



WORDS.

COULD words but feed as well as cheer,
How they would change the fate of many;
Friendship's hand would dry the tear,
And few, methinks, would weep, if any!

There's music in their tones, when spoken
By those we love, and fancy kind;
So sweet they sound, that hearts half broken,
Grasp Hope, and think fair Truth's behind!

And this awhile the wound may heal.
But, oh! the anguish after healing,
When Time shall Falsehood's face reveal,
And leave them Sorrow's darkest feeling!

Oh, what can proud ones gain
By promising our woes relief,
Which promise broke, gives greater pain
Than the first bitter cause of grief!

Too like are thoughtless words
To bubbles on the silvery stream,
Scentless flowers, songless birds,
And Love's first feverish dream!

L.

THOU HAST KNOWN MY SOUL IN ADVERSITY, OH, FATHER.

FATHER of all! 'tis not when days are brightest
We feel Thy love, and lowly bend the knee;
When blest with health, our spirits gayest, lightest,
Filled with Life's dreams—we come not then to Thee.

Not when the friends we love are dwelling near us,
And kindly smoothing o'er the ills of life,
Calming our anxious fears and doubts, they cheer us,
Gilding our hopes. Dull care, and woe, and strife

Are banished hence, awhile their gentle voices
Breathe balmy comfort to the wounded heart;
Yes, when with them the world-tried soul rejoices,
Nor thinks of Thee till those loved forms depart!

'Tis when our many hopes are fled for ever,
When this gay world looks dark, and all around
Tells of the summer gone, or joys that never
More in this vale of tears will e'er be found.

'Tis when Life's stormy tempests o'er us lour,
When sickness lowly lays the brave and free;
'Tis then we turn, e'en at the eleventh hour,
And raise our long-lush'd voice in prayer to Thee.

And wondrous is Thy love, oh, gracious Father!
Sinful and erring as have been our ways;
Yet dost Thou all forgive, and aye, wouldst rather
Bless us, than leave us in our saddest days!

MAY.

A Journal of the Parliament begun November 3rd, Tuesday, anno Domini 1640, anno 16mo Caroli Regis. By Sir Simonds D'Ewes, Bart. Harleian MSS. 162 to 166. Brit. Mus.

The Autobiography and Correspondence of Sir Simonds D'Ewes, Bart. Edited by J. O. HALLIWELL, Esq. 2 vols., 8vo. London: 1845.

[FROM THE EDINBURGH REVIEW.]

We think that it might help to forward useful purposes, if we should succeed in fixing the attention of our readers, for a short time, upon that memorable company of English gentlemen, which assembled at Westminster on Tuesday the 3rd of November, 1640. History has assigned to them collectively the name of the "Long Parliament;" and prejudice and ignorance have given to the majority of them, as individuals, other appellations less just and less agreeable: but time will relax even the adhesiveness of slander, and to its gentle influence we will leave them, whilst we endeavour to recall a few of the scenes and incidents in which they were engaged. An authority too long overlooked, enables us to do so, with more particularity than any of those who have hitherto written upon the subject.

The Long Parliament proceeded to business on the 7th of November, 1640. Within a very few days afterwards, troops of horsemen, bearing petitions for redress of grievances, flocked into London, even from far distant counties; and grave, sober men descanted with solemn earnestness upon many enormities in Church and State. Some poured out their lamentations over the attempts made in high places to "evaporate and dispirit the power of religion, by drawing it out into solemn, specious formalities; into obsolete and antiquated ceremonies new furnished up;" others were indignant that all of "the religion" were branded under the name of Puritans, so that "whosoever squares his actions by any rule, either divine or human, he is a Puritan; whosoever would be governed by the King's laws, he is a Puritan; he that will not do whatsoever other men would have him do, he is a Puritan." Others, again, affected by more worldly considerations, exclaimed against "the great and intolerable burden of ship-money," the imposition of which, at the mere pleasure of the crown, made "the farmers faint, and the plough go heavy;" against coat and conduct money; against the compulsory demand for arms—people being threatened—"if you will not send your arms, you shall go yourselves;" and against the giant, the monster grievance of at least seven hundred Monopolies. "These," it was said, "like the frogs of Egypt, have gotten possession of our dwellings, and leave scarce a room free from them. They sup in our cup, they dip in our dish, they sit by our fire; we find them in the dye-vat, wash-bowl, and powdering-tub; they share with the butler in his box; they have marked and sealed us from head to foot. They will not bate us a pin. We may not buy our own clothes without their brokerage." The House was appealed to for justice against the great oppressions practised in Ireland; against the cruelties of the Star-Chamber; the open breaches of the privileges of Parliament, the illegal canons, the *Etcetera* Oath; the subserviency of the Judges who had overthrown the Law; the harshness of the Bishops who had forgotten the Gospel. Every member, as he rose,

added his quota of complaint to the general mass; and as the sum-total of grievances gradually increased, the speakers glanced to the "Achitophels" and "Hamans" out of whose misdoings the mighty accumulation of wrongs had arisen.

The first blow was struck at the greatest of them all. Strafford was suddenly impeached and committed to the Tower; and this was done, and many committees which were appointed to consider the grievances brought to notice, were all actively at work in less than a week—a proof of predetermination and preparedness altogether unparalleled in the history of popular movements.

A Fast-Day, with a general reception of the Lord's-Supper in Westminster Abbey, followed; and thus we are brought on to Thursday, the 19th of November. If we could look down upon the House as it appeared between eight and nine o'clock of the morning of that Thursday, we should see a considerable number of diligent members already congregated.

Prayers have been said. Speaker Lenthall, a Barrister of small practice, returned for Gloucester, and very unexpectedly thrown into the position of the First Gentleman of England, is seated in a comfortable cushioned receptacle, surmounted by the Royal Arms. The House is sitting in St. Stephen's Chapel—a long narrow chamber of the fourteenth century, with a western entrance, and a large eastern window; in advance of which, at the distance of some few feet, stands the Speaker's Chair. The members are seated on rows of benches placed parallel to the walls of the Chapel, and rising, as in an amphitheatre, from an open space in the centre of the floor. We pass into the House by an avenue between rows of benches, and under a Member's Gallery, the ascent to which is by a "ladder" placed at the southern, or right hand corner of the House as we enter. Under the gallery sits the "learned" Selden, one of the representatives for the University of Oxford, and Maynard—"honest Jack Maynard"—a lawyer who had suddenly risen into eminence, under the auspices of Noy, the framer of the writ for ship-money. Maynard was now stepping a good deal into the practice of his deceased patron; but it was not until politics had aided his professional advancement, that his gains, upon one circuit, amounted to the then unparalleled, and, in the estimation of a rival practitioner, almost incredible sum of £700. Maynard sat for Totness. As we advance beyond the gallery, we pass, on our right hand, the usual seat of Pym, one of the members for Tavistock, and the recognised leader of the popular party. On the floor of the House, at some little distance in front of the Speaker's Chair, stands the Clerk's Table, at which are seated, facing the entrance, Henry Elyng, whose name shortly afterwards flew over the three kingdoms, as the authenticator of parliamentary mandates, and who is ridiculed in Hudibras as *Cler. Parl. Dom. Com.*; and, on his left hand, John Rushworth the compiler of the "Historical Collections," who had been recently admitted Clerk Assistant. At the upper end of the front bench, on the Speaker's right, sits the elder Vane, treasurer of the King's household; and on the same side of the House, Sir Edward Herbert the Solicitor-General, Sir Thomas Jermyn, Sir Benjamin Rudyard, John Evelyn, Sir Harry Mildmay, Strode, St. John,—soon to succeed Herbert as Solicitor-General,—and Alderman Pendington. On the opposite benches were Henry Martin, Waller the Poet, Miles Corbet, and Sir Thomas Bowyer; Sir Arthur Hazlerig and Holborn usually sat in the gallery. These are all the Members whose accustomed places we have been able to ascertain; but the subsequent proceedings on that very morning, prove that there were then assembled Hampden, Digby, Hyde, Falkland, Culpepper, Eagshaw, Deering, Grimston, Hollis, Nathaniel Fiennes, Sir John Hotham, and several others of celebrated name.

And now, a grave and somewhat stately gentleman, having taken the oaths in an adjoining apartment, before Sir Gilbert Gerrard, the Lord Steward's Deputy, is ushered into the House. He is introduced to the Speaker by Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston, one of the members for Suffolk, and a distinguished leader amongst the Puritans. The new member is just thirty-eight years of age—a man of formal precise demeanour; quite self-possessed and self-satisfied. He takes his seat on the front bench, on the left hand of the Speaker, just opposite the end of the Clerk's table, with an evident determination to enter into the business before the House. He gives a nod of recognition to "old Cage," Bailiff of Ipswich, and one of the members for that borough, who is sitting just behind him; and also to "Squire Bence," a merchant of that county, who was returned for Aldborough; and then, drawing out pen, ink, and paper, commences note-taking. This action reveals that he is near-sighted, and apparently has lost the sight of one eye.

The business before the House related to a contested return for Great Marlow. Maynard was reporting from a Committee, and the question turned upon the right to vote of certain Almsmen. The House was divided in opinion whether they should have voices or no. Up starts the new member—dilates, after the frequent style of maiden speeches, upon the birth-right of the subjects of England, and moves "that the poor should have a voice." At a subsequent period of the same day, St. John moved for a Committee, to examine certain records appropriate to the case of the Earl of Strafford. Nothing could be more fortunate for the maiden member. Records were his peculiar study and delight. He hastened to confide his attachment to Mr. Speaker—quoted 46 Edw. III. Rot. 2. No. 43, as a precedent in St. John's favour—and was rewarded by the House, which was then, as it is now, always ready to derive amusement from the gratification of any strange taste of an honourable member, by being put upon St. John's Record Committee.

A more promising commencement of a parliamentary career has seldom been known; and whilst the honourable member plied his task of note-taking, no doubt the questions ran round the House, "Who is he? What is he member for?" To many of our readers the answer will convey but little information. "It is Sir Simonds D'Ewes, member for Sudbury." In vain stands he chronicled in the *Biographia Britannica*, and other similar collections, the compilers of which have from time to time been guilty of

The fond attempt to give a deathless lot
To names ignoble, born to be forgot.

His name arouses no echo in the hearts of those who read it; it is not a name to conjure with; and therefore all attempts to preserve it from the inevitable doom have necessarily failed

And yet he was a man of some consideration in his own day; and it is essential to our present purpose that we should convey to our readers some impression of his character.

In order to do so we must go back to about the year 1575, when Richard Simonds and Paul D'Ewes were Chamber-fellows in the Middle Temple. Simonds, who was much the elder of the two, was a jovial merry man, of little eminence as a lawyer, but with sufficient practice to produce a competent, if not a considerable income. He married respectably, purchased an estate at Coxden in the parish of Chardstock, in Dorsetshire, spent his vacations there, (for in those days lawyers slept between term and term,) maintained a liberal hospitality, kept a cellar well stocked with "cider, strong beer, and several wines;" and had moreover, only one child, a daughter, whom he loved, as Polonius says, "passing well." Paul D'Ewes was a man of a very different character. He also was bred to the Bar, but his talent lay in the discovery of profitable investments for the patrimony which he inherited from his citizen-father. In his hands money made money; and it was his delight to watch it, and to encourage it, whilst in the act of accumulation. Preferring the safe to the pursuit of the brilliant, he abandoned the chances of legal practice, and sunk his fortune in the purchase of the office of one of the six Clerks in the Court of Chancery, worth at that time about £1700 *per annum*. Being thus established for life, he married the only daughter of his old Chamber-fellow, Richard Simonds—then of the age of fourteen; he himself being probably nearly three times that age. Simonds D'Ewes was the eldest son of that marriage, and was born at Chardstock on the 18th December, 1602. Until his eighth year, he was brought up by his grand-parents, and was the spoiled child of an affectionate grandmother, and the pet and pride of his jovial grandfather. In 1611 both those worthy people died; and Master Simonds was transferred to the care of his money-loving father, and of an amiable pious mother, who was a convert and a disciple of the celebrated Gifford of Malden. D'Ewes saw but little of her, for she died in 1618, before his education was completed; but that little sufficed to fix in his mind the seeds of her deep religious feelings. Affection for her memory became the medium by which his heart was opened, to receive the deep things of Puritanical divinity.

His father destined him for the profession which himself had deserted, and, by a great abuse, he was entered of the Middle Temple when in his ninth year; so that nine years afterwards, when he first went into Commons, he found himself, stripling as he was, "Ancient" to above two hundred members of the Inn. During his legal studies, he suffered many things from the penuriousness of his father; whose income from his office, and from acquired property, was now near upon £3000 *per annum*. As his son's guardian, he had received the considerable personal estate which old Mr. Simonds had bequeathed to his grandson; but all went into one common stock,—the young Templar being kept for years without a study, and upon a very insufficient allowance, which it was not always easy to obtain. When he complained, he was answered by alarming threats of a young wife and disinheritance. His only enjoyment was derived from his Commons in the Temple, which in those days was a kind of substitute for a Club.

In the meanwhile his natural genius began to develop itself. He discovered, to use his own words, that "records, and other exotic monuments of antiquity, were the most ravishing and satisfying part of human knowledge;" he also discovered that his surest refuge from the discomforts occasioned by his father's parsimony, was to be found in a monied wife. To the Common Law, then, he gave a mere occasional glance; but to the double pursuit of Records, and Heiresses, he devoted himself with intense and passionate seriousness. Still, his father's crotchety and uncertain disposition, and his banking after a second wife, stood in the young lawyer's way. He therefore cast about to find "some good and ancient widow every way fit for his father to marry;" and having discovered such a lady in the person of Dame Elizabeth Denton, the childless widow of Sir Anthony Denton, a Kentish knight, he managed, with much ado, to fix his wavering father, whose fancy tended towards a younger helpmate; but ultimately, on a wet and gusty morning in March 1622-3, the young Templar, dressed out in all his summer braveries, descended with the ancient couple to the old Crypt Church of St. Faith's, under St. Paul's, where, to his great joy and comfort, the marriage was duly solemnized. Shortly afterwards, he was called to the Bar, and his allowance was raised by his father from £60 to £100 *per annum*; upon coming into which "plentiful annuity" he laid the foundation of his valuable Library; and leisurely pursued his ravishing studies, and his search after some lady who might "enrich his posterity with good blood,"—knowing it, he says, "to be the greatest honor that can be tide a family to be often linked into the female inheritances of ancient stocks." It was indeed D'Ewes's strongest passion to be thought a gentleman. He was perpetually dreaming of mighty ancestors, dwelling long ages ago in Zealand;—Geardards and Adrians, whom he talked about until he came to believe in their post existence, and marry them to great heiresses, and hunt through records to find them out. His greatest grief arose out of the fact, that their noble stock had suffered "sad and overclouded interruptions;"—that is, that poverty had condemned some of them to hide their beams behind shop-counters, and carry on the humbler occupations of life, as if the D'Eweses had been no better than other men. This had been the case even with D'Ewes's own grandfather. He ardently longed to restore his family from their degradation; "and seeing," he says, "the Divine Providence had blessed my father with a wife that was the heir of her father's estate and surname, I did not doubt but He would in mercy vouchsafe me the like happiness." His wish was gratified. A lady was discovered; not "a penniless lass with a lang pedigree," but an heiress with a something in hand, and an ample estate in reversion, after the decease of her father's widow. She was a cousin of D'Ewes's religious friend and instructor, Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston. Her descent from William Peccatum who is mentioned in Domesday-Book, was imagined, to the satisfaction of D'Ewes; and on the 24th October, 1626, after the usual match-making disputation, he was married, at the age of twenty-four, to Anne Clopton, only daughter and heiress of Sir William Clopton of Kentwell in Suffolk, who was of the mature age of thirteen years and a half! Upon his marriage D'Ewes quitted the Temple; procured the distinction of Knighthood, and devoted himself

almost entirely to his "Dear," as he ordinarily terms his lady, and to the study of records;—assisting the one to draw out a catalogue of infallible signs, from which she might assure herself that she was one of the elect, and accumulating transcripts and compiling pedigrees from the other. The death of his father, on the 14th March, 1631, put D'Ewes into possession of a considerable estate; and his station and importance in the county of Suffolk were shortly afterwards increased, by his wife's coming into possession of her inheritance. D'Ewes used his wealth to increase his Library, and went on studying Records, and amassing materials for various historical works, until withdrawn from literature into public life, by being appointed High-Sheriff of Suffolk, in the year 1639. Before this, however, he had finished his very useful compilation of *The Journals of all the Parliaments during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth*; but which was not published till after his death; when it was given to the world, in a folio volume, under the Editorship of his nephew, Paul Bowes, of the Middle Temple. We have seen copies of this really valuable compilation, dated in 1692, 1693, and 1708; but whether these dates indicate new editions, or only new title-pages, we are not authoritatively informed.

The appointment just mentioned opened a new scene to his ambition. He felt strongly the troubles of the time. In his office of Sheriff he was brought into practical acquaintance with the great public grievances under which the nation laboured; and in an humble petition to the Council, he even ventured to bring before their notice certain records which went to prove the illegality of "ship-money." But the members of the Council were most ungrateful to the Antiquary. Under the influence of "that little busy wheel," as he terms Archbishop Laud, they replied in letters "terrible, and threatening like thunder and lightning," and turned him over to the Star-Chamber; where records and precedents were never very much regarded. D'Ewes was thus added to the army of Martyrs, and with his feelings of opposition to Arminian innovations, and illegal taxation excited by a sense of personal injury, he became anxious to try the effect of his records in Parliament. Failing in an attempt upon a borough in the west of England, he appealed to Sudbury, and, having been elected, returned himself in his capacity of Sheriff.

At the opening of the Parliament, he had not received his official discharge from his Shrievalty; and therefore did not immediately take his seat; but he came up to London with his Record Collections, his MSS. and his transcripts—the artillery with which he was to carry on the war. He first established himself in lodgings in Millbank Lane; and soon afterwards in "Goat's Alley, a little beyond the White Lion Tavern, near Palace Yard"—an obscure retreat close to the House. In his study there, we may imagine him, industriously groping for records applicable to an anticipated debate, or writing home to his "Dear," bulletins of his wonderful achievements. On that very 19th November, 1640, when we have seen him take his seat with so much distinction, he reported his proceedings to her thus:—"I spake thrice this morning in the House, and, at my second speech, roused a record." The "vouching of a record" was indeed D'Ewes's vocation; and let no one imagine that it was a vocation without its use, especially in days like those. Questions of most tremendous moment were in agitation;—questions which extended even to the breaking up of the fountains of the great deep, out of which the existing government arose. How few men are there in any generation who can look at such questions with a steady eye! The multitude are dazzled and blinded by the brilliancy of the more than sunlight which surrounds great principles. But, concentrate a portion of that brilliancy in a precedent, and every man, even the meanest, can look upon it, and follow its guidance, and steer by it.

For many months, the men of the Long Parliament were glad to have D'Ewes's records and precedents, even at the price of submitting to his continual displays of egregious vanity, and self-satisfaction. And so he went on, day by day, constant in his attendance, always ready to talk, often talking the merest nonsense in the world, in a pompous grandiloquent way, altogether ludicrous; and, during all that time he kept up that practice of taking Notes, which he had commenced at his first entering into the House. In spite of the inconvenience arising from defective sight, still he persevered,—paper upon his knee, and ink hanging from his buttonhole, making History by a minute record of everything that took place around him. These Notes present us with a complete picture of the House in its ordinary proceedings; and a chronicle of the important businesses which were transacted during a period of several years. For some part of the time, they have been copied and written out in a narrative form, in a respectable hand; in other places, we have nothing but the rough jottings down of D'Ewes's own pen. At first, when we begin to read them, all is obscurity, as dull and dense as that which overclouds the pages of Rushworth, Nalson, and the Journals; but as we go on, the mist gradually grows less dense,—rays of light dart in here and there, illuminating the palpable obscure; and in the end, and after plodding, and the exercise of infinite patience, we may come to know the Long Parliament as thoroughly as if we had sat in it.

The members assembled at eight o'clock, and proceeded immediately to prayers. After the discovery of Waller's plot, in June, 1643, and the taking of the Covenant in the following September, various alterations were made by old Francis Rous in the accustomed form of prayer. In addition to the Spanish Invasion, and the Gunpowder Treason, the escape from which was formerly commemorated, there was now added a thanksgiving for "our deliverance from a wicked plot and conspiracy of divers persons of the court, city of London, and this House; tending to the destruction of the Parliament, city, and kingdom, and of that which ought to be most dear unto us, the true religion." Prayer was then offered, "that every one of us may labor to show a good conscience to thy Majesty, a good zeal to thy word, a loyal heart to our now gracious King Charles, and a Christian love to our country and commonwealth; and that, according to our intention expressed in our oath and covenant, we may endeavour every one to amend his own way, and show forth a real thankfulness in holy life, and in serving and pleasing Thee, who hast given such great deliverances to us." There followed a supplication that his Majesty might be blessed in the conversion of the Queen, and in his hopeful issue, and that he and that assembly might again be united.

After a time, the early attendance of members began to slacken. Even after prayers, Mr. Speaker was occasionally fain to sit for some time near the chair, "expecting company." Several contrivances were adopted to overcome the remissness. At one time, a roll of members was called over; and at another it was ordered that whoever did not come at eight o'clock, and be at prayers, should pay a fine of one shilling. On the first morning after this order was made, there was an excellent attendance. The House was full, but prayers could not be read—Mr. Speaker himself was not there. At a quarter before nine, in he walked. Prayers over, plausible Sir Harry Mildmay congratulated the House upon the good effect of yesterday's order; "and said to the speaker, that he did hope that hereafter he would come in time; which made the Speaker throw down twelve pence upon the table. Divers spake after him; and others, as they came into the House, did pay each his shilling to the Serjeant. "I spake," said D'Ewes, whose father stirred within him at the sight of a shilling paid unnecessarily, "to the orders of the House, that the order made yesterday was to fine 'after' prayers; and therefore you cannot—(addressing the Speaker)—be subject to pay; and, for coming in a little after eight, that was no great difference. Although I spake truly, the Speaker, having cast down his shilling, would not take it up again." On the day following, another little scene took place upon the same score. There were about forty members present at prayers, and it was ordered that the fines of yesterday and to-day should be given to Dr. Leighton, the sufferer in the Star-Chamber, who was in great distress. A petition was then begun to be read:—"Some coming in and refusing to pay whilst the aforesaid petition was reading, divers called out to them to pay, and so interrupted the clerk's assistant who was reading it. Mr. John Hotham stood up and said, that the time appointed for men yesterday by the order was at eight, and that the chimes for that hour went, just as he came into the House. But the Speaker telling of him that prayers being past, he must pay, and he still refusing, it was put to the question, ruled affirmatively, and ordered accordingly. Whereupon he took his shilling and threw it down upon the ground; at which some called him to the bar, others that he should withdraw, and the Speaker, standing up, did sharply reprove him for that action as being a contempt to the House, which caused him, as I conceive, a little after to withdraw out of the House though he returned again this forenoon."

The shilling fine was soon given up; but another rule adopted in this parliament attained a firmer footing. On the 26th November, 1640, there was a long dispute as to who should speak; many members stood up at one time, each claiming precedence, and each backed by his friends. The confusion became intolerable. Some rule preventing such discord in future became indispensable; and at last, as D'Ewes tells us, the House determined for Mr. White, and "the Speaker's eye" was adjudged to be the rule in future. From prayer-time the House sat until noon; after which no new motion could be made without leave. After a time afternoon sittings became frequent, and at last permanent. When the House made a general order for sitting in the afternoon, D'Ewes remarked, that he would not oppose it; but he hoped, "that all men would be pleased to sit, and not the greater part to depart to Hyde Park, plays, and bowling-greens, and then to leave the burthen of all business upon some four score of us, which was the cause we often met to little purpose."

D'Ewes was a close observer and recorder of the movements of the Speaker's hat,—a counter of *congrées* and reverences. He could tell to a hair's-breadth the very place to which every stranger should be admitted into the House, according to his degree, where the mace should be found at any given moment of time; who might be covered and who not, who should sit in a chair with arms, and who in one without arms; and who should stand and who should kneel, and what is the symbolical difference between a black rod and a white one. Such minute particularity is always amusing, and adds to the pictorial effect of the writer's description, even when it has no higher use, which it often has. Thus, to give an example: when Lord Keeper Finch was to be admitted into the House to make an apology or defence of his conduct, in procuring the extra-judicial opinions of the Judges in favor of this-money, "it was disputed whether he should come in here like others, to sit with his hat on—as once the Earl of Southampton did, and others did that came to confer here—or stand bareheaded as other petitioners did," and further, whether he should sit or stand. In the end, D'Ewes tells us it was

—agreed he should have a chair, and to leave it to his own discretion to sit or stand. So a chair was set on the left side of the House, a little above the bar, and so he was called in. The serjeant came in before him, and he brought the purse with the great seal in it himself, and having made three reverences he laid the purse on the chair and stood by it, leaning his left hand on it, and so he made a long and well-composed speech. But before he began to speak, the Speaker, sitting in his chair with his hat on, said to him, &c. He afterwards told him, Your Lordship may sit down if you please. But he spake standing, and so having ended his speech, after a reverence made, took up the purse and departed. The serjeant stood all the time by him, on his right hand, with his mace on his right shoulder.

After his departure divers spake; and it was the general sum of all of them he had rather aggravated than mitigated his crimes by his speech. . . . Some spoke to find him guilty of treason, others to defer the question. Mr. Perd spoke exceedingly well to shew that this denying to put the vote of treason was to blow up the Parliament without gunpowder. . . . To the first question, that the Lord Keeper is guilty of high treason and other misdemeanours, there were only two or three "Noes." To the second, to send up to the Lords to accuse him, all said "Aye," and not one "No;" but being past twelve o'clock, we understood the Lords were risen.

The appearance in the House of another great offender is thus chronicled, under the date of November 2, 1644:—

The chief work of this day was the coming in of the Archbishop [Laud] to the House of Commons, whom Alderman Pennington brought in about ten of the clock, to hear Mr. Samuel Brown, a lawyer of Lincoln's Inn, and a member of the House of Commons, to sum up his charge against him. He first knelt at his coming in at the bar, and was then bidden to stand up by the Speaker, and a chair without arms being set for him, he was afterwards admitted to sit down, and made use of a pen and ink to take notes as Mr. Brown summed up his charge against him, which consisted of two general heads. . . . At my coming in I found Mr. Brown

summing up the charge, who continued speaking near upon half an hour in my hearing. Then the clerk read some of the special heads of accusation to him. Then Brown spake again, and urged other matters against him. The Archbishop wrote all the while without spectacles, reasonable fair, he being about seventy years old; which caused in me much admiration. The serjeant stood by him on his right hand all the while, without the bar, with his mace on his left shoulder. The Speaker then told him, that he had heard his charge summed up against him, and if he had any desire to make any defence, the House was willing to hear him. The Archbishop then standing up, without any change of countenance, or show of fear, and bowing himself, first acknowledged that Mr. Brown in urging his charge against him had dealt fairly with him, and then shewed that the charge was long, himself old, and his memory short, and his late troubles and sufferings great, and therefore desired that some convenient [time] may be appointed him, that he may be heard to give a satisfactory answer, and that he had drawn up a petition which he desired to read to the House. Whereupon the Speaker wished him to withdraw, which he did, and the House, upon debate, resolved that he should have liberty to read what he desired. Then being called in again, he read his petition without spectacles, which was to desire the House to grant him time to answer and to hear his evidence.

(To be continued.)

TORRES' STRAITS.

(From the Government Gazette.)

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Sydney, 6th March, 1847.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct that the following Extract from the Journal of Lieutenant C. B. Yule, R. N., commanding H. M. S. *Bramble*, whilst recently employed in the Survey of Torres' Straits, and of a portion of the coast of New Guinea, be published for general information.

By his Excellency's Command,

E. DEAS THOMSON.

[Extract from the Journal of Lieut. C. B. Yule, commanding H. M. S. *Bramble*.]

I left Sydney on the 21st of December, 1845, in company with the *Castlereagh*, and proceeded to the north-ward, to resume the survey of New Guinea, but in consequence of adverse winds and the great delay caused by keeping company with the tender. I did not reach Cape York until the 30th of March. I anchored off Bramble Key* on the 4th of April, where I waited three days to rate chronometers. On the 9th we weighed, in company with the *Castlereagh*, and shaped a course for New Guinea. On the 10th we had a view of the coast, which was generally flat, with mountains in the distance. In consequence of the winds being light and variable, we did not reach the position where I intended commencing my triangulations until the 15th of April. This delay, however, enabled me to reconnoitre the country, which greatly improved in appearance as we advanced to the eastward. The scenery at daybreak was generally grand, the distant lofty mountains being then visible. There was one, the most distant and highest, which was particularly conspicuous, from its peculiar peak, resembling a chimney. As the sun rose, however, we generally lost sight of them. At sunset of the 15th of April, we anchored close under a bluff cape, which I called Cape Possession, in latitude 8° 34' 38" south, longitude 146° 27' east, on which I intended to land next day, to obtain astronomical observations for determining its position.

At daylight I again had a fine view of the range of mountains, and easily distinguished the most distant and lofty one, which had before excited my admiration by its grand appearance. I called it Mount Victoria, and found by approximate calculation that it was found from nine to ten thousand feet high. Between Mount Victoria and the shore were several ranges of mountains of inferior altitude, which gave me reason to suppose that the lower intervening country was well watered and fertile.

At 5:45, a.m., we weighed with a light land breeze, and stood two miles on a south course, in order that I might take up a more favourable position to commence the survey; we anchored at 7 a.m., abreast the southern extremity of the Promontory. I have before mentioned, as a favourable position for commencing my triangulations. I directed my signal that the *Castlereagh* should keep under sail; soon after we anchored, Mr. Aird came on board, when I made known to him my intended plans for the survey: I also directed him to keep near the shore during the day, with the view of protecting or assisting our boats, if necessary, when communicating with the shore. At half-past 8, a.m., I left the *Bramble* in the first gig, accompanied by Mr. Wright, Master's Assistant; the crew, consisting of five seamen and one marine, all well armed. The second gig went with us in charge of Mr. Pollard, accompanied by Mr. Sweatman; the crew, consisting of five seamen and one marine, also well armed. Thus equipped, I considered we were a good match for any hostile encounter with the natives. In about three-quarters of an hour after leaving the *Bramble* we got close to the back of the surf, which was breaking heavily on a sandy beach, where I purposed landing; for some time I doubted the propriety of landing, but as I was very anxious to obtain my observations for latitude and meridian distance with the quick-silver horizon, and as this bay was shut in from the native villages, by which I hoped to escape the notice of the inhabitants, until we found a more convenient opportunity of forming their acquaintance, I determined on landing; the first gig was then anchored at the back of the surf, from which by a line I was veered through the surf in the second gig, accompanied by Mr. Sweatman, three seamen, and two marines. It was with great difficulty that we were enabled to land without wetting our instruments, arms, and ammunition, which we only kept dry by holding them over our heads; immediately after landing, I succeeded in getting forenoon altitudes for meridian distance. I then hoisted a small representation of the Union Jack, and took possession of this country in the name of her Majesty, from Bristow Island to as far in a south-eastern direction as I could distinguish and chart the land; I called this Cape Possession in consequence. The sun's meridian passage fortunately just came within the limits of my quadrant (by Cary) and having got a good set of circummeridional altitudes, and a careful angle of elevation of the *Bramble's* main truck for base; I did not think it prudent to wait for afternoon altitudes for time, as the surf had greatly increased since I landed, and I thought it high time to embark. Accordingly I made signs for the second gig to be backed in as before, which was done with difficulty, owing to a strong current running a parallel course with the beach. The surf was breaking with too much violence to enable all to go off at one trip; I therefore had the chronometer, my quadrant, artificial horizon, and some of the arms put into the boat, but before she got half way through the breakers, the boat shipped a heavy sea, at which time an oar broke (one of those infamously bad articles supplied to her H. M. navy by Sunley) when the

* There is a large quantity of guano on this inlet. A vegetable resembling spinach, and turtle may also be procured here at particular seasons of the year.