

THE NATIONAL PETITION.

The following correspondence has taken place in reference to the National Petition:

"Convention Room, Beck's Hotel,
Fleet-street."

"SIR.—The Members of the National Convention of the Industrious Classes of Great Britain, having much to tender to the cordial thanks for the patriotic manner in which you have discharged your duties in Parliament to the working classes; and more particularly do they express their high estimation of your services, speeches, and motions in reference to the Great National Petition, signed by three millions and a half of the people, on the presentation of which your arguments as a speaker, your consistency as a man, and your zeal as a tried and trusted friend of the disinfranchised, have richly merited and do now receive their individual and collective approbation."

"ABRAM DUNCAN, Chairman."
"T. S. DUNCAN, Esq., M.P."

"The Albion, May 9, 1842."

"SIR.—I beg to assure you that it is a source of no inconsiderable gratification to me to learn that your opinion on the presentation of a petition, signed by nearly three millions and a half of my fellow-subjects, as well as my endeavours to obtain for these petitioners a hearing at the bar of the House of Commons, has met with the unanimous approbation of the National Convention of the Industrious Classes of Great Britain."

"In acknowledging this flattering testimony of public approbation, I cannot refrain from expressing the pain and mortification that I experienced at the course which the House of Commons pursued upon the occasion referred to. Instead of that Assembly allowing the working classes to explain their own views, I witnessed not only their wrongs unheeded, their statements discredited, their objects perverted, their motives misrepresented, their characters maligned, but their respectful prayer unanimously rejected."

"If any practical proof were before wanting of the necessity of a radical change in our representative system, I think the manner in which the petitioners, the sons of toil and industry, were treated on Tuesday last, has amply supplied that proof."

"Concerning, therefore, as I do, with the petitioners, that the peace of the empire, the security of property, and the prosperity of commerce can only be permanently secured by the House of Commons being identified with the people, I trust that the far distant day when the House shall become a practice as well as a name, 'the People's House,' and so far as the humble exertions of an individual like myself can promote that object, those whom the National Convention represent will all time to my assistance, and command my cordial co-operation."

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
"With best wishes, faithfully yours,
"THOMAS SLINGSBY DUNCAN."
"Abram Duncan, Esq., &c."

CARLISLE.

DREADFUL DESTITUTION OF THE HANDLOOM WEAVERS—FURTHER REDUCTION OF THEIR WAGES—AND LARGE PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Last week we gave a copy of a memorial to Sir Robert Peel, from the handloom weavers of the City of Carlisle and neighbourhood, which was adopted at a very large public meeting, held in the Town Hall, May 2nd, 1842. In the memorial, Mr. James McKenzie, in behalf of the meeting, and forwarded the following day, with the accompanying letter, to Sir Robert Peel, First Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury:

"Carlisle, May 3rd, 1842."

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TO THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES, AND THEIR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

ON THE STEPS NECESSARY TO BE TAKEN PREPARATORY TO THE PRESENTING THE NEXT NATIONAL PETITION.

FELLOW-MEN.—To the man who wishes to take a conspicuous part in the discussion of public affairs, nothing is so easy as that most delightful task of finding fault. To be ever on the watch for something at which to cavil, and never wanting to propose anything of the world with a degree of intellectual credit, to which it would be impossible for him by other means to attain. Look, says he, at that ridiculous order of the Executive! What want nonsense are the whole proceedings of the Convention! Really there is not a man of talent amongst them. I do wonder what the people will send next. Some men's impudence knows no bounds, or they would never have taken upon them an office which they obviously are incompetent to fill! And thus the modest censor proceeds; but always takes care never to point out anything which ought to be done. I will act upon the contrary principle, and, instead of censuring what has been done, submit to your consideration, what appears to me calculated to give the expression of the national will, a force which it has never yet obtained.

It will be acknowledged by all parties that the present organization, imperfect as it is, is carried out, and that the Convention is a necessary and a just expression of the national will, which has completely paralysed its enemies, and, in my opinion, if the following propositions should be acted upon in addition, would so far concentrate and direct public opinion, as to enable it to carry anything of its choice to bear upon.

PLAN FOR CONDUCTING AND PREPARING THE NEXT NATIONAL PETITION.

1. That Chartists in every township, where they have the power of electing members to the House of Commons, should elect members to the House of Commons, as near as possible, to fill every town's office.

2. That at the time when it is thought advisable to petition, meetings should be held in every township or moiety, with the constable or other parish officer in the chair.

3. That nothing but males, at least of the age at which they are liable to be balloted for the militia, do sign the petition.

4. That every petition be headed or begun by the parish officers for the time being, and as many electors as can be induced to give their signatures, the great body of the people following.

5. That each petition be sent to the member of Parliament representing the place of meeting; and that a letter, containing all the particulars to be found in a following paragraph, signed by the parish officers, and as many electors as convenient, be sent along with the petition, in which the names of the electors at the time when the general motion is made.

6. That if it be thought advisable by the Executive, or Convention, that we should have one great petition before a national one, still a letter to be sent to the member representing the place where the meeting has been held, signed by the parish officers and as many electors as convenient, requesting him to support the main petition; the letter to state the number of males of the required age who have signed the petition in that locality, and also the whole number of males of the required age which the place petitioning contains; and also what number of electors the petition contains.

7. That there be a list prepared, and furnished to the member who presents the National Petition, or moves its adoption, in which the names of the electors, and what number of electors, what number of adults, and the whole number of adults contained in the place at the last census: in order that the member who presents the petition, or moves its adoption, may be able to call upon the clerk to read the list, or that he may call upon the clerk to read the list, for the information of the House. The following is an example of the form:—

I dare not trespass further than to say that the thing is quite practicable, and big with important results.

Yours truly,
JAMES PENNY.

May 11, 1842.

Wm. Beckett for West Riding

Liveridge

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

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Yes

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Yes

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Yes

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Yes

No

to their movements and labours. They have set the foreign press to work, as well as the English. They have given to their petition (an embodiment as it is of the principles of right and justice) the wings of the wind! and sent it into every corner of the habitable globe, to encourage the struggling, enlighten the darkened, and animate the hopeful! The petition has been translated into different tongues, and laid before the people of different nations. The whole of the English daily press gave the petition at full length, in their reports of its presentation; and a great portion of the weekly journals followed the example. Not a single English paper has been since published, that has not had something to say, either pro or con, upon the movement. And the Foreign press has had its comments too! Hear what the *National*, a French paper, says on the subject! We give its remarks as we find them quoted in the *Times*, (say, even the *bloody Old Times*) of Saturday last:—

"We call the attention of our readers to the petition presented to the House of Commons by the English Chartists. It is not the first time that the formidable association of operatives in that country has addressed their grievances to Parliament; but the present proceeding has been of so serious a character, that all London was affected by it. The organization of the inferior classes, their sympathies for the same ideas, their action under the same standard, their progress in London, where they count 200,000 disciplined men, and in 36 of the most important towns in Great Britain, in each of which they have 10,000 associates, the sentiment of the rights which stimulate them, the equality of quality, which by degrees is penetrating and animating them, all these circumstances give this proceeding a great importance at present, and an importance which will become more formidable hereafter. The apparition of the working class upon the English political scene is a new event, at least under existing circumstances. We are aware that nothing marches so quick in England as what is traditional, but the element which is being introduced in the midst of old and worn-out parties must sooner or later prevail, and the pitiless English aristocracy alone have reason to complain."

The *National* is right! "The apparition of the working classes upon the English political scene is a new event!! And was not it worth the labour that the Chartists have been at, to raise that APPARITION, and bring about that event? Are we not more than repaid? Are not our expectations more than realised? Have we not compelled public attention? Have we not forced ourselves and our efforts for liberty upon the notice of parties whom we could not otherwise have reached?"

Look at the progress of Chartism principles! In the years 1816 and 1817, petitions, signed by one and-a-half millions of people, were presented to the House of Commons for Universal Suffrage, Annual Parliaments and Vote by Ballot, as a means of bringing about an equitable adjustment of the debt and general taxation, and otherwise legislating for the benefit of the whole people. "The House" then answered the demands of the working people by superciliously and indignantly refusing to receive their petitions; by the appointment of the "Green-bag Conspiracy" select Committee; by the suspension of the *Habeas Corpus Act*; by the passing of power-of-imprisonment-without-examination-of-trial laws; by the enactment of the SIX ACTS; by the cramming into prison of hundreds of working men, for months and years together—and then turning them out without even telling them why they had been confined; and by the transporting of some scores of others, and the HANGING OF TWISTLEWOOD, INGS, BRUNT, and TIND, in London, and BRANDRETH and his fellow martyrs at Derby, for what were called "treasons," brought about by the theses of the rascally governors of the day! Such was the answer of "the House

tions, not of any Minister of the Crown, but
 bers, relative to proceedings not before Par-
 aments, it would lead to the greatest irregularity in
 proceedings—these have been the case. I
 v, then, you have the whole case, and what-
 ever you may think of Mr. Roebuck's declaration
 to hold himself responsible for words used by
 the House of Commons, what must you think
 of the House, which, to screen its own Members,
 has been brutal, arbitrary, wilful, and cowardly,
 to shelter itself under the cloak of privilege. As
 is the conventional rules of civilized society
 gentlemen to look beyond the law for satis-
 faction, it is an act of barbarous tyranny upon the
 part of the House of Commons, to make that place
 a manufactory for slander; thus giving to
 a force and power which, if elsewhere
 would be comparatively harmless.
 I am of opinion that of all men living, Hon-
 ourable Members, should be responsible for the
 words they utter; at least, such was the rule
 I laid down and acted upon, during every
 year that I had the misfortune to serve in the
 House. You will now see that I could
 not be a gentleman, do more; any see that I
 do not do less. I have suffered no damage;
 but my back has achieved no triumph. But, how-
 ever, I was to defend my honour, if assailed,
 and Mr. Roebuck should bear in mind,—that is,
 to mean his abuse to apply to me,—that I com-
 mended to him in York Castle when he did me the
 violence, that what I esteemed my greatest
 honour was in first being grossly insulted by
 Normanby and Russell and Mr. Fox Maule;
 and being bound over for two years in heavy
 to keep silence to keep the peace.
 conclusion, as I ever have conformed, so I ever
 in despite of legal bond and obligation, conform
 to rules which society requires for its govern-
 ment. Individually I have no just cause of com-
 plaint. Mr. Roebuck, while I am hesitatingly
 that the course pursued by the House of
 Commons is calculated to render its social character
 contemptible as its political fame has become.
 My friends, I am neither braggart, bully, nor
 coward. I never seek the battle, nor shun it when
 it is offered.
 Ever your faithful friend,
 FEARGUS O'CONNOR.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. OASTLER.
 A MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF
 MR. RICHARD OASTLER, held at the City
 of Leeds, Upper Albion Street, Leeds, on the
 day of May, 1842.

WILLIAM ATKINSON IN THE CHAIR :—
 following resolution of a previous Meeting,
 at Scarborough's Hotel, April 23, 1842, having
 read, namely :—
 that at this Meeting considers it desirable that a
 petition should be forthwith commenced among
 the friends of Mr. Richard Oastler, resident in
 the neighbourhood of Leeds, upon the basis of a
 petition originated among the friends of that
 gentleman in London: yet subject to the ultimate
 of the local subscribers; as to its final appro-
 priety.

RESOLVED—
 that this Meeting cheerfully recognizes Mr.
 Oastler's unflinching claims to public sympathy
 and support, and cordially adopts the Resolution of
 the Meeting of his Friends, held at Scarborough's
 on the 23rd ultimo.

RESOLVED—
 that a Subscription be therefore immediately
 among all Classes of the Inhabitants of the
 City of Leeds; and that the following Gentle-
 men be a Committee for superintending the same,
 and to add to their number :—The Chairman,
 Mr. Mallinson, Mr. Summers, Mr.
 Gurney, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Chatterley, Mr.
 Denham, Mr. Thomas Hargrave, Holbeck, Mr.
 Denham, Mr. Richard Pounder, Mr. Robert
 A. Mr. John Hudson, Mr. Eagland, Mr. B.
 Mr. A. Stead, Jun., Kriggs, Mr. Abney,
 Mr. Smithson, Mr. Smithson, Mr. Singleton,
 Mr. Daniel, and Mr. Pullan; five to be a quorum.



RESOLVED—
 that our Chairman be requested to act as Treas-
 urer of the Fund; and that Mr. John Beekwith be
 the Secretary.

Subscriptions be received at all the Leeds
 and at the Offices of the Leeds Intelligencer,
 Northern Star, the Leeds Times, and the Leeds
 and the Leeds Journal.

That the resolutions of this meeting be advertised
 in the Leeds Papers, under the direction of the
 Committee.

WM. ATKINSON, Chairman.

Chairman having left the Chair,
 and by acclamation, that the thanks of the
 Meeting be given to the Chairman for his conduct

NOTICE TO EMIGRANTS.
 The following splendid Ships will be despatched
 monthly for the comfortable accommodation of
 the Second Cabin, and Scotland, and the
 surpassed, if equalled, by any other ships in
 the world. The Charge for Passengers has been con-
 siderably reduced.

FOR NEW YORK.
 Captain. Tons Bur. Sail.
 NEW YORK, Nevius, 1,000 13th May.
 LINFA, Smith, 1,150 16th May.
 Black Ball Line of Packet Ship
 DENISON, Marshall, 1,000 19th May.
 DENISON, Post, 1,200 25th May.
 M'KKA, M'Lunen, 1,300
 Black Ball Line of Packet Ship
 CROPPER, 1,000 15th May.
 punctually 7th June, her regular day.

FOR QUEBEC.
 DONATA, Swinford, 1,300 25th May.
 FOR NEW ORLEANS.
 EMERSON, 1,200 ~

FOR BOSTON.
 SED STATES, Swanton, 1,200 ~
 FOUTH, Patten, 1,200 ~

This is a Railroad from Boston to Albany, the
 which Place are very trifling, and a daily
 service from Boston to St. John's, Halifax, Pier-
 ce, New York, and the other Ports of the Atlantic,
 of which J. & W. R. will forward Passengers
 Expense, per agreement.

FOR CHARLESTON.
 CAPTAIN, Capt. Warren, 700 Tons Barthen.

Terms of Passage apply to
 J. & W. ROBINSON,
 Transatlantic Packet Offices,
 3, Goree Piazza, and 1, Neptune Street,
 Liverpool.

Surgeons are wanted for the Packet Ships
 LIVERPOOL and NEW YORK.

(One Interest.)

EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.
 Just Published, price One Penny,
 addressed to Mr. PIERKETH, of
 Huddersfield, Yorkshire.

By DR. JOHN SMITHES,
 10 Years resident in that Country. Containing
 the Writer's Opinion of the People, Govern-
 ment, Religion, &c.; also, Remarks on the Fitness of
 the Country of Wisconsin as a Residence for English
 Settlers.

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