

European News.

From British Papers to the 4th of April, received by Steamer Acadia.

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

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Some anxiety prevails on this side, for the result of the various negotiations now pending between this Government and that of the United States, and especially with regard to the Oregon question; but an universal opinion prevails that everything will be adjusted satisfactorily. This opinion is strengthened by the reception our new minister has met with at the hands of our American friends; and we cannot express the sense entertained of the generous kindness extended towards him, as to all others who have ever been entrusted with the management and negotiation of diplomatic matters between us.

The existing state of European relations at the present time is most satisfactory to all lovers of peace and harmony. Our French neighbours have evidently laid aside much of their acerbity of manner; and we need only point to the zealous aid now rendered by British capitalists to various railway undertakings now progressing in France, as an evidence of the good feeling which exists. The French government have determined on prosecuting several important lines of railway to Boulogne, Calais, and Dunkirk; all these are for the purpose of facilitating the communication with England; and now that the railway between London and Dover is completed, we shall have a speedier and more regular intercourse, and may look for a better understanding of each other's views and feelings. A vast proportion of the capital employed in the construction of the French lines of railway comes from the pockets of British capitalists: this must of necessity give us a greater interest in the progress and well being of the country. Her Majesty the Queen of England intends taking up her residence in the Isle of Wight during a portion of the summer; and we have it on good authority that the King of the French will pay her a visit before she returns to Windsor. How gratifying to see the sovereigns of such countries meeting together, and enjoying the delight of social intercourse, free from all the tedious restraint usually imposed upon Royalty, whenever visits of this sort are meditated! His Imperial Majesty of Russia will also visit England in the course of the summer, and thus add to the honor and delight of the Queen. We could wish the President of the United States to be numbered among our visitors, and can assure our American friends that the chief magistrate of their Union would be second to none in receiving the honor and enthusiastic reception, such as England will at all times render to the individual presiding over their great and important country. Another part of our publication will record the death of Bernadotte, King of Sweden, a man who has figured so much in the various actions connected with the modern history of Europe.

COMMERCIAL.

The condition of trade is in no material point different from that which was reported in our last publication. The continued abundance of money is becoming a source of disappointment, and the Bank of England is urgently called upon to curtail its circulation of notes, by which it is contended that the value of money would be immediately enhanced, and trade improved. The business transacted at the money market last week was unimportant, so far at least as the English securities were concerned, speculation in them having entirely ceased. The value of the various descriptions of Stock did not undergo any material change. The business in the Foreign market was of a varied and general character. Most of the current varieties of Stock are advancing; Spanish has, as usual, been the chief attraction. The scheme for the capitalization of the overdue Active Coupons is still entertained; three per cent Stock has consequently risen nearly two per cent, having been to-day as high as 37 3/8, but closing rather lower: the Active have not improved to such a degree, not having risen more than about one per cent., and closing at 26 1/2. Mexican Active and Deferred have improved, the former to 36 3/4, and the latter to 16 1/2. This security has become latterly a great favorite, having improved within the last six weeks nearly six per cent, viz from 10 3/4 to 16 1/2. South American securities are also in demand: Columbian ex-Venezuela have risen to 15 1/4; and Venezuela active and deferred are sought for at improved prices. No material variation has occurred in Dutch stock. Neither have the Portuguese converted bonds fluctuated to any extent.

The Liverpool Cotton Market is depressed, and prices are falling. Until about the 14th of last month the price of Cotton was pretty well sustained, although the demand was limited, and the sales very small; but the arrival of the Hibernia steamer from Boston, with advices to the end of February, appeared to dispel that hope which holders had fondly indulged in as to a brisk demand, and prices at once receded; and we may now quote American 1-2d. to 3-1d. per lb. lower than at the date of our last publication. The total sales of the past month have not exceeded 76,400 bales, of which about 17,800 were taken on speculation.

The Produce Markets are very dull, and prices have during the past week, in almost every instance given way. Large parcels of produce have been pressed for sale, and merchants generally are disposed to realize. The home dealers have operated with reluctance, taking only enough to satisfy their immediate wants.

For shipping there are few orders, and the speculative demand has ceased for the present. After the Chancellor of the Exchequer has brought forward the Budget, business in all branches is expected to improve. The stocks in dealer's hands are light, and the deliveries from the warehouses are still large. The arrivals are to a fair extent. Rum is wanted, and higher rates again paid: the supply is still scanty. The dullness in the Coffee market has increased, and prices have declined for all sorts; large parcels are pressing for sale.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

The proceedings of Parliament are of no moment as regards actual doings. There has been the usual amount of saying, and the average diversity of subjects; we cannot say that "the same spirit guideth all." We have had the Corn question squeezed in wherever it has been possible, and Mr Cobden has been preaching away on a specific proposition for a liberal commission of inquiry into the effect of import duties on tenant farmers and farm labourers. A sad picture was endeavoured to be drawn of the state of things in the agricultural districts, the farmer being painted as carrying on a trade, of which the first and largest profits were said to be reaped by speculators. Agricultural labourers were represented as being in a state of penury, ignorance, and extreme wretchedness; in fact, the whole case was set forth in the very worst colours of the League, and with the most barefaced flippancy of manner. Mr. Gladstone, President of the Board of Trade, opposed the inquiry, and the Leaguers were defeated by a large majority.

The subject of Duelling has at last forced itself on the consideration of the British Legislature, and it is very evident the day is not far distant, when the wretched beings who involve themselves in such strife, will meet, a punishment suited to the enormity of their offence. The government have decided on withholding the pension from the widow of Colonel Fawcett, the individual who fell in a duel with his brother in law, Lieutenant Monroe. There can be no doubt but that this refusal was just and proper, not only on the ground of an example, but more especially when the circumstances attending the duel are remembered. It is this refusal of Mrs. Fawcett's pension that has opened the question of duelling, and caused so much attention to be called to it. A resolution against duelling, as being immoral, and opposed to the Divine commands, was moved in the House of Commons, and it is a remarkable fact connected with this subject, that the mover chose to read to the House the leading article of the London Standard against duelling, and which he adopted as the very ablest remarks ever yet made on the question. The resolution failed in itself, but did great good by raising a debate, as also of bringing out the new Articles of War, directed to the prevention of duelling among officers in the army. These articles set forth the whole course to be pursued by an officer who may become implicated as principal in an affair of honor. He must be willing to accept or to render suitable concessions, or he must refer the dispute to the arbitration of his commanding officer. This new code of honour is invested with the highest authority, is promulgated by the Secretary of War, and has been deeply considered and approved by the Duke of Wellington, and the Queen is understood to have been very active in framing and sanctioning it. It binds none but officers on active duty; but the Secretary of War says, that in cases of duelling strongly reprobated by public opinion, the Crown will exercise its prerogative upon half pay officers. This is a just step, and goes far to the attaining a similar exercise over all sorts of duellists, and, after the late discussion, such a result seems inevitable.

The grand subject of debate in Parliament has been the Factory question, and shortening the hours of labour. Lord Ashley, on all occasions has stood forth the friend of the oppressed, and although he has not succeeded in carrying out his ameliorative measures, yet he has done much by his exposures of the barbarity of a system at once disgraceful to any civilized country. We regret to say that, from motives of expediency, Sir Robert Peel's Government have opposed the noble lord's efforts, and it is quite clear their course is one that cannot be other than greatly injurious to them. It is generally thought that Sir James Graham is the individual who has led the Government into this awkward mistake; however, they have committed it and must make the best of it. Lord Ashley has been foiled in any measure of his own, and his present efforts have been directed to a modification of the Factory Bill lately introduced by ministers and which proposed to limit to twelve hours the daily labour of persons more than thirteen but under eighteen years of age, and females of any age whatever. Lord Ashley moved an amendment, contracting the proposed twelve to ten hours, and after a long and animated debate, that amendment was carried, on the 18th ult., by a small majority. This was virtually a government defeat, and was followed by several other divisions, which showed the government the folly of perseverance, and, accordingly, they shuffled the whole question aside, and no doubt were mightily glad to get rid of such a troublesome and harassing affair. It has been truly said by the Spectator, that "Lord Ashley's statements presented such a case of ceaseless toil, misery, degradation, and despair, that sensitive members were panic stricken." "Something must be done!" they cried. The arguments of ministers and of the whole manufacturing interests were, to the effect, of denying the state of the factory people as represented. It is not worse, they said, than that of all populations collected together in large towns, and they declared that, as compared with agriculturists, the factory people have higher

wages, better food, more comforts, and a better chance of raising in life. In the discussion of this subject, the House of Commons had shewn itself divided into a multitude of opinions and feelings on the subject, each section taking to itself the question of right and justice, and differing from all the others as widely as can well be possible. Such division and crossing of parties has shewn itself, that the house has been in the somewhat absurd position of neither affirming a twelve or a ten hours' bill. On the 25th, Sir James Graham announced that ministers would abandon the Bill altogether, and introduce a new measure. This has been submitted to Lord Ashley, and so the affair at present stands. No doubt the noble lord has been prompted to this, by his anxiety not to damage the government, or give their opponents an opportunity of riding into office by reason of their committing such a faux pas.

An attempt has been made to extend the privilege now enjoyed by Canada of sending corn into the ports of Great Britain at a fixed 1s. duty, to the colonies of South Africa and Australia, as also to India. The attempt was unsuccessful, the chief arguments against it being that the benefit to the colonies in question would be insignificant, whilst to entertain it would cause great panic and distress amongst English agriculturists.

IRELAND.

Ireland, at the present time, does not occupy much of public attention. The weekly Repeal Meetings continue, but the proceedings at them are of an ordinary character, as will be seen from the following reports:—

The weekly meeting of the National Repeal Association took place on Monday, the 18th ult., in Conciliation hall, Dublin.

A letter was read from Lord Ffrench, who asserted that the fisheries of Ireland were in a declining state, and alluded to the distress existing in Galway, effects which he attributed to the Union.

Two letters were read from Mr. O'Connell, in one of which he announced his intention to be in Dublin in a few days, and thus described the new Irish Registration Bill about to be brought in by Government:—"The Bill to extinguish the county franchise in Ireland was announced by another name by Sir James Graham last night. It is, I understand, founded on the poor rate valuation as to amount, but on the Chandos clause as to principle. I have had this information from a quarter of such authority as to induce me to believe it. The account I have got of the bill will, if accurate, make it one of the most virulent instruments to take away from the Catholic people of Ireland all control over the so called Irish representatives. We shall have it in print before Easter. The greatest mischief of it,—a mischief indicative of insanity in its contrivers,—is, that it will render the poor rates infinitely more detested than they are at present,—which, indeed might have been considered difficult. I do think this bill will convert some of the best men amongst the Irish Whigs into Repealers."

Mr Smith O'Brien announced that the Repeal rent received for the week amounted to £601 5s.

At the meeting on the 25th, Mr. E. W. Costello was in the chair.

Among the correspondence was a letter from Mr O'Connell, which was ordered to be inserted on the minutes. Mr O'Connell wrote under an erroneous impression that he was to attend the Liverpool meeting on Friday (as at first arranged) instead of Thursday; his determination, therefore, was to attend the house on Thursday evening, when Lord Eliot was to bring in his Franchise Extermination Bill, &c.; and he promised to leave Liverpool on Saturday to attend the next meeting of the association. Mr O'Connell, after some allusions to his visit to England, and its effects, proceeds as follows:—"I cannot conclude without observing that, on the one hand, it is impossible for the Irish people ever again to confound the English nation with the English Government; the first, the English nation, have shown themselves worthy of our confidence and gratitude—the Government deserves our most unmitigated resentment; so, on the other hand, the powers of legislation are in the control of our enemies, whilst good wishes and kind words are all that remain to our friends."

The sums received from various parts of America amounted to £114. The rent for the week was announced to be £376 11s.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.

The Chamber of Deputies, on Tuesday fortnight, voted the Secret Service Money Bill by a majority of fifty-six, which is understood as a vote of confidence to Ministers, and to settle the stability of the Soult-Guizot Cabinet for this session. In the Chamber of Deputies, on Tuesday week, the Minister of Finance introduced a bill compromising some important modification of the tariff. One provision, to raise the duty on the importation of machinery, nearly interests this country. The object of the Minister is to improve the machinery of France by encouraging competition with that of England; and he says, at the present day, the art of mechanism is one of the great causes of the progress of society; and every country which does not give its manufacture of machinery the support necessary for its development, condemns itself voluntarily to occupy only the second rank among commercial nations.

In the same tariff, new duties on linen thread range from 38 francs to 205 francs (per 100 kilogrammes); on linen cloths, from 60 francs to 817 francs per hundred kilogrammes; damask table-linen paying an additional duty of 20 per cent.

The French Government has resolved to ask an extraordinary credit of 46,000,000 francs, for great improvements in the harbours of Marseilles, Havre and Bordeaux.

The great subject of conversation in the office of the Minister of Marine, says the Commerce, is a magnificent steamer now being built at Brest, and finishing in a style of splendour as to accommodations, gilding, and painting for the purpose of conveying the Royal Family to England.

SPAIN.

There has been some cruel and barbarous work in Spain; Bonet and twenty three others have been slaughtered.

The advices from Madrid on the 14th ult., stated that General Roncali, who shot, without trial, Bonet and twenty three insurgents of Alicante, (which circumstance is mentioned approvingly in the Gazette of the 12th ult.) had been ordered to proceed to Carthage. Puz-Samper, another of the Queen's generals, had put to death four insurgents at Lugo. Of the chief, Castrovillar, General Puez-Samper says, "Notwithstanding the critical state into which he was thrown by the communication of the sentence, and his removal into a chapel, he could not be prevailed upon to implore the clemency of her Majesty, or make any revelations.

The Herald states that a conspiracy, in which several officers and non-commissioned officers of the garrison were implicated, had been discovered at Valencia; the objects of which were to compel General Roncali to raise the siege of Alicante, and to carry off the person of Queen Christina on her way to Madrid. The affair seems to have been greatly exaggerated. Some arrests had taken place.

The papers mention a rumour that Narvaez and Gonzalez Bravo had determined to supersede the Cortes altogether by the substitution of a Council of State, and that this plot is to be perfected with Queen Christina at the city of Arranjuez.

Queen Isabella, accompanied by her sister and her ministers, left Madrid, on the 6th, for Aranjuez, where she is to meet the Queen-mother. Among the preparations for the reception of Queen Christina in the capital was the erasure of all inscriptions relating to the revolution of September.

A conspiracy is said to have been discovered at Madrid, the object of which was to place some fulminating powder and other combustibles in the road through which the Queen-mother and her daughters would make their entry into the capital. Several arrests have taken place, and a depot of arms and ammunition has been discovered.

The expedition against Morocco, if ever really intended, has been abandoned altogether.

At the last accounts Roncali was making active preparations to attack Carthage on the 15th ult.; and Madrid letters of the 21st say that hostilities had actually commenced. Arrests and executions have taken place at Barcelona; and a Carlist conspiracy is said to have been discovered and suppressed at Talla.

PORTUGAL.

According to the letters of the 7th instant, the little revolution is in a state of stagnation. Count Bomfim was besieged in Almeida with 400 men; five generals surrounded the town with rather a numerous force, but they were unprovided with guns; and the factious chroniclers say, that the besieged and besiegers could only spit at each other. Bomfim had magniloquently declared that he would rather perish in the ruins of Almeida than surrender, out a battering train, on its way from Lisbon, was expected to alter his tone.

The papers subsequently received assert that the fort of Almeida, held by Count Bomfim, had surrendered; but the Lisbon papers of the 20th ultimo make no mention of the fact, and are barren of any news about the revolution.

PRUSSIA.

The German papers announce, that the Prussian Government has completed its full adhesion to the Russian, by the renewal of the Carrel convention, which stipulates the restitution of all deserters to Russia.

ITALY.

Letters from Leghorn, of the 16th ult., say that the situation of central Italy is becoming every day more critical; and secret agitation prevailing in the Legation, has induced Cardinal Spinola, the Legate of Bologna, suddenly to resign his post. Naples, Rome, and Sardinia, are entirely increasing their forces. From Naples, on the 11th, we learn that some persons of note had been arrested,—two brothers of high family, named Pepe, with Signor Poerio, and another gentleman, whose name is called in the French papers Bozelli de Augustines. The charge against them is, that they had promulgated liberal opinions, and advocated the establishment of a constitution. Just before, there had been a rumour that the King intended to grant a constitution to his subjects! The same letters mention a revolt at Cozenza, in Calabria, between the people and the troops. The people had attacked the residence of the Prefect and the barracks, and several lives had been lost on both sides. The conflict was not over when the messenger left Cozenza. The King had ordered the immediate departure of reinforcements.

Letters from Smyrna, of the 29th February, state that the son of the Austrian Admiral, Bandiera, commanding the naval station of the Levant, who was also aide-de-camp to his father, had suddenly disappeared from Smyrna, and that down to the date of those accounts, he had not been heard of. He was known to have gone in an open boat, accompanied by one servant; and was reported to have fled because of his being implicated in the conspiracy of Jeanne Italic.