

... Duke of Buckingham, Lord Wharnclyffe, and others of the Cabinet. What for? Glorious! Why, Sir, he had formed one of a deputation from the humane portion of the Yorkshire mill-owners, to ask for a Ten Hours' Factories' Regulation Act! So that, you see, all the factory masters are not like the "Leaguers," cruel and selfish. No, no; I have known, and have ever been proud and happy to declare, that amongst the mill-owners are to be found some of the best and staunchest friends of the Ten Hours' Bill. These good men wish for legal restraint, not only because the well-being of the factory children requires it, but also to protect themselves from the grinding, and grasping, and ruinous competition of their hard-hearted, cruel, and selfish neighbours, who care not at what cost to the health, and happiness, and morals of the children, they are enabled to bring a "cheap article," however worthless, into the market, and thus undersell those who desire "to live and let live."

That friend of mine told me, that, being a Conservative, now that we had a Conservative Government, he could not, in conscience, desist from using what influence he had with his political friends; and, as he had hopes that a Conservative Government would deal fairly with the factory question, he resolved to set the right upon a question on which he felt so deeply and was so much interested, and on one which he understood so well. I found, that after talking the matter over with several Cabinet Ministers, he had very strong hopes of eventual success, although one of the Ministers (Sir James Graham) had plied him rather closely with his Whig philosophy. No wonder that a Minister who believes that "the main source of the prosperity of the country is its manufacturing industry and enterprise," should philosophise a little. But Sir James must not think to carry his Whig prejudices against the force of reason.

Barring Sir James's philosophy, my friend was in high glee.

You may be sure that I am in famous spirits. But, then, there is the awkward delay of Sir Robert—the long dreary Winter to get over!

The Leaguers (for to them is evidently committed the arrangement of the Winter's campaign) will send their messengers of mischief into every nook and corner of the land, who will, without blushing, tell their hearers, "that their employers, the factory lords, are the most liberal, humane, and benevolent people on earth; that the factory system is the most delightful thing in the world; that you landlords are the greatest fiends on this side the bottomless pit; and that the New Poor Law is the masterpiece of good legislation." This they will do. How are you to meet them? I advise, that wherever the emissaries of the "League" appear, they may be confronted with a factory worker, and that he shall propose a petition for the Ten Hours' Bill and for the repeal of the New Poor Law.

Do not start, Sir, at the mention of the repeal of the New Poor Law!—that must be granted, or your order will be destroyed by the "Leaguers." The constitution, religion, and justice, demand it—the prejudices of the people must be yielded to; the security of your "order" and of your property require the recognition on your parts of the rights of others. It is settled on all hands, that to attempt to maintain the New Poor Law and the Corn Law is madness! If, therefore, they would not fall into the hands of the "Leaguers," the aristocracy must now shake hands with their best friends, the working classes of England!

You may then leave the Anti-Corn Law lecturers to be dealt with by a few plain-spoken, warm-hearted, honest factory workers. There is no difficulty in the matter.

BIRMINGHAM CHURCH RATE.—The church rate contest in Birmingham has been carried on by the Dissenters during the last few days in the worst possible spirit. Men have been sent about the town to proclaim to those who were foolish enough to remain to listen to them, the injustice of these rates, and to cast odium upon the clergy of the town and neighbourhood. The minds of the poor and uninformed have been inflamed by these factious religionists, and they have been taught that all their miseries and all their grievances arise from "the overpaid church." It is a matter of regret that many persons professing Conservative principles have manifested considerable apathy in this important struggle. If they had gone to the poll quickly and fearlessly, a triumphant majority would have been secured. As it is, we have every reason to believe that the good cause will prevail. The poll closes this afternoon (Thursday) at 4 o'clock, and we strongly advise any voter who may not yet have gone up, to lose not one moment, but to go, even now at the eleventh hour, to record his vote in favour of the great cause which is at stake.

THE RURAL POLICE IN DURHAM.—A few sessions ago the Rural Police Act was introduced into the county palace of Durham, and upwards of 50 policemen appointed, with superintendent, inspectors, &c. Since then a strong feeling has prevailed against this "force;" meetings have been held, and memorials forwarded against the measure. At the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions on Monday, Mr. Granger, barrister-at-law, stated to the bench that he had petitions to present from several townships against the continuance of the rural police. Mr. Williamson, the Chairman, inquired if they wished to be exempted from the operation of the act. Mr. Granger replied, they were not so selfish as that; they wished the whole country to be freed from its operation. He then handed in memorials from 156 townships, which were signed by 5,739 individuals, all of them ratepayers; they had emanated from considerably more than one-half of the whole of the townships in the county, and in some instances every ratepayer residing in the townships had signed the memorials. One of them had been agreed to at a public meeting of the inhabitants of Durham, and not a single counter memorial was presented. The magistrates on the bench appeared surprised that so strong a feeling should prevail amongst the ratepayers on the subject, and the chairman promised to lay the memorials before the magistrates at their meeting for the despatch of county business on Wednesday, when there would be a more numerous attendance. No alteration can take place these sessions, as six months' notice of a motion is required before it can be entertained.

quantity of moulds, silver, base metal, and all requisite apparatus for coining, were found in the place. In the evening the same officers proceeded to West Bromwich, five miles from the town, and there apprehended Thomas Davis, S. Davis, James Field, and T. Williams, all engaged in the same nefarious traffic. It had been well known for some time past that a large quantity of admirably executed base shillings, of the date of 1820, were being circulated, not only in Birmingham, but throughout the country, and considerable efforts were made to find the residence of the coiners. They were all, however, unavailing until Saturday, when the above two formidable gangs were broken up. Some of the parties have been already convicted, and are well known. In the latter, as in the first seizure, the capture was complete, the moulds, shells, &c., being well secured. The gang lived in Birmingham until within the last few months, when they left in consequence of some of their party having been apprehended, and secreted themselves in a retired spot, where they carried on coining unnoticed and unsuspected. Much credit is due to the officers.

TIGER SHOOTING BY MOONLIGHT IN BENGAL.—(From an East Indian Correspondent.)—It happened that we lay off Saugor, a short time since, an island contiguous to the Sunderbunds, which has for many years past been noted for tigers, which harbour amid its thick and almost impenetrable jungles, and for want of more interesting occupation three of us made up our minds to make a short excursion into the forest one evening to a large disused tank or geel, which we had been informed only the day before was used at night by the wild beasts, which were accustomed to come down thither and slake their thirst, and that the footmarks of tigers, as also those of rhinoceroses, were apparent in the several defiles leading to the same. The moon shone exceedingly bright, and, having furnished ourselves with a case of cigars and a bottle of "brandy panee," we left the schooner at 8 o'clock, attended by a Serang and four Lascars armed with cutlasses, and bearing in their hands two musalls, ourselves equipped with three two-ounce ball tiger rifles. In this manner we made our way for the geel, which lay about 250 yards off from the shore. On arriving at the spot we ascended a large bubbool tree, which stood so as to give us the opportunity of observing accurately any animal that might approach the water, between ourselves and the moon, and were quite near enough to it, being about 40 yards off, to depend upon our rifles taking the desired effect if we discharged them successfully. When we had seated ourselves comfortably we gave orders to the Lascars to quench the torches, and to maintain strict silence, at the same time to keep a keen look on, and apprise us if they perceived any beast upon the move, for the eye of a native by night is quicker far than that of a European. More than an hour passed away without our hearing any noise, save now and then the grunt of some wild hog, as he was busily routing the sides of the geel among the folah weeds, the root of which aquatic plant that animal will travel many miles in a night to obtain. While we were becoming rather impatient a tremendous rush was heard a short distance behind us, which was quickly followed by the mournful cry of some victim in distress. It was quite impossible to see what it was on account of the thickness of the jungle, but there can be but little doubt that it was a leopard, which had surprised and bounded upon a deer or fawn, from the growling and snarling intonations that fell upon our ears immediately afterwards. Suddenly the Serang, who was seated in a tree by the side of us, gently said, "I hear a hyena speak, there is a tiger at hand." The natives say that the former animal is wont to follow close upon the heels of the tiger in his prowls, to prey upon his captive after the latter has abandoned it. In less than five minutes after the Serang had spoken a magnificent sight presented itself to our view; two large tigers, apparently a male and female, approached with stately pace towards the tank. They stood for a few seconds with their heads turned towards the jungle they had just quitted, as if attracted by some sound, when one of them descended the defile, and began to lap the grateful fluid. Now was our time. I took a deliberate aim at the animal upon the bank, whilst my two companions levelled their rifles at the one that was in the act of drinking. Our "trine" discharge was simultaneous. One, if not both of my friends' barrels had evidently taken sure effect. The huge creature roared as he plunged distractedly into the water, and in a few seconds disappeared, whilst the animal I had fired at bounded off into the jungle, apparently untouched. We revived the lights of the musalls, and went round to the spot, and found that he was sunk about six feet deep in water. As there was no means of getting him out that night we left him until the following day, when, with the aid of ropes, we managed to drag him on shore. He was a beautiful male Bengal tiger, and measured from the point of the nose to the tip of the tail nine feet and one inch. Both balls had told; the one had penetrated the skull, the other the chest. We carried away the head and the skin as trophies, and left the carcass behind us. We could trace the footsteps of a rhinoceros all around the tank, which appeared quite fresh.

DRUIDICAL BARROWS.—Although the majority of the above tumuli have from time to time been opened by curious investigators, yet there are still several which remain untouched standing upon private farms in the vicinity of Salisbury Plain, and one in particular upon an extensive sheep walk not far from Everton, which is about to be examined. The same is considerably larger than they usually run in this quarter, and promises to afford much interest to the parties who are engaged to survey its contents. Those which have been already investigated have exhibited ancient military weapons and a quantity of sharp-pointed flints, which no doubt were used as battle-axes by the aboriginal inhabitants of this island. Beneath a prodigious large stone, which was removed a short time since, was discovered about four feet from the surface a crusted urn, containing calcined human bones, which had been entwined in the skin of some wild beast. A Roman tessellated pavement was brought to light also in a field hard by the spot.

which it may be said that ninety-nine out of every hundred have been constructed exclusively by the labour and at the expense of the people themselves. As they are obliged in many instances to resort to those chapels from a considerable distance, it is usual with them, for that and several other very obvious reasons, to hold their meetings in those places upon Sundays after divine service. The instances, however, are not few in which the priest beholds with regret the house of God applied to secular purposes; and it is well known that not only in respect to this point, but also upon the subject of his own conduct in regard to the political business in hand, he is often obliged to submit his own feelings and wishes to those of his flock. Some recent instances of a successful resistance upon his part are quite notorious, and others could, if necessary, be cited from different parts of the country and different periods of time.

Supposing no difference of opinion to have existed between the priest and the flock, or supposing their differences to have been adjusted, when the political proceedings go forward the priest becomes a leader as a matter of course. So little connexion, however, have merely sectarian views of religion with the agency employed upon such occasions, that the priest himself may frequently be heard eloquently enforcing the superior political merits of a Protestant candidate upon the very altar where the same priest had perhaps half an hour previously vindicated with equal vehemence the superior truth and purity of the Roman Catholic faith.

I am well acquainted with a Roman Catholic gentleman of respectable character, fortune, and station, who has always exhibited a decorous, if not a devout, attention to the duties of religion. He is a Liberal in politics, a personal friend of Mr. O'Connell's, and is popular both with the priesthood and the people. I believe that he has aspired to the representation of the county in which he resides, ever since the time when such an object was rendered accessible to a person of his persuasion. Yet for the last 11 years he has received no encouragement whatever from the priests, and the county has during that whole time been uniformly represented by gentlemen of the Protestant religion, who have invariably received the support of the whole Catholic clergy, to whom indeed they are entirely, we may say exclusively, indebted for their seats. It is useless to adduce any further examples of a state of affairs which is so very general, and so well known to all who are acquainted with the actual condition of things in Ireland.

The influence, therefore, which the Roman Catholic priesthood exercise in Ireland upon political occasions is not in general connected in any peculiar manner with religious feelings, and is most frequently not connected with such feelings at all. The power which they wield upon any given occasion is only an individual exercise of the general influence which they possess with the population, and which has been long growing to maturity from several circumstances connected with the relations and positions of the parties, and the collateral condition of the society in which they both exist.

In Ireland, until an extremely recent period, all those classes who were the depositories of every species of the public power of the State, whether legislative, executive, judicial, administrative, magisterial, or territorial, seem to have maintained a continual and diabolical rivalry in oppressing and barbarising the bulk of the population, whose miseries would be altogether intolerable but for the spiritual consolations which they received from the priest, and for a long time *spiritual* consolation was all that he was able to give. In the progress of time he was, however, enabled to extend the sphere of his assistance, and to afford some slight and occasional protection to the Irish peasant against that class which an able writer in the *Blackwood's Magazine* for April, 1841, page 447, designates most justly as "an indolent oligarchy, active only in the exercise of energetic rapacity." The same able writer, whom we believe to be a gentleman as much distinguished for his literary talents as for the ardour of his Tory principles, observes in the same place, that the "energetic rapacity" of the same oligarchy received no check from the Government, although the Government repressed every resistance to it with "merciless" rigour. In such a state of society, if society it could be called, the only resource of the miserable peasant was in such advice, assistance, and protection as the priest could afford him. As the conduct of the oligarchy has been improving at the slowest possible rate, and as many circumstances tending to give a