

European News.

From British Papers to the 4th of July, received by the Steamer *Hibernia*.

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

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

The passing of the Sugar Duties Bill in the British House of Commons has afforded much satisfaction; for, whilst even a shadow of doubt remains on such like questions, it is uniformly more or less injurious to business. Less injury has, indeed, been produced by suspense in the present instance than in similar cases, because it is concluded that no greater addition to the quantity of sugar is likely to be obtained for the remainder of the present year, than the improved condition of the people may reasonably be expected to increase the consumption. No immediate decline of prices is therefore contemplated at present, whilst the measure, as proposed by Ministers, and now certain of being carried into a law, will tend to prevent any undue advance in the price, a result which would otherwise have been certain to occur in the course of the year. Such is the view taken of the question by competent judges, uninfluenced by any political prejudice predilection to one side more than another.

Another troublesome subject has been got rid of for this session, viz., the annual anti-corn-law motion brought forward by Mr Villiers, and which was negatived, after two nights' debate, by a majority of 204.

The Bank Charter Bill has also made considerable progress, in spite of a large opposition.

The practice of opening letters at the Postoffice, which was brought before the House of Commons three weeks ago, has been again under discussion in both Houses of Parliament. In the former instance the practice was made public by a petition from Signor Mazzini, an Italian gentleman of high literary character, and an exile from the Lombardo Venetian Kingdom. Signor Mazzini asserts, that from sixty to seventy letters, addressed to him, have been opened since the beginning of March last; that while residing in London, in perfect security and good faith, the *Augsburg Gazette*, four months ago, announced, by apparent authority, that he was living under the surveillance of the London police, and he has since found that during all this time his letters were opened at the Postoffice. The second case was that of a Polish exile, who states in his petition that his letters have also been opened, and denies, like Signor Mazzini, that the correspondence contained anything to warrant such espionage. In both instances it is asserted, that in opening the letters every care had been taken to avoid suspicion; that impressions had been taken from the seals; that with these impressions the opened letters had been resealed, and that the cut was made so clean, that a microscope was necessary to discover it. In addition to these cases a rumour was mentioned by Captain Bernal, in the course of the debate, and not contradicted that the Irish correspondence was habitually violated; and a general impression is abroad that the practice has been in operation for a considerable period, and has been extensively used by Sir James Graham since his appointment to the Home-office. In the course of the debate Ministers defended themselves by relying on an act of Parliament, which gives authority to the Secretary of State to issue warrants for opening letters; but they declined to give any explanation of the circumstances which led to the exercise of this power on the recent occasions. On the other hand, the practice was denounced by men of all parties as un-English and odious; and, among others, by the Lord Chief Justice, who declared that it is not a question of expediency or inexpediency, but a question of right or wrong; and that a power so exercised as to involve not merely concealment, but something very like forgery, is so odious, that it cannot be endured without modification.

The accounts from all parts of the country for some weeks past have given sad reports of the failure of the hay harvest; but within the present week or two rain appears to have fallen abundantly in the provinces, and to have refreshed the land, which had been previously parched up by the continued drought, and the growing crops of grain, potatoes, turnips, &c., are expected to recover.

Very favourable statements are in circulation relative to the produce of the

venue in the quarter, which has all but arrived at a conclusion. If these turn out to be correct on the publication of the official returns, it will demonstrate the correctness of the views recently taken by commercial writers, that the mercantile, the manufacturing, and the trading classes—in fact all the great interests of the country, are in a process of general improvement. The surplus revenue, it is not much expected, will exceed that announced at the close of the last financial year. The investments by the commissioners for the reduction of the national debt will, it is said, be shortly upon a more extensive scale than during the present quarter, a large sum having been laid out recently of the surplus revenue in making Exchequer Bills out of circulation.

The unexpected arrival of the Indian and China intelligence in anticipation of the regular mail, has formed the principal topic of interest. The dates are from Bombay to the 20th of May, from Calcutta to the 11th, and from Hong Kong to the 10th of April. Profound peace prevails in all the British provinces of India and nothing has occurred to interrupt our friendly relation with the celestial empire. The Punjab is still the theatre of a cruel civil war; but there seems to be no probability of the British interests being in any way affected by it. Sir H. Hardinge was expected at Alexandria on the 21st ult.

The political intelligence from India has excited no surprise, for since the account of the first butcheries in Lahore, their continuance has been very generally considered a matter of course, until they are terminated by the interference of our Indian government, which has since been looked upon as involving merely a question of time.

The Irish state trials will now again be a leading topic of interest, the Lord Chancellor having directed the judges to be summoned to attend in the House of Lords this day, in order to hear the arguments in the pending writs of error. A few days ago the Mayor and aldermen of Dublin appeared at the bar of the House of Commons to present a petition from the Corporation of that city, on the subject of the recent trial and imprisonment of Mr. O'Connell and the other traversers. An address on the same subject had been previously presented by the deputation to the Queen upon the throne, and her Majesty had declared in reply that any errors in the late proceedings would be rectified by the Supreme Court of Appeal, and that she was resolved to respect the decisions of her courts of law.

Lord Heytesbury has been chosen to succeed Earl De Grey as Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. The party organs opposed to the present Ministers admit that look to the range of choice, this is an unexceptionable a nomination as they could have made. The negative qualities of the veteran diplomatist qualify him to a certain extent for the appointment, and of no serious disturbance occur during his viceroyalty, he will probably discharge it with credit to himself. Nor are there, it must be admitted, any indications of immediate outbreak. There are however, symptoms enough of an active fermentation under the surface. The "O'Connell tribute" for 1844 mounts up to a figure (£50,000 has been named) that this national impost never before reached. One repeal journal talks of a "solemn and impressive demonstration as in contemplation in relation to the incarceration" of Mr. O'Connell; and another adds, that "all the archbishops, bishops, clergy and Catholic laity of Ireland will join." On the other side, the Orange leaders appear to be sorely tasked to keep their followers in hand. They are addressing the Orangemen "with most petitionary vehemence;" reminding them that the Procession Act does not expire till the 1st of August; that "one trial yet awaits them before the expiration;" and imploring them to abstain from processions for this year only.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

In the Commons, on the motion for going into committee on the Bank Charter Bill, Mr. Muntz moved that the bill should be committed on that day six months. The amendment was rejected by 205 to 18.—Mr. F. Duncombe moved for a committee to inquire into the opening of certain letters at the post-office by the authority of the Home Secretary. The motion was resisted by Government, and after a long and warm debate, negatived by 206 to 152.

The latter subject was again brought before the House of Lords on Tuesday evening, the 25th, when the Earl of Radnor moved for a copy of the warrant of the Secretary of State by which the proceeding was authorised. The Duke of

Wellington opposed the motion, which, after some animated discussion, was withdrawn; Lord Radnor promising to renew it in another shape on a future occasion.

The principal business in the House of Commons was Mr. Villier's motion for a Repeal of the Corn Laws. Mr. Ferrand proposed an amendment in which nearly the words of Mr Villiers's motion were adopted, with the substitution of *machinery* for the *corn law* as the alleged cause of distress, and a recommendation of protection to native industry as its cure. Mr. Gladstone, however on the part of Government, met the original motion with a direct negative; and, after two night's debate, it was negatived, by 328 to 124.

In the Peers, on Thursday, the 27th, the Marquis of Clanricarde brought under consideration the working of the new Poor Law in Ireland, and moved for papers connected therewith, for the purpose of throwing light upon the subject, which were ordered.

In the Commons, on the motion for the then reading of the Sugar Duties Bill, another discussion arose on the question of slave labour, and the right of the Colonies to protection. The bill was read a third time and passed.—On the motion for going into committee on the Bank Charter Bill, Sir Robert Peel, in reply to a question, stated that when Parliament should have affirmed the principals respecting the currency of England contained in this measure then the government would apply themselves, after friendly communication with the parties interested in the banking establishments of Scotland and Ireland, to frame and bring forward measures for the regulation of the currency of those kingdoms similar to the measure now before the house, and which, upon the whole, had met with such general concurrence.

The Commons were occupied chiefly with the Dissenters' Chapel Bill, on the motion for the 3d reading. Mr. Colquhoun moved and Sir Robert Inglis seconded, that the bill be read a third time that day six months. For the third reading, 201; against it 81; majority for the Bill, 120. It was then passed.

In the House of Commons Sir Robert Peel intimated that it was the intention of the Government to preserve with the Bank Charter Bill, and to carry one not yet introduced, for the regulation of future joint stock banks; also, to preserve with the Poor Law Amendment Bill, the Railways Regulation Bill, the Savings Banks Bill, the Presbyterian Marriages Bill, and some others, to which they did not anticipate much opposition. Upon the County Courts Bills they would reserve themselves, until after the decision of the House of Lords on the subject of imprisonment for debt. It was not intended to proceed with the Irish Registration Bill, nor with its companion, the Irish Municipal Corporation Bill. Neither was it intended to go on with the Ecclesiastical Courts Bill. A bill would, however be introduced respecting the jurisdiction of the House in contested elections, in accordance with the recommendation of the committee on that subject.

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

A good business was done in London last week in most kinds of foreign and colonial produce, but not so much as during the previous week, when the amount was almost unprecedented in many leading articles, owing to holders being anxious to sell in consequence of the large imports. The public sales have been very extensive, and owing to the great stocks, they have been forced, and lower prices have ruled. Most of the business has been *bona fide*. The exports have increased, and the imports have decreased. We have had influential commercial news, except from India and China, which is considered rather unfavourable to the manufacturing interests, and the business advertised onward is to a fair extent. The staple markets continue in a healthy state generally, especially in cotton and wool, and the manufacturing districts seem to be prospering. Although a large amount of money has been just now invested in merchandize, still it is as plentiful as ever.

IRELAND.

The Repeal Agitation.—At a weekly meeting of the Repeal Association, on Monday week, Mr. J. H. Talbot, late M. P. for New Ross, presided. The Rev. Mr. Sheehan, of Waterford, read an address to Mr. O'Connell from the Roman Catholic Bishop and clergy of the diocese of Waterford and Lismore, and handed in £107 as their subscription; for which a vote of thanks was of course given them. Various "deputations" from different parts of the kingdom, loaded

with contributions, were presented. Among these figured Manchester with £325, Waterford with £107, London with £75 16s. 1d., and Scotland sent £134. The "rent" of the week amounted altogether to 3,178. One of the orators estimated the time of the meeting as worth £15 per minute.

The repealers met on Monday, as usual, in the Conciliation hall, Valentine Maher, Esq., M. P., in the chair. The receipt of several large sums of money having been announced, Mr O'Neil Deunt stated, as a proof of Mr. O'Connell's diminished influence, that he had been nominated Lord Mayor elect on that day by the Corporation of Dublin. Mr. O'Connell had declined the offer, but the moral effect was the same, and the fact showed the futility of the measure taken by government to extinguish his influence. A letter was read from Mr. Luke Shea; a justice of the peace for the county of Cork, inclosing a subscription of £3 to the funds of the association, and requested to be proposed a member. Several other new members were proposed and admitted. It is expected that the rent for the week will considerably exceed £2,000.

The London Standard says:—We have reason to believe that the appointment of Lord Heytesbury as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, has been all but definitively settled.

Sunday the 28th July, has been fixed by the Roman Catholic Prelates in Dublin, "as a day of general humiliation and prayer among the Catholic population of Ireland," on account of O'Connell's imprisonment.

The Galway Vindicator announces a horrid occurrence near Gort, on Friday week. Peter Larkin, a pensioner, with a razor, murdered his two sons while sleeping; cut the breast off his daughter, a young woman since dead; and attempted the life of his wife; but some of his neighbours, hearing the noise, rushed in and seized him.

Mr. Corbally, one of the Members for the County of Meath, has refused to attend the Conciliation Hall meetings, at the dictation of a meeting of his constituents at Trim.

The following Magistrates have been suspended, on grounds connected with the Repeal movement. Morgan John O'Connell, Esq., M. P., county of Kerry; Thomas S. Coppinger, Esq., County of Cork; and Cornelius O'Brien, of do.

There seems to be some misgiving in the Provinces as to the propriety of allocating the repeal funds in the manner in which they have been hitherto appropriated. The Limerick Reporter (a furious Repealer) suggests the advantage of applying at least a portion of the funds to the payment of professional persons to attend to the registries, and indeed broadly hints at the absence of "determination" to achieve repeal.

There have been four meetings of the Association since the sentence upon Mr. O'Connell, and the following are the weekly returns:—

June 3	£2,600
June 10	3,100
June 17	3,389
June 24	3,179

His Excellency Earl de Grey will leave Ireland on or about the 15th July.

OVERLAND MAIL.

INDIA AND CHINA.

The principal intelligence brought by the Indian mail of the 20th May relates to the state of the Punjab, which appears now to be more distracted than ever. A bloody fight is stated to have taken place on the 7th May, between Heera Singh, present the Prime Minister, and the party of the sons of Runjeet Singh, who are opposed to him, led on by the Iture Singh, a chief of considerable influence. In September last, when Ajeet Singh had murdered the then king, Shere Singh, and the Prime Minister Dhyaan Singh, he was himself slain in a fight with Heera Singh, who avenged the death of his father, Dhyaan, by ordering all the family of Ajeet to be butchered. One boy of 9 years was allowed to live, and an uncle, name Itur or Utter Singh, escaped into the Sikh states, protected by the British. After seven months residence, he went back on the 30th of April, and joined the party under Cashmeera Singh and Peshora Singh, both sons (though of minor rank) of old Runjeet Singh. They proceeded to attack Heera Singh, and a bloody conflict took place, in which Heera was said to have been wounded: Itur Singh was considered by some of the partisans of Heera as being supported by the British, and they therefore have threatened to invade the territories of the latter, to revenge themselves on those who had countenanced the proceedings of Itur Singh.

The threatened movement of the no-