

tion of this difficult and perplexing problem, assigning as the chief impediment to its investigation hitherto, the unequal distribution of magnetic influence, and the difficulty of approaching the magnetic foci. Great advances, however, had been made; Professor Faraday all but demonstrated the identity of magnetism and electricity; the observations of Sabine, Franklin, Parry, Foster, &c., had shown in what direction the point of magnetic concentricity was to be sought.— Before leaving England, Captain Ross had obtained from the Admiralty a dipping needle, constructed by Jones, whose accuracy had been tested in previous expeditions.— From some defect in the vertical circle the observations made prior to 1831, are not very perfect, but that defect was remedied when discovered. The table of observations showed that the differences of observations were remarkable and great; but they also proved the tendency of errors to correct each other. When from these observations, the direction in which the magnetic pole should be sought, had been determined with tolerable precision, it was feared that it could only be approached by a land journey, the accomplishment of which was beyond the limited powers of the expedition. But these fears were dispelled by the discovery of the Great Western Ocean. The party first sent to explore, brought back only some imperfect indications of the object of their search, because they could only take with them a small supply of instruments; but when it appeared that another winter necessarily should be spent in these regions, Captain Ross made the necessary preparations for a more accurate survey. In May, 1831, he landed on the coast, and by a series of observations determined the place of the magnetic meridian, and, at least approximately, the position of the magnetic pole. Captain Ross detailed minutely all the tests used to determine that the place where he stood was the point of magnetic concentricity, and, so far as the evidence of instruments is decisive, the fact of the discovery was established. But he candidly added, that further investigations, and more especially accurate observations to the north-west and south-west of the place indicated, are necessary to ascertain the limits of error. These investigations he deemed an object worthy of national attention, because magnetism was peculiarly British science. Besides ascertaining the position of the pole it would be also of importance to determine its diurnal and annual motion, and its periodic variations if such exist. The place ascertained to be either the precise spot, or one in its immediate vicinity, was easily attainable; and he expressed his hopes that the British flag would soon wave on the magnetic pole. In the course of this interesting paper Captain Ross paid a merited compliment to the generous and liberal conduct of Felix Booth, Esq., by whose aid chiefly the gallant officer was enabled to proceed on his important enterprise.

THE IRISH PRESS.

On Monday a notice was published in the newspapers, and a placard circulated through the town, calling on the friends of Ireland, and of the freedom of the Press, to assemble

at the Exchange Coffee House on Tuesday evening at half past seven. A very numerous meeting was the result—between two and three hundred persons attended, the great mass of them Irishmen and their descendants, but embracing persons of all classes in the community. Michael Tobin Esq. was called to the chair.

The following resolutions were passed:—

Resolved, That this Meeting regards the recent suppression of the Pilot Newspaper as an act of hostility to Ireland, such as no previous administration has ever hazarded.

Resolved, That the late Secretary of Ireland; the present Secretary for the Colonies, the Right Honble. E. G. Stanley, has as little title to the confidence of Irishmen in this Province, as he possesses to that of Irishmen at home.

Resolved, That the gratitude of the "Friends of Ireland" is due to Daniel O'Connell, Esq. and that the triumph of Richard Lalor Shiel, Esq. over the base attempt perpetrated upon his character makes him dearer to his countrymen.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to receive such subscriptions as may be offered them in aid of Richard Barrett, Esq.

Resolved, That the opinions and feelings of this meeting, with the sum collected be transmitted to Richard Barrett, Esq.

Resolved, That this meeting duly appreciates the blessings of a free Press, conducted on principles of impartiality and independence, and looks to it, as the sentinel and safeguard of their rights and liberties.

A Committee of eight persons was then appointed to receive subscriptions, and £40 was immediately subscribed, and much of it collected in the room. A vote of thanks was then passed to the Chairman and the meeting adjourned. On seconding the first resolution, the Editor of the Novascotian

Mr Joseph Howe said that he, like the President, had come there ignorant of what was to be done, but being friendly to Ireland and to the liberty of the Press, the invitation conveyed in the notice was one he could not refuse. He had been requested to second the resolution just proposed by Mr Doyle, and he did so with a great deal of pleasure, for a more daring attack upon the liberties of Ireland than that to which the resolution referred, had seldom if ever been made. I am aware Sir, that in Europe, and even in this country, there are those who affect to despise and decry the Press—but I would tell them that the Press holds them and their hostility in utter contempt. We are told of the church universal, and those who seek to enslave mankind, and to outrage the great principles of truth and justice, will find that there is the Press universal, against which they can never stand. No matter in what country they forge the chain, or at what spot they strike the blow, the spirit of resistance will be evoked in every land where the Press has been established, and its common efforts shall provide for its common safety. Those who hate and persecute the Press, might as well try to controul the waves of the Atlantic as attempt to put it down. They neither understand its character nor can they measure its influence. For many thousands of years the world was governed without it, but how was it governed? by the sword of the

successful soldier, and the craft of the unscrupulous politician. Look now, Sir, to those countries where the Press has appeared, and mark its effects in the ameliorated and enlightened condition of the people; and shall it be tolerated that at this day, and in one of the British islands, such an attempt to destroy its liberty and independence as we have met to deprecate shall pass unnoticed and uncondemned? No, Sir, it becomes us to lend our sympathies at least, if not our assistance, to those who suffer in support of the Press in every clime. I can easily bring the case of Mr Barrett home to my own breast in a manner to excite my strongest feelings. Suppose that any act of oppression were committed here—that any great evil impended over my country, and that the most talented and patriotic of her sons had denounced it with the unmeasured severity it deserved, and that I had published his appeals. What would be my situation if I could be cast into prison, if my paper were suppressed, my hearth made desolate, and my family deprived of support? We should be thankful that our lot has been cast under happier auspices—we dwell in a land where the Press can protect itself—and where, almost unconscious of the struggles they have cost, we can enjoy the benefit of those great principles, which our forefathers fixed and have bequeathed. But while secure ourselves, let us not withhold our sympathies from others, and above all, let us pay back to the British Islands something of the debt of gratitude we owe, by contributing, as far as lies in our power, to uphold and protect their most valuable institution.

When formerly I used to meet such a body of Irishmen in this room, they had the mark of bondage about their necks—the print of slavery upon their brows. Then the emancipation act had not been carried, and Irishmen and the friends of Ireland used to assemble here, and look into each others faces with deep anxiety, to catch something which should animate their hopes or confirm their fears. Looking back to the past history of their country, and measuring the resources of their enemies and the lukewarmness of their friends, they scarcely dreamed that the recognition of their just right was so near at hand. Never shall I forget the evening upon which we met to congratulate each other on the final settlement of that great question, and when a meeting as numerous as this gave vent to their feelings of joy and pride. But Sir, had any man on that evening told me, that six years after that act was carried which secured to Irishmen equal privileges with their fellow-subjects, and laid the foundation of their freedom—that such an attempt as this would have been made on the liberty of the Press; that a gentleman would have been persecuted, imprisoned, and his paper suppressed, because he ventured to publish strictures upon the conduct of the Government, I could not have believed it. And had he added that this would be done by those who had lent their talents and their influence to the cause of Ireland; who, from the opposition benches had declared and maintained those principles of justice, which, taking their rise from christianity, can never be gainsayed—that those who were invested with power by the influence of the Press, would be the first to assail it, I confess, in the triumph of that hour, I would have treated him with contempt.

—Novascotian, April 10.