

will be sensible of the strain which it throws upon the legs. Where a floor of earth is used, it causes considerable work, requiring to be often replaced; but it will be found a great preventive of complaints in horses feet, and the labour of bringing fresh earth will be paid for by the manure produced by that which is taken away.

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

From British Papers to the 4th February, by the Acadia Steamer.

McNaughten, the murderer of E. Drummond, Esq.—He is an illegitimate son, and his father is still living. His workshop was first in Turner's Court, and afterwards in Stockwell. On leaving the business he disposed of it to a young man, who is still carrying it on in the latter place. He appears to have been very retired in his habits, avoiding society, and occupying much of his time in reading. He usually spent about sixteen hours a day between working and reading. His disposition is very parsimonious and he is understood to have saved a good deal of money: though he was generally well enough dressed when he came abroad, his habits when within doors were of the most filthy kind. During almost all the time he was in business he lived in his workshop, cooked his own victuals, and otherwise attended to his own wants. He was a radical in politics, and inclined to infidelity in religion. Both in politics and religion, however, his views were regarded by those who knew him as more speculative than practical. One of our informants saw him about six months ago, at which time he had the appearance of having been in bad health.

It appears that about two years ago he showed symptoms of mental aberration. To the landlady with whom he at that time lived, he had repeatedly expressed his opinion that there were devils in human shape seeking his life; and one day he showed her a pair of pistols, and declared his determination to use them against his tormentors. About a year ago it is also reported, that he applied to the Police here for protection against tory persecutors, who sought his life.—*Glasgow Courier.*

The usual quarterly meetings of the Ironmasters were held during the last week: the anticipation that a considerable demand would have arisen from the settlement of affairs in the East and the commercial treaty with China, were not realized, having been checked by the delay in the completion of the arrangements with Spain and Portugal, which caused hesitation on the part of the purchasers of iron, while the expectation of their being speedily and favourably concluded, induced the iron masters and holders to be firm, and but few sales were effected, and no very large contracts made. A confident expectation exists however, that as spring advances, and the arrangements alluded to are completed, there will be an increased demand, with a full maintenance of present prices, if not a considerable advance.—*Birmingham Gazette.*

Severe Gale.—The hurricane of Friday was felt all round the Islands, and in fact, it appears to have extended with remarkable violence, over great part at least of Western Europe. The disasters at sea have been innumerable; and in very many instances vessels have gone down with all on board: the coasts are strewed with wrecks.

One of the worst that has occurred is that of another East Indiaman, on the coast of Boulogne: the Conqueror a fine vessel of 800 tons, bound from Calcutta to London, after beating about the channel during the heavy gale on Friday night, was driven on shore about half past 10 o'clock, off Lionel, a small town on the French coast, 6 miles distant from Merlimot, (where the Reliance struck) and almost immediately went to pieces; and every soul was lost, 78 persons, except a boy, one of the cuddy servants: there were 16 passengers on board.

About the same time and near the same spot, a Swedish vessel was lost, and all hands perished; also an English fruit vessel, with the whole of her crew: 3 other vessels were lost, and the crew of one of them were drowned.

The American Packet Samarang, of 600 tons burthen, was lost on the Goodwin Sands, in the night: the crew were saved by the Duke of York Ramsgate cutter, which put out to their assistance.

Several vessels were stranded at Plymouth and Devonport, among them the Seawitch, with a cargo valued at £35,000.

Few instances of loss were more unmerited than that of the Percy steamer, which left North Shields, to look out for vessels in distress. She was overtaken by the storm in the morning pitched upon the rocks, and became a total wreck. All the crew was saved, except a boy who could not swim.

One of the most painful narratives though not the most fatal, is that of the wreck of the ship Vernon, on the North Burbo bank, opposite to New Brighton; it is told by the Liverpool Albion—

The ill-fated vessel left this port for Glasgow on Friday morning, with a cargo of sugar, cotton, lead, and potash. After experiencing dreadful weather the entire day, she lost her sails off the Orm-head. She then drifted about until she struck on the above bank, at four o'clock, a. m. The crew immediately took to the rigging. The Captain had been previously disabled by the jib-boom striking him on the left arm; he, however, held on till eight o'clock, a. m. and was then washed out of the rigging. Subsequently the mate and the cook were also washed out. The remaining poor fellows, five in number, held on the sea washing over them, till they were rescued by the magazines's life boat. They were all nearly in a lifeless condition. They were brought to the house of Mr Roberts, at the magazines; and attended by Dr. Dunlavy, who was on the spot waiting for them, and who, after the most persevering exertions for several hours, finally succeeded in restoring them all. They were in a most deplorable state, and greatly cut and bruised. One poor fellow, when he lost all power of holding with his hands and arms, seized a rope between his teeth and held it with a death-like grasp, swinging backwards and forwards with the wind. When the life-boat neared the vessel, he dropped backwards into the sea, but was caught with a boat-hook. There was scarcely a hope of his recovery for many hours; and then he became quite maniacal, fancying he was still in the shrouds, and kept cheering on his companions to 'hold on, they would soon be rescued.' The captain's name was McLean; the mate's, Duncan McDonald; they have each left a wife and family in Glasgow. The bodies of the captain and cook were found on Saturday, brought to town, and placed in the dead-house.

The most sweeping loss of life occurred on the coast of the county of Down, in Dundrum Bay, among the shipping craft belonging to Newcastle, the well known watering place, and Annalong, a little fishing village near Killybeg. The Newry Telegraph has the following account from Annalong:

On Friday forenoon, several boats, said to contain between 100 and 200 persons, proceeded to the fishing station, a few miles from Annalong. Suddenly, and

before preparations for the storm could be made, a tremendous gale from the W. N. W. was upon them. A few of the boats withstood the shock. The remainder were instantly swamped or overturned; and although many were rescued by the almost superhuman exertions of their gallant companions, of those on board the capsized boats no fewer than seventeen perished. The persons on shore, observing the perilous situation of their friends and acquaintances on the deep, manned a boat and hastened to attempt a rescue. They had scarcely reached the place of the calamity when their boat also went down, and every individual on board perished. Of the persons drowned ten were married men, all we believe, with families; others were the only or main supporters of widowed mothers. In one or two instances large families have been deprived of the brother on whose earnings they depended for maintenance. The neighborhood is one scene of misery. In almost every cottage there is lamentation for the loss of one dear to its inmates. There has been no such visitation since the 10th of January, 1814, when forty fishermen were lost at Annalong: on which occasion, as several of our readers will remember, the late Captain Chesney distinguished himself by saving the lives of many at the imminent risk of his own.

At Newcastle the loss of life has been even greater than at Annalong. There forty seven fishermen perished, many of them with families, and several with widowed mothers, or aunts entirely depending for support on those who have been so suddenly called away.

Another East India trader, the Jessie Logan, of 850 tons burthen, is among the disastrous list of vessels lost.

On Monday last, the vessel being on her homeward voyage, was beating up Channel, and apparently making for Tintagell or Bude Bays, on the Cornish coast, for which the N. W. wind would have been favourable, but for its extreme violence; but at length she became unmanageable, and was driven aground off Boscastle, about seventeen miles from Launceston. Blue lights and other signals of distress were made; but such was the fury of the gale and the violence of the surf, that none would venture to her assistance, and at length she drifted on the rocks, and soon became a total wreck. She had evidently been abandoned by her crew and passengers: but from the long boat having been washed on shore, it is feared they have all perished, as no information has been received respecting them. She was a North American built vessel, termed in commercial parlance a Quebecker. Portions of the cargo, consisting of rum, sugar, spices, and general East India produce, were continually washed ashore, but no despatches or papers of any kind are known to have been recovered.

By Wednesday it was reported in the city that 40 vessels were known to have been lost during the late gales and we since see an account of the loss of twenty more!

The storm severely visited Bristol and its neighbourhood.

Much damage was done on the coast of France. The *Journal de Coutances* states, that a whirlwind of extraordinary violence passed over part of the town on the 12th inst. and did considerable damage, taking away stones, slates, and tiles, and stripping several houses. A letter from Bourges of the 13, mentions that for five days a tempest had been raging in the neighbourhood, and had committed some ravages.

Ireland.—The Galway Standard mentions that the collection of the poor-rate was forcibly resisted at Balane, near Loughrea, on the 31st—

This is the first time violent opposition has been shown in this neighbourhood to the collection of the rate, and it is to be feared that, once it has begun, it will not be easily overcome. The Guardians intend striking a rate of 10d. in the pound in the town, to make up the deficiency created by the non-payment in the rural districts, but it is expected the Guardians connected with the town will not suffer (if possible) such injustice to the inhabitants.

The Mayo Constitutional has a similar story—

We regret to hear that in several parts of the county the peasantry are still violently opposed to the payment of the poor rate. In this Union the Collectors, except in one instance; say that latterly they have not met with much opposition; yet the rate is coming in but very slowly.

The *Narrative Fribourgeois* furnishes the following from Gruyeres, Switzerland, Jan. 22. Whilst efforts were being made to dig out the 3 young men who were buried in the snow near the village of Estavanens, a new avalanche took place, and all the workmen were nearly destroyed. Fortunately, however, the snow did not fall in a compact mass, and they were able, with one exception, a young man of Epagny, who was buried by it, and has not been discovered—to effect their escape. On the 16th an avalanche fell between Gesenay and Gsteig. In its course it destroyed about a thousand fir-trees, a barn, killed some cattle, and caused considerable injury to a house. This avalanche was between 800 and 900 feet in width, and of great thickness. On the same day an avalanche fell a Glaernisch and injured several houses. Similar accidents have taken place in various parts of Eastern Switzerland, and on the Lake of Four Cantons, during a violent storm a market boat returning from Lucerne, lost with all her cargo, but the persons on board were saved. At Valorsine, a village of Savoy, on the frontier of the Valais, the steeple of the church, two inns, and three other houses have been destroyed by an avalanche. Two persons were killed.

The Lyons journals state from Savoy, 26th inst, that a hamlet of seven or eight houses, near Chamouny had just been overwhelmed by an avalanche, and all the inhabitants had perished. Fourteen bodies had already been dug out of the ruins. A curious circumstance is mentioned in the same letter. At Monthieu (Savoy) in consequence of the ground having been completely saturated with water, a garden on an elevated point, on which was a house containing seven inhabitants, gave way, and was removed to a distance of fifty yards on lower ground, without any of the inhabitants having been injured. It is added that even the house was only slightly damaged.

INDIA.

General Pollock left Cabul on the 12th October with the British troops in three divisions; two consisting of his own force, and the third of General Nott's. Before their departure, however, the mark of vengeance was set upon the place. This kind of retribution had been begun at Istalif, respecting the sack of which we have now some further particulars—

'The place was carried,' says the Bombay Times, 'and in possession of our troops within a couple of hours of the commencement of the attack. Upwards of 500 women, the only prisoners made by us, were captured: they were treated with respect, and afterwards set at liberty. So soon as a sufficiency of provisions for the service of the troops was taken from the inhabitants, the town was directed to be set on fire, and the fortifications to be blown up. For two days Major Sanders, of the Engineers, was engaged in directing the work of destruction, and for this space the place was given over to fire and sword; not a living soul was spared whether armed or unarmed—the men were hunted down like wild beasts—not a prisoner was taken—mercy was never dreamt of! All the bitterness of hatred was shown by the soldiery, both European and Native: whenever the body of an Afghan was found, the Hindu Sepoy set fire to his clothes, that the curse of a 'burnt father' might attach to his children. It is said, indeed, that the wounded, alive when found, were in this