

THE GLEANER.

And Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester, and Restigouche Schediasma.

Volume XII:1

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

Number 26.

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THE GLEANER.

European News.

BY THE BRITANNIA.

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IRELAND.

Aggregate Meeting of Reformers in the Theatre Royal, Dublin.

This meeting, as was anticipated, was held on Thursday. The theatre was crowded, although, to secure order and selection, a high price was demanded for every seat. The secretary read apologies for unavoidable absence from the Marquis of Headfort, the Earl of Arran, Lord Cremorne, Lord Clements, the Earl of Listowell, Lord Wallscourt, Lord Lismore, Lord Carew, Lord Gormanstown, Lord Stewart de Decis, the Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, Lord Marcus Hill, the Right Rev. Dr. Crolly, &c. &c. The applause of the assembly rang loud and long continued as each popular leader entered the theatre. Lords Charlemont and Brabazon, and Sir William Somerville, were recognized and received most enthusiastically, and reiterated peals of applause marked the entry of Mr O'Connell. The chair was taken by the Earl of Charlemont, who addressed the meeting at considerable length. Lord Brabazon, in an eloquent speech, moved the first resolution—'That Ireland, as an integral portion of the British empire, is entitled to a perfect equality of franchises and institutions with England and Scotland.' This was seconded by Mr Grimshaw, of Belfast, who was loudly applauded. The resolution was carried. After a few remarks from the chairman and Sir W. Somerville, the hon. Col. Westera, M. P. moved a resolution in reprobation of Lord Stanley's Bill, which was seconded by the son of Sir T. Lethbridge. The fourth resolution was proposed by the son of Judge Kelly, a gentleman from Queen's County, and seconded by Mr Thompson Tennant, of Belfast. Mr Peter Purcell and Mr Halchell, Q. C., supported the fifth. Mr R. D. Brown, M. P., and Mr Sharman Crawford, the sixth. The Rev. Dr. Montgomery, of Belfast, moved the seventh resolution, and in the course of his address said that the party with which he acted, owned no master, nor would be led by any individual. (Loud hisses.) The chairman was the descendant of him who led the volunteers in 1792. They had able leaders, but the people were often imposed on by their leaders. It had been believed that all protestants were orangemen, and all landlords tyrants. He knew better. The Presbyterians desired peace, and that only by the concession of justice—for equal justice they were all united. 'Why should you send your countrymen to oil in Jamaica, or to freeze in Canada, when 700,000 or 800,000 acres of land remained unimproved in Ireland? We will have equal rights with the English, and will raise the cry of 'liberty and our country.' The resolution was seconded by Mr Gratton, M. P., who hung two papers, the two requisitions, and afterwards taking that of the Conservatives, trampled it under his feet, and again declared that is Lord Stanley's bill should pass, he (Mr Gratton) and every honest Irishman, would retire from the House of Commons. If the Tory lords thought the liberty of Ireland incompatible with British connection, they dethroned the Queen. Mr Ross moved the resolution calling on every Irishman to assist, in purse and person, the struggle of his countrymen for equal rights with England and Scotland. Mr O'Connell, seconded the motion. 'It was Lord Stanley,' he said, 'who had congregated that Assembly. Lord Stanley had given them unanimity, Lord Stanley would fail, and if so, Ireland would conquer; or he would succeed, and then—('we'll have repeal!')—you go off at halfcock. (A laugh.) It's a secret. (A laugh.) 'We'll have a rally for Ireland.' Would they suffer 70,000 men in Wales to have twenty two men-

bers, and 700,000 men in Cork, to have but two? We'll have a rally. Are we not a material fit for making the present struggle—close on nine millions—eight millions five hundred thousand by the report of the railway commissioners. Is there any deficiency of bravery, energy, or perseverance in the people of Ireland—(cheers)—to stand for ages, or to fall for our native country. (Loud cheers.) Hanover, with its three millions is an independent state. Are we not as good as it—or its master. (Groans.) Portugal has its two millions, and is independent. Sicily its three millions, and is independent. Holland has not three millions; yet never has she, through her glorious struggles, permitted her liberty to fall. Who, then, dare tell me that eight millions of Irishmen cannot defend their liberty.. (Loud cheers.) A resolution of confidence in Her Majesty's Ministers concluded the sitting.

O'Connell then departed for Belfast, where a greater military force was assembled than the town had seen since 1815.

The Protestant party had actually assembled in several places on the road to Belfast on Monday. He had anticipated them by coming on Saturday. In revenge, at one of the towns on the road the liberator was hanged, burned, and beheaded in effigy, as a second Phelim O'Neil!

O'Connell remained in his hotel from Saturday evening till Monday night, his enemies say 'from fear,' his friends 'from prudence.' The Catholic chapel was excessively crowded in consequence of his expected visit—his friends attended, but he remained in the hotel. Even their visit excited a sensation which was very nearly productive of the most serious consequences, on account of a rush to get in, a consequent alarm in the chapel, and a second rush to get out. Happily no accident occurred.

In the morning (Monday) such of the 'trades' of Belfast as are Repealers waited on O'Connell, and presented him with an eloquent address of congratulation, to which he feelingly replied. Then followed the dinner, which was given in a magnificent pavilion, erected on the site of Batty's circus, which was crowded to the ceiling. Vast crowds attended to see O'Connell on his way to the pavilion. He was received with shouts, and when his health was drank he replied with the utmost moderation in a very conciliatory speech. He had been accused of coming to the north to excite religious feuds. 'No!' he replied to the charge. 'No; I am, my friends, proud to say, that I have been before the public many a long year—I have made more speeches than any living man—I have spoken under more various mode of excitement than any other human being—sometimes in the rollicking good humour of my heart—frequently under severe provocation, taunts, calumnies, and injustice; and many a blow when the bitter blow of oppression struck hard against my country. I had to rely upon the outpourings of my indignant spirit; but notwithstanding all this, I never sanctioned, nay, I ever condemned these religious feuds' (Tremendous cheering.) He had aided Orangemen when all deserted them; he had gained compensation for Sir A. B. King, the Orange chief, and for the corporation of Dublin, his very foes. There is one topic dear to my heart (he said) that I shall not advert to to night. I go to bed to night a Reformer, to wake a Repealer to-morrow. As a Reformer he would make his confession of faith. The principles he advocated were, triennial parliaments, no property qualifications for Members of the House of Commons, and an extension of the suffrage, (cheers) The meeting adjourned at two o'clock in the morning.

So much for the reform meeting of Monday. The Repeal meeting of Tuesday was so numerous that it could not be held in the pavilion, but was adjourned to Donegal square, where Mr O'Connell spoke from a balcony of the royal hotel. He threw off his green cloak, and appeared in the repeal coat of grey frieze, with a white velvet collar; his appearance was hailed with the loudest cheers from a large body in front,

and groans from a smaller assembly in the rear. This contest of groans and grunts, as Mr O'Connell called it, continued through his speech, which was unusually short. He showed them the resolutions passed at an Ulster meeting in 1792; he saw in the present meeting, he said, that the old Ulster spirit was still there, and he prophesied that the opposition then exhibited would give a new and powerful stimulus to the repeal cause in Belfast. His mission was then closed, and he dismissed them with his blessing.

Crum Castle, the seat of Col. Creighton, Lord Lieutenant of Fermanagh, was destroyed by an accidental fire on Friday, with a loss of property worth £30,000.

SCOTLAND.

The Heritors and Commissioners of Supply for the County of Fife held a meeting on Wednesday, to consider a project for improving the access to their coast in all weathers, by the construction of a noble road from Dysart to Brunt Island, the erection of a low water pier there; and the establishment of steamers to pass every hour to the Edinburgh side and back again; thus, in the words of the Duke of Buccleugh, 'bridging the Forth.' The meeting adjourned for two months to consider the matured plans for valuable undertaking.

The Marquis of Tweedale, Senior Vice President of the Highland Society, presided at a grand dinner of the members, held on Tuesday in the Hopetown Rooms. Sir David Milne, assessor officer present, returned thanks for the toast of the 'Army and Navy,' and asked where were they who had said so lately that the British flag had been insulted? That the British sailor disliked the service? That our weak fleet in the Mediterranean might be picked up like stray partridges in a stubble field? That the French navy was so superior to ours? Where was this superior navy now? In ordinary at Toulon. (Cheers.) Where was the weak fleet? triumphant every where (Cheers.) How was the navy manned? By volunteers, without a pressed man. From China to the Downs there was not a pressed man in the service, a fact unprecedented in history; they were all volunteers—(rapturous applause)—and they had carried the victorious flag of Britain in triumph to those seas over which it had never waved before.

The chairman delivered an address which might be considered an impartial history of the society, and of its benefits to agriculture in general, to Scotland, and particularly to the Scottish highlands. The new president, the Duke of Richmond, was then toasted. The Church, the Bench and Bar, the Nobility and Bar, Tenantry and peasantry of Scotland, were successively toasted with patriotic ardour, and the meeting adjourned. We must, however, quote a few words from the speech of the Marquis, on proposing the 'Peasantry':—

"They had done him the honor of saying that he had been on the field of battle with men of his own rank; but he recollected also of seeing his humbler countrymen of Scotland come into the field; he recollected the piper of the 92d regiment when his legs were broken—(cheers)—he recollected that he continued to play, that he might encourage the private soldiers to do their duty to their country. (Loud cheers.)"

THE INUNDATION.

The long continued and severe frost broke up all over the country on the night of Saturday and the morning of Monday. The masses of ice and the vast accumulation of land-water from the melting of the snow, swelled rivers and canals in all directions; many lives were lost, much property destroyed, and even yet the absolute extent of the injury is not ascertained.

LONDON.—The exaggerations of those imaginative writers, who last week described a north sea storm in the Thames, were all but realized on Sunday, although not in a way to justify the pompous pathos of these poetical anticipators. The craft had been well secured, and the

rush of waters and masses of ice are not stated to have caused any injury as far as that great high road to the sea, the Thames, was secured. The Serpentine river in Hyde Park overflowed its bounds, and actually drowned the Receiving House of the Humane Society. The swellings of the Lea and the Brent produced calamitous results. The flat country through which the former river runs, was rapidly converted into a lake. At Leyton a flock of sheep narrowly escaped destruction; at Stratford two boys were drowned in attempting to save a horse, which also perished. The Northern and Eastern Railway was obstructed, but the wise precaution of the directors prevented all accident and much delay. At Tottenham Mills, at Edmondton and Enfield accidents occurred. Bullocks were swimming and corn stacks floating in the deluged fields. The catastrophe on the Brent was fatal.

BRENTFORD.—This town is singularly situated. Here the Grand Junction Canal joins the Thames. After running to the south of the new town for some hundred yards, it turns and divides New Brentford from Ilseworth parish, and so proceeds to Southall. North of the high road, which crosses the canal by means of a strongly built bridge of a stone, it is joined by the Brent, which passes on through Hanwell, Perivale, &c. to Harrow. For weeks these waters had been frozen. Barges and monkey boats, and rafts of timber, in unusual number and quantity, were assembled at this meeting of the waters; and the bargemen were looking eagerly forward to the first symptoms of a thaw, in the prospect of renewed employment. The thaw came with unexampled suddenness and power on Saturday last, a few hours before the expected advent of the severest and coldest weather of the year, according to the prophecy of Mr Murphy. The flood-gates and locks of the canal were not opened, the rafts of timber insecurely moored. The waters bore away the timber rafts, pressing them on the barges; they were forced at a fearfully rapid rate to the wall of the Duke of Northumberland's garden, which gave way, but not till by its aid and the presence of mind of a boatman, the lives of twenty one persons were saved by passing them into the duke's grounds. One man was killed at this point; upwards of thirty boats and barges were swamped, and with their lading, destroyed. More than seventy poor bargemen, their wives and children, have been and still are living on the charity of the people of Brentford, which has held on unflinching, and several days must elapse before they are enabled to travel to their homes to report accurately the loss to their employers. The damage done is estimated at £50,000. The corn, coals, &c. which were lost is scarcely recoverable. One or two barges have been raised, less injured than was feared, but the loss is little lessened by this partial redemption. Cottages were washed away, cellars filled, the streets were overflowed, and the houses near the bridge approachable only by boats. It was midnight on Saturday when the flood burst in its desolation. The inhabitants of Brentford were asleep until alarmed by the police. Men, women, and children, many of them in their night clothes, were running in all directions for places of shelter, while the roaring of the water, added to the screams of the wretched inhabitants of the monkey boats, borne along on the stream, and of the persons inhabiting the numerous cottages running south of the town down to the waterside, were most appalling. In a very short time all the houses at that portion were flooded, and, the water rising rapidly, the occupiers of the houses near the market place commenced damming up their doors, and there is no doubt that the whole, not only of New Brentford, but also of the old town, would soon have lain under water, had the flood not forced for itself an outlet at the bottom of Church-alley, by razing the wall of the extensive nursery grounds of Messrs. Ronalds, and another wall at the southern extremity of the grounds, by which it joined the stream of the canal near its outlet to the Thames.