

exciting appearance. The sons of Burns, we believe, arrived at their aunt's, Mrs. Beggs, who resides in the neighbourhood of Ayr, on Monday. Lord Eglintoun, Professor Wilson, and many other distinguished individuals, arrived during the day. The committee sent invitations to the most distinguished literary characters but, strange to say, the numbers who accepted were very few indeed.

At earliest dawn, flags were floating from the more prominent points of Ayr; while the ships in the harbour were decorated with their colours. The banners of the various masonic bodies were also exhibited from their respective lodges.

At the town end of Ayr, the Tam o' Shanter Inn—believed to be the veritable house referred to in the tale, where the Souther and Tam held their weekly jollifications, on the market days—a magnificent Gothic structure, of three arches, spanned the street, the whole interwoven with branches of trees, evergreens, and flowers, and surrounded with the appropriate device of Tam o' Shanter and Souther Johnnie seated at their reaming swats that drank divinely. The place allotted for marshalling the procession, was a large common, called the Low Green, to the South of Ayr, near the beach. When fully marshalled, the immense body moved onwards, the bands striking up the well known air of "A man's a man for a' that." The procession was formed three deep, and extended nearly a mile in length. As they proceeded, the bands played the national airs of "Green grows the rushes," "My love she's but a lassie yet."

The procession occupied at least an hour in passing from the New Bridge to the field, on entering which the bands played 'Duncan Grey,' followed by 'The Banks of Aberfeldy.' There were two enclosures for dancing—one towards the head of the field, and the other at the brow overlooking the water of the Doon. Immediately after the procession, the crowd was astonished by the appearance of Tam o' Shanter, 'weel mounted on his grey mare Meg,' and a flight of witches in full pursuit of him. Tam approached from the plantation near the cottage, and jogging along the road, put spurs to his 'noble Maggie' opposite the 'auld haunted kirk,' when out the hellish legion sallied. Maggie, of course, reached the key stone of the brig in safety, but there she left behind her 'ain grey tail.' The enactment of this characteristic interlude created much amusement. The company began to enter the pavilion almost immediately after the close of the procession; and the chair was soon after taken. The pavilion when all were seated, had a splendid appearance—more like a banquet in fairy land than a thing of real life. The chairman, the Earl of Eglintoun was supported on either hand by Robert Burns, Esquire, late of the Stamps and Taxes, Somerset house, eldest son of the poet; Major Burns, youngest son of the poet; Miss Begg, niece of the poet; Colonel Burns, second son of the poet; and other relations. The speeches were appropriate to the occasion, and the evening was spent in perfect harmony.

London Pictorial Times, Aug. 17.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

SPAIN.—We have received Madrid papers of the 6th, but their contents and unimportant. Arrests are going on, and every day added to the number of unfortunates immured in prisons. The prosecutions against the liberal papers were carried on with great virulence, and it was expected that the 'Eco del Comercio' would be obliged to succumb under the enormous expenses. The Queen and her sister have again partially recovered from the indisposition under which they were labouring.

POLAND.—The inundation.—The accounts received from Poland, give most deplorable descriptions of the damage done by the inundations of the Vistula and other rivers. There had been incessant rain for more than six weeks, and the damage already done was immense. From Schwetz, it is said, on the 30th July, 'Our town is situated at the junction of the Schwarzwasser and the Vistula, generally suffers every year from high water in the spring and at midsummer, when the snow and ice on the Carpathian are melted. At these seasons we sometimes have inundations of the lower grounds, which cause much loss and distress, but we have never witnessed such scenes as yesterday and to-day. The water is rushing in torrents through the streets; and in most parts of the town only the roofs of the houses are visible from which the inmates are in vain calling for help. The rain is pouring down in torrents, and our town is a river. In the neighbouring villages the inhabitants have fled to the tops of the hills.'

on the roofs of their houses are anxiously looking for assistance which we cannot give them. July 31, 8 a. m.—Most of the houses have been unable to withstand the element which undermined them. The chimneys fall, the walls burst, on every side are cries of distress and the crash of falling houses, the inmates of which are difficult to save. Thousands are in imminent danger, but the common distress excites the humane to do everything possible to relieve it. The want of provisions is severely felt; the bakers' ovens, and the shops of the tradespeople are all under water. July 31, 10 a. m. The water does not rise higher, but a furious storm rages, which drives the water in vast waves against the houses, the foundations of which are already shaken, and threatens the whole town with destruction. One third of it is already laid waste, and lies in ruins beneath the water. The accounts from Kirlin state that the Vistula is risen to a greater height than at any time during the last hundred years. It is impossible to say how many thousand villages may be inundated by this mighty river in its long course from Cracow to Dantzic. Above and below Galon, one hundred towns and villages are as in a sea, and the inhabitants have been forced to take refuge on the roofs, on trees, and on some neighbouring hills.

MOROCCO.—The latest news is pacific. The French papers afford the following telegraphic despatch:—"Gibraltar, the evening of the 5th.—The Government has just received news from Mr Hay. The Emperor, he states, has granted to France and Spain the just satisfaction which they have demanded. Mr Hay is expected at Tangiers to-morrow evening. The French fleet is at this moment preparing to sail from Tangiers to Gibraltar.

TAHITI.—The French ministerial papers have almost ceased to talk of the affair of Tahiti, and the tone even of the Opposition papers has become more subdued as regards England, although it continues to launch out with undiminished bitterness against M. Guizot and his supporters. The Paris "Globe," M. Guizot's paper, contains an article, in which it makes a very candid admission of the immense importance of Morocco to England. It admits, to, that England has good grounds to look with great jealousy on all the aggressions of France in that quarter; but says that, during the proceedings against the Emperor, no difference existed between France and England, because the English Cabinet says that France had justice on her side.

THE FRENCH AT THE GAMBIE ISLANDS.—The following letter (says Galignani of Monday) from the Gambier Islands of February 25th, giving an account of the Group by France, though not of so late a date as we have received intelligence from Oceania, will be read with interest. It is published by the *Vigie de l'Ouest*:—"Occupied in the pearl fishery in the waters of the Gambier Islands, or Manga Riva, we were visited by the frigate La Charte, which, on her way to Tahiti, came to establish the protectorate of France over those islands, the soil of which offers but few resources, but of which the shores afford several good harbours. Our missionaries, during their long establishment in these parts, have converted the islanders to the Catholic faith, and the Chiefs have demanded the protection of France; which has been granted by Admiral Dupetit Thouars accordingly, who gave instructions to the Charte on the subject. At dawn on February 17th, the frigate was dressed in all her flags, and sent on shore a company of infantry and two companies of artillery, which reached the land at eight o'clock, with their colours flying and band playing. The officers of the frigate landed, and were received by the missionaries with a guard of honour. The whole forming a procession, moved to the church, where mass was performed. In the mean time the islanders, amounting to 3000, were both astonished and delighted with the sounds of the music and the variety of the uniforms of the soldiers. We, on our parts, were equally surprised at hearing them sing in chorus the *Domine salvum fac Regem*, and other chants. After mass a tricoloured flag, after receiving the benediction, was hoisted, on a mast raised by the carpenters of the ship and was saluted with acclamations of "Vive le Roy de Français!" from the natives, as well as the French who were present. The Charte fired the usual salute, and the day was concluded with a joyous banquet given by Captain Peneau, of the frigate, to the missionaries and his own officers. If I am asked what is said here of our establishments in those parts, I answer, that those to the south-eastmost of the Marquesas appear to give general satisfaction; but this is

not the case at Houka Hiva, where our poor soldiers have suffered greatly.

ABDICACION OF MEHEMET ALI.

We have received the following intelligence by express. It reached Paris by telegraphic despatch on Tuesday:

Alexandria, July 27.

His Highness the Viceroy has just suddenly left Alexandria, declaring that he renounces for ever Egypt and public affairs, and that he retires to Mecca.

Ibrahim is at Alexandria. The city is quiet.

The Abdication or the death of Mehemet Ali is no longer an event of great importance. The occurrences of 1840 and 1841 having secured the succession to the Egyptian pachalic in the family of Mehemet Ali, we are fortunately saved from the difficulties which would have arisen had the right to appoint remained with the Porte, while the resources of the country were in the energetic hands of such a chief as Ibrahim.

Yet the abdication of Mehemet Ali is not without a certain immediate interest for Europe. It is not simply the withdrawal from active life of one of the most remarkable men of the present age. The announcement that the Pacha intended "to retire to Mecca" looks as if the old man had thoughts of preparing for his final pilgrimage. But all our most recent accounts state that his health and his intellect were yet unimpaired, and it is well known that although Mehemet Ali had a high respect for the holy Cities as a source of tribute, and as affording by their possession unbounded influence over the faithful, yet by his opinions, his conduct, and his associations, the Pacha was a living scandal to all true believers.

INDIA.—The Locusts in India have visited many parts of India and Central Africa, both this year and the last, in fearful numbers. They have, to all appearance, confined themselves to the western districts, not extending further east than Mirzapore, and further south than Elichpore, in the Dekkan. We have heard of them in Bombay, on the banks of the Nerbudda, at Deesa, in the desert, throughout Rajpootana, Malwa, and Meywar, along the banks of the Ganges and the Jumna, and in frightful numbers along the range of the Himalayan mountains. Their ravages this year, fortunately been limited, as they are constantly on the wing, and the old crops are mostly off the ground, and the new ones only just sowing; but in the Punjab, at Peshawur, and especially along the valley of Jellalabad, and even across the mountains to Cabool, their ravages are represented to have been of the most terrific description; at the latter place they are said to have devoured every green herb, and to have caused such a dearth of grain, that famine prices were resorted to by the merchants to counteract the drain on their stores.

IRELAND.—The State Trials.—The following appears on the minutes of business in the House of Lords:—"Gray v. the Queen (writ of error) O'Connell and others v. the Queen, (writ of error) to be considered on Monday, the 2nd September next, at ten o'clock; and the judges then to attend to deliver their opinions upon the questions of law propounded to them.

The usual weekly meeting of the Repeal Association, was held on Monday, in the Conciliation Hall. Mr Daniel O'Connell acknowledged the receipt of several remittances, and then said he had to make his usual weekly return from the prison. He was happy to be able to inform the association, that the imprisoned martyrs were in good health, and most excellent spirits, enjoying the glorious fact of the perfect tranquillity of Ireland throughout its entire extent. Mr Smith O'Brien announced the rent for the week, £946 17s.

CHINA—HONG-KONG.

A letter has just been received from the Vixen, steam-frigate, dated Hong-Kong, 7th April, giving an account of a most daring attack by a Chinese piratical junk, manned with about twenty Ladroons, on the night of the 2d of April, upon a small schooner lying about three hundred yards from the Vixen. When they got on board they first made two Europeans and a Chinese boy fast to the rigging, and then began to gut the vessel of her anchors, chains, rigging, and every thing they could lay their hands on; and while below the boy not having been made properly fast, got loose, and immediately untied the two men's hands and while the confusion was going on below—jumped into the ship's boat and made for the Vixen. During this time the pirates quitted the schooner and stood for Green Island, with full sail. In a few seconds the boats of the Vixen were manned and armed, and dashed through

the waves in gallant style in pursuit. The pirates finding the boats cutting them off from the shore, altered their course for West Point, about two miles from the town of Hong-Kong. The pirates ran the junk upon a rock close to the shore, and upset her; they all made for the shore; the Vixen's boats soon landing at the same place. The crews had fine sport in scudding up the mountains after them. Ten were taken prisoners that night, and five the next day. The whole of them were committed to take their trial at the next Assizes; they stand a good chance of all being hanged. Great praise is due to the officers and men for their expertness in manning the boats and chasing the pirates up the mountains. Hong-Kong is terribly infested with pirates. Several vessels have been recently plundered.

VISIT OF THE KING OF THE FRENCH.

The 7th or 9th of September were the periods which had been arranged, a fortnight ago, for the arrival of his Majesty the King of the French in this country, upon a visit to the Queen. The visit of his Majesty will now take place a week later than the time originally fixed upon, in consequence of the accouchement of our Sovereign not having occurred so early as had been anticipated at the period of the original arrangement being made. The French monarch, who will embark, it is expected, at Dieppe, in a French man of war, and will be accompanied by another seventy-four gun ship, and a small fleet of steamers, will land at Portsmouth, and travel by the South Western railway, en route to Windsor Castle, to the Farnborough station, where the royal carriages will be in waiting to convey his Majesty and suite to Windsor. The same apartments (and also some additional state rooms) at the castle, which were occupied by the King of Prussia at the christening of the Prince of Wales, and by the Emperor of Russia during the Ascot race week, will be prepared for the reception of the King of French and his Majesty's numerous suite. They will be splendidly furnished and embellished; indeed, no pains or expense will be spared at the palace of the the English Sovereign, to receive the king of the French in a manner worthy of the Queen of this empire—worthy alike of her Majesty's royal and illustrious guest. A review, upon a great scale, during the King's short visit at Windsor (which is not expected to be prolonged beyond a week or ten days), to take place in the Great Park, has already been spoken of. It is now rumoured that several infantry regiments will be encamped in the Park, and that not less than from fifteen to twenty cavalry and infantry regiments, with a park of artillery and field batteries, will be present at this intended magnificent military spectacle. Banquets will take place in St. George's Hall and the Waterloo Chamber, to be followed by state balls and grand evening parties. Preparations have already been commenced at the Roman Catholic chapel at Clewer, about a mile from Windsor, for the accommodation of his Majesty and suite. It was at first arranged for pews to be constructed for the King and suite, but it is now, we understand, contemplated to add a wing to the edifice, open to one side of the interior of the chapel, and to be appropriated exclusively for the accommodation of his Majesty and attendants, this plan will be carried into effect in the event of there being sufficient time to complete it before the arrival of the royal visitor to the Queen. There is very little doubt that the christening of the infant prince will take place during his Majesty's visit at Windsor. Indeed, it has been stated that the King of the French will be one of the sponsors (it is supposed, if so, by proxy, his Majesty being a Roman Catholic) to the last born prince of the house of Brunswick. It is not expected that his Majesty will visit the metropolis during his short stay in England, but remain the whole time at the royal residence at Windsor.

From Charles Willmer's American News Letter, August 20.

In the Commons, Mr. Hawes brought under the consideration of the House the petition of merchants and importers of deals and other woods; presented on the 22d of July last. He stated that the timber trade was suffering under great depression in consequence of the alterations made in the late tariff.—Mr. Gladstone trusted, at this late period of the session, the hon. member for Lambeth would not persevere with any motion on the subject. He could assure the House, although the alteration of the duty in the first instance caused a temporary loss to the revenue, it was now every