

assassination of our credit would be effected to-morrow; and secondly, that nobody would own to the blame!

Now, if underhand dealing was the characteristic of the English peasant, if, like the owl and the bat, he had a propensity for darkness, it would, of course, be easy to prevail upon him to avoid the daylight; but instead of this being his character, even in fighting with his antagonist he disdains to strike a foul blow. Look at our railways: they have thrown out of employment hundreds of thousands of hard-working men, who honestly gained their subsistence by a system of travelling that has been suddenly superseded. Why have these poor men abstained from revenging themselves by placing at midnight some obstruction on the iron path that has ruined them? Why, simply because as Englishmen it is out of their nature to assassinate even property. Far, therefore, from entertaining any cowardly desire to vote in *secret*, their notion of freedom is to drink strong beer till they can hardly see; then arm-in-arm, with colours streaming from their hats, to walk to the hustings, roaring, with barn-door mouths, all the way they go, "SQUIRE ----- AND INDEPENDENCE FOR EVER! A LARGE LOAF, AND NO POPEY!"

Now, instead of encouraging open dealing—the birthright of an Englishman—our uppermost classes, sad to say, are making every endeavour to inculcate in the minds of the illiterate a depraved desire for power to assassinate in the dark not only our Public Faith and the continuance of a Civil List for the support of the Crown, but irresponsibly and with the utmost facility to sweep away every enactment that now prevents them from *socially* dividing among themselves that immense property of the country which industry and intelligence have gradually amassed, and which our institutions have hitherto protected.

For instance, in our leading newspaper there has lately been made, by a member of the House of Commons, the following extraordinary announcement:—

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'TIMES.'

"SIR,

"Observing in the 'Times' of to-day that you describe the success of the question of the ballot during the late session of Parliament as one of the decisive defeats of the present Ministry, I submit to you that such a statement is erroneous. Lord John Russell has always considered the