

SPIRIT OF THE BRITISH JOURNALS.

MORNING HERALD.

Don Pedro seems to carry on war in a very cautious and merchant-like manner—for he ensured the shipping engaged in the Portuguese expedition at Lloyd's for £80,000 against capture and the chances of war, as well as against sea risks. This being rather unusual amongst belligerents, we doubted the fact, but, on enquiry, we found it correct, and learned even the name of the broker who had effected the insurance. As Don Pedro raised the sinews of war by a loan this prudent way of proceeding is, no doubt, a commendable act of justice towards the creditors of the Portuguese Regency, who were on Friday gratified with an account of his safe arrival at St. Michael's on the 22d Feb. brought by the William, Captain George. This vessel had been waiting off that Island for dispatches till the 25th, and sailed at last without them, as no boat could be sent off during the boisterous weather then prevailing.

JOHN BULL.

WILL THE REFORM BILL PASS THE LORDS?—The Sixth Edition of the Bill, the New Bill, and nothing like the Bill, has passed the House of Commons, and was dismissed from that Assembly in a speech from Lord John Russell, which even the Times denounces as injudicious. It appeared to have been composed as an answer to some Address from one of the Political Unions; and contained little else than the echo of those denunciations of ruin and bloodshed against the country in case the Lords do their duty and reject the odious measure. As for the Bill—after the detailed exposure of its folly and iniquity by Mr. Croker; after the splendid overthrow of all its groundless claims to favour, and all its hollow pretensions to popularity, by the splendid speeches of Sir Robert Peel and the host of talented men who have so nobly exerted themselves in the last struggle for the Constitution, and after the emboldened silence of its place-holding supporters, not much need be said; but there is one remarkable fact connected with the affair, which is, that the literary adherents of Ministers, the gentlemen of the Government press, have so completely changed their opinion of the measure, that we find the Courier and other Ministerial papers liberally and honestly declaring their conviction of the worse than uselessness of the Bill; while the Times, still affecting to advocate the measure, goes on belabouring Lord Grey with abuse, for not making Peers to force it through the House of Lords. The plain English of this is, that these journals know enough to know that nobody worth caring about, cares sixpence about the Bill, except, indeed, that faction which has for the last fifty years existed in this country, and which seizes upon anything as a POINT D'APPUI for the purpose of 'agitating,' as Lord Anglesey calls it—and they moreover know, that in decrying the bill they are suiting their expressed opinions to the taste of their readers. The Times knows that Lord Grey will not venture to make Peers (even if he had leave)—and the Times knows that if his Lordship abandons the Bill, it must, for a certain time, abuse him for so doing; and therefore those consecutive and almost paralytic attacks upon his Lordship, to which we refer, appear in its columns. What the Courier said of the Bill a week or ten days since we noticed at the time—on Tuesday night, the British Traveller had the following paragraph:

'We are quite satisfied that in the event of the Bill being "ruined" in the Lords' Committee, another and perhaps safer Bill, though it is carried in the Commons, is too comprehensive. All that the nation requires is to be fairly represented; and if we were to ask all the Reformers who really have a stake in the country which they would prefer, we believe the reply would be, "A modified Bill." But for the Times to prate about an "insured liberty spirit," and that "the people will throw off the restraint of the laws," is idle nonsense.'

So says the British Traveller—and yet, strange to observe, when Lord John Russell says precisely the same thing in the House of Commons, as the Traveller attributes to the Times, the Times designates his Lordship's speech as 'not characterized by his usual judgment,' and then, as if to add the confusion of principles and professions, in which the faction appears to be embroiled, it calls upon the Lords, 'in the name of public safety, to pass the Bill cordially and speedily.'—From all the signs of the Times—we do not mean exclusively the newspaper—we are of opinion that the present Reform Bill neither will pass, nor is intended by any party to pass the House of Lords. We should, if it were allowable to reduce our doubt to the old English standard of a wager, have no objection to bet largely upon this point. We believe that the Bill which will eventually become the law of the land, will much more nearly resemble Lord Brougham's plan of Reform, than any of the more recent, more desperate, and more dangerous propositions of his Lordship's incompetent colleagues. We have all along thought this—said it and wished it, and now we believe it.—MARCH 28.

GLASGOW COURIER.

The Foreign intelligence is still devoid of interest: From the French papers we learn that tranquility has been completely restored at Grenoble, but that in other parts of the country the Carlist faction still continues its efforts to embarrass and distract Government. The insurrection at Naples seems to be an affair of little moment, as it has now ceased to be talked of.

Much uncertainty still prevails regarding Dutch and Belgic affairs. The Age states:—'We are enabled, from an exclusive source, to announce that the Austrian ratification of the Belgic Treaty has arrived in London. There are some few conditions annexed, but they are not material.—The arrival of this document may be regarded as the precursor of those of Russia, and Prussia.' A paragraph, very much to the same purport, appears in the Courier of Monday; but notwithstanding all these assertions, we still believe that the labours of the Conference are not a whit nearer a satisfactory termination than they were this time twelvemonth.

A Sundry paper states, that a remonstrance from England, Austria, and Russia, against the violation of the Papal territory, has been forwarded to the French Government, couched in such strong language as to leave no choice to the French Cabinet between war and the immediate withdrawal of their troops. We hope that this is the case. It is a duty which these Powers owe to themselves, and the other States of Europe, to call France to an account for this most wanton and unjust aggression upon a neutral and independent territory, and the sooner and the more decisively it is done, it is all the better.—MARCH 29.

MORNING POST.

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE WEST INDIES.—The discussion in the House of Commons on Friday week upon the Sugar Duties Bill, which incidentally brought under review the condition of the West India Islands, and the policy of Ministers respecting them, has made a deep impression, not only among the parties more immediately affected by it, but among the commercial community generally; because the measures of Ministers are in such direct collision with all the great interests of the State, that an identity of feeling naturally exists among all persons connected with those interests, and we trust also a unity of action. The spirit in which the discussion respecting the Sugar Duties was conducted on the part of Ministers proves their utter recklessness of consequences. Lord Althorp challenges discussion, and yet declares the Government will enforce its Orders in Council, and upon that principle only will relief be afforded to the Colonists; if they reject that condition there ends the negotiation. Lord Goderich was once a man of business and official habits, and if the contamination of his present colleagues has not destroyed his political principles as well as the qualities we have mentioned, he can never sanction the doctrines promulgated from the Ministerial side of the House on Friday night. If the colonists were inclined to succumb to the Ministers in this instance and willingly to pay obedience to the Orders in Council as the price of any boon that may be offered, they have not the power to accede to the proposition. It is not a matter of choice with them. As a case in point, how can they agree to the reduction of the hours of labour of the negroes to a minimum that will not allow them to carry on the business necessary for the management of their estates? Or how can they give food and raiment to those who work upon their property in a profusion that they cannot afford to themselves and their own families? But, as Mr. Burge pertinently asked, if these regulations are to be so beneficial, why are not all the Crown Colonies to have the advantage of them? Why is the Mauritius to be deprived of the blessing? And what, we would ask, is the loan of money contemplated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to do for the proprietors of West Indian estates? Under the present circumstances of the Islands, there is no inducement for improving property or repairing that which has become desolate either from political or physical causes. The Government, as respects the Colonies, (and too well does the observation apply to every other object of its attention,) seems to have no settled principle of action, unless as exemplified in the vain attempt to force regulations upon the planters, compliance with which would render their estates literally not worth retaining.—MARCH 28.

GLASGOW COURIER.

Count Orloff, the Russian Envoy Extraordinary, has at length found his way to London. Not a syllable has transpired regarding the nature of his instructions, although the object of his mission is understood to be connected with the adjustment of the Belgian question. There is not a syllable of Foreign news worth repetition.

The business in Parliament on Tuesday night, was not of much importance. In the House of Lords, the Bill of the Archbishop of Canterbury, respecting pluralities, was discussed in Committee; and in the House of Commons, Mr. Ewart obtained leave to bring in a bill for the abolition of capital punishments in cases of horse-stealing, cattle-stealing, and robbery in dwelling-houses without violence.

We have seen the first number of Tait's Edinburgh Magazine, and we observe that it puts itself forward as the organ of the movement. Respecting the literary and political merits of this periodical, we shall take occasion to speak more at length hereafter; but we allude to it now, principally, because, much as we have abused the present Ministry for incapacity, ignorance, and stupidity, it fairly outrivals us in the reproach it heaps upon these miserable pseudo Whigs. Tait designates the members of the present Cabinet "INCOMPATIBLES," while we content ourselves with styling them INCAPABLES. We rejoice to see the liberal Press belabouring its own progeny in so capital a style, as the opening article of this Magazine does. It is quite refreshing.—MARCH 31.

GLASGOW COURIER.

An important debate on our Foreign policy took place in the House of Commons, on Monday night. Lord Palmerston made but a poor defence for the truckling subservience which our Government have shewn to the kennel-sweepings of Paris, and as lame an apology for our underhand interference in the expedition against Portugal.—According to the notions of our present Statesmen, the only way in which peace can be maintained in Europe is for this country to submit, without a murmur, to every insult France may choose to offer. This is not exactly the way in which Britain was accustomed to teach the Continent of Europe to fear and respect her; but while the present men are in office, we believe we must make up our mind to be kicked, cuffed, and spit upon, whenever France is in the humour to lord it over us. To please France, we have allowed her to retain possession of Algiers, and thus command the commerce of the Mediterranean;—to conciliate her national pride, we have agreed to demolish the barrier fortresses of the Netherlands;—to gratify her thirst for military aggression, we in like manner winked at her military occupation of Belgium, and cannot or dare not open our mouths against her invasion of the Papal territory. Altogether this country, in the eyes of Europe, must appear little better than the obsequious lackey to French caprice, ostentation, and ambition. Talleyrand makes a perfect handkerchief of poor Lord Palmerston, while Perier transmutes Earl Grey into a chopping block. The timid and temporising foreign policy of this country, although adopted, we dare say, for the amiable purpose of avoiding war, must, we are certain, be the very means of producing it, ere many months elapse.—MARCH 31.

LONDON STANDARD.

Express from Paris in Twenty-four hours.—Insurrection at Naples, and Bloody Conflict between the Soldiers and the People.—We have received by extraordinary express, the important intelligence of an insurrection at Naples, and of a sanguinary conflict which followed between the troops and the people. The French Government received this intelligence by a telegraphic despatch from Marseilles, and we expect to lay before our readers to-morrow the details of this important event. It is only necessary for us to add, that we have received the ministerial journal, the Journal des Debats, of yesterday, as well as the Messenger des Chambres of the same date, and both announce the fact of the insurrection. We cannot, of course, pretend to give any details of this affair, as we are only in possession of the news received by the French Government, nor can we state whether the insurrection is wholly of a political character or otherwise. We have thus, by great exertion, been enabled to obtain for our readers this intelligence three days before it would have been known by any other means, since, as there is no post or public estafette from Paris from Wednesday night to Saturday afternoon, the knowledge of this fact would not have been obtained in London before Monday morning. At this late hour it is impossible to make extracts from the French papers, which are filled principally with the proceedings in the Chamber of Deputies.—MARCH 26.

COURT JOURNAL.

A general reduction of public salaries, and in the salaries of persons connected with the Court, is spoken of, but the period for commencing it will depend upon the fate of the Reform Bill.—The economising mania has attacked all the European Governments.

COMMUNICATIONS.

MR. EDITOR,

With reference to the request published in your last number, for information on the subject of the New Regulations respecting Crown Lands, having no knowledge derived from personal sources, I should have preserved silence, had I not imagined that you entertain ideas in some respects at variance with those which are the result of my own reading. The diffusion of information on a subject so vastly important, is an additional reason for intruding on the public my own sentiments, in the hope that from the collision, a spark of knowledge may be obtained.

In the first place it would appear from the notice which I have perused in your paper, that all Fees of Office for Petitions, Grants, or Tickets of Location, as well as for the Survey of Land, are abolished.

It would also appear to me, that as no land is to be granted before it be surveyed—a regulation which is by no means of recent adoption—so no APPLICATION can be received until after the survey; for otherwise, how can the applicant indicate "with reference to SUCH PUBLIC CHARTS AND SURVEYS AS AFORESAID, the precise piece he may be desirous of purchasing?"

Although the clause marked No. 4, would seem to require all applications to be exactly conformable to that described in the first Schedule, and that forms will be furnished gratuitously at the Crown Lands Office, yet it does not strike me, that any necessity exists requiring applications to be identically those furnished at that office; nor is there even any liability to error, provided a survey of the land be previously made, and every allotment plainly and accurately distinguished. How the case may prove where an applicant may be desirous of obtaining Land remote from any survey, we are at present left wholly to conjecture.

In all ordinary cases, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, gives an immediate answer on his own responsibility to the applications; but in those of an extraordinary nature, in which a reference to the Governor would seem requisite, a short delay will take place before the decision be made, and which can be known ONLY BY APPLICATION at the Crown Lands Office. This provision manifests a greater necessity for the employing of an Agent than the case adverted to by you.

Grants of Land will for the future, be ready for delivery immediately on the payment of the Purchase Money—the survey, as it would appear, having been made anterior to the reception of the petition—and the purchaser, or his accredited agent, will then be required to subscribe thereon his acceptance of the Grant. For this, an Agent is indispensable, if the party cannot conveniently undertake the journey.

I have now, Sir, endeavoured to furnish you with an analysis of the New Regulations, but I beg leave to repeat, that my information is SOLELY derived from the Government notice printed in the Gleaner; and I should be highly gratified at seeing the observations of others on this important subject, as public discussion