

lesson to all political tricksters for ages to come.

What, for example, can be more significant of the latent treason in your anti-Church of Ireland resolutions, and your infamous Suspensory Bill (cashiered out of the House of Lords after a display of scathing eloquence which shows that the Protestant cause can hold its own in the regions of mind as well as in the highest assembly of the nation), than that your former Attorney General, Sir Roundell Palmer, and so to speak, the Lord Chancellor elect of your party, should never have tendered a vote in their favour, never have spoken a word in their defence? He doubtless felt that the Chancellor who would affix the Great Seal to a Bill containing such principles of confiscation, sacrilege, and revolution, would incur "great risk" thereby, knowing that it would violate the Coronation Oath and the great statutes under which the House of Commons has the right to meet, and you to enter its doors. Sir Roundell has been as silent as the grave. The dagger to stab the Church and Constitution was not to be wielded by *his* hand. The Cassins and Casca were ready, and even the Brutus—*Et tu, Gladstone*, but the greatest legal mind belonging to your party could not be inveigled into the conspiracy!

Hear how the *English Independent* utters its jeremiad on this delicate subject:—

"The absence of Sir Roundell Palmer from all the divisions on Mr. Gladstone's Irish Church Resolutions, has naturally given rise to much remark, for it must mean that on this foremost and vital question Sir Roundell cannot accompany

his friend and his party, and must, if they should now come into office, forego the woolsack, which might have been said to be already his in reversion, so universal is the assent to his right to the honours of the Chancellorship."

"The loss of his services at this moment is *deplorable*. His aid in framing the critical Bills that will be necessary to carry out the disestablishment would have been invaluable to Mr. Gladstone. It is suggested that the Great Seal may be put into commission till this Irish Church question is settled, and then Sir Roundell might come to his own."

Is not the suggestion a good one? Failing a Lord Chancellor willing to play the traitor to the Queen, the proposal is to have the treason performed by proxy, to have a number of horse-hair wigs and silk gowns placed on the woolsack instead of a man; to get up a round robin of lawyers willing to run the risk of revolution for the hope of sharing in its spoils! Such is the modest and eminently loyal proposal of a leading Dissenting organ speaking the sentiments of men who profess to "fear God and honour the Queen."

A better plan would be to suspend the Crown altogether till the Irish Church Abolition Bill should be passed. In such case yourself, or Mr. Rearden, or Mr. Finlen could act as dictator, and afterwards restore the crown or not, or wear it yourselves in rotation, as ye might think fit.

Now let me examine briefly the grounds of your onslaught on the Irish branch of the United Church. Your trumpeter, Mr. John Bright, first blew the war-blast in one of his overwrought but flimsy orations in Birmingham. A report of his speech on 4th of February, 1868, now lies before me in the *Birmingham*