

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO F. O'CONNOR, Esq. AND OTHERS, AT FROME.

(From our own Correspondent.)

It was arranged that Mr. O'Connor should address the Charities of Frome on Tuesday night last, after he had attended the Bath tea party, that was held on the same evening.

Frome is fourteen miles distant from Bath, and the road is very hilly. About a quarter to nine, Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Roberts arrived, and immediately proceeded to the residence of a gentleman, who had kindly given it for the purpose of the meeting; the Charities having been disappointed in their expectations of being allowed the use of some of the public buildings or chapels.

Immediately upon Mr. O'Connor's arrival, a chairman was appointed, who, after a very few observations, introduced Mr. O'Connor to the assembly. Mr. O'Connor had not spoken more than two minutes, when the centre-beam of the warehouse gave way, without a moment's notice, and the dense mass of each side were precipitated headlong into the under-story, the floor mired together in one common heap in the centre, with the beams and flooring over some, and under others. Not a bit of the floor remained standing, the whole having given way from the wall on either side. The crash of the large beams was terrible, but was soon lost in the piteous moans of the sufferers.

We regret to say that a fine young woman named Mary Gable, had her leg broken; while many received severe contusions, sprains, and fractures; and also to add that Mr. Feargus O'Connor received a severe contusion on the forehead, leg and hip, the leg being cut along the calf from under the knee as far as the ankle bone inside, and much bruised outside. Mr. Roberts, who stood near the window and upon a spot that remained almost the last, fell from a very narrow escape of being precipitated from the roof, and was severely injured to avoid the general crash. Both gentlemen, as well as many others, lost their hats; and it was not until the ruins were moved, that Mr. O'Connor's coat was found.

The circumstances have caused more excitement in Frome than we remember to have existed upon any previous occasion, in consequence of the masters and Liberal Dissenters having refused the Charities the use of any of their buildings, for the purpose of their own meetings, while these mourning the victims of a month since, outstripped the most violent Charities in violence, when their aid was sought by the Masters and Dissenters for the purpose of resisting the educational classes in the Factory Bill. The Charities offered fifty shillings, or any price in fact, for a place to meet in, but were disappointed, having received flat and impertinent refusals from the Masters and Dissenters. There is no doubt that the discovery, or the discovery which was a consequence of the illiberality of the middle classes, will have a contrary effect to that which by the exercise of their petty power they had anticipated. The people witnessed the sneers and jeers of their Liberal friends, and the announcement of the rumour that ran through the town, like lightning, that Feargus O'Connor was killed. Mr. O'Connor, however, having learned the true cause of the disaster from the working men, assured them that the assistance would be given to the Charities, for that he would return on Monday next.

Frome, and hold an outdoor meeting upon firm ground which would not give way. This announcement was received with loud cheers, and the Committee for the past day, in the anticipated return of Mr. O'Connor, immediately proceeded to make arrangements for giving effect to the meeting of Monday next, which is to take place at six o'clock in the evening. The Liberals have already received a lesson in their own hands, which will be a lesson they will never forget. The Charities have resolved upon taking. They have spent a portion of their time in going about in a hopeless endeavor to conciliate the wounded, while the sufferers reject their sympathy, telling them, that to them the catastrophe is justly attributable. It is not to be expected, however, that the assistance will be given to the Charities, for that he would return on Monday next.

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The Northern Star

AND LEEDS GENERAL ADVERTISER.

VOL. VI. NO. 298. SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1843.

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Now, my Lord, before you proceed further with

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of the several allegations set forth in this Bill,

with a view to the enactment of some just, equitable,

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Thanking you, which I do, my Lord, most sincerely

for the courtesy and promptitude of your

Lordship's answer to my communication of the 10th

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I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's

most obedient servant,

PATRICK O'HIGGINS.

Right Hon. Lord Eliot, Irish Secretary of State, London.

P.S. Last there should be any delay in bringing

the subject before the House of Commons, and in

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means of directing the attention of the Government

and the supporters of the Government to the real

foundation, cause, and origin of those crimes in

Ireland which your Lordship enumerated. I have

sent the correspondence to the press for publication,

and shall transmit to your Lordship and to each of

the Ministers a copy of the newspaper containing it.

By authority of the Committee.

THE EDITOR.

Irish Office, July 18, 1843.

Sir, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your

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I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

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IRISH DISTURBANCES.—IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE.

(From the Freeman's Journal.)

Dublin, July 10th, 1843.

My Lord,—At the present crisis I deem it the

bounden duty of every lover of the peace, happiness,

and prosperity of our country, to furnish those

who have the power to make laws with any facts

which they may consider essential, to the end that

those laws may be as just and as equitable as human

wisdom can devise.

It appears by the published report of the debate

on the Irish Arms Bill, that your Lordship has

stated—

"Ist. That murders have been committed in Ireland

with greater impunity than in any other country in

this country."

"2dly. That there is more difficulty in bringing

the guilty parties in Ireland to justice than there is in

any other country in the world."

3dly. That the crime of robbery of fire arms is

unknown in England or in any other country except

Ireland. And with a view to remedy these evils, your

Lordship has introduced the Irish Arms Bill."

Now, my Lord, I know a good deal about Ireland.

I have been frequently through nearly every part

of it; and although I am aware that it may, for a time,

make me very unpopular, yet, justice—strict justice,

demands that I should not only confirm your Lordship's

statement, but must add that I have always

looked upon the needling of the Irish Catholics, and

in hood in matters, I may say, of a strictly temperate

nature, to have been exceedingly mischievous, though I

believe well-intentioned.

The opposition which the Irish Arms Bill has

received, and is still likely to receive, in its progress

through the House of Commons, will afford me sufficient

facts to supply your Lordship with some important

facts which you have omitted, and which I hope you

will lay before Parliament.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

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To the Right Honourable Lord Eliot,

House of Commons, London.

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