of many officers, and they have utterly abolished many large sinecures. They have saved half a million annually in the Naval and Admiralty departments, and they have purged the customs of those overpaid places which in former times and never so much as in the early part of the reign of George the Third, were bestowed upon young nobles at schools or in their cradles. They acted also with great sincerity and a manifest zeal in all that concerned the Reform Act; and if this act was crippled in its passage through the house by the very absurd enactment that all persons should lose their right of being registered, in any given years, unless at the time of registry they had paid up all rates and taxes due the April next preceding,– if the Reform Bill we say, were thus crippled, it was certainly no fault of the Whigs. So far, therefore, they are entitled to be regarded as public benefactors by all those who consider the reform to have been a public benefit; they acted sincerely in it, and zealously in it; they gave up nothing which they could maintain, and took all they could get. The recent article in the *Edinburgh Review*, attributed by Lord Durham to Lord Brougham, and from its intrinsic evidence we believe justly so, is chiefly of public interest on this ground, that it shows the first purpose of the Whig reformers was to have conferred a reform far more sweeping and radical, and that they only abandoned this purpose from the necessity of making some concessions to the known feelings of the House of Lords. Such therefore, is the amount of the public debt, and obligation to the Whigs,—and the drawback is, that in Ireland, if not in England, they have unquestionably unsettled all the ordinary securities of property, and have originated a state of things which renders it impossible in that unhappy country to enjoy property in that quiet possession and secure confidence which ought to be the first fruits of civil government. In Ireland, the Whig measures and Whig principles, have thrown every thing into disorder, and have given such confidence to agitation, sedition, and actual insurrection, as to destroy all the peace and security of private life.

The first duty, first object, and almost sole value of civil government, is to protect individuals, by the common power and strength of the state; and in what does this protection consist but in the quiet enjoyment of property? In enabling every man to possess his field or his house as every proprietor ought to possess it; to use them himself or to receive the rent of them from another. Of the many thousands of persons, who, as we trust, will read our journal this day, how many of them are those, who in return for the heavy taxes they pay to government, reap any possible advantage from government and the laws, but that they are enabled to enjoy their own property in peace and security; so that no one can violently oust them from their house or land, or if they let them out, can refuse or withhold the rent. Practically speaking, therefore, this is the main value of civil government, and if it do not render this fruit, if it do not afford us this protection, it is then a thing which costs us a most oppressive and ruinous price, and produces no value in return; it is a nuisance, an extortion, an oppression. Now, as regards Ireland, have not the Whigs rendered this the character of their government! Does the actual government protect any of the Irish proprietors in the quiet enjoyment of their own estates? Does it secure the landlords the receipt of their rents? Does it secure the church and clergy to get that portion of their tithes which shall enable them to live from year to year? Is there anything like the effective protestion of the law to property of any kind? Is there not a general and a most pernicious example, that the clergy have been almost deprived of the possibility of enforcing their legal and ancient rights by a conferderacy to withhold tithes; and is there not a feeling also gaining ground that the same progress of passive resistance may succcessfully employed against all other proprietors,—that the peasantry may thus obtain actual possession of the land, and all the landlords be effectually ousted? In one word, is there any other civilized kingdom in Europe which presents a worthy parallel with the present state of Ireland; a kingdom in which a most costly machinery of civil government exists for no other purpose but to receive its pay and salary, without duly or indeed at all protecting the peaceful enjoyment of the rights of person and property?

It is under these circumstances, that for a second time within the last fifty years (the first occasion being the well-known Irish volunteers in the case of the Irish propositions) that the Protestant people of Ireland appear again resolved to come forward in their own persons, and to undertake that defence for themselves, which the Whig government will not render them. Such is the object of the county of Down meeting, and we think that the noblemen and gentlemen there assembled were fully justified both in the language they employed, and in the purposes and resolutions they avowed. We think, that the conduct of ministers towards Ireland, and as regards O'Connell, has been insufferably negligent, and that they have only strengthened and confirmed that agitation which it was their first duty to have suppressed.

THE STAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1835.

We are much gratified to find that the "ROYAL GAZETTE" has at length, like its Royal Patron, "spoken out." This decided, and manly conduct, has given us another hope that our country will not yet emulate the "Emerald Isle" in all her much-to-be-lamented, and melancholy state of inquietude, and insubordination, her sectarian hostility, her poverty, or her crimes. If there be attempts to raise in this country, a power that could intimidate the Government; depose the Judges; deprive some of the Mercantile body of their independence of spirit, and their respectability as British Merchants, by tempting their cupidity, and by holding out to them the hope of a gain, that could be purchased only at the expence of their becoming the creatures of a domineering Priesthood, who would by such detested and destable bribery sink the spirited and manly Presses of the Country, into unending darkness: and the liberties of the people into unmitigated and interminable slavery: it is time that the wavering should become steady; and the temporizing become decisive. The "ROYAL GAZETTE" says well, that the "Mercantile body" in this country, have, but, to "be unanimous," and the liberties of the people will be guarded from the grasp of the worst species of tyranny.

There may be ONE or TWO Merchants in the Island, who say that they came to the country to glean a fortune; and that they will not stop at the means by which they are to gratify this darling propensity. Their love of lucre has swallowed up every other consideration.

What is the country to *them?* nothing; a barren rock, a wilderness. What are the people to *them?* worse than nothing; the slaves whereby they are to gain the only object that they worship. What is a piece of dirty paper called a Newspaper, to *them* or the PRESS from which it emanated, if by withholding their advertisements from the one, and their support from the other; they are to get the assistance of Midas and his band of willing slaves to assist them in the facinating worship of their pecuniary Deity. But we call upon them to pause. If they, either from love of lucre, or force of intimidation, should be prevailed upon to withhold their support from *any* Newspaper in the Island; what is to hinder them from being *obliged* to withhold their support from *all*. Away then would go the liberty of the people, which depends on the liberty of the Press. But where would be the liberty; the respectability of those unfortunate sons of Midas?

The same power that made them slaves, made them bow, low in the dust before the Altar of the God of their Idolatry; that power could sweep from them, their shrine and their idol, and leave them detested by men of spirit, and despised by men of honor and integrity; leave them to bury their baseness in the common herd of their sovereign Dictator's subjects. The same power that tempted their cupidity, and made them the willing tools, by which the liberties of the people were to be invaded, could also coerce those tools.

The power that said to them, "withhold your support from the Press; prefer the labour of *my* people; riches shall be yours; the flesh pots of Egypt shall not depart from your dwelling, until you depart from this 'land of fogs' with wealth enough to disguise your cupidity in the land of your fathers, 'till the end of your days." *This* would sound tempting. But, suppose we were to reverse the picture: it wants not the tints of imaginative colouring: its naked deformity requires nothing but the hand of nature, and a *native* to delineate the traits that will distinguish it, as surely now, as they have distinguished it during the lapse of centuries. Suppose the power, were to say, to those money making adventurers; those *one* or *two*, or three may-be, who are sighing for the means of building a palace among their native hills, and who are despising the country, and the people, who are to give them those means: "you *shall* employ, or supply none but *my* people; you *shall* give forty pounds wages for the summer, all in hard dollars; and a free birth to the seal fishery and you *shall* give to them unlimited credit, and all the other means whereby "they may increase their numbers, and consequently our power and emolument;" "you *must* obey your willingness was purchased; you sold the PRESS, and 'the liberties of the People for gold,' and we have a right over a part of your pelf, which ought to be applied to the extension of our power, and the support of our high and mighty rule." "Refuse: and the thorn, and the *thistle* shall spring up in your lonely dwelling, and the shamrock shall wither if it approach your borders; you shall sneak from the 'land of fogs' more depressed than you entered it; and you had better seek a country where our power is not known; for, we forget not; we forgive not."

We find by a Proclamation in the "GAZETTE" of the 24th ulto, that the Northern Circuit Court will be holden at Harbour Grace on the 20th instant, and continue until the 23d of May next.

We have hitherto been silent spectators though by no means negligent or inattentive observers, of the fiendish attempts which have been made, and well-nigh succeeded, in rendering this once peaceable community almost to atoms. We have, we say, silently, though not without extreme indignation, witnessed these attempts; but it has become our paramount duty to be no longer so: we feel ourselves irresistibly compelled to put our shoulder to the wheel, and to lend our feeble, but zealous aid to shield not only THE PRESS, but the whole fabric of society, from the insidious attacks which have so basely—and with such hellish zeal—been made to annihilate the one and undermine the other. As the Proprietors as well of the oldest Press, as of the oldest Newspaper, in this Town, we are compelled to step forward in defence of its liberties, and to assist a Contemporary who, we are ashamed to acknowledge, has, till now, stood alone in the field. Our chief motive for keeping aloof was an ardent desire not to add to, if we could not diminish, the ill-feeling which had unhappily been engendered: we had also indulged the hope that the evil would, ere this, have cured itself;—in this, however, we have not only been most grievously disappointed, but have day after day become more and more convinced that the evil is increasing in a most frightful degree; and that, until some radical change shall have been effected in a certain quarter, all hope of amendment is vain and utterly futile. That we are no alarmists, the reserve we have hitherto maintained affords abundant proof; but there must be bounds to that reserve; and we most sensibly feel that the limit which we had prescribed to our interference has already been greatly encroached upon. It is no longer, therefore, a question of prudence, but of the most absolute necessity, that we should declare our sentiments, and our determination to support the liberty of the Press which has been so foully attacked, and to put forth this our manifesto against that influence which, to use the words of a very celebrated resolution of the House of Commons, "*has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished.*"

To effect this we must have the co-operation of the Mercantile body, and we do not hesitate to say, that if the Merchants of St. John's will only be firm—true to themselves and to each other— the thing is easily done. We therefore seriously invite their attention to this important subject, and enjoin them not to submit to a faction which is hastening, with rapid strides, to annihilate their respectability, and to bring them under a domination that will grind them to the dust.

We write, also, in the hope that the Press of Great Britain will see and understand the abject state to which it is sought to reduce the Inhabitants of this Island; and we conjure it to reiterate, from the Land's End to John O'Groat's house, the sentiments we desire to express. We have somewhat exceeded our limits, but the subject is of such vast importance that we cannot lose sight of it, and shall revert to it again at an early opportunity.—*Royal Gazette, March* 17.

We calmly, respectfully, but firmly ask His Excellency Governor PRESCOTT this direct question—and we do it, not that we believe that his Excellency would lend himself to a purpose, but to give his Excellency an opportunity of disclaiming it, and setting the public mind at rest upon the subject; and farther, the solution of the question which we are about to put, is of infinite moment as regards ourselves; as it may influence the conduct and decide the course we shall think it our duty to pursue in the threatened struggle; and ardently do we hope and desire that we shall be able to draw a distinct line between GOVERNOR PRESCOTT and the *Royal Gazette*.—The question we would put is this—Has the editorial article in Tuesday's Gazette the sanction or approval of Governor PRESCOTT?—For ourselves we unequivocally affirm that a *Royal Gazette* has no right of interference so long as no principle of the constitution is attempted to be violated. If the executive do permit such interference, and thereby allow itself to be made a party to a faction who would wish to subvert liberty and religion and interfere with the rights of the subject, and take up the cudgels against a party who are strenuous in their efforts to uphold the laws inviolate and the constitution unimpaired—who would be the first to rally round the standard of His Excellency to support these righteous principles—and join a faction opposed to good government and allied to misrule and corruption,—if it do, the mildest construction we can put upon it is, that the government has thought it expedient to mix itself up in the quarrel, and sanctions to the fullest extent the same cause which the *Gazette* has expoused.—*Patriot, March* 24.

For the expression of our sentiments last week, on the present posture of affairs, and of the honest indignation which we, in common with the well-disposed portion of the community, cannot avoid feeling on the all-engrossing subject which now completely absorbs their attention, we have, we are somewhat proud to say, received the most unequivocal testimony of the public approbation—accompanied tho' it has been by sundry tokens of displeasure from the slaves or tools of the faction whose unrighteous proceedings we felt ourselves obliged to condemn. Of the value of these last mentioned *marks of distinction*, we are fully sensible; and we duly appreciate the spirit which actuates the instigators of them. It is that spirit—we had almost said, that *satanic spirit*—which we desire to see suppressed, and to effect which, we shall not be deterred by the lawless acts of any party whatever. Encouraged, therefore, as we are by the approbation of the most respectable of our fellow citizens—though perfectly unawed by the denunciations (in whatever shape they may come) of the unchristian instigators of the misguided rabble—we shall pursue the course which the force of circumstances has compelled us to take,—commenting, as we may think proper and necessary on the occurrences of the day, and giving our opinions fearlessly and firmly on the subject which has obliged us to deviate from our beaten track, until both cause and effect have been removed, and the happy unanimity which once prevailed shall be again restored. We write "more in sorrow than in anger;" but having "put our hands to the plough," we can neither "look back," nor suffer ourselves to be accused of deserting our Contemporary at the present eventful crisis.—*Royal Gazette, March* 24.

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