

## ENGLAND.

## THE RIOT AT BIRKENHEAD.

(From a Correspondent of the Dublin Freeman.)  
LIVERPOOL, Nov. 27, 1850.

According to previous arrangement, it was intended to hold a Protestant demonstration to express the feelings of the inhabitants of Birkenhead upon the recent "Papal aggression," as the bills issued by the magistrates designated the appointment of a Catholic Hierarchy. From the tone of the Liverpool meeting, and from the fact that Birkenhead is one of the most Catholic parts of Cheshire, it was anticipated that here at least fair play would be shown; but as hints got abroad that no such intention existed on the part of those who were the prime movers in this anti-social and anti-Christian movement, the Rev. Mr. Brown, the respected Catholic pastor of this district, deemed it his duty to address the following note to William Jackson, Esq., M. P., for Newcastle, and magistrate in the district:

"MY DEAR SIR,—Relying upon you as an independent magistrate, I trust you will prevent any improper packing of the Town Hall for party purposes on to-morrow, 27th inst. Being a public meeting, I think you will agree with me that no advantage of entrance should be given to any parties; and I am sure we may rely upon your impartiality in this respect. I am, my dear Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) G. F. BROWN,  
Incumbent of St. Weyberghs.

Nov. 26, 1850."

"MANOR-HOUSE, Nov. 27th.

"MY DEAR SIR—I have not in any way interfered with the arrangements for to-day's meeting. I hope both parties will avoid packing the room.

"You may rest assured I will endeavor to obtain for all who wish to speak an impartial hearing. I am, yours sincerely,

Rev. G. F. Brown."

WM. JACKSON.

Relying upon this note the Catholics (always confiding) up to within an hour of the time of meeting anticipated a fair hearing; and accordingly at an early, but not unusual hour, the precincts adjoining, and all the thoroughfares leading to the court-house were thronged by anxious masses of people anxious of taking part in the proceedings.

The authorities well-knowing that there was no intention on the part of the frightened bigots to give fair play to all classes, sent for a strong body of police from Liverpool to preserve (!) the peace. For this purpose 50 men, in addition to their own local forces, were placed at their disposal, and their first act was to make an unprovoked attack upon the offending people, many of whom they beat severely with their heavy and murderous lacmatae staves. This it was alleged was done to clear away the open space in front of the court-house. But judge of the surprise of the whole Catholic community when they found that a large force of men were placed at the doors, with strict orders to admit none but respectable ratepayers. The meeting was a town's meeting of the inhabitants at large—and this too at a meeting whose object was to abhor spiritual and temporal tyranny of all kinds!

Many highly-respectable Catholic ratepayers presented themselves for admission, and were refused by a Liverpool policeman, who could not possibly know anything about them. This, of course, was a mere official ruse, but it would not do. The people were good-tempered, and many of the refused applicants returned home, and came back again with their tax receipts, as a proof of denizenship. Still they were refused admission—they were not respectable enough—in fine, they were Catholics, and that dominant church which boasts so much of liberty of conscience must have that liberty all on her own side.

Evident signs of commotion were now manifested. Large bodies of the people armed with weapons similar to those in the hands of the police, and a serious riot was apprehended. It was whispered amongst the crowd that the military had been sent for; that they would be dispersed at the point of the bayonet, when one bold and respectable gentleman made this gallant observation, "If they cannot meet us with truth and argument, we cannot help it; they have resorted to bigoted brute force, but they must be met like men. We leave them the choice of weapons." This short speech had a magic effect. It showed the people that they had leaders. The people were confident in the justice of their cause. The people were right, as the sequel proved.

About this time the Reverend Mr. Brown, with benignant mildness addressed the assemblage. He besought them to obey the authorities, to avoid all disturbance, to lay down their rude sticks (poor weapons), to rely upon the eternal justice of their cause and to look forward to other and brighter days for their faith. This short exhortation was hailed with enthusiasm, and never did the world-renowned Father O'Leary behold a greater victory of religious simplicity over the masses to whom his fervid exhortations were addressed, than upon this occasion, when every man (rude and untutored though many of them were) came forward and laid at his feet his prized *shillelah*. Another rush here from the police scattered to the winds the good priest's eloquence. The people regained their sticks and waited with an awful and portentous silence the result.

The Rev. Mr. Brown and a body of about thirty Catholic gentlemen, and a few reporters, at length gained admittance to the room which they found about half filled with people and policemen. The magistrates present were William Jackson, Esq., Mr. Hall, Sir E. Cust, Bart., and a few others.

Upon entering the room the Catholic gentlemen were invited to a conference with the magistrates in their private room where some discussion took place, but for want of time I am unable to give you the particulars to-night.

During this time several ratepayers were ignominiously ejected from the steps of the building. At

length a well-known tradesman of Birkenhead was knocked down by Inspector Birney, of the Birkenhead force, kicked and trampled upon by that official. The silence burst—there was a shout, dull, and sombre, but a voice towering above all others shouted, "religious freedom," and in an instant a simultaneous attack was made upon both the police and the building. The pent-up insulted feelings of the people could bear no more. The camel was overloaded, and the consequences were fearful. In less than five minutes the building was gutted, and more than twenty policemen laid *hors de combat*—two so severely wounded as to be pronounced in great peril. The police made a sally, but were again defeated, and another with the like success. In the meeting room all was consternation. "Where are the magistrates?" cried one—"where is Sir Edward Cust to lead the police?" Search was made, and the valiant baronet, the Colonel of the Cheshire Light Cavalry, was found hid under the table! Mr. John Jackson, in great trepidation, exclaimed, "Oh! for God's sake, Mr. Brown, appease the people—you only can save our lives."

This appeal, though late, for the rev. gentleman, by the assistance of some friends, mounted one of the gutted windows, and, at great peril, addressed the infuriated people. He called upon them as men, as Catholics, to desist; to rather bear the injustice that had been inflicted upon them than to commit acts of violence. His calm mild demeanour, his persuasive eloquence, his kind discourse (when was kindness lost upon an Irishman!) swayed the multitude, and, under his advice, more than 3,000 resolute and indignant men marched from the scene of the bigot's defeat. He proceeded with his people to the chapel-yard, where he again addressed them as follows:—"We shall keep the committee in existence, and if anything more is done, you will hear of it. All I want of you now is, to disperse and go quietly home; because, in reality, although I am sorry there was a blow on my side, or anything of the kind, yet, after all, the meeting has been dissolved, and Birkenhead is the only town in England where a meeting of this kind, packed as they usually are, has terminated in defeat (great applause). All I ask from you is this:—First, give three cheers, three hearty, loyal, and Catholic cheers for our beloved Queen (tremendous and enthusiastic applause). We will stand by her crown and dignity under all circumstances; but we will also stand like men by our religion (loud applause). Now, after the Queen, three cheers for the Pope (tremendous applause).

A Voice—Three cheers for Father Brown himself (loud cheers). Another Voice—Three cheers for Mr. Bretherton (loud cheers).

The Rev. Mr. Brown—Now, let you all go home quietly, determined to offend no one. In the evening be good humored with all people, and now God bless you all (great applause).

The crowd assembled in the chapel-yard, then dispersed immediately.

Meantime, Sir Edward Cust rose, and addressing the few who then surrounded him, said—I adjourn the meeting to some other day, and some other place.

The meeting was, therefore, adjourned *sine die*. Shortly after the crowd partially dispersed, large bodies of police came upon the ground, and also some detachments of soldiers. About 25 policemen are wounded—we have not heard of any casualty on the other side. Inspector Birney, the proximate cause of this riot, and two others are not expected to live.

Nine o'clock.—The town is in a fearful state of commotion. The latest list states that more than 30 men have been wounded. The police are insolent and another attack is not improbable.

Threats have been made to wreck St. Weybergh's Catholic church. The people are up to defend it, and any such attempt will end in bloodshed.

The people are prepared—are willing, and, what is of more consequence, able to defend their rights.

In a riot which subsequently took place at Birkenhead, one man was killed, and several wounded.

## FURTHER PARTICULARS.

We understand that the rumour of a man being killed yesterday, during the great riot is untrue. We were informed to-day that the night passed off quietly. A company of the 52d were placed upon the ground during the night, but their services were uncalled for. No attack was made upon the Catholic chapel; as the populace had no intention of insulting or offending any person, of course they made no demonstration calculated to give offence. Obeying the advice of their pastor they retired at an early hour to their respective homes.

We understand that it is intended to hold a similar meeting upon Monday, and that Sir E. Cust, has summoned sufficient courage to preside. It is to be hoped that her Majesty's minister of the ceremonies will not find a hiding hole so convenient as upon yesterday.

CONVERSIONS.—Captain Patterson, brother of the clerical pervers of that name, and George Bowyer, Esq., D.C.L., of the Temple, editor of a Tractarian newspaper, and (it is believed) one of the contributors to the late "British Critic," have been received into the Romish Church. T. A. Drinkwater, Esq., (of Mr. Anderdon's "Religious Community" at Leicester), who was on the point of being ordained, but will now become a Romish Priest, was received by Father Oakley. Archdeacon Manning is going abroad immediately; he will be accompanied by other celebrated Tractarians.—*Church and State Gazette*.

The Bishop of Oxford is said to be a strong upholder of the practise of auricular confession. At St. Mary's Church, Reading, the incumbent of which (Mr. Yates) is a great personal friend of the bishop's, this Romish practice is as rigidly enforced as at Margaret Chapel or St. Barnabas; and, as his lordship has frequently resided at the rector's house, it cannot be supposed that he is not aware of the fact.—*Id.*

## IRELAND.

CROWN SOLICITORS—HOME CIRCUIT.—We regret to announce that Mr. Elliott, the Crown solicitor for the Queen's County and the county of Carlow, died on Wednesday at his residence in Harcourt-street. The important office vacant by that gentleman's decease is in the gift of the Lord Lieutenant, and, of course, no "MUMMER," or other party in the habit of making a "SUPERSTITIOUS USE of 'the sign of the cross'" need apply. It must be filled by an attorney, and, we believe, by an Irish attorney. If the centralizing policy had reached its proper and expected length, a member of the English profession might be appointed, in which case there would be little difficulty in selecting a legal gentleman fitted for the crisis, and who understood criminal jurisprudence in the spirit of the Lord Campbell, or mob equity in the sense of Baron Truro. It will be interesting to see how this office will be up, and no less instructive to watch whether there will be found a crown solicitor like unto the Lord Chief Justice of England, who promised that "if the Pope himself appeared in his triple crown before him, he would receive the same justice as if he were an humble priest"—thereby meaning that he would show as little respect to the Sovereign Pontiff as he would extend to a Roman Catholic curate, were some obsolete penal law to place him at the bar of the Queen's Bench. After the exhibition at the "No-Popery" banquet, there can be no difficulty in meting out the quantity of respect which Lord Campbell would extend under such circumstances.—*Dublin Freeman's Journal*.

Miss Hayes arrived in London from Dublin, and proceeds immediately for Rome, and thence for Russia, having to appear at the Imperial theatres of Moscow and St. Petersburg this winter. Our talented countrywoman will embark for New York early in the summer, upon professional engagement, in the United States, where the Irish Nightingale will be received with an enthusiastic admiration, probably not inferior to that of Jenny Lind.—*Irish paper*.

Samuel Martin, Esq., the first Irish Baron of the English Exchequer, has received the honor of Knighthood from her Majesty.

The Rt. Hon. R. L. Sheil, M.P., has arrived at his seat, Long Orchard, Tipperary.

## UNITED STATES.

It is with sincere regret that we announce the demise of the Rev. James Power, R. C. C., of the parish of Kill, in the Diocese of Waterford, Ireland. Having come to this country to raise funds towards defraying the debts of the new church, lately erected in the above mentioned parish—he was on his way home after a sojourn of twelve months in the States, where he met with an accident which deprived him of life. Whilst travelling in the stage from Reading to Harrisburg, (Pa.) he was so injured in the spine by its upset, as to render all that medical skill and attention could accomplish for his recovery. He lingered on for nearly four weeks, in the house of the Rev. Pierce Maher, of Harrisburg, whither he was conveyed enduring his sickness with christian fortitude and patience. He was strengthened in his last moments by the holy Sacraments of the Church, and died expressing his ardent attachment to the Spouse of Christ. We are confident that he now rests in the Lord, for his life was upright and blameless, truly worthy of the Christian Priesthood.—*Catholic Herald*.

On Saturday, 7th inst., Rev. Ambrose Mullen and Rev. Charles A. Egan, were promoted to the Priesthood by the Right Rev. Francis X. Gartland, Bishop of Savannah, in the Church of St. Augustine, Philadelphia.

OUR MINISTER IN LONDON.—Mayoral and Aldermanic feasts are proverbial for the certainty with which wine above the board causes wit and wisdom to exude below. This was never better exemplified than in the case of Mr. Lawrence, the representative of the United States in England, at the new Lord Mayor's feed. If Mr. Lawrence was a private individual, his opinions would not be worth the shells of the walnuts he cracked with his wine, but as the ambassador of a great nation, we are compelled to give them a more extended notice than we anticipated in our synopsis of foreign news. Mr. Lawrence rose to speak in reply to a toast complimentary to all the Foreign Ministers, French, Belgian, Austrian, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Neapolitan, Mexican, Brazilian, &c., and what does he say? That the Anglo-Saxon race is superior to the people of all those Nations!—that the Protestant religion is more pure than that of all the people above enumerated. Now, these assertions were false, but if they were true, why should he, speaking not on behalf of himself, but of the "Foreign Ministers" generally, offer remarks insulting to those who were neither hybrid (bastard) in religion nor in race. If he so far forgot himself as to speak solely for the United States—regardless of the terms of the toast which he took the liberty of replying to, he was equally indiscreet. It is ridiculous to say that America is either Anglo-Saxon or Protestant—and if there was a semblance of truth with it, he who is sent as the representative of all, should not recognize a distinction in religion unknown to the constitution.

If a portion of the shattered "Protestantism" of England blusters and fumes about Popish aggression in Great Britain, we simply laugh at them, but when the Ambassador of the United States—sent to England neither as an Episcopalian Bishop, nor an Itinerant preacher, undertakes in his official character—nay, more, in the name of the Catholic Ambassadors from the various nations of Christendom, to interfere in the internal affairs of a country to which he is sent for other purposes, it is high time that he should be recalled. If the *Anglo-Saxon* George Thompson,

and his Anglo-Saxon employers, deserve censure for interfering in the internal affairs of the United States, surely Mr. Ambassador Lawrence is not less to blame for interfering with those of England. We find President Fillmore condemns such interferences with the domestic differences of foreign nations; we trust he will act up to his professions by allowing the representative of a sect to make way for the Ambassador of a people, who have repeatedly resolved that the constitution recognizes no State religion.—*Philadelphia Catholic Instructor*.

RETALIATION.—Some of the Irish papers propose to retaliate on the *No Hierarchy* excitement in England, by getting up an agitation in Ireland against the Irish Protestant Church Establishment. This is a very good idea. We hope it will be carried out. And should the English Government proceed to extreme measures against Catholics in England, the oppressed Sons of Erin will be sure to seize the opportunity to give said government more trouble than it has had for a long time.—*Catholic Herald*.

TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE.—NEW ORLEANS, 13TH.—While the tow-boat *Anglo Norman* was on a pleasure excursion up the river, her boiler burst, and we have a fearful loss of life to record. Over one hundred of our most respectable citizens and several ladies were on board. It is supposed that fifteen or twenty persons were killed.—*Delta*.

DETROIT, Dec. 9th.—A terrible murder was committed in this city last night. A Frenchman named Charles Bonneau, formerly of Montreal, who kept a toy shop, was murdered while sleeping in his shop, by having his throat and skull split open with a dull axe. It is supposed he had from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and several gold watches, which was taken. The Coroner is now holding an inquest. No clue as yet to the murderer.

ARRIVAL OF A LOAD OF GIRLS.—Yesterday, the cars on the Little Miami Railroad, at one time, brought down two hundred and eighteen girls from 12 to 20 years of age. They came from "Yankeeedom," and are going to the new factory just starting at Carrolton, Ky. The girls were, most of them, good, fresh-looking specimens of the great Yankee country. Before they are two years older, they will, probably, all be married off, and perhaps doing the genteel in some of the elegant mansions of our western men. Good luck to them all. Where will yankee enterprise end?—*Cincinnati Commercial*.

GREAT HAUL OF GAMBLERS.—Last week the police were in the receipt of information in the relation to extensive gambling in certain "popular" Coffee Houses and Restaurants. The chief of police, the city Marshal, visited many of the places designated, and found the report most fearfully true. They discovered between forty and fifty different houses and rooms for gambling in full operation, and counted between four hundred and five hundred persons, mostly young men of the industrious classes, staking their hard earnings on the game of Quino.—Many of these young men have of late forfeited their clothing to their landlords, that they might use their ready cash in gaming. Heads of families were seen there also, whose wives and children were suffering for the common necessities of life. Even the officers accustomed to the unfolding of vice and crime were bewildered at what they saw. The officers having satisfied themselves of these facts, made arrangements for a sudden descent. Sunday night was fixed upon and every particular of the plan was kept as secret as possible. But notwithstanding the precautions taken many of the keepers of the gaming tables got wind of the movement in time to close their rooms before the arrival of the officers. There was "glory enough for one night" however in the arrest of the keepers of three or four of the principal establishments, who were "caught in the very act." Yesterday all of these worthies were brought before the Mayor. Rhodes and Scott were held to bail in \$1,000 each, to appear at Court. Four others were under like bail to appear at the Mayor's Office for examination.—*Cincinnati Chronicle*.

At East Boston, a man while in a state of "delirium tremens" went into a carpenter's shop, took up a hatchet, and chopped all of his fingers off one hand. He was a well-known citizen, and has of late taken to intemperance, which brought on this sad act.

POPULATION OF THE UNION.—The census returns for eighteen states give the following totals:

The census estimates	1850.	1840.
	11,133,238	8,007,340
	8,007,340	

Increase, 3,130,898

The population of the United States in 1840 was 17,093,353. Supposing the increase throughout the country to have been in the same proportion, the total population would exceed twenty-three and a half millions, or a million more than has been heretofore estimated.—*American Celt*.

SWITZERLAND.—ATTACK ON THE LORD BISHOP OF STRASBURG BY A PROTESTANT NEWSPAPER AT BASLE.—A trial at law has just concluded at Basle, which has attracted general interest in that city. The "National Zeitung," a Radical newspaper of Basle, having made a gross and calumnious attack on the Bishop of Strasburg, his lordship sought redress at the correctional tribunal of Basle. The tribunal having declared itself incompetent to adjudicate on the case, the Bishop being a foreigner, the cause was referred to the High Court of Appeal, which declared the competence of the tribunal. The cause was then heard, and the sentence, which was in the Bishop's favor, was subsequently ratified by the superior court. The journal was convicted of having calumniated the Bishop in the exercise of his spiritual functions. Des-