

ers deprecated any wish to create any unbecoming or injurious excitement in the country, by getting up a clamour for reform; but at the same time expressed their conviction that things could not obviously remain with safety in their present position, and that some distinct and tangible advance, calculated to allay just discontent and to correct sundry abuses, was desirable.

FALMOUTH AND TRURO.—Meetings favourable to reform have been held at both these places, and petitions adopted. At Truro, a society was formed, to be called, 'The Truro Reform Association.'

HEREFORD.—In pursuance of a requisition, a public meeting of the inhabitants was held on Wednesday, at the Old Town Hall, to consider the measure of Mr. Hume. The mayor presided, and the attendance was both numerous and respectable. Resolutions declaratory of the necessity for a more equitable adjustment of taxation, for a great enlargement of the constituency, triennial Parliaments, vote by ballot, and an equitable arrangement of electoral districts, were adopted by the meeting. The two borough members had been invited to attend, but declined, intimating their disapproval of Mr. Hume's motion.

LEEDS.—On Thursday, a very large meeting took place in the yard of the Coloured Cloth Hall, Leeds, to petition the legislature in favour of Mr. Hume's plan of parliamentary reform. The meeting was called by the mayor (F. Carbutt, Esq.) in compliance with a requisition to which 1,500 signatures had been attached. The chair was taken by the mayor at twelve o'clock, about 3,000 persons being then present, and that number was at least doubled before the close of the proceedings. Resolutions similar to those adopted at the other reform meetings throughout the country were unanimously adopted, and, in addition to those proposed to meet the views of the meeting, another resolution, declaring that the six points of the Charter were founded in justice, was proposed, and carried by a large majority.

LEWES.—On Monday evening a meeting was held at the Dolphin Inn for the purpose of petitioning Parliament to support Mr. Hume's motion, Mr. Lemprier in the chair. A petition in favour of the motion is now lying for signature.

MANCHESTER.—For several days past it has been publicly mentioned that a mighty gathering in favour of the new reform movement was about to be held in the Free-trade Hall. It was added that Cobden, Bright, Hume, Milner, Gibson, (the ex-Vice-president of the Board of Trade,) and a great number of other Liberal members and staunch advocates of reform, were to be present. The day of meeting was first fixed, we understand, for the 19th inst.; but it is postponed till Monday, the 26th; and matters are not yet so thoroughly complete as to justify the announcement even of that day with certainty.

MILE-END OLD-TOWN.—On Thursday evening, a numerous meeting of the inhabitant householders and other ratepayers of the hamlet of Mile-end Old-town, was held in the Town House Mile-end-road, in favour of Mr. Hume's motion. Mr. G. F. White, surgeon, was in the chair, and the usual resolutions were adopted.

PRESTON.—A public tea party was held in the Corn Exchange, Preston, on Tuesday evening, in support of the reform movement. Sir G. Strickland, Bart., and Mr. C. Grenfell, the members for Preston, and Mr. James Heywood, M. P., for North Lancashire, were present. Mr. J. Goodair, manufacturer, was called to the chair. A resolution in favour of Mr. Hume's motion was adopted, and the above mentioned members were requested to support the motion. Sir George Strickland stated that he would do so, but reserved for himself the right of considering that portion of it which related to electoral districts, as he considered it would conduce to too great a degree of centralization. Mr. Grenfell could not agree to vote for the electoral districts, nor was he friendly to triennial Parliaments. The county member, Mr. Heywood, though favourable to reform and retrenchments, was not prepared to go so far as household suffrage, neither could he agree to triennial Parliaments. By carrying the vote by ballot he thought they would be securing a great object, and therefore he had and still would support it. A very extensive saddler in Bath had, at the late election, voted for Mr. Roebuck and Lord Duncan, and after he had given that vote not less than seven country gentlemen sent in for their bills. In consequence, the poor man was obliged to close his shop, and take another in a small back-street, where he was now living in comparative poverty, and all this occasioned by the vote he had given at the late Bath election. Upon the question of electoral districts he was not yet prepared to give any opinion, but, if possible, he thought it would be highly beneficial to divide South Lancashire into two divisions, the Salford and West Derby, and return two members for each division. He considered it was not right that such a place as Kensington should be unrepresented, and that a town like Burnley should have no member.

RAMSGATE.—At a meeting held in this town to support Mr. Hume's motion, Mr. Horsall, in proposing the first resolution,—"That this meeting considers the franchise, as at present distributed, limited, partial, and unjust," called the attention of the meeting to the present limited distribution of the franchise. 'Look at Ramsgate,' he said, 'with a population of 11,000, without a voice in the spending of the money paid into the Exchequer—while such places as Thetford, Little Buckingham, Andover, and many other boroughs with but

145 electors, return their members. There is but one in twenty-eight who has a voice in the so-called representation of the people.' Mr. Meikles proposed, 'That the measures of Mr. Hume, if adopted, would lay the foundation of a representation more in accordance with the rights of the people and the advancing intelligence of the age.' He explained Mr. Hume's measures. The constitution says that no man shall be taxed without his consent by his representative in Parliament; but, as the franchise is constituted, how can it be said that the people are represented? Kent claimed to be in the front ranks to defend her country's rights from the invader, but certainly she has not of late years been found there. 'The powers that be' need enlightening as to the country's wants, when Lord John (who must be very ignorant of them) declares that you do not want reform. Take up his gauntlet, and by numerous signed petitions convince him that you do.—The whole of the resolutions, with a petition, were unanimously carried.

THE CHARTIST DEMONSTRATIONS.

On Monday, great preparations were made by the Government to prevent the meetings which were to be held in various parts of the metropolis. Military, armed police, and pensioners were posted in each locality in formidable array; but the apprehended Chartist demonstration did not take place. No symptom of disturbance showed itself in any part of the town, although it was Whit-Monday. Subjoined are accounts of the state of each locality in which any attempts at demonstration were anticipated:—

BISHOP BONNER'S FIELDS.—Soon after ten o'clock in the morning, a number of persons, including a sprinkling of women, appeared on the arena, but this concourse, never exceeding from 300 to 400, retired on the appearance of a squadron of the Life Guards, who subsequently took up their temporary quarters in Gardener's Barn, in the Grove-end-road, ready to act should any emergency calling for their reappearance arise. They were speedily followed by a force of 80 of the mounted police, who adopted as their centre the entrance to the new church dedicated to St. James the Less. This force commanded the southern side of the ground, while other parts of the field were held by the civil force parties, amounting in all to about 1,100. Several magistrates were also on the ground. Soon after eleven o'clock about 400 of the armed battalion of the Chelsea pensioners marched on to the ground with their haversacks and in full marching order, and they occupied as a temporary barracks the Bethnal-green union workhouse. Shortly before two o'clock some of the leaders in the Chartist movement came on to the ground, and a colloquy ensued between Dr. McDonall, to this effect: Dr. McDonall addressing one of the inspectors of the K division, inquired if the meeting would be allowed to be held. The officer replied that it would not. Dr. McDonall then said he must see a magistrate or one of the principals of the force. On his way he met Mr. Superintendent Johnson of the R division, and that gentleman assured him that every means would be taken to disperse the meeting.—Dr. McDonall thanked him for the intimation, and said, 'Then we must see about it.' He then sent a message to Mr. Arnold, the police magistrate, and received the same positive answer. Dr. McDonall and his friends then departed with a mob of boys and idlers after them, and it was understood that they had abandoned the idea of holding the demonstration. Three o'clock, the hour announced for the meeting had already elapsed, and no appearance of the promised demonstration exhibited itself. About four o'clock a thunderstorm, with heavy rain, served to do more by a clearance of the arena than even the strong police and military force could have effected.

CLERKENWELL-GREEN.—A large body of the metropolitan and mounted police force (upwards of 800 in number), and three troops of the Life Guards, were stationed in the immediate neighbourhood of the green, at points whence their services could be made available at a minute's notice. No meeting, however, was held there, nor did any occurrence requiring the intervention of even a single policeman take place during the day. Shortly after eleven o'clock a troop of the Life Guards marched up to the green, where they remained for about an hour.

BLACKHEATH.—Up to three o'clock it was expected a gathering of the Chartists would take place at Blackheath. In the earlier part of the day, however, no appearance of any political assemblage took place, nor before three did any thing like such a meeting appear upon the spacious sward. Sundry files passed the Green Man Inn shortly before the hour of three, in the direction of Lewisham, but just about that time the rain began to fall, and no meeting took place. Officers connected with the Royal Artillery at Woolwich scoured the ground, but happily their services were not required. All the men in the Arsenal and at the dockyard were under arms, fully prepared to meet the exigency of any outbreak.

At Stepney-green, Islington-green, Cumberland Market, Highgate, Mile-end, Westminster, Croydon, Epsom, Hampstead, Chelsea, and other localities, the necessary precautions were adopted by the authorities, but there was not any attempt at assemblage, or a meeting of any kind throughout the day.

LIVERPOOL.—A Chartist meeting was held on Monday, on the sea beach, near Bootle, to take the opinions of the inhabitants on Lord John Russell's declaration

that the people do not want reform, also to enter a protest against the sentence of Mr. Mitchel. Precautions were taken by the magistrates, but were not necessary. The number assembled amounted to about 3,000. Mr. William M'Lean presided. Mr. Thomas Jones made a most violent speech, calling Lord John Russell a liar, and designating the Government a horde of brigands, ruffians, and assassins. A collection was made for the defence of the London Chartist leaders.

SHEFFIELD.—A public meeting of Chartists, convened by the following singular announcement, was held in Paradise-square, Sheffield, on Monday, in the forenoon:—"Trial by a jury a farce! A public meeting will be held in Paradise-square, on Monday next, at eleven o'clock in the morning, to take into consideration the case of the patriot Mitchel, who has been convicted by a packed jury, and transported for fourteen years to Bermuda. Men of Sheffield! The case of Mitchel is your case! Attend the meeting to register your opinion! No shrinking! Onward! we conquer! Although no outbreak was anticipated, yet it was thought advisable to make preparation for such an emergency. Mr. Counsellor Ironside presided at the meeting, and was supported by Counsellors Wigfall and Briggs, the latter a member of the late Chartist convention. The first resolution was as follows:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the late trial of the patriot John Mitchel by a jury which was avowedly packed by the Government, is a direct violation of the liberty of the subject; and that a memorial be sent to the Queen praying for his immediate liberation, and also for the repeal of the union, as first steps to restore Ireland to a peaceable, prosperous, and happy condition." Mr. Briggs, in the course of his speech on moving the foregoing resolution, said:—"With regard to Lord John Russell transporting Mitchel, he might as well have transported me, for I feel the insult, and am as much afflicted as Mitchel, for he is my last thought when I go to bed; I dream about him, and he is my first thought when I awake. I pray the Almighty for his release, and that He will send Lord John Russell in his place. I shall this day address you in no very measured terms, but in accordance with my feelings, for it is immaterial to me whether Lord John Russell sends me to the side of Mitchel or not. If my going would bring plenty, prosperity, and happiness to my country, I am ready to go to-morrow. I have to charge the Government with incompetency to govern the country; and the stupid asses will not let any one else try. An ass could not legislate worse than they do. I have the franchise myself, but if I were in your position, and believed that the people's rights could not be obtained but by physical force, I would swap my eight-day clock for a gun."—A succeeding speaker, named Willey, spoke of the necessity for procuring arms forthwith, and not delaying till it was time to use them. The general tone of the speeches was of a moderate more character than would seem to be indicated by the preceding extracts, and the chairman expressed himself decidedly opposed to physical force, at all events, at present.

YORKSHIRE.—On Monday, the Chartists of Leeds, Bradford, and the adjacent towns and villages had what they called a 'great West-Riding demonstration' in favour of 'Liberty, equality, and fraternity,' on Toftshaw-moor, about eight miles from Leeds and four miles from Bradford. The day was fine, and the attendance was proportionably large, but the numbers did not at any time exceed 12,000. Shortly after the Bradford procession had arrived on the ground, and one of them announced that he had been deputed to inform the promoters of the meeting that, if they would undertake not to leave the ground in procession with flags and music, their proceedings would not be disturbed or interrupted. A person on the hustings promised that those conditions should be observed, upon which the magistrates expressed themselves satisfied, and left the ground. The promise given by the committee was so far observed that in a very few minutes all the flags in front of the hustings were furled and removed to the rear or elsewhere, but the four tricolored flags which floated from the four corners of the substantial platform that had been erected still remained. Immediately after the magistrates had left the ground, two carrier pigeons were started, doubtless to convey the information to the neighbouring towns. The oratorical part of the proceedings commenced by Mr. J. Harris, of Leeds being called to the chair, and addressed the persons present. Other speakers followed, and all concurred in the admiration of the Charter, and their determination not to cease agitation until it became the law of the land. The meeting broke up peaceably about three o'clock. About the time the Bradford section of the meeting was expected to return to that town, the magistrates went out with a body of police and special constables, attended by General Thorn, the commander of the district, with detachments of cavalry, mounted yeomanry, and infantry, to see that the promise given not to return through the town of Bradford in procession, with flags and music, was observed. The appearance of this imposing force had the effect of interrupting the previous array, but all passed off quietly. Two flags which had been furled, but were carried erect along the line of march, were seized by the authorities, and deposited in the court-house at Bradford.

BEAUTIFUL.—A beautiful sentiment is the following, by the celebrated Logan:—"Over all the moments of life, religion scatters her favours, but preserves her best, her choicest, her divine blessings for the last hour."