
Egerton MS 2030 : 19th century


Collection Area: Western Manuscripts

Reference: Egerton MS 2030

Creation Date: 19th century

Extent and Access: Conditions of Use: Letter of introduction required to view this manuscript

Language: English

Contents and Scope:

Contents:

England; Parliament: Speech of Lord Byron upon the "Frame work" bill: in 1812.: Autogr.


History:

Custodial History:

Robert Charles Dallas: Formerly owned.

Related persons, etc: Byron, George Gordon, 1788-1824, 6th Baron Byron, poet, Lord Byron

Dallas, Robert Charles, 1854-1924, barrister and man of letters

Parliament, Unspecified

Exhibitions: Discovering literature: Romantics and Victorians, (online), 20 February 2014-

Links:

Subject: Byron, George Gordon, 1788-1824, 6th Baron Byron, poet, Lord Byron

Former owner: Dallas, Robert Charles, 1854-1924, barrister and man of letters

Subject: Parliament, Unspecified
Feb. 28th, 1812. Speech in the House.

To Lords 23rd 27th 1812.

My Lord—The subject was submitted to your Lordships for the first time, though new to the house, is by no means new to the country. — I believe it had already occupied the minds of all denominations of persons long before its introduction to the notice of that legislature whose interference alone could be of real service. — As a person in some degree connected with the suffering county, though a stranger not only to the house in general, but to almost every individual whose attention I premise to solicit, I must claim some portion of your Lordship’s indulgence, whilst I offer a few observations on a question in which I can hardly myself deeply interested. — To enter into any detail of these riots would be unnecessary. The house is already aware that every outrage short of actual bloodshed has been perpetrated, & that the perpetrators of these crimes shown to the victims & all persons supposed to be connected with them have been able to insult & violence. — During the short time I recently spent in Notts, not a day elapsed without some fresh act of violence, & on the day I left the county, I was informed that 40 Frames had been burnt the preceding day, as usual without resistance & without detection. — Such was the state of that county & such have been days & weeks, that I believe it to be at this moment. — But whilst these outrages must be admitted to exist to an alarming extent, it cannot be denied that they have arisen from circumstances of the most um—paralled distress. — The remonstrance of these miserable men in their proceedings, was to have that nothing but absolute
The want could have driven a large & once orderly & industrious body of the inhabitants into the commission of offenses so hazardous to themselves, their families & the community. At the time of such a crisis, the town & county were beset with large detachments of the military, the police was in action, the magistrates appeared. All these moves of civil & military had led to nothing. Not a single instance had occurred of the apprehension of any real delinquent actually taken in the fact, against whose then extant legal evidence sufficient for conviction. But the police, however underpaid, etc., in means idle, several notorious delinquents had been detected; men liable to conviction on the least evidence of the capital crime of poverty, men who had been notoriously guilty of lawfully begetting several children, whom, thanks to the laws, they were unable to maintain. Considerable injury has been done to the production of frame. These machines were to them an advantage inasmuch as they rendered the necessity of employing a number of workmen who were left in consequence to starve. By the action of one species of frame in particular, one man performed the work of many, & the laborious laborers were thrown out of employment. It is to be the served that the work thus executed was inferior in quality, not marketable at least of merely hurried over as called in the course of the trade by the numerous with a view to exportation. The result was intended in the blindness of their ignorance, instead of resorting to those improvements in arts so confided to man kind.
conceived themselves to be sacrificed to improvements in their Mechanism. In the festivities of their hearts, the wise said that the well doing (§) maintenance of the industrious poor was an object of greater consequence than the enrichment of a few individuals by any improvement in the implements of trade which then the workman out of employment & rended the labourer unworthy of his hire. And it must be confessed that the addition of these enlarged manufactories in that state of our commerce in which the Country are hoarded might have been beneficial to the Master with being detrimental to the servant, Yet in the present situation of our manufactures, sitting in one manu, without a prospect of expiation, with the demand for want

incomes equally diminished, each frame of this constriction undoubtedly tended materially to aggravate the distresses of discontent of the disappointed sufferers. But the real cause of these distresses & consequent disturbances lies deeper. When we are told that these men are employed not only for the destruction of their own comfort, but of their very means of subsistence, can we forget that it is the bitter testimony the destructive warfare of the last eighteen years which has destroyed their comfort, your comfort, all men's comfort; that testimony which originating with "great statesmen now no more" has survived the dearth to become a curse on the living into the third & fourth generation? — that we ever destroyed their homes till they were become useless, more than useless, till they were became actual embankment, to their decisions in obtaining their daily bread.
Can you then wonder that in times like these when bankruptcy, convicted fraud, & unpaid debts are found not far a station beneath that of your Lordships' the lesser, though once most useful portion of the people should forget their duty in their distresses & become only as guilty as one of their representatives? — But while the exalted minds can find means to baffle the law, new capital penalties must be devised, new means of death must be supplied for the exalted mankind who is banished into guilt. — There are none willing to die, but the shade was in other hands, they were not ashamed to beg, but there was none to relieve them, till our means of subsistence were cut off by all other employment. Preoccupied, & their excuse, however, to be displaced & condemned, can hardly be subject of surprise. — At her last session, that the persons in 193 sections of frames commit at their destruction, if this be desired who enquiring, it was necessary that such malice accompanies to the crime should be sinners, in the punishment. — But I did hope that any measure promulgated by His Majesty's government for your 76 act would have had consideration for its basis; so of that we hope, that some maniac enquiring, in deliberation would have been deemed unwise, not that we should not have been called at once without examination & without cause to pass sentences by wholesale, & sign deathwarrants.

Handwritten