

became the favourite pursuit, and, it might also be said the most graceful accomplishment of princes and nobles, and was surrounded with all the lustre of chivalry. The younger sons of the kings and jarls, who had no other inheritance but the ocean, naturally collected around their standards the youth of the inferior orders, who were equally destitute. Thus the best and the bravest of the nation were launched upon the waves, and the chieftains who followed this mode of life are distinguished in the Sagas by the appropriate appellation of Sea-kings:—"And are they rightly named Sea-kings," says the author of the Ynlinga Saga, "who never took shelter under a roof, and never drain their drinking-horn at a cottage fire."—p. 135.

Piratical expeditions were fitted out annually, and in order to provide for these, the coasts of Scandinavia were, from very early times, divided into districts, each being obliged to furnish a certain number of vessels, which were manned by a compulsory conscription, similar to our own press-gang system. The vessels were, for the most part, of a diminutive size, but very numerous, and it is a striking proof of the salutary influence of Christianity, that these expeditions, so much dreaded by the nations against which they were directed, were continued with undiminished fierceness, until the countries from which they proceeded were completely comprehended within the circle of the Christian church. Indeed, for some years before that period, the incursions of these maritime rovers assumed the character of a religious war, in consequence of the attempts made by Charlemagne to force that religion upon the Saxons on the Elbe. Hence the resentment of their neighbours and fellow Pagans in Jutland and the islands of the Danish Archipelago, was roused to a pitch of extreme fury, which fell with terrible force upon the churches and monasteries of France and England.

### EUROPE.

Bristol is now tranquil—no farther disturbances had taken place as was apprehended,—the town was however in a state of excitement, and different parties were discussing the conduct of the magistrates and soldiers. The total damage is estimated at £300,000 sterling. The loss of lives is less than had been imagined—the total killed and wounded does not exceed 94. The return of killed and wounded, as far as ascertained is, burnt 6; shot, 2; excessive drinking 2; sword cuts, 2; total, 12; wounded and injured from shots, 10; sword cuts, 48; excessive drinking, 2; other causes, 54; total, 94. The wounded are in general doing well.

One hundred and eighty prisoners had been committed, 50 of whom were capitally charged with rioting and burning. Constables were at that time flocking in with prisoners, and the magistrates were setting in different rooms hearing the charges against them. A meeting had been held at which a series of resolutions were passed, addressed to the Home Secretary, Lord Melbourne, praying an enquiry into the conduct of the Magistracy of the city and of Col. Brereton the commanding officer of the district.

In addition to the disturbances which had taken place in Bristol and other places heretofore announced we find that there have been some recent disorders in Preston, Coventry, Macclesfield, Worcester, &c.—They were not of a very serious character, but they go to exhibit the feeling of discontent which prevails in England.

The Union Clubs are rapidly extending through the Kingdom, and Sir FRANCIS BURDETT has placed himself at their head.

Liverpool, Nov. 9.—The state of the country is one of great and dangerous excitement. This cannot be doubted, it has been proclaimed in characters of fire and blood, at Bristol, at Derry, and at Nottingham; and how soon we may have a repetition of such scenes is beyond the power of man to determine.

The amount of damage done through the riots at Nottingham Castle, Colwick-hall, and Preston silk-mill, it is supposed, is more than £50,000.

Paris, Nov. 1.—The Polish refugees who have been able to reach Paris, have found an asylum chiefly through the efforts of General Lafayette. They exhibit letters which reach them every post from the Prussian frontier, describing the cruel treatment of

their unfortunate brethren by the Russian authorities. Those who, after the fall of Modlin, returned to seek their former homes and families, and who relied upon the amnesty of the Russian Generalissimo, have been according to these letters, treated with the utmost harshness when they sought the restoration of any portion of the spoilation perpetrated upon this property while in the occupation of the Russian soldiery. Indeed generally, all who have not prostrated themselves before the conqueror have been treated with disdain and contumely.

WARSAW, Oct 25.—News was received here yesterday that the fortress of Zamosc has submitted at discretion to the clemency of his Majesty the Emperor and King. The garrison consists of 4,200.

It appears from a census lately taken, that the number of the inhabitants of Warsaw is 113,943 not including the persons who arrive daily. The population has therefore been diminished in the course of this year by 25,000,—namely 15,000 males and 10,000 females. Among the present population are 23,214 Jews: in the third quarter of the city they are most numerous, and exceed the Christians. The number of females now exceed the males by 7,423.

Paris, Nov. 5.—The King's projected journey to the northern departments is indefinitely postponed.

The disarmament of Europe is every moment believed to be nearer at hand. Great is the consequent dissatisfaction of the war party, who console themselves by believing, and by attempting to persuade every body else, that the peace about to become almost general on the continent will be but a hollow truce.

Well may General Lamarque call that peace a mere hollow truce during which France shall require to have on foot 500,000 admirably disciplined soldiers, with a reserve of two millions of National Guards, one half of whom, at least, will of necessity be composed of men still in the prime of life, who have been soldiers during eight years.

### SUPPRESSION OF THE INTENDED MEETING OF THE WORKING CLASSES IN LONDON

On Saturday night, 5th Nov. at eight o'clock, a meeting of the Delegates, from the various branch Unions of the Working Classes of the Metropolis, took place at the Commercial Coffee-room, Fleet-street, to confer upon the propriety of postponing the meeting on Monday, opposite the White Conduit House, and to receive the report of the deputation which had been appointed on the preceding night to seek an interview with Lord Melbourne respecting the meeting.

Mr. LOVETT having been called to the chair, Mr. CLEAVE rose and said, that in consequence of what had passed at their meeting on the preceding night, himself, with Messrs. Watson, Osborn; (the Secretary of the National Union of the Working Classes,) and Boreham, waited upon Lord Melbourne, at 20 minutes past 12, as a Deputation from the National Union of the Working Classes.

Mr. Watson, on the Deputation being introduced, said to his Lordship, "We are, my Lord, a Deputation from the National Union of the Working Classes of the Metropolis, to explain the conduct of the individuals who have called the meeting for Monday next, about which there have been so many false reports." Lord Melbourne inquired "whether the persons who had signed the printed declaration of the Union, which Government considered highly seditious, and, perhaps, treasonable, were present?"—Messrs. Osborn and Watson replied, "Yes, my Lord, we are the parties."—Lord Melbourne observed, "that their names being to the bill was no proof that they were the authors."—Messrs. W. and O. said, "they were aware of that." His Lordship then asked, "if they could attend again at three o'clock?" Mr. Cleave said, "they were come to give him all the information in their power, and to answer any question they might think proper to put, and he trusted his Lordship would use the same openness towards them. He, therefore, wished to know if his Lordship premeditated any step against the deputation, in consequence of the admission they had made concerning the printed placard posted about?" His Lordship replied that he had no such intention.

Mr. Cleave then stated his name, and begged his Lordship to accept the Rules of the National Union, and an address to the Working Classes by Mr. Detroit. His Lordship said he had read them, and the

Deputation withdrew. The Deputation then waited at a tavern till three o'clock, at which time they again proceeded to the Home Office, and saw his Lordship, who was true to his time. Mr. Lovett then addressed his Lordship as follows:—

"My Lord, I wish to underceive you with regard to the intentions of the working people in calling the meeting to be held in the field opposite the White Conduit House, which the public journals have wilfully traduced. We have never had, nor do we now entertain any inclination to disturb the public peace, but to use all our power to aid the peace authorities in arresting any person who may dare to propose or practice violence. We have been charged with a desire to imitate the Bristol proceedings, while the real fact is, that our declaration was agreed to, and posted on the walls of London, before those unfortunate transactions were ever known or thought of. We offered to be sworn in as special constables, should our aid be considered necessary. With regard to the principles set forth in the declaration, which your Lordship tells us is highly seditious, if not treasonable, we have read them in the works of many eminent men, and we were not aware that the simple fact of putting such a principle into the declaration would subject us to so serious a charge. They are our opinions, and we saw no impropriety in ascertaining how far our fellow-workmen agreed with us." A conversation took place then between Lord Melbourne and Mr. Watson, the former saying, that he did not advise anything, but he would read a circular, which would be used by the magistrates. [The circular which has been distributed, stating the meeting to be illegal, and warning every one who wished that the peace should be preserved to stay away from it.] Mr Lovett then said, that he held it a great injustice that the middle classes should be allowed to have their unions, and their open air meetings, and that the working classes who were really ground down to the dust, should be prevented from having theirs. The working classes were in a dreadful state of destitution, and such meetings were like so many safety valves for passing off irritated feelings. Lord Melbourne seemed as if desirous not to hear further, and was going out by a side-door, after saying "good morning," when Mr Cleave told him that the resolution respecting hereditary distinctions had been withdrawn.

Lord Melbourne said, that it was not that resolution alone, but the whole tenor of the declaration, which Government thought seditious. The calling on persons to come from all parts of the country, and confer on the various subjects described in the declaration, was assuming that the Government of the country was deficient. Any person attending such a meeting would not only be seditious, but in the act of committing high treason.

Mr Boreham was about to make an observation, when his Lordship wished them a good morning, and retired.

Mr CLEAVE, after making this statement, stated his conviction that, under all the circumstances, it would be very impolitic if the meeting took place on Monday.

The following is a declaration of the National Union of the Working Classes:—

- "Labour is the source of wealth."  
 "That commonwealth is best ordered when the citizens are neither too rich or too poor."—Thales.  
 "At this moment of great political excitement, it is alike the interest as well as the duty of every working man to declare publicly his political sentiments, in order that the country and Government may be generally acquainted with the wants and grievances of this particular class in accordance with which we, the working classes of London, declare
1. All property (hereby acquired) to be sacred and inviolable.
  2. That all men are born equally free, and have certainly natural and inalienable rights.
  3. That all Governments ought to be founded on those rights; and all instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of all the people; and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single man, family or set of men.
  4. That all hereditary distinctions of birth are unnatural and opposed to the equal rights of man—and ought to be abolished.
  5. That every man of the age of twenty-one years,