

THE MEMBERS OF THE LAND COMPANY.

MY FRIENDS,
I returned from Bromsgrove last night (Wednesday), where I have been staying since Saturday, and this morning I gave me some small comfort, pride, pleasure, and satisfaction, to find that our Company had gone through the preliminary process of Registration yesterday, in the Court of Queen's Bench.

You will learn from the report of the proceedings that the Court has granted a rule nisi; that is, a rule calling upon the Registrar of Joint-Stock Companies to show cause why he refuses to register the Company. I have had the assistance of the ablest Conveyancers, Special Pleaders, and Common-Law Lawyers, relative to the legality of the Company, and all have agreed that the Court of Queen's Bench will compel the Registrar to completely register the Company.

You must understand, that things of this kind are not done in a day; and not an hour has been lost since the Conference broke up in making the necessary steps. The Registrar has been a great portion of the delay, by requiring time to think of this matter and of that, and requiring to see this and that paper. You will hear in mind, that the two points of contention against the Company, were—Firstly, its connection with the Bank; and Secondly, its violation of the Lottery Acts.

The first objection I got over by separating the Bank from the Company, sending circulars to every depositor, stating that their only security was confidence in me, and that they might withdraw their money without the required notice, if they were dissatisfied; and yet not a single man withdrew; and not one who, from necessity, has required to withdraw a portion of his funds, has been disappointed by a single post. So much for the Bank question. And as to

The Lottery Illegality, it appears that those lawyers, more practised than the celebrated Mr. LAWES, the professional gentleman examined by the Chairman, have discovered that there is a special Act of Parliament framed to exempt such Companies as ours from the provisions of the Lottery Act; as you will be aware, when you read the speech of Mr. COCKBURN, in the Queen's Bench. You are also aware, that I have appropriated large sums of my own money to the payment of my tradesmen's bills, while you have most unfairly neglected your duty; even the law expenses, for the enforcement of the complete registration, have all come out of my pocket, while any other promoter of a Company would have written to you thus—"Pay up your subscriptions, or I will give the matter up."

I have not done so, however—and, to prove to you that your confidence was not misplaced, if I had been foiled in legalising the Company, I would have applied to Parliament, in accordance with the recommendation of the Select Committee, for a Bill to enable me to wind up our affairs, and I would have paid every man twenty shillings in the pound. And now, that I have not only hope, but certainty, of the legalisation of the Plan; and that not a member myself with complicated accounts; and not to practice ANOTHER JUGGLING upon you, and seeing the hardship to a man who has not made a sufficient amount of Bonus to entitle him to location, remaining without his money, which may prevent him carrying on some other business—it is my intention to return the full amount of Bonus money, paid by those who are not located, instead of keeping it locked up, and paying them four per cent.; which, after very anxious consideration, would, I think, be an act of great oppression.

This day, in about two hours, I shall have the felicity of hearing the Queen's Speech; and while there will be an abundance about foreign countries, and friendly relations, and war, and the rest of it—an exultation for the triumph of Kensington Common, which will appear in the distance; and the loyalty of British subjects—there will not be one single word about the cultivation of English land, or of Irish either.

This session, rely upon it, will be the session of sessions; the battle between those who are prepared to make long strides in the march of progress, and those who, from dread of progress, would retrace what has been grudgingly extracted from them; and it is more than consolatory to me to think, and to know—that to-day I commence the first Session of Parliament in which I have ever sat with the hope and conviction that I can work cordially with a party who propose Financial and Political Reforms, another party opposes.

Of course the RUSSELL bill will be set off against the COBURN purge; but as the financial and political bodies both require a good cleansing, I very much prefer the COBURN scour to the RUSSELL cleanse. It was said of a titled lady once, "Take away bawdy, and you leave her no wit;" and it may be said of the Whigs with equal truth, "Take away patronage, and you leave them no power;" and COBURN'S Budget proposes to clip the wings of patronage.

Last year, Metropolitan agitation compelled the Whigs to abandon the project for increasing the Income-tax; but rely upon it, that all the agitation ever witnessed in England, for the Union of Free Trade, was mere moonshine—child's play, according to the Metropolitan agitation, if required, for carrying out COBURN'S Financial Budget, and MILNER-GIBSON'S Political Budget. For the first time in the history of England Broadcloth and Fustian will co-operate; and, although I am older now than when I used to fly through the country, yet, I promise you that I will do one man's share, and that COBURN shall find that MY MYRMIDONS, unaccustomed to retreat, are well armed in the advance. I know no measure that may not be extracted from any Government by the cordial co-operation of Broadcloth and Fustian—Capital and Labour—when in it Labour sees its fair share of the triumph, and, as COBURN says, the means of achieving more. And, if in this COBURN stir I did not see Labour's share—I would rather live on a dry crust than join it; while, upon the other hand, I should consider myself worse than a brute, if, as an interested spectator, and thus the agent, started the case, I were to resist a movement more valuable than Emancipation, Reform, or Free Trade, or all put together; and I heartily pity the Tories, and professing Whig landlords of the West Riding, who imagine that, because they ousted Sir CULLING EMBURY—they could NOW oust COBURN; they were they to attempt it, Wakefield would actually be taken by storm, and my ragged myrmidons would not be the smallest or least enthusiastic detachment.

Christians, I am now going to take off my old coat and dress for the first scene of the new drama.

I remain, Land Members and Chartists, Your faithful Friend, and unoppressed Representative,
FERGUS O'CONNOR.

THE COLLIERIES OF SEATON DELAVAL.—On Tuesday several of the colliers who were bound by agreement to their master, but who refused to work at the Seaton Delaval colliery, appeared before the magistrates of the North Shields to answer the charge of breach of contract. Mr. Foster, the agent, stated the case with good feeling, and trusted the differences between the men and their employers would be amicably settled. The workmen were all defended by Mr. Foster, and the bond was ultimately cancelled. The employers, or their agents, to re-engage with the men, were at liberty to do so, and the case was resolved to unite for their own Trade and War are resolved to organise the Union, and as the only safeguard against the oppression of their

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REGISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL LAND COMPANY.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1849.

MR. COCKBURN.—My Lord, on behalf of the National Land Company, I have to move your Lordship for a rule to show cause why a writ of mandamus should not issue, directed to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, commanding him to renew the certificate of provisional registration of the National Land Company, and afterwards to receive the deed and other documents required by the Act of Parliament of the Company, and on that to register such deeds and documents, and to grant them a certificate of complete registration.

My Lord, this Company was formed two or three years back, and the affairs, on which I move, of Mr. CURRY, who is the managing clerk of Mr. ROBERTS, a solicitor, of this Court (who has throughout managed the legal concerns of the Company), shows, that after one or two attempts that were made, and endeavours to enrol this Company under the "Friendly Societies' Act," and which did not succeed, on the ground of it being the opinion of the Registrar, under those Acts of Parliament, that the Company did not come within the provisions of those Acts, the party, Mr. FERGUS O'CONNOR, and other parties interested as promoters of this Company, proceeded to register the Company provisionally, under the 7th and 8th of VICTORIA, chap. 110. The Company was registered provisionally in 1846, and, after it had been so provisionally registered, the draft of the deed constituting the Company was prepared, and it was submitted to the Registrar, under the Joint-Stock Companies' Act, for his approval. The deed was voluminous, the interests of the Company being complicated, and he suggested various alterations and improvements in the deed, which suggestions were adopted on behalf of the Company, and the deed altered so as to obtain his final and complete approbation. It appears, inasmuch as it was required by the Act of Parliament that one-fourth of the subscribers or shareholders, in the Company, should execute a deed, and not only one-fourth of the shareholders, but one-fourth of the persons holding one-fourth of the shares of the Company, should execute the deed; and as these shareholders, amounting to several thousands in point of number, were spread over the country, a considerable time elapsed before the signatures of the whole of these various shareholders, or various parties, in the country, could be obtained, and considerable expense was incurred, not only in preparing the deed, but in obtaining the signatures of all those various members to the deed. A year elapsed before all this was completed; and in the year 1847 the provisional registration of the Company was renewed conformably to the provisions of the Act of Parliament, which merely gives the Directors, provisionally registered, power to act on behalf of the Company for twelve months, but enables them to apply again, after the expiration of those twelve months, for a renewal of the Provisional Registration. In the course of the year 1848, the number of subscribers had been very materially augmented, and it appeared to Mr. O'CONNOR and the Directors, that, if they could, by possibility, get their Company registered or enrolled, under the provisions of the last Friendly Societies' Act, the 9th and 10th of VICTORIA, which had been passed subsequent to the formation of the Company, it would be a desirable thing for them, and save them a vast deal of expense, as it was necessary to be making constant returns to the Registrar, appointed by the Joint-Stock Companies' Act, of the various members who were added to the number of shareholders, and all those numerous and frequent returns involving very considerable expense. And an application was made by Mr. O'CONNOR to the House of Commons, of which he was then a Member, for leave to bring in a Bill to bring this Company within the provisions of the 9th and 10th of VICTORIA, the last Friendly Societies' Act. It was brought under the notice of the House of Commons, but the House of Commons did not pass that Bill—and, at Mr. O'CONNOR'S instance, a Committee was appointed, to take into consideration the nature of the Company, to see what legislative assistance and relief might be afforded them. That Committee sat on the subject, and took the case into their consideration; but, it appears, a difficulty was started before them, on the ground that this Company was not a legal Company, as falling within the provisions of the Lottery Acts. They reported, accordingly, in all other respects, favourably to Mr. O'CONNOR and the Company, both, I mean, as to the financial operations of the Company, and with regard to the position which Mr. O'CONNOR occupied relative to the Company; but they reported that the Company itself came within the provisions of the Lottery Acts. This report of the Committee was published, and made known, and occasioned a difficulty on the part of the Registrar as to a competent registration of the Company. He had approved of the deed, it had been altered at his suggestion, and all the expense had been incurred under the conviction that he was perfectly prepared to register the Company. It had been provisionally registered; he had renewed the provisional registration; but when they came to have the Company's complete register made, the Registrar objected, on the ground that the Committee of the House of Commons had declared this Company illegal; and the object of this application is, to obtain a mandamus to the Registrar, to call on him for a complete registration of the Company; and, no doubt, the question of the legality of the Company, is one to which it will be necessary that I should now call your Lordship's attention. It appears from the deed that is annexed to the affidavit on which I move, that the object of this Company is this: To obtain by the subscription of individual members, a fund, out of which fund land is to be purchased. That is to be divided into allotments, which are to be let to individual shareholders of the Company at a certain rent, and then by certain financial operations, which are the foundation of the Company, the rent which the individual taking the land upon a lease, binds himself annually to pay, constitutes a sort of rent-charge, as it is charged upon the land, and that rent they propose to sell, and by means of the sale of that rent-charge, to obtain further funds to go on purchasing land; and, by degrees, obtaining the means of giving to every shareholder a certain allotment of land; but inasmuch as to the completion of this proposed financial operation, it is necessary—

MR. JUSTICE ERLE.—I understand that to be land let.

MR. COCKBURN.—Let for a term of years, subject to a rent.

MR. JUSTICE ERLE.—Then they are to sell that rent?

MR. COCKBURN.—Then they are to sell that rent—Yes, my lord—and obtain further funds; and by means of further funds to go on purchasing fresh lands, and as fresh shareholders come in, to use the funds of those shareholders, so coming in, for the further purchase of lands. But, inasmuch as by the operations of this financial scheme, it may very well be that the number of shareholders among whom the allotments to be eventually made may be, in the first instance considerably greater, at all events greater than the amount of Land will enable them to make allotments to the shareholders, it is proposed to determine who shall have the first allotment made to them, by lot.

And it was suggested, and assented to on the part of the Committee, that this scheme of allotment being, in the first instance, to be made by lot, brought the case within the operation of the Lottery Acts, and made this Company, however advantageous, otherwise, to the members by the proposed mode of operation, objectionable and illegal, as being within the scope of those Acts. My Lord, I think by calling your Lordship's attention to those Acts of Parliament, you will at once see this case does not come either within the mischief, or within the terms and provisions of those Acts of Parliament. Those Acts are the 10th and 11th of William III., chap. 17; and the 12th of George II., chap. 28. Now, my Lord, as to the 10th and 11th of William III., I take it to be perfectly clear, upon reading that Act, that what it applies to, is a Lottery in the ordinary sense of the term; that is, where persons put in their money for the purpose of buying shares in a Lottery, and are entitled to the chance of a prize in money, or money's worth, as the result of the lot, to be resorted to, to determine who shall have the prize. That Act recites, that "evil-disposed persons, for divers years last past, have set up many mischievous and unlawful games called Lotteries, not only in the cities of London and Westminster, and in the suburbs thereof, and places adjoining, but in most of the eminent towns and places in England, and in the dominion of Wales, and have thereby most unjustly and fraudulently got, to themselves, great sums of money from the children and servants of several gentlemen, traders, and merchants, and from other unwary persons, to the utter ruin and impoverishment of many families, and to the reproach of the English laws and Government." The Act then recites, that "whereas the Great Seal of England for the said Lotteries, or some of them, which said Lotteries, or patents are against the common good, trade, welfare, and peace of his Majesty's kingdom, for remedy whereof be it enacted, adjudged, and declared; and it is hereby enacted, adjudged, and declared by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords, spiritual and temporal; and so on: "That all such Lotteries and all other Lotteries are common and public nuisances, and that all grants, patents, and licences for such Lotteries, or any other Lotteries are void and against law." My Lord, I take it that what the Act of Parliament manifestly refers to are games, and the case of the ordinary, well-known cases of Lotteries that prevailed under particular Acts of Parliament in this country, and are known to prevail abroad. Then, my Lord, comes the 12th of George II., chap. 28, and that clearly applies to the case of persons keeping open houses for Lotteries, or some of them, which said Lotteries, or patents are against the common good, trade, welfare, and peace of his Majesty's kingdom, for remedy whereof be it enacted, adjudged, and declared; and it is hereby enacted, adjudged, and declared by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords, spiritual and temporal; and so on: "That all such Lotteries and all other Lotteries are common and public nuisances, and that all grants, patents, and licences for such Lotteries, or any other Lotteries are void and against law." My Lord, I take it that what the Act of Parliament manifestly refers to are games, and the case of the ordinary, well-known cases of Lotteries that prevailed under particular Acts of Parliament in this country, and are known to prevail abroad. 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Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE BUDGET.

The Budget of war presented to the Assembly, presents a diminution of 76,111,450. The effective of the army, which on the 1st of December, 1848, amounted to 502,196 men and 8,022 horses, will be reduced by 121,372 men and 8,022 horses, and would make a total of 380,824 men and 15,490 horses and 15,490 horses to be employed in Algeria. The budget of marine is diminished by 22,073,029 francs. The active fleet is composed of 10 ships, of which two with floating battery: 8 frigates, 18 corvettes, 24 brigs, 12 transports, and 24 schooners and cutters, manned by 20,000 seamen. Besides these, there will be two vessels and five frigates, *en disposition de rade*, and 8 ships and 10 frigates in port commission. The steam vessels belonging to the active fleet would be composed of 10 frigates, 12 corvettes, and 34 avisos. Besides these 21 vessels, of which 6 frigates, 6 corvettes, and 6 avisos, would remain in port commission.

THE QUESTION OF THE ASSEMBLY'S ADJOURNMENT.

On Thursday M. Grevy presented the report of the committee on M. Rataud's proposition for the dissolution of the Assembly.

M. Grevy said that the proposition submitted to the committee was a double object:—the present Assembly dissolved, and the election of the Legislative Assembly proceeded to in the month of March. The majority of the committee had come to the conclusion that it ought not to accede to either object. (Agitation.) The committee was of opinion that the Assembly was called on to watch over the first steps of the Republic—that it had the task before it of seeing that in the midst of the struggles of parties inseparable from a new order of government, the Republic suffered no damage. Besides in presence of the language employed by the ministry, the committee thought that the Assembly could not separate (agitation)—as the proposition demanded. (Renewed agitation.) In addition, the intimidation and moral violence exhibited in newspapers, and by petitions (great uproar)—was another powerful reason with it not to yield to the demand made on it. The petitions, however, ought not to be considered of too much weight, as up to the present only 173,000 signatures had been appended to them. Yes, the object of them was clearly to abrogate the authority placed in the National Assembly by the mandate committed to it. For these reasons the committee recommended the Assembly not to take the proposition in consideration. (Great agitation.)

Monday next was fixed for the discussion.

PERSECUTION OF THE REPUBLICANS.

The government has transmitted orders to all the departments to proceed without delay to the drawing of the national jury which is to sit in the high court of justice for the trial of Barbes and his accomplices. The functions of legal prosecutor will be exercised by M. Baroche, procureur-general of the Court of Appeal at Paris.

The *Moniteur* contains the decree for the convocation of the High National Court for the trial of the offenders of the 15th March, within forty days, on or before the 6th of March.

A letter from Citizen Barbes, who announces that a protest against sending the persons accused of being concerned in the affair of May 15, before the National High Court of Justice, is being signed in the suburbs, and at the offices of the various democratic journals.

The patriot Barbes has addressed the following letter to several of the ultra-republican journals:—

"Doyon de Vincennes, Jan. 23. Citizen Editor.—As it is a common-place truth that in politics one is always tried by one's enemies, I had intended since my arrest to defend myself infinitely little, before whatever tribunal I might be sent. The decree for employing the arm of the High Court of Justice against the accused of May does not change much my determination. There, as elsewhere, I shall protest against the verdict of vengeance of a party appealing from the sentence of proscription which awaits me to the justice of the people, who have annulled many other sentences, and who will always proclaim—I am a good citizen. It makes me sure of it—that I am a good citizen. It is not then precisely for my own sake that I now raise my voice against the decision of the Assembly—it is on account of the wrong which it does to those of my co-accused who had every certainty of being acquitted by a jury. With that exception—*ma foi*!—so much the better! When so many other brave citizens pass before courts-martial, it would have been repugnant to me not also to enjoy the advantage of a trial by jury, and to see other than that of condemnations by commissions, it is at least something we are gratified with—that with I suppose the bulks at the end for the representatives of the people as for the poor represented, when the gentlemen of the monarchial castles call, when they are not afraid of them, the *ennemi*!"

On Wednesday, Citizen Barbonnet condemned by the Court of Assizes to a year's imprisonment and 500fr. fine, for having, as a member of the bureau of the Club de Chateau des Brouillards, allowed a person named Debonadon to deliver a speech, exciting French citizens to hatred of each other. Dupont, another of the club staff, was tried for the same offence, but acquitted. Debonadon did not appear, and was sentenced by default to three years' imprisonment and 1,000fr. fine. The club was in the meantime ordered to be closed.

The Club of Fraternity, which holds its sittings in the rue Maréchal, Faubourg Poissonnière, under the presidency of M. Bonnard, and which was noted for the ultra opinions professed in it, was closed on Thursday by order of the Minister of the Interior. At seven o'clock a commissary of police, accompanied by several guardians of Paris, entered and summoned the President to terminate the sittings. After a protest against such conduct the President and bureau withdrew, as did about 500 persons who were present. Some precautions had been taken outside by the authorities, as a battalion of the 5th Light Infantry occupied the end of the street.

Another club, which held its sittings in the rue Grenelle, St. Honoré, was also closed on Thursday. The government also prevented the opening of a new club, intended to have been inaugurated by the members of the *Montain*.

SIGNS OF AN APPROACHING STRUGGLE.

(From the Correspondent of the Times.)

PARIS, FRIDAY EVENING.—Considerable alarm prevails everywhere to-day, and the opinion seems to be universal that we are fast approaching to a crisis. As the moment for the discussion on M. Grevy's report comes on, the public anxiety increases; and there appears to be no alternative, in case of its approval by the National Assembly, but the retirement of the Cabinet or a *coup d'état*. The former would, in all probability, be immediately followed by the accession of the men of the Red Republic to power, and the latter by an attempt at insurrection.

The importance of the present momentous crisis will be appreciated by the fact that several of the Republican party, who hitherto declared themselves opposed to hostile manifestations, and counselled peaceful agitation, have all of a sudden changed their tone. Menaces of the most violent kind are uttered not only against the Moderates, but against the person of the Chief of the State himself. *Le Peuple*, the organ of M. Proudhon, in an article of much violence, has amongst other things, the following:—

"Behold him, then, this President! He who ought to exert every nerve towards the strengthening of our Republican institutions, but who, by his apathy and his intrigues, and scattering around him corruption and despair, is incessantly occupied in the disorganisation of the Republic. Behold him, this equivocal Republican, who complained of being calumniated, and who drives from their places all true Republicans, and hands over prefectures, the bench, &c., to the hands of reactionists, to monarchists, through thirty years of treason! For him even the Republicans have no more than a common colour. Absolutists by race and of the old school are the men for him. Louis Bonaparte has set on foot the question of the dissolution of the Assembly. Very good! Monday next, the Assembly will, in its turn set on foot the question of the dismissal of the President."

The article concludes thus:—"Let us wait, patriots! Let us wait now more than ever, and now more than ever calm and patient! The National Assembly will itself, and alone, complete the revolution. Our work will soon be over. The President, that is to say, the monarchy, corruption, falsehood, privilege, canice, and the exportation of capital, have become impossible."

POPULAR PROTEST AGAINST THE MOCK TRIAL OF THE REPUBLICAN CHIEFS.

THE REPUBLICAN CHIEFS.

The Socialist papers publish the following protest against the decree of the National Assembly sending Barbes and his associates for trial before the High Court of Justice:—

"Inasmuch as the decree voted by the Assembly on the 22nd January, on the proposition of the President and of the Ministry, renounces the accused of May from their natural judges—as the High Court is a political and exceptional tribunal instituted six months after the facts of the 15th of May—inasmuch as this decree attacks rights anterior and superior to the positive law recognised in the Constitution itself—the people of Paris protest against sending the accused of May before the exceptional tribunal of Bourges. They implore the prisoners of Vincennes to reject that political and retrospective jurisdiction, and to abstain from every collective or individual defence. They request the accused who are contumacious not to surrender themselves to be tried by the enemies of the Republic."

PROPOSED ATROCIOUS LAW AGAINST THE CLUBS.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, FRIDAY, JAN. 26.

M. Leon Faucher, Minister of the Interior, announced that he had been directed by the President of the Republic to present a project of decree against clubs. The Assembly, he said, had already enacted severe penalties with a view to repress excesses and remove dangers alarming to society. It would have to pronounce more serious enactments, and prohibit clubs altogether if it had not hoped to be able to restrain them by its law of the 28th of July. The experiment of the last six months was decisive, and the insufficiency of the law was now demonstrated to the least clear-sighted. The government had ordered a number of clubs to be closed in the capital and the departments, and denounced the offenders to the tribunals. It had exerted itself to defeat the machinations of the anarchists, and to reassure the honest and peaceable citizens. Those clubs, closed on one point, were re-opened on another. It was impossible for a regularly constituted government to tolerate any longer the extension of doctrines and passions calculated to dissolve society. In the clubs hatred and rebellion were preached under every form. They were the hotbeds of secret societies, and both led each other mutual support. It was impossible that confidence could be restored whilst clubs were permitted to exist. In a country enjoying liberty of the press and public discussion, and where Universal Suffrage was the foundation of the government, there was no possible pretext for the establishment of clubs. In this conviction the President of the Republic had directed the Cabinet to submit the following bill to the deliberation of the National Assembly:—

ART. 1. Clubs are interdicted. Every meeting, held periodically or at irregular intervals, for the discussion of public affairs shall be considered as a club.

Art. 2. The presidents, chiefs, secretaries, &c. of such meetings shall be sentenced to a fine of from 100fr. to 500fr.; to deprivation of civil rights during a year at least and three years at most, independently of the other penalties they may have incurred.

Art. 3. Individuals who shall lend their houses or apartments for such meetings shall be sentenced to a fine of from 100fr. to 500fr.

Art. 4. All the provisions of the law of 28th of July last, relative to clubs, are abrogated.

The Minister afterwards observed that it was urgent that the bill should immediately come under discussion, and be referred to the bureaux with the least possible delay.

Several members cried out: "To-morrow, to-morrow!" when M. Gent said the tribune, and proposed the adjournment of the bill to the first liberty recognised by the Constitution. He knew the aversion of ministers to the right of meeting, but did not believe that they would have dared to present such a law to the present Assembly. (Cries of "Order, order!") He accordingly called on his colleagues to reject without discussion a bill containing an attempt against the 8th article of the Constitution.

The Assembly, however, on being consulted, referred the bill to the bureaux, and decided that it report on the urgency of its discussion should be presented to it on Saturday.

[Mark! this atrocious law is reported to have been presented by the direction of the President! Take notice of that, all you who put your trust in princes. Leon Faucher is a great free-trader—the Cobden of France! Take notice of that also, you who are throwing up your caps for the 'model agitator'—*Ex. M. S.*]

ALARMING STATE OF PARIS.

SATURDAY JAN. 27. Alarm and excitement prevail throughout the capital. At twelve o'clock a vast multitude was collected round the Pantheon, and shouts of "Vive la République démocratique et sociale" were heard. Most violent propositions were made by the leaders, who declared that the Assembly must be supported, that the ministry must be dispersed and driven from office, that the clubs must be defended and all attempts to close them resisted.

The police of yesterday was seized at the Post Office. This proceeding, however, appears to have in nowise discouraged the zeal of M. Proudhon, who returns to the attack to-day with the following article:

We said yesterday, "The struggle is between the National Assembly and Louis Bonaparte. Louis Bonaparte has laid down the question of the dissolution of the Assembly. On Monday next the Assembly will lay down the question of the dismissal of the President." The Procurer of the Republic, a subaltern of the President of the Republic, has considered this judgment disquieting for his superior, and has seized our number. Let him seize this also for we cannot refrain from saying, "The fiction of royal inviolability was abolished by the constitution of December 2nd—the President of the Republic is responsible." Yes, and it is not only he—it is the forces of things, on Monday a decisive battle will take place between the revolution and the counter-revolution—the revolution, represented by the National Assembly—and the counter-revolution represented by Louis Bonaparte. Is it impossible to deny this? If the Assembly were dissolved the counter-revolution would meet with no more obstacles—the constitution would be destroyed—two chambers would be re-established—the inviolability and re-eligibility of the President would be declared—his civil list would be increased ten-fold—monarchy be restored—corruption reconstructed—and the people again enchained. On the contrary, Louis Bonaparte conquered, having resigned or being dismissed, the counter-revolution would be cast down—all its hopes be ruined irrevocably and for ever.

DEMOCRATIC PROTEST AGAINST THE NEW CRISIS.

The Reform publishes the following protest of the Republican Journalists against the bill for the suspension of clubs:

"The undersigned, considering that the right of meeting and association is a natural right, anterior and posterior to all positive law, and recognised, moreover, by the Constitution;

"Considering that the law presented by the Ministry has not for its object to regulate the exercises of that right as the Constitution requires, but that it suppresses it in an absolute manner, and thus deprives the sovereign people of their most important political prerogatives;

"Considering that the Ministry, by the mere fact of the presentation of that law, attacks both the Constitution and the natural rights of man;

"Considering that all their energy, and call on the Assembly to impeach the Ministers who have dared to attempt that *coup d'état*."

(Signed) The Reform.—Charles Ribeyrolles, chief editor; V. Leconte, director; Alexis Lagarde, Cayla, P. Coq.

"Peuple"—Eugène Barreille, chief editor; Chataud, Herve.

"Peuple"—Darimon, sub-editor; Langlois, Faure, Vassinet, Duchene, Madier de Montjan, senior, advocate of the People.

"Revolution Démocratique et Sociale"—Goumain Cornille, D. Pilatte, Martin, Castille, H. Delescluze, chief editor; Anable, Lemaitre, Goumain Cornille, D. Pilatte, Martin, Castille, H. Delescluze, A. Carre, H. Biji.

"Travail Affranchi"—Toussaint.

"Clubs"—Tessier du Motay, Bernard, Garnet, B. Madier de Montjan, jun., J. B. Boquet."

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY—SIGNIFICANT MANIFESTATION OF THE LAW STUDENTS.

At half past 2 o'clock M. Marrast, president, presided.

Considerable excitement prevailed within and without the Assembly. At 12 o'clock a deputation of about thirty students presented themselves at the

Palace to hand a protest to M. Ledru Rollin against the reinstatement of M. L'Hermineur in the chair of legislation at the College of France. The question, on being informed of their intention, had ordered the gates to be closed, and the garrison of the Palace to take arms. One of the officers of the garrison was sent to receive the petition from the hands of the students, who afterwards mediately retired. That deputation, it appears, had been sent forward by a body of about 1,000 students, who had repaired to the office of the *Démocratie Pacifique*, in the Rue de Beaune, to request its editor, M. Considérant, to insert their protest in that journal. The young men were waiting in the court the result of their application when four *gardiens de Paris* arrived and proceeded to arrest the individual who acted as commander of the column. His comrades interfered, and rescued him from the hands of the *gardiens*, one of whom was severely beaten. A large crowd had in the meantime assembled before the house, and the porter deemed it prudent to close the gate. The alarm, however, had been spread through the quarter, and in a few moments two companies of infantry of the line occupied the extremities of the street, whilst another advanced and drew up in front of the house, the gate of which was opened to admit the captain, a detachment of his men, and some city sergeants, who proceeded to arrest twelve of the ringleaders, and permitted the remainder to depart. These formed into several bands, and returned to the Pays Latin, singing "Down with Fallois" (Minister of Public Instruction) to the tune of "Des Lampons."

PROSECUTION OF CITIZEN PROUDHON.

The President: I have to inform the Assembly that a demand has been sent in by the Procurer of the Republic to the Ministry to prosecute M. Proudhon, representative of the people, for two articles published by him in the paper on January 26th and 27th. (Great agitation.) The Assembly formally acknowledges the receipt of the demand made by the Procurer General, and the bureaux will assemble to examine the question of the authorisation applied for.

M. Proudhon: Citizen Representatives—I am anxious to protest at once against the accusation brought against me. I am the author of the article of January 26th; I had forgot to sign it, but I accept all the responsibility of its contents. (Loud approbation on the Left.) The Assembly will decide what it pleases. For my part, I was anxious to bring forward in the press, as before the Assembly or the country, a question altogether novel for the responsibility of the President of the Republic. I will give explanations on that point before the Assembly, but I do not wish to be heard, if necessary, in this tribune. (Voices on the Left, "Bravo! bravo!")

DEFEAT OF THE MINISTERS.

M. Senard presented the report of the committee against the urgency of closing the clubs, maintaining that the question was extremely difficult one, requiring much previous study, and that, therefore, the Chamber ought not to proceed precipitately.

M. O. Barrot, the President of the Council, spoke against the report and in favour of the urgency.

M. Ledru Rollin spoke the conclusions of the committee. The Ministry declares that the question when brought forward, ought to be resolved at once. But it is not the Chamber which brought it forward, but the government; if, therefore, there are some inconveniences connected with the question, the responsibility of them ought not to be imputed to the Assembly, which desires to examine the measure with due deliberation, but to the cabinet. As to the right of the clubs to exist, it is laid down in the constitution, and any law to the point before the Assembly ought to be respected, all its provisions. The whole question, therefore, amounts to this—does the Constitution authorise the suppression of the clubs? The rights of meeting, of association, and of petition, are guaranteed by the Constitution. You say that they must be regulated in the interest of public security. But is it to regulate a right to suppress its exercise altogether? (Loud approbation on the Left.) By the bill, the clubs are not regulated, but suppressed. There is also the press, which greatly displeases those who do not desire the light; you venture, under pretext of regulating it, to do away with it altogether? (Movement.) A word now on the question of urgency. When the committee has seen all the documents on the subject, the Ministry finds its application, declares to you that there is no good reason for urgency, can you, the Assembly, which has seen nothing, declare that the urgency ought to be granted? (Loud acclamation.) I said just now, and I repeat it, that it is the very text of the Constitution that is designed to be annihilated. I maintain that there cannot be urgency for a bill which is the absolute negation of the Constitution. (Agitation.)

IMPEACHMENT OF MINISTERS.

M. Ledru Rollin ascended the tribune and said, "I have the honour to present a demand to the Assembly for a bill of impeachment to be brought in against the Ministry (laughter on the Right, agitation, loud applause on the Extreme Left, which then rose with a cry of "Vive la République!")

A Voice on the Right: You ought also to impeach the President of the Republic, since he signed the bill.

Several Voices: Read the proposition! It ought to be read!

The President: The sitting is at an end. Several Members on the Right: But you ought to read the proposition! It ought to be read!

The President: It is contrary to the regulations to do so; besides, the sitting is over.

The Assembly then rose at half-past seven in indescribable agitation.

THE PRESIDENT: Towards of forty members have demanded the dissolution of the course shall be proceeded to. The following was the result:—

Number of voters 700

Absolute majority 351

For the conclusions of the committee 418

Against it 342

Agitation 70

THE PRESIDENT: In consequence, the question of urgency is rejected. The bureaux will be convoked for Monday to name a committee on the bill.

The result was received with loud cries from the Left of "Vive la République!"

The following is a copy of the proposition for the impeachment of the Ministry:

"Considering that the anti-republican policy of the ministry has just manifested itself by a fact which is an attack upon the rights of citizens and on the fundamental principle of the sovereignty of the people;—

"Considering that the right of meeting is a natural right, anterior to all positive law, and recognised in the Constitution of the French Republic;—

"Considering that, by the project of law presented yesterday, the 26th of January, for the suppression of the clubs, the ministry has rendered itself guilty of an act which is a flagrant violation of the rights of citizens, and a direct attack upon the rights of the people;—

"Considering that the Ministry is responsible for its acts, according to Article 68 of the Constitution; the undersigned representatives of the people demand the immediate impeachment of the ministers, and their trial before the High Court of the Nation, to be judged in conformity with Article 91 of the Constitution."

"Pierre Leroux, Astaix, Martin Bernard, Olyvit (Démophile), Clément (Alphonse), Piat (Clément), Clément, Drives, Mathieu (Gibon), Benoist, Greppe, Ledru Rollin, Doutré, Grounion, Proudhon, Pégot-Guyot, Mole (Jérôme), Jouglaux, Joly (Gérard), Joly (Père), Cholat, Bachelard, Fauré, Fauré, Terrier, Lefranc, Buvignier, Deville, Bruys (Adolphe), Ménard, Mathé (Délis), Baune, Sigard, Robert (Yonne), Ch. Dain, James Demotory, Pelletier, (Scholerer), J. Detours, Th. Bae, David-Poussange, Eugène Raspail, Vignier, Germain Sarret, Lamouais, Dulacry, Michélin, Perdiguer, Madet."

"Paris, Jan. 27, 1849."

PROGRESS OF ALARM AND AGITATION.

PARIS, JAN. 28th.—The correspondent of the Times writes:—"We received from those charged with the preservation of the public peace assurances that it would be disturbed; but within the last twenty-four hours there has been no longer, as before, bring conviction to the mind. With respect to a hostile movement, I have already said that it was made to depend on a certain contingency, that contingency being the adoption of the law for the suppression of the clubs. The result of the vote yesterday, the 26th of January, for the suppression of the clubs, the ministry has rendered itself guilty of an act which is a flagrant violation of the rights of citizens, and a direct attack upon the rights of the people;—

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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY—SIGNIFICANT MANIFESTATION OF THE LAW STUDENTS.

At half past 2 o'clock M. Marrast, president, presided.

Considerable excitement prevailed within and without the Assembly. At 12 o'clock a deputation of about thirty students presented themselves at the

It tells them that the safety of the people and of the Republic depends on their obedience.

DISAFFECTION OF THE GARDE MOBILE—SYMPTOMS OF MUTINY IN THE ARMY.

The National states, that on Saturday General Changarnier summoned the commanding officers of the twenty-first battalions of the *Garde Mobile* to be adopted with respect to a reduction of their corps. After some observations relative to the superior claims of the regular troops, he said, "I am told that the *Garde Mobile* are dissatisfied, and that they propose to meet to-morrow in strong language on the subject. I say, I will have them sabred." After some moments, during which the officers observed the most profound silence, General Changarnier ordered four of the chiefs to be confined in the military prison of the Abbaye for one month. This order produced some demonstrations on the part of the officers, when the General again, in a detached and gentlemanly manner entered the room, and seized the officer—one of them, M. Aldenize, who had joined Prince Louis Napoleon when he landed at Boulogne, instantly drew his sword, broke it, and declared that he had entered the service as a volunteer, that he would resign, and that, being no longer restrained by military discipline, he would take any course he might think proper in the conduct of the General. He was forthwith sent off, under a military escort, to the Abbaye, and, in the course of the evening, four other Commandants, MM. Duseigneur, Arrighi, Bussac, and Camerut, were arrested and committed to the same prison. *La Liberté* announces that the 9th Regiment of Light Infantry, the 48th of the Line, and the 2nd Dragoons, have been removed from Paris. It says, further, that eight sergeant-majors of the 9th Regiment of Light Infantry have been arrested and committed to the military prison of the Abbaye. The same paper states that a grand dinner was given by M. Ledru Rollin on Thursday, at which several superintendents of the army were present. M. Ledru Rollin, representative of the people, for two articles published by him in the paper on January 26th and 27th. (Great agitation.) The Assembly formally acknowledges the receipt of the demand made by the Procurer General, and the bureaux will assemble to examine the question of the authorisation applied for.

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... these hours' cons

BARNSELY.—EIGHTY-ONE LIVES LOST.

Another of those sickening catastrophes, for the prevalence of which Barnsley and its neighbourhood have obtained a painful notoriety, occurred at Darlington Colliery on Wednesday last. It has resulted in a terrible number of life perfectly appalling. No less than eighty-one human beings, an eight horses have fallen victims to an explosion of fire-damp—an explosion so terrific and unexpected that of 109 persons employed in the pit at the time only twenty-four survive. The precise cause of the explosion is not yet ascertained, but without desiring to impute any party by the present deplorable calamity, we cannot but express an opinion that some strong legislative measures should be taken for the purpose of throwing, as far as practicable, some semblance of protection over the lives of that hardworking and deserving portion of our industrial community who labour in the bowels of the earth. This colliery has been the scene of two former explosions; the first was in the early part of 1841, when six lives were lost; and in August of the same year a similar calamity resulted in the death of twenty colliers. Within the distance of two miles at future the site situated the Oaks or Ardsley Main Colliery, where on the 6th of March, 1847, an explosion of fire-damp killed no less than seventy-three persons, and injured upwards of 100. The colliery is situated between Jefferock and Jarratt, of Doncaster, and is situated about two miles to the south of Barnsley, a short distance from the Barnsley and Sheffield turnpike road. The works are very extensive, extending in one direction nearly a mile from the shaft, and it thus appears to be the "big end" of the colliery. Mr. Charles Locke, who resides at Rothwell, near Leeds, is also the surveyor, or inspector, of the Duels of Norfolk's collieries. A fortnight since, we understand, Mr. Locke minutely inspected the pit, and stated that he had never seen a colliery in better working condition. Addey, the fireman, whose duty it is daily to inspect the gas for the purpose of preventing the slightest explosion, was on the occasion of this visit, began his inspection of the works at four o'clock on the Wednesday morning, and at eleven o'clock when he ascended the shaft, he pronounced all safe. The men began to assemble at their work soon after four o'clock in the morning, and continued descending till the shaft was full. At this time there was present 104 men and boys in the pit, besides Mr. Thompson, the bottom steward, whose duty it is, as the name of his office implies, to superintend the operations underground, and adopt any precautions for the safety of the colliers that may seem to him necessary.

About twenty minutes before twelve o'clock Mr. Thompson, who had observed nothing to cause his suspicions in his mind, felt a sudden and most alarming change in the atmosphere; and before he could take any steps to ascertain the cause—indeed, almost before he could turn round—there was a frightful explosion. Judging from the nature of the report, which was a loud and long one, Mr. Thompson did not appear to have been confined to any particular spot, but extended nearly from end to end of the works. All the stoppings, trap doors, and gates in the pit were blown away by the violence

Scotland

human life must be appalling. Terrified by this noise, and knowing from sad experience the results of these explosions, the wives, parents, and children of these employes, in the assistance of the men, were doing their utmost to save the lives of their fathers, brothers, and sons. There were some families in that part of Worcester where there were few families in that part of Worcester. Some have not yet been able to befall the untimely death of one or more of their kinsmen. As soon as the rush of fire up the shaft had been checked, the men in the pit, amongst the most active and praiseworthy in this search was James Beaumont and others, who remained so long in the pit that they themselves became insensible, and were drawn up apparently lifeless. As soon as they were brought up, they were found as men collared as the "black damp," and which, always, we believe, succeeds explosions of fire-damp. About half-past one o'clock the employers gave evidence of their activity by sending up Mr. Thompson, the bottom steward, and two other survivors to the surface. The arrival of these men, and the fact that the explosion at the mouth of the shaft were rapid—having very properly been taken to send those five men who were found to be alive. Prior to this messenger had been despatched to Barnsley for medical aid. At the moment the messenger arrived, Mr. Wainwright, surgeon, and Mr. Ayre's assistant, with one or two other medical gentlemen, hastened to the spot, and afforded every possible aid to the survivors, who continued to arrive at the surface till about half-past five.

removed either to their own homes, or to houses in the immediate neighbourhood. At five o'clock in the afternoon, sixteen men and boys had been rescued, and five dead bodies had been raised from the pit. It was necessary to suspend the search for the missing, in order to repair the damage done by the operations already effected, and to make arrangements for the disposal of procuring supplies of pure air. The search, with this brief interruption, continued during Wednesday night and the whole of Thursday, on the afternoon of which day the search was resumed. At five o'clock on Friday morning, with three who had expired, seventy-eight corpses; and it was also known that of ten horses that were in pit grid had been killed. No record is kept of the number of men and boys who were rescued, but it is estimated that about 150 were rescued. It was judged that there were three workmen still unaccounted for, and a party proceeded to the "dip" and already referred to, a distance of nearly three-quarters of a mile from the shaft. After a search of nearly an hour, they succeeded in recovering three dead bodies; the dreadful injury to the chest proved that their death must have been instantaneous. As the mutilated and blackened corpses of these hapless men and boys were raised to the surface, and were ever and anon recognised as the limbs of those who had been working in the mine.

the scene was most pitiable. The blanched faces, the quivering frames of mothers and wives, as he hurried to the shaft side, and gazed earnestly and fearfully upon each fresh arrival, proved that the men were the sole supporters of these wretches of humanity. And it was not only the women who were in how bodies, mutilated and torn and burnt till no feature was discernible, were recognised by the relatives, who bore them to their homes in despair: it is impossible to describe the horrors that such arrivals presented to the eye. As we approached the scene of this dreadful business, two cartloads of dead bodies; and there was scarcely a house which did not contain one or more of the witnesses of the extent of the explosion! For, on approaching the colliery, contained no less than fifteen bodies, and in the houses there were one large family, we learnt, had been killed. The bodies of some of those colliers whose homes were at a distance, or of those who were so horribly mutilated that identity was next to impossible, were taken to their homes in public-houses; the others were taken to their homes in private houses. One son's the Masons' Arms public-house, a sickening array of eight bodies—one with the head torn off another, one torn open from the neck to the abdomen, another with the skin and flesh of the arms stripped off, and the others shockingly mutilated. At the Darley Inn, a public-house, were several bodies; at the Keel beer-house (the landlady of which, George Field, was himself killed), many

men were lying; and a great many were taken to their homes at Barnsley and the adjoining townships. The men who were left in the mine were on the ground, as it were, into an almost shapeless mass that the surgeons were extremely anxious to preserve their interest, as decomposition would vitiate in a few hours take place.

On the morning of the 20th of September, the men on the northern side of the pit, at a place known as "the dip," which is about 1,500 yards distant from the shaft, and near to it is what is called a "tough," or "a place in the seam." In what was the mine, the men entered in a manner of its ignition, will, perhaps, ever remain a mystery; for unhappily, every soul in that part of the working was perished.

It may be mentioned, as a confirmation of an old saying among colliers, "that the cold blast kills more than the heat in the greatest slaughter," that the men who were on the road, or roads, whether the men naturally run upon the explosion, hoping there to meet with pure air; but, in place of ensuring their own safety, they ran to their own destruction. To some persons it has been said, "the cold blast" is not a perfectly intangible thing, but a "blast," a vacuum is created, and there is an unusual rush of foul air through the up-shaft. Of course there is a corresponding rush of pure air along the down-shaft, and the men who were on the road have run into the levels or roads, and the men

The following are the names and descriptions of the deceased so far as they are at present known: James and Uriah Berksford, brothers, single men; Joseph and William Billinton, brothers, single men; Joseph Smith, married, with six children; William Guest, married, living in Warrington; William Charles Wood; George Barnaclough, married; James Littlewood, single; John Burton (better known as "Shadow," a prize-fighter); George Turner, and his son; Charles Brooker, jun., and his son; George Guest, and his son; William Thomas William Hollings; George Field, married; Thomas and John Sykes; John Winder; John Smith, and two other names Sellars; John Vevers, married; (and his wife).

