

tion beholds the unvarying wheel of work, the treadmill of labor thus going round, and round, and round; without a change, without a pause; from morn to night, and from year to year—think, if you can, of the desolation that must follow this absolute reign of labour, over the whole realm of time. Think of the beauty it would efface; of the merry-heartedness it would extinguish; of the giant-strengths that it would tame; of the resources of nature that it would exhaust; of the aspirations it would crush; of the sickness that it would breed; of the projects it would wreck; of the groans that it would extort; of the lives that it would immolate; and of the cheerless graves that it would prematurely dig! See them toiling and moiling, sweating and fretting, grinding and hewing, weaving and spinning, strewing and gathering, sowing and reaping, razing and building, digging and planting, unloading and storing, striving and struggling;—in the garden and in the field, in the granary and in the barn, in the factory and in the mill, in the warehouse and in the shop, on the mountain and in the ditch, on the road-side and in the wood, in the city and in the country, on the sea and on the shore, on the earth and in the earth;—in days of brightness and days of gloom; in hours of sun and seasons of storm; in times of trouble and times of peace; in the heights of day and in the depths of night; through the savageness of winter and through the gentleness of spring; in the energy of youth and in the impotence of age; when health is ebbing in the blood, and when disease is eating up the strength; when death is in the lonely home, and when a happy life encircled with the earth, and the children of labor would go down to its surface, must follow its ruinous circulations till, exhausted by unnatural efforts, they relax their hold, drop off, and suddenly disappear.

The worn-out wayfarer, finding no verdant resting-place, and no house of entertainment to cheer him in his travel, must sink at length on the road-side, and miserably perish. The delicate and the fragile would be speedily crushed, by such a doom, "before the moth." Feeble constitutions, that with a seventh day's fostering care, might eke out their residue of strength for many years, would be broken down with a sudden crash.—Incipient diseases, which nature, invigorated by adequate rest, might overgrow, would be developed with a deadly rapidity. An intense labor would be found a dreadful forcer of the seeds and rudiments of decay, which are embedded, more or less plentifully, in all of us. Under the vassalage of such a gigantic oppressor as unrestricted labor, earth would reek with the sufferings of her offspring; whilst the all-absorbing prayer of her millions would be for "Rest! Rest! Rest!" or the quiet slumbers of the grave!

THE ENGLISH MAIL.

ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA.

From the New Brunswick Express.

HIGHLY INTERESTING AND IMPORTANT FROM GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, AND ALL PARTS OF THE CONTINENT!

The Canada, Capt. Judkins, with 87 passengers, arrived at Halifax at about 7 o'clock, on Monday evening.—She left Liverpool at 8 o'clock on the 5th inst., and has thus made, with two exceptions, the quickest passage on record.

The commercial news presents no new feature of interest. The uncertainty which still exists as to political events on the Continent, tends to check business operations of every description.

The Cotton market has been firmer during the week, and the value of American descriptions has improved.

The Corn trade has again become dull, and prices were falling, owing to the genial weather for the growing crops. At the Liverpool market on Friday the 4th inst., Flour was sold at 23s., and towards the close of business that price was not obtainable, although holders refused 22s. 6d. for considerable quantities; some transactions took place at 22s. 9d. per barrel.

Indian Corn had improved in demand, and sold at 31s. to 32s. for white, and 32s. 6d. to 31s. for yellow. Indian Meal brought 15s. per barrel.

Trade in the Manufacturing districts was dull and unsatisfactory.

In the abundance of Money, no change worthy of notice had taken place.

The overwhelming distress which now prevails in some of the Southern and Western districts of Ireland exceeds anything which it has been our painful duty to record, and during the week Parliament has been occupied with some important measures for the relief of the people of this unfortunate country.

In the House of Lords on the 4th inst., Lord Stanley presented a petition from operatives in London against the repeal of the Navigation Laws.

Petitions have also been presented from other places in England against the measure.

It will be seen that a strong effort will be made in the Lords to defeat the Ministry on the proposed modification of these Laws.

The news from the continent is still of a warlike character. The Austrians have been signally defeated, and driven to the edge of Hungary, if not out of the country altogether. The battles in which they were defeated were fought around Buda.

The French army under General Oudinot has landed in the Papal dominions, and has taken Civita Vecchia without resistance.

The Danes have been again defeated.

Rumors of a near approach to a settlement of the Danish question were current in London. The Emperor of Russia has, it is stated, strongly advised the King of Denmark towards a conclusion of peace; and in the continental papers it is positively asserted that the mediation of the King of the Belgians between the contending parties has been applied for.

GREAT MEETING IN LONDON.—A NATIONAL LEAGUE FORMED.

Since our last vast meeting of merchants, traders, and agriculturalists, has taken place in the city of London, with a view of forming a National League for the purpose of restoring the principle of Protection to native industry. The Duke of Richmond took the chair, and was surrounded by several noblemen of high rank; and upon the platform were the representatives of almost all the leading mercantile houses in the metropolis.

It is now quite evident that Lord Stanley intends "to try a fall" with the present Administration; and the meeting in London was got up for the avowed purpose of fortifying the House of Lords in the step it now seems certain that branch of the Legislature will pursue in throwing out the bill of the repeal of the Navigation Laws.—The entire assent of the London merchants when Lord Granby said "Thank God we have a House of Lords," was greater than anything of the kind known for many years. Lord Stanley, on Monday next, will move the rejection of the measure, and his friends at the meeting on Tuesday last declared that his Lordship was now ready to take office should the Queen "send for him." A dissolution of Parliament would follow; and the Protectionists have hopes that a very large majority of their party would be returned in a new Parliament by the united efforts of the distressed agriculturists, the discontented half ruined colonial interests, the suffering tradesmen, manufacturers, merchants, and shipowners. It remains, however, to be seen whether the House of Lords will reject the bill, and it is believed that the Duke of Wellington will support the present Ministers, and his vote will, doubtless, influence the course of other Peers. It is very greatly to be deplored that the course of trade should be interrupted by these party struggles, the end of which it is difficult to foresee. The fate of the Navigation Bill will probably be settled before our next publication; the larger contest at issue will be fought with great determination by both the great parties in the nation.

PARLIAMENTARY.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Ewart brought forward his annual motion for the abolition of capital punishment, which produced, as usual, a good deal of discussion, but was ultimately lost by a vote of 75 to 24. Last year Mr. Ewart was defeated on the question by a majority of 56, the votes being 68 for, and 122 against, the motion.

The Irish Rate-in-Aid bill has at length emerged from the Commons, and will shortly have its fate decided by the Peers. The debate on Monday was characterised by only one feature deserving notice, and that unhappily not a new one—we mean a declaration by Lord John Russell that further pecuniary advances will be necessary in anticipation of the revenue to be raised under the measure now before parliament. The extent of these advances it is impossible to anticipate, for all accounts concur in describing the state of Ireland as rapidly approaching the point at which it will verge into chaos.

As an earnest of better times, the government has introduced a new bill for facilitating the sale of encumbered estates in Ireland, accompanied by the avowal that the two measures previously passed for that purpose have proved entirely ineffective. They have failed through the folly or the blundering of the Irish Court of Chancery; and the bill explained by the Solicitor General is therefore to be regarded as the beginning of a reform of the law which must ultimately extend to England, in addition to its more proper principles as an attempt to solve the existing difficulty. The end desired is, to induce capitalists to make their riches means of improving the cultivation of the soil, an indispensable preliminary of which is, however, such a change in the law as shall provide increased facility and security in the transfer of property. The failure of the previous bill is attributed to the delays and fees of the Court of Chancery; the remedy proposed is, the formation of a commission which, like the West Indian Commission, is to fix its own rules of proceeding, and to determine questions in the spirit but without the forms of equity. The new commission will, in fact, be a court of chancery without its fees, and this single difference will constitute its almost inappreciable value. The leading features of the plan are borrowed from the scheme imperfectly developed by Sir R. Peel, and have a partial resemblance to suggestions thrown out last session by Mr. Bright.

There are other supplemental measures of relief; one is to enable leases to be granted in fee, or demised for long terms; the other is to fix the maximum of poor-rating on electoral districts at five shillings in the pound, with a further maximum rate-in-aid of two shillings on the union.

A report of the Eastern Railway Company has disclosed the most flagrant delinquencies and malversations perpetrated by Mr. Hudson and Mr. Waddington, and it is generally anticipated that these gentlemen must retire from Parliament. A new system of auditing railway accounts will probably be sanctioned by Parliament, so as to prevent a recurrence of similar frauds.

IRELAND.

The private letters and newspapers received from the west and south, during the past week, are filled with deplorable accounts of deaths by starvation, in all the horrors which have ever marked that awful condition. In the western workhouses the paupers are dying in hundreds. They do not go into these con-fortless buildings until debilitated by hunger and the disease produced by extreme destitution, and the fare they receive therein is not calculated to restore their sinking vitality. Thus, in the Ballinrobe workhouse, the deaths for the past week amounted to 146, and upwards of 400 paupers fled from it, "preferring," as the account says, to die by the wayside than become victims to disease in that charnel-house. The number of deaths in the Westport workhouse was for the week 66. In some of the other Mayo buildings the mortality was equally terrible.

The Rev. James Maher, P. P. of Carlow, in a letter to the Freeman, suggests an extensive emigration of the far-

mers, and all who are able to escape from it, and already, he says, a large proportion of the best of farmers of this locality are preparing to be off.

A few days ago a body of from forty to fifty hungry-looking men stopped the bread van of Mr. Thompson, Cork, as it was coming from Blackrock. The party knocked down the driver, and carried off about a loaf each. Some of the offenders have been arrested. They pleaded hunger as their excuse.

The citizens of Limerick are about to assemble in public meeting for the purpose of congratulating Lord Gough, who is connected by family ties with that city.

A subscription is being made at Dublin for the relief of the distress in the west, but the sum of money collected is very small.

A letter from a Dublin correspondent thus describes the state of Nenagh Union:—"The state of this union, as elicited at the meeting of the guardians on Thursday, would indicate a rapid extension of pauperism, and the approach of general bankruptcy to the ratepayers. There are 2800 paupers in the workhouse, and upwards of 14,000 are in receipt of outdoor relief. The entire population of the town of Nenagh in 1841 was 8618, the number at present in the union is said to be less than double that of the paupers. The cost of maintaining these paupers nearly £150 per week. There is a sum of £3270 due to one of the contractors, who must wait for payment till another rate be struck—or rather paid—which is quite a different matter. At present the debts of the union amount to £7000, and the sum likely to be collected of the outstanding rate will not amount to half that. One of two events must follow this deplorable state of things at Nenagh—the poor must be left to starve or the whole property of the union handed over for their maintenance. It is death for the poor, or destitution for the comparatively affluent. There were 80 deaths in the workhouse of that unfortunate union last week."

It is a gratification to be able to state that the cholera has disappeared from Nenagh. There was no new cases there since Tuesday last.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

A correspondent of the Oder Zeitung (a Breslau paper), asserts that a great battle was fought midway between Grau and Comorn on the 20th and 21st ult., in which the Magyars made a simultaneous attack upon all the positions of the Imperialists and compelled General Weiden, who commanded in person, to retreat. The Imperial army suffered a great loss of killed and wounded, and the Hungarians captured 20 cannons and 2,000 prisoners. Another German paper, which contains the same intelligence, adds that the flight of the Imperialists besieging army round Comorn was the immediate consequence of this victory.

The estimates of the strength of the Imperial army, as given by the German papers, show an army of 50,000 men near Pesh; General Wohlgenuth has 22,000, and the corps round Comorn amounts to 16,000. These 88,000 men are opposed by the Hungarian Generals Georgey, Dembinski, Damaitsch, and Clapka, with an army of 90,000 men. The losses of the Imperialists must have been fearful during the last few months, for a bulletin of Prince Windischgratz at the commencement of the war stated the Austrian forces in Hungary at 92,000, and that General's last bulletin makes an estimate of 50,000 troops under his command. No less than 42,000 Imperialist soldiers were either killed, or wounded, or missing, from December, 1848, to the end of March, 1849.

A letter from Limburgh says—"Orders have at length been given at St. Petersburg, in reply to the demand of Austria, that the Russian troops shall go against the insurgent Magyars assembled in Transylvania. Russia has promised the assistance of 20,000 infantry, 4,000 cavalry, and 24 pieces of artillery, under the command of the Russian Lieut.-General Von Moller, a brave Livonian. The Russian corps is immediately to occupy the Transylvanian frontier, and will soon commence operations, till the proposed attack shall have been carried in the district lying between the south, west, and north of the Theiss."

THE DANISH WAR.

Accounts received confirm the announcement that the Schleswig-Holstein troops, under Col. Von Zastrow, have entered Jutland, and driven the Danes out of Kolding.—Fighting continued for many hours in the streets before the town was evacuated by the Danes. The loss of killed and wounded is not stated.

A letter, dated Hamburg, April 22, says:—"The Danes did not give up the town without resistance, but defended it inch by inch. Every street was disputed. The whole Schleswig-Holstein army must be in Jutland by this time."

A second general action near Kolding, ended in a complete victory of the Schleswig-Holstein troops under Lieutenant-General Von Bonin over the Danish force. The van guard Lad, two days before, been attacked by a few battalions of Danes, on Schleswig territory, had pursued them across the frontier of Jutland, driven them into Kolding, and, after a severe struggle, out of it again. Upon this General Bonin came up with the whole of the troops under his command, which, if we may trust private accounts, consisted of 14 battalions of infantry, two regiments of dragoons, and a corresponding force of light field pieces. This is the army raised by the insurgent government, and recruited from all parts of Schleswig and Holstein. The following is the official account of this brilliant action, fought by 16,000 raw troops against the elite of the Danish army:—

"KOLDING, April 23.

"I have the honour to inform you of an attack which was made upon me, at 8 o'clock to-day, by a Danish army of 18 battalions of foot, three regiments of horse, and a numerous artillery, assisted by a corvette and two gun-boats in the Fiord of Kolding. A long and bloody combat of six hours' duration ensued. The enemy was beaten back on all sides. Kolding, which, in the first instance was considered as the *tele du point*, and which, after a glorious resistance, was evacuated by the vanguard in obedience to my express orders, was retaken at 2 o'clock,