

# BRUTAL ATTACK ON MR. OWEN, AND Mr. A. CAMPBELL, AT BURSLEM, STAFFORDSHIRE, ON MONDAY, JUNE 22ND, 1840.

On Monday last the most disgraceful and cowardly conduct was exhibited by an infuriated, fanatical, and drunken mob,—whose characters have been formed under the direction of the Law Established Church Clergy, and their allies, the preachers and teachers belonging to the various dissenting Sectarian Denominations. After the refusal to allow Mr. Owen to lecture in the Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyne, and the Town Hall, Stoke, both of which places were legally and morally engaged for Mr. Owen, and bills posted announcing lectures; as a last refuge, the Social Institution, Dale Hall, Burslem, was agreed on, and bills posted announcing lectures to be delivered there, by Alexander Campbell, Missionary, on Sunday, and by Mr. Owen, on Monday evening, 21st and 22nd instant. No opposition was offered to Mr. Campbell's lectures on Sunday, but on Monday, the enemies of Truth and Free Inquiry began to muster and consult as to what they should do to prevent Mr. Owen lecturing that evening, in the Social Institution. The result of these deliberations was the printing and extensive circulation of a most inflammatory hand-bill, of which the following is a copy:—

"OWEN AGAIN! AT DALSHELL. Mr. Owen after being driven out of Newcastle and Stoke, is coming here to-night, at six o'clock, to propagate his BLASPHEMOUS PRINCIPLES. Will you have him after Friday night's exposure. If not, ASSEMBLE before the Meeting, in a peaceable and orderly manner; and respectfully, but firmly and decidedly, declare this POISON shall no more be retailed among us." (No printer's name to the bill.)

In order to assemble the people before Mr. Owen's meeting took place, parties were employed to beat drums and play on fifes through the town of Burslem, which had the desired effect, for some thousands were collected round a stage erected by the opponents of Socialism, opposite the gate leading to the Institution. From this stage the most inflammatory and disgusting language was spoken by those whose duties and professions should have led them, as the shepherds of the people, to preach peace on earth and good will to all men; and there were others, whose civil duties should have induced them to prevent a breach of the peace, instead of provoking a riot. Along with these furious manifestations of fanaticism, *rum, gin, and ale* were profusely administered to all who choose to partake, without measure, money, or price, until many were so roused to madness, that they only waited for a signal to attack persons and destroy property. A few minutes before seven o'clock, Mr. Owen, in a gig, accompanied by Mr. Williams, Jun., of Stoke, arrived at the Institution; but before they could alight, a rush was made to upset the gig, with a design to endanger the life of Mr. Owen. To prevent this murderous design from being effected, several friends rushed to assist Mr. Owen, and got him safe out of the gig, for which some of them were most severely beaten and kicked; and, according to report, one young man is said to have his jaw-bone broken. In this *melee*, the Rev. Mr. Noble, of the new church, Burslem, and Mr. Phillips, the chief constable, took an active part; and, although the police were near the spot, none of them interfered to protect the lives of those who were so unmercifully abused by Christians, who beat others for not being so savage as themselves. After Mr. Owen was got out of the gig, he was led by the parsons, and pushed by the mob, to the house of Enoch Wood, Esq., about a quarter of a mile from the Institution. Mr. Wood, who is one of the bitterest enemies to the Social cause in the Potteries, declared, after the discussion on the Friday previous, between Mr. Brindley and Mr. Buchanan, in the Market Hall, Burslem, "that he would consider it his duty to discharge from his employment all whom he found favourable to the Social principles;" and this threat he put into execution against some of his best and steadiest workmen the very next day. In this man's house Mr. Owen was obliged to remain for near two hours, in company with some of the most bigotted of his opponents, and when he left it to go along with Mr. Williams, Sen., to Stoke, he was again assailed with stones and mud, and obliged to take shelter till the fury of the people subsided; after which, he started for Stoke, without further molestation. A few minutes after the assault on Mr. Owen, and his forcible detention in Mr. Wood's house, Mr. Campbell had arrived on foot from Stoke, accompanied by Mrs. Williams. Before they got into the crowd, they were met by Mr. Kennedy of the North Staffordshire Mercury, who informed them of the miraculous escape of Mr. Owen from the infuriated mob, and pressed on Mr. Campbell not to go forward; and said, although he differed from his (Mr. C's) opinions, yet he had no wish to see him severely beaten, as most assuredly he would be, if he persisted in going forward. When consulting as to what was best to be done, Mr. Williams, Jun., who accompanied Mr. Owen in the gig, came forward and confirmed Mr. Kennedy's statement, which induced Mr. Campbell to retrace his steps; he had not, however, walked above a few yards, when the mob got notice of him, and instantly set up a yell, and gave chase like a pack of bloodhounds after their victim for conscience sake, as in days of yore. Mr. Campbell, however, never moved a pace quicker. When the most furious of them first overtook Mr. C., they appeared much excited with intoxicating drink and fanaticism; they jumped and yelled like as many savages; and if they had been armed with spears, there is good ground to believe they would have used them also in vindicating their religion, which professes to condemn all carnal weapons, at least in matters of faith. Mr. Campbell at first endeavoured to pacify them by appealing to their reason, but in many of them it had been completely made drunk; he then appealed to their feelings, and asked if they wished for blood to satisfy them. None had the ferocity to answer candidly; but they instantly separated Mrs. Williams and her son from him, and then began to strike him on the face with their clenched fists. Several persons in the crowd who had not taken the poison endeavoured to quiet the others, and prevent their outrageous conduct, but in vain; they followed their victim across a field leading to a bridge, over the canal, where they attempted

to make a stand, and cries were uttered to "give him a good ducking"; but Mr. Campbell's firmness soon dislodged the two persons who sought to interrupt his course across the bridge, and he proceeded at the same slow steady pace, assailed by yells of the fanatical mob, who also threw stones, mud, &c. till he took refuge, and obtained protection, from the landlady and landlord of the Britannia Inn, where he remained for upwards of four hours, till the town became quiet.

## THE ATTACK AND DEFENCE OF THE SOCIAL INSTITUTION.

When it was understood that Mr. Owen was forcibly prevented from lecturing, the audience received back their money, and were dismissed; in leaving the Institution, some of them were most inhumanly assaulted, their clothes torn, and the hair of their head pulled out in handfuls, and otherwise maltreated, although they were mere strangers; some of whom had come from the country, merely from curiosity, to hear the Founder of the Rational System of Society, and afterwards judge for themselves. After the dismissal of the audience, a few of the members and their wives remained in the institution, but they were also soon attacked with stones, and the door of the institution forced off its hinges by crow bars, &c.; but it was so well barricaded inside, that it could not be entirely forced open. The Christian assailants then got into a side room, from which they began to batter the brick wall, to force an entrance, and succeeded in making a breach; but the members had so fortified themselves within, that they soon compelled the besiegers to retire from this position. An attack was next made on the roof, and then to force the floor up from the cellars beneath; but both proved fruitless, for the enemy was soon dislodged from both places. In this state of things, the Clergy again made their appearance with the chief constable, not for the purpose of dispersing the rioters, or taking any of them into custody, but to try and obtain a surrender of the besieged Socialists. They were promised protection, if they would promise never to enter their own premises again—which they indignantly refused; a cessation of hostilities was, however, agreed on, and the garrison were to be permitted to march out with their wives and children, and to be allowed to return home unmolested: under this promise the wives came out first, followed by their husbands, but they had not proceeded far when they were again assailed with bricks and stones; one woman received a severe blow behind the ear; and Mr. Chadwick, the Secretary, had his head cut through his hat with a sharp stone; and they were again obliged to take shelter in a private house till the infuriated mob dispersed. Notwithstanding that the population of Burslem was for four hours in a complete state of riot, headed by martial music, several persons insulted, and severely injured to the danger of their lives, the Social Institution partly destroyed, and several individuals having large stones thrown into their houses, yet no policemen were called, nor any person taken into custody on the occasion, although the Chief Constable and the clergy were actors in the affair.

## AN EYE-WITNESS.

[We must have a word or two respecting these proceedings next week: but at present dare not trust our pen.—ED.]

## Notices.

### OFFICIAL NOTICES OF THE CENTRAL BOARD.

**Correspondence.**—All letters for the Central Board, to be addressed to the Secretary, at the Board Rooms, 7, Dyer's Buildings, Holborn, (opposite Farnival's Inn), London.

**Addresses.**—Secretaries of Branches and others are requested to send, as speedily as possible, to the general Secretary, correct lists of names and addresses of persons friendly to the principles and operations of the Society, to whom circulars may be addressed, regarding the general and combined missionary tour of the President and chief Missionaries of the Society, which is soon to be undertaken by order of Congress. These lists of names are also required to form part of a general address book, which is to be kept for the use of the Board.

**Literating Libraries.**—The Board are ready to receive from all parties DONATIONS of USEFUL BOOKS, and SUBSCRIPTIONS for the purpose of forming these Libraries, for the use of the Branches of the Society, as directed by Congress. Persons in Scotland, or elsewhere, who can procure copies of rules of such libraries, will confer a favour by forwarding them to the Secretary, (pre-paid.)

**Quarterly Reports.**—Those Branches who have not yet sent their Reports and Funds, will be so good as do so, immediately.

**Reports and Funds.**—The following have been received:—Harington, £3 14s.; Finsbury, £10 4s. 9d.; Northampton, £1 3s. 6d.; Cheltenham, £1 13s. 6d.; Huddersfield, £18 7s. 4d.; Leicester, £10.

**Notices of Deposits.**—The Secretaries are requested to notify to the General Secretary, according to rule 131, whenever any money is paid into the banking account.

**General Missionary Tour.**—By the Circular in another column, the attention of Branches is called to this subject; and the managers and friends will proceed to open subscription lists, and make exertions for the accomplishment of this object. About Fifteen pounds have been already received.

WALTER NEWALL, Gen. Sec.

London, 29th June, 1840.

### TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

R. S. G., Leeds, declined.

G. S., Hulme.—We shall take up the subject alluded to in his communication.

EDMUND, LONDON.—We have forwarded his communication to the District Board, to whom all such matters should be referred as falling peculiarly within their jurisdiction, in conformity with the constitution of the Association.

All communications for the Manchester Branch, in future, to be addressed to the Secretary, Hall of Science, Campfield.

PETER CATTERALL, Sec.

## Advertisements.

### SOCIAL REFORM.

THE Friends of Free Inquiry, and the Disciples of "The Rational System of Society," are respectfully apprised, that THIS DAY (SATURDAY, JULY 4th, 1840),

### "THE NEW MORAL WORLD"

will appear, enlarged to nearly double its former size. Price, unstamped Edition, only THREEPENCE!!!

The "New Moral World" is the official organ of the "Universal Community Society of Rational Religionists," and contains, in addition to accurate Reports of the Progress of Social Reform; Original Articles expository of the real Principles of the Society, on the important questions of Private and Public Property; Responsibility; Marriage and Divorce; Rational and Irrational Religion; while, with this information, is blended Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

The size of the "New Moral World" will be larger than two No.'s of "Chambers' Journal"; and nearly as large as the "Examiner" Newspaper, while its price will be only Three-pence!!!

A Stamped Edition, Price FOURPENCE HALFPENNY, will be published, for the convenience of parties wishing to have it by Post. Orders for this Edition must be forwarded, with One Quarter's payment in advance, pre-paid, to the Publisher, J. Hobson, 5, Market Street, Briggate, Leeds.

Leeds: Printed and Published by J. Hobson, 5, Market Street.

Published, in London, by J. Cleave, 1, Shoe Lane, Fleet-Street; and, in Manchester, by A. Heywood, 60, Oldham-Street.

May be had of all Booksellers, and at all the Social Institutions.

### STATE PROSECUTIONS.

(FROM THE "WEEKLY DISPATCH," OF JUNE 21.)

**RELEASE OF MR. JOHN CLEAVE FROM THE COMPTON.**—This ill-used man, after an imprisonment of about four weeks, has been released from confinement in the Compton, by an order from Lord Normanby. Some time since a memorial, numerous and respectfully signed, praying for a mitigation of punishment, was presented to his Lordship by Mr. Grote. Mr. Grote was attended by Mr. Pattison and Mr. Lowe. The former gentleman fully stated the case, and urged the Marquis to remit that portion of the sentence which related to imprisonment. This Lord Normanby has done, and Mr. Cleave is now at large; but he had to discharge the fine of £20, and he is still held in sureties for his good behaviour for two years; and this, while another individual, who not only published the Letters, but printed them, has escaped scot-free. The fact, therefore, that Mr. Cleave is still held to bail, that he has expended £70 in this affair, and has been under the necessity of quitting his business, are matters sufficiently grievous, and betray a great want of feeling on the part of the Whigs. A remission of a portion of Mr. Cleave's sentence implies that he has been hardly dealt with, which is acknowledged by the Judge liberating him: and the sooner the restrictions placed upon his conduct are removed and the fine paid back to him, the greater will be the credit due to Government."

The following subscriptions have been received towards paying the fine and heavy law expenses inflicted on Mr. Cleave.

|  | £. | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| A few friends at Salisbury, per Mr. Rees, bookseller | 0  | 17 | 0  |
| Mrs. Barchard, Squeers Mount                         | 1  | 10 | 0  |
| Mr. Tidd, Goswell-street                             | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| R. F. B., per Mr. Jefferies                          | 0  | 2  | 6  |
| Ecce Homo  | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Mr. Hobson, Leeds                                    | 2  | 2  | 0  |
| Mr. C. F. Green                                      | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| A Dear Lover of Whiggery                             | 0  | 0  | 6  |

It is respectfully suggested to the public generally, and more especially to those engaged in the bookselling and publishing trade, that both their interest and their duty consist in bearing a portion of this expense; there being scarcely a bookseller in the kingdom who is not equally liable to a similar oppression, whenever it shall please the emissaries of bigotry and fanaticism to arraign them before a prejudiced or a packed Jury.

JUST PUBLISHED, PRICE ONE PENNY, THE MORAL CODE OF THE NEW MORAL WORLD, OR RATIONAL STATE OF SOCIETY; containing the LAWS of Human Nature, upon which are based Man's duty to Himself, to Society, and to God. Drawn up by JOHN FINCH; corrected, revised, and approved, by ROBERT OWEN.

Also, The LINNEAN SYSTEM OF BOTANY, in a Sheet; intended for the use of Mutual Improvement Classes. Price One Penny.

Also, ROBERT OWEN on MARRIAGE, RELIGION, and PRIVATE PROPERTY; containing the best exposition of the Marriage question ever published. On a Sheet: Price One Penny.

Liverpool: James Stewart, 75, Whitechapel. Manchester: Heywood, 60, Oldham-street. Birmingham: Gnest, Steel-house-lane. Leeds: J. Hobson, New Moral World Office, 5, Market Street. London: Hetherington, Strand; Cleave, Shoe-lane; Watson, City-road, Finsbury; and all the Social Institutions.

LEEDS: Printed and Published for the "Universal Community Society of Rational Religionists," by JOSHUA HOBSON, at his Printing and Publishing Office, 5, Market-Street.