

Have you found that the supply of British and European articles, as it is now afforded to Calcutta, has been perfectly sufficient for the demand?—Fully equal, and indeed I should think greatly exceeded it, from the loss I have known almost invariably to be sustained by the importation of articles from Europe; and for these 4 or 5 years past, particularly, there has been a loss upon almost every one of the cargoes that were imported.

Have you any experience in the use that the native Indians make of English broad cloths or long ells?—There is a pretty large consumption of the coarser kinds of broad cloth, in the upper part of the country, where the climate is colder, and a small quantity used in Calcutta, by those who can afford to purchase it.

Do you think that there is any likelihood of any particular articles of commerce being forced more into the market by opening a free trade?—I do not think that any large importation could be disposed of, but to a loss; but certainly in the consumption of some articles there might be in time a gradual increase.

Have you had occasion to observe whether the natives, who have been taught to manufacture and fabricate those articles manufactured at Calcutta, have been adroit and expert in the performance of them?—They are almost wholly manufactured by the natives; one European carpenter may perhaps employ 50 or 100 natives, with not an European among them; the same with the shoemakers, and also with plate; in fact there are not many European tradesmen who work themselves; tailors there are a few, but in comparison not one in fifty, the persons that are employed are natives. The artisans receive, according to their abilities, from perhaps 7s. 6d. to 20s. or 25s. according to their expertness, a month.

Have you had any opportunity of observing whether the native Indians have come into the habit of using such articles as have been lately specified?—I know of few or none; the richer part of them, some few of them have carriages for show, to please the Europeans chiefly, I believe; and they have for their houses, some of their principal halls, some glass ware, and chairs and tables. [Withdrew.]

The Chairman reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

[ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS' BILL.] Sir W. Scott rose to move for leave to bring

in a Bill, for the better regulation of the Ecclesiastical Courts in England. The right hon. and learned gentleman said, that he proposed to revive a Bill which he had brought into parliament last session, in consequence of a motion made by a noble lord (Folkestone) whose absence, and still more the cause of that absence, he most sincerely regretted. That Bill was lost by the dissolution which followed the session, and it was his intention to renew it at present, with the leave of the House. The right hon. and learned gentleman then entered into a description of those courts with which he intended to interfere, and concluded by moving, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill for the better regulation of Ecclesiastical Courts in England, and for the more easy recovery of church rates and tithes."

Mr. *Davies Giddy* highly applauded the part of the intended Bill which provided for the more easy recovery of church rates and tithes, and said, he did not doubt that the other part, with which he was not so well acquainted, was equally good.—Leave was given to bring in the Bill.

EDINBURGH BOOKSELLERS' PETITION RESPECTING COPY-RIGHT.] A Petition of several booksellers of the city of Edinburgh, was presented and read; taking notice of the petition of the booksellers and publishers of London and Westminster, stating the expence and grievance which will be sustained by the publishers of books, if, in consequence of a recent determination in a court of law, they should be compelled to deliver eleven copies of all works printed and published; and setting forth,

"That the petitioners, the booksellers of Edinburgh, humbly submit that the compulsory delivery of eleven copies of all books that shall be printed and published will, in many cases, be a heavy burthen on authors and proprietors of books, that it will operate generally to the discouragement of literature, and will particularly tend to diminish the publication of large and valuable works, and that the petitioners will be greatly aggrieved thereby; and that these works are frequently of great importance to science and learning, and it is usual to print no more than in all probability will be sold, and therefore the delivery of so many copies will be a serious diminution of that fair remuneration which authors and proprietors hope to receive as an indemnity for their labour and risk

in composing and publishing the same; a great many works are published by authors themselves at a considerable expence, and with only the prospect of a slow and uncertain sale, but such expence will be considerably enhanced, and their remuneration diminished, by the delivery of eleven copies gratuitously, and therefore this burthen will in all probability operate to prevent many useful works from being undertaken; and that, in evidence of the very grievous injury which the petitioners would sustain from the compulsory delivery of eleven copies of all the new works published by them, the petitioners are prepared to establish that upon six books recently published, or now in the course of publication, in Edinburgh, the expence would amount to no less than 1,426*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* sterling; and that the petitioners also humbly submit that the delivery of five copies to Scottish libraries is too large a proportion, and that the delivery of copies to one or two libraries in Scotland will be sufficient for the encouragement of its literature and science; and also that the termination of copy-right at the end of 14 years, in case the author should not then be alive, is too short a period of copy-right for the present state of literature; and that the civilized nations of Europe are now striving to excel each other in important and costly publications, and the great expences which are now risked in most publications, and the labour and talents which they require, cannot be adequately repaid or remunerated in so short a period as fourteen years; and praying, that the House would be pleased to take these matters into consideration, doing in the same as they may see right."

Ordered to lie upon the table.

BILL TO ALTER THE PUNISHMENT OF HIGH TREASON.] On the motion of sir Samuel Romilly, the House resolved into a Committee on the Bill for altering the punishment in cases of conviction for high treason; and, after some conversation, in which sir S. Romilly, sir W. Garrow, sir Thos. Plomer, sir Charles Mordaunt, Mr. Yorke, and sir J. Newport took part, the clauses of the Bill were agreed to, upon an understanding that the debate on the principle of the Bill should take place at a future period.

The House having resumed, and sir Samuel Romilly having moved that the Report should be received on Monday,

Mr. Frankland objected to the Bill generally, and moved, that the Report should be received this day six months.

Sir John Newport supported the Bill, and contended for the necessity of abolishing those barbarities which were sanctioned by the law of high treason as it now stood.

Mr. W. Fitzgerald objected to any change in the ancient code of the country, at a time when circumstances did not call for such an alteration.

Mr. Courtney was of opinion, that the sentence in cases of high treason ought to be altered, although he did not agree to those extended alterations which had been proposed by his hon. and learned friend (sir Samuel Romilly).

Sir Wm. Garrow opposed the Bill, upon the ground that, if it passed, it would tend to remove one of the safeguards of the constitution.

Mr. Ponsonby expressed his astonishment at the assertion which had been made by the hon. and learned gentleman (sir Wm. Garrow), that the present mode of execution for high treason was one of the safeguards of the constitution. He should have thought that the mere mention of the sentence of high treason, as it now stood, in that House, would at once elicit a universal wish for its abolition, as every one seemed to think that the punishment ought not to be inflicted.

Sir W. Garrow explained.

Sir Samuel Romilly replied, and expressed his determination, if the Bill was not passed in the present session, that he would again bring it forward at a future period.

The House then divided; the numbers were—In favour of the original motion, 60; Against it, 73; Majority, 13.

PROTESTANT DISSENTERS' PETITION FOR PROMULGATING THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN INDIA.] Mr. W. Smith presented a Petition from the Protestant Dissenters of the three denominations residing in and near London and Westminster, setting forth,

"That the petitioners, firmly believing in the truth and divine authority of the Christian revelation, are also deeply impressed with a full conviction of its proportionate efficacy, to establish, on the most solid foundations, the fabric of social order, and all the highest and best interests of mankind; and they venture to suggest it, as their opinion, that, to represent a system of idolatry and superstition as equally tending to produce moral virtue