

GLORIOUS TRIUMPH—DEFEAT OF THE LEAGUE AT STOCKPORT.

On Monday evening last, one of the largest indoor public meetings ever held in this town, took place in the Hall of Science, for the purpose of hearing addresses from Messrs. G. White, of Birmingham, and F. O'Connor, Esq. From an early hour in the morning, the hall was crowded, and the League had determined on a trial of strength. Their "Man-Friday" Allinson, the Chartists' renegade, and several of a similar stamp, who are now very much about a job, providing there is cash at the end of it, were busily engaged in trying to bring up numbers to oppose O'Connor and the other friends of the League. On their carrying their point, that some of the mills stopped three-quarters of an hour earlier than usual, and money given to all who would consent to go and do the dirty work of their masters. On the evening preceding the meeting, Allinson waited on the Irish Repealers, and tried to induce them to go and assist him in "upset O'Connor and the Chartists." They however had too high a sense of honour, to be made the tools of their enemies—the League, and he indignantly refused to comply with the dastardly request.

At half-past seven, the time announced for opening the business, the large platform was almost entirely in possession of the "Free-boaters." Mr. G. White, of Birmingham, Mr. John West, of Sheffield, Mr. J. Robbins, of Newcastle, Mr. T. Clark, Mr. J. Carter, and Mr. J. Mitchell, all Delegates to the National Convention, appeared on the platform and were loudly cheered. Mr. Clark proposed, and Mr. Mitchell seconded, that Mr. O'Connor should be the chair. Mr. O'Connor moved, and Mr. J. Hamer seconded an amendment, that Dr. Goulden should preside. This proposition showed what reliance they had on their strength, but alas! their "fond anticipations" were doomed to utter disappointment; for the amendment being put, about one hundred hands were held up, whilst for the original there were two thousand! Mr. Carter then took the chair amidst the enthusiastic cheers of the meeting; and after thanking the friends who had conferred upon him the honour of placing himself and friend should alike have a fair hearing, he concluded by introducing Mr. Thomas Clark who was warmly received, and in a brief and spirited speech moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting be determined to stand by the Charter as the only means of creating happiness and comfort for the working classes, utterly regardless of the tricks and subterfuges of faction. We are further of opinion that the existing Corn Laws are not the cause of the distress which now exists, and that the Free Trade nostrums would better our condition."

Mr. Warris of Birmingham, on presenting himself to second the resolution, was received with the most deafening applause. He took cognizance of the several charges brought against himself and party, and clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of every unprejudiced mind that under the circumstances of the country it was impossible that he could have acted other than as he did, in compromising his principles and honour—the only two things which gave life a charm for him. He analyzed in the most masterly manner, the Masters' and Servants' Bill, and Lord Eliot's Disfranchising Bill. He also directed a considerable amount of attention to the question of Free Trade; and so far succeeded in creating a favourable impression in favour of his views of the matter, as to elicit the hearty applause of many poor deluded slaves who had been sent to the meeting for the purpose of hoodwinking him down. He concluded his speech by inviting any one who had questions to put, or opposition to offer, to present himself. He sat down amidst loud and continued applause. The enthusiasm created by Mr. O'Connor's conduct and the manner in which he had presented himself, was not lessened by Mr. J. Hamer's speech, which was a long, rambling, unconnected speech, during the course of which, he treated us to a journey to America, Russia, France, Belgium and Brazil, enlivened Mr. O'Connor's speech with a few sugar and bread, amused the audience with an account of his own labours in the cause of "reform," and as proof of the veracity of his statements referred to a "fact" which played in one of the "more force" hands in the days of the League. The speaker concluded his horrible infamy by putting three questions to Mr. O'Connor:—First—Why did he not meet Mr. Cobden when at Leeds, or at some of the other meetings, which Mr. O'Connor attended? Second—Why did he not attend the Repeal of the Corn Laws? Third—Why did Mr. O'Connor, who professed to be opposed to physical force, had voted for the "ulterior measures" proposed by the first Convention?

Mr. O'Connor rose and thanked Mr. Hamer for the opportunity he had afforded him to set himself right with the people of Stockport by publicly asking him those three questions. As to the first, "Why did he not meet Mr. Cobden when at Leeds, or at some of the other meetings, which Mr. O'Connor attended?" Second—Why did he not attend the Repeal of the Corn Laws? Third—Why did Mr. O'Connor, who professed to be opposed to physical force, had voted for the "ulterior measures" proposed by the first Convention?

Mr. O'Connor rose and thanked Mr. Hamer for the opportunity he had afforded him to set himself right with the people of Stockport by publicly asking him those three questions. As to the first, "Why did he not meet Mr. Cobden when at Leeds, or at some of the other meetings, which Mr. O'Connor attended?" Second—Why did he not attend the Repeal of the Corn Laws? Third—Why did Mr. O'Connor, who professed to be opposed to physical force, had voted for the "ulterior measures" proposed by the first Convention?

Mr. O'Connor rose and thanked Mr. Hamer for the opportunity he had afforded him to set himself right with the people of Stockport by publicly asking him those three questions. As to the first, "Why did he not meet Mr. Cobden when at Leeds, or at some of the other meetings, which Mr. O'Connor attended?" Second—Why did he not attend the Repeal of the Corn Laws? Third—Why did Mr. O'Connor, who professed to be opposed to physical force, had voted for the "ulterior measures" proposed by the first Convention?

Mr. O'Connor rose and thanked Mr. Hamer for the opportunity he had afforded him to set himself right with the people of Stockport by publicly asking him those three questions. As to the first, "Why did he not meet Mr. Cobden when at Leeds, or at some of the other meetings, which Mr. O'Connor attended?" Second—Why did he not attend the Repeal of the Corn Laws? Third—Why did Mr. O'Connor, who professed to be opposed to physical force, had voted for the "ulterior measures" proposed by the first Convention?

Mr. O'Connor rose and thanked Mr. Hamer for the opportunity he had afforded him to set himself right with the people of Stockport by publicly asking him those three questions. As to the first, "Why did he not meet Mr. Cobden when at Leeds, or at some of the other meetings, which Mr. O'Connor attended?" Second—Why did he not attend the Repeal of the Corn Laws? Third—Why did Mr. O'Connor, who professed to be opposed to physical force, had voted for the "ulterior measures" proposed by the first Convention?

Mr. O'Connor rose and thanked Mr. Hamer for the opportunity he had afforded him to set himself right with the people of Stockport by publicly asking him those three questions. As to the first, "Why did he not meet Mr. Cobden when at Leeds, or at some of the other meetings, which Mr. O'Connor attended?" Second—Why did he not attend the Repeal of the Corn Laws? Third—Why did Mr. O'Connor, who professed to be opposed to physical force, had voted for the "ulterior measures" proposed by the first Convention?

The groaning continued until he was entirely out of sight, when the building shook with cheers of triumph. Mr. O'Connor then proposed the thanks of the meeting to the Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. West, and carried unanimously.

Three cheers were then given for the Charter and O'Connor, and three groans for the Tories. Thus ended the most important public meeting ever held in Stockport. The building was crammed to suffocation, and hundreds were obliged to go away who could not gain admission. O'Connor forced his most bitter enemies to express their admiration of him. Messrs. White, West, Hobson, &c. acquitted themselves so as to reflect the highest credit upon the cause they have espoused, and every Chartist would have highly delighted at the drubbing the enemy received. The League! alas! whoever can find them shall be handsomely rewarded!

THE NORTHERN STAR. SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1843.

THE ASSEMBLED CONVENTION.

THE reader will see from the Reports given in another part of this sheet, that their own delegates, representing their feelings and wishes, are now in deliberation; and that they have taken steps to cause those deliberations to be of advantage and benefit to those whom they represent. The main object they have in view, as will be gathered from the several Reports, is to devise a plain, simple, and effective plan, under which the influence of the non-elective power may be brought most effectually to bear on the elective class, and on their representatives, so as speedily to induce the legislative adoption of that measure which will give all an interest in the good government of the country; because each would have conferred on him that share of public power which is his own as a man. From the representations made to Conferences by each delegate, it plainly appears that such is the universal wish of the people represented; and the delegates have set to work in good earnest to accomplish this most desirable object.

It is universally felt, that as there is no prospect of procuring the enrolment of the plan last agreed upon, it will be needful and wise to dissociate the LAND question from the political agitation, leaving it for those who may be disposed to take up the LAND plan by itself, and of itself; to show in actual EXPERIMENT the beneficial nature of LAND OCCUPATION and use, under proper regulation. This will simplify any plan the Conference may devise very much: for the plan having only to apply to political objects, much of the machinery and detail inseparable from the last plan, with its combined objects, will be wholly unnecessary.

Of course, care will be taken to see that whatever plan is adopted, fully and completely complies with the law of the land; so that in its working it will be sure to be of EFFECT, by putting it out of the power of either Whig or Tory Attorney-Generals to "put down" the Charter agitation by taking advantage of any illegality in the constitution of the society, and visiting the members with the pains and penalties of the law.

In next week's Star we shall be able to give the plan agreed on at full length. At the time we write, it is impossible for us to detail what it is, likely to be further than thus generally. At the present moment, the Committee appointed to receive the suggestions and instructions of the several constitutions, and to digest and embody them in a connected form, are in deliberation. The result of their labours will be shortly laid before the entire body; and then the delegates will each apply their minds to the subject, with the single object of making the constitution and working machinery of the society as perfect as possible.

The good feeling that pervades the Conference is matter of gratulation to each and to all; while the order in debate and demeanour of the delegates towards each other, might, with advantage, be copied by a certain assembly styled the "collective wisdom of the nation." There has not yet been one attempt at "cock-crowling," or "ass-braying," to put down a speaker; nor the more ordinary means of "confining" or "stamping" resorted to for the same purpose. Nay, there has not yet been heard within the walls of the CHARTIST PARLIAMENT one single "ironical cry" of "Oh! oh!" Perhaps this arises from the fact that the representatives there are merely those who work for their bread, and are not "accomplished" in the art of living without labour. Let it arise, however, as it may, the fact is so; and it is an instructive one. The "EXAMINER OF THE NATION" will not suffer much in character, as far as order and decorum are concerned, from the infusion into it of some scores of working men; and a majority of the thinking people of England have persuaded themselves that the character of the LEGISLATION itself would not suffer in any great degree. At all events, they are determined to try whether this would be so or not; and the present Conference is at work endeavouring to show how this is to be accomplished.

THE IRISH DEPOPULATION BILL.

We have already explained, and fully, the inevitable effect which Lord Eliot's Registration Bill must have upon the Irish county constituencies. We have done so, to point out the political tendency of the measure, rather than the social result. We have not followed the course pursued by the majority of the English press, which has confined its comments to those portions of the measure which may be considered beneficial and advantageous to county electors generally. It is a marvellous circumstance that the general importance of the principle should have been altogether lost sight of in a few unimportant and insignificant details. For instance; more convenient polling places are to be established for the new constituencies. They further approve of the limitation of the process of election, by the new bill. We are not ourselves indifferent to the advantage of those changes; but they lose their value in the fact that they merely go in aid of this fact and more: whereas, those constituencies who were favourable to the cause of Ireland were allowed to tread their way to the one polling-place, which was always in the county town,—harrassing journeys, varying from forty even to one hundred miles;—the Noble Secretary for Ireland, well knowing the new class of slaves of the aristocracy, that his Bill would call into existence, is induced by consideration for some convenient slave work, where the respective "gangs" may be driven under the inspection of the resident landlord, the parish parson, the land-agent, the law-shark, the middle-man, or his driver. The time also for the attendance of the voters is limited to two days in England; an improvement we admit; but forced by consideration for the Noble Lord's and his party's special convenience. If one circumstance more than another operated injuriously to the "Liberal" voter, it was the obligation imposed upon county voters of coming excessive distances to one

polling-place, and being obliged, many of them, to remain there for five days, and six, if Sunday intervened, as has been invariably the case. A plan no doubt hit upon for the purpose of harrassing and annoying ignorant and impoverished innocent county voters, who upon no other occasion ever visit the county town. If this infliction was designed to be a punishment to the hardy and honest mountaineers, the "Liberal" candidate notwithstanding found some advantage from it: an advantage of which Lord Eliot's Bill is intended to deprive him.

Under the old system it was some consolation to the serf to know that he might probably be spared the angry scowl of his landlord while voting according to his conscience; but Lord Eliot's Bill ensures for all that supervision and censorship, which none can escape.

The principal, indeed the only objection urged against the FORTY SHILLING FREEHOLDERS was the selfish and uncontrolled power exercised over them by the Irish landlords or their agents. But in Lord Eliot's Bill we have a higher interest attached to subservery; inasmuch as we believe few will deny that a farmer, with a £50, £60, or £100, holding, will be more firmly bound, by the larger amount of interest, or possession and responsibility, to the will of his landlord. We have very often asserted that the only benefit that Ireland has derived from the Act of Union, has been the infliction upon that country of the worst and most iniquitous portions of British policy, British laws, British legislation, and British representation. The bill of Lord Eliot is an apt illustration of that assertion. Lord STANLEY, a former Secretary for Ireland, and now a colleague of the Tory Eliot, has declared, boldly declared, insensitely declared, amid the cheers of the landlord class, that English tenants consider the elective franchise as an important condition of their contract; and he further added, that without any will or disposition of their own, they went to the poll as voluntary supporters of their landlords. No doubt, then, that the good working of the Chartist Cause in England; and the bright example set by that serf class, lauded by the Noble Member for North Lancashire, is relied on as the new conditions upon which a similar serf class in Ireland shall hold their voting tenures.

We have before so fully explained the political effect which this new Tory Reform Bill must inevitably produce, as to leave no doubt upon the minds of any that its real object is to secure the ascendancy of the Tory party. We have also explained how and wherein the English people have a greater interest than even their Irish brethren in resisting the measure. For so large and so sweeping an alteration in the Representative System, we confess we were taken by surprise by the short time allowed between the introduction and the second reading of the Bill. We had good grounds for fearing that a sufficient opportunity would not be allowed to the working classes for marshalling an effective opposition to so dangerous an innovation. In this misgiving, however, we were agreeably disappointed; for all England, with one accord, and as if by simultaneous consent, has declared its fixed and unalterable determination to resist the monstrous infliction. Hastily prepared as the angry feeling of the country appears to be on the subject, we rejoice that the well expressed opposition to the measure in its infancy has forced an interval of another fortnight from the PRIME MINISTER; a fortnight which we trust, as we hope and believe, will be devoted to a steady and uncompromising agitation against the measure.

To fight this point, and against the common enemy, Englishmen and Irishmen must forget that their respective countries are separated by a channel, or that they have been divided by different sectarian, social, and political feuds and dissensions. Again we say, that as a political measure, this Bill, if enacted, would be more injurious to English than to Irish interests; and now we shall very briefly point out what must be its social results.

If this measure ever become law, it will be followed by a great extension of the large farm system in Ireland: while the present small occupants, together with their several dependants, whose subservience could not be relied on, will be driven from agricultural Ireland to England, as fresh competitors in the already over-stocked labour-market. The LAND being the thing represented, ejectment will follow ejectment; ousting will succeed ousting; clearance, confiscation, and murders, will follow in quick succession; and then the "characteristic barbarity" of the Irish people, instead of the characteristic brutality of Toryism, will be charged as the offender.

While such would be the political and social effects of this new Tory PERPETUATION measure, let us consider what its religious and moral tendency would be. The Catholic Emancipation Bill has been relied on as the foundation of a better understanding between Protestants and Catholics; while we fear that the Eliot superstructure to be raised upon it will disappoint the expectations of those who entertained any such fascinating notions. The present representation of the land has enabled Sir R. Peel to manifest some trifling opposition to the Bible-Education Societies of England; but its proposed conversion into church-franchise allotments, will compel him to abandon his "National System," and to fall back upon those on whose support his political existence must depend; and thus once more the old KILNARE-STREET system of proselyting, Catholic domination, "damnation," and "scripture-conversion," will be brought into full and irresistible force. The guardians of popular instruction giving to the Catholic pauper the alternative of remaining uneducated, or of taking the "Bible-grindstone" with the "educational cheese." Here, then, is a resurrection of all those old religious feuds, bickering, and dissensions of which Catholic Emancipation was to have been the destroyer.

For all these reasons, then, political, social, moral, and religious, we invite the opposition of every lover of freedom, of social happiness, of religious equality, and moral ascendancy. England has already spoken out boldly on the subject. Let not Ireland sleep, while the Tory wolf is at the door; for if once the destroying monster shall gain admission, a footing, or even toleration, our united and best exertions will fail to drive the beast from the fold.

MR. ROBERTS—BELPER—MESSRS. HASLAM.

"TO PREVENT ANY MISTAKE."

These are words which, under ordinary circumstances, would hardly be selected as a subject for an article; but their intention is so good, "to prevent any mistake"; they read so prettily; and their circumstances are so dull, and withal so instructive, that we are desirous of rescuing them from that oblivion to which they would otherwise be soon consigned by the rival bill-stickers of Belper.

About ten days ago, Mr. ROBERTS was requested to pay an immediate visit to Derby, to do what could be done for the release from goal of some of his clients, who had been illegally sent there by men whom the law calls "Justices." After procuring the requisite documents, he was requested to go to Belper. His presence was much required there, and was sure to effect much good; so off he went without delay.

BELPER is about seven miles north of Derby. It is the centre of a large coal district. The Truck System is carried on there to a frightful extent. There are labourers in that district who have not received "money" for their work during the last five years! With very few exceptions the wages are paid by "tickets for goods." Temptence is paid by an order for seventeen ounces of beastly bacon, from which a dog, with an ordinary nose, would turn with loathing; while the same article, of the best quality, may be purchased at a neighbouring shop for one-third less! At the same time the coal owners, several of whom are Magistrates, are work-

ing their black slaves at about half the wages that are obtained elsewhere.

It is natural enough to suppose that this state of things led to much dissatisfaction; and the result was, that the men (those who were in the Union) determined to give over work for a while. Mr. JESSOP, too, a religious man—a moral man—a magistrate and a master; one who delights in preaching that his rule of conduct is "to do unto others as he would that others should do unto him"; this saintly piece of morality had determined to employ no man who belonged to the Union. He belongs to the "Masters' Union" himself; and is a very active member of it. He was reminded of this the other day, and asked whether it was not rather inconsistent! "Well," he said,—he is a tall handsome fellow; loves a glass of port; drinks it with a smack; and "so help him Bob," opposes the Corn Laws as a religious question—same as Mr. SPENCER: "Well," he said,—looking his facetious interrogator full in the face: "Well; you think it inconsistent my belonging to the Masters' Union, and at the same time persecuting my men for belonging to their Union: well—it has a queer look, I must confess; to be sure,—(a pause.)—but after all—yes—no, that's not it." Here the old man, whose grey head should warn him of eternity, became so bothered with his confusions, that our friend took leave of him for a while.

However the result was that several hundred men were idle. They would not give up the Union—not they—"Give in—O! no." They say that unless it is paid in, for IDLENESS is far cheaper; can lie in bed longer, don't want so much to eat, nor to drink; and so on. So they walked about; and to amuse themselves they got a drum and a fife, and a triangle; and, being musical, they played their tunes up and down every where; and sometimes when they met a traitor to the cause, they sung out lustily, if the weather was fine:

"Bah, bah, Black Sheep, Have you any wool?"

For this and other "MISBEHAVIOUR," the men that "played the triangles" were "had up," with about a dozen others, "before the magistrates." The charge was, "molesting the said JOHN SPENCER, for the purpose, and with the intent thereby, and by means thereof, to induce the said JOHN SPENCER to be and become a member of a certain Union called 'The Miners' Association of Great Britain and Ireland.'" One hardy son of toil was fined £5 for "drumming" the wife of a "black" he "should, duced" her: "he didn't strike me; but he pushed against me his shoulder." The other cases were dismissed, on Mr. ROBERTS undertaking, by the desire of the men, that there should be no more "playing the triangles." The drum had previously been done for. JESSOP's man had given another man 3s. to "bust it open." Funny all this; but thus they do things at Belper.

"To prevent any mistake" we must now return to the subject—TRUCK—from which JESSOP's religion had induced us to wander—TRUCK is the curse of the neighbourhood of Belper; and it was very difficult to abate it. We do not say that the Magistrates connive at it; such an assertion against the Queen's anointed would be too hazardous; but we do say, that they have exhibited very great reluctance to exercise their Magisterial functions, and destroy the evil we complain of. We know very well that it is hard to be obliged to convict a man with whom you dined but yesterday—or by whose permission, perhaps you were enabled to "qualify for a Justice." Hard however, or not hard, the fact is, that it is not possible to induce a Magistrate to grant a summons for a Truck case, or to sit in judgment on one. Some time ago, Mr. RADFORD, of Belper, was seduced or frightened into granting a summons; but before the case was called on, a good natured lover of justice—one who liked to see things done properly—reminded him that he had a brother in the silk trade; and therefore he could not act; and so he did not act—and Truck triumphed!

As soon, however, as Mr. ROBERTS's determination to visit Belper was known, a meeting of the Truck masters was immediately called. Mr. JESSOP does not sanction the Truck fraud, and therefore was not present. Within an hour or two after Mr. ROBERTS's arrival, the following handbill was printed by the device of Messrs. HASLAM, three of the principal "Truckers," and when Mr. ROBERTS left his hotel the large thing greeted him and cheered him from all the walls of Belper. "To prevent any mistake," we give it entirely. One of the originals is with T. S. Dancombe, Esq., and probably has already found its way to the House of Commons:—

"PENTRICH COLLIERY."

"Messrs. HASLAM think it right (to prevent mistake), to give notice that all men employed at their colliery will receive their wages wholly in money, and be at liberty to spend it where they like."

"If they buy at Messrs. Haslam's shop they will be supplied (as heretofore) at wholesale prices; but they are not expected to buy there, and will have the same meat and wages whether they go to that shop or any other."

"C. COATES, Printer, Alfreton."

"April 9, 1844."

Now this we consider to be about the richest thing of its kind that has lately come under our notice. The men were "to receive their wages wholly in money and be at liberty to spend it where they like." We call this the very essence of generosity! It reminds us of our old fathers' voice: "Here Bill—here's three-pence for you—spend it where you like, and don't splash your trousers." "Spend it where you like!" "This," we cried, as the big words first dazzled our vision; "this is the land of liberty!"

"SPEND IT WHERE YOU LIKE," why it is not above ten years since the Truck Act was passed to compel you to do the very thing—a law that should have been a fraudulently trickster, the Foul Trick, that even might, to make you do otherwise! But then "you might know it," or "you might have forgotten it—so long ago."

And how kind, how "beautifully kind" (as a friend of ours who sold candles in Temple-street, Bristol, used to say of every rare deed of generosity)—how "beautifully kind" to tell the poor Pitman of it! It quite "melts one" (we were again with our candle friend). But for this intimation, the MEN might have thought that they were forced to buy their TEA and SUGAR at a PARTICULAR SHOP, where they sold everything, and of every grade, from a blunderbuss to a bustle! And its all so true! "You are at liberty to spend it." Yes, that you are! Nobody can contradict it. St. PAUL would not be believed, if he swore to the contrary! And "WHOLLY IN MONEY," not "four shillings in money and sixteen in goods." No; all—every bit of it—in "the current coin of the realm!"

And all this is told the Pitman "to prevent any mistake." This we call the beauty of the thing! We should always look to the intention; what lawyers call the "animus." Can any intention or purpose be better or more pure! "To prevent any mistake." Suppose, for a moment, that Mr. ROBERTS had not gone to Belper, and that Messrs. HASLAM had not printed the bill—suppose this, we say let the Pitmen for a moment, a single moment, suppose this, (not longer or it might make them ill)—why they might have made a "mistake!" They might have fancied that their wages were not to be paid "wholly in money!" and that they were not "at liberty to spend it where they liked!" Nay, they might have fancied that they would not "have the same work and wages" if they did not go to "Messrs. Haslam's shop!"

And so they went to the printer "to prevent any mistake." Verily, Mr. ROBERTS, your journey produces strange documents! They say the very warrants of commitment are done differently from what they used to be. But we really wish, that "to prevent any mistake," you would use better pen, mend your writing, and give us more facts. If it

had not been for our friend in Leicestershire, the glorious Bill that we have analyzed would never have travelled beyond Belper. The benevolent designs of Messrs. HASLAM would have been unknown, save to a neighbourhood, which, we are told, is apt to ascribe these conceptions rather to FEAR than to love. Now the world knows it all. Now the world can fully appreciate the magnanimity of paying the men "WHOLLY IN MONEY." Now the Messrs. HASLAM will go down to posterity—wherever the Star shines they will glitter—like SOCRATES, WAR-TYLER, TELL, and Mrs. FRY—as men who really wished to do a deal of good, and learn to set about it—and at the proper time too! for have not the walls of Belper proclaimed it that "the men may spend their money where they please!" And has not this been done "to prevent any mistake?" What a curious coincidence as to the time selected for this wonderful exhibition of benevolence! The very day of Mr. ROBERTS's first visit to Belper. Perhaps they did it to gratify the "Attorney General's" heart; perhaps it was an intimation to him that he might return to Durham. "Go along, my fine fellow; go thy ways, Mr. ATTORNEY, there's nothing for thee here. To prevent any mistake, we shall pay in money for the future! No more truck, Mr. ATTORNEY. Spend it where they please, Mr. ATTORNEY. Ha! ha! ha!"

And ha! ha! ha! eho we. Indeed we have been in a rollicking laugh ever since we commenced this most strange piece of writing. Yes! Messrs. HASLAM, we accept your prophecy. You shall "pay your men in money." THEY SHALL spend it where they please. Carthago delenda est. TRUCK SHALL FALL! The blow that has been given will soon be repeated; and another, and another will follow, till the monster dies!

"ALL MEN ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL."

"We are oppressed, and have too long knelt at our proud lord's feet; we have too long obeyed their orders, bowed to their caprices—sworn for them the weary summer's day; Wasted for them the wages of our toil; Fought for them; conquered for them; bled for them, still to be trampled on and still despised! BUT WE WILL BREAK OUR CHAINS!"

It was a day ever memorable in the annals of human kind when, amid the din of contending armies and the roar of mortal conflict, the sages and statesmen of America dared to meet and proclaim in the teeth of tyrant-ridden Europe, the long outraged but eternal truth, that "all men are born free and equal"; thus throwing down the gauntlet to oppression, and summoning the oppressed to the struggle for freedom: a struggle which from that hour to this has unceasingly continued, and which must and will continue until wrong and robbery, usurpation and fraud, are everywhere smitten down, and the heel of all-conquering justice placed upon the writhing, choking, expiring throat of fallen, discomfited tyranny.

Al! it was no vain faith that poets have sung and philosophers claimed of,—that the principles of truth and error, light and darkness, have from the beginning been engaged in deadly conflict, alternately triumphing and succumbing. For ages was the glories of the ancient democracies veiled by the Stygian night of kingly and priestly gloom that succeeded their greatness; till, in the New World, the sun of freedom once more emerged from behind the clouds of despotism, infusing the warmth of hope into the breasts of suffering millions, and kindling in the patriot's heart that fire of freedom, which once ignited, not even oceans of blood can extinguish!

Yes, it was a day pregnant with blessed hope for the human race, when JEFFERSON proclaimed those principles, which, embodied in the immortal DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, rent the New World from the domination of the Old! The fruits were speedily seen in that fearful and unprecedented struggle which democracy entered into with the League of Kings, which in Europe combined to arrest her progress. That progress was arrested; not through the invincibility of the thrones, hierarchies, and aristocracies of Europe; but through the treason of liberty's pretended friends. Still the strife continues. Democracy is advancing with giant strides in Britain; while on the continent from Paris to Athens, from Vienna to Lisbon, from Warsaw to Rome, triumphs are daily achieved, or the elements of convulsion are silently gathering which will result in changes unequalled in their importance, and of lasting benefit to the human family.

And the signal triumph of America, in her struggle for national independence and political freedom, was the grand precursor of these coming changes.

Yet has there not been wanting much in the abuses of American Republicanism which have tended to retard the march of liberty, and arm the apostles of tyranny with weapons which they have not failed to use in combating their opponents.

We will name a few of these abuses.

First, Slavery. That damning stain upon the American escutcheon, is one that has caused the Republicans of Europe to weep for very shame and mortification; and the people of the United States have much to answer for at the bar of humanity for this indecent, cruel, revolting, and heinous violation of their boasted principle—that "All men are born free and equal."

Secondly, Their lust for Military Rapine. We do not charge them with being worse than the ruling classes of Europe in that respect. On the contrary, they are not a millionth part so bad; but they should be no comparison. The unceasing roar for "War," "WAR," "WAR,"—not for the liberation of enslaved nations, but for the enlargement of territory and the humbling of England, the ambition and bloody conquests of whose rulers they seem desirous of Imitating, affords food for sorrowful reflection. To the enslaved people of this country, who have scarcely an inch of soil in their own native land they can call their own, it matters not one straw whether the Americans "annex Texas" or seize upon the Oregon; but to the lovers of liberty and the believers in human progress, it is all important that the Americans should not deceive and destroy themselves by treating that "Road to Ruin" which has enslaved and annihilated too many other nations who have recklessly and madly cast away the realities of freedom for the delusive phantasies of military glory.

Thirdly, That the struggle of the working classes in this country, their own kith and kin, has excited no sympathy with the Americans. With a million times the difficulties to contend with that the Americans had, the English Chartists have been ridiculed and calumniated by a no small section of the Republican (Press) for seeking the establishment of the very principles of the Declaration of Independence. But this we cease to be surprised at, when we find the patriots of Rhode Island treated as "Rebels" for demanding UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE!

Fourthly, That possessing the rights of citizenship, those rights have been most criminally abused. This is too true. The many have permitted the few to usurp and monopolise the soil; and by bankrofts, lawyer-craft, and the thousand and one schemes of profit-craft, allowed of the accumulation of immense hoards of wealth in the hands of a few Levantine blood-suckers, to the degradation, misery, and social slavery of the myriad bees, who rattle their votes into the ballot-box for political schemers and power-plunders, and then call themselves "free!" While year by year, they continue bearing the weight of degradation and wretchedness in which the millions of Europe have been too long sinking and groining in their agony.

We by no means assume that all our American brethren are guilty of the things here charged against them; but the majority are so. There is a party, a powerful and growing one, pledged never to cease their exertions till they break the chains of the slave. There are those who denounce the guilt and madness of war, and who dare to defy prejudice

in defence of truth. There are those who admit patriotism wherever existing, and sympathize with the oppressed wherever found struggling for freedom. Last, and not least, there are those who, seeing the cause of the social decline of the labourer, have boldly planted the standard of principle; and taking up their position upon manly Natural Rights, have demanded a return to the edicts of eternal justice, that Republicanism may be made something more than a mere name, and the masses become SOCIALLY, instead of nominally, "free." To this last point we wish to direct the attention of our readers.

On the seventh page, under the head of "Great and Important Movement in the United States," our readers will find an account of some most interesting proceedings at a meeting of the New York DEMOCRAT, held on the 8th of March last. Our information of these proceedings has been derived from a newly-established New York paper, entitled "The People's Rights," conducted with considerable ability and an honesty and energy of purpose truly refreshing to those who have had to read the inane falsehood, and bluster of the greater portion of the American press. This paper has been started as the advocate of man's equal and imperishable right to land; and simultaneous with its appearance, they commenced a movement among the working men of the establishment of an organization to attain its practical working of that great principle. At its first meeting, Mr. DRYER, Editor of the New York "Herald," well known in the North of England for his advocacy of Chartistism, one of the conductors of the Northern Liberator, opened the proceedings by delivering "an interesting and eloquent address," which we regret has not reached us; and was followed by Mr. W. L. MCKENZIE, one of the most gallant and consistent of Canadian patriots, now a citizen of the United States. An abstract of MCKENZIE's speech will be found in the report; and to it we invite the serious attention of our readers. We trust its perusal will incite them to a more united and determined course of action, to achieve for themselves those rights and functions, the use of which the Americans are at length beginning to find out. A second, a larger, and still more enthusiastic meeting was held on the 20th of March, which was addressed, among others, by Messrs. DRYER and COMMERFORD, and that singular, but determined and popular character MICK WILSON, Editor of the Subterranean. At this second meeting a most important Report or Address was unanimously adopted, to which we shall call attention in our next. We beg also to point out to eloquent and forcible article from the pen of MICK WILSON, headed, "Agrarianism." It proclaims a pure spirit of equality; and in "thoughts that breathe and words that burn," points out the great cause of the slavery and suffering of humanity.

That cause is the monopoly of the soil; the whole sale robbery of the land. In England we see it last free portion of God's earth about to be wrested from us by that gigantic scheme of spoliation, Lord Wensley's Enclosure Bill. In America we have seen millions upon millions of the public lands plundered by the greedy speculator; and as a natural consequence, the basest aristocracy of the States emulating the pride and luxury of the feudalists of Europe, and doing their utmost to destroy the glorious institutions of their country by sapping public morals and creating political debauchery. Behold the difference between the two countries! In England we submit to the robbery; for, alas! politically and physically we are bound hand and foot,—slaves! We dare scarcely breathe our wrongs; "for the bayonet of the hireling is ever ready to defend the comb of few who have their feet on the necks of the many." We only gnash our teeth and bide our time. In the United States, although her citizens are "like unfaithful stewards," hitherto made us unworthy use of the rights possessed by them, it forcibly withheld from us; still they possess it right, they wield the power. If they are miserable and oppressed it has been their own fault. They require but to be set right; to see their way clear; and, forthwith, they lay but to win their freedom, and to they are free! They have not to struggle through a lengthened period of agitation, suffering, and contest, to obtain the axe to bring down corruption's tree! They lay the axe! They require but the sense to will, and the arm to wield, and the pestiferous upas will lie upon the plain!

Our present remarks are but introductory to subject far too vast to be disposed of in one week paper; for the present we content ourselves with giving insertion to the following pledge, the basis of the American AGRARIAN LEAGUE.

"We, whose names are subscribed, desirous of restoring to man his natural right to the land, do solemnly agree, that we will not vote for any man, for any legislative office, who will not pledge himself, in writing, to use all the influence of his station, to prevent all further traffic in the public lands of the State, and of the United States, and cause them to be laid out in farms and lots for the use and exclusive use of actual settlers."

On this pledge, and matters connected therewith we shall have much to say hereafter. In the meantime, while wishing God speed to our American brethren, we trust their present example will stimulate the men of England to persevere through all changes of fortune, through all persecution and calumny, suffering and wrong, for the obtaining of that glorious Charter which will arm them with the rights of citizenship, and enable them to stand side by side with the Republicans of America, as nature made them, and happy as the greatest of all designed his children should be.

THE PEOPLE'S "PRONUNCIAMENTO."

THE NORTHERN STAR.

rises. It is enough to make humanity shudder at the idea of a number of inexperienced men descending to the pit bottom, unconscious of their danger, and their liability of being crushed to atoms from without.

BROTHERLY LOVE.—We are no strangers of the common interest that exists between the pitmen and masters employed upon collieries, for so sure as a reduction in the pitmen's wages takes place, so sure that reduction extends to you. Your condition and grievances ought now want to be heard by the Legislature. The same public spirit which has made the Yorkshire Coal Trades' Association will give you the right hand of fellowship. Really then round the standard of freedom; fear nothing; we have the Men of men to keep us out of the fangs of the Law; we are determined never to yield till justice is done to us.

I am, Brethren,
Yours in friendship, love, and truth.
J. B. Y.

BLISSHAW Auckland, April 8th, 1844.

A VINDICATION—A public meeting of the Miners of this county was held on Stewarston Moor, on Friday, the 6th instant, to hear the report of the delegates from the Conference, when several resolutions were carried in favour of a Law and Victim Fund. The proceedings gave general satisfaction. A full attendance to the Chairmen of the County having been given, the motion was put up, every Miner declaring he would stand by the Union.

A DELEGATE MEETING of this county took place at Ayre, on the 6th instant, when the following sums were paid over to the General Fund 10s.; West-Beirick General Fund 10s.; Great Bridge General Fund 10s.; Law Fund 7s.—Law Fund 9s.; Pennington 2s. 1d.; Ayre & Crawfords 5s. 9d.; Koulmie 2s.; Wickeless 1s.; Dora 3s. 6d. Our next delegate meeting will be held at Dalby on Wednesday, April 20th, in the house of Mr. Longwell at ten o'clock.

A PUBLIC MEETING of the Miners of Ayre was held in Ayre, on Saturday, the 6th instant, when addresses were ably delivered by Messrs. McOully, Davis, and Boyle.

WEDNESDAY.—A delegate meeting was held in the Free School Hall, Wednesbury, on Monday, April 8th. The following sums were paid in :—West Bromwich No. 2, £1 18s. 4d.; Oldbury, No. 1, £1 14s. 6d.; Oldbury, No. 2, 11s. 6d.; Great Bridge, £1 9s. 11d.; Dadley Port £1 5s.; Swan Village, No. 1, 12s.; Darlaston, No. 1, 12s.; Darlaston, No. 2, 10s. 10d.; Netherton, No. 1, £1 15s. 3d.; Dudley, No. 2, 16s.; Dadley, No. 1, £2 10s. 6d.; Dadley, No. 4, 15s. 7d.; Park-house, 10s.; Tipton, No. 1, £1 9s. 9d.; Tipton, No. 2, £1 18s.; Round Green, Whitehall Gate 10s.; Price's 2s.; Darlaston, No. 1, £1 15s.; Bliston, No. 1, 24s. 12s.; Bliston, No. 2, 15s.; Pleck 6s. 1d.; Jerusalem £1 18s.; Wolverhampton, No. 1, £1 12s. 2d.; Wolverhampton, No. 2, 7s. 6d.; Wolverhampton, No. 3, 6s. 6d.; Moore Green £1 4s.; Bierley Hill, No. 1, £1 5s. 8d.; Bierley Hill, No. 2, 11s. 6d.; Newgate, No. 1, 12s.; Netherton, No. 2, 13s.; Brockmoor £1 16s. 8d.; Delph 17s. 2d.; Hart's Hill 5s. 11d.; Mount Pleasant £1; Portobello £1 9s. 11d.; Garswood £2 10s. 3d.; Kate's Hill £1 6s.; Oldhill 2s.; Woodcut £2 10s. 3d.; Huddersfield £1 10s. 6d.; Wakefield £1 1s. 4d.; Laidlaw £1 1s. 4d.; Dudley Wood £4s. 4d.; Low Ground £1 1s.; Palsal £1 1s.; Witteybank £1 2s. 6d.

BURNLEY.—The men at the Gravel-Hole Colliery are still out of employ, their places being partly supplied by knoebetics. We hope our Yorkshire friend will be on their ground, as there are parties seeking employment who are new pits in this neighbourhood. This is false.

HALIFAX DISTRICT, APRIL 8.—A public meeting of the Collieys was held at Ragles Inn, near Halifax. Mr. Samuel Mann in the chair; Messrs. Harris, To and Booth addressed the meeting at great length.

APRIL 9.—A public meeting of the Collieys was held at Wibsey Low Moor, near Bradford, Mr. Jas Booth in the chair. He opened the meeting in a pleasant speech. The meeting was afterwards addressed by Messrs. Harris and Toft.

BIRCHINGLIFE.—A public meeting of Miners was held at this place on Good Friday, at one o'clock; the afternoon. The meeting was addressed by J. Swallow.

WAKEFIELD.—An important meeting of Collieys was held at Wakefield on Easter Monday, at two o'clock the afternoon, on the open space of ground opposite to

Member	4	10	0	JOHN
...	JAN

[illegible]

acquainted with the arrangements for the in the documents pre
committee, declare Mr

[illegible]

