

wants and wishes of the people in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Because—Great religious destitution, and want of scriptural instruction now exists, and has ever existed, in times of great commercial prosperity in those districts, whereas, in all agricultural parishes, there is a clergyman, or pastor, to administer efficiently to the spiritual wants of the population.

Because—Great immorality is also prevalent in those manufacturing districts, caused, in part, by the promiscuous congregation of large numbers of both sexes in heated mills and crowded factories, and partly by the employment of girls and boys of tender age, when they require, and should be receiving moral culture, and who would, in farming places, be engaged in healthy occupations, or learning lessons in domestic usefulness.

Because—Great physical suffering is endured in those districts, as is evidenced in the squalid and sickly appearance of the greater portion of the workers in factories, and is further proved by the official returns of the number of accidents, deaths of children at an early age, and the general shortness of life, as compared with other parts of the kingdom.

Because—A system has grown up in those manufacturing districts which gives to comparatively a few individuals, some of whom employ three thousand hands, a control over the comfort and happiness of their work people, imminently dangerous to the well being of society, since if even one of those few, from a mistaken view of his own interest, or for a political or other purpose, stops his mills or 'works short time,' a multitude of persons are immediately reduced to misery and despair, and the whole commercial affairs of the neighbourhood are disarranged and injured.

Because—The same system gives an increasing power, in a ratio with increasing wealth, and makes the greatly rich still more rich, and enables them to set up vast and costly machinery, thereby not only to absorb the business of smaller and less fortunate manufacturers, but so to command the labour market, that the supply is sure to be greater than the demand, and wages are made, not to depend upon industry and skill, but to be regulated by a cautious estimate, looking to the safety of capital, of what amount of suffering the patience of the people may lead them to endure.

Because—Great discontent and dissatisfaction is felt and spontaneously expressed by large masses of the people, as well as by most intelligent workmen, in those manufacturing districts, at the conduct of their employers, many of whom have become enormously wealthy, while their working people have become wretchedly poor.

Because—Not wealth, but religion and morality, social happiness, and a hardy population, make a nation strong, and all those blessings are destroyed, in those manufacturing districts where it truly may be said 'The greatest happiness of the greatest number' is cruelly sacrificed to the interests of a few.

From the London Times.

THE MEETING IN THE CITY OF LONDON ON THE CORN LAWS.

The Conservatives of the city of London had, we doubt not, good reason for suffering the gentlemen who assembled at the Guildhall yesterday for the purpose of delivering speeches against the Corn Laws, and who departed after the business was over with 'three hearty cheers and one cheer more for Lord John Russell,' to conduct their proceedings as they pleased without interruption. The statement made by Alderman Thompson on Friday to the city Conservative Association had in some measure prepared us for this course, by showing that the constitutional interest is strong enough in the city to justify them in giving a little law to their opponents. If those statements may be depended upon (which we see no reason to doubt), the approaching contest for the four metropolitan seats must inevitably result in the signal discomfiture of the Whig party—a discomfiture which probably will not stop short of the ejection of all the four sitting members. Under such circumstances it might well be considered unnecessary to take any steps which, by producing a violent collision of parties in the Guildhall, might possibly have endangered the tranquillity of the metropolis, especially since commercial men among the Conservatives themselves are divided in opinion about the corn laws, the ostensible subject for consideration at the meeting. We have also reason to believe that the city Conservatives are as anxious as their opponents to avoid putting an extinguisher upon the projected candidature of Lord John Russell for the honours about to be vacated by Mr Grote, partly because they desire to have a 'foeman worthy of their steel,' and partly because they think the difficulty of such an achievement as the defeat of the noble lord would be by no means proportionate to its glory.

The proceedings of the meeting, in which the Whigs were thus quietly permitted to have their own way, furnish but little that is worthy of notice. There was the old *crامة repetita* of anti-corn law arguments, good and bad, upon this occasion even more than usually diluted with the falsehood and nonsense which make the majority of sober minded men feel that a cause disgraced by such gross mountebankery and imposture cannot be altogether a good one. There is perhaps no subject on which assertions known to be false and foolish by those who make them are so unscrupulous

ly resorted to. It is seldom possible to read through a column of anti-corn law agitation, without meeting with a confident statement or prediction from one speaker, and an equally confident (and generally much more honest) contradiction or refutation of it from another.

To criticise these speeches in detail would be a 'labor ineptiarum,' from which we willingly abstain.

From the London Morning Chronicle.

The meeting at Guildhall yesterday was every way worthy of the first commercial city of the world. The immense hall was crowded, and several of the first names of the city were present.

Mr Larpet alluded to a meeting convened in the same hall, in 1825, at which 30 resolutions had been brought forward in favour of free trade, one of them by Mr Alderman Thompson, seconded by Mr Buckle, recommending the admission of foreign grain for home consumption from all parts of the world at a fixed duty, limited to a fair equivalent for such taxes and burdens as are borne by the cultivators of the soil, either exclusively or in greater proportion than other branches of industry.

Indeed, the city of London has on many occasions come forward in behalf of free trade. So far back as 1820 the merchants, bankers, and traders of the city of London, embodied their sentiments in favour of free and unrestricted trade in a petition, the first name to which was Samuel Thornton, one of the first merchants in the city, who had been governor and was a director of the Bank. Mr Alexander Baring presented the petition to the House of Commons, and we well remember the earnestness with which, on presenting it, he enforced its principles.

Another meeting to protest against the mischievous nature of commercial restrictions, and more especially the corn monopoly, was held so late as 1839, and the first resolution at that meeting was moved by Mr Horsley Palmer, who stated that it was of the utmost importance, with reference to the currency, to have a fixed duty.

It will be strange, indeed, if the citizens of London should be as forgetful of their duty at the approaching election as some of the gentlemen who signed the city petition in 1825, and who mean to claim their suffrages, have become of the principles in that petition.

The allusion to Lord John Russell, with reference to the approaching election, was eagerly caught up by the meeting; and at the close, on the proposal of a gentleman on the platform, three tremendous and prolonged cheers were given for his lordship.

European News.

BY THE COLUMBIA.

From English Papers to the 3rd June.

New mode of smuggling.—The Courier de Lyons says that some smugglers on the Swiss frontier have adopted the plan of conveying light parcels of valuable articles over the frontier line of customs stations by means of a balloon; they freight it with about 200lbs English, and then, guiding it by means of a rope, take advantage of a fair wind, and walk with the aerial vessel into France.

Steam Frigates.—The town of Greenock exhibits a scene of no common interest. Six large steam frigates are now being constructed in the town or its vicinity, each of these of about 1500 tons capacity, and carrying engines of about 500 horse power, being part of the fleet of fourteen armed frigates, destined, in time of need, to carry out and distribute the mails among our West India colonies. Four of these are to be supplied by a single firm in Greenock, who deliver the ships, engines, and equipments complete, and ready for sea.

Launch of the Mail and War Steamer Forth.—This vessel was launched from Messrs. Menzies' building yard, Leith, on Saturday afternoon. The length of the spar deck is 227 feet; length over all, 245 feet, breadth within paddle boxes 36 feet, and over do. 60. The paddle covers, we may mention, are Smith's patent boats. The tonnage, old measurement, is 1353; new do. 1240. She will have two engines of 200 horse power each, which are to be put on board at Liverpool by Mr Barry, and is to be fitted up with separate state cabins for no less than 100 passengers.

Upwards of one hundred oak and other trees are in the course of being felled on the Moor estate, Breconshire, having been purchased by government for naval purposes.

Letters from all parts of the continent represent the standing crops as the finest ever seen.

The total number of miles of railway completed in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of March last was 2,191; the number of railways finished 53; partially opened, 18; not yet opened, 10.

Steam.—The numerous friends of Captain Fyler will be rejoiced to learn,

that, on Friday, he received official notice of his appointment to the command of the steam frigate Forth, one of the splendid ships belonging to the West India Steam Navigation Company, just launched at Leith.

We understand that the General Steam Navigation Company, whose number of vessels is 50, intend establishing a regular communication between London and New York. A vessel is to start every fortnight from London for New York, and another is to leave New York every fortnight for London. The company are to employ six of their first class ships, being about 1,200 ton vessels, for this purpose. They are to carry the mails, and to limit their trade to the conveyance of passengers and light goods. The vessels are to call at Portsmouth and Southampton.

The Cholera had again broken out at Calcutta and large numbers of people had died in a few days.

The Trafalgar.—The Trafalgar, 120 guns, which has been 18 years on the stocks, will be launched from Woolwich Dockyard, on Monday, 21st June, being the anniversary of the proclamation of her Majesty as Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.

Huge Chartist Petition.—A crowd assembled, on Tuesday afternoon, at the entrance to the House of Commons, to witness the arrival of the huge Chartist petition with 1,300,000 signatures, which was borne by the working-men in procession. Shortly after four o'clock the procession appeared, headed by some well-known Chartist leaders. The petition was carried on the shoulders of eight sturdy men, in fustian jackets. Arrived at the iron gates, a messenger was sent to Mr Thomas Duncombe, who had agreed to present it. An answer was sent down analogous to the formula within-doors, 'Please to bring it up.' The lobbies were crowded several members running to see the monstrous document. Finally it was received by Mr Duncombe and Mr O'Connell, who managed with some difficulty, to roll it into the awful presence of the Speaker.

The following are particulars given by the Gazette des Tribunaux and other papers of the last moments of Darnes, who was beheaded on Monday last:—

Intimation of the intended execution was given to Darnes at 11 o'clock on Sunday night. He received it without any emotion, and having desired that he might be awakened as soon as the priest, who was to attend him to the scaffold arrived, went to sleep with his usual tranquillity. In a few hours, however, he awoke. At five o'clock the Abbe Massoit, of St. Roch, was introduced to him. The prisoner made his confession, and listened with great attention and reverence to the exhortation of the Minister, until they were interrupted by Darnes being called upon to undergo the usual preparations called the 'torture,' and then he experienced a degree of feverish agitation. These preliminaries being finished, the criminal embraced the keepers, and then walked with a steady step along the passages to the foot of the staircase; but, on reaching the carriage which was waiting for him, his firmness failed and it became necessary to help him in. During the passage, Darnes several times became so faint, that the abbe, who was with him, was obliged to give him salts to smell and to recover himself. At five minutes past seven the carriage, with the criminal and his confessor, and the executioner for the Seine-et-Oise (who was substituted for the official of the Seine, prevented by illness from doing his duty), arrived at the spot, and being admitted into the space, drew up at the foot of the scaffold. M. Demon, first huissier of the court of Peers, then read the sentence. Darnes listened in silence and did not betray the effect it had upon him, otherwise than by a slight convulsive shivering. This ceremony over, the executioner and his assistants approached, and took hold of him; upon which he uttered a stifled cry of 'Vive la France! Mort a ses ennemis!' He used the few moments left to him in attempting to address the surrounding crowd, but the convulsive volubility of his utterance, his provincial accent, and the low tones of his voice, permitted no more to be heard than some disjointed words about Christianity and enfranchisement, and this last phrase.—'Should there ever be an invasion, may there be found a hundred thousand men like me.' In a moment more all was over.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Edinburgh, May 23.—Case of Mr Andrew of New Brunswick.—Mr Candish stated this case, which arose out of, Mr Andrew being first cut off from connexion with the Synod of New Brunswick, (from some

cause not explained,) and then deposed from the office of the ministry by the presbytery there. Mr Candish explained that the Church of Scotland could not review the first sentence, as it was the act of an independent body, with which they could not interfere; but he thought the second sentence was erroneous, because by the first he was placed completely beyond their jurisdiction, and his subsequent conduct fell under the cognizance of the presbytery that ordained him—the presbytery of Edinburgh. He should therefore, move, that the Assembly cannot review the sentence of a Colonial Church Court, in reference to a minister ordained by this Church, while he holds a church in the colonies, and is subject to their jurisdiction; but if from any cause that connexion is brought to an end, he then reverts back under the cognizance and jurisdiction of the courts of this church. They also find, that no congregation in the colonies can be recognized by this church which is not in connexion with the colonial church courts. They find, further, that if Mr Andrew contravene the sentence of the presbytery of New Brunswick, regarding his deposition, it will be the duty of the Presbytery of Edinburgh to proceed against him according to the laws of the church.

This motion was agreed to.

Effects of Penny Postage in the London District Post.—The revenue in this post (after deducting the receipts on General post letters collected by this department) for the year 1838, the last year totally unaffected by the great reduction of rate, was 118,000l.; for the year 1840, about 104,000l., so that an increase of thirteen per cent. only is wanted to make the revenue of 1840 equal to that of 1838. But the present rate of 14 per cent per annum, so that, assuming this rate of increase to continue, the lapse of another year is all that is required for the complete restoration of the gross revenue of this department.—Mr Rowland Hill's Postage paper, read before the Statistical Society, on May 11.

Failure at Glasgow.—We regret to announce the failure of the extensive commercial house of Grant & Co., of Glasgow; their liabilities are said to amount to £130,000, and it is feared the effect will be felt by many other houses.

The late debate on Lord Sandon's amendment was the longest ever known in parliament, having lasted eight days. The debate, on the introduction of the reform bill, in the month of March, 1831, occupied seven days; and Lord John Russell, in his reply, stated that it was the longest debate that had taken place in the house.

The Deposed Minister, Scotland.—A requisition has appeared in the papers, calling a public meeting on Wednesday for the purpose of expressing cordial sympathy with the deposed ministers, and strongly condemning the conduct of the General Assembly in deposing them for yielding obedience to the law of the land. This requisition is signed by 455 individuals, of whom many are Episcopalians, with a sprinkling of Voluntaries. We understand Lord Dunfermline, a known Voluntary, is to be in the chair. They wanted to get the Earl of Senfield, but he would not face it; and Sir James Gibson Craig and the Dean of Faculty are, it is said, to take a prominent part in the proceedings.—Edinburgh Witness.

Nelson's Coxswain.—On Saturday last this venerable tar suddenly expired, at his little fishmonger's shop in Church passage, Greenwich. He was upwards of 80 years of age. Sykes was a most daring fellow, and was with Lord Nelson during the whole of the time of his glorious deeds. He most of all distinguished himself at the battle of Trafalgar. His bravery deserved greater reward than it received. Peace to his remains!—Kentish Mercury.

The contract for conveying the Brazilian mails has been taken, we learn by a firm at Bristol. It is intended that the steamers shall run to and from the Brazils from Lisbon, to which port the bags and the passengers will be conveyed by the peninsular steam boats.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met at Edinburgh on the 20th; Lord Belhaven presiding as the Queen's Commissioner.

The General Assembly have proceeded to the deposition of the seven ministers of the presbytery of Strathbogie.

The settlement of the risks upon the President entered into at Lloyd's was to have taken place yesterday, but it was postponed to the 11th inst. to allow time for further news respecting her.

Death of Earl Fortesque.—Dublin, June 1.—The not unexpected intelligence of the death of the venerable Earl Fortesque reached town this morning.