

## ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE.				2d SATELLITE.				3d SATELLITE.				4th SATELLITE.			
<i>Io.</i>				<i>Europa.</i>											
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
1	7	54	33	4	2	22	30	7	19	11	9 Im.	14	18	5	36 Im.
3	2	23	36	7	15	40	21	7	22	8	36 E.	14	21	14	19 E.
4	20	52	30	11	4	58	14	14	23	13	32 Im.	31	12	27	42 Im.
6	15	21	32	14	18	16	7	15	2	9	56 E.	31	15	26	23 E.
8	9	50	26	18	7	34	2	15	3	15	50 Im.	<i>* 3rd Satellite Continued.</i>			
10	4	19	28	21	20	51	53	22	6	11	14 E.	20	19	13	6
11	22	48	20	25	10	9	51	29	7	18	26 Im.	22	13	41	68
13	17	17	21	28	23	27	43	29	10	12	53 E.	24	3	10	57
15	11	46	15									26	2	39	48
17	6	15	14									27	21	8	46
19	0	44	7									29	15	37	37
												31	10	6	34

• Look to the right hand.

## MEETING OF LINEN-DRAPERS AT ARMAGH.

The following account has been transmitted to us by a person who was present, and who conceived that an impartial statement of the proceedings should be published, as a register of public opinion, on a highly important subject, and as a memorial of the passing events of the day. If any inaccuracies should be discovered, the writer requests they may be attributed to the difficulties necessarily attendant on the attempt, as his wish is to give a faithful report of what was said on both sides of the question. He will, in a succeeding number, be very ready to rectify any errors which may be pointed out.

*The following Advertisement appeared for a week preceding, in each of the Belfast Papers.*

## LINEN TRADE.

"We, the undersigned, request a meeting of the Linen drapers of the North of Ireland, at Armagh, on Tuesday the 27th instant, at twelve o'clock, at noon, to consider the alarming situation of the Linen trade, in case the usual supplies of flax-seed do not arrive from America in the spring, and of the propriety of petitioning the King and Parliament for an alteration in the Orders in Council." December, 16th, 1808.

On the 27th, the day fixed for the Meeting, a number of the Linen-drappers attended, but not nearly so many as considering the great importance of the subject, might have been expected, if public spirit had pervaded the trade.

Thomas Phelps was appointed the Chairman, and Robert Williamson was nominated to act as Secretary.

John Hancock opened the business, by recalling to recollection the memorable meetings of linedrapers, held in Armagh, in 1782, when they met to oppose some oppressive encroachments, and by their firm procedure obtained the sought-for relief. He observed, that good effects were then produced by a firm constitutional opposition, and recommended a similar manner of acting on the present occasion, which was of far more momentous concern, than the grievances at that time complained of. He never knew a more momentous crisis, or one more likely to produce a greater calamity, than must occur to this country, in case flaxseed is not received in time for next spring's sowing. The question would not then be, whether flax should be as now, at a very high price, but whether we should have it in sufficient quantities at any price. In the latter case a stop must be put to the staple trade of this country, and upwards of half a million of its industrious inhabitants thrown idle. He hoped there might be as much flax in the country, as might serve to next harvest. He did not consider speculation so hurtful as some others might do, yet he did consider it as one of the evils attendant on the present mode of conducting war. He considered war to be, in every shape it could assume, adverse to human happiness. In battle the sword destroyed its victims, and made many widows and fatherless children. In the present policy of applying it to commerce, it was also productive of much misery. He did not like that unsubstantial honour, which is purchased at the expense of the starvation of the industrious classes of the community, and if he had not resolved not to touch much on politics, he would greatly whisper in favour of peace. As a remedy, he thought any restriction on the exportation of flax, would be unfair in principle, as tending to throw the burthen off ourselves on others, and it was also contrary to the Act of Union. What we wanted was flax-seed. Some little might possibly be obtained from Russia, but it would be totally inadequate to supply our wants, and it was doubtful if even this small supply could now be procured, in consequence of a late order of Alexander's, forbidding the entrance of neutral vessels into the ports of Russia. To America we could

only look for any thing like an adequate supply, and this was prevented by the Embargo; which, in his view, was caused by the orders in council. The French Decree, issued from Berlin, had the precedence, but it would probably have remained an idle threat, like an order issued in the former war, by the Directory of France, if the British orders in council had not given potency to it; as they, from their naval superiority, had the power to enforce it. As a proof of the manner in which this Berlin Decree was viewed by merchants, he mentioned that it had been proved, by evidence, at the bar of the House of Commons, that neither freight nor insurance had risen till after the orders in council had been issued. From all these considerations, he thought the proper line of proceeding was to petition the King, and the House of Commons, for such a modification of these orders as might induce the Americans to remove the embargo, which he found, by the President's message to Congress, he had seen that morning, they had made an offer of doing on very reasonable conditions. He strongly deprecated the feeble policy of *whispering* in the ears of ministers, but recommended the meeting to act with firmness, though with the greatest respect, and boldly to approach the proper organs of the constitution, to lay before them their complaints, and thus give publicity to their proceedings. By pursuing such measures, they could only hope to be heard, and even if unsuccessful, they, after a firm remonstrance, would be clear of consequences, and could meet the hour of trial with fortitude and composure. He then read the following Resolutions, which he meant to propose, and concluded with moving the first one.

"Resolved.—That it appears to this meeting, that owing to the want of the usual supply of flaxseed last spring, and the deficiency of the last crop of flax, there is a defective supply of flax at present in this country.

"That, notwithstanding, we think with good management this deficiency would not materially affect the linen trade of this country, if we could look forward with reasonable expectation, to a sufficient supply of flaxseed for the ensuing spring.

"That considering the very small quantity of flaxseed now in this kingdom, and the increasing difficulties of obtaining supplies from Russia, if we are a second year deprived of the usual quantity from America, the situation of the linen trade will, after the present stock of flax is wrought off, be distressing in the most extreme degree.

"That deeply impressed with this alarming prospect, we conceive it to be our duty to present respectful petitions to the King, and the imperial House of Commons, stating the inconveniences likely to result, if a relaxation is not speedily made in the orders in council, so that an inducement may be held out to America, to remove the Embargo in time for vessels to sail, and arrive here previously to the season for sowing flaxseed."

Joseph Nicholson seconded the motion; and observed, that he thought the resolutions were unobjectionable; he preferred to petition openly and publicly, as being likely to be attended with better success. The linen trade was of the greatest importance to Ireland, for by it many thousands of its inhabitants earned their bread, and he thought the poor would especially suffer.

John S. Ferguson rose, and deprecated public measures. He preferred private application to some members of administration, and had not as many fears as the mover of the question, who had made a similar attempt in Belfast, but met with no support; every man in the trade there disapproved of the measure. Trade was by no means at a stand; flax at present in abundance, and the present high prices of linen benefit the country; he had seen letters which stated that larger supplies were expected from Canada, from Greece, and from Sicily, and that much might be drawn from the stores of the oil-mills, in England. He considered the Embargo was unwise and impolitic, and he thought, must speedily be removed, and this was generally expected among merchants, as there was a powerful party against it in America. He thought no good would result from a petition, but it might be attended with many evils, while a private application was free from such objections, and would not create so much alarm. He had a letter prepared, which he admitted, however, went beyond his sentiments, but which, he would propose, should be presented to John Foster, as a member of the linen board, in behalf of this meeting, and which he moved as an amendment, in the place of the original resolutions; but added, if the meeting preferred to address any other member of administration, he had no predilection in favour of the one he proposed.

William Thompson seconded the motion.

Robert Williamson approved of the amendment. He expected we would suffer from the want of flaxseed, but he hoped not so greatly as was feared. He could see no advantage to be gained by petition, except to promote a change of administration, while to him it was quite indifferent who was Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer. Our petition would be certainly disregarded; for we could not expect better success than the merchants of Liverpool, and other places in England, who had petitioned parliament last session, against the orders in council. He strongly disapproved of the con-

duct of the Americans, who had not firmly remonstrated against the Berlin Decree, and who, he thought, were deficient in right feeling against the encroachments of the man, who lorded over the commerce of the continent of Europe, from Dantzic to Barcelona; and that this disposition still prevailed, as might appear in the miserable preaching of the president Jefferson, in his late message to Congress. The commercial morality of the Americans was not very great, and in their trade of carrying they favoured the French; he therefore wished the orders in council should be preserved in their full force, to counteract the schemes of that enemy, who was plotting our destruction, and if he had the power, would reduce us to a state of slavery, and not allow us the liberty of meeting, as we did this day, to discuss the policy of the measure. If the orders were favourable to the general interest of the empire, we, in one corner of it, could not expect a relaxation in our favour. He admitted the poor must suffer as well as the rich, but all must suffer in the attempts to repel the schemes of the common enemy.

The Chairman addressed the meeting, and requested that politics might not be introduced, as not being connected with the question, which related to trade, and which, in his view was of the greatest importance, and interested all classes of the community, from the landlord to the quill-boy. He had never before heard of flaxseed being brought from Greece, and did not expect the river St. Lawrence would be free from ice, to allow vessels to arrive from Canada in time for the sowing of flaxseed, even if they had a supply of it in that country, which he had never heard was the case, and he believed an adequate supply could only be expected from the United States. To these considerations he wished to turn the attention of the meeting, that proper means should be used, for obtaining the great object of procuring flaxseed in sufficient quantity.

Samuel Wright, (who with William Pike, had just returned from Collon) produced a paper, which was read by the Secretary, as the substance of a conversation they had with John Foster, in which he expressed great hopes of an adequate supply of flaxseed for the ensuing season; that some was expected from Greece, Sicily\*, Canada, Holland and the Baltic; for that 150,000 hogsheads had been imported from Russia and Sweden, into England, in the course of last season.

The Secretary now introduced, and read a letter from John Foster, written to the Bann Association, expressive of his objection to any plan to prevent the exportation of flax, as being contrary to the articles of the Union, and mentioning his hopes of flaxseed being procured through the means of merchants, which he preferred to any interference on the part of government, either as importers or by bounties, which would have the tendency to counteract individual mercantile exertions.

James Christy said he was decidedly in favour of public measures, which he hoped would be seconded by those concerned in the linen trade in Dublin, and other towns in the united kingdom, and particularly in London; that he had no fears from the publicity of the measure, nor alarm that America should more fully know the state of this country. They had their Correspondents in this country, and would not acquire any additional knowledge from our proceedings. He thought the statement of the large importation of flaxseed into England last year, exceeded all bounds of credibility, and that it was improper to make application to John Foster on the subject.

William Pike supposed the statement of the 150,000 hogsheads of Riga seed alluded only to what had been imported principally for crushing, but admitted that much of it might not now be on hand.

John S. Ferguson and Robert Williamson disclaimed taking the accuracy of the statement, as the ground work of the plan they had proposed.

John Hancock requested the liberty to reply to the objections made to the Resolutions he had moved. He began by observing that he was not alarmed for consequences just at present, but if flaxseed did not arrive in time for sowing, our situation was critical indeed; for about autumn, when the present supply of flax would be wrought off, the distress would, in such a case, be especially felt. He remarked that most of the flaxseed bought for crushing was of a quality not fit for sowing, and instanced some which he bought for the use of an oil-mill in England, which if it had been sown, would have deceived the purchaser, and left him in a worse situation than if he had not sowed it at all; that one house got liberty from the linen board to sell their old seed, but the quality was so bad, that it could not be sold for sowing, even in the scarcity of last year, but was afterwards sold for crushing; and that it was fair to calculate that most of the seed sold for crushing was totally unfit for sowing; but admitting it was all brought out, and fit for sowing, it would not afford an adequate supply. He admitted his attempt at Belfast was opposed by all then present. Robert Williamson's attempt, similar to the

\* To round the period, he might have added Egypt. Ancient history informs us, that this unhappy country was once the seat of the Linen Manufacture, until the bad policy of its rulers and the avarice of the people extirpated it.

measure now brought forward, met with little more support. He therefore considered himself warranted in expressing his opinion that the amendment proceeding from a quarter where all attempts to do any thing were objected to, looked like an endeavour to prevent any effectual step being taken, and to fritter away what could not be directly prevented. It was like throwing a tub to the whale, to divert its attention, and by a side wind to alter the course of a vessel. He further remarked, that we had not reason to expect the embargo would in future be violated in America, in more instances than had occurred during the last year, in which very few had happened, and as a proof that America had not received just ground of offence from France, by the Berlin Decree, he mentioned that he believed no instance had occurred in France, of an American ship being condemned, till after the date of the Orders in Council. He particularly objected to now addressing the same person whom the trade unanimously opposed in 1782, and who, he was convinced, would not *risk his place* in remonstrating in strong terms against any favourite measure of the present administration. He had heard nothing to cause him to alter his opinion, and therefore he was determined to persevere in his motion, though he should even have to stand alone.

Robert Williamson expected if he had moved the question at Belfast, on his plan, it might have been carried, and thought the present amendment was proceeding by a direct wind into the proper port, and concluded by again defending the Orders of Council, and by observing that a person with whom he had conversed, had recommended that in case of a private application to any of the members of administration, it should be made to them individually, lest it might be cushioned by any one of them. He, however, made no motion to this effect.

The question was then put on the amendment, so as to negative the original Resolutions, and was carried by a show of hands, in favour of the amendment. A division afterwards took place, by separating to different sides of the house, for the sake of more accurately ascertaining those who voted, when a similar result attended, and the address in opposition to the petitions was ordered to be signed by the chairman, on behalf of the majority. The meeting immediately dissolved; the advocates for the amendment appearing fully satisfied with defeating the original plan, did not trouble themselves with any further exertions, by appointing a committee, or taking additional measures to render their own plan efficacious. But though it consisted with their policy to leave *their own scheme unsupported*, the business will not thus be suffered to drop, as measures are now in a state of preparation to have the calamitous state of this country, in case of fluxeet not arriving, fairly stated to the Imperial Parliament, at its meeting, as it is expected that the policy of the orders in council will form an early and prominent object of parliamentary discussion, in which it is fitting that the distresses of the north of Ireland should be fully and explicitly made known.

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*We regret to find that in our last Number an Essay on Humbugging appeared, which had been previously published, with a few variations, in a late periodical publication in Dublin. It was sent to us by a Correspondent in such a form, as to induce us to suppose it was original. We request our Correspondents may not hereafter send to us any Paper which they have previously sent to a similar publication, or give us extracts from books without specifying the authors from whom they extract, to give us an opportunity of judging on the propriety of insertion, and acknowledging the sources whence such articles are borrowed. Originality of communications is essentially our aim.*

*We have received a Critique on "Old Nick's Pocket-book." We decline to insert criticisms thus gratuitously offered. We trust we are sufficient to do our own work in this department.*

We have received a few lines in answer to the critique on Mary Leadbeater's poems, which we decline to insert. The writer was, doubtless, serious in her concluding line, though to us it conveyed an idea altogether ludicrous. Not having had the honour of knowing Edmund Burke in this world, we have formed no very high idea of the happiness of meeting him in a future state of existence. He may have been benevolent and amiable in private life. We spoke of him as a politician, and in that character he did incalculable mischief to these countries. We are now, in our heavy taxes, and in the continuance of the interminable war which he recommended, reaping the bitter fruits of his intemperate, and but too successful endeavour to raise the infatuated war-whoop. Private virtues however splendid, do not lessen political and public vices. They only make defects more glaring.

*Errata.....*Number iv. page 317, column 1st, line 32 from the top, for Joyce, read Jones. No. v. p. 339, col. 2d, line 5 from the bottom, insert a full stop after it, and begin a new paragraph.—line 6 of ditto, for ad, read *Annals*.—p. 329, col. 1, line 28, from the top, for Mrs. read Mr.