



AND

Conception Bay Journal.

HEARTS RESOLVED AND HANDS PREPARED, THE BLESSINGS THEY ENJOY TO GUARD.—SMOLLET.

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(From the Liverpool Courier,
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The result of the recent elections are boasted of as proofs that Ministers have lost none of their popularity. "Ministers" and "popularity" sound but strangely together at the present time; and to talk of Ministers losing their popularity is about as sensible as to talk of taking a certain division of the human attire from a Highlander. Ministers, it is true, have in almost every instance got in their men; but it is not true that they have lost no ground among the electors. The facts speak quite the reverse. At Southwark the ministerial candidate has triumphed by 534, with all the aid of a mean and treacherous manoeuvre on the part of the third candidate. At the election of 1837 the Radical majority was 4,063, the Conservative candidate only 840 votes, on the present, 1,529. At Devonport there was no contest in 1837. In 1835, Sir E. Codrington had a majority over Mr. Dawson of 350. Now, Mr. Dawson has been beaten by 224 only, and would, but for the scandalous use of government influence by his opponent, have been returned by a majority of 125. Mr. Dawson states distinctly, that 74 persons, pledged to vote for him, had been thus bribed over to Mr. Tufnell; that 78, similarly pledged, did not vote at all; and that 25 had been induced to keep back, on the fraudulent pretext that they held office, Newark, where the Liberals have twice been allowed to walk over the course, has been won only by 9, under circumstances of intimidation which will in all probability lead to its speedy forfeiture. At Birmingham, in 1837, Mr. Attwood headed the Conservative candidate by 2,124; on the present occasion Mr. Huntz's majority over Sir C. Wetherell is 544. At Falmouth Penryn the Liberal majority is greater than before, but here the show of hands was in favour of the Conservative candidate, and the defeat may safely be attributed to Admiralty influence.

If these are what our Radical friends consider proofs of undiminished "popularity," we sincerely wish them many more such.

By the London papers of yesterday we learn that the case of the sheriffs came on for hearing on Monday before Lord Denman, Mr. Justice Littleton, Mr. Justice Williams, and Mr. Justice Coleridge. Counsel having been heard, Lord Denman delivered his judgment at considerable length, declaring the validity of the warrant

on which the sheriffs were committed, and ordering them back into custody. This is certainly a turn in the controversy for which we were not prepared. The detention of the sheriffs being a direct obstruction of the course of justice, the efficient administration of which is the solemn duty with which the judges of the land are charged, and for the faithful performance of which they are responsible to their consciences and the country, their only object, we had imagined, in demanding their officers at the hands of the Serjeant-at-Arms was to liberate them; and we could not doubt, from their firm and dignified bearing throughout the whole of these proceedings, that they would have the courage and consistency to do so. The judges, it appears, have taken a different view of their duty. They allow the sheriffs to remain in confinement, thereby admitting, at least tacitly, the right of the House of Commons to confine them. Lord Denman, it is true, sets out by declaring the judgment delivered last Trinity term, in the case of Stockdale, v. Harward, to have been "in all respects perfectly correct." But subsequently he says, "We must presume, that whatever any court and much more either house of Parliament takes on itself solemnly, and under the responsibility of great legal authority, to declare to be a contempt, that is a contempt." And he states in conclusion, that he does not see any ground on which the sheriffs should be released from their imprisonment. We suppose there is a distinction made here between the legality of the form of commitment and the right to commit. If this be the case, Lord Denman's decision is a decision by which nothing is decided. Mr. Stockdale was right in bringing his action: the sheriffs were right in carrying into effect the verdict of the jury; and the House of Commons was right in imprisoning the sheriffs. The shorter and more straightforward way of deciding the question would certainly have been, to have grappled at once with the assumed right of the House of Commons to imprison the officers of the Queen's Bench when in the execution of a legal duty. As it is, we cannot help thinking that, in the event of an action for false imprisonment being brought by any of the parties now in custody under the orders of the House of Commons, the consideration of the question will be materially embarrassed by this judgment of Lord Denman, who gives it as his deliberate opinion, that the Court of Queen's Bench was not at liberty to enter into the question as to whether there had been a real ground of contempt or not.

(From the Liverpool Standard,
January 17.)

FURTHER CHARTIST MOVEMENTS IN YORKSHIRE.

Dewsbury Yorkshire, Jan. 12. Last night the town was taken possession of by an armed body of men, and the private watchmen, six in number, obliged to fly—Mr. Matthew Hale, merchant, who was out as an inspector of the watch, on going towards the Leeds road-end, was stopped by about twenty, with muskets and daggers, and bid to stand, which he did; and on finding that he would not be allowed to proceed, turned round and retreated homewards, when he was immediately fired upon, but fortunately without receiving any injury. The party afterwards continued to fire their pieces off for upwards of three hours. Upwards of 200 discharges were fired. Some trifling damage has been done to the lamps and posts, the lights being all put out, and stones were thrown through the windows of Mr. Mallinson's chamber. From 100 to 200 men paraded the streets, and every avenue to the town was guarded.

Dewsbury, Jan. 13.—"In my hurried note, yesterday, I forgot to say that about three or half-past three o'clock in the morning the firing ceased, and the chartists left the town. Almost every one of them was armed with a gun and a bayonet, and the party parading the streets was headed by a fellow crying out, "Hurrah! the town is our own. Death or glory!" The magistrates, who reside about a mile from the town, and who had not been informed before daylight (so great was the terror of the inhabitants that no man durst venture out,) met in the morning and sent over to Leeds barracks for a detachment of soldiers, and about 30 of the dragoons arrived here in the afternoon. All has been very quiet since, but rumours are abroad that to-morrow night a general attack will be made upon the town. It is surprising that no more mischief was done, the whole of our police force being three, a constable (who is strongly suspected of being a chartist himself,) and two deputies. The inhabitants generally are very thankful that no attack was made upon their property, and attribute it solely to Almighty God, in not permitting so great a sin, that the town was not sacked and burnt.

The trial for high treason at Monmouth has been brought to an abrupt and unexpected termination! On Wednesday last, Jones, the watchmaker, was convicted, and at the close of the trial five of the remaining prisoners charged with high treason withdrew their former plea of "not guilty," and pleaded "guilty." This step is said to have been taken with

the concurrence of the officers of the crown. The prisoners will be punished with imprisonment. The other four, against whom true bills had been found, were discharged, the Attorney-General declining to prosecute! Here is another instance of Whig baseness and trickery. The course of justice must be interrupted, and rebels against the authority of the crown must be set at large, in order to afford the Attorney and Solicitor-General of her Majesty an opportunity of hastening to the rescue of their degraded associates in office. This infamous procedure on the part of government stamps them more indelibly than ever with the brand of traitors to the public weal. The reckless career of Lord Melbourne and his cabinet of incapables is evidently drawing to a close. They have been sinking from year to year in public estimation, until, at length, they have hardly any one to sympathise with them but the vile trader of English females, and the hordes of priest-ridden beggars who howl against the whole of the English nation as tyrants and oppressors. This last base act of the Melbourne administration denudes them of their remaining tattered remnant of public confidence. They have, in effect, declared that treason is not punishable—that outrage and bloodshed shall escape, as far as they are concerned, with impunity—that the lives and property of loyal subjects are to be attacked and sacrificed without any hope of protection—and that the loaves and fishes of office are, in their estimation, of greater value than the security of the crown and the peace of the empire.

We almost fear to contemplate the effect which will be produced by the proceedings at Monmouth on the future movements of the Chartists. These rebels are already in a state of insurrection in Yorkshire. What is there to deter them from carrying their long-cherished scheme of plunder and massacre into instant operation? Many an overruling Providence preserve this country from the threatened curse of anarchy and civil war! We have nothing to look to from the powers that be. They have offered a bonus upon treason, and given an invitation to indiscriminate carnage and robbery. If England should be saved from the desolating influence of a bloody revolution, it will be owing, under Providence, to the vigilance, promptitude, and determination of the local authorities, in different parts of the kingdom, backed by the patriotic bravery of the loyal and Protestant part of the population. We may be derided for our alarms; but the threats held forth by the Chartists are too plain and unequivocal to admit of any doubt, or to justify any other feeling than that of serious apprehension for the public peace.

It is stated that the banks in Boston had united in offering to the Philadelphia banks such indulgencies in the time and manner of paying the balances due by the latter, as would greatly facilitate the resumption of specie payment in Philadelphia, providing the banks in that city are otherwise in a condition to redeem their promises.

Freights to France were brisk at New York. To England freights were not quite so good. There was an unusual scarcity of seamen, and good hands could command almost any price. At New York men were shipped at 15, 18 and even 20 dollars per month, with small stores, and masters found a difficulty in manning their vessels even at these rates.

The Morning Herald of December 27, states that intelligence had been received at New York of another enormous fraud, equal nearly to ten millions of dollars, having been discovered in one of the Philadelphia banks. It is said that this fraud was discovered through the