

laboring classes are inspired by a better spirit, and prefer the enjoyment of the festivities of the time to listening to angry declamations against their employers. In the restored health of our happy and good young Queen, and in the birth of a direct heir to her crown, we have a further assurance of peace and prosperity to our country, which must always render the old year an epoch to be remembered with gratitude, and to be noted with a white mark in our annals. Everything promises that in this new year we may sit down in peace, and apply ourselves to the better development of our internal resources and the maturing of safe and wholesale domestic reforms. Nothing appears to threaten us but the selfishness of faction, nothing impedes the prospect of general prosperity but the expressed determination of the Opposition to wrest the governing power from the hands which have held it so long and used it so well.

It is in times of happy promise, such as these, when the sky is cloudless and the waters smooth, that the helm becomes an object of envy to those who would shrink from its responsibility in moments of peril. We may expect that in this new year the efforts of the Opposition will be more earnest and desperate than ever; but we have confidence in the good sense of the British people that they will see that their common interest is to leave this prosperous state of things undisturbed.

From the Leeds Times, Jan. 2.

#### CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

The past year has seen little or nothing done for the improvement and well-being of the great mass of the people. It has been a barren year, so far as the Education of the People is concerned; it has done nothing towards obtaining cheap bread for the people: it has accomplished nothing in accomplishing good government for the people: it has removed none of those burdens which now weigh down the energies of the people. National Education has been neglected: the Corn Tax continues unrepaid: the government remains unreformed: and taxation continues as burdensome and oppressive as before. Eighteen Hundred and Forty has been a lost year as regards these things.

There has been no agitation or movement of any note whereby to distinguish the past year from its predecessors. The Corn Law agitation has somewhat slackened. Tory and Whig agitation have almost entirely ceased; and public dinners have become as things unknown. The Chartists have confined themselves to the putting down of public meetings. Even the Socialists have become silent, and suffered themselves to be eclipsed by the latter-day saints—even by the children of Mormon. All the little agitations have died out—the Ballot agitation, the Peerage Reform agitation, the Anti-Church Rate, and the Anti-Poor Law Agitation. If we except the Household Suffrage reformers, all others seem to be asleep, or politically dead.

Nor is it because of political or social improvement that agitation is less rife now than it was some two, three and four years ago. The people still suffer from an enormous burden of taxation. There is general extravagance and jobbing in the various departments of the public service; and financial difficulties day by day become more ominous and appalling. We are at war, or what is nearly the same thing, in a *paix armée*, with almost every nation on the face of the earth.

Though Eighteen Hundred and Forty has done nothing for the people, let us not therefore despond. Their year has been ripening: their day will come yet. The present times are not without solid grounds of hope. Knowledge is increasing the number of thinking minds almost without limit. The very discontent of the present time is matter of hope; it indicates an aiming after better things, and the approaching realization of a more sound and healthy frame of society.

### European News.

BY THE COLUMBIA.

From London Papers to the 4th, and Liverpool to the 5th January, received by the above named vessel.

The Courrier de Lyons of the 25th ult. announces that the plague had shown itself near the Balkan, at Shamla, Varna, and in two neighbouring villages. The Turkish authorities, anxious to check the progress of the scourge, had immediately formed a sanitary cordon, and established quarantines in the infected districts.

The Latter Day Saints.—For some time past twelve men have been going about the country under the above appellation, and have actually induced many to sell their little properties in England and sail for America, under a fanatical religious impression. £10 for the voyage is charged to such persons, and the ships that convey them sail from Liverpool. Three hundred were so conveyed in one ship from this port in September last. Some of these men are at this time in London, where their progress is not so great as in the provinces.

Arrest of a Conspirator.—The Constitutional announces the arrest at Neufchatel, in Switzerland, on the 18th

inst., of an individual named Borel, of the Val de Travers, who was believed to have supplied Darnes with the carbine which he fired at King Louis Philippe on the 15th of October last. This individual, who was banished from the canton for participation in the disturbances of 1831, had lately been permitted to return to his country. He is now confined in the prison of Neufchatel, and it is thought that his extradition will be granted without any difficulty.

Frightful Occurrence in a Chapel.—Dublin, Dec. 25th.—Rumours prevailed through town this morning of a considerable loss of life produced by the falling of a gallery in the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Francis, in this city. As usual, on Christmas morning, there was an extremely crowded attendance at the six o'clock mass. According to the report, the gallery gave way, and seven persons were killed and a considerable number injured. It is probable that in this there is some exaggeration, but I shall endeavour to ascertain the particulars more correctly. I have since learned that, in consequence of a groundless alarm of the falling of the gallery, a number of persons jumped from the front into the aisle of the chapel. A terrible panic was raised, which the officiating clergymen did everything in his power to allay; but in the first rush, two persons, a man and woman, lost their lives, and several were dreadfully mutilated. Five of the wounded were brought to an adjoining hospital. Four of the wounded have since died. The total number of the killed is six; but some are still in a dangerous state.

A Piedmontese correspondent of the Mannheim Journal says that throughout that country and Upper Italy it is commonly expected that France will make the attempt, in case of a war, to seize on Savoy and Piedmont; and that in consequence of this, the most active preparations are making to put everything in a proper state of defence.

Letters from Corfu say that proclamations of the Lord High Commissioner have been issued in the Ionian Islands, inviting Greek sailors, subjects of the republic, on very advantageous terms to enter on board the British fleet.

Some German papers have lately given obscure hints of the existence of a pretender to the throne of Prussia, and a strange story on that subject has appeared in the Courrier de la Moselle. In a letter under the convenient date of 'Frontiers of Prussia,' it is alleged that an elder brother of the present King, having been assassinated, left a son, who is now a major, in garrison in Mentz. He is said to be—as pretenders always are—highly accomplished, and it is asserted that several of the first families in Prussia have determined to support him. This conspiracy, we are assured will soon astonish Europe by its results.

Ireland.—At the usual weekly meeting of the Metropolitan Conservative Society, the following resolution, was adopted without opposition:—'That it is the duty of our Protestant landlords to give preference to a protestant tenantry, and that it is the right of the Protestant peasantry of Ireland to obtain that preference from Irish landlords.'

At the weekly meeting of the Board of Trade, the following resolution, which was drawn up and moved by Mr. O'Connell, was passed by acclamation:—'That we pledge ourselves to prosecute in any authentic case, wherein it shall probably appear that any wholesale or retail dealer has obtained any sum of money, under the false pretence of giving for that money an article of Irish manufacture, and substituting in lieu of it that which is not Irish manufacture.'

At the meeting on the 28th of the Repeal Association, Mr. O'Connell proposed a plan for raising £250,000, by subscriptions one farthing a week or one shilling a year, 'with four weeks' discount, by way of an election fund. The repeal rent for the week was £51.

The Sultan has directed that a splendid brilliant necklace, to be composed entirely of diamonds of the first water, be immediately prepared as a present to Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

There is said to be some intention of clothing the army by contract, of doing away with agents and altogether reforming the military system.

The Glasgow Presbytery have instructed their committee to take the most vigorous measures in the way of petition and remonstrance against the running of the mails on Sundays, and railway Sabbath excursions.

The mania for building houses and forming new streets in the metropolis has attained a rapid growth within the past year: indeed, there cannot be less than

four or five thousand houses of all classes nearly built or building.

An English Company will have completed draining and reclaiming from the sea 2,000 acres of Lough Swilley by the 1st of July next, the embankment is fifty feet at the base, seven feet thick on the surface, and seventeen feet high.

Of the few equestrian statues of which this country has to boast, none will exceed in grandeur and importance that of George IV., which has been upwards of ten years in Sir Francis Chantrey's hands, and is not yet completed, this statue is of bronze, and was contracted for at the liberal price of nine thousand guineas.

Father Mathew stated the other day in the course of a speech at New Ross, that the number of Irish Tee-Totallers is 3,500,000.

Railway to Scotland.—It is stated in several Edinburgh Journals, 'on the best authority,' that Sir Frederick Smith R.E., the Government Commissioner, and his colleagues, have at length reported in favour of the East Line of Railway between Newcastle upon-Tyne and Edinburgh. The information may be correct, but it is certain that the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood, who are most interested in the matter, have not yet received any authentic notification of the fact.

The Chartist Agitation.—Considerable excitement and alarm has prevailed at Newport for some days, in consequence of the Chartists having threatened to again begin the dangerous system of agitation pursued last year, and which was productive of the fatal insurrection of the 4th November, 1839. On Christmas day a large meeting was held at Merthyr Tydvil, the very centre of the large iron works of Monmouthshire, at which the usual exciting and inflammatory language was indulged in; and another on New Year's Day. No disturbance occurred, from commercial men we learn that the trade of Newport and the hills, never was in a more deplorable state, which is to be attributed in a considerable degree to the effect of the Chartist agitation.

Large quantities of Irish whiskey are now exported to America.

The Nile has risen to 22½ feet this year, and the inundation is so great that incalculable mischief has been done to the country.

A woman named Jones, died last week at Dudley, above ninety years old, leaving behind her 138 grand children.

The Desert of Suez has become a regular high road, marked by carriage wheels, and furnished with stations, where travellers may indulge in champagne or London porter.

The commercial city of Leghorn is in the most melancholy condition, owing to the failure of several first rate houses.

The floods in the south of Ireland have been of the most distressing nature to the poor. The Blackwater rose to a height of fifteen or sixteen feet and the public vehicles were obstructed. The town of Bandon was flooded to such an extent, that all communications between the north and south sides of the town were cut off. A four oared boat plied along the Irish town in Clonmel on Thursday week. The valley on the Waterford side of the river was one vast lake of water. In Carrick-on-Suir the water swamped several boats. Numbers of cows, sheep, and horses, have been drowned.

A Toulon letter of the 11th instant states that Admiral Hugon has been ordered to sail immediately, with six ships of the line to Morocco, to demand satisfaction for the insult recently offered to the French Consul at Tangier. Some steamers are to go with the squadron, and if satisfaction is refused, the place is to be bombarded.

The Monitor contains the following paragraph.—'Several journals announced, on the authority of a journal from Bombay, that a collision had taken place in the Red Sea between an English vessel of war and a French frigate. The Government has received no intelligence which could give the slightest probability to the report. It is evidently the repetition of a rumour circulated some months ago, and which was without the least foundation.'

A correspondent at Rouen, states that the fog was unfortunately very thick during the ceremony of the passage of Napoleon's remains by that city, and only cleared while the religious service was going on. The expense of the ceremony to the city of Rouen is estimated at 60,000 francs. Two accidents unfortunately occurred, a man trying to hoist a flag on the top of the powder magazine fell from the edifice, and was killed on the spot, another slipped from the quay

into the river and was drowned. At Caudebec, when the procession passed, a National Guard was so much affected that he fell down in a fit of apoplexy, and was with difficulty restored to animation.

Owing to the intense frost which has prevailed during the last week, large masses of floating ice were to be met with in various parts of the Thames. In some places it greatly obstructed the navigation, especially below bridge. A vast quantity of ice floated down from Richmond, Twickenham, and other places above the bridges, and lodged among the colliers and other craft moored off Rotherhithe, Limehouse, Deptford, &c., and considerable damage was done to the sides of the vessels by the sharp edges of the pieces of ice; such was the force with which the floating masses came down the stream, that several lighters and coal barges were driven from their moorings by the wedges of ice snapping the chains of the kedges by which they were secured. Several small boats were stove in.

Alarming Inundation in Arran.—We learn from the Kilmarnock Journal, that on the 10th ultimo this island was visited by one of the most alarming inundations and deluging hurricanes that had been experienced for several years. In the morning dark, gloomy, and terrific-looking clouds were seen covering Mullagh Gaoith (Windmill-hill), Torr-na-Ndean and Craig na-Hoilerach (Eagle rock), and soon after the numberless rivulets and streams that issue from their bosoms poured down in torrents and thundering cataclysms into the Glenclay river, which in less than fifteen minutes overflowed its banks, and covered immense tracts of arable fields, plantations, gardens, roads, &c. The cottage at the foot of the glen, known in summer as the Fisherman's, was surrounded, the family compelled to fly, or rather half swim to a more elevated and protected spot. Below this, and all around to the sea, for about a mile, an immense uninterrupted expanse of water presented itself, covering several square miles, and deep enough to float large wherries. While this part of the island was lying under water, both Glen Sherrag and Glen Roza were subjected to a similar visitation, the river spreading over vast fields, and the torrents rushing down with dreadful violence. From the great reservoir for supplying Brodick mill, at least 500 feet above the sea's level, there was as splendid grand a waterfall as Niagara, both in length and width. The Roza river, hurrying towards its confluence at the bay, flooded extensively above the bridge near the church, covered the public road leading to Braddock village like a canal, rendering it long impassable, forced down the fence on the Stranbane side, formed a lake, and made a river passage. The storm extended also to Lochranza, with the same fury, and the roads to Cory, Sannon, &c., have been cut up as if bomb shells had been employed. Balmichael it was particularly violent. Towards Shiskah the damage has been very great particularly to the fine parliamentary road in many places, and one of the bridges has been much injured.

Portugal.—The 'Royal Tar' steamer arrived at Falmouth on Sunday evening with the Peninsular mails. Her dates were from Gibraltar the 10th, Cadiz the 11th, Lisbon the 14th, Oporto the 15th, and from Vigo the 16th inst. The Minister of Finance has written a long article in the Diario do Governo defending the ministry from the charges of the opposition that their delay with regard to the navigation of the Douro, have induced the present state of the relations between Spain and Portugal. The article aims still further, though not avowedly, at a depreciation of the wrath of Spain.

The government at Lisbon had determined to resist the proposals of that Madrid as to the Douro Navigation Treaty. A Spanish force, therefore, had marched to the frontiers of Portugal, and the time for a definite answer fixed for January 4th, by which time it was determined by the Portuguese government that everything should be prepared for war on land, as well as that their craft were to be hastily put in such a state as to be able to blockade Cadiz and other important Spanish towns on the coast. From the hasty dispatch of the 'Esport' it was believed that the British government would be likely to interfere.

The question of the navigation of the Douro, the sea mouth of that Spanish river being in Portugal, was the subject of a commission, authorized by both parties in August, 1835. To the close of last session the Portuguese government had not obtained from the Cortes the sanction for the commissioners' decision, the Queen, in her speech at the close of