

ness, and the lukewarm she invariably spues out of her mouth. You must be with her against all opponents, or you are not of her; and, therefore, when Rome adopts a measure such as the present, it places the laity in the awkward dilemma I have alluded to. Believing, therefore, that the late bold and clearly expressed edict of the Court of Rome cannot be received or accepted by English Roman Catholics without a violation of their duties as citizens, I need not add that I consider the line of conduct now adopted by Lord John Russell as that of a true friend of the British Constitution.

Believe me, my dear Lord Zetland, yours truly,

BEAUMONT.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland.

RIOT AT CHELTENHAM.

An effigy of the Pope had been exhibited in the shop of Mr Hardwick, a draper in High street, Cheltenham, and a mob having collected, demanded possession of the effigy. This was for some time resisted; but at length the figure, despoiled of its gaudy habiliments, was given up to the mob by the police (but not before several of Mr Hardwick's windows were broken), who thereupon proceeded to the Roman Catholic Chapel, near the door of which they placed their effigy, and then set fire to it. During the *auto da fe* of the Pope, nearly all the windows of the chapel were broken, and it was not before midnight that the mob had dispersed.

GREAT MEETING IN LONDON.

A densely crowded meeting of merchants, bankers, tradesmen, and other citizens of London, was held at the Guildhall, on Monday, to protest against the recent Papal aggression; the Lord Mayor in the chair. Mr Masterman, M. P., having moved the first resolution, Mr F. Stringer said he came forward as a Protestant and enemy to Puseyism to speak against it, because the Government had encouraged the Roman Catholics, and the Queen's supremacy had been already surrendered. He moved an amendment, but no one seconded, and it fell to the ground. The resolution was then put and carried unanimously. Mr Cummings, a city merchant, then moved the second resolution. Mr P. Laurie proposed an addition, to the effect "that greater danger is to be apprehended from the unfaithful teaching within the Established Church, than from any hostility without;" seconded by Alderman Sydney. The Rev. Mr Pocock stepped forward to address the meeting, when some one cried "Ahem," "A Puseyite," and he was greeted with terrific yells and cries of "No wax candles," "No water gods," "No Popery," until the Lord Mayor drew forward, and order being restored, Mr David Wire was sorry that they did not hear the reverend gentleman, who was chaplain to Mr Dodsworth, explain how he could reconcile his Puseyite principles with those of the Church of England. The resolution, with the addition, was then put and carried unanimously. Sir James Duke, M. P., moved that an address be presented to Her Majesty, praying her to resist the Papal aggression; and he was gratified at being able to tell them, upon the authority of Lord John Russell, that her Majesty neither sympathized with Popery nor Puseyism. (Cheers.) Seconded by Mr Hoare, the banker, and carried by acclamation. After three cheers for the Queen, the meeting broke up.

RIOT AT BIRKENHEAD.

A meeting to address her Majesty on the subject of the Papal aggression was to have taken place on Wednesday at Birkenhead. It had been convened on the requisition of the Protestant inhabitants to the magistrates of the Hundred of Wirral; and from the number of Roman Catholics resident in the neighborhood, principally navigators employed at the dock works, it was generally expected that some opposition would be offered. The place in which the meeting was to be held is called the Town-hall, but it is an unpretending edifice by no means adequate to the rising pretensions of Birkenhead. The room when quite full would scarcely hold more than 200. It had therefore been determined, in case the attendance should be large, to adjourn to the Market-house adjacent, which is a very large handsome building, and would hold many thousands. The hour fixed for the commencement of the proceedings was one o'clock, but before twelve a vast concourse of people, principally Irish navigators, some of them armed with thick bludgeons, made their appearance in front of the hall, and seemed bent upon creating a disturbance. In the vicinity the greatest consternation prevailed, and many of the shops were closed. The Birkenhead police force only consists of some 20 men, and were as nothing compared with the mob collected. The yells and imprecations of the multitude, which became every moment more and more intense, were perfectly fearful, and the most serious apprehensions were entertained. Mr Dowling, the head constable of Liverpool, had been applied to for assistance; and fortunately about half-past twelve o'clock a section of 30 police arrived, under the superintendance of Mr Ride, formerly of the Birmingham and metropolitan police. This gentleman displayed considerable tact in the disposal of his men, who were received as they entered the town with cries of "Down with the Liverpool police," &c. As they endeavored to clear a way to the principal entrance they met with considerable, but ultimately made a passage to the door.

At this period it would appear that the police had the upper hand, and no doubt, had their force been a little stronger, they would have effectually quelled the disturbance. However, a cry was raised among the mob to

go for assistance and to 'arm.' Some of the men then went away, and shortly afterwards returned with their number considerably augmented, and with bludgeons, consisting of iron rails, pokers, and wooden staves in their hands; others carried large stones, and as they pressed forward their yells and cries were most alarming.

In the meantime a number of gentlemen, including Sir Edward Cust, Mr William Jackson, M. P., Mr John Jackson, the Rev. A. Knox, Mr P. Curry, (coroner of Liverpool), Mr Townshend, the Magistrates' clerk, and Mr Aspinwall, a Roman Catholic barrister had assembled in the room where the meeting was to be held, and arrangements were being made as to the order of the proceedings.

Sir Edward Cust was to occupy the chair, and the resolutions were allotted to the various gentlemen who were to address the meeting. The principal resolution was:

"That this meeting desire to express their extreme indignation at the Papal bull and other documents which have recently been issued from Rome, and which treat the Sovereign of the realm as a nullity, and her kingdom as a spiritual waste, being alike repugnant to the spirit of the law and insulting to the Crown and people of England."

It was also intended to present an address to the Queen.

The mob having become considerably augmented, and its aspect more threatening, the utmost precautions were taken to protect the building.

Sir E. Cust suggested that Mr Brown, the Roman Catholic priest, should be sent for, as it was thought that his presence might possibly allay the excitement. That gentleman shortly afterwards arrived, attended by Mr E. Bretherton, Solicitor, who is of the Popish persuasion.

Mr Bretherton appeared greatly excited. He requested permission to inspect the requisition in order to see whether the meeting was 'legal.' His demand having been complied with, he pronounced the meeting to be illegal, and said he should 'take a point' upon it both then and in another court.

Sir E. Cust assured the legal gentleman that he would take care, the requisition should be presented to the meeting, who would decide upon its merits.

At this moment the riot outside became perfectly fearful, stones rattled in through the windows, and many persons in the hall narrowly escaped serious injury. The armed mob had commenced a most savage attack upon the police. Perhaps a more determined and brutal assault has rarely been made. Huge stones, some of them several pounds in weight, were dashed through the windows, or at those who were endeavoring to keep the peace. Mr Superintendent Ride ordered about 11 men who were more immediately under his command to charge the mob, and they did so with considerable courage, but were soon repulsed and driven back, three of them having received serious injury about the head and body. One man, who bled profusely was deemed to have received a fatal blow. Another had a fearful scalp wound extending from the upper part of the head nearly down to the nape of the neck. It is supposed that some 12 of the men were more or less injured. The affray assumed such a serious character that it was thought the riot act should be read; but a suggestion that Mr Brown, the priest should address the meeting, and endeavor to prevail upon them to desist from violence, was eventually agreed to. Mr Brown then appeared at the window, and addressing the mob, requested them to deliver up their cudgels and preserve order. The exhortation of the priest had an electrical effect. Scores of staves were forthwith collected, and piled up in front of the hall. One or two only seemed resolved to continue the riot. It is but justice to say that Mr Bretherton also exerted himself to quell the disturbance.

It now became apparent that it would not be judicious to attempt to hold the meeting, and it was accordingly adjourned, without any day being fixed.

That a public meeting should have been called in Birkenhead was perhaps the most unjudicious step that could have been taken, there are at the present time between 1000 and 2000 navigators employed at the dock works, most of whom are Irish and Roman Catholics. They are, it is scarcely necessary to say, completely in the power of the priests, who have an extraordinary influence over them. It is said that in the Roman Catholic chapel, at which the Rev Mr Brown officiates, they were advised to attend the meeting, and it is very evident they understood they were to offer some resistance.

The magistrates passed the following resolution:

"The magistrates having called a public meeting, in pursuance of a most respectable requisition, for the purpose of presenting a loyal address to the Queen against the encroachments of Rome, and having found a mob assembled round the place of meeting with sticks and stones, who attacked the Town-hall and the room where the magistrates were assembled, and violently assaulted the police, we, the undersigned, under these circumstances, have not deemed it our duty as magistrates to endanger the public peace, and have therefore, adjourned the meeting until the inhabitants can be assembled to express their opinion with the freedom of Englishmen.

E. CUST, J. R. SHAW,
J. D. CASE, W. JACKSON,
W. HALL, J. S. JACKSON,
Town-hall, Birkenhead, Nov. 27.

5 o'clock, P. M.

About half-past two o'clock a further body of the Liverpool police arrived, under the command of M. M. G. Dowling, Esq., the head constable, and took up their position in front of the Town-hall, but the excitement still continuing, the magistrates deemed it necessary to send for the military.

It was expected that the disturbances would have been renewed after nightfall, but owing probably to the presence of an overwhelming military force, no breach of the peace was again attempted.

Much surprise has been excited as to where the numerous stones, brickbats, &c., employed in the demolition of the windows of the Town-hall could be obtained, there being none lying loose in the street or in the neighborhood. This however, is explained if the statement we have heard be correct. It is said that early in the forenoon, a number of donkeys, having panniers suspended over their backs, were brought into requisition to convey stones, brickbats, and other missiles to the scene of action, to be used as occasion might require. Also that some of the women had their aprons filled with stones, and many of the men appropriated their pockets as depositories for them.

It has already been stated that many of the police officers were injured—two of them seriously; and it appears that the rioters came in for a share of the punishment; many of them had broken heads, and were otherwise bruised in various parts of their bodies—some by blows from the officers' sticks, and others from the stones, which were in some instances, thrown about indiscriminately, without any regard to whether they struck friends or foes. On Wednesday night, and on Thursday forenoon, the applications at the Birkenhead Hospital for surgical advice were numerous. Most of the applicants had cut and bruised heads, black eyes, and disfigured faces, with other indications of having been engaged in a row. They were promptly attended to by the surgeon of the establishment.

On Thursday the township was quite tranquil and though numbers of the people came to the Town-hall during the day it was merely to be spectators of the destruction, which had taken place. No further outbreak was anticipated, and about noon the company of the 52nd regiment, with a great portion of the police officers obtained from Liverpool, returned to their quarters: Some of the men, in fact, were sent back on Wednesday evening.

None of the rioters have yet been apprehended, though it is understood that several of them can be identified. Steps will however be taken to bring them to justice, and an inquiry will, it is thought, be instituted into the whole of the circumstances which originated the disturbance, and the part taken by the police on the occasion.

On Thursday morning the Rev. Mr Brown and several Roman Catholic laymen, put forth a placard in which they charged the conduct of the riot on the police, vindicated the conduct of the navvies as a very 'natural retaliation' and represented them as very ill-used persons. Indeed the Rev. Mr Brown in his speech to the rioters on Wednesday, on leading them fresh from the scene of violence in which they had just been engaged, boasted that 'Birkenhead was the only town where so much success had been attained,' a sentiment, which of course was re-echoed with applause. The placard contains nineteen signatures, comprising one priest, one lawyer, one lawyer's clerk, two marine store dealers, one beerhouse keeper, one butcher, one sail-maker, one horse dealer, one coal cart driver, nine unknown on referring to Core's Directory.

We are informed by an eye witness that no Protestant gentleman was injured or insulted by the rioters; a proof, in his judgment, that the disturbance was not premeditated, and that it was directed solely against the police, whom they considered to be the first aggressors. It does not appear from the published accounts that any individual, not of the police, has complained of being subjected to violence.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT IN A FRENCH SHIP.

A terrible misfortune has occurred to the ship of the line Valmy, while at sea, and on her passage from Torbay to Brest. About five o'clock in the morning of the 8th Nov., that is four days before the squadron reached Brest, a loud explosion was heard, followed by cries of pain. Drums were beaten and signals of distress fired. It was supposed the powder magazine had caught fire. All lights were put out; utter darkness prevailed, and in the midst of the smoke all hands turned out to get the fire under. Between decks were heard the groans of the wounded, some of whom lay crushed under the gun carriages, which had been torn from their places by the shock. Twenty sailors, scarcely recognisable, were extricated from the ruins, of whom ten died immediately, and there is little hope of preserving any of the rest. The Valmy had occasion to make a night signal, which is managed by means of a rocket. The gunner appointed to prepare the fireworks had had the imprudence to keep a chest of powder and other firework materials in the cabin of the orlop deck on the larboard bow, where he had not only stowed a chest of rockets, but two other copper chests filled with cannon cartridges. The gunner entered the cabin, followed by a sailor carrying a light, from which some spark must have fallen. The chests exploded; both the men were killed on the spot, as well as the carpenter and clerk in the next cabin; five second gunners sleeping alongside in the deck, shared the

same fate; a common sailor was killed by the jump of a gun carriage, which broke his skull, and fifteen others were dreadfully wounded. After great exertions at the pumps the fire was got under. The Valmy notwithstanding the shattered state of her decks, was enabled to reach Brest with the rest of the squadron, which hoisted colors half-mast high, in memory of the victims.

MASSACRE ON BOARD THE FRENCH SHIP ALBERT.

Our issue of the 24th August recorded the departure of the French ship Albert, of Dieppe, Captain Jean Pain, from Cuming-moon, for the west coast of South America. That vessel was chartered to carry 180 coolies, some of whom, shipped for Don D. Elias, through the firm of A. A. Ritchie & Company, received previous to departure the sum of \$8 each, repayable out of a salary of \$4 per month, accruing on their arrival at Lima, for services to be rendered as general servants, the contract being made for a period of five years.

Besides the captain, chief mate, boatswain, cook, and a crew of six seamen, there were two passengers on board.

In lat. 32 N, lon. 139 E, on the 7th instant, about 6, a. m., the coolies, who had secretly possessed themselves of arms, rose en masse. The Captain, driven from his cabin to the top of the round-house, had his throat cut, and was thrown overboard immediately. One of the passengers was murdered in his cabin, the cook shared the same fate in his galley, and the mate, chased up into the maintop, seeing no chance of escape, desperately precipitated himself among the miscreants, one of whom he killed instantly, and desperately wounded another. The poor fellow was immediately despatched and consigned to the deep. The Boatswain, Luis Argentine, was then directed to steer the ship back to China, and the course was altered from N. N. E. to S. by W. accordingly.

Five days afterwards, in lat. 28 N, lon. 133. 37 E, a severe gale was experienced from the S.E., veering to S.W., during which the top gallant masts went over the side. On Thursday, off Pingho, a pilot went on board, who was directed by the Chinese to steer for Canton. One hundred of them left the vessel in the first boats going alongside. Forty left yesterday morning, and the remaining forty came into this harbor with the vessel in the afternoon, when they were immediately taken from her to the police station.

She is in a sad state. Packages of silk shawls, tea, lacquered ware, vermilion, medicines, &c., have been broken open and divided into lots, of which several still remain on board. Before leaving, some of them very quietly removed the barometer, chronometer, and compass, from the captain's cabin, and took them away altogether.

Twenty-four of them are supposed to have arrived here as soon as the vessel. Fourteen were captured by our indefatigable Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mr Caldwell, just as they were leaving for Macao. Their packs, containing silk shawls, and agreements with the Albert, leave no doubt as to their being part of the gang.—*Overland Friend of China*, September 28.

Colonial News.

Canada.

Steam Communication between Glasgow and Portland.—The Portland Advertiser, in speaking of the project to establish a line of steamers between Montreal and Glasgow, says that Mr Isaac Buchanan, who originated the enterprise, has visited Portland within a few days past, to ascertain the fitness of its harbor as a terminus for a line of steamships, and also, to learn the exact condition of the railroad enterprises in which Portland capital is embarked, and especially the prospects of the Montreal road. He went over the Atlantic road as far as Bacon Falls, in Greenwood, and examined all the wharves and other localities in Portland vicinity. He sailed on Wednesday in the Africa, from New York. The plan is to construct three iron steamers of 1600 tons measurement, capable each of carrying 6000 barrels of flour, or an equivalent amount of freight, with accommodations for 75 first class and 75 second class passengers. The steamers are to cost about £30,000 each.—*Montreal Herald*.

Novascotia.

A Woollen and Cotton Factory, it is reported, to be established in Nova Scotia, forthwith—the principal parties concerned are said to be Americans. If the report be correct, we do not care a single straw who the parties may be, we can only wish them God speed, and repeat our motto—Success to Enterprise.

Desolation.—The scene which presents itself at the burnt district in this city, is gloomy in the extreme—the number of chimnies standing in the former site of the North Barracks is upwards of forty—and on the burnt block opposite about an equal number.

Several Fire Wardens, including the Chairman, A. Sinclair, Esq. have tendered their resignations.—*Novascotian*.

Richibucto Potatoes.—The sch. Perseverance which sailed a few days ago, having returned to port in distress, her cargo of potatoes consisting of 2000 bushels, were sold at auction yesterday, by W. M. Allan, and brought from 1s. 8d. to 2s. They are very fine, and a sale of the same article will take place this day at Commercial wharf.—*British Colonist*.