

of duties to their children, which nature has imposed upon them in strains far more pathetic than those which moved the revellers at George's. I have said that every "shout" convicted them of a disingenuous and unfriendly interpretation of the sentiments of the slave owners; these are my proofs:—"During their long protracted labors," said Mr. Fairbairn, "these gentlemen (the Champions of Emancipation) have been known to us under various designations as a party. They have been called saints and robbers, wild enthusiasts and deep designing villains, philanthropists and murderers, negrophilists, and forty other names, the natural offspring of fear, contempt, or abhorrence." All of which, Sir, is quite contrary to truth; terms of reproach have been applied only to those persons who attempted to transfer private property to the public, without making the owners that full and immediate compensation to which the law entitled them. The respectable English merchants assembled at George's hotel on the first of December, "shouted," therefore, though I hope they were not aware of it, because Mr. John Fairbairn reflected on their Dutch fellow colonists in a speech remarkable only for its audacious violation of truth!

Then, Sir, the names of Fox, and Pitt, and Burke, and Sheridan, and Brougham, and Grey, produced more "shouts." Now, as the rabble route, which loves shouting for its own sake, was totally excluded from the dinner at George's, it is to be presumed that the gentlemen had some reason for shouting. Why then did the names of those enlightened statesmen produce that effect? Was it because, on the authority of John Fairbairn, they believed the slave owners had been at issue with the great men he mentioned on the general question of slavery? If they knew that none of those eminent persons had objected to compensation, it may, I fear, be imputed to them with some show of justice, that they "shouted" because great names were used with the unneighbourly intention of imputing to the slave owners opinions they never entertained, and of wounding the feelings of their Dutch fellow citizens.

Then, Sir, the names of Montesquieu, and Locke, and Voltaire, and Gibbon, and Hume, and Adam Smith, and Paley, and Franklin, called forth fresh "shouts" from English gentlemen, who had perceived a "growing estrangement" between the British and their fellow citizens! Why did they shout? If they did not mean to impute to the slave-owners opinions at variance with those of this "immortal army of historians, moralists, philosophers, wits, and statesmen," why did they shout? I hope the shouters have some satisfactory answer to this question, otherwise their professed "right hand of fellowship" must be deemed no better than an unfeeling mockery.

Allusion was then made to the Poets, and the English Merchants assembled at George's again shouted tumultuously.!!!

Let me beseech you, Sir, to tell your countrymen, that there is no community of feeling on those great questions which now occupy public attention between the British inhabitants of Albany and a portion of the English Merchants residing in Cape Town; and that when those gentlemen celebrate, as a "splendid triumph," an act of injustice, sanctioned only by an *ex post facto* law, that their proceedings will excite in the inhabitants of this District nothing but indignation, or an earnest desire to heal the wounds which folly, thoughtlessness, or malice, may have inflicted on their fellow-colonists.—I am, &c. AN ENGLISH SETTLER.

(Extract from the "Times," of Oct. 17, 1834.)
DESTRUCTION OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY FIRE.

Shortly before 7 o'clock last night the inhabitants of Westminster, and of the districts on the opposite bank of the river, were thrown into the utmost confusion and alarm by the sudden breaking out of one of the most terrific conflagrations that has been witnessed for many years past. Those in the immediate vicinity of the scene of this calamity were quickly convinced of the truth of the cry, that the houses of Lords and Commons and the adjacent buildings were on fire: the ill news spread rapidly through the town, and the flames increasing, and mounting higher and higher with fearful rapidity, attracted the attention not only of the passengers in the streets, but if we may judge from the thousands of persons who in a few minutes were seen hurrying to Westminster, of the vast majority of the inhabitants of the metropolis. We scarcely ever recollect to have seen the large thoroughfares of the town so thronged before. Within less than half an hour after the fire broke out, it became impossible to approach nearer to the scene of the disaster than the foot of Westminster bridge on the Surrey side of the river, or the end of Parliament-street on the other, except by means of a boat, or with the assistance of a guide, who, well acquainted with the localities, was enabled to avoid the crowd and reach Abingdon-street by the streets at the back of the Abbey. This locality, however, was in a very short space of time as densely thronged, with spectators as any other. There was, however, nothing surprising in the multitude that flocked to the spot—in the crowded boats that floated on the river immediately in the front of the blazing pile—or in the countless numbers that swarmed upon the bridges, the wharfs, and even upon the housetops; for the spectacle was one of surpassing though terrific splendour, and the stately appearance of the Abbey, whose architectural beauties were never seen to greater advantage than when lighted by the flames of this unfortunate fire would of themselves have attracted as many thousands to the spot. But, extensive as the misdeed we have to describe was, rumour had magnified it most fearfully. It was generally reported through the town that Westminster-hall, and even the Abbey itself, were in flames. How and where the fire originated are still matters of doubt. The general belief, however, appears to be, that it broke out in some part of the buildings attached to the House of Lords, from whence it spread to the House itself with such vast celerity, that before 8 o'clock the whole range of the structure, from the portico, by which the Peers enter, to the corner where it communicates with the committee-rooms of the House of Commons was in flames.

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As rapidly did the devouring element extend its ravages to the ancient chapel of St. Stephen's, where the work of destruction was sooner over than in the other House of Parliament. The greater quantity of timber which the fabric of the House of Commons contained will readily account for this; and it is further to be observed, that from the situation of the building, and the unlucky circumstance of the tide being unusually low, a very scanty supply of water, and the application of only one or two engines, not very advantageously placed, were all that the most strenuous and the most zealous exertions could bring to bear in the vain attempt to save that interesting edifice from absolute destruction.

The conflagration, viewed from the river, was peculiarly grand and impressive. On the first view of it from the water, it appeared as if nothing could save Westminster Hall from the fury of the flames. There was an immense pillar of bright clear fire springing up behind it, and a cloud of white, yet dazzling smoke, careered above it, through which, as it was parted by the wind, you could occasionally perceive the lantern and pinnacles, by which the building is ornamented. At the same time a shower of fiery particles appeared to be falling upon it with such unceasing rapidity as to render it miraculous that the roof did not burst out into one general blaze. Till you passed through Westminster-bridge, you could not catch a glimpse of the fire in detail—you had only before you the certainty that the fire was of greater magnitude than usual, but of its mischievous shape and its real extent you could form no conception. Westminster-bridge, covered as it was with individuals standing on its balustrades, was a curious spectacle, as the dark masses of individuals formed a striking contrast with the clean white stone of which it is built, and which stood out well and boldly in the clear-moonlight. As you approached the bridge you caught a sight through its arches of a motley multitude assembled on the strand below the Speaker's garden, and gazing with intense eagerness on the progress of the flames. Above them were seen the dark caps of the Fusilier Guards, who were stationed in the garden itself to prevent the approach of unwelcome intruders. Advancing still nearer, every branch and fibre of the trees which are in front of the House of Commons became clearly defined in the overpowering brilliance of the conflagration. As soon as you shot through the bridge, the whole of this melancholy spectacle stood before you. From the new pile of buildings, in which are the Parliament offices, down to the end of the Speaker's house, the flames were shooting fast and furious through every window. The roof of Mr. Ley's house, of the House of Commons, and of the Speaker's house, had already fallen in, and as far as they were concerned, it was quite evident that the conflagration had done its worst. The tower, between these buildings and the Jerusalem Chamber, was a light on every floor. The roof had partially fallen in, but had not yet broken clean through the floors. The rafters, however, were all blazing, and from the volume of flame which they vomited forth through the broken casements, great fears were entertained for the safety of the other tenements in Cotton-garden. The fire, crackling and rustling with prodigious noise as it went along, soon devoured all the interior of this tower, which contained, we believe, the library of the House of Commons. By 11 o'clock it was reduced to a mere shell, illuminated however, from its base to its summit in the most bright and glowing tints of flame. The two oriel windows, which fronted the river, appeared to have their frame-works fringed with innumerable sparkles of lighted gas, and, as those frame-works yielded before the violence of the fire, seemed to open a clear passage right through the edifice for the destructive element. Above the upper window was a strong beam of wood burning fiercely from end to end. It was evidently the main support of the upper part of the building, and as the beam was certain to be reduced in a short time to ashes, apprehensions were entertained of the speedy fall of the whole edifice. At this time the voices of the firemen were distinctly heard preaching caution, and their shapes were indistinctly seen in the lurid light flitting about in the most dangerous situations. Simultaneously were heard in other parts of the frontage to the river, the smashing of windows, the battering down of wooden partitions, and the heavy clatter of falling bricks, all evidently displaced for the purpose of stopping the advance of the flames. The engines ceased to play on the premises whose destruction was inevitable, and poured their discharges upon the neighbouring houses which were yet unscathed. A little after 12 o'clock the library tower fell inwards with a dreadful crash, and shortly afterwards the flame, as if it had received fresh aliment, darted up in one startling blaze, which was almost immediately quenched in a dense column of the blackest smoke. As soon as this smoke cleared away, the destructive ravages of the fire became more evident. Through a vista of flaming walls you beheld the Abbey frowning in melancholy pride over detached and shattered neighbours. As far as you could judge from the river, the work of ruin was accomplished but too effectually in the Parliamentary buildings which skirt its shores.

The appearance of the fire from the corner of Abingdon-street was also exceedingly striking. For a length of time the exertions of the firemen appeared to be principally directed to save that part of the House of Lords which consisted of the tower that rose above the portico. All the rest of the line of building was enveloped in flames, which had extended themselves along the whole (except the wing) of that part of the adjacent building to the left that fronts Abingdon-street, and the upper stories of which were committee-rooms, while at the basement were the stone steps leading to the House of Commons. The wing of this building, however, which rose high above the rest, the upper part being a portion of Bellamy's, and the lower being used as a receptacle of the great coats, &c., of members of the House of Commons, was for some time, like the tower above the portico at the entrance to the House of Lords, but slightly injured by the flames, and these two objects seeming to bound the ravages of the fire, and to offer successful resistance to its further progress, while all between them was in one uninterrupted blaze, attracted universal attention. The flames did not in fact extend beyond these two points, but seemed to exhaust themselves in the destruction of them. They took fire nearly at the same moment, and burning furiously for nearly half an hour, the whole structure, from the entrance of the House of Commons to the entrance of the House of Lords, presented one bright sheet of flame. At length the roofs and ceilings gave way, and when the smoke and sparks that followed the crash of the heavy burning mass that fell had cleared away, nothing met the eye but an unsightly ruin, tinted with the dark red glare reflected from the smouldering embers at its feet.

EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE DONE.

The Painted Chamber, and the whole of the House of Lords and Commons, including the Library, and Mr. Ley's house, are entirely destroyed; and the south wall of the Library has fallen in: part of the Speaker's house is also destroyed. The Parliament offices, at the west end of the

House of Lords, which are entered from Abingdon-street, by the gateway at the Star and Garter public-house, are saved, together with all the books and papers they contain, and all the books from the Library. The books and furniture of these two buildings were removed early by the police, and placed in the yard adjoining, and in the terraced garden, covered over with carpets and tarpaulins.

A marble mantelpiece in the Speaker's house, valued at £200, was taken down and removed to a place of safety, with other property, in the rooms that were consumed.

The King's Entrance from Abingdon-street and the Grand Staircase are also preserved, the communication with the rest of the building having been cut off.

Westminster-hall, for which the greatest anxiety was evinced by every one, is safe. Engines were conducted into the body of the Hall, and their supply directed through the large window at the south-west end over the entrance to the late Houses of Lords and Commons: all beyond that entrance and window appeared to be a complete ruin. The glass of the window is of course broken, but the mullions remain entire.

The Courts of Law remain uninjured, or it is believed have only sustained some very trifling damage.—Times, Oct. 17, 1834.

COMPENSATION MONEY.

THE Petition to His Excellency the Governor upon the above subject, and praying for Relief in the present precarious state of the Colony, will lay for the Signatures of those interested therein, at the Office of this Paper, until TO-MORROW MORNING, at Eleven o'clock.

Commissariat.

SUPPLY OF BARLEY AND OATS, DURING THE YEAR 1835.

NOTICE is hereby given that Tenders will be received at this Office until 12 o'clock on MONDAY the 5th January, from such Persons as may be willing to supply BARLEY AND OATS.

for the Service of this Department, during the year 1835. The Tenders to express the price in Sterling at per 100 lbs. English weight, the quantities the parties propose to deliver, and at what periods.

Samples will be required. Any further particulars may be known on application at this Office. Commissariat Office, Cape Town, 26th Dec. 1834.

In the Insolvent Estate of JOACHIM WILHELM STOLL, Esq. Deceased.

PEREMPTORY SALE.

OF very valuable Landed Property, situate in Strand-street, and at Green-Point; superior London and Cape made Household Furniture, Plate, Glass, and Crockery; Ware; very high flavoured Foreign and Cape Wines; Liqueurs; Fustage; Cellar, Store, and Culinary Utensils; together with an extensive Library, comprising the works of the most popular English, French, and Dutch authors; a number of shares in different Colonial Associations; the indentures of the male and female Apprentices belonging to this Estate, who are chiefly House servants; and two Vaults situate in the Burial Ground of the Dutch Reformed Community.

ON MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, and THURSDAY, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of January 1835, at 9 o'clock in the FORENOON of each day precisely, will be sold by Auction, Peremptorily to the Highest Bidders, the whole of the moveable and immovable property of every description, belonging to this Estate, as advertized in the Government Gazette of the 26th instant, and which will be more fully particularized in future numbers of that Paper.

Persons wishing to provide themselves with good and useful Servants, will do well to avail themselves of this opportunity; among the Apprentices are the following—Andries, of the Cape, 30 years old, House-servant; Christoffel, of ditto, 30 years, ditto; Japie, of ditto, 33½ years, Coachman; Valentyn, of ditto, 55½ years, Laborer; Goliath, of Mombambique, 56 years, Laborer; Candaza, of the Cape, 68 years, an excellent Nurse; Debora, 51 years, Scampstress, with her child Saartje, 15 years; Housemaid; Rakiba, of the Cape, 25 years, Laundress, with her child Willem, 4½ years; Amilie, of the Cape, 35 years, Housemaid, with her two children Sea, 10 years, and Jan, 31 years; Maria, of the Cape, 17 years, Ladiesmaid; Salea, of the Cape, 14 years, ditto. These Servants would certainly never have been parted with, except under the present circumstances, as they all bear excellent characters.

The Foreign Wines having been chiefly ordered by the deceased for his own private consumption, have been acknowledged by Connoisseurs to be of the very best description, and therefore need no further comment.

The Books are all well bound, and in good condition. And finally, the Furniture, more particularly the Plate, comprising a great variety of very useful articles of the newest patterns, are not only of the very best quality, but in the highest state of preservation.

N.B. The Conditions upon which the Vaults will be Sold, will be made known on the day of Sale, and may in the mean time be ascertained on application to the undersigned.

W. F. BERGH, Sole Trustee.

TO WINE FARMERS.

WANTED to complete purchases, about 150 Leaguers WINE, of good quality, of this years vintage, to be delivered into Store in January or February next. Apply to THOS. SUTHERLAND, Caledon Square. 29th Dec. 1834.

NOORD HOEK—PUBLIC SALE.

ON WEDNESDAY, the 7th January 1835, will be Sold by Public Sale, Without Reserve, the whole of the Stock, consisting of one Stuck-vat, Leaguers, Pipes, Casks, Brandy Still, old Ploughs, Wagons, old Chariot, Carpenter's and Smith's Tools, Tables, Chairs, Bedsteads, Sofas, Bullocks, Cows, 1 Bull, Mares, and a variety of Implements of Husbandry; also,

50 Merino Sheep, and some young Horses.

The Undersigned will receive Tenders from any person inclined to become Tenants of the said Estate, at an annual rent; the Tenant paying the Government Taxes and keeping the premises in repair.

BORRADAILES, THOMPSON & PILLANS, 99.

TO LET,

A HEALTHY WET NURSE.—Apply at No. 86, Long-street.

CAPE TOWN.

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