

The National Intelligencer,

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WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

Vol. 1. WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, NEW-JERSEY AVENUE, NEAR THE CAPITOL. MONDAY, JUNE 29th, 1841.

LONDON

ABSTRACT

Of the second report of the Committee of the House of Lords, directed to their Inquiry.

When it became known to some of the most stirring members of the Society, which under the name of the London Corresponding Society, is particularly defined in the former report, that the late revolutionary relations meetings had expired, they drew together at first in small parties with a degree of caution, changing frequently their place of meetings, and omitting their accustomed forms, several lighted candles, as they expressed themselves, of the act which had not then expired, for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. In this condition, various plans were proposed for the present meeting, for circulating and carrying on a systematic security their former practices. Among other devices, one was proposed to address a considerable number to assume the name and appearance of the Home Society.

Those who were to take the name of a Home Society, had no other purpose but to walk up and that name a political Society, and formed for purposes that were not to be divulged, that no fund raised by regular contribution should form the basis of this Society, no persons admitted as members but those of democratic principles, who were to receive copies of the rules of a Home Society, nor that they should be offered, but that they might receive the certificates, in case any of the meetings should be refused; concerning the funds, it is the duty of the law, an excellent rule of the relief of the labor and industry has been used as an instrument for the destruction of liberty and industry. Many members of the Home Corresponding Society will be glad to see this manner of conduct. One day there had been at the same time concerning a dinner of a secret Society, which, after it had attained a proper maturity, was announced to the Home Society that had been established, but they were, and became numerous, by the persons in the church of delegates from a Society from emancipation, and desiring to know whether the proposed Benefit Society would succeed in this manner.

The proposal was favorably received, and a future meeting appointed, at which they should be furnished with the instructions of the plan of that Society. At that meeting, the instructions, which were in writing, were to this effect: "The members to be admitted by a test, or declaration on oath, to be sworn on the bible when it can be procured; but not offered, that those who are not inclined to keep a bible. The persons entrusted to wear others, or in the phrase of the Society, to initiate them, are termed *Manufacturers*. They receive a written appointment, with signed instructions and printed declarations (copies of each of these are annexed to this report); two initiators are allotted to each conductor, who is to make a report of them, at fixed times, to another officer called a *Inspector*, who is appointed over every ten conductors; to each superintendent a messenger is assigned, by whom he is to communicate with the initiators, the names and number of which are only to be known by the conductors; he is to help to the messenger; but they are supposed to be persons of superior consequence. Signs are instituted, by which the members may know each other; but it does not distinctly appear, whether they are trusted, or only the conductors, are entrusted with the knowledge of the signs. The plan thus explained was fully approved, and the Benefit Society agreed to form one in each of the factories, under the name of United Britons. This association appears to have taken place about the middle of the month of March last. Of the practice and habits of this association, the committee has received more precise information. In their general instruction they are somewhat reserved on the subject of religion (which happily has been the case, and has contributed to the detection of their schemes). But it appears to your committee that a very liberal and just of your leaders has been in every

means in their power to work upon all persons whose religious opinions differ from those of the establishment; for which purpose the general conduct has been managed in the freest manner to their followers to mix as much as possible with their persons, and by concealing their own sentiments, which are subject to all religion, and to identify themselves with those of the persons with whom they should communicate, to gain proselytes to their political designs, and thus to promote the execution of their mischievous and determined purposes of overthrowing the Constitution. In the confidential meetings of the initiated, however, they endeavor to turn the people against religion, in order to overthrow the faith through the church; observing, that if there were no Bibles, there would be no Bibles, and that the most frequent subjects treated in the confidential meetings of the initiated, plans of instructions to be executed on the pretext of the high price of provisions, but directed to the subversion of government, have been discussed, and the means traced out for procuring arms of the most dangerous kinds. The members are intrusted to frequent clubs where workmen and soldiers resort, to appear in the most dangerous places, to be employed in the quillions they are intrusted to raise. Their purposes are of a more fanatical complexion than the ordinary machinery of a mob; in your committee had had particular notice of the meetings, and of some persons attending the meetings within a very recent period, when a plan of assassinating certain members of Parliament, and of holding a public dinner in honor of the late King, was proposed, and it seemed to meet with the general acquiescence of the company that it would be victorious.

It was also appeared to your committee, that a similar formation with this, since the period when it became generally known that the act for preventing seditious meetings had expired, have been in various parts of the country, and after the expiration of the act for preventing the habeas corpus act, assumed a bold and daring aspect; besides the places, where the operations of such societies have been known to take place, the organization of the Magistrates, and kept down by their presence and firmness, a very dangerous conspiracy of a similar nature had manifested itself in some parts of the country, which, from all its forms and habits, strongly resembles the formation of mutual intercourse, between those conspirators and the United Britons. The only apparent difference being, that the meeting in the country, being directly connected with manufacturers, is obliged to assume a more apparent concern for their interest in regard to the dearth of living, and ostensibly aims at a reduction of the price of provisions, or the increase of the price of labor; whereas the Society of United Britons does not hesitate to profess their will to frustrate every plan for the relief of the poor; the high price of provisions being most favorable to their object of exciting insurrection.

The committee has further to observe, that by most certain intelligence, it appears that there still exist in the dominions of the King's enemies, at least two established companies of highlanders, and a number of Great-Britain and Ireland, actively employed in carrying on correspondence by their agents, with the leaders of these Societies, and abetting them in the most atrocious circumstances the crimes they are committing, and during these by holding out hopes of revenge.

The committee has also had great reason to believe, that many of the United Irish, who, either by the lenity of the government of that country, or by their own apprehension of his fall severity, have taken refuge here, are in all the means they had been used to produce tumult and inflame the minds of the members of the meetings in a higher pitch of extravagance, and render it more necessary to fugitive them than that control, which, in its former exercise, was as useful to themselves as it was fatal to the State; for it is remarkable that, in the act of insurrection, and the preventive of evil, that the statute in question has proved to be, there having seldom

occurred an occasion for enforcing the law during the period of its continuance; it is therefore the unanimous and decided opinion of your committee, that the Bill now referred to their consideration ought to pass into a law.

Appointment of a Conductor.
The Excise officers you as a Conductor. They expect you will faithfully discharge your duty agreeable to the instructions you receive.

Health and conduct, &c. &c.
March 1841.

Duty of Conductors.
There shall be in each department a number of officers, to be called Conductors, who shall receive their orders, issued from an officer entitled a Superintendent. Each Conductor is required to call on members to the number of ten, to convey to them the orders of the Executive to receive from him, whatever fine or penalty they may be liable to incur, without depriving the public expense; as also the name and place of abode, (soled, if any persons attend as members, or any other communications, they may wish to transmit to the Executive, all of which he shall faithfully deliver to the Superintendent. Each member is required to exert himself to the utmost of his power to invite his friends, by the name of a Conductor, to the meetings, which shall be done as follows:—On his becoming acquainted with any person of good character, who has manifested a firm attachment to the cause of justice, and who is desirous of being a member, he shall present the declaration of his voluntary acceptance, his name shall then be retained to the conductor who lives most contiguous to him (who shall faithfully transmit the same, together with his report, to commence every second Monday.

DECLARATION.

In the awful presence of Almighty God, I, A. B. do voluntarily declare, that I will in every way exert myself, to obtain the object of this Union; namely, to recover the rights which the Supreme Being, in his infinite bounty, hath given to all men; and that I neither hope, nor fear, rewards or punishments, shall ever induce me to inform on, or give evidence, directly or indirectly, concerning the business of this or any similar Society.

So help me God.

LONDON, April 27.
Extract from a Report on the State of the English commerce, published by the Committee.

The manufacture of linen and hempen cloth is of great antiquity in the west of Asia, in the north of Africa, and in Europe; by the most ancient records which we possess, it appears to have been first made on the banks of the Euphrates and the Nile; it became common in Western Syria; and was one of the first branches of industry from which the cities of Sion and Syracusa derived their wealth. It was introduced into Greece in its earlier species, became known in the northern parts of both Europe and Asia. It was introduced by the Carthaginians and Greeks into Spain and Gaul. The manufacture was taught by the Romans to the other people in Europe, whom their arms subdued. In the declining age of the Roman empire, the manufacture of linen was continued, almost exclusively, to establishments in the countries on the Atlantic sea. When the useful arts began to revive and flourish, after their ruin by the invasion of barbarians, in the dark ages, the manufacture of linen cloth was found to flourish only in Italy, and on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean sea; that cloth prevailed, to a certain degree, even in the maritime countries in the north of the European continent. It was first introduced in the low countries of Germany, and in France—Depending for its raw materials upon agriculture, it was much less early than the manufacture of woolen introduced as a great branch of industry in Italy, France, and Germany; France, the Dutch United Provinces, and the countries on the Baltic, long supplied

a very large proportion of the linens of different sorts, confined in Britain; and, indeed, they do in still greater degree, of improvement in the fine cloth, and many are not for a country like this, which is not so hard rather of a light than that of a deep chequer one—and naturally prefers wheat to any produce that is not merely for feeding the sheep; and, in the lower of the most natural domestic manufactures, should chiefly flourish where the raw material is in the greatest plenty.

Woolen Ireland was destined to a specific fate, after the restoration of Charles the Second; the enclosed fairs, and the manufacture of linens were introduced into that island, as a branch of industry, which might cultivate, without competition with the staple manufactures of Great Britain, and be carried on with the Irish from the woolen manufacture, and so engage them to avoid the staple manufacture of the Kingdom of Great Britain. The design was not unavailing. At the close of the government, the linen manufacture was quickly flourishing in Ireland. Irish linen was largely exported to Britain, to Spain, and the European colonies in America. At the close of the last century, the linen manufacture, however, the Irish weavers were numerous both, and the linen manufacture brought large sums of money into that country. In the reign of George the First, and George the Second, the linen manufacture was more and more a great staple branch of industry. The manufacturers and weavers improved their skills; and the cloth which they produced, in the light in England began to be preferred to the Holland cloth, in the favor of his present majesty's reign, this manufacture has still advanced in that Isles. Improvements in bleaching have contributed to increase the exports of bringing it into the markets. It has, in great measure, supplanted the use of the fine linens of Flanders and Holland. It is from Ireland, principally, that linen is supplied for the consumption of England, most of the British armies, fleets, and navies.

Ever since the revolution, careful endeavours have been used to fix the home manufacture as a staple branch of industry in Scotland. This however was unsuccessful, without remarkable success, since the late Scottish rebellion. The board of trustees, chiefly by the advice of the late Lord Kaimes, made form after that era, long and successful exertions, to the extension of the linen manufacture, which were considerably beneficial. Plain linen, and lawn were, at Glasgow and Paisley, now made in great quantities; at Perth and Dundee, too, has been in considerable success with success extended. The spinning of linen yarn was proposed at a beneficial employment to the poor and idle women of the Highlands. A coarse linen, named *lino*, began to be sold in considerable quantities, made in Ayrshire and Galloway. And beautiful cloth for table linen was successfully prepared by non-manufacturers at Edinburgh and its vicinity. Bleach and green extension, was, by the care of the trustees, established in the north of the country. The Scotch wanted to make a great part of the linen wanted for their home consumption, and to furnish also quantities of extension, and the linen manufacture of Scotland had made the most progress before the year 1770. It has since advanced to greater prosperity. O-late, however, it seems to have been, in too great a degree, superseded by the manufacture of cottons.

LONDON, May 1-4.

Letters from Alicante received by the King George Packet, which arrived on Thursday at Portsmouth from Edinburgh, state, that the Spanish government has had recourse to a forced loan for defraying the expenses of the state. The contributions are fixed according to the estimated consumption of each city, and how to furnish the supply. Malaga has been rated at 9,000,000 of reals of inferior value, making a sum of about 75,000 English money.

Letters lately received from Bengal, appear, that the marquis Wellesley has given great attention to the subject, Ben-est-