

fallacious. It is true, the whole face of nature teems with seeds of plants that come floating on the air, and are borne about and scattered by birds and animals and other means; but in situations where no transmission of this kind can occur, experiment has proved that there will be no vegetation, and that every plant must proceed from some seed or graft, or root of a parent plant. Malpighi procured a quantity of earth dug from a great depth, and enclosed it in a glass vessel whose mouth was covered over with several folds of silk, so as to admit air and water, but to exclude all such seeds as might come from without; the result was, that no plant grew from this earth. Mr. Keith performed a similar experiment. On 15th April, 1811, he procured a quantity of black clay taken from the depth of 100 feet, and exposed it into the action of the air and weather. It was placed upon a slate in one of the quarters of his garden. On the 15th of May, he placed upon another slate a similar quantity of earth taken from the depth of 150 feet under a hand-glass, which was only removed to give the earth an occasional watering. No symptoms of vegetation appeared in either the one or the other till the 3d of September following, when several plants were found springing from the surface of the exposed clay, and one also from the surface of the insulated clay. The former proved to be plants of the common groundsel, which was then coming up from seed over all the garden, and hence easily accounted for; the latter was a plant of *runculus scleratus*; the seed of which, he says, was undoubtedly brought to the clay along with the water it was watered with, which was procured from a neighbouring pond, around the edges of which the plant grew in profusion.

[To be continued.]

European News.

From British Papers to the 19th September, received by the Steamer Cambria.

Wilmer & Smith's European Times, September 19.

DOMESTIC.

The Queen has returned from her German tour; and, to cement still stronger the intimate personal friendship which has sprung up between her and Louis Philippe, she called, on her way home, at the Chateau d'Eu, and passed a night or two under the hospitable roof of the Citizen King. The meeting of the two monarchs on the shore at Treport is set forth with all the wordy minuteness of London letter-writers. A bathing-machine was the only available conveyance at hand for landing Queen Victoria on the dominions of her powerful neighbour, and in this frail thing of planks the "anointed" monarchs embraced, with a becoming sense of the ludicrous.

The Royal family are now snugly domiciled at Osborne House, in the Isle of Wight, and in a few days will return to their permanent quarters at Windsor. The Queen's continental trip occupied a month—one of the most extended periods of self-expatiation which history assigns to an English Sovereign.

Her stay is said to have terminated somewhat abruptly, in consequence of unconscious ambrage which a munificence, characterized as stunted, has given to the Plutus-loving Germans. The city of Cologne, to whose cathedral Queen Victoria on her visit contributed liberally, is offended with the donation, and talks of returning it. At all events, so hastily did Royalty retrace its steps, that some of the German Princes who had anticipated their resources by a desire to entertain the Queen, were not favored with a visit, and incurred needlessly an outlay which they can ill afford. Indeed, the intention of shaking hands with Louis Philippe on the way home, was an afterthought, formed only at the moment of starting. It would appear from this that the future excursions of the Court will be more circumscribed—not extending, probably, beyond the limits of the three kingdoms, except for the purpose of enabling the gallant Parisians next year to sit in judgment on the charms of the "Queen of the Isles." A niggardly disposition is not one of the Queen's failings; but the allowance to which she is limited by Parliament, with the many draws upon her purse, does not enable her to pave the streets of German cities with gold, and the imputation upon her liberality seems to be as ungenerous as it is uncalled for. One thing seems tolerably clear—that the visits were unconnected with politics, and had their origin solely in that frank and affectionate disposition which is characteristic of woman in every clime and station.

Descending from great things to small, from those who rule society to the means by which society lives, the disease amongst the potato crop is of far more relative importance than the complimentary visits of crowned heads, or the recognition of prescriptive privileges. The disease seems to be universal; it has attacked the esculent simultaneously in Great Britain, and on the European as it did last year on the American continent. Several suggestions have been thrown out for remedying the evil, the most practical of which has been put forth by a farmer of Dusseldorf; he recommends harrowing deeply the earth in which the tubercles are planted. This plan, it is said, will produce evaporation, by which the humidity caused by the fermentation will disappear. Considering how largely the potato enters into the food of man, an attack upon its vital properties is a calamity by which the whole human family must suffer in common. As an article of sustenance it even transcends in importance the staff of life—bread. In Ireland it forms the chief food of the people. Some districts have escaped the ravages of the disease, but the injury is too wide spread not to cause alarm. On the European continent the potato crop has been all but destroyed, and in Holland, Belgium, and the north of France, the most serious fears of a famine were entertained—so serious that the exportation of food was rigidly prohibited, and all duties on the importation of it rescinded. Amongst ourselves, notwithstanding the fine weather which Providence in his mercy has sent to preserve the grain crops, just as they were on the point of inevitable destruction, the price of every kind of corn has risen—influenced by the calamity which has overtaken the potato crop.

The Southwark election, upon which public attention has been fixed more or less intently during the last month, has terminated in the return of Sir William Molesworth. The other candidates were Mr. Pilcher, a Conservative, and Mr. Miall an extreme Liberal, who edits the *Nonconformist*, and was formerly, it appears, a Dissenting preacher.

Mr. O'Connell is still rusticating at Darrynane, from whence he issues his weekly missives to the Repealers in Conciliation hall. He is about emerging from his mountain home, to attend "monster" demonstrations in Kerry, Mayo, and Tipperary. In the meantime, he is exerting his powerful influence—a god-like work—in obliterating the wretched distinctions of caste and creed, by which his country is torn; he wishes the Repealers to become enamoured of the "Boyne water," and the other party tunes, which, from time immemorial, have marked the triumph of the dominant party. But his advances towards good-fellowship are far from being received in a corresponding spirit. The Orange party will not "listen to the voice of the charmer, charm, he ever so sweetly." At Killeshandra, in the county Cavan, the other day, a collision between the two races was only prevented by the presence of a powerful military force. The philanthropist, it is to be feared, will sigh in vain for the time when the sons of the same soil will sit in peace and brotherly love under their own fig-tree. O'Connell deserves credit—be his motives what they may—in hastening the consummation; and if to his other exploits he can succeed in fusing elements so discordant into harmony, he will have achieved the greatest of his triumphs—earned the noblest of his laurels.

COMMERCIAL.

The fine weather which prevailed at the date of our last publication continued uninterruptedly until Tuesday last. Since then the elements have changed, rain has fallen in torrents, and the mercury is still low. But the beautiful weather which has prevailed during the last two or three weeks has, in a great measure saved the crops; weather more propitious for harvest operations cannot be imagined, and in all directions the farmers have been taking advantage of it. A great deal of the outstanding wheat and oats have been sowed, and if the unfavourable change should continue, it cannot be productive of much serious injury. But the long-continued wet, and the absence of warmth, have operated injuriously upon the quality as well as the quantity of the new crops. The yield of the grain which has been thrashed out is light and of inferior quality, and the accounts from all parts of the country on this head are nearly uniform. We have passed through the ordeal better than could have been expected a month ago, but, owing to the inferiority of the present crops, and the almost general failure of the potato crops here and elsewhere, the grain markets all over the kingdom

have been rising of late. This state of things has been influenced, to some extent by the failure of the rice crop in Carolina, and by the drought which has injured more or less the crops in the Northern States; but mainly it is attributable to the general failure of the potato crop here and on the Continent, and to the inferiority of the present as compared with former years' grain. A glance at our market returns will show how far these combined causes have operated. The probability is, that good, if not high, prices will be obtained, during the ensuing winter, for most descriptions of food; and although matters would have been much worse if our home harvest had been less productive, a number of other circumstances—amongst them, the floods which have destroyed the wheat in the great corn fields of Northern Europe, the valleys of the Vistula and the Elbe—will operate to prevent cheap food during the next twelve months.

Railway speculation continues, nay, increase daily. Every twenty-four hours give birth to some new monstrosity, and every scheme, however absurd, finds patrons. In the projected lines there is, of course, most speculation, for it answers not the purpose of the parties that dabble in every thing new to hold for investment. Rumour, with her hundred tongues, makes free with the names of parties in every town who clear their thousands, daily or weekly, as the case may be, by a fortunate move or a lucky guess; but the names of those who suffer are studiously withheld, no doubt, by the operation of that feeling which prompts men, in the most desperate condition, to screen their circumstances until they become patent through the instrumentality of that organ for which the prudent in every class have a rooted aversion—the *London Gazette*. Nevertheless, the Queen's printer is destined to record hereafter the names of myriads who are at present up to the eyes and ears in iron rails. But much good in the meantime will be done; lines of speedy communication will be made where otherwise none would have existed, and in this sense the national resources will be developed, and the general prosperity increased. Every public benefit is attended with some amount of individual suffering.

The Produce markets show a healthy feeling. The home demand is great, a fact which is evidenced by the large stock of goods brought forward at the public sales, the improving prices which are realized, and the small stock which is withdrawn.

The Cotton market is healthy and vigorous. The sales since Friday present an average of 7000 daily, of which more than 2500 daily have been on speculation. Yesterday the market was not quite so buoyant, but the trade purchase freely, and stocks are brought forward liberally.

The Iron trade, it will be seen, is again in a health state, and prices are advancing. Rails, in the present condition of the public mind, are in great demand, and the price in this town £11 per ton.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

The foreign news of the last fortnight presents nothing very striking. The visit of Louis Philippe's heroic son, the Prince of Joinville, to view the breakwater at Brighton, the other day, is regarded as an act of impertinence on the part of a portion of the public. It would have been looked upon by the lieges as a very small affair, if the Prince had not immortalized himself by a pamphlet, the gist of which was to show how easily John Bull's throat could be cut some fine morning, by his opposite neighbor before he got out of bed. As such reminiscences contribute not to good digestion, and engender the nightmare, the Brightonians, are correspondingly angry at the peeping propensities of Louis Philippe's naval hero. But, as a set-off, his brothers, the Duc de Nemours and the Duc de Aumale, have taken a pleasing and pacific trip into Spain; the latter, it is believed, with an eye to matrimony.

The brave Circasians have again been measuring lances with their old enemies, the Russians. A battle in their mountain fastnesses has taken place, where both sides fought with indomitable courage. The slaughter, it will be seen, was immense, and terminated without much advantage on either side, for the hardy mountaineers fought until their ammunition was exhausted, and the Russians were afraid of following up the pursuit.

France.—A treaty for the mutual extradition of criminals, similar to that in force between England and the United States, has just been concluded between France and Prussia.

Spain.—On the evening of the 5th, a number of disaffected persons attempted to create an insurrection. Incited by persons of importance, about three hundred of the lower classes assembled, armed with sticks and guns, and after a time commenced an attack on the barracks del Posito, where is lodged the regiment of Navarre. Some of the officers and men had previously been gained over, but the regiment remained true, and, on the word of command, poured a murderous fire on the assailants. An officer was killed, and several persons were wounded. The troops having subsequently sallied from the barracks, the insurgents were put to flight, and several were arrested. Madrid then became tranquil, and still remains so.

M. Thiers, the eminent French statesman, has arrived in Madrid, and is being feted with all the honours our Ministers and aristocracy can show.

People are beginning to think that it is high time for the Narvaez Ministry to fall. It is tyrannical, brutal, and unjust; but alas! it would probably be succeeded by another Ministry just as bad.

The new system of contributions had excited universal dissatisfaction throughout the country. The Gazette has published a series of instructions for carrying it into effect. Business has been resumed since the 27th inst.

Italy.—On the fete day of St. Louis, King of France, the Pope attended divine service at the French chapel, and expressed himself in a very flattering manner towards the French nation. He was received at the chapel door by the French ambassador, who had the honour of opening the door of his Holiness's carriage, and afterwards had the still greater honour of kissing the Pope's great toe.

The Pope is, I am sorry to say in a declining state of health. He is sadly plagued with a cancer in the nose. Being upwards of eighty years of age, it is not likely that, with his maladies, he will long be spared. He is a good-hearted, well-meaning pious man, and is personally much beloved. Great severities towards his people have been committed in his name, but his advisers and not himself are responsible for them.

Germany.—The Mein and the Danube have been at length united by a canal. This great work was designed by Carlemagne, and has been finished by the King of Bavaria.

Belgium.—Our crop of potatoes is almost entirely destroyed, in most places a thirtieth part not worth anything, and even in the places where the disease has made the least ravages, only a sixth part being preserved. This is a calamity, potatoes being the chief part of the food of our population. In compliance with the general wish of the country, ministers have issued a royal ordinance, decreeing the admission of wheat and all kinds of corn, together with potatoes, &c., duty free, and forbidding the exportation of such articles. The corn law passed last session by the chamber will, as a consequence of this ordinance, not receive the royal assent.

The new Bourse at Amsterdam was opened with great ceremony, on the 10th instant, by the King and royal family of the Netherlands.

Russia.—The Empress of Russia will make a lengthened stay in Italy for the benefit of her health, which has long been in a declining state. During her absence the Emperor will visit different parts of the empire.

A new report from the scene of operations in Caucasus has been published, but it is so confused that it is difficult exactly to understand it. It of course represents the Russian army as having gained some successes; but the real truth is, that though perhaps it has really thrashed the mountaineers, it has gained nothing at all. These hardy men fight with desperate courage, and inflict terrible chastisements on the Russians. The mountaineers have, in fact, compelled the Russians to abandon Dargo, which they gained at such a severe cost, and they have also in effect compelled them to withdraw from a line they had established beyond it. Thus, though the result of recent encounters is in favour of the Russians, they are in retreat—certainly they cannot be said to be advancing. This may appear somewhat contradictory, but there is no other way of describing the truth.

Public opinion (if in a country where a man daren't open his mouth on public affairs public opinion can be said to exist) has decidedly declared against the expedition in Caucasus, and even the army itself is against it, for there is much suffering to be endured, little or no honour to be gained. But the Emperor will on no account give up his long-cherished object of crushing the Caucasians, cost what it may.

Switzerland.—Our letters from this