

IRISH AFFAIRS.

DUBLIN, AUG. 4.

Meeting Extraordinary.

Though the Catholic committee at its last meeting adjourned to the 19th October, a meeting extraordinary was held yesterday in Chapel street, in consequence of the proclamation of the Lord Lieutenant in council, of the day before. Lord Fingall was called to the chair about 11 o'clock, the committee rooms being crowded with as much good sense, integrity, propriety, and respectability as we ever saw assembled under similar circumstances.—*Correspondent.*

Lord Fingall said, he had a communication with Mr. Well-sley Pole (which had already attained publicity,) in which he required that Mr. Pole should favor him in the shape of a letter with any thing he had to say regarding the Catholics of Ireland, that his sentiments may be laid before the committee. The letter he held in his hand was the consequence of this request, and the question was what step should be taken upon it?—(*Loud cries of Hear, Hear.*)

Mr. N. Mahon moved that the letter be read by the Secretary.

Mr. Hay read the letter, which was verbatim as follows:

"Dublin Castle, July 30, 1811.

My Lord—I have received the commands of the Lord Lieutenant to inform your Lordships of the steps intended to be taken by his grace, in consequence of the resolutions of an aggregate meeting of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, held on the 9th inst. &c. &c. and of the proceedings which appeared to be in progress for the election of a representative body, agreeably to those resolutions.

"I am to acquaint your Lordship that the Lord Lieutenant has summoned his Privy Council, for the purpose of considering the expediency of issuing a proclamation declaratory of the law, and of the duty which his grace feels to be incumbent on him to enforce its obedience.

"The Lord Lieutenant has commanded me to add, that he has been induced to direct this communication to be made to your lordship from the very high respect his grace entertains for your lordships character; and from a thorough conviction that your lordship will concur in all measures necessary for preserving the peace and tranquility of the country.

"I have the honor to be, my lord, with the highest respect, your lordship's most obedient and humble servant,

W. W. POLE.

Mr. Byrne thought the question of the convention act should be brought to the test. He said that Mr. O'Connell, and other eminent legal authority are of opinion, that we are protected by the last clause of the act; the government, it appears, think differently, and it is expedient thereupon to decide the question at once. The government are amenable to the laws as well as Catholics; and as Catholics act constitutionally, so the government should act constitutionally.—*Hear, hear!*

Mr. Mahon thought that it did not require any legal knowledge to understand the import of a plain act of Parliament.—He was of opinion that the proceedings of the Catholic body were unequivocally countenanced by the last clause of the convention act, and to understand this interpretation of it he thought it was alone necessary to possess an ordinary portion of conception. (Mr. Mahon here read the clause, which runs to this effect:—"Provided always that no clause in this act shall be construed to prevent any class of his Majesty's subjects from exercising the legal right of petition for a redress of their grievances.") He would be glad to know how far it was necessary to deep read in law to understand this act. If we meet lawfully, for the purpose of petitioning (which is still pursuing the same object) as clause in the act can be construed to effect us. We have invariably met for this purpose, and we shall at no time be brought together but for this simple end; when we act otherwise, we deserve the execration of the Catholics of Ireland. (*Hear, hear, hear.*) He hoped the committee in the present hour of difficulty would not show themselves unworthy of the sacred trust that was reposed in them by the Catholics of Ireland. (*Hear, hear, hear.*) He trusted that the spirit which was evinced so eminently on a former occasion, would be equally conspicuous now; and that they would not far from the duty they should unquestionably possess—right

without which life is not worth enjoying. (*Loud applause.*)

The following resolutions were then read by Mr. Fitzsimons.

"Resolved, That the Catholic committee, having adjourned on the 25th July, to the 19th October, 1811, having not withstanding, deemed it expedient, to hold an extraordinary meeting on the 31st July, in consequence of a communication from government to the Earl of Fingall, dated the 30th inst, to the following effect: That the privy council was to be assembled to take into consideration the expediency of issuing a proclamation declaratory of the law," &c. &c. "and likewise the course to be pursued to ensure its observance."

That this committee, relying on the constitutional rights of the subjects to petition the legislature, in the way and manner specified in a resolution to that effect, passed at the last aggregate meeting of their body, do determine to continue and persevere in the constitutional course they have maturely adopted, for the sole, express, and specific purpose of preparing a petition, or petitions to Parliament, for their full participation of the rights of the constitution; and, that in so doing, they not only, in their opinion, do not violate, but act in strict conformity with its soundest principles.

That this committee will never meet under pretence of preparing or presenting petitions, but for the strict and sole purpose of preparing and causing to be presented a petition or petitions.

That the right of petitioning secured by the bill of rights is recognized by the 4th and last clause of the convention act, in the words following:—"Provided also, that nothing herein contained, shall be construed in any manner to prevent or impede the undoubted right of his Majesty's subjects of the realm to petition his Majesty, or both houses, or either house of Parliament for redress of any public or private grievance."

That the resolutions of the late aggregate meeting of the Catholics of Ireland, holden on the 9th July, having appeared this day in an imperfect state in a proclamation from government, we feel it expedient to republish them, viz.—

"Resolved, That being impressed with an unalterable conviction of its being the undoubted right of every man to worship his creator according to the dictates of his own conscience, we deem it our duty publicly and solemnly to declare our decided opinion and principle, that no government can with justice inflict any pains, penalty, or privation upon any man, for professing that form of christian faith which he in his conscience believes.

"That we, therefore shall persevere in petitioning the legislature for a total and unqualified repeal of the penal laws which aggravate and degrade the Catholics of Ireland.

"That in exercising this undoubted right of petitioning, we shall continue to adhere to the ancient principles of the constitution, and to conform also to the peculiar restrictions which, by modern statutes are imposed on the people of Ireland."

The entire meeting unanimously concurred in this opinion; the resolutions &c. as they appear annexed were then moved and carried, when the meeting adjourned.

Arrest of the Catholic Delegates.

DUBLIN, Aug. 9.

After a week's defiance of the government, during which time the Roman Catholic Convention, in the Speeches, the resolutions, and their paragraphs, have denied its power, opposed its ordinances, and ridiculed its measures, the proof is now given, that the proclamation was no idle vane. Some persons who put themselves forward either as delegates or electors, are arrested; and it is now to be seen whether the law is strong enough to protect its own enactment.

The conventional constituents or members, we know not which, who were present at the election in Liffey street Chapel, were this morning apprehended by the Magistrates of the head police office.—Then names are as follows:

Dr. John Joseph Burke of Granby Row.

Dr. Breen, of Abbey street.

Henry Edmund Taffe, Esq. Banker, of Lord French's Bank Dominick street.

Gregory Scurllog, Esq. Merchant of Dominick street.

Thomas Kirwan, Esq. Merchant of Liffey street.

These five gentlemen were brought before the chief justice of the King's Bench, on the charge of either being elected delegates, or being present at the election and aiding or assisting therein at Liffey street Chapel, on the 31st of July, 1811—when as we understand they entered into sufficient bail.

Thus the question is brought to an issue; and it is now to be enquired of by the country, whether the proclamation of the government can enforce its enactment of the legislature; or whether the proceedings of the convention are to be justified by quibbles and quibbles. For the result of this enquiry, that state reposes sufficient confidence in the loyal integrity of a Dublin Jury, to reposes its cause in their hands. The informations have been regularly taken before the Chief Justice, and the warrant granted thereon; the case will come before the Grand Inquest of the city of Dublin; to which, notwithstanding the prejudication of counsellor Scully, the established religion and constitution of the Empire will be fearlessly confided. From this high tribunal it will pass to the petit jury; and from these the delegates may forward it if it shall please them to the House of Lords. Vainly now may the counsellors and orators talk of informations ex officio, and the apprehension of juries. The government has no fear; the government will do its duty, neither intimidated by the threats nor prevented by the clamors of faction.

If, however, the conventionalists entertain no sinister purpose, but desire to try the question in an open and legal manner, they will have the decency to force it from all further elections until its final decision: This will be the fairest test of their intentions and their principles. The ensuing term will bring the point to its issue; but if in the mean time they persist in this measure which the government has hitherto prevented, the country will see their motives—not the trial of right, but the excitation of tumult; not to obtain their offensive demands, but to agitate, to divide, and to inflame the public mind.—*Patriot.*

The arrest of the Catholic delegates has occasioned a very great sensation in town and it is said, a privy council will be assembled tomorrow.

We understand that there are several warrants issued against other persons, who are not yet in custody, for similar alleged offences.—*Correspondent.*

AUGUST 10.

From the DUBLIN EVENING POST.

The arrest of Catholic Gentlemen.

We shall first proceed to detail what occurred yesterday, and then offer some observations on the serious, and we may truly say, fearful subject.

Early in the forenoon of yesterday, Henry Edmund Taffe, Esq. partner in the Bank of Lord French and Co. and Mr. Kirwan, merchant of Abbey-street, were arrested, under a warrant from Lord Chief Justice Downes, for acting as delegates; and Doctors Breen, Burke and Mr. Scurllog, merchant, were also arrested, for acting as electors of delegates to the Catholic committee. These gentlemen have been brought in custody to the house of the Lord Chief Justice, and Mr. Carmichael having attended there on the part of Mr. Kemmis, Crown Solicitor, the gentlemen so in custody, required Mr. Carmichael to state to the Chief Justice that they had been arrested without any previous information, but they were desirous of having an opportunity of advising with counsel as to the conduct they should pursue—and that time should be granted them until this day for that purpose. Mr. Carmichael said he would communicate what was so desired to the Chief Justice, and having gone up stairs, returned in a few minutes with the Chief Justice's answer, which was that he could not give such time. They then desired Mr. Carmichael to ask the Chief Justice if it was his intention to commit them to prison, in case they did not then procure bail. Mr. Carmichael having again retired, returned soon after, and mentioned that the Chief Justice had desired him to say, if bail was not given he would then commit the persons in custody to prison. Bail was afterwards entered for 1000l. and two sureties for 200l. each.

Upon the bail being entered, Mr. Kirwan addressed the Crown Solicitor's Clerk, Mr. Carmichael, in the following words:

"Sir, I would wish to have a copy of the information on oath, under which I have been arrested, & am now detained, as I

understand the law entitles me to the same."

The Chief Justice replied—"It is not usual to give it—you will take legal advice, & if you are entitled to it, the person you employ will obtain it in a lawful way."

Mr. Taffe made a similar application, and received the same answer.

We heard Mr. Taffe declare that he did not consider this extraordinary act of power so much a Catholic question, as a violation of the subject's right generally—and with this view he would defend himself by every means pointed out by the law and the constitution.

It has been stated to us on the most respectable authority, that Dr. Breen did not attend the meeting at Liffey street Chapel, nor has he taken any part in the election of delegates. Should this statement prove true, and we believe it correct, we should wish to know what value is to be placed on the information on oath, upon which respectable gentlemen are to be confined to the hands of constables the insults of their runners, and the damps of a dungeon.

Tipperary meeting.

On Thursday, a numerous and respectable meeting of the Catholics of the county of Tipperary, took place in Clonmell.

We have not room to detail the whole of the proceedings, and can only briefly state, that ten persons were appointed to the Catholic committee, and a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to counsellor Scully.

The Catholic gentlemen received twenty distinct intimations from magistrates, assuring them of their dissent from the proclamation. Mr. Prittie, representative for the county was present: and we understand Lord Lismore offered his support, should it be thought necessary.

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rish reciprocal sentiments of good will; to regard the progress of events; and not to be unprepared for whatever order of things may be ultimately established.

Under another aspect of our situation, the early attention of Congress will be due to the expediency of further guards against evasions and infractions of our commercial laws. The practice of smuggling, which is odious every where, and particularly criminal in free governments, where the laws being made by all, for the good of all, a fraud is committed on every individual as well as on the state, attains its utmost guilt, when it blends with a pursuit of ignominious gain, a treacherous subterfuge in the transgressors, to a foreign policy, adverse to that of their own country. It is then the virtuous indignation of the public should be enabled to manifest itself, through the regular animadversions of the most competent laws.

To secure greater respect to our mercantile flag, and the honest interests which it covers, it is expedient also that it be made punishable in our citizens to accept licenses from foreign governments, for a trade unlawfully interdicted by them to other American citizens; or to trade under false colors or papers of any sort.

A prohibition is equally called for, against the acceptance by our citizens, special licenses, to be used in trade with the United States; and against the admission into particular ports of the United States, of vessels from foreign countries, authorized to trade with particular ports only.

Although other subjects will press more immediately on your deliberations, a portion of them cannot but be well bestowed on the just and sound policy of securing our manufactures, the success they have attained, and are still attaining, in some degree, under the impulse of causes not permanent; and to our navigation, the fair extent of which is at present abridged by the unequal regulations of foreign governments.

B sides the reasonableness of saving our manufacturers from sacrifices which a change of circumstances might bring on them, the national interest requires, that with respect to such articles at least, as belong to our defence, and our primary wants, we should not be left in unnecessary dependence on external supplies. And whilst foreign governments adhere to the existing discriminations in their ports, against our navigation, and an equality or lesser discrimination is enjoyed by their navigation in our ports, the effect cannot be mistaken, because it has been seriously felt by our shipping interests; and in proportion as this takes place, the advantages of an inde-