

# NATIONAL LAND COMPANY DISSOLVING.

Notice is hereby given, that application is intended to be made to Parliament in the ensuing session for an Act to Dissolve the National Land Company, and to wind up the undertaking, and to make sale, or otherwise dispose of the lands and property belonging to the said Company; and after the payment of all debts, liabilities, and expenses respecting the same, to divide the surplus monies to be realised by such sale, or sales, between and amongst the shareholders and subscribers entitled thereto, rateably, according to their several interests in the said undertaking.

WM. PROWSE ROBERTS, Solicitor,  
Robert-street, Adelphi,  
WALMSLEY and SON, Parliamentary  
Agents, 23, Parliament-street.

"Ruin him with expenses."—Lord Melbourne.

O'CONNOR v. BRADSHAW.

## TO THE WORKING CLASSES.

MY FRIENDS,—I give you at top Lord MELBOURNE's good old maxim—one to which, for the last thirty years, I have been most barbarously subjected; and now I appeal to the honour, to the integrity, and honesty of your class, as to whether one who has devoted his whole life and property to the service of his country, is to be ruined by your neglect? I have never had an action against me yet in which the plaintiff has not succeeded; and I beg to call your strict attention to the very able article which appeared in the *Times*, relative to the decision of the judges in this case. The Editor of the *Northern Star* has informed me that it is his intention to publish that article, and also to write an article himself upon the subject; and, therefore, I need not myself occupy much of your time.

Let me, however, ask you, if it is possible for one man to do a Nation's work?—and yet for many years you have imposed this onerous burden upon me; and, as long as I was able to bear that burden, I never made any appeal to you; but, on the contrary, I felt happy, when I was rich, to be able to defend the poor against their oppressors; and I never allowed any political passions to go without an able defence. I advanced one thousand guineas, out of my own pocket, to defend FROST, WILLIAMS, and JONES, before a farthing has subscribed. Five hundred guineas of that went into the pocket of SIR FREDERICK POLLOCK, the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who tried BRADSHAW's case, and who, to use the mildest language, behaved in the most brutal and tyrannical manner. I think every honest working man will come to the conclusion that this debt is theirs, and not mine; as my object in bringing the action against BRADSHAW was, to prove to them that the character in which they placed reliance and confidence could be defended even against the Press; whereas, if my character had been impugned by the verdict of a jury, they might have thought me justly liable to the costs.

Let me, however, give you a fair definition as to the position of the man who undertakes to advocate the cause of the poor and the oppressed. DANIEL O'CONNELL received thousands a year from the poor Irish to support the Whigs, who were their greatest oppressors. RICHARD CONNELL—although a much more honest and independent man than O'CONNELL—received eight thousand pounds for advocating the cause of the middle classes—while, however, I will do him the justice to say, that he anticipated that that measure of Free Trade would have also rendered service to the working classes.

Now, Working Men, I have told you before that my own expenses in the MACNAMARA action, the BRADSHAW action, and to save the Chartist victims from oakum picking, cost me nearly £1,000, which does not include BRADSHAW's costs, which the Court of Exchequer has now made me liable to; and let me assure you that if it was in my power to pay those costs, whatever they amount to, I would not appeal to your order. However, as a man cannot be expected to do a nation's work, I think I am justified in doing so; and I retain that confidence in your order which convinces me that you will not allow the Government, the quibble of the law, and the vengeance of tyrants, to ruin me.

I have stated before, but I will state it again, that when the *Northern Star* was making a profit of over thirteen thousand pounds a year, I was living humbly, and devoted every fraction of that to the elevation of your order.

Now, working men, in conclusion, let me ask you, whether you will allow the Government, the judges, and your oppressors to luxuriate and glory in the boast, that they have "RUINED THE CHARTIST LEADER WITH EXPENSES;" but, however poor you may make me, however unjust you may prove to me, and whatever tyranny and oppression the law may subject me to, and however many of your own interested professed supporters may revile me, I am determined to uphold your principles and my own against tyranny, oppression, and unjust expense. I trust that a prompt answer will be given to my appeal, as those costs must be paid forthwith.

I remain, your Faithful Friend and  
Unswerving Advocate,  
FEARGUS O'CONNOR.

## WINDING-UP OF THE LAND COMPANY.

### TO THE LAND MEMBERS.

MY FRIENDS,—The winding-up of the Land Company is now in course of progress; it has been advertised in all the provincial papers where the estates are situated, in the *Gazette*, and in the *Times* newspaper as well, which is the usual form; and last night I had a letter from the Solicitor to the Land Company, informing me that a large sum would be required IMMEDIATELY to take further necessary steps, and I think that the men who are the most anxious to have the Company wound-up, and their monies returned, should not be backward in supplying the funds. And I beg to inform that the shareholders who do subscribe for that purpose, that the amount they subscribe will be refunded, and that they will be the first paid-off members when the Company is wound up; and I think that every one will admit that this is a fair and proper course to pursue, as the Company could not be wound up if the necessary funds were not supplied.

Let me give the shareholders a clear explanation of the position in which they stand. On Saturday last I was summoned to the Westminster County Court, by a shareholder who had paid £2 12s; he had a solicitor to support his case. The Judge stated that he had read the report of the Parliamentary Committee, and that it was ridiculous and foolish for any man to attempt to recover money from Mr. O'CONNOR, until the Company was wound up. He at once gave judgment in my favour; the poor shareholder (an Irishman) had employed a solicitor, and I have no doubt that his expenses amounted to between £3 and £4. Another man summoned me before the County Court at Camberwell, when Mr. CHILTON, the judge, without hearing any evidence upon my part, immediately dismissed the case, and gave judgment in my favour. Now this may show you the difference between honest and dishonest judges; and I tell those shareholders

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who have attempted to sue me, that they shall be the very last paid-off, when the Land Company is wound up. I have already written you a letter, relative to my own position with regard to legal expenses, and I write this to explain your position and my own as well; and I trust that the people will not allow their enemies in the country to suppose that they are so dead to their own interests.

All monies for winding up the Land Company are to be transmitted direct to Mr. W. RIDER, Publisher, Northern Star Office, 16, Great Windmill-Street, Haymarket, London. Your faithful friend,  
FEARGUS O'CONNOR.

## THE O'CONNOR TRIBUTE.

### TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

SIR,—A few Chartists wish to offer their sympathy for and admiration of Feargus O' Connor, by contributing from their humble means their share to the expenses incurred at the late mockery, termed the character of that indomitable and intrepid champion of the rights, liberties, and constitutional privileges of the people of these realms. We do not take credit to ourselves for so doing, but we consider it the bounden duty of every individual professing the principles of true democracy, to do likewise. Let us not stand tamely by, and let the best and noblest of men sacrifice his all, for the purpose of emancipating the proletarians of this country from their present miserable condition, when a few pence from one-third of those who profess to be Democrats, would more than suffice to release all our friends from their difficulties.

Around, then, brother Chartists, from one end of the country to the other, and let one feeling animate the whole body, and show to our enemies that we are no longer hirelings, but men of thought and action, who are determined never to rest satisfied until our liberties are conceded whole and entire, and the People's Charter becomes the law of the land; then such men as Bradshaw would not dare to tamper with the feelings of the people. Brothers, this never can be accomplished by any other means than a thorough union of the working classes. We must bury all animosity and ill feeling, which has crept in amongst us of late, and disband all bickering and contention from our places of meeting, by enlisting one man and calumniating the other, when both are entitled to our confidence. Chartism must swallow up all other "isms;" it is the only "ism" worth contending for at present; it is imbedded in the minds of the working classes more than any other doctrine; and it is the only one which, if it is to be successful, must be able to stand the test of a free press. Let us, therefore, to the end of the world, use the mildest language, behaved in the most brutal and tyrannical manner. I think every honest working man will come to the conclusion that this debt is theirs, and not mine; as my object in bringing the action against BRADSHAW was, to prove to them that the character in which they placed reliance and confidence could be defended even against the Press; whereas, if my character had been impugned by the verdict of a jury, they might have thought me justly liable to the costs.

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## THE MANCHESTER CONFERENCE.

[This letter was unavoidably omitted last week in consequence of a press of other matter. We should have omitted several paragraphs of a personal character had it been then inserted, in conformity with the general rule we have laid down in such cases. The copy which follows is taken from the *Independent Press*, which, though retaining one or two offensive passages, omits the most objectionable paragraphs.—Ed. N. S.]

BROTHER CHARTISTS.—Now that personal dictations have become impossible, we appear in danger of falling into the hands of a far more injurious kind of dictatorship—that of a small faction out of the people themselves, taking the lead, and calling themselves "the people."

As I am not in the habit of minding my words and, as I neither fear the enemy nor court the favour of any man, town, or class, I will speak plainly on this subject. I denounce the intended Conference as the attempt of a small, insignificant faction, to subvert the very principles of democracy—to pledge the movement to the views and feelings of a minority of its body,—by persisting in calling a Conference at a time when the convokers well know that only a small section of the Chartists can be represented, and thus to perpetuate mistrust and division in our ranks.

Up to last Saturday's *Star*, the majority of the country, as far as its opinion has been expressed, has spoken against the proposed Conference; not withstanding the determination of a few (mostly consisting of the aristocracy of labour) to carry on every true democrat to set his face against it, and to have no connexion with it if it meets, unless the majority of the Chartist body shall have been concerned in its election.

Should it take place, how will it be constituted? Five or six individuals, calling themselves "the men" of their locality, will send a delegate; if they belong to the better paid trades, they can afford to pay for him, if not, the expense will fall on the shoulders of some individual who can. We shall have a Conference living on private charity, supported by the rich, but not by the poor. It will be an attempt to establish a dictatorship, and its movement (at a time when the elements of honour, dignity, and power really are there, if not sacrificed to the interests and selfish views of a small clique) will be degraded in the eyes of the country, and in our own. Say, has this not been the case before? But the interests of that clique will be furthered.

Brother Chartists, do not let yourselves be deceived! You are called upon to keep the Charter distinct from every other "ism." Be it so; but at the same time put the extinguisher upon the "isms" in your own ranks. There are several of them,—the associations, professions to be established by carrying the Charter—drawing off sideways, into their crooked channels, so much of the strength and volume of the democratic stream. You must know, and their founders know well, that their existence does our movement an injury. Knowing this, can they, working men, I ask you, can they be our friends?

against one Conference electing an Executive as much as the Manchester Council can against another.

The Manchester Council says:—"Every town, paying the expenses of delegation, will have a right of sending one or more delegates." So that a few shopkeepers in one small town will be enabled to nullify the will of the poor thousands in another large one! This, no doubt, they will see the prudence of rectifying in their next address. But I protest against a Conference electing an executive at all: the whole Chartist body must be appealed to, and I am therefore, delighted with what I heard last night, when I had the honour of an interview with the Executive Committee; they have resolved on taking steps for the immediate election of a new executive by the country at large, and that of the most enlarged and national basis. For my part, I am opposed to all "property qualification" to permitting only paying members to vote, and thus excluding the poor who have most need of a voice. I should like to see every working man, who takes an interest in the cause, give his vote on the occasion, whether poor, or better paid; and therefore I denounce the resolution in that effect, which the Committee have unanimously passed.

Our course, I think, is now clear. The new Executive, for the selection of which there exists far more perfect and available machinery than for that of the present proposed, is intended to nullify little or no expense, will be the competent authority to call and fix the time of a Conference. The fullest democracy will hereby be satisfied, and all seeds of bickering and dissension must, of a necessity, be destroyed.

Perhaps an attempt may yet be made to uphold the perishing spirit of faction in our ranks, by meetings, cheers, rhetoric, and claptrap: take it for what it is worth! Perhaps you may be told the paper question renders a Conference necessary: of this the Executive will be the legitimate judges; and they will be elected long before the Manchester Conference, as the present proposed, is intended to nullify little or no expense, will be the competent authority to call and fix the time of a Conference. The fullest democracy will hereby be satisfied, and all seeds of bickering and dissension must, of a necessity, be destroyed.

Our duty is plain: it is to crush faction within, as well as without. The wind is beginning to blow in the right quarter: let us have clear decks, unumbered with these rubbishy cliques, and I have no fear of the result. For my part, I stand single-handed, I will raise my voice against this spirit of faction, wherever I meet it. No doubt I shall make plenty of enemies by so doing—perhaps I shall make more friends; and should I not, I will still remain.

Hardwick Lodge, Bayswater,  
November 20th, 1850.

BROTHER CHARTISTS.—It is our painful duty this week to appeal to you again, in vindication of our character as Democrats, against the unwarrantable denunciations of us by Ernest Jones, in last week's number of "Reynolds's Weekly Newspaper." Why did it not appear in the acknowledged organ of the Chartist body we are at a loss to know. Our reason for naming this omission is, that it would have given us more time to peruse and answer the attack made upon us.

We will not deal in denunciations in vindication of what we have either said or done, but will apply ourselves to answer (as working men, in plain language) the charges and denunciations brought against us by a man whose superior scholastic education should have placed him far out of the reach or suspicion of uneducated working men, in endeavouring to make us appear what his own acts condemn him to be.

Without further comment, we will proceed to examine the different paragraphs in Mr. Jones's letter:—

Now that personal dictations have become impossible, we appear in danger of falling into the hands of a far more injurious kind of dictatorship—that of a small faction out of the people themselves, taking the lead, and calling themselves "the people."

As we proceed, we shall be able to discover if personal dictatorship has become impossible, or whether it is not attempted under the disguise of personal abuse. We are further denounced as "a small faction," taking the lead, and calling ourselves "the people." With all due respect to Mr. Jones, we most emphatically deny we are a faction, but a body which has for years taken an active part in Chartism and the Chartist agitation, long before the name of "Ernest Jones, Esq." was known in the Chartist ranks. Men who have grown grey in the cause—men who have been closely connected with its progress, and are as familiar with its movement as Ernest Jones—men who have always raised their voice against dictatorship, come from whom it may. And are these the men who would dictate, and call themselves "the people?"

Have we not as much right to express our opinions, and offer our advice to the country, as Ernest Jones, or any other person or body of persons, that we do not recognise? We repudiate the assumption of any one who would dictate to us what we should say or do; we claim it as our right, and are determined to maintain that right, let who will denounce us. We hope that the spirit of freedom is too far advanced in the bosom of every man to allow liberty of speech to be stifled. That our address is dictatorial we deny—it is simply an appeal to the country. And who would deny us this right? Not the country; for we maintain that a majority, up to the present time, who have taken the matter in consideration, have responded in favour of our appeal:—

I denounce the intended Conference as the attempt of a small and insignificant faction to subvert the very principles of democracy—to pledge the movement to the views and feelings of a minority of its body, &c.

Let the reader refer to the first paragraph—"Now that personal dictations have become impossible"—and then cast his eye to the second paragraph, and the second sentence—"I denounce the intended Conference"—and then to the third paragraph, the last sentence—"I call on every true democrat to set his face against it." Pray, who dictates here?—not the Manchester Council; again, we are not the small and insignificant body ("a faction") as Mr. Jones represents us to be; but a large organised body of Chartists, that has for years upheld the banner of Democracy against all persecutions, facts on record will testify. In proof, look to the various subscriptions, advertised in the "*Northern Star*," and see if Manchester has not performed its fair share, in paying the necessary demands made upon the country.

Manchester "a faction?" If a firm and steady adhesion to principle is factions, then Manchester glories in the appellation.

Notwithstanding which the determination of a few, mostly consisting of the aristocracy of labour, seems to be that the Conference shall be held.

Here we are at a loss to discover how Mr. Jones has arrived at such a description of men, and with whom he is personally ignorant of, and with whom he has had no communication, except Messrs. Leese and Donovan. How then we ask, does he know that those mostly consist of the aristocracy of labour? What proof does he adduce for asserting that we (the Manchester Council) mostly consist of the aristocracy of labour? Could he see us in Council assembled, he would discover the majority of our Council his seniors in years, with the pale, over-toiled looking faces of factory operatives—

men with blistered hands, and unshorn chins, clothed not in black broad cloth, but flannel jackets. Could he see the writer of this article turn out with his fellow-council-men every Sunday morning, under all circumstances, in the weekly practice of every councilman, traversing, for hours, the whole of this large cotton metropolis, and collecting the weekly penny subscriptions for the support and advancement of the Charter, paying his quota of the expenses, devoting his time, and sacrificing his health and family comforts for the establishment of pure Democracy. Their looks would negative Mr. Jones's assertion: These are aristocratic privileges unknown to Mr. Jones. Are these the men to make the principles of democracy subservient to the caprice of a minority?

We shall have a Conference living in private charity, supported by the rich, but not by the poor. It will be an attempt to establish a dictatorship, and its movement (at a time when the elements of honour, dignity, and power really are there, if not sacrificed to the interests and selfish views of a small clique) will be degraded in the eyes of the country, and in our own.

We will not attempt to prophesy what will take place, but will leave the prophecy to Mr. Jones. It would have been only fair if Mr. Jones, before charging us with being a selfish and a sordid clique, had shown proof for such an assertion. What interest could the Manchester Council have to sacrifice the elements of honour, dignity, and power of the Chartist cause? What sort of men does Mr. Jones believe the Manchester Council to be, to degrade the movement in the eyes of their country—men who have sustained the principles of the Charter as honourably as Mr. Jones? But, says Mr. Jones, the interest of the clique will be furthered. We ask what interest?

The want of faith, if a reproach at all, is not so to the Executive body, but to the men who harbour that want, and then advance their own disobedience as reason why the Executive should not be dissolved.

Our disobedience rests on the violation of principle in the Executive assuming to be the governing head, they not having taken the votes of the country to sanction their nomination; without such votes the Executive could not legally command the confidence and support of the country. This is the primary cause of the dissensions amongst our body. The resignation of the Executive proves the truth of this assertion in our address. We will now come to what we consider the very pith of Mr. Jones's letter:—

But I protest against a Conference electing an Executive at all, the whole Chartist body must be appealed to.

This is exactly our position, only differing in the mode of electing the Executive; had such steps been taken in due time, it would have prevented the dissension which now pervades the Chartist body. It is our opinion that the electing of an Executive will not settle those differences; we believe the best course that could be pursued would be the calling together of all localities, and exchanging opinions, so that a good understanding might be arrived at, as to how the Chartist movement shall be conducted, so as to obtain the co-operation of a majority of the people. To achieve this desirable object is the sole aim of the Manchester Council; and who, would throw obstacles in the way of so desirable an object?

For my part, I am opposed to all property qualifications, to permit only paying members to vote, and thus exclude the poor who have most need of a voice.

Mr. Jones, who seems to be the mouth-piece of the defunct Executive, assumes an erroneous position—it is, that necessary funds are required to carry out an efficient agitation; we will suspend the Property Qualification until the election is over; then, of course, when you have elected your Executive, you must furnish the necessary funds for supporting that Executive. An man will not join an association, nor can an association exist without members? Who is to pay the local and general expenses, if no Property Qualification exists? But our experience is of long standing, and being practically acquainted with the working of our own locality, (we doubt not but it is generally so throughout the country), proves to us that an overwhelming majority of our paying members are of the poorest of the poor—they are the men who pay more cheerfully and freely than the better paid operatives. This class are the principal support of our agitation for the Charter; and this, we believe, will be equally true in other large towns and cities in England. So much, then, for the extension of the election of the Executive without the limits of the Association.

Our course, I think, is now clear. The new Executive, for the election of which there exists far more perfect and available machinery than for that of the present proposed, is intended to nullify little or no expense, will be the competent authority to call and fix the time of a Conference. The fullest democracy will hereby be satisfied, and all seeds of bickering and dissension must, of a necessity, be destroyed.

We should have been informed where the existence of this perfect and valuable machinery is to be found. Not in the different localities, in which such conflicting votes have been given. Before that perfect machinery can be set to work, greater unity of action and opinions must be created in the localities; and this cannot be solely accomplished by electing a new Executive, but by bringing the different localities together. It is also our opinion, that instead of bickering and dissensions being destroyed, it will have a contrary effect.

Our duty is plain. It is to crush faction within as well as without. The wind is beginning to blow in the right quarter: let us have clear decks, unnumbered with these rubbishy cliques, and I have no fear of the result.

We can also say our duty is plain; and that was the reason why we appealed to the country, that the factions spirits might take warning; as we do not thoroughly understand what Mr. Jones means by rubbishy cliques, we will give him the benefit of it. Perhaps it appears to his own immediate neighbourhood, if so, so much the better.

In conclusion, brother Chartists, we implore of you not to be led away by persons who make agitation their stock in trade, whose interest it is to prolong agitations for gain; be not deceived by such, but rely on your own confidence and exertions, and depend upon your progress will be sure, and your political emancipation will be speedily accomplished.

Signed by the Manchester Council.

JAMES LEACH, DANIEL DONOVAN, HENRY NUTTALL, WILLIAM FOSTER, JAMES WAINWRIGHT, SAMUEL JONES, JOSEPH ENTWISTLE, JAMES MOONEY, JOHN SUTTON, Chairman. JOSEPH GUTTERIDGE, Financial Secretary. JAMES ALCOCK, Corresponding Secretary.

THE SPY SYSTEM.—At the Clerkenwell Police Court, on Wednesday, Alfred Tucker, a Chartist, appeared, pursuant to his bail, charged with having been in the possession of a certain number of copies of the "*Northern Star*," and with the execution of its duty.—Mr. Sidney, on the part of his client, denied the assaults.—Mr. Combe, however, thought they had been proved, and convicted the prisoner in the sum of 20s., or fourteen days' imprisonment, for each of the assaults upon Archer and Fisher.

MR. JONES AND THE MANCHESTER CONFERENCE.—THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

BROTHER CHARTISTS.—In *Reynolds's Weekly Newspaper* of Saturday last, and also in the *Northern Star*, a paper which appeared from the pen of Mr. Ernest Jones, Esq., a part, or parts, bearing the signature of the Manchester Council, were printed, containing, in substance, the following:—"I wish, however, to direct your attention to the published portion of the letter. Mr. Jones appears to have a holy horror, individually and collectively, of public dictatorship, and also of the spirit of faction; and, doubtless, has not the slightest idea of becoming a public dictator himself. He commences:—

"Now that public dictatorships have become impossible, we appear in danger of falling into the hands of a far more injurious kind of dictatorship—that of a small faction out of the people themselves, taking the lead, and calling themselves 'the people.'"

Brother Chartists, mark the following extracts:—"I denounce the intended Conference as the attempt of a small and insignificant faction to subvert the very principles of democracy—to pledge the movement to the views and feelings of a minority of its body, &c."—"I wish, however, to direct your attention to the published portion of the letter. Mr. Jones appears to have a holy horror, individually and collectively, of public dictatorship, and also of the spirit of faction; and, doubtless, has not the slightest idea of becoming a public dictator himself. He commences:—

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from five to eight; on Sunday 11 to 12 and 14 to 16.







combustion—Mr. O'Connor had to fight his way against the resources and the influence of the National Treasury.

But while this struggle was going on, the proprietor of a Nottingham newspaper made a false, calumnious, and malicious attack upon the personal honesty and honour of Mr. O'Connor, by accusing him of having deceived the people into giving him a large sum of money, which he had put into his own pocket, and used for his own purposes. Mr. O'Connor represented the town of Nottingham in Parliament, and the paper in question is the organ of the party opposed to him in politics.

An action was immediately commenced against the libeller by Mr. O'Connor, and if ever a triumphant defence of character was made in a Court of Justice, it was by that gentleman. But the Judge, Sir F. Pollock, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who acted as a violent partisan throughout the trial, finished the proceedings by summing up the case in a manner which exceeded even the violence and virulence of Mr. Roebuck, the defendant's counsel, and which produced astonishment and disgust in the minds of every person present in the Court, where such a specimen of bad law and of rancorous personal prejudice and partisanship was exhibited on the judicial bench.

The jury, influenced by that summing up, returned a verdict grossly inconsistent with itself, and oppressively unjust to Mr. O'Connor. They declared, in the same breath, that the libeller was justified in his statements, and that Mr. O'Connor's personal honesty was free from the slightest imputation.

Again Mr. O'Connor had vindicated his honour and integrity; but, alas! the fatal game was played over again—"RUIN HIM WITH EXPENSES."

The effect of the verdict was to throw upon him the whole costs of the trial.

Resolved to struggle against this monstrous and unparalleled conspiracy to the utmost, and believing that he would yet find common justice on the Bench of England, Mr. O'Connor next moved for a new trial in the Court of Queen's Bench. A rule was granted, and again the case has been re-argued at an enormous expense.

We give the result of that re-hearing with some comments thereon, in the following leading article from the *Times*—a journal the very reverse of friendly to Mr. O'Connor—by no means disposed to criticise too severely the judges of the land, or any other of its institutions, yet whose thorough English detestation of mean, cowardly, Jesuitical persecution and injustice, has dictated this severe critique—

A curious illustration of the peculiar principles of English jurisprudence, and of the consequences in the somewhat remarkable case of *O'Connor v. Bradshaw*. The plaintiff had established an illegal Company, and persuaded the poor artisans of the North to pay into its coffers something more than £100,000. A fortunate scheme of this description naturally excites comment and opposition, and some persons having charged Mr. O'Connor with having "ruined the people of England out of a large sum of money," he attempted, by legal process, to compel the proper officers to register his Company. The officers—registrars, in fact, under the act of Parliament—refused to register his association or Company, stating as a reason that the Company was illegal. Thereupon Mr. O'Connor applies to the Court of Queen's Bench, and a rule is thereupon granted, compelling the officers to register his Company.

Now, the real point at issue was whether this Company was a legal Company or not, and a large array of counsel was retained to argue that point; but at this moment another incident occurred. A journalist of the North thought proper to attack the *prosecution* of the case, and thereupon an application for libel was brought against him. The action went to trial. Three days the trial lasted, and at the end of the third day the judge proceeded to sum up the evidence and deliver his charge to the jury. It had pleased the defendant to justify his supposed libel—that is, he set forth certain circumstances as a justification of his assertions respecting the plaintiff. In describing the case, he referred to the jury, the Lord Chief Baron, who tried the case, stated that he conceived the Company, of which Mr. O'Connor was the head, to be an illegal association; giving as two grounds for his opinion—first, that the Company purported to be a bank; and, secondly, that it was in reality a lottery scheme. The jury gave a verdict for the defendant, notwithstanding all that was proved the plaintiff was free from imputation of personal dishonesty.

A new trial was moved for, and the Court was told that the question of the illegality of this company was at this moment before the Queen's Bench (the libel case being before the Court of Exchequer), and the Court was intreated to grant a rule to show cause why a new trial should not be granted. The Court decided that this company was really a perfectly legal association. The rule to show cause was thereupon granted, and the argument eventually came on before the Queen's Bench—the only important point being whether this company was a legal association or not. If illegal the registrar was bound to register the company; if illegal, he was justified in his refusal.

A long argument was heard—great pains were taken to prove, on the one side, that the association was illegal; on the other, every circumstance which forensic ingenuity could adduce was brought forward to show that the whole scheme was perfectly in accordance with the law. In fact, every body supposed that the only question was whether the company was legal or not, the Court desired to be enlightened on that point, and on that they would eventually give their judgment. Let it also be remembered that the Court of Exchequer had granted the rule to show cause on the ground that the question of legality or illegality as respected this company was before the Court of Queen's Bench. It happened, however, that a preliminary question lay before the Court. The act of Parliament declared that the provisions of the Registration Act (7th and 8th Victoria, chap. 110) related to joint stock companies established "for any commercial purpose, or for any purpose of profit"—and therefore the registrar might be compelled to register this company, if it could not be shown to be a company established for any commercial purpose or for any purpose of profit. The Court of Queen's Bench thereupon set itself to ascertain whether the Company were of that description, and having in their judgment determined that it was not such a Company, it refused to grant the rule to show cause, and thereby decided that this company was really a perfectly legal association. The rule to show cause was thereupon granted, and the argument eventually came on before the Queen's Bench—the only important point being whether this company was a legal association or not. If illegal the registrar was bound to register the company; if illegal, he was justified in his refusal.

Members of the Land Company! you have an especial and a direct interest in this matter. We do not now speak of the higher obligations already glanced at, which you are under to Mr. O'Connor. We speak of it simply as a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence, in which you are involved. If you stand idly by and see him borne down in the contest with your enemies and his, depend upon it you will lose as well as he.

If anything is to be saved for you from the wreck, which Government opposition, defective laws, unjust judges, and dishonest members have made of the Land Company, it is by Mr. O'Connor alone that that can be effected.

Should the estates pass into the hands of lawyers, they will take care that not a man of you will ever get one penny back. Perhaps, if they can fasten upon any of you who make "worth powder and shot," they may make you the subject of actions, which will add largely to what you have already paid.

Self-interest, in its lowest and most apparent shape, therefore, makes it incumbent on you to come forward immediately and liberally—even if it were not equally evident that it is your duty, as members of the Company, to bear an equal share in its burdens, losses, and reverses.

It is impossible that Mr. O'Connor can do a nation's work. It is grossly unjust and unfair of you to expect it from him. Even so small a sum as one shilling from 50,000 members of the Company, would be sufficient to meet the crisis, and enable Mr. O'Connor to carry the Winding-up Bill through Parliament next Session. That sum would be a trifle to each of you; to exact it from Mr. O'Connor, after all his past sacrifices, would be the height of injustice and ingratitude, even were he able to pay such a demand on your account.

It is said that trade is brisk, provisions cheap, and wages good. You are, therefore, in an unusually favourable condition at the present moment in these respects. Come forward then, manfully and generously, and take an honest share of the burdens which

equitably come upon all the members of the Company. Come forward, and show the country at large that English working men are honest and true hearted. That they are not repudiators of just claims—not ungrateful to those who labour and suffer for them—not deserters in the hour of danger and trial, either of the principles they profess, or of the leaders they have followed in time of sunshine.

"Good men and true," set to work in good earnest forthwith. Wherever a Committee exists, let it put in motion all its powers for the collection of subscriptions in its own locality. Where there is no Committee, let a meeting be called, proper persons appointed, and a vigorous canvass commenced. There is no time to lose. The lawyers press for the payment of costs, amounting, we understand, to nearly £2,000. Words, no resolutions will not satisfy them. They demand money—we ask action. Let every friend of the cause give his mite, and the difficulty will be easily overcome.

#### EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

The space occupied by the urgent matters alluded to in the "appeal," necessarily excludes for this week other articles which had been prepared on general topics. We can only briefly glance at the leading events of the week.

The Anti-Papal agitation continues to spread throughout the country. Several of the counties, including the great West Riding of York, have pronounced against the aggression. In one instance, what we feared, has occurred—the passions of the opposing parties over-mastered, not only their Christianity, but their humanity. Blood has been shed, and property destroyed in Birkenhead. The police force stationed in the town, was too weak to cope with the Roman Catholic rioters, and police and military have been sent from Liverpool to maintain the peace. The daily journals continue to occupy a large portion of their space with leaders, reports of meetings, and polemical controversy, and the public excitement seems to grow more earnest and intense. From the tone of a leading article in the *Times* of Thursday, it may be inferred that the Government are determined to take active measures against the new hierarchy. It concludes a vigorous commentary on a "pastoral" of the New Bishop of Birmingham in the following terms:—

Equal civil rights to all of his faith, the freedom to teach what doctrines and perform what ceremonies he will, will be secured to him by the generosity of the nation which he has fully libelled, but from that species of what he calls persecution, which consists in vindictive attacks, from the seat of a foreign prince, in freezing the diocese of our church from the intrusion of unauthorised strangers, and in wiping off from our land the reproach of yielding to foreign influence, which the very signature of his manifesto conveys—from such so-called persecution as this we warn him he is not secure.

We tell him that the days of his episcopate are numbered, that it is not because his chair is built upon a rock, but merely because his appointment has been adroitly made during the recess of Parliament, that he is in the enjoyment of that seat the foundations of which he dreams are eternal, and that, though it be not in the power of our legislature to prevent him from leaving being the first Roman Catholic Bishop of Birmingham, it will most assuredly be their will, and he completely in their power, to provide that he shall be the last.

An interesting and important conference of delegates from the Freehold Land Societies has been held at Birmingham, the proceedings of which will furnish matter for consideration next week. In the mean time, we may note, there are eighty of these societies with a great number of branches, and that they have 30,000 members, who have paid up about £170,000. Some of them, it appears, ballot for allotments, precisely in the way that the National Land Company did. But they are not interfered with as illegal. No outcry is raised against them as gambling lotteries. In short, Mr. O'Connor and the Chartists, as a body, are not connected with them, and therefore, they may act with impunity. How true it is, that one man may steal a horse scatheless, while another will get hanged for looking over the hedge!

The National Public School Association has opened its campaign of agitation. Several meetings have been held under promising auspices, and excellent speeches delivered in support of the movement. National unsectarian education is the only effectual barrier against the restoration of priestly supremacy, and the consequent political and social degradation of the masses. All lovers of civil and political, as well as religious freedom, are called upon to promote that object, therefore, to the fullest extent of their means.

A strike of Glaziers, employed at the great Glass Show Box in Hyde Park, has come before the public through the medium of a police report. This new temple of competition is already beginning to show what tendency the system of which it will be an exhibition has upon the wages and the comfort of the working classes. The glaziers were required to do nearly a double day's work, as we understand, for ordinary, if not less than the ordinary wages. They refused to comply, and are on strike as a body. We shall endeavour to place the whole of the facts before our readers in our next.

It will be seen, by a report in another column, that the Eastern Counties Engine-drivers' strike still continues, to the great injury of the public, and the destruction of the property belonging to the Company. From the appearance of a late shareholder at the last meeting, it may be hoped that the publicity given to the numerous cases in which the incapacity and ignorance of the new drivers leads to the destruction of engines, carriages, trucks, and merchandise—and the imminent danger caused to life and limb—will at length rouse that class to a sense of their true interests, in reference to this unfortunate dispute.

With respect to Foreign Affairs, no material alteration is perceptible. Large armies are still on foot, and the diplomats are still as "busy as the devil in a gale of wind," but what will be the upshot of it all, it is yet impossible to say. Upon one point there seems to be general agreement—we shall have no fighting at present. How long "at present" will last, is uncertain.

#### MONIES RECEIVED

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28th, 1850.

FOR THE WINDING-UP OF THE LAND COMPANY. Received by W. REXE—W. Davidson, Newton, 1s 6d; R. Wallace, Loochies 1s—C. Pitt and J. Heston, Long-wa 2s—From Leicester—John Neal 6d—Joseph Neal 6d—F. Neal 6d—W. Rowe, Northwich 1s.

FOR THE HUNGARIAN AND POLISH REFUGES. Received by W. REXE—W. Davidson, Newton, 1s 6d; R. Wallace, Loochies 1s—C. Pitt and J. Heston, Long-wa 2s—From Leicester—John Neal 6d—Joseph Neal 6d—F. Neal 6d—W. Rowe, Northwich 1s.

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#### ENGINE-DRIVERS' STRIKE ON THE EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.

On Wednesday evening a public meeting of the Eastern Counties Engine-drivers in the employment of the Eastern Counties Railway Company, was held at the George Inn, Stratford. The meeting was numerously attended. Mr. Jolly was called to the chair.

The Chairman addressed the meeting, which he said had been called for the purpose of laying before the public, and the shareholders of the Eastern Counties Railway, the damage daily done to the property of the latter. Only one fortnight had elapsed since the last meeting, and from the number of accidents which had occurred on the line in question, the public would see that it was not so satisfactory to travel on as before, while the damage done to the property of the company was very injurious to the shareholders. It would also be recollected, that under the old superintendent (Mr. Hunter), there was always a sufficient quantity of locomotive power, while, under the present management, should an accident occur, there were there of two of one pattern, they were obliged to take the machinery from one to repair the other. (Hear, hear.) If this state of things was allowed to continue, it was quite clear the working expenses could not be met, nor would there be anything left for the shareholders. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman then entered into a statement in reference to a variety of accidents that had occurred on the Eastern Counties line from the 12th of November up to the 26th inst. On the 12th, the eight o'clock train from London, on arriving at Cambridge, ran past the ticket platform at a rate of twenty miles an hour, instead of stopping there, in order that the tickets might be collected. The consequence was, that it nearly came into collision with the Wisbech passenger train, just leaving the Cambridge Station, and the greatest confusion was produced by the circumstance. On the 13th, a serious collision took place on the Fakenham branch of the Eastern Counties Railway, at Eilham Station. A passenger train was standing at the station, and before the train was clear on the main line, a goods train, consisting of a locomotive, a passenger train, and a goods train, pitched into the passenger train, and broke up the train, and smashed two of the carriages. Fortunately, the carriages that were broken had no passengers in them, or else their lives must have been sacrificed. On the same day, the engine with 11.30 a.m. train, from London, broke down at Eilham, and the train was taken to the station, and the engine was repaired. On the same day, No. 103 engine was injured at March station, which caused great delay. On the 14th, the up mail train from Norwich struck on Cambridge bank with three carriages. This arose from a deficiency of steam. On the 15th the axle-box of 119 engine was broken, and was otherwise so injured, that it is a complete wreck. This engine was built by Mr. Stephenson, and one of the best engines the company had. This injury arose from the inefficiency of the driver. On the same day engine No. 60 was severely burnt. On the same day they were so short of engines, that the engine from London, with the parliamentary train, had to proceed throughout to Yarmouth, instead of stopping at Cambridge, and running back to London. On the 16th inst. the goods train from London, which was passing the Victoria station, a passenger train from Woolwich came in collision with it, to the great alarm of the passengers. On the 17th, engine 186, with a special train of goods, was severely burnt at Bishop Stortford. This engine has since been sent by Mr. Gooch to grease the rails, and is now at the depot, with a goods-train attached, broke down at Romford. Several portions of the engine were severely injured and broken, and a delay of three hours was the consequence. This accident arose from the neglect of the driver. On the 18th the train that should have arrived at a quarter-past seven o'clock a.m., at Cambridge, and running back to London, on the 18th inst. the goods train from London, which was passing the Victoria station, a passenger train from Woolwich came in collision with it, to the great alarm of the passengers. On the 17th, engine 186, with a special train of goods, was severely burnt at Bishop Stortford. 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tenant owed two years' rent, and the agent offered to allow him to take away his crops and other property in exchange for forgone rent and arrears, if he gave peaceable possession of the farm. This offer was refused, and since the tenant still holds possession, determined not to surrender it until the landlord be put to the expense of removal.



**LORD JOHN RUSSELL.**—It is reported that Lord John Russell has written to a high personage in this county (Dublin) expressing his sincere regret that a misconstruction should have been put upon his recent letter to the Bishop of Durham, and declaring that nothing was further from his intention than to cast any reflection upon the Roman Catholic religion.

**POOR LAW TAXATION.**—The rates just struck in some of the Clare unions furnish a remarkable illustration of the extreme inequality of the taxation of the support of the poor, in various parts of this country. In the union of the northern rates are from 6d. to 1s. in the pound. In the union of New Ross, County of Wexford, the highest rate is 3s. 3d. in the pound, and some of the electoral divisions are as low as 10d. Generally there has been a very considerable diminution of the tax, even in some western and southern unions; but still very heavy rates are required in some of the most fertile parts of the country. In the union of Scariff, there is a rate of 7s. 6d. in the pound. In the electoral division of Cahermurphy, and in other divisions, the rates vary from 4s. 6d. to 6s. 3d. Even in this pauperised union, however, one division, called Coolrae, has as low a rate as 1s. In Innishannon union, also in the county of Clare, the new rate varies from 3s. 6d. to 5s. in the pound.

REFUSING to be a candidate for the representation of the county of Limerick, has resigned in consequence of another candidate (Mr. Ryan) "whose views go beyond those which I am prepared to adopt, having some forwardness caused many to withhold that firm support which I had reason to believe would have secured my return." The Tenant League has exerted every exertion to secure the election of Mr. Ryan, and the *Limerick Examiner*, has received promises of support from "the entire of the influential and venerated clergy of the diocese of Emly." With reference to the other candidates, the *Limerick Chronicle* says:—"Captain Dickson, we are informed, has been very successful in his canvass, although many persons of the rank of baronets and knights have supported the Earl of Clare opposite Captain Dickinson. Mr. Wyndham Gould is daily canvassing the electors of the county, and was at the Earl of Rathkeale, where he obtained many promises. Notwithstanding the addresses of the Tenant League

**ATTENTION AT MURDER IN GORK.**—The *Cork Constitution* contains the following account of an atrocious attempt at murder in that city:—"A man named Stephen Wakefield, who has for some time been employed as a night watchman at the mouth of the Great Southern and Western Railway Tunnel, on the Glaninire road, was found on Wednesday morning in the armpit of the day watchman, in a dying state, with no less than seventeen severe cuts in the head, apparently inflicted by blunt instruments, a bright light being seen in the eyes. The man appeared to have been confined himself during to a temporary watch-house: erected within the company's grounds at Bruin Lodge. When the day watchman arrived he found Wakefield lying in the watch-house, his face beleaguered with blood and coal ashes, his head horribly hurt, and his arms and hands burned. It would appear, however, that the unfortunate man had been in the watch-house some time, as his hair had fallen into the fire, which was extinguished when the day watchman arrived. There is reason to suppose that some parties in the employment of Mr. Dargan, the contractor for the works, were desirous of getting another party into the situation of night watchman, and that having failed in their exertions to have Wakefield removed from the position, they had recourse to the crime of murder to vacate the situation. It is evident that the outrage was committed by persons acquainted with the works, for a large watch dog on the premises made no alarm. When removed to the infirmary Wakefield was insensible, and two pieces of his skull were removed. No hopes are entertained of his recovery. Wednesday evening an inquiry was held at the coroner's court, when the following were present: Messrs and W. L. Perrier, Esqrs., when two parties named Kelly, the day watchman, and a man named Scully, who had been arrested on suspicion, were brought up for examination by Sub-Inspector Walker. Some witnesses were examined, when Kelly was let out on bail, and Scully was examined."

DEATH OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF KILLALOE.—The Right Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Roman Catholic Bishop of Killaloe, died on Wednesday, at Parson's Town, King's County, after a protracted illness, in his sixty-third year.

**SALES IN THE ENCUMBERED COURT.**—The proceedings in this court on Friday were unusually interesting. There was but one estate submitted for sale, that of Pierce Morton, Esq., in the county of Cavan, consisting of the fee-simple of 3,500 statute acres, let at rents varying from 25s. to 28s., and up to 32s. per Irish acre, or about 18s. per English acre, for lands

of very ordinary quality. There are about 140 acres of bog. This property had been several years in Chancery; and in 1845, when brought to sale in Master Litton's office, for the first four lots, containing 34 statute acres, and producing £877 a year, £15,500 had been offered and refused. The same section of the property sold on Friday in four lots for £8,200.

ing £6,300 less than the amount offered just before the first potato failure. The rates of purchase realised for those four lots were 13, 14, 15, and 16 years' purchase. Other portions of the estate sold at about the same rates; but by far the most important portions consisted of the lands of Kilnacrott, containing 50 statute acres, upon which there has been erected

very beautiful modern mansion, which cost the late inheritor a very large sum. There was only one bidder for this lot, at £4,000. Baron Richards said he considered the price offered by far too low, and his lordship asked Mr. Tatlow, the solicitor in the case, what he intended to do? Mr. Tatlow replied that he was going to let the lot, as the price offered

It had been, he said, a source of very considerable expense to the estate to keep the house in order. He then assured the solicitors for the minors, and those creditors, were of the same opinion. Two of those gentlemen consented, and the fee-simple of 150 statute acres, forming a highly cultivated and ornamented

mesme, with an elegant mansion in the Tudor style, in perfect order (upon which it is said, £27,000 was expended), was sold for £4,000. Mr. Samuel Moore was the purchaser. The portions of the estate of Mr. Morton realised £35,745, being an average of about fourteen and a half years' purchase upon a rental of £2,407, without making any allowance for a tempo-

ary abatement of twenty-five per cent. lately made to the tenantry. This amount being considered sufficient to pay off all the claims of the creditors, one valuable lot was retained for the minors, children of the late inheritor, containing 614 statute acres, which yielded a rental of £483 a year. Seventeen new petitions for sale of estates were filed in the Encumbered

Court within the week ending on the 20th instant, making the entire number 1,354. In the new list five of the (numbered) inheritors are petitioners in their own cases. The name of Sir R. D. Burghes appears in this list. The sale of the Earl of Aldborough's estates has been fixed for the close of this month.

Freeholders under the old and supplemental registers for the county of Galway amounts to but 4,100—a low figure considering the extent and population of the county, and a pregnant proof of the fearful effects of a three years' famine followed by emigration and evictions on a scale of magnitude hitherto unknown even in Ireland.

**OUTRAGE ON THE PROPERTY OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.**—On Sunday, the 17th inst., about 150 persons assembled at Kildavin with horses and cars, and commenced the removal of a large quantity of potatoes, turnips, corn, of every description, furniture, and in fact every available article on the premises of

A person named Edward Simott, a tenant to the Right Hon. John Hatchell, the Attorney-General, to whom a large amount of rent was due. Constable Jordan, at present stationed in this district on temporary duty, having heard of the work of destruction in progress, hastened to the scene with his party, and on stopping the first car, for the purpose of examining

ing the owner's name, a whistle was given, when the whole party rushed forward towards the constabulary, who, on seeing their danger, immediately fixed bayonets and commenced to prime and load their carbines. The resolute conduct of the constable and his party kept the mob in check, and they succeeded in obtaining the names of the following:-

ing the names of from fifteen to twenty persons engaged in this lawless enterprise, who will be sum-



JENNY LIND.—At New York Jenny Lind had given her twenty-sixth concert with undiminished success. Rumours were current that she was on the eve of leaving for the west, and ultimately for California.



