The Morning Courier.

FOR THE COUNTRY.

Optimus est Reipublicæ status, ubi nihil deest nisi licentia pereundi.—SENECA.

VOL. II. MONTREAL, THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 19, 1836. No. 5.

Morning Courier.

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1836.

We adverted yesterday to some of the statements of the third report of the Commissioners for Inquiry into the condition of the poor classes in Ireland. The principal fact, which every circumstance, opinion, and illustration the report contains, go to support, is the immense disparity between the supply of labour and the demand for it in Ireland. The labour market there is completely overstocked, and consequently wages, like any other article of merchandize, of which there is far too large a supply, range ruinously low prices. The average earnings of the whole class of labourers for the year round, are about 2s. to 2s. 6d. per week. With such miserable remuneration, it is impossible for the able-bodied among them to provide adequately for their families, or make provision for the day of sickness or temporary want of employment.

The unfortunate circumstances of the country are necessarily productive of idleness to a frightful extent, and that again as certainly of vice and crime of every character. Similar causes would have led to similar results in any other country; and Ireland's destitution and deeds of lawless violence need not therefore excite our wonder as singular. The Commissioners bear honourable testimony, that dire necessity is chiefly chargeable with the miseries and sufferings of the labourers. They say, "We see that the labouring class are eager for work—that work there is not for them—and that they are therefore, and not from any fault of their own, in permanent want."

Most of the witnesses examined by the Commissioners stated as their opinion, that it would require a subtraction of one-fourth, and others of two-thirds, from the present number of the labouring class, to enable the remainder to receive constant employment at the rate of 10d. a day. There is, indeed, a melancholy agreement in their testimony, respecting the extremity of want to which labourers, from their excessive numbers, are reduced. But if all other evidence of this circumstance were absent, the universal desire among this class, and of many above them, to emigrate from their native country, would be amply sufficient to prove it. Pecuniary inability alone restrains them from giving effect to their wishes, and fleeing from the penury and misery which they experience.

In perusing the subjoined extracts from the evidence collected by the Commissioners relative to emigration, as a necessary auxiliary to any course of amelioration that may be adopted, our readers will remark, that emigrants from Ireland have been hitherto from the class of small farmers, who perform the necessary labour on their own land, and not comparatively small portion have been from that of labourers.

The checks to emigration which are mentioned, are the uncertainty of obtaining employment on this side of the Atlantic, the sums on their passage of that kind of emigrant vessels, which are significantly called coffin ships, and which are chartered, at a cheap rate, by needy speculators. Unfavourable representations that have been sent home, by those who have emigrated, of the settled state of the country, have also resulted many from emigrating. But the evidence adduced will convey an exact idea of the state of the popular feeling on this subject.

"CONNAUGHT (County Mayo, Barony Murrish).—Two or three ships have left this port with emigrants annually until this year; bad and unfavourable accounts have been received from those who departed, and the consequence is that only one vessel cleared out this year with passengers. Most of those who departed were persons possessing small capital, and many destitute persons, inasmuch as they had not the means to pay their passage. Persons of small capital have gone out, because they had no hopes of investing their capital, which they found continually diminishing of late years, especially since the decline of the linen trade." (Mr. M'Donnell.) "I think many of them would have stayed at home, if they could have got land at home for a fair rent, such as would have enabled them to enjoy some degree of comfort and independence."—(Rev. Mr. M'Manus, P. P., &c. &c.) "The number of those who have gone is not in the least perceptibly improved the condition of those who have remained, there is at the same competition for land, and just as much looking for labour, and unable to find it." (Rev. Mr. Feeny, R. C. C.) "Three-fourths of the population of the barony inhabit the coast, and there is not any part of it ten miles distant from the sea. Westport is, however, the only port at which ships take in passengers; and it is stated that a man, his wife, and three children, might be conveyed from that port to North America, at an expense (including all provision) not exceeding £11 11s. A great number of the witnesses, more especially the young unmarried men, declare that they would gladly avail themselves of an opportunity to emigrate: they say that what they chiefly fear is, that there might be no employment or no demand for them on their arrival, and they might have to be hurried off as soon as home: if they knew that a certain provision of any kind awaited them on the other side, they would have no objection to go off at once."—(Michael Lenihan.)

"LIMERICK (County of Limerick, Barony Connello, Lower.)—Emigration has been considerable during the last five years. "About 300 went out of this barony last year."—(Messrs. Brown and Ruckle.) "The emigrants consisted of a few large farmers, many small occupiers, and a great many common labourers. They were usually good industrious men; the object with all was to improve their condition."—(Messrs. Brown and Ruckle.) Mr. Brown says, "Last year a considerable number of Palatines emigrated to America. The Palatines were originally German Protestants, settled here through Mr. Toulmin in Queen Anne's time, and planted in villages in various parts of the country, with leases of land. They continue, to this day, a distinct body from the Irish population around them, and live principally in their own hamlets, and not often intermarrying with their neighbours. I believe that a considerable number of these people emigrated from which other tenants had been rejected without incurring considerable danger, and that the principal reason of their emigration was this feeling of insecurity. However, very few substantial farmers leave the country." The emigration which has taken place has not been sufficient to reduce the competition for labor or for holdings, so as to raise wages or lower rents. I think one-half of the labourers of the barony must be sent away before work at ten pence a day would be found for the remainder regularly through the year."—(Messrs. Brown and Ruckle.)

"LIMERICK is the nearest seaport where a ship for emigrants could be got; it is about fifteen miles distant from the centre of the barony. The expense of conveying a man, wife, and three children to that port would be about four shillings. If a free passage to America were offered, a very large number of labourers, small landholders, and young unmarried people of both sexes would escape of it."—(Rev. Mr. Brown.)

"MUNSTER, (County Tipperary, Barony Middlethird).—In 1834 a considerable number emigrated. In the present year there were not so many, principally because some vessels were lost last year."—(Mr. Smiley, &c.) "The greater number were merely able to pay their passage, but there were several who took considerable property with them. The object of those emigrants was simply to better their condition."

In the extracts which follow we wish to draw attention to the extent to which the cursed system of exclusion on account of religious opinions had been carried in Ireland. The evils of the Test Acts were not confined to public and government offices, but they embittered and disturbed the ordinary transactions between man and man. Such bigoted intolerance is happily passing away under the wise guidance of an enlightened Government. The extent to which Protestants at one time arrogated to themselves exclusive privileges, was abhorrent to every principle of freedom.

"ULSTER, (County Down, Barony Iveagh, Upper.)—There has been very little emigration this year; the people were not able to go out. The year before last a great many emigrated from this barony; those principally emigrate who are able to pay their way. Some time ago people used to sell their little farms and go, but now they are more reluctant to part with their little holdings. The poorest part from which emigrants embark is Warren's Point, in Carlingford Bay; it is eight or ten miles distant. Upon the question, 'Whether many would now emigrate, if a free passage to America were given them, who have hitherto been unable to do so?' Mr. Brown answered, 'Several would, because their privileges are infringed upon as Protestants.' 'I would be one.'—(Thomas Rowan.) Hogan explained the circumstances in the way, 'that until lately the Roman Catholics got no lease of land, but the Protestants had good ones; and when their leases were falling in now the landlords were raising the rent on them as well as on the Roman Catholics, so that now they were not better off than the Roman Catholics, and may-be some of them did not like that, and went away.' There is an impression among them that when they get a free passage to America they will get land there; and they are not at all liberty; but if they were assured that upon landing they would be under no restraint, numbers would be glad to go. Young women, especially, would be anxious to emigrate: they say that what they chiefly fear is, that there might be no employment or no demand for them on their arrival, and they might have to be hurried off as soon as home: if they knew that a certain provision of any kind awaited them on the other side, they would have no objection to go off at once."—(Michael Lenihan.)

"LIMERICK (County of Dublin, Barony Rathcothy).—The emigration that has hitherto taken place has had no sensible effect in reducing the competition for labour and small holdings. The number that, being taking from the population, would enable the remainder steady wages, at 10d. a day, is exceedingly in each parish of the barony. In one or two, where the proprietors have prevented the erection of cabins, and creation of very small farms, or have pulled down and put an end to those which already existed, the population does not much exceed the wants of the farmer to cultivate the land, and fills below them in harvest and busy seasons; but in the other parishes where the proprietors have not done so, or not to the same extent, whose two, perhaps, the people spread themselves over the country in search of employment in large or less, full short of the full wants of the population in various proportions, from one-fifth, to probably, in some cases, two-thirds of the whole, and many persons there even a much greater proportion. If single parishes were selected, and the population confined to the employment and land which they can now obtain within the limits of each of those parishes, some of the witnesses thought it would be necessary in some cases to withdraw nine-tenths of the labouring population in order to enable the remaining tenth to obtain constant employment even at the present rate of wages, 9d. or 10d. in winter, and 1s. in summer. The ports resorted to for emigration from this barony are Dropheda and Dublin, more particularly the latter, distant 6 and 13 miles; the expense of conveying a man, wife, and three children to each of them would be 3l. and 4l. Many who have hitherto forborne to emigrate would now accept the offer of a free passage, notwithstanding their great affection for the land of their birth, from their increasing misery and helplessness of improvement in their condition by any other means. The young unmarried people of both sexes would very generally be glad to accept the offer."

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The American Home Missionary Society have, during last year, employed 753 Missionaries in twenty-five different States and Territories, and in the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, besides seventeen Pastors and Evangelists in France; making the whole number of Missionaries supported or aided by the Society 770. Of those in the United States 575 are settled as Pastors, or are employed as stated supplies in single congregations; 132 extend their labours to two

Agents, are employed in larger fields. It is calculated that the amount of Ministerial labour performed under the Commissions of this Society, the past year, is equal to 543 years of one individual.

The receipts of the Society last year amounted to 101,565 dollars, and the disbursements 92,108 dollars.

So much for the voluntary principle.

A memorial is circulating for signatures in New York, praying Congress to acknowledge the independence of Texas.

A Steamboat of sixty-two horse power, called the *Bytown*, and intended for towing rafts, a Brig of 240 tons, and a Ship of 517 tons, old measure, were launched at Quebec, the latter end of last week.

At the annual meeting of the American Tract Society, held last week at New York, the chair which the Dairyman's daughter (ELIZABETH WALBRIDGE, Isle of Wight,) occupied during her sickness, was presented before the audience.

The Montreal Medical Board met yesterday, when the following Members were present, namely:—ROBERT NELSON, *President*; DR. SEWELL, WOLFRENDEN, VALOIS, VALLEE, BRUNEAU, MEILLEUR; LEPROH, *Secretary*. Four candidates were examined on the Practice of Physic, and the following were admitted, namely:—PERIQUE MOORE, from St. Denis; and CHARLES SABOURIN, from Montreal. Mr. JACOB CRAWFORD, with a Diploma of M. D. from the University of Edinburgh, was admitted to have his Certificate from the Board. The following gentlemen were admitted to the Study of Medicine:—MESSRS. DUGAS, PILLET, BUTTES, DAVIDSON, VALLEE, MOREAU, LAMOTHE, DOUDENAU, MOORHEAD.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting for the election of office bearers will be held at the Society's Rooms in *St. James Street*, on Wednesday evening, the 18th instant, at seven o'clock.

ANDREW B. ARMOUR, *Rec. Sec.*

Narrative of Scenes, connected with the Revolt of the Section, at Paris, on the 13th of Vendemiaire, 4th year of the French Republic, corresponding with the 5th of October 1795. *Christian Era.*

This Tragedy finally terminated the Revolt with their characteristic energy; the affair of the 13th Vendemiaire, was not to be trifled with. It exhibited another of those sanguinary scenes, so frequently displayed, during the progress of the French Revolution.

As the great Napoleon was thought to have partaken of his heroic, and felt a blot upon his escutcheon, by his immoderate destructive agency in the affair, we by no means wonder at the attempt which has been made by his admirers to palliate it. In justice to history, we must observe, that it was not to the part which he took in the affair, that he owed his subsequent elevation.

It has been said that BONAPARTE slaughtered eight hundred persons in the streets of Paris, on that occasion; but on the contrary, he positively assured the people that no one should be injured, unless he was found in arms, and opposed him in full uniform,—and what he meant by that, we leave for the curious.

The Tuileries, at this time, was the residence of the Marine service, of the French Republic, and had come to Paris, at the time of the Revolution, for the purpose of repairing the Palace of Versailles. As I was present at this affair, I will endeavour to give the reader an impartial account of it.

The institution for the 4th year of the Republic, was in the charge of a Council of five hundred, called Council of Ancients, and our Executive Directory, had been embraced by the Departments, and was now going into operation; when the National Convention, by an extraordinary decree, declared that a certain portion of the Members should re-enchased, among whom BONAPARTE was one. This decree was received by the people with great indignation, and they were obliged to retire. I was dining at a *Restaurateur's* near the Palace des Victoires, when the first gun was fired. It created quite the business of every house, particularly with the women and children, who were soon to be laid in their graves. They were all in the streets of Paris, and every man was engaged by some unaccountable infatuation or fascination, that as their Body had passed a Resolution, that as their Body had passed as essentially to the success of the Revolution, that as they had declared that a certain number of the Members should be re-elected, among whom BONAPARTE was one, that they were the Representatives of the people; and resolved to support them, that they should be re-instated, till their re-election was secured.

This tyrannical act gave great umbrage and alarm to the Citizens of Paris, who took the lead in all revolutionary movements, and who had been the principal supporters of the Revolution. This was the signal; the Parisians threatened an appeal to arms; and the challenge was accepted by the Convention.

The Council passed the whole night between the 12th and 13th Vendemiaire, in the gallery of this Assembly, listening to their orators, *de toute force*. After a very stormy night, a vote was made and passed, that the country was in danger,—that the Tocsin should be sound throughout the territories of the Republic, and that the Members of the Convention should die at their posts. An awful silence ensued, which was rendered the more impressive from the boisterous animation of the previous discussion. This was only interrupted by the drums and trumpets which sounded *the general of the convocation to arms*, in the Lower Hall. I immediately descended the grand staircase of the Tuileries, and there saw paraded about fifteen hundred of the finest soldiers in Europe.

Both sides now prepared for the important conflict. About thirty-five thousand men were drafted from the militia of Paris, and placed under the command of officers of known talents, bravery, and patriotism. The Convention was equally active. General MENOU was entrusted with the command of the Guards of the Representation and Volunteers. This officer had attempted the evening before to disband some insurgents, who had assembled in *Le Jeune Près Theatre*, near the *Feydeau* theatre; but not succeeding, he appeared no more upon the scene.

BARRAS and BONAPARTE alone was confided all the arrangements for the defence of the Convention. Notwithstanding his achievements at Toulon, he was still new, I believe, only a *Chef de Brigade*, but he was immediately after this constituted General of Division.

The Conventional troops, undaunted at the immense numerical superiority of their adversaries, had surrounded the palace, and planted their cannon in the most commanding positions. An order was now sent, and for the last time, by a flag of truce, to the Convention, to disband. This was refused with indignation. The Convention, firmly resolved, if necessary, to die at their posts, refused it, and passed to the order of the day. At this moment I was upon the spot, and saw the different flags passing, accompanied with music which and good humour among the soldiers was not to be seen. I could not conceive that these men were so soon to meet in mortal combat. But this is a peculiarity in the character of the French. They can smile amid scenes of slaughter; they can be gay, in the midst of wounds, and death.

About noon, the Parisian troops were in motion, in order to gain the different entrances to the Hall of Session, and to force them. The attack was made at the point nearest to the Pont Neuf, from the Convention was in that from the Champs Elysées. But I must now narrate, which was through the *Rue St. Honoré*, every man was engaged by some unaccountable infatuation or fascination, that as their Body had passed a Resolution, that as their Body had passed as essentially to the success of the Revolution, that as they had declared that a certain number of the Members should be re-enchased, among whom BONAPARTE was one, that they were the Representatives of the people; and resolved to support them, that they should be re-instated, till their re-election was secured.

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