

of a comet, but of this, he of course offers no proof; it is a mere opinion, and we think a speculative district.

The fact is, that the tails have no substance, the very idea that some of them have tails apparently several feet in length, while the diameter of the body is but a few hundred, ought to have been sufficient to excite a doubt about the substantiality of this appendage. If we conceive the body of the comet to be a globe of water, or vapor, or partly the one and the other, and ill-shaped as it is, we want nothing more to produce a tail of any length, for this is done simply by the refraction of light, and this we conceive to be really the case with the comet; that is, the sun's rays passing through a watery globe, will suffer refractions, as may be shown by an optical experiment, and the length of the tail will then depend upon the position of the comet in relation to the sun and the spectator. The comet will act like an imperfect lens, refracting the rays of all that pass through it. This view of the subject receives confirmation from the fact, that the rainbow extends over an immense portion of the heavens, and this is produced by the sun's rays passing through a succession of drops of rain. I am aware of some objections, but I have not here space to anticipate and discuss them. Another confirmation is, the fact, that no tail is discovered by a telescope; that is, the telescope enlarges the field of view, while the refracted light is too weak for such a space, and hence becomes invisible, which would scarce be the case if the tail were a substance. Again, in some situations of the earth, in relation to comets, we must have actually passed through the tails of some comets, and that too without perceiving it, which we may very well do, if the tail is nothing but refracted light; it would then be as harmless as a shadow.—*Sunday Reporter.*

FOREIGN NEWS.

From the New York Courier and Enquirer of June 15, 1832.

From Liverpool, by the ship Mormora, capt. Low.

From the London Times, May 11.

EXPRESS FROM BIRMINGHAM.

The Times Office, 6 o'clock, A. M.

SUDDEN AND SPONTANEOUS MEETING OF THE REFORMERS OF BIRMINGHAM AND ITS VICINITY.

Birmingham, Tuesday, May 10.

It is scarcely possible to imagine the spirit of excitement into which the town of Birmingham has been thrown by the rejection of the reform bill by the lords, and the resignation of his majesty's ministers. The anti-reformers in London may affect to treat this with contempt, but if they had been present in Birmingham this day, we doubt not that another and a very different feeling would have prevailed in their minds. In this town there is but one feeling—one firm fixed, determined feeling—which it is impossible to suppress. We are morally certain that if the bill be not passed, the people will not pay taxes. This they have determined. Indeed, as early as 11 o'clock yesterday, the windows exhibited a printed placard, of which the following is a copy:

NOTICE.

NO TAXES PAID HERE UNTIL

THE REFORM BILL IS PASSED.

May 9.

In other windows, and we observed on the lawn of a gentleman's house in the vicinity of the town there was exhibited the following:—"No taxes paid here in money, and no goods being distrained for taxes." But perhaps the best evidence of the state of opinion in this town is the fact of hundreds of the most respectable inhabitants of the professional and mercantile classes having joined the Political Union yesterday morning. These gentlemen have not been in the habit of taking a part in politics, but they now see the absolute necessity—to use the expression of one of them—to buckle on their armor. We understand that more than 100 subscribers of the subscription news room, to which none but the respectable and opulent inhabitants are admitted, put down their names as members of the Political Union. In fact, persons of all creeds and of all political opinions are joining this body. On Tuesday four Catholic priests enrolled themselves, and a considerable number of that respectable society called Quakers became members. The fact is, the people feel that it is by unity only that the country can be saved, from falling into a state of anarchy and financial confusion.

The number of people assembled yesterday at Newhall hill certainly exceeded 100,000. The space, which occupies 6 acres, was densely filled, and, as on Monday, the tops of the surrounding hills and houses were covered with people. It is really astonishing how such a number of human beings could have been got together in four hours. We understand that several late mutual carriers, heretofore considered anti-reformers, closed their work rooms at 8 o'clock, to give their men an opportunity to attend the meeting, at the same time informing them that their wages would be paid as usual. But the meeting was not confined to Birmingham people alone. Many thousands of persons attended from the surrounding towns, and deputies from Worcester, Coventry, Walsall, Lichfield, and other places, were daily arriving, in order to take advantage

The meeting is just over, and though for the last two hours the people have been leaving the ground, not being able to hear the proceedings, yet the numbers now passing our windows are truly terrific. All, however, is quiet. The people, conscious of their strength, are not alarmed for the bill. They feel that they can take it at any time should the lords refuse to grant it to them.

Several gentlemen then addressed the meeting quietly, when it was dissolved; the sitting of the council being, however, declared permanent; and to resume their deliberations at night. Deputies were appointed to take the petition to London, and to communicate to the common council, and the city of Westminster the determination of the people of Warwickshire and Staffordshire to aid them in the common cause. The deputation left Birmingham with the streets crowded to excess, and loud cheering accompanying them to the verge of the town. On their arrival at Coventry, the streets of that city were filled with the inhabitants, who loudly cheered the deputation, and stated to them that they were going to convene a meeting of that populous city for this day, and would stick by them.

In the course of the evening, expresses left Birmingham to all the large districts of Staffordshire and Warwickshire, urging the people to immediate and determined public proceedings, to reinstate ministers, and recover the bill. An business will be at a stand still till this great national object is successfully concluded.

A declaration, of which the following is a copy, has been already signed by 500 of the most respectable inhabitants of Birmingham, and now lies for signatures.

"We, the undersigned inhabitants of the town and neighborhood of Birmingham, who have hitherto refrained from joining the Birmingham Political Union, deemed it our duty to our country at this awful crisis to come forward and join that body for the purpose of promoting the further union, order, and determination of all classes in support of the common cause of Parliamentary reform."

It is stated in some of the papers that a heavy rain was making on the Bank of England for specie, particularly on the 14th, and as, if this were true, the consequences might seriously affect us here, we think it necessary to add that on the same evening Alderman Thompson, a director of the Bank, said in the house of Commons:

Mr. Alderman Thompson, in reference to the statement of Mr. Hunt that he could not get a 10l. note changed that day at the Bank of England for upwards of three quarters of an hour, and that a terrible panic prevailed there, said that he was at the Bank at a late hour that afternoon, and that the payments at the Bank that day had not equalled what they had often amounted to on days without any particular excitement. It was true, that for the last few days several persons, with 5l. and 10l. notes had applied for the change in gold, but to compare the situation of the Bank with the panic of 1825 was ridiculous. He begged to assure the hon. member for Preston that the Bank directors entertained no apprehension even of inconvenience, much less the slightest apprehensions for the safety and security of that establishment.

ELECTIONS OF WESTMINSTER.—The elections of Westminster met on Friday, pursuant to notice, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, for the purpose of adopting measures commensurate to the present alarming state of the country. The chair was taken by Sir E. Buxton, who spoke with vigor upon the objects of the meeting. A resolution the grant of any further supplies by Parliament, a petition founded upon it, to the House of Commons were unanimously adopted.

LONDON, May, 13.—Public Feeling.—Thursday afternoon, about half past 5 o'clock, a vast crowd of people assembled in the neighborhood of the house of Commons and Palace-yard. The Duke of Cumberland, the Marquis of Londonderry, and Lord Roslyn, passing in company along Parliament street on horseback, towards the house guards, were recognised and followed by a mob of between 200 and 300 men and boys, hooting and hissing. At the entrance to the house guards the shouts were tremendous, when his royal highness, in a goodnatured manner, made his obeisance to the assailants. They were followed by the mob through the Park as far as St. James' Palace, when his Royal highness and the Marquis of Londonderry turned back, at a brisk trot, towards the house of Commons, where they alighted. Here they were again assailed with deafening yells and hisses, which continued several minutes, till a formidable force of the police cleared the street and restored order.

The London Times openly recommends to the people, and to the house of Commons, the refusal of all supplies to the Government until a Bill of Reform, even more extensive than that rejected, shall be adopted. And the editor then proceeds to say that this advice is not idle. The country is every where about to realize it. London has begun. The Common council yesterday, amongst a series of resolutions, each of which is worthy of the highest applause, for the spirit and energy, and sound good sense which it indicates, declared that the advisers of his majesty's negative upon the proposition of his ministers to create peers, have proved themselves the enemies of their Sovereign, and have

put to imminent hazard THE STABILITY OF THE THRONE, and the tranquility and security of the country.

They resolved, under these distressing circumstances, and as a means of procuring for the people an efficient reform, to petition the house of Commons to WITHHOLD THE SUPPLIES until such a reform shall have been secured."

They resolved that Lord Grey and his colleagues deserved the highest respect and regard from the common council; and finally, and what is not the least impressive symptom of the whole—they resolved that a committee of their body should sit from day to day, and report up on the PROGRESS OF REFORM. A proceeding like this does by no means look as if the citizens of London conceived the present to be an ordinary crisis, or one which was to be provided for by means of a common-place description. It appertains to a time on the issues of which hangs REFORM OR REVOLUTION; and that is the true character of the existing hour.

From a late Foreign Paper.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN ITALY.—We have already published some account of a severe shock of an earthquake which was felt in different parts of Italy on the 12th of March. It was reported at Naples that 700 persons had lost their lives by the calamity in the single town of Catanzaro. The following extracts will show the effects of the shock at Parma and Reggio.

Parma, March 15.—On the 11th of the current month, at ten in the morning, the powerful shock of an earthquake was felt, which alarmed every body; but at four in the morning of the 12th inst. the shock was repeated with such additional force that the inhabitants of the city expected to perish under the ruins occasioned by it. All the houses have in some degree suffered, as well as the public building, the cathedral, and churches. It is impossible to convey to you a notion of general consternation which was experienced. The people flocked out of the city in every direction into the country. Those who had means constructed temporary shelter; others took the coaches of the city, and slept in them upon the roads—whilst the poor reposed almost naked upon the ground with their children, moving one's heart to pity! These tragic scenes continued four days. It is only by a miracle that the inhabitants have so fortunately escaped. Not a single individual perished except a prisoner, and two or three only were injured.

Reggio, March 22.—The late shocks of earthquake here have produced terrible effects. The chimneys thrown down in this town alone amount to above 2,000. Every house has been more or less damaged, and a great number of them are uninhabitable. The church of St. Peter is reduced to a heap of ruins, the steeple of the Cathedral must be demolished to its foundation, and not a single public building remains uninjured. At Modena many houses have been violently shaken, but the mischief done there is not so great as at Reggio, yet many inhabitants have spent several nights in the open air. Small volcanic cones have appeared on several parts of the plain, where also some springs of hot water have suddenly risen to the surface of the earth. The Ducal Palace was strongly shaken, and the Duke is still so much alarmed, that he passes the night in his carriage in the middle of his gardens.

Indian Hostilities.

Pay of the Volunteers.—We have been frequently asked if no attempt has been made in congress to raise the pay of our volunteers—something above 21 cents a day. Nothing has yet been done in congress upon the subject. This is not the time, however, to discuss this point. Although our volunteers must feel indignant at the value which government puts upon their services, the war whoop on our frontiers—the wholesale slaughter of our citizens—will drive from their bosom every other sentiment than that of visiting upon the heads of the barbarous band of Indian murderers, a just retribution. When this shall have been accomplished, it will then be time to look into this matter.

The army disbanded!!—We understand from volunteers who lately belonged to the army, that the mounted troops and foot volunteers, were marched to the mouth of Fox river, and discharged on Sunday last. A call was then made upon the discharged troops, for volunteers, to remain and guard the frontiers until the new levies should arrive. The call was answered by between two and three hundred. The foot volunteers were to return by steam boats to Beardstown. The regular troops returned down Rock river, it was supposed, to Fort Armstrong.

The army suffered much for the want of provisions. The Indians were pursued until it was deemed useless to follow them further. It was understood in the army that Gen. Atkinson had received orders from the War Department to call a sufficient number of mounted volunteers from this and the neighboring states to expel the Indians from our territory.

On the cause for discharging the volunteer force, we have one general sentiment—that it was badly organized, and that either its late organization or good could be expected from it. We hope that an investigation of this matter will take place. It is due to our citizens

Twenty-eight persons have lost their lives in consequence of the advance of our troops into the Indian country—and we have yet to learn that a particle of benefit has resulted from the expedition.

A new system of measures for the expulsion of Black Hawk's band will unquestionably be adopted. A large military force will be called out; and the ranging system followed as the only one at present likely to result in success. The extensive woods and swamps of the country furnish great facilities to the Indians for keeping up a predatory warfare.

A fort was building at the mouth of Fox river, and it was understood that another would be established at Dixon's Ferry on Rock river. Of this latter, however, we have no certain intelligence.

There are in the vicinity of some of our settlements, large bodies of Indians, professing to be friendly, but who, on any sudden disaster to our arms, would be likely to be found in the ranks of the enemy. We allude to the Pottawatamies and the Kickapoos. The warriors of the Pottawatamie tribe have gone to Chicago—which we fear is not a suitable place to preserve their neutrality; and the Kickapoos, said to be 400 in number, are encamped together in McLean county. Ought not these Indians to be sent to the south part of the state?—*Saugamaw Journal.*

In the Georgia Journal we find the following—cattle?—no. HUMAN BEINGS advertised to be sold at public auction, having been levied on by the Sheriff as the property of certain individuals, to satisfy a \$1,000 debt of certain creditors. The ruinous tendency of slavery is visibly manifested in this revolting exhibition. Mothers! think of an infant, only four weeks old, and another eighteen months old, seized for debt, and sold to the highest bidder!!! O, certainly, we ought to abolish a system, which permits this horrible violence, by a very slow process!

One negro woman, by the name of Sylvia, about 33 years of age.

Three negroes, to wit—Jim about 40 years old, Peter about 15 years old, and Jacob about 14 years old.

Three negroes, viz.—Jude 16, Creed 12, and Delpha 10 years old.

One negro man named Dick.

One negro man named Lewis, 23 years old.

One negro man by the name of Roger.

One negro woman by the name of Betty.

Two negroes, Tab a woman, and Tabitha a girl.

Two negroes, viz.—Cato a man and Rhoda a girl.

One negro girl by the name of Sophia, about 11 years of age.

One negro girl by the name of Kizzy, about 9 years of age.

A negro man by the name of Millenge, about 22 years of age.

A negro man by the name of Nathan about 30 years of age.

One negro man named Jack, about 34 years old.

One negro man by the name of David.

Joe, a negro man about 40 years of age.

Four negroes, to wit—Sam a boy about 12 or 14 years old, Sarah a girl 8 years old, Nancy a girl 8 years old, and Matilda a girl 2 years old.

Sukey a woman about 30 years of age.

Harry a boy about 7 years of age.

Lymus a boy about 3 years of age.

Book a boy about 5 years of age.

Angelina a girl about 18 months old!!

A negro child by the name of James, about four weeks old!!!

Great Removal.—On passing through Monroe street on Tuesday, our attention was drawn to an extraordinary feat of skill, such as we have not before witnessed. Between Pike and Rutgers streets, there is a block of seven two story brick dwelling houses, which in consequence of widening Monroe street, it was found necessary to demolish or remove, and the latter expedient was successfully resorted to under the superintendence of Mr. Simon Brown. The whole block, 192 feet in length, was carried back upon horizontal ways, a distance of seven feet, without the least injury to the buildings, by the power of the screw. We believe this vast effort is one of unprecedented character, and reflects much credit on the projector. The removal employed less than three hours.—*N. Y. Gazette.*

We stop the press (says the Raleigh N. C. Register, of May 18) to announce the perpetration of a shocking murder, in the immediate vicinity of this place, last night. About dark, as the wife of Mr. John Sugg was sitting in her own house, she was shot and instantly killed. There is no doubt that the deed was committed by a son of her husband, by a former wife, who has recently returned after an absence of many years from this region. He immediately fled, and has not yet been apprehended. The murderer was so near to his victim, that her head and neck were literally torn to pieces. The family lived unhappily, and no doubt the fatal deed had its origin from this cause.

Dr. Fisher informs us that Mr. Arthur Hart, died on the 4th inst. in consequence of the bite of a tick, or of his head having been left in the sun. The tick had fastened on his nose, from which mortification had been communicated to him.

Cambridge (E. S.) Ct.