

ODDS AND ENDS.

THIS here all meet. — BLAIR.

A first-rate anchor weighs about three tons, employs twenty men for forty days making, and costs 400l. The celebrated Dr. Cullen was born at Hamilton, in Lanarkshire, in the year 1710. The milk of the whale produces cream much richer than that of the cow, and a joint-stock company to establish a whale-cheese manufactory at Spitzbergen or the North Pole would be a capital speculation. Children may be hanged in England at twelve years of age, and married in Scotland at fourteen. The people of Hampshire are wearing the bristles of their caps instead of adding them, and in this lies the secret of the excellence of the Hampshire hams. While Columbus was engaged in discovering America, Henry the VII of England, and James IV. of Scotland, were entering into a treaty, which ultimately led to the union of the two kingdoms. It was in the town of Dumfries that Kean first gave an earnest of that professional eminence to which he afterwards attained. The last three Dukcs of Athol planted altogether upwards of fourteen millions of larch and other trees. The eagle which the Americans have chosen for an emblem of their nation is described by Audobon to be an exceedingly mean and cowardly animal, and Franklin laments that such a bird should have been selected for so honourable a purpose. It is thirteen hundred years since the first house in Edinburgh was built; Glasgow is of an equal antiquity. Mrs. Jordan was an Irish woman, and was born in the neighbourhood of Waterford, about the year 1762. At the time when Addison was writing the Spectator, the Scotch were burning witches. At the period that the peasantry of England were burning threshing-mills, those of Scotland were establishing scientific and philosophical societies. Upwards of forty-three millions of quarters of corn were imported into Great Britain in 1831. The original name of Paul Jones was John Paul. At the Cape of Good Hope, says a traveller, "as people die very fast; but the sheep have remarkably large tails." Cervantes the author of Don Quixote, was a slave, and fought at the battle of Lepanto. Corns may be effectually extirpated by placing on them the scrapings of chalk mixed with vinegar. The distance from the Land's End to Charlotte-Town Prince Edward Island, is 2300 miles. Madden mentions that the siege of Constantinople could not endure a siege of six hours. If milk be put into vessels lined with or formed of zinc, a much greater quantity of cream will be raised than in common vessels, and the butter will be of a finer quality; why is this not practised? Bordeaux situated on the navigable river Garonne, about 75 miles from its mouth, and has a population of 100,000 inhabitants. Sobieski saved Christendom from the Mahomedans about the time that Claverhouse and Balgool of Burley were fighting the battle of Drumlog. The chief product of Owyhee are arrow-roots and coconuts. There is not a Protestant place of worship in Ireland in which the native Irish tongue is preached. All the copies of Tacitus are copied from a single manuscript, discovered in a monastery in Westphalia. Hyder Ali died in 1782. The population of the united kingdom in 1831, was 24,266,989, being an increase of 14.1-2 per cent, since 1821. Erasmus composed in a post-chaise. The officers in London calculate on one alarm of fire every day and about thirty-two serious fires every year. There is a superstition in the west of Scotland that the earth of the parish of Rosneath kills rats, and that none of these animals can live in the district.

EUROPE.

HOUSE OF LORDS, Thursday July 26.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR'S PATRONAGE.

The Lord Chancellor presented a Petition from the bankers, merchants, traders, and other inhabitants of Leicester, praying for greater facilities in the recovery of debts, by the establishment of local courts, and less extensive jurisdiction. The noble and learned Lord said that he should, in the next week, bring forward a Bill similar to that which he had introduced the preceding session, for the purpose of effecting important changes in the Court of Chancery. He would step into the details of the measure now, but he could not allow that opportunity to pass without noticing a question which had been asked in another place, relative to appointments which he had made, by one who might have obtained the information he required by other means. The Hon. and Learned Gentleman to whom he alluded had not acted fairly, but it was right that he (Lord Brougham) should tell their Lordships that the Great Seal was paid by means of fees and patronage. This was a most objectionable mode of obtaining the office and its dignity.—The Noble and learned Lord pointed out the evils and abuses of the present system, and said that the mode in which the great officers of the Court of Chancery were paid was eminently calculated to bring down odium upon them.—From the moment he entered office down to the present hour, it was his fixed determination to use his best exertions to remove the abuses that existed; but the subject being one that required much inquiry, he had not until lately been able to prepare any general measure upon the subject, and in the course of a few days he hoped to have his plans so arranged as to be able to bring forward a Bill for their abolition. [Hear.] Not only was it known to all of their Lordships that his intention was to do away with the offices in question, but to add to them another office, the salary of which was 1,800l. a-year. The noble and learned Lord said that he had no right to give up any part of his patronage to the public, and assured their lordships that it was absolutely necessary for the public business that these offices should be filled up *pro tempore*. He had, however, appointed to them one who would yield them without setting up claims for vested or patent rights the instant Parliament should declare that they ought no longer to exist. But he was sure that he would, because he had pledged himself to the abolition of those sinecures, that he should, when the appointments thus unexpectedly fell into his hands, refrain from taking possession of some of the emoluments of his office, before any regulation had been adopted for placing them on a better footing. [Hear.] The proposition was absurd, and surely never entered into the head of any man possessing brains: so that he was convinced that the question put by a learned Gentleman in another place which seemed to insinuate that he was violating his pledge, by filling up the appointment, had no such meaning, and wholly originated from a

laudable anxiety to "elicit information on a matter affecting the character of the highest law authority." (A laugh.) "Yes," continued the learned Lord, "I am bound to believe, cannot for a moment doubt, that the learned Gentleman was wholly influenced by this most praiseworthy desire of information. How could I think otherwise knowing as I do, in common with that eminent "high law authority," that philosophers have long since eulogized this laudable thirst of knowledge as the most distinguished attribute of humanity, and as the most distinguished feature of an ingenious and lofty intellect? [Cheers and laughter] Yes, my Lords, we have all read, that it is this honest thirst of information, and its condition—at least invariable concomitant, a self-regarding and candid mind, that most distinguishes man from the crawling reptile—that most distinguishes man from the wasp that stings, and from the wasp that ain would, but cannot sting. (Loud cheers.) Ay, distinguishes us from not only the insect that crawls and stings, but from that more powerful, because more offensive creature, the bug, who, powerful and offensive as it is, is, after all, but so much loathsome vermin. (Continued cheers, and laughter.) Yes, I say, it is this laudable propensity, upon which humanity justly prides itself, which I have no doubt solely influenced the Learned Gentleman to whom I allude to seek for information which would be cruel to stingly gratify. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) Convinced that this was the sole source of the learned Gentleman's question and remark, he only regretted that he did not apply to him sooner for an answer. Fortunately so far as the cavil of little minds was concerned, he had living witnesses in that House and elsewhere, to testify, that before the melancholy occasion of the vacancies, and forty-eight hours after they had occurred, he had expressed his own feelings, and had given to the self-same sincere-abolishing Bill, precisely as if these vacancies were not likely to occur, or never had occurred. ("Hear, hear," from the Treasury bench.) There would be as he had stated some alterations or differences between that and the Bill he had formerly spoken of as in progress of maturation; but this he pledged himself to, that neither in letter, spirit, form, or figure, shall the most insect and microscopic eye detect the remotest change in that portion of the Bill under which the very two offices at issue would be totally abolished. (Hear.) He had originally intended bringing forward two Bills for the improvement of the administration of justice, and the other for abolishing the registration of affidavits and clerk of the patents office: but upon consideration had thought it better to incorporate all the provisions in one measure. The learned Lord then proceeded to *hail*, in the words of the Roman orator, this new-born disposition on the part of the inveterate foes of those who "trench upon vested rights," of which, of course, sinecure offices were a most ancient and constitutional feature, and under which the country had become the glory of surrounding nations, and in two Bills of the second kind, as a sign of the times, and as a proof that at last we may hope to see their abolition. He trusted they would proceed in their economical career; and thanking them for their attention to himself, he would venture to suggest "they might go further and fare worse." ("Hear, and a laugh.") For his part, he would continue his earnest endeavours to "set his own house in order." His sphere was necessarily limited, but in the Court of Chancery he would labor so long as he held office, trusting that the day was not distant which cheap, and speedy, and efficient justice should