

CARLISLE DISPENSARY & INFIRMARY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CARLISLE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I have to thank the courtesy of the Subscribers to the Carlisle Dispensary, and their Rev. Chairman for reading my memorial, presented by Mr. Dobinson, though the manner of introducing it was not exactly formal. The purport of it was to recommend as the most just and liberal arrangement of the duties of Surgeon to that institution, that henceforth they should be discharged in rotation, equally, by all the regular practitioners in the town who were willing to undertake them; and I referred to the Glasgow Infirmary, as an instance of the practicability and advantages of such an arrangement. I might have added the Infirmary at Dumfries, in which place, I understand, they have at last got rid of the exclusive system.

When the Dispensary was first instituted, there was a sufficient reason, beyond the mere love of patronage and intrigue, why the number of surgeons should be limited and select. At that time there was no legal restriction on the practice of medicine, and from the most learned and honourable practitioner to the most illiterate and unprincipled quack, there was an unperceptible gradation of professional merit. But now that tribunals, armed with the authority of the laws, are appointed for the express purpose of inquiring into the education and acquirements of surgeons, and to give to such as are found competent, certificates of their having passed such inquiry, the ancient reason for selection falls to the ground, and it is difficult to conceive what new one can be given for continuing an invidious exclusion.

And when we consider the purport and nature of such institutions as Dispensaries, we have on every hand proofs of the expediency of throwing them open to all whose practice has a legal sanction. The original object of the formation of Dispensaries and Infirmaries was to afford relief to the poor in sickness; but in the progress of science and civilization they have fulfilled, more or less according to the judgment with which they have been regulated, an object of scarcely less importance to suffering humanity, that of furnishing opportunities of acquiring medical and surgical knowledge; and thus by improving the character of the profession, and raising its standard of excellence, they reflect on the rich those benefits which their charity extends to the poor.

I do not merely speak of those great institutions which have become famous as schools of medicine. Every institution of the kind is capable of being made more or less subservient to the great object of the acquisition of practical knowledge; and whatever makes it subservient to this object increases in an equal ratio its utility to the poor, and ultimately to the rich. For the utility of a Dispensary to the poor must not be measured by the quantity of physic they can be made to swallow in a given time, nor by the number of hundreds, or thousands of poor wretches whose necessities compel them to have recourse to its assistance; but by the quantity of professional time and skill which is bestowed in the administering of the medicines, and by the frequency and regularity of the attentions which are paid to the complaints of the patients. And it is a gratifying reflection to every humane mind that such enlightened charity is indeed "twice blessed;" for while the medical attendants are exercising their skill in the relief of the poor, they are exalting their own stations as moral and intellectual beings, and become the means of diffusing over every class of society those benefits, which the charity of the rich enables them to confer on the few.

Now it is self-evident that the more numerous are the medical men attached to any institution of the kind, the more widely is the information resulting from it diffused; the more its duties are subdivided, the more likely are they to be well performed; the more open the practice is to inspection the more likely is it to be well considered and accurately recorded; and the more emulation is excited the greater the improvement likely to result from it. If an office be a laborious and difficult one why reject assistance? If it be a delightful or instructive one will it become less so by sharing its benefits with our neighbours?

It is difficult to conceive why the Governors of an institution who will thankfully receive any pecuniary contribution, should say, "we will receive so much professional assistance and no more." To any person uninitiated in the mystery, the result of the last general meeting would be utterly inexplicable. I mean no disrespect to the three gentlemen, who on the ballot for surgeons, were uppermost in the scramble for votes, when I say that my friend, Mr. Oliver, was superior to them all in standing, and equal to any of them in professional and general attainments. I am sure Mr. Oliver stands too high in their estimation and that of the public, for them to feel offended by my saying so—and why, I ask, should the Dispensary not avail itself of Mr. Oliver's services when he was willing—nay, desirous, to render them?—why, if there was an opportunity of acquiring professional information, should Mr. Oliver be debarred from it?—why, if there are other benefits resulting from the situation, should three young gentlemen be blessed with the exclusive privilege of dividing them?

All the circumstances attending the arrangement in the medical department would, to a plain man, be equally inexplicable. Dr. Barnes declares the duties of physician in ordinary to be too laborious for him, pleads his thirteen years' services, and resigns. The Committee recommend the appointment of two physicians in his stead, but instead of dividing the arduous and increasing duties equally between them, add the unaccountable provision that the senior physician shall daily confer the benefits of his talents and experience on the patients in the House of Recovery, and in all other respects be like the Jupiter of the ancients, who was only invoked when the occasion was worthy of his interference. But the Governors, like loyal men, trust to their representatives in the Committee assembled, and unanimously ratify the decision. Then the mystery is solved, and the wisdom of the Committee becomes apparent to all men. Dr. Barnes has not left the stage, he is only behind the curtain; he is again brought forward, supported by his friends; the meeting, in the transports of its joy, dispenses with a fundamental law to do him the honour of electing him by acclamation, and the Doctor makes his bow as senior physician. I beg pardon of this gentleman, than whom I respect no man more highly, for the tone of levity in which I have indulged, but to me this part of the proceedings is irresistibly farcical.

But the succeeding part of the business demands the most serious attention. The candidates for the onerous duty of Junior Physician (onerous, for its duties comprised all those of Physician in Ordinary, which Dr. Barnes had declared himself unequal to, with the solitary exception of one visit daily to the House of Recovery) were two, Dr. Edger and Dr. Jackson—I am perhaps wrong in calling Dr. J. a candidate, for though he professed himself willing to accept the situation, he disdained to go about soliciting it as an unmerited favour. Of Dr. Edger I know nothing; I have no inclination to speak of him but as an accomplished Physician and honourable man, but I am sure I do him no wrong in calling him a perfect stranger in Carlisle; nothing could be more proper than that he should have a fair share in the benefits of the institution, but no pretence could be set up in favour of his monopolising them. He is as I have said a perfect stranger in Carlisle, Dr. Jackson is a Cumberland man, and has practised in Carlisle for six years. I only echo public opinion when I say that Dr. Jackson is a man of retired habits and unassuming deportment, who has spent the whole of his life in the arduous study of his profession, and who is distinguished for his profound attainments in almost every department of human knowledge. He is neither a sycophant nor a scandal monger. As his youth was unstained by profligacy, so are his maturer years unmarked by hypocrisy. He haunts no rich man's table, no wealthy dowagers evening parties. He does not spend his mornings in echoing responses to an evangelical preacher, or his evenings in reviving the decaying embers of unhallowed passions. Unfortunately he was both too little and too well known. The many knew not or cared not for his merits, and the select influential few knew them too well to hope to make a tool of him. He was left in a miserable minority; and why? the astonished reader will ask—because the end, the aim, the very object of the being of professional monopoly is to keep down merit, and in this instance it was but too successful. Dr. Edger may be an acquisition to the charity—but was it not monstrous to reject Dr. Jackson's services with contempt? Talk of "charity" indeed!

I am sure the Governors of the Dispensary cannot reflect on these proceedings with complacency; they never can have given the matter proper consideration. I fervently hope that at the next general meeting they will repair their errors. I will take care that they shall not want the opportunity.

Some simple minded man, uninitiated in the mystery of iniquity, may ask "what are the advantages obtained by the favoured objects of this mischievous system?" I do not know what these gentlemen do

obtain, but I know what gentlemen, so situated, usually expect to obtain. They expect to obtain publicity; the reputation of superior experience, knowledge, and sagacity; to occupy exclusively the attention of the wealthy and influential. They expect by these means (and such individuals have been but too often successful) to raise themselves in public estimation, and comparatively lower their competitors. "The public," as a satirist has observed, "is a stupid animal difficult to persuade and easy to cheat;" but, to do it justice, like some other animals of that description it has a particular aversion to being long led or driven in the same direction; and just now it is beginning to be conscious that it is led by the nose.

The only substantial reason any man can have for supporting the exclusive system, is the love of patronage on the one part, & of the greediness of undue influence on the other; for all the legitimate benefits derivable from the connection, are multiplied, not divided, by being shared. But this is a motive no man will dare avow. Perhaps the only specious reason that can be assigned, is, "that it is advantageous to select men of the greatest experience and skill." So it may be in operative Surgery; and the greater operations are usually left to senior surgeons by consent, or by the desire of the patient; though even then experience and skill are not always inseparable. But this can be no argument against placing the junior members of the profession so that they may have the most frequent opportunities of benefiting by observing the practice of their seniors, and of asking their assistance when "the greatest experience and skill" is required. Besides in this particular case the governors have nullified the plea by selecting the three youngest practitioners in Carlisle.

Perhaps some ancient and hardy monopolist, who has for years watched by the fountain of science, but not drunk of it, may assert that "the Governors have the right to appoint whom they please, without assigning any reason for their conduct;" so has the West India planter to flog his slave, and the Grand Turk to bowstring his ministers! It is quite true that they have the power; but that power does not become right unless it is justly exercised. If the governors are swayed by partialities or private motives in the discharge of their trust, they dishonour themselves and do foul wrong. I am persuaded they would reject with indignation "the robber plea."

Some superficial observers may object, that if the office was indiscriminately open, incompetent men would thrust themselves into it. I answer, that the practitioners in every department of the profession are entirely dependent on their reputation and that no incompetent man would dare to thrust himself into a situation where his ignorance would be exposed. It is the close system that fosters ignorance and indolence by screening men from public inspection.

Some may say "the system works well; let it alone; there is danger in innovation." This is no argument if it can be shown that it may be made to work better; but it is not true that it works well; it never did work well, and never can work well, under either the old or the altered, I will not call it the amended system. I have known the Dispensary for the last ten years, and I pledge myself to prove that during that time it has been conducted in the most inefficient manner; that it has never realised a tithe of the benefits that might have been derived from it both by the poor and the public. That shall be the subject of my next letter.

I know that this is an invidious and ungrateful task. I know that I do not consult my own interests in undertaking it. The public is unmindful of benefits; private men rarely forget enmities. But I desire not to oppose myself to the individuals, but to the system; if I unawares wound the feelings of the former, it will be to me a matter of deep regret; and I consider the denouncing of the latter a duty which I owe both to the public and my profession.

I do most earnestly entreat the attention of the governors of the Dispensary to the arguments I have used in this letter, and to the statements I shall lay before the public in my next. They may ask, why I did not qualify myself to appear at the late meeting, and remonstrate against its proceedings? My answer is, that so humble an individual as myself would have been powerless unless supported by public opinion; but I beg to assure them that as soon as I feel public opinion strong enough to support me, I shall, if they be not previously convinced of the expediency of the measure I recommend, do myself the honour of personally repeating my arguments. But most particularly do I address myself to the subscribers to the County Infirmary, who are unbiassed by local attachments and can have no object but charity "pure and undefiled;" for it is notorious that it was principally with the view of influencing their choice that the late appointments were made. I have already made out what I believe to be an unanswerable *prima facie* case in favour of the recommendation contained in my memorial; and my next task shall be to show practically the mischievous consequences of what is not inaptly termed the "hole and corner system." From the munificent patrons of the Infirmary I expect impartial justice. What motives can they have to administer to the pride or the avarice of a few interested individuals? Why should they do sacrifice to the demon of patronage? Will they feed the altar of Moloch as of old with the blood and groans of the maimed and the impotent?

ROBERT ABRAHAM.

Castle-Street, March 7, 1850.

Mr. HALTON—Do you propose an amendment?
Mr. HEAD—No, I shall not propose any amendment, as the petition is for a definite object.

Mr. W. HALTON—Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen—It was not my intention to have troubled you with my observations upon this occasion; my friends near me having, indeed, left me little or nothing to say; but as Mr. Head has thought proper to stand forth as the advocate of the Company, I may be excused for saying a few words in answer to him. Whether he is a good or a bad advocate, I can't say—(a laugh)—but he has conceded as much as he has claimed. He seemed to be at sea upon the question before us; but he soon got aground, for no sooner had he declared himself an enemy to all monopolies, than he told us that the Company's monopoly, which he says is necessary to the existence of our farmers. (A laugh.) When he says, as we can't have all we should have, we had better have nothing at all. (Laughter.) But why should we not get all we can? If we can destroy the East India Company's monopoly, it is one step towards the destruction of all monopolies—and surely that is doing something. (Applause.) I will now allude to one point that has not been touched upon by either the mover or the seconder of the petition—and that is the pretences on which the renewal of the monopoly has always been sought. In 1791, when the Charter was asked for, it was stated by the Company that they were so much in debt, from the expense of their various conquests, that it would take twenty years to reinstate them in prosperity. The Charter was renewed; and at the expiration of the 20 years, in 1813, when they again sought a renewal, the same story was repeated—with this variation only, that they had sunk deeper than ever in debt. (A laugh, and cries of hear, hear.) The trade was then thrown partially open; but the Company would agree to no interference with the China trade; they must, they said, retain that exclusively, to enable them to get out of debt. Well; this was granted; and what has been the consequence? Why, that their debt has been quadrupled. (Hear, hear.) And the question with them—now seems to be, whether John Bull will submit to be saddled with all this monstrous debt—mean by John Bull, we who are not allowed to participate in any part of this trade—whether we will consent to pay their £70,000,000 of debt, or allow them to go on increasing the burden at every step? I have no objection that they should continue as a chartered Company, but not at our cost, nor to our exclusion from one of the finest markets in the world. (Applause.) The Directors of this Company are called by some, clever men, and by some, old women—(a laugh)—to which class they belong it is not for me to say; but this I know, they have managed their business very badly; for they have contrived at every step of their progress to get deeper and deeper into debt; and every renewal of their Charter seems to be but an excuse for plunging into greater extravagance. (Much applause.) Mr. Halton concluded by giving his cordial support to the petition.

Mr. G. HEAD wished to explain. What I said was that I wished to see free trade carried to its full extent, and not mere partial openings. I think the Corn Laws as good as could be framed under the circumstances; and that they are necessary while the Corn Laws remain at their present amount. Our farmers must cultivate their lands so cheap as those upon the continent, owing to the weight of taxation, and ought therefore to be protected.—(No, no, that won't do.)

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

Mr. G. COWEN said he wished to make two or three observations on the subject before the meeting. In the first place he thought the meeting had been a little advertised; if it had been more known and more time given, he had no doubt but they would have had a greater attendance from the country. The agriculturists would no doubt have taken an active part in the proceedings; and they might probably have had the assistance of a gentleman belonging to that class, who had displayed so much talent at the meeting at Wigton—he meant Mr. Blamire.

guine as those of other gentlemen near him. But so far from speaking disrespectfully of the Company, he thought they were entitled to our thanks; they had established a great and flourishing trade, which was now ready to be placed in our hands.

Mr. W. HALTON, in explanation, said he had no intention of speaking disrespectfully of the Company; all he had said was, that they had shown great want of judgment in the management of their affairs.

The petition was then put and carried unanimously. Some other resolutions were proposed and carried without observation, and for which we refer to our advertising columns. A subscription was entered into in the room.

The petition has already received a number of signatures; and as it will be sent off for presentation next week, we trust those who are friendly to the measure will lose no time in affixing their signatures to it.

METROPOLITAN POLITICAL UNION.

Glad are we to note the daily nearer approaching advent of Reform, of universal suffrage and election by ballot; glad are we to note the death-blow about to be dealt to corruption, to bribery, to the sacrificing of the good of the many to the interests of the few—a death-blow to the oligarchy that have been the bane of the English people, who have brought the English nation to the verge of ruin, and all but precipitated its best interests into irremediable confusion and destruction. The numerous meeting which has been held in London to further the views of the radical reformists, proves with what rapidly advancing steps Reform is progressing towards that consummation that all good, honest, and right-minded men must desire. On Monday last a meeting took place at the Eagle Tavern, City-road, for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of the country, and the adoption of a Metropolitan "Political Union." It was calculated that at this time there were assembled not fewer than 16,000 persons. The gallery was full of company, half consisting of most respectably dressed ladies. The whole scene was an imposing and interesting one.

Mr. O'CONNELL, M.P. was called to the chair amidst the most enthusiastic cheering, and delivered a speech of which our limits forbid us to give more than a faint outline. He said he was truly proud of the high honour they had just conferred on him—the honour of presiding over a meeting of honest British subjects, who were too good to suffer themselves to be ruled by an oligarchy—too intellectual not to see the wrongs inflicted on them—and too patriotic not to look for Constitutional redress.—(Cheers.)—He thanked them for the honour they had conferred on him, because it afforded him the opportunity of vindicating his principles as a Radical Reformer.—(Cheers.)—He was, in the first place, a Radical Reformer of the abuses in the law—the chicanery, expence, and delay, in what were called the Law Courts of the country. He wished the law to be clear and intelligible, and the administration of it cheap, expeditious, & unexpensive. He wished to see a very Radical Reform in those Courts.—(Hear.)—As to the House of Commons, as it was called, he wanted to see a Radical Reform there also. What the people wanted, and what he wanted too, was a "people's House."—(Cheers.)—What they had now was an instalment of the House of Lords, sitting in another chamber. Should he ask them whether the House of Commons represented the people, why they would laugh at him for putting the question, and he should not be able to refrain from laughing while he was asking the question.—(Cheering.)—Two thousand persons—2,000 persons, he it known—returned a majority of Members in the Commons House of Parliament, to represent the interests and feelings and rights—what remained!—of 30,000,000 of people. What was the remedy for their evils? Parliamentary Reform—Radical Reform.—(Loud cheers.)—What he meant by Radical Reform was, that every man should vote for his Representative, and that no man should be deprived of his vote but by the verdict of a Jury, on being proved to be a lunatic, at somewhat less expence, too, than £30,000.—(A laugh, and hear.)

Birth.

In Fisher-street, on Thursday last, the lady of James Connell, Esq., of a son.

Marriages.

Here, on Saturday last, Mr. John Sanderson, to Miss Margaret Mattinson.

At Gilling, on Saturday last, by the Rev. Thomas Young, the Rev. William Young, Rector of Aller, Somersetshire, to Miss Sarah S. Blamire, daughter of the late William Blamire, Esq., of the Oaks, near this city.

At Springfield, on Sunday last, Mr. John Wardrop, Blacksmith, Longtown, to Miss Mary Hodgson, of Stainton.

At Wigton, on Thursday last, E. Atkinson, Esq., of Kendal, to Miss Morrison, of Maryport.

At Penrith, on the 6th inst. Mr. Thomas Nixon, of Liverpool, to Miss Frances Parker, of Penrith—same day, Mr. George Elliott, to Miss Elizabeth Gardener—on the 10th, Mr. R. Oasby, shoemaker, to Miss Jane Radcliff.

At Dornock, on Monday last, by the lady's uncle, the Rev. N. Sloan, Mr. William Carrick, solicitor, Brampton, to Elizabeth Johnstone, youngest daughter of George Lowther, Esq., of Dornock.

At Wyseby House, on the 25th ult., W. Graham, Esq., jun., of Mosknow, Major in the 12th Royal Lancers, to Ann, only daughter of the late H. Mair, Esq., of Redhall and Wyseby, Dumfriesshire.

Lately, at Workington, Mr. Robert Boyd, to Miss M'Pherson.

On Saturday last, at Bowness, Mr. John Braithwaite, of Hawkshead, to Mrs. Renuison, of Amble-side.

At the Friends Meeting House, Kendal, Mr. Charles Inkstone, of Plymouth, physician, to Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. George Braithwaite, of Kendal, drysalter.

At Kendal, since our last, Mr. Edward Hayton, to Miss Frances Knipe, both of Kendal.

Deaths.

At his son's house, in the Market-place, on Saturday last, Mr. James Heward, taylor, late of Scotch-ree, in his 84th year; one of the oldest members of the Wesleyan Methodist connection in this part, having been a member upwards of 52 years; he was universally respected by all who knew him, as an upright tradesman and a sincere Christian.

On the 6th inst., after a lingering illness, the Rev. John Harrison, aged 56, perpetual curate of the parish of Hesketh.

On Sunday last, Mary, relict of the late Mr. John Offat, cotton-spinner, Water Lane, aged 56.

On Monday, in the House of Recovery, Mr. Wm. Addison, shoemaker, St. Cutbert's Lane, aged 34.

At Dalston, last week, Joseph, only son of the late Mr. Wise, of that place, aged 19.

At Longtown, on the 4th inst., sincerely and deservedly regretted, Jane, relict of the late Mr. Richard Irving, surgeon, aged 63.

At Wigton, on Sunday last, Mary Relph, aged 38.

At Skelton, on the 1st inst. Mrs. Fenton, aged 87. February 24, Peggy, wife of Mr. Rigg, of Aspatria, aged 45.

At Newlands, near Wigton, on the 6th inst. Mr. John Davidson, aged 64; he was upwards of 40 years servant to T. Addison, Esq. of Parton; he was an industrious man and had brought up a family of 8 children without parochial assistance.

At Oulton, on Sunday last, Mr. William Keswick, aged 21.

At Torpenhow, on the 6th inst., Mr. Jonathan Wright, teacher, aged 26; much respected.

At Irthington Mill, on Saturday, the 6th instant, Mr. John Robson, aged 25 years, one of the most celebrated of the Cumberland Wrestlers—Robson as about 6 feet 2 inches in height, a muscular and well proportioned man and weighed about 16 stone when in his prime in the ring. When he died although so young he was upwards of 24 stone weight.

At Penrith, on the 6th inst. Sarah, wife of Mr. Thomas Sherman, grocer, aged 67.

At Little Broughton, on the 27th ult., Sarah, relict of the late Jonathan Lester, in the 82d year of her age.—She has the following offspring, 7 children, 45 grand children, and 17 great grand children.

Since our last, in New Town Whitehaven, Mr. John Little, aged 70; Mrs. Catherine Dyer, Lamb Lane, aged 53; in Kelsick Lane, Jane, wife of Mr. Thomas Inks, aged 46; in New Street, Mr. Christopher Towell, aged 65.

On the 17th ult., at Eccleston, near St. Helen's, aged 66, Mrs. M'Gorty, mother of Mr. John Smith, of the Liverpool Mercury.

On Monday morning, at Bank House, in Gosforth, Mr. Robert Briggs, aged 44 years.

On Saturday week, at Pennington, near Ulverston, Mrs. Fleming, widow of the late William Fleming, Esq. of that place.

At Mireside, Whitcham, on Sunday the 28th ult. Mr. John Benson, in the 74th year of his age.

At Liverpool, March 1st, Miss Isabella Hall, in her 9th year, a native of Whitehaven.

At Calcutta, on the 2d of October last, after a few days illness, James Crozier, Esq. of the Hon. East India Company's ship Thos. Grenville, in the 28th year of his age, son-in-law of Mrs. Reid, of Great Prescot Street, London, formerly of Whitehaven.

At Appleby on the 11th inst., Mrs Ann Airey, aged 9.

At Kendal, since our last, Elizabeth Crewdson, widow, aged 78—Noble Borwick, tailor, aged 29—Alice Atkinson, spinster, aged 17.

On the 26th September last, at Demerara, Captain Wm. Steel, of the ship Meredith, of this city, aged 36.