

suffered considerably. The bark Anita, too, was said to have sustained some damage. Perhaps no gale that has visited this place for some time has destroyed so much property in this port in so short a time. We fear that a few days will unfold tales of shipwreck and death along our coasts that will bring pain and sorrow to many a bereaved home; for no vessel close in with land could carry sail or ride at anchor in exposed situations and weather such a tempest. We have taken no notice of the damage on the land, but undoubtedly it is considerable, for nothing fragile, exposed to such fury, could escape unscathed.

TO THE CHARTISTS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

MY FRIENDS.—I am one of those who think that "an assessor should come into court with clean hands." I think that we should exhibit consistency in our character and in our conduct. Struggling with and for each other, for common rights, against a common enemy, no other virtue is so necessary and important to us as that consistency of character, which may give the lie to the most plausible and most frequently reiterated objection to that common enemy to our righteous demand.

These blusters about public meetings and about my "facing them man to man before the people," &c. know that they have here a great advantage over me; they know that I am peculiarly situated; they know that my health is delicate and very uncertain—that I can never calculate upon being well from one day to another; they know that my physical strength is unequal to great public exertion; they know that my ordinary duties are so many and laborious, that any addition to them is a very serious inconvenience; and hence they think themselves perfectly safe in daring me to "come out before the people." They think that I shall not meet them in discussion. They commit a small mistake here. I shall not suffer them to escape. They have no right to force me into this position. The people had no right to permit them to do so. I deny the right of either the Executive, or any body else, to represent the inquiry now going on into the conduct of the Executive as a quarrel between me and them. It is no such thing. In the Northern Star I have merely, as a journalist, given honest comments upon facts and documents. I had a right to do this; and no man had a right to complain of it. I ask nobody to take my opinions for more than they are worth, and I have as much right to express my opinions as any other man. I have done more than most journalists would have done in giving free admission to coarse and scurrilous vituperation in reply. I have given the free use of my own columns to the Executive, not only as a body, but to every member singly, in reply to every thing I said. They have used them for that purpose. They have said and written in the Northern Star, both collectively and individually, whatever they liked. What more do they want? What more have they a right to? I have already given them much more liberty for defence than they were at all entitled to; because my observations on their conduct were general and directed against the body; while I have given free room to them to reply in both capacities; both as a body and as individuals. And I deny the right of any man, or set of men, to expect me after that to waste time in public discussion with them.

But to leave no room for escape; and lest it may be said that I am valiant only in the Star, and that I fear discussion, I am quite ready to meet either Mr. Leach or any other member of the Executive, as an authorised representative of that body, at any mutually convenient time and place; and then and there, as a member and councillor of the National Charter Association, to make good my charge against the Executive of having violated the PLAN OF ORGANIZATION WHICH THEY WERE APPOINTED TO ENFORCE, AND OF HAVING THEREIN MANIFESTED A DISREGARD OF CHARTIST PRINCIPLE AND OF MORAL AND POLITICAL HONESTY.

I make the charge against them now; as a body. I have proved it in the Northern Star; and I am ready to prove it before a public meeting; stipulating only for a free, open, and fair discussion before the people—a clear stage and no favour. Fair play is all I ask. If Mr. Leach be prepared to meet me upon that question, having authority from the other members of the Executive to appear as the champion of the body, and to defend the acts of the body, he will find me quite ready. I will meet any other member of the Executive, or any other man in England, on the same conditions. But mind; I deal with the Executive, as a body; not with Mr. Leach as an individual. I have brought no charge against individuals; and my time is a little too valuable to be wasted in individual squabbles. Who does not see that after the discussion with Mr. Leach, Mr. Balfour might put in a similar claim for his share of the defence; and that I must then begin again for Mr. Donald, and so on for the whole; and that then, when every one had had his "go," the Executive, as a body, might disclaim all the individual disputations, and begin de novo. This might very well suit the brawlers, because it wouldicken and nauseate all decent men of the broil. For that reason I shall not be party to it. I deny the right of the Executive, or any of them, to claim from me any other opportunity of defence than that they have already had. I repeat that even that has been made more ample than they had any right to. But if public discussion of the matter will gratify them, and they talk loudly about it—I am quite ready. Let them appoint their man; no matter to me whom: Leach, Mr. Donald, Balfour, Campbell—or even any volunteer, in whose powers of eloquence and tact they may have more confidence than in their own; I am ready for any man, let him be but duly authorized, the arrangements fairly made, and the discussion fairly and openly conducted.

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1st. That the Executive have neglected the duties of their office.

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3rd. That they have done so wilfully, after repeated caution and remonstrance.

4th. That they have wrongfully appropriated the monies of the Association to their own use and benefit.

5th. That they have both manifested in their own conduct, and contemned in that of others, a disregard of Chartist principle.

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honesty and falsehood—and while they are thus prevented from reflecting fairly on all sides of the matter. It may serve, under such circumstances, to bring down a slap; and, perhaps, in some minds, to excite a prejudice against me. But the reflecting and discriminating will estimate it at its true worth. They will know that it is intended merely to close their eyes to the fact, that though ample opportunity has been given for every allegation against the Executive to be answered, they have not answered one of them.

In the hope of averting public observation from the real question, and from the real magnitude and importance of that question, it has been represented as a private quarrel between me and the Executive, arising out of some pique, or personal consideration. Not a shadow of a reason has been assigned for this representation; and yet the members of the Executive have been seconded in it by some persons in different parts of the country. What reasons these persons may have for their share of this disreputable business, they perhaps, best know. I know, at all events, that a determined effort is made to help the Executive to fasten the enquiry upon me as a personal quarrel. The complaints and investigations which have been made by many of the Chartist body in different parts of the kingdom for months back are ingeniously kept out of sight, and the whole matter is represented as a dispute between me and the Executive; and not a matter between the Executive and the whole Chartist body.

Some members of the Executive, not content with venting their abuse at me through the columns of my own paper, have "bounced" and "swagged" not a little about "dragging me before a public meeting"—about "walking barefoot" for the purpose of doing so—about "following me to the gates of Hell"—and such like rubbishy bombast. This I have "taken," when delivered, in my absence, to the people, while their blood is just warm from a one-sided speech—fraught, perhaps with misrepresenta-

tion and falsehood—and while they are thus prevented from reflecting fairly on all sides of the matter. It may serve, under such circumstances, to bring down a slap; and, perhaps, in some minds, to excite a prejudice against me. But the reflecting and discriminating will estimate it at its true worth. They will know that it is intended merely to close their eyes to the fact, that though ample opportunity has been given for every allegation against the Executive to be answered, they have not answered one of them.

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clear stage and no favour"; that one full week's notice, in the Northern Star, and by whatever other means the Executive may please, shall be given of the meeting; that it shall be held in either the Hall of Science, or Carpenter's Hall; that free admission be given to the people; that no effort at "packing" shall be made, but that the meeting be fair, free, and open. I will pay one half the rent of the room, if held in the Hall of Science, (if held in Carpenter's Hall, I presume there will be no rent), and my own travelling and personal charges out of my own pocket; I will advertise the meeting in the Northern Star at my own cost; the other half of the room rent (if in the Hall of Science), and my own travelling, if any, and personal expenses, and whatever other mode of advertising they choose to adopt, to be defrayed by them—also out of their own pockets, not touching the people's funds for it. The meeting to be at some time mutually convenient for attendance. All other matters relating to the discussion to be settled, without either their interference or mine, by a committee of five friends on each side to be named for the purpose.

Now is this fair? I repeat that they have no right to expect this. My meeting them in discussion at all is a pure work of supererogation. But notwithstanding that, as they talk much about it—and as they would fain have it believed that they attach much importance to it, there's the chance for them. Let them appoint their man; (I care not who it may be); let him tell me when he is ready and I will instantly name my friends, and the arrangement shall be made.

After this matter is settled, let them bring their counter accusations if they dare. I am ready to answer in like manner to ANY CHARGES which they, or any of them, or any man in England, may be disposed to bring against me.

A public meeting in the Justice Hall for me? and to that tribunal I dare the whole pack of yelpers, whenever they have the manliness to put their charges into a tangible shape, as I have done, and "come fairly out"!!

And now, my friends, as far as the Northern Star is concerned, this matter is for the present at least done with. Save what may be necessary to this meeting, if ever it take place, I will not insert another word upon it, pro or con, from any quarter; unless two communications which I expect in reference to a dirty rascally trick played by Mr. Fraser should happen to be too late for this week's paper: if they be, I shall probably give them next week.

Earnestly desiring to see consistency of character among Chartists; and to see our movement purged of the ranting, mouthing locusts, who have done us much harm,

I am, my Friends, Yours, faithfully,

WILLIAM HILL.

Northern Star office, Leeds, Dec. 20, 1842.

THE NORTHERN STAR. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1842.

THE CONFERENCE.

Our readers will perceive that we have not as yet got in the whole report of the proceedings of this most important body. In a further Edition we hope to give the whole. We have given up to last night—that is Wednesday night. And by reference to the report, they will see that our anticipations of the intentions and purposes of the Struggle party, as far as any real union with the working men was concerned, have been fully realized. We fancy the result of the debate on Mr. Lovett's amendment will do much to remove the film from honest eyes; and to show them the real values of their middle class friends. We have at present no time or space for comment, but shall return to the important matters of this Conference at another time. Meanwhile let our readers read and think.

CHRISTMAS.

In times past this season of the year was characterized by joy and gladness throughout the length and breadth of the land. The winter's gloom was enlivened by good substantial fare and heart-eating merriment. The peasant as well as the prince—the plebeian as well as the monarch, could then enjoy the sweets of life. Youth then sported its playfulness and its vigour, and age gazed smilingly on the scene. Warm and substantial clothing, a good fire, a clean hearth, and plenty on the festive board, were visible on every hand; but alas! how changed is the scene. Instead of joy we behold sadness depicted on the countenance of the once athletic and hardy labourer—the prospect of the skillful artisan is over-spread with gloom—want has become the inmate of the cot, embittering the cup of life—youth, nay even toothless in fancy, in the victim of the monster; and age is depicted, drowned in sorrow and wailed in melancholy. The young and the aged are clad in rags; the hovels are scenes of wretchedness; in grief they

"Hoyer or the pigmy fire?" while the most worthless garbage constitutes their food, and of this but a scanty portion falls to the lot of many.

But such is not the case with the drones. They roll through the streets in their gilded carriages; are attired in the most costly raiment; are filled to repletion with all the luxuries that they can desire. Their eyes stand out with fatness; and in the height of their pride, they look with contempt on the poor by whose labour they acquire all their grandeur.

Why is this strange anomaly? Why are the bees perishing while the drones enjoy the fruit of their industry? Because all power is given into the hands of these devourers instead of being possessed by the rightful owners. That power will never be regained until the only efficient axe—the Charter—is applied, by the united strength of the people, to that Upside down, class legislation. Then, but not till then, may we hope to see olden days or the joys thereof, return. Then we may and shall have "a merry Christmas and a happy new year." We have heard many wish each other the fruition of this blessing, but we tell them they must work as well as wish. The only avenue to a "merry Christmas and a happy new year" is the Charter—it is the sword, the only sword, the six pointed sword, whereby the fell monster tyranny can be slain. Up, then. On to the conquest, and our wishes will be realized to all—A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

THE LAW VERSUS THE POOR.

We have frequently had occasion to direct the attention of our readers to the mass of corruption with which the administration of justice in this country is fraught. Scarcely a day passes without furnishing facts proving the declaration which has crept into courts of law, and calling aloud for a reform of the manifold abuses which obtain therein. The bench is now converted into a market stand—the whim and caprice of an ignorant class of individuals, mis-called "Justices," is laid down as law; the grossest partiality is exhibited; the rich delinquent generally escaping with little or no punishment, while the whole weight of a petty tyrant's wrath is poured out upon the poor offender. It appears to be a settled opinion among our modern Dracons, that wealth and virtue are inseparably connected, and that poverty and crime are indivisible. But this position—however much cherished and acted upon by officials of various grades, from my Lord Abinger down to that fag-end of the system dubbed a policeman—is untenable, we having continually before our eyes virtue clothed in rags, and vice arrayed in purple and fine linen.

But as our object is not to dilate upon the virtues of the poor or the vices of the rich, we shall at once call the attention of the public to the gross injustice and tyranny inflicted, a few days ago, on a poor fatherless boy, by one of the Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrates, named GREENWOOD, who carries on business in the police court, Clerkenwell, and who

is also one of the "great unpaid" of the West Riding of the county of York. The boy, whose name is WILLIAMS, was brought before the magistrate for soliciting a lady coming out of her house in Euston-square to purchase prints. He said his mother, a widow, had given him fivepence, with which he had purchased seven of them; and that the offer of sale was not a pretext for begging was admitted by the magistrate himself, who was astonished they could be sold so cheap. "The prisoner" begged of his worship not to punish him, as he sold the prints for the support of a widowed mother. He had done no harm, and hoped his worship would not punish him. His worship, however, did punish him, by sending him to the House of Correction for fourteen days!

Who the "lady" in question may be we know not; did we, her name should not be kept from the public, however much it might offend her superlatively delicate feelings. This woman, or "lady," as she is termed, cannot be the mother of children—she must be devoid of every sentiment of the graces which ought never to adorn "God's best gift to man." Otherwise her whole soul would have revolted at the idea of a child—a widow's son of eleven years of age, being taken before a magistrate and consigned to "durance vile," merely for soliciting her to purchase a few prints. Such a woman—the walking scandal of her sex—ought to be hoisted through the streets on her every appearance in public, and her company ought to be shunned by all having respect for their character. It might be of service to this "lady," were she to have a little instruction in the school of adversity; then she might learn how to conduct herself towards those who seek an honest livelihood, and who would scorn, like her, to live in splendour and idleness, without returning to society an equivalent for that which they received.

The conduct of GREENWOOD, the magistrate, is also reprehensible in the highest degree. He admits the offer of sale of the prints was "not a pretext for begging," yet he sentences the poor boy to fourteen days' imprisonment in the House of Correction. The widow who gives her son her mite—five-pence—perhaps her all, for the purpose of laying out in the purchase of a few prints, in order thereby to obtain a morsel of bread, is doomed to see that son, the comfort of her age, torn from her and immured in a prison, not for the commission of any crime, but because it offended the dignity of the spawn of some aristocrat whose ancestors probably figured behind the counter, or perhaps raved matches; if the latter, it might have reminded her ladyship of her origin, when the boy solicited her to purchase one of his prints, which must the pride of her ladyship could not allow to pass with impunity.

Had GREENWOOD done his duty he would have severely reprimanded the woman, and given her to understand that the time of the Court must be better employed than in attending to such nonsense as that; and that hers would be better employed in learning how to behave herself towards her fellow-creatures. He would also have instructed the policeman to employ his time to better advantage than in obeying the wishes and pandering to the pride of such an execrable wretch as her ladyship; and instead of the boy being torn from his widowed mother and committed to prison, he would have commended him for his honest endeavour to obtain a morsel of food for himself and his bereaved parent. But such was not the case. The boy was treated as a felon—he was sent to herd among felons; and should that boy, upon whose character no stain appears, contract vicious habits by being compelled to mingle with the worst of characters, all the consequences thereof may be laid at the door of the despicable woman who was instrumental in his arrest, and that of the magistrate who so unjustly sentenced him to imprisonment, and who ought to be immediately removed from the bench.

It would be well if both magistrates and policemen would give themselves a little more trouble than they generally do, and not, as frequently the case, seek to manufacture crime and punish the innocent to suit the whim of every fool who may think his or her pride offended by being associated in like manner as the Euston-square "lady."

The duty of magistrates is to make themselves acquainted with the law, as far as practicable, and administer it with impartiality; and not, as they often do, to substitute their own caprice for the law, and punish the unoffending for merely being poor and defenceless.

With regard to the police—we tell them, in the words of a contemporary, when advertising to the subject which has called forth these remarks, that "The public will not tolerate this eternal interference of the police with every thing that is going on. Their object is to prevent and discover crime, and to preserve order by day and night. Whether these proper duties are adequately discharged we will not now inquire; but of one thing there can be no doubt, and that is, their constant interference with matters that do not come within their line of duty. It is much easier, no doubt, to watch little boys selling prints, than to make themselves acquainted with the duties for which they are especially appointed."

If the law be enveloped in so much ambiguity that the magistrates, &c., are left to do as they list in all cases brought before them, then it shows the absolute necessity of a thorough change of system, without which the poor will ever be the victims of the middle and upper classes, who have just about the same amount of sympathy for the labouring portion of the community, as the wolf has for the lamb, or the cat for the mouse.

That something is radically wrong in the system under which such injustice as that we allude to can be perpetrated with impunity, is beyond all dispute, and that the administration of the law is vested in persons altogether unfit to discharge the duties of their office is equally evident; and we may rest assured, that until the axe be laid to the root of the tree, and class legislation completely annihilated, such cases of monstrous cruelty as that inflicted upon the boy WILLIAMS, may be repeated, as the GREENWOODS are not only a numerous race, but are located in the provinces as well as in the metropolis, as will be seen from an article in another column, where a young man of the name of WM. CLEMENT, residing near Bolton-le-Moors, was dragged from his bed at two o'clock in the morning, and taken to the police office, on the groundless charge of "assisting in the engraving of a plate to counterfeit the Halifax and Huddersfield Bank." From Bolton he was removed to the look-up in Manchester, where he remained until the 14th instant, being arrested on the morning of the 11th; he was then removed to Halifax, where he was confined until the 19th, on which day he was brought before the Magistrate, on enquiring his name immediately liberated him. Now, had the proper inquiry been made by the authorities, as was their duty, previous to the arrest of this young man, they would have found that it was an absolute impossibility for him to have committed the offence alleged against him, as he is scarcely qualified even to write his own name. But to make such necessary enquiry would be a duty too onerous for the well-paid officials; they find it much easier to lay hold of the first that comes within their reach, regardless of their innocence or guilt; and for such negligence and uncalled-for interference on the part of the authorities, the innocent are doomed to unjust incarceration and have disgrace imprinted upon their characters.

What remuneration will this young man obtain for this injustice—for this loss of time and character? None whatever. The shield of protection will be held over his persecutors, and the youth must pocket all the loss and odium, because he is poor. But we trust that the people will persevere in their efforts to destroy the parent evil—class legislation—that such acts of injustice may no longer disgrace a country said to be "THE ENEMY OF SURROUNDING NATIONS, AND THE ADMIRATION OF THE WORLD!"

To Readers and Correspondents.

A. B., AN OPERATIVE.—We have said scores of times that we cannot answer legal questions: he must consult a lawyer.

A FRIEND TO JUSTICE, FALKIRK.—We decline, in justice to a numerous party, to insert the remarks contained in his letter, as they are not only untrue, but have noticed the delivery of the lecture: that is all we can do.

S. GOAT, NORWICH.—The list sent by Mr. Cleave for the whole impression on the 17th, consequently the £2 sent by the Norwich Chartist Association, will be sent to-day.

A POLITICAL MARTYR.—His communication was received; but it must stand over for further perusal.

S. J., BRISTOL.—The subject on which he writes is done with so far as we are concerned.

J. B. THOMPSON, SUNDERLAND.—We cannot insert his letter: he gives very bad advice.

A FIRE CHARTIST.—We do not think the publication of his letter would at all alter the conduct of the individuals of whom he complains.

MR. W. E. CORCORAN, 32, Euston-hill, Birmingham, delegate to the National Conference at Birmingham for Kilmarnock and Barrhead, will feel obliged if his constituents will communicate their addresses to him as soon as possible.

HENRY HODGSON.—We do not think gratuitous vituperation and assumption any answer to alleged facts.

JOSEPH RAYNER, HOLLINGWOOD.—Yes.

JAMES SINCLAIR, GATESHEAD.—Yes, December 31st, per Pickford's.

A. H., DUNFERMLINE.—As soon as the account is settled, the Plate will be sent.

IF THE PERSON who has called upon Mr. Cleave for a Plate will send his name he will be obliged, as the name cannot be credited till we know who sends it. The Plate has most likely been sent to London since he called. He can have another for the collection. We can speak more positive on receipt of the name.

W. D., KEGWORTH.—Portrait of Hunt & Co., and postage of Post 7d. and postage. The postage of the two will be 4d., making 11s. 3d. in the whole.

J. M., KILMARNOCK.—Is the evil remedied this week? They are sent by an earlier mail.

JABEZ BURNS, DUNDEE, had better, in future, send his cash for Evening Stars direct to Mr. Hobson: it cannot in future be received as it has been hitherto.

MURKATHOPE, DELPH.—Apply to A. Heywood.

J. GOODY.—Three months.

FOR THE NATIONAL DEFENCE FUND.			
	£	s.	d.
From Tewksbury, per W. Haynes	1	0	0
John Whistall	0	0	2
A few Chartists at Edinburgh	0	0	2
P. A. Hull	0	0	6
Carlington, near Nottingham, per Richard Hankin	0	5	0
FOR THE EXECUTIVE.			
From two whole-hog Chartists, Melkham Forest	0	5	0
FOR MRS. ELLIS.			
From David Williams, mason, late of Pontypool	0	1	0
FOR THE CHARTIST DELEGATES TO THE BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE.			
From an Old Radical	0	0	6

BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE.

(Continued from our first page.)

ference.—He was received with loud and prolonged cheering. Mr. O'Connor introduced Mr. Patrick O'Higgins, from Dublin, who was received with a similar mark of feeling.

The CHAIRMAN opened the business by calling upon the secretary to read two letters, one received from Sharnam Crawford, Esq., M.P., and the other from Daniel O'Connell, Esq., M.P. The letter from the former gentleman was as follows:—

"Crawford, Dec. 24th, 1842.

"DEAR FRIEND.—I send by my son, who is the bearer of this, a parcel containing 200 copies of my speech at the meeting of the working classes, which I have taken leave to address to you, and to the Council of the Birmingham Complete Suffrage Union, in the hope you will receive it as a proof of my earnest desire to forward that cause which you and the Complete Suffrage Union are so honourably endeavouring to promote."

"In the observations contained in this publication, I have been desirous to shield the people from the unjust imputations cast upon their conduct, whilst at the same time, I do not withhold my acknowledgments, and that gratitude which has been expressed, have endeavoured to take a fair review of the principles on which the claims of the working classes are founded, and of the objections with which their claims are met, and to impress the principle that all political institutions, as well as all human institutions of every description, should be viewed, not as being capable of perfection, but as being deformed of all possibility of evil—but as respects the balance of probable good and evil, which may be reasonably expected to result from the proposed measures, I have endeavoured to be candid, and to be just, and to be disinterested."

"As I have already said, I make my son the bearer of the communications, and thus as a mark of my respect to you and your conduct, and to the thoroughness of the success of the important meeting, about to take place at your call. He is fully acquainted with my views, and will be capable of giving you any information you might wish, with reference to the particular nature of our Irish elections, and the manner in which, in many respects, differ from the institutions of England and Scotland. The Council of the Complete Suffrage Union of Edinburgh were so kind as to propose to put my name in nomination as one of the delegates to your Congress; but I request that you abstain from their kind intention, because I was of opinion it would be more eligible to select persons as delegates who were not members of Parliament, and who would be able to extract, which I enclose you, from my reply to that body."

"I trust it is unnecessary for me to add, that as a Member of the House of Commons, I shall feel it both my duty and my inclination to co-operate in whatever means shall be deemed most eligible for bringing before the House of Commons measures which are required for carrying out the principles of the Association."

"Believe me, dear Friend,

"Yours sincerely,

"WM. SHARNAM CRAWFORD.

"To Joseph Sturge, President of the Birmingham Complete Suffrage Association."

The following is the extract of a letter addressed by Mr. Crawford, to Mr. Robert Noel, Secretary to the Complete Suffrage Association, of Edinburgh, and alluded to in the above:—

"I feel that it would be my duty to comply with any wish expressed by those who have already shown such marks of kindness, but I am inclined to think it would not be eligible to elect a Member of Parliament as your delegates, especially those members whom you will look to as the chief supporters of your cause in the House of Commons. I think it would not be prudent for them to act in both capacities. Your delegates are to be the organs of the people to the members of that house, and I conceive it would be more proper for them to learn the opinions of the people from other persons appointed for that purpose, than to have made themselves the instruments in the conduct of the Association. I am of opinion that it is not a Member of Parliament who should be appointed to



