

Enclosure

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289]

[290

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

**LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.**—Upon seeing this named, the reader will, of course, anticipate some fresh account of the workings of Informations Ex-Officio; he will anticipate a peep into some jail or other, to which the exercise of this liberty has conveyed some unfortunate man. How agreeably will he be disappointed, then, when he finds, that, for once, the use of this liberty has paved the way to riches and honours!—The following letters were published in the *Times* news-paper a few days ago, as extracted from a news-paper, published at Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk.—It appears, that a *Mr. Benjafield*, who is now A MAGISTRATE in Suffolk, was once a part proprietor and sole editor of that famous news-paper, the *MORNING POST*; that, during the last year, having previously quitted the trade of paragraph-grinding, and being resident in Suffolk, he found it necessary to obtain from Lord Moira a letter stating that he, Benjafield, did not enjoy any annuity from the *Prince of Wales*. Why he should ask for such a letter the reader will see by-and-by, but, he got the letter; and, he appears to have shown it to the people in his neighbourhood, or, at least, the contents of Lord Moira's letter became public.—The date of that letter is not mentioned; but, on the 16th of January last, Lord Moira, finding that he had been deceived when he wrote the former letter, recalled that former letter, in a public manner, by addressing another letter to a Mr. J. ORD, a Clergyman, who, it seems, is Chairman of the Sessions at Bury St. Edmunds, though it does appear strange that a person charged with the *cure of souls* should be able to devote so much of his time to matters relating wholly to this world. To this Mr. ORD, however, his Lordship addresses a letter, in which he states, that he has now found out, that Mr. Benjafield had, and still has, AN ANNUITY FROM THE PRINCE OF WALES, granted to him in consideration of his giving up his share in the *Morning Post*!—Very well. So far so good; but then

comes another letter to Mr. ORD from a person of the name of COCKSEGE, who develops the whole history of the annuity in a very ample way. This is sufficient in the way of preface. I shall now insert the letters. The *first* is from the Rev. Dr. Ord to the Editor of the Bury Paper; the *second* from Lord Moira to Dr. Ord; and the *third* from Mr. Cocksege to Dr. Ord.

DR. ORD TO THE EDITOR OF THE BURY PAPER.

“SIR—As Mr. Benjafield has been pleased to publish a part of one of the two letters which, under the directions of my brother Magistrates, I read to them at our last Quarter Sessions, I conceive it to be incumbent upon me to request you to insert in your next paper the whole of both those letters; of which, by the permission of Lord Moira and Captain Cocksege, and at Mr. Benjafield's express desire, I sent him authenticated copies.  
“*Fournham, Feb. 21.* J. ORD.”

LORD MOIRA TO DR. ORD.

“*London, Jan. 16, 1812.*  
“A disagreeable circumstance lays me under the necessity of soliciting permission to trespass upon you with this letter.—Some time ago Mr. Benjafield (then perfectly unknown to me) applied to me, to ascertain the point whether or not he received an annuity from the Prince of Wales. He said he had been charged with having extorted an annuity from his Royal Highness for the suppression of attacks which he was about to bring forward; an imputation which he negatived with the most earnest professions, advancing in proof of his denial the assertion, that he never had any annuity from the Prince. I considered investigation of this matter to be involved in that engagement of anomalous services, which I, with others of the Council of his Royal Highness, had spontaneously entered into, when, to prevent the expence to the public of any establishment for the Prince Regent dur-  
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ing the year of restrictions, we desired  
 that we might officiate as his State  
 Household. I made due inquiry ac-  
 cordingly; but, as the transaction to  
 which this referred, was of a date earlier  
 than that at which I began to have any  
 knowledge of the Prince's affairs, there  
 was nothing to lead me to any other  
 question than, whether Mr. Benjafield  
 had at any time received an allowance  
 or annuity from the Prince? The an-  
 swer was, that no record or trace of such  
 allowance or annuity appeared. I was  
 naturally satisfied with this statement,  
 because it was what I had expected,  
 both from Mr. Benjafield's assertion to  
 me, and from my having always sup-  
 posed WELTJE the purchaser of the  
 shares in THE MORNING POST on a  
 speculation of his own. On this ground I  
 confidently furnished Mr. Benjafield  
 with my testimony against the accusa-  
 tion under which he laboured. Subse-  
 quent informations have guided me to  
 proof, that Mr. Benjafield has been re-  
 ceiving (and is still in the receipt of) an  
 annuity, which is essentially, though  
 not in absolute form, what he has been  
 charged with having obtained. He re-  
 ceives from Mr. Tattersall an annuity,  
 which is paid to the latter by the Com-  
 missioners for liquidating the Prince's debts.  
 I have, therefore, written to Mr. Benja-  
 field to say that I must have back a tes-  
 timonial, by which I unwittingly vouch  
 for what is in substance not true; but  
 as he told me that his object was to ex-  
 hibit that testimonial to his BROTHER  
 MAGISTRATES, and as I have reason  
 to believe he has shewn it widely, it is  
 incumbent on me, by this explanation,  
 to prevent my name's contributing fur-  
 ther to a misunderstanding of the case.—  
 That Mr. Benjafield's name was not on  
 any schedule or list as a creditor of the  
 Prince, is indisputable. It is equally  
 certain that the Prince did not know of  
 any pecuniary transaction with Mr. Ben-  
 jafield, the business with WELTJE  
 having clearly been managed at the  
 time by persons indiscreetly officious,  
 though at the Prince's expence. From  
 these facts candour exacts the construc-  
 tion, that Mr. Benjafield has acted upon  
 the presumption that the persons osten-  
 sibly bound to him were those with  
 whom the transaction really rested.  
 While I admit this, I cannot withhold  
 my censure upon the manner in which  
 I have become so unpleasantly impli-

cated. I am entitled to say, that Mr.  
 Benjafield's want of caution in making  
 those assertions which unavoidably led  
 to my error, without his having pre-  
 viously satisfied himself on circum-  
 stances involving obvious doubt, ought  
 to give him serious regret.—I have the  
 honour, Sir, to be,—Your very obedient  
 and humble servant.

MOIRA."

Rev. Dr. Ord,

Chairman of the Sessions, Bury.

MR. COCKSEGE TO DR. ORD.

Bury St. Edmunds, 20th Jan. 1812.

Rev. Sir,—Having received informa-  
 tion that Lord Moira has addressed a  
 letter to you, in your official capacity as  
 Chairman of the Sessions, for the pur-  
 pose of recalling through a public chan-  
 nel a letter from Mr. Benjafield, which  
 he had obtained from his Lordship, in  
 order to rebut the assertion which I  
 have made in the proceedings in a  
 Chancery suit, with respect to the an-  
 nuity which he enjoys being derived  
 from an High Personage, and with the  
 privity of Mr. Benjafield.—I feel it be-  
 comes me to state to yourself and the  
 Bench, that in consequence of Mr. Ben-  
 jafield's having obtained and shewn this  
 letter to this town and the neighbour-  
 hood, as exculpating him from the  
 charge, I held myself called upon more  
 minutely to investigate and collect the  
 evidence upon which I considered the  
 circumstance to rest.—I began the en-  
 quiry by resorting to the executors of  
 the late Mr. Tattersall, and their solici-  
 tor (a channel to which Mr. Benjafield  
 did not direct his Lordship, and yet ap-  
 parently the most likely to decide the  
 fact, of the annuity being merely the  
 debt of Tattersall only, or of some other  
 and higher personage), and from thence  
 I carried it to those who were imme-  
 diately concerned in the conduct of the  
 transaction. In the course of this in-  
 quiry it resulted that in consequence of  
 the paragraphs in *The Morning Post*,  
 relative to a *High Personage and a cer-  
 tain untitled Lady*, Mr. Benjafield, who  
 had the sole conduct of the paper, was  
 threatened to be PROSECUTED; that  
 finding he was not to be alarmed, it be-  
 came necessary TO BUY HIM OUT;  
 that he was accordingly BOUGHT  
 OUT; and that Mr. Benjafield knew it  
 was a transaction with a High Per-  
 sonage; and the terms having been con-  
 sidered as grossly exorbitant, such High

“ Personage was particularly spoken to on  
 “ the subject, but desired that they should be  
 “ acceded to.—That Mr. Benjafield has  
 “ been lately negotiating for the exchange  
 “ of his annuity for A PLACE UNDER  
 “ GOVERNMENT, with the gentlemen  
 “ who, on the part of such High Personage,  
 “ gave a bond in the penalty of 10,000*l.*  
 “ to Tattersall, to indemnify him; that  
 “ places had been offered to him, but not ac-  
 “ cepted; this fact alone carries conviction  
 “ with it.—It was also ascertained from  
 “ one of the Executors of the late  
 “ Mr. Tattersall, and from his solicitor,  
 “ that upon being informed that, as exe-  
 “ cutors, they must deduct the property  
 “ tax, he said he should complain to a  
 “ higher power.—The above is the general  
 “ result of the inquiry which I have insti-  
 “ tuted; I will not trouble you with a  
 “ farther detail at the moment, but I re-  
 “ serve to myself the adoption of such far-  
 “ ther publication of the affair, or of such  
 “ measures respecting it, as circumstances  
 “ may require.—I remain, Rev. Sir, your  
 “ most obedient and humble servant,

“ M. T. COCKSEGE.

“ To the Rev. Dr. Ord, Chairman of the  
 “ General Quarter Session for the Division  
 “ of Bury St. Edmunds.”

Upon these letters it is not necessary to  
 make many observations. They speak so  
 plain a language; they make so complete  
 an exposure; they put this prostituted  
 press in so strong and so true a light: the  
 threatened prosecution on one hand, and  
 the pecuniary reward on the other: it is  
 all so plain, so authentic, so convincing,  
 that nothing can be added to it, especially  
 as we have here a flat declaration, that a  
 negotiation has been going on for paying  
 off the annuity by giving the annuitant  
 a place under government in lieu of it!  
 This makes the thing quite complete.  
 There is nothing wanting; and, we have  
 only to bear in mind, that this *Morning*  
*Post* news-paper is famed for what is  
 called *loyalty*; that it is this print, which  
 has dealt forth its infamous abuse on Sir  
 Francis Burdett, and, indeed, on every one  
 whom it has had reason to regard as hos-  
 tile to the present system of rule. This  
 is the print, which, about a year ago,  
 accused Buonaparté and his ministers of  
 being guilty of the horrid crime for which  
 some wretches had just then stood in the  
 pillory; this is that print, which I have  
 long marked out as an object of public  
 execration; but, which, I must say, is

very little worse than many others in this  
 country.—Who WELTJE is, we are not  
 told; but, he must, one would think by  
 the name, be some *German*. Lord Moira  
 appears to be familiar with his name.  
 This seems to have been the dealer with  
 Benjafield. What a state must men have  
 arrived at before they could even talk to  
 one another upon the subject! How could  
 Weltje have opened the matter to Benja-  
 field? What could Benjafield have said in  
 answer? What must be the state of things;  
 what a pass must men have come to be-  
 fore such a negotiation could be opened at  
 all! This fact alone; or, rather, the facts  
 now come to light through these letters,  
 are quite sufficient to characterize the  
 press of this country; and, by these facts  
 foreigners will judge of it.—The *Morn-*  
*ing Post* is merely a specimen of the far  
 greater part of the rest of the press. Nor  
 do I confine myself to *news-papers*; no,  
 nor to *magazines* and *reviews* and *annual*  
*registers*; the prostitution extends itself to  
 all sorts of publications, which, in any way  
 whatever, relate to politics or government,  
 either in church or state. No matter what  
 the subject; army, navy, church, law,  
 history, biography, finance, agriculture;  
 in all alike corruption tries its hand; and,  
 my real belief is, that not one book out of  
 ten, upon any of these subjects, comes  
 forth from the press without having under-  
 gone more or less of corrupt influence.  
 The works of science are few, those of  
 genius fewer. In short, a more despicable  
 thing than the English press, generally  
 speaking, is not to be found on the face  
 of the earth.—As to the consent of the  
 Prince to this bargain, it is to be looked  
 upon as extorted by a reluctance to see a  
 woman exposed; but what must that man  
 be, who could deliberately set about the  
 gaining of an income by such means?

HON. B. WALSH, M. P. — This Hon.  
 Gentleman, who was, some weeks ago,  
 CONVICTED OF FELONY, at the Old Bailey,  
 and, accordingly, confined in Newgate,  
 was discharged on the 20th of February,  
 in virtue of a *pardon*, of which the follow-  
 ing is a copy.

“ BENJAMIN WALSH—FREE PARDON.

“ In the Name and on the Behalf of his  
 “ MAJESTY.

“ GEORGE P. R.

“ Whereas Benjamin Walsh was, at a  
 “ Session holden at the Old Bailey in Jan.  
 “ last, tried and convicted of Felony, but  
 I. 2

“ judgment was respited; We, in consideration of some circumstances humbly represented unto Us, touching the said conviction, are graciously pleased to extend Our grace and mercy unto him, and to grant him Our Free Pardon for his said crime: Our will and pleasure therefore is, that you cause the said Benjamin Walsh to be forthwith discharged out of custody; and for so doing this shall be your Warrant.

“ Given at our Court at Carlton-House the 20th day of February, 1812, in the 52d year of our Reign.

“ By the Command of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty.

“ R. RYDER.”

“ To our trusty and well-beloved our Justice of Gaol Delivery for the City of London and County of Middlesex, the Sheriffs of the said City and County, and all others whom it may concern.”

It is a curious circumstance, that the “NEW ERA” should set out, with the pardoning of a Member of the Honourable House for the crime of felony. I am not supposing that it was not a very proper act; it appears, indeed, that it was become unavoidable; but, it is curious, that a Member of the Honourable House should be the first to be pardoned for felony.—We, at present, think little of such a thing; but, the time will come, and is fast approaching, when we shall grow more serious; when we shall examine such acts with more care; when we shall learn to discriminate.—Mr. WALSH is, it seems, to undergo a motion for expulsion from the Honourable House; but, really, after all the contrition that he has shown, and, considering how loyal a man he is, I cannot help hoping that he will be suffered to remain. He is said to have put his hands before his face when brought to the bar at the Old Bailey. This showed that he had a sense of shame about him, and that he was not a hardened villain, ready to justify his crime because the frequency of it was as notorious as the Sun at noon day.—However, as we shall very soon know the result of the motion against him, it is useless to indulge in speculations upon the subject.

FOREIGN TROOPS.—The Times newspaper of the 2nd instant contained the

following little paragraph:—“ By an order of the Commanding Officer, the foreigners who lately joined the 10th Hussars, at Brighton, have been dismissed.”—These are the men, respecting whom, as the reader will recollect, Lord FOLKESTONE made inquiry, in the House of Commons, on the 25th of February. His Lordship was told by the Secretary at War, that the men who had been taken out of the Prisons to be put into the 10th (or Prince of Wales’s own) Regiment of Light Dragoons, were Germans, which, as I before observed, was a reason the more against employing them. But, be this as it may, here they are dismissed, if this news-paper is to be believed. They joined, it appears, sometime ago; and, now, since the inquiry of Lord Folkestone, they are, we are told, dismissed. But what are we to understand from this? That they are let loose in England; or, that they are sent back to their prison; or, that they are put into some other corps, perhaps a foreign corps? Besides, they are said to have been dismissed by “order of the Commanding Officer.” Is the Prince meant here, he being the Colonel of the regiment? If so, it appears strange, that the men should have been enlisted into his regiment without his knowledge.—All this is matter for inquiry; and further it should be known what bounty we pay to these men; because, if they have got the bounty, their dismissal is a singular sort of measure.—On the 2nd instant there came out, in the House of Commons, another curious circumstance as to the employment of foreigners.—“ LORD FOLKESTONE gave notice, that he would, on Tuesday, move for certain Papers relative to the number of foreigners employed in his Majesty’s army service. He also said, that he had been informed Commissioners had been named to superintend the management of his Majesty’s private property, and that one of them was a foreigner. He thought, if this were true, it was somewhat extraordinary. He begged the right hon. gent. would inform him if the case was so, and what were the names of the Commissioners.—THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER answered, that Commissioners had been appointed for the purposes mentioned by the Noble Lord: that one of them was a foreigner; and that these Commissioners were Mr. Simeon, one of the Masters in Chancery, Count Munster, and Colonel Taylor.”