

DUBLIN—SEPT. 14, 1792.  
SOCIETY OF UNITED IRISHMEN OF DUBLIN.  
THE HON. SIMON BUTLER IN THE CHAIR.

The following Address was unanimously agreed to:

THE SOCIETY OF UNITED IRISHMEN OF DUBLIN TO THE NATION.

WE observe with concern and indignation the insidious means employed to stifle the Catholic Voice in the humble representation of the Grievances which afflict the people and of the remedy specified to redress them. We lament that men of any pretensions to common sense and public spirit should have been blindly seduced into the publication of the most flagrant absurdities, calumnies, and libels, against the most oppressed, patient, and numerous description of our fellow citizens. That such publications should have issued from the Grand Jury room cannot be matter of surprize: since the nomination of Sheriffs has been transferred from the People to the Crown, Grand Juries, which are returnable by these officers, have lost their original character of independence, and are now notoriously subordinate to aristocratic influence and ministerial corruption. As therefore these ancient bodies, which should be the sacred organs of truth, as well as the guardians of the constitution, have in this instance degenerated into instruments of prejudice and civil dissention, we feel it a duty which we owe to public justice as well as to our country, to appeal from the unjust sentence of a few influenced men to the tribunal of a rational nation.

It appears that a small dispersed number of individuals of the Catholic persuasion, without authority from the body at large, were, in the course of last session, cajoled into the measure of presenting an eleemosynary address to government, and this was exactly made the vehicle of some obscure and ill-founded censure upon the constitutional conduct of the Catholic Committee. The embarrassment occasioned by this base artifice determined the Committee to obtain an unequivocal expression of the Catholic sentiment, and with this view they printed, published, and circulated through Ireland several thousand copies of a letter submitting to the Catholic people a plan for electing Delegates to the General Committee, a plan at once the most simple, orderly, and the best calculated for framing an unquestionable organ of public opinion. The letter solicits the attendance of Delegates appointed for the express purpose and with the express intimation of exploring and supplicating from the Legislature and the Sovereign a participation in the Elective Franchise and the benefit of the Trial by Jury—it is worthy of remark, that this Letter is utterly silent upon the ground of constitutional right, and never states this application as intended to be made upon any other principle than as a necessary means of securing to the Catholics an equal access to Leasehold property and a fair distribution of Justice.—Upon this proceeding so simple, and so obviously conformable to the fundamental principles of Law and Constitution, pettifoggery, chicanery, sitting in council with bigotry and nonsense, having ingeniously discovered that the Letter was circulated with great secrecy, pronounces the publication to be of a most dangerous, seditious, and inflammatory tendency—the phantom of a Popish Congress is raised—the scare-crow image of a French National Assembly is conjured up—the vision of a Gun-powder Plot appears—and the suppliant Committee of an enslaved people is identified with Sovereign Legislative Bodies. We say “enslaved,” for it will not be denied that a people are enslaved, who being excluded from all share in the Legislature of their country, are nevertheless subject to Laws and Taxes imposed on them without their consent.—“Law to bind all must be assented to by all.” It is not in a system of extirpation by penal laws—it is in the free agency of the people that we are to seek for the tone and permanent principle of a free and prosperous government.—The man who says that a political constitution can be upheld by penal laws, may say that the human constitution can be nourished by the use of slow poison.

Where so small a portion of so large a mass exercises the elective franchise, and a divided majority of that small portion forms the notorious property of a venal Aristocracy, we consider the Elective Body of the people as nothing more than the semblance of a larger species of corporation.—Hence that political ignorance, that selfish spirit of monopoly, that jealous hostility to the general happiness, which must ever characterize these avaricious retailers of freedom, have also infected a great number of the Elective Body of the nation.

Hirelings, whom we have at all prices, cry out, that the Catholics prefer their complaints in a stile of demand—such language could not have been uttered in a free land; it is the insolvent dictation of despotism; its authors may wish for fellow slaves, but we wish for fellow-citizens. The Catholics have ever addressed the Legislature with due respect; their submissive conduct is too unquestionable; but in our mind they only shew themselves worthy of their rights, when they reclaim them.

It is meant to deny them the right of petitioning? To question the right of meeting peaceably for that purpose amounts to such a denial. This would be a sin as well as a most mischievous doctrine; for it would necessarily throw the subject upon the alternative of violence.—He must either suffer or resist;—and of course he must silently sink under despotism or break into anarchy. When the innocent are punished by law, the severity of negro servitude alone could preclude them from the right of petitioning.

If the charges made against the Catholic Committee were founded in truth, Grand Juries, under the obligations of their oath and public station, should have presented them—if false, then have Grand Juries been guilty of defamatory libels.

What security do we require of our Catholic brethren? political mischief has not yet devised a test, which they have not cheerfully taken. They disclaim all those abominable principles inconsistent with good government which have been falsely imputed to them by those whose monopoly was sustained by the divisions of their country. They avow their support of the church establishment. They are even willing to worship that new-born chimera, “the Protestant Ascendancy,” provided the jealous idol may be appeased without the sacrifice of the Elective Franchise and the trial by jury. Popery is no longer to be met with but in the statute book. Catholics stand before us as political Protestants, for they protest against the errors of the state, and endeavour to establish the Reformation of the Constitution.

Will the men who furnish this upstart zeal for the integrity of the Constitution, submit their labours for its preservation during some years past to a candid and critical examination?—short is the catalogue of their services—what has signalized their political career? What, but an uniform exertion to stifle all efforts for the establishment of Irish freedom.—Indignant at the odious review, and the treacherous consistency of their present conduct, we gladly turn away to acknowledge with pride, that the virtuous founder of the Revolution of 1782 is also the leader in the great patriotic work of this day.

A Public Assembly of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs and Commons, was held at the Exhibition-house on Tuesday last, to take into consideration, a Circular Letter dispersed through this kingdom by the Catholic Sub-Committee, signed “Edward Byrne.” A copy of the said Letter, and also of the plan and observations mentioned to have been included therein, having been read, the Assembly unanimously came to the following determination: Resolved, That a letter be addressed to the Protestants of Ireland, to the following effect:

“Countrymen and Friends! “The firm and manly support which we received from you when we stood forward in defence of the Protestant Ascendancy, deserves our warmest thanks; we hoped that the sense of the Protestants of Ireland, declared upon that occasion, would have convinced our Roman Catholic fellow subjects that the pursuit of political power was for them, a vain pursuit; for though the liberal and enlightened mind of the Protestant receives pleasure in seeing the Catholic exercise his religion with freedom—enjoy his property in security—and possess the highest degree of personal liberty, yet experience has taught us, that without the ruin of the Protestant establishment the Catholic cannot be allowed the smallest influence in the state.

“For more than ten years the press has teemed with various writings, intended to prove that Roman Catholics have an equal claim with Protestants to a participation in the exercise of political power in this kingdom; that such a participation would not be injurious to Protestants; that prejudice, only, prevented Protestants from conceding this claim; and to complete the work, a letter has lately appeared, signed, “Edward Byrne,” in which the Roman Catholics are instructed to proceed upon the plan of the French democracy, to elect a representation of their own, to which said Byrne insinuates that “the Protestants must bend, as he has assurance from the highest authority.” “In answer to these charges, and these claims, we shall in a few lines briefly state the case of the Protestants and Roman Catholics of Ireland, in doing which we shall not endeavour to add to our language any other ornament than the beautiful simplicity of truth.

“One hundred years are just elapsed since the question was tried upon an appeal to Heaven—whether this country should become a Popish Kingdom, governed by an arbitrary and unconstitutional popish tyrant, and dependant upon France, or enjoy the blessings of a free protestant government—a protestant monarchy, limited by the constitution—and an intimate connection with the free empire of Britain.—The Great Ruler of all things decided in favour of our ancestors; he gave them victory, and Ireland became a protestant nation, enjoying a british constitution.

“But the conflict had been neither short nor trivial; and so many and so great were the efforts made by the Roman Catholics in support of their Popish King and French connections, that our ancestors were obliged in their own defence, to deprive them of political power, which they did by severe but necessary restrictive laws.

“Time draws the veil of oblivion over the virtues as well as the faults of men: In the lapse of more than four score years, the causes which induce the necessity of these laws were almost forgotten; while the generous Protestant saw with pain his Roman Catholic fellow-subject labouring under restrictions which from his peaceable demeanour then, appeared no longer necessary; and he could scarcely refrain from charging his ancestors with too much severity. Scion after scion the restrictive laws were rapidly repealed, and the last session of Parliament left the Roman Catholics in no wise different from their Protestant fellow subjects—save only in the exercise of political power.

“But be it remembered, that from the moment the Protestant began to make concessions, the Roman Catholic began to extend his claims; at first a very little would have satisfied him—that little and much more was granted; more was still claimed; and when every thing consistent with Protestant safety was conceded, instead of grateful acknowledgments and declarations of satisfaction, our ears were dinned with exclamations of discontent, the ravings of political clubs, and the declamations of state reformers.

“But we hope that the great body of the Roman Catholics are yet free from the influence of that dangerous spirit which has pervaded the clubs in this city: We hope they will reject Mr. Byrne’s counsel, and be grateful for the indulgences they have received from Protestants. To delude them from their tranquillity, they are told by Byrne, “That he has the first authority for asserting this application will have infinite weight with our gracious Sovereign, and with Parliament, if our friends are qualified to declare that it is the universal will of every Catholic in the nation.”—But we trust it is unfounded; were it otherwise, we tell them that the Protestants of Ireland would not be compelled by any authority whatever to abandon that political situation which their forefathers won with their swords, and which is therefore their birth-right, or to surrender their religion at the foot-stool of Popery.

“Every Irish Protestant has an interest in the government of this kingdom; he is born a Member of the State, and with a capacity of filling its offices;—this capacity he derives from that Constitution, which his ancestors acquired when they overthrew the Popish Tyrant—it is guaranteed by that Constitution—it is secured by the Law—he is in possession of it, and we know of no power under Heaven, authorized to alienate this, our most valuable inheritance.

ship must have very soon foundered, and had already carried away the windmills; the ship is still holding, together, and some part of the cotton has been saved, and hope to save some sugar also, if the weather continues moderate; but the ship, I am afraid, will be totally lost.

“I am sorry to add, the ship Britannia, Capt. Woodyear, was obliged to cut her cables, and came on shore within two hundred yards of us, and in two hours was all to pieces; the Captain, passengers, and most of the crew drowned. The George and Margaret, of London, shared the same fate; and we just now learn that the only ship at Nevis, Capt. Shivers, is totally lost.

“Myself and ship’s company got on shore on a raft of cotton.

“I am sorry it is my duty to inform you of such an unfortunate event. I have taken the necessary protests, which will be forwarded you immediately.”

By a subsequent letter, we learn, that most of the cotton on board of the Isabella had been got on shore much damaged. That near the whole of the sugar would be lost, and that only the sails, mats, and other rigging of the ship, would be saved.

By Capt. Wiseman of the Eliza, who arrived at Liverpool the 11th of September, we have the following intelligence, from the St. Vincent Gazette.

KINGSTON, Aug. 11. Accounts arrived this morning of a very violent gale of wind the 8th instant to leeward. The following are the only particulars we have yet learnt: At St. Kitt’s the ship Britannia, Capt. Woodyear, with 360 hds. of sugar and rum, and some cotton, was lost, and with her perished 22 people, among whom were the Captain, Mrs. Moore, her two sons and brother, passengers; the ship Isabella, belonging to Messrs. Denifour and M’Lachlan, laden with sugar; the brig George and Margaret, Ashington, laden with sugar; a schooner of Mr. Waddy’s, and a sloop of Messrs. Clifton and King’s, were also lost. At Nevis, a ship commanded by Captain Shivers, laden with sugar, was lost, with two people.

DOMINICA, Aug. 2.—Yesterday, in the afternoon, after much heavy rain, thunder, lightning, and wind, from the N. and N. W. as many vessels as possible got under way; towards night, the gale increased, and by eleven, blew a storm, in which the brig Olive parted her cables, and went on shore, opposite the French Tavern; her keel is supposed fate, her masts cut away, her cargo damaged. The ship Robinson lost her bowsprit. The sloop Two Friends, with 24 hds. sugar, dashed in pieces. The sloop Patty and Hester on shore. Three French schooners flaved to pieces. Remain at anchor, ships Nifus, Robinson, Dominica Packet, and Neptune, of London; brigs, William Tell, Lady Augusta, and Isabella.

For Liverpool, The New Loyalty, THOMAS Mc. DONALD, Master, (One of the Old Established Traders) WILL fail the first fair wind after the twenty-fifth instant Belfast, Sept. 17, 1792. McKEDY & STEVENSON.

For Charleston, South-Carolina, [With a Mediterranean Pass] THE new Ship JAMAICA PACKET, HENRY PAYTON, Master, is now in Port, and will be clear to sail the first of October next. The Owners request those who intend going in said Vessel to give in their names on or before Friday next, in order to ascertain the quantity of water and provisions necessary for the voyage.—For Freight or Passage apply to Mr. Samuel Mc. Master, Ballymena; Mr. Robert Simpson, near Moynemore; Mr. Samuel Thompson, Dugganong; Mr. Alexander Black, Alexander Mc. Dowell, or the Master on board. Belfast, 17th Sept. 1792. A few hundred Bushels of good POTATOES wanted.

NOW LOADING AT DUBLIN FOR BELFAST. THE BERESFORD, ROBERT HORSMAN, Master, is now taking in at Dublin, and will continue on the Birth eight days. Those who have any GOODS to ship, will please to forward their Orders immediately. Belfast, 17th September 1792.

For Charleston, in South-Carolina, [With a Mediterranean Pass] THE Ship IRISH VOLUNTEER, formerly advertised to sail the first of September, cannot be clear before the 15th; but on that day Capt. ANDERSON will be ready to take on board these passengers who purpose embarking with him, and will certainly sail first fair wind afterwards. Larne, 27th August 1792. Particularly on account of the present uncertainty of the weather, the sailing of the above Ship is put off to the 28th instant. The passengers are requested to be on board on the 26th. Larne, 13th Sept. 1792.

For Bordeaux and back to Belfast, THE Brig WILLIAM, WILLIAM GLAVIN, Master, will sail in eight days. For Freight apply to NARCISSEUS BATT. Belfast, 17th Sept. 1792.

A very fine Ship for Sale, On Saturday the 29th instant, at the House of Michael J’thomboe, Warren-Point, at one o’Clock in the Afternoon, THE Ship ORLANDO, JAMES Mc. CREA, Commander, built at Shields in the year 1790, burthen 500 tons, more or less, and fit for any trade where burthen and a moderate draft of water are required. As no person will purchase such a Ship without making a minute inspection of her, it is necessary to bestow encomiums upon her in this advertisement; the beauty of her form, the strength of her construction, and the certainty of her being a first filler, will be immediately apparent to a judicious examiner. The terms of payment will be declared at sale, where inventories of her Stores will be exhibited in the Coffee-houses of Dublin, Newry, and Ballyfast. The Ship can be seen any day before the Sale, by applying to Captain Mc. CREA on board. Warren-Point, Friday 14th Sept. 1792.

Wanted at November, A COOK, HOUSE-MAID, and POSTHION. None need apply who cannot be well recommended for sobriety, honesty, and carefulness.—Apply to Mrs. Clark, Castle-street. Belfast, Sept. 17th, 1792.

WANTED, A FOREMAN BLEACHER, ON the first of January next, who has been accustomed to bleach fine Lincen, and can be well recommended for honesty, sobriety, and knowledge in his profession.—Apply personally to James Hamill, junr. Coleraine. 15th Sept. 1792.

HAY TO BE SOLD, A Quantity well fayed to be sold at Shankhill. Enquire of James Boyd. September 18th, 1792.

TO BE LET, From the first of November next, for any Term of Years that may be agreed upon, or for Life, THE well-known Mills, consisting of a Flour, Corn, Bark, and Flax-Mill, with a complete Corn-Kilo, with some Lots of Ground that the Tenant may build on, either with or without two good Tenements. The Mills and Utensils are in good repair, and has that extensive Sucken of Squire Lyndon’s Estate in the Corporation of Carrickfergus bound to the Corn Mill.—For further particulars apply to Mr. Robert Mc. Gowan, or to Letitia Copeland, Proprietor, who will hear and treat for the same. Two large Fields of Land, containing six acres, may be had from November 1792. Carrickfergus, 17th Sept. 1792.

LARNE DISTRICT, NOTICE is hereby given to all Retailers of Spirits, Ale and Wine, residing in the said District, that Officers will be held at the places, and on the days undermentioned, for granting Licenses to them for the year commencing the 30th instant, and ending the 29th September, 1793; and also for granting them to all Wholesale Sellers of Spirits: And they are desired to take particular notice, that the Law requires that all Licenses to retail Spirits shall be taken out on or before the 29th instant, otherwise Licenses cannot be granted them for that Year: At Antrim, for that Walk and Randalstown, on Monday the 25th instant. At Ballymena, on Tuesday the 25th instant, for that Walk, Broughshane, and Ahoghill. At Glenamry, on Wednesday the 26th instant, for that Walk:—And, At Larne, on Friday the 28th instant, for that Walk. THOMAS LEA, Collector. Custom House, Larne, 13th Sept. 1792.

ADVERTISEMENTS, STOFPN or strayed off the Lands of Deansfort, in the County of Cavan, on the 4th of September instant, A Black HORSE, hogged, marked with an H. and an O. upon his off hind Quarter; also a dark bay Mare, hogged, about fourteen hands high, with a few white hairs in her forehead, and a little white in one of her hind feet. Whoever finds said Horse and Mare, shall be paid Two Guineas for each, or Ten Guineas Reward for Horse and Thief. JAMES STAFFORD. This is to Caution the Publick, NOT to credit Elizabeth Merry, otherwise Trodden, my Wife, any thing on my account, as I am determined not to pay any thing the my contract. Given under my hand this 11th day of September, 1792. HUGH MERRY, & his Mark.