

Her press and her senators daily declaim against the illiberality of our customs duties at a period when they are being remodelled to an extent which must be seriously serviceable to her. The debates in her chambers are marked by denunciations of the intentions of America to render its tariff more restrictive, and we find her at the same moment adopting a course of a commercial impolicy which she so loudly condemns. We are happy to find that Sir Robert Peel has determined upon the line of conduct which he last night announced it would be necessary for this country to pursue under such circumstances; and should the false step of prohibition—for to prohibition will an enhanced rate of duties upon linen amount—be taken by France, negotiations will be opened with other wine countries to procure from them, on terms mutually favorable, the supplies from this country which are now derived from our Gallic neighbours. This stroke of policy will very likely bring France to her senses. The wine trade has been for some time in a waning condition; the tables of the legislature and the government offices are loaded with memorials to this effect, praying for relief. The intended tariff of America will render this distress more extensive, and we have little doubt that the steps announced by Sir Robert Peel will soon teach them the necessity of avoiding restrictions upon trade, which have no cause but an ill founded jealousy that can find no vent save in essays to stop the outlets for British produce.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

From British Papers to the 4th June, by the Britannia, Steamer.

Since the meeting of the Chartist delegates, held at Birmingham about a month since, a systematic agitation has been carried on in that town and neighborhood, for the purpose of deterring persons from enlisting in her Majesty's service; and it is known that the agents employed in these disloyal and seditious practices have not confined their efforts to mere arguments against enlistment, but have in many cases, tampered with the soldiers, en route for foreign service, with the view of inducing them to desert.

In 1841, the subscriptions collected by the Association for the Propagation of the Roman Catholic Faith, throughout Christendom, amounted to 2,752,214 francs. viz:—In France, 1,479,434 francs; Bavaria, 210,000; Belgium, 159,000; England 33,000; Ireland, 195,000; Portugal, 46,000; Holland, 18,000; the Roman States, 77,000; Naples, 61,000; Switzerland, 33,000; Prussia, 85,000; Tuscany, 41,000; and, finally, the sums received from other countries of Europe, from the Levant and America, amounted together to 110,000 francs.

The expenditure of the further sum of 110,000*l.* is recommended by the select committee on the Caledonian canal.

The British Merchants residing at Smyrna have recently addressed a letter to Lord Aberdeen, representing the expediency of a direct steam communication between Great Britain and the Levant; according to this memorial, the advantages in the way of communication possessed by continental over British manufacturers in the Smyrna market are so great, that, in default of some alteration of the present system, there is danger of the British being driven out of competition altogether.

Edward Hibbet, a porter in the employ of Messrs. Bramah, Prestage, and Ball, Piccadilly, London, has been discovered to be heir-at-law to estates in Isleworth, Whitton, Fleet street, and Devonshire, to the value of 1,200,000*l.*

The Hon. Member for Bath having stated the chartist Petition to be the work of a dark cowardly demagogue, and having declined to give the explanation demanded by the 'National convention,' Mr. Fergus O'Conner has taken umbrage, and is on the look out for Mr. Roebuck.

The Military Board in India have issued orders for the commencing without delay the burning of bricks

for the construction of the Ganges Canal; the magnificent work will irrigate the provinces on its borders, especially the immense tract of land lying between the Jumna and the Ganges.

It is said that the Archimedian-screw has been successfully applied to the ventilation of buildings, ships, mines, the curling of smoky chimneys, and other purposes.

The Sister of Burns.—A Sister of the Poet Burns, the last survivor of his father's family, still lives. She is now a widow at an advanced age, and resides at the village of Tranter, Haddingtonshire, with two unmarried daughters, who endeavour to support her by the exercise of their needles. She is a decent looking old person, with a good deal of the poet's physiognomy, and particularly his fine dark eyes. The youngest of William Burns' Children, she was twelve years old at the time when he died at Lochlea, a broken spirited man. She was one of the household at Mossiel during its occupancy by Robert and Gilbert Burns in succession, and she afterwards married a person named Begg, who, for ten years, conducted the business of Gilbert's farm, of Dunning, on the estate of Sir Charles S. Monteath, of Closeburn. Since the death of her husband, her sons being all removed from her, and unable to assist her, she has been dependent upon her two daughters, who, though active and most respectable young women, are barely able to keep house for themselves and their venerable parent. In short, the sister of Burns has fallen, in the course of providence, into poverty, the dread of which is the theme of so many of her brother's verses.

City of Hamburg.—This ill-fated but far famed city, so large a section of which now unfortunately lies prostrate by the effects of the late dreadful conflagration, was according to Malte Brun, founded by Charlemagne, and has often been subject to dreadful calamities, arising from inundations, fire, and the destructive effects of war. In 1510 it was declared to be an imperial city, and, after London and Amsterdam, the most commercial one in Europe; in the same year the river Elbe overflowed it, and the damage sustained amounted to 5,000,000 of marks. In 1771, although a dyke had been built along the river, the water broke through the barrier, and covered the whole neighbourhood; and the greater portion of the city; the destruction of merchandize, and other description of property, amounted to near 8,000,000 of marks. In 1790 the Elbe rose in one night upwards of twenty feet. This inundation caused the loss of numbers of lives, and the damage to property was incalculable. In 1810, this unfortunate city was doomed, from its peculiar local situation, to suffer from the scourge of war, which then pervaded the country; and was made the capital of a department—the Mouths of the Elbe. With a population of 128,000 it was suddenly changed into a fortified town. The military works occasioned a loss of property to the amount of 3,000,000 sterling, and in addition to the wants of various armies, by which it was often surrounded, rendered demands to be made on the bank of the industrious citizens to the amount 10,000,000 of marks.

In the House of Commons, Sir Robert Peel, in reply to Mr. Labouchere, acknowledged that he had heard of the intention of the French government to impose a high, indeed, a prohibitory duty upon the importation of linen, yarn, adding, that he had not lost a post in communicating to the

Ministers of Louis Philippe his view which, he observed, might be the reverse of satisfactory to the winegrowers of France.

Letters have reached town from Constantinople, via Vienna, four days later than the advices received by the Levant Mail, which state that Sami Pacha, the diplomatic agent of the Pacha of Egypt at the Porte, had succeeded in inducing the Ottoman government to purchase of Mehemet Ali six or seven ships of the line, now rotting in the harbour of Alexandria, by a corresponding reduction in the amount of Mehemet's tribute. The Pacha is said to have made a profitable bargain, as the ships were unseaworthy and useless. A rumor was current at Constantinople, that the Emperor of Russia had sent an envoy to Circassia, but for what purpose had not been ascertained. It was supposed, however, to convey a fresh defiance, seeing that General Tcherencheff, Minister of War, had been appointed, with a reinforcement of 20,000 men, commander in chief in Circassia.

Scotland.—The opening of the Assembly this year, has been marked by circumstances of unusual pompt on the part of the commissioner, as the representative of majesty. In our other columns will be found at considerable length, a report of their proceedings to this date. On Thursday week one of the first acts of the Assembly was to reject the commissions of the representatives of the Presbytery of Strathbogie. On Friday Mr. Dunlop made a report on the 'five schemes of the Church,' from which it appeared that the contributions towards each of them had increased. He regretted, however, that owing to the recent dissensions in the Church, some channels of liberality to which they had been accustomed to look, had of late ceased to flow. On Saturday the Assembly on the motion of Dr Candish by a Majority of 173 to 76, invited the deputies from the minority of the Presbytery of Strathbogie to take their seats in defiance of an interdict which has been issued by the court of Session. Major Stewart and the Rev. Mr. Dewar accordingly did so. On Monday, Dr Cook gave in a protest signed by himself and others against this resolution of the Assembly, to disregard the interdicts of the court of Session. Mr Cunningham's resolution against patronage was carried, after a lengthy discussion, by 216 to 147. On Tuesday, Dr Chalmers moved the adoption of an overture in condemnation of the interference of the civil courts with a spiritual independence of the church. Dr Cook moved as an amendment, the resolutions of which he had given notice on the previous day. The majority in favour of Dr Chalmers' motion was 131. The Assembly on Wednesday took up the case of the presentee to Kilmarnock. Mr. Cunningham moved that the sentence of the Presbytery in reference to this case be affirmed. Dr Cook on the other hand, moved that it be reversed. Mr. Cunningham, however, carried his motion by a majority of 74. Yesterday, the case of the Rev. Dr Grant was proceeded with, and the Rev. Mr. M'Cushine of Rayne, Rev. Dr Grant of Leith, Rev. Mr. Cook of Haddington, Rev. Dr Sirling of Glanston, Rev. Mr. Hill of Logie, Perth, and the Rev. Mr. Peter of Kenmay were called to the bar to answer to the charge of assisting the disposed ministers of Strathbogie at the ordinance of the Lord's supper. Dr Candish concluded a long address on the subject, by moving that the Assembly

should find the ministers at the bar liable to censure for so doing, and appoint a committee to deal with them which was agreed to.

COLONY OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

Lord Stanley has moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better government of the Colony of Newfoundland. In the year 1831 for the first time, a constitution was granted to this colony, upon a declaration by the colonists that they were willing to take on themselves the expenses of their own government, and to relieve this country from the charges attending that government; and a charter was granted upon certain conditions connected with the revenues of the colony. The necessity for the present motion was, to enable the Crown to restrict the amount of the revenues granted to be at the disposal of the colony at the time. During the late administration, and while the noble lord the member for the city of London was at the head of the Colonial department, the Governor of Newfoundland had reported that such was the state of the colony that it was impossible that he could again undertake to summon the assembly as the constitution then stood. This announcement was accompanied by a tender of the resignation of that officer, and the noble lord authorised the suspension of the assembly until time should have been taken to consider the state of the colony, and until a full report had been given upon the subject. Another step which was taken by the noble lord, upon the expediency of which he would offer no opinion, was to appoint a committee of that house on the motion of the honorable member for Droitwich (Mr. Parker), to investigate the whole of the circumstances with respect to the colony. It appeared that by reason of various circumstances there had arisen in the colony two parties; an agricultural and a commercial party had been formed. The differences between these parties were of such a character, and their respective positions were such, that their disputes had assumed the character of a religious feud, and the committee which had been appointed had proceeded in their investigation with regard to this part of the case only, when the dissolution of Parliament had put a stop to their further proceedings. With regard to this part of the question, in the bill which he proposed to introduce, he had no intention to interfere. From inquiries which he had made he had learned that though the constitution had been granted on a liberal footing, and there was a nominal qualification both for electors and elected, in fact there was no qualification at all. The population of the colony was exceedingly scanty, was distributed over a large extent of the sea coast, and possessed very small means of internal communication. They were very poor, and as a natural consequence, they were extremely ignorant. The representative system therefore, rested upon a very low property qualification; and that qualification consisted only of the possession of a house for twelve months—that was, possession of a building composed of a few boards, such as in the North American colonies would be called a shanty. The qualification of the elected was that of having occupied a house for two years. The result of this had been, that the House of Assembly had consisted of a very uneducated class of persons; one of the fifteen members of which it was composed, he believed, was unable to read or write, and one or two of the members were menial servants, who had been obliged to ask their master's permission before they could take their seats in the house. The house therefore, he thought, would agree that he was not unreasonable in saying that some change was called for. The qualification which he proposed had been determined upon in compliance with recommendations which had proceeded from the governor of the colony, with the consent of most all parties in the island; and that which he proposed should be adopted in the country districts was a 40*l.* freehold qualification. With regard to the mode of ascertaining the existence of this qualification he proposed that in the instructions to be issued in her Majesty's name, which was a course to the adoption of which he hoped the house would present no objection, provisions should be introduced that a certain period of undisputed occupation by a person who paid no rent, even though the occupation should be unauthorized in law, should constitute a freehold.

The town qualification which he proposed was a £5 house qualification, and as in the country there was no such