

dy pitch, slowly melted together, and applied to new boots, will render them waterproof, durable, and pliant.

European News.

From British Papers to the 4th March, by the Columbia Steamer.

From Charles Willmer's American News Letter, March 4.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The character of the incidents which have occurred since the date of our last publication, is neither cheering or satisfactory.

The condition of the working classes in our own country is truly deplorable. The lengthened and unwelcome continuance of easterly winds, as it has prevented the arrival of homeward bound vessels, deprives of the means of subsistence the mass who depend upon the shipping for their daily bread, whilst this unhappy contingency has not been atoned for by a revival of trade in the manufacturing districts.

The auspicious circumstances, from the operation of which a beneficial change may be anticipated, few even of the most sanguine will venture to predict. That distress, deeply seated, widely extended, and long endured, does exist—the admission of the Ministry themselves—the men whose purpose and policy it would be to gloss over or to conceal it—sadly and surely proves. In the debates on the state of the country they did not even venture to deny it.

A circumstance occurred in the course of the debate on the state of the country which appears to have revived the spirits of the Free Trade party. The Vice President of the Board of Trade emphatically declared that between the opinions entertained by the ministry and those avowed by the Opposition the difference was not so great as was generally supposed. That an alteration in the commercial code was necessary, he was not only ready to admit, but prepared to prove.

The trials of the Chartists, among whom is the would-be famous Feargus O'Connor is proceeding at Lancaster.

We regret to learn from the tenor of advices, which are tolerably extensively accredited, that the mission of Mr. Ellice to the Brazils is likely to be productive of no beneficial result. The Brazilians refuse to enter into a negotiation with us except upon terms so decidedly disadvantageous to Great Britain that it would be impolitic, and perhaps dishonorable to this country to accept them.

PARLIAMENTARY. STATE OF THE NATION.

The parliamentary debates of the last few days, though not so important as to their results, are, nevertheless, interesting in their details. On the 20th ultimo Lord Howick moved that a Committee of the whole House be appointed to inquire into the state of the country. He disclaimed all hostility to the Government in introducing the motion. The times required the consideration of it. Distress now overspread every branch of national industry; it was no longer by one only. The farmers were suffering and their laborers were compelled to submit to a reduction of wages, at a time, too, when there was a growing scarcity of employment.

Mr. Gladstone said that with some qualification the noble lord's description of the state of the country was correct. As to the depression in the shipping, the cessation of emigration to Australia and over production in ship-building had contributed to it. What useful end, he would ask, could the motion answer? What was the House to consider? Corn Laws, Sugar Laws, or what? No; the state of the country. Such a motion must do harm. The noble lord, last year, had blamed Sir R. Peel for unsettling everything by his propositions; and it was notorious, that on their introduction, even in a specific form, trade became stagnant. Lord Howick's motion would renew the mischief with tenfold force. Mr. Gladstone then contended that the difference between the politics of the ministry and the opposition was one more in degree than of kind. The whole question between them was not merely whether there should be a judicious relaxation at all, but in what degree the country could bear it? Then suppose the committee gained and the Corn Law repealed, what measure would they substitute, since one opposition member was for a fixed duty, another a mere revenue duty, and another for no duty at all? Let them ask themselves can you repeal the Corn Law without a vast displacement of labor? If he were asked why not deal with Corn as you do with other commodities, he would give a good temporary answer—it was because on the faith of its having been so dealt with for centuries, enormous sums had been invested in it. He denied that the maintenance of the Corn Law was a question of rent. However rents may be reduced, the redundancy of labour would cause the pressure to be less felt by the landlords than by the laborers. If it were contended that we should teach foreign countries free trade, he would point to the recent augmentation of the French duty on yarns, to the German on mixed woollens; and to the American tariff, as proof of the indisposition of other countries to follow our example. He reminded Lord Howick that every government for the last 25 years had introduced relaxations of our commercial code. The real question, he repeated, was one of time and degree.

Mr. Labouchere accused Mr. Gladstone of having argued on both sides of the question. As to existing alarm, he thought Mr. Gladstone's speech was calculated to create it, for after the Premier had declared that no alteration in the Corn Laws was projected this year, Mr. G., the Vice President of the Board of Trade, satisfies all his hearers that he at least thinks an alteration expedient.

The debate was protracted by adjournment for four days. It would be impossible to condense the speeches which were delivered on the occasion, and, indeed, as the greater portion of them were repetitions of the harangues delivered on a similar occasion last year, it would be almost superfluous. We may, however, notice that Sir James Graham, the home secretary, in the course of his reply to Mr. C. Wood, said the principles of free trade were now acknowledged to be those of common sense, and the outline of them is now disputed but by few. The time had long passed since England can exist as an agricultural country; we were now a commercial people.

Nothing worthy of notice occurred on the last day of the debate, until Mr. Cobden, in order to secure the passing of Lord Howick's motion, endeavored to fix a grave responsibility on those who refused it. After defending the league from all participation in "a recent mania transaction," he asked Sir Robert Peel what course he intended to pursue, and continued, it is the duty of every independent member to throw on him (Sir R. Peel) the individual and personal responsibility of the present state of affairs.

Sir Robert Peel, under great excitement, rose and accused Mr. Cobden of holding him individually and personally liable for the state of the country. Mr. Cobden had previously said so before the league—but said Sir Robert (amidst applause that shook the roof) "be the consequence of these insinuations what they may, (bursts of cheers) never will I be influenced by menaces such as these (tremendous cheering) to hold language or to adopt a course which I consider in the slightest degree inconsistent with my duty."—(Much cheering.) Mr. Cobden rose, and was received with yells and hisses. He at length was heard to say, I did not say personally. Sir R. Peel: you did, you did—(Loud cheers.) Sir James Graham handed Sir Robert Peel a paper. Sir Robert Peel, looking at it, said I admit I am sure of that phrase—but you said individually responsible—and the honorable gentleman may do so, and may induce others to hold me individually responsible, (loud cheers) but it shall in no way influence me in the discharge of my public duty. Sir R. Peel then addressed himself to the motion. If the committee were granted, the noble mover must be prepared with some proposition, general and therefore useless, or specific, and therefore interfering with the financial arrangements of the Executive. It was impossible to conceive of any expedient so fraught with mischief and misery to commerce. As an arguery of the introduction of a system of gradual reductions, he informed the house that 4,000 troops had been withdrawn from Canada.

Lord John Russell followed, and was prevented by indisposition from attempting the delivery of more than a few unimportant remarks. At this stage of the proceedings, Mr. Roebuck, whose temper his most ardent admirers never imagined to approximate to the angelic, attacked Mr. Cobden, one of whose unlucky days this seems to have been, in defence of Lord Brougham. His Lordship, it seems, had merely recommended the Corn Law League to eschew all connexion with those persons who indulge in dangerous and unconstitutional language. This advice his Lordship had volunteered in consequence of having read in the Quarterly Review a statement made by the Rev.

Bailey, of Sheffield, at the Conference, that a person had offered to cast lots with him who should take away the life of Sir Robert Peel. To this statement the Reverend Gentleman said, that although he deprecated the attempt, he was sure that but few tears would be shed over Sir Robert's grave. Mr. Cobden had asked Mr. Roebuck in the library of the House whether he, Mr. R., intended to defend Lord Brougham. On his answering in the affirmative, Cobden said "don't have anything to do with the affair, for if you do the Corn Law League will go down to Bath and turn you out." Mr. Roebuck, in the most indignant terms, denounced the impertinent interference of Mr. Cobden and his Leaguers.

Mr. Cobden essayed an explanation, which the house most impatiently heard.

On a division the motion was lost by a majority of 115—the votes being, for the motion 198; against it, 306.

CORN FROM CANADA.

In answer to a question from Mr. Labouchere, Lord Stanley said—As the law now stands, the States send their grain into Canada free of duty, whence it is exported as colonial produce, having been ground into flour in the colony at a maximum duty of 5s and a minimum of 6d. Now the Colonial Government had often requested the mother country to admit their flour at a nominal duty, or free from duty altogether. His Lordship had replied to the memorial of the colony, that as the greater portion of the corn imported as Canadian had merely passed through Canada, and had in fact been grown in the States, there would be some difficulty in the plan. He suggested to them the propriety of the Colonial Government imposing an equivalent duty on all American Corn imported from the States into Canada. The legislature had accordingly done so, and strictly in accordance with the spirit of his letter. By the next mail he expected a dispatch containing all information on the subject.

PORTUGAL—As if a tax upon income were not in itself an exaction sufficiently oppressive, the Portuguese government contrive to invest it in additional odium by allowing the oppressors and collectors, a percentage upon the amounts they return. This temptation to extortion the officials could not resist, and accordingly the returns in the instance of almost every inhabitant exhibited a glaring surcharge. The people were loud in the expression of their indignation, and their anger was increased by the appearance of a declaration from the subordinate assessors, who affirmed, that contrary to the report and recommendation which they had transmitted to the general Committee, the assessments had been fulfilled.

The ferment consequent upon this communication assumed so unwelcome an appearance, that on the following day the lists were drawn out. The Governor and Council issued a proclamation couched in a conciliatory tone and promised redress. This proclamation only increased the disorder it was intended to quell; every copy of it was torn down with execration. The police seized a person in the act, but were obliged to surrender him to the mob. A picket of dragoons were next drawn up in front of the Municipal Chamber, but were speedily and unceremoniously put to flight by the populace. A detachment of infantry encountered the like disgrace. Two causes are assigned for this outbreak—the one the enormous rate of taxation which the Government seek to maintain, the other the mortification of the people of Oporto at the depressed condition into which their trade has fallen since the terms of Lord Aberdeen's treaty were refused by their Government.

The Minister of War has despatched the Count St. Maria to Oporto on a special errand.

Serious results are anticipated, and the condition of the Portuguese Ministry at this juncture is considered to be extremely critical.

The British minister it seems has received instructions from his Government to break off the negotiations for the tariff convention. Great Britain refuses to accept the last proposal which Portugal has tendered, and is resolved to trifle away no more time in useless and frivolous correspondence. In order to pacify the Douro interests which are materially affected by the unwelcome termination of negotiation, from the successful issue of which so much benefit was anticipated, public monies are to be granted to them. A Bill endowing a privileged company with one half of the present export duties on Port Wine had been unanimously passed by the deputies. The sum of £35,000 is to be annually allowed to them, on condition that it be expended among the Douro wine merchants by purchasing from them 20,000 pipes of inferior wines at a higher rate than is otherwise attainable. The ceding to the company of the monopoly of Brandy was lost by a majority of three. To atone for an outlay, fresh tax must be imposed on the already overburdened Portuguese. After all, the whole affair is but lath and plaster policy—trumpetry truckling to expediency—not sound statesmanship.

The French privilege question will, it is supposed, be amicably adjusted.

FRANCE—The French papers are chiefly occupied with speculations on the probability of the defeat or retreat of Guizot, in consequence of the defection of some of his supporters. Count Mole will succeed him, they chorally predict. Be this as it may, in the recent elections of Committees and Deputies the Guizot party has been emphatically victorious. It is certain that the King is firmly attached to Guizot.

The apology of humble Spain appears to have pacified the chivalrous ire of France, and the chances of rupture, are remote.

The budget proposes a reduction of the army to 344,000 men, and 84,288 horses.

SPAIN.—Madrid papers of the 10th contain an official despatch by the Minister of War, announcing that all necessary measures had been taken to ascertain the correctness of the charges urged against the French Consul at Barcelona. With the adjustment of the dispute the cavalier Spaniards are dissatisfied. They contend that the apologies should have been mutual, and though they applaud Espartero for tendering an excuse to France they blame him because he did not insist reciprocity of compliments. "Spain," they say, "has signed her own degradation." After all, especially when one considers that their naturally haughty temperament is irritated, no doubt by the fact that additional honours are about to be conferred upon the imagined cause of all the turmoil.

Recent advices represents the city of Barcelona to be still unquiet. The Military and the populace have more than once come into angry collision. Indeed so destructive were the features of a gathering revolt, that the government were compelled to remit another portion of the war-contribution which the Barcelonians were to make up, in order, if possible to appease their anger.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE—RECEIVED BY THE MORNING'S MAIL.

The London papers of last night contain news of importance. The trial of M'Naghten for the murder of Mr. Drummond had commenced at the Central Criminal Court, but at the hour of the mail leaving had not terminated. So far as the evidence has gone it bears strongly against the prisoner. The interest and anxiety to gain admittance into the court is described as having been immense.

In the House of Commons last night, in answer to a question by Lord Palmerston,

Sir Robert Peel said he had no objection to lay before the House copies of or extracts from communications between Lord Ashburton, the secretary of state for the colonies, and Mr. Webster, in reference to the treaty signed at Washington on the 9th of August, 1842.

SIR CHARLES METCALFE.—This distinguished personage leaves England to-day in the Columbia, to assume the functions of Governor General of Canada. No appointment of recent occurrence has afforded more unequivocal satisfaction. Sir Charles had the good fortune in early life to attract the favorable notice of the then Governor General of India, the late Marquis of Wellesley, one of the most profound statesmen and accomplished scholars this country ever knew. He was subsequently entrusted by Lord Bentinck, when Governor General, with high important offices, and it is an acknowledged fact, that his consummate skill and mastery policy extricated his Excellency from difficulties under the pressure of which he must otherwise have sunk. That Sir Charles, when elected to the Governorship of Jamaica, displayed the exalted talent and the dignified discretion which the perilous condition of the colony demanded—the unanimous opinion and cordial acknowledgments of the West India merchants most eloquently prove. It has been his fate through life to be placed in the battle front of most perplexing difficulties, and nobly has he invariably overcome them.

The Colonial Society entertained him at a splendid banquet on the 27th instant. Sir Augustus D'Este in the chair.

In the course of the evening, Sir F. Head (no mean judge) congratulated the meeting on the appointment they had met to honour. Sir Charles Metcalfe went out, to Canada with the confidence of the whole empire. His accession to office would be a blessing to the colony over whose destinies he was elected to rule.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE BILLS.—The total amount of loss to be made good by the country is 262,000. Of this sum Coutts and Co. held bills to the amount of 32,000, Messrs. Hoare 24,000, Price and Co 26,000, Ransom and Co. 21,000, and Sir James Shaw, the Chamberlain of London, 40,000.

The gales during the month of January, in the Mediterranean, have been greater than any known during the last twenty years. In one of these gales, the sea made a breach through the mole of Genoa, a wall forty feet thick.

The Lords of the Admiralty have notified to the Directors of the West India Steam Company that the future non fulfillment of the Company's contract with the Government, will in every case of omission, be peremptorily followed by enforcement of penalties.

It is currently reported, in the leading political clubs, that Sir James Graham is likely to be selected to succeed Lord Ellenborough as Governor General of India.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Lord Seaton, K.G.C.B., to be her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner for the Ionian Islands.

We understand that Mr. Thomas Pottinger, the brother of Sir Henry Pottinger, the able negotiator of our peace with China, has been selected by the government for the chief office as resident at Hong Kong, and is to take his departure forthwith.

A letter from Brest states that the fine steam frigates, which are intended for the transatlantic navigation between France and the United States, are ready for sea, and will commence service in the spring.

It is the intention of the Pacha of Egypt to form a bank at Alexandria, in conjunction with three European merchants; the capital, which is to be 600,000 dollars, to be furnished one half by the Pacha, and the other half by the merchants.

The King of Denmark has sent Prince Albert the insignia of the Danish Order of the Elephant.