

affix their names who were helplessly ignorant of the whole matter; landlords producing a petition at their rent dinner, and the steward applying the gentle pressure; workhouses canvassed, and the paupers made to sign; and then how every member of the House of Commons who was at all amenable to a certain kind of influence, was made to feel it—to those who know these things, the greatest surprise is that there should have been any majority. It is highly creditable to the Liberation Society, and speaks volumes for their zeal and earnestness, that no less than two hundred and eighty-three members voted for the bill. *Both sides mustered stronger than upon any previous occasion*, the friends of Church rates numbering thirty-two more votes, and their opponents fifteen more votes than either had before reached. It is significant of the importance attached to the question, that it brought together no less than five hundred and fifty-one members, nearly as many as can ever be assembled upon the most exciting questions of state policy. For the satisfaction of those who like to note the progress of the question, as shown by the votes, we cut from the *Nonconformist* the following table:

	For Abolition.	Against it.	Total.
1853	174	222	396
1854	184	211	395
1855	219	191	410
1856	223	180	403
1858	213	162	375
—	227	155	382
—	268	205	473
1859	244	170	414
—	265	196	461
1860	265	236	501
—	235	226	461
1861	283	268	551

Despite slight fluctuations, it will be seen that there has been a steady increase in the numbers of those who are opposed to the rate; and as the masses of the people take a much deeper interest in the question than they did a few years back, there is no doubt that at the next general election it will be made a test point, and that a far larger number will enter parliament pledged to the abolition of the obnoxious impost, than upon any previous occasion. It is of course not yet safely through the Commons; it has the ordeal of the committee to pass, as also the third reading, and then the Lords! That the bill will pass the House of Peers, we do not for a moment expect; the bench of bishops will not yet cease to stop the way; they will resist to the last—resist until the torrent of public opinion obtains a force and dimensions which, mayhap, will carry away more than the Church-rate impost. To borrow a phrase from Mrs. Browning, they “want more madness.” It will come in time. Meanwhile the friends of willinghood, confident of ultimate victory, can afford to wait.

Is Emancipation a failure? Has the noble experiment, tried at so great a cost by the British people, in the West India Islands, resulted in disappointment? Are the hopes of philanthropists, the earnest expectations of good to the human race, to be considered as blasted and dead? For years—in fact almost from the date of Emancipation itself, there has been a croaking chorus in the affirmative to these questions; and it has been stoutly affirmed by the whole tribe of political-expediency mongers, that Emancipation was a huge