

zing any noxious vegetable acids, or metallic salts, existing in the soil; which properly indicates the fitness of its application on fields infested with sorrel, on sour, marshy lands (previously drained), and on soils impregnated with the oxide of iron, or copperas.

4. Lime acts as an *alterative* on both siliceous and argillaceous soils, by the effect it has of giving greater adhesiveness to the particles of the former, and of diminishing the tenacity and compactness of the latter. To sandy lands, however, it should not be applied too liberally, as, if dealt out in too large quantities, it will have the effect to form a kind of mortar with the soil, and thus prove detrimental both to tillage and vegetation. "Clay land bears this species of amelioration better than lighter soils. It powerfully assists all adhesive soils, and, when laid on hot from the kiln upon deep clay, has been known to occur on a very great increase in the former crops."—*British Husbandry*.

5. From its caustic properties, lime is a valuable assistant to the farmer in combating those numerous insect enemies which so often ruin his hopes by depreeding upon his fruit-trees, his grasses, and his cultivated crops. How far he may be able to avail himself of its aid in this respect, is only to be determined by a careful series of experiments.

Finally, in the language of the work last quoted, "It is much to be regretted that some more definite judgment has not been framed regarding the properties of lime, the effects of which are exposed to the most contradictory results;" and some caution will be necessary in whatever trials may be made of it as a manure. It would be better that experiments on a small scale should precede the application of it on lands where its efficacy has not yet been proved. The quantity applied, in general practice, to the acre, varies from 20 or 30 to 100 bushels, or even more, according to the character and circumstances of the soil (the lighter and the poorer the soil, and the more it has been limed, the less the quantity); and this dressing is repeated once in four or five years, care being taken to recruit occasionally the nutritive matters in the soil, without the co-operation of which, by unanimous consent, the former substance would be worse than useless. Then employed without regard to its caustic properties, it should first be slacked, and then spread evenly over the surface, and if the ground be intended for cultivation, it should be exposed for several months before it is ploughed under. The effect will not commonly manifest itself before the second or third year.

European News.

From British Papers to the 4th December, received by the steamer Acadia.

From Wilmer and Smith's European Times, December 4.

DOMESTIC.

The threatened famine continues to occupy men's minds. The subject is constantly kept before the public by the discussions in the press, by public meetings in various parts of the country, by the oratory of the league leaders, and by the indecision of the cabinet. Nothing, during the last fortnight, has altered the previous aspect of affairs as respects the extent of the deficiency. The potato disease continues to progress in some quarters, and to be arrested in others. The accounts from Ireland vary, but the most favourable regard a fourth of the people's food as being destroyed. In England, the disease also progresses, in the south and west more especially. In the belief that something will yet be done by ministers, the food markets are in a state of transition. What the "something" may be is a mystery, and the uncertainty which hangs over the future, affords abundant scope for speculation, not unmingled with angry recrimination. Every one seems to think that in a mere party point of view, looking at the present condition and prospects of the country in no higher light, Sir Robert Peel has not made the most of his position. Rumours are still abundant that he has been over-ruled in his desire to mitigate the severity of the evil by throwing open the ports, and the more disinterested of his supporters are even now urging upon him the admission of maize, duty free, as an article of food. That perplexity and disunion prevail in the ministerial councils is evidenced by the frequency of their meetings. Two or three cabinet meetings have been held during the past fortnight, the last of which took place on Tuesday. Parliament has been prorogued *pro forma*, until the middle of December, and an impression

prevails that it will meet little, if any, before its customary time. Alarmed by appearances, a requisition has been signed by many of the leading bankers and capitalists in the city of London, urging upon the Lord Mayor the necessity of calling, without delay, a public meeting; but the civic monarch hesitates. Matters may be said at the present moment to be in *statu quo*, but the popular anxiety as regards the apprehended scarcity is now participated in by the great traders and capitalists—men, too, who are above being influenced in a matter so vitally important, by idle fears, still less by party or personal predilections. Trade is already staggering under the blow which the impending scarcity,—or what is the same thing, the fear of it,—has produced. In the manufacturing districts there has been a sad falling off in the demand for goods, and the gloomy prospect which the approaching winter presents, is shared by persons whose interests and temperament would induce them to look at matters in the most favourable point of view.

The recent intelligence from New Zealand has again fixed attention on the affairs of that unfortunate Colony, where the Government forces have sustained another reverse at the hands of the Aborigines. It is hardly possible to conceive blundering more systematically perfect, than that of which New Zealand has been the scene, and the wretchedness of the picture receives a finishing stroke in the defeat by a horde of savages of the representatives of the British monarchy. To a morbid philanthropy, a mistaken kindness for the savages of New Zealand, combined with the untractable, unbending character of the Colonial Secretary, Lord Stanley, may be traced the disasters, disgraces, and bloodshed which have been witnessed in this settlement. All advice was scorned, all experience disregarded. In Parliament and out of it, what has been witnessed has been chalked out with the clearness of prescience. It is some comfort, however, to know that the end of those disgraces and reverses is approaching. Captain Fitzroy, the weak and tampering Governor of the Colony, is, we presume, ere this on his way home, and his place will be supplied by a man of more firmness and ability. The Colonial Secretary, too, has been badgered into a promise of better conduct for the future—so that we may reasonably anticipate, with a change of policy, results the opposite of the painful events that have been experienced here during the last few years. The first step towards retrieving the folly of the past, will be to make the aborigines feel what is due to themselves and to civilization. Cannibals, it is clear, may be, and have been, treated too leniently. In certain cases, a misapplied and misunderstood clemency is the greatest cruelty to the untutored savage. The ferocious spirit of the natives enabled them not to understand our generosity, and the treatment which, in a more intelligent community, would have been becomingly appreciated, the mind of the aboriginal inhabitants naturally construed to imply weakness, and fear. They have acted upon this cue, and while no pains have been taken by the home government, to make its authority respected and felt in the colony—on the contrary, while every obstacle was thrown in the way of the New Zealand Company—the lamentable results, detailed in another column, have thrown discredit on the name, and, to some extent compromised the bravery of the British character in a remote part of the world.

The railway panic has not subsided. On the contrary, it was in full force. Investments of this description are prostrate—the collapse continues. The *Gazette* has recently published notices from several hundreds of the new lines, which propose to apply to Parliament during the ensuing session for their acts. The period for giving notices expired on Sunday last, the end of November, and to afford time for the deposit of the necessary documents, specifications, and compliances with the standing orders of the House of Commons, the Board of Trade remained open all day on Sunday, and only closed at midnight. More than 700 of the new projects have deposited their plans; but a large number have failed, nevertheless, to comply literally with the standing orders, in which case they cannot go before Parliament next Session. The object, in many instances, has been to throw dust in the eyes of the proprietors, by professing to have made an effort to comply with the legislative requirements—in short, keeping the word of promise to the ear, but breaking it to the hopes of their proprietors. The swindle, in such cases, is clever, but alas! too transparent. The feeling of despondency which prevails in the principal stock

markets of England relative to iron roads, exists in the Paris and other Continental markets with hardly less force. The brokers have suffered severely during the late gambling mania, and scores of them are being 'used up' in all directions. Even in France some of these personages are flying to England, in order to get out of the way.

The extent of the injury which the potato crop has sustained, forms, as usual, an unending subject of inquiry and anxiety. The accounts are, upon the whole, of a sad and melancholy character; and the extent of the damage is to be seen in the conflicting accounts of a remedy given by men of high scientific attainments. In some districts from one third to one-half of the crop is damaged; and so rapid is the progress of the disease, that another third, it is expected, will be destroyed in the pits before the spring of next year. One learned Theban recommends that the potatoes be sliced, put into jars like preserves, and covered with fat! Fine comfort this, truly, for the inmates of an Irish hovel, who have neither gars nor fat, nor even fire. Another suggests the substitution of peas by the poor, forgetful that the price of pulse like every other description of human food, has risen enormously of late. Seeing that potatoes enter so largely into the food of the labouring classes in England, and that they constitute the chief, almost the only article of sustenance of the poor in Ireland, it is painful, it is harrowing, to contemplate the amount of physical suffering which the present calamity will produce. In the endeavour to discover some remedy as a substitute, Indian corn, so much used in the United States, has been strongly recommended. Strange as it may appear, this produce is comparatively unknown in England. Cobbett, who lived some time in the United States, was constantly in the habit of enlogizing its virtues, and recommending it as an article of human food, while for the fattening of cattle, he declared it to be unequalled. But the farmers of this country were never sturdy in seizing upon improvements; the duty upon the article has deterred importation, and the public has been prevented from appreciating that which an authority so eminent in farming and agriculture, as old Cobbett unquestionably was, pointed out to his countrymen.

The news from the western shores of the Atlantic recently, has excited more than ordinary interest. The "Great Western," on her last trip, brought home a document which created nearly as much amazement as if a shell had been unexpectedly thrown, with hostile intent, into a friendly citadel. The number of the *Washington Union* which claimed the whole of Oregon for the United States, and repudiated all negotiation on the subject, was scanned with painful feelings—was presumed to speak the sentiments of President Polk, and to foreshadow the tone of the forthcoming Message. The effect was such as we have described it. War and all its odious horrors stared every one in the face. There appeared to be no escape from it—no loop-hole left by which an honourable exit could be made. Men move in masses—think and sympathise in herds—and "thoughts that breathe and words that burn," issuing simultaneously from a thousand lips, show how readily, under provocation, reason is subservient to passion. The poet has finely portrayed it:—

"Honour! thou blood-stained god,
At whose red altar sit war and homicide,
Oh! to what madness will *insult* drive thy votaries!"

Writhing under the influence of this excited feeling, the *Caledonia* arrived on Friday, with intelligence a week in advance of the *Great Western*, and the nature of her despatches had an emollient effect on the national pulse, which now beats again with comparative coolness. It was then found that the article in the official paper was not understood by those on the spot to have an official character—that Mr. Polk had not yet thrown away the scabbard—that the Whigs, with their three P's—"peace, prosperity, and progression"—were inimical to war, and that Mr. Webster, at Boston, had made a speech of a pacific and elevated character, in which an appeal to physical force on the Oregon question was denounced as folly and madness.

We have before stated, and the repetition at the present time is almost superfluous, that, as regards England, people here care little in what way the Oregon dispute may be patched up; the value of the territory is hardly rated beyond a pin's-fee, and right glad would the thinking, intelligent portion of the country be, if the 49th parallel of latitude would hit the views and the taste of the American

Government and people. The annoyance, the irritation, arises out of what is conceived to be the "bullying spirit" with which the United States' claim is advanced, which naturally wounds our national pride, and creates a frame of mind little calculated to produce amity or end in forbearance. The refusal of the President to refer the dispute to arbitration, looks like a "foregone conclusion," and is pointed to as a proof that the worst may still be, apprehended from obstinate councils.

It has transpired during the last day or two, that Mr. Polk has repeated to the English Cabinet the offer which they have rejected two or three times during the last quarter of a century, namely, to divide the territory by the 49th parallel of north-latitude, and that they still adhere to making the Columbia the boundary, each nation being free of its waters. It is our course to have a monopoly of some kind or other always to fight for or defend—some "vested interest" about which the people in the aggregate know and care as much as a cow does for astronomy. The nation, if noses had been counted, would have accepted this offer by an overwhelming majority, but then the interests of the people, and the interests of a powerful incorporated company diverge, and the Government, like a harsh stepmother, pets the favourite, and plunders the family.

It is painful to speak of warlike preparations in the same breath that we refer to a misunderstanding with a friendly country, as it savors somewhat of the misleian mode of settling a controversy with uplifted shillelah. But the fuss and pothier—the activity and incessant energy which prevail in the English dockyards, the surveying of the coast and the steam navy, all indicates a "black cloud" somewhere; it may be in the west or in the south, but the "powers that be" seem to be firmly impressed with a belief that events are transparent enough to make this activity and outlay necessary. Captain Austin visited Liverpool, last week, by orders of the Admiralty, to gauge the capacity of the first class steamers as regards the carrying of heavy metal. The British and North American, the West Indian, and other vessels have undergone similar inspections. *Cui malis?* "Coming events cast their shadows before," and our prayer is, that all this horrible making ready for the worst may prove superfluous, and that the "events," whatever they are, in which they have their origin, may "come like shadows, so depart."

The Corn markets of Northern Europe are in a state of great activity. The grain markets of the Danube are said to be much excited, and prices range from 29s to 31s 6d per quarter. The freight to England is enormously high—15s per quarter. The Baltic markets, with the near approach of the ice season, have receded to the extent of 1s per quarter. At Odessa an advance of 1s to 2s per quarter has taken place. The English markets are firm, without much excitement; the advance, during the last month, being 1s to 2s per quarter. Every one anticipates dearth and dearth before another harvest; but, as much uncertainty exists with respect to the actions of Parliament, prices are kept within limits. The inferior quality of the Wheat this year has been noticed before. It requires to be mixed freely with good home or free foreign, and the result is, as Lord John Russell forcibly points out in his letter, that the averages do not represent correctly the real condition of the market. The last weekly average was only 57s 11d per quarter, while the actual price of good Wheat at any time during the last two months, has been from 65s to 70s per quarter. This is a fraud upon the public and upon the revenue, without in any way serving the farmer. It is impossible that a sensible people, with scarcity staring them in the face—with gaunt famine, it may be, grinning horridly in the distance—tamely submit much longer to an enactment that sins against all the feelings and instincts of human nature. There is really no country in the world that has so long submitted to be hoodwinked and defrauded by their rulers, as the submissive, hood-working, good-tempered people of England. But there is a point beyond which human patience cannot extend, and to that point we seem to be rapidly approaching.

INDIA AND CHINA.

The extraordinary express, in anticipation of the Bombay mail of the 15th October, reached London the 22nd ultimo. It brings intelligence of the butchery by the Sixth soldiery of Jowahir Singh, the Wuzer. His death was the result of a deep laid plot and effected in the most deliberate manner. From the beginning