

# The Examiner.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY, WHEN FREEBORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC, MAY SPEAK FREE."—EURIPIDES.

Vol. I.]

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND, MONDAY, JULY 3, 1848.

[No. 48.]

## POLITICS AND NEWS.

### Second June Mail from England.

#### ENGLAND.

**NAVIGATION LAWS.**—A very numerous meeting of seamen was held last week, in Sunderland, to adopt petitions to parliament against the proposed alteration in the navigation Laws. The greatest apprehension are entertained of the working of the free-trade system in shipping affairs, and the sailors are unanimous in rendering all the opposition in their power to the fatal measure which impends over British maritime supremacy, and which will deprive our brave tars of the employments and comforts they now enjoy under those provident laws that have been tested by the experience of centuries, and which are now to be sacrificed to senseless clamour.

**EXTRAORDINARY OCCURRENCE.**—The following extraordinary scene took place the other day at the Clarence Dock, Liverpool. A deserter, in charge of two soldiers, had just disembarked from Ireland, and was being marched into town, when, taking advantage of the crowded thoroughfare, he separated himself from his guardians, and as they advanced to enclose him, he rushed on one of them, whom he struck on the face with his whole force; being handcuffed, the blow was given with the united fore of both arms. The unfortunate soldier fell to the ground, and it was afterwards found his jaw-bone was broken. His comrade immediately ran his bayonet into the body of the deserter. A policeman interfered, and was about taking the soldier into custody, when he received a hint that if he did not keep his distance he would also be treated to several inches of cold steel—a threat which he appreciated.

#### IRELAND.

**MANIFESTO OF THE CONFEDERATION.**—Mr. Smith O'Brien and the Confederates, under his leadership have taken a decided step in advance. The following extraordinary manifesto from the council of the Confederation has been posted in some of the leading streets of the metropolis:—

#### "ADDRESS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE IRISH CONFEDERATION TO THE PEOPLE.

"Fellow countrymen—Another crime has been perpetrated against the inhabitants of this country by the British government. Another Irishman has fallen a victim to the machinations of legal artifice, and to the lawlessness of reckless power. His offence has been—love for Ireland, as intense as was his hatred of foreign oppression. We seek not to discuss the prudence of his counsels, or the expediency of his designs. Though participating in many of his sentiments, our Confederation never identified itself with all his opinions; but even those who dissent from most, do not deny that they were dictated by the purest motives, that they were maintained with consummate ability, and vindicated with heroic fortitude. Our complaint is, not that such a man was treated as a foe by the British Government; but that in order to crush him, the constitution and the law have been violated. To tear him from the country and from his family a special enactment was framed. The enactment of this law, though a gross outrage against public liberty, has been less intolerable than the official crimes which have accompanied its execution. We will not conceal from you—we will not conceal from the Government, that nothing but the most strenuous exertions of our Council prevented the outbreak of an insurrection last week. Thousands of brave men had resolved that John Mitchel should not leave the Irish shore except across their corpses. We apprehend that under present circumstances an armed attempt to rescue him, and to free Ireland, might prove abortive; we therefore interposed, and with difficulty succeeded in preventing the fruitless effusion of blood. But whilst we hesitate not to avow that such has been our conduct, we do not feel at liberty to conceal from you that the recent indignities offered to the Irish nation have greatly tended to remove from our minds the hope which we have hitherto desired to cherish, that the questions at issue between England and Ireland will be settled by amicable adjustment. We feel bound to tell you, without disguise, that these indignities and wrongs are rapidly bringing us to that period when armed resistance to the oppressors of our country will become a sacred obligation, enforced by the highest sanctions of public duty. Catholics of Ireland? bow down your heads in shame. You have been branded as unworthy to partake in the administration of justice in your native land. On the late trial you have seen every Catholic inhabitant

of this city ignominiously chased as perjurers from the jury box. Slaves you are—slaves you and your children deserve to remain if you resent not as one man this insult. None will contradict us when we affirm that Mr. Mitchel has been found guilty by a jury selected not to try, but to convict him. By these nefarious arts a momentary triumph not over an obnoxious foe but over the sacred obligations of justice, over the violated liberties of a nation, has been secured. Have these iniquities subdued your spirit? Have they quelled your discontent? Have they abrogated your resolve? Have they schooled you to kiss the poof which tramples and spurns you? These are questions which each man amongst you must answer for himself. For us we declare that our resolve is not only unshaken but is confirmed, and rendered more stern by these outrages of unscrupulous power. Under these impressions, we cannot shrink from the responsibility of advising you to prepare at once for the protection of your invaded liberties. By the love which you bear to your country and your kind—by your attachment to your homes—by your regard for your children's weal—by your thirst for humble fame, we exhort you to unite in a holy league against usurpation and injustice. Let no selfish passions contaminate your purpose; let no factious strife impede the execution of your design. Learn to contemplate calmly and firmly the chances of a final struggle, and prepare for that struggle by furnishing yourselves with all such resources as may enable you to command success. Above all cease not to invoke on bended knee and with humble and devoted hearts, the blessing and the aid and the guidance of heaven, upon efforts consecrated as the most sanctified of duties by the eternal principles of justice. Signed on behalf of the Council.

"WILLIAM S. O'BRIEN, Chairman."

**CLOSING OF CONCILIATION HALL.**—The usual weekly meeting of the National Repeal Association was held yesterday in Conciliation Hall. The attendance was large, the hall and gallery being crowded in all parts.

Mr. John O'Connell announced the closing of Conciliation-hall, owing to the want of funds.

He also gave notice that the Association and the Irish Confederation had coalesced, and would both adjourn *sine die* on Monday next preparatory to reorganizing a National Association; and least it might be supposed that the new body was to lead to anything illegal, or that was calculated to inveigle them into a violation of the law, it would be well for the country to know that this body, would be formed by the union of all Irishmen and the concentration of public opinion was perfectly legal.

The foreman of the jury by which Mr. Mitchel was convicted has received no less than five threatening notices of the most violent description.

The Confederates held a meeting on the 6th instant, for the purpose of considering the expediency of a union with the old Ireland party. The Music-hall, Abbey-street, was crowded, to excess, not less than 3000 persons being present. The clubs marched in procession, two abreast, to the place of meeting, but were opposed by a body of police in North Cumberland-street, who insisted on them marching in single file. Mr. Meagher having attempted to force his way, was arrested and taken to the Sackville-place station, on a charge of assaulting a police constable, but liberated, on entering into his own recognizances to answer for the alleged offence. A Mr. Byran was also arrested on a similar charge. The solicitor of the Dublin Corporation took the chair. Upwards of 400 new members were admitted, including the Rev. Thaddeus O'Mulley and Dr. Antisell, the eminent chemist. A letter from Smith O'Brien, apologising for non-attendance, on the ground of ill health, was read. Mr. O'Brien avowed the authorship of the address to the people of Ireland. Mr. C. G. Duffy, in the course of his speech, stated, that the new association was to be formed on the principles of the Confederation. Its chief business is to plant the country with clubs from end to end, to organise the mass of popular strength to order. Mr. Meagher, in one of those displays of impassioned and fervid eloquence, next addressed the meeting, and in the course of his speech stated, that he for one was pledged to follow John Mitchel. Alluding to Mr. Mitchel's conviction and sentence, he stated that that sentence shall be reversed—reversed by the decree of a free nation. Mr. Richard O'Gorman followed, and in his speech designated the trial of Mr. Mitchel as a successful attempt to swindle him out of his liberty. Mr. O'Gorman's father, at a subsequent part of the meeting, observed "Of all that John Mitchel was guilty, and if he deserved to be transported, for all that they should take me, and put me on board a transport also." Throughout the entire proceedings the utmost harmony prevailed, and the vast assemblage separated, fully approving of the movement proposed.

With respect to the treatment Mr. Mitchel had received at the hands of the authorities subsequent to his departure from Dublin, it is stated that he has expressed his gratitude for the consideration with which his case has been met. Upon his arrival at Spike Island he was informed by the governor that he had permission to communicate with his wife, and to receive letters in return, the only condition being that neither party was to make the slightest reference in the course of the correspondence to events of a political nature; and, for the fulfilment of this compact, the authorities contented themselves with Mr. Mitchel's pledge that the indulgence thus accorded would not be abused, and that the terms should be adhered to. He has not been compelled to wear the convict's dress, neither has his hair been cut, nor is he subjected to the degradation of having for his companions any of the other criminals undergoing their sentences in the same prison. It is added that the extreme delicacy of Mr. Mitchel's health is a sufficient cause for the difference that has been made in his favour.

The sale of Mr. Mitchel's furniture took place on the 6th, and attracted an immense attendance; and many persons came from forty to fifty miles in order to purchase some relic. The furniture sold at extremely high prices, especially the small articles, such as books, china, glass, &c. The books with Mr. Mitchel's autograph brought in many instances one hundred times their original cost. A pike and two swords, which cost but a few shillings each, sold at a guinea each.

A parish priest, in the county of Cork (the Rev. Pierce Greene), informs the Cork Examiner that all his parishioners, to the number of 6000, intend contributing to the fund raising for the support of Mr. Mitchel's family, and he adds—

"I intend keeping a parochial and imparishable record of the names of the subscribers, and of everything connected with John Mitchel's trial—the names of the counsel, judges, attorney-general, and the jury, so that the fine Milesian names of Brambow, Sherwood, Rothwell, Yokeley, and Whitty are likely to live for ever. The effects produced by the British Government from poor Mitchel's expatriation are the very reverse of those intended. In the union with which I am connected six Protestant families reside, and it pays to the Protestant Church yearly about £1000. Two families out of the six have become determined repealers since John Mitchel's trial and sentence. A Protestant lady called on me yesterday, requesting to place her name at the head of the subscription list. The late doings in Dublin have carried us all back to the worst days of Irish history and Protestant ascendancy. When I read over Mitchel's trial and sentence the prosecution in the reign of Charles I. vividly recurred to my mind—when the Government fined the honest Galway jury £3000 each, with mutilation of tongue and ears, torturing them to find verdicts (contrary to every law) for the Crown, and hand over the province of Connaught to England. Nothing more true than that Mitchel, in his felon cell, is carrying Repeal. My collection here will not be complete before two months, as I am determined to make it as large and respectable as I can."

Seven new Confederate Clubs have just been opened. This is the first fruits of the amalgamation of Old and Young Ireland.

The Rev. Mr. Willis, rector of Portadown, county Armagh, in replying to the circular of the secretaries of the anti-repeal declaration, concludes with the following remarkable statement:—

"I for one see nothing in my obligation, as a minister of the church, to prevent me from considering the question of repeal an open question; and, under the circumstances, so far am I from thinking that a repeal of the legislative union would entail incalculable misery upon Ireland, or her church, that I am the rather inclined to look with hope and confidence for the reverse of this; and I rejoice to know that such also is the feeling of some thousands in my parish and neighbourhood."

Mr. Willis is an orangeman, and an officer of the Grand Lodge.

The printer of Mr. S. O'Brien's address to the Council of the Confederation, in which he affirms that "Mr. Mitchel was found guilty by a jury selected not to try but to convict him," and calls upon the Catholics of Ireland to 'resent the insult as one man,' and to furnish themselves for that purpose 'with all such resources as may enable them to command success,' is to be prosecuted.

The clergy of Tuam (121 in number), have memorialised the Queen for Repeal.

#### FRANCE.

A report was spread in the course of the sitting of the National Assembly, on the 8th instant, that the police were in search of a high personage arrived in the morn-