

Trade, whose opinion on Church matters are known to be strong, is said by many to give some colour to such an expectation. Others think that his secession has arisen from some contemplated arrangements of the Cabinet on commercial affairs. Whilst a third party state that the currency question, affecting Scotland, in which some of his family are deeply interested, is more probably the actuating cause of his retirement. Sir Robert Peel we understand, is determined to provide a security for the paper money in that country; he is supported in his views by the other members of the Cabinet; and Mr. Gladstone is opposed to any change. The latter party contends that the tariff, and the sugar duties, by Sir Robert Peel's own admissions, cannot be legislated upon in the ensuing session of Parliament.

A remarkable correspondence between the Rev. Canon Wodehouse and the Bishop of Norwich has just been published. Mr. Wodehouse tendered the resignation of his living, on the ground that he objects to certain parts of the ritual in their literal acceptance. The bishop refuses either to accept or encourage the resignation, urging that "latitude in subscription" to the Articles, Homilies, and Prayer-Book, is "unavoidable." The test which was to be proposed at Oxford, to prevent "latitude in subscription" has been withdrawn, as also has the contemplated resolution of censure on the Rev. Mr. Ward, for the opinions expressed in his book on the "Ideal Church."

The Secretaryship for Ireland is also vacant, Lord Elliot having ascended to the peerage, by the death of his father the Earl of St. German's. It is generally understood that Sir Thomas Freemantle, the present Secretary of War, will have that important post. There can be no doubt that Lord Dalhousie will be the new President of the Board of Trade; but the Vice-Presidency, and the Secretaryship in the War Department, the latter vacant by the appointment of Sir Thomas Freemantle to be the Secretary for Ireland, are yet undisposed of. For the former office Lord Sandon and Lord Ashley have been spoken of. The latter will most probably be filled by the Hon. Sydney Herbert, Secretary to the Admiralty; Mr. Herbert may be succeeded at the Admiralty by the Rt. Hon. Lowry Corry, one of the lay lords, whose place may be filled by Mr. Cardwell. The successor to Captain W. V. Hamilton, R. N., permanently second secretary to the Admiralty, in consequence of the retirement of Sir John Barrow, has not yet been appointed. It is said also that the Earl of Lincoln enters the Cabinet, retaining his present office at the Board of Woods and Forests.

The London Standard of Friday evening says:—that beyond Sir Thomas Freemantle's appointment nothing is settled, though there is too much reason to fear that Mr. Gladstone may retire from the administration, but certainly not from the conservative party. Should he retire, the step will be altogether from his own choice, and it will be an occasion of deep regret to all his colleagues. We have seen in some of the journals various motives assigned for the Right Hon. gentleman's withdrawal from office, but not one of them, we believe, even approaches to the truth. At the risk of passing for uninformed, we shall be at present silent; and the eloquent President of the Board of Trade may be prevailed upon to continue to give his services to the country.

The Morning Post, in an article on Friday, seriously mentioned a rumour as being prevalent, that Lord John Russell is about to join the Ministry and to take the leadership of the House of Commons, whilst Sir Robert Peel makes way for him by going to the House of Lords. The report is too ridiculous to be credited, but at the same time it may be right to remember that many equally strange combinations have been brought about in the world of politics. A contemporary says:—"Lord John Russell, who is gradually approximating more and more to the principles of free trade, could no more take part in the Councils of the present Cabinet than he could in those of the Emperor of Russia."

The news from Ireland, in reference to Church matters, elsewhere reported, is important. The Repeal feeling is cooling down. The Roman Catholic Bishops, it seems, are pledged against agitation; the respectable clergy will go with the Bishops, but there are a class of priests who will doubtless still pursue old courses, for various reasons, and with that class O'Connell will act. At any rate, there is now a division in the repeal camp which must take from O'Connell a large portion of his power.

In France it will be seen M. Guizot and the ministry have gained a great tri-

umph. The death of the Emperor of Russia was some time ago reported, and occasioned a great sensation, but it turned out to be a mere stock-jobbing affair, originating with some speculators at Frankfort or Amsterdam. The chief news from Spain is the execution of the insurgent chief Zorbaro. The disturbances in Switzerland continue.

The Great Britain Steamship.—This stupendous ship, after a number of trial trips, was appointed by the Directors of the Company, to undertake a voyage from Bristol, where she was built and fitted out to London, in order as well to try still further the capabilities of the vessel by as severe a test as possible, as to afford an opportunity of the population of the vast metropolis of inspecting the hugest machine in the form of a ship that has floated on the waters of our globe since the time of Noah. On Thursday, at 4 o'clock, the passengers, to the number of about forty, having embarked, the vessel was got under weigh, and after some delay, caused by fouling an anchor and some wreck, she fairly started on her voyage about seven o'clock. Immediately upon starting a gale arose, which continued till five the next morning, when the wind chopped round to the N. and W. The vessel was repeatedly struck by very heavy seas, and, in consequence of having no cargo, rolled most awfully. At this time, she progressed at the rate of six and a half knots per hour, with only three sails set, and a heavy cross sea running. Shortly afterwards she was struck by a sea of such tremendous force, that two of the dead lights in the bow, with their frames which were rivetted to the ship, were forced in, which caused the water to flow into the forward compartment; the figure head was injured; and some slight damage in other respects was done, but it was found, on examination, that no material injury had been sustained.

Resignation of Mr Baron Gurney.—Mr Baron Gurney, in consequence of continued ill-health and increasing weakness, has sent to the Lord Chancellor his resignation of the high office of one of the Exchequer, which the learned Baron has filled for some years with great ability and satisfaction to the bar and the public. The general opinion in Westminster Hall is that Mr. Platt, Q. C., will succeed to the vacant seat on the Exchequer Bench, but of course, no arrangement has at present been made.—Evening paper.

France.—The debate in the French Chamber of Deputies is generally regarded as securing the Ministry in power another session. On Saturday there were two divisions on the Tahiti affair, the numbers being close, and the voting open. One of the divisions was so near that the Opposition claimed the majority, but the President decided against them; the second was also nearly even, but the ballot was not taken until Monday, when Ministers had a majority of eight. This excited the more surprise, as every one regarded their defeat as certain, and it appears they would have been defeated, if some of the Legitimist party had not come to their aid. It was a mere struggle for place; but the general tone of the debate in the Chambers, as well as in the Peers, was, if not friendly, much less acrimonious towards England than the debates of the last and the previous sessions. The alliance with England appears to be now as firm and healthy as it was before the time when Lord Palmerstone broke with Thiers.

Ministerial Arrangements.—It is definitely arranged that Sir Thomas Freemantle goes to Ireland as Lord Elliot's successor in the important office of Chief Secretary; that the Hon. Sydney Herbert takes Sir Thos. Freemantle's place as Secretary at War, with a seat in the Cabinet; and that the Right Hon. H. T. L. Corry succeeds the first Secretaryship to the Admiralty, vacated by Sir Sydney Herbert. Mr. Thomas Baring, M. P., has been invited by Sir Robert Peel to take office in all respects suited to his talents and Commercial knowledge, and we fully expect that we shall, in a day or two, have to announce his accession to the Ministry in a position in which he can be eminently useful. Lord Dalhousie quits the Vice-Presidency of the Board of Trade, and will become the head of that department by reason of the retirement of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.

Fortification of London.—It will perhaps startle some of our readers to learn that his Grace the Duke of Wellington has been much occupied lately in the development of an ingenious plan for the fortification of London. His Grace is said to be persuaded that on the death of Louis Philippe there is too much reason to apprehend that there will be war with a neighbouring kingdom, whose belligerent tendencies have been lately expressed in

no measured terms, and he wishes London to have the same security as Paris, viz., the security against being taken by a coup de main.—We have this on unexceptionable authority.—Historical Register.

Switzerland.—Accounts from Switzerland say that several cantons are in open warfare. At Argovie the insurgents after having taken the arsenal without any resistance being offered on the part of the Government, seized on the ammunition and other stores, which were there collected in large quantities, and marched towards Lucerne where they were to meet the insurgents of the other cantons. The Canton of Berne was taking measures, to refuse a passage to persons coming from Fribourg to join the other malcontents at Lucerne.

IRELAND.

The Repeal question in Ireland has been thrown into the shade by an agitation of a very different and unexpected character. The Bequests Act has created a difference of opinion not only among Catholic laity but among the higher orders of the clergy. The excitement occasioned by this measure had in no degree subsided, when it was rumoured that the Government had opened a negotiation with the Pope for the purpose of connecting the Irish Catholic Church with the State, either by making a provision for the clergy, or by obtaining a concordat giving the Crown the nomination of the prelates. This rumour apparently took all parties by surprise; but before there had been much time for the expression of public opinion on the subject, Archbishop Crolley, the Catholic Primate of Ireland, published a letter addressed to him by the Propaganda, at the command of the Pope, charging him to admonish all ecclesiastics, and especially those of episcopal rank, to abstain from taking any part in political meetings or dinners, and "studiously to avoid what may even lightly excite or agitate the flock committed to them." Mr O'Connell at once pronounced this letter to be not a "canonical document," and the Primate consequently thought it necessary to publish a letter to Mr O'Connell, expressing his "surprise and sorrow that he should have ventured" to make such an assertion, and stating that the document had been submitted to all the prelates of his Church, who had agreed to abide by its injunctions. The Archbishop in a postscript referred to the concordat as an "insidious scheme" which he will join the prelates of Ireland in opposing as destructive of the independence and purity of their religion. These facts will suffice to show that the rumoured negotiations with the Pope had obtained very general credit. The letter of Archbishop Crolley however has had the effect of producing an official communication from the Lord Lieutenant, which sets the whole question at rest. Lord Hytesbury addressed a letter to Archbishop Murray, informing him "that he has been instructed to give to him and to Archbishop Crolley the strongest assurances, on the part of the Government, that there has never existed the slightest intention of entering into any negotiation with the Papal See upon the subject of a concordat." In the meantime the letter received by the Primate from the Propaganda is so obviously directed against the Repeal agitation, that it has roused a general spirit of hostility to the Pope among all classes of Repealers. Mr O'Connell has apologized to Archbishop Crolley for stating that the receipt of the Propaganda was not a canonical document. In a letter which he has addressed to that Prelate he retracts "at once and unequivocally" any assertion of his that may apply to the document as being uncanonical, and adds that if his private opinion were otherwise, he would at once bow to the authority with which the document is now clothed. At the Repeal association, Mr O'Connell denied that the receipt had anything to do with repeal agitation. He declared that its objects was not to interfere with the laity or with Repeal, but was simply intended to keep up and promote the spirit of benevolence and charity. He admitted, however, with expressions of regret, that there was some truth in the statement that the discussion produced by the Bequests Act had tended to damp the agitation for Repeal. He said that though the concordat was denied, something more injurious was meditated; and he proposed that Lord Ffrench and his son, Mr John O'Connell, should be sent to Rome as Delegates from the association, in order to lay their case before the Pope, and implore his holiness not to thwart them in their exertions to obtain a restoration of their domestic legislature. No Protestant speakers in the days of the "No Popery" agitation could have surpassed the leading Catholic members of

the Association in the vehemence of their protestations against the Pope's right to interfere in the temporal affairs of the people of Ireland.

Diminution in the Repeal Rent.—The great diminution in the repeal rent has obliged the association to retrench their expenditure, and this has been effected by reducing the salaries of the cashier, the bookkeeper, and the under secretary to £2 per week. The clerks who had £2 a week each are released to thirty shillings; those who had thirty shillings reduced to twenty five shillings and those who had twenty five reduced to twenty. A saving of above £1500 has been effected.

Aggregate Meeting of the Irish Catholics.—We understand that preparations are being made by the leading Catholics of Ireland to hold an aggregate meeting at an early period, to take into consideration the danger with which the liberty of their clergy and the independence of their church are threatened by the recent legislation of the government, and the attempts made by its agents to influence and overcome the court of Rome by fabrications, threats, and promises.

A club called the '82 club, has been formed in Ireland, having Mr O'Connell as its president, to facilitate the repeal of the union—to secure the establishment of the legislative independence of Ireland; and as a means for the attainment of these ends, to encourage Irish manufactures, art and literature, and to diffuse through society a national feeling. The following is one of its rules:—That the club uniform be a green body coat with velvet collar, white skirt linings, and gilt buttons inscribed '1782' in a wreath of shamrocks, white tunic vest, green pantaloons uniform with coat in winter, and white duck in summer, patent leather boots, white kid gloves, and black satin cravat, subject to changes by the committee, all of Irish manufacture."

Dr M'Hale has just addressed a long and exceedingly violent letter to Sir R. Peel, denouncing the Bequests Act, and charging the Government with covering, under the pretext of conciliation to Ireland, a desire to destroy the liberties of the Romish Church there.

At Limerick, on Sunday night, a party were assembled at a "wake" in Change lane, one of the poorest localities in the city, and the room in which the body was laid out was densely crowded. The floor suddenly gave way, and all within were suddenly precipitated to the room beneath, which also fell, carrying all to the next, and that again being the third to the ground. By this melancholy accident, eleven persons were killed, and from fifteen to twenty grievously maimed—some with legs and arms broken, skulls fractured, and one man had his back broken.

The Military force now in Ireland consists of seven regiments of cavalry, seventeen regiments of infantry, seventeen depots, two troops Royal Horse Artillery, one company Royal Marine Artillery, three companies Royal Marines, forming an effective strength of twenty-two thousand rank and file of arms.

Conspiracy to Murder Archbishop Murray.—On Sunday last the Rev. Mr. Carroll ascended the pulpit in Westland Row Chapel, Dublin, and, previous to his sermon, observed that it was his most painful duty to inform the congregation that a conspiracy had been discovered in the county of Tipperary, which had for its object the Murder of the Most Rev. Dr Murray, Archbishop of Dublin. This extraordinary statement, produced considerable excitement. The Rev. gentleman proceeded to observe that the intelligence of this awful design was that morning communicated to their reverend prelate by a magistrate of the county of Cork. It appears that an anonymous letter, with the "Tipperary" post mark, was received by a magistrate in the county of Cork, calling upon him to go at once to Archbishop Murray and apprise him that "three devils" had determined to take his life. The magistrate enclosed the letter to Dr. Murray, by whom it was received, and we must infer that his grace believed the contents to be true, when he gave permission to the Rev. Mr. O'Carroll to allude to it in the pulpit.

We learn from authentic sources of information that it is not in the contemplation of Ministers to make any reduction in taxation, with the exception of tea. It is added that circumstances of a very suspicious nature have occurred at Cherbourg, and that a proposition will be made to Parliament to appropriate the surplus revenue in coast defences and fortification, so as to guard against surprise under any possible event and to ensure the protection of the yards, arsenals, and merchant navy.—Dublin Evening Mail.