

1885 October 10, Porcupine

THE MANCHESTER "PROGRAMME."

LAST Saturday Cottonopolis was in high glory, and held what we gather from the official guide—but stay, here is the title of it as it stands :—

PROGRAMME TO CELEBRATE THE PASSING OF THE SHIP CANAL BILL, HELD AT MANCHESTER, ON SATURDAY, THE 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 1885

1885



1885

THE DANIEL ADAMSON.

It is a comparatively easy matter to hold a programme, but quite another thing to understand it. The fancy picture of the "Daniel Adamson," with all sail set and steam up, ploughing her way up the inchoate canal is a fine decoration, and lends quite a nautical air to the landlubberly programme which our Manchester friends held last Saturday. We fail to find, however, any further reference to this mythical argosy, and we suspect its only existence to be like that of the canal—a fanciful dream.

Let us see what the programme further contains. Chiefly a list of trades-unions whose members took part in the procession. The Oddfellows first attract notice by the pregnant significance of their motto, borne on banners—"Protection to the Widows and Orphans." Just so; let widows and orphans, or their trustees, fight shy of this preposterous venture as an investment. The carpenters and joiners are also rather interesting with their three large banners—on one side the trade emblem; on reverse sides—(No. 1) joiners engaged in the cabins of a ship; (No. 2) trade emblem, showing large stairs in course of construction; (No. 3) showing carpenters' work (centring) for Ballochyle Viaduct. The "large stairs" are like Jacob's ladder—mysteriously typical.

The dressers, dyers and finishers give us the first gleam of fun with their punning motto—"We dye to live, and live to die;" whilst the bookbinders have it—"Bound to do good, and knowledge is power;" and the umbrella-frame makers exhibit the largest umbrella ever seen—Mr. Gladstone's famous one probably a mere parasol to it.

At last, in this marvellous programme we come to something promising

To Messrs. Adamson and Pember all credit is due!

Another success!

But, alas! the important announcement which follows relates chiefly to corns and bunions; nor can we make out how Messrs. Adamson and Pember have become mixed up with those annoying, but on the whole unimportant, excrescences. The "programme," in its conclusion, becomes somewhat maudlin, affectionate, and incoherent. A tobacconist gives away 5,000 Ship Canal pipes, and poetically invites us:—

*Come and see the gaffer of the gang,*

*Beady for work with spade in hand.*

*Bis pipe, so long, he smokes with a will,*

*At Jones' stick shop, 75, Shudebill*

Whilst a jolly landlord of the Unicorn (and Ship Canal) Hotel breaks into similarly-reckless rhyme without reason :—

*They'll cover the river with boats and barges,*

*Men-of-war ships that ever so large is,*

*Steamers back and forwards towing.*

*You may ride for nothing and they'll pay you for going.*

*Sailors swearing, spars a-batting,*

*Heave-ye-ho-ing, handspikes clattering,*

*Strange sails crowding every day, sirs,*

*Anchoring in Victoria Bay, sirs.*

*The Liverpool gents will be all undone.*

*Here there will be nought but fun done.*

*Pats, half wild, running their rigs, sirs,*

*Landing butter there, bullocks and pigs, sirs.*

*Then to make us jolly and friskey,*

*Mealy potatoes and barrels of "Unicorn" whiskey.*

*New laid egg a twelve month taken,*

*Then all will feed upon eggs and bacon.*

After this, fireworks are a work of supererogation; but as they seem to be a customary introduction to ventures predestinate to failure, fireworks they had. A mad world, my masters!