

THE VERDICT.

The verdict of those of our subscribers who have received our Litho. Picture of GLADSTONE, PARNELL, DAVITT and O'BRIEN is that it is a magnificent picture of the HOME RULERS, and well worth the subscription money of the paper. We have received a large number of letters acknowledging receipt of the premium, a few of which we will publish in our next issue of THE TRUE WITNESS.

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We are unable to despatch them as quickly as we would like to, owing to the great demand from all quarters. We will endeavor to satisfy our patrons and will lose no time in sending the premium. Every paid subscriber will receive one. Every new subscriber will receive one with the first number of his paper.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1888.

The Liberal idea of Home Rule, as a speaker at the Remondie banquet said on Thursday night, is a free parliament on College Green. The Tory idea is to put Irish members of parliament in jail at Tuamore.

A COMMISSION, nominated by the Pope, is examining a project of His Holiness for founding in Rome, on the occasion of the Jubilee, an extensive philanthropic institution for the benefit of the working classes. Although the project has not been planned in all its details the Pope has destined a sum of \$40,000 for its realization. In this scheme he remains true to his constant policy of propitiating the working classes and gaining greater influence in Rome.

EVERYWHERE he goes in Italy Mr. Gladstone is hailed with enthusiasm by the people. He was honored with a serenade at Florence which augmented into a grand popular demonstration. The ex-premier appeared at one of the windows of his apartments and responded to the acclamations of the people. Mr. Gladstone afterward received a deputation of citizens, who expressed the admiration of the liberal democrats of Italy for Mr. Gladstone's political achievement. Mr. Gladstone, who responded in Italian, thanked them for their kind wishes. At Rome the Grand Old Man will, it is said, have an interview with the Pope.

The Burlington, Vt., Free Press gravely discusses the possibilities of war between the United States and Canada, and pays the Dominion the compliment of being better prepared for a campaign than the Republic. Here are its views:

The final result of war with the Dominion of Canada could hardly be doubtful. Canada, or as much of it as the United States cared to occupy, would be taken and held. But this could not be done without hard fighting and great destruction of human life. The military war has grown vastly more destructive since our civil war ended; and Canada is by no means unequipped for fighting. The Dominion Government spends a million dollars

a year on its militia. It has 70,000 stand of arms as good as our government could place in the hands of its troops. A "Jutant-General Powell of the Dominion, said the other day that Canada could now in forty-eight hours put 250,000 men in the field and \$25,000 more, fully equipped, inside of one week. There are, he said, in addition to the 38,000 men of the active militia, one-half of whom put in an annual drill of sixteen days every year, an enrolled force of nearly 500,000 who have at some time or another drilled, now on the reserve list, who would be available in event of trouble. Canada is not to be despised as an antagonist, even if England were not back of her province. We do not fear a war with England on account of Canada or the fisheries. The interests of the two countries and especially the common interests of the United States and Canada, are too intimate and important to permit such a calamity. But if it should ever happen it would be no boys' play.

We read in the Irish papers that His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne, through his agent, Townsend Trench, has been guilty of an act of forcible appropriation of another man's property, for which he may have to pay very dearly in costs and damages. His lordship, in the course of an eviction which he was carrying out against a Mrs. Byrne, a widow, forcibly seized on the holding of a neighboring blacksmith and expelled the tenant. The case has now been tried in the Court of Exchequer, and the jury has found that the force did not belong to Lansdowne at all. Mr. Whelehan, the tenant, looks forward to an ample compensation for the gross injury that has been done by the rapacious landsharks—Lansdowne, Trench and Co.

CAN we wonder at Nihilism in America when we read in a New York labor paper of women sewing shirts, with their very heart strings for thread, and shivering for want of fuel? Miners in Pennsylvania wanting shirts and standing idle upon unmeasured stores of coal. Families, scores of thousands, roosting in narrow tenement rooms, and vacant lots close by. Men and women struggling cityward in search of work, and fallow fields growing up in thorns and underbrush behind them. An ever increasing swarm of tramps wandering over the country. And a fresh army of five thousand men standing idle in the bitter cold in New York.

In a recent letter from Rev. Dr. Bernard O'Reilly, the distinguished writer gives the following personal view of the latest form of English Government persecution, which is so vividly displayed before the eyes of the world:

"Ah, well, if any one can discover in the authentic records of the Inquisition any prison treatment more barbarous than that which they are now inflicting on the heroic William O'Brien, and for what it is, at its worst, a political offence, and what I deem a most noble act of civic virtue, I should feel indebted to my teacher. Do not the most fierce of religious and political fanaticism which burned in the breast of Cromwell and that other Balfour still live in the bosoms of Lord Salisbury and his worthy nephew? But—thank God for it—England in 1887 is beginning to know and to hate with a thorough hatred the atrocious spirit which governed Ireland in 1867, and which Dublin Castle has so skillfully cherished ever since. But, while furnished and maddened landlordism is thus resorting to such fatal extremities, and a well organized and disciplined people are knit together in closer unity and invincible resolution by the cruelties inflicted on their leaders, I find that the great work of national education is being pushed on with an ardor that knows no flagging. Irishmen feel, for do not the sympathetic voices of Protestant England, Scotland, and Wales tell them so—that Home Rule cannot now be long deferred, and that there will be careers enough and work enough for their trained sons and daughters? So the schools were never so full, nor doing such admirable work.

HOME RULE, as represented by Sir Thomas Edmond, obtained a splendid triumph in Montreal on the 4th inst. In numbers, enthusiasm and financial results, the event was thoroughly satisfactory. Not only were Irishmen present to help the cause, but also Scotchmen, French Canadians and Englishmen, whose eloquent and cheering words had the true ring of that patriotism which would extend the blessings of liberty to all classes and all peoples. The effect of such a meeting and expressions of opinion by leading citizens of the first Canadian city must have a far-reaching effect not only in giving courage to the Nationalists, but also in adding confusion to their enemies. Even English Tories must see in the earnestness and unity with which their conduct is condemned by the people of Canada a staggering proof of the folly and inutility of a policy which aims at the destruction of the principles of constitutional freedom. From what fell from the several speakers last night we can gather abundant evidence that the Home Rule cause has extended far beyond the mere limits of a question of home politics. It has become, like the rising in France and the revolution in America, a movement of world-wide extent, and the fierceness with which it is opposed by the upholders of privilege shows that they recognize its true meaning, and calculate its ultimate results in the destruction of a system which gives to the idle, the vicious and the wasteful the proceeds of the toil of the industrious. If there is a country in the world where the stupid, disgraceful notion that labor is dishonorable prevails, it is Ireland. This miserable survival of feudal ideas must be crushed out under the heels of those whose manhood is strengthened by toil and who recognize no man's right to live in sloth on the pretence of owning the land which God has given to him only who cultivates it. As Carlyle has said, "labor wide as the earth has its summit in heaven." The reverse of this applies to idleness whose foundations are in the other place. In reality, the Irish question in its essence is labor against theft. That the laborer will win, we cannot doubt without doubting the justice of the Almighty.

THE UNIONIST BREAK UP.

Disintegration of the Liberal disintegrants as a party is a great, pregnant fact in British politics. The feeling against Balfour and his outrageous methods is growing stronger every day in England. Hardly a week passes but defections from the Ministerial ranks are reported. The other day Sir Thomas Grove, one of the members for Wiltshire, announced his withdrawal from the coercion party. The London Echo, a pronounced Unionist organ, has turned furiously on the coercionists. In a late issue it asks: "Does anyone for a moment think that the Lord Mayor of Dublin will be in any way cowed or lose popularity by suffering two months' imprisonment? He will rather emerge from his prison a stronger and a more popular man. Should he come to this country, no halia would be big enough to hold the multitudes who would flock to listen to him. Where he would have one to listen to him before his trial and imprisonment, he would have ten to listen to him now. The Government could not have done him and the cause he represents a greater service than by investing him with a martyr's fame. The Government vainly imagine that they have conquered the Lord Mayor of Dublin. He, rather, is conquering the Government. As it is with the Lord Mayor, so it is with other members of Parliament. The greatest enemy of the Government at the present moment is Mr. Balfour. But this suicidal coercive activity is not only subversive of the Government, but it is destructive of the Union. Mr. Gladstone never uttered anything truer than when he said that the Coercion Act was a savage Act savagely administered." To this the Dublin Nation adds: "The coercionist party is fast breaking up. It was possible that if the administration of the Coercion Act fell into the hands of a strong man, who, even as a despot, would command homage, Englishmen could not have seen the entire odiousness of the coercion policy. But in the hands of a tyrant so mean and contemptible as Arthur Balfour, even the Tories are ashamed of the discredit which his lies and pettifoggery vindictiveness have brought on their country and party."

THE LIBEL LAW.

Judge Jetté's decision, that newspapers publishing the proceedings of public trials and reports of cases before the courts, thereby libel the persons tried and the parties engaged in the litigation, has opened a field for practice which a certain class of lawyers are hastening to occupy. Should it be sustained by the court of last resort, whether all such suits will be carried if entered against THE POST, this province will cease to hold the same civil rights as the other provinces of the Dominion where "a free press, the palladium of the people's rights," is guaranteed under British law and British institutions.

But Judge Jetté's decision is in direct contradiction to a decision given by Judge Davidson in this city a few months ago. We are, therefore, inclined to think that the view held in accordance with the recognized principles of British institutions is more likely to be sustained than a dicta founded on obsolete laws, enacted before the newspaper press was born, and framed for a state of society which has ceased to exist. But if Judge Jetté correctly interprets the law, the sooner the law is amended the better. It is simply an outrage on common sense for any law to maintain that the proceedings in open court shall be held libellous when honestly and correctly reported. A somewhat similar decision was made a few weeks ago by Judge Papineau, and the reaffirmation thereof by Judge Jetté is only another application of an antiquated quack to which the press of this country will never submit.

It raises the whole question of newspaper responsibility to the public who look to the newspaper for information of what goes on in the courts, in order that they may have a knowledge of the proceedings and those who take part in them. The history of judicature has not established the infallibility of judges. Quite the contrary. We know what judges ought to be. We also know what some judges have been.

Newspapers are not "obliged," said Judge Papineau, on the occasion referred to, "to reproduce the accusations, nor even the sentences against individuals." Certainly not, but they do so in pursuit of their legitimate business and are recognized by a place being provided them in the courts to take notes of the proceedings and by being allowed access to the records for the avowed purpose of publication.

Judge Papineau also said, "They (the newspapers) do reproduce and publish 'them (court reports) for the purpose of making money by developing the morbid curiosity of a certain class of people for scandal and sensational news.'"

We have yet to learn that a judge on the bench has the right to accuse his fellow-citizens of the crime of debauching public morals for the sordid purpose of making money, without proof to sustain the accusation. There may be a very low class of publications which make a business of publishing details of vice and crime, but there are no such journals in Canada; none, certainly, in Montreal. We know that judges are privileged when on the bench. But we presume it is not necessary to cite authorities to show they should not exceed their privilege. We hold by the old Chaucerian idea of the Sanctissimus Jures. Yet we do not forget Scroggs nor Jeffries, nor that Erskine, in defending Thomas Hardy on trial for high treason, called Lord Coke—the great Coke—"the infamous prosecutor of Raleigh." This expression in a court where Coke himself once presided, permitted without rebuke, ought to have warned judges of the danger that may attend decisions contrary to the spirit of the times.

Let us remind all who feel even a passing interest in this matter that the purpose for which laws are framed is to protect the rights

of the individual and the public. When a person is indicted, whether the alleged offense is an infraction of the civil or the criminal law, if a conviction follow, he has been legally adjudged the enemy of society, and it is the duty of every newspaper which professes to guard the community to publish the facts of his case, so that he may no longer occupy a position where he can exercise his peculiar talents to the disadvantage of the community.

Lex datur propter regnum, non regnum propter legem.

A PLEA FOR UNITY.

Dr. Burns' letter to the St. Patrick's Society of this city, published in another column, echoes a sentiment which has frequently found expression during the struggle for Irish freedom. The reverend gentleman said he trusted to see a mixed audience of Catholics and Protestants on the occasion of his address on the celebration of the anniversary of St. Patrick, and declared that his aim is to bring our countrymen to join "hands for the sake of our common country." "We have had too much bitterness and too little conciliation; hence we have been weak in the presence of our common foe. Ireland united would be victorious and prosperous. When Irishmen understand each other they will not be kept apart; we ought to pull together, and we will ere long."

Dr. Burns, like the Rev. Mr. Pepper, is a Methodist and an eloquent, patriotic gentleman, whose advocacy of justice to Ireland has won for him the unbounded admiration and love of the Irish people at home and abroad. No petty sectarian jealousy of his Catholic fellow-countrymen enters into his devotion to a cause for which the noblest characters in history have suffered, and for which Protestants as well as Catholics are now enduring bitter persecution. The plea for unity which he has made is wise and opportune, and is strongly emphasized by the new fact that Englishmen have crossed the Irish sea to unite with the oppressed people of Ireland in support of a cause made sacred through centuries of unparalleled misery. When Englishmen are thus moved, how much more cordial should Irishmen work together, forgetting differences of religious opinion, and inspired by one thought, one purpose.

A few weeks ago the Rev. Dr. Bernard O'Reilly, the gifted author and correspondent, addressed a letter to Irishmen in all parts of the world, urging them to use their utmost influence to resist the growth of that sentiment that would countenance the employment of incendiary measures and substitute the secret societies, with their weapons of assassination and dark conspiracies against individuals, for the leadership of Parnell and the guidance of the Irish hierarchy and clergy in the great struggle for liberty now going on in Ireland. Dr. O'Reilly points out that the strength of the Irish National movement is centred in the unbroken union of Irishmen and the compact front presented by the popular masses under the leadership of the Parliamentary party. The hope of the movement lies in the patient endurance of the people of the acts of repression and coercion exercised against them by the hostile government to force them into acts of open resistance. The most effective aid which the oppressor would receive at the present time, and the severest blow that could be dealt the cause for which the leaders of the people have struggled and suffered, would come from an organization in Ireland that would unfurl the flag of revolution and separation and disunite the ranks of the National party.

Perhaps at no period in the history of the Irish struggle has there been a greater need for unity and patience, and it is a matter of profound satisfaction to all who desire an early and a happy termination to that struggle to find Protestant ministers joining with Catholic priests in the generous effort to unite all Irishmen in one single body for the settlement of an unnatural feud. Dr. O'Reilly's noble, impressive words should be taken to heart by all, and maintained unflinchingly as expressing the policy by which Irishmen everywhere are guided. He writes:—

As the battle for Home Rule stands at present, the part of Irishmen in Ireland is to maintain a firm array—to allow no discord from within or no amount of pressure from without to create disorder in their ranks. Members of Parliament, members of the National League, priests, bishops and archbishops even, are ready to follow William O'Reilly to prison and to endure and sacrifice everything for their people, provided that these keep firmly together and dishonor the national cause by no violence, no crime, no act which can strengthen the hands of coercion or bring a blush to the cheek of any man among the hundred millions of freemen who are the friends of Ireland all over the English-speaking world.

Thus united and thus sustained by crime, Irishmen at home can bear or forbear, can suffer all that the utmost malice of rampant Toryism can inflict during the present winter. With the dawn of spring, as sure as it will bring warmth and verdure and gladness to the snow-covered fields of Iowa and Minnesota, so surely will come to Ireland and will be flashed to you in America the tidings that the battle for Ireland has been won.

Toryism—that is, landlordism—gone mad, is rousing into active and intense antagonism the masses of the people in England, Wales and Scotland. There passes not a day without some large accession to the glorious army which Gladstone leads against landlordism and Dublin Castle. These are the legions which are doing the active fighting. Of Irishmen, their allies in the cause, they only ask that they shall "hold the fort," and by no imprudent sallies give advantage to the enemy.

Of Irishmen and the friends of Ireland in America I would ask at this critical hour, big with the fate of the country and the people, to do so much as that they would strengthen the hands of Gladstone and Parnell by discountenancing all violent and revolutionary methods—all secret organizations, all seditious and unblended attempts which would turn away from a people struggling in the agonies

of eviction and starvation the sympathies and prayers of all Christendom.

Of my brother clergymen in the United States and Canada I would also ask—as they love the name of suffering Catholic Ireland; as they wish to see that land of the saints restored to freedom, to peace, to prosperity—that they use all their influence, all their endeavors in counselling the peaceful, constitutional, legal methods recommended to Irishmen by our venerated Holy Father, sanctioned by the Irish hierarchy, and urged by Mr. Gladstone and the Irish Parliamentary party, as the sure means of triumphing over prejudice and injustice.

I beseech the members of the National League in every city and town throughout the United States to protest openly and energetically against every attempt, no matter by whom made, at the present moment to introduce dissension and division into the ranks of Irishmen.

Great difficulties have been placed in the way of Irish patriotism by those who have fostered prejudices against the Irish people. Unfortunately, these enemies have been aided in their work by noisy, indiscreet agitators, who, by advocacy of wild, criminal expedients, have done incalculable mischief to the cause they professed to serve. But the wisdom and influence of the leaders have triumphed over the dangerous obstacles, and the Irish people present a front to-day that is the admiration of the world, while it strikes dismay into the hearts of the tyrannical Tories. We trust, therefore, that the hope expressed by Dr. Burns will be amply fulfilled, and that when he comes to Montreal to celebrate the feast of St. Patrick he will meet a hearty welcome from Irishmen of all faiths, as well as from lovers of freedom and justice of every nationality represented in the community.

LOYALTY AND ANNEXATION.

Commenting on the abuse heaped upon Mr. Ellis, M.P., for his paper, the St. John Globe, advocating annexation, the Halifax Chronicle recalls the correspondence that passed between Mr. Alexander T. Galt and Sir John Young, Governor-General of Canada, when the former gentleman was offered a knighthood. Mr. Galt wrote:—

"I regard the confederation of the British North American provinces as a measure which must ultimately lead to their separation from Great Britain."

"The present connection is undoubtedly an embarrassment to Great Britain in her relations to the United States, and a source of uneasiness to the Dominion, owing to the insecurity which is felt to exist from the possibility of a rupture between the two nations."

The letter quoted is dated May 15, 1869. On Dec 25 Mr. Galt received the following reply from the Governor-General:—

"My Dear Mr. Galt:—I have received a highly satisfactory letter from Lord Granville, which he has empowered me to let you see in confidence. Accordingly, I enclose it with the request that you will return it when read. I accept my congratulations. I hope you will wear the distinction in health and comfort for many a year."

Believe me, Faithfully yours, JOHN YOUNG.

Upon this the Chronicle observes: "There was no howling by the Governor-General or by the Home Government about Mr. Galt violating his oath of office. He was not called upon by any fools to resign his seat. He received his patent of knighthood, and was thereby acquitted of disloyalty because of his advocacy of the separation of Canada from Great Britain, and the establishment of an independent Canadian nationality. Now, will any of our Tory contemporaries draw a distinction between the case of Hon. A. T. Galt, M.P., and Mr. John V. Ellis, M.P. Don't all speak at once."

A TRUE VIEW OF RECIPROCITY.

A writer in the January number of the Magazine of American History presents a statesmanlike view of the question of unrestricted reciprocity. He justly considers it the most important subject before our people and one of great interest to the United States. The policy by which the present ruling party obtained power has failed to fulfil the promises of its advocates. To one class, we admit, it has proved of vast advantage. It has enriched the manufacturers. But at whose expense? Undoubtedly at the expense of the farmers, the workmen and those engaged in lumbering and fishing. It has intensified the evil tendency of the age which is to build up great cities at the cost of rural depopulation. A policy to be truly national would not enrich one class at the expense of other classes, but would be alike beneficial to all. Our present fiscal system was established as a cure for and prevention of hard times, yet for four years our farmers have had to face constantly declining markets for all they had to sell, while all they had to consume was kept at the highest figures, because manufacturers can combine to fix prices to suit themselves under the protection of a tariff which is no protection to the community at large. Nor is there at present any appearance of a change for the better. Hence arises apprehension of still further suffering. The bugbear raised by the Tory press that unrestricted reciprocity would lead to annexation has no terrors for people who have to face a still more repulsive alternative. But, as the writer alluded to above truly says: "The possibility of even an ultimate political union, however repulsively sketched by 'Tory papers, will hardly alarm this class (Canadian farmers), much harassed by local taxes, and whose ruin is only a question of a brief period with present expenses and prices of products. To such victims loss of homestead and ruin natural. It seems more afflicting than closer business and political connections with the 'public.'"

But what does all this noise about annexa-

tion amount to? The number of Canadians who have sought homes and employment in the United States is computed at one million two hundred thousand. Does this fact not sustain a blood relationship with our immediate neighbors, apart from the common kinship which we both alike owe to the mother country, far closer than what exists between us and Great Britain? Every year this relationship is getting closer, while that with England is diminishing. But this is merely a matter of sentiment. The actual trouble lies in the fact that the farmers of this country, who comprise the bulk of its inhabitants, are discontented, dissatisfied and apprehensive. What is known under various names as commercial union, unrestricted reciprocity, and continental free trade, offers the only relief from a situation that is fast becoming intolerable.

The appointment of the Fisheries Commission was hailed with delight in this country as affording an opportunity for the negotiation of a reciprocity treaty. Our people do not forget that under the old treaty, between 1854 and 1866, the aggregate trade of Canada and the United States between themselves rose from an annual average of \$14,230,763 in the eight preceding years to \$50,339,770, in gold, in the third year of its operation, and to \$34,070,955, war prices, in its thirteenth. Of this last volume in 1865-6, \$54,714,383 were exports from British North America. "Is it any wonder," asks the writer before quoted, "the Canadians should value such a market with its still greater extent and possibilities at present?" Those who quote Sir John Macdonald's oracular saying that as for commercial union "England does not want it, the United States do not want it, and Canada does not want it," have surely not reflected that none of the three have pronounced upon it. So far the question has been only up for discussion, and so far as can be ascertained, British opinion is that England would not interfere to prevent it. In the United States there is a distinct advance towards a settlement of all difficulties on commercial lines. In Canada we have the declaration of the conference of Provincial Premiers, the resolutions of some thirty odd Farmers' Institutes, and of the Dominion Grange, the voice of the Liberal and Independent press, and of leading politicians. Thus it is seen that Sir John Macdonald's saying is in direct contradiction to public sentiment in the three countries, so far as that sentiment has been expressed.

In conclusion let us quote the remarks of the writer in the Magazine of American History, which we are sure will meet the cordial approval of all men who desire to see an era of peace and good will established on this continent. "The social no less than the business connections of the two nations constantly ex-tending, the present does seem a most favorable occasion for the termination of old disputes, the cultivation of the kindly feelings on both sides, and the establishment of a system of commercial intercourse embodying the best possible guarantees for the future peace and prosperity of the two great kindred nations, so much alike in origin, experience and probable destiny. Let any changes favor their near approach, instead of their further separation! It cannot be doubted that the conclusion of a reciprocity treaty, no more liberal even than the list, would prove an important step towards results in every way so noble and desirable."

Every paid up subscriber to THE DAILY POST or TRUE WITNESS will receive one of our splendid Litho. Pictures, grouping Gladstone, Parnell, O'Brien and Davitt.

NEGRO CATHOLIC MISSIONS.

Some very interesting facts are disclosed in a handsome little pamphlet issued by Rev. John R. Satterly, of St. Joseph's Seminary, of Baltimore, an institution established for the training of colored missionaries to go among their African fellow-countrymen in the southern States. From it we learn that there are 7,000,000 negroes in the whole United States. 500,000 live in the Northern and Western States from Maine to Oregon. 1,500,000 live in Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas and Texas; all formerly slave States. 5,000,000 dwell between the Potomac and the Gulf, in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. In these eight States there are as many negroes as whites.

Concerning the religion of these people, we learn that there are 3,000,000 communicants and members all told, claimed by the various Protestant sects. 100,000, hardly, are Catholics. 3,000,000, and more, consequently, have no professed religion; not, indeed, from any fault of theirs, for they are naturally a religious people; but because there are none to teach them. It will thus be seen that this is a cause which all devout souls ought to assist, if within their power. Those who feel they can do so, may communicate with Father Satterly, whose address is given above.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD is attending Methodist revival meetings at Ottawa. It will be a good thing if somebody should yank the old sinner to the penitent bench and get him to tell all his experience. What a tale he could unfold!

AND now the meeting of the Federal Parliament has been postponed till near the end of February. This is probably owing to the delays arising from the Washington Fisheries negotiations. It would never do for the Government to have the question of settlement discussed in Parliament before the terms had been agreed upon.