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Mr. Ernest Jones.

Further particulars will be given in future adver-
tisements.

MALCOLM M'GREGOR.
We have received a long and very interesting
account of our tour's progress, which, however,
did not reach us until yesterday's post, and at that
point of the week we were literally overrun with
matter and correspondence of all kinds.

BALLOT.

It must be distinctly understood that all monies
to be paid on account of the next Ballot must be
paid on Thursday, December 5, to enable the secre-
tary to make his arrangements.

THE NORTHERN STAR.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1846.

CONFESSION OF "THE TIMES."
"Open confession is good for the soul" and in-
dicates a step in the road of repentance. This maxim
may hold good in religion, when the clemency of the
man is charitably conceded for individual injury,
and when mercy may be inexpensively granted, but
we doubt much that commercial forgiveness can be
calculated upon those easy terms. Our iron-hearted
gods must be propitiated by something more than
confession and repentance, and hence we fear that the
merciful appeal made by our sinning brother to his
hard-hearted judges will fail to insure their forgive-
ness. We have asserted from the beginning to the
end of the Free Trade agitation, that the "Times"
newspaper contained more incoherent and incompre-
hensible nonsense upon the subject than could be
expected from a school-boy, or tolerated, if ventured
upon, by a "Rory O'Moore" or even "Sidney
Smith."

We analysed the several astrological, astronomical,
hydraulic, and metaphysical signs relied upon
in the horoscope of the magician, and endeavoured
to reduce them to plain and simple figures and
understandable words; and from the best arithme-
tical calculation that we could make from the ob-
scure data, figures, and hieroglyphics furnished by
our inventive cotemporary, we were left but one
salve for our ignorance, but one conclusion to come
to, and that was that the *labourer* had undertaken a
heavy amount of job work, which was to be per-
formed within a specified time too limited for its just
completion. We were not, of course, censorious
enough to put down anything to the debit side of
the League, or the credit side of the immaculate

Journal. We had, it is true, the presumption to ob-
ject to, and even expose, the repeated fallacies—nay,
we went farther, we showed the inevitable disasters to
which reliance upon them must lead.

From our slight knowledge of monetary transac-
tions upon 'Change, and of railway speculations, we
have ventured more than once to take the great city
bookkeeper to task for his unpardonable ignorance in
those matters. We have known of ruined fortunes,
broken hearts, domestic affliction, cut throats, and
other calamities, all one and all, occasioned by the
wild theory or forebodings of the great econo-
miser. But who were we? We rumbled but
once a week, while "great Jove" thunders daily.

We read of America's incapability of sending us
500,000 quarters of corn a year for a very long
period to come. We read the data upon which an
ascertained increase of trade had been arrived at;
of the wholesome and healthy state to which Free
Trade must inevitably bring us, and of course,
coming from the leading Journal, it would have been
worse than presumption, it would have been igno-
rance, to doubt, and treason to suspect. Then,
after all these fascinating predictions of social equi-
lization, we were disturbed in our halcyon dream by
the horrible figure representing FIVE POUNDS
A QUARTER for wheat before next August.

Surely such a "BLOODY GHOST" such an ap-
parition, standing side by side with the Goddess of
Plenty, was enough to frighten poor devils like us,
who must earn our bread before we can eat it, out
of our very wits.

True, this apparition appeared to us in a renewed
stage of the job-work, at a time when *Free Traders*
and *Feeders, cheap bread men, high wages men,* and
plenty to do men, were trying to force the further
"prudent and timely concession" of open ports
from the prime minister. However we must not
presume that, whether well or ill performed, the
job-work has been completed—that the contractor
is his own surveyor, and, having no further interest
in the job, will condemn it in the hope of getting
another; and hence, to our utter astonishment and
surprise, we find the following confession of the
"Times" in this (Wednesday) morning's impres-
sion. It is a gem, and should be preserved as a
relic. Here it is—

The last advice received from America confirms the
impression that was made upon our minds some weeks
ago. Combined with the accounts which are almost
daily arriving from different parts of Europe, and our
own provincial markets, they remove the extreme alarm
which once prevailed, lest the supply of food during the
ensuing year should be insufficient for the wants of this
country. This supply may, indeed, fall below that of our
more abundant seasons, but there seems no cause for
anxiety, as it is only a temporary deficiency, and we
sally it. In every market throughout the kingdom
prices have been receding, in obedience to the only law
which can influence them, the law of supply and de-
mand. Indeed, at the present moment there is far less
cause for apprehending that we are on the eve of a general
dearth, than that the English farmers, finding themselves
jostling together too early in the excitement of the
harvest, have been hurried into a premature sale of their
crops. In the market, and the demand, and the
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in the choosing of the representatives who are to govern the nation. (Cheers.) Is there a single member who objects to the People's Charter? I tell such a man that he is not willing to do unto others as he would have others to do unto him. (Cheers.)

freemen, and the other six-sevenths slaves. Mr. M'Grath then went on to combat the argument that the working clauses were not fit to be entrusted

With the franchise on the ground of immorality, he instanced the frauds of tradesmen in deteriorating various articles in which they dealt, to show that even those who possessed the franchise were, after all, not very moral men. As regards intelligence, he contended that the working classes were far more enlightened than their oppressors. Who was it that opposed the passing of the Corn Bill in 1816 but the working classes; and subsequent events had proved

that what the working classes taught in 1816 were advanced by Lord John Russell and Sir Robert Peel in 1846, thus proving themselves thirty years in advance of the two Premiers. (Cheers.) It was then proposed that every good movement should be supported by the working classes who urged on every good movement. It was not the middle class who wished to do away with the factory system, but the cat-o'-nine-tails, or the oppressions of the factory child. No; it was the working classes who were the main promoters of these movements. (Cheers.) The motion was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. H. AUDLAM which was duly seconded, thanks were voted to Messrs. Clark and McGrath.

Mr. CLARK returned thanks, and proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Brown for his able conduct in the chair, which was also agreed to.

The meeting was then dissolved.

BURNLEY.

It having been announced that a public meeting would be held in the Temperance Hall, for the purpose of adopting the National petition for the Charter, at the appointed hour, notwithstanding a meeting at the Mechanics Institute, and other attractions, a large assemblage were present in the hall. Mr. Crookford was appointed to the chair, who made a noble speech in support of the object of the meeting. The adoption of the petition was then moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Tattersall, and supported by Mr. McGrath, in an address repeated in the columns of the "Morning Post." Judgment on the hearty responses of the meeting, the sentiments of speakers and auditors were identical. The motion for the adoption of the petition having been carried *à voce*, and three vociferous cheers having been given for the Charter, the meeting separated, appealing please with out duty to the cause of universal justice.

TODMORDEN.

On Friday evening, the Assembly Room of the Red Lion Hotel was crowded with a most attentive audience, convened to adopt the National Petition and for the enactment of the People's Charter. Mr.

When presided, Resolutions condemnatory of the present state of the representation and the National Petition for its thorough reform, were brought forward and supported by Messrs. Stansfield, Brooks, and Judge, and the resolutions, which were adopted by a majority of the audience, seemed to flush the convention and of every mind present, that the principles of democracy are the only foundation upon which the real glory and true happiness of a nation can rest. Every one present seemed imbued with the resolve to do his duty in the coming struggle of right against might. We think from the spirit *formerly* embodied by the Chartist, that we are confident, that we may safely venture to predict, that if every town in the country act as we shall, that our National Petition will be inscribed with four millions of *bona fide* signatures.

MACOLESFIELD.

PUBLIC LECTURE.—On Sunday evening last, a very large meeting was held in the Chartist Room, Stanley-street, in pursuance of public notice, to hear a address from Mr. Thomas Clark of the Executive Committee of the People's Rights Association, on the subject of their fitness for their proper exercise?" Mr Joseph Allen, an able and valued friend to the popular cause, was unanimously chosen so preside.

Mr. Clark entered into an examination of the various causes, which were conjointly at labour to produce the ignorance and degradation of the working classes. He then proceeded to put the People's Rights Association forward as the only means of the improvement of the vote, and concluded an argumentative speech by inviting discussion, but as there were no objections offered, the meeting quietly separated.

ROCHDALE.

It is delightful to the few whose devotion to the cause of political justice has lived through the calm of the agitation, to witness the revival that is evidently taking place. The obtaining of the town hall in so much improved condition for the meeting of Messrs. Clark and M^r Grati evidences the progress of our principles, as well as the dispelling of those prejudices which regarded Chartist as too vulgar to be advocated within the respectable precinct of civic edifices. We are taking the necessary steps

to obtain our town hall for a meeting to adopt the National Petition. We hope for a meeting at this hour on Sunday evening, and we trust that the honour of the Rochdale Democracy, will give an impulse to the cause of Britain's emancipation, being announced that Mr. M'Grath would address a meeting in the Chartist Hall on Sunday evening, that building was thronged with a most attentive audience. At the usual hour for commencing, Mr. Mitchell was chosen to preside. He opened the business with a short exhortation, and read the following topics which at the present time engage the much of public attention. One of our soul-stirring Chartist anthems having been executed in good style, the chairman called upon Mr. M'Grath to address the meeting. He said, that among the various signs of progress which characterised the age in which we live, must be placed the possession of habeas corpus, a right which is the basis of all the other laudable, how cheering, it was to see men and women thus congregating to obtain a knowledge of their rights and wrongs, in order to the enforcement of the one, and the redress of the other. Knowledge was the lever to elevate humanity, the sword to exterminate despotism its direct enemy. Hail to him who excels in efforts for mankind, the assassin of knowledge, the murderer of freedom, the man who would receive encouragement and support from the working men of Rochdale. He regarded every Chartist hall in the country as a fortress for defence in the cause, as an entrenchment whence the champions of liberty can hurl the projectiles of truth.

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against the millions of usurped power. The lecture on them as far as property and the activity of free men and he hopes always to find them filled with ardent and zealous worshippers. Mr. Mr. Grath the dwelt on the Irish famine, proving it to be the production, not of infinite benevolence a, blasphemous, alleged, but of the conjoint misuse of rent-lords, profit-lords, and fund-lords. Mr. Mr. Grath then advanced the proposition that the Government, by reclaiming the Irish waste land and allotting them to the people upon equitable conditions, might hush for ever the wail of despairing misery, which is heard in every part of that unfortunate country. He called attention to the present prosperous condition of the Chartist Co-operative Land Company and its future bright prospects, and asked how far as frugality and economy a strong recommendation to join the Land Company. Some questions were put and satisfactorily answered. Upwards of £20 were received for the Land. Vote of thanks having been given to the Lecturer and chairman, the meeting separated.

STALEY-BRIDGE.

The services of Messrs. Clark and Mr. Grath, having been secured by the branch of the Co-operative Land Company, established here, the Town Hall Committee was obtained for the delivery of public addresses explanatory of the rules, principles, and objects of that institution, the Chartist Co-operative Land Company. The Committee of the speakers was filled with an audience, among which we observed a somewhat numerous sprinkling of the mid-

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Mr. Walker by unanimous consent officiated as chairman. He opened the business of the evening with a few sound observations upon the value of lectures and writing classes. The meeting was subsequently addressed by Messrs. Clark, Will and M^rGrath, who exhibited the constitution of the Land Company, the practicability of its projects, and the value of its aims in a light so clear, that we anticipated a considerable addition to our numbers. Several members were enrolled and many copies of the rules purchased. Votes of thanks having been passed to the lecturers, Messrs. Clark, Will and M^rClark and Will, the meeting separated, fully satisfied with the evening's proceedings.

STOCKPORT.

CHARTISM THROWING OFF ITS SLEECINESS.—The NORTH BECOMING ITSELF AGAIN.—The Chartists Council having determined that if possible the meeting of Stockport should not be backward in the great National effort about to be made for labour's emancipation, they in pursuance of this resolve, applied to Alfred Orrell, Esq. the mayor, for the Town Hall for a meeting to adopt the National Petition. The chief magistrate immediately complied with the request of the council. The meeting was accordingly placed for Tuesday evening, and long before the appointed time the hall was crowded in every part and during the proceedings hundreds of anxious working men had to depart unable to gain admission.

A half-past seven, Mr. Tarkington was voted to the chair. His opening speech was concise, sensible and judicious. He then read the National Petition in favour of the Charter and the National Petition for its enactment, were moved and seconded by Messrs Webb, Davis, Mitchell, Bennett, Smith, and Gurdy and supported in eloquent, and argumentative speeches by Messrs. Clark and M^rGrath. This was unanimously allowed to be the largest and most interesting ever held at Stockport.

MESSERS. M^rGRATH AND CLARK'S TALK.—**MONDAY** Rotten: Thursday, Birkenhead; Wednesday, Warley; Thursday, Connelton.

