



Geo / Box 6 / 14

Nobilitas Sola Atque Unica Virtus.

THE ROYAL CRITERION:

OR

A Narrative of the Transactions

RELATIVE TO

THE LOANS MADE IN LONDON

BY

**the Prince of Wales, Duke of York,
Duke of Clarence,**

AND THEIR ADVISERS;

AND

NEGOTIATED UPON THE CONTINENT;

WITH

Extraordinary Details of Individual Treatment,

AND

Sufferings of the Unfortunate Foreigners who were Guillotined,

HAVING BEEN

*Sent from England under the Alien Act, for claiming the Interest
Due upon the Shares, parts of the Loans they had purchased.*



In these unhappy Times, the World, Sir, examines the conduct of Princes with a jealous, a scrutinizing, a malignant Eye. No man is more aware than I am of the existence of such a disposition, and no man is therefore more determined to place himself above Suspicion.

G. P.

Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur ab illis.

LONDON;

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iv

PREFACE.

EFFORTS were made, in secret, to induce His Majesty's faithful people to believe, that their Sovereign knew not what was done for a number of years prior to his indisposition. It is insinuated, though none dare assert it, that the sight of His Majesty being dim, the dispatches were read to him, and not read faithfully. A Phantom behind the Throne is spoken of, like the ghosts in old castles, of which all speak at second hand, without ever affirming that they have actually seen such.

The first fourteen years of the present Reign were the most prosperous, yet never did faction run higher, and it was then that the Phantom first received an ideal existence. This Phan-

tom has never yet received "a local habitation and a name," let us then examine the benefit of having transferred the Sceptre to the hand of the Prince of Wales uncontrolled.

Early in life, the Prince was conspicuous only for his irregularities, but these we shall pass over, and proceed to the transactions to which they gave rise. After expending immense sums without maintaining the dignity of a Prince; after scattering heaps of gold, without encouraging merit, or relieving distress: when penury, in cases where liberality would have been a virtue, was united with excess, and riotous prodigality; a generous nation paid the debts which had been incurred, but the lessons of experience were thrown away, and the same course was renewed. The public have again and again been appealed to, but the public do not yet know what disgraceful means were resorted to to raise money. Some of them, ac-

ording to our constitution, amounted to High Treason, and some others would have brought any but a Prince to the Pillory. Let these means be developed.

In 1788, and in the following year, attempts were made to raise money on Post Obit Bonds, on the life of His Majesty. The reversion of the British Monarchy was mortgaged, but the danger of the proposal forbade its being carried into effect to the desired extent. The reversion of the British revenues and regalia, when offered by a Prince, was often refused by those who did not scruple to purchase from thieves, the jewels of the garde meuble of France.*

The Post Obits did not answer to the desired extent, and the next transactions were a

* These transactions were most actively carried on while His Majesty was visited by the most terrible of all human afflictions.

loan in Holland, and another in Paris, attended by circumstances of the most cruel nature; begun without honour, and concluded in a manner that set at defiance every principle of humanity*. Since some of these transactions are of such a nature as may well stagger belief, they shall be stated with accuracy.

* The claimants on the French Loan were sent out of the country under the Alien Act, in opposition to its true intent, and many of them, as well as their agents, were guillotined in France, as conspirators with the British Princes, against that country.

THE
ROYAL CRITERION.

THE character of the Heir Apparent to the British Throne, is always an object of importance, and now that he has entered into the discharge of his high duties, the inquiry becomes doubly momentous. Many have employed their pens to slander His Royal Highness, as many have held him up to view as a perfect character, one party giving only the dark, and the other giving only the light shades, they have worked up wrong materials, and between the two portraits, all likeness to the original is lost.

The Debts of the Prince Regent have been represented, as the consequence of great generosity to men of merit, and of encouragement to artists; happy should we be to admit this, but where is the Building, (except the stables at Brighton) the Picture, or the Statue, that derives its existance from his liberality, his taste, or his care? Or where is the man of merit who owes his education or encouragement to him?

Ever since the accession of the House of Hanover, there seems to have been, either from acci-

dent, or design, an opposition between the Monarch and Heir Apparent. Mr. Fox was in parliament a great leader of the opposition, and a cabal of pamphleteers out of the house, aided a cabal of crators within; when the majority of the Prince emancipated him from paternal authority. He was then ready to give loose to the propensities of youth; high in blood, with great personal accomplishments, and the most distinguished rank; the road of pleasure was before him, and he took it. The exemplary life of His Majesty was sufficient to deter his Ministers from any intimate connection with a Prince, whose irregularities were conspicuous, and which however venial to him, could not be so in his more experienced companions. The leaders of the opposition wished to strengthen themselves by a connection with the Heir Apparent, but whether they did, or not; the Prince selected for his companions, men who were not immediately in the good graces of his Royal Father. The opposition embraced men of personal merit, though dissipated, and in deranged circumstances, but possessed of those social qualities, which, to a young man, were irresistible. The Prince, by associating with them, soon resembled them, and in a short time, his conduct was more irregular, and his finances more deranged than those of any of his associates. All this might have been forgiven, had not the modes resorted too, to relieve his embarrassments, been

wholly inconsistent with the character of a Prince and a Gentleman. To these we must call the public attention, as the facts are but little known, because great care has been taken to prevent their publicity. These circumstances are worthy of consideration, and particulary so, because the Prince is a man of abilities, he knows the consequences of his actions, and if he did wrong to obtain money, it was because he set a very high value on obtaining it. Amongst those by whom the Prince was surrounded, were two sets, who acted very different parts: one set assisted him in raising money, and the other assisted him in spending it; and with a surprising facility he was guided by both.

Early in life, the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of York, launched into an extravagance; which their incomes could not support. They had in their minority been kept rather too strict; but when they arrived at full age, the door was opened for every species of idle expenditure. To support the system which they began, they resorted to every mode of raising money, without a scruple, as to the means, if the money were but procured. In their endeavours to obtain it, they were very industrious and very successful. The credit of the Prince grew less, and his debts increased; his creditors became very importunate, and even the tradesmen who supplied his table, threatened to withhold their supplies, unless they received some part of their bill.

At that time the Prince of Wales wanted all the money he could raise to support his horse racing, and similar pursuits, into which he had plunged very deep. The Duke of York, too, wanted money to pay his betts, and to preserve his credit at Mucklow's Tennis Court, where he passed much of his time, and lost a great deal of money, to the amount, as some have supposed, of full two hundred thousand pounds, the greater part of it by the bye remains unpaid to this day. In 1786, the Prince of Wales found himself involved, to the amount of from two hundred and fifty, to three hundred thousand pounds; unable to extricate himself, he applied to his father for assistance, promising if his difficulties were removed, he would in future live within his income.

It was admitted that the income of the Prince was not too large; but the example of his grandfather, who had employed his large revenue, in heading an opposition to his father, made the Government limit the Prince at first, and, as he soon manifested a disposition to join Mr. Fox, and his associates, Government did not feel any inclination to augment his income.

The King paid some attention to the Prince's application, and desired that an account of the debts of His Royal Highness should be made out, and presented to him. His Majesty being displeased with some items, on the fourth of July, sent Lord Southampton (groom of the stole) to the Prince, with a message, that he did not think

his son could be in debt to such an amount, and that he would not advance so large a sum: telling his Lordship at the same time, that the Prince should set aside some of his income for the discharge of his debts. The Prince, much disappointed, found himself in an unpleasant situation, being called on for money by his tradesmen, at a time when he could not satisfy them. He consulted with his friends on what steps should be taken, and in consequence of their advice, he reduced his establishment. The first retrenchment that took place was by the sale of his running horses, followed by that of his hunters, and carriage horses, but the produce of these, did not exceed seven thousand guineas. The alterations at Carleton House were put a stop to, and part of his servants were dismissed. The Prince, however, is supposed never to have intended a serious reform, but merely to have speculated on a retrenchment, inducing his father, or the nation to assist him; for this retrenchment did not continue above nine months, when every indication of reform ceased. The advisers of the Prince supposed, that after a retrenchment, Parliament would take his affairs into consideration, and great pains were taken to impress on the House of Commons by all the newspapers, and scribblers of London, how disgraceful it was that the Heir Apparent should be excluded from society, by a want of means to support his rank. Others con-

tended, that till the Prince should follow the paths of rectitude, which he so well knew, he could not look for any extraordinary favour; more particularly at a moment when his marriage with Mrs. Fitzherbert was so much condemned.

Neither the King, the Parliament, nor the people, took the hint, nor was any relief offered to the Prince; he got therefore a bill introduced by one of the Members of the City of London, that it might seem the wish of the corporate bodies of the metropolis. Mr. Newnham, a merchant, a banker, an alderman, and an opposition member, was fixed on to introduce the subject, and he readily undertook to do it. On the twentieth of April, 1787, Mr. Newnham, in the House, asked Mr. Pitt if he intended any measure for the relief of the Prince of Wales; Mr. Pitt replied that he had no such thought in view, that the King had never spoken to him on the subject, and that he himself felt no inclination to bring it forward. The Alderman then gave notice, that on Friday, the 4th May, he would bring forward a motion on the subject. After much discussion, the King sent a message to the Commons, recommending an attention to the Prince's debts. The consequence was, a vote of one hundred and sixty thousand pounds for the discharge of his debts, of twenty thousand pounds for the alterations in Carlton House, and an addition of ten thousand pounds per annum to his former income. This

was readily granted, because the Prince had declared, with the most solemn assurances, that in future he would confine himself within the limits of his income.

In a short time, the Prince became again involved, he dared not again face his father and the country; he was driven to expedients, like his friend, the Duke of Orleans, to postpone the evil day. Here the Prince should have halted, he had hitherto been improvident, he was now to become guilty; yet let us not judge too harshly, in the infirmity of human nature, error succeeds to error:

"O thou Othello, that was once so good,

"Fall'n in practice,

"What shall be said to thee?"

In the year 1788, His Majesty went to Cheltenham, the water of which place did not agree with him, and, as is believed, caused a disorder, which a loyal people have never ceased to regret. This was deemed a good opportunity for raising money, on the probability of the period when his Royal Highness should attain the Throne, not being far distant. A Council of Finance, composed of the Prince's most intimate friends was convened on the occasion, and consisted of Lords Moira, and Dundas, (at that time, Sir Thomas) Messrs. Wm. Adam, Andrew Robinson, Charles Bicknell, and Thomas Hammersley; to these were

added Louis Weltzie, clerk of the Prince's kitchen, and Annesley Shee, formerly a lottery office keeper near Carleton House. The plan first proposed, was to raise a large sum of money upon Post Obit Bonds, in England, Ireland, and Scotland, the English business to be directed by Mr. Weltzie, the Irish by Mr. Shee, and the Scotch by a Mr. Dunbar, a money broker in the City. A Bond for one hundred thousand pounds, was ordered to be drawn up by Mr. Charles Bicknell, solicitor to His Royal Highness, subject to a division into shares, payable to Weltzie, which were to be parcelled out into such shares as his customers wanted; this was to be negotiated in London. Another for the same sum was to be made payable in like manner to Mr. Annesley Shee, and to be negotiated in Dublin. These Bonds were to be secured by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, and the Duke of Clarence, payable within six months after the first of either of them should ascend the Throne: in other words, after the demise of their father. Mr. Dunbar's negotiation was to be deferred till the Irish loan should have first been tried. Mr. Weltzie, fearing it might reach His Majesty's ears, and dreading the consequences of it, made many excuses for getting out of the concern, which he effected, by introducing to the Prince of Wales, Mr. Henry Jones, of Frith Street, Soho, and Mr. John Cator, of the Adelphi; both men of property, and extensive money con-

nection. Mr. Weltzie got out of the business with clean hands, as a negotiator, but continued as an intermediate man to watch the motions of these gentlemen; and Mr. Weltzie was the only person they liked to deal with in the business, and whenever they made a sale, to him they paid the money.

Mr. John Cator was at this time a member of the House of Commons, and one of Mr. Pitt's runners; a mean avoricious money-lender, very much employed by men of fortune in trafficking for annuities, reversions, and post obits. When first employed by the Prince, he engaged to pay down ten thousand pounds for a bond of treble the amount, when a certain event should take place. This bargain was perfected on the 16th of December, 1788, witnessed by Andrew Robinson, and Charles Bicknell, and the money was paid on that day. From the delicacy of the contract, we decline going more fully into it, but subjoin a copy of the deed, word for word, taken from the original; it is as follows:

“ Know all men by these presents that we George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence all living in the City of Westminster in the County of Middlesex are jointly and separately justly and truly indebted unto John Cator of Beckenham in the County of Kent Esquire and to his exe-

cutors administrators and assigns in the penal sum of sixty thousand pounds of good and lawful money of Great Britain well and truly paid to us by him at or before the sealing of these presents sealed with our seals this sixteenth day of December in the twenty-ninth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight.

“The conditions of the above written obligation is such that if the above bounden George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence or any or either of them or any or either of their heirs executors or administrators shall do well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the above named John Cator his executors administrators or assigns the full sum of thirty thousand pounds of lawful money of Great Britain within the space or time of six calender months next after any one or either of us the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence shall come to and ascend the Throne of England together with lawful interest on the same to be computed from the day that such event shall happen up and home to the time of paying off this our obligation then and in such

case the same shall become null and void otherwise to be and remain in full force and virtue. Sealed and delivered being first duly stamped in the presence of

George Prince of Wales LS

Frederick LS

William Henry LS

Andrew Robinson

Charles Bicknell

“Received sixteenth of December one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight from the within named John Cator the sum of ten thousand pounds being so much money paid by him to us for and in consideration of this our Post Obit Bond payable according to the contingencies therein mentioned.

Witness Andrew Robinson

George Prince of Wales

Frederick

William Henry”

Soon after Mr. Cator became possessed of the bond, he proposed selling it by public auction, which coming to Mr. Pitt's knowledge, he sent for Mr. Cator, and requested him not to expose the matter; but Mr. Cator was obstinate, and the bond was purchased by Mr. Yeates, a solicitor of eminence, and has been since sold.

This circumstance gave Mr. Pitt a great dis-

like to the Princes, and it is said, prompted him to advise His Majesty not to trust the Prince of Wales with any rank in the army, higher than he already held, and from that cause His Majesty did not advance the Prince's rank. We will not enquire into the penalties enacted by law, for interfering with the reversion of the Crown, but only remark, that had any other than the Princes done so, the most dangerous consequences to them must have resulted. The transaction began to wear a serious aspect, when Messrs. Jones and Cator withdrew themselves from the business; those who had bought bonds became alarmed, and, to this day, have been afraid of making known that they hold any such obligations.

At this time (Egalite) the Duke of Orleans was in London, who assisted by Mr. Nathaniel Forth, ^x his secretary, proposed various plans for raising money on the Continent, on the joint security of the three Princes; in which the Dukes of Portland, and Northumberland, took an active part; particularly in a bond called the Antwerp Loan, for three million six hundred thousand guilders, equal to three hundred and sixty thousand pounds, divided into shares, or debentures, of one hundred pounds each. These two noble Dukes undertook to become trustees, not only for the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, and the Duke of Clarence, who were to borrow the money, but also in behalf of those who should become the lenders.

Many other speculators made similar proposals to the Prince of Wales, and many of them were sent to Antwerp, Vienna, Hamburg, Paris, and other places. These agents made their mission so public, and the securities circulating were so numerous, that they were supposed to amount nearly to two millions of British money. At one time four agents were in Hanover, endeavouring to negotiate the Princes' securities. The inhabitants were so much offended, that a meeting was held at the house of Mr. Horleback, a man of great consequence in that country, for the purpose of making a representation to the government. Such a measure not being pleasant to these agents, they took their departure immediately for Hamburg, where they were as unsuccessful.

As these undertakings proved abortive, the Princes were quite at a loss, when it occurred to Lord (at that time, Sir Thomas) Dundas, to consult on the subject with a gentleman at Lisson Green, of well known extensive money connections, and he introduced his Lordship to many monied people; amongst them, to Mr. Hugh Watts, of the Sun Fire Office, and Mr. Abraham Goldsmid. The latter, for a reasonable commission on what he procured, undertook the business. Mr. Goldsmid, who was a Dutch merchant, and negotiator of foreign loans, engaged to raise in Holland a large sum for the Princes. The Prince assented, and Mr. Goldsmid wrote directly to Messrs. Abraham and Simeon Boas, of the Hague;

and these gentlemen, who were bankers, of very great credit, engaged, on the joint security of the three Princes, to advance three hundred and fifty thousand guilders for twelve years. This bargain was perfected, and the three brothers entered into a bond, payable to Messrs. Abraham and Simeon Boas, vesting in them a power of Attorney to partition it into shares, of one thousand guilders each, to render it more saleable, should they at any time be inclined to sell it. A translated copy of one of the debentures, and bond, is as follows :

“ Know all men by these presents that we George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence of the City of Westminster in the Kingdom of Great Britain are jointly and severally held and firmly bound to Abraham and Simeon Boas of the Hague situate lying and being within the States of Holland Esquires in the sum of three hundred and fifty thousand guilders Dutch currency being so much money borrowed by us the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence of and from the said Abraham and Simeon Boas subject to the contingencies hereinafter mentioned and we the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence have by these presents covenanted promised and agreed and jointly and severally do hereby promise agree and

bind ourselves our heirs executors and administrators in the due performances of the covenants hereinafter mentioned and the better to secure the said Abraham and Simeon Boas in the regular payment of the said sum of three hundred and fifty thousand guilders together with the lawful interest thereon as the same shall become due and payable We the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence do hereby jointly and separately not only bind ourselves and our heirs executors and administrators but also our goods chattels hereditaments and effects of whatever kind they may be or wherever they shall be found so as to be subject and amenable for the payment thereof In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this twenty-fourth day of November in the thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the grace of God King of Great Britain France and Ireland Defender of the Faith &c. and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine

George Prince of Wales LS

Frederick LS

William Henry LS

Sealed and delivered being
first duly stamped in the
presence of

Hugh Watts

Joseph Schabracg

Notary Public

“Whereas the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence have thro’ the aid means and assistance of the within named Abraham and Simeon Boas negotiated a loan of money in Holland amounting to the sum of three hundred and fifty thousand guilders Dutch currency the repayment whereof we the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence have bound ourselves our heirs executors and administrators by these presents as also all our goods chattels and effects of whatever kind they may be to repay together with lawful interest thereon to the said Abraham and Simeon Boas subject to the terms hereinafter stated the conditions whereof are that the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence for themselves jointly and separately and for their heirs executors and administrators or any or either of them do by these presents covenant promise and agree to well and truly pay or cause to be paid to the said Abraham and Simeon Boas or to their heirs administrators or assigns the legal interest upon the said sum of three hundred and fifty thousand guilders at and after the rate of five per cent. per annum. British currency for the space of twelve years to come the first payment whereof to commence on the first day of June next the second payment on the first day of December following and so on to continue upon the first day of every

month of June and December following up to the full end and expiration of the term of twelve years as aforesaid and we the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence do also for ourselves and for our heirs executors and administrators covenant promise and agree after the expiration of the said term of twelve years that the said Abraham and Simeon Boas and their heirs executors administrators and assigns shall be well and truly paid the said sum of three hundred and fifty thousand guilders in manner and form following that is to say one fourth part thereof to be paid on the first day of December in each of the following years 1801 1802 1803 and 1804 subject nevertheless to legal interest upon the remaining part that may or shall continue not to be discharged as aforesaid until the whole sum of three hundred and fifty thousand guilders shall be fully paid off without any deduction or abatement whatsoever or without any subterfuge pretext or reserve being set up against the same and we the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence do hereby authorise and empower the said Abraham and Simeon Boas to divide off and partition into shares or portions this our obligation in their own name and under their signature to such person or persons as shall be desirous to purchase any part or shares thereof in such manner and form as he

or they shall think fit so as that each part or share shall be made out to contain one thousand guilders Dutch currency only together with a printed copy of this Bond and the conditions therein specified and attached thereunto and at the bottom thereof to set forth make out and grant receipts for the payment of whatever sums of money that shall be received thereon which receipts being signed by the hand writing of the said Abraham and Simeon Boas shall be considered as valid and of the same effect as if we ourselves had executed the same provided always that such parts or shares as shall be sold and published shall not in the whole exceed three hundred and fifty and those not to amount to a larger sum of money than three hundred and fifty thousand guilders the currency of the states of Holland and that each share or portion thereof shall be inregistered in the office of some Notary Public of respectability at the Hague who shall attest the same and specify the number and amount of each and for the due performance of this our obligation we the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence bind ourselves and our heirs executors administrators and assigns as well as all our goods and effects as aforesaid jointly and severally in the penal sum of seven hundred thousand guilders Dutch currency In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this twenty-fourth day of November in the

thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the grace of God King of Great Britain France and Ireland Defender of the Faith &c. and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine

George Prince of Wales LS

Frederick LS

William Henry LS

Sealed and delivered being }
first duly stamped in the }
presence of

Hugh Watts

Joseph Schabracg

Notary Public

It is sufficient here to give a copy of the Bond, we could also give a copy of the Shares into which the Loan was divided, but being only in conformity to the condition of the Bond, we will not interrupt the reader's attention by so doing.

This Bond was sent to Holland by Mr. Goldsmid, who, in a short time, received the amount in bills, payable to his own order, which he discounted; and took the money to the Prince. His Royal Highness paid Mr. Goldsmid many compliments, and tendered him his services; but, said, as the Duke of York, who was to receive part of the money, was not present, he must beg Mr. Goldsmid's indulgence for the payment of his commission, till he had arranged the division

of the money with the Duke. Mr. Goldsmid, with great good humour, bowed and retired. The Duke of York hearing that the money was paid, ordered some of his creditors to attend him the next day, and went to Carleton House to receive his share. On his appearance, the Prince laughed heartily, and said jocosely, "What Fred, you have come for your share of the Dutch Loan, but it is all gone, not a guilder left for you." The Duke thought him in jest, and joined in the laugh, but when he found the money was indeed all gone, he is said to have given vent to his anger, in a torrent of abuse. Mr. Goldsmid being disappointed in the receipt of his commission, called on the gentleman who introduced him to the business, to seek redress thro', or from him, but all in vain; the Prince of Wales however kept his word strictly, in saying Mr. Goldsmid's commission should be paid when the money was shared with the Duke of York.

This transaction caused the ruin of the lenders, who sold the entire Bond in shares of a thousand guilders each, payable at their own house; to keep up their credit, for two years, they paid the interest themselves, but as they received no money from the Princes, they were driven to stop payment, and soon after became bankrupts. Before the last examination under their commission, the French entered Holland, and seized all their property, and as a part of it, the Princes' Bond, and

the Boas's are understood to have put a period to their existence, one by a pistol, the other by poison.

Some time after, Mr. Goldsmid was again applied to, by Mr. Watts, to negotiate another Loan on the Continent, to the utmost extent he could borrow, but Mr. Goldsmid declined dealing with Princes.

On the marriage of the Prince, commissioners were appointed to arrange his affairs, and to them shares of this Bond were presented, which they were obliged to reject. As the schedule presented to Parliament did not contain foreign contracts, the commissioners could not possibly pay them. Sir Charles Poole, Mr. Charles Bentinck, and many other gentlemen, have frequently applied both to the Princes, and to the commissioners, for the payment of their shares, but all in vain.

We shall now disclose a similar transaction, and detail the cruelties which, in the course of it, were exercised upon a set of creditors, whose only fault was that of being importunate in demanding payment of the securities they held.

A Dutch merchant, named John Jacques De Beaune, after being a bankrupt in Holland, where he had learned the particulars of the Loan made by Messrs. Boas at the Hague, wished to speculate himself on the security of the British Princes. He came to London, and hired a Counting-house, for six months, in Union Court, Broad Street, and

wrote a letter to Lord Moira, describing himself as a merchant in London, with great money connections; mentioned the loan at the Hague, and proposed to raise a large sum on the Continent on the same security. Lord Moira swallowed the bait, and being desirous to raise money for the Prince, wrote a polite reply, and desired a meeting, which took place on the 11th of May, 1790. His Lordship desired another meeting, and said he should in the interim consult the Prince of Wales, which he did, and the Prince expressed his wish to proceed in the business without delay. Lord Moira, at that time, was not much accustomed to money matters, and consulted with Mr. Thomas Hammersley, who met De Beaune on the subject, heard his proposal, and approved of it. The Loan was to be on the same principle as that negotiated in Holland with Messrs. Boas; several meetings took place between Lord Moira, Mr. Hammersley, Mr. Charles Bicknell, and Mr. De Beaune, to determine how the security should be made out.

It was at last settled, that a Bond for one hundred thousand pounds should be executed by the Prince of Wales, and the Dukes of York and Clarence, payable to De Beaune, and vesting in him a power to divide the sum into shares of one hundred pounds each, which, with a copy of the Bond, and under the signature of De Beaune, with the amount and number certified by a Notary Public, should be as binding on the Princes, as if executed

by themselves, and to these conditions they made liable themselves, their heirs, executors, goods, and effects, just as in the Bond to the Boas's. The original Bond was to remain in the bank of Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley, while an attested copy, with the bankers' acknowledgment that they held such an instrument in trust for De Beaune, were to be his credentials as the Princes' agent. The Bond is as follows:

“ Know all men by these presents that we George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence all being and residing in the City of Westminster in the Kingdom of Great Britain are jointly and separately justly and truly indebted unto Jean Jacque De Beaune or John James De Beaune of Union Court Broad Street in the City of London merchant in the sum of £100,000 sterling of good and lawful money of Great Britain well and truly advanced and paid to us as a loan by the said John James De Beaune which said £100,000 sterling we the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence covenant and agree by these presents to reimburse and pay to the said John James De Beaune his executors administrators or assigns or to any or either of them duly authorized to receive the same at or upon the time fixed for the payment thereof according to the conditions hereinafter mentioned and more especially stipulated and which are to be

held as binding to all intents and purposes as if they were inserted in these presents and to this effect we the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence engage and being ourselves jointly and separately and all and every of our respective revenues our goods effects and property in whatever place they may be situated or of whatever kind name title or description they may have of which we are now in possession or what we might hereafter become possessed In witness whereof we the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence have hereunto set our hands and seals this fifth day of June in the thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. and in the year of our Lord 1790

George Prince of Wales LS
 Frederick LS
 William Henry LS

Sealed and delivered by the above named George Prince of Wales and Frederick Duke of York (being first duly stamped) in the presence of

Charles Bicknell
Notary Public

Sealed and delivered by the above named William Henry Duke of Clarence in the presence of
 Charles Bicknell
Notary Public

“Whereas the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence have by the means of the within named John James De Beaune negotiated a Loan for the sum of £100,000 sterling of good and lawful money of Great Britain which Loan the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence have bound themselves to pay together with lawful interest for the same to the said John James De Beaune in consequence whereof we the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence hath by these presents entered into irrevocably to the following agreement That is to say that the condition of this obligation is such that the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence jointly and separately for themselves and their heirs executors and administrators doth covenant bargain and agree to well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said John James De Beaune or to his executors administrators and assigns the interest upon the said sum of £100,000 sterling after the rate of

five pounds per cent. per annum upon every hundred pounds for and during the term of twenty-five years to come to commence and be reckoned from the first day of July next ensuing after the date hereof and that the same interest shall continue to be paid half yearly that is to say on the first day of June and the first day of December in each year until the full end and expiration of the said twenty-five years and that the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence or their heirs executors and administrators shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said John James De Beaune or to his executors administrators and assigns the said mentioned sum of £100,000 sterling after the manner following that is to say one tenth part of the said sum on the fifth day of June in each and every of the years 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, over and above which the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence or their heirs executors or administrators shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid at the expiration of the term of twenty-five years to the said John James De Beaune or his heirs executors administrators or assigns all remaining interest that shall appear due on the said £100,000 in manner and form as hereinbefore mentioned that is to say on the first of June and first of December aforesaid in each year until the princi-

pal and interest shall be fully paid off without any abatement whatsoever and we the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence for ourselves and for our heirs executors and administrators shall from henceforth disclaim any pretext subterfuge or wager at law whereby or wherewith any advantage might or could be taken of these presents and we the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence doth hereby authorize and empower the said John James De Beaune to utter publish sell and in his own name to and under our authority to use his own signature in disposing and dividing into parts or portions of the said principal sum of £100,000 shares of £100 each and further that his receipt therefor signed by himself at the bottom of a printed copy of this our obligation shall be deemed a full acknowledgment of the consideration money to be received for the same and shall carry with it equal force and validity as if the same had been executed by ourselves in our own proper persons Provided always that such parts or portions as shall be sold shall not exceed in the whole the sum of £100,000 sterling and for which purpose when any share or shares shall be sold the same shall be registered in the office of some notary public of confidence who shall attest and register the same specifying the amount and number thereof and for the better and more

effectually confirming the conditions of this obligation we the said George Prince of Wales Frederick Duke of York and William Henry Duke of Clarence for ourselves jointly and separately and for our heirs executors and administrators respectively and jointly and severally and for each and every of them in due performance of these covenants we bind ourselves in the penal sum of £200,000 of good and lawful money of Great Britain in witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals the day and year first above written

George Prince of Wales LS
 Frederick LS
 William Henry LS

Sealed and delivered by the above named George Prince of Wales and Frederick Duke of York (being first duly stamped) in the presence of

Charles Bicknell
Notary Public

Sealed and delivered by the above named William Henry Duke of Clarence in the presence of

Charles Bicknell
Notary Public

Here it will be seen by the following letter, that the original Bond was deposited in trust, as we have already mentioned.

London, 14 June, 1790.

" SIR,

" We acknowledge to have in our
 " hands an Obligation, of which the paper annexed contains a notarial copy, which Obligation we acknowledge to hold in trust for you, to be delivered when you shall have fulfilled the conditions which are known to each of us, and when the original shall be delivered to you by us, you are to return us the present letter, and the present notarial copy of the said Obligation.

" We are

" Your

" Most obedient and most humble Servants,

" RANSOM, MORLAND, & HAMMERSLEY."

" To Mr. De Beaune,

" Union Court, Broad St.

" London."

To go into a detail of the occurrences of the several sums of money the Prince of Wales and his brothers borrowed upon the Continent by Bonds, would be too voluminous for an eighteen-penny pamphlet, consequently, for the present, we shall not even give room to the *honourable* Loan they made with the Prince of Hesse; how-

ever, the public will have enough to complain of presently, when paying the Prince of Wales's foreign debts, which now exceed two millions of money, principal and interest; for it is an established maxim with Parliament, on a King coming to the Throne of this Realm, to vote a sum of money for paying off his private debts, and the Prince of Wales will have more to boast of, on this head, on his coming to the Crown, than any of his predecessors, for the claims against him exceed nearly, if not altogether, one hundred times more than any other Prince before him ascending to his dignity.*

To facilitate Mr. De Beaune's plan, these bankers wrote a letter to their correspondent in Paris, Mr. Perregaux, and requested he would answer any questions which might be put to him; as by so doing he would oblige the Prince of Wales very much, who on any occasion, if in His Royal Highness's power, would very gladly return the favour. This letter was given to Mr. De Beaune, to deliver to Mr. Perregaux, as his introduction to that gentleman.

the copy
Soon after Mr. De Beaune obtained possession of this security, and letter, he set off for Paris, where he established himself, and appointed translators, clerks, and agents, in the most public manner. The French Revolution then wore a

* Redendi dicere verum quid vetat.

very serious aspect, troubles seemed increasing, and many of the French wished to leave their country till better times. As by remitting bills to England, they sustained a very heavy loss, the securities of the British Princes were eagerly purchased from Mr. De Beaune, by those who wished to emigrate, because these securities were not only considered more portable than specie, but they were purchased without discount, or course of exchange, and were considered perfectly good. The unfortunate French who had purchased them, and came hither, thought themselves perfectly safe in this country, but as they could not get any money paid on them, they were involved in great difficulty, and in consequence became very urgent and clamorous. The Duke of Portland was then secretary of state for the home department, and to him came many complaints from Carleton House, against such of the emigrants as were most troublesome and urgent in demanding their money. The Duke of Portland was very condescending, and lost no time in sending them out of the country, and landing them on the Continent. Twenty-six foreigners, who were creditors of the Princes', were sent out of England, though no charge was preferred against them. This was done under an Act passed in the 33d of the King, called the Alien Act. Out of the twenty-six foreign creditors of the Princes', so sent out of the country, we trace fourteen to the guillotine, and their deaths are

registered in the records of that machine. The twelve others were creditors under Boas's security, and as we cannot trace them any where to our satisfaction, we will not hint at what may have happened to them, but confine ourselves to what can be incontrovertibly proved.

Mr. Hammersley censured the conduct of De Beaune, as the Princes' agent, and consulted thereon with Lord Moira, and the Prince of Wales, on what steps should be taken, relative to the security he held in trust between the Princes and De Beaune. Lord Moira proposed to cancel the Bond, but Mr. Hammersley would not consent, unless he was indemnified; that indemnity was accorded him. He then requested that some other person might do the job, as it would not look well in him, being a trustee, to do it himself, accordingly it was arranged that Mr. William Adam should be the executioner. The Bond was cancelled at Burlington House, on the 16th of November, 1790, in presence of the Duke of Portland, not quite a month after Mr. Hammersley had received from Paris, through his correspondent, Mr. Perregaux, from Mr. De Beaune, diamonds estimated at £38,635 10s. in part payment of this Bond; which were sold by Mr. Judah Levey, a diamond broker, in the City, to advantage. The bill of parcels of the diamonds is here given, but translated from the French into English, and the currency reduced into sterling money, to be the better understood.

TRANSLATION.

Paris, 19th October, 1790.

To particulars of several parcels of Diamonds from No. 1, to 20, delivered this day to Mr. Perregaux, to be forwarded to Messrs. Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley, of London, Bankers, upon account of their Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, and the Duke of Clarence, in part consideration of their Bond to me, for one hundred thousand pounds sterling, bearing date 5th June, of this year.

No.	wt.	£	s.	£.	s.d.
1.	86 Brilliants, 78 Carrats, at	30	0	per Carrat,	2340 0 0
2.	62 Ditto . . , 54 ditto --	10	0	ditto . . .	540 0 0
3.	138 Ditto --	10	0	per stone .	1380 0 0
4.	478 Ditto --	4	0	ditto .	1812 0 0
5.	149 Pink Diamonds . . . --	30	0	ditto .	4470 0 0
6.	154 Brilliants --	8	0	ditto .	1232 0 0
7.	38 Ditto --	50	0	ditto .	1900 0 0
8.	101 Ditto --	30	0	ditto .	3030 0 0
9.	4 Ditto, large size . . . --	125	0	ditto .	500 0 0
10.	12 Ditto ditto --	150	0	ditto .	1800 0 0
11.	30 Ditto ditto --	100	0	ditto .	3000 0 0
12.	10 Ditto ditto --	60	0	ditto .	600 0 0
13.	12 Ditto ditto --	50	0	ditto .	600 0 0
14.	339 Rose Diamonds . . . --	10	10	each . . .	3559 10 0
15.	400 Ditto --	10	0	ditto . . .	4000 0 0
16.	250 Ditto --	10	0	ditto . . .	2500 0 0
17.	116 Ditto --	10	0	ditto . . .	1160 0 0
18.	60 Ditto --	6	10	ditto . . .	390 0 0
19.	122 Ditto --	5	0	ditto . . .	610 0 0
20.	760 Ditto --	4	5	ditto . . .	3230 0 0
					<u>£38635 10 0</u>

The other partners in the firm of Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley, not approving of the business, gave Mr. Hammersley notice that they should dissolve the partnership; a dissolution took place, and Mr. Hammersley embarked in a new concern, and opened another bank in Pall Mall.

Mr. Hammersley wished to get rid of the business, and applied to Mr. Perregaux, his correspondent at Paris, who had been privy to the whole affair,* and to whom De Beaune had carried letters. Mr. Perregaux, who was a member of the constituted Tribunal of La Conciergerie, which afterwards became the revolutionary Tribunal, thought he could check the whole business by consulting with Mr. William Huskisson, who was at that time Secretary to our Ambassador at Paris. These two gentlemen had many meetings on the subject, and at length determined on the apprehension of Mr. De Beaune, and his coadjutors in France, for treasonable practices; for which it was also determined they should suffer death. This being settled, Mr. De Beaune, and four of his associates were apprehended. While they were in prison, Mr. Perregaux had many conferences with his colleagues in this Tribunal, about

* Mr. Hammersley and Mr. Perregaux had been formerly clerks together, in the banking-house of Sir Robert Herries and Co. in St. James's Street, and after they became bankers themselves, they kept up a continued intimacy both in friendship and in business.

specifying such charges that their efforts should not fail.

The fourteenth of February, 1793, was the day fixed for the trial of Jean Jacques De Beaune, and his colleagues; Francis Romain Brichard, a notary public, in Paris, connected with De Beaune in negotiating the Princes' Bond; Francis Melivier, a clerk in De Beaune's office; John Baptiste Chaudot, a notary public, and formally De Beaune's partner; and John Paptiste Viette, a rich jeweller, who had purchased from De Beaune a hundred shares of the Bond; he was a man of large property and virtuous character. On that day, the prisoners were taken to the Hall of the Conciergerie, to be tried before Louis Francis Dumas, as President. When brought to the bar, no charge considered as a crime appeared against them, in the books of that department, which threw the Court into some confusion; but Mr. Perregaux had procured the attendance of Mr. Huskisson, a man well acquainted with the British criminal laws, and on whose judgment he could rely.* Mr. Huskisson rose in the Court,

* It was well understood in Paris that Mr. Huskisson took part with Mr. Perregaux, in this business, from an hatred he had to our Royal Family. Here he had a large field opened to his passion, which he ploughed and harrowed to the utmost of his anger, and therein sowed the bitterest seed that language could express against our Monarch and the heir to the British Crown.

and in an able impressive speech, developed the criminal laws of England. He described the charges against the prisoners, as coming under the heads of high treason, and fraud against the French nation; "The very Bond negotiated by "the prisoners" (said Mr. Huskisson to the Tribunal) "proves them to have acted treasonably "by the nation, and wears on the face of it infamy; it names the King of England as *your* "Monarch, and the deed pompously describes "him as King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland; this he considered treasonable, and submitted to them, whether after having executed, "only a few days before, Louis XVI. they could "suffer the British King to be constituted their "legitimate Monarch."* After Mr. Huskisson's observations, the Tribunal proceeded to the trial of the prisoners, and found them guilty of assisting the *British Princes* in a treasonable attempt to defraud the *French nation*. The Tribunal thanked Mr. Huskisson very warmly for his attendance and assistance, and ordered immediate

* Only nineteen days prior to the trial of these unhappy men, the unfortunate Monarch was guillotined, which influenced the members of the Tribunal La Conciergerie to be very attentive to Mr. Huskisson's language, which was recorded in the journals of their court, as a precedent, should others come before them on the same charge, which was daily expected from the vast number of the Princes' securities then in circulation upon the Continent.

execution of the prisoners, who were guillotined that day.*

We have stated the circumstances preceeding the Bond, and have given a history of that transaction; we will now state some of the occurrences that followed it, they are such as disgrace this nation, and seem almost incredible, but facts are stubborn, and such facts require no comment, to detail them only is sufficient to excite indignation.

Charles Henry Vaucher, a native of Berne, in Switzerland, commenced the business of a banker in Paris, some years before the French revolution, and quitted France in the year 1792, taking with him a large fortune, and leaving behind him a fair and honourable character. Amongst other speculations, he had purchased from De Beaune twenty shares of the *Princes' Bond*, which he brought with him when he came to reside in England; after having been a short time in this country, he married an English lady of great beauty and accomplishments, and took a handsome house in Durham Place, Chelsea, where he lived in the highest style.

* So very great was the apprehension of the National Assembly, that they held several meetings to prevent similar transactions, and found it necessary, for that purpose, to establish the Revolutionary Tribunal, which commenced its memorable proceedings on the 9th of March following, thirty-three days after De Beaune and his colleagues were executed. It thus appears the French nation are indebted to the British Princes for this infernal institution.

Mr. Vaucher called at Carleton House, and demanded payment of the interest of his shares of the Princes' Bond, and was referred to the bank of Messrs. Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley, when Mr. Hammersley advised him, if he was desirous of remaining in England, never again to make application for his money; because if he did, he would be sent out of the country, as many in his situation had been. This threat did not deter Mr. Vaucher from making another application at Carleton House, in which he was equally unsuccessful.

He then consulted Mr. Clark, of Clements Inn, who stated his case in proper form, for the opinion of Mr. Sergeant Shepherd, which opinion was given in the following words:

"I am of opinion that if Mr. Vaucher can prove that he actually advanced the money to Mr. De Beaune on the printed Bonds, and that the receipts thereon are signed by him, and registered according to their specification, he will be entitled to recover such part of the money as is at present due, according to the conditions.

"This Bond is not drawn up in the usual form of bond debts, so as the penalty becomes payable on the non-payment of the performance of the conditions, but the obligation covenants to pay the interest at £5 per cent. until 1806, and then part of the principal, and remainder at different periods. I also think, that if any action

"should be brought to recover, Messrs. Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley, will be bound to produce in evidence, the original security vested in their hands, in trust for the benefit of the Princes, and their creditors under that deed. But the clearest evidence will be necessary to produce, to maintain the facts, and to shew that there was not any collusion between De Beaune and Vaucher.

"J. SHEPHARD."

"2d September, 1794."

We annex to Mr. Serjant Shephard's opinion, another given by the Lord Chancellor, when Sir John Scott, and Solicitor General, upon a case laid before him, relative to other shares of the same Bond.

"I am of opinion, that the wording of this Bond does not lessen it in effect; or, can any advantage be taken of it, in point of law, on that head.

"The Princes acknowledge having received the consideration for it from De Beaune; they bind themselves to the due performance of whatever he might do in the premises, and also disclaim all manner of pretext, subterfuge, or wager at law, whereby any advantage might, or could be taken of it. Therefore, they cannot now revoke whatever De Beaune has done conformable with the tenor of the Bond.

“ Mr. Larpin cannot claim further than the interest due thereon, up to the first of December last, and to maintain an action at law, he will be bound to prove conformity of the conditions, and De Beaune’s having received the consideration for the parts, or shares, upon which he brings his action. Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley, or some one of them, on being subpoenaed, are bound, as trustees, to produce the Bond, as is also Mr. Charles Bicknell, to prove the Prince’s signature, as a subscribing witness thereto. But, Mr. Larpin must be careful of going before the Court with clean hands.

“ JNO. SCOTT.”

“ February 6, 1793.”

Soon after Mr. Serjeant Shephard’s opinion had been given, Mr. Clark had the case and opinion copied, which with a polite note, he sent to the Prince of Wales, assuring his Royal Highness, that it would be very much against Mr. Vaucher’s inclination to have recourse to legal measures, and expressing a hope that the Prince would render such measures unnecessary, by ordering the money due on his security, to be immediately paid. This communication caused several meetings between Mr. Clark, on the part of Mr. Vaucher, and Mr. Anstruther and Lord Cholmondley, on the part of the Prince. Mr. Clark, having a rich client, proceeded in the business, without considering his situation as an Alien, and in the

October following, renewed his application to the Prince of Wales, and added, that unless it were attended to, as the term was fast approaching, he must take such steps as would compel his Royal Highness to pay the amount. This preremptory proceeding caused the ruin of Mr. Vaucher, for on the 6th of that month, Mr. William Ross, one of the King’s messengers, received an official order for Mr. Vaucher, commanding him to quit England within four days. Mr. Vaucher having some affairs to settle, and being also bailed on several debts, the justice of which he denied, petitioned the Duke of Portland for leave to remain in England until their issue should be determined. He declared that his attorney had exceeded his orders, and expressed his willingness to give up to the Prince of Wales, or to destroy, the shares he held of De Beaune’s Bond; but his solicitations were in vain, for on the 11th of that month, a warrant was signed by the Duke of Portland, directing Mr. Ross, and Mr. George Higgins, another of the King’s messengers, to take Mr. Vaucher into custody, till he should be sent out of the kingdom. On the 15th, Mr. Vaucher was taken into custody, and on the 20th he was carried to Harwich, to be sent from thence to Rotterdam, where he arrived on the 23d.

The day after Mr. Vaucher was taken into custody, his wife, under a feigned name, got admitted to the Prince of Wales. She fell on her knees

before His Royal Highness, interceded for her husband's release, and presented to the Prince the debentures, to dispose of as he pleased, but her prayers availed not, her beauty, and her distress were alike disregarded. She presented also to His Royal Highness the trial and condemnation of De Beaune, and his colleagues; which soon after their unhappy fate had been sent to her husband; she appealed to his humanity as a man, to let the execution of these poor people operate on his feelings, and influence him not to deliver up her husband to the same laws, and to the same death. The Prince received, listened to, and left her. Unhappy wife! Still were your prayers, in vain, in vain was your appeal.

Mr. De Callone, once prime minister of France, who was one of Mr. Vaucher's bail, stated to the Duke of Portland his situation, and begged that Mr. Vaucher might be permitted to remain, only till his causes should be decided; but to his request he received a direct refusal, and was at the same time informed, that it was the particular wish of the Prince of Wales to have Mr. Vaucher immediately sent out of England. Fearing he should be liable for Vaucher's debts, he addressed a letter to the Prince of Wales, and renewed his request, but never received any answer.

Mr. De Callone was then advised by his solicitor, to bring Mr. Vaucher by a Habeas Copus before a judge. But Lord Kenyon rejected the

application, and in an angry manner expressed his disapprobation of Vaucher's conduct, in being troublesome to any one of the Royal Family. Poor Vaucher, about fourteen months after his arrival on the Continent, was apprehended, taken to Paris, and thrown into prison, where he remained till the 22d of December, 1795, on which day he was tried on the same charges as De Beaune, found guilty, and was guillotined before night.

In Michaelmas term, 1794, Vaucher's creditors ruled the Sheriff of Middlesex to bring in the body, which could not be done, consequently the Court of King's Bench was moved for an attachment against the Sheriff. About the same time Mr. Clark moved the Court of King's Bench to shew cause why Vaucher's bail should not be exonerated, as that gentleman was sent out of the country under the Alien Act, and by a warrant from the Secretary of State. The question was ably argued before Lord Kenyon, on behalf of Vaucher's bail, by Messrs. Erskine, Garrow, Shephard, and Best; and the bail was exonerated. It does not appear that the Court knew of the motive for sending Vaucher out of the country.

When Vaucher quitted this country, he left in the hands of his attorney the Princes' securities, who have been frequently applied to for payment, but from that day, to the present, they have refused to pay one shilling; and all applications made to them on the subject, would have been as

much noticed had they been made to the apostolic statues on St. Paul's church.

The cruelties exercised in England on Vaucher, and other creditors under De Beaune's bond, are unparalleled by any act of the Bourbon Princes, during the reign of that family; against whom many charges have been made, but none of a nature so flagitious as this. Certainly they committed some excesses, but none of them have been charged with excessive cruelties, in getting their tradesmen banished, or in getting them arrested by letters de cachét, to evade the payment of their debts; yet, the consequences even of what they did, afford a lesson to Princes, of how dangerous it is to render themselves obnoxious to the people.

In the early part of the French revolution, Mr. Daniel Lovell, a warehouseman of great eminence in the City, gave very large credit to a merchant named Mark Allegre Bennet. At the expiration of the time for which he had given credit, Mr. Lovell became urgent for his money. As Mr. Bennet was a foreigner, and as the affairs of the Continent wore a very bad appearance, Mr. Lovell determined to settle accounts, and to decline all further business with him. Mr. Bennet was not very well prepared for the demand made on him, but to settle his account in the best manner he was able, he made over to Mr. Lovell various securities in his possession, and amongst them were

forty-nine shares of the Princes' bond to De Beaune. Mr. Lovell, soon after he obtained them, applied at Carleton House for the interest due on them, but without success. He persuaded a friend to call frequently at Carleton House, and importune for payment, who was at length questioned by a servant about what part of the Continent Mr. Lovell came from; on making known that Mr. Lovell was an Englishman, he was referred to the bank of Messrs. Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley. He went to the bank, where Mr. Hammersley told him a long story, which he concluded by saying, that the Prince of Wales had been defrauded by De Beaune, that His Royal Highness never meant to pay one shilling on that security, and that he even intended to prosecute for conspiracy, all who had purchased shares of it. Such was the language of Mr. Hammersley.

This threat so much intimidated Mr. Lovell, that he laid aside his claim for a long period, but being at length informed that Parliament had three times been applied to, for the discharge of the Prince's debts, he supposed his demand had been introduced; for he knew not how carefully the Post Obit, and foreign debts were concealed. Mr. Lovell became at last impatient, and by the recommendation of his attorney, laid his case before counsel for opinion, who advised a bill in equity against the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of York and Clarence, as well as a bill against Mr.

Morland, and Mr. Hammersley, the survivors of the late firm of Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley. The bill was filed, and the Princes' were fully charged therein, with granting the Bond for £100,000 to De Beaune, and with placing the same in the bank of Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley, for the benefit of those who had shares of it; and setting forth that Mr. Lovell was entitled to the same benefit as other creditors. The prayer of the bill was in the words following:

“ That the Defendants may answer the premises,
 “ and that Plaintiff may be entitled to the benefit
 “ of the said bond, or obligation, as a security for
 “ the amount of the several shares, or proportions
 “ of the said sum of £100,000, for which Plaintiff
 “ holds such rations, or shares, from the said John
 “ James De Beaune, or by his assignment as
 “ aforesaid, and that an account may be taken,
 “ by and under the direction of this honourable
 “ Court, of what is due on the several shares, or
 “ actions, as aforesaid, as well principal money
 “ as interest, under and by virtue of the said
 “ bond or obligation for £100,000, and the said De-
 “ fendants, their Royal Highnesses George Prince
 “ of Wales, Frederick Duke of York, and William
 “ Henry Duke of Clarence, may be directed to
 “ pay the Plaintiff, what on taking said account,
 “ shall be found to be due to the Plaintiff thereon,
 “ and that the said bond, or obligation, shall be

“ deposited for safe custody in the hands of one
 “ of the Masters of this honourable Court, or
 “ of some other person to be named by this ho-
 “ nourable Court, that Plaintiff may have the
 “ benefit thereof, and may stand in the place of
 “ the said John James De Beaune under the said
 “ bond, or obligation, to the extent of Plaintiff's
 “ said securities, and that Plaintiff may have such
 “ other relief in the premises, as the case may
 “ require, &c. &c.”

This bill was fully answered by the Princes, by William Morland, and Thomas Hammersley, who all admitted every allegation made by Mr. Lovell. The Princes reserved for themselves, all manner of benefit and advantage of exception, which can or may be taken to any errors, uncertainties, or imperfections in Mr. Lovell's bill.

The Princes in their answer to Mr. Lovell's bill, admit every thing set forth in it; they allow the issuing the bond to De Beaune, the depositing it in trust for whoever might purchase any shares of it. They admit De Beaune's authority to parcel the bond into shares of £100 each, and his power to negotiate it on the Continent, or wherelse he pleased, to the full amount of the £100,000. They admit ordering the original bond to be cancelled, and that they believe it was cancelled, for that on or about the 16th of November, 1790, the bond was delivered by the trustees, or one of

them, to the Duke of Portland, and to Mr. William Adam, for that purpose, who tore off the seals, and then again deposited it, in that state, in the hands of Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley.

William Morland, and Thomas Hammersley, in their answer to Mr. Lovell's bill, state that on the 15th day of November, 1790, they received a note from the Duke of Portland, saying that he had that evening received a letter from Captain Payne, informing him that Mr. Hammersley had been directed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, to take the bond intended for De Beaune, to Burlington House, for the purpose of its being cancelled in the Duke of Portland's presence.

Mr. Hammersley states, that in consequence of such authority from the Prince of Wales, and the note from the Duke of Portland, he took with him the next day, to Burlington House, the said bond for £100,000, and that after the bond had been read over to the Duke of Portland, it was handed to Mr. William Adam, and that gentleman cancelled it, by tearing off the seals, that in this mutilated condition it was returned to him, and that in his possession it still remains, as a paper belonging to the firm of Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley, which he is ready to produce, by any order from the Court of Chancery. Mr. Morland, and Mr. Hammersley, confirm every thing set forth in Mr. Lovell's Bill, they confess becoming trustees, and receiving the bond for the

benefit of all parties, and acknowledge the letter to De Beaune, copied and contained in each of the shares of £100, uttered by him as the Princes' agent.*

For the sake of accuracy only, we will here state, in reference to the bonds granted by the three Princes, to the Boas's, and to De Beaune, that by an act 22d, Geo. II. C. 3. S. 8. it is made illegal for any of the Royal Family of this kingdom to borrow money out of the realm; and we will further remark, that if illegal in them, it is highly culpable in all who assist them in doing so. For a time we will quit the Princes, and point out their coadjutors. We find, as the most ostensible among them; Lords Moira and Dundas, Mr. Hammersley and Mr. W. Adam. Lord Moira may say that he is a soldier, and not a lawyer; that he regarded only the interest of the Prince, and that though he was privy to the various securities, he saw no harm in them. How will Lord (at that time, Sir Thomas) Dundas account for

* Mr. Hammersley's confession does not prove that he acted as a fair and honourable trustee, and we are the more inclined to credit that he kept to himself all the diamonds De Beaune sent from Paris, through Mr. Perregaux, for the Prince of Wales, on account of this bond. Indeed Mr. Morland's answer to Lovell's bill, does not add lustre to his reputation, and the share holders could very well maintain an indictment for conspiracy against the Princes, the Trustees, and Mr. William Adam.

his conduct? He was an abettor, and an active agent; he sought Mr. Watts, and he aided in executing the Dutch loan; expecting by his attention to the Princes' money negotiations, to be raised, as he has been, from the rank of a baronet to that of a peer. Mr. W. Adam, as a lawyer of great eminence, the chancellor of the duchy of Cornwall, and as the Prince's friend, should have advised His Royal Highness not to execute any such securities, as either post obit bonds, or foreign contracts, yet Mr. Adam contributed his share of the business to carry them into effect. Upon the conduct of Mr. Hammersley, it is not here necessary to make any remark, we will only state, that the high disapprobation felt by Ransom and Morland, at his share of the transaction, caused them to dissolve the partnership of the bank.

The bill, and the answer to it, have produced to the public a great deal of very extraordinary matter, and created considerable interest. But all that was then discovered, amounted to very little more than the litigation of a debt; pains were taken, and successfully taken, to prevent any of that nefarious conduct which sacrificed the lives of the foreign creditors, from reaching the public ear. Even when the exoneration of Vaucher's bail was argued, in the Court of King's Bench, the Court knew only that Vaucher had been sent out of the country by a warrant from the Secretary

of State; the Court unacquainted with the real cause, supposed him sent away as a dangerous character. The whole history of these transactions, circumstantially detailed, and incontrovertibly advanced, is now for the first time, produced. The facts have slept, but are not forgotten; nor can they be, while the claims of justice are unsatisfied, while humanity continues outraged, and while atonement is withheld from the widows and orphans of the guillotined creditors. Perhaps there never came into any Court, a debt so incurred, so unjustly opposed, or of so extraordinary a nature; both in the transactions that preceded, and in those that followed it, in its whole history, its rise and progress, as well as in its litigation. The British Princes, by their proceedings in the business, appear as if the laws of England had no authority over them, as if they could at their pleasure contract debts, or commit their names to paper, to bind themselves with every legal solemnity, and then, in defiance of all law, and all justice, discharge them by a command to their own servant to destroy what they have so signed. But, tearing off the seals from the bond does not vitiate the claims of the creditors, because reference may be had to the records of the Court; and the bill and the answers to it filed therein, between the Princes, Mr. Lovell, and the Bankers, would be evidence sufficient to convict all the Defendants of fraud.

A great part of those who hold shares under De Beaune's bond, are Frenchmen, who fearing the fate of Vaucher, Racine, and others, dare not claim the money due to them; and such Englishmen as possess them, do not like any opposition to the Princes in a court of justice.

We do not wish to remark on these transactions, we are content to state them; we think it a duty to the public to do so much, but we are not at all desirous of holding up the conduct of the Princes to reprehension more marked than necessary. The Parliament that has three times come forward to discharge the debts of the Prince of Wales, may yet discuss and probe to the bottom, a business which calls so loudly for their interference. The Parliament has been three times deceived by schedules, which concealed the Post Obit, and the foreign Bonds. Why these debts were concealed is best known to His Royal Highness, but a Post Obit Bond for £30,000, a Bond for 350,000 guilders, and another for £100,000, besides the Hession and other debts, are not such items in an account as escape the memory; but be the cause what it may, these three sums never appeared in any schedule laid before the Parliament, though so much confidence was due to a generous nation. The Prince of Wales had better thrown himself on the liberality of the British people, than evade the payment of such debts in the disgraceful manner he has adopted. But unfortunately for

the Prince himself, and for the honour of this country, these debts were concealed, the creditors were defrauded, the Parliament was deceived, and the Heir Apparent to the Throne of England criminated and disgraced.

We dwell with pain on a subject, which nevertheless we cannot yet quit, we wish to uphold Royalty, not to load it with contempt, and have learned these particulars with the greatest regret. The character and conduct, of the Prince of Wales become every day more important, and it is every day more and more necessary, that the people should have a just idea of those to whom they have delegated the right to govern them. The experience of the last few years carries an awful lesson to Princes, and should teach them that their authority rests most securely on retaining the good opinion of the people; the downfall, and the present condition of the Bourbons present a terrible example of the consequences which result to Princes from extravagance, from an unprincipled accumulation of debts, from undisguised profligacy, from injustice to individuals, and from neglect of the people: by such means we have seen the oldest Throne in Europe subverted.

The Heaven vicegerency of Kings is an idea now completely gone by, the world is more enlightened, and we are no longer blinded by the splendour of royalty, but view Princes, through

the tinsel that surrounds them. Their splendid insignia, and their elevated situation, which gives some additional lustre to their virtues, also afford a light by which their vices are seen in full blazonry, and whilst we have learned to estimate Princes with more exactness, they have learned that their authority is from, and for the people, and the knowledge on one side is not more salutary than the lesson on the other. Our most sincere wish is, that the British Princes may benefit by what they have seen, that their amendment may be in time, and that they may consider this exposition only as a well intended effort, by shewing them their errors, to confess their reformation. Let them believe, that if we "speak daggers, we use none," and though our reproof may be a severe one, that we are "cruel only to be kind."

We shall conclude our honest endeavours for their advantage, and our "unvarnished tale" by the following letters, from a creditor under the Bond to De Beaune.

"To His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

"SIR,

"I wish to believe the Heir Apparent to the British Throne, unacquainted with the extent of the injustice to which inconsiderate transactions have given rise; transactions such as can scarcely occur in civilized society, much less in a free country.

"I cannot believe that a Prince of that ancient and illustrious line from which your Royal Highness springs, could have deliberately reflected on the miserable situation to which those poor emigrants were reduced, who had vested the last remains of their fortune in the debentures of your Royal Highness, and your brothers of York and Clarence; when I say, sir, that I cannot believe you reflected on this, I mean that it gives me great pain to perceive, what facts render too probable.

"Let your Royal Highness but consider the miserable refugee, who has lost nearly his all, through attachment to the cause of royalty in his own country, who has been compelled to take refuge in this, and who has vested the small remains of his property in the debentures of the Princes of England, relying fully on their honour. He vainly hopes though democratic persecution has deprived him of affluence, and driven him from his native land, that royal honour, and justice, will at last insure him a subsistence in Britain, the asylum of the unfortunate, the protector of the oppressed. Think, Sir, what pangs such a man must feel, when he finds those very claims on which his hopes were founded, subjecting him to be once more exiled; not as he had been, for loyalty to the King, but as a sort of felon, a convicted jacobine, and why? because he placed confidence

“ in the Princes of the most illustrious family in
“ Europe.

“ Deign, royal Sir, in your splendid palace,
“ under your canopies of state, whether they are
“ of Grecian, of Egyptian, of Turkish, or of
“ Chinese architecture, whether they have been
“ paid for, or have caused ruin to the credulous
“ artist; deign I say, royal Sir, to reflect on the
“ justice and misery of which you and your bro-
“ thers are the cause.

“ Robespere, and Marat, though atrocious,
“ were not quite such execrable monsters as
“ Cuthon, Collet, and Finiville; the former were
“ the cause of murders, but they murdered on an
“ abstract principle of mistaken expediency, whilst
“ their agents indulged themselves in the agonies
“ of the indurable sufferers. To some it may be a
“ consolation not to be the worst of bad men; and
“ if it be, may your Royal Highness enjoy that
“ consolation in its fullest extent.

“ There yet remains one mode of diminishing
“ the error, to obliterate it is impossible: it is for
“ your Royal Highness to shun all who advised,
“ and abetted the iniquity. Can one be pardoned
“ and retain the offence at the same time? If any
“ of the victims remain, hasten to grant them
“ such repentant justice as can be still offered.
“ Balance no longer between the smile of para-
“ sites, the laughter of buffoons, the glittering of
“ a gilded cornice; and the smiles of a guiltless

“ conscience. They are not equal, they are not
“ to be compared.

“ They who have led you into this error, will
“ with a hardened front assert, that the holder of
“ your securities were bad and dangerous men;
“ if some of them were, all were not, yet there
“ was not any distinction made. It is a poor
“ pretext, and will not avail the royal proprietor
“ of Carleton House, and if it could, even that
“ pretext is wanting.

“ I am not one of those modern, moral calcu-
“ lators, who are ready to sacrifice the individual
“ man to the many, nor do I exactly profess those
“ old exploded principles, that would sacrifice
“ the many to the man; but I confess I tremble
“ at the reflection, that respect for hereditary right
“ is nearly over. To their virtues and qualifica-
“ tions, Princes must now look chiefly for attach-
“ ment and support. Therefore, Sir, I say I trem-
“ ble when I reflect on this, and at the same time
“ recal the transactions recorded in the foregoing
“ narrative. My faculties are then as if they
“ were absorbed, and I can only pray fervently
“ of Heaven, long to preserve your Royal High-
“ ness to reign over a loyal and affectionate people.
“ A sincere wish remains, it is, that your Royal
“ Highness may reflect on these truths, that you
“ may alter your way of thinking, and of acting;
“ and that you may no longer be either the dupe,
“ the companion, or the confederate of such per-

“ sons as have born conspicuous parts in this ter-
“ rible tragedy.”

“ *To Messrs. Ransom, & Morland,*

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ When you now act in a corporate, or in an
“ individual capacity, still you must remember,
“ as the public do, how you were situated when
“ the transactions took place that are here sub-
“ mitted in a more diffuse, and a more authentic
“ manner than before.

“ You may portion out amongst yourselves the
“ culpability, and lay what part of it you will on
“ your former associate,* who cannot contradict
“ you from the silent grave. That associate has
“ taken refuge in the narrow house, but you must
“ be liable, while you remain on this mortal stage,
“ to reproaches that bear doubly, for you have de-
“ graded the Princes you pretended to serve,
“ and you have persecuted those whose delusion
“ and ruin you laboured to accomplish.

“ Can you, Gentlemen Bankers, excuse your-
“ selves to the British nation, for aiding your So-
“ vereign's sons in a transaction illegal in itself?
“ Did you not assist in sending into exile, those
“ who demanded payment of the obligation which
“ you aided in creating, and which chiefly ob-
“ tained credit by your means. Did you not suf-

* Thomas Hammersley.

“ fer to be destroyed the instrument that was de-
“ posited in your house in trust? Your corres-
“ spondence with Mr. Perregaux was sufficiently
“ active during the first two years that De Beaune
“ was in Paris.

“ Had any unfortunate man in Paris, attempted
“ to rob your house of a single hundred pounds,
“ you would have been alive to his detection, and
“ eager for his punishment; but the case was dif-
“ ferent, and while any hope of profit remained,
“ you suffered the business to proceed; and in his
“ section of mont marte, that active republican,
“ Perregaux, was silent; but when the tide turned,
“ when the evil was done, your virtuous revolu-
“ tionary correspondent applied to that sovereign
“ remedy, the guillotine, and even the man of
“ straw, Van Merle, the Notary, De Beaune, and
“ others, perished on the scaffold, whilst the
“ bloody Macbeth looked on and exclaimed.
“ ‘Thou canst not say I did it.’ The murderer
“ of Duncan, was indeed a great criminal, but he
“ was not like your Jacobin correspondent, a
“ modern Philosopher. Death was not then held
“ to be an eternal sleep. Modern times have pro-
“ duced monsters in a human form, and you,
“ Messrs. Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley,
“ have had the honour of corresponding with one
“ of the worst. The polished, but atrocious mo-
“ ney getting Perregaux, transformed into a
“ member of the revolutionary committee, was one

“ of the active providers for the guillotine, and
 “ never more assiduous, than when any innocent
 “ victim was to bleed; whether a Duc De Cha-
 “ telet,* or a De Beaune, or any other associate in
 “ former depredations; you would have profited
 “ by these deep crimes, without any participation
 “ in them, had you not been active with the Alien
 “ Act in this country. In any other age than the
 “ present, such things could not have happened.

“ You have unfortunately been the agents in
 “ these affairs of iniquity, but it is at least a ne-
 “ cessary attonement, that you should not again
 “ approach the Princes whom you have contri-
 “ buted to disgrace. You are not ignorant that
 “ nearly all the Princes of the Continent have
 “ been ruined by bad counsellors, who have led
 “ them into error, who have alineated them from
 “ the affection of their subjects, and then left
 “ them bare and naked to the attack of their
 “ enemies.

* When the Duc De Chatelet was to be guillotined, he offered 200,000 livers for his life. “Where is the money?” said the butchers, “in the hands of Perregaux,” said the Duke. “No,” replied the Banker, “guillotine the Impostor.”

The citizen Perregaux got money by every mode he could, he even went shares with the Hotel keepers, to whom he recommended English gentlemen on their arrival at Paris. But he gained the most by furnishing them with plate-glass from the Royal Manufactory, which he purchased at two years credit, with an allowance of twenty per cent. and sold for ready money.

“ As the time fast approaches, when you will
 “ find that death is an eternal sleep, when you
 “ must leave your mahogany counters, and your
 “ plate-glass windows, to visit the tomb of all the
 “ capulets; let no time be lost for reflecting on
 “ the part you have acted, and for craving the
 “ mercy of our Creator above.

“ I am, &c. &c.”

ERRATA,

- Page vi, 8th line, for *claimants*, read “claimants.”
 12, 29th line, for *Carlton*, read “Carleton.”
 14, 13th line, for *parcelled*, read “parceled.”
 24, 18th line, for *inregister*, read “register.”
 46, 8th line, for *subponied* read “subponaed.”
 50, 5th line, for *unparalalled* read “unparalalled.”
 64, 5th line, for *When*, read “Whither.”

THE END.

As the time that approaches when you will
and that death is an eternal sleep when you
must leave your material countenance and your
plain-glass windows to visit the tomb of all the
capitulate; let not time be lost for reflecting on
the part you have acted, and for craving the
mercy of our Creator above.

"I am, &c. &c."

THE
MARCH 1807,

THE

PRINTED BY J. SMITH, 5, GREEN-LETTICE LANE, CANNON STREET.

IN THE PRESS,
And on Monday, 21st of June, next, will be published.

THE
First Chap. of Revelations:
OR,
THE MEANS EXERCISED
BY
The late Right Honourable Spencer Perceval,
Lord Liverpool, and Lord Eldon,
IN
MARCH 1807,
FOR
GAINING INFLUENCE,
AND
Raising Themselves into Power.

*This Work discloses what is but little known, what ought to be known,
and shall be known, and then let the Nation see into it.*

Finis Coronat opus.

LONDON;

Printed and published by J. Smith, 5, Green-lettice Lane,
Cannon Street.

IN THE PRESS,
And on Monday, 28th June, next, will be published.

AN ANALYSIS
OF
The Delicate Investigation,

WHEREIN WILL BE INTRODUCED
Those parts of the Evidence that were not included in

“THE BOOK;”

TOGETHER WITH
SEVERAL THREATENING LETTERS,
WRITTEN BY
MR. PERCEVAL TO THE KING,
IN MARCH, 1807,

AS FROM
The Princess of Wales,
Whereby it will be seen in what Darkness the Public have been kept

UPON
THE CATHOLIC QUESTION, AND THE BOOK,
IN THAT MONTH.

Verbum Sapienti Sat est.

LONDON:
Printed and published by J. SMITH, 5, Green-lettice Lane,
Cannon Street.

Nobilitas Sola Atque Unica Virtus.

Actuellement chez l'Imprimeur et sera publié le Lundi, 13 Juis, prochain.

Le Criterium Royal :

OU

RÉCIT DES TRANSACTIONS

RELATIF AUX

EMPRUNTS FAIT A LONDRES,

PAR

Le Prince de Galles, Duc d'York, Duc d'Clarence,

ET

LEURS CONSEILLERS ;

QUI ONT ETE EN

NEGOCE SUR LE CONTINENT,

AVEC

Des Détails extraordinaire du traitement et des Souffrances individuelles des malheureuses Etrangers qui ont été Guillotinés ;

AYANT

Été obligés de quitter l'Angleterre sous l'acte Aubain pour avoir réclamé l'Interet due sur les actions ou portions des Emprunts qu'ils avoient achetés.

Extrait de la Lettre du Prince de Galles au Roi, sur ses prétentions Militaires, datée du 23 Août, 1803.

“ Dans ces tems, Sire, si malheureuses, la conduite des Princes est discutée par tout le Monde avec un œil de jalousie, et de malignité. Nul homme ne prévoit plus que moi l'existence d'une telle disposition, et nul homme n'est donc plus déterminé de se placer au dessus des soupçons.”

Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur ab illis.

Cet Œuvre se vendra aux Premiers Bibliothèques à Paris et dans tous les chefs des Departments de la France.

