

Now's the day, and now's the hour,
See the front of battle loom,
See approach of Russell's power,
Russell, Cobden, and slavery,
TO THE WORKING CLASSES.

My Friends,
This day the "show box" opens, and from the prophecies of the Times, with reference to the QUEEN'S Speech, you will judge what you have to expect. Of course those prophecies were made after the substance was known; however, from them you will be able to judge of your prospects.

The cholera is gone, after having ravaged the unhealthy hovels of the neglected poor; thank God for that. We have had peace with all the world, because we are not able to go to war; thank God for that. The surviving Irish—that is, those who have escaped the famine produced by the plunder of the rich—were never so loyal, and never entertained so deep an affection for any Monarch as they do for QUEEN VICTORIA: thank God for that. Your sinews, your muscles, and your marrow have been coaxed to such an extent as to over-throw the Exchequer: thank God for that. You will be represented—just as I predicted—as being the most prosperous, satisfied, and loyal people upon the face of the earth: thank God for that. All nations are now about to exchange their produce freely for your produce: thank God for that. The QUEEN DOWAGER has departed this life, and the Ministers, who will have the command of her £100,000 a year, will thank God for that; although it was humanely and charitably expended by a much better distributor. The Colonies will be handed over to self-government, and they will thank God for that.

But now, my friends, after deploring the death of the QUEEN DOWAGER, after acknowledging and regretting those direful calamities which have so afflicted Ireland with famine, and England with cholera; after admitting the sad condition of Irish landlords and the landed interest generally—all most loudly and loudly wound up as follows, by the Times. The author says:—

"ITS CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH WILL RAISE AN ECHO IN EVERY LOYAL AND RELIGIOUS BREST, BY ATTRIBUTING TO DIVINE PROVIDENCE OUR HAPPY EXEMPTION FROM WAR, REVOLUTION, AND THOSE OTHER DISORDERS WITH WHICH THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH EAR AND NEAR HAVE BEEN VISITED; AND BY CONGRATULATING THE COUNTRY ON THE TRUE LIBERTY AND THE LARGE MEASURE OF SOLID HAPPINESS WHICH WE ENJOY UNDER THE CONSTITUTION WHICH HEAVEN AND OUR FATHERS HAVE COMMITTED TO OUR CARE."

Now then, working men, what think you of such a wind-up as that? What do you think of the "TRUE LIBERTY AND SOLID HAPPINESS" that Heaven has given you? But should not the Times have added that your fathers have taken away from you? But mark, this is only one side of the question—the ministerial side; but let me foreshadow the other side by an anecdote: "Once upon a time, a very ignorant man was defendant in the Irish Court of Chancery in a very heavy suit, and upon which depended a large property. While the plaintiff's counsel was stating his case, the defendant, who sat next his own counsel, was almost driven into fits; but when his counsel began to state his case, he got up, and, clapping his hands, to the great astonishment of the court, roared out: 'Now, my lord, the butter is coming out of the straboot.'" So, the Times' version being merely the case of the Government, however the bull-frog outside may be dispirited, it is not at all unlikely, that they, too, may exclaim, when they hear their leaders' assault upon the Speech: "Now the butter is coming out of the straboot."

However, my views of the crisis only bespeak my own feelings, and I am bound to say, that I think any Government is fully justified in basing its policy upon the presumed satisfaction of the people, and I think the people most richly deserve all the burdens and oppression to which they are subjected, so long as the minister is able to base their continuance upon popular satisfaction. I take a very different view of the present state of affairs from that taken by the Times. I am willing to admit that trade is good, but I am not prepared to believe that the working class mind of England is now so dull and sluggish, that it will be satisfied that idlers should live luxuriously upon the sweat of the industrious, while those who live in temporary comfort during the season of good employment, will ultimately be driven to the battle, the idle pensioner still enjoying his whole salary derived from limited produce.

I am not satisfied, and I never will be satisfied, so long as the property, which is the labour of the working man, his life, his liberty, and those comforts and enjoyments to which he is entitled, are placed in the keeping of those who live luxuriously upon his excommunication; and however the dull mind of England may be lulled into temporary quiescence, by temporary and partial prosperity, and however the Irish people may have been heretofore used by jugglers and plunderers, I say, however inert and inanimate you may be, and however the minister may boast of Irish loyalty, yet that minister will still find Ireland his "GREATEST DIFFICULTY."

Let me show you the difference between English and Irish feeling. In England, none but the dissatisfied unemployed, or badly paid, take part in the popular movement, while in Ireland men of wealth, farmers, shopkeepers, merchants and traders, are ever ready to enlist in the cause of liberty.

The Irish Democratic Association, but recently established, and only represented by the "Irishman," will shortly number some FIFTY THOUSAND in its ranks; and although the meetings of that body are attended by spies and detectives, yet such is the sterling and virtuous patriotism of the Irish people, that the presence of the Jailer-General and his staff would not intimidate them, but would augment their numbers.

Working men of England, if any new tinkering legislation is now based upon your presumed satisfaction; and if, when unemployed, you then become dissatisfied, blame yourselves, and not me: for I now tell you—upon this, the opening day of the Session of 1850—that you will be used by your task-masters for THEIR, and not for YOUR, BENEFIT; that is, you will be negatively, and not affirmatively, used; you will be used against the Protectionists, but not as auxiliaries to fight the battle of Labour. Now, however often I repeat these facts, you have not yet learnt them, but learn them you will, and that ere long; and it is to prepare you for the coming struggle, that I have sacrificed everything that is dear to me.

The feudal lords will never abandon any portion of their property so long as their power is based upon it; and, believe me, that you will find it much harder to wrench labour from the grasp of the landlord, than land from the grasp of the landlord. The power of the one is active, and can be actively used—the power of the other is sluggish, and can only be sluggishly used; and the active power of the one oppresses your order a thousandfold more than the sluggish power of the other. But, however, your apathy, your disunion, and temporary satisfaction, may temporarily preserve and uphold the power of either, or both, I should give up politics to-morrow, were I not fully convinced that both powers will, ultimately—and that ere long—fall before the power of an enlightened and united people; and this hope, and this hope alone, encourages me to persevere against all odds and danger, with the convic-

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tion that I am rendering your cause a service, because all parties opposed to you hate and detest me, because I will not allow the working class power to be used as an auxiliary force to achieve ascendancy for their task-masters.

I remain, your Faithful and Uncompromising Friend,
FARGUS O'CONNOR.
Friday Morning.

P. S.—Well, the die is cast, the machinery is to remain unchanged, because trade and commerce are good, and because the people are well employed and well remunerated, and therefore SATISFIED.

There has been a bait thrown out to the Irish toadies in the shape of an extended franchise, the government being well aware that, with the present constituency, they would be defeated by an overwhelming majority, if a new election took place. There has not, however, been one word said about increasing the English franchise, or even about Parliamentary or Financial Reform. No; the English translation of the speech, as I predicted, is, "we are very well, now we are satisfied, let us alone." And now, working men, it is for you to say whether you are satisfied or whether you are not; and as no individual has a right to assume the character of dictator if you are satisfied, it would be presumption and arrogance—nay, treachery—upon my part to declare that you were not satisfied; if you are satisfied, I should be so; but I tell you candidly, that my dissatisfaction is based upon the dissatisfaction which will be entertained by you when things change, and that change they will, and that right speedily, you may rest assured. And again I tell you, that if the change leads to discontent, you shall not again make me the victim of your folly, nay, of your treachery to yourselves. F. O' C.

men, or millicrats pay all the taxes; no, the people bear all the burdens, and should be the foundation of all Government. (Tremendous cheering.) The principles in that resolution were his, and he would not lay them aside for any party. (Reiterated and prolonged cheering.) His cry was no half-measure—no humbug—but truth and Justice. Mr. Kydd resumed his seat amidst deafening plaudits, succeeded by a cry of three cheers for Mr. Kydd, which were heartily given.

Mr. JAMES GRASSBY seconded the motion in a sensible speech, which was greeted with much applause.

Mr. J. VERNON followed in support of the resolution, and strongly advised the people to stick true to their motto—"the People's Charter, and no surrender"—and further, that each Chartist should act and exert himself as if success depended on him alone. (Loud Cheers.) The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. T. CLARK came forward to move the adoption of a petition to the House of Commons, expressive of the regret of the meeting that no allusion was made to Electoral Reform for England in the royal speech, and praying the House to enact the People's Charter as the law of the land. Mr. Clark's appearance was the signal for interruption from a little knot of persons, who shouted most lustily "You are no Democrat," which was met with counter cries, loud cheers, and disapprobation. On an appeal from the Chairman order was restored, and Mr. Clark proceeded to enforce his opinions, and the adoption of the petition, amidst occasional interruptions, loud cheers, and counter-cheers, which now arose more loudly and vociferously, until at length a person, who had been most vociferous in the body of the Hall, came upon the platform amidst loud cheers. [Mr. Kydd made an eloquent appeal for order.] A call was made to the chair to put the question whether Mr. Clark should be heard, and Mr. Clark having declared his determination to bow to the decision of the meeting, the Chairman put the question, as desired, which was decided in the affirmative, with only one dissentient voice. Mr. Clark resumed his address, declaring his dissatisfaction at the result of the last ten years' agitation, and his desire to see such an union as should at least effect the enactment of the People's Charter as the Law of the Land, in our own day. He thought that the Charter, propounded by Sir J. Walsley, was not a "little" as it had been represented, justified his advocacy of the Parliamentary Reformers, as a measure of progress, that would confer the franchise on four millions of persons, although he never would desert the green banner of Chartism, but would, in the meantime, accept anything that would impel onward the cause of Chartism, which was the cause of the great mass of working people, in whom he had the greatest confidence. He moved the adoption of the petition.

Mr. KYDD explained that there was no division amongst the advocates of the Charter. They all appealed, through reason, for the People's Charter—which was truth and Justice.

Mr. MERRIMAN seconded the adoption of the petition.

Messrs. AMBROSE HIRST and MANTZ having spoken in support of the petition, it was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was then given to the chairman, and the meeting terminated.

Imperial Parliament.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 31st.
HOUSE OF LORDS.—The High Court of Parliament was this day opened by Royal Commission, the Commissioners being the Lord Chancellor, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Earl of Minto, and the Bishop of London. The Lords' Commission having taken their seats on the woolsack about two o'clock, a message was sent to the House of Commons, summoning the Speaker and his members to the bar, to hear the Royal Speech read. Soon afterwards the Speaker entered, accompanied by a large body of members of the lower house; and the Commission for opening the Session, having been read by one of the Clerks at the table the Lord Chancellor read the Majesty's Speech, as follows:—

My LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,
We are commanded by her Majesty to assure you that her Majesty has great satisfaction in again having recourse to the advice and assistance of her Parliament.

The decease of her Majesty Queen Adelaide has caused her Majesty deep affliction. The extensive charity and exemplary virtues of her late Majesty, will always render her memory dear to the nation.

Her Majesty happily continues in peace and amity with Foreign Powers.

In the course of the autumn, differences of a serious character arose between the Governments of Austria and Russia on the one hand, and the Sublime Porte on the other, in regard to the treatment of a considerable number of persons who, after the termination of the civil war in Hungary, had taken refuge in the Turkish Territory.

Explanations which took place between the Turkish and Imperial Governments, have fortunately removed any danger to the Peace of Europe, which might have arisen out of these differences.

Her Majesty having been appealed to on this occasion by the Sultan, united her efforts with those of the Government of France, to which a similar appeal had been made, in order to assist by the employment of her good offices in effecting an amicable settlement of those differences, in a manner consistent with the dignity and independence of the Porte.

Her Majesty has been engaged in communications with Foreign States, upon the measures which might be rendered necessary by the relaxation of the restrictions formerly imposed by the navigation laws of this country. The Governments of the United States, of America, and of Sweden, have promptly taken steps to secure to British ships in the ports of their respective countries, advantages similar to those which their own ships now enjoy in British ports.

With regard to those Foreign States whose navigation laws have hitherto been of a restrictive character, her Majesty has received from nearly all of them assurances which induce her to hope that our example will speedily lead to a great and general diminution of those obstacles which previously existed to a free intercourse by sea between the nations of the world.

In the summer and autumn of the past year the United Kingdom was again visited by the ravages of the Cholera, but Almighty God, in His mercy, was pleased to arrest the progress of mortality, and to stay this fearful pestilence. Her Majesty is persuaded that we shall best evince our gratitude, by vigilant precautions against the more obvious causes of sickness, and an enlightened consideration for those who are most exposed to its attacks.

Her Majesty, in her late visit to Ireland, derived the highest gratification from the loyalty and attachment manifested by all classes of her subjects. Although the effects of former years of scarcity are painfully felt in that part of the United Kingdom, they are mitigated by the present abundance of food, and the tranquillity which prevails.

Her Majesty has great satisfaction in congratulating you on the improved condition of commerce and manufactures. It is with regret that her Majesty has observed the complaints which, in many parts of the kingdom, have proceeded from the owners and occupiers of land. Her Majesty greatly laments that a portion of her subjects should be suffering distress. But it is a source of sincere gratification to her Majesty to witness the increased enjoyment of the necessities and comforts of life, which cheapness and plenty have bestowed upon the great body of her people.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,
Her Majesty has directed the Estimates for the year to be laid before you. They have been framed with a strict regard to Economy, while the efficiency of the various branches of the Public Service has not been neglected.

Her Majesty has seen with satisfaction the present state of the Revenue.

My LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,
Some of the measures which were postponed at the end of the last Session, for want of time for their consideration, will be again laid before you. Among the most important of these is one for the better Government of the Australian Colonies.

Her Majesty has directed various measures to be prepared for the improvement of the condition of Ireland. The mischiefs arising from party processions; the defects of the laws regulating the relations of landlord and tenant; the imperfect state of the Grand Jury Acts; and the diminished number of electors for Members to serve in Parliament; will, together with other matters of serious consequence, form the subjects of measures to be submitted for your consideration.

Her Majesty has learnt with satisfaction, that the measures which have been already passed for the promotion of the public health are in a course of gradual adoption; and her Majesty trusts that both in the metropolis and in various parts of the United Kingdom, you will be enabled to make further progress in the removal of evils which affect the health and well-being of her subjects.

The favour of Divine Providence has hitherto preserved this kingdom from the wars and convulsions which during the last two years have shaken so many of the States of the Continent of Europe. It is her Majesty's hope and belief that by combining liberty with order, by preserving what is valuable, and amending what is defective, you will sustain the fabric of our institutions, as the abode and the shelter of a free and happy people.

The Speaker and members of the House of Commons thereupon retired, and their lordships adjourned until five o'clock.

proceeded to expatiate on the topics alluded to in the royal message. Their lordships would, he was confident, sympathise with her Majesty in the loss which the country had sustained in the death of Queen Adelaide. (Hear, hear.) He was happy to say, that his interference on behalf of Turkey had been attended with the most happy results. The noble lord commented on the remaining portions of the speech, and concluded by moving the address.

Lord MANSFIELD seconded the motion, and in the course of his speech deprecated the violence of the language that had been employed by the Protectionists.

Lord STANBROOK could not feel contained with the barren expression of regret contained in the address, at the overwhelming miseries suffered by the agriculturists. His lordship proceeded with a protracted history of agriculture, since the first establishment of the corn law, after the peace of 1815, and concluded by moving the following amendment, after the words "commerce and manufactures":—"That we regret, however, to be compelled humbly to represent to your Majesty, that in many parts of the United Kingdom, and especially in Ireland, the wantonness of your Majesty's subjects for opening the cultivation of the soil, are labouring under severe distress, mainly attributable, in our opinion, to recent legislative enactments, aggravated by the pressure of local taxation."

The Earl of DUNFRAZ seconded the amendment, because he felt convinced that the interests of the landlords and tenants in Ireland were not progressing to a state of utter annihilation and ruin. After some remarks from Earl CARLISLE, Duke of RICHMOND, Earl FITZWILLIAM, Earl GRANVILLE, and Lord BROUGHAM, Lord STANLEY spoke at considerable length, the Marquis of LANSDOWNE replied, and the house divided; the numbers were—For the amendment—Present, 60; Proxies, 62—62. For the amendment—Present, 80; Proxies, 84—103. Majority for Ministers, 49.

The house then adjourned until Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—A few minutes before two o'clock, the Speaker and several members entered the house, and immediately afterwards the Address in reply to the Speech of the Queen was read, and the Commons to attend at the Bar of the House of Lords to hear the royal speech given by Commission.

The Speaker, accompanied by a great number of members, accordingly proceeded to the bar of the House of Lords, to hear the royal speech.

The House resumed at four o'clock.

NEW MEMBERS.—The following new members took the oaths and their seats:—Mr. Standford for the Borough of Reading; Col. Chatterton for Cork; Mr. Evelyn for West Surrey; Lord A. Lennox for Shroeham; Mr. Best for Kidderminster, and Hon. D. P. Colver for Boston.

THE ADDRESS.—The SPEAKER then informed the house that he had been to the House of Lords, and obtained a copy of her Majesty's speech, which he forthwith read to the house.

Mr. VILMERS then moved that a humble Address be presented to her Majesty, in reply to her Majesty's Speech. There appeared to be much disposition to attribute the present circumstances of the country to that course of policy which he had endeavoured, for many years, humbly to advocate, and which had at length been adopted by parliament, that he should have thought, but for the fact that the country was more trusted, and stood more in the estimation of the nation, he would have been selected to move the Address. Confident, however, that the noble lord at the head of the government would not abandon the policy which he had carried out, and agreeing with the government in its general policy, he had no hesitation in asking the house to address her Majesty in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

The hon. gent. then adverted to the foreign policy pursued by the government, and defended the kind of intervention which this country adopted, which was that of peaceful intervention. (Hear, hear.) The result was that the country was more trusted, and stood more in the estimation of the nation, than it had ever done in former times. (Cheers.) They had shown the world that great liberty was consistent with the preservation of property and order, and that the greatest safety and tranquillity are to be acquired by yielding in time to the just claims of the nation. The hon. gent. then adverted to free trade, which had, he said, as yet, had a fair trial, but which, as far as could be seen, promised soon to surmount the obstruction which had hitherto in some measure checked its progress. The business of ship-building and that of shipwrecks were never in so prosperous a condition as at present. The greatest activity prevailed in all our dock yards. Not only could they build ships cheaper than they could buy them, but foreigners found that they could build vessels cheaper in our dock yards than in their own. He read a letter from a gentleman, showing that the business of ship-building in the port of Liverpool was more extensive than it had been for many years. He had also a return from the port of Sunderland, exhibiting a similar increase in the business of ship-building. He thought he had a right under such circumstances to congratulate the house upon the repeal of the Navigation Laws, merely observing, that everything which had been foretold by the opponents of the repeal, had proved to be untrue. The hon. gent. then adverted to the relief administered both to the indoor and outdoor poor was remarkable for its gradual progress and extent. Outrages and crime in general had diminished since the year 1840. The hon. gent. then adverted to the reference made in the speech to manufactures and commerce, which he was happy to say exhibited an improving aspect. The whole world appeared to be waiting the result of the experiment tried by this country, and the circumstances he alluded to, showing that our manufactures were in a more extensive and healthy condition than they were in a long time, he thought it was one of great importance. He had no doubt but many persons had their confidence shaken by the principles of Free Trade by the demonstrations made by the Protectionists and other parties, whose authority was not without its weight. The announcement in the speech came very opportunely, to set the world at rest upon the question. The hon. gent. then adverted to the length that all the predictions of the Free Traders had, as far as the experiment was tried, been fulfilled. The time of trial, he was aware was short—only one year—but still within the last sixteen months we had imported more corn than had been imported for sixteen years before; and surely if any evil consequences were likely to result from such importation they would have been exhibited themselves; instead of which, however, it appeared as if the condition of every class of the community was improving, and as if the labouring class, both agricultural and manufacturing, enjoyed wages which enabled them to have more leisure and more comfort in their domestic life. The hon. gent. then adverted to the difference in the expense of feeding the people in dear and cheap times was enormous. Taking the years 1847 and 1849, there was a difference of £91,000,000 in the expense of the maintenance of the whole population. He was not anxious to make the people more discontented than they were, and he would not go into the question as to the amount they had lost by keeping up high prices during a long period of time, but he believed no one could question the correctness of his calculation, by which he showed that they had lost £91,000,000 by high prices in the year 1847. Mr. Villiers concluded his speech amidst cheers.

The motion was seconded by J. DUFF.

Sir J. THOMAS moved an amendment of that part of the address which referred to the condition of agriculture, and the complaints of the owners and occupiers of land. He urged the difficulties experienced by those classes throughout the country, who felt that their complaints had been treated with levity and disrespect, and who had in a firm manner maintained their right to be heard with attention by the Legislature.

The amendment was similar to that moved in the House of Lords.

Colonel CHATTERTON, the new member for Cork, seconded the amendment.

The Chairman of the Exchequer was glad that on the first night of the session the amendment moved by Sir J. THOMAS, who called for a reconsideration of the recent legislative measures, would bring the great question to issue, whether Parliament should retrace its steps, or persist in that course of legislation to which he believed the country was entitled. He pointed out how much the results were at variance with the forebodings of the Protectionists; and he wound these statements up with an announcement that every branch of the

revenue had decidedly improved, the result being that there was an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £2,008,000.

Mr. H. HEMBERT supported the amendment, and was replied to by Mr. W. FAGAN, and after speeches from Sir J. WALKER and Mr. DENISON, the debate was adjourned until this day, and the house adjourned at twelve o'clock.

FRIDAY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The Adjourned Debate on the Address was commenced by the Marquis of GRANBY, who argued that even if free trade did place the necessities of life at a cheaper rate, within the reach of those who can pay, it had on the other hand far more largely cut off the rewards of labour when employment was obtainable, and increased the number of the unhappy class who would find no market for their day's work.

Mr. DENISON, Lord NORFOLK, Captain PELLHAM, and Mr. M'GILLIVRAY supported the Address, and Mr. CHRISTOPHER seconded the amendment.

Mr. AGNEW estimated the blessings of free trade at their full value, and believed that, in the devious course of our commercial policy, we had ruined the West Indies and Ireland; he defied the government to retrace their steps, and concluded by supporting the Address.

Mr. HERRIAS, in reference to the advantages alleged to have been gained by the ship-builders, accused Ministers of having erected that fabric of prosperity upon a narrow and unworthy base, and with the aid of statistics of his own, he took to pieces the statements of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in order to show that the increase in this department was neither real nor, even in its fictitious character, a result of the recent legislation, and concluded by prognosticating a speedy return to the principle of protection.

Mr. LABOUCHERE, in reply to Mr. Herrias, declared that he never made an assertion with greater confidence than that of the whole body of ship-builders connected with shipbuilding, instead of being paralysed, was in a most satisfactory state. He denied that it was the intention of the government to treat with the slightest disrespect the agricultural interest, or to dispute the fact that severe distress did exist amongst the owners and occupiers of land; but nothing more than the desire to direct attention to a state of utter annihilation and ruin, and to hold out an expectation of a return to a system of protection, and thus diverting their attention from the proper means of improving their condition.

Mr. DISRAELI said, there was distress in England, distress in Scotland, and distress in Ireland. The member for Wolverhampton had boasted that a sum equivalent to nearly one-eighth of the national debt had been lost to the producers of food within a very brief period. All this had been taken away from the agriculturists by an act of the legislature passed recently and unexpectedly. He cared not whether the ship-builders gave the reason to this view of the matter, or whether it was the cause of labour, or it was nothing. Mr. Disraeli then addressed himself to the arguments of Sir C. Wood, reiterating his opinion that the exchange and the value of British industry had diminished; he contrasted the conclusions of the right hon. member with the state of elaborate detail in the *Economist*, showing that during the last four years the manufacturers of Manchester had been manufacturing at a loss; and he endeavoured to demolish his inference drawn from diminished poor rates. Passing then to the special burdens upon land, he asked the Manchester school if, as they averred, land was only a raw material, why it was taxed—why they did not extend to land the same economical principles as to other raw materials? The object of the amendment was not to abrogate recent laws, but to obtain a recognition by that house of a distress that was notorious, and an expression of its sympathy with the distressed.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL had no fear in meeting the positions of the hon. member, but he was unable to comprehend them. On his side of the house the amendment had been interpreted into a challenge for the revision of their recent policy; but, on the other side, the interpretations had been extremely contradictory. The amendment, he thought, was counter to the opinions on the broad principle, holding the conviction that nothing but injury could result to the country from any retraction of their free trade measures. He asked the house to be content with the present state of legislation upon this subject. If any member of the Manchester school insisted for the distress of the landed interest without injustice to other classes, let them be considered; but let no attempt be made to disturb a question now decided, the revival of which would create a doubt as to the stability of their decisions.

Mr. COUNTESS, in reply to the hon. member, expressed his impatience in the house for division, complimented the government on the freedom they had manifested from any tendency to falter with the question; he complained of the vagueness of Mr. Disraeli's speech, and called upon him, in the name of the farmers of England, to give notice at once of the time when he would discuss the question of protection.

Mr. HENRY DRUMMOND, and Colonel THOMPSON addressed the house shortly, amidst strong symptoms of impatience.

The house then divided, when the Address was carried by 311 against 132.

The house adjourned at two o'clock, until Monday.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Notwithstanding the extreme wetness of the evening, a very numerous meeting, convened by the Provisional Committee of the National Charter Association, was held at the National Hall, High Holborn, on Thursday, Jan. 31st, at eight o'clock, to consider the Royal Speech.

Mr. WILLIAM DIXON having been unanimously called to the chair, said, from his knowledge of the working classes, he was sure all who presented themselves would meet with a full, fair, and impartial hearing. [At this moment Mr. W. J. VERNON, stepping on the platform, and was greeted with loud applause.] The chairman resumed, and having stated the object of the meeting, called upon

Mr. T. CLARK, secretary, who read the "Queen's Speech," amidst the alternate laughter, cheers, cries of "oh, oh," and other expressions of the meeting, at the "Speech from the Throne." At the conclusion,

Mr. G. W. M. REYNOLDS came forward, amidst loud cheers, to move the first resolution, and showed the fallacy of supposing—as the speech did—that the people were really "happy and contented," instancing the numerous meetings daily held to benefit the condition of the people, as a proof of the contrary. Amongst others he noticed the Chartist, Parliamentary Reform, Protection, Free Trade, and Sanitary meetings, and proceeded in an able manner to "dissect the speech clause by clause," and regretted war had not been declared in favour of Hungarian independence, which elicited loud and long-continued applause, and was renewed when he eulogised the Mussulman sovereign for refusing to give up the Kosutza and his brave compatriots to the savage Emperors of Russia and Austria. He also alluded to the many inconsistencies in the speech, and in the cholera clause he took occasion to mention the cases of Williams and Sharp, charging their deaths on the shoulders of the government, which was greeted with the most hearty cheering. He showed that her Majesty could know nothing of Ireland, seeing that she only paid a mere superficial visit to that country, seeing merely its fair side, the mud hovels remaining unvisited—denounced the present system of Government expenditure, and the causes that had called it into existence—described the debauchery of the ancestors of several "noble dukes," who derived their incomes from the sale of the "charms" of their great grandmothers, and was also greeted with much applause. [Here some slight interruption was caused by some person in the body of the hall, making several exclamations which did not reach our ears, but which was immediately silenced by Mr. Reynolds inviting the gentleman to the platform, which was greeted with rapturous cheering by the meeting.] Mr. Reynolds said, as the Government had not promised any reform for England, it was the duty of the people to be ceaseless in their agitation, until the People's Charter was obtained, and sat down amidst a perfect furor of applause, by moving the first resolution.

"That this meeting having just heard read her Majesty's speech upon the opening of parliament this day, cannot refrain from expressing their deep indignation at the fact, that while comparatively insignificant circumstances are pompously paraded therein, as causes of joy and grief to her Majesty; and while the attention of parliament is directed to several minor topics, no reference is made to the all-engrossing subject of the extension of the franchise, the reduction of our enormous taxation, the extinction of our over-growing pauperism, and other grievances, which, in the opinion of this meeting, should have a prominent place in this ministerial document.

Mr. M'GRATH, in seconding the resolution, said the government could expect no allegiance from the people unless they (the people) had a voice in making the laws they were called on to obey, and thought that legislation, as at present conducted, was at best "usurpation," and compared Royal Speeches with Republican Messages, much to the advantage of the latter. Talk of prosperity! Why one in every seven of our population was a pauper—when had we a proper representation, our resources were ample to remove every vestige of poverty from amongst us. Mr. M'Grath then pointed to the land God had given us, and which the aristocracy had stolen from us, and demanded the reclamation of the waste, and the employment of the common lands for the public good, amidst loud applause, and eloquently recommended agitation as the precursor of freedom and the herald of progress. The aristocracy were tottering on the side of the grave, and the people would soon trample into it. Why even find the placid Earl Stanhope, and the peaceable Richard Cobden, predicting revolutions. Let us watch their movements, and turn their contentions to the advancement of the People's Charter. (Tremendous cheering.) The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. S. M. KYDD, rose to move the second resolution amidst great applause.—The resolution declared the favour of the meeting for the several points of "the People's Charter," and declared—despite the Times leader—that the people and their leaders were becoming unanimous in their demand for "manhood suffrage," notwithstanding the diversity of their arguments. (Great cheering.) Mr. Kydd eloquently advocated the widening the base of the British constitution, in order that all men might have a footing thereon—as out of nothing, nothing could come.—Tell not me, exclaimed Mr. Kydd, that great duke, noble

BORNEAN PIRATES.

On Wednesday night a public meeting was held at the London Tavern, convened by the Aborigines Protection and Peace Societies, "to consider the fearful sacrifice of human life on the coast of Borneo, in July last, and to petition Parliament for the total and immediate abolition of the practice of awarding head-money for the destruction of pirates."

Mr. JOSEPH STURGE, having been called to the chair, proceeded to explain the object for which the meeting had been called, and read a letter, apologising for non-attendance, from Mr. Cobden, M.P.

Mr. HENRY BROMAN then proceeded to address the meeting, and entered into a lengthened detail of the expedition in July last against the Bornean Dyaks of the Saribas river, in order to prove that the massacre that followed was deserving of public investigation. He maintained that there ought to have been evidence to justify such a fearful act of wholesale destruction. Well, all the evidence that these Dyaks had engaged or contemplated engaging in a piratical expedition, was a report brought to Sir James Brooke while at Saravak, that the Saravak and Sakarran tribes designed to make a piratical attack on certain villages in the Rajah's Kingdom. That report, which was brought by their known and hereditary enemies the Malays, he found was never substantiated. There was also another report that they threatened to massacre the inhabitants of a small town called Palo, unless they supplied them with arms. 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Chartist Intelligence.

SHIP INN, BIRMINGHAM.—At the usual week meeting on Sunday evening last, Mr. Goodwin the chair, it was resolved, "That the secretaries write for thirty cards of membership of the National Association of the Friends of the People."

Chartist Association, and that 10s. be sent to the Provisional Committee." The following resolution was also unanimously passed:—moved by Mr. Newhouse, and seconded by Mr. Roden,—"That we, the Chartists meeting at the Ship, having heard the letter of G. J. Harney read from this week's *Standard*, do highly approve of the above, but regret that a difference of opinion should exist at the present time."

time between the acknowledged leaders of the Democratic movement; we, at the same time, thank the above gentleman for his bold, straightforward, and persevering advocacy of the great cause of democracy throughout the world."

BELFEE.—The Chartists held their weekly meeting on Sunday evening last, at Mr. Gregory's, North terrace, when several new members were enrolled.

and paid their subscriptions; after which, it was announced, that Mr. Barker, landlord of the Angel Inn, Market-place, had kindly consented to give the use of his room for reading the *Northern Star* and other publications, and that henceforth the weekly meeting would be held there every Saturday evening.

St. PANCRAZ.—On Wednesday evening last

crowded public meeting was held at the Bricklayers' Arms, Tonbridge-street, New Road. Mr. John Wilkins in the chair.—Mr. Thomas Wall, in an excellent speech, moved the first resolution, as follows: "That the present unjust system of legislation, entailing poverty on the toiling millions, and heaping uncalculated-for benefits on the idle and profligate, be repudiated."

gate, can never be expected to be altered until the people, by their union and determination, obtain thorough radical reform in the Commons House of Parliament."—Mr. Wm. C. Weeks ably seconded the resolution.—Mr. William Dixon, in support of it, said : It was a general axiom that self-interest

was the basis of human action; therefore, for class to legislate for class was perfectly consistent: but he was the most desirous to destroy class influences, and thereby obtain justice for the whole of the human family. Mr. Dixon, at considerable length, detailed the many abuses at present existing, and sat down loudly cheered. The resolution was carried unanimously. Mr. John Annett briefly moved

ried unanimously.—Mr. JOHN ARNOTT briefly moved for the second resolution: "That believing the suffrage to be the inalienable right of every man, and the document called the People's Charter embodying such right, we call upon every person to strive in the obtaining of such Charter as the law of the land."—Mr. James Boulton seconded it.—Mr. WM. J. VERNON, in supporting it, delivered an energetic

and eloquent address, which was received by the audience with enthusiastic applause.—Carried unanimously.—A vote of thanks to Messrs. Dixon and Vernon, for their attendance, was given, and a similar award to the Chairman closed the proceedings of the evening.

STOCKPORT.—Mr. James Williams delivered the very spirited lecture on Sunday evening last, in the

GREENWICH.—A meeting was held at the Robt Hood and Little John, Greenwich-road, on Tuesday evening last, at which it was proposed by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Brown, and unanimously carried: "That their present exertions be most vigorously continued, and the abolition of the

energetically pursued, and that they meet at the commodious room of the above house every Tuesday evening, for the next six months; and further, to take immediate steps for the formation of a "progress union." They earnestly call upon their Brother Democrats to give them their heart co-operation, to merge every other feeling in that manly struggle for democratic and social liberty.

NORRINGHAM.—A number of friends met at the Seven Stars, Barker-gate, on the 28th ult., to celebrate the birth day of Thomas Paine. After partaking of a good and substantial supper, Mr. Whistler was elected to the chair, and Mr. Platt

Wadley was elected to the chair, and Mr. Fletcher vice chairman. Mr. Ambrose Tomlinson responded to the first toast, "The People," in a lengthy and instructive speech. "The immortal memory of Thomas Paine," was responded to by Mr. Roper, who entered fully into the merits of that noble patriarch, in a telling speech. "The Charter," responded to by Mr. Glover. "Frost, William

Jones, and all banished patriots and martyrs in the cause of human liberty," was responded to by Mr. Ambrose Tomlinson, who did justice to all the patriots who have suffered and are suffering for the cause of human liberty. "Our honourable member Feargus O'Connor, and the fourteen members who voted for the Charter," responded to by Mr. Roper, who in an explicit manner explained the credit due to the cause of human liberty.

to Mr. O'Connor, for establishing the *Northern Star*, thereby giving the people an opportunity of stating their grievances in defiance of their oppressors. "M. G. J. Harney, and the Fraternity of Democrats of all nations." The remainder of the evening was occupied with glees, songs, and recitations. A vote of thanks having been given to the chairman, the ladies singing the following hymn:

chairman and vice chairman, the party separated, at a late hour.—Mr. Ambrose Tomlinson has delivered several lectures in Nottingham and its neighbourhood, since his liberation from prison.

STALEYBRIDGE.—A public meeting was held in the Foresters' Hall, on the 24th ult., for the purpose of adopting the new constitution of the National Charter Association. Mr. Thomas Storey,

Ashton, in the chair. After some introductory remarks, the chairman introduced Mr. James Leach to move the first resolution:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting the alarming and downward tendency of the labouring and general industrial interests of the United Kingdom, and the colonies, is the result of the present unjust and unequal system of government, promoting as it does the corruption of the ruling classes, and the consequent

tion of a small class at the expense of the people at large; and that this meeting expresses its deliberate conviction, that the only safe and effectual remedy for the colonies is to give them an independent responsible government, and for the United Kingdom, such a change in the representative system, as will place the House of Commons under

the direct control of the nation, by admitting the male adult population within the pale of the electoral franchise, which would be most satisfactorily accomplished,—to this meeting by the enactment of the People's Charter as the basis of future constitution." Mr. John Lawton seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Mr. T. Clark moved the following resolution:—"That

in order to make effective the demands for the People's Charter, it is necessary that the friends of that measure should forthwith form themselves into an association for that purpose, and that this meeting hereby calls especially upon the working classes to adopt the course here directed, as the one most essential to their moral, social, and political elevation." Mr. William Hill said that

resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the meeting separated.

ENFRANCHISEMENT OF CHELSEA, KENSINGTON, HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM.—These four parishes are actively agitating to fill up the vacancy occasioned by the disfranchisement of Sudbury. On Wednesday evening, January the 30th, a very number

ous public meeting was held in the Albion Hall, Hammersmith, over which W. Simpson, Esq., presided. The meeting was addressed by the chairman, and also by Messrs. C. Brown, F. Easkell, the Rev. T. Spencer, T. J. Searle, Durford, Captain Hood, R. N. Hartley Kennedy, T. Clark, and M'Grath, who enforced with much ability the prior claims of the district to the two members required.

to make the numbers which constituted the House of Commons, in accordance with the Reform Bill at the same time demanding the suffrage as a right for every man of equal age, &c. A resolution and petition to the House of Commons was adopted. Thanks having been voted to the chairman, the meeting dissolved.

MANCHESTER.—Two meetings were held in the

people's institute—on Sunday week; the first at two o'clock in the afternoon, which was addressed by Mr. D. Donovan, and Mr. T. Clark, of London the second at six o'clock in the evening, and the third at eight o'clock in the morning, at which interesting speeches were made by Mr. Clark, Mr. James Leach. At the conclusion, on the motion of Mr. Sutton, an unanimous vote of thanks was passed to and confidence in Mr. Clark was adopted. Mr. Clark then returned to his room.

James Leach, in supporting the compliment to Mr. Clark, desired it to be specially understood that he felt himself personally indebted to Mr. Clark, especially for the conduct of the latter gentleman at the Stepney meeting, and intimated that he would feel pleasure in pursuing a similar course at Manchester should an opportunity offer.

RATHER ALARMING.—On Monday afternoon, 18th inst., gentlemen who had passed the Court of Examiners of the Incorporated Law Society came before the Master of the Rolls, in the Rolls Court, Chancery Lane, and having taken the usual oaths, were admitted solicitors of the High Court of Chancery.

—The Dutch journals relate the following accident:
—Some days since some of the inhabitants of
Haaren, in the eastern part of Hanoverian Friesland,
land, amounting to twenty-five, went on the river
Ems with a view to divert themselves by skating.
The river at this part is rather broad. They had
scarcely commenced their diversion when a part of

the ice gave way, and five of them disappeared; the others hastened to their assistance, when they unfortunately met with the same fate. The whole of the bodies were afterwards recovered, quite dead.

6.

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE.—On the 23rd ult, Mr. Robert Rouse, of Walham Green, a surgeon, who had been in practice nearly thirty years, destroyed himself by swallowing prussic acid. The deceased had two assistants, Mr. Roland, a visiting physician, and a domestic servant. The latter gentleman was in the habit of rising early, and going into the garden at the rear of the house, to shoot small birds. On Friday morning between eight and nine o'clock Mr. Spike was in the act of reloading his gun, when he perceived a person in the garden. He immediately snatched the bird from the latter's arm, passing up words and obtruding above the elbow-joint. Mr. Roland succeeded by the application of great force in extracting the ram-rod, and as Mr. Rouse had not time to call him, he went up to his bed-room to call him. He found the deceased lying on the floor, what further should be done. Mr. Roland having knocked several times and received no answer he came alone, and burst open the door, when he discovered the deceased lying in bed to all appearance dead. On a small table, within the reach of the deceased, was a two ounce quantity of prussic acid (Scheele's strength), and the drink of the powerful poison had evidently been drank by the deceased, as he was found to be playing his head upon the pillow. The deceased's body was taken up, and apparently ceased to exist some hours. No papers were found elucidating the cause of the melancholy act, and deceased had gone to bed at twelve o'clock

HOUSEBREAKING.—Early on Saturday morning last the premises of Mr. P. Reeve Jones, a solicitor, residing at Woodfield-terrace, Harrow-road, near the London and North Western railway station, in the London district, were broken into, and the various articles of furniture, wearing apparel, &c., stolen therefrom. A servant, who slept in a room just above where the entrance was effected, heard a noise in the lower part of the house, but attributing it to the wind, which was very high at the time, did not give notice, and was not given another notice of it. A reward has been offered by Mr. Jones for the discovery of the culprits.

TAKING THE VEIL.—Miss Hawkswood was on Monday formally received as one of the sisters in the Convent of the Holy Trinity, at St. Mary's, Tottenham. The ceremony was conducted by Dr. Wiseman, aided by the clergymen of the convent and others from metropolitan

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.—An alarming accident occurred on the 23rd ult. on a branch line connected with the Monmouthshire and Newport Railway. The Branch line, it appears, is the property of the Great Western Railway Co. Between three and four o'clock in the afternoon, a train consisting of four of the company was engaged in shutting a small train of two trucks, heavily laden with iron, into the main line of the branch, and being unable to manoeuvre them by manual labour, he requested an engine-driver to assist him, and to run the train with a locomotive. The engine-driver did so, but unfortunately too great an impetus was given to the train, and the break not acting on its reaches a deep decline, it started rapidly down, and gaining speed as it descended, the train was unable to stop. The rails were so close together that the wheels of the engine were raised so high that it was thought logical, should the train be brought to a halt, that the wheels would strike the rails and the end of the line, which in the result really happened. A man named Williams, of Tydes, was travelling along the tramway with a horse and a covered van, containing sixty barrels of gunpowder. When the train was about 100 yds. from him, it was started at a gallop, and the engine-driver, who was standing on the approaching of the descending train, was seen running along at a furious speed. With a rush, the

Mr. G. Mumford, an inhabitant of Kemerston, and many years a member of the Wesleyan Society, died about a fortnight ago. Mr. Mumford and his family, having a vault prepared at their expense in the Wesleyan church of Kemerston, application was made with reference to the interment of Mrs. Mumford. The sexton, however, refused to allow the body to be placed in the vault, and refused to have the bell tolled on the occasion. He would, however, to read the funeral service at her interment. He would allow the corpse to be placed in the vault, but would not read the service of the church of England, and intimated that of course no other service could be used. The ground of his refusal, he stated, was that, as the deceased, not being a member of his church, was not entitled to the religious service of the church in death. The right of the funeral service of the church in death, he said, was not to be arrived; it was finally resolved that the funeral

business and other official gentlemen connected both with the county and the municipality, and another to which the trustees of above 300 of the ladies of the city are attached. From Edinburgh, also, we observe it stated that a petition signed by 1,071 individuals has been sent up; while similar steps have been adopted in Lanark, Perth, Dundee, Hawick, and Prestonpans. It is difficult to see how a request so earnestly urged can be refused. Though conscious of her situation, and to appearance engaged in her in preparation for a fair and virtuous life, she has not, we learn, made any explicit and perfectly open declaration as regards her crime, but seems desirous rather to shun the subject.—*Glasgow Mail.*

A WOMAN PERISHING IN A SNOW-STORM. — A woman named Rachel Macdon, who lived in Glen

the noble commodity of life'; and though, when I before had the honour of representing you in 1832, I advocated a fixed duty of 8s., I now perceive the expediency of conforming to the 'march of time.' Be assured the present price of corn is not attributable to any artificial cause, but is the result of an indisputable fact, that during the operation of the late sliding scale of duties, corn, at the present moment. I confess I could have wished this meeting postponed for a few weeks, that the country might have been able to have ascertained the measures about to be proposed by her Majesty's ministers. Without arrogating too much to myself, I can bold to say there does not exist a member in the House of Commons more earnestly desirous of retrenching every branch of the state inconsistent with the dignity and honour of our country, than he who is so proud of the honour of representing you. You may depend upon my warm support of all measures that may have a tendency

STATE OF TRADE.—The *Freeman* in its commercial review of the past week, says:—"The improvement noticed last week has not been progressive, matters having been rather at a stand this week, although there has been a fair amount of business."

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DEATH OF LORD JEFFREY.—Lord Jeffrey, one of the judges of the Court of Session, but better known by his share in the establishment of the *Edinburgh Review*, and his long connexion with that celebrated publication, died on Saturday evening last.

business and other official gentlemen connected both with the county and the municipality, and another to which the trustees of above 300 of the ladies of the city are attached. From Edinburgh, also, we observe it stated that a petition signed by 1,071 individuals has been sent up; while similar steps have been adopted in Lanark, Perth, Dundee, Hawick, and Prestonpans. It is difficult to see how a request so earnestly urged can be refused. Though conscious of her situation, and to appearance engaged in her in preparation for a fair and virtuous life, she has not, we learn, made any explicit and perfectly open declaration as regards her crime, but seems desirous rather to shun the subject.—*Glasgow Mail.*

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I advocated a fixed duty of 8s., I now perceive the expediency of conforming to the "march of time." Be assured the present price of corn is not attributable to such measures. It is well known, as an instance, that in consequence of the operation of the sliding scale of duties, the price is lower than at the present moment. I confess I have not wished this meeting postponed for a few weeks, that the country might have been able to have ascertained the measures about to be proposed by Her Majesty's ministers. Without arrogating too much to myself, I am bold to say there does not exist a member in either House of Commons more earnestly desirous of retrenchment, or every branch of the service, consistent with the dignity and honour of the country, than he who is so proud of the honour of representing you. You may depend upon my warm support of all measures that may have a tendency

here, I am not afraid of coming before you. (Rings
 neural cheeks.) I cannot say that it has been my
 and privilege to assist in carrying through
 Parliament the most important measures of
 to the people, either for the enlargement of the
 rightful political power, or the diminution of the
 heavy and intolerable burdens. In the late session
 of Parliament the government, and a large majority
 of the House, have resisted all attempts to reduce
 the public expenditure, and all measures in favor
 of the Administration. (Hear, hear.)
 As far as any result in the House of Commons
 concerned, all the motions on these subjects, how-
 ever ably brought forward and discussed, have been
 in vain. One fact, I think, must have been too
 apparent to those whom I address—that legislation
 cannot be carried through the matter of for-
 has to be done out of doors. (Hear, hear.)
 that legislation which tends in any degree to ad-
 vance the social or political welfare of the people
 (Cheers.) The House of Commons may be left to
 vote money, and they will do it—to sanction any
 abuse, and they will do it—to support any just
 will money, and they will do it—to support any
 and they will do it; but that house must not be
 looked to for any measure of real reform until the
 people have settled the question out of doors—(hear,
 hear)—nor then, until they show a determination
 not to rest satisfied until their demands are granted.
 In the majority of cases, the members of the House of
 Commons, availing themselves of the present in-
 perfect, corrupt, and unconstitutional system of
 elections, have virtually returned themselves to
 money, by family influence, or by other equally ex-
 pedient means, and so the House of Commons
 legislature, not to promote the wishes or the
 of the people, but to support those abuses by which
 they and their immediate connexions profit, and
 through which large numbers of them derive their
 sole support. Hence the absolute necessity of
 thorough renovation of the representative system
 (Hear.) But it is some consolation to know that
 the people are going to the rescue of the repre-
 sentative laws have been doing this for the walls of Par-
 liament, much that will eventually determine the
 character of our future legislation has been dodged
 out of doors. (Much cheering.) Never, perhaps
 in the history of the country were the people better
 informed on the questions that most affect their
 interests, or which relate to their future welfare,
 affairs. No doubt the remark applicable merely to the
 British isles. The inhabitants of our colonial de-
 pendencies are beginning to think and to act for
 themselves—(hear, hear)—and to follow the exam-
 ple of their fellow subjects in the parent country,
 demanding the right of managing their
 affairs—(hear, hear)—and defraying the expenses
 of their Government out of their own po-
 ckets. These agitations at home and abroad have
 not been without their effect upon the minds of
 Majesty's advisers. (Hear.) The shadows which
 coming events have cast before, have been observed
 and we now hear rumors of ministerial intentions
 and we shall have the opportunity of asking the stage
 manager what new pieces he intends to bring out
 (Laughter and cheers.) While it may be intertain-
 ing to speculate upon the intentions of the government
 and to wonder what the intentions of the govern-
 ment are, it is more important that we should be
 agreed in reference to the things that we should do,
 and what we mean to do, ourselves. (Hear, hear.)
 While the present House of Commons continues, we
 must take what we can get, and be as thankful
 as we can. (Cheers, and a voice—"That will
 thank you for nothing.") The question of ques-
 is, what measures should the people demand
 submit to prosecute; irrespective of the views of
 the cabinet, and regardless altogether of the pre-

"Well, if you're wise,"
 "You'll be," if you rise."

(Much laughter.) A legislator who professes to be in favour—not of class interests, but of the rights of the people—will not be able to support the present commercial policy, but do much more. He will earnestly unite with those who are demanding a rigid inquiry into the national expenditure with a view to large reductions, especially in our overgrown and immoral establishments for the maintenance of the army and the navy. (Loud and general cries of approval.) He will not be able to support the revision of our whole system of taxation with a view to the equalisation of the burdens pressing on the people. He will demand that all taxes of every kind be brought to account, that the people may know what are the gross receipts and what are the expenses of the collection, and what pensions and salaries are paid. He will not be able to demand an inquiry into the salaries and emoluments of all public officers, and a strict comparison of prices in the past and present years, that such reductions may be made as are just and equitable, and that the public money be not squandered in unmerited pay and sinecure emoluments. He will be able to support the demand that the Government should take the minds of his fellow-subjects as he has been to obtain cheap food for their bodies, and will do his best to remove those taxes on knowledge which are obstructive of popular education, a grievous impediment in the way of the best benefactors of their country, and a scandal to the civilisation and intelligence of the age. He will not be able to support the friends of the sister country, and above all will be anxious to relieve the people of Ireland from the iniquitous burden of sustaining a church whose doctrines are those of a few only, and are repudiated by the millions of the indigenous people of the soil. (Cheers.) He will thus show his sympathy with the distressed and oppressed, and will show that such a course he will also prove himself the best promoter of that connexion between the parent country and its dependencies which is productive of good to both and is most likely to perpetuate harmony, prosperity, and loyalty. (In this venturing to go to the distance of the word "sympathy," the speaker thought, "I have said that the people ought to take a part in the Government of their own country, and indicated the path which I intend steadily to pursue. (Cheers.) Should such a course be the one which you would have your representative take, I shall calculate upon your support and approval. (Loud cheers.) If it should be, I would then consider it my duty to take the disposal of the council of the National Reform Association for the purpose of assisting that body either publicly in assemblies called for the consideration of their scheme, or privately in any way in which my talents may be made available. It is my intention to do so, and I would venture to give the same service even more unrereservedly to myself as I have hitherto been able to do. You will have the opportunity to-night of saying whether you sympathise with this movement, and whether you sanction the part taken by your representative. If your verdict should be favourable, you will not be disposed to give me the slightest opportunity of thinking that I may be doing more good by going forth to myself and lecturing the public in the cause than by spending my time in fruitless attendance in the houses which we seek to reform. On all great questions affecting your interests, I pledge myself to be at my post, to give my honest and my only opinion of the present state of the representation, and to do my best. I look upon it as a mockery, and upon the house which it has created as unconstitutional. The object of the society we are assembled to promote, is to give the people a real representation in that house, by largely extending the franchise, and by introducing a more direct and more honest nomination—(hear, hear)—by the enlargement and, as far as practicable, the equalisation of electoral districts. Such a reform will enable the people to return the men of their choice upon free and independent principles. (Hear, hear.) It is my duty to state to you the reasons which lead me to reflect that the honour which I enjoy of a seat in the House of Commons is an honour which, as far as I can judge, has been conferred upon me with the consent of the people—with the consent and approbation of the non-enfranchised class of the community, not only in this borough—but throughout the kingdom. And this not because I have been elected by the people, but because I have, at rights, or the exponent of their condition or their prejudices; still less because I have been a servile panderer to their wishes; but because I have in fact taken them into account, as having the first and primary consideration in the discussion of every public question, and by calling upon you to do so, to deal frankly with your members on all times, that he may know how far his public conduct is in harmony with the political views of those who have elevated him to a place in the legislature of the country. I am a member who was throughout of regard and approbation, and with an eloquent peroration, exhorting the franchise, and upon the part alike of the franchised and unfranchised as the sure means of obtaining the reforms which they demanded, and the permanent peace and prosperity which the country required."

Mr. FAY, as one who had taken a prominent part

MEETING AT YARMOUTH.

On Monday evening last an important meeting of the inhabitants of the borough of Great Yarmouth assembled in the Corn Exchange, to receive a deputation from the council of the National Reform Association, and to hear from those gentlemen a statement of the means by which they proposed to effect their object, and of the means to be adopted for their own improvement. The deputation consisted of W. A. Knowles, Esq., H. T. Atkins, Esq., and Sir F. Knibbles, Bart. The spacious building was densely crowded in every part, and hundreds were unable to effect an entrance.

The Mayor, in his address to the chair amid considerable applause, observed that one of the principal subjects which would be brought before the meeting during the evening was the question of taxation. This was a subject, he said, which they were positively obliged, to some extent, to understand, for it was a subject that would form acquaintance with them, in spite of their being the contrary. Taxes met them as they walked the streets, and he thought that they ought to follow them to the grave. He was happy to find that an Association had at last sprung up for the purpose of forcing upon the government the adoption of something like economy. (Great applause.)

Mr. Alderman HAMMOND moved the first resolution—"That the present excessive taxation of the poor, and the consequent depression agriculture, and industry, and the labouring classes." It was sure that they must all be perfectly satisfied that the enormous taxation under which this country laboured was one of the principal causes of the paralysis of commerce in Yarmouth, and that the shipping and fishing interests of the town were also extremely depressed from the same cause. With respect to the taxation of the agriculturists, Mr. Hammond thought that the prices which the farmer obtained for his produce were exceedingly low; but he maintained that the farmer could grow his wheat at 20s. a comb if the taxation of the country were reduced and equitably adjusted, and if the landlords reduced their rents in the same proportion. (Heard, hear, and applause in the midst of which the speaker heard, and answered the voice of the people.) "The farmer might live well enough with flour at the price it was. As to the fact that the labouring classes were greatly impoverished by the present rate of taxation, he thought it was self-evident that the poor could not live with comfort and convenience to the extent that they did now, because of the enormous and oppressive taxes of the rich. (Cheers.) Mr. Hammond then concluded by moving the resolution which he had read.

Mr. JACKSON expressed his conviction that the measures proposed by the National Reform Association were entirely calculated to promote the interests of the country, and that the reduction of the rate of the nation were reduced ten millions, he would like to know if any man would have the audacity and the impudence to tell him that it would confer no benefit on the labouring classes. (Applause.) Mr. Jackson entered into a brief exposition of the evils of indirect taxation, and concluded by advocating the rights of the people to a representation in the Commons House of Parliament.

W. A. WILKINSON, Esq., supported the resolution. He proceeded to state the object of the Reform Association, "to obtain a cheaper and better government." He showed that amongst the population of this country there existed three distinct classes, namely, the very great affluence and the greatest poverty in the world, and concluded that although no act of parliament could be passed that would make all the poor people rich, it was nevertheless quite possible for the legislature to put them in a condition to help themselves, by taking off the statute book many of the obnoxious laws now existing. (Great applause.) Mr. Wilkinson then stated the manner in which the country was oppressed, he remarked that they all felt the weight of the burden; but there were some evils attached to the system which they might not have observed, because they were not so potent. Amongst these he mentioned the effect of tax duties, which not only retarded the progress of the country, but also prevented our sending to China a larger share of our manufactures. The duty on tobacco, he observed, was attended with the same evil consequence. In allusion to the window taxes, he stated that an association in London, for improving the dwellings of the labouring classes, had erected a large building for their accommodation, and he also alluded to the former carrying out this benevolent object in consequence of the weight of this tax, which fell as heavily as it could do on any of the palaces of the nobility. ("Shame! shame!") If, however, they were to complain of this to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the answer would be that he could not afford to reduce the tax, his hands were tied, and he was too closely on his neck. But how was it, he asked, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in such a position as this? Why, because of the shameful extravagance of the government. As an instance of this extravagance, he referred to the standing army of 30,000 men maintained in Ireland, merely to keep the people down, and to the cost of the Crimean war, and he put up for the long course of misrule to which that unhappy country has been subjected. (Great applause.) Mr. Wilkinson then concluded with an earnest appeal to the middle and working classes to unite in this movement, and to co-operate with the National Reform Association. He then sat down amidst loud applause.

Sir F. KNOWLES, Bart., rose also to support the resolution. He said that parliamentary reform was needed as a means of obtaining financial reform, for the House of Commons was at present kept up by a system of corruption and patronage. He pointed out at some length the evils which resulted from the present system, and he said that he was only prompted for which, he said, would be found in the people's taking their affairs into their own hands; and concluded by a few words to the tenant farmers, observing that they must look for an improvement in their condition in a reduction of rents and taxation, and the granting of leases on long terms. (Cheers.) Mr. Knowles then put up another individual ory dissentient.

Mr. OWENS moved the next resolution. He said if they wanted financial reform, how many members of the House of Commons did they think would vote for it? Only about eighty, although the house comprised between six and seven hundred. He said that he would like to see a more operation of the qualification clause, which allowed property to be represented, but kept out the industry by means of that property had been accumulated. (Great applause.) The treasures obtained by the energy and perseverance of the industrial classes were heaped up in the coffers of the aristocracy, and he said that he saw that they had nothing but the prospect of a union before their eyes; they had no friends to get them a pension, as Lord Denbigh tried to do for the servants of the Queen Downer. ("Shame, shame.") Yes, it was a shame! Was this the time, he asked, to begin feeding any more dunces bread at the expense of the honest and industrious? He said that he would be disrespectful to the memory of the late Queen; but he held that it was an insult to the people of this nation to ask them to provide for the servants when the mistress received no less than £100,000 a year. (Great applause.) In conclusion, he would advise those whom he addressed to vote against parliamentary reform, and for financial without parliamentary, and to be content with both even without the ballot. (Great applause.) He begged most heartily to move the following resolution—"That whilst this meeting entertains the strongest conviction of the urgent necessity for a great reduction in the expenditure of the Government, and the revision of the system of taxation with a view to the relief of the payment of its burden, it is of opinion that these important objects will not be permanently secured, or a good and economical government obtained, until such a measure of parliamentary reform has been effected, as shall give the people a direct right to elect those who are called upon to pay. (Great cheers.)"

Mr. C. DANIELS seconded the resolution.

Mr. T. ATKINSON supported the resolution, and congratulated the meeting on having their chief magistrate presiding on so important an occasion. (Great hearty cheers were here given for the mayor.) Mr. Atkinson made an eloquent allusion to the part taken by the town of Yarmouth during the civil wars of Charles I.; and asked if the germ of liberty was fostered so well in Yarmouth in these days, what ought Yarmouth to do now to preserve itself free? He said that he had at length seen the light, and he hoped that he was doing it for the people for the future? In reference to the inconsistencies which characterised our present system of parliamentary representation, he stated that in the borough of Calne there were, in 1847, 165 voters, returning one member to parliament; the number of voters in the borough of Salisbury was nearly as near 66,024. ("Shame, shame.") Mr. Atkinson then strikingly exhibited the evils which resulted from this state of the representation of the country, advertising to the ballot, as the only means to prevent bribery, intimidations, and corruption; and concluded with an earnest appeal to all present to vote for the measure proposed to accomplish the grand objects which that association had in view.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Votes of thanks to the gentlemen who had promoted and attended the meeting closed the proceedings.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CELEBRATED SUNDAY BARTOLI died at Florence on the 29th, aged 77, after a short illness of three days.

MESSERS. COBDEN AND BRIGHT AT MANCHESTER.

MANCHESTER, SAT. 20.—A great meeting was held at the Free Trade Hall this evening, upon the questions of Financial and Parliamentary Reform, Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P., and John Bright, Esq., M.P., having been announced to take part in the proceedings, great anxiety was manifested all classes of the public to be present. It was so found that the 8,000 tickets at first ordered were by no means sufficient to enable the thousands of persons who were taken to reduce the number of seats, the body of the hall, so as to make standing room for an extra number. The whole number of tickets was then increased to 10,000, including 8,000 of the body of the hall, and 2,000 for the galleries platform. Of these, no less than 6,000 were applied for on Monday (the first day of issue), and to-day the tickets were sold at a rapid rate, and the vast numbers of disappointed applicants, of the 4,000 tickets forming the balance of the price had all been disposed of. This being the principal market day many of the merchants and manufacturers from the neighbouring towns, who had come to do business on "Change, have been tempted to remain in Manchester, to be present at the meeting; and the consequence has been that there has been as much of more influential kind ever since these meetings usually are. It was understood that on this occasion the Manchester branch of the Freehold Land scheme was to be launched, a fact which also tended to give additional interest to the meeting. The hon. member for the West Riding, Yorkshire and of the borough of Manchester, who continued to be present throughout the evening, for some moments after they had taken their seats. Mr. George Wilson, chairman of the association, presided, and opened the business in speech that was much applauded.

Mr. ARNOLD PRENTISS then stood forward and moved a resolution to the effect that an expression of gratitude was due to the members for the borough for their patriotic conduct in supporting the cause of the production of national expenditures to least the standard of 1855, and to the motion Mr. Hume for triennial parliaments, vote by ball, a redistribution of seats, and household suffrage.

Mr. A. HENRY, M.P., seconded the motion, and was agreed to with much cheering.

Mr. COMBS was then called upon, and presented himself in the most cheerful and cheerful manner. The hon. member spoke for an hour and a half, and frequently interrupted by bursts of applause.

Mr. BAILEY, who was also received in the same enthusiastic manner as the hon. member for the West Riding, addressed the meeting for nine minutes.

The proceedings closed at half-past ten o'clock.

POLICE.

MARYLEBONE.—A BRUTE.—A sullen looking man, named Arthur Staveley, was placed at the bar before Mr. Broughton on Tuesday night last, for brutally assaulting Mrs. Mary Staveley, his mother-in-law, a woman, nearly seventy years of age, residing at No. 13, William-street, Hampstead-road.—The appearance of the complainant excited commiseration of all present; her eyes were black and swollen and much swollen, and her nose and mouth were also bruised to a considerable extent. The hon. member asked the prisoner whether he knew where for some time had been at Leeds with his wife and four children, left them and came up ten weeks ago to his mother, by whom he was kindly and affectionately received. He, however, knew how to estimate rightly her good feeling, and was continually getting drunk, when he invariably committed the crime of beating and abusing her. He demanded money of his poor mother, and she gave him what she could, but he had upon many occasions given him almost the last penny which he possessed. On the previous evening (Sunday) he pinned her behind the kitchen door and there beat her most unmercifully, and on her screaming of "Murder" as loudly as she was able some lodger came to her assistance. She then fled to the street, and the prisoner, after a determined resistance, was conveyed to the station house by two police-officers, whom he resisted violently, and attempted to break his vengeance upon with a heavy pair of tongs. It further appeared that the prisoner was about two months ago charged with attempting to assault a young man, and that he had again threatened for assaulting his wife at Leeds, from which place she and her young family were about to be passed to London.—Mr. Broughton very properly designated the offence as being one of a brutal character, and fined the prisoner in the sum of £5, in default of payment to be sent to prison for fourteen days.

MANSFIELD.—OUTRAGED JUSTICE.—The magistrates also gave him to understand that in event of his being brought up before him again, a similar outrage upon his mother he would probably, in addition to a heavy fine, be called upon to find security for his good behaviour for a period of two years.—The fellow was then locked up.

MANSFIELD.—GUILTY OF MURDER.—The coroner of Camberwell omnibus was summoned before Alderman Humphrey for having refused to admit a gentleman as a passenger into his omnibus. The public were interested in the result of the case. A few days ago, at a quarter before five o'clock, the complainant went to the door of the omnibus being driven by a certain man, and he requested the conductor to allow him to enter. The evening was wet, but the conductor refused to admit the applicant, and excused himself upon the ground that all the seats were engaged, at the same time that there was abundance of room in the vehicle. The complainant represented the unfairness of the refusal, and determined to have the matter brought before the coroner. The coroner admitted that there was no incivility or disrespect in the words or manner of the defendant beyond the mere rejection, but he thought the principle of "first come first served" ought not to be transgressed in such a manner, and although he was subsequently offered the accommodation he desired, he considered that the conductor was in the wrong. Alderman Humphrey: We know it is frequently the case that gentlemen who reside in Camberwell, and who are accustomed to leave the City at a certain hour, and in the habit of considering that the conductors will keep places for them preference to strangers, who may for what they know, on regular days, be taken to court for the same reason. They say that the gentleman who regularly takes a seat in the defendant's omnibus stated that the defendant was certainly expected by his regular "whole of the way," customers to keep seats for them, especially in winter weather, during which alone the passengers were mostly in the neighbourhood of the telephone and gas works, and the exposure of the passengers was a very reasonable one both as regarded Camberwell passengers and the proprietors of the carriages; and if some rule of the kind were not acted upon, your great inconvenience would be inflicted upon those who had the most unquestionable claim to the seats. The conductor said, as had been said already, that he was not prepared to favour him, but he certainly looked to him for the security of the places, and gentlemen who resided at only half the distance shamed the omnibus in fine weather and eagerly seized the seats when the rain was falling. He had acted upon the feeling that the "whole of the way" passengers were entitled to the seats, and he was not prepared to oppose to the entrance of a person who was claiming the half-distance if there happened to be room.—Alderman Humphrey: The conductor is certainly in the wrong, although his defence is the most reasonable that can be made. He cannot refuse to allow an exceptionable person into his omnibus, and he cannot refuse to allow a person to occupy the amount of room needed inside the vehicle. This is certainly harsh upon the gentleman who are accustomed to go the way, and upon the proprietors too, who are obliged to accommodate a casual passenger, possibly to the great inconvenience of an establishment, and the expense of the driver. The expenses of the subject.—Several of the regular Camberwell passengers expressed surprise and regret that the accommodation which they thought they had right to expect was liable to be seriously diminished by the intrusion of a threepenny or fourpenny fare. I often get a seat in the omnibus, and I am glad to do it. I wet weather the short passengers should monopolise their places?—Alderman Humphrey: You must do as I do. When I want to go to Wandsworth, which is a shilling fare, I run for it, I get into the omnibus about five minutes before the time, and I often get a seat in the omnibus. I am glad to do it. I wet weather the short passengers should monopolise their places?—Alderman Humphrey: You must do as I do. When I want to go to Wandsworth, which is a shilling fare, I run for it, I get into the omnibus about five minutes before

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