

basket; that was not until the quarter-loaf had circulated with the impression

4 3-4d. for Flour and Baking. }
3 3-4d. for the Landlords. }

nor till the misery that penetrated all districts of the country had gone far beyond what the average of history would indicate as the boiling point, where further accumulation attempts to throw itself off by revolution.

"There is not the slightest doubt of what the operatives meditate, nor of the reality of the peril which the half-witted knavery of the landed interest has induced from that quarter. The conservative old women may shudder; they have done the deed, and planted the resolution to change the whole existing order of property, in the heart belonging to every pair of laborious arms within the country; and now they may go out like Mrs Bond, and cry,

"Dilly, dilly, dill! come here and be killed," and see how many of the operatives will hearken to them. It is intelligible enough; they have driven them back upon *first principles* with a vengeance. Did they think the poor would always struggle with them like maids for forfeits? Look at the well-born idiots; rejoice at the cleft stick they have put themselves into; let hell from beneath go out to meet them, and say, 'Are ye, too, come to your end like the rest of us?' The poor are up, are they? they are tired of greasing your coach-wheels with the marrow of their children's bones? they have had enough of working sixteen hours that you might drive four horses instead of two? Help yourselves, baffled blockheads; brew as you have baked; sit down in fearful waiting for the judgment that shall come upon you, or open the campaign against the people, and so make surety surer."

All this is very intelligible, and, to the landlords, very alarming; but our reviewers are of opinion, that plain speaking is the best, and very plainly have they spoken of the risk the landlords run in clinging to the monopoly in the supply of food; a monopoly which, according to a writer in this periodical, costs the people, directly and indirectly, "five and forty millions per annum!"

TAIT'S MAGAZINE. *Trades Unions*.—A very general prejudice is entertained by the upper and middle classes against trades' unions. We do not partake in it. These formidable bodies are, as yet, equally ignorant of the extent of their power, and of the objects to which it can be properly applied. They have, as yet, done nothing but made mistakes. They have done little good, and some mischief. But good will come of it. A little more experience, a little more of that collision of mind with mind, which large associations are sure to occasion, will convince the unionists, that their attempt to raise and keep up wages, by a succession of strikes, are vain, and worse than useless. They will find that their employers do not make those extravagant gains which they suppose; and, in fact, have no more power to depress and keep down wages; than the operatives to produce the contrary effect. When there is a brisk trade, and consequently a large demand for labour, wages will rise, and cannot be kept down. In some rare cases, strikes may be useful in hastening a rise of wages. Were the trade in the hands of a few employers, and were these to combine to keep wages at the existing rates, a strike, of even a small number of the operatives, would instantly make wages rise. But when trade is dull, or when, by the competition of foreign artisans, whose bread is not taxed, only a certain price can be obtained by the British employer, no advance of wages can be procured by a strike, however well conducted. In such a case, the ill-judging operatives may inflict an injury on their employer as well as on themselves; but force him to raise their wages they cannot, because he can neither get a corresponding price in the market which he supplies, nor can he afford to reduce his rate of profit. Competition prevents a trader from gaining more than the ordinary rate of profit; and that rate, in our times, is too low to suffer any abatement.

MONTHLY MAGAZINE. *Origin of the Trades' Unions*.—It is said that great effects sometimes spring from the simplest causes, and it may be curious to know from how simple a circumstance these formidable bodies of the trades originated. It is well known that the waves of the sea are represented at the theatre by blue or green stuff, spread over the stage, but before 'Science had unlocked her golden stores' to the theatrical machinist, the heaving of the waves was enacted by sundry ragged urchins, who bobbed vigorously up and down beneath the artificial ocean, at the rate of six pence a-night. Now these wavelets, thinking their services not sufficiently rewarded by so small a consideration, set their wits to work, and the next night after the preliminary flash of lightning and growl of thunder, to the astonishment of all, the sea was unruffled as a mill-pond—flash succeeded flash, and peal after peal; the tempest rages—but not a wave stirred. Poor Far-

ley ran about as one demented, but all to no purpose, the waves had struck for wages! What was to be done? for now another storm was brewing, and on the wrong side of the lamps the combination was successful—they obtained the shilling. But the result was not encouraging; for the indefatigable Farley, aided by the entire scientific talent of the theatre, so adroitly contrived springs, pulleys; and lines, that ere another week the triumph of machinery was manifest—by his contrivances the waves arose in a more perfect manner than before, and the unionists were therefore dismissed to seek fresh channels for their industry. This is the earliest union and strike that we know of.

ATLAS. *The East India Company under the New Charter*.—The ensuing week will form a memorable era in the annals of our Indian relations. The commercial privileges of the East India Company will cease on Tuesday next, when the Company will assume its legislative functions over a population numbering a hundred millions of souls. A trust of such magnitude and importance has never before been confided to the hands of any corporate body, and it would be impossible to discharge it with the discretion and watchfulness it demands, if the conflicting anxieties of commercial speculation had continued to be mixed up with the cares of government. Yet this union, so distracting in nature, and so perilous to both the interests it embraced, must be considered to have led to the formation of our gigantic power in the East. Unquestionably to the commercial privileges of the East India Company, monopolising and arbitrary as they were, must be referred to the acquisition of that wondrous sovereignty which inspires the pages of history with the interest of a tale of enchantment. The continuance of this union up to the present period appears to have been absolutely necessary in order to bring the great objects of the eastern rule to maturity, and to establish the security of that vast field of enterprise which the original energy of the Company obtained and enlarged. But the seeds which their activity laid have germinated in a production which demands a different fosterage, and the government wisely severed the functions which could not have been any longer exercised, with advantage.

The avowed principle of binding up the interests of the East India Company, as proprietors of stock, with the government of the empire, is founded on a wise policy, and a philosophical view of human nature. To give to the merchant kings of the East a vested interest in the social welfare of the people is to put an honorable reward on just legislation, which, under the singular circumstances in which our Indian possessions are placed, is, perhaps, the only way in which we could arrive at a certainty of preserving such distant relations with glory to ourselves and utility to the governed. It will confer also upon the Company the opportunity of promoting the happiness and advancing the moral improvement of an empire, the advantages of our connection with which have hitherto been chiefly at our side. So high a motive to exertion will not be lost upon the class of men who are likely to occupy the lofty station of Indian legislators. But while it is obvious that a knowledge at once minute, extensive, and practical, of the history, resources, and Institutions of India, have now become the more important qualifications in the administration of its affairs, it must not be forgotten that to the experience, judgment, and activity of the commercial members of the Court of Directors, is to be mainly attributed the creation of that Power, which has changed its character in obedience to the irresistible course of events. The change has been effected at an auspicious period, when British enterprise is best prepared to turn it to advantage; and it only remains to make it available for ends that cannot fail to confer permanent blessings upon both countries.

Considerable changes are in progress in the executive machinery of the Company, some of which we recently noticed: and it would be well if means could be devised to avoid the annual succession of six directors in rotation, which has the effect of depriving the court of the experience of members who, for four preceding years, were probably engaged in preparing measures which their previous knowledge would point them out as the fittest persons to carry into execution. The value of this suggestion is illustrated at this moment by the fact that the absence of some of the gentlemen who are now retiring, agreeably to usage, will be severely felt in the political and military departments of the government. Now that mercantile details have ceased to burthen the attention of the directors, this practice might with the greatest propriety be dispensed with, since there no longer remains any reason of a personal kind for shifting so frequently the privileges of control, while a new reason has sprung up for vesting in competent legislators a more durable authority.

From the alteration of views which the new charter will cause in the electoral bodies, a signal improvement may be anticipated in the legislature. Individual speculations will take the place of corporate trading,

while independent and able men, connected with India, through immediate and remote channels, will be induced to participate in the gratifying labors of government. So long as the commercial was blended with the political functions, it could not have been expected that the administration should have been so pure and disinterested as there is now every likelihood of its becoming. But it is to be regretted that the remuneration for the arduous and important services of the directors, which is continued to them in the shape of patronage (the paltry salary attached to the office being of no consideration) should be so much diminished by the system prescribed in the selection of candidates for the civil service; a system adopted, no doubt, from a conviction of its superior advantages, but which, we fear, will not be found to conduce so much to the benefit of the service as it is calculated to compromise the feelings of those upon whom it is imposed.

EUROPE.

From English Papers to the 20th May.

LONDON, MAY 16.—*Spain and Portugal*.—In reply to some questions by Sir R Vyvan, Lord Palmerston stated that the treaty relative to the affairs of the Peninsula had been signed by the four contracting powers, and ratified by three of them. The ratification of Portugal had been delayed by matters of form, but would certainly be given, and might be almost immediately expected. He also said that General Rodill had entered Portugal with the full consent of the government of Portugal, and certainly not with the disapprobation of the British Cabinet. The General had confined his operations to dislodging Don Carlos and his adherents from the Spanish frontiers; but the presence of the Spanish army had allowed several fortified towns to declare in favour of the Queen.

As to foreign interference in the Portuguese quarrel, he thought it would appear that there had been about as much on one side as on the other. Lord Palmerston refused to state the terms of the quadruple treaty at present. This explanation was received with cheers by the House.

In answer to questions from Lord Sandon, Lord Palmerston said, that instructions had been sent out to our Consuls General to open negotiations for commercial treaties with the new states of Chili and Peru, and that the minister who was about to sail from this country to Buenos Ayres would be charged with the duty of negotiating a commercial treaty with the state of Monte Video. The noble Lord added, that Government would use every exertion to make such arrangements as would put an end to the slave trade, which was carried on to a great extent in Monte Video.

The Dissenters.—At the great meeting of Dissenting delegates in London last week, at which the strongest feelings of hostility against the Established Church seem to have prevailed, the following was the first resolution. Its language admits of no equivocation,—it must henceforward be received as their motto:

'That the meeting recognises the great and leading principle of *full and complete separation of Church and State*, as the true basis on which equal rights and justice can be secured to all classes of His Majesty's subjects!—[*Liverpool Courier*.]

The following are said to be the particulars respecting the interview between the deputation from the United Committee of Dissenters and Lord Althorpe, on Saturday week:

The deputation consisted of the following gentlemen and ministers:—Mr. John Wilks, M. P. Mr Edward Baines, M. P., Mr Richard Ash, of Bristol; Mr Samuel Clapham, of Leeds; Rev. John Angell James, of Birmingham; Rev. Jos. Gilbert, of Nottingham; Rev. Dr. Benford, of Worcester; Rev. R. Griffiths, of Long Buckley, Northamptonshire; J. Baldwin Brown, L. L. D. Mr Thomas Harbottle, of Manchester; Mr. H. Weymouth and Mr. Robert Hunter.

Mr Wilks and other deputies stated to Lord Althorpe, *seriatim*, the views of the Dissenters in their respective districts on the government measure for the relief of the Dissenters. They stated that they all concurred in declaring that the measure of Government was regarded with the utmost dissatisfaction throughout the country.

Lord Althorpe expressed great surprise and disappointment that the measure had not met with the ap-