

DRURY-LANE.—Last night a new Comedy, from the pen of Mr. HOLCROFT, was produced at this Theatre, the Characters of which are as follow:

Fairfax	Mr. DOWTON.
Hairy Headlong	Mr. C. KEMBLE.
Melford	Mr. RAYMOND.
Transit	Mr. J. BANNISTER.
Quillet	Mr. CHERRY.
Steward	Mr. WROUGHTON.
Eliza	Mrs. JORDAN.
Caroline	Mrs. POPE.

To story is extremely simple, and the interest wholly drawn from the equivocal character of *Fairfax*, a Barrister, who, while he is labouring for the good of others, has the misfortune to have his motives mistaken, and is pursued by calumny and slander. *Headlong*, an inexperienced and dissipated young man, returns from his travels, and finds himself disinherited by his friend *Fairfax*. *Melford*, also, is plunged into penury and distress by the same means; and *Transit* is cast into prison by the friend, who had promised him his greatest support. The denouement, however, shews *Fairfax* to be the victim of prejudice; and proves him to be the universal friend of the good and virtuous.

To *Headlong* he gives back his inheritance, having possessed himself of it only to prevent *Quillet*, a designing Attorney, from depriving him of it altogether; to *Melford* he surrenders up the title deeds of his estate, which had also been seized by the Attorney, and proves to *Transit* that he had confined him in prison for the purpose of bringing him acquainted with his father, whom he supposed dead, and his wife, who had been forced away from him, and is seeking him round the world. This latter character was supported with infinite spirit by Mrs. Jordan; and contributed much to the success of the piece. Mrs. POPE is the daughter of MELFORD, and partakes with him in all the distress and nobleness of mind with which the character is drawn.

From this outline the author has worked up a comedy, evidently constructed on the German model. Its principal feature is *dulness*; and though there is much good writing in it, the language in general being correct and nervous, and the style polished, yet it wants variety to relieve it, and humour to make it pleasant. Upon the whole, however, it is a production that does the talent of the author much credit, and is likely to become a favourite with the Public.

The whole of the Performers exerted themselves to the utmost, particularly BANNISTER, DOWTON, KEMBLE, and Mrs. JORDAN, who never appeared to greater advantage.

It was given out for a second representation, on Monday, with considerable applause.

The Epilogue turns upon the old story of the Quaker, who would not kill or maim the dog who had stolen his bone, but turning him into the street, cried out "a *Mad Dog*," and the beast was hunted to death.—So it fared with a man, the victim of slander and unjust calumny, whom, it was hoped, the audience would protect.—The allusion was not very well received, and we think might have been spared.

PADDINGTON CANAL.

A very serious accident has taken place in the Paddington Canal, which, till reparation can be made, has entirely put an end to the navigation. It appears that the cylinders which run under the canal, constructed for the purpose of carrying off the land waters, have burst, owing to the sudden frost, and let out nearly all the water in the canal, from its commencement at Paddington to the 4th bridge. There does not remain more than six inches of water for near two miles, which exhibits a sheet of ice, perfectly clear and transparent; thousands were yesterday displaying their science on its surface, regardless of danger, as it was impossible any should occur. This accident will be attended with much inconvenience and expence to the Proprietors of this useful and laudable undertaking, as the whole bed of the canal, where the accident has taken place, must be re-laid.

Mr. Benjafield, Lord Whitworth's private Secretary, is returning to England, on account of ill health.

Sir Evan Nepean, we understand, does not quit the Admiralty, as was stated some time ago. A more diligent and able Secretary it would be difficult to find.

Yesterday died, in the 74th year of his age, at his apartments in the British Museum, the Rev. Richard Penneck, Rector of Abinger, in Surry, and of St. John's, Bermondsey. This Gentleman was one of the oldest Officers of the British Museum, and was appointed to the situation he held in that place very soon after its institution.

Four wolves were lately chased in the neighbourhood of Rouen, by General Ruffin, three of which were killed, the fourth escaped the dogs, and took refuge at Flœuf, where entering a house, he killed the master of it and his son.

Boston Papers of the 25th ult. have been received. The rage of party spirit which at present prevails in America, between the partizans of Tom Paine and those who have virtue enough to feel the danger of his works being promulgated through the channel of their press, has at no time been exceeded. Paine has written several letters, in which the conduct of the late General Washington, and of Mr. Adams, is arraigned with the greatest violence. "His fourth letter (says the Columbian Centinel) is a more disgusting dose of inflated egotism and self-sufficiency, than any of his preceding positions. There are not ten sentences which are not (to use his own polite language) downright lies or assertions, without proof. The other part is made up of language which he denominates blackguardism, and the slang of a pickpocket."

These Papers also contain several letters relative to St. Domingo. *The New English Palladium*, of Dec. 24, has the following article:—"Information has been received at Philadelphia, from Cape Francois, to Nov. 17. The main force of the Blacks were encamped within twelve miles of the Cape, the inhabitants of which place were in constant dread of a desperate attack. A want of ammunition on the part of the Negroes, alone delayed the assault, and a supply was expected from Port Republican. The French force at the Cape was about 2000 men, and their enemies in the vicinity 10,000 men strong. It is difficult to decide whether the French or the Negroes are the most cruel. St. Mark's had capitulated with the Negroes, whose final success is almost certain. Americans are allowed to depart with their property.

From the Boston Paper, of December 26, we have the following distressing intelligence from Port Republican: "Capt. Wadbury, of the brig *William Pitt*, arrived at New-York on the 1st instant; spoke the schooner *Fame*, from Fort Republican, out fourteen days; the Captain of which assured him that the Negroes had succeeded in taking Port Republican by storm, and had put all the white men, women, and children to the sword."

THE KING v. WATERHOUSE.

The defendant was brought up for judgment, having been convicted at the last Essex assizes of wilful and corrupt perjury. It became material that he should be examined in an action brought by his brother, William Waterhouse, against Skinner, for a non-performance of contract, when he swore that five quarters of oats delivered by Skinner was a delivery on account of his brother's contract, and not a private delivery for himself; and further, that he had never bought at any time five quarters of oats of Mr. Skinner. This, however, was contradicted by two credible witnesses, who not only proved the order, but the delivery at the defendant's stable in Stratford.

Mr. Justice GROSS, in passing judgment, observed, that the crime of perjury struck at the very root of justice, civil or criminal, that no man's life or property could be secure, if it was passed over with indifference, and therefore it was the more necessary that the Court should endeavour to stem the torrent of corruption, by making a fit and proper example of those who should be found guilty of an offence of such magnitude and evil tendency, he therefore ordered and adjudged that he, Richard Waterhouse, should be imprisoned in the county gaol of Chelmsford for *Two Years*.

THE KING v. EDWARD HALE, ESQ.

Mr. CONST moved against the defendant, a Magistrate of Surrey, who had refused to licence a gentleman to erect a powder mill in the neighbourhood of Guildford, on the ground that justice had been refused him.

Mr. MARRYAT shewed cause against the application, upon an affidavit which stated that mills had formerly been erected on the same spot, and on the average two had been blown up every year; that one man had been blown to atoms, and that as it was within twenty yards of the public highway, the lives of his Majesty's subjects were endangered.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH observed, that people should not come with such weak cases; and was of opinion the Magistrate had exercised a very sound discretion.

His Lordship sat at *Nisi Prius* at half past two.—Nothing material occurred.

POLICE.

MARLBOROUGH-STREET.—Yesterday a woman was brought before the sitting Magistrate, charged with being found in a public-house in that neighbourhood, under suspicious circumstances. It appeared she was seen to open a private door leading to the staircase with a false key, and on being taxed as to her intentions, she desired she might not be molested, as she was very much advanced in a state of pregnancy, and had intended no wrong to the landlord. On investigation it turned out, most astonishingly to all present, that the child she was burthened with was a dead one; and that she lived with a man who was suspected of robbing church-yards of their dead; that the woman was in the habit of felling the bodies to the surgeons, and that she was actually on her way to dispose of the one she had artfully secreted beneath her cloaths, had she not stopped to commit some new depredation by entering the house in question.

She pretended that a gentleman had given her half-a-crown to deliver it at the house.

She was committed till the Coroner's Inquest should be taken on the child.

A young man was also detained in custody, in consequence of his having rode over a gentleman, in Broad-street, St. Giles's, and so wounded him, that his life is in danger.

Mr. Charles Newman, the proprietor of one of the Richmond coaches, was charged with assaulting John Boaden, the man who takes the toll at the Sunday bar, at Kensington: the prosecutor stated, that last Sunday the Richmond coach passed through the bar in the morning, and the driver threw him down sixpence; when the coach returned in the evening he demanded another sixpence, which was refused; he then stopped the horses, and Mr. Newman, who was on the roof, jumped down, and struck him.

Mr. Newman said, that when the coach had once paid, it was entitled to pass and repass throughout the day, without paying any thing further; the prosecutor had no right to stop him.

Mr. Brodie, the Magistrate, very properly dismissed Boaden's complaint, and severely reprimanded him. He recommended Mr. Newman to retort the charge for the illegal detention of the coach, although the toll had been paid, and to indict Boaden for the assault upon him—he did so, and Boaden was committed to prison till he should find bail.

BOW-STREET.—On Thursday evening, about eight o'clock, as the Chiswick errand cart was passing through Hammer-smith, a box belonging to Mr. Dickins, of Aldersgate-street, was cut from behind it, and the robbery being discovered by the boy, who was driving the cart, he gave an alarm of the robbery to several persons, who went in pursuit of the robbers; and when they got into Black-Lyon-lane, they found the box in the possession of two men, who said they had just found it; but the persons who had joined in the pursuit of the robbers not believing the account, were about to take them into custody, when the men ran off. They were pursued, and the cry of stop thief raised; and as they passed through Hammer-smith, one of the men who had been in possession of the box, exclaimed to his companion, with a most horrid oath, "he would do them both," meaning the two men who were pursuing him, and immediately closed with one of them opposite the four mile stone at the end of Hammer-smith, when a desperate scuffle ensued. Unfortunately the villain proved the stronger man, forced his pursuer down, and was endeavouring to murder him in the most deliberate and barbarous manner, till assistance came up and secured the villain. It was some time before it could be ascertained who he was, on account of the bloody state his face was in, from the wounds he had received. He proved to be a man of the name of Pigeon, a servant in that neighbourhood. A surgeon was immediately procured to dress his wounds, when on examination he proved to have received a desperate cut from his forehead to the back part of his head, which was crossed with another desperate cut across his head, and several cuts on his eyes, nose, and lips, besides several on his hands, which severed two tendons on one hand, and one on the other. The villain, not content with this blood-thirsty conduct, endeavoured to cut the inside of his mouth, in doing which he actually broke a large knife in his mouth. We are sorry to say the poor man's life is despaired of. The villain who perpetrated the horrid deed was secured, as well as his companion. They were examined before Mr. Bond and Mr. Read, at the Public-Office, Bow-street, and committed for further examination. The villain who committed the horrid deed, the front of his clothes were literally covered with blood. The Magistrates ordered his clothes to be taken from him, to be produced on his trial.