

infirm labourer, the victim of hard times or family calamity, to the condition of the condemned serfs of Siberia, or the most wretched population of the most servile and wretched state in Europe. Talk of the negroes of the West Indies indeed! Their station is an enviable one compared with that of the English labourer. He is absolutely victimised by the reform bill. He is coerced and degraded by that very measure which, in an evil hour, and under the influence of temporary insanity, he battled for, armed with a bludgeon, and which he prized as a gift sent from heaven. With that very bludgeon the reformer has beaten out his own brains. Hundreds of Irish labourers are now every day passing through Liverpool in order to find employment in England during harvest. They are the most miserable looking creatures that the sun ever shone upon. They are the living, or half-living, representatives of popery. They form the last vertebræ in the tail of human existence. But we lament to say that they are what the English labourer will be before two years elapse, should this bill of Lord Brougham's pass into a law. The reform bill has done his work most effectually. He is no longer to have any claim upon the land or the wealth of the country. Want of employment is no longer to furnish a claim to parish relief. He must be within a yard of the grave and a foot of the coffin before a single farthing is doled out to relieve his wants, or palliate his sufferings. Physic he may obtain, but no bread. Bleeding will be allowed—the leech will be ready—but no parish ale, no ration of beef, no wholesome brown loaf, no Christmas pudding, will ever again pass the straits of his throat. Lord Brougham repudiates as impolitic, unwise, and unphilosophical, all compulsory taxation for the support of the poor. He has no objections to mendicity. But anything beyond this is foolish, inexpedient, and illiberal! What, in the name of philosophy, does it signify where a pauper dies? Is not a ditch under the canopy of heaven as well as a workhouse? What right has any man, who is not a ten-pound householder, to a bed?

The poorer classes of reformers cannot allege in their defence that they were not fairly warned of the disastrous consequences of the reform bill. The bane and antidote were both before them. They preferred quackery and imposition to truth and sober reasoning. They asked for bread and the whigs have given them a stone. They cried, Down with the church! and the whigs cry, Down with the poor! There will, when this bill passes, be no relief for the unemployed labourer. Nay more, there will be no aid given to those who are not admitted into the workhouse!

This is bad enough; but our humiliating tale is not half told. We have not yet reached the climax of whig reform. All publicists of any reputation—all moralists of any renown—all men of true benevolence, who have studied the human character, are agreed that woman has no protection but in man. She has, we admit, to a considerable extent, a self-sustaining sense of virtue and chastity. But this instinctive resistance is only called into operation against open aggression or direct violence. She has little protection against seductive appliances, or habitual flattery, or positive though deceitful pledges. She can nobly resist force, but not the apparent kindness and tenderness of hypocrisy. It is difficult to compel, but it is easy to mislead her.

For this reason all wise laws have guarded female virtue by severe restraints upon the conduct of the other sex. Such a monk as Mr. Malthus does not understand this. It is a chapter in philosophy which Lord Brougham never read. It is impossible that a creature like Miss Martineau, whom male repulsiveness has seared; whose mind has been in a tea-cup; who never touched a string in the gamut of human passion; who has vegetated like a solitary tree in a sandy desert, and who cannot have known so much of the world as did Whittington's cat,—it is, we say, impossible for a person like Miss Martineau to be able to offer a sound opinion upon the subject which it is her failing to write about. She knows, perhaps, just as much as Lord Brougham, and that in all conscience is nothing to boast of.

It is, however, unfortunate for the country that this particular class of cynics and incapables are the greatest advocates of the bill for the degradation and demoralization of the poor. They reverse the universal and christian maxim, that woman is the 'weaker vessel,' and, not content with this, they throw upon her the whole responsibility of female frailty, and all the consequences of male perfidy, and base and deliberate seduction. In the poor law bill, now before the House of Lords, it is enacted that if a woman give birth to an illegitimate child, no matter under what circumstances, the unfortunate child must remain fatherless, and all the consequences of the mother's error, or her undue confidence, must fall upon herself. The really guilty party is to be held blameless. The betrayer is to pass unpunished so far as the child is concerned. Attorneys are to be encouraged to bring actions for damages

where damages can be obtained—the lawyer's pockets are to be filled—the newspapers are to teem with actions for seduction—but the unfortunate infant is to be denied the parentage of a father, either to perish for want of sustenance, or to be strangled by its ill-fated, deeply-wronged, and seduced mother. Here is the bitter—the deliberately murderous clause. We feel that it is no common subject. It is one of deep importance, involving disgrace and infamy—not as regards the harmless victim, but the dishonoured laws of a christian country. The betrayer is not to be called upon to support his own child. He is exempted from the natural consequences of his own villany and immorality, and to add to the glaring injustice, the father and mother, the grandfather and grandmother of the helpless female, are to be taxed to maintain the child of some notorious scoundrel, rich in money, and only poor in character, who has earned infamy for which he cannot be punished, and ruined a female who dare not make his acts a question of compensation. Never since the world began was there any thing in the shape of legislation so cruel, so wantonly cruel, so infamous, or so deliberately wicked, as this. It is a disgrace to our national character to allow such a proposition to remain upon the books of the senate for a single hour. But there it is; and, according to all appearances, it will be the law of the land before another fortnight!

The Duke of Wellington and Lord Winchelsea have supported the bill. We deeply regret to announce the fact. This is the most serious affair in which the noblemen were ever concerned. The few who have opposed it we register for the information of the public. Reader, look at the names and draw your own conclusions.

But we shall probably be asked, what are likely to be the effects of this 'preventive check' bill? Why, this,—that the lower orders will lose all respect for the wealthy and the aristocracy. They will accuse them of cruelty and robbery. They will assert that they have been deprived of their birthright; and they will say that whig and Tories have combined to degrade them. They will say so in truth. But let them bear in mind that the robbery, the fraud, the injustice, the cruelty, the degradation, were committed by the first representatives of the first reformed parliament!

There are some narrow-minded landowners who think that the reduction of the poor rates will be a great and salutary relief. These gentlemen entirely overlook the necessity of the case. The labourers of England are not paupers voluntarily. They are so from necessity. They have been driven into the workhouse by the acts of the government. At present they have some sympathy with the wealthier classes, for they know that from them proceeds the means of sustenance. But destroy this sympathy, as Lord Brougham is labouring to destroy it, and where is to be the binding tie between the rich and the poor? It will then be annihilated. The respect for private property will cease. The beggar will be at our door every five minutes of every day in the year. The cripple will be deposited in the avenue—the blind man will be sent to sleep on our door-steps—the woman with a rake's child will exhibit it at the parlour window during dinner—the sturdy beggar will waylay and attack ladies in their walks, and the squalid pauper will pester our private residences, and our more public counting-houses. We cannot say to him, 'go to the parish,' for the parish will have nothing to give or say to him; so that poverty will lead to disgraceful mendicity, to theft, to private purloining by servants, to fraud, and last of all to house-breaking and murder.

But before it reaches this climax the aristocracy of England will be a nonentity. The Duke of Wellington, in attempting the arduous part of a statesman, has already committed some serious mistakes, but he never committed so serious a one as the present. He brought the Irish rabble of ignorant and unprincipled Catholics into power, and we have the highest authority for saying that he deeply regrets it. He is doing a more evil deed now. The pretext—for we will ever speak the truth—the pretext of giving new power to the government in order to counteract the democracy of the reform bill, is absurd—even if right, it would be a line of policy too contemptible for an English statesman. But we have not done with the subject.—July 25.

#### LIVERPOOL JOURNAL.

THE *questio vexata* of Don Carlos's flight has been as much a mystery as a reel in a bottle. It is solved at last. The pretender has arrived in Spain, full of fair promises, and pledges himself to give his 'loving subjects' the reality of that liberty, by the shadow of which (he says) they are now cajoled. He has issued an act of amnesty towards all who will desert the cause of Donna Isabella, fifteen days after date, and holds out additional inducements—'of being rewarded in an extraordinary manner with new honours'—to any chief or officer who shall join the ranks of his army with either a part or the whole of the men under his command. We believe that England and France will

reply to this piece of bravado by an army of occupation and attack. To this they are to be bound by a new clause in the quadruple treaty.

THE Coercion Bill is now before the Commons. Ministers have acted discreetly in withdrawing the two clauses, alike unpopular and unconstitutional, which placed Ireland under a ban of military law, and prevented public meetings. The bill now resembles the insurrection act of 1821, by which, at the time, whiteboyism was nearly extinguished. Its present provisions are directed for the suppression and punishment of predial outrages. Such a measure was sanctioned by the authority of one of the warmest friends Ireland ever possessed—the late Dr. Doyle. And, indeed, no honest man—whatever be his creed, or of whatever hue his party badge or prejudice—can deny that due protection can only be afforded to Ireland by the repression of predial outrage.

Mr O'Connell complained, and we think justly, that while public meetings, generally, may be held, the present bill denounces as illegal all meetings held, without the sanction of government, in proclaimed districts. He proposed an alteration, sanctioning such meetings as might be held for the purpose of petitioning parliament. The amendment was opposed by government, and negatived—we think on sufficient grounds. The assigned plea was that political agitation might reign paramount at such meetings. Mr O'Connell stated that this was impossible, because an act of the 1st and 2nd William IV. (which embodied all the whiteboy acts) enacted that if any person in a proclaimed district should, by any act, or by any word, incite, or encourage, or require any man to commit any offence prohibited by the whiteboy act, such person was liable to transportation.—Next to trial by jury and the habeas corpus act is the important right of petitioning the legislature, and this right should not be taken away. If the people feel themselves aggrieved, so much the more necessary is it that they should be allowed to lay their complaints before the legislature.

Mr. O'Connell also complained of the renewal of that clause in the act which identified officers and soldiers for acts committed in proclaimed districts. Lord Althorp promised to defer this clause for further consideration. In fact, it is but the rag-end of the court martial clauses, and should have been cut off with them.

Upon the whole, however, the new coercion bill is such a manifest improvement upon its predecessor that Ireland should accept it as a boon. The measure is now almost wholly directed against those agrarian disturbances which so much disgrace the fine and hitherto misgoverned country. We are disposed to think that, at last, there is a dawn of hope for Ireland, and if the present ministry are so fortunate as to effect the pacification of that country, they will merit the approbation, not of Ireland alone, but of the whole empire. We repeat, what we have always maintained, that the way to pacify Ireland is not by coercion bills, not by proclamations, not by a military force, but by acting towards her with justice.—July 26.

## COLONIAL.

### CANADAS.

MONTREAL HERALD, August 14.—The harvest has now become general, and the appearance is very fine, but the farmers in several parishes complain that many of the ears of wheat have no grain in them. The oats are confessedly fine, and we were pleased to see a number of very promising fields of peas, on the south bank of the St. Lawrence.

### NOVA-SCOTIA.

HALIFAX JOURNAL.—*West Indies*.—We learn by Captain Prowse, who left St. Kitts on the 4th inst., that the Negroes had refused to work, declaring their determination to accept of nothing short of immediate and entire freedom, after he left. A similar determination, we learn, prevails throughout the West Indies.

PICTON OBSERVER.—*Glasgow Society*.—Through Dr. Burns of Paisley, we have just learned by the Mercator, that the Glasgow Colonial Society is vigorously pursuing its pious and patriotic design. The receipts of the Institution for the present year considerably exceed those of the last, and the sphere of usefulness has consequently been enlarged. Four Missionaries have been sent to Canada this season, one to Miramichi, and we are happy to announce to our friends in Cape Breton, that the Rev. Mr Stewart, an able and tried man has been appointed travelling Missionary for their Island. He is now on his passage with Captain George McKenzie, of the brig George Barclay of this place, and may be shortly expected.

### NEW-BRUNSWICK.

#### From the Fredericton Gazette.

At a meeting of the Members of the Bar, resident in Fredericton, held at the Attorney General's Office, on Monday, the 25th day of August, 1834, in consequence of the death of the late the Honorable Mr. Justice BLISS.