

ing their operations, and the absence of any disposition to enter into speculative purchases. Wheat—the fluctuations in the value of which usually influence, to a greater or less degree, prices of all other descriptions of agricultural produce—has for months past been totally neglected as an article for investment; even the buyers for actual consumption have manifested a decided unwillingness to hold stocks, hence the general drooping state of the markets.

THE REPEAL AGITATION.

The weekly meeting of the Repeal Association took place on Monday the 6th current, in the Conciliation-hall, Mr M. J. Barry in the chair. Mr S. O'Brien read a letter from Mr Gray Porter, announcing his retirement from the association.

Mr Porter, in his letter, adverts to the speech at the Duadalk meeting, as pledging the association to the establishment of a parliament in Dublin, and says—"if the Repeal members would make a trial in Parliament to get a fair trial (and thousands and thousands of Irishmen, now hostile or neutral, would assist them in the trial, and it could be done within a month), and should fail in the attempt, I would be as warm an advocate of a Parliament in Dublin as yourself, and you would then carry with you the public opinion of the country. But, without the previous failure of such an attempt, that is, without some visible proof of the necessity of an Irish Parliament, I am quite sure that you cannot even try to establish a Parliament in Dublin without a violent civil war and social revolution. I especially regret that the Association will not at this most favorable time use its great influence to get a better act of union, as I think that in that case Her Majesty might visit Ireland this summer, and that those questions which have so long disturbed the country might be brought to a fair and honorable settlement, and a great career of prosperity open to Ireland. I also quite deny that under an Irish parliament, and with separate independence (and the terms are, in fact, one and the same), the people of Ireland are likely to be better off, or to enjoy more liberty or more happiness, of any kind, than under a good union with Great Britain, and under one supreme legislative Parliament in London, over this immense empire."

Mr O'Connell then rose to move that the letter of Mr Gray Porter be inserted in the minutes, and that the thanks of the association be rendered to him for the spirit and manliness of his conduct. He (Mr Porter) differed with them, as he had a perfect right to do. He had made an experiment, and although attached to his opinions, he nevertheless respected theirs. Mr Porter must have forgotten that he had established a Precursor Society; and if they succeeded in obtaining the object which they aimed at, namely, perfect equality with England, they would never have sought for a Repeal of the Union. After some routine business, Mr O'Connell again addressed the meeting, referring to the condition of the people, and asserting they would therefore continue the agitation in the same legal and constitutional manner which had at all times characterized their exertions. During the present week they would have a demonstration in Cork, and another in Meath, besides the celebration of the 30th May, in Dublin. Against the commencement of the next session of Parliament they would have petitions from every county, every town, every village, and every parish in Ireland, in favour of domestic legislation.

He was determined that the British people should have ocular demonstration of the feelings and wishes of the Irish people. Mr Robert Peel seemed disposed to win the people of Ireland from him. He would freely give them to him, but he knew the terms. The Minister deserved their gratitude for abolishing the duty on glass, and the monopoly of the Bank of Ireland, and also for his excellent measures, and he understood they were to be succeeded by others of an equally liberal character. He trusted he was not misinformed, and he could not be grateful by anticipation; he would thank him for them when he saw them. Ireland be conciliated, and England might enjoy the conjugated powers of the world.

The rent for the week was £406 3s. On the meeting on Monday, the 12th, Mr O'Connell announced that, after mature consideration as to the power of the Speaker of the House of Commons to issue warrants to compel the attendance of Irish members in London, he had arrived at the conclusion that the Speaker had no constitutional authority whatsoever to issue his warrant. He had spent many years of his life as a practising lawyer. When he offered himself as a candidate for the county of Wick, previous to the granting of Catholic emancipation, he told the people of that county that if they got justice from the Imperial Parliament, he was entitled, as a matter of right, to take his seat without taking those preliminary oaths which no Catholic could conscientiously subscribe to. This assertion had been controverted by a very eminent English lawyer, Edward Sugden, but he was subsequently obliged to admit that he had taken a wrong view of the case, as he discovered, on reference to the act of Union, that no provision was made by that statute for the continuance of the oaths. He (Mr O'Connell) had analysed the act of Union, and he did not hesitate to pronounce it to be a piece of the most bungling legislation that ever disgraced the statute book. He had no hesitation in saying that, notwithstanding the act of union, the act of 1792 remained that hour unrevoked; that act of the English parliament which declared that the English parliament had no right or authority to legislate for the Irish people.

The English legislature did not take the trouble to repeal that act by the union statute, and it followed, therefore, that the new legislative body created by that statute had no power or authority over Ireland except that which it acquired by the express words of the statute. He took it for granted that it could not be disputed that the British Parliament had no power, prerogative, or authority, for legislative purposes, over this country other than that conferred by the act of union. Therefore it was that he denied that the English parliament had any power whatever to compel the attendance of Irish members. The Speaker had certainly authority over the English members, but he had no authority whatever to issue any warrant affecting the Irish members. After the most mature consideration, he had arrived at the determination to resist any such warrant. In one event only should he yield obedience to it, and that was if any member would attempt to resist it by force. If such a contingency as that should happen, he would at once bow with submission, and proceed to London. If arrested, he would send to the Court of Exchequer, and sue out a writ of habeas corpus. They would treat the Sergeant-at-Arms with an action at law; and he had no doubt but they would succeed. He would not attend in his place in parliament, till this question was determined; unless, indeed, the affairs of Ireland rendered his presence necessary. Amongst the Irish members there was but one opinion on the matter. After reading a letter from Mr W. S. O'Brien to the hon. and learned gentleman said that he should defer expressing his opinion on Sir James Graham's academical scheme until the Catholic hierarchy had met and delivered their decision respecting it, which should be binding upon him. In the meanwhile, however, he said that he agreed with Sir Robert Inglis in denouncing the government plan as a most absurd and foolish one, which would not meet the approval of the Irish people. He agreed with Sir Robert Inglis in calling it a "gigantic scheme of godless education." The large salaries given to professors and others would hold out inducements to apostacy or indifference in men not subjected to religious control. It was as idle a plan as ever came from the lips of man, and should receive no direct support from him; but, on the contrary, he would give it every negative opposition in his power. What did he propose? Let Trinity College remain as it was—let the Protestants of the Establishment have the full use of the college, and let the Presbyterians of the north have full control over the education of their children. But he wanted two other colleges—one in Cork, and another in Galway—and let the heads and professors of these colleges be appointed by the Catholic bishops of the dioceses in which they were situated, and be subject to their authority and control. He concluded by saying that he would not bring forward any motion on the subject, as the Catholic Bishops had not given any opinion as yet, and, by that opinion he would be guided.

The rent of the week was announced to be £420 13s. 1d.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

In the Commons, on Monday the 3th current, on the order of the day being read for the bringing up of the report on the Maynooth bill, Mr Sherman Crawford moved an amendment to the effect that any provision for the exclusive education of any particular religious denomination by state grants, is a violation of the rights of conscience, and ought to be discontinued. The minority were the two hon. members for Finsbury, Mr Duncombe, and Mr Wakley. In answer to a question from Captain Rous, Mr G. W. Hope said that Captain Fitzroy had been superseded in the government of New Zealand, but not on any grounds connected with the charges made against him by the New Zealand company, or at all affecting his personal character or honor. Lord Palmerston drew the attention of the House to the alarming increase of the slave trade in Cuba and Brazil, and impressed upon the government the necessity of active interference by destroying all the barracoons of the west coast of Africa; and at the same time insisting upon the liberation of all those slaves in Cuba, who have been unlawfully detained in slavery in that island. Sir Robert Peel complained of the noble lord's bringing this subject forward without giving him the slightest intimation of his intention. He did not despair of seeing a cordial union between France and England for the suppression of the slave trade—a union which would be more effectual for that object than any other means whatsoever. He would rather decline for the present giving any opinion respecting the state of the slaves referred to in Cuba; but he feared that the loss of General Valdez, as governor of the colony, had not as yet been adequately supplied. With respect to the proposal of destroying the barracoons whether contrary to national law or not, he must say that he did not think they would serve their object by acting illegally. He thought it probable, however, that the consent of the native chiefs might be obtained for the destruction of these barracoons by negotiation. Mr Hume said the best way to put an end to slavery would be to encourage the importation of free labor into our colonies, to work in the growth of sugar and coffee. England had attempted more than any other country to put an end to the slave trade, but he feared, after all, that it was more rife than ever. Mr Warburton said that the amount of slaves liberated by British citizens, at an enormous outlay to the country, was only one and a half per cent. on the total number taken to the West Indies. Lord Palmerston explained, and showed that the percentage liberated was much larger. Sir C. Napier said, that the only means of putting an

end to the slave trade was by raising a regiment of a couple of thousand blacks in the West Indies, and taking them to the coast of Africa, which they should scour from north to south, destroying every place from which slaves were embarked. He did not know whether this was or was not contrary to the law of nations; but this he did know, that it was the only way in which the trade could be put a stop to.

On Wednesday, Sir James Graham stated the alterations he proposed to make in his new Medical Reform Bill. By this bill, three medical boards are to be appointed; one for the examination of all students applying to be admitted as physicians; another for those applying to be admitted as surgeons; and a third for general practitioners. For the latter class, the apprenticeship of five years is to be entirely done away with. Every person is to receive a certificate to officiate as a general practitioner who shall have passed his examination before the three boards—before the physicians as to diseases in general; before the surgeons as to anatomy and surgical operations; and before the board of general practitioners as to drugs, pharmacy, &c. In reply to Mr Bouverie, Sir J. Graham stated that information had been received at the Foreign Office, which warranted a full retraction of the accusation preferred against Mr Mazzini, as having been implicated in the guilt of the alleged assassination at Marseilles.

On Friday evening, Captain Berkeley called attention to the present system of manning her Majesty's navy, and the difficulty that arises in procuring able seamen for the service. The gallant officer contended that, under the present system, there was no opportunity for training able seamen, and that, consequently, the navy was gradually losing its characteristics as the main defence and power of the country. Sir G. Cockburn defended the existing system as quite adequate for the necessities of a peace establishment. The character of the navy was rapidly rising in estimation; the seamen were protected from the plunder of crimps, and the supply through the medium of the merchant service would be found adequate to any emergency that might arise.

Lord Palmerston drew attention to the state of the slave trade, contending at some length that the late government had exerted itself strenuously to effect treaties with a view to its suppression, and had in fact concluded no less than 30 such treaties with various countries in all parts of the world, while the present government since it came into power, had not concluded a single treaty on the subject. On the contrary, by its supineness it had lost the opportunity of obtaining the concurrence of France, for had they signed a treaty which had been negotiated by him (Lord Palmerston), as they might have done before the meeting of the French Chambers, they would not have exposed that treaty to all those intrigues by which it had been subsequently defeated. They had also lost the opportunity of obtaining the accession of Hanover, Belgium, and Greece, and, in fact, the whole course of their proceedings was calculated to defeat or neutralize much of that which had been effected by their predecessors. He hoped that Ministers would take a more lively interest in this matter than they had hitherto done, in which case they would, if they did not extinguish the slave trade, at all events bring it within much narrower limits than it now occupied. Sir R. Peel said the noble lord had passed a very strong eulogium, and a very deserved one, upon himself (Lord P.), and he seemed to think that his exertions to suppress the slave trade, which certainly were very great and very creditable, were, nevertheless, not sufficiently appreciated by the House or the public, and he, therefore, came down about once a month to insist upon the need of praise due to his merits. When, however, all the papers connected with the subject should be on the table, he would find that the present government had not been lukewarm on the subject. He denied that the present government had undone anything which had been done by their predecessors, or that they were at all indifferent to the great object of suppressing this monstrous evil, which was a disgrace to the civilized nations of the world.

UNFORTUNATE CATASTROPHE AT YARMOUTH, ENGLAND.

One of the most calamitous events which ever befel this town, or any other in this district of the kingdom, has just transpired, and has spread lamentation and grief throughout the entire population. The scene of this dreadful event was the suspension bridge on the north quay, crossing the river Bure. Cooke's equestrian company had for some time been staying in the town, and, on the morning of this fatal day (Friday) it was announced by public handbills, that Nelson, one of the clowns would sail up the river Bure, starting from Yarmouth bridge to the Vauxhall gardens, at 5 o'clock, in a common washing tub, drawn by four live geese, elegantly harnessed and caparisoned. At the time appointed this absurd exhibition took place. The Clown and his Geese started from the Old Bridge, in the presence of an immense concourse of persons, who had assembled to witness the feat. By far the most advantageous view was to be had from the suspension bridge, and this was eagerly sought for by the unsuspecting populace. About four hundred persons occupied this position, and were pressing on the south side to obtain the first glance of the coming wonder. The bridge is an elegant structure, suspended from two piers, and capable of standing a much larger number of persons than that we have named, but we understand every point of vision towards the spot where the geese were to be looked for, were densely crowded with men, women, and children. The north side was

comparatively empty, consequently there was an extreme pressure on the south, so much so that a gentleman who passed over noticed that the crown of the bridge, instead of maintaining its convex form, was completely flattened. He remarked the circumstance to a friend, but at this moment all eyes were stretched to the utmost, and every ear listened with eagerness for the first announcement of the clown's appearance. This anxiety was brought to its highest pitch by the cry of "Here come the geese." The shout resounded from side to side; but amidst was a shriek from the shores; the bridge was observed to give way; it lowered on one side; the chains snapped asunder, one after another in momentary succession, and almost before the gaze of the thronging multitude could be drawn from its incident of worthless interest, it was riveted to the half sunken bridge—suspended on one side by its unbroken chains—cleared of all its occupants—every one of whom were plunged in the stream, and over them the waters were flowing as if unconscious of the fearful tragedy which had momentarily occurred. Those who witnessed it assert that not a scream was heard, nor a sound emitted from the unfortunate victims. A fearful splash and a few gurgling struggles only recognised the spot which had swallowed such a mass of human life.

Every boat was immediately in requisition, and as many as 25 were soon on the spot, and rendered active and gallant service. The scene at this moment beggars description—husbands and wives, parents and children, were excited with the deepest anxiety. The efforts, to save the victims were noble and praiseworthy. One man who was precipitated from the bridge, caught a hold and maintained it; a female made a desperate clutch at his ankles and succeeded in reaching them. The brave fellow looked down, and though in fearful peril himself, encouraged her to hold tight, and she was rescued. The man refused to get into the boat, telling the occupants to pick up those who were floating about the river; he fell into the stream. We are happy to say that a rope was thrown to him immediately and he was brought safely ashore. The bodies were picked up in quick succession, most of them dead. Among the number was a woman, doubtless a mother, who had in her arms an infant, and in one hand a little girl three or four years old; she had firmly grasped both, and her hold had not been broken by the struggles of death, for it was with difficulty they were separated. They were all corpses and very stiff. Their names we have not been able to learn.

The various incidents of the tragic scene are some of them very touching. The children were many of them found with their heads fast in the railing (which on the bursting of the chains lapped over into the water), doubtless fixed in that position in their anxiety to feast their eyes on the expectant sight. It was with difficulty they were extricated, and there were some discovered with their heads smashed to pieces by the falling of the iron-work. Barrels of hot water were sent from the brew-office of Messrs. Lison to Mr. Laws, of the Norwich Arms inn, where the scene was most dreadful. The kitchen, the tap room, and other rooms, with the stables, were filled with victims. As many as ten or a dozen were ultimately restored; but no less than 53 corpses were brought into that house, and which defied all the means of restoration; others were taken to other houses in the neighbourhood, but not in very considerable number. We lament, however, to say, that of the number, who had been taken out of the river at eleven o'clock at night, the eyes of 73 were for ever closed in death. The great majority of them are women and children.—About thirty umbrellas were taken on shore. Persons, whose relatives and children were down to the sight, on hearing of the catastrophe, flocked from all parts of the town to make inquiries, and to examine the bodies; fathers and mothers were moaning for their children, and children for their parents, husbands for their wives, and the awfully distressing scene was such that no description can do justice to. The bodies were removed by the relations, as they were recognised, and at twelve o'clock only one body remained in the Norwich Arms stables that had not been recognised. The professional gentlemen of the town were in immediate attendance and rendered all the aid which human ingenuity could suggest.

Latest Particulars.—The bodies found and identified are far short of the number returned as found by the boatmen. The discrepancy can only be accounted for by supposing that they returned, as dead, parties who were afterwards recovered. The coroner stated that the jury had viewed 73 bodies, which, with the four missing, makes 79 in all. The excitement and sympathy occasioned by this painful disaster continue unabated; the trains are overflowing.

ALE, &c. The Subscribers have just received, ex Thames, from Leith Edinburgh Bottled ALE, London do. PORTER, of Superior quality, in CASKS of 4 dozen each, which they offer for SALE. DUNCAN & LOCH. Newcastle, 16th May 1845.

CAUTION! The subscriber having obtained a lease, of the property situate on the north west side of the upper settlement of Napan, formerly belonging to the late John Stewart, deceased, hereby cautions all persons from committing any trespass, on said lot, will be prosecuted, as the Law directs. JOHN GRAHAM. Napan, April 23, 1845.