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TO THE IMPERIAL CHARTISTS.

My Beloved Friends,—I make no doubt that I shall have a good dinner upon Christmas Day, but the best sauce that could be served up with it would be the assurance that the families of my brother Chartists who are now suffering imprisonment for their principles, were also sure of a good dinner. I have appealed to you frequently on behalf of the principles, and how can I at this season of the year refrain from begging of you on behalf of those who are suffering from the advocacy of their principles. That the national tribute will be a bumper I have every reason to believe, because every man who subscribes his mite will feel assured that he will have more than a corresponding return presented in the advance of his principles. But then, can we be said to love the principles if we neglect those whose *families are suffering from* devotion to our cause? Or can our 3,500,000 signatures to the National Petition be considered genuine, if not one in fifty of that number is prepared to back his signature with a penny to add to the comforts, or rather to the mere necessaries of their fellow creatures? I receive, daily, heartrending appeals from the Victim Fund Committee on behalf of the sufferers. Let us then, my friends, while we work for the principle, have a care of those who have suffered for it. There was a time when I was able to stand paymaster to the whole regiment of Chartists, and then I did the work myself; but oppression, persecution, and your neglect of your own business, has nearly dried the old cow up, and now I am compelled to appeal to yourselves to do your own business.

You will find by the address of the Executive, that we are about to set to work in earnest, and to commence the year 1844, with vigour and resolution, while I feel convinced that our exertions for the three months previous to the meeting of the Convention, will, if backed by you, go far to realise our hopes, and at all events present such a front to corruption, as will convince our antagonists that, upon the next General Election, labour must have at least twenty undefiled and unpurchasable representatives of its own body to speak for it in the House of Commons. It is all important that the next Convention should settle the question of Chartism, by so unequivocal an expression of our principles as will cut all chance of co-operation save upon those principles from the middle classes. Mr. Sturge may advocate his nameless project. Attwood may bluster about his One Pound Notes: and Sharman Crawford may talk of the still greater folly of withholding the supplies from Governments, whose very existence depends upon majorities to vote those supplies to themselves. The League may talk of cheap bread: but I tell you that Sturgeism, Attwoodism, Crawfordism, and Leaguism, are one and all but sections of Capitalism, Free Tradeism, and Whiggism; and therefore I, *for one*, shall hold myself altogether aloof from the agitation sought to be got up by those crotchet-mongers. It is no use for men to write to me about the practicibility of Crawford's scheme, and other schemes, as a means of giving increased vigour and freshness to Chartism. I look with pity, if not with suspicion and contempt, upon old birds who can be caught with such chaff. I tell you that there are not 100 men in all England possessing £5,000 each who would not rather fight up to their knees in blood than see the Charter the law of the land.

Now, take that from me, and believe it, for this reason, that their whole traffic is in your labour; and they will preserve that traffic to their own use, behoof, and benefit, as long as they can. At one time they would'nt join us because we were physical-force Chartists—now they won't join us because we are not intellectual Chartists; and let me tell you, that they will never join us until they see that we are so organised that we can beat them morally or physically; and then they will join us. It is all *nonsense, moonshine, and blarney* to talk of labour ever gaining any advantage from the advocacy of those who plunder the labourer. Why just think, all the agitation of those fellows now arises out of the complaint that they can't make enough of profit upon labour, while my constant endeavour has been, and is, to take their knuckles out of the poor man's throat. Just read the manner in which the Coal King's of Durham have treated their slaves, and ask yourselves what law compels them to do so. See the admissions that landlord's and parsons are obliged to make relative to the condition of the agricultural labourers, to which no argument but those burning words of Mr. Swing could have aroused them. See the fact of improved trade and diminished wages, and here you have the whole of your grievances set before you at a simple view, and I ask which of the master classes will join you in any attempt to redress those grievances, and which of them is there that has not a direct interest in their preservation! Again, then, I tell you—

As well may the lamb with the tiger unite,
The mouse with the cat, or the lark with the kite.

The Irish repealers have the same interest in the labour question that the English Chartists have. They are fast gaining wisdom and joining our ranks, and to their co-operation we are to look as the invigorating power by which labour shall achieve a triumph over all its oppressors.

Ever your faithful friend,
Feargus O'Connor.

THE EXECUTIVE TO THE CHARTIST BODY.

In compliance with the desire very generally expressed that the whole expence of the lecturing staff should be paid out of the General Fund we entirely concur; and should the amount of the National Tribute enable us to give effect to the popular will, in this respect, we shall most cheerfully comply: while it must be borne in mind that the lecturers will be engaged for three months, and that the Executive would be placed in an awkward position by the non-fulfilment of their pecuniary engagements. From the communications which we have received from numerous localities, we are lead to the anticipation that we shall be enabled to carry our lecturing arrangements even to a greater extent than we originally anticipated. Being most anxious to incorporate our Scotch brethren thoroughly within the union, we beg to remind them that they have amongst them such men as Mr. John M'Crae, Mr. Andrew Wardrop, and others whose services might be enlisted and engaged, by exchanging their services for those of their English brethren. We therefore invite the Chartists of Glasgow and district, of Aberdeen and district, and of Edinburgh and district to take the matter into their consideration and to communicate with the General Secretary, whose address is 243½, Temple-Bar, London, upon the subject.

Those towns having cards which they have not disposed of during the present quarter can by application to the Secretary, as above, stating the number required, be supplied with printed slips rendering them available for the present quarter.

THE TYRANT MILLOCRATS.

The continuation of the proceedings arising out of the atrocious Belfield Factory Case, will be read with much interest by our numerous readers. A press of matter prevents us giving a comment this week.

The Hard Case Again.—At the Rochdale Sessions, on Monday last, the Rev. Richard Durnford, rector of Middleton, held a long consultation with the Rochdale magistrates, Messrs. Wm. Chadwick, Henry Kelsall, and the Rev. Mr. Cotton, relative to the liberation of Joseph Taylor, weaver, Middleton, who was committed by the Haslingden magistrates for a month, on the 1st inst., for not returning in his work in due time. We understand the whole of the circumstances of this strange affair have been laid before the Haslingden bench, requesting the magistrates to concur in an application to liberate Taylor, in order that a fair and impartial hearing may take place; but that request having been refused, we understand that a memorial to the Secretary of State has been prepared, at the request of the Rector of Middleton and the Rochdale bench, praying for his instant liberation.—*Manchester Guardian—Wednesday.*

The following additional particulars are from our correspondent to whom we are mainly indebted for the astounding exposures contained in our last:—

This week the Rev. Richard Durnford, Rector of Middleton, has received a letter from Messrs. Benecke and Co., Belfield, stating that their manager, or the inspector of worsted, has beeen the means of Taylor's imprisonment; the letter also requested that the Rev. Gentleman would see to the wants of the unfortunate man's family, and when Taylor was released from prison they would repay the Rector. On Tuesday last, Mr. Durnford visited Taylor in the New Bailey Prison, and stated to him the above offer, but Taylor, knowing his family was attended to, replied that he should commence legal proceedings against his persecutors as soon as he had served his time.

The hearing of the case is expected to come before the Rochdale Magistrates as early as possible after the release of Taylor, whose time of imprisonment will be up on the 28th of this month. The memorialising the Secretary of State (as stated in the *Guardian* of Wednesday) has been abandoned. It is probable that the inhabitants of Middleton will call a public meeting on the subject as soon as the unfortunate and persecuted man arrives at home.

One of the Rochdale rural police, it is said, had a hand in the plotting of Taylor's case, and that it was done at Belfield. Probably the Inspector of Worsted, Mr. Booth, will tell who the police officer alluded to is, if not, it will perhaps come out before the Rochdale bench.

YORKSHIRE GAOL DELIVERY.

(Continued from our third Page.)

Mr. Wilkins then addressed the jury for the prisoner in an excellent speech. He stated that great credit was due to his learned friend Mr. Hall for the temperate and judicious manner in which, as on all other occasions, he had opened this case to the jury. But notwithstanding the kindness of his learned friend, and notwithstanding his laudable attempt to keep out of his (Mr. Wilkins's) way every difficulty he could remove, the jury would be of opionion that the poor wretch, whose intests had been placed in his hands, laboured under extreme disadvantages, and had, as in the language of Mr. Hall, to meet one of the most formidable charges that can be brought against any man. Had it not been for the kindness of his Lordship, who handed to him the depositions, he would not have been acquainted with the facts of this case, and it was not until early that morning that he received any intimation from the poor fellow himself, as a guide for him in conducting this case. He (Mr. Wilkins) asked for no sympathy at the hands of the jury, he was there in the discharge of his duty, and he could only be expected to discharge that duty according to the means which had been furnished to him by his client, but he did ask for every indulgence and for every sympathy to this poor prisoner, whose situation had rendered him friendless, pennyless, despised, and rejected by all who had heard of this case. He stood there to meet the most dreadful charge that can be brought against any man—that of having destroyed his own father. And surely when they heard that charge, respect for their common humanity would prompt them to look about for some extenuating circumstances in the case. He should be able to show, at any rate, that the prisoner was much entitled to their pity, and that although his father might have unfortunately fallen from his hand, the crime itself did not appear without some extenuating circumstances, and some circumstances which would steal their way to the hearts of the jury, and elicit from them a desire that mercy should be extended towards the prisoner. It appeared, from the simple history which the prisoner had laid before him, that at five years of age his mother died, leaving him and two other children to the care of his father. And surely if he might believe the story which the prisoner had told—(and there were circumstances in the case which justified him in so doing)—it would appear that he had experienced nothing from the hands of his father, but the most unmitigated and the most unceasing cruelty, and had experienced nothing from him but that which was calculated to provoke and irritate him, and not that affection which ought to characterise the conduct of a father towards his child. For years the prisoner worked hard, and gained more then was sufficient for his own wants. His father abused his earnings, and at times reduced him almost to starvation. When the prisoner was sixteen years of age he earned 18s. per week, and on one occasion not having tasted anything but water porridge for several weeks, he received his own wages and determined, if possible, to get some meat for himself. When the prisoner got home, the father took a large wooden rolling pin and beat him within an inch of his life, took from him his money, and then went out, locking the door after him. The neighbours having heard a noise went to the house to ascertain what was the matter, but the poor fellow could not answer but with his groans. The father dragged him out of bed, ill as he was, and compelled him to work far beyond the hour of midnight. On the following morning he escaped from his father and went to Wakefield, where he obtained employment and worked there for nearly three years, and then it was, as they would already gather from the questions he had put to the witnesses, that it was thought the father had murdered him. The neighbours having heard the father beating him in a very cruel way, and he having subsequently disappeared, then it was that the neighbours, being prompted by humanity, caused the father to be apprehended, and to be taken before the magistrates. He declared his innocence of the crime, and by some means the boy was found at Wakefield. But such were the proofs of the father's cruelty that the magistrates bound him over to keep the peace to his own child. Shortly after this time, the prisoner, still wishing if possible to gain the affections of his father, being in good work he went to Wakefield, and got his father some work in the shop where he was employed. On five different occasions the father spoiled his pieces, and on every occasion the son was called upon to make good the loss caused by his parent's intemperance and carelessness. At last the prisoner could bear it no longer, and he enlisted into the 20th regiment. Even there the father could not allow him to rest, and he wrote letters to his son tempting him to desert, and at the instigation of the father he did desert. From that very moment the father used this circumstance as a cause for terror and extortion, compelling the son to work and toil for him, and whenever he complained the father invariably held this desertion *in terrorem* over his head, and told him that if he did not give him money he would inform against him. The prisoner got married, his wife produced children, and she could not bear to see her children robbed to support the old man in his idleness; and hence arose that unusual litigation and strife between the parties, which had been alluded to. On the day in question the father went to the house, and the Jury would remember that the prisoner's wife went into a neighbour's house, the father having threatened to take her life. The neighbour went into the house, and there he found the old man in a perfect state of fury, cursing and swearing, and using the most vituperative language. In the midst of that in came the husband, and what was the statement the wife made to him? Why, she tells him that the father had been threatening to take her life. The story the prisoner had told him (Mr. Wilkins) was this. He said that the wife had so repeatedly complained of the old man's idleness, and his having to support him in that idleness, and had so often resented his extortion, that the father had tempted the prisoner more than once to take her life. He had even carried it further, for he himself threatened to take her life, and he told the prisoner that he had got a razor for that purpose. The Learned Counsel made some remarks upon the evidence which had been adduced on the part of the prosecution, arguing that there was no premeditation on the part of the prisoner, and that the jury would be justified, under all the circumstances of the case, to reduce the crime of murder to that of manslaughter. He disclaimed any intention of justifying the offence, and concluded by saying, that if he succeeded in saving this unhappy man's life, he should think, at any rate, that he had not lived in vain.

The Learned Judge then minutely summed up, fully stating the law as regards the crimes of murder and manslaughter, and showing that the using of mere words were not a sufficient provocation to reduce the crime of murder to manslaughter.

The Jury then retired, and after a quarter of an hour, returned into Court with a verdict of Guilty.

The prisoner said that many a person had been tried there who were innocent of such crimes as his, and condemned to death, and the guilty parties been allowed to escape. He could not say that he was not guilty of doing this, but he was not guilty of murder. He once had a mother, three brothers, and a sister, who had all come to their death from the punishment his father had inflicted upon them. It was a hard thing for him to undergo punishment on account of his father. He was a poor man, and he had a wife and two children, whom he was now about to leave to the wide world, and no home to go to. Some other of the family, if they had been living, might have come to the same end. His children were about to be left fatherless, and with no one to instruct them. He was then standing before an earthly judge, but there was a day coming when we shall all have to come before the judgment seat of Christ, who knows who is guilty and who is not, and he should like his Lordship to take this fact into his consideration before he passed sentence, because he thought he was not guilty of murder. He had no persons to call to speak on his behalf, as it was out of their power to raise the money to state his case before the jury.

His Lordship then assumed the black cap, and proceeded to pass sentence as follows:—Joseph Dobson, you have been found guilty of the offence of wilful murder, committed on your own father, and I am sorry to say I cannot see any ground on which the Jury could possibly have come to any other conclusion. Your act appears to have been one of considerable deliberation, as you had plenty of time to cool, and opportunity was given you after you had once attempted to discharge the gun, but you repeated the thing, and effected your purpose. If you have entertained resentment towards your father for his conduct to your mother many years ago, it rather shows that your act on this occasion was not the result of any sudden impulse arising in the mind; and an old animosity against your father cannot be any ground for believing the offence to be other than wilful murder. I have only one duty to perform, and I cannot suggest any probability of the mercy of the crown being extended to you, therefore, I would strongly recommend you to make use of the short time you have to remain in this world in considering what to all men is the most important concern, but to you the only concern. It certainly is a sad thing to leave your wife and children friendless in the world, and this is one of those circumstances which must be a great enhancement of the mental sufferings which the prospect of fatal punishment must have produced already. It is one of the greatest miseries which attend criminal conduct, and one of those things which will assist in making your case a warning to others. I can do no more than pass upon you the sentence which the law prescribes, and cannot encourage you to any hope of mercy in this world. The sentence of the Court therefore is, that you be taken to the place from whence you came, and from thence to the place of execution, and that you be there hanged by the neck until you be dead, and that your body be buried within the precincts of the prison in which you have been confined, and may God have mercy on your soul.

The prisoner then made another statement, in which he contradicted the evidence for the prosecution in a few particulars, and then retired from the dock.

His conduct during the trial was distinguished by considerable composure, and with the exception of a few sighs, he manifested very little disquietude.

HOUSEBREAKING.

James Morton, 26, *John George Deverdeus*, 22, and *Michael Child*, 30, were charged with having on the 28th of August last, at Leeds, broken into the dwelling-house of Esther Hinds and Charlotte Taylor, and stolen therefrom a silver watch, two silver table spoons, a pair of silver sugar tongs, two gold rings, and other articles.

Mr. Ellis and Mr. Hall were for the prosecution; the prisoners were undefended.

The prosecutrixes are cap makers, living in St. John-street, Leeds. About half-past nine o'clock on the night in question, Mrs. Hinds retired to rest, having made all the doors and windows secure. Not long afterwards she heard some one open a drawer in the room beneath the one in which she was sleeping, which caused her to get up. She went to the staircase, and saw the figures of three men in the front room. She listened some time, when the men came out of the room, and were proceeding up stairs, when Mrs. Hinds said "Whatever are you doing there?" She saw the face of Deverdeus, who went by the name of "Jim Crow," and when she spoke he blew a candle out which he was carrying. Mrs. Hinds called for assistance, and the men ran away. The boxes in the house were found to have been broken open, and the property mentioned in the indictment was missing. Miss Taylor had been at her sister's, who is married to a person named John Child, who, at that time, kept the Masons' Arms beer house in Lady-lane, and in which house the whole of the prisoners had been in the course of the afternoon and evening. Child called a witness to prove an *alibi*. Both the other prisoners said in defence that they were in bed at the time of the robbery. The jury found Morton and Child Not Guilty, and Deverdeus Guilty.—Sentence deferred.

James Whalley, 23, and *John Dennison*, 24, were charged with having, on the 6th of August, at Leeds, robbed John Wood, of a steel tobacco box and a half crown. Mr. Ellis and Mr. Hill appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Wilkins defended the prisoners. After the evidence had been gone through, the Jury did not require Mr. Wilkins to offer any remarks on behalf of the prisoners, who were found Not Guilty.

The prisoner Dennison was further charged with having assaulted William Bywater, with intent to rob him.

Mr. Ellis and Mr. Hall were for the prosecution. Mr. Wilkins defended the prisoner. The prosecutor is a cloth weaver, and resides at Holbeck, near Leeds. On the 20th of May last, he was working at Batley, and about half-past nine o'clock, whilst he was on the Leeds and Churwell road on his return home, and about 200 yards past the Drysalters' Arms public-house, the prisoner came up to him, having in his left hand a small pistol, and in his right a rod of iron about three quarters of a yard in length. The prisoner presented the pistol in his face and said, "Deliver up your money, or you will die in a moment." Prosecutor turned sharply round to avoid him, and the prisoner then struck him with the iron over the hat, which was cut.

Mr. Wilkins addressed the jury for the prisoner, contending that there was not sufficient proof of the prisoner's identity, and that this must be looked upon more as a lark than an intention to commit a robbery.—Not Guilty.

William Champion, 44, was charged with having, on the 5th of October last, at Laughton-en-le-Morthen, stolen a mare, the property of Charles Hibberd. The prisoner pleaded Guilty, and handed in a document to the Judge, which was read by the Clerk. The production was of the most bombastic description, and excited the laughter of the Court. The prisoner was sentenced to be imprisoned for one year to hard labour.

The Court rose about half-past five o'clock.

Wednesday, Dec. 20.

His Lordship took his seat this morning at about a quarter past nine.

MAIMING A COW AT PICKERING.

Wm. Cordukes, 26, was indicted for that he, on the 12th of July last, at Pickering, in the North Riding, did feloniously cut and maim a cow, the property of Thos. Bird.

Mr. Bliss was for the prosecution; the prisoner was undefended.

The prosecutor is a dyer and coal merchant, at Pickering; he had five cows turned into a pasture on the morning of the 12th of July, at which time they were all right; in the evening it was found that one of them had its tail cut off. The prisoner was seen in the field were the cows were, on the same day, and the tail was afterwards found in his house. The Jury found the prisoner guilty.

The same prisoner was further charged with having feloniously broken into and entered the dwelling-house of Thomas Swales, at Pickering, on the 16th of July last, with intent to steal therein.

Mr. Blanshard was for the prosecution; the prisoner was undefended.

The case failed, and the prisoner was acquitted.

There was a third indictment against the prisoner, for having, on the last Monday in March last, attempted to shoot Philip Heseltine, of Pickering. On this charge he was found Guilty.

The Judge sentenced him to be imprisoned for twelve months.

ROBBERY AT BARNARD CASTLE.

John Thompson, 33, *Daniel Thompson*, 18, and *Maria Thompson*, 29, were charged, for that they, on the 19th of April last, did steal from the person of Margaret Wigham, in the parish of Barnard Castle, fourteen promissory notes, of the value of £5 each, the property of William Wigham.

Mr. Grainger and Mr. Travis were counsel for the prosecution; Mr. Wilkins defended John Thompson, and Mr. Bliss the two other prisoners.

After a very long trial, John Thompson was found guilty, and sentenced to be transported for ten years. The other two were acquitted.

BURGLARY AT LEEDS.

John Child, 32, was charged with having, on the 8th of July, at Leeds, committed a burglary in the dwelling-house of Robert Massey, and stolen therein a silver pint, a gold brooch, a jet brooch, a gold seal and key, a pinchbeck watch, a necklace, a brace of pistols, a large pistol, a number of silver spoons, and other articles, his property.

Mr. Ellis and Mr. Hall were counsel for the prosecution; Mr. Wilkins defended the prisoner.

The prosecutor is a joiner and builder, and resides in Mark-lane, Leeds. At the time of the robbery his family were living at Oulton, and on the evening of the 8th of July, about seven o'clock, himself and his wife left home to go to Oulton, leaving the house in Leeds safely locked. On the following morning, it was found by Mrs. Bland, a neighbour of Massey's, that his house had been broken open and ransacked, upon which she sent for Mr. Massey, and on his arrival the property mentioned in the indictment was found to have been carried off. Information of the robbery was given to the police, but for some time no trace whatever of the robbery could be obtained, and it was not until the latter end of August that any clue could be got, when it was found that about the middle of July, the prisoner took a silver pint to the shop of Mr. Brown, engraver, in Cross Court, Briggate, and by his request he engraved thereupon the initials "J.A.C." When it was finished the pint was sent home, and the prisoner paid sixpence for the engraving. The pint at that time had the appearance of having had other initials obliterated on the handle. On the 15th of July, the prisoner was proved to have taken this pint, which had then the initials "J.A.C.," to the shop of Mr. Gresham, in North-street, and offered it for sale, saying that it was his own, and that the initials were those of his wife and himself. Mr. Joshua Etches, salesman to Mr. Gresham, bought the pint, giving the prisoner fifty shillings for it. He afterwards took some spoons, also marked "J.A.C." to the same shop and offered them for sale also. These spoons were what are called "Fiddle Pattern," and appeared to have been recently engraved. This pint was afterwards again sold and was put up to be run for as a prize at Beeston races when it was won by Mr. Bower, butcher, Kirkgate, and was then seen by Mr. Massey, who claimed it as his, and gave information to the police, who took possession of the pint, and submitted it to Mr. Swaine, watch-maker, in Boar-lane, who discovered that the initials on the handle, which had been all but obliterated, had been "W. R. A." Child was at that time in prison on another charge, and on the pint being shown to him, he said he had had it in his possession for three months before Massey's robbery was committed, and that he had drank, on different occasions, many a gallon of ale out of it. The prisoner's house had been in the meantime searched, and a pinchbeck watch, and a variety of trinkets were found, which, as well as the pint, were spoken to by prosecutor and his wife, as similar to those which had been stolen from their house. The witnesses for the prosecution, most of whom had known the prisoner for several years, gave him a very excellent character.

Mr. Wilkins, for the defence, submitted that the identity of all the articles produced, except the silver pint, was quite out of the question, and that even with regard to the manner in which that had been spoken to, it was insufficient to warrant them in saying that that cup was the property of the prosecutor. He also commented upon the fact of the prisoner having, up to the time of this prosecution, borne an excellent character and submitted that his conduct throughout the transaction had been that neither of a thief nor a receiver of stolen goods. If the Jury were of opinion that the articles produced were the property of the prosecutor, he thought they would feel that there was nothing to justify them in coming to the conclusion that the prisoner had committed this burglary. At all events, there was great doubt, and he was sure they would do what it was their duty to do—give the prisoner the benefit of it.

Two witnesses were then called, who gave the prisoner a good character.

The Learned Judge having summed up, the Jury retired, and after an absence of nearly two hours, returned a verdict of Not Guilty of the theft. The foreman said they were of opinion that he had the goods in his possession, knowing them to have been stolen.

SHEEP STEALING AT PICKERING.

Thomas Pickering, 68, was indicted for having, on the 20th of July, at Pickering, in the North Riding, stolen a ewe and three lambs, the property of John and Christopher Mead.

Mr. Bliss and Mr. Topham were counsel for the prosecution; Mr. Wilkins defended the prisoner.

Guilty, but strongly recommended to mercy on account of his great age, and his previous excellent character. Sentence was deferred.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY AT SUTTON.

George Bradley, 21, was indicted for that he, on the 26th of July last, at Sutton, in the East Riding, feloniously did assault David Liddell, and steal from his person a linen purse and a half sovereign, his property.

Mr. Bain and Mr. Aspinall were counsel for the proecution; the prisoner was undefended.

The prisoner was found Guilty. He is a private in the 38th Infantry, and received an excellent character from the commanding officer. The Learned Judge sentenced him to be imprisoned for six months.

In reply to a question from Mr. Wilkins, the Learned Judge stated that he should not sit on Christmas day, that day being a *dies non* in the calendar.

Previous to the last case being tried there was great difficulty in obtaining a jury, and several gentlemen who were absent were fined 20s. each.

Thursday, December 21.

Wm. Padgitt, 18, was indicted for that he, on the 4th of August last, at Bradford, burglariously did break and enter the dwelling-house of Wm. Egan, and feloniously did steal therein several guns and pistols, his property.

Mr. Wilkins and Mr. Pickering were counsel for the prosecution; the prisoner was undefended.

A previous conviction for felony was proved against him, and the Learned Judge sentenced him to be transported for ten years.

HOUSE BREAKING AT LEEDS.

John George Deverdeus, 22, and *John Child*, 32, were indicted for that they, on the 23rd of July last, at Leeds, feloniously did break into the dwelling house of Henry Boulton Harle, and steal therein one silver watch, a silver guard chain, a gold brooch, and other articles.

Mr. Hall was counsel for the prosecution; Mr. Wilkins appeared for Child; the other prisoner was undefended.

The Jury found Child Guilty, and acquitted Devereaus. The Learned Judge sentenced Child to be transported for ten years.

John Deverdeus, who was found guilty of burglary on Tuesday, was also sentenced to be transported for ten years.

Mr. Bliss took a technical objection to the indictment, which was over-ruled, and the Jury, after a very short consultation found the prisoner Guilty.—Sentence was deferred,

Mr. Bliss having, in arrest of judgment, taken an objection; the indictment did not set out the caption of the former indictment on which the prisoner had been formerly tried and acquitted.

SHEEP STEALING.

William Richardson, 30, and *John Richardson*, 28, pleaded Guilty to an indictment, charging them for that they, on the 13th of October last, at Moorsholme, in the North Riding, did feloniously steal four sheep, the property of William Fell. Also to another indictment, in which they were further charged with stealing, at the same time and place, twenty-six sheep, the property of William Lewis. William Richardson further pleaded Guilty to an indictment in which he was charged with having, on the 26th of September last, at Westerdale, feloniously stolen a bay gelding, the property of Robert Williamson. Sentence was deferred.

ROBBERY FROM THE PERSON AT LEEDS.

Elizabeth Taylor, 20, *Fanny Ward*, 62, and *Eliza Downs*, 21, were charged with having, on the 5th of September last, at Leeds, feloniously stolen from the person of Wm. Earnshaw, a sovereign and some silver, his property.

Mr. Hall was counsel for the prosecution; the prisoners were undefended.

The Jury found all the prisoners Guilty, and they were sentenced to be transported for ten years each.

EMBEZZLEMENT.

William Garbutt, 29, was found Guilty on an indictment charging him with embezzling various sums of money, the property of his employer, Mr. John Hood, of Costa Mills, near Middleton, in the North Riding. The prisoner pleaded Guilty to another indictment charging him with obtaining a quantity of flour from his master by false pretences. He was sentenced to be imprisoned for twelve months.

ACCESSORY TO A ROBBERY.

Thomas Buttersfield, 26, was indicted for that he, on the 10th of July last, at Bradford, was an accessory after the fact in the case of the robbery of Mr. Robert Turner, of Horton, near Bradford, of which offence Patrick Burke was convicted at the last assizes.

Mr. Wilkins and Mr. Pickering were counsel for the prosecution; Mr. Bliss defended the prisoner.

BARNSLEY.—The turn-out against Mr. Peckett is very likely to be general, and, as the weavers finish their work, they carry in their reeds and goods, so determined are they not to submit to a reduction of their wages. The usual weekly meeting was held on Monday in Mr. Pickering's large room; the best spirit prevails, the weavers in the town and neighbourhood declaring their determination to support the turn-outs.

Coventry.—Mr. M'Grath lectured here on Tuesday evening. The chair was ably filled by Mr. D. Buckney, ribbon-manufacturer, and Chartist town councillor. Mr. M'Grath gave universal satisfaction.

NEW WOOLLEN CLOTH AND TAILORS' TRIMMING ESTABLISHMENT,

37, BRIGGATE, LEEDS, AND MARKET PLACE, DARLINGTON.

M. H. DAVIS respectfully invites the attention of the Public to his VALUABLE and EXTENSIVE

STOCK OF WOOLLEN CLOTHS,

Which he has purchased for Cash, and is determined to sell for a very small amount of profit. The Goods are of first-rate Manufacture, and not made for sale only, but will have the good properties of wearing well, and ensuring future orders.

The Stock consists of DOUBLE-MILLED WATERPROOF TWEEDS, BEAVERS, PILOTS, KERSEYS, CASSIMERES, SUPERFINE YORKSHIRE and WEST OF ENGLAND CLOTHS, WOOLLEN and COTTON CORDS, FUSTIANS, &c. &c. Waistcoatings from 1s. 6d. upwards, in endless variety.

M. H. D. takes this opportunity to thank the numerous body of TAILORS, who have patronised him since he dissolved Partnership with Mr. Cullingworth, and begs to assure them that no House in the Trade shall undersell him in any one Article.

The Working Classes are invited to purchase Fustians, Cords, and Moleskins, at the above Establishment; they will find it more advantageous to do so, and employ their own Tailors, than encourage the "*Ready Made Clothes Selling Monopolists*," who get rich at the expence of the Working Man, by paying him ONE HALF for a Garment that other Masters give.

IRELAND.

THE ARMS' ACT—EXTRAORDINARY AND DISGRACEFUL PROCEEDINGS.

We give the following specimens of the "workings" of the above "boon," taken from the Cork papers. *We regret that we cannot find room for the whole.*

Macroom Sessions—Friday, Dec. 15th.

At eleven o'clock (says the report) the Chairman took up the registry of arms. There were 840 claimants, but it was determined previously only to take up the applications of parties living in East and West Muskerry, which amounted to a hundred and twenty-eight, and adjourn over the others to Skibbereen Sessions on the 22nd, and the Bandon Sessions on the 29th inst.

After some unimportant cases had been disposed of, the name of James Callanan, Caranamadra, West Muskerry, who noticed for the registration of one gun, was called.

Mr. R. Warren—I object to him upon what I conceive to be very good grounds; but if I am required to give my reasons here, I will hold my tongue; because I don't want to set the people against me—(loud laughter and great clamour).

Mr. O'Driscoll (to applicant)—How do you support——(Great clamour on the bench).

Mr. Warren—Well, then, I will state my objection—(here the speaker raised his voice to a towering pitch, and struck the bench with his clenched fist). *It* is because he is a Repealer—(laughter and confusion)—and a Repeal Warden—(great clamour) and because he collected the Repeal Rent for O'Connell—(great clamour all through the court).

Here the Stipendiary asked the Sub-Inspector whether he knew anything of the man's character; and the latter, in reply, stated him to be a sober and well-behaved man; upon which Mr. Warren continued—

"Oh, I know the man myself to be a person of most excellent character: I have no objection to him but the one I state."

This objection of Mr. Warren's called up

Mr. M. O'Leary—As a magistrate of this county, and sitting on this bench, I must protest against this course—(Great clamour). I say it is a perfectly unconstitutional course to adopt towards any man—(Renewed clamour—coughing, talking, and scraping of feet—on the bench). I say that you have no right whatever to put such questions, and they are by no means a test by which to judge of a man's fitness or unfitness to keep arms—(Uproar on the bench).

This gentleman was supported by another magistrate, Mr. Jones, who rose to address the meeting, when the following exhibition took place:—

Mr. Jones—I say that every man in the community has an undoubted right to express his political opinions in a fair and legitimate manner—(Cries of "Question," "No speeches," and great clamour on the bench). I say further, that every man should be presumed innocent until he is found guilty—(Renewed interruptions and cries of "Question," &c.) But it is not just to visit any man with an indirect punishment for a presumed offence—(clamour). When this Act was passing through the Legislature, it was grounded upon—(loud cries of "Question, question," and "We want no speeches"). I have an undoubted right as a magistrate sitting here to speak my sentiments, and I contend for it that I am keeping to the question—(riotous clamour amongst the magistrates).

Mr. Nettles (amidst a din of the most riotous uproar)—I move that we adjourn—("Hear, hear," from the other magistrates, mingled with cries of "No, no," and "Hear Mr. Jones").

Mr. Jones appealed to the Chairman, who decided that he was in order, and had a right to speak. He again essayed to do so; but was again vociferously interrupted.

W. G. Browne—O, we want no speeching here, we haven't time to listen to them.

Mr. Nettles—Take the votes, Mr. Chairman, and announce the decision—(cries of "Poll, poll," and awful uproar).

The Barrister—You are perfectly in order, Mr. Jones—(uproar).

Mr. Nettles (again interrupting Mr. Jones).—Take the votes, take the votes.

The Barrister—Every magistrate has a right to state his opinions, and to be heard.—(clamour).

Mr. Jones again essayed to speak amidst deafening, intermittent clamour.

Mr. Warren rose a second time, declaring with much fervour, that this man's (Callanan's) gun should be taken from him, when the commission of the peace was taken from noblemen and gentlemen for attending peaceable meetings.

The report states that the speaker became much excited, his face scarlet, and his language and gesticulation most vehement.

After some further noise and gesticulation, the application was rejected, only three magistrates having voted for it.

The next case was disposed of with less tumult and equal reason. The claimant having been sworn, was interrogated by

Captain O'Driscoll—Are you a Repealer? Have you taken any active part in the movement?

The claimant, by the advice of his agent, remaining silent—

Mr. O'Leary—I move that he be admitted.

Mr. R. Warren—I move that he be rejected.

Mr. Hedges—I second the amendment.

Claim rejected.

We pass over a number of equally disgraceful scenes, for which we cannot find room, and conclude our extract with the following:—

John M'Auliffe, Mill-street.

Captain Wallis—I object here. Are you a Repeal Warden?

Claimant—I am.

Mr. R. Warren—Reject him.

Mr. M. O'Leary—He has an excellent character.

Claimant—Hear my character before you reject me.

Mr. R. Warren—Others were rejected on the same grounds, and we cannot admit you.

Captain Wallis—I have no objection to his character further than what I have stated.

Mr. R. Warren—We cannot admit him.

The certificate was refused.

The claims that were admitted, were so after a very strong opposition, not to the characters of the applicants, but to their political opinions!

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Monday in the Conciliation Hall. The meeting was but thinly attended. A long letter from Mr. O'Connell was read by the secretary, and speeches were delivered by Dr. Nagle, (chairman) Sir Valentine Blake, Messrs. John O'Connell, O'Niel Daunt, Tom Steele, and others. The rent for the week amounted to £548 14s. 2d.

THE STATE TRIALS.

The friends of the traversers are circulating a report that a large building or barrack, as they say, in the neighbourhood of Dublin, has been hired for the purpose of affording temporary accommodation to upwards of 400 witnesses who are to be scraped together from all parts of the country to sustain the evidence for the defence.

THE LANDLORD AND TENANT COMMISSION.

In addition to several assistant-barristers, besides those already enumerated, some of the professional land agents have been examined this week before the Commissioners.

Horrible Outrage and Murder.—A murder of a most shocking character, we lament to say, has taken place within our county. A young woman named M'Donagh, servant girl in a family named Bell, in Lowtherstown, was missing from Friday night last, the fair of that town, till Sunday morning, when her body was found in a field ditch near the end of the town. It is certain she was first violated, and her body presents marks of savage brutality. Suspicion almost instantly led to a man in the locality, who was forthwith arrested, and, we believe, a second since. The inquest commenced on Sunday before Mr. Trotter, one of the county coroners, and has not yet terminated. Other persons are supposed to be implicated, and we understand there is much excitement in the place. The poor girl deceased is reported to have bore an unexceptionable character.—*Erne Packet.*

Forthcoming Chartist Meetings.

Mr. George White's Liberation—Mr. George White will be released on Monday, January 8th, 1844; and will attend meetings at the following places, previous to his departure for Birmingham:—City Political and Scientific Institute, dinner, concert and ball, on Monday, January 8th; Tower Hamlets, Tuesday, 9th; Paddington, "Emmett's Brigade," Wednesday, 10th; and at the Chartist Hall, Lambeth, Thursday 11th.

London.—An harmonic meeting will be held at the Feathers, Warren-street, Tottenham-court-road, on Tuesday, Dec. 26th, 1843, at eight o'clock. The proceeds to be given to J. Williams, of Kirkdale.

United Boot and Shoe-makers, Cannon Coffee House, Old-street, St. Luke's.—A Concert will be holden on Tuesday evening, Jan. 9th.

Golden Lion, Dean street, Soho.—On Sunday, Dec. 24th, Mr. Davoc will lecture at half-past seven precisely.

Mr. E. Mantz will lecture at the Bricklayer's Arms, Tonbridge-street, Cromer-street, on Sunday next, at half-past seven precisely.

City of London Political and Scientific Institution.—Mr. Sherrard will deliver a lecture in the Hall of the above Institution, on Sunday evening next, to commence at seven precisely.

Mr. W. Gardener will lecture at the Fox and Hounds, Hare-street, Bethnal Green, on Sunday evening next, at halfpast seven precisely.

City of London Political and Scientific Institution.—A public festival and ball, in aid of the funds of the above Institute, will be holden on Tuesday next (Boxing Day).

South London.—On Sunday (to-morrow) evening, a lecture will be delivered "On Free Trade fallacies," at the South London Chartist Hall, Blackfriars' Road. To commence at seven o'clock.

Hammersmith.—A meeting will be holden at the Black Bull Inn, Hammersmith Road, on Tuesday evening next, at eight o'clock.

Nottingham—Miss Abbot will preach a sermon in the Chartist Chapel, Rice-place, Dec. 25th, at six o'clock in the evening.

Mr. H. Dorman will lecture in the Democratic Chapel, Rice Place, Nottingham, on Sunday evening next.

A Delegate Meeting will be holden in the Democratic Chapel, on Sunday next, at two o'clock precisely.

Loughborough—The Chartists of this place are requested to meet at Mr. T. Swan's, Bass'-yard, Wood-gate, on Christmas day, at eight o'clock in the evening. The friends are also requested to collect what tribute they can in their various localities and bring it on Sunday, December 31st, to the house of Mr. T. Swan, Bass'-yard, Wood-gate, at three in the afternoon.

The Chartists of Liversedge intend having a tea party, on Tuesday the 26th, at Littletown, for the benefit of Clisset and Sheldrake.

Sheffield—Mr. Otley will lecture in Fig-tree-lane Room, on Sunday evening.

Halifax—Mr. S. Kidd will deliver two lectures in the Chartist Association Room, Pellan-lane, on Sunday, to-morrow, in the afternoon at two o'clock, and in the evening at six.

Macclesfield.—A tea party will be heldon in the Chartist Room, Stanley-street, on New Year's Day.

Mottram.—The members of the Chartist Association are particularly requested to meet in their room, on Sunday next, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Keighley.—Mr. David Ross, of Leeds, will deliver two lectures in the Working Man's Hall, Keighley, on Sunday, the 24th, (to-morrow), at two o'clock in the afternoon, and at half-past five in the evening.

On Monday, (Christmas-Day), the members and friends of the Institution will partake of tea in the hall, at Keighley, at which Mr. Ross will preside.

Heywood.—Mr. Wm. Bell will deliver a lecture in the Chartist Room, Hartley-street, on Sunday morning next.

On Christmas-Day a tea party and ball will be holden in the above room.

Manchester.—Carpenters' Hall.—The adjourned members' meeting will be holden in the above Hall, on Sunday (to-morrow) forenoon, at ten o'clock.

Lecture.—A lecture will be delivered in the above Hall on Sunday (to-morrow) evening, at half-past six o'clock, by Mr. William Jones, from Liverpool.

South Lancashire Conference.—A Conference of delegates from the various localities in South Lancashire, will be holden in the Association Room, Cheapside, near the Corn Exchange, Great Bolton, on Sunday, the 31st inst.

Mr. Jones, of Liverpool, will visit the following places during the next week:—Huddersfield, Tuesday, the 26th; Halifax, Wednesday, the 27th; Todmorden, Thursday, the 28th; Rochdale, Friday, the 29th.

Midgley.—Mr. Benjamin Rushton, of Ovenden, will preach twice in the Chartist Association Room, Midgley, on Sunday, the 31st inst., at two o'clock in the afternoon, and six in the evening.

Salford.—Mr. Littler will lecture in the Chartist Rooms, Great George-street, Salford, on Sunday next, at half-past six o'clock in the evening.

Lockwood.—A Chartist Ball will be held in the Long Room, Shipwreck Inn, on Tuesday, the 26th instant.

The Meeting between Messrs. Hobson, Calvert, and Pennington, which was noticed to come off on Sunday, the 24th inst., is further put off to Sunday, the 31st inst., as Mr. Hobson cannot attend before that time

Hebden Bridge.—A Chartist tea party and ball will be holden on Christmas Day.

Middleton.—A meeting of the Chartists of this place will be holden in their Association Room, Market-street, on Monday evening, the 25th inst.

York—The Chartists of York are requested to meet on Tuesday, December 26th, at the Ebor Tavern, Fossgate.

Rochdale—Mr. Samuel Wild will deliver two lectures in the Chartist Room, on Sunday (to-morrow), at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, and at six o'clock in the evening.

A Tea Party will be held in the Chartist Association Room, on Monday, Dec. 25th.

Bury—Mr. John West, of Sheffield, will deliver two lectures in the Garden-street Lecture Room, on Sunday (to-morrow), at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, and at six in the evening.

A Chartist tea party will be held in the above room on Christmas Day. The following gentlemen will attend:—Mr. Isaac Barrow, of Bolton; Mr. John West, of Sheffield; and Mr. William Dixon, of Manchester.

Long Buckby, Northamptonshire.—The Working Man's Hall, Long Buckley, will be opened on the 26th inst., with a tea party and ball. Messrs. Bairstow and Parks will deliver addresses. Mr. Bairstow will lecture on the following evening.

Hollinwood.—A tea party will be held in the Chartist Room, Pew Nook, Hollinwood, on Monday, the 1st of January, 1844.

Oldham.—On Sunday (to-morrow) Mr. William Dixon, of Manchester, will lecture in the Chartist Room, Greaves-street, at six o'clock in the evening.

Hyde.—On Sunday, the 24th inst., a lecture will be delivered in the Working Man's Institution, Hyde; to commence at six o'clock in the evening. The members will meet at two o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

Bradford.—On Sunday evening, a lecture will be delivered in the large room, Butterworth Buildings.

Ashton-under-Lyne.—On Sunday evening next, Mr. Christopher Doyle will lecture in the Chartist Association Room, Bentick-street.

Bolton.—The Chartists of Bolton are particularly requested to attend at their meeting room, Cheapside, on Sunday evening, the 24th instant, at six o'clock.

Preston.—A public tea-party and ball will take place in the Chartist Association Room, Park-road, on Christmas Day.

Leeds—Rev. W. V. Jackson, of Manchester, will deliver two lectures in the Bazaar, Briggate, to-morrow (Sunday) afternoon, at half-past two, and in the evening at half-past six. Mr. J. will also lecture on Monday evening, at half-past six o'clock.

MIDDLETON.—The manufacturers are at their dirty work again. Mr. William Walker has reduced his shawl hands 9d per square, so that what he used to give 4s for will only be 3s 3d for the future. It is admitted by several of the manufacturers who are making the same fabrics that there is no necessity for the reduction; but, as a matte of course, the others will have to follow the Walkers example.

Mesmeric Lectures.—From another column in will be seen that Mr. S. T. Hall intends to deliver three lectures on Mesmerism in the Music Hall, in this town: Mr. Hall being known as one of the most successful of mesmerisers, the public of Leeds may expect a rich treat. To the students of mesmerism we say go, hear and see, for his experiments are really astonishing; and to the sceptical we say the same; test the experiments by all means possible. If found to be an imposition, expose it; if found to be true, there are yet things in store for the mind of man to discover that "we have not yet dreamt of in our philosophy."

Opposition to the Anti-Corn-Law League.—The *Post* states that a meeting of farmers and others *interested in the protection of agriculture*, was held on Tuesday, at the Saracen's Head Inn, Chelmsford, for the purpose of forming a society, having for its object the protection of the agricultural interests of the country, and to adopt measures for opposing the proceedings of the Anti-Corn-Law League, in the county of Essex.

Foreign Movements.

FRANCE.—The French domestic news embraces a new series of suicides and murders, and other acts of violence. It seems to be certain that M'Janin, late deputy-manager of the Italian Opera, Paris, who, with his wife (or supposed wife), was found dead in his apartment on Sunday last, had perished by his own act—suffocation by charcoal.

The chilling fog which had enveloped Paris during several days had become a little less dense on Friday, but every appearance indicated the continuance of frost.

Louis Philippe and the Press.—The responsible editor of the *Hermine*, a Nantes journal, M. Godin Deriee and M. Ange de Leon, the author of an article inserted in it, were tried on the 12th inst. before the Court of Assizes of the Loire Interieure, and found guilty of having by the publication shown adherence to another form of Government than that by which France is now ruled, and were both sentenced to three months' imprisonment and to pay a fine of 1,500f. each.

SPAIN.—The debates in the Cortes on the great Olozaga question continue. On the 10th a Commission was appointed to report on the Royal Message. This consists of seven individuals, of whom five are partisans of Olozaga, and two are opponents. The former are Senors Pascual Madoz, Joaquim Lopez, the ex-Minister, Moreno Lopez, Cortina, and Ayllon. The hostile committee-men are Senors Posada and Pastor Diaz. The result may therefore easily be guessed—a judgment against the Camarilla. This, however, will not decide the question, for the Chamber will be called on to vote its opinion of the report of the Committee; and if both should concur in the acquittal of Olozaga, there is every reason to expect that Narvaez will put his threat into execution, and dissolve the Cortes.

The Moderados have fairly unmasked and thrown down the gauntlet to the Progressista party. Senor Castro, at the sitting on the 10th, accused the latter of having murdered the monks in the year 1834, during the cholera in Madrid. He also gave fair notice that his party were intent on restoring the property of the clergy and the nuns, who were left to starve. "For this," he exclaimed, "you call us 'Reactionaries,' but the reaction of justice against crime is most just. What! shall so many criminals proudly promenade amongst us with their hands stained with blood, and shall they be permitted to boast of their heroic deeds! No. Let it not be forgotten that those who assassinated the defenceless *Religiosas* in their own houses have not all suffered for their crimes."

To this Senor Lopez, the ex-Minister, who spoke in reply both yesterday and to day, added a fast requisite to complete the record, "that these murders took place under a *Moderado Ministry*, which neither knew how to prevent or punish them."

The ex-Minister spoke out plainly against his late brethren of the Coalition, and confessed "that he had been only induced to remain at the head of the Provisional Government after the expulsion of the Regent to prevent the Moderados taking the command altogether. He was willing that they should participate; but not that they should rule alone. Never!" He explained also, with great *naivette*, the cause of the recent insurrections throughout Spain during the period of his Government. "It was nothing but the fear which had entered into men's hearts that the Moderados should *monopolise* the power." He protested against the restoration of the estates of the clergy—against the new Moderado proposition to expel the public from the galleries of the Congress—against the exigencies at present directing by the Government against the deputies who hold public offices, requiring their votes in the Cortes or their resignation, of which he quoted individual instances, and strongly raised his voice against the late savage act of military violence, the firing in the streets, and even into houses, without notice to rioters to disperse—a fact which he had verified himself by inspection of the Cafe de las Platerias, in which he saw the marks of the balls on chairs and tables, when it was crowded by the inoffensive visiters who had deposed to that effect before the magistrates. He afterwards boldly impugned the veracity of the Queen's statement respecting the scene of the 28th ult. He then concluded by requesting his opponents not to compel him to make further disclosures, for, if they provoked him, he had, he said, many more arrows in his quiver, which might do more harm than was expected.

Martinez de la Rosa commenced his reply strongly against the Progressista policy of defence adopted for their new friend Senor Olozaga, but was interrupted by the dinner hour.

A Council of the Ministers was held at Madrid on the 10th, at which it was resolved that the ex-Regent, Queen Christina, should be recalled to Madrid, and a deputation, composed of two members of the Chamber of Deputies, M. Cortes and General Ros de Olano, was despatched forthwith to Paris to convey the invitation to her Majesty. No doubt the invitation will be accepted with all dispatch, for fear of such sinister accidents as have happened before to destroy the hopes of Her Majesty. It does not appear exactly in what capacity her Majesty is to return; but from the *Journal des Debats*, which is well informed upon every matter in which French intrigues in Spain are at all concerned, it appears that she is to have some mysterious office, of which the effect will no doubt be felt. The *Debats*, mentioning the determination of the Ministers to recal the ex-Regent, says that—"Maria Christina, already familiarised, as Regent, with the practice of a constitutional government, and being of a firm enlightened mind, it appeared to the Ministry that she would be a useful councillor to her daughter in the grave and difficult position in which she was now placed." She will, in fact, be Queen and governor.

Later advices state that the discussion on the message to the Queen was still proceeding in the Chamber of Deputies. M. Martinez de la Rosa resumed the development of his proposition relative to the necessity of deliberating on the message, to the exclusion of all incidental propositions. He was then of opinion that the constitutional throne should be placed in a sphere sufficiently elevated to be beyond all attempts, and, as it were, in an impenetrable sanctuary. M. Olozaga, who spoke next, differed in opinion from M. Martinez de la Rosa. He advocated the boldest theories, and made use of most energetic language. Equality carried to the utmost limits was the favourite theme of the orator, who maintained that under a constitutional government the responsibility of the Sovereign should not be less than that of the subject, and that both were liable to be called to the bar of public opinion to render an account of their conduct. The discussion was again adjourned.

Letters from Madrid of the 12th, state that the debate still continued. Madrid was tranquil.

The War in Catalonia.—Perpignan, Dec. 10. —The war now carried on between the Castle of Figueras and Prim is beginning to assume all the atrocious and detestable features of the civil war in the worst times of Cabrera. Four hundred and seventy-eight projectiles, between round shot and grenades, were fired at the town of Figueras in the course of yesterday: and at five o'clock this morning the firing recommenced. The 300 Nationals of whom I spoke in my yesterday's letter as having been expelled from the fortress have again been received by Ametller. Prim refused to receive them otherwise than as prisoners of war; and the two commissioners who were sent by them to ascertain on what terms they would be admitted into his camp were informed, that directly they arrived they would be placed in *capilla* preparatory to their being shot. I committed a mistake in stating they possessed their arms. They were only refused to be received, but Prim's cavalry charged them, while a fire was opened on them by a portion of his infantry. Thirty-five were killed and many wounded. The remainder retreated to the mountain, where, after wandering for a day and night, hunger and cold compelled them to return to the castle, where they were, after some delay and difficulty, again received by Ametller.

Almost all the inhabitants of Figueras have quitted the place, and much destruction has been already committed on the houses. Prim intends to seize on the persons of the mother and sisters of Ametller, as well as the female relatives of those in the castle who are yet residing in Figueras, or in the towns within his command. The first-mentioned persons he has already intimated his intention to shoot, if Ametller persevered in his hostilities against the town, or in his rebellion against the Government. Such a sanguinary step will of course produce retaliation on the other side; and thus matters will go on, until crimes the most shocking to humanity will have been committed.

The entire army of Spain scarcely amounts at the present to 38,000 men. It would take more than that number to take the castle of Figueras. Ametller's object in thus holding out is to bring the greater portion of the force to the north of Catalonia, and thus afford an opportunity to the other towns, where there exists a hostile feeling against the Government, to raise the standard of revolt. There is not the least doubt whatever of an understanding subsisting between him and the leaders of the Progressista party in Barcelona, Valencia, Aragon, Andalusia, Madrid, and Gallicia. The disarming of the Nationals enables the military to repress with ease a movement in those places. The direction of the main force of the army on Figueras will leave the localities just mentioned completely exposed, and such is the object of Ametller in thus holding out.

HOLLAND—Death of the Ex-King of Holland. —The Hague, Dec. 15.—An extraordinary courier, who arrived from Berlin only a moment ago, has brought the news of the death of his Majesty, King William Frederick, Count of Nassau.—*Journal de la Haye.*

To-day at half-past twelve o'clock, Colonel Spengler arrived from Berlin with the intelligence. King William Frederick, Count of Nassau, died on the 12th instant, at half-past eight o'clock in the morning.

Nothing had given reason to expect so speedy an end of the life of the venerable prince. He had been engaged in business that very morning, and was found by his aid-de-camp sitting in his own chair, struck by a fit of apoplexy, and apparently dead. All the attempts which were immediately made to recover his Majesty proved fruitless.—Extraordinary supplement of the *Staats Courant* of Dec. 15.

The deceased prince was born in the year 1772, and was therefore, at the time of his death, in the 71st year of his age. He was driven from Holland by the French Republicans, and his family were obliged to take refuge in England, while he remained in Russia. Finally he visited this country which he did not quit till the year 1813. He was proclaimed King of the Netherlands (his father being then dead) on the 16th of March 1815.

The late King for many years of his life resided alternately at Brussels and the Hague. He is said to have been a person of great simplicity of life, very attentive to business, and of most economical habits. The issue of his first marriage was three children, the eldest of whom is now on the throne of Holland. The rupture which separated Holland from Belgium and gave the title of King of Holland merely to the deceased monarch—his abdication in 1840 in favour of his son—his second marriage, to the Countess d'Oultremont—his life of honourable retirement as the Count of Nassau—are circumstances of course familiar to every reader.

The present King of Holland was born on the 6th of December, 1792, and married on the 21st of February, 1816, to the Princess Anne Paulowna, daughter of the Emperor Paul of Russia, by whom he has four children.

ITALY.—The Pope and the Press.—The French and English papers have been excluded from Rome in consequence of the attacks they have lately contained on his Holiness the Pope. The excitement in Naples is still very great, and the Government are taking further precautionary steps.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Slave Trade.—A letter from Bahia, dated Oct. 4th, states,—

"That the slave trade is carried on there to a much greater extent than at any other port in South America. The letter further states that a schooner, belonging to an Englishman, arrived there a few days before with a cargo of three hundred and fifty slaves, all of whom were immediately sent far into the interior."

Political Persecution.—A letter from Leipsic, dated Dec. 7, says:—"After a year's investigation, the students convicted of having taken part in an illicit association, were judged yesterday. Three were condemned to three years' imprisonment, and five to one. About twenty were condemned to a month's detention in the university. The whole number of young men punished amounts to sixty-five."

The Russians in the Caucasus.—Accounts from the Circassian coast of the Black Sea mention that the Russians have sustained a severe defeat in Daghestan, one of the Caspian dependencies of the Caucasus. A whole Russian division, with some considerable corps of the Guards, were attacked and put to the rout by a party of mountaineers, commanded by the well-known mountain prince, Hamil Bey. It is said that six officers of the Russian Guards, together with ten other officers and several hundred men, were left dead on the field of battle. Encouraged by this success, the Lesghis immediately attacked several forts, two of which they took by storm. The booty which fell into the hands of the Lesghiers consisted, for the most part, of supplies of ammunition and arms, which had been collected in the forts. It is believed that the Russians will now be obliged to relinquish in some degree their system of observation and interception, and to send a considerable army into the Caucasus for the repression of the insurrectionary tribes.—*Allgemeine Zeitung.*

Louis Napoleon.—We understand that Prince Louis Napoleon, now in a French prison, for the demonstration against the dynasty of Louis Philippe which he made a few years ago at Bologne, is at present engaged in writing a voluminous work on the condition of the labouring classes in the various countries of Europe. The unfortunate Prince has, within the last few weeks, written to several eminent authors in London, with a view of obtaining accurate and detailed information respecting the condition of the labouring classes in this country.—*Observer.*

THE RIGHT OF FREE DISCUSSION.

ABERDEEN PUBLIC MEETING.

On Monday evening, December 11th, a public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, George-street, to take into consideration the conduct of the authorities in Edinburgh, in reference to the prosecution of Messrs. Robinson and Patterson, for the alleged crime of "blasphemy."

Shortly after eight o'clock, Messrs. M'Pherson, Henry, Shirran, Nicol, M'Donald, Lowery, and Barclay, ascended the platform, and Mr. A. Nicol moved that Mr. James M'Pherson should take the chair.

The Chairman read the bill calling the meeting, and afterwards read the answers of several clergymen who had been invited to attend the meeting, by which it appeared that the Rev. J. Kennedy disapproved of civil courts persecuting the blasphemer, as in his opinion it was a matter between himself and his God.

The Rev. J. Hope was of the same opinion.

The Rev. H. Hart could not attend, being pre-engaged.

The Chairman then introduced Mr. A. B. Henry to address the meeting, who commenced by saying that he had a resolution to propose which he would read, and which was as follows:—Resolved, "That *this meeting is of opinion, that the right of free discussion* belongs to every member of society, and that to deprive any individual of it is a violation of the *rights of man*, and consequently an act of injustice; and further, that any infringement of the *liberty of the press*, is a blow struck at the well-being of society, and, therefore, cannot be sanctioned on the grounds of public utility."

Mr. A. M'Donald seconded the resolution; after which it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then introduced Mr. J. Smart, who read and proposed a petition to the House of Commons, similar to the petition in last week's *Northern Star.*

The petition was seconded by Mr. G. Barclay, and supported by Mr. R. Lowery.

As the Chairman was preparing to put the petition to the meeting,

Mr. John Banes, preacher of the gospel, ascended the platform, and said that the arguments of the last speaker, so far as they condemned persecution, met with his entire approval—(cheers). Men could not do a greater injury to Christianity than to imprison the bodies of its enemies. Christianity had never persecuted any man; it was the cant of Christianity that had done it—(cheers). Those who had called in the aid of the sword and police had done more harm to Christianity than all the infidels in existence—(cheers). He condemned persecution as anti-christian, and proved it from Scripture. They were told to "love their enemies." What would Paterson have thought if the Judge had said, "I love you, and it is because I love you that I am *going to put you in prison.*" Was that overcoming evil with good? It was by kindly remonstrance that the infidel was to be overcome, and not by force. After some other remarks to the same bearing, he sat down amidst loud cheers.

The petition was carried unanimously.

After a few remarks from the Chairman, and a vote of thanks being given to that gentleman for his conduct in the chair, the meeting broke up.

Considering the size of the Hall, there could not have been less than a thousand persons present.—*Correspondent.*

[We have been compelled to curtail the report of the above meeting. Excellent speeches were delivered by the several speakers, for which we regret that we cannot find room.—E.*N.S.*]

MORE PROSECUTIONS FOR "BLASPHEMY."

The following appears in a Scotch paper:—On Wednesday, —— Finlay, Haddington-place, Edinburgh, was summarily tried before Mr. Justice Tait, on the complaint of Mr. Scott, Procurator Fiscal for the county, for having in his possession blasphemous books. He was found guilty and sentenced to sixty days' imprisonment. Mr. Archibald Brown, advocate, conducted the case for the prosecution, and Mr. James Macara and Finlay himself conducted the defence. Finlay is father-in-law to Robinson, who lately pleaded guilty to a similar charge before the High Court of Justiciary, and is now undergoing a sentence of twelve month's imprisonment.

We find the following sensible remarks, highly honourable to the writer, in the *Bradford Observer*:

"In the midst of the hurry and bustle of their Kirk matter, our friends north of the Tweed find leisure occasionally to pounce upon and punish the blasphemers. We stated a few weeks ago, that the Supreme Criminal Court in Scotland had imprisoned two individuals, one for twelve, another for fifteen months, for the crime of selling blasphemous publications. Those guardians of orthodoxy (this "doxy" has made fearful havoc in the world) have now improved upon themselves, and imprisoned another person *for having blasphemous books in his possession!* With all due respect for the wisdom of those prosecutors, we take leave to think that they are shewing their "zeal for the Lord" rather indiscreetly; and were we a citizen of Edinburgh we should feel sorry to burn our copy of *Gibbon's Rome, Shelley's Poems, The Koran*, or *Burn's Poems*, at their flat. All Christians will admit that there is blasphemy in some of these works, and we doubt not that the Edinburgh orthodox prosecutors would find plenty of blasphemy in them all; but where is the intelligent and liberal-hearted man—where is the man who has a thorough knowledge of the Christian religion and faith in its doctrines, who would wish that any of these books should be lost to the world? If Edinburgh magistrates are warranted to imprison a man for *possessing* a book which does not square with their notions of orthodoxy, a Turkish bashaw is warranted to imprison every possessor of a Bible upon whom he can lay hands."

Bankrupts, &c.

From the London Gazette of Friday, Dec. 15.

BANKRUPTS.

Francis Thompson, of Southampton, tailor, January 4, at half-past eleven, and January 25, at twelve, at the Court of Bankruptcy, London. Mr. George John Graham, official assignee, 25, Coleman-street; and Messrs. Davis and Co., solicitors, Throgmorton-street.

Henry Southgate, of 22, Fleet-street, City, auctioneer, January 4, at twelve, and January 25, at half-past twelve, at the Court of Bankruptcy, London. Mr. William Turquand, official assignee, Old Jewry-chambers; and Messrs. Burrell and Co., solicitors, White Hart-court.

Owen Wynn Thomas, of Clement's-court, and 22½, Milk-street, City, silk warehouseman, January 4, at eleven, and January 25, at half-past eleven, at the Court of Bankruptcy, London. Mr. Wm. Turquand, official assignee, Old Jewry-chambers; and Mr. Wm. Jones, solicitor, Parliament-street.

William Read, of King-street, Covent-garden, engraver, December 22, at half-past twelve, and February 6, at eleven, at the Court of Bankruptcy, London. Mr. John Follett, official assignee, 72, Basinghall-street; and Mr. Kinsey, solicitor, Bloomsbury-square, London.

Thomas Gore, of Broadstairs, Kent, baker, December 22, and January 30, at twelve, at the Court of Bankruptcy, London. Mr. John Follett, official assignee, 72, Basinghall-street; Messrs. Davison and Co., solicitors, Bread-street; and Mr. Wightman, solicitor, Ramsgate.

Rayner Graves, of Edward-street, Portman-square, saddler, December 27, at half-past twelve, and January 24, at two, at the Court of Bankruptcy, London. Mr. Johnson, official assignee, 20, Basinghall-street; and Mr. Edward Burkitt, solicitor, Curriers'-hall, London-wall.

George Bulleck, of Derby, tobacconist, December 27 and January 19, at twelve, at the Court of Bankruptcy, Birmingham. Mr. Richard Valpy, official assignee, Birmingham; Mr. Scargill, solicitor, Hatton-garden, London; Mr. S. G. Smith, solicitor, Derby; or their agent, Mr. James Motteram, solicitor, Birmingham.

John Kidd, of Kendal, Westmoreland, grocer, December 28 and February 6, at one, at the Court of Bankruptcy, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. H. Humphreys, solicitor, Gray's-inn, London; and Messrs. R. and R. Moser, solicitors, Kendal.

William Hubbuck, of South Shields, Durham, pawnbroker, January 8 and February 7, at two, at the Court of Bankruptcy, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Mr. Thomas Baker, official assignee, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Messrs. Crosby and Compton, solicitors, 3, Church-court, Old Jewry, London; and Mr. J. T. Hoyle, solicitor, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

John Smith, of Stoke-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, corn dealer, January 1, at half-past twelve, and January 5, at half-past eleven, at the Court of Bankruptcy, Birmingham. Mr. Thomas Bittleston, official assignee, Birmingham; and Mr. W. Young, solicitor, Longton, Staffordshire.

From the Gazette of Tuesday, Dec. 20.

BANKRUPTS.

Richard Champion, furrier, Friday-street, to surrender, Dec. 29, at one, and Jan. 26, at twelve, at the Court of Bankruptcy. Belcher, official assignee; Wood and Wickham, solicitors, Corbet-court, Gracechurch-street.

Frederick Barry, miller, Rye, Sussex, Jan. 2, at one, and Jan. 30, at twelve, at the Court of Bankruptcy. Belcher, official assignee; M'Leod and Stenning, solicitors, London-street, Fenchurch-street, London.

Thomas Trapp and Thomas Pierson Trapp, tallow-chandlers, Church-street, Southwark, Jan. 12, at half-past eleven, and Feb. 2, at twelve, at the Court of Bankruptcy. Edwards, official assignee, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry; Holmer, solicitor, Bridge-street, Southwark.

Robert Heffer, draper, St. Ives, Huntingdon, Jan. 18, at half-past one, and Feb. 2, at eleven, at the Court of Bankruptcy. Groom, official assignee, Abchurch-lane; Reed and Shaw, solicitors, Friday-street, Cheapside.

James Flint, linen draper, Lewes, Sussex, Jan 5 and 31, at twelve, at the Court of Bankruptcy. Lackington, official assignee, Coleman-street-buildings; Sole and Co., solicitors, Aldermanbury.

James Eber Bunker, merchant, Lower Shadwell, Jan. 3, at half-past twelve, and 31, at one, at the Court of Bankruptcy. Johnson, official assignee, Basinghall-street; Buchanan, solicitor, Basinghall-street.

Joseph Pearson, cut nail manufacturer, Darlaston, Staffordshire, Jan. 3, at half-past twelve, and Jan. 24, at half-past eleven, at the Birmingham District Court. Bittleston, official assignee; Harrison, solicitor, Birmingham; Woodward, solicitor, Wednesbury.

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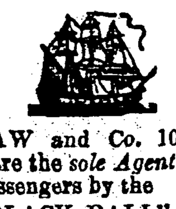
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the CHRISTMAS GENERAL QUARTER SESSIONS of the Peace for the West Riding of the County of York, will be opened at Knaresborough, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of January next, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon; and by Adjournment from thence will be holden at Wakefield, on Wednesday, the 3rd day of the same month of January, at half-past Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon; and also, by further Adjournment from thence, will be holden at Sheffield, on Monday, the 8th day of the same month of January, at Eleven of the Clock in the Forenoon, when all Jurors, Suitors, Persons bound by Recognizance, and others having business at the said several Sessions, are required to attend the Court on the several days and at the several hours above mentioned.

And Notice is also hereby Given,

That at the said General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden at Knaresborough aforesaid, an Assessment for the necessary expences of the said Riding for the half-year commencing the 1st day of April next, will be laid at the hour of One o'Clock in the Afternoon.

C. H. ELSLEY,
Clerk of the Peace.

Clerk of the Peace's Office,
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Louth—Mr. Hurton, Bookseller.
Hull—At the *Advertiser* Office, Lowgate, and Mr. Noble's Bookseller, Market-place.

W. and Co., may be consulted daily at their Residence, 13, Trafalgar Street, Leeds, from Nine in the morning till Ten at Night, and on Sundays till Two. Also at No 4, George-street, Bradford, every Thursday from Ten till Five. Medicines and Books may be had at either of the above places.

To Patients at a distance, W. and Co., offer the most certain assurances of a Cure. During the last seven years, immense numbers of both sexes have been effectually cured, who have merely sent in writing a description of their symptoms. A remittance of £1 is required before medicine and advice can be sent; but parties may rely upon the most prompt and faithful attention. Medicines are invariably sent off the day after receiving the remittance, and they are so securely packed as to ensure their safe transit, and escape observation.

All patients at this Establishment are under the care of regularly educated members of the Profession.

"FACTS ARE STUBBORN THINGS."

THE following testimonials from respectable persons, in addition to many hundreds of DECIDED CURES—particulars of which have been already published—established the character of PARR'S LIFE PILLS, as *the Best Medicine in the World:—*

TO THE PROPRIETORS OF PARR'S LIFE PILLS.

Gentlemen,—This is to inform you, in detail, what OLD PARR'S LIFE PILLS (or Pills of Health), have done for me.

First.—They have cured me of a Cough, of about three years duration, by which I could sleep very little; but the third night I took them I slept comfortably.

Secondly.—Of a Nervous Affection, with which I have been troubled for many years.

Thirdly.—Of Costiveness, from which I have suffered much for many years, having been, except at intervals, for three, four, five, six, seven, and eleven days in torment, previous to going to the ground.

Fourthly.—Of the Rheumatism, from which I have suffered much, for upwards of 40 years.

Fifthly.—Of a Scorbutic humour, with which I have been tormented at least 44 years, having been lame with it, several times, for months together. This has been a very stubborn case. I do not know what I may have, but at present, I have not a sore spot, or a pain about me. I am now enabled to bless and praise God for his mercies in bringing to light such a restorative health and soundness of body. I am not like the same person as I was a year ago being so much altered for the better.

All these cures have been effected in me, by the use of PARR'S LIFE PILLS.

And lastly.—I believe them to be, a safe preventative of the Bowel Complaint, for, neither I nor my wife have had it, since taking them; she having frequently had it previous.

I am, Gentlemen, your humble Servant,
R. W. RICHARDSON, Schoolmaster.
Red Lion-street, Walsall, Staffordshire, January 30th, 1843.

Witness.—R. Richardson, his present wife, can vouch to his being afflicted as above, for more than 22 years.

Note.—You are at liberty to make use of the above statement, in any way you please; I am ready to answer any question put to me relating thereto.

R. W. R.

Messrs. T. Roberts and Co., London

To Mr. James Arthur, Bookseller, Rickergate, Carlisle.

Sir,—I cannot refrain from expressing the deep gratitude I feel, for the great benefit I have derived from taking Parr's Life Pills. For the space of eighteen months I was seriously afflicted with a complaint of the stomach, accompanied with severe pain and flatulency. During that time I had much medical advice, and was a patient at the Carlisle Dispensary, for six months, but without deriving the slightest benefit whatever. I also tried several patent medicines, but without experiencing any benefit. I was worn out to a complete skeleton, —had a severe cough and spit, and was also troubled with Diabetes, and had no hope of ever recovering; fortunately, however, I was informed by some of my neighbours, of the great benefit they had derived from Parr's Life Pills, purchased from you; I accordingly agreed to give them a trial. I did so, and during the last eighteen months, I have taken about twelve boxes, which have been attended with the most happy results. I am now quite well in health, and am labouring very long hours. I have considered it my duty to recommend this excellent medicine to others, and am happy to be able to state that it has been attended in many cases, with very favourable results.

I remain, Sir, your obedient Servant,
JOHN DAVIDSON,
Slaymaker, Rigg-street, Caldewgate

Reference can be made to Mr. James Arthur Bookseller, Rickergate, Carlisle, who can bear testimony as to the great benefit derived by many others from taking the above-named medicine.

Carlisle, Oct. 11th, 1843.

The following letter, just received by the Proprietors from the Rev. David Harrison, Independent Minister, Whitstable, near Canterbury, is a further proof of their efficacy in cases of Indigestion, Liver and Stomach Complaints, &c., &c.:—

Whitstable, Sept. 5, 1842.

"My Dear Friend

"I received the box of PARR'S LIFE PILLS you so kindly sent me, for which I beg you to accept my best thanks. They could not have come more opportunely, as I was suffering considerably from indigestion at the time. I immediately commenced taking the pills, and found great benefit in a few days. I have taken them subsequently, with the same happy effect, which induces me to believe that they are an exceedingly beneficial remedy in indigestion. A friend of mine has found them of great utility in an obstinate liver complaint. If my recommendation can be of any service, you are at liberty to use it as you please.

"I am, my dear friend,
"Yours, very truly,
"DAVID HARRISON."

From Mr. D. Cusions, Horncastle.

Horncastle, Sept. 30, 1842.

Gentlemen

A most extraordinary Case of Cure communicated, by Mrs. Moxon, of York.

Mrs. Mathers, of that City, had for many years been affected with a most inveterate disease, which her medical attendants pronounced to be Cancer. It originated in her breast, and continued to spread nearly all over her body, defying every effort of surgical skill. Parr's Life Pills being recommended to her, she resolved to give them a trial; and, speaking of the result, she says she cannot express the inconceivable adoantage which she has already derived from them. She further states that she is now almost well, and ascribes her convalescence solely to the persevering use of that sovereign medicine, Parr's Life Pills.

Communicated by Mr. Bawden.

Gentlemen,—At the request of Mr. Thomas Barret, Farmer, of Menally, parish of St. Veep, Cornwall, I send you the enclosed, and beg to state that you are quite at liberty to publish it, if you think proper to do so. Since I have been your agent, I have received numerous testimonials of the benefit PARR'S LIFE PILLS have conferred upon the afflicted.

I remain, Gentlemen, respectfully,
H. BAWDEN, Chemist and Druggist.

Fowley, Cornwall,

Gentlemen,—I feel it a duty I owe you to express my gratitude for the great benefit I have derived by taking PARR'S LIFE PILLS. I applied to your agent, Mr. Bawden, Chemist and Druggist, Fowley, for Parr's Life Pills, for a Swelling I had in my Groin, which extended to my ancle, and I could scarcely walk from the pain and swelling. It arose about an inch in thickness, descending in a line from the top to the bottom of my leg, and was quite black and painful to the touch. After three boxes of PARR'S LIFE PILLS, it quite disappeared, and I have not had a return of it since; I am determined not to be without them, for I shall always have a box continually in the house, in readiness for any complaint with which I may in future be afflicted.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servant,
THOMAS BARRET,
Of Menally, Parish of St. Veep, Cornwall.

Cirencester, Jan. 1, 1843.

Gentlemen,—The wonderful effects of PARR'S LIFE PILLS have been felt by the poorer classes in the parish of Cirencester. Scarcely a family but what has taken them, one and all declare the wonderful efficacy resulting from their use. In fact, it is gratifying to me to say to the Proprietors of the Pills, my sale increases daily. Some days I sell 50 boxes.

Yours,
W. WHITE.
Agent for Cirencester.

Many persons, after learning that so many wonderful cures have been effected by PARR'S LIFE PILLS have a great desire to procure the medicine which has done so much good. In doing this, however, caution must be observed, as certain individuals without honesty, are offering a dangerous subsitute, instead of the genuine medicine. The proprietors cannot, of course, be accountable for any untoward results that may ensue, to those who have been thus imposed upon, but they can point out an effectual means to prevent further imposition.

CAUTION—BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

In order to protect the public from imitations, the Hon. Commissioners of Stamps have ordered the words Parr's Life Pills to be engraved on the Government Stamp, which is pasted round the sides of each box, in white *letters on a* red *ground.* Without this mark of authenticity they are spurious and an imposition! Prepared by the Proprietors, T. Roberts and Co., 9, Crane Court, Fleet-street, London; and sold wholesale by their appointment, by E. Edwards, 57, St. Pauls, also by Barclays and Sons, Farringdon-street, and Sutton and Co., Bow Churchyard; Sold by Joshua Hobson, *Northern Star* Office, Leeds; and at 3, Market Walk, Huddersfield; and retail by at least one agent in every town in the United Kingdom, and by most respectable dealers in medicine. Price 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and family boxes 11s. each. Full directions are given with each box.

Literature.

A CHRISTMAS GARLAND.

"A merry Christmas," gentle reader, and may thy felicity be all that we could and do wish, all that we would have, were we the master of thy destiny.

Of all the days in the year,—no matter how beautiful may be the holidays afforded us by vernal spring, glorious summer, and luxuriant autumn; of all the times and seasons that we can clutch from the dull routine of "business" and labour,—alas, too few,—commend us to Christmas before each and all. Of all popular festivals, this is the most popular and the most heart-improving; the one that best calls forth our kindliest sympathies, reminding us that we have other and higher duties than that of money-grubbing, or even always thinking of toil—toil in search of that which the poor man, be he ever so industrious, but rarely finds,—the means of even humble living. Christmas, we say, reminds us of other things; calls back the days when in boyhood's time our hearts were light; when we had no thought of the morrow,—or, if we had, believed that the future would be as sunny as the present. When knowing nothing of

"The oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,"

we thought the world lovely, and therefore loved it. 'Tis well to call back those feelings. They prevent the corroding of heart, which our petty huxterings and party strivings in this "age of money" would otherwise be sure to produce 'Tis well, too, to be "merry and wise;" well to cast off the fetters of care and cleanse as it were the soul from its cobwebs of thrift; we are the better for such unbendings; such,—temporary though they be,—returns to nature; and from that natural state we should never have departed

It is well, too, that the hospitalities of Christmas come, to remind us of our suffering or less fortunate fellow-creatures. We may have our sorrows and wants, but we are none the less able to bear our own load by lending a helping hand to lighten that of others. An inquiry into the trials of our neighbours will show not a few of us that we are not the most unfortunate, thereby encouraging us to bear with fortitude our own lighter troubles, and afford our sympathetic aid to those on whom fate has frowned more sternly.

We have said that we love Christmas; and to quote Leigh Hunt,—would that we had his sweet pen to write upon this subject—"We have always loved it, and ever shall; because (to give a child's reason, and a very good one, too, in this instance,) Christmas-day is Christmas-day; because of the hollies and other evergreens which people conspire to bring into cities and houses on this day, making a kind of summer in winter, and reminding us that 'The poetry of earth is never dead;' because of the fine things which the poets and others have said of it; because there is no business going on, and 'Mammon' is suspended; and lastly, because New Years' Day and Twelfth Night come after it; that is to say, because it is the leader of a set of holidays, and the spirit is not beaten down into common-place the moment it is over. It closes and begins the year with cheerfulness."

There, reader, after quoting the above, how is it possible for us to go back again to our own prosy scribbling? No, no; if we can gather such bright flowers as these in the garden of literature, we will even do so, not doubting but that we shall thereby much better please the reader, than by attempting anything further from our own pen.

As in duty bound, we should have commenced with something about the "season;" but unfortunately the present weather (that greatest of all concerns of an Englishman's life) is quite out of season. It would be useless to attempt to write in the strains of

"Cease, rude Boreas, blustering railer!"

when the fact is, that the mildest of summer zephyrs could not less annoy than the gentle breezes that at present greet us in town and country. Useless, too, would be any attempt to write about "wintry blasts" and "blazing fires," when the former is as yet unfelt, and the latter would be insufferable. Still as our foggy atmosphere is notoriously inconstant, it is not at all improbable that ere this reaches the eye of the reader, or before the Christmas joint smokes before him, the present scene, telling rather of spring than winter, may be entirely changed. Be that as it may, poets have a license which others have not; and though no poets ourselves, we trust we have a proper appreciation of the poetic beauties of others. Here, then, is

A LAY FOR WINTER.

BY JESSE HAMMOND.

The trees are all bare, and the flow'rs are all gone,
And nature's sweet minstrels are mute in the grove;
The world seems a desert all dreary and lone,
For winter is round me wherever I rove;
'Tis morn, and the turbulent night-winds are still,
While the snow-wreath is left to preside o'er the plain,
So the passion's are hush'd, yet my bosom is chill,
As if hope would ne'er brighten the prospect again.

The sun dimly shines through the gathering mist,
And shadows seem spreading the landscape around,
As if his faint beam nature's bare bosom kiss'd,
Where no beauty is blooming, no flow'rets are found;
'Tis noon, and I gaze on his last fading ray,
As it lingers awhile on the snow-cover'd plain;
And in sadness I stand at the close of the day,
As if hope would ne'er gladden the prospect again.

But clouds gather over the desolate scene,
As if shrouding a desert all barren and bare;
And winter's white mantle for spring's lovely green,
Awhile dreary nature is destin'd to wear.
'Tis night; yet the stars shine all brightly above,
And the moon sheds a smile on winter's domain,
So hope sweetly breaks with a vision of love,
And spring will soon gladden this bosom again.

And here is another on the same subject, not quite so good as the above, but our readers may have seen worse.

OLD WINTER IS COME.

Old Winter is come in earnest—alack!
How icy and cold is he!
He cares not a pin for a shivering back;
He's a saucy old chap to white and black;
He whistles his chills with a wonderful knack,
For a jolly old fellow is he!

A witty old fellow this Winter is;
A mighty old fellow of glee;
He cracks his jokes on the pretty sweet miss,
The wrinkled old maiden unfit to kiss,
And freezes the dew of their lips—for this
Is the way with such fellows as he!

Old Winter's a frolicksome blade I wot;
He is wild in his humour, and free!
He'll whistle along for the "want of thought,"
And set all the warmth of our furs at nought,
And ruffle the laces the pretty girls bought;
For a frolicksome fellow is he!

Old Winter is blowing his gusts along,
And merrily shaking the tree!
From morning to night he will sing his song;
Now moaning and short—now howling and long,
His voice is loud for his lungs are strong—
A merry old fellow is he!

Old Winter's a wicked old chap I ween—
As wicked as ever you'll see;
He withers the flowers so fresh and green—
And he bites the pert nose of the miss of sixteen,
As she flippantly walks in maidenly sheen—
A wicked old fellow is he.

Old Winter's a tough old fellow for blows,
As tough as ever you'll see:
He'll trip up our trotters, and rend our clothes,
And stiffen our limbs from fingers to toes—
He minds not the cry of his friends or his foes:
A driving old fellow is he.

A cunning old fellow is Winter they say;
A cunning old fellow is he:
He peeps in the crevices day by day,
To see how we're passing our time away,
And mark all our doings from grave to gay—
I'm afraid he is peeping at me.

Having so far prefaced, it is time we said something about Christmas itself: but hold; we had well nigh forgotten our promise just made, that we would gather honey from the flowers of others rather than attempt to manufacture on our own account. Well, what have we here? Who but our old friend *Punch! Punch* too with his Christmas Piece. He presents you with the "compliments of the season." Here are the—

"TORY WAITS.

"We, the regular Ministerial Waits, who have cheered you with Income Tax Quadrilles and soothed you into soft slumbers by the beautiful turns and variations of our political Waltzes, humbly call upon you for your kind contributions. We have been playing in Concert, to lull you into forgetfulness; and, in all matters, our trumpets have been blowing hot and cold, while our measures have been stealing over your enslaved senses.

"STANLEY, Double Bass;
"JAMES GRAHAM, Serpent;
"R. PEEL, Leader of the Band."

And here are our old friends who have been *waiting* these two years past on the wrong side of the Treasury bench, the—

"WHIG WAITS.

"We, the old Whig Waits, who have been now waiting for upwards of two years, and playing a variety of Tunes, humbly solicit your bounty at the present Festive period. We beg leave to remind you that we have no connection whatever with the Tory Dead Weights, who, by imitating of our Airs, and playing the same strains as we have been in the habit of doing, have endeavoured to impose upon your generosity.

"J. RUSSELL, First Fiddle;
"PALMERSTON, Trumpet."

The following "card" needs no recommendation.

"THE DUSTMEN'S CARD.

"We the regular Dustmen, who are constantly requiring You to come down with your Dust, come round as usual for your Contributions. Please to remember that we are the regular Conservative dustmen, who have always settled your Ashes.

"Be sure to ask for a medal, representing on one side the 'Victory of the Tories over the Whigs in 1841,' and on the reverse 'A Pair of Scales—one Fixed and the other Sliding.'

"If any one should basely apply on Our behalf, saying that he is our principal, please to take notice that we are All alike, and have no Principles.

(Signed) "GOULBURN.
"RIPON.
"GLADSTONE."

Poor Lord Brougham! The "Scavenger's card" is rather "too bad" even for *Punch*, we are not sufficiently ill-humoured just now to quote it. Our friends the Teetotalers will, we are sure, be proud to recognize and reward the honourable labours of the undersigned functionary:—

"THE TURNCOCK'S APPEAL FOR A CHRISTMAS-BOX.

"ESTEEMED TEETOTALERS,—When your water-jugs are sparkling at this festive season with the pure and limpid element, please to remember me, your indefatigable and unflinching Turncock. By your kind Christmas-box I shall be enabled to drink your health in a bowl of foaming New River. Please to recollect that it is the Turncock who contributes to the pleasures of the Tea and Breakfast Table, by converting your pint of milk into a quart, and transforming useless chalk into a comparatively wholesome beverage. Don't forget to ask for the Temperance medal.

"Your constant diluter
"And swamper in ordinary,
"THEOBALD MATHEW."

The poet says, "from grave to gay." We reverse this. We began with the gay, and now for the grave. We shall join in the roar of seasonable mirth none the less heartier, if we listen to the wail of sorrow, and, listening, endeavour to dry up the complainer's tears. Here is

THE SONG OF THE SHIRT.

With fingers weary and worn,
With eyelids heavy and red,
A woman sat, in unwomanly rags,
Plying her needle and thread—
Stitch! stitch! stitch!
In poverty, hunger, and dirt,
And still with a voice of dolorous pitch
She sang the "Song of the Shirt!"

Work! work! work!
While the cock is crowing aloof!
And work—work—work,
Till the stars shine through the roof!
It's O! to be a slave
Along with the barbarous Turk,
Where woman has never a soul to save,
If this is Christian work!

Work—work—work
Till the brain begins to swim;
Work—work—work
Till the eyes are heavy and dim!
Seam, and gusset, and band,
Band, and gusset, and seam,
Till over the buttons I fall asleep,
And sew them on in a dream!

O! men, with sisters dear!
O! men! with mothers and wives!
It is not linen you're wearing out,
But human creatures' lives!
Stitch—stitch—stitch,
In poverty, hunger, and dirt,
Sewing at once with a double thread,
A shroud as well as a shirt.

But why do I talk of Death!
That phantom of grisly bone,
I hardly fear his terrible shape,
It seems so like my own.
It seems so like my own,
Because of the fasts I keep.
O! God! that bread should be so dear,
And flesh and blood so cheap!

Work—work—work!
My labour never flags;
And where are its wages? A bed of straw,
A crust of bread—and rags.
That shattered roof—and this naked floor—
A table—a broken chair—
And a wall so blank, my shadow I thank
For sometimes falling there!

Work—work—work!
From weary chime to chime,
Work—work—work—
As prisoners work for crime!
Band, and gusset, and seam,
Seam, and gusset, and band,
Till the heart is sick, and the brain benumb'd,
As well as the weary hand.

Work—work—work,
In the dull December light,
And work—work—work,
When the weather is warm and bright;
While underneath the eaves
The brooding swallows cling,
As if to show me their sunny backs,
And twit me with the spring.

O! but to breathe the breath
Of the cowslip and primrose sweet—
With the sky above my head,
And the grass beneath my feet,
For only one short hour
To feel as I used to feel,
Before I knew the woes of want,
And the walk that costs a meal!

O! but for one short hour!
A respite, however brief!
No blessed leisure for Love or Hope,
But only time for Grief!
A little weeping would ease my heart:
But in their briny bed
My tears must stop, for every drop
Hinders needle and thread!

With fingers weary and worn,
With eyelids heavy and red,
A woman sate in unwomanly rags,
Plying her needle and thread—
Stitch! stitch! stitch!
In poverty, hunger, and dirt,
And still with a voice of dolorous pitch,
Would that its tone could reach the rich!
She sang this "Song of the Shirt!"

Reader, don't you remember the carol that delighted your boyhood? Beginning with—

"God bless you, merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;"

and every verse ending with—

"It brings tidings of comfort and joy."

Alas, where is the "comfort and joy" for the poor shirt stitcher?

And reader, does not thine ears tingle—(*ours*—do) as the question strikes through thee; "Who has attempted to save the lorn widow from the deep damnation ('tis a hard word but a true one) "of work, work, work?" Hast thou?" But you will say, perhaps, what have you to do with it. You are yourself a very *pariah* in society, treated worse than the beasts by those who monopolise power and social wealth—even the wealth that you have created; and that you can neither relieve the distressed, nor protect the wronged. True, brother; doubtless, too true; and yet we think all (ourselves included) might do more, if each would only try. *Vox populi, vox Dei*, is a truth: but, alas, how rarely can the voice of the millions be raised in unison to thunder in the ears of the rich and powerful the *decrees of eternal justice!* But now this Christmas time, let each of our readers see what he can do to lessen the "mountain of misery," even if it be by only one atom. No matter though thou art as poor as a Leicestershire stockinger or a Cumberland weaver: still *try*. Thou hast human sympathies; then call them forth. A crust given to the beggar's child; a piece of thy Christmas cake or pudding to the factory boy, who, poor little fellow, though he works to keep his parents, yet cannot be rewarded with the "old English fare"—the fare which all had before Moloch insisted on the sacrifice of humanity's little ones to glut the avarice of the "*Kings of Gold*"; a basin of "something warm" to cheer the heart of the old dame, whose only stay is the miserably doled "out-door relief;" happy if she can get that, and so escape the dreaded "Union"; and lastly, "Old Ironsides," the pensioner, who fought under Abercrombie, or it may be, fired his retreating shot at Corunna, or gained his poor paltry medal on the field of that "crowning carnage," Waterloo; no matter, heartily as we detest war, and hate all "great heroes," "victors of a hundred fights" and what not, much as we abhor all these, we must confess that nevertheless we have a warm heart towards the old pensioner, whether he

"Shoulders his crutch and shows how fields were won,"

Or sailed

"——— under Duncan, Howe, and Jervis,
And along with gallant Nelson, sung out, Yo heave O:"

He knew nothing of politics, He fought for "King and Country", as he believes all "true Britons" should do. True we see in him a man whose energies, both physical and moral, have been fearfully misdirected, *but be his teachers and rulers responsible for that: he* is an honest man, therefore welcome him. Let him fill his pipe, and let his glass be "warm with"—not too much of the water, for he don't understand the ethics of our friend the "Turncock." He is seated now, and well he will reward you with glorious old tales of

"Moving accidents by flood and field"

in return for your generous hospitality.

Reader try if thou canst do even only one of the above "good turns," and thou wilt be the happier for it, even though it be but the crust to the wanderer's child. Listen not to the cant about "charity begins at home," and the number of "impostors" that are abroad. God help; us if this doctrine was generally believed in, what would the homeless do? And we that have homes, how many of us have been indebted to the kindly sympathies of strangers when in sickness and trouble! As to "impostors" there are worse than "beggars brats." We could find them amongst those clad in the robe of the legislator, or covered with the shovel hat of the divine, "impostors," who plunder, not pence but pounds, from the ill-requited toilers. Better, reader, that thou gave even to ninety and nine "impostors", than risk the passing by of but one veritable son of sorrow or daughter of misfortune. But hold: here we are again at high pressure speed, altogether unmindful of our promise; but fortunately, just in the nick of time, comes the poet to help us out of our dilemma; and what though the lines are from the old "Church and King," red-hot Tory *John Bull*, they are good notwithstanding, for they speak to the heart, and come in good season to enforce our appeal to—

REMEMBER THE POOR! O, REMEMBER THE POOR!

'Tis cold, bitter cold! and the night-wind is blowing
On the cheek of the wanderer, destined to stray
Through this *City of Palaces*, houseless, unknowing
Where a refuge or shelter to find, till the day!
In the thin garb of want, bowed by sickness and sorrow,
He wistful looks up to Prosperity's door;
Then dejected sinks down with no hope for the morrow.
Remember the poor! O, remember the poor!

'Twas God made us all! and, though various in station,
To that Being who reigns in yon beautiful sphere
His children are all of Humanity's nation—
"OUR Father in heaven!" O! think of that prayer!
And they to His faith who are firmly addicted
Will feel if on some He has lavish'd wealth's store,
It is that the rich may relieve the afflicted.
Remember the poor! O, remember the poor!

Here comes the (we beg leave to christen it) *Magazine for the Millions*, otherwise called DOUGLAS JERROLD'S *Illuminated Magazine*. We are told in a publisher's note that the good, the kind-hearted Editor; he who, with his magic pen has made so many love the true, the bright, the beautiful, is confined to a sick bed. Hense the absence of those glorious emanations of thought from the current month's number. *Is* confined? let us hope we may now say *was*. O! may health-restored, lighten up the heart and eye of our sweetest of all popular writers, that he may quaff the wassail bowl, and enjoy under the glorious old misletoe all that happiness and unalloyed felicity which his many thousands of admirers will fervently pray may be his guerdon.

From the pen of another writer in the *Illuminated* we find—

"A CHRISTMAS CANTICLE."

Would that we could transfer the entire to our columns; but this is not possible, so our readers must be content with the following extracts:—

"So now is come our joyful'st feast;
Let every man be jolly;
Each room with ivy leaves is drest,
And every post is holly.
Though some churls at our mirth repine,
Round your foreheads garlands twine!
Drown sorrow in a cup of wine,
And let us all be merry.'

"Now does old Father Christmas, with a reverend yet joyous mien, heralding a goodly train of wassailers and glee-men, proclaim through all the realms of Christendom a high and hearty festival, bidding mankind to rest them for a space from toil, and yield without reserve to wholesome joy and unlicentious revelry; and at his bidding, mirth and hospitality arise, and exercise benevolent sway, reigning in undisputed sovereignity, and welcomed universally with loud and fervent acclamation.

"Now do the spells of home revive in their ancient weight, within many a household band, long sundered from the hearths round which they clustered in their early childhood; and the young wife, who had well-nigh forgotten the innocent gambols of her girlhood, feels her heart quicken at the music-sounds of her hoyden sister's voice; and the brother, who in the struggles and the turmoil of a selfish world, had soiled the free fair spirit of his youth, regains some portion of the frankness and sincerity that were his pride of old, among familiar faces and the well remembered haunts of happy boyhood.

"Now does the mystic misletoe depend from porch and ceiling in many a stately house and many a lowly cottage throughout the length and breadth of "merrie England"; and now does the peachy cheek of gentle maiden, caught by surprise beneath its licence-giving branches, glow with a rich rose blush, raised transiently by the hearty impress of the startling kiss. Now as the waits startle the drowsy ear of night with their harmonious discord, and choleric old gentlemen, aroused from their first sleep, invoke the plagues of Egypt to rain on all such somnifugous minstrels, and once more bury their heads within their yielding pillows, to woo old Somnus to their drooping eyelids. Now do postmen, coachmen, watchmen, beadles, pew-openers, shopmen, milkmen, scavengers, waiters, and errand-boys, grow superlatively and unaccountably civil, to the innocent amusement of yourself, until boxing-day arrives, and then the mystery is solved—the reason manifest. Now the small green-coated boys, with swollen red hands, blue cheeks, and frozen noses, looking all shrunk and shivering, obtrude their long and pictured scrawls of caligraphy upon your notice, and crave, with bated breath, some numismatic token of your approbation. Now is a walk upon a breezy common, with wind due east, the snow-knee deep, and the thermometer below freezing-point, a feat of valorous daring. Now is a blacksmith's forge, on a frosty night, a comfortable and cheery thing to look upon. Now are the butchers prodigal of their smiles and gas, lavish in fair white cloths and berried holly, and rivals in the display of huge and over-fed carcases, especially in beeves. Now do grocers alluringly set forth a rich array of spices and fruits, candies and conserves, product of

'India, East or West, or Middle Shore,
In Pontus, or the Punic Coast, or where
Alcinous reigned.'

Now do old alms-men, who have out-lived their kindred and generation, resort for warmth and converse to the rude settles ranged before kitchen-fires, and mutter between their shrivelled lips and toothless gums, old tales of by-gone days and Christmas celebration,—

'In their hot youth, when George the Third was king.'

"Now do the visages of thriftless debtors look blank and rueful, and creditors hazard wide calculations on the settling-day. Now is there awful carnage among turkeys, destruction in the game-field, and slaughter in the barn-yard. Now are the 'up' coaches laden with defunct and feathered bipeds from the country, and the 'down' freighted with living and smoke-dried importations from the city. Now are those all important functionaries, the cooks, stirring betimes, and very crimson are their rotund shining frontispieces, and very red their sound plump arms, very greasy their chubby fingers, very eloquent their untiring tongues, in 'amorous descant' on their joints and puddings beneath their supervision, and very onerous their labours deemed—to toil when all the world keeps holiday!

"Now do the bright and laughing faces of happy youth peer at you from within and without the laden stages, swarming post-chaises, and vehicles of every description, and their loud laughter rings in loud and joyful peals above the clattering hoofs and rumbling wheels that speed them on their journey; and every milestone that is left behind serves to make those faces brighter—that laughter louder than before: and now do the radiant countenances of delighted childhood, beaming with bolsterous mirth at every magic change of Harlequin, mischance of Pantaloon, gesture and grimace of Clown, meet you in every well filled box, pit, gallery, of the gay and crowded theatre. Now in the long dark winter evenings do humble companies of five and six huddle around your door, chaunting rude carols of 'the seven good joys that Mary had,' with many a natural trill and quaver, in patient expectancy of some remunerating pittance. Now do the quiet dim interiors of grey old village churches show strangely and solemnly festooned with wreaths of glossy ever-greens; and monkish carvings look grimly through the dark and shining leaves; and vaulted roofs give pleasant echoes to the choral anthems of children clad and taught by charity. Now does the great dining-room at 'the old house at home,' with its dark shining wainscoting, its heavy drapery, its huge wood fire, the gleesome circle there assembled, the sparkling wines and beaming faces, looked as it looked of yore—'a love-lit winter home.'"

I'faith pretty long extracts we've given after all, but indeed all was so good, we did not know where to stop. A word in passing. This *is*, as we before said, the *Magazine for the Millions*; if not the very best of all the monthlies, it is at least the sweetest to our taste. Buy it, gentle public; and sure we are you will unhesitatingly return the like verdict each for yourselves.

But now having got fairly into the circle of a Christmas fireside, 'tis time we had a song. Well, then, we'll start with something from glorious Tom Moore. But how are we to choose? Here's "Ladies' Eyes;" "Fill the Bowl"; "Fly not yet;" but we must choose somewhere. We can't sing above one song at a time; so—

COME, SEND ROUND THE WINE.

Come, send round the wine, and leave points of belief
To simpleton sages and reasoning fools;
This moment's a flower too fair and too brief
To be wither'd and stain'd by the dust of the schools.
Your glass may be purple, and mine may be blue;
But while they are fill'd from the same bright bowl,
The fool who would quarrel for difference of hue
Deserves not the comfort they shed o'er the soul.

Shall I ask the brave soldier who fights by my side
In the cause of mankind, if our creeds agree?
Shall I give up the friend I have valued and tried,
If he kneel not before the same altar with me?
From the heretic girl of my soul shall I fly,
To seek somewhere else a more orthodox kiss?
No! perish the hearts and the laws that would try
Truth, valour, or love, by a standard like this.

But here's our old favourite from the glorious Ayrshire ploughman—immortal BURNS:—

A MAN'S A MAN FOR A' THAT.

Is there, for honest poverty,
That hangs his head, and a' that?
The coward-slave, we pass him by,
And dare be poor for a' that;
For a' that, and a' that,
Our toils obscure and a' that,
The rank is but the guinea's stamp,
The man's the gowd for a' that.

What though on hamely fare we dine,
Wear hodden grey, and a' that;
Gie fools their silks and knaves their wine,
A man's a man, for a' that;
For a' that, and a' that;
Their tinsel show and a' that;
The honest man, though e'er sae poor,
Is king o' men for a' that.

Ye see yon' birkie, ca'd a lord,
Wha struts, and stares, and a' that:
Though hundreds worship at his word,
He's but a coof for a' that:
For a' that and a' that,
His riband, star, and a' that:
The man o' independent mind,
He looks and laughs at a' that.

A prince can mak a belted knight'
A marquis, duke, and a' that;
But an honest man's aboon his might,
Guid faith! he maunna fa' that!
For a' that, and a' that,
Their dignities, and a' that;
The pith o' sense, and pride o' worth,
Are higher ranks than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may,
As come it will for a' that,
That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth.
May bear the gree and a' that:
For a' that and a' that,
It's coming yet, for a' that,
That man to man the warld o'er,
Shall brithers be and a' that.

O! what a "yarn," as the sailors say, we might spin on the above song; but, no! the printer is inexorable; his fiat of "no room" is like the oath of the "immortal gods," and "the laws of the Medes and Persians," not to be gainsayed.

Well, then, the well-piled fire has had another stir: a little more "warm with" is reeking before us; and now for another song. "If you please, Ladies and Gentlemen," says a young "enthusiast" (would that we were always enthusiasts!) "the last song was so good that another from another of our Northern bards I should prefer to give; for, in my humble opinion, there are no lyrics like those of bonnie Scotland.' This is unanimously applauded by all save one old superannuated tar, seated by the fire, who thinks there are no songs like "Poor Tom Bowling," "Black-Eyed Susan," and "Will Watch"; and, in truth, we have sometimes been of the same opinion. For, if the thing to be admired is beautiful, we hate to spoil it by "odious comparisons." But hush! the "enthusiast" proceeds. Hark! 'tis the melody of ROBERT NICOL!

WE'LL MAK THE WARLD BETTER YET.

The braw fouk crush the puir fouk doon,
An' bluid an' tears are rinnin' het;
An' muckle ill an' muckle wae
We a' upo' the earth hae met:
An' falsehood aft comes bauldly forth,
An' on the throne o' truth doth sit;
But true hearts a'—gae work awa'—
We'll mak' the warld better yet!

Though superstition, hand in hand
Wi' prejudice—that gruesome hag—
Gangs linkin' still; though misers mak'
Their heaven o' a siller bag;
Though ignorance, wi' bluidy hand,
Is tryin' slavery's bonds to knit;
Put knee to knee, ye bauld an' free,
We'll mak' the warld better yet!

See yonder coof wha becks an' boos
To yonder fule wha's ca'ed a lord;
See yonder gowd-badizzen'd wight—
Yon fopling o' the bluidless sword.
Baith slave an' lord, an' soldier, too,
Maun honest grow or quickly flit;
For freemen a', baith grit an' sma',
We'll mak' the warld better yet!

Yon dreamer tells us o' a land,
He frae his airy brain hath made—
A land where truth and honesty
Hae crushed the serpent falsehood's head;
But by the names o' love an' joy,
An' common sense, an' lear, an' wit,
Put back to back—an' in a crack
We'll mak' *our* warld better yet!

The knaves an' fules may rage an' storm,
The growling bigot may deride!
The trembling slave awa' may rin,
An' in his tyrant's dungeon hide;
But free an' bauld, an' true an' gude,
Unto this aith their seal hae set—
"Frae pole to pole, we'll free ilk soul,
The warld *shall* be better yet!"

We think we hear some grumbling critic, growling "Why, man, these are all old songs, everybody knows about 'A man's a man for a' that.'" Do they? We wish they did. O that the righteous principles contained in the above lyrics were really *known* to everybody; what a different world would this be to what it is! But we question if even the poetry of BURNS, MOORE and NICOL, (to say nothing of other immortal names) is as well known as it should be. Nay we are sure it is not; but we promise our readers that it shall not be our fault if they learn not to appreciate the most beautiful emanations of genius-gifted man,—poetry. As to the songs being old, the older the better. Like wines, being originally pure, they increase in flavour as they increase in age.

We had intended to have given some lengthy extracts from the pen of LEIGH HUNT; but find 'tis impossible. All we can make *room for* is the following—

"A Christmas Day, to be perfect, should be clear and cold, with holly-branches in berry, a blazing fire, a dinner, with mince-pies, and games and forfeits in the evening. You cannot have it in perfection, if you are very fine and fashionable. Neither, alas! can it be enjoyed by the very poor; so that, in fact, a perfect Christmas is impossible to be had, till the progress of things has distributed comfort more equally. But when we do our best, we are privileged to enjoy our utmost; and charity gives us a right to hope. The completest enjoyer of Christmas (next to a lover who has to receive forfeits from his mistress), is the holiday school-boy, who springs up early, like a bird, darting hither and thither, out of sheer delight, thinks of his mince-pies half the morning, has too much of them when they come, (pardon him this once), roasts chesnuts and cuts apples half the evening, is conscious of his new silver in his pocket, and laughs at every piece of mirth with a loudness that rises above every other noise. Next day what a peg-top will he not buy! what string! what nuts! what gingerbread! And he will have a new clasp-knife, and pay three times too much for it. Sour oranges also will he suck, squeezing their cheeks into his own with staring eyes; and his mother will tell him they are not good for him—and let him go on.

"A Christmas evening should, if possible, finish with music. It carries off the excitement without abruptness, and sheds a repose over the conclusion of enjoyment."

Just as we are beginning to feel "i' the vein"; just when we find ourselves growing warm on the subject; that we could "go a-head," and fill as many columns with our own small talk as we have done with the "winged words" of the giants of mind whose effusions we have afforded our readers a glance at; in short, now that we feel ready to write *our* "Christmas Canticle," our gallop is suddenly brought to a dead halt, by an intimation from the printer that (to make use of an elegant importation from the Canadas) we're "crowded out"! Well good reader, one warble more and we have finished for *this* Christmas. Here's from the pen of CHARLES MACKAY (we like to give author's names)—

A SONG AFTER A TOAST.

If he to whom this toast we drink
Hath brought the needy to his door,
Or raised the wretch from ruin's brink
With the abundance of his store;
If he hath sooth'd the mourner's woe,
Or help'd young merit up to fame,
This night our cups shall overflow
In honour of his name.

If he be poor and yet hath striven
To ease the load of human care,
If to the famish'd he hath given
One loaf that it was hard to spare;
If in his poverty erect,
He never did a deed of shame,
Fill high! we'll drink in deep respect
A bumper to his name.

But rich or poor if—if still his plan
Has been to play an honest part,
If ne'er fail'd his word to man,
Or broke a trusting woman's heart;
If emulation fire his soul
To snatch the meed of virtuous fame,
Fill high! we'll drain a flowing bowl
In honour of his name.

And now courteous reader—(courteous indeed if thou hast accompanied us so far!)—our GARLAND is completed. May thy pocket be full and thy hand be bountiful; may thy heart know no sadness and thine eye no sorrow; may plenty crown thy board and happy spirits give a zest to the bounties of nature; may, in short, this Christmas day be to thee a "merry" one, and right many such mayest thou see. And to each and all we say, in the sympathy of love, "Farewell, and joy be wi' you a'!"

MR. BARNARD GREGORY.—In answer to many correspondents who request to know how Barnard Gregory is treated in Newgate, we beg to say he is under the same discipline, and has no other diet than that allowed the other prisoners.—*Sunday paper.*

It behoves us always to be on our guard; when alone we should watch our thoughts, when in society our tongues, and when in our families our tempers. Indeed, upon our properly guarding the last depends much of our social happiness and domestic comfort, taking care to counteract that continued irritability of mind, which is the precursor to ebullitions of passion. But our mental disposition is so intimately connected with our physical condition, that what is frequently considered ill-temper or peevishness, is in reality but the result of a derangement of the digestive or other organs of the body, and requires medicinal not mental remedies. To such we recommend with confidence, "Frampton's Pill of Health," as being certain in its effects, and gentle in its operation.]

YORKSHIRE WINTER GAOL DELIVERY.

The Commission for a Winter Gaol Delivery for the county of York, was opened at the Castle of York, on Saturday last, by the Hon. Sir Wm. Henry Maule, Knight, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

CROWN COURT, YORK CASTLE.—
MONDAY, DEC. 18.

Mr. Justice MAULE took his seat upon the Bench at twelve o'clock, when the Magistrates of the three Ridings, (very few of whom answered), the Mayors, and the Coroners, were called over. The following gentlemen were then sworn on the

GRAND JURY.

The Hon. J. Stuart Wortley, M.P., Wortley Hall, *Foreman.*
The Hon. Bielby Richard Lawley, Escrick Park.
The Hon. Charles Stuart Wortley, Wortley Hall.
Sir Geo. Strickland, Bart., M.P., Newton.
John Bell, Esq. M.P., Thirsk.
Henry Boynton, Esq., Burton Agnes.
Henry Broadley, Esq., M.P., Beverley.
Wm. Busfeild, Esq., M.P., Upwood, Bingley.
John Walbanks Childers, Esq., M.P., Cantley.
Edmund Beckett Denison, Esq., M.P., Doncaster.
Joseph Edward Greaves Elmsall, Esq., Woodlands.
Charles Gregory Fairfax, jun., Gilling Castle.
Wm. Garforth, Esq. Wiganthorpe.
Wm. Marshall Hatfeild, Esq., Newton Kyme.
Richard Hill, Esq., Thornton.
Andrew Lawson, Esq., M.P., Albro' Hall.
Thomas Mitchelson, Esq., Pickering.
Thom. Golborne Parker, Esq., Browsholme Hall.
James Walker, Esq., Sandhutton.
Charles Wood, Esq., M.P., Hickleton.
W. B. Wrighton, Esq., M.P., Cusworth.
Joshua Francis Whitell, Esq., Helmsley Lodge.

Her Majesty's proclamation against vice, immorality, and profaneness having been read—

The Learned JUDGE proceeded to deliver his charge:—

His LORDSHIP commenced by congratulating the Grand Jury on the full and prompt attendance on their part. His Lordship next alluded to the public benefit likely to be reaped by holding a winter Assize. His Lordship then, at great length, called the attention of the Grand Jury to the fact that numbers of prisoners, though committed for trial during an Assize sitting, had been kept in prison for many months, because they had been committed for trial not at the Assize then sitting, but at the Assize following. His Lordship suggested as a remedy for this, that the Grand Jurors having disposed of the bills brought before them at the commencement of the Assize, should adjourn for ten days, then meet again and dispose of the cases of any persons that might be committed for trial in the mean time.

After the Grand Jury had retired, several prisoners, against whom bills were found at the last Assizes, but who were not then in custody, were brought up to plead.

Robert Smith, 17, pleaded guilty to an indictment, charging him with perjury at Bridlington.—To be imprisoned six calendar months.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY AT NORTHOWRAM.

Henry Telley, 24, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with a highway robbery at Northowram, on the 18th of April last. The prisoner was concerned with two others, who were tried at the last Assizes, and transported for life, in robbing John Sturzaker and Elizabeth Watson, and in then attempting to make his escape he jumped over a bridge on to an old road considerably lower than the one on which the robbery was committed, by which his thigh was fractured, and he received such other severe injuries as to render it necessary to remove him to the Halifax Infirmary, at which place he remained until the 8th of August, at which time he was removed to York.

The Learned JUDGE, in passing sentence, observed that on account of his sufferings he should not inflict the same punishment on him as had fallen to the lot of his companions; and in taking this course, he was also acting upon the recommendation of the prosecutor. The sentence of the Court was that he be transported for fifteen years.

MISDEMEANOUR AT ALLERTON-BYWATER.

William Crossby, 43, was charged with a misdemeanour, in having on the 7th of July last, obtained, by a false account, some money, the property of Messrs. Joshua Bower and Co., of the Allerton Colliery, in the parish of Kippax.

MR. MIDDLETON conducted the prosecution; the prisoner was undefended.

The prosecutors are extensive colliery and vessel owners; the prisoner, at the time the offence was committed, was captain of one of their vessels called the Richard. On returning from Hull, and settling his account with John Ferrand, clerk, to Messrs. Bower and Co., he presented a bill for the repairs of some sail covers, which he said had been executed by Mr. Clark, of Hull, purporting to be for £1 19s. 10d. The account was proved to be false, the only money which the prisoner had paid being £1 2s. 2d. The only witnesses called were Mr. Ferrand and Mr. Clark, and to neither of them did the prisoner put a single question.

The JURY found the prisoner Not Guilty. His Lordship being of opinion that, as the prisoner had money to pay to his owner, instead of having it to receive, the evidence, though showing the fraudulent intent, did not support the indictment for obtaining money. The prisoner was detained until it should be determined whether a different bill might or might not be preferred.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY, NEAR HALIFAX.

John Verity, 40, and *Samuel Ramsden*, 33, were indicted for having on the 16th of September last, in the parish of Halifax, feloniously and violently assaulted John Watson, and stolen from his person a half sovereign, four half-crowns, ten shillings, and other articles. his property.

MR. WILKINS and MR. OVEREND appeared for the prosecution; the prisoners were undefended.

The two prisoners are nephews of the prosecutor, who is employed at a pottery, and resides at Northowram. On Saturday, the 16th of September last, he had been to Halifax market, and was returning home about half-past eight o'clock in the evening. When he had got to a distance of about sixty yards from his own house, in going along a narrow lane the two prisoners rushed out of the hedge, seized him, and Ramsden held his hands over his mouth, while Verity rifled his pockets, from which they obtained the money and also took from him his market basket containing groceries and a piece of beef. The prosecutor knew both parties well, and on giving information to the constable, Mr. Moore, he told who they were, and they were apprehended, one on Sunday and the other on Monday; Ramsden, at the time of the constable going into the public-house in which he was sat, remarked to him, "Have you come to take me for robbing my uncle, John Watson?" Both prisoners were seen on Saturday night, but the prosecutor, from family regard, did not, until he was urged to do so by others, the constable directions to take them. The evidence against both prisoners was very conclusive. The Jury found both the prisoners Guilty. Sentence was deferred.

STEALING IN A DWELLING-HOUSE, AT ARDSLEY.

John Malkin Rodgers, 27, and *Charles Glover*, 44, were indicted for that on the 18th of July last, he the said John Malkin Rodgers committed a robbery in the dwelling-house of Samuel Roodhouse, at Ardsley, and that he the said Charles Glover did aid and assist him in the same.

MR. OVEREND and MR JOHNSTONE were counsel for the prosecution; MR. WILKINS was for the prisoner Rodgers; Glover was undefended.

The Jury without hesitation acquitted Glover, and found Rodgers Guilty. He was sentenced to be transported for ten years.

The Court rose at six o'clock.

Tuesday, December 19.

THE TRIAL OF JOSEPH DOBSON, FOR MURDER.

His Lordship took his seat a few minutes after nine o'clock.

Joseph Dobson, 25, was charged with the wilful murder of John Dobson, his father, at Mount Tabor, near Halifax.

MR. HALL, with whom were MR. HILL and MR. RAINES, appeared for the prosecution. MR. WILKINS, at the request of the prisoner, who pleaded *in forma pauperis*, defended.

The indictment against the prisoner, charged him with the wilful murder of John Dobson, in the parish of Halifax, on the 4th of July last, by shooting him with a gun, and inflicting a wound on the left breast, of which he died. He was also charged by the Coroner's inquest with the same crime.

The prisoner, who is a mild-looking young man, of light complexion, and with chesnut coloured hair and whiskers, in a firm tone of voice, pleaded Not Guilty.

MR. HALL opened the case on the part of the prosecution. He said that the prisoner, Joseph Dobson, was placed before them on his deliverance of life or death, on a charge of having wilfully murdered his own father. The circumstance of relationship, whilst it aggravated the enormity of the guilt, certainly diminished the probability of it. It was his painful duty to detail to them the unusual circumstances under which the event had occurred, and upon which the jury had to try whether the prisoner was guilty or not of this offence. The facts, he feared, established beyond the possibility of a doubt, that the old man received his death-wound at the hands of his son. That being so, the law threw it on to the prisoner, by evidence or inference, from the circumstances of the case, to show that the infliction of the death-wound was done under something of a more mitigating nature than amounted to the crime of murder. He, the learned counsel, feared that the circumstances of this case would scarcely admit of such a mitigation. These circumstances he would now detail to them:—About the middle of July last, the father of the prisoner was living at Mount Tabor, about two miles from Halifax. He, the father, lived in a house which he rented of a man named Birtwhistle; and the prisoner lived at Brownhirst, about half-a-mile from Mount Tabor. On the 4th of July last, about half-past twelve at noon, the prisoner's wife went to the house of Birtwhistle, and made complaint of the conduct of the prisoner's father. Birtwhistle went with her to the house of the prisoner's father, and found the prisoner and the father quarrelling, but after remaining there about ten minutes the quarrel appeared to be over, and Birtwhistle went away. Very soon after the prisoner's wife again went for Birtwhistle, who followed her soon after to the house of the prisoner's father, and when he got there he again found the old man and the prisoner's wife quarrelling. Whilst he was there, the prisoner came in, and a violent quarrel took place between him and his son. The father cursed the son, and the son cursed the father; upon which Birtwhistle properly and severely reproved the son, and made such an address, that in the end the quarrel between the prisoner and his father appeared to be made up. Birtwhistle went away, and the next time the prisoner is seen is at Brownhirst, asking to borrow a pistol, and inquiring where he could purchase powder, shot, and caps. He could not get a pistol, but he was told that he could get powder, shot, and caps at a shop in Boy-lane. There, about two o'clock in the afternoon, he got some powder, shot, and caps. He also got a gun and tried it with powder; he also loaded it with shot, but whether he discharged the shot, or it remained in the gun, the evidence would not clearly show. About three o'clock the prisoner returned to the scene where this melancholy circumstance occurred, at his father's house, at Mount Tabor. There he took a gun with him, and on going into the house he said to his father—"Are you going to do as you said? if you are, I will take the first chance." There was some uncertainty whether the prisoner used those words more than once or not, or he shot at once. But after the prisoner had made use of this expression, the father said twice—"Shoot me, shoot me!" The prisoner then levelled the gun at his father: it missed fire; and if a person who was present had then possessed proper presence of mind, he might have prevented this unfortunate catastrophe; but the man ran out of the house, and the prisoner put another cap on the gun and shot his father, who died almost immediately. The prisoner then ran away, and he was not apprehended till the middle of October last, when he was found at Huddersfield. These were the circumstances of the case, which would be proved by the evidence to be laid before the Jury; and he (the Learned Counsel) feared there would be nothing in them which could lead the Jury to find any other verdict than that of Guilty.

The following evidence was then called on the part of the prosecution:—

Joseph Birtwhistle, examined by MR. HILL—I am a farmer living at Mount Tabor; that is about two miles from Halifax. In April last I let a cottage to the prisoner. His father came to live there. Whilst he was there the prisoner came almost every day. I remember seeing him there on the 2nd of July; he came to live with his father. His wife and children came with him. Up to that time he had been living at Brownhirst, about a mile off. On Tuesday, the 4th of July, his wife came into our house about twelve o'clock at noon, and made some complaint. I returned with her in consequence to the house of the deceased. The deceased was there; there was some quarrelling. I got them pacified, and when I left all appeared quiet. Prisoner's wife came again to our house in about ten minutes. I went again to the deceased's house; there was again some quarrelling, and Joseph Dobson (the prisoner) came in. He said "what is there to do!" His wife said "thy father's threatened to take my life." He replied "never mind, I'll take care he never hurts thee while I am alive." Prisoner and his father quarrelled, and prisoner said, "I'll shoot thee before the week if there be powder or shot to be found in Halifax." Before that the prisoner said he would keep his father no longer, because when he had any work he always spoiled it. They were both weavers. I said "Pray thee, Joe, never say such a word again to either thy father or anybody else." Joseph Dobson swore he would shoot his father. In about half an hour Joseph Dobson went out, and the father followed. They had then apparently become friendly. They went towards Brownhirst. I did not go again to the house till John Dobson was shot, about three o'clock. The house was full of smoke. The deceased was laid across the hearth-stone; he sobbed twice after I got in. I saw very little blood. Richard Thomas came in. I did not see the prisoner at all. I went in search of him towards the wood, where they said he had gone. Richard Thomas was on before. I saw him with a gun. We did not overtake the prisoner.

Cross-examined by MR. WILKINS—I did not see sufficient of deceased to say he was drunk. When the wife fetched me in the old man seemed to be violent. He abused her very much. He said he "would not have such a good for nought in the house, as she was a mucky idle woman." I heard no threat further than that he would not have her in the house. He swore very much. He was as violent as ever, the second time I went in. In answer to what she said when prisoner came in, I did not hear the deceased say anything. They got into a terrible passion and threatened each other very much. I did not see the old man's pockets searched. I saw nothing of any razor. When prisoner spoke of powder and shot he was perfectly mad with passion.

Henry Thomas, examined by MR. RAINES—I live at Brownhirst, and am a weaver there. I have known the prisoner since last Christmas.

This witness deposed to the prisoner asking him for the loan of a pistol on the day of the murder; and also enquiring of him where he (the prisoner) could purchase powder, shot, and caps. He then stated that he afterwards saw the prisoner loading the gun, and said to him, "Joe, what are you going to do with the gun that you are teeming all that shot in?" He said, "O, lad, I'm going up here a bit to learn to shoot!" I then went on to Wheatley. I went immediately. The prisoner ran up towards Mount Tabor. I called after him. I said "Joe, where are you going to with the gun?" He said again, "O lad, I'm going up here a bit to learn to shoot."

Hannah Longbottom, who stated that she kept a shop in Boy-lane, about a mile from Mount Tabor, deposed, that on the day of the murder the prisoner bought of her an ounce of powder, a pennyworth of shot and a half-pennyworth of caps. He seemed civil and quiet at the time.

John Lassie deposed to the prisoner taking the gun from his (Lassie's) father's house.

James Snowden, examined by MR. RAINES—I am a weaver, at Mount Tabor. I was acquainted with the deceased. *On the 4th of July I went to his house*, a little before three o'clock. Elizabeth Balmforth, Wm. Murgatroyd, Joseph Dobson, his wife, and two children, were there. The deceased was not there at that time. The prisoner had the gun in his hand. I asked him what he was going to do with the gun. He said he was going to shoot butterflies. I saw him put powder and shot in. He had not fired the gun whilst I was there. When he had loaded the gun, deceased came in. The prisoner said to the deceased "Are you going to do as you said?" The deceased walked on to the hearth-stone, and the prisoner walked up to the back of the door. He said again "Are you going to do as you said? if you be I'll take the first chance." The old man replied, "Shoot me, shoot me." The prisoner then pulled the trigger, and the cap missed. I ran out for assistance, and while I was away he put on another cap, fired the gun, and shot the old man dead. I saw the deceased fall as I was running past the window. I gave information to a person of the name of Richard Thomas, and did not return to the house myself. The prisoner looked as civil as if he was shooting at a bird. I mean he looked quiet.

Cross-examined—I have known the prisoner about half a year; I had known the deceased about nine weeks. I have often seen them together; I never saw them quarrel in my life. I don't know that the old man was once taken up on a charge of murdering his son. I never heard the old man talk about his (the prisoner) being a deserter. There are two magistrates named Pollard and Dearden. I never heard of the old man being before them. He worked at our house.

Elizabeth Balmforth, who was in the house at the time of the murder, gave similar evidence to the last witness. She saw the old man shot.

Lawrence Bradley examined by MR. RAINES—I am a surgeon at Halifax. I examined the body of the deceased on the 5th of July. He had a large lacerated wound on the breast; it was surrounded by shot. We extracted several shots. In my opinion death was caused by a gun-shot wound. There is no doubt of it whatever.

The examination of the constable who arrested the prisoner; and that of the person who gave information against the prisoner at the time of his arrest, closed the case for the prosecution.

(Continued in our First page.)

WILLS AND TESTAMENTS.—What boundless riches what extensive estates, and what changes of fortune are associated with the words, "*Wills and Testaments!*" Could we form an idea of the amount of property which has descended to family heirs, through these media, we should be struck with astonishment indeed. But, after all, what are the riches, estates, and possessions, as a whole, when compared with that inestimable bequest which enriched the Will and Testament of the venerale Old Parr? By this pearl of health and life, thousands have been, are still being, and will still be benefitted. The bequests of ordinary wills, are confined chiefly to families and friends—while that of Old Parr will extend to whole generations.

EATING LUCIFER MATCHES.—An inquest was held on Thursday, in Stonehouse, on the body of a fine little girl, aged two years and a half. The child had been playing with a box of lucifer matches, and had bit off the heads of four or five of them. Immediately after it was taken ill, and died in a few hours. The surgeon proved death was occasioned by the poison which had been taken in eating the matches, which was corroborated by the manufacturer admitting the deleterious nature of the composition used to cause ignition.

DETERMINED SUICIDE AT BRISTOL.—Mr. William Prichard, a gentleman well known in Bristol, as secretary to the Bristol Union Fire-office, in that city, committed suicide on Friday last, by taking prussic acid. An inquest was held upon the body, when evidence was given to establish the above fact. It appeared also, that the deceased had for some days past been subject to great depression of spirits and mental alienation. The jury returned a verdict, "That the deceased committed the act whilst labouring under temporary insanity." Mr. Prichard was in his 44th year, and has left a widow and six children.

CASE OF MRS. ELLIS.

TO THE CHARTISTS OF YORKSHIRE.

I had hoped that the appeal made by Mr. Sweet in last week's Star, *in behalf of Mrs. Ellis, would have met with an immediate and universal response; I am bitterly disappointed. I have not the means to give a sum that would be of any use to Mrs. E.; but I make* you *this offer:—I will attend meetings on the Sunday, called for the purpose of raising subscriptions for Mrs. Ellis, at any place* within twenty miles *of Leeds—I will charge nothing for expences, and go entirely at my own cost;* you *undertaking to raise ten shillings (and as much more as you can) by collections at the meeting, or any other means you think fit.* The entire proceeds to be given to Mrs. Ellis. *I limit the circle to twenty miles, because my very limited income will not permit me to take a wider range at my own cost, and I wish to take nothing from the collections. The present state of my health will not allow me to speak more than once on the day of my visit, and it will be at least a fortnight yet before I shall be at liberty to commence my tour. In the mean time I shall be happy to receive communications from any places within the prescribed limits. I trust that my motives may not be misconstrued in making this offer. Forbidden, as I am, by medical advice to attempt speaking at all under present circumstances, I had hoped to have been permitted to have remained in privacy; only to emerge from which as a public speaker upon rare and extraordinary occasions. But this is a case in which I feel bound to do my little best to help in saving an unfortunate family from starvation, and the democratic party from the indelible disgrace which would be the consequent result.*

George Julian Harney.

Northern Star Office, Dec. 22, 1843.

Chartist Intelligence.

CARLISLE.—Meeting of the Council of the Carlisle Chartist Association.—At a meeting of the Council, held at their room, No. 6, John-street, Caldewgate, on Sunday last, Mr. Robert Grahame in the chair. The address of the Executive was read from the *Northern Star* of Saturday last; after which arrangements were made for collecting the tribute required on Christmas Day. We have no doubt that a pretty liberal sum will be collected. The attention of the Council were then drawn to the deplorable case of Mrs. Ellis, by Mr. James Arthur, who said it was the duty of every sincere Chartist to assist those who were suffering under such circumstances. After some very feeling observations from various members of the Council, the sum of five shillings was ordered to be immediately remitted to Mrs. Ellis, along with one shilling subscribed for the purpose by Mr. Arthur. A vote of thanks was then carried to Mr. Baxter, for his handsome present of a copy of his "Book of the Bastiles."

The Rev. Wm. Hill delivered two lectures in our Theatre, on the evenings of Monday and Tuesday last. After Mr. James Arthur had been appointed Chairman, the Rev. Gentleman proceeded with his first lecture, by introducing himself as a Christian minister. He spoke in a singularly calm impressive manner, and was listened to throughout with the greatest attention. After delivering a discourse replete with facts and sound arguments, expository of the present state of England, he concluded by promising to treat of the remedy for this state of things on the following evening, and retired amidst applause.

SHEFFIELD—Fig Tree-lane—A good meeting was held on Sunday evening, which was addressed by Messrs. Green, Briggs, and Evinson.

GLASGOW.—In order to give every countenance the public meeting, held in the City Hall, on Monday evening, "to take into consideration the late interference of the Peel Ministry with the right of petition in Ireland," the usual weekly meeting of the Chartists, held in College-street Academy, was adjourned to Monday evening next, when business of serious importance to the people's cause will be laid before the meeting.

A Public Meeting was held in the City Hall, on Monday evening, for the purpose of taking into consideration the conduct of the Government in reference to the Clontarf meeting, Mr. J. Turner in the chair. The meeting was not so numerous as might have been expected. The cause was, that the Repealers, anxious to give importance to the meeting, threw themselves into the arms of the Complete Suffrage rump faction, who care as much about Ireland as the devil does about psalm singing; but who would join with Old Nick himself in order to put down Chartism. The Repealers were to bear the expense, and the other party had the management of the affair, hence the failure. Had the Repealers acted boldly, and sought less after Provost Lumsden, and Whig town councillors, whose sympathy extends no further than the polling booth, they would have had a very different meeting. George Anderson, Esq., city councillor, moved the first resolution, and though Mr. Anderson is not a great orator, he had the boldness to declare what none of his colleagues has ever yet done, viz. that "the people would continue to be trampled upon till such time as Universal Suffrage was the law of the land." The other speakers were Messrs. Cullen, Card, Malcolm, Dr. Hay, a Mr. Scott, from Edinburgh, and Mr. M'Farlane. All the resolutions were carried unanimously: and, without further ceremony, a vote of thanks was moved to the chairman, and the meeting dissolved. No petition or memorial to the Queen was spoken of; nothing but the mere passing of three resolutions, of a general nature, and there the matter ended.

Mr. Clarke's Tour—On Tuesday evening I lectured at Truro to a large and enthusiastic meeting. Mr. Farr, a working man, an honest elector, ably filled the chair. At the close, Mr. Jury proposed, and Mr. Longmead seconded a resolution pledging the meeting to stand by the Charter, and to recognise only the National Charter Association. Several persons took out cards of membership, and the meeting separated, giving three cheers for the Charter. On Wednesday I proceeded to Redruth, but found on my arrival that owing to unfavourable circumstances, it was impossible to have a meeting there that day; so I left them with a promise to call on that day week, when a goodly muster is anticipated. On Thursday I went to Hale, here I was obliged to speak in the open air. Mr. Skewes, of Camborne, occupied the chair, and opened the meeting in a most masterly manner. I spoke an hour. At the close of my lecture, several joined our ranks, whilst all expressed themselves perfectly satisfied that nothing short of the Charter would make them independent of their heartless task-masters. On Friday, I proceeded to Penzance, a large town situate on the sea coast. Here I found a few of the right sort of Chartists. In the evening I lectured to a numerous auditory in Mr. O'Brien's commodious School Room, capable of holding 500 persons. Mr. O'Brien was unanimously chosen to preside, who, after addressing a few sensible remarks to the meeting, introduced me. I spoke nearly two hours. Before I left I had the pleasure of forming the nucleus of a locality which bids fair to gain strength and prosper.—On Saturday morning I left Penzance for Camborne, where I again lectured to a numerous out-door meeting. On the whole, from what I have seen of Cornwall, I am led to believe that continued agitation, such as has been carried on in the Northern counties, would make it one of the most flourishing Chartist districts in England.

TROWBRIDGE—At a meeting of the Council held on Sunday morning last, a resolution was unanimously passed in support of the National Tribute. Collectors were also appointed, and a Local Treasurer to hold the monies obtained by the collectors. To our Chartist brethren we say, Go and do likewise.

BILSTON.—Mr. M'Grath lectured here on Sunday last, to an attentive audience, in the large Room, in Stafford-street. The lecturer gave great satisfaction. After the lecture a subscription was entered into for the National Tribute, when 4s 6d was collected.

CARRINGTON, near Nottingham.—John Haskard, Thomas Caunt, and Daniel Gregory have been appointed collectors of the National Tribute.

MANCHESTER—Carpenters' Hall—On Sunday last two lectures were delivered in the above Hall, by Mr. J. West, from Sheffield. The spacious building was crowded in every part.

SALFORD—A lecture was delivered in the Chartist Room, Great George's-street, Chapel-street, Salford, on Sunday last, by Mr. C. Doyle, to a large and respectable audience.

STOCKPORT.—Mr. Kidd, from Newcastle, delivered a lecture in the Association Room, on Sunday evening last, to a large audience. At the close of the lecture seven shillings was collected for Mrs. Ellis.

BURY.—Mr. Dixon delivered a lecture in the Garden-street Lecture Room on Sunday evening last.

LONDON.—A meeting of the District Council was holden on Sunday last, Mr. Pickersgill in the chair. After the transaction of a good deal of business principally connected with the getting up of meetings on the approaching liberation of Mr. White, the meeting adjourned.

Political and Scientific Institution.—On Sunday last, Mr. Wale delivered a highly interesting lecture on "Oratory."

Working Man's Hall, Mile-End Road.—On Sunday evening, Mr. E. Mantz lectured to a crowded audience on Chartism and Repeal.

Golden Lion, Dean-street, Soho.—At the meeting, on Sunday evening, a resolution was passed in favour of the National Tribute.

At a Meeting of the Hammersmith Chartists, held on Tuesday evening, it was unanimously resolved to commence the collection of the National Tribute next week.

Emmett's Brigade.—A public meeting was held at the Bricklayer's Arms, Homer-street, New-road, on Monday night. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Wynne, Mantz, Davoc, and others.

LOCKWOOD.—On Sunday last, at the District Delegate Meeting, held in the Democratic Institution, Lockwood, Mr. David Gledhill in the chair, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That each Delegate endeavour to raise a subscription in his own locality, to assist in carrying out the plan for agitating the country, as projected by the Executive."

PRESTON.—At a meeting held in the Chartist Room it was resolved—"That a Committee be appointed to make the proper arrangements to ensure the representation of the democratic party in the Municipal Council.

HYDE.—On Sunday last the Chartists of this town held the first weekly meeting since the League Plot. The members who took cards from the "Champion of Liberty" when in Hyde came forward in the true spirit of democracy, and paid up their weekly subscriptions. All communications intended for the Chartists of Hyde to be addressed to J. M. Leach, 82, Charles-street.

CLITHERO.—The members of the Working Men's Mental Improvement Society met on Sunday night last. The subject was—"The best and surest means of accelerating the progress and dissemination of Chartist principles." The subject was eloquently spoken to by various speakers. At the conclusion, it was resolved that they should meet every Sunday evening. The subject for next Sunday evening's discussion will be—"Whether a Monarchical or a Democratic Government is most conducive to the prosperity of a nation."

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Mr. E. P. Mead lectured in the Chartist Association Room, on Sunday and Monday evening.

THE NORTHERN STAR.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1843.

THE DURHAM "DAMNABLE" AGAIN.

Last week we ventured to give our opinion upon this case, having only heard the masters' side of it. That opinion was—that the tyrants had plundered their slaves, and were now experimentalising upon the feelings of the men. That they have selected this Thornley Colliery for the purpose is not wonderful; firstly, because from the number of hands engaged in it, a strike in that pit will become more expensive to the general body than if a smaller one had been selected; and, secondly, because the Thornley bond presented superior means of exhibiting the power of the tyrants, and the weakness of their slaves.

Since last week we are in possession of the evidence for the defence, which will be found in another part of the paper, and will doubtless be read with deep anxiety. In order, however, to bring the subject clean to bank, and not to allow Heccles or his devils any opportunity of laying out for black brass, we shall here make an abstract of the most material portions of the evidence, to be seen at a glance, and to be comprehended as a whole. Here, then, follows the case for the defence:—

William Henderson—I will swear nothing about whether I was fined a shilling, because my mind is so distracted with this oppression that I can swear nothing about it—(loud laughter and cheers from the pitmen). I have been a pitman thirty years.

John Stephenson—I have been a coal hewer twenty years, and never knew so hard a bond. Although I have a wife and five children, I would rather go to that gaol till April than work under this bond.

Joseph Longstaff—I am prepared to say from my own observation that it is impossible for a man to live under that bond.

Newtrick Walton—one of the deputation appointed to go to the inspector of weights. We were appointed because they thought the steelyard was unjust. They had previously made complaints of the steelyard. We went for an inspector, and he said he could not come, without an order from the Magistrates. We went to the magistrates, who refused us an order. The men had several times complained of the weights before this.

John James Bird applied to the magistrates for a summons against the masters for ill-usage, and had been refused. Went first to Mr. Hays's office, and then to Mr. Hays's house, and then to Mr. Barry, the magistrate. Mr. Barry came out and asked what we wanted. We said we wanted a summons for non-payment of wages. He asked the sum, and we said three shillings. He said "For the small sum of three shillings!" I stated that it was not an application individually but collectively, and that it amounted to a large sum collectively. We wanted some discussion, and he said he was not there for discussion, and walked away without granting a summons. Mr. Barry is now on the bench.

John Cresswell—Had been charged fourpence a quart for splint for three quarts.

John Lumsden—Had been charged threepence, fourpence, and a shilling per tub for splint.

Samuel Turner—Had worked at other collieries, and the five-quarter seam at Thornley was the dirtiest he had ever worked in. They were erecting a beam and scales now, and that he believed was the result of the present strike.

William Wilkinson—Mr. Heccles had told him he knew the weight was unjust. Mr. Heccles said he knew that it made a difference with the weight according to the end at which the tub went on, and that even a one-sided corf would make a difference.

William Anderson—I have used every energy to make a living, and have of late thrown off several tubs a day to get clear of the fines; and I think if we were to be fined for having a quart of foul coal it is impossible for any man to make a living. No man can live under the present bond. I think the prison is a place to which I would not like to go, but I would rather go there than go to the colliery any more. They have charged me fourpence a tub when they should only have charged me threepence.

William Ord—Went to Mr. Heccles, and he asked me if I was not content with the half-crown; and I said, "No, man; how can I be content with half-a-crown taken off when I have only addled three shillings? He threatened to get a warrant against me. They fine us just as they have a mind. It is anything but just. Mr. Heccles sent for a warrant, but we got advice from an attorney, and the warrant was never got. The men were stupid or half mad when they went home last Friday night. We did not ask for the quart pot. If Mr. Heccles stated so, he has told a lie, and a gross lie. The refusal of the warrant which was applied for at Durham irritated the men's minds, because they thought the masters could get a waggon load of warrants and the men could not get one. They thought they could not get justice either from the owners or the magistrates. Just previous to the 24th, the men came to the resolution that they would stand for ever unless they got justice. Every man will go to prison rather than yield. I will rather go to prison than work at the main coal or any seam they have.

William Kay, weigher for the Thornley colliery. The witness after describing the working of the steelyard, said he could make it either just or unjust as he chose. By the shifting of the weights the men might lose five pounds. Did not think he could do justice by this machine.

John Bates—Since the bond had been put in force had been fined threepence a quart, and before fourpence, and one shilling a tub. The men are tired of applying for summonses. They applied at Durham twice. I know they applied twice, for one time they did not come.

William Toplis—Mr. Heccles has offered me a bribe to swear that the men could get a living. I was at work about a month ago, and he comes unto me and says "Who's this"? I said "Toplis." He says "I suppose you want the boxes, don't you? I said "Yes, of course." He asked what we wanted with them, and I said to see them laid out. He said "the men are going to get a summons I suppose." I said I don't know, you are the likeliest to know." He said "do you think that you could not work here a week or a fortnight and have none laid out"? I said "No, I did not suppose I could." He says "if you will swear that you could work here for a week or a fortnight without having any laid out, you shall have your bread for nothing"—(loud hootings). He said "I should have easy work, I should have my bread for doing nothing." I thought my father would not let me, and I said "I durst not say." Nothing more took place about that. I thought him a nice man. I recollect I am on my oath, and I swear that all I have stated is true.

Augustus King—The men were anxious to obtain justice from the masters and the magistrates. When the summons was refused the men gave it up as a bad job. They said it was as much use going to Castle Eden or Durham as going to a mad dog. I believe no man will ever work at it. I asked for my clearance, and he said if he gave it to me he would put something in it which would make me get work nowhere—(yells).

Robert Toplis—If the bond had been enforced the colliery could not have been carried on—it would have been impossible for a man to get a livelihood.

Robert Walton—Have been at Mr. Heccles about the beam and scales twice. It has been a constant irritating sore on the men's minds. It was the intention of the men to try to get justice if they could get it. I think the men would not have struck if they had got a summons when it was applied for. The refusal of the summons was a rankling sore to the men, and was spoken of by them as a refusal of justice. Since these proceedings commenced I have heard the men say they would get no justice.

Reuben Forster.—Had been fined 11s. 4d. the last pay for the last three days. I worked 22 tubs. When I went to the overman to reckon he said my coals were 111lbs. short in weight. The hewing came to 6s. 11d., and I was fined for 43 quarts, at 3d., which came to 11s. 3d., so that I was 4s. 4d. in debt for three days' work. When the pay came on, he deducted 23 quarts of the fine, and then I had only 9d. to receive. He cheated me out of a penny, and I only got 8d. Did not hear the clause about the quart before I signed the bond. I will swear it was never read in my presence. It was not generally known among the men that the fine was a quart. I signed the bond in the office. They would not let me write my name, but took hold of my hand whilst I made my mark. *I can write.* Would be about two minutes in the office altogether. No explanation was made to me nor the other men who were there. There was a great number in at the time. Mr. Heccles asked if I had come to get bound, and asked my name. I told him, and he wrote my name, and took hold of my hand till I made the cross.

Charles Willett.—I put my cross to the bond. I can write my name. The bond was not read to me. That I'll swear.

Joseph Burnett—Had been fined 6s. 4d. for twenty-six quarts, during the three last days. Had only put his mark to the bond, though he could write. The bond had never been read to him. He could not make a living under the bond, and would rather go to gaol than work under it. The boxes were set up at the request of the men, but not the quarts.

William Park—They could not send up a tub with less than a quart of black brass. He was 1s. 9d. in debt after working three days.

Edward Clark was three miles off when the bond was read over, but afterwards signed it. No explanation was given me of the bond at the time I signed it. I did not know that I was liable to a quart fine.

Jabez Wonders—The bond was read over to me. I could not write, but have put my mark. When I went to reckon with the overman I was fined 12s. for the three days. I then stood 3s. indebted to my master. I laid down 5s. for the overman to take pay, and he refused to take it. The men did not think the masters would have been so unreasonable as to exact the quart fine. Did not hear that part of the bond read.

Joseph Walker—It would be impossible for any man to make a livelihood in the place where I have worked for the last six weeks. It is a place not fit to put a dog in, let alone a Christian. The bond was not read to me, and no explanation was given of it to me. I will swear the bond was never read in my presence. The air was so foul, that after working two hours my head got so bad that I could work no longer. Though I have a wife and four children, I would rather go to prison than work under that bond.

Robert Rickardson—There is no man better acquainted with the colliery than I am, and I am certain that no man can send up a tub with less than a quart. In weighing the coals, we see nothing but the baulk and the weights. We cannot see the pivots. We cannot see the figures. With a beam and scales we could see everything fair. I have never been before a magistrate, but I would rather go to prison than work under the bond.

Thomas Clough—I believe that during those days the men did all they could to get their coals clear, for when they came to me some of them shed tears at the imputation of being fined. They have not the policy to shed crocodile tears. The year before last I was sent to see about the weighing machine by the men. I wished to see if it was just, and I made application to the colliery for weights to test it, and see if it was just, but I could not get them. A fortnight after I thought there was a deficiency in the men's surplus weights, and on looking saw there was the main pivot deficient. I made application for those weights again, and found the steelyard, had a variation of 12lbs. against the men. I am of opinion that men cannot make a living here under the bond. The men applied to me about this strike, and I persuaded them off, for I am against all strikes among bound men. They said they had made an application to the adjuster of weights, who had refused to come and adjust the machine, and that he had refused to come without an order from the magistrates. I advised them to apply to the magistrates, and they said they had refused to grant an order. I then advised them to apply to Mr. Wood, and they said that they thought it would be of no use, and that the only way to bring the matter before the magistrates would be to strike, and they went away with that determination. I believe if the men were treated with a kind feeling, they would at once go to work. I have heard that twenty colliers are now at work through Mr. Robert's advice. I never heard it repeated that you endeavoured to widen the breach between the masters and men.

Andrew Hope—I have been fined. They gave me 7d. to take home for my three days' work. The amount of fines was £1 2s. 6d.; they, however, deducted some quarts off. I am sure it is impossible when a man only earns 6s. 4d., when 10s. 6d. is taken off when the coals come to bank. I would rather go to keep my father company than find my own candles, powder, and backey, and still be indebted when I come to bank.

Now that is the evidence of honest working men. Sworn before those who were cognizant of every fact, with a solicitor to protect them—with a bench of masters to appeal to, and yet that solicitor does not appear to have received any instruction to break down, to weaken, or to negative, this portion of the evidence. The reader who has impartially perused the case, will, like ourselves have come to the conclusion, that a *grosser act of tyranny*, a more flagrant act of injustice or barbarity was never yet committed, than than of which the Thornley Colliers have one and all to complain. As well those who being robbed are compelled to remain idle, as those who, being plundered, are now suffering the felons fate. We ventured last week to assert that the bond had either not been read, or had been falsely read to the pitmen who signed it. In this assertion we are fully borne out by a large number of the contracting parties, while Jabez Wonders swears that the part of the bond imposing a fine for a quart of "foul" was not read over to him. *It* would be an insult to the pitmen to comment further upon the portions of the evidence that we have selected, and therefore we shall proceed to a general consideration of the case.

In our general reviews of popular grievances we have endeavoured to convince the working classes, that the hardships imposed upon them by statute law are comparatively insignificant when contrasted with those grievances imposed upon them by local clubs of capitalists. We could not have selected a more perfect illustration of our views upon this subject than the case now under consideration furnishes. It is a hard thing that a man should be transported or imprisoned for shooting a hare, caught in the act of injuring his poperty; but the man may abstain. It is a hardship to imprison a man for giving free expression to his political or religious opinions, but then he may abstain. But how much greater the hardship upon a man who after having earned five shillings by two days' hard labour is compelled to forfeit the whole amount, and to add six shillings to it, in compliance with the conditions contained in an illegal bond. What act of tyranny equal to this can the law commit against a working man! What act of the law is there against which he has not some chance to battle; while in this case all hope is cut from under his feet? What one act of the law will induce thousands of honest working men to prefer a prison and hard labour to compliance with its provisions! What act of the law can so poignantly strike the working man as to make him shed tears for the injustice to which it subjects him!—while we find the clubbed power of the tyrant taskmasters forcing tears from their eyes as they are compelled to grope their way penniless to their expectant families, after a night of unremitting toil in a dark, a damp, and a loathsome atmosphere! What Act of the law can turn their labour upon a blunted pivot! What Act of the law justifies the oath-man, Heccles, in endeavouring to suborn a man to perjury, to aid him in his acts of plunder! What Act of the law justifies a knot of village Dogberries sitting in judgment upon honest men, by whose labour, or rather upon whose plunder, their wives and daughters are enabled to appear at church with an extra ruffle, a sable muff and boa, or satin dress, while they implore curses upon the heads of those who would rob the poor, the widow, and the orphan? What law justifies the sneaking sycophant who scribbles in the *Durham Advertiser*, in his attempt to convince the world, after the evidence that we have adduced, that the men are criminals, and the masters most merciful! No law justifies these things: and yet are men robbed, sent to prison, and treated as criminals, because they prefer idleness to paying six shillings a day for being allowed to work.

How happens it, we would ask, that that portion of the press calling itself Conservative, has not dared to meddle with this case! There are portions of that press loud in denunciation of acts of oppression committed by individual noblemen and gentlemen. If a Noble Lord dares unjustly to eject a peasant from his cottage his politics are no protection against the censure of the press. If a Noble Lord who has been accustomed to the rigid rule of the quarter deck, takes the law *into his own hands and orders a father to whip his* own son, for killing a hare under very mitigated circumstances, his Conservative politics do not screen him from censure. But when the tyranny of the club is brought into action, and when the rights of labour are to be contested against the usurpation of capitalists, then is the press silent. Then *do* the treacherous acts of Whig Justices silence the thunder of its censure.

In our comments upon the magistracy we speak generally, referring as well to those Cotton Lord Justices who sit in judgment upon their slaves as to the Coal King Justices who sit in judgment upon their victims. In all future cases when the men are complainants we trust that they will procure the attendance of the few high-minded magistrates who still remain, and who will interpose their anthority between the rich oppressor and the poor oppressed; and that in the meantime Mr. Roberts will prepare such a case for Mr. Duncombe to move upon in the House of Commons as will insure to the men the substitution of an honest tribunal for that in which neither we or they have confidence. Yes: although the appointment be surrounded with all the horrors of patronage, let us have stipendiary magistrates appointed by the Government, and wholly unconnected by marriage, blood, or plunder, with coal property. Let us not see the complaints of honest men, robbed of their labour, submitted for adjudication to Lords of the manor, who own the royalties; to coal kings who own the labour, and to viewers and overseers, whose very existence depends upon their treachery. Let us have enough of those stipendiary magistrates, both in the factory and the colliery districts, and our life upon it, if they do their duty, they will place a large amount in the Exchequer annually, after paying their salaries, arising from fines inflicted upon the masters for their violations of the law. This is one of the changes which the operatives and colliers should insist upon. It is one that the peace of the country, the very existence of society, and the stability of the throne, must depend upon; for in our conscience we believe that a few more such instances of disregard of all law, as those recently evinced in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, will lead to a system of wild revenge, such as Irish feeling now presents.

In perusing the evidence it will be seen that even the three-pence a quart imposed by the bond for "foul" did not satisfy the just viewer; but that, on the contrary, in most cases, four-pence per quart was exacted. We would ask if the Durham Justices could be prevailed upon to believe that they had jurisdiction; and if not in this case, would they, or the Durham scribe inform us of any description of case in which the men were complainants that they would have jurisdiction! Then we have a word to say to the Durham shopkeepers, who constitute a portion of that tribunal to which the justice or injustice of the whole case must be interestedly submitted. We will suppose that 500 men are thrown out of employment by the strike of the Thornley Colliers, and that according to the terms of the bond those 500 earn twenty-six shillings a fortnight each, and all of which would be spent with the Durham shopkeepers. That sum would amount to £650 a fortnight; a sum the abstraction of which from the labour fund would be sensibly felt in their tills on Saturday night; and will those shopkeepers reflect that the whole of the Bench, together with the proprietors of the Colliery, are, one and all, free-traders of the darkest dye; and will they longer hesitate as to the part that they shall henceforth take; whether *to assist wealthy individuals in reducing wages, or* the community of working men to increase and protect wages, the result of which would be a larger traffic, and consequently more profits to their order! The thing is now done, the victims of the cupidity and tyranny of the masters are consigned like felons to the dungeon and the treadwheel, and, therefore, it becomes those, upon whose behalf they have volunteered themselves as a willing sacrifice to stand by them in the hour of need, and to support their destitute families during their absence.

It is the duty of every pitman, and of every man connected with the colliery forthwith to join in a union for the support of these men and their families. Committees should be appointed, and all means for collecting the pence of the men to battle against the pounds of their oppressors, should be put into immediate and active operation, so that the tyrant masters may be baulked of the triumph anticipated from the first blow. Nay more, in every instance where colliers deal largely with shopkeepers, let them ask those shopkeepers respectfully for their subscriptions to aid the "turn-outs" in their righteous struggle against their oppressors. Upon our part, to shew that we practice as well as preach, we have handed one pound to Mr. Roberts, by order of the proprietor, and five shillings from ourself to head the list. We do this because we look upon the struggle of the Thornley Colliers as one upon which the fate of labour must materially depend. These men must not, from poverty, be forced back into the jaws of the devourer. They must not be again subjected to the conditions of the hellish and inhuman bond; and, above all, the masters must not establish their unopposed tyranny upon such a precedent.

We will say that 100,000 pitmen will feel an interest in this case; an interest sufficient to induce them to subscribe a penny a week towards the support of those who are unwilling idlers, and which would amount to £416 13s. 4d. per week. Suppose there are 500 men on strike receiving ten shilling a week, that would amount to £250, and which deducted from the weekly subscription would leave a surplus of £166 13s. 4d. for general purposes. This is but the social part of the question—the feeling part of the question—and we have yet to view it in its moral tendency. We contend for it, then, that an honest hard-working man should not be allowed to spend six weeks or six minutes in a felon's dungeon, and committed to hard labour, without receiving full compensation from his fellow-labourers, as far as they can render it, at the expiration of his sufferings. Every pitman, aye, and every man who lives by his labour too, should be in Durham upon the day of the liberation of their victimized brethren, should receive them at the prison doors; should take them in triumph through the town, stopping before the Justice Hall, to allow the public voice to be heard within its walls, giving the lie to that judgment which pronounced honest English working men to be criminals. We have not done with this case. We shall not be done with it either, until we see the effect that the reading of the Thornley bond by Mr. Duncombe in the House of Commons will produce upon those who, last sessions, were so loud in their sympathies for the oppressed Colliers. Aye, the whole bond, the Thornley damnable, must be read and published to the world. It shall be in every man's hand who chooses to possess it. We will publish it in the *Star* next week, and then appeal to every honest man in England, whether "There is not more honour in the breach than in the observance."

Again we have to express a hope that the Conference about to assemble at Manchester will see that this is getting in the thin end of the wedge, in order to split up the Union in its infancy; and that no available opportunity will be lost in driving it: while the very existence of the body depends upon the result of the pending contest.

It would be unfair to withhold from Mr. Roberts that large measure of praise which is due to him, as well for his warmth as for his ability. It is a novel thing to see the warmth of the gentleman, and the ability of the practitioner equally offending the ears and paralyzing the nerves of the poor man's oppressors. In general it is the practice of those gentlemen to be employed by the defendant and concerned for the plaintiff; but in the case of the Colliers we find their advocate entering heart and soul into the sufferings and feelings of his clients, and actually endangering his own personal liberty by the free expression of his warm feelings. Apropos of this. It appears that the Durham Dogberrys threatened to commit Mr. Roberts for contempt. What a joke! A joke to speak of, a joke to think of, but no joke to them, had they dared to put their threat into execution. What! a bench of village justices to commit an advocate for discharging his duty, with warmth, and for repelling insolent insinuation by indignant denial! Commit him, indeed! Had they *dared to go this length*, they would have gone beyond the limit of their tether, and from their rashness, they would have learned the wholesome lesson that Mr. Roberts, as well as themselves, was one of the parties to the proceedings: and, although they had the will, they had not the power to carry it into execution. But the bond and the support of the men on strike are now the all-important considerations. The bond, when read in the House of Commons by Mr. Duncombe, will find its way into every paper in the Kingdom. Then the men's case, through our humble instrumentality, will be submitted to the general review of public opinion—then they will be justified by that opinion, and by it their masters will be damned.

THE ARMS BILL IN OPERATION.

"Nix my dolly pals, fake away."

There are some subjects so seriously ludicrous that it is impossible to decide upon the most fitting description of criticism; whether to weep at the unaccountable blunders and tom-foolery of the clown, or to laugh at the sorrows of the broken-hearted heroine. We confess that the ignorance, the patriotism, the anticipations of danger, and the valiant precautions to prevent it; the rantings, the ravings, the forebodings, and the heroic deportment withal of the Cork magistrates, recently assembled at Macroom, for the purpose of administering the Arms Bill, places us in "a pretty considerable fix," and rather puzzles us as to the course which, as journalists, it is our duty to take. Speaking, however, of the Arms Bill itself as a measure, we may, with becoming pride, refer our readers to the fact, that while the Bill was under consideration, we opposed it, not more because it was a gross violation of the constitution, than from the fact, as we have over and over again stated, that the village Dogberries, acting as the Executive of the Protestant party in Ireland would convert it into a "*casus belli*"; and under it would rally all those evil sectarian passions against which the Government and the Irish Executive would struggle in vain. Indeed, to this end the magistracy was purified by the Lord Chancellor; none being allowed to remain in the Commission of the Peace save those who could be safely relied upon to aid in the subjugation of Ireland. Whether or no we were right in our conjectures will be best proved by reference to the proceedings of the first court, held in the great county of Cork, for the purpose of administering this unconstitutional, anti-Irish, anti-Catholic Bill. Since that report was in type, however, we have received the following more graphic description of the extraordinary proceedings from an eye witness.

Upon Mairtough M'Donnagan, of Sleiveballykinmackmuckridgetowncrossroad, applying to register fire arms under the Act, the following dialogue took place:—

Chairman—Is there any objection to this man?

First Magistrate—Yes. I have a few questions to ax him. Are you a Repale Warden?

No; I am not.

Wore you ever?

No; I wasn't.

Did you collect the Repale rint?

No; I didn't.

Did you collect the O'Connell rint?

No; I didn't.

Damnation to your sawl do you mane to tell me that you are not a Repaler?

No; to be sure I'm a Repaler.

Magistrate—O wisha, you thundering villan, did'nt I know you were a Repaler? reject him.

Stipendiary Magistrate—Is there anything against the man's character?

Several Magistrates speaking together. Och tunder and agers, agen his character; what do you mane, with your speeching, you piebald Protestant? Isn't he a Repaler, and isn't that enough for you?

Stipendiary—No. The law requires something more.

Bench—The law is it? what the divil do we care for the law? Ar'n't we the law?

Stipendiary—But then the Act of Parliament.

Bench—Wisha, blood and tunder; isn't the maning of the Act of Parliament in its essence and spirit, its very body and sleeves, breathing through its very nostrils, the *disarming* of the Repalers, for the preservation of the peace, and the safety of Her Gracious Majesty's crown and dignity?—(Cheers.)

Stipendiary—But we must go by the law.

Bench—By the law is it? What the divil law was there for striking honourable men out of the Commission? and can we allow the sting to remain in the tail when the Lord High Chancellor has knocked the vinum out of the head of the serpent?—(Vociferous cheering, followed by—reject him, reject him, reject him.)

Kit Downing, from Skibbereen, was the next who claimed to register under the Act, when the following dialogue took place between Alexander O'Driscoll, J. P., and the claimant.

O'Driscoll—Downing, I've a question to ax you. Arn't you a Repaler?

Kit—No, I am not, Mr. O'Driscoll; but why so, Captain?

O'Driscoll—Because you're an ungrateful vagabond.

Kit—Well, Mr. O'Driscoll, but you astonishes me! Had'nt I often the honour of dining at your own table, and didn't you often dine at mine; and what have you agin me?

O'Driscoll—O! the curse of Cromwell upon you, Kit! Didn't I give you many a good "blow out," and a skinful of beef and cabbage, and as much Parliament whisky as you could tuck into your carcase, and didn't you prove ungrateful, by attending the Repale Meeting in Skibbereen, contrary to my express proclamation?

Kit—To be sure I attended that meeting; but that was before the Clontarf meeting.

Several Voices—Och, that makes no difference. The magistrates were dismissed before the Clontarf meeting; reject him—reject him.

Stipendiary—Is there anything against the man's character?

O'Driscoll—Yes; he owes me an arrear of tithe of £1 17s. 3d: isn't that enough?

Several Voices—Yes, yes; reject him.

Kit—Och, Captain, Captain, didn't you distrain a fine two-year ould coult, and three lambs, for the debt?

O'Driscoll—Hear that gentlemen; by the holy post, and, as I am an honourable gentleman, that coult and lambs were the ruin of me; and I never charged the ungrateful rascal a farthing: but the coult gave Blue Sam the best hunker that I ever had, the mange, and I lost him for the season; and but the lambs gave me whole flock the scab.

All—Shameful! shameful! reject him.

Stipendiary—I object.

All—None of your speeching; pitch him over. Who the divil cares what you object to. Reject him—reject him.

Mat Gallaven was the next claimant,

Magistrate—Mat, you're a broth of a boy. Damn your soul wasin't it you that shot the ould vixen, with a belly of cubs in her, last March; and is that the gun you want to register?

Mat—Wisha your honors, but sure I complained to his honor time after time, and all to no purpose after she took away the ould turkey and left the whole brood to die on me; and then took three early lambs that I had to pay the rint, and was destroying me, and the divil a bit of consideration his honor had, but laughed at me.

Several Magistrates—Answer the question, Sir, without equivocation. Did you shoot the fox?

Matt (scratching his head)—Am I bound to answer that question?

Stipendiary—No, no.

Magistrates—Yes, yes. If you don't answer it you'll be committed for contempt of court. Now, will you answer? Did you shoot the fox?

Mat—I didn't then.

Magistrates—You thundering liar; you perjured villin; you lie, you lie. Reject him.

Clerk—Take down his words; we'll commit him for perjury.

Mat—Well, suppose I did.

Magistrates—Why, that Mr. ——— could transport you for it.

Mat—O well, then, you may reject me, and I'll give my gun to his honour.

Tim Mullagan was the next applicant.

Magistrate—Arn't you a poacher?

Tim—Wisha, what's that, your honor?

Magistrate—Why, don't you shoot game by moonlight?

Tim—Indeed, then, I don't, your honors; but I wouldn't know how to shoot them.

Magistrates—Then what do you want of a gun, if you don't know how to shoot them?

Tim—O, wisha, your honors, sure a man that couldn't shoot a snipe or a patridge that would be flying, might hit a crow in his corn field, or make him lave that any how.

Magistrate—Gentlemen, I contend for it, that a man that could shoot a crow, could shoot a Protestant. (Cheers and shouts of reject him, reject him.)

Stipendiary—But the act.

Several Voices—Damn you and the act. Hasn't he convicted himself as clear as the nose on your face? Reject him, reject him.

Teady Muldooney was the next claimant.

Magistrate—What do you want Muldooney?

Tead—Why, your honors, I want to register under the act.

Magistrate—Ar'n't you a Repale Warden?

Tead—No, I am not.

Magistrate—Did you ever collect the rint?

Tead—I didn't.

Magistrate—Weren't you suspected of stealing Mr. M'Sweeney's pig?

Tead—I, never hear I was, indeed.

Magistrate—Mightn't you be suspected without hearing it?

Tead—I might, indeed.

Magistrate—Well then, gentlemen, I contend for it that the very guts and the essence, and the marrow—(hear, hear)—of the act applies to the disarming of suspicious characters—(Cheers, and reject him).

Magistrate—What kind of fire-arms have you?

Tead—Wisha, indeed, your honor, then I don't know how they are spicified in the act; but I was tould by the neighbours that all fire-arms should have the Protestant stamp *upon them;* and so I brought mine for the purpose.

Mogistrate—Well, where is it? A detonator, or a flint lock, or a fuzee, or a patent breach? or does it go off by a match? or is it a rifle? or what the divil is it?

Tead—Indeed, and your honours, it's none of them at all, but here it is, says Tead, (drawing a long poker from under his great coat), sure this is my fire arms; and but the neighbours tould me that the act meant every thing that could give a wound, and but I thought that my poker was included among them.

Magistrates—You scoundrel, 'twas the priest put you up to this, to insult the Court. Clerk, make out his committal for contempt.

Tead—Indeed, God knows, your honor, but I did not mane any offence; but the neighbours tould me that nothing was safe, that hadn't the *brand* upon it, and that I might be transported if it was found with me.

Magistrates—We'll adjourn for an hour to take this case into our serious consideration.

At the time our report left their worships had not resumed their sitting.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW *versus* COAL KING LAW.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE MINERS.

Hurrah! hurrah!! hurrah!!! Just as we had closed our remarks upon this damnable case, we received a hurried note from Mr. Roberts, announcing the glad and joyous tidings that retribution had followed speedily on the heels of injustice.

Resolved that justice should be had at any price, and instantly, he started for London, where, upon carrying the case before Judge Pattison, that constitutional lawyer instantly granted a *habeas corpus* for the immediate appearance of the incarcerated victims of the Coal Kings. When Mr. Roberts wrote he was about to start himself with the writ, and to bring his men up. So that while our readers are struck with the horrible picture we have drawn of "Club Law," they will rejoice to find that in the real Law there is yet protection for the poor. To get the Law is the thing, and Mr. Roberts appears to have discovered the magical process by which this desideratum is to be achieved. Truly this man deserves well of his clients. But as the process is very expensive, we trust that he will be manfully backed up in his noble work. It is most probable that while our readers are sympathizing with the Coal Kings' victims, they may be on the road home, about to spend their Christmas at home instead of in the dungeon. This is in truth a great move.

STATE OF THE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS.

LORD ASHLEY AND THE WHIG PRESS.

The readers of the *Northern Star*, for the last few weeks, have found ample testimony that the "Condition of England," so far from improving, is daily growing worse and worse. The "Question" which the people have often put to their rulers: "how have you led us, fed us, and taught us while we have toiled for you?" and which "hereditary legislation" and "collective wisdom" have shuffled from answering; *is now being answered by the questioners themselves!* answered too, in language not to be misunderstood, not to be mistaken! answered nightly in characters of flame, which, reflected far and wide, form an appeal from earth to heaven against the wrongs committed by man upon his brother; and demand, at the throne of eternal justice, the annihilation of that accursed system of social and political wrong which has brought England to a state of anarchy, and arrayed class against class, and man against man, threatening the utter ruin of each and all, the oppressed and the oppressor!

England *is* in a state of anarchy. True, some of the outward signs of such a state are yet wanting; hitherto not seen: not because soldiery and police prevent such exhibition; *but because the people, or* a large portion of them, if they have well nigh abandoned hope, are yet unwilling to commit themselves to the crimes of despair. They are no lovers of crime, this Anglo-Saxon race! They *have been* famed for their crimeless obedience to the law; and now would thousands of them rather suffer any extent of misery, than have recourse to the "wild justice of revenge." But this will not always be! If justice be not done to the people, the unjust must expect to have justice,—even though it be of the "wild" kind,—done upon them. And, God forbid that it should be otherwise! We deplore the existence and the undoubted increase of crime; but we are not ignorant of the causes of that existence and increase. It is clear as the sun at noon-day who are the parties that are responsible for this criminality—the holders of property. 'Tis they who have the social arrangements of society in their hands; they who wield the power of life and death over the unhappy bondsmen of this "Christian," "enlightened," England. 'Tis they who have exclusively the law-making of the country to themselves; they who make laws to make men criminals, and then pass laws to punish them for committing crime! Yes, these are the parties to whose account is really chargeable the frightful deeds now spreading terrorism through the once happy rural districts of once "Merrie England."

Aye, we repeat it: if the holders of property will not do right; if they will sin against God and man; if they will rob the poor and oppress the de-

fenceless; if they will cling to the system which has made them fat and prosperous—very Kings of Gold—at the expence of their plundered brethren; if they will despise all warning, and obstinately turn a deaf ear to every appeal made to them to save society from moral and actual shipwreck; *then* welcome, say we, any means,—even the horrors of anarchy itself,—*to* rouse our guilty rulers from their dreamy state! England must not perish! We are a nation two thousand years of age. We are old enough, and should be able enough, to work out our own salvation; and if REFORMATION can only come "riding the whirlwind" of triumphant anarchy, BE IT SO!! It will be the work of the property-holders, and not of the poverty-stricken. *England must be saved!!*

God knows we abhor the crime which is now ravaging the farm-yards of the South; and we earnestly hope that the red-right-hand of revenge may be stayed by prompt and efficient justice. Not the justice of the judge and the hangman; but that of the philanthropist and the enlightened legislator. There is, as our paper (to go no further) weekly testifies, ample employment for both. We are told that "at some of the fires *the labourers manifest not the slightest desire to aid in extinguishing them, but on the contrary display the greatest apathy* and reckless indifference." Is this to be wondered at! The "condition" of our once "bold peasantry" is notoriously infamous to those who profit by their toil. Bordering on all the horrors of the savage state, is there any wonder that men should stand sternly by and refuse a helping hand to the class who have said "nay" when the many have asked but for simple justice!

We preceive that the "Liberal" papers are turning to their own factious account these unhappy "signs of the times." *The Nonconformist* says that incendiarism is "a crime unheard of in our cities and manufacturing towns." We dont know whether there is any incendiarism in our cities and towns; but we do know that NEVER WERE FIRES SO FREQUENT AS THEY HAVE BEEN OF LATE YEARS IN LONDON, LIVERPOOL, AND OTHERS OF OUR CITIES AND MANUFACTURING TOWNS: fires, the cause of which, in nine cases out of ten, are undiscoverable, but *suspected to be the work of incendiaries!* The press, for obvious reasons, has been silent upon this; but there is the fact unanswered, unanswerable. *The Nonconformist* should remember that even were it true that there are fewer fires in cities and towns, it would not prove that there is less crime. More eyes are watching the would-be criminal in the crowded town; and hence, it may be, the comparative absence of incendiarism. But that there is less crime we emphatically deny; and in proof of our assertion we refer to the "*Criminal Tables for the last year*," compiled by Mr. REDGRAVE, at the Home Office, which our readers will find fully set forth in the "*Poor Man's Companion*" for 1844.

We have ascribed to the wide spread and unparalleled destitution existing amongst the labouring classes of the agricultural districts, the prevalence and increase of the crime of incendiarism. Our readers will be glad to learn that Lord ASHLEY has come forward in defence of the peasantry; and happy are we that so sincere a philanthropist is buckling on his armour to do battle in the cause of the oppressed. At the Sturminster agricultural dinner, alluding to the state of the Dorsetshire peasantry he said:—"But, gentlemen, are we prepared to look these charges in the face, discuss their justice, repel what is false, but correct what cannot be gainsayed? Do we admit the assertion that the wages of labour in these parts are scandalously low, painfully idadequate to the maintenance of the husbandman and his family, and in no proportion to the profit of the soil? If we are able to deny this statement, we shall also be able to disprove it—let us do so without delay; but, if the reverse, not an hour is to be lost in rolling away the reproach. I do not pretend to give advice as to the precise mode of doing these things. I am not sufficiently practical, or conversant with the hiring and payment of labour; *but this I know, that if a larger self-denial, an abatement of luxuries, a curtailing of even what are called comforts, be necessary to this end, let us begin at once with the higher and wealthier classes.* IT MUST BE DONE. There is neither honour, nor safety, nor joy (setting aside all higher considerations), to dwell in a house, however fair the outside, which rests on such rotten and crumbling foundations. Do we deny that the dwellings of the poor are oftentimes ruinous, filthy, contracted, ill-drained, ill-ventilated, and so situated as to be productive of many forms of disease and immorality? If we do, let us take the same course, and refute our accusers; but, if not, let us hasten to wipe out the stain."

This is manly! this is language worthy of a patriot and a philanthropist! His Lordship points to the proper, or one of the proper remedies, A MORE EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE WEALTH PRODUCED BY THE WORKING MAN. He knows that there is enough produced for the sustenance and enjoyment of all; but that the labourer, so far from being "*first partaker* of the fruits," too often "partakes" not at all! or but of a miserable portion of that which is his right. For the remedy he points to a more EQUAL DISTRIBUTION, by giving to the labourer a fair share of that which he produces; something like an honest remuneration for his toil. And his Lordship says "THIS MUST BE!—*even if it be at the cost to the property holders of* A LARGER SELF DENIAL, AN ABATEMENT OF LUXURIES, A CURTAILING OF EVEN WHAT ARE CALLED COMFORTS." "*Let us begin*," says his Lordship, "*at once with the higher and wealthier classes* IT MUST BE DONE!" Bravo, Lord ASHLEY! There is hope for England yet! There is hope that the torch of the incendiary may not be longer needed to lighten up the dullard eyes of our sluggard rulers. *A few men like Lord* ASHLEY, and England may yet be saved from the horrors which already gleam frightfully upon us.

The base Whigs and merciless Millocrats, who hate Lord ASHLEY with all that genuine hatred with which conscious vice ever regards acknowledged virtue, have, ever since his Lordship's exposures of the iniquities universally prevailing in the mining and manufacturing districts, been engaged in *sneering* at his Lordship for not turning his attention to the state of the agricultural working classes with whom he was more intimately connected. "Why did he not do so"? "why did he give his first attention to the manufacturing and mining population"? are the questions constantly put. We will tell these Whig hirelings. The Commission that was appointed to enquire into the state of our agricultural, mining, and manufacturing population, was appointed at the instance and through the exertions of Lord ASHLEY. As that Commission reported, Lord ASHLEY took up the reports, and, so far as he had the power laboured to accomplish ameliorations in the condition of the classes reported upon. *The Commission reported* FIRST *on the two latter of the three classes*; hence his Lordship first introduced measures on their behalf. The agricultural class has now been reported upon, and we find Lord ASHLEY consistently taking up *their case*. What more would the Millocrats have? *He is not doing* AS THEY DID, *trying to deny the statements of the Commission*, OR PREVENT OR EVADE THE REFORMS REQUIRED! On the contrary, he says, "A CHANGE MUST BE MADE"! Even "if that change takes from the rich some portion of their luxuries and even of their comforts,—it must be had!"

The *Manchester Guardian* wishes to know "why Lord ASHLEY has not taken up the cause of the agricultural population long since"? "why he has not seen or acted upon a Parliamentary Return published sixteen years ago, showing the *then* distressed state of the agricultural working classes; and the wages received by Dorsetshire labourers"? The *Guardian* should know that sixteen years ago Lord ASHLEY was not a public man; that when he began his Parliamentary career, he applied himself to subjects that were then before the public. Besides, the *Guardian* should remember its own doctrine of "one thing at a time" in reference to Corn Law Repeal. Lord ASHLEY has only acted upon that *principle in taking up the case of the Collier-Women* for instance, and legislating thereon in the first place. There is this difference (independent of many other differences) between Lord ASHLEY and the *Guardian* and its patrons; the former has, to a great extent, succeeded in his labours; while the latter, with their "one thing at a time," have yet to win success if they can (!). Lord ASHLEY has already won golden opinions from all honest men. Let him persevere in his present course, despite the sneers of the Millocrats and their hirelings, and he will have the blessings of present and the grateful admiration of all future generations.

It is cheering, and hopeful too, amidst the many signs of disruption and BREAKING UP, which the face of society presents, to find that the cause of the labourer,—the knife-and-fork-question,—is forcing itself upon attention in quarters that have been hitherto resolutely closed to all appeals from suffering humanity. We have already instanced the benevolent and pure-minded exertions of Lord ASHLEY to procure something like justice for the working man; efforts very unusual amongst the aristocratic class of which he is a member; and we shall now instance an effort of the most powerful portion of the PROPERTY HOLDERS' press to force the *condition* of the labourer upon the attention of the PROPERTY HOLDERS themselves. This is, of itself, a most hopeful "sign." When we find the *indifference*, CUPIDITY and HEARTLESSNESS of the PROPERTY MEN so soundly rated by their own organ, as in the following extract, we may rest assured that the "alarming" and "awful" "signs" are having their "effect" in the proper quarter. In this there are grounds for hope.

The occasion of our contemporary's lecture to the PROPERTY-MEN was the following. The Smithfield Cattle Club lately had, as is their annual custom after the exhibition of their "prize oxen," a dinner—an aristocratic feed. At this dinner there was, says the *Times*, "what is called a highly respectable company, consisting of some Peers, Members of Parliament, and a large assortment of 'farmers' friends.' Compliments, congratulations, and good humour were the order of the evening. The Duke of RICHMOND complimented Lord SPENCER, Lord SPENCER complimented the oxen; and the Duke, in returning thanks, praised the agricultural labourers of England. Everybody drank everybody's health, and the evening was spent in all the amenities of convivial hilarity."

At this convivial festivity a noble speaker seized the opportunity of declaring that "the agricultural labourers were the main stay of the country," and from his own experience testified to not only their "bravery and devotedness to their officers in war, but to their fidelity to their employers in peace"; which last, permit us to add, is rather queerly exhibited just now in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and some other counties, as accounts of Stack and Barn burning weekly inserted in our columns abundantly testify!

On this the *Times* says:—"Yes! the agricultural labourer *is* the mainstay of the country," and then adds:—"But softly, Peers and Gentlemen. Fine words butter no parsnips. It is well for you, dilated with the choicest viands of a Smithfield Cattle Club, to think of the un-dining or half-dining rustic; to tell him that he is the mainstay of the country; that he must improve his mind by learning chemistry, and study the effects of guano and subsoil-ploughing. But, gentlemen agriculturists, just call to your recollection what sort of a being your smock-frocked co-labourer is. He is a creature of like appetite with yourselves, but far less means of gratifying it—seldom tasting the fat kine which it is his privilege to tend—and often rearing a large brood of bucolic children on 8s. or 9s. a week, of which he pays 1s. 6d. for the rent of a scarcely habitable hovel. He is liable like yourselves to sickness and accidents; but when these overtake him, unlike you, he is subject to the evils of want, debt, and distress.

"Doubtless, he is deeply indebted to you for your eulogium. He has a pride of his own, poor though he be; and he likes to be called the 'mainstay of the country,' for he is persuaded that it must signify something very grand. He is not insensible to the flattery of squires and lords; and he is half delighted, half-puzzled, when he learns through a provincial newspaper that his health has been drunk by implication. But, for all this, we believe that his sense of obligation would be increased—that he would be more grateful—did you extend your kindness beyond the delicate bounds of compliments and toasts—did you individually take that interest in his physical weal which you collectively exhibit in maintaining his generic dignity, and in improving his intellectual state. Let him be comfortably housed, and competently paid. Look to his hut and his wages. Render the one habitable, and the other adequate. Make him contented; and do all you can to induce others to follow your example. Let him feel that his happiness is not uncared for by his superiors. Do not let him be half-starved; and then tell him he is the pride of his country, for this sounds too much like mockery; but feed him—not indeed as you feed your prize-cattle, for that would be unwholesome—but feed him well, and then praise him, if you like. A man who is the mainstay of anything at all, should have calves that do not shrink from inspection, and sinews somewhat stouter than a weaver's."

Amen! most devoutly say we. Yes, Lords and Gentlemen of England, ye will do well to take the advice of the *Times*, and tread in the footsteps of LORD ASHLEY. If you do so, well will it be for yourselves! If you do not, *on your heads be the awful responsibility of coming scenes which the present "signs of the times,"* LIGHTED UP BY THE INCENDIARY'S TORCH, RENDER BUT TOO VISIBLE IN THE DISTANCE! You will say, perhaps, that you remember the fires of 1830-31, and that you crushed SWING by a "Special Commission;" and that, if need be, what you have tried before, you will try again; that rule you will by soldiers and rural police. *If you think thus, Lords and Gentlemen,* you deceive yourselves! You have a very different state of things now to meet to what you had in 1830 31; and even then you did not succeed in crushing SWING until you had raised the wages of the labourers! THEIR WAGES WERE RAISED!! More *than a million of money passed through their hands*, in consequence of the additions made to their incomes. But those "additions" have disappeared! and much, too, of the original sum!! The New Poor Law Act was not passed for nothing! The wages of labour *have been got at!* O, Lords and Gentlemen, be not deceived! The times are *much different* from what they were in 1830-31. Misery has advanced with giant strides since then—a misery wide spread, which makes not a few, but myriads of men, sympathise and act together. Forget not the "Manchester Insurrection." Bear in mind that if you have not a Reform-Bill-agitation to meet, you have something worse—a rebellion smouldering in Wales, and Ireland engaged in a struggle, the issue of which has yet to be seen! Besides, more than three millions of British Chartists, determined, sooner or later, whenever opportunity offers, to wrest from you the rights you have denied to their mocked-at-petitions. Remember, too, that every additional soldier is an additional embarrassment to the Government; and every additional policeman an additional drain upon the pockets of the farmers and shopkeepers: hence more taxes and lower wages. Thus is the evil aggravated instead of cured; and every additional pound spent in support of the system drives another nail into its fast-preparing coffin. Again we say to the property-holders, mistake not the signs of the times. The incendiary's torch has ever been the precursor of the storm of anarchy, lighting the way for the demons of civil discord and revolutionary strife. *We are not for these!* We are for peaceful and progressive reforms. We therefore say, *treat the labourer as he has a right to be treated*, if he be, as he is, "the main stay of the country"! Beware how you snap the last thread that binds him to you! Invest him with the franchise of a citizen; and thus give him a stake in the institutions of the country. Treat him AS A MAN, having the same wants, feelings, and passions as yourselves; and he will see his interest,—not in blazing farm yards and in destroying the food sent FOR ALL,—but in the conservation of his neighbours' property, as the best guarantee for the protection of his own. If ye do this, Lords and Gentlemen, ye do well! If not; if to these warnings you turn an eye that will be blinded—an ear that will be deaf—and a heart that will not feel, then, depend upon it the day of retribution will come, and come quickly.

STATE OF SPAIN.
DISCOVERY OF AN INFERNAL MACHINE AT BARCELONA.
A WARNING TO TYRANTS.

UNHAPPY Spain continues to be the theatre of intrigues of the most villanous and detestable character. Our paper of last week contained a full account of the unparalleled plot which resulted in the fall of OLOZAGA and the installation of the GONZALES BRAVO Cabinet. Surely a country was never so degraded, so miserably fallen, as is modern Spain. Torrents of blood have been shed in the name of liberty, which is apparently but little nearer realization than it was at the outset of the struggle. Father has been arrayed against son, and brother against brother, in years of civil strife and sickening slaughter; and what has resulted? The triumph of a set of military scoundrels, usurious speculators, and mean-souled tricksters, who prate about "Queen," "Constitution," and "Liberal Institutions," till the heart of an honest man heaves to vomiting at their unblushing Charlatanism. These fellows care not two straws for the poor thing called the "Queen," whose name they use in all their dirty intrigues, by way of covering their cowardly carcases from the popular vengeance due to their manifold acts of baseness and villany. As to their "Constitution" and "Liberal Institutions," God save even the savages of New Holland from the infliction of such calamities as these same "Constitution" and "Institutions" would bring upon them. If the Revolution crushed the power of the priesthood, it raised up the power of the money-jugglers instead; and since the deposition of ESPARTERO, priestcraft is again in the ascendant: thus a trinity in unity of Devils,—the *usurer*, the *priest*, and the *soldier*,—now rule Spain. The horrors of such a rule may be imagined, but no pen could do justice to the subject.

As to OLOZAGA and his enemies, it is about six of one and half-a-dozen of the other. ESPARTERO, with all his faults, was the best man Spanish Revolutions have turned up yet, and against him this same OLOZAGA most basely conspired; no doubt paid well for his work by that spotless specimen of Queenly purity MARIA CHRISTINA. As the reward of his treachery, our readers will remember he got him*self decorated with the "Golden Fleece,"* and the appointment of the ambassadorship to Paris; from whence he returned, primed with instructions from LOUIS PHILIPPE and MRS. MUNOZ.

LOPEZ, the late Prime Minister, with the instinct common to all *rats*, finding himself in a house not likely to stand very long, threw up his connection with the firm of LOUIS PHILIPPE, MUNOZ, NARVAEZ, and Co., and resolutely refused to have any further connection with them; upon which the Knight of the "Golden Fleece" was "called in." In accordance with his previously base character, he entered into certain terms with the Moderados, having not the least intention of fulfilling the agreement; and to do them (the Moderados) justice, they had as little idea of acting in good faith towards him; OLOZAGA being jealous and fearful of NARVAEZ, and NARVAEZ and Co. being determined to ruin him. Accordingly the two parties set to work, in what was "a labour of love"—mutual treachery. OLOZAGA got the decree from the Queen for the dissolution of the Cortes, which he calculated would place his friends the Moderados under his thumb. *They* aware of this, went a shorter way to work, had him (OLOZAGA) kicked out neck and crop, and then "enthroning a lie," (as the *Times* says) got him charged upon royal authority with something like high treason; putting even his life in danger, or if he would save himself, rendering it imperative on him to prove Royalty a liar, and thus "desecrate the Monarchy," and for ever ruin himself with his "Illustrious Mistress"!

Take the following pretty picture of this Charlatan drawn by the able hand of the correspondent of the *Times*. It is unique:—

"Thus stands the case.—Senor Olozaga, beseeching, threatening, pleading, weeping, pouring forth floods of diplomatic eloquence in the Congress, 'ready to lay down his life' to humble the Camarilla; ready to give away worlds of Prime Ministries that the Exaltados should think him an honest man, and forget that he betrayed the confiding Regent by the disclosure of pretended secrets, forming a coalition, and declaring war against him for a plot to dethrone the Queen and assassinate its leaders. His famous defiance and war-cry in the Chamber last May,—'Let the assassins come?' would have been worth a palace to him yesterday, when he had to insinuate that if Narvaez threw him into prison he should never be allowed to leave it alive; but the rules of eloquence forbid tautology especially where the repetition would recal the *mauvaise odeur* of an exploded humbug; so that now, when the orator is really in some danger, he is self-condemned, by his previous prodigality of voice, 'to roar like a sucking nightingale.'"

After what we have said, not one of our readers will mistake this OLOZAGA for a "patriot." The "devil-a-bit" of patriotism is there to be found amongst the whole gang. We doubt if DIOGENES with his lanthorn could find even one honest man in the entire Cortes. Unless it were some of the French assemblies, we doubt if a worse gang of usurers, hypocrites, and assassins were ever congregated together. Unhappy Spain! to be ruled by such miscreants as these. With an ignorant bad-hearted child upon the throne, and cut-throats and plunderers in the national councils, what wonder that all is desolation and despair thoughout the sunny clime of beauty, where nature has lavished every good that could make man happy; but where demons,—in the shape of priests, brigands, and usurers,—have turned every blessing into a curse, and made an Acaldema where, but for them, *all would have been a Paradise!*

As for the Monarchy it requires no "second sight" to see that *its* days are numbered. *That* portion of the "liberal institutions" of Spain, lately so much vaunted, is doomed to a speedy extinction; and God send the establishment of THE PEOPLE'S SOVEREIGNTY upon its ruins! Hear how the *Times*,—that ardent supporter of rotten ANTIQUITY, sounds the mournful peal over the expiring throes of the Spanish Monarchy:—

"The palaces of Spain have witnessed strange scenes of mystery and crime, bad plots of state-craft, and all the hideous combinations of decaying royalty, of monkish bigotry, and of Ministerial profligacy. Hereafter, when their ruined walls, already stripped of their ancient magnificence, are laid bare to the devastating elements—not more devastating than the plundering audacity of such a Court, and the rising frenzy of such a people—they will be explored as spots equally memorable to mankind for the glory of their past history, and for the tremendous retribution which has since fallen upon them."

The *Times* adds: "We can only look forward to approaching events with the gloomiest forebodings." Yes, reader, there will be serious tales to tell speedily of Spanish affairs. Agents are said to have been despatched to the provinces to get up new *pronunciamentos* against "the Military Cabinet and Camarilla." The *Eco del Comercio*, the most influential journal in Spain, the paper which mainly excited the coalition against ESPARTERO, declares it is more Progressista than ever, and has taken for its new motto—"Ourselves or the Moderados. No compromise! No more humbug! God repented that he had made man, and we have lived to repent that we originated the coalition!" The same paper says:—"The country must prepare for great events. We implore the Opposition to hasten to appease the public anxiety by the Parliamentary means they can dispose of. Revolution is roaring: the nation is alarmed, and every day discontent will increase in the great masses who have sacrificed their interest for freedom."

"No more humbug" says the organ of the *Progresistas*. God grant it! is our response; though we have fears that the days of intrigue and treachery are not ended even in Spain. But still there is ground for *hope!* "Humbug" may be tried too long and *too oft!* "Discontent" is, in the end produced; and the masses, seeing the true nature and worth of the *factions* who seek to use them for the establishment of tyrannous rule and power, *determine* that the "sacrifices" they have made "for freedom" shall not be lost or thrown away! Then away goes the whole crew of "humbuggers" into nothingness. Then is established the "SOVEREIGN rule of the people;" and then are the interests *of the whole* cared for and attended to, *for their own sake*, and not for the effect they will have in strengthening or weakening the hands of party or class.

There is reason to conclude that this will be the course of things in Spain. Though intrigue and treachery have hitherto prevented the "masses" that have made "sacrifices" "for freedom," from enjoying the blessings and benefits of true liberty, yet they have not *subdued* the spirit of the Spanish people; and, in the words of the *Eco*, "the country must prepare for GREAT events."

In a recent number of the *Star*, we gave an account of the "preparations" made by the insurgent people of Barcelona to defend their city from the assaults of the Legitimatist army. We then told of the "defences within defences"; of the "triple-barricaded streets"; of the "deep trenches and open sewers"; and of the "houses filled with earth and stones, thus rendered cannon-proof, and incapable of affording shelter to the besieging army. We also referred with admiration to the heroic devotedness of the Barcelonese, who had maintained their stand against aggressive oppression, until their means were wholly exhausted, they being reduced to their last 300 dollars; and having only some 100lbs. of gunpowder left. But it now turns out that the world was not fully aware of *all* the "preparations" that had been made. Something new in the way of *defence* and riddance has been devised by the insurgent people. In addition to the protection afforded to them, by the triple-barricades, the deep trenches, and the cannon-proof houses; *in addition to the use of the* cannon, the rocket, the musket, and the sword, a plan had been arranged, by which, should it so happen that the ordinary defences all failed, and the city thus fall into the hands of the

"Hired bravos who defend a throne,"

the Barcelonese and the world would speedily have been ridded of their presence and power. After having made all due preparation to defend themselves from "storm," and prevent their city from being "carried by assault," the Insurgent people had also prepared *for the worst*, in case their other measures were not sufficient, and the chance of war should be against them. This last preparation was the manufacture of

A REAL INFERNAL MACHINE,

which, had the arrangements all been perfect, would have sent the assailing army out of the city, and even out of existence much sooner than they entered into either!

The following is a description of the "preparation" for this purpose made. In it an attempt was made to bring the later discoveries of science to bear; and though we think the arrangement detailed below *ineffective* yet the *idea* of so employing the powers of chemistry and galvanism, will not be lost to the world. We shall hereafter, if WAR continues to ravage the fair face of the earth, often hear of mines being sprung by the simple expedient of bringing the ends of two wires, miles long even, into contact with a number of little plates of dissimilar metals, immersed in a little diluted acid: and to this safe and successful mode of "defending" not only a town or city itself, but even the *approaches* to such town or city, will the world be indebted to the brave Barcelonese who rose in "Rebellion" against "Legislative" authority, and turned the power of the sword against those who ruled by the sword.

The following letter from an officer stationed at Barcelona, appeared in the *Espectador*, a Madrid paper, of December 6th:—

"Barcelona, Nov. 26.

"My dear Friend,—Providence has preserved the army! A horrid plot has been discovered to blow up our troops, as well as the Cathedral, if we should have attempted to take the city by assault. We learned from one of the *jamancia* who had entered our ranks lately, that they had buried a number of barrels of powder *outside* the walls in the roads and paths by which the assaults were expected, with wires inserted to discharge them by means of electricity, according to the new infernal plan employed in France and England to blow up the hills which stand in the way of the railroads they are constructing.

"The General, knowing that I understand something about these matters, sent me at night with an escort in search of the powder; and after plenty of perspiration, cold and hot, from fear and hard work, we succeded in turning up thirteen barrels of it, buried in as many approaches, under heaps of stones; each disposed so as to have blown up a battalion at a time. We were in some danger, I assure you, for the wires were still in the powder, and stretched away to the city walls, as we judged from the direction of each; buried as they were two or three inches under ground all the way into the town, to prevent them being stumbled on by passengers. This is certainly the invention of some of those cursed French Republicans whom they had in the city, fomenting the rebellion; for such an idea would never have entered into the heads of the brutal *jamancieros* (*i.e.* the mob of the Plaza San Jaime).

"In each barrel we found two copper wires, tied with thread at each side of a thick cork, to keep them at a proper distance until they entered the powder, where the electric spark was to pass from one to the other, and inflame the powder lying between. The ends of the wires were bent over the bottom of the cork, so as to approach within about the fifth part of an inch, and the wires ended in a little ball of solder, without doubt to produce a stronger spark. But this was not all. Lest the spark should pass harmlessly between two coarse grains of their cannon powder, these villains had introduced each cork with its wires into a little wide-mouthed bottle full of fine priming powder, that could not have escaped *ignition* with the slightest spark. I am sure that they were French toilet bottles, for one of them still bore a label with the word '*creme.*' One of the wires, covered with pitch, led off to the city under the surface, as I said before, and the other, a short end, hung out of the barrel into the damp earth to complete the electric circuit.

"When the thirteenth barrel was raised, I broke off the wire to make all safe, and followed its course to the nearest wall, tearing it up, little by little, till I found it passed through a loophole into an adjoining garden, and at last into a cellar (altogether about five hundred yards of copper wire). There we found the infernal electrical machine itself, hidden in a corner and covered with a heap of straw. The machine was nothing after all but a common black wine bottle, mounted in an old cigar box. A crooked stick in the bottle's mouth served for a handle to make it revolve in its position. On one side they had nailed a dirty doeskin glove with some amalgam of solder in the palm, and, on the other, an old snuff-cannister, which served for the prime conductor, and the bottle spun about between both.

"Never did I see such a ridiculous looking apparatus, or one contrived to do mischief so quietly! I assure you that it had more the appearance of a child's toy than an electrical battery; but, on turning the bottle by the aid of the little crooked stick, to try if it was in action, I received a spark on my knuckles sufficient to inflame a barrel of powder a mile off, and blow a regiment to pieces.

"This is without doubt the great secret with which those savages boasted that they would astonish the world, if we drove them to extremity.

"That which most surprised me was to find this infernal machine in such good working order, in spite of the dampness of the vault in which it lay; but, on overhauling the old cigar-box, I found in the bottom, instead of cigars, damp lumps of something like salt, which I afterwards showed to an apothecary, and which he said was a preparation used by chemists for drying the air in their apparatus, as it absorbs all the humidity of the place in which they enclose it. This composition he says, is formed by dissolving lime in muriatic acid, and afterwards driving off the liquid by a red heat in a crucible.

"From what the *jamancio*, to whom we owe this discovery, said, we conclude that the author of this infernal project is some democrat disciple of Fieschi and Co., who is now strolling amongst the *pueblos* of the Ampurdam, instructing the mountaineers in these and other means of destruction for the troops! But we confide in the care of Providence that watches over the safety of our valiant army."

The piety and patriotism of the writer of this letter is truly laughable. "*Providence has preserved the army!*" Very kind of Providence; but if Providence would "preserve" the people of Spain and every other nation from the curse of armies, such preservation would be infinitely better calculated to excite *our* pious thanksgivings! "A horrid plot has been discovered to blow up the troops," O, dear! but not a word about these same troops *blowing down* one half of Barcelona, and blowing to destruction their own countrymen and kinsmen! No, no; that's perfectly right—that's all in support of the "right divine" of little ISABELLA, and the right by *blood* of Messrs. NARVAEZ, PRIM, and Co. And mark, too: this "horrid plot" was only to have been put into execution in the event of "the troops" attempting "to take the city by assault"; *i.e.*, to commit wholesale massacre, arson, rape, and plunder, dooming an entire city to worse horrors than even the fiends of perdition could possibly conceive. That's the meaning of taking places by "assault"—the storming of Badajoz, for instance. We ask all honest men whether the parties threatened with such horrors were not justified in preparing to defend themselves, no matter at what cost to their assailants? We think they were; and our fervent prayer is, that wherever the people are so threatened, that they may know the means of destroying their oppressors, and have no qualms of conscience about using them.

It appears that it is the "cursed French Republicans" who have the credit of preparing this "horrid plot." O, those rascally French Jacobins, from the days of the "Sublime and Beautiful" BURKE, down to those of the elegant writer of the above letter! They have been constantly employed in throwing tyrants and their tools into sweats, both "hot and cold," by their untiring machinations against thrones and privileges. But, Heaven be praised, the "age of chivalry" is not yet "gone!" We can still find heroes such as the writer of the above letter, bravely going forth to encounter sweats, "hot and cold," in discovering the "horrid plots" of the modern fiery dragons!

Of course the poor Barcelonese are bountifully abused by this licensed cut-throat; and called "brutal mob," "villains," "savages," &c. &c. This we are not surprised at, the writer evidently sweats both "hot and cold" at the prospect before him: for although saved from being blowed-up at Barcelona, he has his misgivings that the concoctors of this horrid plot are strolling amongst the *pueblos* of the Ampurdam, "instructing the mountaineers in these and other means of destruction for the troops." "But," he adds very piously, "we confide in the care of Providence, that watches over the safety of our valiant (!) army." Alas for the human race, when legalized man-butchers have the *blasphemous* assurance to talk about Providence watching over their safety, and priests stand by and approve the horrid impiety! Alas for the millions, when they tolerate such villany, instead of—as they ought to do—trampling in the dust the foul-mouthed miscreants who thus cozen and consume them!

We have entered into the particulars of this "plot," first, because it is a lesson for the people; and, secondly, for their rulers. The people of this country are fortunately so situated as to be able to obtain the reforms they seek by moral means; and our rulers are so enlightened and humane that there is no fear that the people of England will ever be driven to the like extremities. Still the above is a lesson. It shows what means other nations, not so fortunately situated as we are, are sometimes driven to in defence of their lives their honour and their liberties. And seeing what others have to do, the people of this country should thereby be stimulated, not to the employment of like perilous means, but to the zealous carrying out of those peaceful measures in obtainment of their rights which will most assuredly succeed if only honestly and efficiently tried. To the rulers of nations this "FIESCHI scheme" is a lesson full of fearful meaning. No matter how clumsy, how inefficient, the apparatus above described: it is the *idea of the thing* that is calculated to do the mischief. What was concocted at Barcelona may be concocted elsewhere. What was *not* put into execution there, may be really tried in some other part of Europe. It tells a tale ominous to the future stability of all power having for its basis the support only of troops and cannon. It tells that the mighty powers of science are now known to more than the privileged few; that those powers are no longer secrets, dark and mysterious to the masses; and that knowing of these heretofore secrets, there is a great probability that the millions will not always suffer themselves to be mowed down like grass, *but will yet some day turn these dreadful* powers against their oppressors.

Some of our readers may remember that about three years ago, the *Times* contained an account of an alleged discovery made by a Mr. WARNER, applicable to naval and military conflicts. It was stated that a vessel of immense strength was blown into ten thousand fragments in an instant, by the explosion of some preparation *which was contained in a package not larger than a small wallet or portmanteau, and which could be carried under a man's arm or packed in the seat of a gig!* Lord INGESTRE, SIR GEORGE MURRAY, SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, and several others witnessed these experiments; and testified in the House of Commons to the truth of the above statement, and their unqualified opinion that the power was fully adequate to effect the terrific ends proposed by the inventor. Now, suppose anything of the sort employed by an Insurgent people, even the simple contrivance of the Barcelonese, which, with the proper agencies, would produce the most awful results, of what use would be infantry, cavalry, artillery, and all the munitions of murderous war directed against such a power!—a power which would sweep thousands to destruction at one blow! Let all those who trample on the rights of man think of *that!* God speed the triumph of science. Its secrets once imparted to the masses, war will be made too costly for even the war-mongers. The bayonet-propped thrones of tyranny will totter and fall; and man, redeemed by knowledge, will trample down the fiend that has so long misled and scourged him—that for centuries has deluged this earth with blood and tears.

THE BOILER-BLOWING-UP ALDERMAN!

IT seems, at last, that we are to have some inquiry into *one* of the allegations, connected with the strike of 1842, attributing the concoction and planning of the "Insurrection" to the League. That inquiry ought to have been instituted long ago; and if the Leaders of the League had not been *afraid* they would have INSISTED on it, that the challenge given them to have such *inquiry* should be accepted. Instead, however, of *insisting*, they contented themselves with a very poor and paltry attempt to attribute the strike to the *teachings* of the *Standard*, and the Tory incendiaries! A greater proof of *conscious guilt* could not have been furnished.

One fact, or rather one alleged fact,—that relating to the conduct of an Alderman of Leeds,—the Boiler Blowing-up affair,—is at last in a fair way of being *bottomed*. The readers of the *Star* will recollect that at the Soiree lately given in Leeds, in honour of the Chartist triumph at the Leeds Municipal Elections, Mr. HOBSON related a circumstance that had come to his knowledge, by which the conduct of a certain member of the Corporation was seriously called in question. An attempt was soon after made by a Mr. Alderman BATESON to *flabergast the public in relation to the affair*, by *leading it* to infer that the accusation was all *hum*; and that Mr. HOBSON had sneakingly evaded and shrunk from his charge, His weak nerves were, however, doomed to experience a rude shock. He was soon let know that the charge was not "shrunk" from; and his pitiful attempt to mislead the public, was fully and fearlessly exposed.

And what was then left undone has since been most satisfactorily accomplished: satisfactorily, we hope, even for Alderman BATESON himself! What *was* merely a *local* "squabble," confined to the columns of the *Northern Star* and the *Leeds Mercury*, has *now* become an object of NATIONAL INTEREST: and all the attempts to blink inquiry, of whatever nature, will *now* assuredly fail! We trust Alderman BATESON likes his position. We dare answer for it that Mr. HOBSON does.

The *Standard* of Monday last, in an article, respecting the League and the incendiary fires, took occasion to instance the statement of Mr. HOBSON, as it appeared in the *Northern Star*, quoting it, however, from the *Leeds Mercury*, and designating it as "manly, plain, and distinct" He also represented that Mr. HOBSON was "an Alderman of the town for Holbeck Ward."

The publication of Mr. HOBSON's statement in the *Standard*, called forth the *Morning Chronicle* the next day, who tried to rescue his friends the *Leaguing* Whigs, and especially *the* Leeds Alderman, in the following fashion:—

"The publisher of the *Northern Star* is a member of the Municipal Council of Leeds, and some time ago he made a speech, containing a charge against an Alderman of Leeds, of which the following is the substance. He charged this Alderman (whom he did not name, but marked out as having been on the Watch Committee) with having been cognizant of the great strike or turn-out of 1842, a fortnight before it took place, and as having been in communication with an individual, in order to get the turn-out workmen to 'draw the plugs' and 'blow up the boilers,' throughout Leeds. Of the truth of this charge the *publisher of the Northern Star declared* that he had in his own possession full and ample proof—*written proof*. The only alderman who had been on the Watch Committee in 1842, naturally feeling that he must be the individual aimed at, promptly applied to his accuser, offering in any way to shelter him from all legal consequences, provided the slander were thoroughly probed, and the slanderer got at. But, no; after the usual amount of shuffling and evasion, the courageous Chartist sneaked out of the matter by a sulky refusal to give the slightest explanation or satisfaction. The correspondence appeared in the *Leeds Mercury* yet the *Standard*, with a parade of accuracy, copies and repeats the slanderous accusation, without the slightest notice of the ample refutation and exposure which it had received. Nor is it altogether unworthy of notice that, in order to hide from its own readers the fact, that it was drawing from the muddy fountain of the *Northern Star*, it elevates the publisher of O'Connor's paper to the post of alderman, terms his accusation "manly, plain, and "distinct;" and assures its readers that "*no attempt has been made to contradict it by the parties interested!*"

It happened, fortunately, that Mr. HOBSON was in London at the time these publications took place. He therefore promptly replied to the *Morning Chronicle* as below:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING CHRONICLE.

SIR,—A friend of mine, with whom I am staying for a few days "in town," has just put into my hands your journal of this day. From it I learn that a statement of mine, affecting one of the aldermen of Leeds, has been copied into the *Standard* of yesterday; and that *you* have vouchsafed certain explanations of that statement, several of which are incorrect. I therefore trouble you with this, *my* explanation, that the real facts may be known.

The simple truth of the whole affair is just this:—Some weeks ago, at a large public meeting in the town of Leeds, I took occasion to relate a circumstance that had come under my observation, with reference to the STRIKE of 1842, which seriously implicated the conduct of an alderman of Leeds, the said alderman being a well-known Whig, a member of the Anti-Corn-Law League, and once a member of the Watch Committee of the Common Council of Leeds.

That circumstance was, *that in the month of* February, 1843, I received a certain letter from a Member of the House of Commons, enclosed in a note *to myself, desiring me to make the following* inquiries:—

1. Whether such a person as the one represented to be the writer existed; and

2. Whether, if there was such a person, he was prepared to maintain the truth of his statements; and, further, whether he was worthy of credence.

The reason assigned by the Member of Parliament for wishing these inquiries to be made was, that he *was fearful the letter* was a hoax, intended to lead him into error.

That the said letter purported to be written by a master machine-maker in Leeds, name and address being given.

That the writer averred that some fortnight before the strike occurred an Alderman of Leeds, whose name was mentioned, sent for him (the writer) and informed him that a general strike would in a short time take place; that when it reached Leeds, he would greatly serve the cause if he would turn the men employed in his machine-shop out, with a hint to draw the plugs of the boilers; that as the men were mechanics, they would be useful in teaching others how to draw the plugs; and that they would also, if it were needful, know how to blow the boilers up.

These statements were said to be made voluntarily, and from just and patriotic motives; and the writer declared his readiness to make oath as to their truth at the bar of the House of Commons.

That in accordance with the request to me I ascertained—

1. That there was a master machine maker of the name and place set forth in the letter; and

2. That he bore a character for fair dealing, probity, and honour.

That I then sent for the gentleman himself, put the letter into his hand, and asked him if he was the writer; and received for answer that he was.

That I then inquired, if he was ready to maintain the truth of the allegation made in it, and was answered that he was, before any tribunal in the kingdom.

That I communicated the result of my inquiries to the member of Parliament who had desired me to make them; and understood that he rose several times in the house with the said letter in his hands, on the debate concerning the conduct of the magistrates in the month during the strike, intending to make use of the alleged facts, but was not *fortunate* enough to catch the Speaker's eye.

That letter is still in existence in the possession of the said member of Parliament, and is ready to be produced when called for.

It true that when the report of my speech appeared, a certain alderman of Leeds wrote to ask me whether the statement referred to him or not.

That I returned him for answer that I held myself in readiness to state the whole facts of the case, names and all, to any one who fancied himself implicated, provided I received a guarantee that no legal advantage would be taken of me for so doing.

That after two days' consideration the said alderman forwarded a sort of guarantee full of reservations and provisos.

That I represented this fact to him; and desired him to make the guarantee a plain and simple one, to the effect that no legal advantage would be taken, and he should immediately be put in possession of the whole case.

That instead of replying to my letter, and forwarding such simple guarantee, he printed the correspondence accompanied by a lengthy explanation of his own, in which he endeavoured to show that I had "shuffled and evaded" his question.

That he sent the said correspondence and explanation to press without apprising me of his intention, or giving me any opportunity to explain also.

That though the statement of which he complained appeared only in a journal conducted by myself, he did not send the correspondence and explanation to me for publication, but confined them to papers in which the statement had not appeared.

That within twelve hours of the appearance of the Alderman's statement in the *Leeds Mercury* newspaper, the walls of the town of Leeds bore ample testimony that I had not "*sneaked out of the matter by a sulky refusal to give the slightest explanation or satisfaction;*" but that I had again, under my own hand, in a placard printed at my own press, restated the whole matter; and again offered to give up the names of all parties concerned, to the Alderman who had sought the information, if he would furnish me with the simple guarantee required; and also offered to afford that explanation *without guarantee*, if asked for in the Council Chamber of the Leeds Town Council.

That I further invited him to pursue the inquiry, averring that all attempts to stifle it should fail: for if he declined to seek such explanation in the Council Chamber, *other persons would take the matter up*, and *the explanation should be had.*

That on the 1st day of January next, an adjourned meeting of the Council will be holden, at which I shall hold myself in readiness to furnish all explanation to any one who may ask for it; and that, if no one else introduces the subject, I shall, by moving for the appointment of a committee to "*bottom*" the whole affair.

This simple statement of facts will show you that you are wrong in the statements in your article of to-day, that I had "shuffled," "evaded," and "sneaked out of the matter, by a sulky refusal to give the slightest explanation or satisfaction;" and that "the slanderous accusation had received ample refutation and exposure." *These statements cannot be true;* for I have always been ready to afford all explanation; have courted inquiry; and am determined to force it on. I also apprehend that no "refutation" can be given until inquiry is had.

On one point you are right. I am *not* an alderman of Leeds. I am simply a Councillor, being chosen such by an overwhelming majority of the suffrages of the largest ward of the borough.

I am, Sir, your's respectfully,
JOSHUA HOBSON.

Walcot-square, Dec. 19.

This letter the *Chronicle* inserted. It appeared the very next day to his statement that Mr. HOBSON had "*sneaked* out of the matter"; and it was accompanied by the following note:—

"We know nothing of the matter whatever, except from a perusal of the correspondence published in the *Leeds Mercury*, which certainly was anything but favourable to Mr. Hobson. The frank and open style of the foregoing letter induces us to hope that, for the sake of his own credit, he will follow the matter up, and give the public the means of ascertaining what truth may be in the *Star*.—ED. *M. C.*"

To this it is scarcely necessary to add a single word. The statement in Mr. HOBSON's letter to the *Chronicle* is so full and complete; and withal so *plain*, that nothing more remains to be done at present. The line of conduct in connection with the matter is also so well pointed out, that we have only to direct attention to the next meeting of the Leeds Town Council for further explanations, promising that the public shall be made acquainted with what there transpires. We trust that ALDERMAN BATESON will be the *first* to moot the question THERE, as he was the first to "suppose" that the charge referred to him.

"The Condition of England Question."

"Laws grind the poor, and rich men rule the law."

CONTINUATION OF THE ENQUIRY AT THE BIRMINGHAM WORKHOUSE.

Owing to the pressure of Assize news and the necessity of giving several important articles which will be found in to-day's paper, we are unable to publish more than the general heads of the continuation of this enquiry, which occupies five closely printed columns of the *Birmingham Advertiser*, to which we have been indebted for the reports of this case which have appeared in our columns.

THURSDAY, DEC. 7.—At ten o'clock this morning, several members of the House Committee were assembled, and the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, on taking his seat, said he would receive the evidence of any persons the Governor wished to have examined, or any statement he might desire to put in answer to the four charges.

Mr Francis Mole, Solicitor, who again attended on behalf of the Governor, said there were three or four witnesses to be examined.

William Mountford, an inmate of the Birmingham Workhouse, whose duty it is to enter the names of tramps in a book, was first called and examined.

This witness's evidence amounted to something like nothing at all. He did not know that any person had ever been confined in the black hole!

Elizabeth Brunton, nurse, and Sarah Hall, an inmate of the workhouse, were then examined; their evidence was intended to break down that of the boy Roper, but on cross-examination by the Commissioner, the latter witness confirmed the main part of the boy's statement.

The Rev. George Holt, Chaplain of the Workhouse, was called and examined by Mr. Mole. The Rev. Gentleman was under examination for a long time, but no evidence was elicited with respect to the charges under inquiry. He spoke favourably of the treatment the paupers received from the Governor and Matron!

At the conclusion of the examination of the Chaplain, Mr. Mole read and then handed over the following statement from Mr. Hirst, the Governor:—

THE GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT.

Birmingham, Dec. 7, 1843.

With regard to the four men in the tramp-room so long, I beg to add to my former statement that I am precluded by that portion of the printed Rules called "Duties of the Governor of the Workhouse," No. 25, from purchasing or procuring any articles for the use of the Workhouse, or paying any money on account of the Workhouse, or of the parish, without the order of the House Committee, entered in a book, to be called the "order-book," to be provided for that purpose; and that having informed this Committee at their first meeting, after the entrance of these tramps of their state, I considered it impossible for myself more fully and entirely to have attended to or performed my duties.

The evidence of the carpenter who prepared the black-hole as a tramp-room, proves that it was used for its new purpose the first night afterwards, and the practice of using it upon any requisite occasion has continued ever since.

The boy, Thomas Roper, was brought into the House under order No. 3,580, and reported, as sworn to by Sarah Roper, his mother, as a very bad boy, who would not go to work. The mother said he was to pound pot.

William Cloves took the boy from the kitchen, and he was afterwards put into the hole by John Fair, without any directions whatever; neither the Matron nor myself saw John Fair or spoke to him.

The following morning the boy was removed. Mrs. Hirst gave the directions to the schoolmaster to have him washed out and put into bed, which was the usual course; and there is no doubt he was dressed and came into the school room as soon as his clothes were dry. The death of the schoolmaster has created a difficulty in proving this fact, but there is no reason why he should have been differently treated to other children on coming into the House, and it is quite certain he was treated as other boys are.

It is not likely a boy of his heavy, dull disposition, can recollect day by day what occurred two months since, either as to the food he had on each day, or where he was on the day of admission, the 13th of October. He is entered No. 14 in the tramp-book, and his name does not appear in the list on the 12th or any subsequent day; but on the 12th he appears discharged from the tramp-room with the rest, and no doubt was then washed out by the schoolmaster, as before stated; for it is the usual and invariable custom to write the names of all persons in the tramp-book each day the tramps remain in the rooms, if they remain in more than one day, adding to them the words, "here from yesterday." Tramps may be returned as such in the tramp-book, and yet be admitted into the House; that is, at the time they are in the tramp room they have food the same as those in the House, and not the regular tramp-room food; or even sick diet is allowed to them, if ordered.

The evidence of the different witnesses as to Roper is so very opposite and conflicting, that I am sure the boy is wrong in what he says, and the greater part of Mrs. Roper's evidence is simply what she has heard from him.

Harriet Rodder was placed in the female tramp-room for the purpose, she states, to separate her from Ann Morris. They had been quarrelling, and when I entered the room they were quarrelling. Harriet Rodder was very violent, in order to avoid which the removal took place, having no room provided me to place quarrelsome persons in; and it is by no means unusual for the Guardians to send parties by admission into the tramp-room. See an order of admission, No. 3,069.

(COPY.)

"*To the Governor of the Workhouse.*

"Admit Mary Whitehouse, 34 years, belonging to, supposed, Aston, and provide her according to the regulations of the Guardians.

"By Order of the Relief Committee,
"GEORGE RYDER.

"From District No. 4, Report No. 3,069.
("In tramp-room.)

"This note is to be in force during six days from the 8th day of November, 1843.

Harriet Rodder had no work, nor any punishment, while she was in the tramp-room; her food was not altered in consequence, and she was comfortably provided for. I did not know of her disease, and she never complained, but appeared to be glad to be so separated from Ann Morris. I consider it was the duty of the surgeon to have informed me of the impropriety of Harriet Rodder being placed there, if any existed, on account of her disease, and he did not, as he admits in his evidence.

The door of the tramp-room was open, as she states, the whole time she was there, and she could be in and out of the room as she pleased; and no other motive actuated me in this but to separate the two quarrelling parties, which, as Governor, it appeared my duty to do.

Thomas Bates used the most improper language, was very violent and abusive, and, in my opinion, under temporary derangement. He has (I am informed it is well known) been an idiot from birth; and at the time he was given into the custody of Weare, had Weare made any objection to the care of him, as desired by Mrs. Hirst, she could not have required him to treat Bates as he did; such was his state at the time, that it was quite impossible he could be at large; and Weare stated to the House Committee that he never saw a man more violent; and there is no doubt the violence would have continued had he not been given into the care of the keeper, which, with his being taken into the insane ward, had the effect of quieting him, which is often the case with idiots. There are often persons sent into this ward by the surgeon who are not insane. When the surgeon ordered Bates unstrapped, he was instantly obeyed, and being known as an idiot in the establishment, who had been before, no doubt, in this ward upon a surgeon's order, it did not seem requisite to procure one for that present purpose. A new patient would of course require an order, but not an old one, or one who had been there before but had not left the house; such patient would be allowed to leave the insane ward by sufferance, and to return thereunto, should his malady render such a step necessary.

The other matters brought forward, it does not appear I am required to explain or take further notice of, not being of that importance.

It may be remarked that there are no wards of the description called "probationary," consequently in case of one person out of between five and six hundred now in the House being guilty of violence or misbehaviour, so that a removal from the others is necessary, and if injury and bad example are to be avoided, there is no place provided where, strictly speaking, the Governor can remove such party to for the purpose of preventing such dangerous consequences as may arise from the conduct of such persons; and in the case referred to, on the evidence being given, the word "punishment" is frequently used, when in fact it should not in reality. No punishment has been inflicted except when fully explained, but merely a separation of the parties to prevent the apparent mischief or bad consequences that were about to ensue.

Johnson gives the meaning of the word punishment —"Any infliction or pain imposed in vengeance of a crime;" so that the mere changing of a party from room No. 1, because that contained another party, and they would not be together without quarrelling, into room No. 2, giving the same food and treatment to each, cannot be termed a punishment.

I commenced the duties of my office on the second day of August, one thousand eight hundred and forty-two; upon my election eighty-eight Guardians voted, and although there were five candidates selected from a large number, some of them possessing testimonials of the highest order, and I was an entire stranger to the town of Birmingham and the Guardians, so well did they think Mrs. Hirst and myself qualified for our present situation, that we obtained the very important majority of fifty-six of their votes. I beg also to refer to the House Visitor' book, which contains a report every week of the state of the House and inmates, and it will then be found that every part of my duty has been performed, as recorded, to their entire satisfaction.

GODFREY SWIFT HIRST,
Governor.

Mr. Allday stated that if allowed he would prove that many poor and destitute persons had not only been refused admission into the workhouse, but that they had also been refused relief. He (Mr. A.) recollected a case of an unfortunate woman, who a short time ago was placed in the dock, before the Magistrates, at the Public-office, on a charge of feloniously stealing at a provision-shop. One of the Magistrates before whom she was brought, addressing the police-officer who took her into custody, said "this woman was brought before me the other day." The police-officer replied, "Yes, Sir, she was brought before you on a charge of being destitute, and you ordered that she might be taken to the Workhouse for relief. When she arrived there she was neither admitted into the house nor relieved. The next day she committed the felony charged against her, which she states she was driven to from want." The Magistrate then enquired of the tradesman who appeared to give evidence on the charge of felony, if he intended to prosecute the prisoner, and he humanely answered, "No, Sir, I will not, under these circumstances." She was then discharged. Another case he remembered of a young woman who attempted to commit suicide by throwing herself into the canal. It occurred about half-past eleven o'clock at night, as a policeman on duty was crossing the canal bridge. He hastened to the spot, and plunging into the water, rescued her, and saved her life. He conveyed her in a senseless state to the station-house, and there being no accommodation there for the wretched woman in her wet and distressing state, the inspector on duty ordered that she might be taken to the Workhouse. The order was obeyed, but on the police-officer presenting himself at the Workhouse door with the woman, the Governor refused to admit her. The policeman then, with that humane feeling which was creditable to him, conveyed her to his own house, and called up his wife, where she was treated with humanity and kindness. In a few days afterwards she was taken before the magistrates, where the facts I have related were deposed to.

The Commissioner replied that he would go into that part of the inquiry on Saturday morning.

FRIDAY, DEC. 8.—On resuming the inquiry this morning the Commissioner said, that before entering on the subject for which they were especially met, he would take the liberty of adverting again to the subject which he mentioned to the House Committee last night, with reference to the unfortunate persons in the itch wards. The Commissioner afterwards stated that he had visited the place this morning, and found that one person still remained there, and that there were two still in the female itch-ward; a state of things which he was sure the Committee would not approve of or sanction, after the expression of opinion, in reference to these wards, which he had received from the medical officers. He had a conference last night with the surgeons of the establishment, and having questioned them particularly, if they had ever drawn the attention of the Board to the itch-wards, they placed in his hands the copy of a resolution passed by them in July, 1842, and which was as follows:—

"Resolved, that the attention of the House Committee be forthwith called to the filthy and disgusting state of the wards appropriated for persons affected with the itch, and they recommend that larger and better ones be substituted for them." (Hear, hear.)

As he had already stated last evening, he was anxious again to show the medical gentlemen the state of the itch-wards, and they were so kind as to accompany him to these places. They went, first, to the female ward, where they found two patients, a woman and child; and in the male ward they found nine persons, an adult and eight boys. He then asked the medical gentleman with regard to the fitness of these places for habitations, and if fit, what number they considered should be placed there? and in reply to these inquiries, he had received the following certificate:—

"We have inspected the itch-hole for females; from the size of the room we should say it would hold safely not more than two patients under care for the itch; but, having regard to the want of ventilation, and from the intense heat of the place, *we do not think it at all fit for occupation for any human beings.* At the time of our visit there were two patients in the room. We have also inspected the itch-holes for males, and found nine patients, two adults, and seven children. This place is more unfit for habitation than the female itch-ward, and not from its size, even if ventilated, fit for the reception of more than two patients. The persons now in that hole must necessarily run great risk of endangering their health from the position they are in there. Looking at the two itch-holes, from the want of ventilation, and from the heat kept upon them by the fires from adjoining rooms, we have no hesitation in saying that they are absolutely unfit for the occupation of any human beings. Signed, R. T. Cox, T. Bellamy, T. Green, C. Green, J. Wilders."

The Commissioner, in continuation, said, that he had that morning visited the wards, and he was very thankful to find, that of the nine persons in the male itch ward, eight had been removed; but the woman and child were still in the female ward. Now, having these certificates before him, he was sure that the gentlemen of the House Committee would feel justified in stepping even out of their usual course of proceedings, in order to remove these unfortunate persons from their present position—(hear). He trusted they would kindly indulge him by giving immediate direction for their removal to some other places; and he thought, under all the circumstances, that they should place an absolute prohibition on their books, that those rooms should never again be occupied by human beings—(hear).

Mr. Rodway—I have seen the rooms referred to, and I must say, from their disgusting condition, that those persons should be removed immediately. The party who put the man and children in such a hole ought to be ousted immediately; and as to the surgeon—

The Commissioner reminded Mr. Rodway and the other members of the Committe, that this was a question which would form the subject of a searching inquiry. He had no doubt that the responsibility would be placed on the right shoulders.

Two members of the Committee were then deputed to have the persons immediately removed from the wards in question, upon which the Commissioner said he would proceed with the examination of the Governor, in reference to the admission of paupers into the House.

After a lengthened examination of the Governor relative to the accommodation and discipline of the workhouse, and letters had been read from the House Committee, and Mr. Kimberlay explaining (or attempting to do so) their connection with the management of the workhouse; the inquiry was adjourned to the next day.

SATURDAY, DEC. 9—The inquiry was resumed this morning at ten o'clock.

Mr. Hirst was called in, and his examination respecting the treatment of persons in the tramp-room was continued.

The Commissioner—I have now to direct your attention to the boy Rogers, who I found in the tramp-room. It appeared that the boy who was only nine years of age was found in a state of destitution and brought to the workhouse by the police; he was placed in the tramp-room in the filthy state he was found, where he was detained nine days and nights without change of clothing. I must protest against such practice, and I feel certain the Guardians will not allow it in future. It was your duty to draw the special attention of the Relief Committee to the case.

Mr. Hirst—My time has been so fully occupied with this lengthened inquiry that I had not time to atttend to the case.

Mr. Rodway—Did you ever report the case to the Committee?

Mr. Hirst—I believe I did not.

The Commissioner—I will now take your evidence, Mr. Hirst, respecting the treatment of this boy.

Mr. Hirst's examination was then resumed. During the sojourn of this boy, Rogers, in the tramp-room he had no bed to sleep on,—he slept on the bare boards, having a rug to cover him. He had no change of clothing during this period to my knowledge. He had the same diet as the ordinary paupers of the house. This boy would not have been kept so long in the tramp-room had not my time been so occupied in this inquiry.

The Commissioner—There was another boy I found in the tramp-room when I went round who had been in some time.

Mr. Allday—There was also a man with bad legs in the tramp-room who had been in several days when you visited it; and in the female ward there was an Irish woman who had been a long time there.

The Commissioner—Aye, how long had the Irish woman been there, Mr. Hirst?

Mr. Hirst—You allude to Margaret Ryan—she came in on the 15th of November, and remained there to the 29th.

The Commissioner—She remained there, then, fourteen days.

Mr. Hirst—She was removed immediately after you saw her.

The Commissioner—She had no right to have been there more than one night. I heard something about her being there two months.

Mr. Hirst—That was last year, Sir.

In answer to a question put by the Commissioner in reference to the nine persons put into the itch ward,

Mr. Hirst said—I knew nothing of the nine male persons in the itch ward on Thursday last, until I heard it in the evening of that day from the Matron, who had been informed of the circumstance by the Assistant Commissioner.

Mr. Allday—You have, Sir, in the course of this important inquiry laid down this great principle—that the poor and destitute of this country have as equitable a right to relief and maintenance as the nobleman to his rent for his land. I should, Sir, in support of this sound principle, beg to direct your attention to a class of poor and destitute persons, who are confined in a place in this parish nearly as loathsome and horrible as the black-hole in the workhouse, and whose only crime is their poverty and destitution. I allude, Sir, to the the unfortunate penniless debtors incarcerated in the Court of Requests prison, situated in High-street, who, I contend, are as much entitled to receive the same allowance of food, and the same parochial sympathy and care which are secured by the law to the inmates of this workhouse. I have known poor persons arrested under executions for small debts they were unable to pay, and imprisoned in that disgusting prison for forty, sixty, and one hundred days, whose wives and families received parish relief during their confinement, and who themselves depended for several weeks for subsistence to the charitable subscriptions of their miserable fellow-prisoners, the parish authorities having refused to provide them with the common necessaries of life. In this prison it is not as it is in our criminal gaol; there no food for the poor debtors is provided, either by the Commissioners of the Court of Requests, or the keeper of the prison. I have, sir, been present at our public-office, and reported a long discussion before the Magistrates respecting the liability of the Guardians of the Poor, the Gaolers, or the Commissioners of the Court to provide the pauper inmates with the necessary food for their existence.

The Commissioner—If, Mr. Allday, you will address to me a letter, stating the particulars of this case, it shall be laid before the Poor Law Commissioners, and you shall have an answer.

Mr. Allday—They ought to have something else beside bread. I know that some time ago the Guardians refused to send even bread there. In this execrated place, sir, when a poor prisoner is brought in, he is called upon to pay two shillings and sixpence for what is termed "chumming up," and if he be unable to pay that sum, his coat is taken off his back and sent to pledge to make the amount, which is expended in ale. The dishonest and abominable practice is carried on with impunity to this day.

Several of the Guardians expressed a hope that an inquiry would take place into the facts stated by Mr. Allday, and that Mr. Weale would visit this poor Debtor's Prison before he left Birmingham.

The Commissioner at once expressed his willingness to visit the prison. The inquiry was then adjourned, and the Commissioner proceeded to the Debtor's Prison.

MONDAY, DEC. 11.—The inquiry respecting the admission, treatment, and discharge of destitute persons, taken in charge by the police, and wayfarers, was to be entered upon this morning. Superintendent Stephens was present, at the request of the Commissioner, for the purpose of being examined; but, in consequence of the police books, to which he would have to refer in his evidence, being at Warwick, for the Assizes, his examination was postponed until Thursday morning.

The Commissioner—Are there any of the policemen here who have brought destitute persons to the Workhouse.

Mr. Stephens—They are at Warwick Assizes.

The Commissioner—Then I adjourn the inquiry to Thursday.

Mr. Allday—You would probably inquire into the case of an unfortunate woman, now in Warwick Gaol, on the charge of having murdered her child. This will open one part of the inquiry, the admission and discharge of females in a state of pregnancy.

The Commissioner—Let Mr. Hirst be called in. I will take his evidence on the admission and discharge of this female.

Mr. G. S. Hirst, on his oath said, that when persons are admitted to the Infirmary by the recommendation of the District Surgeons, they are, when discharged from that part of the establishment, discharged by Mr. Smith. When paupers are admitted, under similar circumstances, to the Venereal or Lying-in-Wards, they are discharged in the same way. If a female is admitted into the workhouse in a state of pregnancy, and from thence taken to the Lying-in-Ward, when discharged from that ward she leaves the workhouse. Such has been the practice. If a woman, under these circumstances, were to tell me she was perfectly destitute, and no place to go to, I should keep her in the house. More than one such application has been made to me, and so treated. I recollect Elizabeth King being confined in child-bed, in the workhouse. She was admitted on the 26th of June, 1843. She was delivered on the 10th of Sept., and was discharged on the 7th of Oct. following, from the Lying-in-Room, by Mr. Smith, and as she made no application to me to go back, she was discharged the house on the same day. She was not re-admitted by an order from a Relieving Officer, Relief Committee, or Overseer. She was afterwards brought to the workhouse by the police; and removed to the female tramp-room. After she had been there half or three-quarters of an hour, I saw her. I was told she had murdered her child. She herself told me she had thrown her child into the canal, and afterwards that her mother-in-law had done so. A Coroner's inquest was held on the body of the child, and a verdict was returned. I have heard and believe, that the mother was insane when she committed the act. I have since heard that the woman has been apprehended on a Magistrate's warrant, on the charge of murder, and committed to Warwick Gaol to take her trial.

The inquiry was adjourned to Thursday morning.

On Tuesday the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner had a conference with the Mayor and Magistrates, to which Reporters were not admitted.

PROGRESS OF INCENDIARISM.

INCENDIARISM IN BEDFORDSHIRE.—The following is from a correspondent of the *Times*:—

BEDFORD, FRIDAY, DEC. 15.—It is impossible to convey any adequate idea of the alarm and excitement that at present pervade the rural districts in this part of the country, owing to the daring impunity with which the destructive work of incendiarism is carried on, with a degree of secrecy that baffles the vigilance of the police.

To the long catalogue already published fresh outrages have this week been reported to the magistrates of the respective districts, to whose kindness I am indebted for some authentic particulars, which will be found below.

From all the inquiries I have made, not only in the magistrates' chamber, at the local Petty Sessions, but amongst farmers assembled at the market table, I am unable to arrive at any other conclusion than that these horrible atrocities are obviously the result of a wide-spread conspiracy against the land-owners and tenant-farmers; and in no case of the numerous fires that have occurred has there been anything even insinuated to show the existence of personal hostility towards the individuals whose property has been thus wantonly destroyed.

I have obtained from the principal office of the rural police a list of three fires which are ascertained to be incendiary cases, and in respect of which liberal rewards have been offered for information, with a view to the apprehension of the guilty parties. The owners, I believe, were in the greatest number of instances partially insured; but as the official reports have not yet been obtained, the amounts showing the loss of property in each case are made upon a rough calculation, according to the quantity of corn and the value of the buildings consumed. The aggregate is much more considerable than was at first supposed. I select only six of the principal fires from the list:—

Mr. Laine's, at Hownes, in the Ampthill district.—Granary, cow-house, stables, piggery, fourteen stacks of corn, and farming implements, totally destroyed. Estimated value, £2,000.

Mr. Man's, at Tebworth—Barn and out-offices, containing corn thrashed and in the ear, with various husbandry implements, totally destroyed. The loss estimated at from £1,800 to £2,000.

Mr. Crisp's, at Clapham.—Corn stacks, &c. Estimated value, £400.

Mr. Swanell's, at Felmersham.—Barn and offices, Estimated value, £500.

Mr. Roberts's, at Ridgemount.—Stack-yard partially destroyed. Estimated loss, £200.

Mr. Gibbins, Stotfold.—Granary, barn, out-offices, and several stacks of grain, totally destroyed. Estimated loss, £2,000.

Several other cases have been reported, to which it may not be necessary to refer specifically, the loss of property being inconsiderable, the design having in these instances been frustrated, owing to timely discovery; but every attempt of the kind, whether the guilty parties succeed or fail, only serves to show the *animus* of the malicious movement that has extended not only to the most remote confines of Bedfordshire, but has begun to show itself in Cambridgeshire and the other adjacent counties.

A circumstance which occurred in the Biggleswade district on the afternoon of Saturday last, is now the subject of strict investigation by the police. It appears that at an early hour on that evening the premises of Mr. Plyer, an opulent farmer, situate at Stotford (and not very far from the farm of Mr. Gibbins, whose stack-yard was lately destroyed), were discovered to be on fire. The alarm was promptly given, and the flames were extinguished without any serious damage. On subsequent examination, the design of the miscreant was obvious; had the flames got the ascendancy, no exertion could have saved the whole of the premises from destruction. In the generality of cases, a lucifer match, or a tobacco-pipe well lighted, is considered sufficient to ensure the destruction of the elevated homestead; but in this instance a much more scientific agency was resorted to, no doubt the more effectually to elude detection. Upon a careful inspection of the premises, the spot where the fire commenced was found to be on the ledge or plate of the barn wall, immediately under the eaves, and the appearance of the wood indicated very plainly that some chemical preparation deposited there had been burning some time before it communicated to the thatch, as the wood underneath was consumed or charred in a circle of three or four inches diameter.

The late tragical fire at Alderman Higgins's premises, on the Kimbolton-road, near this town, is still the subject of anxious investigation, but no other clue has been obtained to clear up the mystery. Assuming the latter fire to be accidental, it seems quite certain that all the others were caused by design, for the purpose of injuring the farmers, *who, since the close of the harvest season, have reduced the wages of their labourers. The use of threshing machines forms, I understand, another topic of complaint,* so many hands being by means of *machinery thrown out of work. The rigid administration of the Poor Law, in some of the Unions, is another ingredient in the general mass of suffering.* During the last four or five years, the railways afforded employment to a large number of the agricultural labourers; but with the completion of these works, they have been compelled to return to their original occupation as field labourers, of which there is, unfortunately, a redundancy, to whom full work cannot be afforded. The Poor Law Guardians would do well to relax the rule as to out-door relief during the winter months at least, or these terrible aggressions will continue. The means of protection are quite inadequate, though the police-rate is already excessively high. The extent of the county of Bedford is 463 square miles, and it contains 296,320 acres. The number of inhabitants, according to the last census, is 97 446. The average rate of wages paid to farm-servants does not exceed 6s. a week, but provisions are generally cheap.

Just as I was about to send off my despatch I received the particulars of two more fires, discovered in the Luton division; one occurred on Saturday, the other on Sunday morning last. The circumstances relating to one of these fires are sufficiently significant of the organization that has been established. It appears that a farmer's servant was returning home with his waggon and horses, when, at the distance of nearly twenty miles from home, he was met by two trampers, one of whom asked if he did not live at such a farm, naming the owner? The waggoner said that he did; upon which the trampers observed, "Oh, there has been a rare fire there; we saw it as we came past." Now, the fact is that the fire did not break out at the farm alluded to, until six hours after the waggoner got home. When the flames burst out, which was about ten o'clock in the morning, the farmer had only just passed the barn, and there were several other persons going by to market, so that it was quite impossible any one could have fired it and escaped observation. The presumption raised is, that some chemical preparation had, as in another instance above described, been deposited beneath the thatch, which, once ignited, insured the destruction of the premises, and afforded the miscreants time to make their escape. The loss of property in both these cases is said to be very considerable.

ONE HUNDRED SHEEP DESTROYED BY FIRE.—A destructive fire broke out on Sunday evening week, about six o'clock, at Naze Wick Farm, in Foulness Island, Essex, in the occupation of Mr. Charles Harvey, and in an incredibly short time destroyed a sheep yard (the walls of which were composed of mustard and carraway straw), one hundred ewe sheep all in lamb, and a large bean stack, the produce of forty acres, adjoining. So rapid was the progress of the flames that, although some of Mr. Harvey's workmen were upon the spot in a few minutes, they could not approach the gate, or make an opening to rescue the poor animals. Great praise is due to the labourers, who rendered every assistance in their power; and on the arrival of Lieut. Hussey, of the coast guard service, who was speedily on the spot with his men, he, by his example and efforts, caused all present to renew their exertions, and succeeded in removing another large stack, thus saving from destruction a large range of stacks, which must otherwise have fallen a prey to the flames. The same night a man named James Rampling was apprehended by police-constable Went, on suspicion of having caused the conflagration, and, after a preliminary examination, was remanded upon the charge. On Wednesday he was again examined, and fully committed for trial. The value of the property destroyed is estimated at about £500, and it was insured in the Equitable Fire-office.

On the night of Sunday last, a fire was discovered in the farming premises of Mr. Grimmer, at Stockton, near Beccles, Suffolk; and before it could be got under, a barn filled at one end with barley, and a turnip shed, were burnt down. There was every reason to believe the fire was wilfully caused. In the evening of Wednesday, the 29th ultimo, an extensive fire was discovered in the farm buildings of Mr. John Aldous, of Harleston, Norfolk, which was not got under until above five hundred pounds worth of grain had been destroyed, and this was also the work of an incendiary. A reward of fifty pounds has been offered by the Secretary of State for the discovery of the person or persons who recently set fire to the Wangford Union House, at Shipmeadow, near Beccles. The whole house was some time in the utmost jeopardy: but we believe no clue to the discovery of the offender has yet been obtained.

ARSON.—A diabolical attempt at incendiarism was made on Tuesday evening last in the stack-yard of Mr. Robert Story, farmer and butcher, at Eakring, Nottinghamshire. The fire was first seen between two corn-stacks in the centre of the yard, but the alarm having been given, a very large number of the villagers collected together, and by their active exertions a great part of the corn was saved. The Earl of Scarborough's fire-engine was sent for from Rufford, with the assistance of which the fire was soon got under, but not before damage to the amount of nearly £30 had been done. Had the wind been high, or the aid rendered been less efficient, the consequences must have been most disastrous. In the same yard were several other stacks, and another stack-yard adjoining it. There was also a large range of buildings very dangerously situate; if the fire had reached which, a number of valuable horses and fat stock would have been consumed. There is not the slightest doubt but that the fire was the work of an incendiary, as the flames appeared in several places at once, and a strong sulphurous smell pervaded the atmosphere.

DESTITUTION IN THE METROPOLIS.

During the last few days the application for admission into the Refuge for the Destitute, Playhouse-yard, Whitecross-street, have been increasing, and they now amount to about 400 men, women, and children. The committee at first limited the number to 200, but owing to the pressing necessities of the applicants, the order was rescinded. It was thought, that if a larger body were congregated, fever might be generated during the prevalence of the present warm weather, which as was the case, part of last year. Above 3,000 had been admitted up to Sunday night. There are many who, in consequence of fever and other ailments, have been provided with the means of getting lodgings out of the institution. Mr. Gay, a medical gentleman, attends each night, and examines every individual. On Monday night, out of thirty new applicants, fifteen were cases of low fever. The others were suffering from various causes. This was the number who received this mode of out-door relief, with a slice of bread each, up to seven o'clock. The average is much greater during the night. In Glasshouse-yard, St. George's-in-the-East, the institution has another refuge, where there are nightly admitted about 300 persons.

SHIRTS AT A FARTHING EACH.

Much has recently been said and written on the smallness of the sum paid to women for the making of men's shirts, but all the facts on the subject have not yet, it seems, become public, for no quotation has been made of the price received and paid at the workhouses of London for the manufacture of those garments.

The following statements were accidentally elicited at an inquest held before Mr. G. J. Mills, the Deputy Coroner for Middlesex, at the sign of the Elephant and Castle, King's Road, St. Pancras, on the body of a woman named Ann Humphreys, who had died in St. Pancras Workhouse on the previous day, after her removal to that establishment from a jeweller's in Seymour-street, Euston Square, whose shop had been plundered of twenty-five watches by some thieves at night, to the great alarm of the deceased, who died suddenly in the workhouse, from supposed affection of the heart after the fright.

The first witness called to prove the death of the deceased, was a woman named Ann Benson, a respectable-looking elderly person, whom a Juryman chanced to ask—"How are you used in the workhouse?" The witness replied, "Very well;" adding, after a pause, "but I work very hard for a farthing."

"What," asked the Deputy-Coroner, "do you mean by that?"—Witness:—"I make a shirt for it."

Deputy-Coroner—What sort of a shirt?—Witness—Generally striped shirts, but we put good enough work in them for any gentleman to wear. They are obliged to be done with goodness and exactness, or we should not be allowed to earn the farthing.

Deputy-Coroner—Where does the material come from?—Witness—It is warehouse work, sir. They come to the workhouse by hundreds to be made.

Ann Voyce, another witness, being at the time in the room, said, "It was a farthing a piece if we make only one, or two farthings if we make two; but if we make three of the same batch, then we get a penny."

Deputy Coroner—How many can you make in a day?—Witness—Perhaps one by working all day.

Deputy Coroner—And what do you do with all the money?—Witness—Buy sugar and tea with it.

Deputy Coroner—But perhaps you have additional comforts in the workhouse instead of more money?—Witness—We have a quarter of a pound of sugar a week, whether we make shirts or not; but no tea, nor any milk, unless we buy it, or friends bring it.

Deputy Coroner—And do you get breakfast and tea out of six farthings?—Witness—We are obliged to make it do, for if we don't earn it, however, we go without, and have water-gruel, which is very good.

Deputy Coroner—Did the woman who is dead have tea?—Witness—Yes, because a friend brought it to her. We manage to make the money do by only giving one another tea leaves some days. I had the woman's tea leaves when she had done with them till she died; and as she could not wait on herself, I attended on her for it.

Deputy Coroner—How long was she in the workhouse?—Witness—Three weeks.

Deputy Coroner—Why could she not attend to herself? Witness—Because she was very bad in her breath, and had palpitations.

Deputy Coroner—Did she see the doctor on that account?—Witness—No; but the assistant came to see her when she was dying. She did not wish to see the doctor before. All she wished for when she came to me was for a quiet place to be in.

Deputy Coroner—Did she have it?—Witness—She could not, because the infirm ward was so full.

Deputy Coroner—Did she have a room to herself?—Witness—No, we lie four in a bed.

The First Witness—No, only three, because the fourth lies on the floor.

Deputy Coroner—Is that because the house is so full?—Witness—I suppose so.

Deputy Coroner—Are the beds of a good size?—Witness—Yes, there is every comfort for a poor woman, and every care is taken of invalids.

Deputy Coroner—Are you tasked in doing the shirts?—Witness—No; but I could not have tea if I did not make them.

Deputy Coroner—Would you miss that?—Witness—I am pretty hearty, and it would not signify to my health; but some are only fit for tea, and would be glad to earn it.

A Juryman wished to know whether the farthing was paid by the dealers who sent in the cloth, or a higher sum, and if so, what sum; because, if it was lower at the work-houses than out of them, it was a wonder that so many poor women out of them were paid even 1½d a shirt.

One of the witnesses said she thought that 2d out of every shilling received by the parish was paid to the women in the workhouse for all work of the kind that was done there.

A Juryman wished that the great comfort of life to the old people, tea, could be obtained by them on easier terms.

A verdict of "Died from natural disease" was returned.

THE NEW POOR LAW AND THE SHIRT MAKERS.

The *Times* of Friday contained the following just and excellent remarks on the above astounding exposure:—

"Another, and yet another, flagrant exposure, each more signal than its predecessor, is day by day presenting itself, of the connexion of the hideous and crushing miseries of those thousands of friendless and unhappy creatures, who, especially throughout the metropolis, but not *only* there, are suffering the extremities of privation, without wages, but not without work, homeless and starving, yet tasked withal to exhaustion—the sempstresses, shirt-makers, the weavers, and other operatives of a similar class, with the New Poor Law. Eighteen hours a-day, at four shillings a-week, or, in some cases, even less, and out of that pittance thread and needles to be found,—these are the terms upon which, as police report after police report irrefragably and continually proves, many and many an unhappy woman is even now eking out her wretched life (or, rather her existence, for she can scarcely be said *to live*) within a circle of no more than three miles from the *spot where we are writing.* What has rendered such a consummation possible? How has it been even within the bounds of possibility, that the workpeople should be reduced to such necessity as to be obliged to accept such dreadful, such life-wearing conditions?—or how that the dealers and contractors should be in a position in which they could enforce them? We answer without hesitation that the New Poor Law, and that alone, has brought this state of things to pass. We say advisedly, that if it were not for that law, such intolerable, such grinding, such cold-blooded cruelty as that exercised by those who "employ" upon such terms as these, could even by possibility have been practised by no man. The means and instrument of torture, the boot and the screw, would, without this, have been out of his reach. He would not have dictated such terms to a starving population.

We speak on undoubted authority when we say that the acceptance of slop contrasts by the union workhouses at the rate of 2d. and 3d. per dozen, was the first means of enabling the dealers to insist upon a reduction in the then rate of wages, and ultimately to bring them down to the horrible point at which, as we are only too frequently reminded by painful experience, they now rest. The Stepney and the Portsmouth Union-houses were those which were first exposed as admitting of this ruinous and wicked practice, and as paying wages for the Jew slopsellers out of the pockets of the ratepayers

Yesterday St. Pancras workhouse figured in the same enviable position, and afforded an even unusually convincing and lucid exposure of the extent to which the practice is carried, and of the use to which it is put. The accidental way, too, in which the discovery of the fact was made is itself significant.

The *Times* then quotes the evidence of Ann Benson given above; and remarks,—"One farthing for making a shirt! One farthing for a whole day's work! Just three-halfpence for a week's employment! Enough to bribe the poor creatures; already supported, that is, barely fed (or unfed), coarsely clothed, and hardly lodged, by the public, to endeavour to gain a few scanty comforts to make their condition more tolerable; and enough also in so doing, to enable contractors to treat with such as want not only 'tea and sugar,' but bread, and clothes, and lodging, and drink, upon terms which compel their wretched victims to limit even these pressing wants also within the compass of just three-halfpence per week! Was it for this, we ask, that union-houses were constructed? To be public institutions for the support and payment of the workwomen of slopsellers? To be instruments of torture and extortion—of extortion, to enable the slop-dealer to get his work done at the expense of the rate-payer—and of torture, to enable him to insist upon people working for him eighteen hours a day at something less than could find a Union pauper in tea and sugar! And let our readers mark the extent of the practice; "they," the shirts, "come to the workhouse *by hundreds* to be made." And this infamous price of one farthing each is allowed to be accepted in this wholesale way by the "authorities," because they find that they can get their poor inmates to work for it by holding out the bait of "tea and sugar," of which they thus save the expense, without any reference to the circumstance that, in so doing, they are underselling thousands, and depriving them of the very barest necessaries of existence.

Certainly, as we have before now said, a day of reckoning for these things will one day come!

MORE MURDER.—THE HORRIBLE STARVATION LAW.

An inquest was held on Friday before Mr. C. Wood, coroner for the western division of Surrey, and a respectable Jury, at the White Horse, Windlesham, in that county, on view of the body of William Fry, an agricultural labourer, who was supposed to have died from the want of the common necessaries of life.

The jury having been sworn, proceeded to view the body of the deceased, who appeared to have been in great destitution. The hut in which the poor man dwelt was about six feet by eight, without any material but the outside boards nailed together, scarcely sufficient to keep out the weather. In the left hand corner, close to the door, stood a small cottage grate, and at the back part of the hut, upon a kind of bedstead, without any bed, blankets, or sheets, not even a mattress or straw, was the body of the deceased. He had on an old waistcoat, no shirt, and a tattered garment; his lower parts were totally uncovered, and no vestige of linen of any kind in the place, presenting altogether a wretched spectacle. After viewing the body, and quitting this deplorable place, the following witnesses were examined:—

Sarah Bulgent deposed, that the deceased was a labouring man, between sixty and seventy years of age, whom she occasionally saw and relieved. From the account given by this witness, which was expressed with some warmth and indignation, it would appear that the deceased's food was principally potatoes and blackberries; that he was literally starving, and had declared to her frequently that he had nothing to eat. He could not be persuaded to go into the Union, either by the Guardians or any one else; and so great was his aversion to enter a Union Workhouse, that he declared he would sooner die in a ditch. He was allowed 2s. and a 4lb. loaf weekly. Not seeing him on the Sunday, as she expected, she went with another woman on Tuesday morning, between ten and eleven o'clock, to the hut, the door of which was shut, but not fastened, and upon opening it saw the deceased lying prostrate on the floor, quite dead.

Mr. Haynes, surgeon, of Windlesham, deposed that he also had known deceased about thirty years. On Friday morning was sent for to see the deceased, whom on going to the hut he found lying on the floor quite dead. Witness supposed he must have been dead from twenty four to thirty hours. Had examined the body externally; it was in an emaciated state, very different to what he was formerly, arising from want of care and attention. Witness could discover no particular disease. There was no mark of violence on the body, and witness considered a *post mortem* examination unnecessary, as the deceased died from natural causes through want of a sufficient quantity of food. If he had had nourishment, his life might have been spared.

The Jury returned a verdict "*that the deceased died by the visitation of God.*"

MORE INCENDIARY FIRES.

SOHAM—The inhabitants of this town were on Tuesday evening last alarmed by the cry of "Fire," which broke out about half-past five o'clock, on the premises of Mr. Stephen Danby, situate in Pratt-street. The flame was first discovered by a boy who was passing at the time, who immediately gave the alarm, when it was discovered that an oat-stack standing at the further extremity of the premises had by some miscreant been set on fire. From the combustible nature of the material the flames spread with an amazing rapidity, communicating on one side to a wheat-stack, and on the other to a large barn filled with corn: these, with the adjacent stacks and buildings, were in the space of an hour levelled to the ground.

HORNCASTLE—A fire broke out on Thursday morning week, about five o'clock, in the stackyard of Mr. Rawson, a tenant of Sir Henry Dymoke, at Scrivelsby, near this place, without doubt the work of an incendiary. There were about seven stacks in the yard; the middle one containing about forty quarters of wheat, was set on fire and consumed; also a barley-stack, about the same size.

EATON SOCAN.—On Saturday morning last, between the hours of six and seven o'clock, a fire was discovered blazing in the stack-yard of Mr. J. Hall, an opulent farmer and corn-dealer, and the whole, consisting of nine large stacks and hovels, two of which were very large, containing upwards of 100 loads each, fell a sacrifice to the flames. The barns and outbuildings were saved by the vigilance of the gentry in the surrounding neighbourhood, as well as the poorer classes. Not the least doubt remains of its being the act of an incendiary.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

SIR,—However placidly we may endeavour to survey passing occurrences we cannot avoid feeling at times seriously ruffled, unless we have philosophized ourselves into a Malthusian hard-heartedness, which cannot be, if any of the finer and nobler feelings of our nature remain in the breast. You, Sir, heard of what transpired in Preston at the time of the riots—the great turn-out of last year. The sufferings occasioned by that nearly unprecedented affair are incalculable; and Preston came in for more than its full share. The firing by the military, under the orders of the Mayor, in Lune-street, in so unexpected, and so different a manner, from the conduct of the authorities elsewhere, led to the death of four persons, besides the maiming of some others for life. Yet severe and unusual as was the punishment inflicted by this firing, it failed to satisfy the Home-Secretary-landed authorities of this town. Numbers were sent to Kirkdale, one of whom left the prison after serving eleven months out of the twelve to which he had been doomed, only to die within five weeks from the period of his liberation. This was a young man of very delicate health, named Dewhurst, convicted on the evidence of a single policeman, and hurried away with little ceremony, without his friends having any opportunity of tendering evidence in his behalf.

Another person, named Richard Warwick, formerly an inhabitant of Preston, but of late, previous to his conviction, resident in Oldham, hath since the death of poor Dewhurst, gone to *his* long home, having expired at the house of his sister in Preston; no doubt whatever existing on the mind of any in the least acquainted with him that his death was owing wholly to his imprisonment. This man, observe, was not tried at Preston, nor had the authorities thereof anything to do with his imprisonment. I mention him because of his having long resided in this town; of his being well known here, through having been sent to Lancaster Castle for twelve months for a political offence; and because of his having died here. His last imprisonment was in Kirkdale, being tried at the Special Commission for having exposed at his door in Oldham, a placard during the time of the riots headed, "Now or never." For this alone, I am informed, was he consigned to the dungeon and ultimately to the grave.

Painful and distressing as these facts are, still there are others arising out of that unfortunate outbreak attended by circumstances which render them on the whole more afflicting. One poor lad, sixteen years of age, was, during the firing of the military in Lune-street, wounded in the abdomen; from the wound the bowels protruded, and in this state he was conveyed to his home—to a fond, a doating mother—a lone widow, to whom the unfortunate youth was a principal support. Here he lingered in dreadful agony for two or three days, and then expired. No sooner had life departed than a police officer entered and tore away the body, taking it to the new Dispensary on the moor, to await the snug inquest, so important in its results to the credit of the authorities—the mill-owning mayor especially. In six weeks from this period the wretched mother followed her son to the tomb.

If "whatever is, is right," and if the balance of happiness is equal, then are appearances grossly deceitful; for, ah! how unfortunate, judging from these appearances, are some of our fellow beings. One poor man in Manchester was arrested along with his son for taking part in the outbreak, both of whom were tried at Liverpool, and imprisoned in Kirkdale along with so many others. The wife of this poor man, while endeavouring to rescue her son at the time of his arrest, got a blow from the truncheon of a policeman; and owing to this, coupled with the grief attendant upon separation, died within one month after their imprisonment, and the poor man hath since died in jail. One of the released prisoners told me that the son begged to see his father a little before his death, but was refused.

Thus wantonly are the lives of our fellow-creatures sported away by the few in power; accounted of no more value than the stones under our feet, though each estimates his own at a price to which the costliest gem bears no parallel. What is the worth of our boasted civilization, government, and laws, whilst such misery exist? Happy would it have been for the millions had such mock refinement never been known. Had an horde of banditti established themselves in uncontrolled rule over the country, where, or in what, would have been the difference to the sons of toil?

Yours, &c.,
RICHD. MARSDEN.

MARKET INTELLIGENCE.

LIVERPOOL CORN MARKET, MONDAY, DEC. 18.—Since this day se'nnight we have had further liberal supplies of Oatmeal from Ireland, with a fair quantity of Flour, and moderate arrivals of grain thence and coastwise. There are also reported from Canada 1570 qrs. of Wheat, 270 qrs. of Peas, and 8500 brls. of Flour. Throughout the week the trade has been inactive, and as usual under that circumstance, prices have (without any general desire to press sales being apparent) tended downwards. All descriptions of Wheat are fully 2d., Oats ½d. to 1d. per bushel, Flour 1s. per sack, and Oatmeal 3d. to 6d. per load cheaper than quoted on this day se'nnight. Malting Barley has fully sustained our previous quotations. English selling at 34s. to 36s. up to 37s. per quarter for Chevalier; a little very good Irish, suitable for malting, has brought 4s. 3d. to 4s. 9d., grinding qualities 3s. 11d. to 4s. 3d. per 60lbs. No change as regards Beans or Peas.

LIVERPOOL CATTLE MARKET, MONDAY, DEC. 18.—The supply of Cattle at market to-day has been rather larger than last week, which met with dull sale, at a little advance in price. Beef, 4½d to 6d; Mutton, 4½d to 5½d.

MANCHESTER CORN MARKET, SATURDAY DEC. 16.—Our market this morning was but moderately attended, and was generally of a dull and lifeless character. All descriptions of Wheat might have been purchased on lower terms; and on Flour we reduce our quotations 6d. per sack, with a very slow sale. For either Oats or Oatmeal there was but little inquiry, and the previous currency was with difficulty obtained. Beans were also the turn cheaper.

LONDON CORN EXCHANGE, MONDAY, DEC. 18.—We have to report the arrival of about an average supply of English Wheat up to our market during the past week, the general quality of which exhibited a decided improvement. Although the show of samples was tolerably good, we have to report a steady, but by no means brisk, demand for Wheat of home produce, and last week's quotations were supported in every instance. At the close of the trade a fair clearance was effected. The supply of free Foreign Wheat brought forward was not large, yet the inquiry for it was inactive, at unaltered quotations. The sale for Barley, especially for fine malting qualities, ruled steady, and late rates were well supported. In Malt, the show of which was not great, a sluggish business was transacted. As to prices, they remained about stationary. The supply of Oats was only moderate, while the demand ruled comparatively steady at previous currencies. Beans, Peas, and Flour met a slow inquiry, but we can notice no variation in their value.

LONDON SMITHFIELD CATTLE MARKET, MONDAY, DEC. 18.—Notwithstanding the great Christmas show was held last week, the number of beasts was large for the time of year. With regard to its quality, we have to observe there was nothing remarkably prime amongst it, though there was some exceedingly well-made-up Devons, Herefords, Durhams, and short horns on offer. The dead markets being rather heavily stocked, and most of the large butchers having previously supplied themselves with their Christmas beef, as well as the weather proving unfavourable to slaughtering, the sale for beasts this morning was in a very dull state, at a decline, on last Monday's quotations, of from 2d to 4d per 8lbs., the extreme value of the best Scots not exceeding, in any instance, 4s per 8lbs. while a large portion of the supply was turned out unsold. In order to show the superiority of some of the beasts brought together for competition in Barker-street this year, we have to intimate that the two Durhams shown there, the property of Lindsey Carnegie, Esq., of Arbroath (N.B.), one of which was sold by Mr. D. Maidwell, of Leatherhead, to Mr. Littlewood, of King's-road, Chelsea, the other to Mr. Strachan, of Whitechapel, have proved, on being slaughtered, to be surprising animals, as will be conceded when we state that one of them carried 38 stone, the other 34 stone 1lb. of loose fat. The animal bought by Mr. Strachan, and which was the lightest weigher, turned out 208 stone 4lbs. of meat! There have been no imports of foreign stock since our last worthy of notice; but nearly sixty sheep, oxen, and cows have been shipped to France and Belgium. The Northern droves of Beasts consisted of about 2,000 short horns, &c. From the Western and Midland districts we received 250 Devons, runts, Herefords, Durhams, &c.; from other parts of England, 300 of various kinds; and from Scotland, 120 horned and polled Scots. Although the numbers of Sheep were good, there was a much better demand for them than might have been expected; indeed, it was the steadiest we have had to report for a considerable time past. Prime old Downs were 4d.; the half-breds and long-wools were 2d. per 8lbs. higher than on this day se'nnight. The quality of the Sheep was certainly good, and amongst the supply we noticed three wonderfully fine half-breds, brought hither by Mr. James Syder, drover, of Fakenham, Norfolk, and bred by Mr. Addams near that place. These splendid sheep, which were offered for sale by Messrs. Whitbread and Starkey, reflected great credit upon their owner, for they travelled on foot not less than 120 miles, and weighed, on average 16 stones, of 8lbs each. Mr. Weal had two pens of polled sheep, sent by E. F. Wittingstall, Esq., of Langley, Herts, and which were greatly admired for their weight and symmetry. The numbers of Calves were good, yet the veal trade was active, at an improvement of quite 2d. per 8lbs. In Pigs, a good business was doing, and the quotations had an upward tendency.

BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Since this day se'nnight the arrivals of Potatoes at the water side have consisted of 600 tons from Scotland; 500 ditto from Yorkshire; 400 ditto from the Channel Islands; 200 ditto from Devonshire; and 700 ditto from Wisbeach, Essex, and Kent. Prime samples are in request at full prices; but in other qualities very little is doing.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET.—Although the quantity of Hops on show is comparatively small, the demand has somewhat subsided; yet we have no decline to notice in the prices.

WOOL MARKETS.—A very limited quantity of Wool has been imported into London in the past week, viz., 620 bales from Odessa, 68 ditto from the Mauritius, and 180 ditto from Hobart Town. The stocks of both English and Foreign Wools being large, the demand may be considered inactive, yet prices are generally supported.

TALLOW.—This market remains the same as last week in every respect. Prices are steady and the trade are only disposed to purchase what they require for immediate wants. The improvement in the delivery is caused by the completion of the contracts for Tallow sold to be delivered in the present month. Town Tallow is plentiful, and the price 41s 6d net cash

The Colliers' Movement.

THE THORNLEY CASE—MOST EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDINGS.

The following evidence was given after the close of Mr. Roberts' speech: we had not space for it in our impression of last week; but this we do not regret as our readers will now have the whole case for the defence before them. We have been compelled to curtail the evidence of some of the witnesses, but all important facts are given.

The first witness called by Mr. Roberts was

John Cookson—I am a servant at Thornley Colliery. I don't think that a man could get a living there if the bond was to be carried out in its strictness. If a quart of coals in a tub is to be fined *I am sure a man cannot get a living.* I will go to gaol before I will go again to work under the bond. Cross-examined by Mr. Marshall—I cannot tell how much I was fined the last fortnight I was paid. The bond had not then been put into operation. I was fined about a shilling the last fortnight.

Matthew Dawson—I work at Thornley Colliery. Have worked there two years come April. It is not so easy to obtain a living there now as it was three months ago, *because* the bond *has never been put in force till now.* If the bond is put in force in the five-quarter seam it is impossible for a man to get a living. I was a check against the two men employed by the owners, for the men. There was a good few layings-out. They could have laid out a great deal more than they did. I recollect 22s. being laid out *for one man.* Re-examined—All the tubs contained foul coal, but all were not fined. If *all* had been laid out that *might have been,* they would have *to stop* the pit.

Thomas Dermot Moran—I work at Thornley Colliery. The quantity of coal laid out has lately been more than before—since the bond was acted on. I cannot earn a living if the bond is carried out. I am not a bound man; but I would rather go to gaol than work under the bond.

Cross-examined—Two of us have had twenty-six quarts laid out in three days. Did not keep any account of the fines during the previous twenty weeks. Will not swear I was fined to the extent of 20s. or 10s. I think I would be fined 5s. I believe I was fined £1 7s. the last fortnight I was paid.

Re-examined—The bond had not then been enforced. The fine for the twenty-six quarts was 6s. 4d. There were two of us for that.

John James Bird—I have worked at Thornley Colliery a year and seven months. The bond has been acted on more stringently during the last fortnight. I doubt very much that an average man could make a living under the bond. The *steelyard* has been a *general subject of complaint* for the last ten months. I would prefer the prison to working under the present bond.

Cross-examined—I am not a regular pitman. The keeping off of a half-crown was not the cause of the men striking.

Wm. Wearmouth, another pitman at Thornley—There has been a great deal laid out lately more than before. The bond had been enforced before this—a good few half-crowns. It had not been enforced before for the quart of stones. *If enforced* an honest man could *not obtain a living.* The men thought the steelyard was unjust. I never knew a weighing machine in favour of the men. It was understood by the men on the 20th, that the weighing machine was to be put up directly. I have been in gaol before, and I would rather stop there for ever than work under this bond. Cross-examined—I requested Mr. Heccles to have the machine adjusted a month or two ago, at his own house. There were a good many more with me. The request was to adjust the machine that was then, but it is a fresh one now. All the men wanted was a just one. Two men were appointed to go and see the weighing machine adjusted.

George Naisbett—I worked at the colliery formerly—three-quarters of a year before. I heard complaints about the weighing machine. Some men sent to Mr. Heccles on the 13th of November. The bond was not enforced the previous part of the year. *I don't think it possible for* average men to send up tubs *without one quart of stone.* It is the *feeling* of the men generally that they had better go to gaol than work for nothing. I know of men being brought in debt to the owners. They were honest men, and average workers.

This closed the evidence of the first day.

Friday, Dec. the 8th, commenced with a scene which the local papers assert "beggared all description." The justice that is administered at Durham is indeed of a most extraordinary description—and yet perhaps other "justices, justice" would be found equally strange, if contested by men who, as in the present instance, gloried in exposing it—in "lashing" their "worships" till the rogues squeaked in agony.

On Friday, the Court met at ten o'clock, and Mr. Roberts called a witness, who was about to be sworn, when,—

The Chairman inquired whether anything had arisen from the consultation over-night between the parties.

Mr. Roberts replied that many of the points in dispute had been agreed between the parties, but the owners still stuck out on some, and nothing satisfactory had been agreed to—(loud shouts from the pitmen, and general confusion throughout the Court which continued for some time). Comparative order having been restored, the Chairman appealed to

Mr. J. E. Marshall, who said the Thornley Coal Company had had a meeting, and he would state the result which they had come to at that meeting. Mr. M. was about to read over the resolutions of the Company when another scene of disorder ensued.

Mr. Roberts proposed to submit the matter to reference.

Mr. Marshall—To whom would you refer it?

Mr. Roberts (with great vehemence)—Not to a coal-owner, or the relation by marriage or any other way of a coal-owner—not to a viewer—not even to Mr. Heccles—(loud cheers and groans from the pitmen).

Mr. Marshall—Do you mean, then, two hewers or colliery workmen?—(groans and uproar).

Mr. Roberts—It seems the colliers are to be thankful that you send men to prison for what *you admit to be matters of doubt*—(great cheering and uproar from the pitmen). I will name Mr. Mather, of South Shields, as one of the referees. I believe him to be a friend to the men, a friend to the masters, and the friend of justice—(hear, hear). I say it is a rascally thing to have those men here—(great cheering from the pitmen).

The Chairman—I must request most earnestly—I must insist that this sort of impropriety shall not be used. I have checked it on both sides, and it is impossible to allow it consistently with the due administration of justice and the dignity of the Bench—(uproar).

Mr. Roberts, with great energy,—I repeat, the men have been unjustly used. (Cheers.)

The Chairman made some observation which was lost in the uproar.

Mr. Roberts, with increased vehemence,—I repeat it. (Great cheering and uproar.)

Dr. Fenwick.—I say it is a base and insolent misstatement. (Uproar.)

Mr. Roberts, to Dr. Fenwick,—I cannot hear you. (A laugh.)

Dr. Fenwick.—No! you are very conveniently deaf. (Uproar, which continued some time.)

Mr. Elliot.—These remarks can only be made with a view to widen the breach which exists between the men and the masters; they cannot be made for the good of the men.

Mr. Roberts.—The men have been made mad by what the Bench said last night. (Loud cheers, and agitation.) They cannot be excited more. (Renewed cheers.)

The Chairman.—All the improper and insulting language used on your part will have no influence with the magistrates, who are prepared to extend the principles of equity and justice to the workmen. (Tumult.)

Mr. ROBERTS, addressing the chairman fiercely,—"You know you are unfit to occupy that seat: your conduct is most partial and disgraceful. Before my case was closed you *delared* from that Bench on which you confer no honour, *that the men were guilty!* Is that the spirit—

Thundering groans from the gallery mixed with contemptuous yells as the Bench prevented the conclusion of Mr. R.'s sentence being heard.

The Chairman—It was not so stated: it was not stated from the Bench that the men were guilty.

Mr. Roberts—Pause, ere you add the guilt of falsehood. The hundreds in the gallery heard the accursed speech.

The Chairman—It was not stated from the Bench that the men were guilty,

Mr. Roberts.—You did state so.—(Tremendous uproar.)

The Chairman, with great heat, and stamping with his feet—It was not so stated—it was stated that there was matter for consideration.

Mr. Roberts, also stamping—Aye, I can stamp too—there's but little argument in that—(Loud cheers and laughter).

After some more altercation the chairman sat down—put up his backs and coaxed them. Then another "Justice" took up the cudgels; the great game of the "unpaid" is to make the men believe that they ("the Justices") would be more merciful if that Mr. Roberts would but be quiet, and "let them do it comfortably."

Mr. Elliot—I trust that the men here have sense enough to see that their advocate is not attempting to serve their interests, but solely to widen the breach which unfortunately exists between them and their masters.

Mr. Roberts vehemently, pointing to the three prisoners,—That is the breach—those three men (indescribable tumult, amidst which Harewood started up and bawled out at the full pitch of his voice, "I'll go to gaol for one,"—(great cheering and renewed uproar followed this sally).

Mr. Elliot—For my part I am determined to do my duty unflinchingly, whatever may be said either on one side or the other—(uproar.)

The Chairman, recovering himself and pointing to Mr. Roberts—The magistrates have no wish to act on other principles than those of impartial justice, and it is impossible that the Court can submit to such gross insolence from "*the man who sits there*"—(groans).

Mr. Roberts—I am instructed that in the trial of these three men, the ordinary forms of every court in the kingdom have been violated. For my own part I do not care a farthing for the mere technical objection; but I am told that these three men were each charged with a separate offence, and I again say that the custom of every county has been violated in trying these three men together—(loud cheers from the pitmen). I again, continued Mr. R., offer to refer this matter to arbitration—to refer the question whether the bond is a fair one—(hear, hear, hear). I have endeavoured as much as possible to reconcile the men and the masters. There are a dozen Collieries which would now have been out of work but for me. I have induced the men again to go to work at Cassop and Framwellgate Moor Collieries. I believe the peace of the Collieries is in the main owing to my exertions—(loud cries of hear and cheers). Do not send these men to prison, but refer it to arbitration, and a good understanding will then be restored—(cheers).

No answer was made to this proposition.

The Chairman—Let the case go quietly on.

Mr. Marshall—Do you propose to refer the whole question of the bond?

Mr. Roberts—I am for the whole question of the bond or any part of it

The Chairman—If there is the least chance of coming to an arrangement the parties had better retire.

Mr. Roberts—I will refer the whole question to arbitration.—Some further conversation took place, which ended in Mr. Roberts rising and saying, I will set the example of retiring: if no man follows me I can come back.

The parties then retired, and remained out of court some time; on their return it was evident, from sundry shakings of the head, that no arrangement had been come to. In reply to the Bench—

Mr. Roberts said he was sorry to say that they could not agree with regard to the men in prison, whom it seemed impossible to get out. The other points could have been arranged.

The Chairman—Their liberation does not rest with the owners, or even with the magistrates.

Mr. Roberts—I think we could get over everything else with the exception of these men. Even supposing everything settled, these men still stand in the way of arrangement.

The Chairman—That is a point which cannot be remedied now without an application to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Roberts—I have done all I possibly can.

The Chairman—*If such an application were made by the Magistrates, I have little doubt but it would be acceded to.*

Mr. Roberts—I have great doubts of it myself. If I had been here at the time these men were tried, I think I could have convinced the magistrates that it was at least a matter of doubt. Could the present case not be adjourned for a week, and an application be made in the meantime? It is evident that these men at least conceived they were right. I will take upon myself to apply that the case stand over for a week.

Mr. Marshall—Would the men go to work in the meantime?

Mr. Roberts—They might possibly.

Mr. Roberts—I request that this case be postponed for a week.

A conversation then ensued between Mr. Roberts on the one side, and Mr. Elliot on the other, which ended in the adjournment of the case to one o'clock.

The Court re-assembled at one o'clock, when Mr. Roberts, without any observation, proceeded to call Wm. Henderson as a witness.

The Chairman inquired what had been done during the adjournment?

Mr. Roberts said—I have conferred with the parties on this matter, and in consequence of what has taken place I beg to request that you will postpone the further consideration of this case till Wednesday. In the meantime I pledge my honour that I will do my best endeavours to bring about a reconciliation between the masters and the men, with advantage to both parties; and I also pledge my best belief that that can be effected. Before sitting down allow me to state that I think the magistrates would do well to decide that a weighing machine, consisting of beam and scales, should be established everywhere, and that they should be stamped by the proper officer of Government. Wishing to promote that reconciliation, I give to the masters an opportunity of doing an act of grace. I ask them to withdraw the proceedings against these men. However, my application to you is to postpone the case till Wednesday, in order that the masters may do an act of grace. I believe the men will be all at work on Thursday morning. I would not say this unless I had good reasons for believing so

Mr. Marshall—I am instructed to say on behalf of the owners of Thornley Colliery that they have no objection to the proposition of Mr. Roberts, provided Mr. Roberts on the part of the pitmen should promise to resume work. The Company think that whilst the men continue to violate the agreement, it would be improper to listen to any terms of compromise.

Mr. Roberts—Do you mean that you will not argue the question with me unless the men previously go to work?

Mr. Marshall—Yes.

William Henderson was again called, but previously to the commencement of his examination,

Mr. Roberts said—I have already made the application with the consent of the opposite party, and I now make the application without their consent, to postpone this case until Wednesday; and I can assert my belief that matters will be reconciled before that time.

Mr. Elliot—The complaint is now before us, and it is our duty to proceed with it.

The Chairman—We have wished to know what had been done up to that time.

Mr. Roberts—The interval which I had with your permission was not long enough to carry out its object. I may state perhaps what I want. I want a deputation to wait on the masters. It is the belief of the men that they can do better with the masters than with the viewers.

Dr. Fenwick—The bench find themselves in a situation of very great difficulty. They have heard nothing of what has passed, and they know nothing of what either owners or men are willing to do. How can we determine what ought to be done, being in total ignorance as we are?

Mr. Roberts—I shall not make any further application. (Cheers from the pitmen.) I have done my duty. There has been 4d. a tub taken away from the men when there should only have been 3d. The quart is the quantity that still exists, and that we propose to submit to the viewer. We propose to have beams and scales nicked and stamped, and to go into the whole of the grievances of the collieries by means of a deputation. I believe the matter will be settled. If the application is refused, I will do my duty to the men by going on.

Mr. Marshall—The owners will be most happy and willing to meet any deputation if the men will first go to work.

The Magistrates took time to consider, and a difference of opinion apparently prevailing they retired, and after an absence of nearly half an hour returned into Court, when

The Chairman rose and said—The magistrates have taken everything into their serious consideration, and would be very glad indeed to find that there were any hopes of reconciliation.

Mr. Elliot—Has there nothing taken place between the parties since we left the Court?

Mr. Roberts—Nothing further has taken place,

The Chairman—Then it is impossible on the application of one side only, with no particular reason assigned, to grant the application. You had better go on Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Roberts immediately proceed to call

William Henderson—I have worked at Thornley Colliery since April last. Since the 20th November last more coal has been laid out than previously. I work in the five-quarter seam. At the bottom of that seam there is a band of *black brass,* running from 1½ to 4 inches in thickness. On the top of the coal is a band of *grey splint* about four inches thick; on the top of that a band of *white stone* runs to near eight inches thick, and when we hew the coal *all this has come down* regularly the last six weeks when I have worked. It is not possible to get all this out of the coal. The black brass is hewn with the coal. It goes into the tub also. We cannot conveniently get it out because it is wrought with the good coal. The black brass is as liable to be laid out as other things. From the colour of the black brass it is not possible to separate it from the coal. We have only a Davy lamp to pick it out with, and from the want *of air we are almost stifled,* so that a man cannot tell altogether what he is about when he is doing it. We cannot tell the black brass from the other when it is wrought down the pit, because it gets so mixed with the rest of the coal. The light is dimmer with the Davy lamp than with the ordinary candle. There is a ten-inch band above the others I have mentioned which generally comes down with the coal. That is called *foul coal.* It does not come down so regularly as the other seams under it. The deputies have to prop this up, but it gets so broken that they cannot get the timber under. I have worked in other collieries, and *never knew so hard a bond* as this. I was fined on the 18th of November. I complained about the machines when I had been about three months on the colliery. I cannot give any account of anything being done to rectify it. Since the 20th we have had 6s. stopped out of one tub. The payment for that tub would have been 3½d. Twenty-four quarts at 3d. a quart were stopped out of that one tub. That was before we stopped the last time. Never knew such a stoppage as that before the bond was put in force. That was the account taken from the master's man when the tub came to bank. I always chose the prison before working for nothing. Mr. Roberts—Do you think all the men will rather go to prison than work under that bond? Witness—Yes. The "YES" was re-echoed from hundreds of the pitmen. Cross-examined by Mr. Marshall—I was fined 9s. 9d. for two days. Those were the two first days of the last three we worked. Nothing was taken off for the last day. I cannot recollect what was the amount of my fines before the strike. I will swear nothing about whether I was ever fined a shilling, because my mind is so distracted with this oppression that I can swear nothing about it—(loud cheers from the pitmen).

John Stephenson, who had worked at the colliery nearly two years, gave similar evidence—I was one of the two appointed by the men to inspect the laid-outs. Sixteen quarts was the most laid out in one tub. That came out of the main seam. The five-quarter seam is worse than the main seam. I have been a coal hewer *twenty years,* and never knew *so hard a bond.* Although I have a wife and five children, I would rather go to that gaol till April than work under this bond. Cross-examined—I was bound a Second time because I could do no otherwise. The other colliers would not bind. Other men might go to other collieries. *I will not* swear that 100 men did not leave. I can swear that I requested the 26s. a fortnight, although I have worked regularly since the last binding. There were twenty-six men fined on that day. I will not swear that there were only twenty-six men fined in that pit on that day. Mr. Marshall—Will you swear that there were not 100 men. Witness—Na, aw knaw what aw's about. Re-examined—The *keeper* said that *every other tub* might have been set out *if the bond was enforced.* *He is the master's man.* I think his name is Geo. Brown. No man would put splint into their tubs on purpose. When a man has been fined 8s. one day, and 4s, another, it has been from the state of the pit.

Mr. Marshall here applied to have all the witnesses ordered out of Court.

Mr. Roberts resisted the application, and said it was all of a piece with the conduct of the owners.

The Bench conferred some time, but gave no decision, and Mr. R. proceeded.

Joseph Longstaff, another pitman—It was often stated to me by the *weigher of coals* that he was *astonished* we should allow the weigh to go on in that state. His name is William Kay. I have heard that the steelyard would weigh *either 9 lbs. or 14 lbs. either way. Kay said this.* I am not prepared to say whether it would weigh for the master or against him, or either way. The men were desirous of beam and scales. I have worked under other bonds. I believe this has never been in operation fully. I am prepared to say from my own observation that it is impossible for a man to live under that bond.

John James Bird, who had applied to the magistrates for a summons against the masters for ill usage and had been refused—Went *first* to Mr. Hays's office, and *then* to Mr. Hays's house, and *then* to Mr. Barry, the magistrate. Mr. Barry came out and asked what we wanted. We said we wanted a summons for non-payment of wages. He asked the sum, and we said *three shillings.* He said "for the small sum of three shillings." I stated that it was not an application individually, but collectively, and that it amounted to a large sum collectively. We wanted some discussion, and he said he *was not there for discussion,* and *walked away* without granting a summons. *Mr Barry is now on the Bench.* By Mr. Elliot—I was referred by Mr. Barry to make application to the Bench. By Mr. Roberts—I have heard you tell the men to try every means to obtain justice from the magistrates, before they resorted to the strike. By the Bench—It would be three weeks gone Tuesday since I went to Mr. Barry. I cannot say positively whether he mentioned the day the Bench sat. We were told afterwards that the Bench sat next day. We did not apply to the Bench next day.

John Cresswell, who worked in the main coal had been charged 4d. a quart for splint for three quarts. [Mr. Roberts said the bond only allowed 3d. a quart, *but that perhaps made no difference.*] Could not tell how often he had been fined. Had been fined three times in a fortnight. At the last pay, they said they had found out their error of charging 4d. instead of 3d. At the last pay, the difference, it was said, should be returned. I think I was never charged more than 1s. a tub in a day; sometimes there were three in the fortnight, and sometimes they took one off. It is the general conviction of the men that they have been cheated by this steelyard.

John Lumsden spoke to the same effect as the other witnesses.

Samuel Turner said he had worked at Thornley six years, and never knew wages so bad as they were now. Had worked at other collieries, and the five-quarter seam at Thornley was the dirtiest he had ever worked in. *They were erecting a beam and scales now,* and that he believed was one result of the present strike.

Wm. Wilkinson said Mr. Heccles had told him he knew the weight was unjust. Mr. Heccles said he knew that it made a difference with the weight aceeding to the end at which the tub went on, and that even a one-sided corf would make a difference.

Mr. Roberts here appealed to the Bench to know if they were not of opinion that he had made out his case—that it was impossible for the men to work under this bond. The Bench said the usual way was for the Bench not to give an opinion whilst a case was in progress; but to leave the matter altogether to the discretion of the advocate. When he had closed his case they would consult and give their decision. Mr. Roberts then called

William Turner, another pitman—Believed if the bond was enforced every tub would be laid out in the five-quarter seam. Had been several times at Mr. Heccles about the laid-out and the steel-yard. Told Mr. Heccles they would like to have the beam and scales upon the heap. Mr. Heccles said he had business of more importance than putting up the beam and scales to attend to. They were advised by Mr. Roberts to go to work again, in order to put themselves right with their masters.

Mr. Roberts was about to call another witness, when the Chairman said that as there was no chance of getting through the evidence that night, the Bench wished to adjourn the case, and as the next day was the petty sessions, they thought of adjourning till Monday or Tuesday—Mr. Roberts said he had some other prisoners to defend on Tuesday, and solicited an adjournment till Wednesday. To this Mr. Marshall did not object, and the case was therefore adjourned till Wednesday morning at ten o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13.

The Court met this morning at ten o'clock.

Mr. Roberts, before the Court was opened, again applied for a summons against the owners of Wingate Colliery. In compliance with the opinion of the Bench he had applied to a *local* magistrate, by whom he had been *referred to the Bench,* and thus the men appeared to be bandied about from one to the other.

The Chairman said the magistrate applied to had doubtless meant the Board meeting in that district, and Mr. Roberts should apply there.

Mr. Roberts had not entertained that view of the case.

Mr. Marshall then applied that none but the witnesses under examination should be admitted into Court. His only object in making this application was that the witnesses might not be prompted by the men behind them. In support of his application Mr. Marshall cited Roscoe's Law of Evidence, from which it appeared that witnesses could be ordered out of Court.

Mr. Roberts objected to the application being made before the parties were admitted.

Considerable discussion ensued, which ended in Mr. Marshall assenting to postpone his application until the public were admitted.

The doors were then opened, and the public admitted, when Mr. Marshall renewed his application.

Mr. Roberts opposed the application on the grounds that the application was too late, and that an application once refused, the same motion could not be made again.

The Chairman, after some consultation with his brother magistrates, said that the bench had no doubt about the propriety of Mr. Marshall's application, or that they were bound to agree to it, but they asked Mr. Marshall if he thought it worth his while to persist in it?

Mr. Marshall said, under the circumstances he would not press it; and the application was accordingly withdrawn.

Mr. Roberts then called,—

Wm. Andersen.—I am a collier working at Thornley Pit. I have worked there since the 15th April. The price for working a tub is a little more than 3½d. As an individual I have used every energy to make a living, and have of late thrown off several tubs a day to get clear of the fines, and I think if we were to be fined for having a quart of foul coal it is impossible for any man to make a living. At the last reckoning I was fined for four quarts, but they threw one off and only fined me 1s. I had been as careful that day as I ever was before. *I took more than usual care,* because I knew the crisis I was in. I was not fined for more than one tub that day, but I did not work as much as usual on that day. I was then working in a very bad seam, where there was a deal of obnoxious gas, so that I could not use the candle, and that was the reason why I did not hew so much as I could have done, [Witness gave nearly the same description of the bands above and below the five-quarter seam as the other witnesses.] I have also worked in the main seam, and have been charged 4d a quart for what has been laid out. The grievances of the colliery are—(first my own)—I was to average 26s a fortnight, and it would be the 12th before I was employed. For that fortnight I received nothing. The next I received 3s 7d, the next 18s 6d, and the next 23s 6d, and for that I worked in six different parts of the mine. I have not received 26s on average. I have only received that sum for six or seven fortnights. I was to have a comfortable dwelling house, but I was plunged into a house with another family. I complained to Mr. Heccles about the steelyard being unjust. The main of our grievances were seeing the laid-out and the weighing machine. There were two or three different deputations formed to Mr. Heccles, but some of them were afraid of him. The deputations represented the wishes of the men generally. *The weighing machine was never adjusted to my knowledge.* I think the prison is a place to which I should not like to go, but I would rather go there than go to the colliery any more—(hear, hear, and cheers).

The Chairman said if these disorderly proceedings were continued they would be compelled to adjourn to their usual place of meeting.

William Ord had been off ten weeks from lameness; had been fined 4d., 1s., and 2s. 6d. a tub, about the latter end of July or beginning of August. That was when Mr. Heccles was keeker. Went to the screenman and asked him what the fine was, and the one pointed this way and the other the other, and laughed at me, and said it was Mr. Heccles's own doing. Went to Mr. Heccles, and he asked me if I was not content with the half-crown, and I said—"No, man, how can I be content with half-a-crown taken off when I've only addled 3s.?" *He threatened to get a warrant against me.* They fine us just as they have a mind. It is anything but just. Mr. Heccles sent for a warrant, but we got advice from an attorney and the warrant was never got. The men were stupid or half-mad when they went home last Friday night. On the 20th, Mr. Heccles said the beam and scales should be put up directly if the men went to work. They did go. Mr. Heccles had previously promised to put up a beam and scales. At one time he told us he had had them lying in his storehouse for six months. I am positive about that; that would be about three months since I think, but I'm not qualified to state the time or anything about it. Mr. Heccles made a gross mistake; when we asked for the boxes *he* sent for the quart pot. *We did not ask for the quart pot.* If Mr. Heccles stated so he has told a lie, and a gross lie. The boxes were that each man might see his own. I have been there when there were 100, 150, and perhaps 200, and there was never a quart pot mentioned—it was all Mr. Heccles' free gift. That I'll swear to. It would have taken all the men in the colliery to measure the stones. The owners knew that as soon as the bond was enforced the colliery would stand. I think they enforced it at last because they wanted the colliery laid in. The *refusal* of the warrant which was applied for at Durham irritated the *men's minds,* because they thought the master could get a waggon load of warrants and the men could not get one. *They thought they could not get justice either from the owners or the magistrates.* Just previous to the 24th, the men came to the resolution that they would stand for ever unless they got justice. Every man will go to prison rather than yield. I will rather go to prison than work at the main coal or any seam they have. I have not earned 26s a fortnight on the average.

Wm. Kay—I am weigher for the Thornley colliery, and am *employed by the masters.* Witness described the working of the steelyard, and said he could make *it either just or unjust* as he chose, and that he would explain. There were four piviots, and if the waggon were placed in the centre of them, it would weigh justly, but if the tub were put to the one side or the other of these pivots, it would give a greater or less weight than the real weight. By the shifting of the weights the men might lose 5lbs. It bore on his mind that he had weighed 10lbs. wrong on one side, and 4lbs. on the other.

Re-examined—Did not think he could do justice by this machine.

Mr. Roberts here made an application under the Weights and Measures Act for a summons against Mr. Heccles, in order that the steelyard might be brought into court. He said it was a fraudulent one. A great part of this inquiry depended on whether it was fraudulent or not. In God's name let them have the truth. The application was grounded on the 9th and 23rd sections of the Act 5 and 6 Wil. IV. c. 93, which imposed a penalty for false balances in cases where goods were exposed for bargain and sale, or when they were intended to weigh for the purposes of carriage; but nothing whatever was said about balances for weighing between master and man.

The Chairman said it was the decided opinion of the Court that the Act did not apply to this case.

John Bates had worked at Thornley *for one and three-quarter year.* Worked in the main *coal one year.* Since the bond had been put in force had been fined 3d. a quart, and before 4d., and 1s. a tub. It was then done *at the discretion of the keeker.* If he thought it deserving of it he would lay on 1s. For the last quarter there had been 1s. laid-out to return, but nothing was received for the half-year before. We think we are entitled to have the odd pennies returned, and have applied for a summons against the owners to recover them. One time I was fined 1s. which the keeker said was for splint, when there was not a bit of splint where I was working. The men are tired of applying for summonses. They applied at Durham twice. I know they applied twice, for one time they did not come. I went to the inspector of weights and measures some time in the summer when he was at Thornley. He was then adjusting the store-house weights in the colliery raft yard. He took all the weights away I think because they were *not* just. He went on to the pit heap and looked at the steelyard but he did not adjust it. He looked at the chalks which the weigher had made, and asked if he (the weigher) had given and taken.

Mr. Marshall objected to what the inspector said being received in evidence. They should bring the inspector himself.

Mr. Roberts would then move for a summons.

The Chairman immediately granted the summons.

Mr. Roberts then applied for a summons to Mr. Heccles to produce the machine.

The Bench after some consideration decided that there was *no necessity* to have the machine produced in Court.

Mr. Roberts claimed it as a right.

The Bench—Then we decline giving any order.

Examination resumed—The inspector stated that he could not adjust the weights without taking them to Castle Eden. Whilst working last year in the five-quarter seam, the bond was never enforced at threepence a quart.

William Toplis—If the bond had been enforced before it was, the colliery must have been laid in, because the men could not make a living. Mr. Heccles has *offered me a bribe* to swear that the men could get a living. I was at work about a month ago, and he comes into me and says "Who's this?" I said "Toplis." He says, "I suppose you want the boxes, don't you?" I said "Yes, of course." He asked what we wanted with them, and I said to see them laid out. He said, "the men are going to get a summons, I suppose?" I said, "I don't know, you are likeliest to know." He said, "Do you think you could not work here a week or a fortnight and have none laid out?" I said, "No, I did not suppose I could." He says, "*If you will swear* that you could work here for a week or a fortnight *without having any laid out,* you shall have your *bread for nothing*"—(loud hootings). He said "I should have easy work, I should have my bread for doing nothing." I thought my father would not let me, and I said I durst not say. Nothing more took place about that. I thought him a nice man. I recollect I am on my oath, and I swear that all I have stated is true. If the bond had been enforced before the last 5th of April, they would not have signed the new bond. There was nothing to lead the men to believe that the bond would be more strictly enforced than it had been before.

Here occurred a really funny scene. The witness produced specimens of the black brass foul coal, grey splint and good coal: they were so much alike that it would appear impossible to distinguish one from another for the purpose of separation. Mr. Roberts handed them up to the Bench, (it must be recollected that the magistrates, most of them, get their bread from the coal trade,) and challenged them to tell "which was which." Then they all peered over together; two pulled out *eye-glasses;* one blew his nose: after ten minutes' accurate consideration, and twice deciding incorrectly, they gave it up as a bad job.

It is worthy of remark, that Mr. Marshall did not dare to cross-examine this witness.

Augustus King, during the last three days, had eight shillings taken off himself and marrow, They got 2s 6d each for the three days' work. They got 1s 4d back besides. Previous to last year there had been sixpence a score additional paid for the black brass. The men were anxious to obtain justice from the masters and the magistrates. When the summons was *refused* the men gave it up as a bad job. They said it was as much use going to Castle Eden or Durham as going to a mad dog. The colliery will never go on if that bond is enforced. *I believe no man will ever work at it.* I asked for my clearance, and Mr. Heccles said if he gave it to me he would put something in it *which would make me get work nowhere*—(yells).

Robert Toplis—If the bond had been enforced the colliery could not have been carried on—it would have been impossible for a man to get a livelihood. When working in the main coal he had been fined fourpence and one shilling a tub. Had been fined five shillings for two tubs in the five-quarter seam the last three days. Had frequently heard the weighing machines complained of.

Robert Walton believed that none of the men would have been bound if they had known that the bond would have been enforced. I have not been fined for any off-take, but was fined 2s. 6d. for lying idle last Saturday. It is a clear seam where I work. I cannot say whether half of the men work in a clear seam. If the bond had been strictly enforced we should have been in debt as well as the others.

By Mr. Fox—We had to work very hard to get 10s. a week if the bond were put in force in the main seam. If enforced where I am at present they could take every tub sent to bank, and a man would be in debt. It was the intention of the men to try to get justice if they could get it. I think the men would not have struck if they had got a summons when it was applied for. The refusal of the summons was a rankling sore to the men, and was spoken of by them as a refusal of justice. Since these proceedings commenced I have heard the men say they would get no justice. Where we work there is nearly a foot depth of water in the middle of the way. About three months since, the roof fell in to the ten inch parting, and because I would not remove the rubbish I was fined 2s. 6d. I might have had my back broke, but I was ordered to work at the same place, and because I did not, and went away, I was fined.

Reuben Ferster—Had been fined 11s 4d the last pay for the last three days. I worked twenty-two tubs. When I went to the overman to reckon, he said my coals were 11lbs short in weight. The hewing came to 6s 11d, and I was fined for forty-five quarts at threepence, which came to 11s 3d, so that I was 4s 4d in debt for three days' work. When the pay came on he deducted twenty-three quarts of the fine, and then I had only ninepence to receive. He cheated me out of a penny and I only got eightpence. For some time past every shot we have fired brought down the roof with it. Was never fined 11s before. If I had I would not have stopped at the colliery so long. Nothing was deducted for my lodgings—I had nothing to give them. I pay 4s for my lodgings. Did not hear the clause about the quart before I signed the bond. I will swear it was never read over in my presence. It was not generally known among the men that the fine was a quart. I signed the bond in the office. They would not let me sign my name, but took hold of my hand whilst I made my mark. I can write. Would be about two minutes in the office altogether. No explanation was made to me nor the other men who were there. Mr. Heccles asked if I had come to get bound, and asked my name; I told him, and he wrote my name and took hold of my hand till I made the cross.

Charles Willett had worked at Thornley five years come the binding. I put my cross to the bond. I can write my name. The bond was not read to me. That I'll swear. It was never explained to me. The office was full of men when I went in; they were standing waiting to get hold of the pen. Mr. Heccles was there. He asked me what I worked at, and I told him I hewed. He put down my name, and I then put my cross. It would take me three or four moments. Since that time neither Mr. Heccles nor any body else has explained it to me, neither have I had a copy given me. I recollect the summons being applied for. When it was refused it operated on the men.

Joseph Burnett had been fined 6s 6d. for twenty-six quarts during the three last days. He had only put his mark to the bond *though he could write.* The bond had never been read to him. He could not make a living under the bond, and would rather go to gaol than work under it.

Mr. Roberts here took an objection that the warrant was informal, as the date was inserted in figures. The Bench overruled the objection.

William Park had worked eight years at Thornley. He had earned, on the average, 26s. a fortnight. During the last three days he had been fined for sixteen quarts in one tub. That was on the second of the last three days. Would take his solemn oath that there was not a stone in it the size of his thumb. The foul was all black brass. They could not send up a tub with less than a quart of black brass. He was 1s. 9d. in debt after working the three days.

Joseph Kirk had worked five years at Thornley, but could not tell whether he was a bound man; was told he was. Mr. Heccles wrote *my name and took hold of my hand* whilst I *touched the top* of the pen, but I will not swear that I am a bound man. On the first of the last three days I was fined *for seventeen quarts;* on the second day I was fined eight quarts, and the next day there were six quarts of foul, but they were not kept off. Worked as hard and as carefully at that time as at the other. Had to receive 3s. 7½d. for the three days' work; that might keep a man and his family upon potatoes, but not much else.

Edward Clark—Was three miles off when the bond was read over, but afterwards signed it. No explanation was given me of the bond at the time I signed it. *I did not know that I was liable to a quart fine.* I went with Mr. Roberts to Mr. Heccles, and Mr. R. asked Mr. Heccles if the men would go to work would he (Mr. H.) put a beam and scales on the heap. Mr. H. said he would if we went to work, but he would not unless we went to work. Went to work in consequence of what Mr. Roberts said.

Jabez Wonders had worked six years at Thornley. Was a bound man. The bond was read over to me. I could not write, but had put my mark. When I went to reckon with the overman I was fined twelve shillings for the three day. *I then stood three shillings in debt to my master.*

At the close of this witness's examination the case was adjourned till to-morrow at ten o'clock.

THURSDAY, DEC. 14.

The Court met this morning at ten o'clock, when Mr. Roberts called—

Joseph Walker, who had worked at the five-quarter seam at Thornley since April last. On the three days after the 20th, I and my marrow had nine tubs laid out one day, three another, and one another. There were eighty-eight quarts in those tubs. They took some of them off, or otherwise we should have been in debt. *One day we were in debt.* They took some off; they said they had taken the first quart off every tub. We went to Mr. Heccles on the night of the 21st. He said we were to work away, and he would see us paid—supposing we filled the fewer up we were to take pains. My marrow and me had 9s 3½ to receive, and 1s 6d consideration, which left 7s 9d. I always labour as hard as I can, and I did so those days. *The consideration money is for the place we work in. If I were to work in the same place a fortnight it would take me another fortnight to clear myself.* It would be impossible for any man to make a livelihood in the place where I have worked for the last six weeks. It is a place not fit to put a dog in, let alone a Christian. Though I have a wife and four children, I would rather go to prison than work the bond.

Robert Parker had worked three years at Thornley, backward and forward. I am unbound. One of the last three days I was fined four quarts, three on the second, and none on the third. Have been in gaol for nine weeks for leaving work five years since. I was committed from Gateshead.

Robert Richardson had worked in the five-quarter seam six years. I heard the bond read over, but I was fully aware that I could not make a living if it were put in force, but I could not get work elsewhere. The bond has never been enforced since it was a colliery till now. I have never been before a magistrate, but I would rather go to prison than work under this bond.

Thomas Clough, who stated that he was appointed by Mr. Heccles to take charge of the stone and foul coals, was examined at great length; we can only give the following:—

The year before last I was sent to see about the weighing machine by the men. I wished to see if it was just, and I made application to the colliery for weights to test it and see if it was just, but I could not get them. I went to a shopkeeper and got weights, and found it to be strictly just. A fortnight after I thought there was a deficiency in the men's surplus weight, and on looking saw there was the main pivot deficient. I made application for those weights again, and found the steelyard had a variation of 12lbs against the men. I was examining the steelyard a fortnight or three weeks ago to see if anything had been done at it. I could not see any material difference with respect *to the principle,* but I thought there was with respect to the steelyard itself. I did not try it, but I believe it cannot be correct, because there is a pivot with a sharp point, on which it works and when that point becomes round it operates against the men. It would become round in about three weeks. Confidence has been placed in me *by the masters and men,* and I am of opinion that men *cannot make a living* there under the bond. The men applied to me about this strike, and I persuaded them off, for I am against all strikes among bound men. I advised them to apply to the magistrates, and they said they had refused to grant an order. I then avised them to apply to Mr. Wood; and they said that they thought it would be of no use, and that the only way to bring the matter before the magistrates would be to strike, and they went away with that determination. I believe if the men were treated with a kind feeling they would at once go to work. I have heard that twenty collieries are now at work through your (Mr. Robert's) advice. I never heard it repeated that you had endeavoured to widen the breach between the masters and men.

A curious scene here occurred. Mr. Roberts asked the witness if anything he had heard could justify the imputation thrown upon him by the Bench that he (Mr. R.) had endeavoured to widen the breach between the masters and men?

The question was objected to, and the Chairman said that the Bench were not aware of any such imputation having been thrown out.

Mr. Roberts said such an imputation had been thrown out by those who ought to be ashamed of themselves for doing so.

Mr. Elliot said he believed Mr. Roberts alluded to an observation which fell from him; and it was drawn forth by the disorderly scene of last Friday morning. He was surprised and sorry to see a man professing to have a liberal education conducting himself as Mr. Roberts then did, and it was in consequence of that that the observation fell from him.

Mr. Roberts said none was more aware that he possessed an infirmity of temper than himself. He had done all he could to prevent the case coming here; but when it did come he had entered into it heartily, because he felt most deeply; and every one must see that his demeanour was not put on. He would have made any concession, perhaps almost what he ought not to have done, to prevent the case coming here; but as it had come he would use every exertion, and *fiat justitia ruat cœlum.*

Mr. Elliot would grant all that, but what had it to do with the observation. He thought Mr. Roberts's conduct could only be styled indecent; and he only regretted that on that occasion Mr. Roberts's words were not taken down by the magistrates' clerk for their consideration hereafter. If after that time there had been any expression of regret, and if the case had been carried on with decency—if there had been any expression of that kind, he should have been the very first person to have wished that everything should have been forgotten.

Mr. Roberts—So far as your speech applies to me I throw back its imputations with all the contempt they deserve.

Mr. Elliott made some remarks about "a Court of Justice."

Mr. Roberts—A Court of Justice indeed! *Some men* can only be LASHED to justice! I have applied the ash, and vigorously.

Cheers from the gallery, that were *really deafening,* greeted the ennunciation of this most wholesome truth. For a moment their "worships" seemed "bothered"—confused—did not now what to do. At last they all run out together.

After about half an hours' absence they returned, when the Chairman handed to Mr. Hays a resolution, which he said had been unanimously agreed to, and which, at the Chairman's desire, Mr. Hays read. It was as follows:—

"The Bench is of opinion that a gross contempt of Court has been committed by Mr. Roberts, in the observations just addressed by him to the Bench, which in a superior Court of Justice would have led to immediate commitment; and the Magistrates are willing to hope that another mode of proceeding which is open to the Court may be rendered unnecessary by a proper apology."

Mr. Roberts—I beg to withdraw the observation to which the Magistrates have alluded.

Dr. Fenwick—There is no apology in that; you ought to say that you are very sorry, and will never do it again.

Mr. Roberts—Apologize for what—sorry for what? Sorry that I feel abhorrence at the dreadful mockery going on within these walls—sorry that I cannot restrain the expression of that abhorrence. However I will withdraw any expression you dislike; and if that expression is in reply to a charge against me I will repeat it again.

Dr. Fenwick said something which we could not exactly catch, but which we understood to be to the effect that Mr. Roberts should apologize as well as retract.

Mr. Roberts—Some strong observations were made upon me by the magistrates, which I felt bound to resent, and I always will resent any imputations on my conduct, whether made by magistrate or judge—aye, even by a Sovereign, yet out of respect to the judicial character of the Court I will withdraw the expression. But I will always resent such a thing at the time, and will throw back with scorn and contempt every imputation attempted to be thrown on me.

Mr. Spearman—It would be an extremely easy process indeed if a gentleman standing as you do, and acting in a superior court, were to be guilty of a gross contempt of court, and were to acquit himself of that contempt by merely saying that he withdrew the expression. I think you cannot withdraw the expression. It was given utterance to and cannot be withdrawn, and I consider that for the use of those contemptuous expressions we should have been warranted in immediately committing you to prison—that we might have done it, and that a superior court would have done it. We think that there is another mode of proceeding which might be entertained, but we have wished that by a proper proceeding on your part you may render that unnecessary. It is for you to consider whether what you have just said is a proper mode of acquitting yourself or not.

Mr. Roberts—Acting on my own judgment, I considered I had offered all that the Court required, when I said I withdrew the expression. When I said that I meant 'I will withdraw it—I wish it had not been said.' (After a pause). If there are any words to put in to express it, I will put them in.

Mr. Spearman—I would say that the expression was an improper expression, and that you are answerable for it.

Mr. Roberts—If the expression that I have endeavoured to widen the breach between the masters and men is withdrawn, I will retract my assertion

Mr. Spearman—But you also said that the lash was necessary to drive some men to do justice, and that you had applied that lash.

Mr. Roberts—*I say so still.* I apply the imputation very much to the masters, and I am sorry *that there are sometimes masters on the Bench.* (After a pause). I withdraw the expression.

Mr. Fox—It had better be considered as not having been uttered. This seemed to be agreed to, and after a short interval,—

Mr. Roberts again rose and said—That being accepted, I now say that I most sincerely apologise for it. I should consider myself unworthy of the position I hold if I did not feel indignant at the "horrible humbug" I am compelled to witness. I should be unworthy too of that position if I did not express my indignation with the warmth which every honest man must feel at the disgusting farce. And now having expressed it I will apologise for it.

The Chairman—The Bench are quite satisfied.

Mr. Roberts again rose, and asked if the Bench were not satisfied that the men generally were of opinion that they could not work so as to earn a livelihood under the present bond. He put the question to save the time of the Court, so as to prevent the necessity of calling all the witnesses.

Mr. Marshall objected to the Bench being thus called upon, as it were, to declare their decision before he had had an opportunity to reply.

Some further conversation and argument took place, which resulted in the Bench declaring that they were of opinion that all the men would give similar evidence, and that they would take it as if they had all sworn so.

John Hudson, the Inspector of Weights for the district, was then examined. He had been sitting behind the owners, and had enjoyed with them a comfortable chat. It would be wrong in us to speculate upon the effect of this. However, he swore that the steel-yard weights, and everything else, were all right. Afterwards, on being pressed, he admitted that some time ago he found some weights all wrong; and that the weights in question were "lumps of lead," not such as were recognised by the law, and therefore he could not stamp them.

Mr. Roberts applied to be sworn.

The Chairman said this was a very novel request.

Mr. Roberts said he wished to state the circumstances under which the men had acted.

Mr. Marshall thought it would be like giving Mr. Roberts an opportunity of making another speech.

After some further conversation,

Mr. Roberts was sworn and said—I am the attorney employed by the colliers of the two counties of Durham and Northumberland to defend them and act generally as their legal adviser. In that capacity I have several times during the last two months been called on to advise the men of Thornley colliery. They have complained to me of the steelyard being fraudulent, and I directed them to apply to the viewer on the subject, and also to go to the inspector of weights for his advice. Afterwards I was informed that this had been done, but with no result. I recommended the men to continue at their work. On Sunday the 19th of November, having heard that the men were unsettled in consequence of the weighing machine still remaining unadjusted and other grievances, I drove over to Thornley and saw several of the men that night; I held a meeting of the men at six o'clock the following morning, and succeeded in persuading them to return to work, and I would try to procure a redress of their grievances. We then all went together to the house of Mr. Heccles, the viewer. He came out and I addressed him in the presence of the men. I observed to Mr. Heccles that the men complained of the weighing machine that it was unjust, and requested him to erect a beam and scales. He said he would, but could not do it immediately; he had *other things to do.* I pressed the point upon him, and *he then agreed to do it directly.* I then spoke of the laid-outs. These the men had complained of, and I asked him to be more lenient. I read from a paper furnished me by the men. He replied, he should enforce the bond. I remonstrated against this, that it was impossible for a man to obtain a living under the bond. He answered he did not care about that, he should do it. I then walked away, but returned immediately, and asked him, as he meant to enforce the bond, and the men could not live under it to give the men their clearance. This he refused. After this I left him. Mr. Beasley was with me the whole time. The men followed us. I did not know how to advise them, and drove on for about a quarter of a mile. Then Mr. Beasley as well as myself addressed them from the gig. We advised them to return to work as soon as possible, and to apply for the beam and scales directly, and we stated that we did not believe that the owners would enforce the bond, notwithstanding the assertion of Mr. Heccles that he would do so. The men promised to comply, and we drove on to Lanchester, where we were to be by nine o'clock. A few days after, I believe on Thursday, the 23rd, a deputation from Thornley Colliery waited on me, and informed me of the 22s. being stopped from one man, and the other cases detailed in the evidence, and that the bond was now so strictly enforced that it was impossible to obtain a living under it. Under these circumstances I declined recommending them to return to work, and I held out a hope that I might persuade the magistrates to reason with the owners on the subject. I do most firmly believe from the conversation of the men, any small act of justice or conciliation would have gone far towards inducing them to go to work again. Cross-examined by Mr. Marshall—When I was before Mr. Heccles, Mr Beesley did not use any insulting language. I do not recollect Mr. Beesley saying that he would not believe a word Mr. Heccles said, whilst I and Mr. Heccles were in conversation. I did not recollect it, but at the same time I believe it very probable, if Mr. Heccles was making any assertion. Mr. Heccles said he would put a beam and scales. I think with an extraordinary number of men, the beam and scales might be put up in a night, but I know nothing about it. I understood Mr. Heccles had promised them before. On the first night of this inquiry an offer was made to regulate the fines. [A paper was put into Mr. Roberts's hand which was admitted to contain the propositions of the owners. It was to the effect that the owners had no intention of making any alteration in the previous mode of inflicting fines, nor was it their intention to do so in future. If the men returned to their work immediately, the owners would use every means in their power to obtain a satisfactory settlement and a remission of the punishment of the men in prison.] Mr. Roberts continued—I stated that this very document was *a condemnation of the masters themselves.* In it they stated that up to a certain period they never intended to enforce the bond, and yet it was *because those three men had refused* to work *under that bond,* which they never intended to enforce, that they were *sent to prison.* I stated also that I did not believe these men would go to work unless the others were released from prison. I understood the masters to admit that the bond had been more strictly enforced lately than before, but I am not quite positive. I have certainly very great doubts it was said if the owners do not admit it. I believe, on consideration, it was not said. I stated that the great error and awkwardness was in my opinion the three men being in prison; but that I would use my utmost efforts to bring about a reconciliation. I am not able to say whether the negociation terminated abruptly in consequence of an expression that fell from Mr. Beesley. I think it terminated about the impossibility of getting those men out of prison. Another attempt was made on the following day for a reconciliation, and I saw a deputation from the men, who expressed themselves very anxious to do what was right, and they agreed to give up the release of the prisoners for the next two or three days provided that I and Mr. Beesley in the mean time would exert ourselves to have their grievances remedied. Mr. Beesley and I and some of the men were to wait upon the viewers, talk the matter over, and endeavour to make terms satisfactory to all parties. This was the time that the magistrates adjourned to one o'clock. I went to Mr. Marshall's office and told him of the proposition, on which he said he would see the owners. At that time I entertained a strong conviction that the whole matter might be arranged by Wednesday, and the men consent to return to their work on the arrangements being perfected, and before I requested the magistrates to apply to Sir James Graham for the release of the prisoners, I made it a point with the men that they should be actually at their work prior to the Magistrates making that application, and they complied with my request.

By Mr. Marshall—That negociation was broken off in consequence, as I understood, of the owners refusing to ento inter the negociation before the men returned to their work. I declined recommending the men to go to their work until I, by conversation with the owners, had ascertained that they were willing to concede what was fair and just. I believe the owners expressed their wish to enter on this negociation directly after the——

[Here a small portion of our MS. having been mislaid, we are unable to give the conclusion of Mr. Roberts's examination.]

(Continued in our Eighth page.)

The Colliers' Movement.

(Continued from our Seventh page.)

Mr. Marshall then replied, delivering a very lengthy speech, for which we cannot possibly find room. We wish we could for its admissions and attempted white-washing of the employers, really confirmed all that Mr. Roberts and the witnesses had advanced. He concluded as follows:—

"The question essentially comes simply to this, whether the masters or men are to have supreme authority—which is to have the controlling power? The men certainly cannot expect to dictate to their employers; and the owners would be willing to remedy all real abuses if the men would submit to acknowledge that they were wrong. (Hootings.) If they will go to work we will immediately meet any deputation, and hear any complaint the men have to make, and if they are reasonable and proper we will undoubtedly concede to them. We will do everything we can to restore a good feeling between the masters and the men if the men will only go to work, but we cannot be expected to succumb to the men. But, gentlemen, I go further, and will prove that the Thornley Coal Company had every desire to conciliate those differences and disputes between themselves and the men; and I was instructed that if any attempt had been made yesterday morning to negotiate with a view to settle the dispute, to make offers which no reasonable man could have ever refused. But no such attempt was ever made—no suggestion was held out by Mr. Roberts, and we were not in a situation so make it. The arrangement that I was prepared to make was this. Here Mr. M. read the following instructions from the Thornley Coal Company:—

"Before going into court, if possible, but if not, in the Court, Mr. Marshall should state that the Company have not pressed this conviction either with the view to punish the three men, who are no worse than the rest, or with an intention to hold any man to an agreement which may be considered unfair or harsh (but which they cannot admit to be either), their object has been solely with a view to assert the laws of the country, which they think have been violated. And, with this view, they have proposed that on the men returning to their work, the Company will consent to alter the mode of levying fines for laid-out coals to the mode practised at any other collieries which may be working similar seams in the district, or they will leave to reference in the usual way the mode of levying them, with this further provision that, if either the Company or the men object to the mode so fixed, it shall be set aside, and the men freed from their agreement on quitting their houses in fourteen days, and delivering up their work tools belonging to the Company: the condition precedent to all this that they resume their work."

—That proposition we are still prepared to abide by —(a voice, "we will go out of our houses, and be free men"). With these observations I shall leave the case fully in your hands; and it is for you to say whether these men have acted in accordance with the law, or they have not.

The Bench then retired, and, after being absent about twenty minutes, returned into court.

Addressing the masters, the Chairman asked whether they would still abide by the offer. Mr. Marshall replied that they would, provided the men would first concede that they were guilty, by returning to their work. The magistrates then looked at Mr. Roberts, who, after a pause of about two minutes, addressed them thus:—"If I understand this offer rightly, the masters admit by it that the points in dispute are points which ought to be decided by arbitration; but they say that before they do what they thus admit they ought to do—and what therefore they ought to have done long ago, my clients are first to return to work; and this return to work is put forward emphatically and avowedly as admission of guilt. 'Tis too late in life for me to be a party to a lie. I feel the deep, nay, the awful responsibility which rests upon me. [Here, amid the breathless silence of the Court, Mr. R. consulted for a few moments with the three men under trial, and said, in a subdued tone, 'Tis as I expected—virtue is always courageous—firm to the last. Mr. Roberts then turned to the Bench, and continued] "I have counselled with the three whom I am more immediately defending: they refuse to acknowledge themselves guilty when they know themselves innocent. On their behalf—on the part of the thousand honest hearts in that gallery—*I refuse the offer.* They can bear as they have borne toil and suffering—but through me they refuse to concur that they are guilty.

Here the whole gallery broke out into one loud and long-continued shout of approbation.

Then the sentence—one can hardly write the beastly thing—six weeks imprisonment and hard labour!

But the end is not yet come!

North Staffordshire.—On Tuesday last, the case of the men employed at the Tower Hill Colliery was decided before Messrs. Rose and Wood, at Burslem. Mr. Williams conducted the case of the men, and Mr. Stephenson for the employers. About three weeks since, all the coal-owners in the neighbourhood of Tower Hill advanced the wages of the miners with the exception of Messrs. Williamson and Kinnersley, the former of whose workmen sent in a notice and request for the advance, but the request was rejected; the employer demanding of the men a fortnight's notice. This the men very properly refused. Special warrants were issued by the magistrates for the apprehension of seven of the men, six of whom were taken out of their beds, but were afterwards liberated on bail. The men surrendered themselves on Wednesday, the 10th inst., but the employers did not appear. Again, on Saturday the 17th, when the case was adjourned to Tuesday the 19th, when it appeared that Mr. Stephenson failed to prove that the men ought to give the employers notice. The thing which to us appears the most strange is, *that the Court was a closed one, and that Mr. John Lomax, the Agent of the Association, was twice turned out of the Court,* although he was perfectly silent. Above six hundred have been added to the cause during the last fortnight. Mr. Lomax visited Knutten Heath, All Sages Bank, Butt Lane, Talk o'Hill, and Cheadle, within the last week, with good success.

Mr. P. M. Brophy lectured to a numerous assemblage of miners and other working men, on Monday morning, at Longton.

On Monday evening, Messrs. P. M. Brophy and John Lomax addressed a public meeting at Henley.

Mr. Wm. Holdgate visited the following places last week:—Dec. 11th, Wibsey Bank Foot; 12th, Bradshaw; 13th, Leeds; 15th, Kippax; and 16th, Barnsley.

Mr. Wm. Holdgate will attend the meetings to be held at Wibsey Slack, Dec. 26th; Honley, 27th, and other places in that district.

South Staffordshire.—Excellent meetings have been held at the following places:—West Bromwich, Wednesday, 13th inst.; Oldbury, 14th; Darlaston, 15th; Wednesbury, 16th; and Bilston, 18th. These meetings have been addressed by Messrs. Swallow, Scott, and a number of ardent friends of the good cause. The great length at which we have given the Thornley case, prevents us giving more than the above notices of these meetings.

Delegate Meeting.—On Monday, the 18th inst., a delegate meeting of the Miners of South Staffordshire was held at Wednesbury, Mr. J. George in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been confirmed, the following sums were paid in:—Three Crowns, £1 2s. 2½d; West Bromwich, £1 11s. 3d.; Oldbury, 18s. 9d.; Dudley Port, £1 1s. 3d.; Great Bridge, £1 10s. 3d.; Swan Village, 9s. 4d.; Wednesbury, 14s.; Summer Hill, 11s. 3d.; Darlaston, £1 11s. 3d.; Parkhouse Lane, 8s. 9d.; Tipton, £1 4s. 10½d.; Rounds Green, 3s.; White Heath Gate, 6s.; Rising Sun, £1 7s. 1d.; Princes End, 12s.; Bilston, 16s.; Jerusalem, 8s. 4½d.; Peacock, £1 10s. 1½d; Eagle, West Hamilton, 10s. 1d.; Mitre, ditto, 12s. 10d.; Robin Hood, S. V., 3s. The agents, Messrs. Scott and Swallow, were appointed to the following places:—Tipton, on Tuesday, the 19th; West Bromwich, the 20th; Wolverhampton, the 21st; Walsall, Friday, the 22nd; Wednesbury, Tuesday, the 26th; Dudley, Wednesday, the 27th; and the Dudley district on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. A vote of thanks was given to the conductors of the *Northern Star.* A delegate meeting will be holden on Tuesday, the 26th, to nominate delegates for the forthcoming Conference.

Fatal Accident.—A fatal accident occurred at West Bromwich, on Monday last, at the Hatley Heath Colliery. As one of the Colliers, named Joseph Groves, was pursuing his usual labour, a fall of coals fell upon him, and crushed him to pieces. He has left several children to lament his untimely and dreadful fate.

More Dreadful Accidents.—On the 12th inst., at the Smokey Pit, near Dudley Port, Staffordshire, Edward Cotton was crushed beneath a fall of coal. He died on the spot. He has left a wife and four children to bewail his loss.—On the same day, a boy lost his life at another pit, under similar circumstances.

Bishop-Auckland.—Mr. Kinsey has held very successful meetings at the following places:—Evenwood, Dec. 4th; Cockfield, 5th; Witton Park, 6th; Henwick, 7; Mow Meadows, 8th and 9th; Leasingthorne, 11th; Westerton, 12th; St. Helens, 13th; Woodhouse, 15th; and at South Church on the 16th. The district is flourishing; about two hundred new members having been enrolled by Mr. Kinsey.

Dalkieth.—A delegate meeting was held here on the 16th inst., when it was agreed that notice should be given to all who had not joined, that the entrance money be raised to five shillings, unless they enrolled before the beginning of January. The cause is progressing here. Letters to Mr. Watson, the agent, must be addressed—Mr. Benjamin Watson, care of Mr. Robert Deans, White Hill, near Dalkieth, Scotland.

Ayrshire.—A large meeting of the Kilbirnie and Dalry Miners was holden on the 11th inst., which was addressed by Mr. Davies. A vote of thanks was given to the conductors of the *Northern Star.*

Ripley.—Mr. Andrew Fleming addressed an excellent meeting of the colliers of this neighbourhood on Saturday last. At the close of his address, it was resolved that the *Northern Star* should be read every lodge night. Mr. Fleming will lecture at Swanwick on Saturday (this) night, in the long room, at the Steam-packet Inn.

To Readers and Correspondents.

☞ The great length at which we have given the report of the Thornley Colliery case, the pressure of Assize Intelligence, &c. &c., has compelled us to omit several important articles. Amongst others, an article on "Poland," and our usual matter under the head of "Poetry," "Reviews," "Science and Art," and "The Flower Gatherer."

The Oastler Liberty Fund.—We are reluctantly compelled to keep the reports of the meetings held at Manchester, Stockport, Oldham, Preston, &c. in support of the good "Old King," out of our first and second editions; we shall give them in the third edition—heartily sorry that it was impossible to give them in all the editions this week.

All Communications and correspondence intended for David Ross, (late of Manchester), must for the future be addressed to him at his residence, the Washington Coffee House, and Temperance Hotel, No. 112, Kirkgate, opposite Vicar Croft, Leeds.

The Type-Founders—We are reluctantly compelled to postpone the insertion of their address. We will give it next week.

National Victim Fund Committee—Their address and balance sheet next week.

F. W. Simeon, Bristol.—Thanks for his generous defence of Mr. O'Connor. We have not room for his letter to the Editor of the *Bristol Mercury,* but we give the Editor's notice of it; he has certainly acted more honourably than the gentlemen of the press-gang usually do; witness their fabrication of the paragraph, the falsehood of which Mr. Simeon has exposed. Here is the notice from the *Bristol Mercury*:—

First of April Predictions!—A paragraph has been going the rounds of the press (and which we copied in our last), to the effect that Mr. O'Connor had said that either Repeal must be carried, or Mr. O'Connell's head be laid upon the block by the 1st of April next! It has been pointed out to us, however, that it was O'Connell himself, and not O'Connor, who used the language, the words uttered by O'Connell, at a meeting in October, being—"Give me but six months' peace, and I'll give you my head on a block if, at the end of that time, you have not a Parliament in College Green." We dare say the 1st of April (All Fools' Day) will come and go without either Repeal being carried, or Mr. O'Connell being a head shorter. Should people be so simple as to take the trouble of reminding the member for Dublin that his head is forfeited, his answer will probably be—"Don't you wish you may get it!" Mr. O'Connell is a facetious gentleman, and we presume that on the 1st of April he will feel much more disposed to favour his admirers with "The Groves of Blarney," than to "Repeal the Union" between body and soul, by giving them "his head upon a block."

Correspondents not answered this week will be answered in our next.

FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE FUND.	s.	d.
From a few friends at Cawthorne, near Barnsley	2	0

Mr. Mason, Harleston—The first edition would be in time, but the second seems uncertain.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED BY MR. CLEAVE.

	£	s.	d.
FOR MRS. ELLIS.			
Friends, Plymouth	0	2	6
FOR MR. M'DOUALL.			
Friends, Ryde, Isle of Wight	0	3	0
Friends, Daventry	0	2	6
FOR VICTIMS.			
Mr. Ballard, Ryde	0	0	6

MONIES RECEIVED BY MR. O'CONNOR.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.	£	s.	d.
Camberwell	0	1	6
Weavers' Arms	0	1	2
King of Prussia	0	2	6
Merthyr Tydvil	0	5	8
Ashton	0	6	8
Stockport	0	10	0
Working Men's Hall, Mile End	0	2	4
Oldham (Males)	0	8	4
Oldham (Females)	0	2	1
Shoemakers, Nottingham	0	2	6
Blackburn	0	17	0
Leicester	0	4	0
Cummersdale, near Carlisle	0	5	0
Derby	0	6	0
Etruria, Staffordshire Potteries	0	8	4
Sunderland	0	5	0
Preston	0	4	0
NATIONAL TRIBUTE FUND.			
From Henry Foster	0	1	0
FOR CARDS.			
Emmett Brigade	0	4	0
Leicester	0	16	8
Leamington	0	4	0
Oldham	0	8	4
Hollinwood	0	6	8
Aberdeen	1	13	4
FOR EXECUTIVE.			
From Mansfield	0	10	0
— Five Chartists, Bath	0	2	6
— Wigan	1	0	0
— Aberdeen	0	6	8
FOR VICTIMS.			
From Wigan	1	0	0

Errata.—In last week's *Star,* in the list of monies received by Mr. O'Connor, for "Alloa," read "Alva."

MORE BLOOD—WHEN WILL THE DAY OF RETRIBUTION COME!

We request the attention of our readers to an eloquently pathetic letter from the pen of Richard Marsden, in our 6th page, detailing the murders committed by the property men in the name of law. This week we have received the following letter from another true Chartist commenting upon another prison murder committed in that abominable hell, the Milbank Penitentiary. The victim, as will be seen, was a Staffordshire Chartist. Our correspondent does not state whether he has left a family; if so, their case is one demanding the immediate and hearty sympathy of the democratic party. We had intended to have commented at some length upon the subject matter of both letters; press of labour, and want of room have prevented us so doing. The omission is, however, amply made up by the contents of the letters themselves.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

Dear Sir,—I copy the following from the *Sun* newspaper of last Saturday evening:—"An inquest was held on the 15th inst., in the Penitentiary, on the body of William Garrat, aged 51, a Chartist, who was convicted at the Stafford Special Commission, of riot, and sentenced to two years imprisonment; he died on Thursday, of inflammation in the bowels, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly."

Now, Sir, as many of your readers may see the above, I think it nothing but right that they should be put in possession of the facts connected with Mr. William Garrat's case, that all may be enabled to form an opinion upon the administration of justice (so called) in this "enlightened" and "Christian" country (?) I have known Mr. Garrat a number of years: he was a native of Derbyshire, but latterly resided at Stoke-upon-Trent; by trade a bricklayer, and the following character of him I have received from his employer, who says that "Garrat was a good workman, and a steady, honest, and upright man." I can with confidence say that he was a real democrat, and of a mild and amiable disposition. It is true he was convicted and sentenced as stated above; but upon what evidence? Why, upon the oath of a soldier, who swore that "Garrat threw a half-brick, which hit his (the witness's) helmet." Now for the facts.

We all remember the memorable outbreak of 1842. On the 16th of August, 1842, it was reported here that a body of men was coming to the Potteries from Leek. Mr. Garrat went with a friend (who now sits by me while I am writing) to Burslem, one of the Pottery towns, to see the Leek men come in, *he having a walking stick in one hand, and his friend hold of the other;* Garrat being very short-sighted, and very hard of hearing. When they arrived at the turn of the road in Burslem, they found themselves surrounded by the Leek men, who were running away, the dragoons following and firing at them, when a bullet from a carbine, discharged by a dragoon, entered the back of poor Garrat, just below the left shoulder blade, passed through his body, and came out just above the left breast. His friend having hold of his hand, all the while, solemnly declares that no "half brick" was thrown by Garrat, who fell, and the poor fellow, in a short time, was conveyed to the North Staffordshire Infirmary.

Any body would have naturally supposed, that even if Garrat did throw the "half-brick," having a bullet passed through his body would have been sufficient punishment. But no, in this class-ridden country a bullet passed through a man's body is a mere trifle, if the man is opposed to the powers that be. A more lingering, a more dreadful death is necessary, as was the case with poor Garrat, for he was watched by a harpy of the law, who on Garrat's partial restoration to health, had him before the Magistrates, who, as *a matter of course,* committed the still bleeding victim to the Stafford County Gaol, for trial. I saw him in the dock at his trial, with his arm in a sling, and heard his sentence. Little did I then think that I should never see him again, for I knew his heart was in the right place, and besides he was a big powerful man. *O, the cursed system!*

I now conclude, being convinced that class legislation, like the Vampire, will be satisfied with nothing less than the death of its victim.

Hoping you will be pleased to find room for this letter in next Saturday's *Star,*

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours truly,
In the holy cause of Chartism,
G. B. Mart.

Stoke-upon-Trent, Dec. 18, 1843.

MUSIC HALL, LEEDS.

EXTRAORDINARY NEW MESMERIC PHENOMENA, ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE NATURE OF MAN!

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Mr. Spencer T. Hall, Editor of the *Phreno-Magnet,* and Honorary Member of the Principal Societies of Great Britain, having delivered upwards of Two Hundred Lectures in London and the Chief Provincial Cities, and Mesmerised not less than Four Hundred Individuals, susceptible in various degrees to the influence, has made many important discoveries in Phreno-Magnetism, and its kindred walks of Science, evidence of which he intends to adduce in Three LECTURES, at the Music Hall, Leeds, on the Evenings of Friday, the 29th December, 1843, and Monday and Tuesday, January 1st and 2nd, 1844, when (besides many remarkable Phenomena) the following will be exhibited:—

1. Throwing Half the Human Body into a complete state of Mesmeric Sleep, and preserving the other Half perfectly Awake!

2. The Ecstatic Effects of Music on the System in the Mesmeric Trance, shown during a variety of Exquisite Airs, by Skilful Musicians, producing indescribable beautiful Manifestations.

3. Examples of the Analogy of Mesmeric Results, both in Sleep and in Vigilance, to the Phenomena of Paralysis, Hysteria, St. Vitus' Dance, Stammering, &c., and the Application of Human Magnetism, as a Curative to those Vital Derangements.

4. "Suggestive Dreaming" examined and illustrated, and proved not inconsistent with Phreno-Mesmerism.

5. Beautiful Illustrations of Mr. Hall's Discoveries in Phrenology, indicative of the Division of the Brain into innumerable minute Organs; and Proofs that the Science is not opposed to the Christian Religion.

6. Sympathy of Sensation, and a variety of other Miscellaneous but highly curious Phenomena.

The Greater Part of the Experiments are entirely NEW to the Leeds Public.

"The Experiments, if genuine, are truly wonderful; and, if not genuine, still more so."—*Derby Reporter.*

"It is impossible that this can be mere acting."—*Sheffield Independent.*

"Mr. Hall is as candid and open as he is intelligent; and his discoveries are worthy of the deepest consideration."—*Sun, Daily Paper.*

Doors open at half-past seven.—The Lecture to commence each evening at eight o'clock.

For the convenience of all classes, the charge for admission will be—To the Front Seats, One Shilling; Gallery and Back Seats, Sixpence; Reserved Seats, Two Shillings.

OASTLER'S LIBERTY FUND.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS ALREADY RECEIVED.

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. John Fielden and Brothers, Todmorden	200	0	0
Mr. Tatham, Nottingham	100	0	0
John Whitaker, Esq., Woodhouse	100	0	0
John Wood, Esq.	100	0	0
John Fielden, Esq., M.P., 2nd subscription	50	0	0
Lord Feversham	50	0	0
Richard Fountayne Wilson, Esq.	50	0	0
Lord Farnham, 2nd subscription	50	0	0
James Brooke, Esq., Boston	30	0	0
John Walter, Esq.	25	0	0
Right Honourable Lord Ashley, M.P.	25	0	0
Mr. Tatham, Nottingham	25	0	0
Arthur Attwood, Esq.	25	0	0
Operatives in the mill of John Whitacre, Esq., Woodhouse	21	0	0
The *Times* Journal	21	0	0
Jonathan Schofield, Esq., Raistrick	21	0	0
Wm. Beckett, Esq., M.P.	20	0	0
P. Huddersfield	20	0	0
Jeremiah Riley, Esq., do.	20	0	0
D. Weatherhead, Esq., Keighley	20	0	0
Mr. Wm. Cooke, Huddersfield	20	0	0
Mr. W. Walker, Bradford, (second subscription)	20	0	0
Huddersfield Loyal and Constitutional Association	10	10	0
Charles Walker, Bradford	10	10	0
Mr. J. K. Tatham, Huddersfield	10	10	0
W. B. Ferrand, Esq., M.P.	10	10	0
Sir George Sinclair, Bart.	10	10	0
Right Hon. Lord Northwick	10	0	0
Mr. W. Stocks, Huddersfield	10	0	0
Mr. L. Pitkethly, ditto	10	0	0
Mr. Joseph Thornton, ditto	10	0	0
John Walter, Esq. (second subscription)	10	0	0
John Leece, Esq., Manchester	10	0	0
John Sangster, Esq., Leeds	10	0	0
Right Hon. Lord Kenyon	10	0	0
Lady Carr	10	0	0
John Maxwell, Esq., of Pollock, Glasgow	10	0	0
Jas. Brooke, Esq., of Boston, near Tadcaster, (second subscription)	10	0	0
Dr. Sleigh, London	10	0	0
Jno. Tweedale, Esq., Dewsbury	10	0	0
Chas. Walker, Esq., Bradford, (second subscription)	10	0	0
Jno. Wright, Birmingham	10	0	0
Rev. D. Schomberg	5	5	0
W. Atkinson, Esq., London	5	5	0
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— Underwood, Esq., Leeds	5	5	0
Messrs. Cresswicks and Son, Sheffield	5	5	0
W. Baker, Esq.	5	5	0
The Editor of the *Courier*	5	5	0
J. S. Vincent, Esq.	5	5	0
A Friend	5	0	0
Mr. T. S. Brooke, Dewsbury	5	0	0
Mr. J. Atkinson	5	0	0
Mr. Thurneil	5	0	0
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C. R. Colville, Esq.	5	0	0
Miss Perceval	5	0	0
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W. Parker, Esq., Bourne	5	0	0
John Richards, Esq., Wagley	5	0	0
John Cawood, Esq., Leeds	5	0	0
Edward Baines, Esq., do.	5	0	0
Joshua Hobson, do.	5	0	0
Messrs. Bolland and Kemplay, ditto	5	0	0
W. Micklethwaite, Esq.	5	0	0
W. B. Ferrand, M.P., (second sub.)	5	0	0
Joshua Man, Esq., Bradford	5	0	0
Isaac Holmes, Esq., ditto	5	0	0
Sydney Norris, Esq, Huddersfield	5	0	0
J. S. Hannah, Esq., ditto	5	0	0
Mr. W. Sugden, ditto	5	0	0
Geo. Armitage, Bay Hall	5	0	0
J. H.	5	0	0
Jas. Smith, Esq., per Williams and Co	3	3	0
Robt. Hall, Esq., Westminster	3	3	0
Sir Alex. Wood, Bart.	3	0	0
Jno. Percival, Esq., Kensington	3	0	0
W. Grayburn, Nottingham	3	3	0
Saml. Smith, Esq., Leeds	3	0	0
Rich. Mince, Esq., Worcester	3	0	0
Hy. Bates, Esq., Heckmondwike	2	2	0
An Enemy to Oppression	2	2	0
Rich. Mence, Parthenon Club	2	2	0
Douglas Biggar, Esq, London	2	2	0
T. Rogers, Esq., Sheffield	2	2	0
Rev. Erskine Neale, Worcester	2	2	0
Jno. Bowen, Esq., Bridgwater	2	2	0
Mr. Taitt, Osnaburgh-street, London	2	2	0
J. S. Ousley, Esq., Shrewsbury	2	2	0
Joseph Brook, jun., Esq. Huddersfield	2	2	0
A Friend, Huddersfield	2	2	0
John Atkinson, surgeon dentist, Leeds	2	0	0
Jno. Chippendale, Esq., Shrewsbury	2	0	0
Wm. Rashley, Esq., jun., M.P.	2	0	0
C. P. Banks, Esq., Bewdley	2	0	0
Dr. Sandworth	2	0	0
Right Hon. Lady Caroline Capel	2	0	0
Do. Lord John Manners	2	0	0
Richard Jobson, Esq.	2	0	0
Rev. T. Allbutt, Dewsbury	1	1	0
Mr. Joseph Tweedale, do.	1	1	0
Mr. Wm. Underwood, London	1	1	0
Mr. John Tweedale, do.	1	1	0
Mr. Wm. Bullock, jun., do.	1	1	0
Miss Sarah Tweedale, do.	1	1	0
R. M.	1	1	0
Mr. Tweedale, do.	1	1	0
Mr. Geo. Cottrell, Portsea	1	1	0
A Friend, by J. S. Brook, do.	1	1	0
Mr. R. Kerr, Paisley	1	1	0
A Rural Policeman, Wenlock	1	1	0
Mr. John Adam, Glasgow	1	1	0
Mr. Joseph Habergham, London	1	1	0
Mr. John Ratcliffe, Huddersfield	1	1	0
Mr. John Firth, ditto	1	1	0
Mr. John Tindall, ditto	1	1	0
Mr. Abraham Hirst, ditto	1	1	0
Mr. James Booth, ditto	1	1	0
Mr. Squire Auty, Bradford	1	1	0
Mrs. S. Auty, ditto	1	1	0
Rev. J. L. Frost, ditto	1	1	0
Rowland R. W. Coburgh, Esq.	1	1	0
Mr. Benjamin Gale, Leeds	1	1	0
Rev. J. Hepworth, Woodchurch	1	1	0
Mr. Jas. Tweedale, Red Lodge	1	1	0
Rev. W. Scoresby, D.D., Bradford	1	0	0
Mr. James Wade, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. John Wade, ditto	1	0	0
Mrs. Driffield, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. Joseph Wade, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. Francis Symes, ditto	1	0	0
Mo. John Bilton	1	0	0
Mr. John Beanland	1	0	0
Mrs. Isaac Milnes, Bradford	1	0	0
Mr. James Ibbotson, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. J. A. Illingworth, ditto	1	0	0
A Friend	1	0	0
A Friend, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. Ida Sugden, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. Wm. Wood, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. Clough, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. Thomas Charlesworth, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. W. Kilner, Huddersfield	1	0	0
Mr. J. D. Kilner, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. John Lister, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. Charles Graham, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. John Peck, Hull	1	0	0
A Working Man, York	1	0	0
Mr. John Freeman, Huddersfield	1	0	0
Mr. Richard Halliday, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. S. Glendinning, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. John North, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. Bryson, by T. S. Brooks, Dewsbury	1	0	0
Mr. J. Hales, Kensington Gore	1	0	0
Mr. J. Dalton	1	0	0
T. Dent, Esq.	1	0	0
J. Dent, Esq.	1	0	0
Rev. Edwards Higgins	1	0	0
P. W. Twells, Esq., Birmingham	1	0	0
Rev. T. D. Gregg, Dublin	1	0	0
Mrs. Gregg, ditto	1	0	0
The Operative Conservative Society, Radford, Notts.	1	0	0
The Hon. Col. Alexander Murray	1	0	0
Captain Thomas Abraham	1	0	0
E. H. Faithful, Esq., London	1	0	0
Mrs. Manny, Malvern	1	0	0
Miss Jackson, ditto	1	0	0
Rev. Dr. Hook, Vicar of Leeds	1	0	0
Rev. Josiah Bateman, Vicar of Huddersfield	1	0	0
Peter Fairbairn, Esq., Leeds	1	0	0
Wm. Waite, Esq., Burley Lodge	1	0	0
The Rev. Vicar of Bourne	1	0	0
Mr. Thomas Charlesworth, Headingley	1	0	0
Mr. James Ward, Surgeon, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. H. Chorley, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. George Bulmer, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. James Green, ditto	1	0	0
Mr. Joseph Lees, ditto	1	0	0
Robert Biggar, Esq., London	1	0	0
Rev. A. S. Aitchinson, Leigh Rectory, Rutlandshire	1	0	0
A number of the Working Classes, Carlisle, by H. Bourne	1	0	0
The Workmen at Messrs. Sykes and Servant's Mill, Leeds	1	0	3
Mr. Galpin	1	0	0
Francis Pickering Esq., Leeds	1	0	0
Councillor Newsam, Leeds	1	0	0
Rev. O. L. Collins, Ossett	1	0	0
Josh. Thornes, Esq., ditto	1	0	0
Rev. W. L. Howarth, Leeds	1	0	0
Mr. John Tempest, Holbeck	1	0	0
A Female Friend	1	0	0
Operatives employed at Messrs. Wood and Walker's mill, Bradford, children and young persons	3	15	10
Overlookers	2	6	0
Drawers, Pealers, Hankers & Weavers	1	17	3½
Mechanics	1	2	0
Woolcombers	3	3	0
Woolsorters	1	14	2
Mechanics at Messrs. Couser's mill	0	15	0
Collected at the public meetings	2	17	10
Watermen, by Mr. Isaac Reville	0	11	1
Collected by Mr. I. O. Hustler	2	3	6
Sums under ten shillings	4	17	4
Rev. J. Hepworth, jun., Woodchurch	0	10	6
Mr. Wm. Hepworth ditto	0	10	6
Mr. Christopher Smith	0	10	0
A Friend	0	10	0
Mr. J. W. Roberts	0	10	0
Mr. John Milner	0	10	0
Mr. Matthew Balm	0	10	0
Mr. John Smithson	0	10	0
J. S. Clarke, Esq., Leeds	0	10	0
Mr. Johnson, librarian, ditto	0	10	0
Rev. Wm. Sinclair, ditto	0	10	0
Mr. Tottie Watson, ditto	0	10	0
Mr. Butler, Woodhouse Quarry, do.	0	10	0
Miss Clarkson, Trafalgar-street, Leeds,	0	10	0
Mr. Cawthorn, Dewsbury	0	10	0
Mr. Henry Oates, jun., Heckmondwike	0	10	0
Hon. Mrs. Colonel Murray	0	10	0
Mr. James White, Plymouth	0	10	0
Miss G. and Miss A. M. White, do.	0	10	0
Mr. Thomas Garland, Leeds	0	10	0
John Charnock, Esq. ditto	0	10	0
Mr. T. E. Upton, ditto	0	10	0
Mr. W. T. Watson, Headingly	0	10	0
Mr. Alexander Brown, ditto	0	10	0
Mr. John Skelton, ditto	0	10	0
Mr. H. C. Mitchell, ditto	0	10	0
Mr. Matthew Crabtree, ditto	0	10	0
Small sums at Leeds	1	15	0
Huddersfield small collections, collected by Thos. Hawkyard, and George Armitage	8	0	6½
Mr. Jno. Marshall, Paddock	0	10	0
James Sykes (Book No. 3rd)	1	4	6
Joseph Smith (Book No. 2)	1	0	6½
Mr. Lindley, (first collection) by Mr. Frederick Wilson	4	14	10
No. 10 Book, D. F. and A. F.	1	0	2
No. 8 Book, Mr. J. Thornton	1	10	9
No. 7 Book, Mr. Ezra Short	2	13	2
Collected by Mr. Hulke (first collection)	1	0	0
No. 36 Book, Crosland Factory, by Mr. Jonathan Moore	2	2	9
No. 1 Book, Mr. Hulke (second col.)	2	10	0
No. 2 Book, Mrs. Hulke (first col.)	1	5	0
Lindley, (second collection)	2	8	1
No. 41 Book, by James Taylor, Golcar	2	19	11
No. 42 Book, by Mrs. J. Bailey, ditto	1	19	2½
No. 75 Book, by Jos. Whitehead	1	2	2½
Collected at Paddock	0	15	5
No. 19 Book, by Wm. Poppleton and James Richardson, Deighton	2	5	10
No. 22 Book, by Jos. Megson and John Haigh	0	10	0
No. 17 Book, by Miss Parkin	1	0	6
No. 1 Book, by Mr. Hulke (third collection)	0	15	6
No. 2 Book, by Mrs. Hulke	1	1	6
No. 14 Book, by Mr. Leech	0	12	0
Collected at the Philosophical Hall, at the Public Meeting	5	19	10
No. 13 Book, by Mr. John Leech	0	15	0

Huddersfield, Dec. 14th, 1843.

LEEDS FREE TRADE DEMONSTRATION IN AID OF THE GREAT LEAGUE FUND OF £100,000.

At a very numerous and most enthusiastic MEETING of the FRIENDS of FREE TRADE, held in the Music Hall, on Wednesday, the 13th December Instant,

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR IN THE CHAIR:—

It was unanimously resolved,
Moved by J. G. Marshall, Esq.,
Seconded by Mr. Alderman Lupton,
Supported by Hy. Ashworth, Esq., of Bolton.

That, in the deliberate opinion of this Meeting, the Corn Laws have produced the most ruinous effects on the manufactures and trade of this country—have restricted international exchange, engendered hostile commercial legislation on the part of other countries, and fostered rival manufactures—have mocked the hopes of the farmer in years of abundance, and in periods of scarcity have injuriously affected all classes—and at the same time only afford a delusive protection to the landowner. That whilst, by these means, the physical condition of the people has been deteriorated, a far more serious evil has been created, by alienating the operative from the wealthy and governing classes, by impeding social improvement, and loosening the bonds of social order. That regarding Free Trade as the most powerful means of promoting mutual dependance and good will among nations,—this Meeting holds the Corn Laws as obstructive to the diffusion of peace and happiness throughout the world; it therefore feels called on to record its unqualified condemnation of the Corn Laws,—its solemn deprecation of all participation in their injustice, and its earnest determination to seek, by all legitimate means, to remove from the statute book this foul stain on its honour and purity,—this fatal precedent of vicious legislation.

Moved by Mr. Councillor Carbutt.
Seconded by George Wise, Esq.
Supported by Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P.

That viewing all duties on the import of food, whether fixed or sliding, as a common wrong, looking at the imminent danger of a more stringent retaliatory policy, on the part of foreign states, and holding as unfounded the fears expressed, that free trade will ruinously depress the price of agricultural produce, this meeting considers the total and immediate abolition of the Corn Laws as the only safe and just measure, whether it regards the rights of the consumer, the prosperity of manufactures and commerce, or the vindication of those righteous principles of commercial policy which these laws have so long outraged.

Moved by Frederick Baines, Esq.
Seconded by John Wilkinson, Esq.
Supported by John Bright, Esq., M.P.

On the motion of Alderman Lupton, seconded by Alderman Goodman, the thanks of the meeting were given by acclamation to John Marshall, Esq., for his munificent subscription.

That entirely approving the conduct of the Council of the League in the use of the £50,000 fund placed at its disposal last year, by the Anti-Corn Law Associations of Great Britain; and recognising in its past conduct most ample and satisfactory guarantees for the wise and just appropriation of the fund of £100,000, which it now solicits, this meeting resolves forthwith to originate a subscription in aid of that fund, and appoints the following gentlemen a committee, to take such steps as are necessary; with power to add to their number.

Moved by H. H. Stansfeld, Esq.
Seconded by Mr. Councillor Barrett.

That the cordial thanks of this meeting are hereby respectfully tendered to the Deputation of the Anti-Corn Law League for their presence and valuable services on this occasion; and whilst it offers to all its tribute of gratitude and admiration for the zeal and ability with which they have advocated the principles of Free Trade, it would present them with marked emphasis to Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P., and John Bright, Esq, M.P., for the moral courage and the consummate tact and talent with which they have met the advocates of monopoly in their strongholds, surrounded by their tenants and dependants; thus proving their firm and conscientious reliance on the truth of their principles, and by the eminent success which has attended their efforts, justifying their position as the exponents of the nation's opinion and will on the vital question of Free Trade.

HAMER STANSFELD, Chairman.

The Mayor having left the chair, it was taken by J. G. Marshall, Esq., and
On the motion of John Bright, Esq., M.P.,
Resolved by acclamation,

That the best thanks of this meeting be presented to his Worship, the Mayor, for presiding on this occasion; and for the very efficient manner in which he has conducted the proceedings.

The Subscription List will remain open for a short time longer, so as to afford every one an opportunity of subscribing; and for the convenience of such Persons, and also of those who have not yet paid their Subscriptions, the Secretary will attend daily at No. 20, Commercial Buildings, to receive the same. Subscriptions may also be paid to Mr. S. Birchall, the treasurer, No. 4, Albion-street.

Every Subscriber of £1 and upwards, or any number unitedly subscribing the same sum, will, after payment, have forwarded to them weekly, for a twelvemonth, a copy of "The League" Newspaper.

Parties who have subscribed anonymously are requested to send their Names and Address to Mr. Bingley, at 20, Commercial Buildings, in order that "The League" may be forwarded to them.

The following is a List of Subscriptions received at and since the Meeting:—

DONATIONS TO THE GREAT LEAGUE FUND OF £100,000.

	£	s	d
Messrs Marshall and Co.	500	0	0
John Marshall, Esq.	300	0	0

£100 each—Stansfeld, Brown and Co., Park Row; Wm. Lupton and Co.; Wilkinson and Co; P. Fairbairn, Wellington-street.

£50 each—Beverley and Simpson; Wm. Pawson; E. Baines and Sons, *Mercury Office;* Jno. Waddingham; Benj. Walker.

£30—Geo. Goodman, Potternewton; Robert Walker; Lucocck, Lupton and Co.

£25—Robt. Jowett and Sons, W. B. Holdsworth and Co.; Joseph and Wm. Walker; S. J. Birchall and Co.; Newman Cash.

£20—H. H. Stansfeld, Headingly; John Shepard, Park-square; C. G. Maclea, 17, Blenheim-terrace; David Crowther, Churwell; Francis Carbutt; Buckton and Sons.

£10 10s.—A. and D. Webster, Wellington-street; John. Dickinson and Son, Water-lane; J. and T. Reffitt, Kirkstall-road; Croysdale Brothers, Leeds; Wm. Hornby, Leeds.

£10.—Anonymous, 21, Park-lane; Anonymous, 42, Mill-hill; G. Peitch, 168, Wellington-street; Christopher Heaps, Woodhouse Cliff; A Friend, per J. Wilkinson, Flax Spinner; Matthew Gaunt, Solicitor, Leeds; Misses Stansfelds, Headingley; Isaiah Dixon and Sons, Bond-street; Thos. George and Sons, Spring-gardens; Joseph Gill, Headingley; J. N., Birstal; James Hotham, Bridge-end; P. Wolff, Woolstapler; Joseph Hirst, Eldon terrace; James Ogle, Lady-lane; Thomas Haigh, Newlay.

£6 6s.—W. and T. Kettlewell, Briggate.

£5 5s.—J. L., 3, Park-place; F. Hobson, *Leeds Times Office.*

£5.—An Advocate of Free Trade in Corn Hyde-terrace; John Wales Smith, York place; Joseph Shackleton, Wortley; Joseph Raper, Holbeck; Thomas Nunnclley, East-parade; Mrs. A. Titley, jun., 25, York-place; A. Titley, sen., ditto; John Kenworthy, 7, South-parade; R. B. Watson, 7, Bond-street; Richard Bayldon, Hunslet; Henry Robinson, Chapeltown; Joseph Bates, Albion-street; Mrs. H. R. Stansfeld; A Friend; John Brownbridge, Mann's Field, Holbeck; John Greaves, Brunswick-street; John Varley, Folley, Hunslet; R. and B. Wilson, Bramley; Boyle, Gill, and Co., Meadow-lane; Rev. Charles Wicksteed, Blenheim square; Rev. Josh. Fox, Brunswick-place, 2nd sub.; W. Hewitson, Hunslet; Jonathan Shackleton, Holbeck.

£4—Arthur Lupton, jun., Headingly; Thomas Laycock, 1, St. James's-street.

£3—Anonymous, 8, Albion-street; John Maude, 14, Greek-street; P. Kettlewell, 12, Briggate; Robert Bewley, Woodhouse Lane; A Friend, 17, Bank-street.

£2 10s.—John Wilson, Bramley.

£2 2s.—Thomas Dawson, 12, Warwick-place; William Lupton, 24, Bedford-place; William Dennison, West-street; John Wilkinson, Springfield-place; R. and J. Harrison, 46, Hunslet-lane; F. B., 28, Springfield-place; Richard Gardner, Bridge End; G. B. Pearson, Holbeck; T. and W., 47, Basinghall-street; Alfred Bilbrough, Gildersome; Isaac Thompson, Knostrop; Samuel Carr, Dewsbury Road; Matthew Hepworth, Vicar-lane; C. L., 2, Park-place.

£2—Wm. Simpson, 2, Trinity-street; H. Marcus, Basinghall-street; A. Naylor, Basinghall-street; John Bilborough, Gildersome; A Friend, 9, Brunswick-place; Wm. Kemp, Wortley-lane; Thomas Stephens, Sussex Tavern; Thomas S. Dickinson, Guildford-street; W. Holroyd, Park-lane; James Bilbrough, Gildersome; M. Jarvis, Basinghall-street; W. Avens, Lisbon-street.

£1 10s—Thomas Chadwick, 13, Bridge-street; Edward Atkinson, Trafalgar-street.

£1 1—John Harrison, 6, Meadow-lane; George Mason, Wellington-street; Joseph Shackleton, Wortley; William Wade, Pudsey; J. Gilpin, Burmantofts; S. G., 19, Rockingham-street; George Brook, 75, East-street; W. W. F., 6, South-parade; George Edward Taylor, Oatlands Mill; C. M. Brown, 12, Kirkgate; John Topham, Call-lane; Thomas W. Stansfeld, Headingley; John Land, Briggate; William Billington, Nowlay; Thomas Harvey, Briggate; George G. Cummings, Craven Cottage, near Bow, London; John Darby, Trafalgar-street; J. B. Robinson, 173, Briggate; H. Higgins, 38, Albion-street; Jonathan Haigh, 3 Park-buildings; Matthew Glew, Foundry Inn, Holbeck; D. G. B., 19, Oxford-street; John Carr, Hunslet; Charles Marston, 20, Duncan-street; Samuel Rowley, Headingley; Jos. Wood, Bramley; George Broadbent, Vicar-lane; Josiah Carr, 18, Brunswick-street; John Kirk, Meadow-lane; Robt. Campbell, 27, Caroline-street; S.H. Spence, Kirkgate; W. Robinson, School Close; Richard Heaps, Hunslet; John G. Thornton, 35, Boar-lane; Joseph Hopton, dyer, Skinner-lane; X. Y. Z., drysalter, Bilham-court; R. Pollock, Bishopgate-street; Wm. Illingworth, Crown Point; Samuel Stead, Holbeck-lane; Joseph Broadbent, Knostrop; Jeremiah Sowry, 29, Commercial-street; S. Warburton, Hunslet; John Hudson, Lisbon-street; T. Fotherby 18, Lowerhead-row; Thos. Fotherby, 9, Bank-street; Wm Jagger, Wortley; B. Bradshaw, Bramley, Mark Thompson, Paradise, Hunslet; H. W. Walker, 26, Briggate; Samuel Croft, Water-lane; T. Stenson, Richmond-street; T. Gamble, Kirkstall-road; John Wiliam Holbeck; Richard Bissington; Briggate; Watlson, Thistlewaite, 12, Swinegate; J. Armistead, Bridge End; Joseph Bray, 40, St. Paul's-street; William Hinnings, Pudsey; William A. Oates, butcher, Dyer-street.

£1—Mr. Shaen, Solicitor, Park Row; Mrs. Bewley, St. Mark's Cottage; J. K., 120, North-street; William Hall, Victoria Road; John Nayler, Low Road, Hunslet; Matthew Lawton, Wortley; Miss Bewley; W. E. Hepper, Wortley; J. B., Hunslet Mill; Roger Shackleton, Wortley; Joseph Lupton, Armley; William Haworth, 39, Albion-street; ———, No. 2, St. Peter's-hill; Henry Oxley, 9, Elmwood-grove; R. Richardson, 83, Briggate; Wm. Shackleton, Mill-green, Holbeck; William Storey, Hunslet; James Combe, 8, Beech-grove.

10s. 6d.—James Wood; A Friend.

10s.—G. Palfrayman; Zebedee Swain; A. T; A Friend; J. W.; James Hopwood; John Goodison; A Friend; M. R.

5s.—A Free Trader; Thomas Pollock; John Combe; T. F. Toomey! Joseph Wilson; R. H. Brackstone; John Layton; George Foster; Samuel Hutton; A. B.; No. 30, Mill Hill; J. Webster; A Friend to the cause; Wm. Holland; J. Hughes; W. Kaney; Wm. Baynes; John Sutcliffe.

3s. 6.—A Friend.

3s—John Mearns.

2s. 6d—John Dunning; Richd. Dobbing; William Freak; Wm. Lucas; Thos. Wm. Spice; R. Machell; Matthew Bolton; A Free Trader; Miss M.; An enemy to Monopoly; E. G.; Thos. Harrison; Wm. Scott; A Friend; T. Illingworth; Copley; Thos. Storey; James Smith; Anonymous; J. J.; Thomas Briggs; Joseph Walton; George Haigh; John Robinson.

1s—Geo. Mitchell; James Andrew; J. S.; John Jowett.

LEEDS BOROUGH SESSIONS.

Notice is hereby given, that the next GENERAL QUARTER SESSIONS of the Peace, for the Borough of Leeds, in the County of York, will be holden before Thomas Flower Ellis, the Younger, Esquire, Recorder of the said Borough, at the Court House, in Leeds, on Thursday, the Twenty-Eighth day of December instant, at Nine o'clock in the forenoon, at which time and place, all Jurors, Constables, Police Officers, Prosecutors, Witnesses, Persons bound by recognizance, and others having business at the said Sessions are requested to attend.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN.

That all Appeals, Applications and Proceedings, under the Highway Acts, (not previously disposed of) will be heard and taken at the sitting of the Court, on Saturday morning, (the 30th instant,) at nine o'clock, unless any Felonies or Misdemeanors shall then remain undisposed of; in which case, all *such Appeals, Applications, and Proceedings, will* be heard and taken as soon after Saturday morning, at nine o'clock, as the whole of the Felonies and Misdemeanors shall have been disposed of.

JAMES RICHARDSON,
Clerk of the Peace for the said Borough.

Leeds, 3rd December, 1843.

HOBSON'S POLITICAL ALMANACK

NOW READY, and in the hands of the Publishers,

PRICE THREEPENCE,

THE POOR MAN'S COMPANION, FOR 1844.

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The whole compiled from authentic sources
By Joshua Hobson.
Only Three Pence! Only Three Pence!

London: J. Cleave, Shoe-lane; Manchester, Heywood, Oldham-street; Birmingham, Guest; Leeds and Huddersfield, J. Hobson; Newcastle, France and Co.; Glasgow, Paton and Love.

LOCAL MARKETS.

Leeds Corn Market, Tuesday, Dec. 19—Our supplies are again liberal. The Wheat trade this morning has exhibited a considerable degree of firmness, and we have a more healthy demand at fully last week's prices. In the value of Barley there is no material change, fine qualities are comparatively scarce and are freely taken. Oats are ½d per stone, old and new Beans 1s per quarter, and Shelling 1s per load cheaper. In other articles no alteration.

THE AVERAGE PRICES OF WHEAT, FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 19, 1843.

Wheat.	*Barley.*	*Oats.*	*Rye.*	*Beans.*	*Peas*
Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
5574	2520	321	5	388	25
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
2 11 10¾	1 13 11¼	0 19 3	1 16 0	1 11 10	0 1 13

Leeds Woollen Markets.—The demand for Woollen goods in the Cloth Halls, on Saturday last, was quite equal to what might be anticipated at this season of the year. The stocks of goods are very low, and of those most inquired after there are very few indeed on hand. On Tuesday there was not quite so much business done; nor are the warehousemen quite so busy as they were a few weeks ago.

Bradford Market, Thursday.—*Wool.*—There is a sort of sluggishness in this part of the trade, for the Staplers state they cannot afford to sell their stocks at less rates than they have been realising, for there is no giving way among the country dealers to enable them to meet the buyers here. *Yarn*—There is a steady demand for Yarns, but as it is near Christmas, those engaged in the home trade appear disposed to work their stock closely up, ready for stock taking; and as the shippers cannot now send out to distant markets, a little slackness may be looked for; but we do not expect any reduction in prices.—*Piece.*—There is a fair demand for Orleans and Merinos; other goods of a Fancy nature not so brisk. There can be no doubt that the very low price of goods, when compared with Wool, induces the Merchants to operate more freely, seeing that the manufacturers are unwilling to lay up stock, and have reduced their production.

Richmond Corn Market, Saturday, Dec. 16th.—We only had a thin supply of Grain in our Market to-day. Wheat sold from 6s. 6d. to 8s.; Oats 2s. 2d. to 3s. 2d.; Barley 4s. to 4s. 3d.; Beans 4s. 9d. to 5s. per bushel.

WAKEFIELD CORN MARKET.

Friday Dec. 22.—The market is well attended. The flour trade continuing very dull, the Millers purchase sparingly of Wheat, but the holders are not disposed to effect sales at any reduction upon the prices of this day se'nnight. Barley is a slow sale at last week's prices. In Oats, Shelling, and Beans no material alteration.

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All Communications must be addressed, Post-paid, to Mr. Hobson, *Northern Star* Office, Leeds.

(Saturday, December 23, 1843.)