

Justin McCarthy, and other historians as coarse, brutal, overbearing, unpopular to an extraordinary degree—a man of infamous character, of low morals, a mere brutal rone, whose behavior would disgrace a decent tap-room in our day.

Fairman was the Duke's jackal. The gay colonel had been an Orangeman since 1815. During the illness of George IV. he had strongly advocated in the Press and otherwise the appointment of a Regent—the Regent to be none other than the Duke of Cumberland. In the *Morning Herald* and elsewhere he had also spoken slightly of the claims of the Princess (the late Queen) Victoria to the throne. As the result of several long private interviews between the Duke and Fairman at Kew, the latter was, on Cumberland's nomination, appointed Deputy Grand Secretary (and acting Grand Secretary) of the Imperial Grand Lodge (London). An easy-going Irishman (Chetwoode Eastace Chetwoode) had previously filled the position. Chetwoode was not the man for desperate undertakings. It was therefore decided to get rid of him. The method adopted by Cumberland and his associates came out in the evidence laid before the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry. It was briefly as follows: Two 'tylers' of the Imperial Grand Lodge (Condeil and Osborne), aided by another Orangeman (Payne), broke into Chetwoode's chambers in Lyons' Inn (London) during his absence, and stole therefrom all the papers they could lay their hands upon. The thieves were paid for their services by Fairman. The stolen documents were placed in the hands of the Imperial Grand Lodge, and Chetwoode was thus at one stroke deprived of the only weapons by which he might have been a formidable enemy for the conspirators to deal with. He was soon afterwards dismissed from his position as Deputy Grand Secretary, and Fairman was appointed to fill his place.

From this moment an 'advanced' movement, in the interests of the rough old Imperial Grand Master, was pushed with feverish energy among the lodges. New signs and passwords were devised and every means taken to secure secrecy. An open resort to physical force and armed terrorism was adopted. The loyalty of the nation's last resource—the army—was tampered with systematically and on a vast scale. The Imperial Grand Lodge officials exerted themselves to the utmost to have Cumberland appointed Regent during the declining years of George IV. and William IV. They ignored or belittled the legal rights of the Duchess of Kent and of her daughter the Princess (late Queen) Victoria—which had been established by Act of Parliament—and did all that lay in their power to keep what they called 'the paramount claims' of Cumberland as prominently as possible before the public eye. From the day of Fairman's appointment, Cumberland presided at the Imperial Grand Lodge meetings in the style and state of an actual king. And the lodge correspondence of the period which subsequently appeared in the Report of the Parliamentary Committee (English), is full of a great secret scheme which certain Orangemen subsequently testified on oath was none other than an attempt to prevent, by armed force if necessary, the accession of Queen Victoria to the throne of England.

TERRORISM AND DISLOYALTY.

It would be impossible, in the course of a summary newspaper article, to give an adequate idea of the feverish energy with which the policy of physical force was organised and pushed throughout the Empire at the instigation of Cumberland and his associates in infamy. A sample of Fairman's correspondence appears in the English Select Parliamentary Committee's Report on Orange Lodges. It is as the Committee point out, filled with appeal to Orangemen to terrorise opposition out of existence by 'numbers,' by 'boldness of attitude,' 'by a rapid augmentation of our physical force,' 'to strike the foe [the Government] with awe,' to be 'an eternal source of terror to the enemy,' 'to strike with terror and sore dismay' all who opposed their designs.

The corrupting of the fidelity of the army went on at a merry pace. The formation of regimental lodges—although strictly forbidden in the military regulations of 1822 and 1829—was eagerly carried on. The Irish yeomanry regiments were described as 'all Orange.' Disaffection was systematically spread among the line in every part of the British Isles, in Canada, Australia, the Ionian Isles, Malta, etc. All this was done by the express direction of Cumberland and the Grand Lodge, and letters were sent from the knot of titled conspirators impressing on non-commissioned officers the necessity of obeying the commands of their superior officers. When the conspiracy was discovered there were over fifty regiments whose fidelity could not be counted upon. To these we must add the Irish yeomanry forces and the 310,000 to 360,000 Orange civilians who, according to the evidence of the Imperial Grand Lodge officials, were scattered through Great Britain and Ireland. The English Select Committee's Report points out that most of the Orange civilians were supplied with arms, and that all the members of that vast organisation—perhaps close on half a million of armed men at the time—were bound by oath to assemble at the command of Grand Master the Duke of Cumberland, who thus held in his hands all the elements of a rapid and successful revolution. It was this dangerous power of rapidly and secretly mobilising vast bodies of armed fanatics which, in the eyes of the English Parliamentary Select Committee of 1835, constituted the Orange Society a menace to the safety of the Empire, and made the complete suppression of the Orange association 'imperatively necessary.'

All the time that the underground armed preparations were in progress, every effort was being made by Cumberland and his accomplices in the Grand Lodge to keep the pretender 'in prominent shape' (as Fairman put it) before the public eye. As Lord Brougham said (*Life and Times*, iii., 371), 'it became manifest that his Royal Highness now thought himself destined to play a great part, and he was flying at high game.' Cumberland's party industriously circulated rumors favorable to the schemes of their Imperial Grand Master, and which contained contemptuous references to the legalised claims of the Princess Victoria, whom they described as being only 'a woman and a minor'—with the further addendum

that if she came to the throne she would become a Papist and would thus greatly endanger, if not destroy, the Protestant succession.

Briefly, a deliberate attempt was made to further the interests of Cumberland by creating a hostile public feeling, or exciting a popular uproar against the young Princess Victoria. Her right to the succession had been decided not merely by claims of heredity: it had been determined by Act of Parliament as well. It had been likewise settled at the same time by the voice of the nation that in the event of the demise of William during the minority of the Princess Victoria, her mother (the Duchess of Kent) was to be Regent. But the Orange leaders acted throughout the conspiracy as if the Princess Victoria were *de facto* excluded from the succession, and at the same time were steadily preparing to secure, by armed force if necessary, the accession of the Duke of Cumberland in her stead. They were banded together to commemorate a successful revolution which took place in 1688. On their own principles they could not well object to another 'glorious revolution' in 1837, by which not a *de facto* king, but a *de jure* queen—whom they hated and whose secluded life left her quite unknown to the British public—would be set aside in the interests of the Orange institution.

Miss Martineau tells of the expectation of the 'loyal Orangemen' to depose William IV. on the plea of insanity and to supersede the Princess Victoria. Fairman, in one of his letters to Cumberland (published in the English Parliamentary Committee's Report), plainly advises his patron to put himself in a position to seize the throne. Heywood, a Sheffield Orangeman, declared to Deputy Grand Master Kenyon that Fairman had assured the brethren as far back as 1832 that the deposition of William IV. was 'not improbable.' The brethren referred to the Duke during the lifetime of William IV. as 'the nearest to the throne'—to the exclusion of the Princess Victoria. And Cumberland, as already stated, presided at the meetings of the Imperial Grand Lodge with the state and ceremony pertaining to the office of an actually reigning king.

All this time the scheme of the conspirators was spoken of only to 'safe' people, and in whispers and enigmas. In Fairman's letters it is referred to as 'a great divulgement,' to be mentioned to 'only sure Tories,' who are known to be 'STAUNCH' (the capitals are his), and who felt what they owed to their 'unflinching champion' (Cumberland). They were cautioned to 'nerve themselves' for a great occasion that was coming. This is elsewhere referred to by Fairman as a 'civil war,' a fast approaching time 'when matters will be brought to an issue' by the physical force of Orangeism, when 'a conflagration not easily to be extinguished' would be set alight which 'all the efforts of its opponents would never be able to smother.' Lord Kenyon—one of the conspirators—declared in a letter to Fairman that he (Kenyon) had spent 'nearer £20,000 than £10,000' in 'the good cause.' And Fairman, in a quarrel with Cumberland over payment (or was it blackmail?) threatened his patron with 'exposure' unless his demands were complied with. These seem to have been abundantly settled, for he successfully concealed a vital part of the Grand Lodge correspondence, and refused to give it up on the order of the Parliamentary Select Committee. And it is strong opposition from the Orange party, the House of Commons insisted on the production of the missing correspondence. Fairman defied the order of the House. He was committed for breach of privilege and—promptly absconded. The mysterious letters—which, as he plainly said, referred to Orange matters—were of a nature which (he declared) he could not divulge without 'convicting himself' and involving others. But to this day their contents have never been brought to the light of day.

THE PLOT EXPOSED.

A fact of marked significance was this: the whole Orange party in the House of Commons solidly supported Fairman in his refusal to surrender the incriminating documents. 'The flight of Colonel Fairman,' says the *National History of England* (vol. iv., p. 298), 'and the destruction or concealment of documents which the House of Commons, through the Speaker, insisted that he should deliver up, baffled further research at a critical point.' But abundant other evidence of the existence of the Orange conspiracy against the Princess Victoria was forthcoming. A number of compromising letters which do not appear in the published Report of the Parliamentary Select Committee (English) were published in the *London and Westminster Review* of January and April, 1836. Other incriminatory documents fell into the hands of Mr. Finn and Mr. Hume, M's P., and have not yet seen the light of publication. Shortly before his death Mr. Finn placed the papers that remained in his possession in the hands of the well-known historian, Dr. R. R. Madden. After the death of the latter, his library was sold in 1887, and a manuscript history of Orangeism, embodying the papers preserved by Mr. Finn, was secured by a private collector for a large sum. Dr. Madden (*United Irishmen*, vol. iv., p. 13) says that the 'proof' of the existence of that [the Cumberland] conspiracy 'were considered of too formidable a character by the Government of that day to be published in a Parliamentary Report.'

The publishers of the *London and Westminster Review* offered to produce the originals of the documents printed by them in the event of the prosecution of the Duke of Cumberland for treason. They likewise published in *extenso* the sworn depositions of an Orangeman directly implicating Fairman in arrangements for the deposition of William IV. by force of arms, if necessary, and placing the Duke of Cumberland upon the throne, to the exclusion of the Princess Victoria. An Orangeman named Heywood, of respectable character, wrote a letter to Lord Kenyon in October, 1835, involving Fairman and the Grand Lodge in the conspiracy. Mr. Hume and Mr. Finn directly charged the Duke of Cumberland and his colleagues of the Grand Lodge in the House of Commons with heading a vast conspiracy to alter the succession to the throne. This was on February 12, 1836. 'It was clear to the [Parliamentary Select] Committee,' says Miss Martineau (vol. ii., p. 277), 'that the evidence bore out Heywood's statements.' 'It was proposed,' says