

and what becomes of the money that they are sold for? Why the cattle and sheep walk into England upon their legs; the wheat is put into ships, to be sent to London or elsewhere; and as to the money that these are sold for, the farmer is not allowed to have a little of it; but almost the whole of it is sent away to the landlord, to be gambled or otherwise squandered away in London, at Paris, or at Rome. The rent of the land is enormous; four, five, six, or seven pounds for an English acre; the farmer is not allowed to get much; almost the whole of the produce of these fine lands goes into the pockets of the lords; the labourers are their slaves, and the farmers their slave drivers. The farm yards are, in fact, factories for making corn and meat; carried on principally by the means of horses and machinery. There are no people; and these men seem to think that people are unnecessary to a state. I came over a tract of country a great deal bigger than the county of Suffolk, with only three towns in it, and a couple of villages, while the county of Suffolk, has 29 market towns, and 491 villages. Yet our precious government seem to wish to reduce England to the state of Scotland, and you are reproached and abused, and called ignorant, because you will not live in a 'boothie;' and live upon food which we give to horses and to hogs! Take one more fact, at which you will not wonder; that, though Northumberland is but a poor country compared with this that I have been describing, the poor Scotch labourers get away into England whenever they can. There is a great and fine town called Newcastle upon-Tyne, from which and its neighbourhood, the coals go into our country. The poor Scotchmen flee from these fine and rich lands to beg their bread there; and there they are put into caravans and brought back to Scotland by force, as the Irish are sent from Manchester, from London, from Birmingham, and other great towns in the south. Is not this the greatest shame that ever was witnessed under the sun! And shall not we be resolved to prevent our country from being reduced to a similar state, shall not we venture, if necessary, our limbs and our lives rather than to endeavour to cause, by all legal means, a change in the condition of the labourers of these two ill treated countries? What! shall any lord tell me, or tell any one of you, that you have not a right to be in England as well as he has? Will he tell you that he has a right to lay all his lands waste, or lay them into sheep walks, and drive the people from them? A stupid land owner might say so, and might attempt to do it: but detestable must be the Government that would suffer him ever to begin, in the work of giving effect to his wish. God did not make the land for the few but for the many.

Civil society invented property; but gave it not that absolute character which would enable a few owners to extirpate the people, as they appear to be endeavouring to do in Scotland. Our English law effectually guards

against the effects of so villainous a disposition, it gives to all men a right to a maintenance out of the earth; it justly gives to the necessitous poor a claim prior to that of the owner of the land. This law has been greatly impaired by the acts of Sturges Bourne, which created the selected vestries, and introduced hired overseers into the parishes. It is my intention to use all the means in my power to get these acts repealed; and it is upon this subject that I am now about to give you my advice. You (see the situation of the Scotch and the Irish, in consequence of a want of the poor laws; and the design manifestly has been, and yet is, to go on by degrees stripping England of the Poor laws Sturges Bourne's acts were a great stretch in this direction; let us, therefore, use all our strength legally to annihilate these acts.

Your case is this. For a thousand years your forefathers were in case of necessity, relieved out of the produce of the tythes, and were never suffered to know the pinchings of want. When the tythes were taken away by the aristocracy and kept to themselves, or given wholly to the parsons, your forefathers insisted upon a provision being made for them out of the land, as compensation for that which had been taken away by the aristocracy and the parsons. That compensation was given them in the rates as settled by the poor law. To take away those rates would, therefore, be to violate the agreement, which gave you as much right to receive, in case of need, relief out of the land, as it left the landowner a right to his rent. Sturges Bourne's acts, have not, indeed, openly violated the agreement; but they have done it in a covert and indirect manner, by taking away the power of the native overseer to administer relief, and by taking away the equal rights of the rate payers to vote in the vestry.

To get these acts repealed is our first duty, and ought to be our earliest care, and I do most strongly urge you to attend at all elections, whether you have votes or not, and to demand of the candidate that they will vote for the repeal of these acts. I exhort you to be ready with petitions in support of those members of Parliament who shall demand this repeal. Though, according to the reform bill, you are not to vote, yet you have the right of petitioning; and if you make use of that right, and in a proper manner, we shall never again see those days of degradation, of which we have now seen so many.

As God has now blessed us with a harvest such as the oldest man living scarcely ever saw, I hope that you are all enjoying the fruits of it, in proportion to the labours that you have performed, and the sobriety and the care that you have practised and exercised. I shall be glad, when I see you again, to find you better off than when I saw you last! I confide in your resolution to maintain your present rights unimpaired, and in your efforts to recover those that have been lost; and, in that hope

I remain, your faithful friend,

WM. COBBETT.

FOR THE BRITISH AMERICAN.

Mr. Editor,
Sir,

If you think the following verses will suit a corner of your paper, their insertion will very much oblige the author.

PRINCE TOWN'S LAMENT.

1.

Three long score years of hope and merré
Since I was born, and got a name,
An empty title since I've worn,
Still weeping in the lonely shade.

2.

I, [like a widow] on the shore,
Deplore my sorrows to the waves;
And like a widow past threecore,
I must forevermore remain.

3.

I dream'd of commerce, wealth, and gain,
Of stately streets and spacious stores;
But forsaken in the end
To every adverse wind that blows.

4.

Mishap on them that wrought my woes,
And rob'd me of my bonny name;
I might yet flourish but for those
Politick rogues of Richmond Bay.

5.

My flattering hopes for long long years,
Shall soon be realized to Thee;
St. Eleanor's my rival near
In yonder pleasant shady lea.

6.

Thy day of pomp is sliding round,
When thou wilt shine and still be hail'd,
Queen of the County, and renown'd
When I am mourning in the shade.

A RUSTIC BARD.

Richmond Bay, Jan. 22.

The Editor of the *Troy Sentinel* tells the following good story:—

"Almost thirty years since, an English gentleman with whom we subsequently became acquainted, Mr. Benjamin Criedland, of Leicester, detected and brought to justice a large gang of pickpockets, by unwittingly adopting one of their private signals.—The transaction as he related to us, was as follows:—

Mr. Criedland was attending the crowded annual fair, held in a clover field adjacent to Leicester. He casually noticed that a person in the throng had a sprig of trefoil stuck in the latchet of one of his shoes. In a few minutes, his attention was arrested by remarking another with a sprig similarly situated. His first and natural conclusion was, that the sprigs had been caught and retained by rambling among the luxuriant clover of the field; but on looking around he discovered so many who bore the sprig in the shoe, that he at once concluded it meant something more than met the eye, and which he determined, if possible to discover.—Accordingly, he retired a little, mounted a clover sprig, according to the paterro, in his own shoe; and