

GENTLEMEN.—I rejoice to find that a national representation of your body is to be held at Birmingham on Monday and Tuesday next, and in order that the result of your deliberations may not be lost for want of publication, I beg to apprise you that I have given directions that as much space as you may require in the "Northern Star" shall be reserved for that purpose. As upon the reporting of all such matters very much depends their value to the public, and as it frequently occurs that reports are unused to the "business" of the day, I am as I prefer saddling any errors that may occur upon you rather than upon myself, you will be good enough to send your reports, authenticated by the London secretary, to the office on as early a day in the week as possible, in order that your proceedings may be introduced with a suitable comment. Should this arrangement not suit your managing body in London, those gentlemen will have the goodness to notify their objection to Mr. Harney, Northern Star office, who will make the necessary arrangements for the attendance of a reporter; while I apprise you that the publication in such case cannot be so complete or satisfactory as if sent officially by your secretary. As much space as your proceedings may require being held at your service, and as an edition of the Star is published for Scotland and the north of England, at twelve o'clock on Thursday night, you will see the necessity of an early delivery of the matter. Your secretary will be good enough to send matter as fast as it is prepared, as a flood of manuscript crowding upon the compositor at once leads to delay and confusion.

Your obedient servant,
FEARGUS O'CONNOR.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,
Since the triumph of Free Trade principles was accomplished, I have been in the habit of calling your attention to the subject weekly and monthly, and, indeed, while anticipations as to the result were high, I cautioned you of the fallacy of your policy. While engaged in laying the foundation of a new system of Domestic Economy, I have had very ample opportunities of canvassing what the inevitable result of Free Trade institutions must lead to; and I have been strengthened in every one of my most alarming forebodings, because I am now convinced that Free Trade in Labour and Produce, if not accompanied by Free Trade in Religion and Land, must, and inevitably will, lead to Free Trade in thrones, titles, distinctions, and property.

I dare say you have missed me from the political arena of late, and you must understand the cause. Firstly, then, I feared the effect of excitement upon an impoverished people; and I calculated upon the God-send my incarceration would be to Whiggery during a contested election, as I am free to confess, that under the pressure of famine, I could not keep my tongue within the limits of Whig conscience; and, secondly, I was resolved that no violence of mine should be the means of introducing a free labour class to their neighbours, with characters damaged by their leader's intemperance. But, my Lord, there is a point beyond which human endurance cannot be driven; and the effect of your policy is daily bringing me nearer and nearer to that point. I have not the heart, my Lord, that can bear the tears of mothers, the hungry howl of little innocent children, that beset my door from morning to night; nor can I say to able-bodied men in search of work, "I can hear your tale of woe unmov'd." When honest men, willing to earn their bread "by the sweat of their brow," come to me, and tell me that their families have not tasted food for a whole day, and when their anxious countenance stamps the assurance with truth, I cannot say, "Go about your business!"

My Lord, I am now giving employment to about 300 men—carpenters, masons, plasterers, bricklayers, quarrymen, sawyers, carvers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, slaters, and labourers, and that upon 150 acres of land, which previously never employed more than four men, any one year. I mention this fact, my Lord, that you may learn that there is an ample field for the employment of remunerative labour, because productive, labour; and to caution you against the fallacy of supposing, that the most stringent laws of political economy will reconcile able-bodied men to the theory of Free Trade. My Lord, you and your press have dealt in just and wholesome abuse of the Irish landlords; but, my Lord, as I apprise you in August last, famine has now come to your own door. We read of food riots in England; and the clemency and charity of English landlords and the wealthier classes is manifest in their alacrity to serve as special constables, and as accoutred yeomen, to preserve the peace. My Lord, will you have the goodness to point out in your place in Parliament what the English upper and middle classes have done to mitigate the present want? Perhaps you will answer—the Poor Laws. Well, my Lord, in such case one fact is worth a bushel of arguments, and here it is.—On Tuesday, a labourer of fifty-six years of age asked me very impudently, "if he might leave off work before the usual time, as his wife was not expected to live, and he had a large family, and had several miles to walk." I told him to "go then, not to stop away from her," and he said, "She won't live; the doctor ordered her some soup; but the overseer ordered him away, and would not give him any." Now, my Lord, this is no Free Trade steamboat Fairy Tale. The man's name is Richard Curtis; he lives in the parish of Eldersfield, and, of course, you expect him to be a good and loyal subject, ready to defend the Church and Queen, with his life's blood. "Ee uo disse omnes"—from this sample, my Lord, you may judge the sack; and now for a more extensive review of our parochial affairs. Neither landlord nor parson in this parish has attempted to assist the poor in their distress; while the farmers, burdened with high rents, heavy tithes, and onerous local taxation, are, as I predicted, dispensing with all such manual labour as possible. Flour is 18s. a bushel, with every indication of a rise; wages are 7s. 6s., and in some instances, 8s. a week. I am giving 12s.; so that a man, his wife and family, at the best wages, can earn half a bushel of flour a week and nothing left for rent, firing, clothes, tools, or wet days. My Lord, this will be a particularly disastrous season for the agricultural labourers, because the hay harvest will be three weeks, at least, later than usual, and there will be but little employment in the interval. I went to Gloucester on Monday and gave a commission for ten tons of potatoes, but could not get them under £14 a ton—35s. a sack; four FOUR POUNDS a sack—£32 a ton. Now, in this state of things, what are the people to do? Will you, though late, appoint a proper excise staff and take stock of every man's store and calculate every family's necessities? If you don't do it the people, I fear, will. This is one of the blessings of Free Trade. Now let me inform you that the scant appearance of the stack yards is no criterion by which to judge of the amount of provisions in the country. The corn which is usually in the stack yard at this season of the year is now under Free Trade lock and key in the Forestallers' Store House, and a national inspection and return of the amount of grain thus up-hoisted would astonish you and the world, and will prove that, in the midst of plenty, speculation may create an artificial scarcity. There has been more oats and beans saved this year from not feeding horses with them than would feed half Ireland till harvest. Not a farmer in fifty gives his horses a grain of oats—it is all

in the Free Trade Store Houses. My Lord, open those hiding-places, at least for inspection, board and gauge every vessel, take stock of every railway train, have a return of the untrashed stacks, and, my life for it, you will find a real plenty, where scarcity is made a Free Trade bugbear. I tell you candidly that I turn to knock those Free Trade rascals down whom I see the vipers grinning at the woe they have created and lamenting over scarcity, while their storehouses are full. My Lord, if you don't inspect them I fear a greater enemy will. The approaching election terrifies you, my Lord. You would prefer office with plague, pestilence, and famine, to a graceful retirement, consequent upon the honest performance of a sacred duty. But, my Lord, do not deceive yourself—you are widening the breach between the represented and the unrepresented—between the rich oppressor, and the poor oppressed; and rest assured that the Church, and not Free Trade, will be the cause of the next election, for when did the Church lose such an opportunity as famine to create bloodshed and feuds? Yes, my Lord, Oxford has already beaten the big "DRUM ECCLESIASTIC," and every parish pulp will respond to its tattoo. The Church has drawn the sword, you must throw away the scabbard or perish. The idea of an Ambassador to the Court of Rome is more than religious monopoly can bear.

I am, my Lord, your obedient servant,
FEARGUS O'CONNOR.

Lowlands, Worcestershire,
May 20th.

Chartist Intelligence.

MR CLARK'S TOUR.—On Friday evening, May 14th, a public meeting was held in the Mansion-house, to adopt a petition to parliament for the Repeal of the Rate-paying Clauses, when Mr. Peck, town councillor, was appointed to preside, who opened the business by strongly condemning the conduct of the mayor, who had refused to call a meeting. Mr. Stephens moved a resolution condemning the rate-paying clauses, which was seconded by Mr. Jackson. Mr. Thomas Clark, one of the Land Directors supported the resolution in an excellent address. The petition was moved by Mr. Barnett, seconded by Mr. Currie, and supported by Dr. Gordon and others. The petition was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be sent to the borough members for presentation. On Saturday evening Mr. Clark delivered an address in the Freemasons' Lodge, when he fully explained the land plan, and the bank in connection therewith. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Clark, whose visit cannot be too productive of great good.

DEAR.—A meeting was held on Wednesday evening in the Mechanics' Hall, Mr. Challenger presided. Mr. T. Clark delivered an admirable address. The National Petition for the enactment of the People's Charter was unanimously adopted.

RAVENS.—On Monday evening, May 17th, Mr. T. Clark delivered a lecture to a numerous and intelligent audience in the Town Hall, on the subject of the National Land Company. The lecture was warmly applauded throughout.

SEVENTH.—On Monday evening the Town Hall was crowded by persons of every class, to hear an address from Mr. T. Clark, on the objects of the National Land Company. Mr. Allen, a tried and valued friend of the cause, presided. Mr. Clark earnestly addressed the assembly, and opened the business by a suitable introductory address; after which Mr. Clark commenced his lecture. He entered into a brief relation of the causes which led to the formation of the Company, and gave an outline of its progress to the present time, and afterwards proceeded to develop the means by which the Company proposes to realize the objects set forth in the Charter. Mr. Clark earnestly invited discussion, but no one appeared to oppose his statements. All present seemed perfectly satisfied.

SECOND MEETING.—On Wednesday evening the Town Hall was again crowded, the object of the assembly being to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament for the enactment of the People's Charter. Mr. Allen presided a second time, and added dignity to the situation by the manner in which he conducted the business. The National Petition was proposed, and supported by Mr. Clark in a lengthy address, in the course of which his sentiments were most enthusiastically cheered. He tore to shreds the present wretched and miserable system of patchwork legislation, and was eminently successful in demonstrating the utility of the People's Charter as a substitute for what is now in vogue. A resolution "That the petition be presented to the House of Commons," was unanimously adopted. The usual compliment having been paid to the worthy president for his able conduct in the chair, the meeting separated, all expressing satisfaction and delight at Mr. Clark's excellent address.

LEES.—On Sunday evening last Mr. T. Clark lectured in the Bazaar, in explanation of the Land and Labour Bill.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Mr. T. Clark addressed a large meeting in the market-place, on Tuesday evening last, on the "Probable Effects of the Land Plan." Mr. Skevington presided, and though the rain descended very fast, the people remained to hear the whole of Mr. Clark's address, which was necessarily lengthy. Much good has been effected by the meeting.

LOUTH.—Mr. T. Clark attended here on Thursday, for the purpose of explaining the objects of the Land Company.

REPRESENTATION OF DEBBY.—A meeting of the members of the Land and Chartist Association will be held at the house of Mr. Belfield, Green-street, at six o'clock on Sunday evening next, to forward the National Land Company Bill to the House of Commons. Mr. T. Clark will be present to explain the objects of the Bill.

HALIFAX.—The Chartist will in future meet on Saturday evening, for general business, at half-past seven o'clock. Mr. Hutton has been put in to (to-morrow) evening at half-past six o'clock.

HULL.—The Chartist will meet at the Ship Inn, Church-lane, on Sunday evening next.

LIVERPOOL.—On Sunday evening next, May 23rd, a public discussion will take place at Mr. Farrall's, Temperance Hotel, Colston-street, between Mr. Thomas and Edmund Jones.

"Whether were the physical wants of the people of England better supplied under the agricultural system of the middle ages, or the commercial system of the present age?" Mr. T. Jones will support the agricultural system, and Mr. Edmund Jones the commercial. Chair to be taken at half past seven.

MARLBOROUGH.—Mr. John Savage will lecture at the Coach Painters' Arms, Circus-street, on Sunday evening next, May 23, at eight o'clock precisely. Subject: "The Spirit of the Times."

MR EDWARD JONES will attend public meetings at the following places:—Saturday 22nd, Todmorden; Sunday 23rd, Rochdale.

OLDHAM.—Mr. Daniel Donovan will lecture in the school-room of the Working-Man's Hall on Sunday to-morrow, at six o'clock in the evening. All persons who are favourable to Chartist principles are requested to attend, as business of great importance will be laid before them.

REGISTRATION AND ELECTION COMMITTEE.—The next meeting of this body will take place at the Assembly Rooms, Dean-street, Soho, on Wednesday evening next, May 20, at eight o'clock precisely. All persons holding collecting books are requested to return the same that evening.

ROCHDALE.—On Sunday evening next E. Jones, Esq., will lecture in the Chartist room, York-street, on the Land and Charter. Chair to be taken at six o'clock. On Sunday the 30th, Mr. Richard Marsden, of Preston, will lecture in the above room at six in the evening. Subject: "What society should be, and the way to make it so." On Whit-Friday the Chartist of Rochdale will have their first ball in the new Association room, York-street, to commence at eight o'clock.

TOWER HAMLETS.—Mr. P. McGrath will lecture at the Whitington and Cat, Church Row, Bethnal-green, on Sunday evening, at 8 o'clock precisely.

TOWER HAMLETS.—Mr. W. W. Broome will lecture at the Globe and Friends, Morgan-street, Commercial-road, on Sunday, May 23. Subject: "The Stages of Life." To commence at 8 o'clock. For the benefit of the Victim Fund.

WANDSWORTH.—A very numerous and attentive public meeting was held in the spacious School Rooms, corner of Garratt-lane, on Tuesday evening, May 11th, in support of the National Land Company. Messrs. G. Grath, E. St. George, and Henry Briggs attended by proxy. Mr. Edmond Jones, having been unanimously called to the chair said he was happy to receive the honour they had conferred on him by calling him to preside over such a numerous meeting. It reminded him of the time, some seven years ago, when he attended their enthusiastic meetings in favour of the political enfranchisement of the millions. He was still happier to meet them on the present occasion, and to see that party who were then looked down upon, had, two years since, founded the National Land Company, and in that brief period, had realized a capital of £30,000 and purchased four estates, comprising nearly 900 acres of land. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Stallwood then showed how the small sums of £2 12s. 6d. and £4 12s. 6d., which were the sums paid for shares, could by co-operation and reproduction be made to effect the allocation of the whole of the shareholders, and demonstrated the practicability of the land Scheme by the working of the several allotment societies, the field gardeners, the Church of England society, and the numerous small market gardeners, who obtained excellent livings from small quantities of land, although they purchased their shares at a high price. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Stallwood next proceeded to show, that as the National Land Company removed the surplus labour from the market and placed it on the land, it must inevitably have the effect of increasing the value of labour, and consequently raising wages. (Cheers.) Mr. Philip McGrath rose, heartily welcomed to Wandsworth, and said, the National Land Company was uniting the poor and the rich, and was doing more for the poor than any other body. He was happy to see that it had no host of lawyers hanging on it for subsistence—no, it was founded for and carried on by the people. (Loud cheers.) The aristocracy, he made bold to say, had stolen the land from the people—(loud cheers)—and retained it as a monopoly for their own special advantage. The middle classes, the shopkeepers, lived on profits wrung from labour, and consequently, neither the poor nor the rich could fairly be supposed to have much sympathy for the sons of toil, hence was the present accursed system fast hastening the downfall of all who lived by the wages of labour. Improvements in machinery had enabled one man to do the work of nine, yet was the man much worse off; well, then, the only remedy he could see was self-employment. Mr. McGrath then gave an eloquent and lucid exposition of the principles and objects of the company, and said, on the great blessings that must inevitably flow from their action, gave a graphic description of the Land and Labour Bank, its modus operandi, the great security it offers to depositors over and above all other banks, the greater interest all beneficial trade societies would have in becoming depositors, the great facilities its working would afford to the poor, and the great advantages it would offer to the rich. (Loud cheers.) Mr. McGrath then proceeded to show, that as the National Land Company removed the surplus labour from the market and placed it on the land, it must inevitably have the effect of increasing the value of labour, and consequently raising wages. (Cheers.) Mr. Philip McGrath rose, heartily welcomed to Wandsworth, and said, the National Land Company was uniting the poor and the rich, and was doing more for the poor than any other body. 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