

Since the Act of Union, it is plain that the Irish could not govern themselves, and now, let us ask, how have they been governed? It is sufficient to say, that it was not until forty-six years after the Union that the English Government recognised the right of the Irish poor man to be supported out of the land; and that right, though now recognised, has not, up to this moment, been enforced.

When England has given to Ireland, in practice, an efficient Poor-law; when it has made the land—the title-deeds to which have been assigned not by Irish laws, but English swords—responsible for the sustentation and the life of Irishmen; it will be the time for English newspaper writers to descant upon the defects, the vices, the idleness, and the apathy of Irishmen—but not till then.

We have shown, however briefly, that by the past history of Ireland, the present condition of that country has neither been the doing nor the choice of Irishmen; and yet this is the manner in which the *Spectator*, falsifying history, has the audacity to speak of the Irish people:—

'The Irish preferred to live miserably on the potatoe, because it required the minimum of labour; they prefer now to live miserably on alms from England; they neglect the fish on their coasts to eat the bread of charity; they strive to wring as pauper-squatters subsistence out of the soil, by deterring landlords from collecting their rents, or changing their tenants; and if their destitution is not in all parts voluntary, the generally low condition which subjects them to the chances of that condition has been the choice of the ignorant Irish, abetted, if not applauded by those educated Irish who set up for patriots, and who are now coming as sturdy beggars to Parliament.'

Thus, according to the *Spectator*, the Irish prefer bad diet, destitution, alms, and the least possible share of labour in Ireland to constant employment, hard work, high wages, and good food. Out of Ireland they have a different character. In a debate in the House of Commons, March 18th, 1841, Mr. Wakley, a man who has great experience in the condition of the labouring classes, declared he never knew any class of men to equal the Irish people in industry the most persevering and unceasing. But what is the character given to them in Ireland where the poor can obtain wages? Sir John Macneil, a civil engineer, says, 'I never found men more anxious or desirous to be employed than the lower orders.' The misfortune of the Irish poor is that they cannot procure constant remunerative employment; and their slanderer prefers as an accusation against them, as a crime in them, that which is a grief to them. They are censured as idlers because they do not work without object, or without reward. 'To give constant employment to the population,' remarks a writer in the *Dublin Review*, 'would be to confer on them the greatest of blessings; that which beyond all others they most desire and to procure which they become temporary or permanent exiles. None feel more bitterly than the Irish poor, that one of the greatest misfortunes of their country is, that its industry is, like its epidemic fever—intermittent; that is perpetually oscillates between compulsory idleness and insufficiently compensated toil.' (No. XLIII, p. 57.)

Let punishment, the most severe punishment, be inflicted upon the homicides of Ireland; but let it never be forgotten that they are a few, amid millions of men patiently enduring the worst afflictions to which human nature can be subjected. But, above all things, let not the crimes of those who kill a few be a pretext for those who would assassinate the character of a nation; and deprive the humble, the honest, and the suffering of the aid, the sympathy, support, and respect of the good, the humane, and the generous.

THE WAR IN SWITZERLAND.

One of the morning papers of Tuesday last congratulates its readers on the fact, that Friburg has been taken possession of by the troops of that party in Switzerland which calls itself 'liberal,' and which has made war on its neighbours because they choose to maintain themselves in that local independence which they have inherited from their fathers, and to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience. Let us remark in the first place, that Friburg capitulated on the condition that life and property were to be respected by those who gained possession of the town. To that condition

the 'liberals' subscribed. Let us now see how that condition was fulfilled by those who are so 'liberal,' they will not allow others any liberty of thought or action.

The liberals promised to respect private and public property; but the moment they got into the town, they pillaged the houses of four of the leading men of Friburg, and that of one lady, Madame de Fegeley—the furniture was carried away, broken and thrown from the windows. The Chancery of State has been pillaged, and also the Cathedral of St. Nicholas; the silver vases and chandeliers have been stolen. The convent of the Ligorians and the Seminary have been destroyed. In the Jesuit school, these liberals distinguished themselves in a very remarkable manner; for 'clocks, porcelain, broken looking-glasses strewed the floor. Paintings of the first masters were pierced with the bayonet, and pianos broken in with the butt-end of the musket. * * *

The books were torn and the library broken to pieces. The organ of the church destroyed. * * * The villagers round about Friburg, where the soldiers bivouacked, have been still worse used than Friburg itself. Everywhere the surrounding country has been devastated, the inclosures broken down, the houses entered, the furniture, with the carts, ploughs, and other husbandry tools, burnt for the fuel of the bivouac fires, the cattle killed, and the houses set on fire.'

Such have been some of the doings of the Swiss liberals; and the *Daily News*, in referring to their victory at Friburg, declares that 'the Swiss Diet and executive have shown themselves fully equal to repress, without much destruction to property or to life, the monkish insurrection.' In its zeal, the same paper declares that this cause, and these acts in which the Swiss liberals are so engaged and commit such atrocities, is so good, so holy, and so pure, that to attempt interfering with them in their spoliation of churches, their destruction of property, their robbery of private houses, and their burning of the implements and habitations of farmers, would be tantamount to a declaration of 'Down with the Protestants! Crush the Liberals.'

To spoliat a school is, with this Frenchified liberal organ, 'religious liberty;' and the power to despoil and destroy the property of a neighbouring state is 'political independence.'

We humbly venture to ask what has Protestantism to do with these atrocities, or why should it be made responsible for the infamies and barbarities of 'liberalism?'

It may serve to conceal truth to designate the struggle made by the different States of Switzerland to maintain their ancient independence, a 'monkish insurrection;' but we appeal to the people of England—do they conceive their Protestantism is identified with such infamies as these Swiss liberals have perpetrated in Friburg?

In consequence of the atrocities perpetrated by these base violators of the compact under which Friburg was yielded to them; it would appear that three of these soldiers were put to death by the exasperated inhabitants; and then these 'liberals,' who had agreed to protect life, liberty, and property, declared the place in a state of siege, and (we quote the words of the *Daily News* itself) 'proclaimed martial law, and immediately expelled some five or six hundred suspected persons from the town.'

There was no proof of guilt—no accusation of being participators in any crime; but those who yielded to the Swiss liberals, in the expectation that they would keep their words, were, because they were suspected of being adverse to the new order of things, deprived of their homes, banished from their native town, and sent abroad, wanderers and beggars upon the face of the earth!

Will the Protestants of this country sanction this perfidy by their approbation, or identify their creed with such atrocities? No. They will, as they did in the first French Revolution, denounce the miscreants who perpetrate these crimes, and whose liberalism, like that of the Marats, consists in the toleration of Atheism, and the persecution to death of those who are ministers of a Christian religion.

A POSER.—At a debating club one evening the question was discussed, whether there is more happiness in the possession or the pursuit of an object. 'Mr. President,' said an orator, 'suppose I was courtin' a gal, and she was to run away, and I was to run arter her, wouldn't I be happier when I cotched her, than when I was running arter her?'

THE EXAMINER.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1843.

THE CURRENCY.

SINCE our last publication, it has been our anxious study to make ourselves master of the probable effects of the monetary scheme promulgated in the Despatch of Earl Grey, which we then published for general information. We think it wise and considerate in the Lieutenant Governor to place the whole matter before the public, that discussion may take place, and men's minds be prepared for those enquiries and investigations which we trust will lead to sound conclusions. There are a few observations which we shall venture to give our readers in this stage of the business; but we will just remind them that the Despatch was, of course, written to suggest the adoption of some better principles than those of mere temporary expediency, on which the Colony has hitherto acted, and that his Lordship could do no more than draw attention to the evils existing, and their apparent remedy, leaving to the Legislature any modifications or amplifications which familiar local circumstances may render necessary.

We are, therefore, inclined to view the subject in a friendly manner, for in the first place, we are quite aware of the unsound basis on which the edifice of our financial system is built, which is, to say the least of it, as anomalous in the history of such things as the irresponsibility of the advisers of the Crown in our Executive Council can be in the general political and constitutional sense. But before we enter on the details of the scheme, and on those considerations which may guide our assent or dissent as to the particulars of the means proposed to carry out the desired end, the discussion of which we shall for the present postpone,—we feel bound, in justice, to refer to the fact which Lord Grey himself states, that to Sir Henry Vere Huntley's vigilance we owe the construction of the Commission on the Currency, consisting of Messrs. Hensley, D. Hodgson and Birnie, who are the authors of the report on which, it is evident, his Lordship's recommendations are mainly founded. What Messrs. Pope and Palmer consider the extreme point of gullibility of the public, it is difficult to surmise, when they claim, or insinuate a claim, to any participation in the matter. Did they write that report? Nay, more, did they not treat it with contempt, ridicule, and impertinence? Do they imagine the public can or will forget the terms of reprobation in which they spoke of every body who moved against their unprincipled scheme of issuing 15,000*l.* of inconvertible paper, which, if they understood anything of finance (a crime of which we certainly hold them guiltless), they must know would have been a robbery of the public creditor. If they want to know the difference between a note payable on demand, or a cash payment, and a Treasury Note of the old sort, perhaps it would be a good expedient, by way of teaching them, to start them to Pictou, and thence onward to England, with nothing in their pockets except their favorite Notes; nay, we are afraid, though they had another Governor to remove, they would not reach the other side of the Atlantic if they had the whole 15,000 for their own share.

But we will now point out two respects in which Lord Grey's recommendation has our hearty concurrence, and deserves that of the public. In the first place, the substitution of Notes payable on demand for Warrants, cuts the whole ground from under the feet of the present race of money dealers. It will be in vain, that Government Officers and their subordinates or friends know what Warrants are about to issue from the Government. They will start hereafter fair in the race of industry and money making with their fellow men, and banking operations, which would be an inestimable boon, might fairly be expected to commence.

2ndly,—The poor man coming from the Country to realize payment for work performed for the Government, be it under a Road Contract or any other head, will receive Notes payable on demand, or cash. He will have the full amount of it in his pocket wherewith to pay his debts or to lay it out at the store, without discount or deduction. He can carry it home if he pleases, and lay it out there without going to some money speculator to get it cashed. The public, perhaps, little knows how poor men, till of late, in spite of the efforts made by Sir Henry Vere Huntley to ameliorate their condition in this matter, as well as Mr. Cole's interference, have suffered. They