

were not less than sixty: He could not but feel it therefore as a hardship to be tried by one Generation, and have Judgment passed by another.

Under these circumstances he had some pleasure in finding that the proceedings were to be curtailed, and that the Managers were directed, by a late resolution of the House of Commons, to abandon some of the Charges against him. He from this entertained some hope, that the business may be brought to a termination, and that he may be rescued from the sufferance of a criminal prosecution, which was apparently to last FOR EVER. He addressed himself therefore, with all due humility to their Lordships, and to pray, not for an ACQUITTAL, for that rested wholly on their Lordships decision, but for a JUDGMENT. He had prepared a Petition, he said, to this effect, the prayer of which was, 'That their Lordships may be pleased to continue their present Session, from day to day, until he may be heard in his defence, and the Trial be brought to a final decision.'

Mr. BURKE observed, that the speech which their Lordships had just now heard from the prisoner, could not merit a reply if it were not so extraordinary as to border on the prodigious! The unfortunate gentleman at the bar found fault with the delays of his trial, though no protraction could be imputed to the Managers, as they were long since ready to proceed, and with respect to their Lordships, it was not for the Managers, and still less for the prisoner, to suppose any thing blameable in their conduct. But, not content with this, Mr. Hastings went further, and proceeded to reverse his situation, by dictating to his Judges the Manner in which they were to proceed!

The late decision of the House of Commons, Mr. Burke observed, went not to direct their Managers to abandon any Charge, but to avoid any further delay; and since complete justice could not be obtained, to obtain justice as far as was practicable. But now when the process was approaching to its end, when Guilt was driven to its last retreat, and the lash of justice was about to fall on its object, the Culprit made an appeal to compassion, and exclaimed "That his trial would never have an end!"

Even in this instance the prisoner had spoken with his usual inconsistency. He had commenced his speech with a declaration, that he did not expect to see his trial at an end; and he had concluded with a desire, that it may be brought as soon as possible to a termination!

But Mr. Hastings complained that he had been charged with Crimes of an atroci-

ous nature! Certainly he had been so charged. It was only crimes of this description that could have provoked the generous rage of Parliamentary Enquiry. It was the atrocious detail of TORTURES and MURDERS that drew forth the Commons of England to this Accusation!

[Mr. LAW here interrupted the Hon. Manager, and said that Tortures and Murders were no where charged against his Client.—Mr. Burke replied, by referring to the Revenue Charge, where both these crimes were expressly alledged.]

The delays which has occurred in the trial were principally occasioned by discussions on evidence, which the prisoner had himself provoked. The present appeal could therefore only be meant for the purpose of raising prejudice out of doors; it was merely a part of an extensive system, not unworthy of the enquiry of their Lordships, in which profusion had been called in to the aid of guilt, and every means had been taken to pervert the public opinion on the subject of this trial, and to depreciate the characters of all who had any concern in its management.

But if Mr. Hastings reckoning on the time that had elapsed, and not on the days that had been actually consumed in this proceeding, had a right to complain of its continuance, the people had an equal right to complain that a great criminal had so long eluded justice. With respect to the continuance of the session, as desired by the prisoner, that must rest entirely on the wisdom of their Lordships; if they should so determine, he and the other Managers would hold themselves ready to proceed.

Mr. Fox said, that he should confine his observations on the strange speech of the Prisoner to two single points. The Managers were charged, in the first place, with the use of virulent language; in reply to this he should only say, that in charging high Crimes and Misdemeanours, he felt it his duty to use the proper and correspondent language. There was an apparent hardship, he was also ready to admit, in the prisoner being compelled to listen to a variety of accusations on different charges, without having an opportunity of making any reply. But on this he was only to observe, that the grievance, whatever may be its severity, was the result of Mr. Hastings' own conduct. The Managers had made a proposition, and urged to their Lordships, that after the Managers had opened the Charges distinctly, the prisoner, on the conclusion of each, should be heard in reply. Their Lordships had decided against that mode of proceeding, nor did he dispute the wisdom of the decision; but undoubtedly,

whatever might have been their Lordships opinions, they would not have resisted that mode of proceeding, if the prisoner had given his consent. He could not therefore come forward to complain of that, as a hardship, which was entirely the result of his own choice.

With respect to the conduct of the Managers, if any blame was imputed to them, it was only to their Constituents and the House of Commons that they were responsible. It was in the power of the Commons to censure, or, if they deemed it advisable, to remove their Managers. If any charge was made against him before the Commons, he should defend himself to the best of his power, but he must say, that he did not hold himself answerable to any other tribunal.

Mr. HASTINGS rose again merely to say, that on the subject of delay, he did not impute the smallest degree of blame to their Lordships.

Mr. BURKE rejoined, that if blame was to be imputed to the Managers, the Prisoner knew the proper place to prefer his Complaint; and where, if founded in justice, it would undoubtedly be received with attention.

Lord KENYON (who presided in the absence of the Lord Chancellor, who is indisposed,) said, that the present was not the proper place for receiving the petition of the prisoner. It should be presented to their Lordships in their own Chamber of Parliament.

Sir JAMES ST. CLAIR ERSELINE then proceeded to adduce a great variety of documentary evidence in support of the charge; and at six o'clock the Court adjourned to Wednesday.

LONDON, JUNE 6.

The earthquakes still continue to be felt in violent shocks in Spain, and a contagious disease, occasioned by droughts, has swept away many of the inhabitants.

Letters from Ireland, mention, That the weather had been the most extraordinary for the season of the year ever remembered in that kingdom: At Athlone, the 22d May, they had a very heavy fall of snow, which continued for upwards an hour and a quarter; the same in the vicinity of Cork; and on the following day Waterford experienced a most violent hail storm, accompanied by thunder and lightning—many of the hail stones were nearly the size of nutmegs.

The degree of cold on Monday and Tuesday last in the neighbourhood of Carlisle, was equal to the greatest in the month of February. Vegetation in the northern parts of this country, and the adjoining parts of Scotland, has received a severe check from the late cold weather.

Extract of a letter from Plymouth, May 31.
"Monday night at 12 o'clock, a King's messenger arrived here express from the Admiralty, with dispatches for Commissioner Fanshaw. After a short consultation, the