

European News:

From British Papers to the 19th August, received by the Caledonia Steamer.

From Charles Willmer's American News Letter, August 19.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

The British Parliament has at length been prorogued, after one of the most laborious sessions on record. Some persons complain that nothing has been done, but we think ministers may safely point to the index of the Acts passed to justify themselves in the eyes of the country, and prove that they have at least exhibited a disposition to promote beneficial measures. The stand-still policy will no longer be encouraged in England, and to retrograde is impossible. The business imposed upon the Legislature by the increasing demand for railway accommodation is astounding, and in the ensuing session will be found to be quite sufficient to occupy the permanent attention of twice as many committees as were appointed at the late sitting.

Parliament has sanctioned the construction of 2,000 miles of new railways in England and Scotland, and 560 miles in Ireland. The capital authorized to be raised in shares for this purpose amounts to £31,680,000, exclusive of £6,800,000 required for the Irish lines, making in all £38,480,000. By this investment the country will be enriched, and multitudes benefitted both at present and permanently. At the same time the demand for money, when the calls for these works come to be made, will be sufficient to put a check upon all idle and foolish schemes. The expected revenue from these new lines considerably exceeds £2,000,000 sterling per annum.

Upon the whole the past session has been as fruitful of benefit to the country as any that has preceded it since the commencement of the present century. No one interest in the state can be said to have suffered even temporarily. The agricultural interest perhaps has not gained in anything but the assurance of Sir Robert Peel, that he contemplates no change in the principle of the existing corn laws. The commercial and manufacturing interests, on the other hand, are very considerable gainers. The revenue has suffered a large present loss in the remission, although it may not just now make any perceptible difference in favour of the consumer, has given a strong stimulus to commercial enterprise, by enhancing its profits. In the same way have the manufacturers benefitted, at the expense of the revenue, in the remission of the duty on raw cotton. Neither yarn nor goods as yet reach the hands of the consumer at a reduced price—the remitted duty having for the present found its way exclusively into the pockets of the spinner and manufacturer. But competition has yet to step in and play its part and then the consumer will participate in the advantages of the remission. In addition to the two interests which we have named as gainers by the legislation of the past session, there is the capitalist, for whom a field of profitable investment has been opened, by the acts authorizing the construction of several important lines of railway communication. Here the country at large participates extensively in the advantage gained by the capitalist, and no part of the country more substantially and unequivocally than the labouring classes, for whom an abundance of employment is provided for years to come. Hence, whilst some class interests have secured an immediate gain by the labours of the session, others are insured a prospective, and not far distant, advantage. This happy combination of domestic benefits, secured under the auspices of Sir Robert Peel, cannot fail to obtain for his government the confidence and esteem of all who feel an interest in the genuine welfare of the country.

Sir Robert has by many of the journals and a great number of his former constituents been soundly rated for his alleged inconsistencies. Indeed, one cannot take up a newspaper—Whig, Tory, or Radical—nor can go into any society where this is not the leading topic of animadversion. We think that the prime Minister is more sinned against than sinning. People are apt to judge him as the partisan rather than as the statesman, and in this do him a manifest injustice. Though adhering to the Conservative party, and by them raised to the pinnacle of his ambition, when he assumed the reins of government he could no longer be said to be the vehicle for the expression of their opinions, but was placed in

an independent and most responsible position, and was, from that moment, in duty bound to cast party feeling to the winds, and to pursue the course which he deemed most advantageous for the general interests of the country. Had he not done so—had he consented to be the mere instrument for working out the principles of a party he might have been deemed a consistent politician, but he would never have enjoyed the satisfaction of looking forward with confident and well grounded hope that his name would hereafter be inscribed in the annals of his country as one of the greatest of British statesmen. His recent triumphs afford a practical refutation of the assertion of certain eccentric individuals, that he has lost that popularity which enabled him in 1841 to raise himself to power on the ruins of the Whig Administration. Out of ten elections which have taken place within a very short period, eight of them have been filled by candidates who stand publicly pledged to give him their support.

The session has been especially remarkable for the great effect it has produced in destroying the spirit of faction and party, which has always proved the bane of every Constitutional Government. Lord Melbourne has borne honourable testimony to the policy of his rival and successor in office; the censures pronounced by Lord J. Russell on the Ministerial measures, were near akin to praise.

The recess does not give promise of any great event likely to interfere with the relaxation required by our weary legislators. The Irish orators have talked themselves out; the Pusevite pamphleteers have abandoned their pens; the working classes have forgotten the charter; the farmers are speculating on the chances of the harvest; while mills and looms engage the thoughts of manufacturers. The only clouds in the political horizon are identified with those in the natural sky; but one month of fine weather would put all fears of an insufficient harvest at rest. The weather has for some time been very unfavourable, though latterly we have had some days of bright sunshine, but the crops will be abundant, provided the grain has an opportunity of ripening and that it can be securely housed. Efforts have been made in various quarters to excite alarm on the above heads, but hitherto they have been in a great measure unsuccessful. The stock of corn in hand from the crop of last year is greater than was believed a month ago, and renders it certain that if there is nothing to apprehend but the lateness of the harvest, no inconvenience worth notice will be felt. There is a large amount of Bullion in the Bank of England, and before there can be any action on the foreign exchanges by the demand for Bullion that can at all affect the internal circulation, the whole of the surplus in reserve paper in the banking department of the Bank of England must be exhausted. Sir James Graham stated in the House of Commons, just previous to its separation, that the quantity of wheat and flour now in bond amounts to 450,000 quarters, and the specie in the bank of England (which might, if necessary, be rendered available for the purchase of foreign corn) is no less than £16,000,000; whereas, at the corresponding date of 1838, there were only 51,000 quarters in bond, and £2,406,000 in specie in the coffers of the Bank.

Ministers have acted with great vigour and promptitude in Ireland by dismissing Mr. Watson from the Deputy lieutenancy of a county for attending an Orange meeting, and publicly recommending the re-establishment of a society under the ban of the law. They seem determined to administer even-headed justice to Orangemen and Repealers. The great Orange meeting held in Enniskillen, on Tuesday, was a failure, and the repeal agitation is falling away in interest and revenue.

The recent differences between the Colonial Office and the New Zealand Company, which almost lost us a colony, have at length been arranged. The Company have received an unconditional grant of four hundred thousand acres in the Middle Island. It is also understood that a loan will be granted for the purpose of enabling them to resume their suspended colonising operations.

The greatest anxiety has been felt to learn whether anything further had transpired in America on the Texan question, and people were surprised to find so little on the subject in the papers received by the *Britannia*. An alarm was created amongst the Mexican bond-holders by the publication by a mining paper of the protest of the Mexican government against the resolution for the annexation of Texas, passed by the Congress of the United States. This protest, for it can be called

nothing else, being ostentatiously headed, in capitals, "Declaration of War by Mexico," its truth was taken for granted, and the immediate effect was a decline of nearly 2 per cent. in Mexican Bonds.

It is deemed scarcely credible that in the present distracted state of the republic the Mexicans will seriously declare war without some guarantee of support from Europe; and it is needless to add that without such a guarantee, the country which could not keep Texas is not likely to reconquer it when backed by the additional power of the United States. The proclamation of the Mexican Government is, of course, dwelt upon by the Paris opposition journals, but their remarks may be summed up in a sentence. England had an interest in preventing the annexation of Texas, and France had not; and France has by her interference uselessly made an enemy of the United States Government, for which the French Government deserves reprobation, &c.

Mr. M'Lane, has delivered his credentials to the Queen, and Mr. Everett his letters of recall. The American ambassador was anxious to enter upon the object of his mission *instantly*, but as Lord Aberdeen had arranged to accompany the Queen to Germany, the commencement of negotiations was postponed. Her Majesty, it will be seen, has had a glorious reception on the Continent. A London paper, in the *Palmerstonian* interest, says:—"The visit of Queen Victoria to the Rhine has given rise to a world of jealousies and mistrusts; has made courts anxious and diplomatists busy." We don't believe there is any truth in this assertion.

Previous to the separation of Parliament the Committee of the House of Commons on the petition of Mr. Bruce, impugning the validity of the contract deed of the London and York Railway Company, reported that the charges of Mr. Bruce have in some few cases been sustained, but that, considering the whole of the case, they are of opinion that "Mr. Bruce had abused the right of petition," by making charges against persons not founded on fact.

The Committee of the House of Lords state that the evidence which they had been enabled to take warrants them in recommending that the bill should not be read a second time until a further investigation has taken place. The consequence of this decision is that the bill is postponed until next session. With regard to the allegations in the petition of Mr. Bruce, the committee had only been enabled to investigate thirteen of the cases, in the whole of which the charges had not been supported. The charges against several parties were abandoned by the petitioners.

Switzerland continues to be in a very unsettled state and further ruptures are expected. There has been a serious fire at the Toulon arsenal, which is noticed in our Foreign Summary.

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

A very large business has been transacted since our last advice, in most descriptions of merchandize, and all has been *bona fide* for home consumption and export: prices where altered are rather higher. The imports have been to a moderate extent, and the exports have been large, very large, and so have the deliveries. Owing to a continued extraordinary consumption, the stocks of primary commodities are less than at this time last year. A good business is advertised. The advices from almost all parts of the Continent, as well as from the British Colonies speak more cheerfully as to the condition of trade. The stocks of British goods on hand in most quarters are stated to be slight. The transactions in the grain markets are watched with the greatest anxiety. Prices have somewhat lowered, the supplies being stated to be much more abundant than they were a month ago, and the weather being somewhat more favourable to a good harvest. There is still enough of old wheat in the farmer's hands to make speculation a very hazardous, if not unsafe and losing game. We do not expect that prices will fall again to the averages of the last twelve months, but we think that they have, unless the weather becomes decidedly alarming, attained the *maximum* which will rule until after Christmas.

In consequence of the gloomy anticipations which have for some time hung over men of capital on account of the unsettled state of the weather money has been more difficult of access, and capitalists appear to be tightening.

IRELAND.

The Repeal Association.—The weekly meeting of the Repeal Association took

place on Monday the 4th current, Dr. Murphy in the chair.

A letter was read from Mr. O'Connell describing the recent demonstrations at Wexford and Galway, and calling upon the Association to take measures for returning 60 Repeal members to Parliament. At the close of his letter Mr. O'Connell says:—"Should the proposed meeting of Orangemen for the 12th of this month be seriously intended to take place, the association must take active means by counsel and influence to prevent the Catholics, but especially to caution all Repealers from interfering in any way, and from in any respect impeding the Orangemen in their procession. Between the Repealers and the Orangemen there is no real case of quarrel, or even of difference. In Wexford the green arches across the roads were, in very many instances, decorated with orange lilies. It is thus we can best attain the Repeal."

On the motion of Mr. J. O'Connell, resolutions in accordance with his father's views were adopted.

Capt. Broderick next addressed the meeting, taking for his theme the present relations of America with England. He taunted England with inability to resist aggression successfully, unless aided by Ireland, and predicted a termination to the greatness of the British empire, in the event of a war, unless independence were conceded to this country as the price of its assistance.

Mr. J. O'Connell followed in a similar train. He protested against the annexation of Texas as a measure calculated to promote slavery, and contrasted the language of defiance used in Parliament by Sir R. Peel towards America in reference to the Oregon boundary question, with the concessions at present in the course of being made. Proud, haughty England, in spite of all Peel's bluster, was forced into a disgraceful submission to America, because she continued unjust to Ireland. But she would have to truckle not only to America but to France and to any other country which might have the courage to assail her, unless she did justice to Ireland. She should have the assistance of Irishmen; hearts and hands, they offered her the last drop of their blood, if she acted justly to them; but if she persevered in tyranny, injustice and insolence, she would have to yield to a foreign power, in spite of big words and insults. In the event of a war, Irishmen would not be untrue to the allegiance which they owed their Sovereign; they would not invite the foreign enemy to their shores, but they would stand smiling by and witness the ruin of England. Let, then, Peel talk, let him prate as he pleased; whilst he was talking, America was acting and Ireland was looking on.

Mr. Scott deprecated the introduction of irritating language towards Americans in connection with the system of slavery. There was an anti-slavery institution in Dublin, and that, in his opinion, was the place to declaim against slavery, and not that association. He condemned slavery as much as any man, but that association should not be the vehicle of slanderous attacks on the Americans, and thus convert into enemies, people who were most desirous to assist them. He knew that many American slaveholders were anxious to get rid of slavery, but it was necessarily a work of time. He thought it was absurd and improper that that association should take money from America with one hand and give her a slap in the face with the other.

Mr. J. O'Connell expressed astonishment that any Irishman could dare to stand forward for the purpose of advocating or palliating slavery, and casting reproaches on those who were doing their duty as Christians by condemning it. For his own part he should never cease to denounce the infernal system and its abettors, even at the risk of his life.

Mr. Scott having denied that he was an apologist of slavery, the subject was abandoned.

The rent for the week was £267 17s 11d. At the weekly meeting of the association on Monday the 11th, Dr. Drury, of London, presided.

A letter from Mr. O'Connell, urging the appointment of repeal wardens in every parish, and a most active attention to the registry, was read. The object of the Hon. and Learned Gentleman is, that none but candidates who are not only repealers, but members of the association, shall be returned to Parliament for any borough or county in Ireland. As touching the town of Galway, Mr. O'Connell thinks that Sir V. Blake will do, but he thinks differently of his colleague, who although a repealer, has thought proper to disregard the mandate to appear in Conciliation Hall. "As to the second member," says Mr. O'Connell, "Mr. M.