

The Principality.

"CHWI A GEWCH WYBOD Y GWIRIONEDD, AR GWIRIONED, A'CH RHYDDHA CHWI"

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HENRY VINCENT AND THE NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL.

A MOTION was submitted last week to the Newport Town Council, to the effect that Mr. Henry Vincent should have the use of the Town Hall upon the usual terms, for the purpose of delivering a course of six Lectures on the Commonwealth.

The motion was met with so much opposition that it was withdrawn. We could but expect that Messrs. Hughes, Henry J. Davies, and others of their stamp whose political views evidently belong to the year one, would oppose the motion; but we must say that we certainly were surprised that Mr. Dowling did not raise his voice against the injustice and impolicy of the refusal. Why wish to throw the responsibility of granting or refusing upon the mayor Mr. Dowling? Why not at once declare yourself in favour of Mr. Vincent's having the use of the People's Hall, or say that you were opposed to it? The people of Newport would then know whether you were for them or against them. Because Mr. Vincent holds political views contrary to those of the gentlemen in authority, why should he be proscribed? If his views are erroneous, proscription will never make them right; but it will do this, it will make the masses sympathise the more deeply with the man that is thus ostracised, and wed them the more firmly to his opinions. We speak advisedly when we say that there is not a man in the British empire doing so great a social good as Mr. Vincent. With a fervent, soul-stirring eloquence, he wields an incredible power over the audiences he addresses. That power he

does not exercise to inflame the passions, but rather to awaken up a manly and sustained energy in the cause of Peace and Progress. Wherever he goes he gives form to public opinion; from the fire of his burning eloquence it comes forth purified and consolidated. He educes popular enthusiasm it is true, but he directs it in a channel which in itself proves a safeguard to society against the wanton attacks of furious mobs. And in that he shows a true philosophy. He guides the popular feeling, and condemns all who would suppress it as the greatest enemies of order and the human race. He shows that to avert the evils attendant upon ignorance run mad, we must not attempt to put down the people by force alone, and resist their behests regardless of their rights. He shows that we should meet its menaces by a benignity that should grant all that the people have a right to claim, and a firmness to resist, without insolence, any of their demands that may be contrary to right reason and the laws of God. Thus meeting popular passion, we receive it at an angle from which it will ever glance off benefited by the contact and without harm to the community. Mr. Vincent should be encouraged in his endeavours, instead of thwarted, we believe him to be a lightning conductor to society. He sympathises with the masses, and honestly endeavours after their elevation. He is opposed to civil commotion and to force. Force alone withholds popular rights, and in their simplicity our artisans imagine force alone can gain them. There are demagogues ever ready to take hold of this feeling. Mr. Vincent combats it. He holds that rights gained by force and blood are too dearly gained. He exhibits an ardent desire for the enfranchisement of the people. He works for that end

unceasingly. The people hang upon his lips and have confidence in his professions. His voice is ever for brotherhood and peace. The people are won over—the trade of the demagogue he has more than half destroyed. And this is the man the combined wisdom of the Newport Town Council has banned. Let the people of Newport look to it at the next municipal elections. They have the power to punish these men. Let them send liberal men, to the council board, and not a set of who are frightened at their own shadows.