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## Conception Bay Journal.

VOL. V.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1839.

No. 275

HARBOUR GRACE, Conception Bay, Newfoundland:—Printed and Published by JOHN THOMAS BURTON, at his Office, opposite Mr. W Dixon's

### THE CHARTISTS.

From the Statesman & Dublin Recorder

We have never heard or read of a body of seditious that have appeared to us so little entitled to commiseration as these same confederated disturbers called Chartists. Is it distress that is goading them to act in this un-English way? Now we believe not. Provisions are dear, but trade is comparatively brisk. There is no peculiar pressure at this time oppressing the operative, or the labouring classes. At least, if there be, it seems inconsistent with the multitude of great public works in progress in various parts of England, and the ordinary character of the reports that have come to us from the manufacturing districts. What then is this flaming Chartism or Conventonism, that sets fire to Birmingham, exhibits itself in such unmeaning tumults, and causes itself to be heard in Parliament through the medium of a petition with twelve hundred and fifty thousand signatures, that cart-load petition rolled into the House of Commons under the orders of Mr Atwood, of Birmingham, and presented about a month since? Mr Atwood on Friday called attention to this petition, and enlarged upon the distress of the people, in which the middle classes, the merchants, and manufacturers, he said, really shared—on the right of the working classes to a fair remuneration for their labours—the hopelessness of effectual relief from the present monetary system—the utter disappointment of the expectations of benefit from the reform act, &c. &c. for all which these multitudinous petitioners, these transcendently enlightened Chartists, offered their own peculiar nostrum, namely, universal suffrage and annual parliaments, as a remedy! Now, far be it from us to ridicule or despise the distress of the working classes, or of any class of our fellow creatures. We do neither, but we do most gravely doubt the existence of this alleged distress, and we do reject and disbelieve it as the influencing cause of Chartism, and its theatrical multitudinous petition. If such distress really exist, why did not Mr Atwood, or some other representative of Radicalism, call for a specific inquiry into that particular subject? Ah, no; that would not have answered the purpose. That might have proved fatal to Chartism and all its cherished revolutionary quackery, for we are satisfied that your genuine Chartist would not have his distress removed by any remedy but his own.

We look upon Chartism as a political thing; as a disease with which society has been infected; rather than as an evil grown out

of physical distress. But it is perhaps all the better that the disease should come out; should show itself externally; as the nurse tenders say; than that it should continue unobserved to prey upon the vitals of the state. Chartism, in our view of it, may be fairly attributed to two causes. *First*, want of church accommodation, and pastoral instruction by ministers of the Established Church, and want of Christian education generally; and *secondly*, political irreligious preachers and spouters who have been permitted without any check, hindrance, or restraint, to go amongst the people and inflame their minds, having first primed them with all the material of absurd and revolutionary theory. These two we take as the most prominent and influential causes of Chartism, sufficient of themselves to account for it, if there were no other. If we were to enter more at large into the subject, it would be easy to show that the Whigs as a party have had much to do in fostering and rearing it up to its present rather inconvenient state of maturity. Two "great charters" have been granted to popular clamour within our memory, namely, Roman Catholic Emancipation and Parliamentary Reform, and both have most signally and egregiously failed of the mark which we were assured they would reach.

**THE BALLOT.**—I observe Lord John Russell, and some important men as well as him, saying, "We hate ballot; but if these practices continue we shall be compelled to vote for it." What! vote for it, if ballot is no remedy of these evils? Vote for it, if ballot produces still greater evils than it cures? This is, (says the physician,) if fever increase in this alarming manner, I shall be compelled to make use of some medicine which will be of no use to fevers, and will at the same time bring on disease of a much more serious nature. I shall be under the absolute necessity of putting out your eyes because I cannot prevent you from being lame. In fact, this sort of language is utterly unworthy of the sense and courage of Lord John; he gives hopes where he ought to create absolute despair. This is that hovering between two principles which ruins political strength by lowering political character, and creates a notion that his enemies need not fear such a man, and that his friends cannot trust him.—*Rev. Sydney Smith on the Ballot.*

**A WEDDING AT SEA.**—A Paris correspondent of the New England Review, gave a week or two since the following sketch of an interesting event which occurred on board the ship in which he sailed from this country:—

A novel circumstance took place while on our passage, which I must relate:—There was a Mr. H on board who was formerly a merchant in Massachusetts, since in Connecticut, and late of New York. He was a kind, open-hearted fellow, full of fun, and withal very intelligent as well as handsome. His age about twenty-seven. He came on board an entire stranger to all, but as we made it a point to have but one family on board, and as we soon discovered his amiable qualities, he was very soon made

a welcome member. On our sixth day out he came to me and inquired the name and circumstances of an elderly gentleman passenger who was accompanied by his daughter, with whom Mr. H. seemed deeply smitten. For my own part I could see nothing exceedingly attractive about Miss J., save that she was very agreeable in her manners and highly intelligent. I informed him, and at his request, gave him a formal introduction, which terminated in the following manner:—

Soon after the introduction it became evident that a mutual liking and affection existed between Mr. H. and Miss J., who, from the open expressions of fondness, began to attract the attention of all, and the admiration of many of the passengers. They were frequently observed in their close conversations, and a game of whist was scarcely ever played in which they were not partners. On the second Sunday of our passage, we solicited the Rev. Mr. G., who was on his way to Italy, to preach a sermon. By the politeness of Captain N., a large awning was spread above us, seats were prepared, and a congregation of seventy six persons, including the steerage passengers and sailors, was collected to participate in the religious exercises. A small desk was formed into a pulpit, and a choir was formed by "going into a committee of the whist." The text was read and the sermon delivered, of which I need not speak. At the conclusion of the sermon, our minister rose and read the following card, which lay on his desk:—

"Wm. Bentley H—, Esq. of New York, intends Marriage with Miss Maria Louisa J—." We were more surprised at the novelty of the thing, than at the fact itself, and indeed such was the feeling created by the sudden and unexpected announcement made, that we all forgot the serious impression made on our minds by the minister, in our hearty and vociferous congratulations of the happy pair. But it did not end here. A proposition was made to the parties to have the affair consummated that evening, which was cheerfully acceded to by them, to the great pleasure of all on board. Accordingly things were arranged to order, the best state room was to be given up to them, and every one felt gay and happy as the hour approached which should witness the consummation of their nuptial vows. The evening was calm and delightful; not a sail fluttered in the breeze; not a voice was heard; not the least stir or bustle about the deck, and the moon looked down in loveliness on that tranquil scene. As at noon, every soul on board gathered to the temple, which had been erected for religious worship and in less than fifteen minutes the marriage ceremony was performed by our worthy minister, who made a few remarks and closed with prayer.

The scene was truly as sublime as romantic. The fair bride came out, dressed in a robe of pure white satin, leaning on the arm of her lover, bound to the altar, and heard her marriage vow pronounced where only an hour or two before she had uttered her vows to God. Many a tear of joy stole down the cheeks of those who looked on, and not a care cast the shadow of its wing across the scene of triumphant love and bliss.

The novelty of this affair had thrown us all into an excitement, and nothing was to be talked of but weddings, wedding parties, marriages at sea, honey moon, &c. &c., and I was at times half tempted to make a similar proposition myself to the queen-like Miss C., if for nothing else but the purpose of having the joke pass round."

There are 71 Newspapers published in London. Of these six are daily morning and six daily evening papers. In Liverpool there is no daily paper published.

The Mail is published tri-weekly, and the Standard semi-weekly, besides which there are ten weekly papers. In the other towns of England, 211 papers are published all weekly. In Scotland there are 55 papers, of which 12 are published in Glasgow, and 11 in Edinburgh. In Ireland there are 77 papers, of which 19 are published in Dublin. In the Island of Jersey there are 9 papers; in Guernsey, 4; and in the Isle of Man, 4. Total number published in Great Britain and dependencies, 473.

**NEWSPAPERS.** A newspaper taken in a family seems to shed a glance of intelligence around. It gives the children a taste for reading, it communicates all the important events of the busy world; it is a never-failing source of amusement, and furnishes a fund of instruction which will never be exhausted. Every family, however poor, if they wish to hold a place in the rank of intelligent beings, should take at least one newspaper; and the man who, possessed of property sufficient to make himself easy for life, and surrounded by children eager for knowledge, is instigated by the vile spirit of cupidity, in neglecting to subscribe to a newspaper, is deficient of the duties of a parent or a good citizen, and is deserving of the censure of his intelligent neighbours.

**A Political Secret.** The Sandwich (Upper Canada) Herald rather more than insinuates that Lord Brougham had a private and personal motive for his severe remarks in Parliament, on the conduct of Colonel Prince. The Herald intimates that when Lord Brougham and Colonel Prince were practising barristers in England, they came into professional conflict, at some time and place not designated and the future chancellor was "regularly floored" by the future colonel of militia. His Lordship's speech in Parliament, it seems, was but a working-off of this old grudge.

**Consequence of Bad Trade.** Last Monday, a shrewd citizen on being told that the Bank of England had again advanced the rate of interest, and that there were indications from other sources of a revulsion in trade, replied, "Weel, I was sure there was something in the wind after sic an awfu' list o' marriages read o'er in the kirk yesterday, there's aye maist bucklin' daur gather in difficult times, an' I daur say it's natural enough after a'". *Glasgow Constitutional.*

There is no foundation for the report of the death of the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry.

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