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MR. HENRY VINCENT LECTURES.

It will be in the remembrance of our readers, that two or three months since, an application was made to the Newport Town Council, for the use of the large room for the delivery of a course of lecture by Mr. Henry Vincent. On that occasion we published the report of a discussion at the Council board on the subject, showing that the majority of gentlemen then present decidedly objected to the Town Hall being used by Mr. Vincent; chiefly on the ground of the notoriety his name had obtained in connexion with Chartist opinions. At the same time, it is fair to state that several gentlemen considered the lapse of ten years—during which Mr. Vincent has not only advocated the political enfranchisement of the working classes, but has been largely identified with the religious liberty and peace societies—the value and importance which had been attached to those and his present endeavours, by the authorities, the clergy, even and the generality of the inhabitant" of those towns where his lectures had been delivered, together with the parliamentary contests in which he had engaged, to be a sufficient guarantee for his respectability, and to afford a fair probability that his instructions from the platform would have it beneficial effect upon the public mind. The discussion among the members of the Council, however, ended by the meeting throwing the responsibility of letting the hall, on the shoulders of Mr. Evan, the mayor, who accordingly, it appears, consented to the application, and promised to preside at the opening lecture, that the presence of the chief magistrate of the town might remove all doubt of the meeting being confined to the objects defined, should any unwise party attempt the contrary. Last evening, therefore, according to announcement made some time previously, Mr. Vincent appeared on the platform at the Town Hall, the Mayor presiding. Among the

large and respectable auditory assembled, who appeared to evince a warm interest in the proceeding, we noticed Somers Harford Esq, Messrs. Edward Thomas, Stephen Iggulden, W. Townsend, Th. Turner, and James Davies, Town Councillors; the Revds. Wm. Allen and Dd. Salmon a Large number of ladies a great concourse of professional gentlemen and tradesmen of Newport; and a sprinkling of visitors even from Swansea, Bath, Bristol, and places in this neighbourhood. The Mayor, in a brief but appropriate address, introduced the lecturer. Mr. Vincent rose, and was greeted with several rounds of applause. From the proximity of the occasion to our time of going to press, we were enabled only to give an outline of the lecture, which embraced the following subjects — The intellectual and moral characteristics, of the age the influence of the press; cheap literature; railways, the electric telegraph, and public meetings, upon our character as a people gradual improvement of the populace our moral movements; decline of brute force; tendency of the world towards peace, civilisation, and liberty.—The lecturer said, in his opening observations, that it gave him great pleasure once more to appear in the town of Newport, to direct attention to great principles, which must exert a powerful influence for good upon all classes of the people; and he could conscientiously say, that "He sought only to carry his principles into effect, by moral and intellectual means." Mr. Vincent then proceeded with great force, and a continuous flow of eloquence which seemed to charm his hearers like a spell, to say he had come to lay before them some of the wonderful tendencies of this glorious age — an age pregnant with hope— an age in which everything conduced to the promotion of order, civilisation, intelligence, Peace, and liberty. (Loud applause.) He knew

it was customary with many to speak of the present in a desponding tone—to be perpetually boasting of what they termed "the good old times," in utter blindness of that great law of progress which God had imprinted on the world. (Applause.) Mr. V. then proceeded to contrast the present with the past, and pointed to the Press, as the great modern agent for diffusing light among the masses. In "the good old times," there were no schools, no books, no newspapers; the masses were destitute of intelligence and there could not exist any of those strong intellectual influences which now characterise the industrious orders. (Loud cheering.) With the birth of the Press, a new era dawned: slowly but surely, did the Press unfold its great mission; it allied itself with Religion —seized the works of the ancient masters of Greece and Rome, and made them familiar to the minds of the middle orders. The talented lecturer next traced the progress of the press, and spoke of books that once had been published at the high cost of a guinea, marching through the world "on six- penny legs, and shilling feet." (Laughter and cheers.) The influence of modern literature was glanced at, and the vast power wielded by newspapers, all of which indicated the existence of an intellectual activity, and a power of preserving it, fatal to all despotism. (Loud applause.) He then contrasted the "isolation of the past with the intercourse" of the present. He spoke of the change produced by railways of their influence in breaking in upon barbarism —in promoting a good understanding between peoples and nations. All science was yoking itself to the car of unanimity. The very lightning had come down to the service of the human race, consenting to become the bearer of thoughts and wants, on the wires of the electric telegraph, which were beginning to gird the World with their mysterious agency, (Applause.) Popular meetings were then glanced at, and their power most graphically illustrated, in developing the advancing spirit of the age, in creating orators, and founding a sort of fourth estate, of which the Press was the mighty representative. (Enthusiastic cheering.) Mr. Vincent then showed how the people have improved; spoke of the various philanthropic movements in proof of this; pointed out

indications of the gradual decline of all faith in brute force, and the general tendency of the world towards peace, civilisation and liberty. the lecture throughout was sunny—full of hope in the future, and breathing the most exalted and ennobling sentiments.— The peroration was an eloquent and impassioned invocation to the spirit of human progress; and when the last words fell upon the audience, there arose one long-continued expression of enthusiastic applause. Mr. Christophers proposed, Mr. Owen, solicitor, seconded, and it was resolved with acclamation, supported earnestly by Mr. Vincent, that a cordial vote of thanks be given to the Mayor, for presiding on the occasion. Mr. Evans acknowledged the compliment, remarking that if any reason were required why he had presided, a sufficient answer might be found in the high purposes, so eloquently expounded, of the lecturer, and the highly-respectable audience then filling the hall. Among the crowd of ladies and gentlemen who then shook hands with Mr. Vincent upon the platform, was Somers Harford, Esq., who warmly addressed him when Mr. V. good-humouredly remarked, "Ha! sir! we have met before—I have seen you on the bench." —It we remember aright, Mr. Harford was one of the magistrates of Monmouthshire before whom Mr. Vincent stood a charged man," some ten or eleven years ago..