

ocracy. This Gothic transfer of genealogy to truth and justice is peculiar to politics. The existence of robbery in one age makes its vindication in the next; and the champions of freedom have abandoned the stronghold of right for precedent, which is ever feeble, fluctuating, partial and equivocal. I repeat, it is NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN FREE, BUT BECAUSE WE HAVE A RIGHT TO BE FREE, THAT WE OUGHT TO DEMAND FREEDOM. Justice and Liberty have neither birth nor race—youth nor age. Let us hear no more then of this ignoble and ignominious pedigree of freedom—let us hear no more of her Saxon, Danish, Norman, or Celtic ancestors—let the immortal daughter of Reason, of Justice, and of God be no longer confounded with the spurious abortions that have usurped her name.

"Primary political truths are few and simple; it is easy to make them understood. A government may be despised, not because it is ancient, not because it has been established by barons or applauded by priests, but because it is useful. Men may easily be induced to maintain rights which it is their interest to perform. This is the ONLY principle of authority that does not violate justice and insult humanity; it is also the only one which can possess stability.

The week following we find Meany reviewing, in a trenchant manner, the political incidents of the day. He deals plainly and boldly with them. "We will not," he says, "indulge in homilies of moral mysticism, better adapted to the amusement of a people than to their instruction. Such things are not fitted for the time. Men do not leave their hearths and homes and expose themselves, their fortunes and their children to imminent peril, without deep and dreadful cause. Anything like a general or national movement must be the result of long misgovernment." He implores the people to train, to drill, and to arm! and concludes his timely exhortation with these words, pointing to something more than

"The Tribune's tongue and poet's pen!"

"With organization, confidence, strength and arms—with a training and drilling, not only of the animal, but of the intellectual man, with our harvest already ripening in a July sun, with everything in our moral and physical condition to insure success—why, with these things let there be but one simultaneous exclamation.—'Now!'—One shout of triumph, and then—God be merciful to the rampant ruffianism of English Laws and English Government!"

A circumstance occurred about this period which is illustrative of Meany's manly sense of justice, as well as of the violent state of lawlessness which the Government was forced to adopt in its conflict with the patriots. Mitchell was right when he said there was nothing the Government dreaded so much as a bold and honest journal. The *Irish Tribune* was quickly followed by the appearance of the *Irish Felon*, so that there were two fearless national journals in the capital, besides the *Nation*, which had

received a healthy impetus by the necessity exhibited in the popularity of its younger rivals. Every possible obstruction was placed in the way of the circulation of the *Tribune* and *Felon*. The news venders were seized by the police and detectives not in uniform, and the papers forcibly taken from them.

On Monday, the 10th July, two days after the arrest of the editors of these journals a large force of police proceeded to Trinity street, where the offices were located, and made a foray on the news venders. The same system having been pursued on the Saturday previous—and to such an extent that private individuals of the highest respectability, as well as the poor venders, were forcibly deprived of the papers they had bought—greatly irritated the gentlemen connected with the papers, and suggested to some of them the necessity of testing the power of the police. The action of the police attracted a large crowd. Meany on the part of the *Tribune*, and Joseph Brennan, on the part of the *Felon*, procured copies of the respective papers, and, exhorting the venders to resist the confiscation of their goods, boldly went into the street and offered the papers for sale. The matter was taking a tangible form, and numbers went forward to purchase, and thus show their antagonism to the illegality being enacted. The police interfered, and demanded the papers. Meany peremptorily refused. The excitement increased; the journalists offering their wares, the police demanding them, the former resisting, and the crowd cheering. The detective police, by their own testimony, were kicked and cuffied and dragged in the excitement, and Meany and Brennan were arrested for assault, and conveyed to the College street station, followed by considerable numbers, who repeatedly and loudly cheered them. The excitement before the Magistrate lost nothing in interest, Brennan defending himself; and it being generally supposed—from the usages of those days—that the gentlemen were about being committed to Newgate, under the "Gagging Act," for their writings. Brennan's talent for satire, which he leveled at the "authorities" in the court room, did not benefit him. It was decided not to accept bail, but to send his case for trial; while Meany being legally defended, was set free on his own recognizance.

Both parties had thoroughly aroused the vindictive watchfulness of the Castle officials; and having left Dublin on the suspension of the *Habeas Corpus* Act, and the consequent scattering of the leaders to the hills, were arrested