

# THE GLEANER

AND  
NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME II.]

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

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MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 3, 1831.

## THE GLEANER.

### EUROPE.

#### ROME.

The Pope has issued the usual proclamation on his ascending the chair of St. Peter, but has been obliged to occupy himself with more pressing matters than those usually embraced in such a manifesto.

"Whilst," says his holiness, "we were occupied with sweet thoughts of consoling our children, whilst we were forming measures to accelerate this happy result, there reached us the most melancholy tidings of fatal revolution in some of our provinces. Certain that the ignorance in which they remained that a new father had been given, and that the loss of him whom they mourned had been repaired, rendered their error less monstrous, we still address to them the assurance of mercy and pardon, as it becomes the vicar of God-made-man, who gloried in the character of being meek and humble in spirit. Let those unfortunate men reflect what a wound they inflict on the bosom of their affectionate father, what peace they have lost, what perils they have to encounter; and, in making the cruel comparison between their former condition and the state of disorder and agitation into which they have thrown themselves, let them deplore, in the sincerity of their hearts, the wrongs which they have done in wandering from the living waters, and in forming to themselves cisterns that can hold no water. Having nothing but desires of peace and conciliation, and seeking nothing but the good of those whom we shall always regard as our children, we still feel towards them bowls of compassion, and would be afflicted at the very idea of being under the necessity of having recourse to measures of rigour, while we are firmly disposed to extend to those places, as well as to the other portions of our dominions, measures of beneficence and prosperity."

It is said that Buckingham Palace is about to be given to the Duke of Northumberland, in exchange for Northumberland-house, which is to be taken down in order to complete the improvements in the Strand.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Marquis of Cleveland, an extensive proprietor of boroughs, expressed, on Thursday evening, his intention to support the ministerial plan of reform; and, on Friday afternoon, the Duke of Norfolk, also a borough proprietor, avowed a similar intention.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On motion of Mr. O'Connell, Jacobs, the individual confined in Newgate, under the Speaker's warrant for a breach of privilege, was ordered to be discharged without the usual reprimand from the chair.—The same hon. and learned member, as well as several hon. members, in presenting petitions in favour of Parliamentary Reform, expressed their satisfaction of the great measure which Ministers had brought in on that subject.

### REFORM IN PARLIAMENT.—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

Lord John Russell, moved, that the order of the day for resuming the adjourned debate on reform in Parliament be read. Mr. John Campbell begged to inquire of the noble lord, whether it was his intention to carry his views upon this subject into effect by means of one general measure, or whether he proposed to introduce several measures upon the subject. Lord John Russell said, that the terms of his motion were, "That leave be given to bring in a bill to amend the representation of the people in England and Wales." If leave were given to bring in this bill, he should then move for leave to bring in a bill to amend the representation of the people in Scotland; and also for a bill to amend the representation of the people of Ireland.—(Cheers.) These three bills would contain all the propositions which the Government had made on this subject.—(Hear, hear!) The order of the day having been read, Mr. Hume, radical reformer as he undoubtedly was, was bound to say, that the plan of the Government had far exceeded his expectations. They had come forward with an efficient and manly measure of reform; and had completely redeemed the pledge which they had given on the subject. Many of the greatest reformers were satisfied with it.—(Hear, hear! from the opposition benches,) and wisely too, for it was the business and duty of a Government to proceed by degrees, and not to hazard a just defeat by proposing too much at once: He was determined to give his cordial assistance and hearty support to His Majesty's

Government upon this occasion.—(Hear, hear!) Mr. J. V. Shelley opposed the motion at some length. His complete and conscientious conviction was, that the carrying of such a measure as this would be productive of utter ruin of the whole system of social order and good government in this country. With regard to close boroughs, which it was proposed to disfranchise, he conscientiously believed, that the only really, truly, and thoroughly and completely independent members in that house were the members who were returned there to represent those boroughs.—(Much laughter.) The hon. member concluded by characterizing the proposed measure as unwise, revolutionary, and radical.—(Hear, hear!) Mr. C. B. Wall spoke at great length against the measure. Lord Newark supported it. Lord Darlington (son of the Marquis of Cleveland, a large borough proprietor) was not so prejudiced as to say, that some changes might not be effected, and some concessions made to the people, with advantage to the country; but, whilst he was ready to give the right of representation to the large towns, he would never consent that this change ought to be effected by disfranchising so many boroughs, and this without affording any compensation to the proprietors. He concluded by saying, that he never could agree in opinion with those who would abolish our social structure and erect their own temple upon the ruins. Lord Ebrington, in rising to support the measure, alluded to the sanction it had received from the King. He was called to order by a hon. member, who appealed to the Speaker to say, whether the terms used by the noble lord were within the rules of order which governed the house. The Speaker said, that he had no difficulty in answering, that, if the hon. member were satisfied and correct in his data, (Hear! from the Treasury benches,) nothing could be more disorderly than to introduce the name of the Sovereign for the purpose of influencing the house in its judgment and decision upon a public measure.—(Cheers from the opposition benches.) But, if the name of the Sovereign were alluded to merely with a view to state to the house what the house well knew to be the case—that, by the constitution of the country, ministers being alone responsible and answerable for public measures, the presumption was, that the Sovereign, having the right and prerogative to change his servants, would not continue them in office if they proposed measures that were not considered beneficial to the country, the allusion was not disorderly.—(Hear! from the ministerial benches.) And, on the other hand, it communicated nothing to the house which it did not know beforehand, if ministers acted constitutionally.—(Cheers.) Lord Ebrington hoped the hon. gentleman was satisfied by the decision of the chair.—(Hear!) The noble lord argued, at considerable length, in support of the measure. Lord Stormont opposed it in a long speech, contending that what the noble lord [Russell] had proposed as reform appeared to him to be revolution—concession, spoliation—and, in time, religion would be atheism.—(Hear!) Sir John Walsh said, that the plan of the noble lord was not so much a reform in Parliament as an entire new-modelling of the constitution. Mr. Macaulay supported the measure in a most argumentative speech. So far as he was able to consider the proposition of the noble lord during the last twenty-four hours, he thought it a great, noble, and comprehensive measure.—(Hear!) a medicine most skillfully prepared for removing a dangerous distemper.—(Hear, hear!) a plan excellently contrived for uniting and permanently knitting together all orders in the state.—(Hear, hear!) Earnestly did he hope, that those who resisted this measure of reform might not end their days in unavailing regrets that they had not taken a different course; earnestly did he pray, that they might not feel that regret amidst riot, confiscation, and massacre, amidst that wreck of the institutions of the country which could only lead to the entire dissolution of social order.—(Loud and continued cheers.) Lord Mahon opposed the measure, contending that it would be most injurious to the best interests of the whole country. He believed, in his conscience, that it would produce revolution.—(Hear, hear, hear!) Mr. Hunt had no hesitation in saying, that the measure brought forward by the noble lord had gone far beyond what he [Mr. Hunt] had anticipated.—(Hear!) He had been alluded to personally several times during the present debate, and, having taken so prominent a part out of doors with respect to the question of reform, he was sure that he should not be considered presumptuous, if he now sincerely and honestly declared his sentiments in that House.—(Hear!) He should do so the more unequivocally, because he was convinced the observations he was about to make would express the voice of millions. He acknowledged that the measure of Government went beyond his expectations; but he regretted that the noble lord, in explaining it to the house, had so unequivocally expressed his opinion against the ballot and universal suffrage. The noble lord wished, it seemed, to steer a middle course between the two contending parties—that which desired a reform, and that which was anxious for a more extensive, and what the noble lord had chosen to designate, a visionary reform. He sincerely hoped that the noble lord would not verify the old adage, that between two stools a man was likely to come to the ground.—(Laughter.) The hon. member then proceeded to address the house at very great length. Lord Morpeth said, that, after the best consideration which he had been able to give the measure submitted to the house, he believed that it would satisfy every friend of rational freedom, and that it contained nothing which ought to alarm the friends of order and the existing establishments. He would characterize it as a wise, honest, glorious, and manly measure. Sir Charles Wetherell delivered a long speech against the measure, observing that, as Boroughbridge was to be cashiered, he was in the unhappy predicament of rising to make his last dying speech. When, therefore, he solicited the

attention of the house, he was asking what he would never ask again; and the house would doubtless concede to this last request of the dying member of Parliament for Boroughbridge.—(Laughter.) Sir Charles concluded his speech by saying, that there existed in Cromwell's time a purge of the House of Commons. Laughter. The purge was called Col. Pride's purge. Laughter and Cheering. The gentlemen on the opposite side of the house were close imitators of the Cromwellian system, not only of his system of Parliamentary Reform, but also of his sanatory purgative system, for they were prepared to expel, by one strong dose, no less than a 168 members of that house. He did not know what name he ought to attach to this specific; for he had not conceived it possible that the country would see a repetition of such process a second time. Within the last three days, however, the house had been promised with a purge, to which, as no name had yet been attached, he would attach the name of Russell's purge. Roars of laughter, and great cheering for some time. Yes, he would call this bill Russell's Purge of Parliament. Cheers. He said that the principle of the bill was republican in its basis. Cheers from the opposition benches, and cries of "No!" from the ministerial. He said that the principle of it was destructive of all prosperity, of all right, of all privilege, and that the same arbitrary violence which expelled a majority of members from that house, in the time of the commonwealth, was now, after the lapse of a century from the revolution, during which the population had enjoyed greater happiness than was ever enjoyed by any population under heaven, proceeding to expose the House of Commons again to the nauseous experiment of a repetition of Pride's Purge. Loud cheering for some minutes. The Attorney-General replied, at very great length, to the hon. and learned gentleman. Much had been said by his hon. and learned friend, and by others, about producing a revolution, and about revolutionary measures. Now, if he thought that this measure was calculated to lead to a revolution, or to produce a convulsion, no man would struggle against it with more zeal and determination than he would. In his conscience, however, he did believe that it was a measure in strict accordance with the spirit of the constitution; and in his conscience also he did believe that it was the only mode of preventing a revolution. Hear, hear! At half-past one o'clock, the debate was adjourned.

The order of the day for resuming the debate on this subject having been read, Mr. G. Banks addressed the house against the measure, which he considered as revolutionary. Mr. Hobhouse replied to the hon. gentlemen in a very long speech, and supported the proposed bill in an able manner. Mr. Baring denied the necessity of reform, eulogized the present system, and denounced the measure before the house as one which would ruin the constitution, by destroying those influences which had so long existed, and which had worked so well. The Marquis of Tavistock supported the plan, which, if carried into effect, would curb the monopoly so long maintained by the higher orders, and give a fair expression of the sense of the middling classes. Lord Palmerston supported the proposition before the house at considerable length. He was aware that those who were wedded to the present system might denounce the proposition of Government to be a revolutionary measure, while those who sought to overthrow existing establishments, and build on their ruin another system, of which they aimed to be rulers, would stigmatize it as insufficient, but he was convinced, that those who admitted timely correction and improvement to be the conservative principle of free institutions, would look upon the proposition as well adapted to consolidate the fabric of the constitution, and gave it due consistency and strength. Cheers. Any one who looked at the constitution of the representation of this house could not fail to be struck by five prominent defects,—the nomination boroughs; the gross, general, and barefaced corruption which prevailed, not only in small, but also in large places; the want of members for some of the most important manufacturing towns, the expenses of elections; and the unequal distribution among the different classes of society of that power which resulted from the exercise of the elective franchise. To all those defects the plan of Government applied sound and wholesome remedies. Lord Palmerston maintained, that the proposition of Government would not destroy the wholesome influence of the aristocracy,—that influence which was obtained by eminent conduct, by moral and intellectual distinction, and by exercising towards their inferiors those qualities which secured the affections and gained the admiration of men. Cheers. The plan of Government would introduce to a share in the Government of the country the great body of householders; that is, the great bulk of the middle classes of the Kingdom. Hear, hear. An honourable member had stated, that there was no necessity to give representatives to the manufacturing towns, because they possessed virtual representation; but he (Lord Palmerston) asked, why should not, then, small boroughs be contented with similar representation? Hear! The manufacturing towns required something more than virtual representation, considering how often Parliament was called upon to legislate on matters affecting the interests of the commercial portion of the country. He believed that the proposition would prove satisfactory to the country; and, notwithstanding the taunts which had been thrown on the middling classes, he believed that there did not exist, in any country, a body of men more entitled to respect and confidence than the middle classes of this country. Hear! He would venture to say, that there never was a class of men more distinguished for morality and good conduct, for intelligence and love of order, for true loyalty to their King, for affection to the constitution, and, in case of need, for devotion to their country. Cheers. He considered it would be one great and main