

THE DISSENTERS.

(From the Newcastle Journal.)

The dissenters are forward in telling us but it is not a whit more true because they tell us the story) that they constitute the great majority of the Kingdom. Peter M. Cullloch, however, who used to be a great authority with them in things political, is not precisely of their mind upon this question, for in his recent "Statistical Account of Great Britain," he estimates the entire number of dissenters in England and Wales does not exceed two millions, seven hundred thousand, or at most, three millions; and of these, from five hundred to six hundred thousand may be Roman Catholics. He gives the whole population of England and Wales in round numbers at fourteen millions. From the clamour and uproar which has been raised by a portion of the political dissenters on the subject of church-rates, any man would suppose that whether their call for relief were just or unjust, they were at all events labouring under an overwhelming burden of pecuniary exaction. Without for a moment forsaking that great religious and constitutional point—the right and duty of the state to require and provide a rational tribute for the support of religion—let us just inquire to what extent the "tender consciences" are suffering, and ascertain what proportion their outcry bears to its origin.—The proportion of church-rates paid by the dissenters, it was recently stated in the House of Commons, was about one-twentieth of the whole amount collected. The rate for last year was estimated at £600,000, of which sum £30,000 only was contributed by the dissenters, the members of the Church of England, of course, furnishing the difference of £570,000. We should have supposed the "liberal" dissenters, "that numerous, wealthy, and influential body," would have treated this miserable £30,000 with philosophical contempt; but as, on the contrary, they raise a fearful din about it, it may be well to examine the account as it stands between them and the national church:—

Voted by parliament to dissenting ministers in the year of the above estimate.....	£25,000
And a further sum towards the erection of dissenting chapels and the popish college of Maynooth.....	24,000
	£49,000
Out of these two sums churchmen paid seven eighths, say	£43,000
Deduct proportion of church-rates paid by dissenters....	30,000
	£13,000

Showing a balance of thirteen thousand pounds a year, which churchmen were paying towards the support of dissent, more than the dissenters were paying towards the established church. Very tender-conscience gentlemen these are indeed! We hope that "numerous, wealthy, and influential body" will immediately transmit the above sum to the ecclesiastical commissioners, after which we will talk with them about the justice and expediency of a national constitution for the support of national Christianity.

The impudent demagogue, O'Connell—the only public man who avowedly and openly exists on mendicancies from mendicants—has issued an impudent manifesto, in the fear that the Melbourne cabinet are numbered, and that, as a necessary consequence, his own licence for agitation will not be renewed. We have published this document in full, in order that our readers may see to what length his unchecked and rebellious insolence goes.

The public mendicant, alluding to what he calls the probable results of the conservatives coming into office, says that they would probably superannuate many of the Irish judges, and replace them by "furious, fiery, and indignant partisans." Now, this charge of what might be, as O'Connell thinks, comes in laughable contrast with what he, as O'Connell knows. The two last appointments made in Ireland by the faction show his friends and tools) whom he has denounced as "base, bloody, and brutal," show that the whigs have done what, with matchless audacity, he affects to believe could be done by their successors. The elevation of O'Loughlin and Richards to the bench, because they were partisans, "furious, fiery, and indignant," of the ministry, stands out, in bold relief, as a contrast to what conservatives might do. The best Lord Chancellor, it is admitted by all parties, that Ireland ever had, was Sir Edward Blyden, whom a conservative ministry, in 1834, placed on the bench in room of the gentleman immortalized by Cobbett as the father of the Hibernals.

O'Connell calls upon the Irish to petition the King—to remonstrate with him against appointing a conservative cabinet. He speaks of millions signing these petitions. He might as well speak to the winds as speak to the Irish peasantry now. What can he gain on last "simultaneous meetings" day? Some half hundred petitions from the whole of Ireland! The people—

the seven millions, as he calls them—are heart-sick of his bombast and his selfishness. They will not obey the bidding of this man He hangs on Ireland, like the Old Man of the Sea upon the neck of Sinbad, and, drunk as he was with pride and power, they are shaking him off at last.

Will this be denied? Look to the main point. See how "the rint" is in arrears.—That is the test. The pence do not come in. The begging box goes round in vain. The peasants have not the inclination to be charitable to this political beggar, and if they had, they want the money. They want it, because they find that the law is stronger than their opposition: the law has said that tithes shall be paid, the peasants resisted the payment, the law is enforced, and the peasants find, in the end, that the payment must be made, with the addition of costs.—They feel that, but for the advice—the treacherous advice of O'Connell—they never would have resisted tithes, and they will not pay him for having caused them shattered hopes and broken fortunes. Poor as they were, the advice of this man has made them poorer. Is it likely that they, quick to perceive and ready to resent an injury, can continue to pay the heavy impost, out of which O'Connell has annually swindled them, for his personal emolument.

O'Connell's braggadocio epistle to "My dear French" can have little effect in Ireland. Time was when it might, but his day is over. He may have fulfil gleams of popularity, but the steady flame is gone. The Irish have found him out. They see how awfully he has duped them, and they will not readily be seduced to further rebellions against the law, merely because he wills it. The scorn, the contempt in which he is held in England, casts its shadow across the Irish sea. The various tricks, the many shiftings of this dangerous man, are becoming matter of thought in Ireland, and conviction surely goes on, that love of money and power, rather than love of country, has been the impelling motive of this man.—Could it have been in anticipation of such a person that Dr Johnson emphatically declared, that patriotism was "the last refuge of a scoundrel!"—*Liv. Mail.*

The *Courier* of Friday night mentions that it had received a letter, dated the 14th, from its correspondent at St. Sebastian, stating that a truce having been that day held at the advanced posts between the Carlists and Christians, the correspondents of the *Times* and the *Morning Herald*, in their anxiety to obtain information, had advanced too far, and were seized as spies by the Carlists, hurried to Hernani, and in two hours afterwards were shot by order of Don Carlos.—The *Morning Chronicle* of yesterday doubts the truth of the statement, as it had a letter from St. Sebastian of the same date, and another from Bayonne, two days later, neither of which makes any mention of such an occurrence. The *Times* and the *Herald* also speak of the thing as doubtful. Further intelligence from Spain, to set the matter at rest, is anxiously looked for.

We are happy in being enabled to state that, having made anxious inquiry up to a late hour last night at the foreign-office, no accounts had reached that department confirmatory of the announcement made by an evening paper, on the authority of a letter from St. Sebastian, that two gentlemen, the correspondents of morning contemporaries, had been captured and assassinated by the Carlists at Hernani.—*Observer.*

O'CONNELL AND RAPHAEL.—These two names are likely soon to appear again in company before the gentlemen of the long robe; an action is brought, (we presume for a libel) by Mr Raphael against Mr O'Connell, and the latter has retained Mr Sergeant Wilde.

STATE OF IRELAND.—Lord John Russell, in his speech in the debate on Spanish affairs, asserted that, on application to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, that nobleman has replied that he can dispense with the service of two regiments of infantry and one of cavalry, in consequence of the confidence reposed in his government. In the teeth of this assertion, may we presume to ask whether Sir Edward Blakeney has not, within the last fortnight, applied for another cavalry regiment, to supply the place of the 3d Light Dragoons, ordered to India, and if so, what was the reply.—*United Service Gazette.*

IRISH TITHES.—We are gratified to learn that the disposition of the country people to pay the established clergy their tithes, is more widely spreading every day, and in this country the feeling has become so general, that it will not be necessary, it is thought to enforce the many decrees against defaulters issued at last quarter-sessions, and the execution of which the constabulary have got orders to facilitate. Numerous demands have been paid off this month in different parishes.—*Limerick Chronicle.*

EMIGRATION FROM IRELAND.—For many years past there has not been such extensive emigration from Ireland to Canada and the United States as during the present season. The emigration is principally from the pro-

vince of Ulster, and the persons leaving are generally in comfortable circumstances.—Three vessels with emigrants have left Limerick since the commencement of the spring. From CloghJordan in the county of Tipperary, a considerable number of Protestant farmers, who are known by the name of "Palatines," an industrious and respectable class of agriculturists, have emigrated this season for America.

SPAIN.

BAYONNE, APRIL 23.

I am most positively assured that a serious misunderstanding has arisen between Generals Espartero and Evans, owing to the Christiano commander-in-chief having resolved on embarking at Portugalette for San Sebastian, with 10,000 men, and placing himself at the head of the troops in that fortress, and to make a sortie against the Carlists. Evans, I am most credibly informed, intends leaving San Sebastian the instant Espartero disembarks, and that he has sent, such his determination, by courier, to Madrid. M. Gamboa, the Spanish Consul at Bayonne, alarmed at the quarrels of these valiant chiefs, has earnestly entreated Espartero to march to Miranda, cover the Ebro, and offer a determined resistance to the passage of the Carlist expedition into Old Castile.

The projected expedition of the Infante seems to have turned the brains of all the Christiano generals; they are all on the alert, and preparing for marching forward. All the Christiano troops round and in Pampeluna marched out of that fortress on the 18th, taking the direction of the Solano, with the intention of taking up a position near the Ebro. The Carlist battalion, under the orders of Brigadier Ripalda and Zariategui, the same day followed the Christiano army.

I know not whether the Carlists are yet prepared for quitting the Basque provinces, but in a letter, which I received this afternoon from the head quarters of the Infante, dated Tolosa, the 19th, I find the following sentence:—"I expect that in a few days our movements will surprise Europe." The Infante Don Sebastian, who has been confined to his bed for the last few days with the *grippe*, is now perfectly recovered. Don Carlos on the 30th was at Estella.

I am assured that the projected Mendizabal loan, the contractors of which were to have been Messrs Rothschild and Aguado is not likely to be realised. One of the principal conditions, and, in fact, the only inducement to M. Aguado to listen even for a minute to the propositions of M. Mendizabal, was the promise made by the Spanish minister of finance to give M. Aguado a receipt in full of all past transactions between that gentleman and the government of Ferdinand the Seventh!

A letter from Valencia, of the 15th, gives as official, that Cabrera had compelled fort Barriani (Valencia), situated within three miles of the coast, to surrender. The whole of the garrison were made prisoners. Cabrera got possession of two pieces of eight, one mortar, and a quantity of ammunition. The inhabitants of Valencia were flying, en masse, to the Carlists for protection rather than fall into the hands of the exaltados.—It is publicly reported that the ex-minister Lopez directed all the movements of the sanguinary republican party.—*Correspondent of the Morning Herald, April 28.*

LATE ATTEMPT UPON THE LIFE OF LOUIS PHILIPPE.

FINAL CONVICTION OF MEUNIER, AND ACQUITTAL OF LAVAUX AND LACAZE—JUDGMENT OF THE COURT OF PEERS.

The court met at half-past ten o'clock yesterday morning, and continued in secret deliberation till a quarter past seven in the evening, when the public were admitted, and the court pronounced the following judgment:—

"The Court—
"Concerning Meunier—considering that, on the 27th of December last, by the use of fire-arms, he made an attempt against the person and life of the King;

"Concerning Lavaux and Lacaze—that there does not result from the previous proceedings, or from the trial, any sufficient proof that they had rendered themselves guilty either as principals or accomplices, in the above-mentioned attempt, or of a conspiracy preceding the attempt;

"Declares that Lavaux and Lacaze are acquitted of the charge laid against them, and orders that they be immediately set at liberty, unless detained on any other account;

"Declares Meunier guilty of an attempt against the person of the King, a crime provided against by articles 86 and 88 of the penal code;

"Condemns Meunier to the penalty of death.

"Orders that he shall be taken to the place of execution, bare-foot, his head covered with a black veil, that he be exposed on the scaffold while a hoissier shall read his sentence to the people, and that he be immediately put to death;

"Condemns him to pay the costs of the prosecution.

"Orders that this present sentence be ex-

ecuted under the direction of the procureur general du roi. That it be printed and posted up, and notified to the culprit by the registrar of the court."

This judgment was not decided, says the *Constitutionnel*, without a very animated discussion. Several speeches were delivered both for and against the acquittal, and it is even said that some of the members spoke three times on the subject.

The *National* states that Meunier's family intend to apply for the extension of the royal mercy to that criminal, on the ground of his being at times decidedly of unsound mind.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The latest accounts respecting this wretched convict represent him as having lost all hope and courage the moment his own advocate, M. Delaule, gave in his opinion to the court that his client was guilty, and deserved death, but that the only extenuating circumstances were in the probability of his having been a tool in the hands of others. This was more interpreted as a politic avowal on the part of M. Delaule, than as an act of hostility against his client, being meant to disarm the severity of the sentence.

The two persons acquitted were immediately released, and were received by a number of friends and relatives outside the court, who conducted them, with tokens of joy to the rue Montmartre, where Lavaux lives. There, also, a number of journey-men saddlers were collected to give their comrade a welcome.

The general belief is that Meunier will be executed early on Thursday morning, at the place St. Jacques; but our correspondent, who mentions this, intimates his disbelief of it.—*Ibid.*

CURRENCY.

A short and pithy pamphlet, in the shape of question and answer, intitled "The Currency Question in a Nut-shell," has just appeared, from which we take the following extracts:—

"Our present monetary system was established at a time when the real principles of currency were but little understood by most of our public men. One great circumstance therefore, appears to have been overlooked, which should have been taken into consideration—namely, the altered state of the country, from having contracted a debt of £800,000,000. The currency was settled upon a footing which would have been correct had no debt existed; but in the case in which the country then stood, it was an error of the most fatal kind. Logicians tell us, that if it be necessary to take ten circumstances into consideration to form a correct judgment upon any subject, and we only take nine into account, that however correctly we may reason upon the nine, we shall come to a wrong conclusion. This was the case when the present gold currency was established, the operation of the national debt upon prices being apparently forgotten. We can only account for this fatal oversight by supposing that it arose from the circumstance that such a debt had never before been known or dreamed of, and that our rulers had not then that knowledge of the question which experience teaches, and which is now so painfully enforced upon us.

"The Bank of England is in a very trying and difficult situation. The directors appear to be anxious to do everything that they possibly can to ameliorate the distress, but they can neither lend nor withhold assistance without being themselves placed in jeopardy. If they make advances and relieve the embarrassed parties they increase the number of their notes, which they must pay if required in gold sovereigns, and this while they have but a very small stock of bullion in their coffers. On the other hand, if they withhold assistance, and allow the embarrassed parties to stop payment, such a shock will be given to credit, and such a panic produced, as may speedily drain the Bank of its last sovereign. It is to be hoped, however, that the present state of things will at length convince the government and the country of the error which has been committed, in returning to cash payments at a standard utterly unsuitable to the present engagements of the country, and that they will immediately take this important matter into their most attentive consideration, with a view to its being rectified—if they do not, the most serious consequences may be apprehended, of which there are at present not a few indications, and which are daily increasing, both in number and importance."—*West of England Conservative, May 3.*

MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND.

"On the 14th April, 40 of the Scots Greys, under the command of Captain Fawcett, with Lieut. Craven, arrived at Kingscourt, county Cavan, and on the 18th inst. that force was increased by a company of the 93d Highlanders, from Newry, and on the same day three companies of the same regiment took possession of Ballyborough, Ballyjamesduff, and Virginia, at which latter place is also stationed a Field Officer and a troop of the Queen's Bays, from Longford;