which were considered superior to his own powers of composition, was asked by a friend how he managed? "I have got a volume of sermons," replied the curate, "written by one 'Tillotson, and a very good book it is; so I translate some of the sermons into Welsh, and then back again into English; and after that the d—ll himself wouldn't know them again."

Paganini has met with an accident, which has interrupted his performing. On Monday he cut the thumb of the left hand, and it is supposed, in playing on Tuesday, some rosin entered the wound, and caused suppuration.

The End Answered.—A priest, in a rich abbey in Florence, named Grugnoli, being a fisherman's son, caused a net to be spread

every day on the table of his apartment to put him, as he said, in mind of his origin. The abbot dying, this dissimulated humility procured him to be chosen his successor; and the net was used no more. "Where's the net?" said a friend to him the day afterwards, on entering his apartment. "There is no further occasion for the net," said Grugnoli, "when the fish is caught."

Russian Tax.—We find that many of those Members who voted for the Russian Dutch-loan job endeavour to excuse themselves on the ground that if they had not done so, the Ministry would have resigned. This is a very good reason for an expectant of the Ministry to give, but a very bad one for a representative of the people. Those Members who acknowledge the iniquity of the transaction, and yet voted in support of it, evince a greater love of party than of principle, and admit that the possession of place by a particular set of men is of more importance in their eyes than the interests of the country.

Gloucester was discussing the other day the Russian Loan Question with Lord Eldon, who confessed that between themselves it was a debt which this country is bound to pay in honour, "then," furiously exclaimed the Duke, "if we're only bound to pay it in honour, what necessity could there be for paying it in money."—(From the Figaro.)

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14th September, 1832. N

Colonial Secretary's Office.
August 21, 1832.

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