



ABS. 1.89. 76(1-8)

John Taylor

Auchinblae 1850



Contents

1. Help to Parents.
2. Tracts by G.
3. Free church catechism
4. Protestant catechism

LETTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MONTROSE STANDARD.

SIR,—The *exposé* of her Majesty's Ministers, made by you from time to time, has, I believe, opened the eyes of not a few. I beg to make a few remarks on the same subject—not pretending to make any new discovery, but merely to lay before the humblest of your readers such a short and plain account of facts, as they can easily comprehend, and which can be proved by parliamentary papers. It is well known that her Majesty's present ministers, by making the most flattering promises of economy and retrenchment, were elevated to their high station on the shoulders of the people. A friend of mine, captivated with their flattery about consulting the good of the people, said to me, "Well, Sir, the Tories have kept us long down, but we will get up now in spite of them." Let us see how far my friend's prophecy has been fulfilled. It is but fair to admit that for some time they continued to sweep away a few poor and paltry sinecures and supernumerary clerks; but as soon as they thought themselves firmly seated at the helm, they completely forgot their promises, and gave full swing to a passion for jobbing and favouritism, which has never been exceeded by the most grasping Tories. I shall just mention a few specimens. In their hypocritical career of making the *people believe* that they intended to banish sinecures root and branch, it happened that a needy supporter came gaping for a sop. They immediately turned out a Tory who held an easy office of £1400 a-year; but, to save appearances, they gave him a pension of £1400 for life, and put in their favourite into the same office, *under a new name*, with a salary of £2000! By and by a more useful favourite looked in; and to supply him, they turned out the first favourite with a pension of £1000, and gave the new-

named sinecure to this more useful man. So that this single sinecure, which in the days of the grasping Tories never cost us more than £1400 a-year, now in the hands of economical and retrenching Whigs costs us just £4400 a-year!!! Many more specimens might be given of squandering the public money by thousands and tens of thousands, under colour of salary to commissions of their friends, or under colour of public works, in improving the estates of their Irish supporters. But look at the natural consequences. Between 1815 and 1830—i. e. 15 years—the Tories paid off about 80 millions of our national debt, and reduced the expences of government four and a half millions a-year, and left a fund of two and a half millions to continue the reduction of our debt. Now, how stands the case in 1839? During eight years of Whig economy and retrenchment, they have not only swallowed up the surplus fund of two and a half millions, but *added* eight and a half millions to our debt, and nearly one million of additional expense yearly, which we must pay by additional taxes or borrowed money!!!

Next, take a short glance at their moral and religious conduct. Our Queen, on her accession, swore that she believed Popery to be idolatry; and that she would carefully maintain the established Protestant Church. And her present ministers swore to advise her accordingly. Yet these ministers advise her to give about £100,000 yearly to support and propagate Popery, while they are most reluctant to grant a farthing to support and extend the Protestant Church. They have surrounded the Queen with Popish female companions, whose gossiping tales of scandal would disgrace a country village, and taken rank Papists into the cabinet to advise her! Does not this smell something like perjury? But as our legislature is much guided by precedent, perhaps our Premier means to plead the precedent of all Popish M.P.'s, who, before they take their seat in Parliament, all swear that they shall, neither directly nor indirectly, do anything to hurt the Established Church; yet no sooner are they seated, than they openly avow their intention to destroy her!!!

This is not all. One Mr Owen, a man of money, but a poor infatuated mortal, is going about, not only openly avowing his irreligion and infidelity, but actually and openly sparing neither labour nor expence *to teach* personally, and by his hired servants—what? That religion is mere humbug—that the Bible is of less value than an old almanac—that marriage is a crime against nature—that fornication and adultery are quite harmless. In a word, that all government, civil and religious, hitherto in use among men ought to be swept away to make room for his system of true liberty and equality, in his new moral world!!! Perhaps you may think this man—I had almost said this monster, in a Christian land—must, for many reasons, be shunned and detested by the honest and patriotic servants of our Queen; and that one who recommends fornication and adultery would never be suffered to pollute by his presence the palace of our virgin Queen. But no. It is the office, I believe, of an inferior servant to introduce great men into the royal presence; but our Premier, whether from finding Mr Owen's new doctrine so congenial to his own sentiments, I presume not to say—but to shew a particular mark of honour to Mr Owen, to himself, or to the Queen, or perhaps to all three, our Premier *personally* introduced this notorious man into the presence of her Majesty!!!

Having mentioned the above, and some other specimens of Whig ministerial conduct to my foresaid friend, I asked, "What do you think now of your favourites?" "Think I think!" said he, "I think that I dare not suffer my lips to utter epithets suited to their character. These are most nefarious proceedings, contrary to every principle of honour and honesty, either in a civil, moral, or religious point of view—proceedings which, had we not the clearest proofs before us, we could not believe had taken place in a Christian land. I candidly confess that my prophecy of getting up in spite of the Tories has miserably failed. But," added he, "are we to be saddled with these selfish hypocrites for ever—those men, who, instead of eco-

nomy and retrenchment, by the most shameful extravagance, have added a heavy load to our burdens, and filled their own pockets, and those of their supporters, at our expense. They now, too, insult the people who raised them up. For, that they might be enabled to favour their supporters by propagating Popery, Socialism, and Infidelity, in our schools, they have, by a legal quirk, laid their hands on £30,000 of our taxes, although the people presented 3000 petitions against the wicked job. In the reign of the Tories, Britain was looked up to with respect by the highest powers in all quarters of the globe; but now these powers laugh us to scorn, and, in all likelihood, will soon try to trample on us. "But," continued he, "why do the Tories lie quietly by, and do nothing? They did, indeed, address the Queen, and were insulted for their pains. Why do they quietly pocket such insults to themselves and the people whose eyes are now opened? Let the influential Conservatives in each county meet—call upon the people—encourage and explain; and I am sure the people, with a very few exceptions, will rally round them. The pack of Popish, Infidel, and selfish Whigs, which surround the throne, shut up every avenue to the royal ear; but let each county, headed by influential Conservatives, get up an address to our Queen, and peremptorily insist on their constitutional right to have access to lay their grievances personally before her Majesty, who is kept ignorant of both the real state of her country and real sentiments of her loyal people; and I am certain we shall soon see a far different and much more cheering face of things."

G.

Mearns, November, 1839.

X

BM 10



