

care when I am hungry for a chop from the Brother of the Sun and Moon interdicting pork.'

'Why, of course; he knew all about it before,' said Thorne.

'Then, I should think, you might as well have kept the information to yourself.'

'No,' said Tom; 'I thought there could be no harm in letting them see that there might be some suspicions of who did it, if anything out of the way did happen to old Medoza.'

'If you have a twinkling of suspicion that that square shaved sinner in the corner is in your way at all, I'll let daylight shine through him in the presence of his friends before you can say hair-trigger.'

'Griffin, dine with me to-day, will you, and we will have a scamper into the Camp after.'

'I shall be delighted,' said Griffin.

'Hasta luego, then—at three precisely,' and each took a different rout.

'He is a jolly, frank fellow that,' said Thorne to himself. 'I wonder what he is!'

'That's the very man I wanted,' said Griffin. 'Faith, I may know every body I care about now, and dine every day of the week for nothing.'

Griffin was one of those genteel adventurers that you find in every large community hanging on to the outskirts of society, who comes from nobody knows where, and live nobody knows how; who have no profession except that of an idler, and no occupation except paying off their debts with promises; they never lose a bet; they often, very often, lose one game of billiards or ecarte, but never a rub; they can remember to carry small change in their pockets; and they never do forget an invitation to dinner. They probably answer some good purpose in society—perhaps, that of teaching flats the sweet lessons of experience, and preparing them for the wiles and stratagems of the world: this as it may, they fulfil, at least, one maxim of the world of Wisdom, for they neither toil nor spin; and they steadfastly practise the principle, that sufficient for the day is the evil thereof.

(To be continued.)

## POLITICS AND NEWS.

### Gleanings from the last English Papers.

#### MR. SHAW LEFEVRE—SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The new Parliament has done well in appointing as its Speaker the Right Hon. Charles Shaw Lefevre, the member for North Hampshire. We remember congratulating the public and the House of Commons, upon the nomination of Mr. Shaw Lefevre in 1839, when his opponent to this high and distinguished office—the proudest position which a British subject can occupy—was the Right Hon. Henry Goulburn. We then stated our conviction that Mr. Shaw Lefevre possessed all those qualities which would suit him for such an office—judgment, discretion, talent, an unswerving impartiality, a high and dignified bearing—a presence that commanded respect, and the thorough spirit of an English gentleman calculated to enforce it. We thought then, as we still think, that the House of Commons had a most fortunate escape from Mr. Goulburn, who is always mistaking pomposity for dignity, who as Secretary for Ireland proved that he could not be impartial, and who as a Chancellor of the Exchequer, demonstrated that he was more fitted for the office of a special pleader than the Treasury benches. The spirit of party put forward Mr. Goulburn originally as a candidate for the office of Speaker; and the conduct of Mr. Shaw Lefevre defeated that spirit; because so irreproachable had been his demeanour in the Chair, that when Sir Robert Peel came into office in 1841, with a majority of one hundred to support him, and when he might have named Mr. Goulburn as Speaker, he voluntarily tendered the office to Mr. Shaw Lefevre, and with his own hands placed him in the Speaker's Chair.

Such a proceeding was not less honourable to Sir Robert Peel, than it was to Mr. Shaw Lefevre. In the former it proved a readiness to sacrifice his party predilections and his personal friendship (if it be possible for any one to be the personal friend of Mr. Goulburn), to the exigencies of the public service, and the universal expression of the public feelings. In the latter it demonstrated the possession of rare qualities—commanding talents in a position requiring constant care and watchfulness; and a spirit of justice so strong, so clear, and so pure, that neither envy, nor slander, nor ill-nature could presume even to invent a calumny, that could for an instant dim its brightness.

Many hear of the office of a Speaker; but there are few who understand the nature of its duties. We find them recapitulated in that invaluable repository of facts, *Dodd's Parliamentary Companion*. They are 'to read to the Sovereign petitions or addresses from the Commons, and to deliver in the Royal presence, whether at the Palace or in the House of Lords, such speeches as are usually made on behalf of the Commons; to manage in the name of the House, when counsel, witnesses, or prisoners are at the bar; to reprimand persons who have incurred the displeasure of the House; to issue warrants of committal for breaches of privilege; to communicate in writing with any parties, when so instructed by the

House; to exercise vigilance in reference to private bills, especially with a view to protect property in general, or the rights of individuals from encroachment or injury; to express the thanks or approbation of the Commons to distinguished personages; to control and regulate the subordinate officers of the House, &c. &c. &c. The Speaker, once elected by Parliament, retains his office until the same Parliament is dissolved. The salary is 6,000*l.* a-year, with an official residence; and at the end of his labours he is rewarded, or at least such has been the case with few exceptions, with a peerage, and a pension of 4,000*l.* for two lives. The Speaker is at all times a member of the Privy Council, and is entitled to take rank after the Barons.' (See *Dodd's Parliamentary Companion*, Edition 1847; new Parliament, pp. 85, 86). That is, he is the Prime Commoner of England—the head of that class which has at all times been distinguished for its knowledge, its genius, its gallant bearing, and its love of country. For the third time the Commons of England have elected Mr. Shaw Lefevre to that distinguished position; and their election elicited the universal approval of his countrymen.

The Speakership of the House of Commons in the reign of Queen Victoria is, by the virtue, the talent, the dignity and the honor of its possessor, a proof that we live in times which are far superior to those in which 'the glorious Revolutionists of 1688' were omnipotent in England. Dignities and high offices are now bestowed upon men whose characters are stainless, and whose lives are pure. It was different in England in the year 1694, when William III. had been placed on the throne by an oligarchy, supported by the bayonets of his Dutch soldiers; then the Church, as by law established, was without discipline—the Army was a band of marauders, who, being plundered by their officers, made reprisals by plundering the peaceable inhabitants; and when, according to the plain and simple words of Salmon's *Chronology*, 'Mr. Birch, an attorney, was brought upon his knees, by the Commons, for bribing their members.'

'There appearing,' says Mr. Salmon, '*almost an universal corruption and bribery in all degrees of men*, and the Commons being informed of vast sums being advanced by the East India Company and the chamber of London among their members, for facilitating some bills relating to those bodies, a Committee was appointed to inquire into the truth of these facts; and Sir John Trevor, the *Speaker of the House of Commons*, was proved to have received 1,000 guineas of the City of London on passing the Orphan's Bill. Whereupon he was voted guilty of a misdemeanour, and expelled the House.' (Salmon's *Chronological Historian*, vol. i., pp. 230, 231). It is difficult to believe, when we see such purity in public officers at present, that there could have been such a scandalous corruption at that period which is still spoken of as 'glorious;' and yet so little was there of public opinion or of public virtue, that the man expelled as Speaker for corruption was retained in the office of Master of the Rolls for years afterwards. Sir John Trevor was permitted to retain and exercise that high judicial office for nearly twenty years after his expulsion from the Speakership of the Commons. An organ of the Whigs—the *Edinburgh Review*—accounts for this state of things by declaring that at that time 'the nation appeared to regard their Sovereign as the Captain of so many foreign mercenaries hired for their temporary protection.' (Vol. lxxiv, p. 138.)

Let us be thankful that we live in better times, and amongst more virtuous politicians. The evidence of our improvement is the repeated election to the office of Speaker of one whose name is never mentioned but with praise, and whose conduct is above all reproach.

#### WRECK OF THE "PEARL" AND LOSS OF LIFE.

BANFF, Nov. 17.—Since yesterday afternoon we have had a heavy gale of wind from the north, accompanied with thick snow showers. This morning, at daylight, a schooner, which afterwards proved to be the Pearl, of Nairn, coal-laden, was observed about six miles to the windward of this port. About half-past eight, a. m., she bore away under close-reefed topsail, staysail, and boom foresail. On nearing the shore, signals were made on the beach to direct the vessel to the place where the crew were likely to be rescued. Those signals were observed on board the schooner, and she was steered in the direction wished for. It being low water, and the beach flat, the vessel struck, and came broadside on to the sea, about 500 yards from the shore. The coast-guard crew were on the spot, with Manby's apparatus, and, on the ship rounding to, a shot, with the line attached, was fired, but unfortunately, the line broke; a second shot was fired, and the connecting thong by which the shot is attached to the line gave way; a third was tried, and the same thing happened, the thong either being rotten, or not sufficiently strong for the purpose intended. Several other attempts were made to throw the line over the vessel, but every shot failed in gaining the object intended. Seeing little chance of the coast-guard succeeding in rescuing the crew, two lands-men and four seamen volunteered to attempt to board the vessel, and for this purpose a boat was procured and they pushed off. After much difficulty they got alongside the schooner, and they succeeded in getting three of the ship's crew into the boat, when a heavy sea broke over the vessel, filled the boat, which immediately upset, and the next moment the nine men were seen buffeting with the waves, without the power of rendering them any as-

sistance from the shore. After much struggling five of them got on board the vessel, and the other four attempted to reach the beach, but unfortunately, only two succeeded, and they did so in a very exhausted state; the other two—the mate of the vessel, and John Macdonald, seamen, one of the boat's crew—were drowned. The mate has left a widow and children, and the other a widow, to deplore their untimely deaths. After much loss of time the line was thrown over the vessel, and those remaining on board were landed safely by the cradle of the apparatus.

#### LOSS OF THE "LADY KENNAWAY."

The fine new East Indiaman, Lady Kennaway, belonging to the representative (an only daughter) of the late Thomas Ward, Esq., of London, has been totally abandoned by her crew, in the Bay of Biscay, in a sinking condition. She was commanded by Capt. Emery. She left Bombay on 21st of June, bound to London, laden with a cargo valued at 210,000*l.*, consisting of Indian silks, crapes, Cashmere shawls, gums, spices, rice, &c. She arrived at St. Helena on the 9th Sept., and put again to sea on the 14th, expecting to be in London by the 1st Oct. The voyage was, however, retarded by adverse winds, the vessel having to lie-to off the Cape in a storm for six weeks; but on Sunday morning week, when in the Bay of Biscay, the wind became fair for a run to London. After dinner that day, while toasting their expected safe return home, the watch announced a coming storm. All the hands were instantly on deck, and the sails were taken in, storm-sails rigged, and the necessary preparations had been scarcely effected when a tremendous gale overtook them, the first shock of which nearly threw the noble vessel on her beam-ends. The gale continuing, the sea ran mountains high, and the ship pitched heavily. Her decks were swept, her bulwarks stove in, and some of her boats were carried overboard, while the two which remained were seriously damaged. On the following morning, the vessel not steering, Mr. Walsh was lowered over her stern, and on examination found that the rudder-irons were gone, and they instantly set to work to rig out a storm helm, but the gale was so terrible that all the men in the ship, thirty-five in number, could not work it, and it had to be cut away. At this time it was discovered the vessel had sprung a leak, and there were three feet of water in the hold; their attention was then turned to the pumps, to endeavour to keep her afloat. The storm continued during the night and Tuesday, making dreadful havoc in the rigging, sails, and spars; and the following morning a Dutch vessel having been described, she was signalled, when she instantly hove to; and the captain, second mate, and twenty-six of the crew, left the Lady Kennaway, and getting on board the Dutchman, proceeded to Falmouth. The first mate, Mr. Walsh, the third mate, and four of the crew, however, refused to leave the ship, stating that they would remain on board and try to save her. These daring fellows immediately set to work, and threw overboard a large quantity of cargo, to lighten the ship; despite their efforts the water gained on them in the hold, and on Thursday morning, finding the vessel settled down, they had to take to the remaining boat. This craft was in a very unseaworthy state, with almost every plank loose from the beating of the storm during the past four days. Having escaped from the ship, they rowed for about four hours, and by continually baling out the water that rushed into her, scarcely kept her afloat, when, at the moment they had given up all hope, and expected to go down, they espied a sail. Having made signal to her and been observed, the vessel steered towards them, and they had scarcely jumped upon her deck when the boat swamped and went down, with all the papers of the Lady Kennaway. The vessel which arrived so opportunely to their rescue belonged to Guernsey, laden with fruits, but short of provisions; and Mr. Walsh and his five companions were put on board a Cove pilot boat on Sunday last, and arrived in Cork the same night, almost naked, having lost their clothing. The Lady Kennaway spoke the East Indiaman Stebonheath, off the Cape of Good Hope, in distress, having suffered in the gale. The Stebonheath belonged to the same owner. The Lady Kennaway had only made two voyages, and the Stebonheath six.

WORTHY AND INDEPENDENT ELECTORS!—Mr. Wawn, M. P. for South Shields, left that borough on the 18th instant, to commence the discharge of his duties in a new Parliament. We have already stated that the electors had pledged themselves to place their representative at the door of the House of Commons not one penny the poorer for his election. They have fulfilled their pledge. The cost of the votes they discharged long ago; and the election committee presented the hon. member with a first-class ticket for London, and money to pay his cab-hire from the railway station to St. Stephen's! Honour to the electors of South Shields! They are worthy of their excellent member.—*Gateshead Paper*.

SHOCK OF AN EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTH WALES.—Accounts have been received from Llandaff, Cardiff, Newport, Risca, and other towns in South Wales, of two very violent shocks of earthquake being experienced in that part of the principality. The noise was similar to distant thunder, the blasting of rocks in a pit or mine, or the discharge of heavy artillery. The buildings were sensibly shaken, and in numerous instances the