

SUPPLEMENT

TO
THE GLEANER OF MARCH 27.

European News.

From British Papers to the 5th of March, received per Steamship Caledonia.

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

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Well! the Irish trials have at length been concluded, and each of the Traversers has been found guilty of the charge preferred against him by the Government, but as yet the country is ignorant as to the mode or extent of punishment to be awarded—sentence being deferred until next term. In the mean time a thousand rumours and speculations are hazarded, as to what effect the trial will have upon the condition of Ireland, and the future movement of the Repealers. Some incline to the belief that no punishment will be inflicted, and contend that the moral effect will, on that account, be greater than the greatest torture—that the government, in instituting the prosecutions, did so, not so much with the intention of punishment, as to try the legality of the Repeal Meetings, and having succeeded in obtaining a verdict, are content to pass over what has already occurred, being in a position to stop at once any further proceedings. Others contend that the conduct of O'Connell during the next few months will determine the question of punishment—that if mild and subdued in his tone, no further notice will be taken of the matter. But all these opinions are merely speculative. In the mean time Mr. O'Connell has, on behalf of himself and his companions, protested against the verdict, and has intimated that so soon as sentence shall have been passed, he will have the matter submitted to the whole body of Judges in Ireland, and that, if their decision should be unfavourable, he will appeal to the house of Lords, before he will submit. If we might hazard an opinion, we should say, that he will be spared all this trouble—for in our opinion, no punishment will be inflicted—and particularly if matters should progress as quietly as they have done since the conclusion of the trials—for the whole country, which was in a state of the utmost excitement before, is now as calm as an unruffled lake. The trials lasted twenty-five days!

A glance at our Parliamentary summary will show, that so far, our wise Legislature has been very busy "doing nothing."—There has been much talk, but no business done. Nine nights were consumed in a fruitless discussion upon the condition of Ireland. The debate was brought up by Lord John Russell, introducing a resolution calling upon the Government for the immediate adoption of measures for the amelioration of the condition of the people of Ireland. As a display of eloquence the debate proved most successful, but the result was, a rejection of the resolution, and a triumph for the Ministry, although all the speakers, including Sir Robert Peel, admitted that it was highly necessary that something should be done. Mr O'Connell was present during the

debate, and made a very eloquent appeal in behalf of his country.

The Anti corn Law League continues to hold weekly meetings, at the Covent Garden Theatre, in London, and have "gatherings" in other parts of the country almost daily, but the speeches made at these assemblages attract but little attention, being drowned by the "importance" of the Parliamentary proceedings.

The anti-league gains strength rapidly, and has acquired considerable stability by the establishment, in the Metropolis, of the "Metropolitan Society for the protection of British Agriculture," of which the Duke of Richmond has been appointed president, and the Duke of Buckingham vice president. It is the intention of this body to use the same weapons of war as the anti corn Law League, namely, the raising of funds, the holding of meetings, the printing and distribution of pamphlets, and so forth.—We shall now have "war" to the knife.

The death of Prince Albert's father has thrown the Court into seclusion at Windsor. The only visitor during the last month was the Duchess of Kent. The privacy of the Queen has had a serious effect upon trade in the Metropolis.

Some excitement was caused in London, in the early part of last week, by the receipt of intelligence stating, that the French Admiral Thouars, had seized Tahiti, but subsequent accounts acquaint us that the conduct of the Admiral had not received the sanction of the French Government, and the excitement has subsided.

COMMERCIAL.

There is no change worth posting in the tone of commercial matters since we issued our last publication. Trade in the manufacturing districts continues brisk, and the steadiness which pervades the Liverpool cotton market is calculated to give solidity to the evidently improved feeling which pervades all classes of manufacturers. The business done in our cotton market during the past month has been to a fair extent, and in prices there has been little or no variation. Considerable attention is at present directed to the corn trade, and the value of all descriptions of grain is in advance; the weather being at present rather unfavourable for the farmer. The one of the London Money Market is healthy, and money continues abundant. Bills are readily discounted at two per cent.

IRELAND.

The trials of Mr O'Connell and others have been concluded, and each of the Traversers has been found guilty, but the sentences have been deferred until next term. In the meantime Mr O'Connell has made his way up to London and taken his seat in the House of Commons. The state of affairs in Ireland is somewhat changed since the verdict was given. There is less excitement, and apparently a disposition on the part of the leading repealers to get out of the front ranks. The Repeal Association, however, still continue to hold their weekly meetings at the

Conciliation Hall. At the meeting on the 19th ult., Tom Steele in the chair, Mr W. S. O'Brien, M. P., proposed a petition to Parliament, setting forth the facts connected with the late state trials, for general adoption. The motion was carried unanimously, and it was ordered that copies should be sent to every parish in Ireland for signature. Another measure adopted was the severance of all connexion between the association and the arbitration courts, and a recommendation to settle among themselves the disputes and differences by arbitrators, to be in each case chosen by the parties themselves, without any reference whatsoever to the Ropeal Association.

At the meeting on the 26th, the chair was occupied by John O'Connell, Esq., M. P. He addressed the meeting at considerable length, expressing his gratitude to the people of England for the deep feeling of sympathy which they had manifested towards the Traversers, and the feeling of indignation which had been stirred up by the unfair conduct of government toward them. He was not prepared for such a manifestation of manly English feeling. He referred to the reception of his father at the Anti Corn Law League meeting, which was the most enthusiastic he ever witnessed in his life. He rapidly reviewed the progress of the Irish debate, and concluded by observing, that as the Liberal members of the Imperial Parliament were powerless to carry their good wishes into effect, they must still exert themselves to carry Repeal by every lawful means left them. A letter was read from Mr D. O'Connell, in which the same sentiments were expressed, and concluded by stating, that as the course of the debate showed that Ireland had nothing to hope but from the restoration of her own Parliament, they should continue with renewed efforts to carry peacefully that object. The meeting was also addressed by Smith O'Brien, and Thomas Steele, Esqrs. Several sums of money were handed in, amongst which was £200 from New Brunswick, and £42 from places in the United States—the whole weeks rent exceeding £600. The meeting then adjourned.

The Repeal Press in Dublin.—One of the effects of the late exposition of the law of conspiracy by the Attorney General of Ireland, and which has been confirmed by the finding of the jury, has been, that the proprietors of the Dublin Repeal papers have formally sent in their resignations as members of the Repeal Association. This will be joyful intelligence to the proprietors of provincial papers of similar politics, most of which were literally swamped in their circulation by the gratuitous distribution through the country of the Weekly Freeman, Nation, and Pilot. One of the oldest radical papers in Ireland, the Waterford Chronicle, actually sunk under the pressure, and in a vain struggle against the principle of "free trade," in newspapers, gave up the ghost after an existence of fifty years.

Mr. O'Connell.—We learn, on what we consider good authority, that the Duke of Wellington is determined that Mr. O'Connell shall not be sent

to prison, believing that the moral effect of a conviction will be sufficient, and that punishment would be a useless piece of severity.—*Northern Whig.*

Military Occupation of Ireland.—The provincial journals continue their notices of the conveyance of large quantities of arms and ammunition to the different garrison towns, in pursuance of the system of military occupation of the country; the tory mode of governing Ireland in the nineteenth century. There are two war steamers, the Tartarus and the Stromboli, guarding the Kerry coast. The officers, having nothing else to do, have, as we learn from the *Kerry Examiner*, been passing their time very agreeably at balls and pleasure parties amongst the gentry in the vicinity.

The Lord Lieutenant.—The report has again obtained currency and belief that Lord de Grey has given in his resignation as Lord Lieutenant, and that it has been accepted by the Government. The latest London papers state that the report is true, and that his successor will be Lord Wharncliffe, who will have an earldom. Lord Elliot is to remain as Chief Secretary; but Mr. Lucas, the under Secretary, who has never worked cordially with Lord Elliot, is to go out with Lord de Grey, and will, it is said, be succeeded by Mr. Pennefather, the chief clerk in the Secretary's office. Mr. Pennefather, although the brother-in-law of Lord Glenall, appears to be almost as obnoxious to the Orange party as Lord Elliot himself.

The Shipping Trade to China and our Eastern Possessions.—In consequence of the great increase of our commerce with China, the East Indies and our Eastern Colonies, a large number of vessels are lying in the various docks, being in course of preparation for goods, to be forwarded to the above destinations. There are above eighty vessels which are announced at Lloyd's for dispatch, many of them of heavy burden, and sixteen carrying each above one thousand tons. Of this fleet of vessels one firm charters fourteen ships, amounting to 13,750 tons; another nine ships, carrying 8250 tons; another five ships, of a burden of 4,400 tons.

Bell's Weekly Messenger, Feb. 25.

THE DIVISION ON THE IRISH QUESTION.

The debate on Ireland is over. The House of Commons divided, when there appeared for Lord John Russell's motion, 225; against it, 324; Tery majority, 99. The act of justice demanded by the noble lord, the member for the city of London, in accordance with a sentiment expressed in the speech from the throne is refused: but will the refusal stifle these discontents that have been so forcibly adverted to in the course of the debate, and check the growing desire in Ireland for a separate legislature, and possibly, for a separation of the kingdoms? The motion of Lord John Russell had for its object the cementing of the Act of Union. The division yesterday morning has done more to weaken it than all the monster meetings that Mr O'Connell attended, and all the speeches of the conspirators, whom Sir W. Follett has declared will certainly be called up and punished with full severity. It is evident from this declaration of the Solicitor General that the existing government is determined upon ruling in Ireland by terror alone. It may offer a show of moderation, and make slight concessions [amounting to as much as the benefits derived by the people of this part of the kingdom from the new corn bill and the delusive