

the Castle did not want the members to speak their own mind on the question. On the contrary, it did everything to induce members to support the new Act. Castlereagh told the House of Commons to discuss the question with coolness, and then quietly dismissed from office those who had been bold enough to oppose his project. Handsome bribes were likewise resorted to as an effective means to quiet consciences or hasten conviction. So openly indeed were force and seduction used that Mr. G. Ponsonby, Sir Jonah Barrington and William Conyngham Plunkett openly accused Castlereagh of using these foul means to attain his end. The last mentioned especially was unsparing in denunciation and defied anyone in the House of Commons to deny the truth of the accusation.

Castlereagh declared that he would *compensate* all who lost patronage or interest by reason of the new Act. He officially announced, *firstly*, that every proprietor of boroughs would receive £15,000 (\$75,000) for every member he returned; *secondly*, that every member who had purchased a seat in parliament would have his purchase money repaid to him out of the treasury of Ireland; *thirdly*, that all members who were losers by the Union would be fully recompensed for their losses, and that £1,500,000 (\$7,500,000) would be devoted to this service. The price paid for Union votes alone amounted to £1,000,000 (\$5,000,000). Then forty new peerages were created and conferred as bribes; ten Anglican bishoprics, thirty new county judgeships and various other lucrative offices were likewise liberally bestowed to help on the measure.

Thus £5,000,000 (\$25,000,000) were spent by Castlereagh to pass the Act of Union. Evidently no question of conviction was involved. The national independence of the Irish people was bought and sold as so much merchandise, the people not having the power to stay the shameless proceeding, the sellers being a venal parliament composed, with a few honorable exceptions, of men the most base and sordid, the buyer being Pitt of England who took from the Irish treasury the money that wrought her ruin. The Irish people, then, are not responsible for the Act; the parliament which sat at Dublin is responsible, but its responsi-