

pected to the grant of the three millions of reals which was proposed by the Budget Committee to be made to Queen Christina. The *Clamor Publico* condemns in strong terms the residence of the Munoz family at the Royal Palace.

Dispatches had been received from Rome, which promised that the relations of Spain with the Holy See would soon be placed upon an amicable footing. It was proposed to create two new ministerial departments, one for public instruction, and the other for transatlantic and colonial affairs. A court martial had sat at Logrono to try the persons implicated in Zurbarano's insurrection; but only one had surrendered to take his trial, and he had been sentenced to two years' *prisión*.

Switzerland.—The accounts from Switzerland confirm the unfavourable impression created by previous advices. The free corps have invaded the territory of Lucerne, and, contrary to expectation, have been signally defeated by the troops of that canton. The excitement occasioned by this bloodshed, pervades all parts of Confederation, and a general civil war can only be prevented by some vigorous measures on the part of the Diet. The last accounts state that the Diet had been convoked in great haste, and that at their sitting on the 5th a committee was appointed to inquire into the state of affairs. From the accounts we have received, which are somewhat confused, we collect that the free corps presented themselves before Lucerne, upon the morning of the 1st, and were received by a fire of musketry, and two attempts to enter the town were repulsed. It is added that the besiegers, believing in a capitulation, retired to the faubourgs, where they were received by a fire of grape-shot so terrible that from 800 to 1,000 were killed. The remains of the corps returned to their homes. The troops of the city captured a park of artillery, consisting of four howitzers, four cannon, three howitzer caissons, and a large quantity of smaller ordnance. It is said that out of the 600 men who marched from the half canton of Bale country, only 100 have returned, and that a single man alone has got back to Liestal. Steiger and Rothpletz two of the Leaders who had been captured, had been brought before a military commission. It is stated that Dr. Steiger was tried and condemned, and immediately shot.

Letters from Zurich of the 9th state that the exasperation of the conquering party is so great that serious apprehensions were entertained as to the fate of the prisoners taken before Lucerne. These prisoners are said to be 1,602 in all. Among them are 180 Bernese and 694 Argovians.

The Catholic cantons had held a council at Lucerne, and had decided on addressing a declaration to the Diet. General Sonnenberg had published an order of the day, condemning the treatment of the prisoners, and recommending that they should be more humanely treated. A general amnesty had been granted to all persons under twenty years of age.

The Extraordinary Diet of Switzerland met again on the 11th inst., when, on the motion of M. Naff, deputy for St. Gall, a majority of twelve cantons voted a "recommendation" instead of an "invitation," to Lucerne, to issue an amnesty. A similar proposal relative to the cantons of Argau, Valais, and Tessino was not adopted. A sum of 950,000 Swiss francs, to be supplied by the federal treasury, was voted for defraying the expenses occasioned by the calling out of the federal contingents. On the 12th the question of reducing the number of the troops called out by the Vorort was to come under discussion. Seven editors of Radical newspapers are stated to have been killed or captured in the expedition against Lucerne.

Cape of Good Hope.—The Graham's town papers of the 30th January, contain a return of the exports of the Eastern Province for the year ending with December, which amounted in value to £142,372 against £110,952 in the year 1843. The increase in the export of wool was from £59,582 to £76,809. The imports during the year amounted to £149,193 against £118,860. It is probably worthy of notice that in the exports from the Eastern Province the article of wine does not appear for the last year, which shows that branch of trade has been abandoned for the more profitable production of wool.

There has been another conference between Mr. Stretch, the colonial agent, and the Caffre chiefs, at which the latter had at length agreed to sign the treaty. They for some time demurred against two of the articles, one of which relates

to the establishment of coal courts, and the other relates to the permission of the people to attend the missionary schools. Some of the chiefs signed the treaty, under a protest against these articles, the basis of their objection being, that the evils they are intended to provide against could at any time be redressed by the authority of the chiefs over their own tribes, and were therefore superfluous, and an evidence of unmerited distrust in their sense of justice.

By advices to the 12th of February, we learn that the Stamp Duty ordinance was withdrawn, in consequence of the universal opposition it had met with from all classes of the colonists. Extensive preparations were making in Saldanha Bay, to accommodate vessels coming for guano, large quantities of that article having been found on the small islands along the coast. According to the accounts received at the Cape, the guano at Ichaboe would not be sufficient to load the ships there waiting their turn to load, so that the accumulations found nearer the Cape will come in good stead.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Courier Francais* thus describes the extent of the Paris fortifications, and the enormous number of guns required to mount them:—The continuous line of the fortifications contains 94 forts, and the detached forts 93, in all 178 fronts. Each fort consisting of two half curtains and a bastion, requires for its defence 20 pieces of artillery, or for the 187 forts 2,640 guns.

The number of French Government steamers now afloat, or building, is 92. Of these, eight are frigates of from 450 to 650 horse-power, and 18 corvettes of from 220 to 320 horse-power.

It is reported, says the *Commerce*, that the Prince de Joinville is to take the command, in the month of June, of a small squadron for evolutions in the Mediterranean.

Our Alexandria correspondent, under date March 27 writes that Mehemet Ali still remained at Cairo, and that Ibrahim Pacha was seriously ill. The result of the railway survey (from Cairo to Suez) had been made public, and was deemed satisfactory. The cost for the 88 miles miles is estimated at £320,000. The surplus profit on the working is calculated at £27,500 per annum; and the general opinion was, the Pacha would at once carry out the work.

The Evening Mail positively—almost authoritatively—denies the report of her Majesty's visiting Ireland in the course of the present summer. "We can assure our readers (says that journal) upon the most positive authority, that the question of her Majesty's visit to Ireland has never been mooted or discussed in the Court or Ministerial circles; and that consequently there is not the remotest probability of such an event taking place. There will be no influx of Saxon gold this year—as dukes, marquises, or earls, with £100 per week, furnished lodgings." Mr O'Connell on the contrary, and with more truth and reason, maintains that her Majesty will come, and no mistake. At the meeting of the corporation on Wednesday he moved for the appointment of a committee, which was to sit yesterday, to consider the most effective method of testifying their respects to her Majesty.

More Scientific Wonders.—There is an announcement in the *Mechanics' Magazine*, of Saturday last, of a plan invented by Mr W. H. James, for the rapid transmission of letters and light despatches through tabular passages, at certain intervals in which he proposes to place air-exhausting machines, which will establish a perpetual current or artificial hurricane, by means of which spherically shaped elastic vehicles, or bags, will be blown with inconceivable speed from station to station. The first cost is estimated by Mr James at £2000 per mile, and the working expenses at from £300 to £500 per annum for every fifty miles.

It is also alleged that a wonderful engine, called the air engine, has lately been constructed by Professor Reinagle, who is securing patents in every civilized country of the earth. The power, which is self produced in the engine, which stands on a space not exceeding two feet square, having a power equal to 568 horses. For pumping water out of mines it is gravely proposed to use a 10,000 to 20,000 horse power in order to do the work promptly. It is stated, that, with the present small engine, 280 tons can be propelled at the rate of 25 to 30 miles per hour. The description of the action of the machine is very vague, but it is said that several very eminent and scientific men have examined it, and expressed their astonishment. Professor Faraday, having seen the drawing, and heard the theory and practice of this invention ex-

plained, complimented the inventor by declaring that he had discovered perpetual motion of the most terrific description.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

The parliamentary proceedings of the last fortnight have been chiefly of domestic interest, since the announcement of the agreement with regard to the Oregon question.

On Thursday Mr Christie brought his annual motion on the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, which was opposed by Government, and rejected by 143 to 82. Sir C. Napier wished to ask, whether the two members of the government, who abstained from voting on the question of an increased grant to the College of Maynooth did so by accident or design—and whether they were still retained in their offices—and if so, whether the increased grant to Maynooth was to be considered an open question. Sir Robert Peel said there had not recently been any change in any department of Her Majesty's Government. With respect to the increased grant to the College of Maynooth, he considered the question so important, that he should do all in his power to carry it. In answer to a question by Mr Hume on the same subject, Mr Ward said, when he gave notice of his motion for the payment of the increased grant to the College of Maynooth out of the revenues of the Established Church of Ireland, it was his intention to amend, and not throw out, the resolution for an increased grant to Maynooth. He never intended to discuss that measure as a rallying point for parties opposed to her Majesty's present government. He had no wish, no desire, to give any sort of encouragement to the unhappy state of feeling which prevailed out of doors on this most important subject. He thought it would be a great calamity in the present state of affairs that the measure should be lost. He had, therefore, made up his mind to abandon his motion—at all events until the next stage of the bill—when he could give his hon. friends an opportunity of giving expression to their opinions. He thought a resolution might be proposed in which they might all cordially agree, without the risk of losing a measure which they must see passed into a law.

The presentation of petitions against Maynooth was then proceeded with, and occupied a considerable time. We are informed that, on that single meeting, the extraordinary—we believe the unprecedented—number of two thousand three hundred petitions against the measure was presented, and only one in its favor. Sir R. Peel having moved the second reading of the Maynooth College Bill, Mr Colquhoun opposed it, pointing out the evil of endowing an institution for the propagation of error, the mischievous tendencies of Maynooth teaching, and the certainty the present measure, if carried, will be followed by a still more extensive patronage of Popery. Mr Grogan spoke to the same effect, and dwelt on the danger of encouraging the Jesuits in Ireland. Mr Gladstone declared his determination to give his anxious support to the Bill. He admitted that the public feeling of England and Scotland as well as the feeling of his own constituents was against it. He also admitted that whatever might be said of a "compact" respecting the old grant, the present is altogether a new measure to be judged of on its own merits. The grounds on which he would advocate the Bill were the numbers and poverty of the Roman Catholics, which rendered a provision for the education of their priests necessary,—the probability that giving ease and comfort to the teachers at Maynooth would soften the tone of that institution,—and the expectation that the measure would conciliate and win the affections of the Irish people. "Protestantism" he regarded as an undefined thing with which the State could not be said to be connected. The subject continued under discussion.

The debate lasted two days and had not concluded on Thursday night. A majority of 80 is expected.

Mr Ferrand gave notice, on the third reading of the Maynooth College Bill, to move, as an amendment—"That it is the opinion of this House that the 7th and 8th, Victoria, c. 97, commonly called the Charitable Bequests Act, which received the royal assent on the 9th of August, 1844, was a violation of the Act of Settlement, and a contradiction of the oath of supremacy; and that the Maynooth College Bill is calculated to encourage and spread a religion opposed to the Protestant reformed religion established by law.

Mr Crawford gave notice, on a future stage of the Maynooth bill, to move—"That the principle of endowment of any religious sect or sects from a state fund, or from a fund received from rents, tithes,

&c., whether known by any other name or denomination, is a violation of the rights of conscience, detrimental to religion, and dangerous to civil and religious liberty, and that all such grants ought to be abolished."

In the House of Peers on Friday the Income Tax Act, after a brief debate was read a third time and passed, and on Saturday it became law, the royal assent being given by commission.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.

On Monday the 7th, John O'Brien, M. P., was called to the chair, at the Dublin Conciliation hall. Mr Grey Porter, the author of a pamphlet on federalism, was enrolled a member, and delivered a very curious speech to this effect—"That the union ought to be repealed, because it was a bad act, but that a new act of union should be past in its place. While he was for repeal, he was not in favor of an Irish parliament." The meeting was puzzled as to the way it should respond to his sentiments—murmurs, at intervals, were not loud but deep. One thing however, is certain, that the agitation has already lost most of its bitterness. The next curious feature was the really cordial and hearty approbation of the recent Maynooth proposition bestowed by Mr O'Connell, and the equally warm applause of the meeting. The subjoined sketch of the honorable and learned gentleman's speech will convey an idea of its spirit:—"Oh, it is done in a noble and generous manner, and I feel grateful for it. (Great cheering.) I admit I do speak harshly sometimes of those whom I believe opposed to measures for the good of my country; but I am ready to do justice to all the friends of Ireland—to all who show such a disposition as this Bill shows of serving her. (Hear, hear.) I do exclaim there never was a bill brought in on fairer terms, and we do fairly acknowledge it. But will it make us give up the agitation for repeal? (No, no.) I don't mean to quarrel with any man who differs from me on this question. But I am sometimes disposed to say, "Thank you, agitation; Conciliation Hall I am obliged to you. Maynooth ought to pray for you!" While we thank Sir Robert Peel and his two hundred myrmidons, we ought not to forget what is due to our agitation. There is one delightful thing in connection with this act of justice. On Thursday Sir Robert Peel brought in the Maynooth Bill and passed it by a majority of 102, and on the following day he set the Americans at defiance. (Cheers.) Yes, finding himself in a strong position, and by this act of justice to Ireland, he addresses language to America befitting a British minister. I say go on in the same way, and we will set the Americans at defiance. The quarrel is a queer one as it stands. The Americans are bragging away on the one side, and Peel is standing in an attitude of defiance on the other. Something like two fellows anxious to be at one another with their friends holding them, each exclaiming "Let me at him." I say to Sir Robert Peel give the Irish their parliament, and to the Americans I would say don't dare to attack England."

The rent was announced to be £333 0s 7d.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

The news of the past fortnight is of domestic rather than of general interest, and has relation chiefly to the parliamentary grant, proposed by Sir Robert Peel, for the improvement of the education provided for Roman Catholic students, in the college of Maynooth. A large number of the supporters of the established church affect to consider this grant to be tantamount to the endowment of Popery, and evince a very strong opposition to the proposal, in which they are assisted by the Dissenters, who are against almost all advocates for the voluntary principle of religion, against the endowment of any church whatever by the state, though themselves receiving benefit from the *Regium Donum*. There can however, be little doubt, that the Premier will carry his measure, and he is well upheld by a large body of the Protestant clergy and laity, who are of opinion that something is necessary to be done to show the Roman Catholic people of Ireland that they are wrong in entertaining an impression that England is disposed to trample upon them and their religion, and that the best way of extending the principles of the reformation is to furnish the professors of Roman Catholicism with an improved secular education. Many friends of the government also remember the Premier's declaration on taking office, that his greatest difficulty would be in the management of Ireland; they look upon this proposal as a mas-