

The conduct of the Irish Agitator in voting against the white slaves of the factory system is already before the public. We care not what the motive was, the fact speaks for itself. It is enough to know that the man whose slaves call him "liberator," but whose language, whose manners, whose intolerance of the opinions of others show that he has all the elements of the vulgar tyrant in his composition—it is enough to know that this man indignantly denounced the system of infant slavery at a public meeting, asking "if it was to be permitted in a Christian country that infants' blood should be weighed against bags of cotton and bales of silk," and went into the House of Commons and voted for the system which he had thus held up to public execration!—it is enough to know that fact, we say, to form a tolerably accurate estimate of the sincerity of that man's professions on behalf of the outraged rights of humanity, who gives to the victims of sordid tyranny his voice, and strengthens the arms of their oppressors by his vote. But who could expect the helpless factory children of England should receive better treatment at his hands than his own famishing countrymen and their destitute families, the most utterly forlorn and wretched of the human race?

O'Connell boasts of his successful exertions to keep the present Ministry in office. We believe it is one of the instances in which he has not violated truth. This man, then, is the *Atlas* of the Melbourne Administration. He who holds it up can tumble it down when he pleases. His influence over the Ministry is commensurate with his power to serve or ruin them. To obtain his assistance they abandoned the principles of their party—the Conservative creed of Constitutional Whiggism—for of the old Whigs the creed was essentially Conservative; it was the creed of the patriots of 1688; therefore, a creed in its principle decidedly Protestant, and in its effects preservative of our ancient and glorious institutions in Church and State; such was the creed of *Chatham* and *Fox*, and *Tierney* and *Sheridan*; compare with it the principles avowed and the measures supported by Lord *Melbourne* and Lord *Holland*, *Spring Rice* and Lord *John Russell*, at the present day, and the difference will be just what exists between enlightened liberty and democratic licentiousness—between patriotic Conservatism and Jacobinical destruction.

As O'Connell exercises such an extraordinary influence over the degraded Ministry that ratified the monstrous coalition with him at Litchfield House, it is quite clear that at any time since that disgraceful compact was formed, he had only to say to his Ministerial vassals "My starving countrymen must have, and that immediately, the protection of a good poor law against the agonies of hunger," and it would have been done. Did he exercise that extraordinary influence to improve in the slightest degree the condition of his suffering countrymen? Let Englishmen read the evidence of the unparalleled destitution of the labouring classes of the Irish population—let them there learn how truth surpasses fiction in its pictures of heart-rending woe and wretchedness, and then, closing the melancholy volumes, ask himself what has the man, who calls himself the "Liberator of Ireland," done for the myriads of his countrymen whose misery those volumes but faintly portrayed? Perhaps he may find a practical answer on looking to the returns of the O'Connell tribute. There he will find that the money-craving Agitator has coined

his political influence into gold for his own advantage—has made all other charities tributary to his mendicant patriotism—has collected his alm of noble Dukes and of pinched mechanics—of Whig leaders, of mill-owners, of liberal Jews, and economical Christians, and, slinging his replenished wallet over his shoulder, at the close of every harvest of rent-gathering agitation, left his beggared countrymen to starve!

Even this man is now forced by public opinion to give a reluctant, and what we think will prove a treacherous consent to the enactment of a legal provision for the famishing Irish poor. He was, indeed, a pretended advocate for a poor law many years ago, but afterwards became an avowed and bitter opponent of such a measure. In regard to his inconsistency upon this subject, the late Dr. *Doyle* took him to task, and O'Connell not being able to deny the facts which the Right Rev. Doctor adduced, had the cool effrontery to say that consistency was a "pitiful quality." About two years ago he retracted the retraction of his opinion as to an Irish poor law, and then, as is the case of the factory children, made a vehement speech in favour of the necessity of such a measure, promising it all his advocacy in the next session. Since then two sessions have passed, and what has he or Lord *Morpeth* done for the starving Irish poor? The *mendicity fund* in Dublin, on which the existence of two thousand wretched beings depended, has broken down as the O'Connell alms have increased. The charity which he collects for himself is the *Aaron's rod* that swallows up all other charities. Yet, in spite of him, there must be an Irish poor law, but not such a one as that odious Malthusian law which the Whigs have inflicted upon England.

*Sir J. M. Doyle and Col. Saavedra*.—An article which appeared in the "Revealer," reflecting upon the conduct of the British officers engaged in the service of Portugal has excited some interest at Lisbon. The author of the article was Col. Saavedra; and Sir J. Doyle and some of his brother officers taking fire at the affront, the former sent to the Colonel to demand an apology. An apology was refused, an appeal to arms was also refused, upon which the col. was told to consider himself horse-whipped, but the col. not considering any such thing, stuck to his first determination, and so the affair has ended.

Advices have been received here to-day from St. Helena, which state that a report had prevailed at the Cape and in India that since the transfer of the Island to His Majesty's government, the dues had increased, a rumour which, if believed, must tend materially to injure the interests of the Island, by inducing vessels to pass without calling; while the fact is, that no tax upon shipping whatever has been established, the additional duties being levied upon articles of importation only. These, in consequence of the transfer of the island from the company to His Majesty's government were, on British and Colonial goods imported in British ships *ad valorem* 3 per cent. Foreign goods in British ships *ad valorem* 6 per cent. Coffee, cocoa, chocolate, tea, pepper, spices, sugar, tobacco, cheroots, sugarcandy, curry powder, saucers, sago, dried fruits, and other groceries, drugs of all kinds, woollen, cotton, and silk manufactured goods and wearing apparel of every description the produce of Foreign Europe, America, or the Cape of Good Hope, and, all places to the eastward of it in British or Foreign ships *ad valorem* 10 per cent.

Letters from Valparaiso have been received this morning, of as late as the 13th July. Every thing was going on exceedingly prosperous, and the election for president was likely to pass over very quietly. A gentleman appointed by the commission to proceed to England, to arrange with the bondholders, was expected to leave for his mission very shortly, with complete powers upon

that subject. A law had been passed to establish a naval school at Valparaiso, which was to be supported by the impost of 6 cents per ton, per annum, on Chilean vessels.—Trade was progressing very favourably.

By accounts from Rio Grande we learn that a large Brazilian brig had arrived there from Rio Janeiro, with a body of troops on board. The entrenchments had been attacked during a thunder storm, but, after a brisk firing of nearly two hours, the rebels retired. The insurgent force, under Bento Gogaivez, had, to the number of 700 men, attacked the fortifications of Port Alegre, but were repulsed with great loss, and Port Alegre was considered safe.

Our accounts from Washington to-day furnish us with the annexed Treasury notice, which is moment to parties interested:—

"Notice is hereby given, that the whole of the third instalment under the Neapolitan treaty has reached this country, and, as soon as all the accounts relating thereto shall arrive, so that the net proceeds can be accurately ascertained, proper arrangements will be made as to the time and places of payment to the claimants, and public notice thereof given. In the meantime the certificates still remaining in the department will be forwarded as the claimant may please to direct.

(Signed) "LEVI WOODBURY,  
Sec. to the Treasury.

The present complement of the stud belonging to the Russian Countess Orloff Tshemensky, is 1320 horses, of Arab, English, and other races; the grounds attached to it, amount to 1080 acres, and the number of grooms and labourers employed in it are 4339.

The chair of mathematics in the University of London is vacant by the death of Professor White. Mr. De Morgan has been appointed to discharge the duties until Christmas.

CONVEYANCE OF SOUND.—As is already known, the alterations now taking place at the House of Commons are understood to be under the direction of Mr. D. B. Reid, the President of the Edinburgh Philosophical Society. The objects to secure clearer conveyance of sound and better ventilation; and to effect them, the ceiling of the house is being lowered, and there is building a tower for ventilating chimneys, in Cotton-garden. Mr. Reid was examined before a committee on the ventilation of the houses of parliament. A great deal of the evidence which has occasioned the order for the alterations has been published. It would, however, be scarcely intelligible to the general reader without diagrams. The following passage, as to the best form of room for the conveyance of sound is curious:—"What should you consider the essential conditions of a room for the purpose of the houses of parliament in reference to the communication of sound?—With respect to the form, a square form on the whole I should be inclined to prefer, as bringing the members nearer to one another than can be done by the circular form, which is very ill adapted for the communication of sound in a building such as the House of Commons, whereas the other is not. Do you mean perfectly square or oblong?—I would say about square. Again, the walls ought to be as low as possible, and arranged in such a manner that no sound can be reflected repeatedly from the one to the other. The roof ought to be as low as possible, or as low as may be consistent with the size of the building, and to have a great reflecting power, so that the direct voice of the speaker may be strengthened by the reflection of the roof, and, lastly, the voice having been strengthened by this single reflection, all further continuance of the sound ought to be destroyed by throwing it upon some absorbing surface, as upon an irregular and matted floor. I might add here, from a number of different experiments, I found no difficulty in conversing at the distance of from 100 to 1000 feet in the open air. Sir John Ross told me lately when I met him at Dublin, that he had no difficulty in conversing at the distance of a mile in a still and silent atmosphere, which often occurs in the Polar regions. Lieutenant Bowen has conversed at the distance of a mile, or upwards, across a frozen lake."

LENGTH, WEIGHT, AND THICKNESS OF THE NATIONAL DEBT.—The weight of the National Debt, in gold, amounts to 14,088,475 lb or 6,289 tons, 9 cwt., 3 qrs., 13 lb.; in silver, to 266,666,666 lb. or 119,047 tons, 12 cwt., 1 qr., 14 lb. To transport this debt across the seas, in gold, it would require a fleet of 25 ships of 250 tons burthen each. To carry the debt by land, would require 12,580 one-horse carts, each cart being loaded with half a ton of gold. These would extend, in one unbroken line 35½ miles.—If conveyed by soldiers, and every soldier were to carry 50 lb weight in his knapsack, it would require an army of 281,769 men.—Eight hundred millions of sovereigns, piled one upon another, or formed into one close column, would extend 710 miles. If this

column were commenced at the Lizard, an extreme point of Cornwall, and continued northward, it would reach 10 miles beyond John o'Groat's house, at the extreme point of Scotland. The same number of sovereigns, laid flat, in a straight line, and touching each other, would extend 11,048 miles; or nearly twice round the moon.—Eight hundred millions of one-pound Bank of England notes, sewed together, would cover a turnpike road 40 feet wide, and 1,052 miles long; or from Land's-end to John o'Groat's house, and nearly half-way back again. If the notes were sewed together, end to end, they would form a belt long enough to go four times round the world, or sixteen times round the moon.—The whole population is estimated at one thousand millions of souls. An equal distribution of the National Debt, would give 16s. to every man, woman, and child; or 4l to every family on the face of the earth.—Were England to conquer all Europe, and levy a general poll tax to pay off her present debt, she must have from every man, woman, and child, £5, 17s. 7½d.; or from every family throughout Europe, £29 8s. 2½d. Supposing, for a moment, such a thing possible as that we could procure from the Mexican mines, silver in sufficient quantity to pay off the debt, it would require, to bring it to England, a fleet of 476 ships of 250 tons each. To carry it to the Bank of England in one-horse carts, each containing half-a-ton of silver, it would take 258,095—These, ranged in one unbroken line, would extend 676 miles! or from Land's-end to within 24 miles of John o'Groat's house. If carried by men, each loaded with 50 lb weight, it would require 5,333,333; or 1,391,033 men in addition to the whole adult male population of Great Britain.

EXTRAORDINARY RAPIDITY OF COMMUNICATION.—We have been permitted to make extracts from the official log-book, kept at the Liverpool Telegraph Office, and by it we are in possession of instances of such extraordinary rapidity of communication, as appears almost incredible. It appears to be a rule in this office frequently to send a communication exactly as the clock strikes one, which notifies the time, and asks the question "is there anything to report?" An acknowledgment or answer to this is returned either "yes," or "no," as the case may be. The distance from Liverpool to Holyhead from station to station is seventy-two miles, hence there and back, 144 miles, and this signal and answer is considered unusually long if it occupies one minute. We find from the extracts above mentioned, that in the month of September, in which, by the bye, we have had much bad and stormy weather, this signal has been sent on 18 different days, the distance the signal must have passed in these 18 times must be 2,592 miles, which has been done in the incredibly short space of 16 minutes, and five seconds, being an average of 161 miles per minute. In 17 of the mentioned the distance 2,448 miles, the time occupied was 14 minutes 5 seconds, average 175 miles per minute. In 11 of the shortest periods, the distance was 1,584 miles, time occupied 7 minutes 5 seconds, average 223 miles per minute. In taking the five quickest communications during the month, we find the distance to have been 720 miles, the time occupies 2 minutes 20 seconds, being an average of 288 miles per minute. The shortest time during the month was on the 10th, when the signal passed and the answer was received in 23 seconds. When it is considered that there are 11 different telegraph stations, and only one man at each station, this will appear the more extraordinary; and speaks favourably of the management of Lieutenant Watson, under whose superintendance the telegraph was first established and still continues.—*Liv. Courier.*

EQUITABLE DISCOUNT SOCIETY.

Some months ago we noticed the establishment of a Company which had for its object the discounting of *bond-fide* bills at a rate of interest which, while it afforded a remunerating profit to the Company, would not act injuriously to those tradesmen who apply to have their bills cashed, by their paying an enormous rate of interest for the accommodation. The Company was founded through the usury laws being partially repealed by the 3rd and 4th, Wm. IV., c. 98, and by which capitalists have been enabled to lend their money for the purpose of discounting short-dated securities at a rate exceeding five per cent. At the time the Company was instituted, we called our readers' attention to the subject, and said that, if it acted upon the principles it put forth, it would be the medium of rendering considerable advantages to the holders of bills without the power of attaining ready money for the same, unless by resorting to ruinous means, as well as being a fair and lucrative channel for the employment of superfluous capital. It, in fact, was effecting, on a public and extensive scale, that benefit to trade which was intended by the alteration in the law, through removing restrictions on momentary transactions; and having always been the advocates for taking away what may be truly termed an *incubus*

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