

THE GLEANER.

AND
NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME II.]

"Nec aranearum sane texus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

No. 50.

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 23, 1831.

EUROPE.

INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED BY THE PACKET.

ENGLAND.

RIOTS IN WALES.—Fifteen Lives lost.—The workmen who lately turned out at Merthyr Tydvil, chiefly on account of the pressure of the truck system, have become dangerously riotous, and that part of the country is much agitated. On Friday week the mob attempted to destroy the Rotation-office. Seventy men of the 93rd foot were called out; the mob assailed the soldiers, and the latter were obliged to fire, when thirteen men were shot dead on the spot, and from forty to fifty were wounded. Two of the soldiers were killed, and several wounded, including the major of the 93rd, who commanded. After a battle of about ten minutes' duration, the mob ran for it.

Mr. Crawshaw and Mr. Hill addressed the mob in English, and Mr. Bruce in Welsh, representing to them the impropriety of breaking the laws, as well as the impossibility of their allowing themselves to be dictated to by an armed mob. The men replied, that nothing short of immediate concession on the part of the iron masters would satisfy the party assembled outside. At this period of the conference I left the room to view the people. The soldiers assembled before the door looked like specks amongst the multitude, and fears were entertained of a rush upon them. Directions were immediately given for three men to occupy each window in the castle. Mr. Guest came up shortly after, and addressed the populace from the central window; but, after a great deal of speaking on both sides, no favourable decision was come to. Mr. Crawshaw then addressed them to the same effect as Mr. Guest, but in vain. After purloining for some time, they made a rush upon the soldiers and tried to disarm them. The order was given to fire, and the various officers were driving through the house in all directions, and muskets cracking from every window. The street was raked in every direction, and, as soon as the mob dispersed, we found that there were 13 poor fellows lying dead on the street. The soldiers did not escape. The Commanding officer, received a severe wound on the back of his head from a bludgeon, and was streaming with blood. About twenty of the Highlanders were injured in various ways. One man had his bayonet taken from him, and was stabbed in the side; some had broken heads, and the large room was strewn with the wounded. It is reported to day that some of them died previously to their being conveyed to Brecon. There were 30 or more of the people wounded and killed, of which we have received no information, as they were conveyed away by their comrades. I am only surprised that so few appear to have suffered from the constant volleys that were fired from every window. One man advanced at a time, and took deliberate aim; then the second and third; and, by the time the third had discharged his musket, the first was ready to take his place. The dead bodies were conveyed to the stables; some of them had scarcely parted with the last quivering remains of existence. After the mob were dispersed, they went on various eminences that commanded the plain, and began to pepper us pretty smartly with the muskets taken from the soldiers, who could only get a random shot at them occasionally. The insurgents have taken to the hills: how they are to subsist there, I know not; I should think they must quickly come to terms. The first who seized a musket was a large, brawny fellow. I did not see him till he was dead. He seized the musket from behind the soldier, and, on the soldier turning round, they struggled for it. The soldier got him a little off, and then, with a thrust,

sent the bayonet through his body, and he fell with the point of the bayonet sticking out at his back. The soldier was immediately levelled with a club, and dangerously wounded on the head. Another fellow sized bold of a drummer, and had a bayonet through his head immediately, and a musket discharged into his right side at the same time."

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JUNE 24.

At four o'clock the Speaker took his seat, at which time the house was unusually full. The gallery was crowded with persons anxious to hear the important question of reform, which was fixed to be brought on this evening.

Mr. EWART obtained leave to bring in a bill for erecting a new church at Liverpool, to be called 'The Church of St. Bridget.'

THE REFORM BILL.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL moved the order of the day on this bill, and the Chief Clerk having read the terms of his Majesty's speech relating to the subject, his lordship said,—I rise, sir, for the purpose of proposing in the name of the Government, a measure which in their opinion, is calculated to maintain unimpaired the prerogatives of the crown, the authorities of both houses of Parliament, and the rights and liberties of the people. Sir, in rising to propose this measure, I cannot but ask, recollecting what took place on the late occasion, that I may have the benefit of a patient attention, a patient hearing of the explanation which I shall endeavour to give of the general principle of the measure which his Majesty's ministers have thought it expedient to introduce. I trust, sir, that on this occasion, gentlemen will so far favour me as not to repeat those gestures and convulsions with which they thought, during the late Parliament, this measure was at once to be driven out of this house, and rebuffed by the ridicule of a great party who were banded together for that purpose. Sir, however great those sneers may have been, I feel perfectly confident of this, that his Majesty's ministers have neither yielded nor abated in consequence of the opposition they have met with;—(Hear, hear!) nor have the jeers with which the first proposition of the measure was received; nor the misrepresentation and labels with which the measure was sought to be disfigured; nor the most fair and able opposition, which was made in this house by men of great talent and long experience; nor those more dangerous weapons with which the enemies of the measure, might impute to the Sovereign an intention different from that of his constituted ministers—none of those obstacles, powerful as they have been, or powerful as they may be, have prevented the Sovereign, his ministers, and the people from pursuing an object, which has been an object at once to those who love the ancient forms of the constitution, and to all who are attached to the rights and liberties of the people, objects most highly to be desired.—(Loud cheering.) Of the conduct of the Sovereign to his ministers, it most certainly does not become me in this place to speak; but, sir, I cannot proceed any further without saying a few words of how much I admire, and how much I think it worthy of all praise and glory, the conduct of the people of England.—(Cheers.) I say this, sir, without reference to any merits of the measure which have been so highly sanctioned by the great zeal and universal approbation of his Majesty's subjects.—(Hear!) I say, independently of what has been accomplished by the perfect devotedness of the humblest class of people, to what they thought was their duty to their country, it is an example which England may well be proud of to the latest generation.—(Loud and long-continued cheers.) Sir, it has been said, that the late elections were elections governed not by reason but by passion.—(Hear, hear!) If you mean by impassioned feelings, I will not deny it.—(Hear!) because, out of love to their country, the people came forward with a zeal unequalled. Nothing but impassion and enthusiasm, which led the most of men to overlook all their petty interests; nothing but a true spirit of patriotism could have persuaded men who are only in the receipt of a few shillings a day, to give up all the price, all the temptations that were offered to them;—(cheers.) to give up, after all that has been insinuated, I boldly assert it, to give up, in many instances, the continuance of themselves and their children in the enjoyment of some permanent privilege for the sake of—(for the sake of what? why, for the sake of a measure which was not for their benefit, but which they conceived to be calculated for the future benefit and welfare of the millions who people this kingdom.—(immense applause.) And, Sir, I think it may be well for some who are disposed never to speak of the multitude without epithets—certain expressions of disparagement and contempt,—it may be a lesson to them, (and I should have thought they would have benefited by it sooner,) not to speak, in future, of any class of his Majesty's subjects in a manner from which, I am sure, the heart of his Majesty himself would at once recoil.—[Cheers.] Because, whatever may be the station of man, whatever may be his calling, if he, in the pursuit of an honest industry, acts independently and conscientiously, I know not why that man's zeal, be he ever so poor, even if he be mistaken, is not worth as much of our respect as the zeal of the proudest and noblest member of this house, who conscientiously offers his opinion in opposition to the measures which I have now the honor to bring forward.—[Immense cheering.] Sir, with these observations, I shall venture to go on to speak of the measure which I am about to introduce. With regard to the general features, and also as to the details of that measure, I shall not enter this day particularly into them, because, as they are the same as the bill which was

before the late Parliament,—[Hear, hear!] and as the slight improvements solely intended to carry into effect the principles of the bill,—[much cheering.] I think it will be quite sufficient if I leave the consideration of all the details of this great measure till the period that the house shall have sanctioned the first and second reading, and the bill be about to go into a committee.—[Cheers.] But, sir, although I should not feel it necessary to explain the particulars of the bill, yet I do think, when this house had been called together for the express purpose of confirming this great question, a question affecting deeply and entirely the construction of this house, I do think it respectful to this honourable house to perform the duty of endeavouring to lay before them, in some measure, what the principle of our ancient representation has been, what the representation is under our present laws, and what it will be generally, and largely speaking, under the measure which we propose to introduce. [Lord John Russell having entered at great length into the subject, we are precluded, by want of room, from inserting more than his description of the new measure, and the alterations which he proposes to make in the bill of the last session.] It shocks me, said his Lordship after describing the present system of representation, to see that a majority of members may be returned by a few individuals—it offends me to see elections an excuse for every species of immorality; and, as regards public policy, I regret to see places in which large masses of intelligence and worth are gathered together, but who have no vote in returning representatives. We propose to alter this system, and to substitute a better in its place, altering as little as possible.—[Laughter, and hear, hear!] We propose about 150 members to be sent by the counties, which, by being divided, give to each member as much population as a whole county did a hundred years ago. I have gone through documents, and find such to be the case. I find it as nearly in every instance from 70 to 120,000 persons. We then say, that there shall be about 180 members sent from the great cities and towns, not omitting Manchester, Leeds, or Sheffield, but giving members to those great towns, and given also to the woolen, cotton, coal, pottery, and other manufacturing districts a share in the representation which they have not hitherto had.—[Loud cries of hear, hear!] We propose an immense extension of the suffrage of freeholders, leaseholders, and copyholders. We propose to extend the franchise to long leaseholders, which was omitted in the former bill by mistake.—[Hear!] and leaseholders of seven years of £50 per year, instead of 14 years, as stated in the former bill. With regard to the boroughs and cities, householders of £10 a year will be entitled to vote. The provisions in this bill for taking the poll on two days are, I think, eminently calculated to prevent bribery and to reduce expense. The attention of his Majesty's Government has been directly employed in the causes for preventing bribery, and I hope we shall be enabled, before the close of the session, to offer to the attention of the house a bill more effectual for the prevention of that crime than the present. Let me remark, in the meantime, that the present bill will go far to prevent that crime itself. It has been well said by Mr. Fox, "How can you call a poor man to the bar who has taken a bribe of ten guineas for his vote, when there are numerous members sitting round the house who have paid from £ to £4000 for their seats, and others sitting in these benches who had sold seats to others?" This bill, at all events, will prevent such practices.—[Hear!] Sir, I come now to speak of some of the objections to this measure. The first objection to it, that it is a far greater measure than is called for by the necessities of the people; but I beg to remind the house, that the individuals who make this objection to the measure have no measure to put in its place. Sir, I have always been an advocate for reform, and now that we have been obliged to propose a measure to Parliament to carry reform into effect, we consider it better, and that we were bound, to propose a measure effectual for the country. If we had proposed a measure short of what we have done, we believe, that, so far from allaying, it would have increased tenfold the destructions of the country, and would have laid the foundation for more misery to the country than man can conceive. But, sir, if this measure is found fault with as going too far, it, on the other hand, has likewise been found great fault with as not being full enough; that such large towns as Bradford, &c., with a large number of inhabitants, have no more members than boroughs with not half the number of inhabitants. Our opinion is, that anomalies of this kind are not grievances. It is the practical evils which call for redress, and to remedy those we have proposed the present measure.—[Hear, hear!] When I speak of the opposers of this bill, I am supposing, as they have acknowledged, that some plan of reform is necessary. Granting this, you then lose the whole benefit of the strong ground taken by the Duke of Wellington, for, ever since his speech, in which he stated that reform was unnecessary, no person has opposed this bill but who has stated, that some reform was necessary: in whatever different degrees in their conduct and judgment had induced them to think they all, or almost all, proposed different plans, or thought different plans necessary; and he thought it one great argument in favour of the bill, that such was the case, and he might almost say, with Cromwell, when he saw the Scottish army coming from the hills into the plain, "The Lord has delivered them into our hands!"—[Hear, hear!] and great cheering.] We are likewise charged with taking an unfair basis on which to found our title. Now, our answer to this is, that we took our plan from a statistical book, in which all parties agree there are few errors. Some say, you ought to have taken the number of 101 houses returned to the Tax office, but to this was found many objections; for instance, we have made inquiries by sending persons into the country in the neighbourhood of boroughs, to compare the number of 101 houses in these