

## Criticisms of Some Magazine Articles.

### PART III.

#### COBDEN PURPOSELY EXCITED NATIONAL ILL-WILL.

ABOUT 1864 Cobden made a painful exhibition of himself in the House of Commons. I read his speech in more than one paper. It denounced his fellow-countrymen generally. Sometimes that has been a labour of love to such as he. He imputed imaginary wrongful actions to those who differed from him aient the Secession War. But I cannot find any trace of it in Morley's Life of Cobden. Apparently he was ashamed to insert it. It made a great impression upon me for I was present when a strong Radical, after reading it in the *Times*, denounced Cobden as "lying Richard." His speech reported verbatim in the *Times* read like, and was meant to be, a long indictment against large sections of his fellow-countrymen. After his manner—when suffering from an anti-British spasm—the facts were distorted. No proper qualifications or allowances were made, and altogether it was just such a speech as must have gladdened the hearts of all in America who desired war between the two countries. Doubtless it was largely quoted there. And this from a man who posed as a great advocate of peace, and who falsely charged Palmerston and others—who differed from him—with a hankering for war. In that evil speech he did more to bring about an uncalled for war than any other Englishman of his time. In other papers that I read his statements were toned down. I did not then understand why the *Times* reported him verbatim. It was wrong to do so. Probably the explanation is as follows: There had been a personal quarrel between him and Delane, the then editor of the *Times*. The latter gentleman always attended the debates of the House of Commons when a great discussion was expected. He wished to expose Cobden on his weak side—when greatly excited—of gross inaccuracy; and he knew from long experience that all that he, as editor, had got to do was to give him "rope enough." Accordingly—unlike other editors—he printed his speech verbatim, and thus allowed Cobden to infame himself. Dogberry "wrote himself down an ass," but Cobden did far worse. Taken altogether it was the most incendiary speech by an Englishman that I have ever read.

In mitigation it may be said that he was in ill-health at the time, but then his friends should have prevented such an exhibition. Fortunately for his fame, and the good of his country, he shortly afterwards ceased from troubling. Had he survived there is no knowing what further mischief he would have caused in those troubled times.

#### GOVERNOR EYRE.

I deeply regret that Mr. Goldwin Smith should have permitted himself to write as follows: "The Manchester School joined against Eyre, who had judicially murdered his personal enemy, Mr. Gordon." Criminals often look upon officers of justice as their "personal enemies." The charge is utterly without foundation, and was so held to be by magistrates, juries, English judges and the general opinion of Englishmen.

His error has been caused by (1) blindly accepting the statements of lesser men as being true, and (2) by failing to allow for the difference in truthfulness between different persons and races. The evidence of one intelligent, careful-speaking, and truthful man, outweighs that of many others who lack such qualities. A judicial mind takes such differences into account; with such, it is quality, not number. As a mass the Manchester School possessed far less of the judicial mind than the Conservatives, Whigs, or the fairplay Radicals. To understand recent and current history, we must bear in mind the difference between the two sections of the Radicals, namely, (1) the more gullible Radicals, and (2) the more sober-minded fairplay Radicals. It is the former who are the principal adherents of what the London *Times* satirically styled the New Religion: Men who treasure up as sacred relics, the chips of wood scattered by him who has 'witched the world with noble axmanship. The ancients said that a good man struggling with adversity was a sight fit for the gods. Of late years it has been—that street-corner piety, serenely unconscious—ostentatiously exhibited to open mouthed excursionists should be bowed down to. But the dawn of a brighter day is approaching.

In October, 1865, there was an insurrection of negroes in Jamaica. To quote a sentence from a sham-Liberal authority it was "the most serious event that had happened in any British dependency since the Indian mutiny." Out of the then population of 360,000, there were only 15,000 whites. The troops in the island were very few—some of them coloured. The House of Assembly, elected by the freeholders, had passed a law against trespassing and stealing. Property owners complained in the London papers that on an average one-fourth of their crops were openly stolen by the negroes, who were great thieves. Therefore the need for such a law was clear. The eighth Commandment thus became a grievance; not the only island where such has been the case. Gordon was the ringleader, but he imitated the conduct of the leaders of the early French Terrorists—put others in the forefront, prepared to sneak away if things went wrong. During the preceding 100 years there had been various partial risings, which caused the whites to believe that there was always a possibility of an outbreak like the terrible one in St. Domingo.

#### THE ATTACK UPON THE COURT HOUSE.

An offender against the Act was about to be tried at Morant Bay, when 150 men came to the Court House armed with sticks in order to rescue him should he be found guilty. There was a fight in court; one policeman had a finger broken and others were beaten. Warrants were issued against some of the offenders, and an attempt was made to arrest one, Paul Bogle; but a number of rioters, armed with cutlasses, bayonets, and pikes, captured three of the police and announced their intention of attacking the Court House the next day. Governor Eyre was asked to send troops and one hundred soldiers were sent immediately afterwards by steamer, but unfortunately arrived too late to prevent the outbreak. The magistrates had assembled about thirty volunteers to protect them at the Court House, when a large mob came armed with "cutlasses, bayonets fixed upon sticks, pistols, muskets and various other kinds of weapons." Practically it was to uphold their sacred right to steal. Doubtless the echoes of the American Civil War, acting upon the minds of ignorant men, made the task easy to incendiary agitators. The volunteers unsuccessfully defended themselves against overwhelming numbers. Some of the assailants were killed, also some of the volunteers, and in addition one of the magistrates and a clergyman who happened to be there. Several of the volunteers escaped. The school and court house were burnt, and various other excesses were committed, and the insurrection began to spread.

Eyre, anxious to stamp it out at the beginning, immediately proclaimed martial law in that district, and sent 200 additional troops who succeeded in suppressing it before it had time to extend all over the island. It was alleged that one of the agitators forced men to join him. Gordon, by his actions and seditious papers addressed to the blacks and coloured people, was the principal cause of the insurrection and loss of life. Seditious notices, directed in his handwriting addressed to the leaders of the rising, were intercepted.

#### THE RINGLEADER HANGED.

He was ultimately captured, tried by court-martial and hanged. Eyre was not present, although all was done under his authority. Apparently panic-stricken by the danger, haunted by the memory of previous partial risings, and by that of the terrible St. Domingo massacres, unnecessary severities were exercised by several deputies in some localities. It was asserted that the black soldiers unnecessarily shot numbers of those captured. But practically Eyre saved Jamaica from a repetition of the St. Domingo massacres; for if the rebellion had not been promptly suppressed; the whole island would have been a scene of horror. The proper way in such cases is to promptly seize and punish the ringleaders, but they usually escape. The sham-Liberal cry is apt to be, "there's a divinity that doth hedge" arch-conspirators, but common-sense thinks otherwise.

The Manchester School section of the Radicals excited a great agitation in England, and Mr. J. S. Mill, a ridiculously overpaid East Indian pensioner—shutting his eyes to what had taken place in India eight years before—acted as chairman of a league to hunt to death the man who had saved Jamaica from a repetition of the St. Domingo horrors. J. S. Mill is a vastly overrated man. In the Toronto Reference Library, also in the Citizen's Free Library, Halifax,