

TO THE IMPERIAL CHARTISTS.

My Beloved Friends,—It is now ten o'clock on Sunday night, and after a journey of fifty miles, I sit down to communicate to you the results of the past week's tour.

I left Glasgow at six o'clock on Monday morning for Stirling, where I was to meet Abraham Duncan, on our way to join the county of Clackmannan demonstration. Yes, that which I had anticipated as a demonstration of the good man of Alloa, was turned into a county procession.

After visiting the old Castle at Stirling, and casting a melancholy look at the cell in which the brave Hardy and Baird were confined before their execution, we started at eleven, to meet the procession at Alloa; we were in an open carriage, accompanied by David Thompson, the good secretary of the Alloa Association. About a mile from Alloa we met an immense cavalcade, with numbers of banners and seven splendid bands, all dressed in military uniforms; and, thus marshalled, we marched into the town, and in the market-place held a magnificent meeting, the largest, they say, they ever had. An address was presented to me, which I responded to at considerable length; a resolution to petition for the Charter was passed, and Abraham Duncan was then elected as a member of the next Convention to assemble in London. From Alloa we marched in full procession to Tillycunn, about one mile and a half; there a very spacious hustings was erected, and a concourse of people assembled which puzzled me to guess where they came from—a huge mass of people. Another address was presented to me, and resolutions pledging support of the Charter, and approving of the National Petition, were passed, and some capital speeches were made. Abraham Duncan was then elected to represent Clackmannanshire in the Convention. From thence we marched in full procession through Collieston to Alva, a distance of four miles. I walked all the way. When we were within a quarter of a mile of the town we found ourselves in the dark, and the committee decided upon my addressing the meeting on the road. As soon as I began, however, it appeared the sharks were present, and were making preparations to arrest me for interrupting the passage; this was communicated to me, and when I mentioned the fact to the meeting, it was agreed that I should reserve my speech for the soiree. We therefore proceeded, and reached the hotel at half-past six. At half-past seven, I started for the soiree, which was held on the ground floor of a large mill. 1400 tickets were sold, but 300 were obliged to leave their money returned, as the place was literally crammed to suffocation with 1100. There was a great deal, not of confusion, but of difficulty, in getting through to serve the repast, and we were delayed in the "oven" for at least an hour before a word could be heard; however, I rejoiced that our uniform arose from our strength, and so I waited patiently. After speaking at considerable length, I left the place in a state as if I had been dipped in the sea. I never met a finer set of Chartists in my life than the men of Alva, Tillycunn, and Alloa; in short, of all Clackmannanshire. I learn that my addresses have done much good; so I am repaid for my warm bath.

On Tuesday, I started for Dunfermline, where I was to meet Mr. Brewster, in his strong moral force, surrounded by his staff. Many good fellows went with me from Alva, about twenty-two miles. When I reached Dunfermline, but I should tell you first that a friend came to me to Tillycunn to me, and followed me to Alva, imploring me not to go to Dunfermline, as Morrison and Halley had been recruiting all their forces of shop boys, warehousemen, and masters, to back Brewster, while the shortness of my notice did not afford time for the country districts to come in. However, I was inexorable, and go I would; and I did go; and when I arrived I found a large procession with band and banners waiting. We went to my hotel, and there I heard of nothing but anticipations of defeat; and after a short interval three Brewsterites called upon me to make arrangements for discussion with Brewster. After some jaw, and hearing a document which they had brought from Alloa, full of falsehood, I appointed three to meet them, and deal with the question and me as they thought proper. Well, the arrangements were made that I was first to speak three quarters of an hour, then Brewster the same time; then a quarter of an hour each for two mortal hours. The Lord Provost was in the chair, and we had a glorious meeting, and a lovely day. I shall not trouble you with a detailed account of what passed. Brewster denounced O'Brien, and me through O'Brien; he laboured away, demanding time; in lieu of that the meeting bestowed groans and hisses, which neither the Chairman nor I could stop. He was low, gross, and insulting, buoyed up by the assurance of his staff that in Dunfermline they would have at least five to one in their favour. The Lord Provost, I should tell you, opened this meeting by declaring himself a whole-hearted Chartist. Halley, the deserter from the Convention, was to bring up the rear. Brewster concluded by proposing his famous Birmingham and Calton Hill resolutions, but, finding no second, they fell to the ground; whereupon Halley stepped forward, and proposed a couple of milk-and-water resolutions, which were to have been followed by a vote of censure upon me, and to which I proposed the following verbal amendment—Resolved, "That in the present dissiminated state of certain parties in Dunfermline, calling themselves Chartists, this meeting is of opinion that any proposition emanating from that body would not be calculated to inspire the real Chartists of the empire with confidence, or to command their support." This was written for the Provost, moved and seconded, and a show of hands demanded, when four fifths of those present appeared to be held up. Then a show was demanded for the Birmingham, when the shop boys and warehousemen exhibited. By this time we had an hour by moonlight, and now had candles, and both the moon and the candles shone upon the shop boys as Brewster demanded a division, whereupon the Lord Provost desired the fugitives to go to the right, and the broad cloths to the left, not just in those terms, but for and against; and when the division took place, he then came forward and declared the amendment was carried, as it was sure enough, by a yard full leaving a corner for the vanquished. Brewster got up on a chair, and haranguing his beauteous crew, exclaimed, "O, moral-force men of Dunfermline, you're thrashed, you're thrashed, you're thrashed to day, in your strong hold, by the physicals; you're best, and you deserve it;" when Morrison said that Brewster had injured the cause, and they fell out. You know had injured the cause, and they fell out. I never in my life witnessed so much exultation in my ranks as our victory produced; and for this reason. A set of nasty, dirty, sneaking fellows, with the assistance of the masters, have succeeded in turning upon the "fugitives" and "unhappy chartists." They had no Association, but they have; and if they lose the ground gained on Tuesday it is their own fault, not mine.

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Chartist Intelligence.

BILSTON.—This spirited and truly patriotic town is making rapid progress in the Chartist cause; they have already got a band of music connected with their Association, which is very numerous, and are assisting at the discussion; but no, the disturbers of our meeting would let none speak but Brewster and myself. However, those two gentlemen fully repaid the loss by two of the most splendid speeches I ever heard in my life, which were rapturously cheered. I spoke but shortly, as I had done my work, and was obliged to start that night for Kirkcaldy, on my way to Dundee.

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TO THE CHARTISTS OF LONDON

[illegible]























## LONDON.

## PUBLIC MEETING OF FOREMEN IN THE THREE LEADING BUILDING BRANCHES.

A meeting was held, on Monday evening, November 1st, at the Hotel in the Wall, Fleet-street, to consider the propriety of forming a union for mutual protection. The meeting was called by advertisement in the *Advertiser* and *Weekly Dispatch*, but it was not until 10 o'clock that the men were invited to attend.

Mr. LOCK was called to the chair, and briefly addressed the men.

Mr. CARSON had taken upon himself the responsibility of calling this meeting. He believed the object was good, and, especially when they took into consideration the peculiar circumstances of the strike at the House of Lords—that of the whole of the men combining to injure the foreman. He would not enter into the case of George Allen; but foremen had a duty to perform, and they were at times obliged to adopt stringent measures; and he had always observed that it was the most worthless part of the men employed who made the most noise, and were loudest in their outcry, against such necessary measures. Foremen were placed in an awkward position; they had to carry out the will of a great body of men, and were compelled to be strict; but if conduct like that of the men to Allen were to be submitted to—if they were to be allowed to combine to crush one man, what would be the consequence? Why, the same spirit would spread through every village, town, and city of the empire. This was already the case; many of Allen's men were now working under a foreman in their establishments, and he had already felt that he was almost afraid to speak to them; they would neither work, nor let others work. He had told him that his little boy would earn more money (name) he did not feel compelled to give it. He had already told that he was a greater tyrant than Allen.

Mr. FRY, foreman of the masons—I feel that by taking the step I have done, I run the risk of losing the esteem and respect that for many years I have enjoyed amongst the men; but I feel that I am doing no more than to bear the whole of the expense and the burden of these strikes against foremen. If the example spread, masters might be necessitated to discharge many of them, and then a society like the one he wished to establish would be able, at least, to find them employment; the foreman would be able to see in the *Chronicle of the Works Society*. Foremen over large jobs were almost compelled to be tyrants. If I had been in Allen's place, it is likely I might have acted in a similar manner; and are they to be struck against in this manner, without a cause? The men were branded; to be held up to detestation by those who were always the least respectable portion of the men—who lived upon agitation—who lived upon the subscriptions of the fellow-foremen, who made a stir about privileges, because they could earn more by their work? If they carried out their object, he would advise them to elect a committee to form a nucleus, and to keep out disreputable characters, the reaction to be elected by ballot. He would conclude by moving the following resolution:

"That it is the opinion of this meeting, after taking into consideration the strike at the House of Lords, and considering the result which might happen to them as individuals in a similar situation, that it is advisable to form a Society for mutual protection against similar proceedings in future."

Mr. THOMAS JACKSON, Pimlico, seconded the resolution.

A person here expressed a hope that they did not mean to interfere between the masters and men now on strike.

Mr. CARSON said they had no intention of doing so. The quarrel was thrown down, and let them fight it out; but men had societies, masters had societies, and he wanted one for foremen; for if this spirit spread, it would be necessary.

Mr. CARSON had a party of men from the House of Lords working for him. There is not one but what does his duty. I behave well to them, and they to me. I make my eye serve instead of my tongue. I have known Allen for years, and I know nothing against him; but he was a tyrant to his men. I am a foreman, and I am just the men they put to the master.

Mr. CORNWELL, Mr. CUBITT, said—I have no objection to form a Society for our own protection; but I cannot vote for the resolution. It defends the conduct of Allen. The man who was tyrant to his men, he had been so, and he had not committed himself more than he had. I cannot agree with it. I employ many of the men, and have full justice done me. It could not be supposed that these men struck against Allen for fun; the resolution was carried unanimously, and it was a vote for the tyrant. I cannot vote for the resolution. Our situation may not last for ever; we may ourselves be placed in a similar position, and be compelled to act as they have done. I am a qualified foreman, and I am just the men they put to the master. I cannot vote for the resolution. Our situation may not last for ever; we may ourselves be placed in a similar position, and be compelled to act as they have done. I am a qualified foreman, and I am just the men they put to the master.

Mr. J. KAY said he had no objection to forming a society for mutual protection; it was necessary for their protection from the employers as from the men; but he served the last speaker that they should keep aloof from the strike. If the men were treated as men, they would do a fair day's work.

A strong feeling, on the part of the majority, being evinced in favour of the masons on strike, two or three left the room.

Mr. CARSON was very willing to alter the resolution. Perhaps it might be desirable to put off to some other time. He had fallen into an error in wording it; but he was glad to be put right. It might seem that the meeting, at this particular time, intended to support Mr. Allen; but he begged to deny having any such intention. The meeting was called to form a Society for their mutual benefit. He disclaimed the conduct attributed to George Allen from his heart's core. He would kick such a man; it is a dreadful word, though not used as he deserved. He would withdraw the former resolution, and proposed the following:

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable to form a Society of foremen in the building trades, for mutual protection."

Mr. DABILL seconded the resolution.

Mr. PUNNEY—They had a society five years ago for a similar purpose; he wanted to know their ulterior views; did they mean to build almshouses, or was the society of foremen to crush the working men? He had been thirty-four years a foreman at Curtis's, and never used a man as Allen has done.

Mr. KAY—Highly praise the conduct of Mr. Carson in altering his motion; he was to the point, and to the point. I will propose as an amendment, that this question be postponed to this day three months; and I will know we shall have a better attendance of foremen than we now have. Public sympathy was so in favour of the masons, that many foremen might be favourable to it, would not attend this evening, as it looked suspicious when the object was not to oppose the men on strike.

Mr. POTTER seconded the amendment; he was not opposed to such a society. Men who had been long employed as foremen did not make good journeymen; but the present was a very ill-advised time to commence it; he had twenty-four of the masons on strike in his employ at the present time, and he would not do justice by him and to his employer; the men could not all be wrong, and Allen right.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on some specific date not mentioned, it would seem to be postponed, and suggested the list of January.

Mr. KAY having agreed to this, the amendment was put and supported by thirty-seven votes; the original motion only receiving four votes.

Mr. NEWTON moved that the society be called a benefit society, but it was negatived.

Mr. WHEELER having undertaken to get it inserted as news in the *Dispatch*, it was resolved that the resolution should be advertised in the *Morning Advertiser*.

Mr. NEWTON moved that a committee of five be appointed to carry out the object of the meeting, and called a public meeting on the 31st January.

Mr. KAY seconded the motion, and was unanimously carried, and ten persons nominated, out of whom Messrs. Kay, Lock, Cornwell, Jenkins, and Carson were elected, and were allowed to add four more to their number.

The REPORTER from the *Morning Advertiser* having entered the room, requested to see the meeting. This being accorded to, he in a rambling manner showed them the claims the *Advertiser* had upon them for support.

WHEELER (Reporter for the Star) replied to him in a friendly manner, and also gave the gentlemen present some hard rub respecting the meeting, contrasting it with that held by the journeymen. Mr. Wheeler was greeted with much applause.

The meeting then adjourned until the 31st of January.

## SHEFFIELD.

(From our own Correspondent.)

ROTHAMPTON.—Mr. Harney addressed the Rotherham Charities on Wednesday evening, Oct. 27th, in the large room of the Old King of Belis, Church-street. This was the last lecture in this room, and another has been engaged.

Mr. SEYKINGTON, of Loughborough, delivered a lecture to the Charities of Rotherham, on Saturday night last.

MAKESBOROUGH.—This place, consisting of two small villages, Old New Makessborough, is situated near the Rotherham Station, and is a very quiet place, almost six miles from Rotherham, and twelve from Sheffield. Here Charism was unknown except to a few bright spirits, who resolved that the "good old

cause" should be understood and appreciated. Accordingly Mr. Harney was invited to deliver a lecture which at once he agreed to. Bills were printed and a place engaged; in securing the latter some little trouble was experienced. On making application for a public hall, large room in the village to a resident, he was refused, but only on the ground that he feared he would lose his licence. As length a very commodious room in a private house (built for a public house) was secured, and all was right.

The lecture was held on Friday evening, Oct. 29th, from 12 to 10 persons attended, amongst whom were several very respectable females, who appeared to take great interest in the proceedings. Mr. Solomon Hingley was called to the chair. Mr. Harney addressed the assembly for upwards of an hour explaining and illustrating the points of the Charter, and answering every objection advanced by the enemies of right, to the evident satisfaction of the great majority present. He concluded by passing the following resolution:—"That it is the opinion of this meeting that taxation, without representation, is tyrannical, and that the only means of redress for the wrongs of the people, is the establishment of the People's Charter as the law of the land."

Mr. Baker, of Scurbridge, seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. The chairman asked if there was any person present who had any questions to put to Mr. Harney? After a pause, a gentleman said he should like to know Mr. Harney's opinions on the Corn Law question. Mr. Harney replied that he was not a Corn Law questioner, and these laws, as well as to every other monopoly, proceeded to show that only by bringing the country to the verge of revolution could they hope to carry Corn Law Reform; and that the same means would carry the Charter which would give the people full control of the land.

Mr. Wm. GILLMER, late of York, in a brief address moved the following resolution:—"That I do assist our countrymen in their present struggle for equal rights and equal laws, we should oppose all measures which tend to the Charter Association." Seconded by Mr. Ashton, and carried unanimously. Thanks were then voted to the lecturer, to the Chairman, and Mr. Crowell, for his liberality in affording the use of the room, and the meeting retired.

A number of good men enrolled themselves as members of the Association.

SUNDAY EVENING LECTURE.—Mr. SEYKINGTON lectured in the large room, Fytres Lane, on Sunday evening last, the room was crowded upon the occasion. Mr. Harney was called to the chair. The lecturer delivered an address of powerful and stirring nature, which he lashed the black slugs, and pretended saints, after a fashion they well deserve. The lecture gave every satisfaction. Mr. Olley then addressed the assembly, rebutting the charge of immorality brought against the poor by the rich, showing up in a cutting style, the gross licentiousness and profligacy of the clergy and aristocracy. Thanks having been voted to the lecturer, the meeting dissolved.

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## SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.

Mr. Joseph Lee, framework-knitter, Pingle.

Mr. George Webster, ditto, ditto.

Mr. Thomas Revell, ditto, Engine Green.

Mr. William Townsend, butcher, Little Lane.

Mr. James Allen, framework-knitter, Back Lane.

Mr. John Revell, ditto, Eastfield Side.

Mr. George Kendall, ditto, Union-street, sub-Treasurer.

Mr. William Parker, ditto, Pingle Green, sub-Secretary.

Mr. James Blake, painter, King-street, Kent-road.

Mr. George Chesse, carrier, Paragon-road.

Mr. John William Blake, gronder, 1, Park-place, East-street, sub-Secretary.

Mr. Charles Rowland, No. 2, Jerusalem Square, Hackney.

Mr. Robert M'Heard, Morning Lane, Hackney.

Mr. James Johnson, Bridge-street, Hornsey.