

sought for were subject to a high duty. Now Sir, I should like to enquire whether, if an officer has a right to inspect the shoes on the feet of a female, he has not an equal right to view any part of the dress she may think proper to wear; if the instances I have adduced are false, it is very easy to contradict them, and then I shall be bound to show my authority,—if they are true, Mr. Bluebeard had no beard whatever compared to the *bristles* of Prince Edward Island; though a scot of any profession, I am not yet quite reconciled to perjury, on the contrary, I am rather shocked at the different instances which our courts, and we have several of them, present. Custom-house Oaths, are sometimes not considered perjury in the breach—I can't exactly agree in that opinion, and I certainly think that they ought to be as much as possible discouraged and done away with. Let any one think of the ad valorem duty, and see the encouragement, the premium offered for false swearing.

You shall hear further from me Sir, my motto should be

"ABOUSE."

I shall endeavour to awake not only the living but the dead, by regarding past, present, and future.

Your's, &c.

A SPRIG OF THE LAW.

September 6, 1832.

The East India Company's Wrought Iron Steam Vessel.

A steam-vessel has just been completed for the Hon. East India Company, which is built of wrought iron, under the superintendance of Lieutenant Johnson. She has been built by Messrs. Maudslay and Co., the celebrated engineers who furnish the steam apparatus for the Government steam-packets, at their wharf in the Belvidere road, near Westminster-bridge. This extraordinary steamer is intended for towing vessels on the river Ganges; it is, however, not yet decided whether, after she is launched, she will be taken to pieces and sent out in one of the Company's ships, or whether she will be taken into a dock, and a vessel of large dimensions built purposely so as to enclose her, to bear her to her destination. The whole of the vessel is built of iron with the exception of her deck, which is of plank; she is flat-bottomed; the iron is half an inch thick, in large plates, which is riveted together by curiously contrived rivets on an improved method. Her length is 125 feet, and she is about twenty-four feet in breadth, and eleven feet between decks. The number of rivets used in building this vessel is upwards of 39,000, and it is expected that she will not draw more than one foot eleven inches water. The steam-boats at present used on the Ganges are found not to answer, on account of some worm which eats into the wood, and in a few years destroys them. This has led to the determination to build iron steam-boats. She has been seven months building, and lately 300 men have been employed upon her; and, when her steam engine is on board, with all the apparatus and the fitting-up. It is expected that she will have cost 20,000. Although the cost is immense, yet, from the durability of the material, there is but little doubt that the Company will be gainers in the end. Her steam-engine is 60 horse power, and the interior will be fitted up with every convenience in a very handsome manner; the sides are painted black, with white streaks, and altogether she has a very light and elegant appearance. This vessel was launched from Belvidere wharf Saturday

afternoon, on the first of this description that ever floated on old Father Thames. The Endeavour Richmond steam-vessel was engaged on the occasion, and moored close off the wharf. A number of the Directors of the East India Company and their friends were in the Endeavour, and also the friends and acquaintances of Messrs. Maudslay. Every thing being in readiness, at precisely 10 1/2 minutes past three o'clock, P. M. the signal was given for launching, and she glided smoothly off the stocks, and dashed into the Thames, the only subject to herself possible, amidst the shouts of the multitude. The Chairman of the India Board struck her on the bows, as she went off, with a bottle of wine, and named her the "The Lord William Bentinck."

Our readers may rely on the authenticity of the following announcement:—On Saturday morning a French gun-brig of war appeared off Boulogne, and sent in her boats, with a demand for all the pilots of the port, who were then examined, and as many of them as seemed to be acquainted with the navigation of the Scheldt were detained, and the rest dismissed. Orders were next sent northward for the pilots of Ambleteuse, Calais, Dunkirk, &c. the same distinction being observed in commanding the service of those only who had experience in the Sceldt navigation. The pilots from the northern ports proceeded on Sunday and Monday to Boulogne, where they were taken on board by the gun brig; and on Wednesday morning she was seen standing away under a press of sail to the westward, in the course of Cherbourg, where, as preparations for such an event have been made upon the largest scale, it is supposed the combined French and British squadrons will rendezvous, preparatory to the great attack upon the independent King of the Netherlands.—*Standard.*

Caution against Cholera—People should especially take care not to eat ices, or rather ice-creams, at least in the way in which they are usually taken in England after a various dinner. When the stomach is loaded, an injection of a thick conserve is enough to surprise the heartiest stomach. Let the coagulating power of cold be added to this mass, at the precise time when an active stimulant is most wanted, and it is really wonderful that the patient does not expire on the spot. Several cases of cholera in wealthy life are owing to this barbarous but common practice of eating "clotted" ice after a hearty meal.—*Morning Paper.*

Copy of a Despatch from Viscount Goderich, His Majesty's principle Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

No. 11

Downing-street,
1st August, 1832.

Sir,

I have received your Despatch of the 14th of April last, numbered 15, enclosing in Address of the House of Assembly to yourself, praying the appointment of a Court of Escheat.

I have to express my entire approbation of the discretion which induced you to suspend your decision on the appointment of a Court of Escheat, until you could receive instructions from me. The appointment of a Court of Escheat is a measure to which the Crown must always have recourse with reluctance; and which should never be adopted except with great deliberation. In the present instance, it is proposed, that Lands should be forfeited in

Prince Edward Island, for the non-performance of a condition requiring each Township to be settled with a number of inhabitants forming the proportion of one person to every 200 acres within the Township. For the purpose of reinvesting Lands in the Crown, under a breach of this condition, the Assembly would consider it sufficient, as may be inferred from the proceedings before the Committee on this subject, that a Township should be proved to contain a certain number of acres, and not to contain a certain number of settlers. The establishment of this point might be enough to justify a forfeiture under the letter of the Grants; but I cannot feel that it would form a fair and equitable ground for proceeding to that extent. I am assured, and the statement is supported by its intrinsic probability, that some Proprietors have sent out more than the number of persons which would have settled their property in the prescribed proportions, but that the persons have subsequently changed their residence to other parts of the island, and would forfeit their grants, under the mode of proceeding contemplated by the Assembly. Other Proprietors, on the contrary, without making any effort for the fulfilment of the conditions imposed on them, find their lands settled in the prescribed proportion, by the spontaneous resort of independent emigrants. These Proprietors escape, under the proceedings contemplated by the Assembly. Thus it is obvious that at the present course could not be followed without great injustice. A bounty would be given to Proprietors whose lands are good and inviting to settlers, at the expense of Proprietors whose lands are inferior. It may be suggested that the course could be amended, by requiring Proprietors whose lands do not contain a number of Settlers, to prove that at least they have made the attempt to provide a number of settlers, in this manner, however, long and doubtful inquiry would often become necessary; while I consider it essential to the institution of proceedings for forfeiting Lands to the Crown, that they should be capable of a speedy decision, and of one capable of been foreseen nearly with certainty. Unless with these conditions, I never should consent to unsettle the mind of the Colonists by appointing a Court of Escheat.

In concluding this despatch, I think it right to advert to a rumour, that much restlessness prevails among certain classes in Prince Edward Island, from an expectation that the property of the owners of Townships will be Escheated, and that any portions now occupied will be vested in the occupants, without being subjected to rent or other obligation. I cannot attach much credit to this rumour; but at the same time many of the Proprietors make one or two observations upon it. If any lands were Escheated in Prince Edward Island, it is probable that such portions of them as are actually occupied would be continued to the occupying tenants at their present rents. There would however be no remission of the conditions on which the lands are now held of the Proprietors; and assuredly there would be no free grants. This mode of dealing with the public property has been abandoned in almost every British Colony. You will shortly receive instructions for abandoning it also in Prince Edward Island, and for substituting in its stead, a system of alienating by public sale such lands as there may be occasion to dispose of. I have taken this notice of the subject, in order that, should such a misconception be probable, you may be able to prevent the tenants of lands in Prince Edward Island from forming the erroneous notion that they would gain any