

British Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MONDAY, JUNE 22.

About two o'clock the lord chancellor and a number of peers came down to the house. Soon after his lordship entered the house—he addressed the house present nearly as follows:

"My lords—His majesty not thinking to be personally present this day, has ordered a commission to be issued under the great seal, authorising certain lords therein named, to hold and open this parliament in his majesty's name, and in his royal behalf."

The lord chancellor then, together with the archbishop of Canterbury, the earl of Aylesford (lord Steward) and lord Hawkesbury, being robed, took their seats on the bench, in front of the throne.

Mr. Quarme (acting usher of the black rod) was deputed to order the attendance of the commons, who shortly appeared at the bar, preceded by the clerks of the house: the attendance of the members was very numerous, far beyond any thing we witnessed of late years.

When the commons arrived at the bar, his majesty's commission (as adverted to by the lord chancellor) was then read by the clerk. It comprehended the various new members of the privy council, and went on to authorise any three, or more of them, to open and hold the present parliament on behalf of his majesty, and to declare his majesty's reasons for opening the same.

After the commission was read, the lord chancellor addressed the commons to the following effect:—

"Gentlemen of the house of commons,

"We have it in command from his majesty to signify to you, that as soon as a sufficient number of members of both houses of parliament shall be sworn his majesty's reasons for calling this parliament shall be declared. As it is necessary that a speaker of the commons should be first chosen, you are desired to repair to your usual place of sitting, and there to proceed to the choice of a fit and proper person to be your speaker; and that you present the person so chosen at the bar, at three of the clock."

On the house being resumed, and prayers read by the junior bishop, the ceremonial of swearing the peers present commenced, which continued without intermission from that period until four o'clock, after which hour no peer can be sworn.

Between sixty and seventy peers were sworn in, before 4 o'clock, among whom were the following:—

First, the lord chancellor, and afterwards their royal highnesses the dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland, the dukes of Gordon Athol, Montrose, and Buccleugh; marquis of Headfort, archbishop of Canterbury; bishops of Oxford, Bath, Winchester, and Dublin (earl of Normenton); earls of Morton, Limerick, Uxbridge, Enniskillen, Hardwick, Westmoreland, Lauderdale, St. Vincent, Buckinghamshire, Epse, Albemarle, Tankerville, Longford, Nelson, Suffolk, and Dorchester; viscounts Carleton, Hood, Falkmouth, Courtenay, Longueville, and Bridport; lords Hawkesbury, Napier, Walsingham, Arden, Eliot, Forbes, Kelly, Malgrave, Eldon, Willoughby de Broke, Gardner, de Glifford, Ellenborough, &c.

Lord Gardner was introduced with the accustomed ceremonies, by lords Mulgrave and Arden, and took the usual oaths and his seat.

At four o'clock the house adjourned until three o'clock to-morrow (this day) when the house of commons will convene with their speaker.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

This day, at twelve o'clock, the lord high steward of Great Britain (the earl Aylesford) with his white rod, attended at the house of the clerk of parliament, in Palace Yard.

His lordship, attended by messrs. Ley, and the other clerks of the house of commons, then proceeded to the long gallery of the house, where a considerable number of the new members waited to receive them.

After having read his majesty's proclamation for convening a new parliament, the business of swearing in the members of the house of commons commenced.

About 300 of the gentlemen, returned to serve in the third parliament of the United Kingdom, met in the house commons, at 2 o'clock, most of whom, had previously taken the oaths in the long gallery. Soon after their assembling, the deputy gentleman of the black rod appeared at the table of the house, and thus addressed those present:

"Gentlemen—The lords authorised by virtue of his majesty's commission, desire the immediate attendance of this honorable house in the house of lords, to hear the commission read."

Mr. Ley, the chief clerk of the house, was the first, according to custom, to rise in obedience to said summons, and accompanied by all the members present, proceeded to the house of lords. After a short absence they returned, and took their seats. A considerable while intervened before they proceeded to business; and at length

Mr. C. Yorke rose, and addressing Mr. Ley (chief clerk of the house) moved that the right hon. Charles Abbott be called to the chair—Mr. Yorke was followed and supported in his motion by messrs. Banks and Kalcraff; after which Mr. Abbott was unanimously elected speaker—On taking the chair, he addressed the house as follows:—

"Sir, the important remarks which have been made upon this occasion, so far as they concern the magnitude and importance of the situation which the partiality of the house induces them to propose me to occupy, and the variety of qualifications which are necessary for adequately filling that chair, will, I am persuaded, receive the unqualified concurrence of all, and particularly of those who have witnessed the duties of it. At every period, it is a situation which must be deemed important; but those who entertain a just sense of the times in which we live, and look forward to the dangers and difficulties which may be yet to come, must be convinced that the prospect renders it still more important than upon any former occasion. Much and highly as I feel the honor you propose to confer upon me, I cannot avoid stating my own deficiency and inability to justify your choice, or answer the expectation which the house may have formed.—Although they have been pleased to suppose that my having been in the chair upon former occasions, may afford arguments for my re-election, a very different impression is thereby created in my mind. I am persuaded that whoever understands, and has already endeavored to execute the duties of that dignified and responsible situation must readily acknowledge its various difficulties, and feel his own inadequacy to do justice. If, however, it be your determination that I should again resume that chair, and endeavor to fulfil its numerous and important duties, I have only to offer you my assurance of unalterable zeal and determination to support its dignity, and diligently to persevere, to the utmost of my power, to justify your expectations. I therefore shall submit with deference to your decision."

Mr. Abbot was then conducted to the chair by the mover and seconder of the motion, and when seated therein for a short interval of time, he again rose and addressed the following few additional words to the house:—Since the house has been pleased to place me again in this chair, I desire from this place to return to you my humblest thanks and most grateful acknowledgments, for this additional proof of your confidence and esteem, I have now only again to assure you, that while I have the honor of occupying it, I shall constantly labor to deserve a continuance of your regard, by maintaining the dignity and authority of this house unimpaired, and by endeavoring to do so with fidelity and strict impartiality."

The chancellor of the exchequer next rose, and addressing the chair, spoke as follows; "Sir, I rise to offer you, not my congratulations, I may say, of an unanimous house of commons, and of an unanimous public. I must acknowledge, besides the performance of my public duty I am actuated by feelings of a personal nature, arising out of those habits of uninterrupted friendship, with which you have for a long period of time condescended to honor me.—These feelings alone would of themselves afford me the greatest satisfaction in seeing you restored to a situation at which every one seems to rejoice, whether they enter into private or public considerations. But the pleasure of seeing you in that high situation is now to be ascribed to that description of consideration which relates to the great importance of the trust belonging to the office, and the conviction of your adequacy to its functions arising from an experience of your peculiar fitness for it. Although the usual form of our proceedings leads me to address my congratulations to the chair, yet I am disposed to think that the proper object of congratulation is the house itself. I cannot forbear looking back to the first occasion when you were called upon to fill this important office, and in doing so, I shall venture to compare the feelings which you then entertained, to that your feelings must now be

You have stated, that you are much impressed with the consideration of your own insufficiency, when you compare the nature and extent of the duties with the qualifications which you possess; but, sir, I think all this dubiety may be now completely done away after the length of trial, and the criticism to which you have been exposed. Your predecessors, who had for a long continuance of years, filled that chair in times of heat and party conflict, in a manner which conferred upon him the approbation and applause of this house (I allude to lord Sidmouth, who is now in another) was considered by all as a perfect character to be in the chair. This opinion of that noble lord was formed of him after a very long trial. You too, have had your trial, and you have had not been found wanting. You, like my lord Sidmouth, have filled that chair with dignity of character, and utility to the public, so as again to entitle you to the confidence of the house; and whatever may have been your own apprehensions upon your first appointment after lord Sidmouth, the circumstance of that confidence remaining still undiminished, must convince you that the exceptions originally formed by the house have been justified. I cannot convince that there could be any thing to increase the satisfaction I feel in seeing you called upon by the unanimous consent and approbation of the house, not wholly expressed in silence, but in a manner that convinces me all parties unite in thinking you the best adapted for such a situation. Although a silent election might have been perfectly sufficient to have satisfied you, yet as the choice has been effected by more than usual observations, the consequence of them will be that you will have the satisfaction to feel, that what you may be the opinion of some individuals as to the fitness of public men to fill their respective situations, no difference of opinion as to you exists.—[Hear, hear!] Conscious that I must fall infinitely short of giving an adequate description either of my own feelings, or those which the house entertains upon this occasion, I shall therefore conclude with moving, "That this house do now adjourn."

This last motion was put from the chair, and the house adjourned accordingly to 12 o'clock tomorrow [this day.]

During this debate, the four members for the city sat in their robes as gentlemen, at the upper end of the treasury bench taking rank according to their station on the poll at the late election.—This, it seems, as in conformity with a strict etiquette, and is a point of privilege and rank in the representatives of the city.

NEW-YORK, August 15.

POSTSCRIPT.

By the ship Susan and Sarah, Captain Henry, arrived last night from London, we have received London papers to the 29th June, and Lloyd's lists to the 27th.

These papers contain the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament.

His Swedish Majesty has declared the city of Dantzick in a state of blockade.

The Sunday Monitor of the 25th June, states, that the British force employed in the projected expedition to the Continent would not leave England till government had received dispatches from Lord Cathcart, who had set off to take the chief command of the German Legion, which had failed. In the mean while every exertion was using to get the troops in readiness for embarkation. The remainder of the German Legion have been ordered and failed. The first division of the expedition which failed for Stralsund, was however seen off Yarmouth the 24th.

Rumours of the first engagements between the French & Russians are floated in the same paper.—though nothing of the general action of the 14th June.

The New Ministers have a majority in the House of Lords of 93—in the Commons of 195.

Gen. Moore was ordered to Egypt with reinforcements.

Gen. Crawford's expedition has failed from St. Helena, bound to Rio de la Plata.

Price of Stocks—3 per cent. contols for opening 61 1/2—3 per cent. reduced 62 7/8 63—Omnium 3 4 to 1 prem.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Lord Chancellor, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Dartmouth and Lord Aylesford, took their seats as Commissioners immediately below the Throne, and the Commons being a few minutes after in attendance below the bar, the Lord Chancellor read the following Speech:—

"My Lords and Gentlemen, We have it in command from his Majesty to state to you, that, having deemed it expedient, to recur to the sense of his people, his Majesty in conformity to his declared intention, has lost no time in causing the present Parliament to be assembled.

His Majesty has great satisfaction in acquainting you, that, since the events which led to the dissolution of the last Parliament, his Majesty has received in numerous addresses, from his subjects, the warmest assurances of their affectionate attachment to his person and government, and of their firm resolution to support him, in maintaining the just rights of his Crown, and the true principles of the Constitution; and he commands us to express his entire confidence, that he shall experience in all his deliberations a determination to afford him an equally loyal, zealous and affectionate support under all the arduous circumstances of the present time.

We are commanded by his Majesty to inform you, that his Majesty's endeavours have been most anxiously employed for the purpose of drawing closer the ties by which his Majesty is connected with the Powers of the Continent of assisting the efforts of those Powers against the ambition and oppression of France; of forming such engagements as may ensure their continual co-operation; and of establishing that mutual confidence and consent, so essential under any course of events, to the restoration of a solid and permanent peace in Europe.

It would have afforded his Majesty the greatest pleasure, to have been enabled to inform you, that the mediation undertaken by his Majesty for the purpose of preserving peace between his Majesty's Ally the Emperor of Russia and the Sublime Porte had proved successful for

that important object; he deeply regrets the failure of that mediation, accompanied as it was by the disappointment of the efforts of his Majesty's squadron in the Sea of Marmora, and followed as it has since been by the losses which have been sustained by his gallant troops in Egypt.

His Majesty could not but lament the extension of hostilities in any quarter which should create a diversion in the war so favourable to the view of France; but lamenting it especially in the instance of a Power with which his Majesty has been so closely connected, and which has been so recently indebted for its protection against the encroachments of France, to the signal and successful intervention of his Majesty's arms.

His Majesty has directed us to acquaint you, that he has thought it right to adopt such measures as might best enable him, in concert with the Emperor of Russia, to take advantage of any favourable opportunity for bringing the hostilities in which they are engaged against the Sublime Porte, to a conclusion, consistent with his Majesty's honour and the interests of his Ally.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons, His Majesty has ordered the Estimates for the current year to be laid before you, and he relies on the tried loyalty and zeal of his faithful Commons to make such provision for the public service, as well as for the further application of the sums which were granted in the last Parliament, as may appear to be necessary. And his Majesty, bearing constantly in mind the necessity of a careful and economical administration of the pecuniary resources of the country, has directed us to express his hopes that you will proceed, without delay, in the pursuit of those enquiries connected with the public economy, which engaged the attention of the last Parliament.

My Lords, and Gentlemen, His Majesty commands us to state to you, that he is deeply impressed with the peculiar importance at the present moment of cherishing a spirit of union and harmony amongst his people; such a spirit will most effectually promote the prosperity of the country at home, will give vigour and efficacy to its councils and arms abroad, and can alone enable his Majesty under the blessing of providence to carry on successfully the great contest in which he is engaged, or finally to conduct it to that termination which his Majesty's moderation and justice have ever led him to seek—peace in which the honour and interests of his kingdom can be secure, and in which Europe and the world may hope for independence and repose.

RICHMOND, August 11.

TRIAL OF AARON BURR, (Continued by adjournment and held at the Capitol in the Hall of the House of Delegates) for High Treason against the U. States.

FRIDAY, August 7.

The following new witnesses appeared this day: Lieut. Swearingin, William McFarlane and Lewis Kerr.

Mr. Hay observed, that he had nothing more to submit to the court; and that he hoped all the material witnesses would be present on Monday, and enable him to prosecute the Trial.

MONDAY, August 10.

Herman Blannerhasset was this day brought into court.

The following gentlemen appeared and were recognised: Return I. Mays, Maurice P. Bellnap, Charles Duv. B., James Taylor, Tunis Dils, Bennet Cook, Hezekiah Lewis, and G. B. Va. Horne.

Mr. Wirt moved the court to discharge Dr. War Law, one of the Venire. His wife was in extreme danger, and required the assistance of a sea-voyage. The vessel would sail to-morrow. C. Justice.—Is the court to understand that there is no objection to this measure? Mr. Burr.—If the remark be addressed to me, sir, I can only say, that I shall remain passive during the transaction. Dr. Wardlaw was then dismissed.

Mr. M'Rae also moved the discharge of Mr. Randolph H.arrison, whose extreme indisposition was attested by a certificate from Dr. Adams.

Mr. H. was accordingly dismissed in the same manner.

Mr. Hay moved that H. Blanne hasset be arraigned for high treason, which Mr. Botts opposed on the ground that he had not been furnished with a copy of the indictment for three days. After some desultory conversation on this circumstance, Mr. Botts requested that Mr. B. might be re-conducted to the Penitentiary as he was extremely indisposed, and the heat nearly overpowered him. No opposition was made, and Mr. B. was accordingly re-conducted to his prison.

At Mr. Hay's request, the pannel of the Jury was called over by the Deputy-Marshal, and also, at Mr. Burr's request, the list of the witnesses, whom he had subpoenaed for the purpose of investigating the qualification of some of the Venire.

Mr. Hay read a certificate from Dr. Upshaw, stating that Mr. James Henderson is sick of a bilious fever and incapable of attending.

Mr. M'Rae then read a certificate from Dr. Greenbow, shewing that David Bullock, esq. one of the Venire was prevented by indisposition from discharging his duties. Mr. B. was accordingly excused.

The clerk informed Mr. Burr, that he was at liberty to challenge such of the Venire as he might object to. Mr Burr begged leave to inform the jurors, who were within-hearing, that a great number of them may have formed and expressed opinions about him, which might disqualify them from serving on this occasion; He expected that as they came up, they would discharge the duties of conscientious men, and candidly state all these objections. The Deputy Marshal then summoned

1. Hezekiah Bucky. Mr. Botts. We challenge you for cause. Have you ever formed and expressed an opinion about the guilt of Col. Burr? Mr. Bucky. I have not, sir, since I have been subpoenaed. Q. Had you before? A. Yes, I formed one before in my own mind.

Mr. Hay wished that the question of the opposite counsel could assume a more precise and definite form. If this question were proposed to this pannel and to every other man, he would venture to predict, that there could not be a jury selected in the state of Virginia; because he did not believe that there was a single man in the state, qualified to become a jurymen, who had not in some form or other, made up and declared an opinion on the conduct of the prisoner. The transactions in the west had excited universal curiosity; and there was no man who had not seen and decided on the documents relative to them. Do gentlemen contend, that in a case so peculiarly interesting to all, the mere declaration of an opinion is sufficient to disqualify a jurymen? A doctrine of this sort would at once acquit the prisoner; for where is the jury that could try him? Such a doctrine amounts to this: that a man need only do enough to draw down the public attention upon him and he would immediately effect his discharge. Mr. H. concluded with a hope, that the question would assume a more definite form; he should not pretend to decide the form on which it should be proposed; but it was a privilege to which every court is entitled, and one which the court had exercised, that had presided in the case of James F. Callender.

Mr. Botts considered it as a misfortune ever to be deplored, that in this country and in this case, there had been too general an expression of the public sentiment, and this generality of opinion would disqualify many; but he had never entertained a doubt, until the prosecution had avowed it, that twelve men might be found in Virginia capable of deciding this question, with the strictest impartiality. He still trusted that the Attorney for the United States was mistaken; that the catastrophe was not completely fixed; and that every man in the state had not pledged himself to convict Col. Burr, whether right or wrong. He was not present at the trial of J. F. Callender; but all America had heard the question which was then propounded to the jurymen; and that was: whether he had made up and expressed an opinion respecting the guilt of the prisoner.

Mr. Hay would put Mr. Botts right in a matter of fact. The court would recollect that on the trial of Callender, the question was not whether the jurymen had found and expressed an opinion on that case generally; but on the subject matter that was to be tried, and couched in the indictment. The question then in the present case should be: Have you formed and expressed an opinion on the point at issue; that is, whether A. B. is guilty of treason. On the trial of Callender, the court would particularly recollect, that Mr. John Basset having objected to himself, because he had read the libellous publication, was actually overruled, because it was not on the book itself, but on the subject matter of the indictment, that he was called upon to say, whether he had ever expressed an opinion.

Mr. Burr declared there was a material distinction between that and the present case. Mr. Bassett's acknowledging that he had seen the book did not disqualify him from serving on the jury; in the same manner the person who had seen a murder would not be an incompetent juror in the prosecution for that crime. But if a man pretended to decide upon the guilt of a prisoner upon mere rumour, he would manifest such a levity and bias of mind, as would effectually disqualify him. Mr. Bucky however has not yet come out completely with his declarations. Let him be further interrogated.

Mr. Hay observed, that the question would even be too general and vague, if it were ever to be—"have you expressed any opinion on the treason of A. B." for the case stated in the indictment was infinitely more specific. It was treason in levying war against the U. S. at Blannerhasset's Island. Unless this particular allegation be proved it defeats all the other parts of the accusation; and it was probably on this point that the juror had never made up any opinion.

Mr. Martin contended that it was the province of every jurymen to come to any case with the most perfect impartiality; and more particularly in one where life & reputation were at stake: that it was a libel upon Virginia, a blot upon the whole state, to assert that 12 men could not be found to decide such a case, with no other knowledge than what they had picked up from newspapers; that there was a material distinction between this and Callender's case; the libel was a book in every man's hand; but does not any jurymen in the present case pretend to know the testimony on which this charge depends? The gentleman proposed to ask the jurymen, whether he has made up an opinion on Col. B's treason; but it is extremely probable, that most of them know not what treason is; and that they may decide upon the guilt of Col. B. that they may be ignorant, whether it comes under the name and description of treason.

Mr. Botts quoted authorities in support of his opinion; 3 Bacon 358; a case from Hawkins; the cases of Smith & Ogden; and Judge Fredell's opinion in the case of Fries. The clerk observed that it might save some altercation, if the court was to