

and have no further need of them, therefore we will pay tithes no more; but the Reverend said it is my privilege by custom, and therefore you shall pay me, he then employed legal authority and took their household furniture with a design to sell it by auction to pay himself, but as he would have it by force, the fishermen and their wives tried their united strength in opposition; and thereby showed the Parson that they were the strongest party; when I left England it was expected that there would be further proceedings, but I have not heard how it ended, but I have heard that the lawyers in Ireland have refused to exort tithes, and it is probable that in England they will soon do likewise.

A few years since a Parson went to a small fishing town in his parish and demanded tithes of fish, but tithes of fish had never been paid in that place; the Parson I knew well, and I believe he knows about religion experimentally; he has manifested much zeal in his ministerial duties by preaching publicly and from house to house, warning his parishioners night and day, but many of them have their minds so filled with prejudice in consequence of the tithes, that they will never hear him preach, and they are to enquire can any good thing come out of Nazareth? such is the opinion that I have entertained of the Parson's piety that I could not have believed it possible for a man like him to have stooped to such mean actions if the evidence had not been irresistible. I have seen the wives of those fishermen come to the market in that town which was held only once a week, to buy a piece of meat, one has bought a pound, another a pound and a half, and a third three pounds, as they could find money to pay for it, and that scanty portion was all the butcher's meat, and frequently all the flesh of any kind that a man and his wife with three or four children had to make use of in a week. The distressing poverty of those fishermen and families is beyond what I can describe; but although that is the case, such are their attachments to their dirty pit of a town that I have heard some of them say they would not leave it for the Continent of America if they could have all the land given them for inheritance; what is most surprising that a man possessed of the least spark of grace should demand tithes of such persons, but it is a very strong proof, that the love of the world has much influence over the minds of some who have a degree of piety. When the Parson demanded his tithes of fish, he was heard by a bold resolute fellow who instantly exclaimed, what! tithes fish? what next! I believe ye have tithes of fish, we can't get bread half of our time with all the fish we catch: the man then snatched up a fish in his hand of the eel shape, known in England by the name of conger, and marched towards the Parson, and said to him "I'll be d—d if thee does not begone I'll stirrup thy head with this fish as long as it will hang together;" that bold stand made the Parson retreat at quick time without ever once demanding tithes of fish again.

My acquaintance with Miners is limited but I know they are very numerous in England, especially in Cornwall, a county at the south west extremity of the kingdom; its extent is 30 miles in length and 40 in breadth; it was reported last year that Cornwall contained 50,000 miners who are employed in the different tin and copper mines in that county. The Cornish miners fifty years since were considered by some people very little better than savages, but of late years they are become intelligent and well behaved a race of men as any of the same standing in society that are to be found in the British nation, and the reformation of those men has been truly attributed to the labours of the Wesleyan Methodists without pay from the tithes or the state. Mr. Joseph Benson was instrumental in doing much good amongst them. It is said the Cornish flocked to hear that venerable man preach to the number of 50,000 at one time in a populous mining district, and since that time there has been a very great reformation amongst them. I have been informed that those men are become so numerous that every advantage has been taken of them by their employers. Their wages is very little at best and they are curbed of that little by the Captains of the mines in a most shameful manner: they call it spoiling them for this, that and the other thing: when pay day comes they have very little money to receive, nearly all having before leaked out to the spoil. If it should so happen that the mines should fail, which is not altogether improbable, the miners must emigrate to Canada or somewhere else. If I am correctly informed the titheowners get dues paid them from the mines instead of tithes, so that those gentlemen must have from the earth, the sea, and from under the earth, or to speak more proper, have tithes out of the earth's bowels.

Last year the miners determined to obtain a remunerating price for their work; for that purpose the men belonging to one of the large mines entered into an agreement and drew up articles and signed them, and whoever broke those articles was to be punished in the manner following: he was to be fixed upon an Ass with his back towards the head of the Ass; he was to have his legs tied also under the Ass's belly, likewise a ticket stuck to his back written thus: "this is the black sheep of E. C. Mine," in that form he was to ride on the Ass through one of the most populous mining districts, a distance of from eight to twelve miles. One of the men broke the agreement and therefore was treated accordingly, in consequence of which several of the miners were taken up in a deceitful clandestine manner and put into jail, this circumstance excited the miners' indignation, and the jail was likely to have been torn down at considerable expence to the nation, the military were sent for to guard the jail but that would probably have proved ineffectual, if some of the magistrates who are deservedly popular had not pledged themselves to the miners that their comrade should be liberated without further punishment as soon as it could be done without offending the law: the committing magistrate if I am rightly informed was a hot brained Parson, and I think it is more than probable if the poor labouring miners had been paid in wages extra, what the Parson was paid in mine dues instead of tithes, the miners

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