

ANTI-CHARTIST MEETING, COALBROOK VALE.

Taken from The Cambrian 11th May 1839

On Monday, the 29th April, 1839, the inaugural meeting of the Anti-Chartist meeting was held and among the 5,000 or more present in attendance were some of the oldest and respected inhabitants of the area. At the meeting were the Rev. Mr. Ormerod, the Rev. Mr. Lawrence, William Bailey, William Patrick, Richard Brown, N. Coates, William Brown, J. L. Cowes, William Williams and John Williams. The meeting was held at Coalbrook Vale, the house of George Brewer, the owner of the Coalbrook Vale Iron Works. Mr Crawshay Bailey took the chair.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, said,

“We have met this day to endeavour to counteract the baneful effects of the principles of the Chartists and to show the inhabitants of this place who are their real friends. I have known some of you upwards of twenty years, and we have lived peaceably together without the interference of strangers; but of late some unprincipled agitators, who have neither characters nor property to lose, have come among you and endeavoured to persuade you that they are your friends when in fact they are your enemies and the enemies of our country. Will Vincent or the Newport Baker or any other Chartist come among you and layout capital, thereby giving you employment? No, they have none to layout, neither can they support you one minute; but they will take care that you shall support them. What was the state of this valley fifty years ago? Nothing could be heard from Brynmawr to Aberbeeg but the solitary sound of a blacksmith's hammer with some 200 inhabitants but now may be heard the sound of machinery employed in converting the minerals that then lay buried under these mountains into finished iron and containing a population of ten thousand souls. And what was I thirty years ago, and what did I possess? I owe all that I have to my own industry and I would sacrifice my life rather than lose my property. Those agitators say we ought to have annual Parliaments. Should that take place it will be a serious evil as numbers of the working class would think of nothing but continual electioneering. Before I sit down I will just observe, that your complaints respecting taxation are erroneous, as such monies return to you like the tides flow up the rivers. I therefore beg to say, that I fully concur in the object of this meeting”.

George Brewer in proposing the first resolution said,

“We have not met this day for the purpose of advocating the principles of any particular party, but merely to ask every reasonable man present is he for preserving the peace of our country or for involving it in civil war? Does he wish to unsheathe the sword to plunge it in the bosom of a neighbour, a friend, or a relative? Would he wish to see his country desolate like Spain or miserable like Canada? Would he wish to see his hard-earned property, the reward of his industry, taken from him, or destroyed by base and unprincipled agitators? It has been set forth by those Chartists that you are an impoverished and starving people, is not this an insult to every sober

and industrious workman? If we for one moment look around us and see the number of comfortable cottages that present themselves to our view - how were they erected? Was it by adhering to the doctrines of Stevens, Vincent, or other demagogues? No; they are monuments of your own persevering industry and reflect the greatest degree of credit on your national character. Does not such evidence of your respectability prove to demonstration the fallacy of such abominable assertions? Who is Vincent? Is he a Cymro? No; is he a resident in this county? No; is he a gentleman? No; to you he is a stranger, he never resided among you, and before he became a Chartist Agitator he was an operative-a journeyman printer but preferring a life of idleness to that of earning his bread by the sweat of his brow as you earn it he became a wandering demagogue, sowing the seeds of disaffection among a loyal, a happy and a contented people. Then, my fellow countrymen, let me ask you, will you be led astray by a man entirely ignorant of your circumstances and therefore cannot sympathize with you in your wants; who has neither the inclination or the means to assist you in your difficulties but whose sole object is to profit by the delusion he propagates. I frankly admit that from the long connection that has subsisted between us we have had your labour, your wages and which has been to our mutual advantage”.

Mr. Brewer then addressed the meeting in the Welsh language, and concluded by proposing the following resolution:

"That we, her Majesty's loyal subjects, viewing the efforts that are now being made by disaffected men, in this and other parts of the kingdom, to subvert the peace and good order of society, consider it our duty to come forward and publicly declare our firm attachment to our beloved Sovereign and our unshaken confidence in our glorious constitution and are determined to do all in our power to support her crown and dignity."

Mr. M. R. Every then came forward and said:

“Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, and friends-the working classes. In rising to second the resolution that has been placed in my hand, I feel impelled to do so by the strongest motives, namely, those of loyalty patriotism and Christianity. I am happy to say that I have never, during my life, felt any disposition in my heart towards my reigning Sovereign but that of dutiful loyalty. Born in the reign of good old George the Third, a Prince of revered and blessed memory, towards whom from my earliest recollections I ever felt attached; I have never ceased to feel the same principles glowing in my breast towards his illustrious successors and it is now, if possible, increased towards our Maiden Queen Victoria and who, let me ask, with their minds sufficiently enlightened as to the mild and paternal sway that has been exercised over our country by the illustrious House of Brunswick but must reel the like dutiful loyalty towards the reigning dynasty. Has not this line of Sovereignty been characterised as the steady protectors and defenders of civil and religious freedom? With these sentiments I fully concur with the resolution and would say from my heart Long live the Queen, may her Majesty's throne be established in righteousness and

may she long- reign over a free, united, loving and obedient people." The resolution also expresses an unshaken confidence in our glorious constitution; and this takes hold of my feelings as a patriot, and I envy not the man who has feelings of an opposite tendency. Our constitution may well be to us a source of rejoicing; it is that of which we may with devout feelings glory in as being of the gift of a gracious providence to us. Under the same gracious providence has that constitution for ages been our safeguard and protection, while other nations have been convulsed with revolution and some of them fallen to decay. May the British constitution, which attracts the admiration of the world, still claim our confidence and support. These views and feelings fully comport with Christianity; and I hesitate not to say that there can be no vital Christianity in the heart without them. If we receive the Bible as the revelation of God, which it is, we must run counter to its holy injunctions and precepts; if we be not both loyal and patriotic for that same page of inspiration, which gives us a blessed hope of immortality and points out our duty, unequivocally enjoins fidelity to our Sovereign and love to our country. These principles, I am happy to say, I have in common with the Wesleyan Community to which I belong; we have closely followed in the steps of our venerable founder John Wesley, than whom no man was ever more loyal and patriotic. My friends, the working classes, I congratulate you that by far the great majority of you are a church and chapel going people and I rejoice to know that you read your Bible, of this I have no doubt as connected with the British and Foreign Bible Society, I have distributed among you during the last ten years upwards of two thousand copies of the word of God. Now I know, that with that holy book in your hands, if you will allow yourselves to be guided by its precepts, you will not miss your providential way in these troublous times. My friends In standing forth before you today, I am actuated by motives of friendship and good will towards you and I have no doubt that the gentlemen by whom I am surrounded are influenced in the same way, indeed if I had reason to think otherwise, I would not have come to this meeting, I declare that much as I esteem and respect our worthy chairman and the gentlemen on the platform, if I thought that they were not the friends of the people, I would not have been here today but on that head I have no misgivings. I believe from my heart that they are the friends, the long-tried and best friends of the people and that nothing would give them greater satisfaction than to find in you at all times a prosperous, a happy, and a contented people. With these sentiments sir, with great cordiality of heart, I second the resolution.

R. Bailey, (Crawshay's nephew) then rose and moved the second resolution and said he would address the Working Men, Tradesmen and Gentlemen, but on this occasion the working men more individually. It was they that were the bulk and strength of the population, here indeed they almost formed the entire mass and it was to their feelings that the principle attention of this meeting would shortly be directed. As yet he was but young, perhaps he might be the youngest speaker that would address them but though young he had an influence, that influence had been exerted to the best of his power towards their welfare, coupled with his own, and still should continue to be so, He could not appreciate the noble sentiments of loyalty and honour just uttered by Mr. Brewer and Mr. Every in the proposal

and seconding of the first resolution; he knew that those were not the sentiments of his mind only, but almost the entire feelings of the crowd before him. He rejoiced in seeing so large a portion of the ministry and respectability of the neighbourhood present, ministers not of one sect or denomination only, but of many, here they had all sects, all sorts, Reformers as well as those who were not Reformers. He had a resolution he should propose to them one which was now of the greatest importance, that they viewed with horror the proceedings of designing men and endeavoured to avert their evil consequences by showing their fallacy. Theirs was not a political meeting, he did not come there to expatiate on the ballot, universal suffrage, or the Corn Laws, though perhaps he might be justified in doing so as they formed a large portion of the charter, on all these points they did not themselves agree. Sinking therefore minor political differences, they had met together for a nobler purpose; he therefore wished to give offence to none. The Charter he believed first came here under the title of the Working Man's Petition, then The National Petition, now it stood forth as the People's Charter. He begged them to observe how matters magnified. The very men who during the French revolution thought at first they were engaged in a righteous cause, rose by degrees from one act of violence to another, till Louis 16th was beheaded by them and amidst the savage execution that followed, one ruffian actually smeared his fingers in his Sovereign's blood, tasted it, and exclaimed that it was horribly bitter. Not that he apprehended any such fearful consequences from this people, or more immediate population. The people here he knew from past experience were a loyal and devoted people, he did not fear individual danger to himself or family, or from Ironmasters generally; many there were, who, though they did not at that moment attract his eye, he knew well loved him, as though he were their own child. He had been born amongst them, lived with them, and yet hoped to die amongst them. He would like to say more, but had not the strength or assurance to get on with it. He proceeded to expose some misrepresentations made by Mr. Vincent at Newport, respecting his uncle Mr. Crawshay Bailey and himself, showed the ingenuity with which Mr. Vincent had turned a piece of jocular conversation into positive fact, and stated that the story of himself going with a party to a Chartist Meeting to create elusion, and that his life was preserved when he and his friends were turned out only by Mr. Vincent's interference. for which he thanked him next morning, was utterly untrue. Oh, said he, if I told lies I'd try to tell good ones, I would not designate my party as such a sanguinary set that it required my voice to restrain them from bloodshed, I would if possible tell a far different tale here, though It was unnecessary he went alone and unattended though it was not to be expected that he should not meet persons he knew in such a place, and that he returned unhurt as he went. He then made some allusions as to the system of flattery pursued towards the women, said that both sexes had an equal claim on the public interest for the preservation of peace and order, and concluded by moving the following resolution:

"That we view with horror and disgust the probable consequences resulting from the promulgation of such principles as have lately been advanced by evil and ill designed men, tending to inflame the minds all, and create insubordination among the working classes; and consider it a duty we owe to ourselves, and to society, to show the fallacy of such doctrines."

Thomas Brown, Esq., then came forward to second the resolution, and said that he considered a duty devolved upon him to come forward at this crisis and warn the workmen to arouse themselves and consider well before they believed and followed the dangerous and unconstitutional doctrines of those strangers who had lately come among them calling themselves Chartists, and exciting them to acts which would lead to their own ruin. Mr. Brown considered that he had strong claims upon them for their attention they well knew he was the son of a working man, he was born at Merthyr, had spent his life in this district, and hoped to end his days among them. Vincent, Edwards, and the Chartists alluded to were strangers to them but whose characters would be made known to them that evening. The object of these demagogues was to excite dissatisfaction in their minds, excite them to riots, and then leave them in despair. To illustrate this he would convey to them what had recently occurred in other countries. In the year 1833, "Mr. Lewis (a Welshman, known to many of them), emigrated to Upper Canada, where he settled and laid out a capital, saved by industry in this country; he purchased land, erected buildings and, for the first four years, wrote letters to his brother (who now resides in this place), giving very flattering accounts, and inducing his friends to join him there. At the close of the last year (1838), the news from, Canada became very gloomy. Men of the names of Papineau, Mackenzie, and others, began propagating their tenets- travelled over the country, picturing and displaying grievances, until the misguided hearers became disaffected, they broke out and rebelled against the authorities: consequences naturally followed, -the military were called in to quell the disturbances, and great has been the loss of life: the two provinces in a state of revolution, trade became suspended, and farming business at a stand. The leaders of the mischief fled from the scene of riot and bloodshed, and left their deluded followers a sacrifice. Mr. Lewis now writes letters to advise his friends in this country to remain in a land blessed with peace. and wished he could return, but the state of the country has become such, he cannot get any money for his property. Mr. Brown then begged those who heard him would, by discarding such men as Vincent, and Edwards, avert a similar calamity from coming into this prosperous district. The little property Mr. Brown had become possessed of, he wished to keep; It was obtained by honest, industrious means, and he would now impress upon the minds of every workman that the same means which had raised him, was within the reach of every man before him, It was known to them that he (Mr. Brown's father) came into Wales as a workman.

J. W. Lee of Worcester rose and moved the third resolution, viz:-

"That it is deemed expedient that an address be presented to her most Gracious Majesty the Queen."

J. Brown in seconding the resolution, said- "It is with much pleasure I come forward to second the resolution which has just been proposed to you and as the objects and intentions of the meeting have been so ably and fully explained by the gentlemen who have preceded me, I will not detain you long with the observations I have to make. I hold in my hand a copy of what the Chartists call their national petition and it is as long as it is full of the most barefaced falsehoods; a very few only of which I will point out; and first then" We are bound down under a load of taxes. I will ask any of you, who stand before me, what taxes do you labour under that you feel at all oppressive? I am quite confident that there are none! For to

you, the working classes, are provided (in this place) the very roads you walk on, free of any charge Traders are trembling on the verge of Bankruptcy; Refer to the declarations of insolvencies, and list of bankruptcies published weekly and these will afford you the best contradiction to this deliberate falsehood.

"Workmen are Starving" Is it not well known, that from north to south, and from east to west In this island, that there never was a greater and steadier demand for labour of every description, and liberal wages given, particularly in the district we live in, where wages are as high as they have ever been; and I will now ask you whether there is the least shadow of truth in this statement? I will put it still further, and ask the oldest workman present, if he ever remembers them better fed than they are at this time?

"The Home of the Artificer is desolate." Take a walk through our markets on Saturdays, and see the loads of beef, mutton, &c. that are borne away by the hundreds that attend there; and on Sundays see the cheerful countenances of all classes- look at the cleanly garb of their wives and children. The husband with a good hat on his head, a good coat on his back, and a good well blacked pair of shoes on his feet, with their wives and children and the young men with their dashing sweethearts, moving in hundreds and thousands in the morning and evening, to fill to overflowing the numerous and large places of worship that our hills are studded with. The homes of the profligate, spendthrift, and drunkard, it is true, are as they ever have, and ever will be - desolate; but who have they to blame for it, or who indeed can remedy such a state of things but themselves? Their homes are desolate, because of their improvidence, and not because they live under and are oppressed by bad laws. The working men, or "artificers," as they are here called, are not only well fed, well clothed, and well housed, but beyond this, they have money also to spare, and how do I prove this? Why, by going from Abergavenny to Merthyr, and looking to the right hand and to the left, and seeing the noble places erected for public worship, and now erecting, and asking myself whose money paid for all this building? Why, it is as you well know, the greater part paid by the working classes and truly it may be said they are proof's of the infamous falsehood here stated. Once more:

"The Manufactories are deserted." Look at the largest manufactories and down to the stream side spinning jenny, are they, not fully employed and crammed with operatives who with difficulty can supply the wants of their customer? And if one of these statements put forth by the Chartists can possibly be more abominably false than another, surely it is this. It is with difficulty I have held this abominable heap of lies in my hand so long, I am so disgusted with it that I will hold it no longer, or take up any more of your valuable lime by refuting any more of the statements contained therein but will turn your attention to the parents who have given birth to such a prodigy and see if there be any resemblance between them, confining myself to those who have so recently shown their faces of brass before you. And first then, who, and what is Mr. Vincent? Why, he is an Englishman, and an operative, who always had a great reluctance to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow and, if I am rightly informed, whilst his fellow-workmen earned their 30s. to 35s. per week, he never could apply himself so as to exceed 17s. or 18s. because he was too idle to do so, and seeing an opportunity by trickery and deception (having a tolerable good gift of the gab as it is termed) to earn his 3/- or 4/-.

per week out of your pockets, he has set up as an agitator, and so far succeeded but too well in his scheme. I would earnestly recommend you to stop his fun by shutting up your pockets. Vincent comes from too great a distance, or we would probably be in possession of more of his history. Again Who is that man bearing the figure only of a man, Edwards, the mad baker, from Newport, who the other day on that ground boasted of his honesty, particularly towards his creditors? He lives not far from us, and a very short time ago, in the same week, obtained from a corn factor a large lot of flour which was delivered at his shop. and in a day or two he coolly told him, "You must take 5s. in the pound for this debt, or else I go to prison, and you will get nothing." Let us still come nearer home, again, and in the absence of Vincent and Edwards, who have we here at the Chartist head to keep the tintinnabulum alive? Why a man that lives in the house above there, Zephaniah Williams and what is he? Why I will tell you; he is a man who will coolly tell you, that there is no God, no eternity, has no beliefs in either Rewards or Punishments, but that when we die we die as a dog or a worn out horse. A few months ago, I was engaged on the borders of my native county, Glamorganshire, in search of coal near to the Ryddy Works, at which place this Zephaniah Williams was an underground agent, and one day a fall came down in the mine work, and mutilated a miner in a dreadful manner, and the poor fellow in his agony shouted "O God, save me O Lord, help me" and in the hearing of this infidel, who coolly turned to the man and said, "You fool! to call upon God to help you he cannot come if you call for a month; but if you were to say, 'O Zephaniah help me,' I would do it directly". Is it not notorious in our neighbourhood, that this man holds infidel meetings at his house on the Sabbath Day regularly? My friends, I will ask you what confidence one can have in a **cause** that hold such leaders as these at its head. Surely that must be a bad cause that has not ONE good honest man to boast of in its ranks. To conclude I earnestly beg and entreat of you all to consider well the consequences of arming yourselves and attempting to carry out the principles of this Charter for rest assured that the failure, and a miserable failure it will be, will bring upon your heads consequences the most dreadful, and will truly make your homes desolate. If a riot takes place in the country, it will cause stagnation to the present prosperous state of trade, and bring about in reality what the Chartists state is now the case, namely, that the working men are starving. It has been stated that we are now going to call upon you to sign something, that is not the case, for the next speaker will tell you what we propose to be done in addressing our Queen; and you will have three or four days to consider of this day's proceedings, and then if you approve of it, it will be open for those who choose to sign the same. Again, my friends, I implore you to retrace your steps, and consider well the dreadful consequences attendant or pursuing the course so strongly urged by the Chartists".

Mr. John Lester then said: "Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I have the honour to move the 4th Resolution, and in doing so, I trust I shall be permitted to make one or two observations. The object of this meeting has been so fully, so ably, and so explicitly explained by our worthy chairman, as to render it altogether unnecessary and superfluous in me to make an attempt at further explanation. One thing, however, is quite clear-that the aspect of affairs of this country is such as fully warrants and imperatively calls forth the exercise of every mental energy of which the mind is capable of every loyal subject in her Majesty's dominions. Couple with this fact the turbulent spirit of discontent that at the present time pervades

throughout Europe, nay, throughout the whole of the civilized world, and I venture to assert that there is not a man in existence, laying claim to one particle of sanity, who prefers order to confusion, peace and tranquillity to war and bloodshed, in short, universal good to universal evil, but will fully concur in the propriety of an endeavour by all possible means to avert the dreadful consequences attendant in a civil war. I do not, however, for one moment imagine that the crisis has yet arrived that will justify the apprehension of such a deplorable event. But if we for one moment glance at the state of party feeling that exists on the continent, if we reflect on the horrid butchery and unexampled inhumanity that have there been perpetrated to gratify the ambitious and to satiate the revengeful, void of every principle of sympathetic feeling, harder than adamant must be the heart that can contemplate such scenes of cruelty without dismay. But why need I direct your attention to the state of feeling of other nations, when, if we look at home, we shall find that our own domains are infested with the same disease, although separated by the pure streams of the Atlantic, and refreshed by pleasant and salubrious gales, yet, the contagion has reached our native isle the symptoms that have already shown themselves bear so great and striking an analogy, that the malady is pronounced to be the same insubordination and disaffection. Our friends and kindred on the other side of the water were goaded on by Papineau, Mackenzie and others, to the state of frenzy, at the expense of their happiness, their fortunes, and their lives. Influenced by the example of such leaders, actuated by the same motive, aggrandisement. Stephens, Vincent, and other retailers of sedition, have been exhausting their imbecile powers to bring about anarchy and confusion, and that too, under the plausible pretext of the good of their country, assuming the specious names of the friends of the people. Before I allude to the positions assumed by these demagogue politicians to gain popularity, let me ask you, would you like to see your native country deluged with blood? Would you like to see the land that gave you birth become the arena of carnage? Would you like to see your aged parents, to whose fostering care you are indebted for all you have, and all you are, fall victims to a reckless soldiery? Would you like to see your wives, the partners of your joys and cares, torn from your bosoms, and in one instant plunged into eternity? Would you like to see your children, the fruit of your affection, the objects of your future anticipations, become the victims of your own imprudence? Would you like to see your houses, which are now domes of comfort abodes of happiness, in short, kingdoms in miniatures, be converted into tents for the accommodation of ruthless marauders? May heaven avert such calamitous event. Allow me to enquire what think you would be the conduct that would be pursued by such men as Vincent, Stephens, and others, in the event of a revolution in the country-an event which every sober minded man must deprecate? Would they, think you, lead you on to victory and to glory, or would they not goad you on to misery and despair, and leave you then; and would, they not, like Papineau and Mackenzie be glad to seek refuge In the United States or any other state that would afford them shelter to hide their diminished heads in obscurity and would they not thankfully accept the meanest employment that would procure for them a miserable pittance to enable them to grovel out like a grub the remainder of their days. What are the principle points these demagogues urge to gain popular favour? Among others, too numerous and absurd to mention are the non qualification of a Member to serve in Parliament, the extension of the franchise, or, in other words, Universal Suffrage, Annual Parliaments, and to crown all, they cry Down with the Whigs and Tories Now, although no

politician myself, suppose for the sake of argument it were deemed expedient to do away with the qualification of a member what practical good could result there from? Would the people secure better legislation, would they have wiser and better representatives because they paid them a stated salary, would the non-qualification of members secure the representation of the whole of the counties, towns and boroughs? Would the members so chosen, who have no property at stake, no interest to protect in common with the merchant, the manufacturer, and the agriculturalist, be more likely to do justice to their constituents? Would the circumstance of their being poor and dependant, make them honest in giving their vote? Would that fact render them impervious to the corrupt influence of a wealthier neighbour, to give him his or their support in matters affecting, either directly or indirectly, the interests of their constituents? In short, would the repeal of the qualification clause increase the influence of the people? If not, as has been already shown, where would be its utility? What good could accrue from it, the fallacy at once, becomes obvious, and reflects discredit, shame, and disgrace on its promulgators. The next thing to notice is Universal Suffrage. On this head, I would ask is there a man to be found that can prove to demonstration that Conservatism does not exist in the same ratio amongst the intelligent part of the lowest, as it does in the first and second classes of society unless this can be done, what practical good can result from it. Annual Parliaments is another dogma in their political creed and its mischievous consequences appear obvious on its very surface such continual agitation would only tend to create a spirit of party feeling inimical to the interest of social order, because, before such feeling could possibly subside it would receive a fresh impetus by another general election, thus would the spirit of party feeling and predilection grow and rankle in the bosom prejudicial to the best interests of society they then crown all with the recommendation of "down with the Whigs and Tories." If by this recommendation I am to understand that recourse should be had to physical force, I, for one, will declaim against it as being contrary to all law, reason, and religion; but, if on the other hand, I am to understand that it is simply intended to convey the desire that faction ought no longer to exist in this as a nation, that every member in society ought to form part in one vast family, each exercised by one popular sentiment the general good; each joined in the same cause to promote the interests and happiness of our common country, I, for one, with with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength, join in the cry of "down with the Whigs and Tories." I will say more, may the distinctive appellation of Whigs and Tories, be speedily consigned to the tomb of oblivion, and let there be no other vestige of their existence for posterity, than an historical record, "England will then retain her standing in the scale of nations;" and to the working class I would recommend be sober, be industrious, be happy, love to practice virtue, revere religion, and then you may reasonably hope to have a continuance of the blessings of a bounteous providence bestowed upon you in rich profusion, to realise which, will constitute England what she long has been, what she now is, and what she long will be the "Envy of surrounding nations and the admiration of the world."

Mr. Lester concluded by proposing the adoption of the following Address to her Majesty:

"To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty. We, the undersigned Ironmasters, Tradesmen, Artisans and Inhabitants of the parish of Aberystwith and its vicinity, in

the county of Monmouth, observing with regret the efforts now making to create insubordination among the working classes of society and discontent with their condition, thereby setting at defiance all established authority, and by means of violence and terror to alter the laws and disturb the settlement of property, and considering it to be the duty of all loyal subjects to make known their opinions, beg humbly to lay at the foot of the Throne an assurance of our firm and unalterable determination to support the just prerogatives of the Crown and the constitutions privileges of Parliament. We most respectfully beg to present to your Majesty the assurance of a devoted affection for your person, of loyalty to the Throne, and attachment to the institutions of the country”.

Mr. Evan Evans seconded the resolution which was carried unanimously.

Mr. D. S. Lewis addressed the meeting, with much effect in the Welsh language. Mr. Benjamin Williams then addressed the meeting, in Welsh, to the following effect:

“Friends, The gentlemen on the platform are the best friends of the working classes-and the strangers, who call themselves Chartists, are their worst foes. They come about the country to persuade the people that they are like asses, which are so heavily laden, that they at last fall down under their burdens, but that they (the Chartists), throw the burdens off their backs, and thus lightened, the poor creatures rise up. Mr Williams said, in one way this comparison was good, it was very true that the Chartists did come by and lighten the poor workmen, but then it was the pockets only they lightened. They got from the workmen a great deal of money: this they thought a genteel way of begging. They tried to persuade the people that they should have the shilling loaf for three pence, and a pound of sugar for four-pence, and all other things in the same ratio. The Chartists also try to persuade the people that they are in bondage, but I know, and see, that the people in this neighbourhood are supplied with food and raiment, and are not in bondage. You complain of the poor-house bondage. Well, that is the worst bondage in England. But the question is who brought us into it? Not the Tories. Did not Joseph and Crawshay Bailey Esqrs. stand against the new Poor Law Bill but the Infidels, the Radicals, the Roman Catholics, and others were the men who got it to pass. Everybody knows that the Tories always wanted the good old laws of England to stand; and amongst them. to be sure the old poor law which was the glory of England. But how are we to get out of bondage? How did the Israelites get out of the Egyptian bondage? Did they prepare arms to fight, as the Chartists do? No. They humbled themselves before God and the Almighty sent deliverance. And this is the best way for you. You are also troubled about the Church property; The Chartists tell you that is yours as much as it is the clergyman's. I talked with a man the other day, who is very earnest that the Church should not keep its property, and who told me that it once belonged to the Roman Catholics. Well, I said, do you want the Roman Catholics to have it back again?-and he said, No they sha'n't And do you want the present Clergy to be taken from the Churches, and the Catholics to have them? he said, No they sha'n't." Well then, I said, I see, plainly that you covet other peoples' property. Now, my friends, I tell you that the tithes and endowments are the right property of the Church of England, and long before any of our grandfathers were born. Let me ask you a question Suppose that Mr, Price, the owner of Ffosmaen Farm were to make his will, and leave it to

the Baptists for ever but, in time to come, that the Wesleyans, the Calvinistic Methodists, the Independents, and others, were to join together to have a charter, in order to get this farm from the Baptists, would that be right? ask your conscience. (Loud cries of No, no.) I tell you my friends, that I would not wish to live in England, if the Church was to be cut down and given to Roman Catholics. I dread to think of living under a Roman Catholic Government. Now, my friends live in peace under our present Government. I ask you, professors of religion, who have been our best friends in helping us to build our different places of worship? The Chartists? (Cries of No, no.") No, indeed, they were such as the gentlemen on the platform, who came forward with their 5/- 10/. and 20/-. at a time. One of our ministers called, the other day, among others, upon a Chartist, for a trifle to help a chapel, as a good cause. The Chartist said, I shall give you nothing. You call it a good cause-I can it a bad cause." Professors of religion, beware, these Chartists are no friends to you. The man I have spoken of is the principal Chartist about here, and he makes no secret in denying the existence of a God. I tell you that your liberal friends are such as the gentlemen on the platform- the Baileys, the Brewers, the Browns, and many others, who are here to-day, giving you the best advice for your welfare. Let us live in peace and harmony and as loyal subjects to her Majesty.

Tom Llewellyn Brewer, Esq., moved that Joseph Bailey jun. Esq, M. P. be requested to present the above address. George Brewer, Esq seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Abraham Rowlands, Esq., then moved that the thanks of the meeting be presented to the Chairman, for his very able conduct in the chair, and his promptitude in coming forward to facilitate the objects of the meeting, which was seconded by A. Brewer, Esq. Three cheers were then given for the Queen, and the meeting, which was composed of upwards of five thousand people, peaceably separated.

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