

European News.

From British Papers to the 5th August, received by the *Hibernia*, Steamer.

From Charles Willmer's American News Letter, August 5.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

The arrival of the *Acadia* steam ship at this port on Tuesday last, supplied two items of intelligence which have since occupied a large share of public attention. The first of these is the annexation of Texas to the United States, and next, the second calamitous fire at Quebec.

With respect to the first of these—to say that the result has at all excited surprise, would be to convey an idea the opposite of truth, but the means which are described as having been resorted to by the United States to obtain the consummation, have been freely discussed, and called forth, from some of the opponents of democracy, strong denunciations. By some it is contended, that so far from the extension of the United States territory being advantageous to the Government, it will involve the country in embarrassments which must sooner or later lead to a dissolution of the Union. Another view of the probable result of the annexation of Texas is, that it may lead to a war between the United States and Mexico, and such an assumption is founded upon the fact that America has received into her Union a large territory still claimed by Mexico as a portion of her dominions; and America is ready to defend her newly acquired State against the pretensions of Mexico. American troops are already in Texas for that purpose. Events can only be construed into an open declaration of war between those countries. From the position which England occupied with respect to those countries, she is not necessarily implicated in the quarrel so far, for however much it may be against our wishes—however much against our regard for the interests of humanity—England as well as France, has recognized the Independence of Texas, and Texas is, therefore, as far as England or France are concerned, at liberty to adopt any form of government, or any alliance with the States, she pleases. But, it is said, the defence of Texas may be easily converted into aggression on Mexico; and there is not wanting abundance of evidence that the "American mind" has already looked towards the rich plains of California, if not to the mines of Mexico, as prizes worthy of the results of a contest if once commenced in earnest; and, it is added, that there are not now wanting those who, with some such ultimate view, are eager for war, and who, when war has once been commenced, will be as eager for its continuance, with the hope of circumstances leading to such prizes. Such are the sentiments, in this country, upon annexation.

The news of the second fire at Quebec has spread a wide and deep sensation, and created a feeling of sympathy highly creditable to the nation. Everything that can be done in this country for the alleviation of the sufferers will be accomplished. The good work has been commenced by the Government. On Thursday evening, in the House of Commons, the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved a vote of £20,000 in aid of the suffering colonists. We regret, however, that among the mercantile classes, as yet, there has not been evinced that spirit of liberality in contributing to the fund now raising which usually characterises them. The reason for this is supposed to exist in the fact that between Quebec and England there is comparatively little connexion; Montreal being, both politically and commercially, the capital of Canada.

Parliament, it is now said, will be prorogued on Saturday next, and, as it approaches, the question is raised, will Ministers allow the present Parliament to re-assemble? Why should they not, seeing that, in spite of some grumbling, they have on all important divisions larger majorities now than they had two years ago—larger too than they can hope to gain by resort to a dissolution? No party, either Ministerial or Opposition, either free trade or monopoly, is now prepared for a general election; and nothing could at present be gained by it save confusion, discord, and dissipation. Speculation on this point is, therefore, a work of supererogation; for dissolution there is no reasonable prospect. It will be time enough to discuss the probability this time next year.

Two trifling and most avoidable accidents have occurred on railways which have very properly been alluded to in the House of Commons, and extorted

from Sir R. Peel a timely warning that if railway companies will not take every possible precaution to convey persons and property safely, Government will interfere on the part of the public. Other railway abuses arising out of the speculation *mania*, which rages stronger and fiercer than ever, have been amusingly and profitably exposed by the *Times*.

The weather of the week has increased rather than diminished the fears entertained as to the harvest; and as the home stocks in granaries are unusually small, and the crops reported to be below average production in the great exporting countries of Europe, very considerable anxiety, and, of course, no little speculation in Mark-lane, exist.

The Circuits are in progress; but, if we except the trial of the slave-traders at Exeter, without as yet producing any instance of enormous or shocking crime, though yielding forth a superabundance of guilt of inferior dye. The quarrel between the bar of Oxford and Western Circuits and the press has very properly induced the daily journals to suppress in their reports of the proceedings of those circuits the mention of any barrister's name; so that the baristers are likely to lose in every point by the absurd and ridiculous course they have adopted.

In Parliament the business has been of a miscellaneous character. The week has been passed in the Lords in enacting wholesale the measures sent up by the Commons; and has been spent by the Commons in patiently waiting for the Lords to overtake them in legislation. In addition, however, to these labours, the Upper House has, on Lord Campbell's suggestion, rescinded a standing order which prohibited the publication of the lives of deceased peers, originally adopted to protect the peerage against premature or inconvenient or venal disclosures. And by its repeal Lord Campbell will be able to give the world his *Lives of English Chancellors* without infringing on the rules of the House of which he is a member.

While waiting for the completion of their legislation by the Upper House, the Commons have not been uselessly employed. Mr Ewart has advanced the cause of national education by calling the attention of the Legislature to its present position, and by inducing Sir R. Peel to pledge the Government to further efforts in this direction. Mr John Fielden has pointed out a weak point in the income tax regulations. And Lord Palmerston has done good service by many useful and timely suggestions relative to the condition of our national defences, which Sir R. Peel by no means appreciated at their real worth by the cavalier manner in which he treated that important subject; as well as by directing attention to the decay of British influence in Greece.

At Sunderland both parties are active in preparing for an election. The candidates are Colonel Thompson and Mr. Hudson, the "Railway King." Colonel Thompson has had a growing support; having been joined by Mr Bright, the Member for Durham, Mr Henry Morton, the agent for the Lambton estates and understood to represent the Durham interest, and by other Free-traders and Liberals. The supporters of Mr Hudson exhibit a show of figures, and declare that their candidate has secured a majority of votes. The "Railway King" made his first appearance in the town and his debut on the hustings on Monday. The substance of his speech was the reply to two charges,—that he was a railway speculator; and that he opposed that repeal of the Corn-laws which would benefit the poor. He boasted that railways benefit the poor, by occasioning employment.

From the Continent the principal news is of preparation making to receive with due honour Queen Victoria on her progress to Saxe Gotha. France is dull, and Spain resounds with grumbling that portends danger to the rule of Narvaez, and to the intrigues of Queen Christina. While from India or China there is no news of political importance.

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

Serious fears of a failure of the harvest now begin to be felt. The weather, at present, and for some days past, has been far from favorable to the harvest, and although the crops are generally described as good, yet they must suffer severely should the present weather continue. This is already producing its effect—a demand for money. During the past week, the demand has so much increased that discounts have been raised 4 per cent. The supply of grain at present in the country is very limited, and a failure of the coming crop would be a serious inconvenience. The stock of United States

Flour in Liverpool, under lock, consists of 96,385 barrels; of which about 15,000 are sweet, the remainder sour; and should the new wheat want help, this article, owing to the low coarse quality of the Baltic Wheat, will be of unusual value, as it will give strength and color also: as yet it has advanced very little the last few weeks, but its value may be better known soon.

The general business of the country is healthy, but the excessive speculation in shares continues, and, indeed, is on the increase, which produces some alarm for the future among those whose transactions are of a more legitimate character. In the funds there has been no material variation, if we except some fluctuation in the foreign market. Mexican Bonds, in consequence of the last American intelligence respecting the annexation of Texas to the United States, fell about 1 per cent. upon the first promulgation of the news, but it has since slightly improved. A decline of nearly 2 per cent. has occurred in Brazilian Bonds, which were offered to day at 89; the Brazilian Minister's protest against the provisions of our new slave trade act is assigned as the cause.

The returns of the Bank of England for the week ending the 26th ult., show that the stock of bullion is still on the decline; as also, of course, the note circulation. As compared with the previous week's return, the reduction in the bullion department amounts to £85,814; in the note circulation, from £21,508,000 to £21,301,035.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

France.—The celebration of the Revolution of 1830 began in Paris on Monday, with religious observances in honour of those who perished. Tuesday was the day of rejoicing, there was a kind of fair on the Champs Elysees and at the Barriere du Trone; a concert in the garden of the Tuileries, and at night an illumination with fireworks. M. Guizot left Paris on Monday for Valricher, his seat in Normandy. M. Duchatel supplies the place of M. Guizot at the Foreign Office during the absence of the latter.

The *Moniteur* publishes the estimates for 1846; in which the ordinary and extraordinary expenditures are fixed at 1,434,439,406 francs, and the ways and means at 1,355,439,406 francs.

Spain.—The Barcelona Chamber of Commerce has prepared an address to all similar bodies in the kingdom calling on them to petition the Cortes about the admission of Cuba sugars into the English markets. Should England persist in excluding them, the Barcelona merchants recommend recourse to reprisals, and propose to prohibit the importation into Spain, Cuba, and other Spanish colonies of various articles of English manufacture, such as linens, cloth, hardware, muslin, machinery, &c.

Switzerland.—A sensation has been created by the death of M. Leu, of Ebrezol, a distinguished member of the Catholic party of Lucerne, "M. Leu," says the Paris Presse, "was found dead in a bed, a ball having passed through his breast. The murderer had entered the window by means of a ladder. A quantity of straw and other combustible materials had been collected round the house evidently with the intention of setting fire to it had the ball, from any circumstance, missed its intended victim. No clue has yet been discovered to the murderer." The Catholic papers concur in regarding the case as one of assassination; while the Protestants insist that it was one of suicide. One paper reported that the murder was committed by Kedlinger, a servant, who had quarrelled with M. Leu about a money account; adding that he had fled, and had been arrested: but that statement was, at least premature. Many protestants, however, were obliged to fly from Lucerne to escape the popular fury, and several arrests took place.

Syria.—Letters from Alexandria, dated July 20, state that the Emmetze arrived there at a late hour on the previous night from Beyrout. Matters appear to assume a more favourable aspect in Syria. Lebanon is tolerably quiet. Some murders have been committed, but it is hoped that the disastrous affairs that have so long disturbed the peace of the country will soon be arranged.

THE OVERLAND MAIL.

Summary.—The present mail, as far as political intelligence is concerned, is certainly a barren one, though there has been no lack of topics of discussion—some of local, some of general interest—since the departure of the last steamer. From Scinde no news is usually good news, and we see little reason for questioning the accuracy of the definition on this oc-

casation. There has been scarcely any sickness, and *no war*, in the province "fertile as Egypt;" and those who have witnessed the presence of either of these calamities in the valley of the Indus will be able to appreciate the blessings that must flow from the absence of both. From the Southern Mahratta country we have no news save what relates to a few military movements; but the occurrences of the late campaign have again formed the subject of debate in discussing the proceedings on the court martial of Lieut Colonel Wallace, and the propriety of the sentence passed on that officer. The Madras press has, with one exception, espoused the colonel's cause. Our news from the Punjab bears reference principally to the ravages of cholera, which dreadful scourge has spread over the country far and wide, and in the city and in the city of Lahore has cut off hundreds daily. The only important item of intelligence from Cabool is, that the long designed attack of Peshawar has now been finally abandoned both by Dost Mahomed and his son. The Governor General remains for the present in Calcutta, but it is said will proceed to the north west provinces in October, with the whole of his council, secretaries, &c., with the view of taking measures for reducing the Seikhs to a state of order. We have China news to the 6th ultimo, comprising several items of interest. The Governor of Bombay, with his family and suite, has proceeded into the Deccan—as is usual at this season of the year—and remains there till after the rains. The institution hitherto known in Bombay as the "Bank of Western India," is henceforth to be called the "Oriental Bank," and some other alterations are to be introduced preparatory to obtaining the expected charter. Mr Cargill, the manager, leaves for England by the steamer to day for the purpose of completing the details; and we understand that it is in contemplation to get Mr Anderson, our late governor, to take the chair at the London board, that gentleman having purchased shares and otherwise qualified himself to act in the capacity mentioned. The monsoon, after holding off, with occasional showers and thunder-storms, for some days, appears to have now fairly set in. Cholera, we regret to say, has been very prevalent both at Bombay and Poonah.

IRELAND.

Repeal Association.—At the meeting of the Repeal Association, on Monday, the most prominent subject was a dispute between the repealers in London. A section of that body were in rebellion against the warden, Mr. W. J. O'Connell; and they threatened to call a public meeting at the National Hall, in Holborn, to lay their grievances before the public. Mr. O'Connell said that if they did so, their names should be struck off the rolls of Conciliation Hall. The repeal rent for the week was announced to be over £350.

Wexford Repeal Demonstration.—This great repeal demonstration took place on Wednesday, the 23d ult. The progress of Mr. O'Connell from Bray to Wexford is described as one long triumphal procession. The last named town was crowded with people awaiting Mr. O'Connell's arrival. The open air meeting was attended by a vast crowd, by whom Mr. O'Connell was received with the most unbounded enthusiasm. The dinner took place in a large tent erected in a timber yard, adjoining the quay of Wexford. The tables were capable of accommodating about 1,000 persons, and fully that number sat down to dinner. Mr. O'Connell responded to the toast proposing his health. Having dwelt at some length upon the injustice of English legislation, he proceeded to ridicule the outcry raised in some of the English papers respecting certain barbarities alleged to have been inflicted recently upon an Arab tribe by Col. Pellissier, of the French army; and cited several instances of cruelty on the part of the English towards the inhabitants of Ireland, when at war with it, which, he contended, greatly exceeded in barbarity the act of the French colonel. Amongst the instances of English cruelty practised in Ireland, cited by the hon. Gentleman, was the oft-quoted massacre of 300 Wexford ladies, by Cromwell's soldiery, in the Bullring. The *Standard* had accused him of lying in connection with this occurrence. There was lying, no doubt, but the scoundrel print had it all to itself. Having read Lingard's account of the alleged atrocity, he proceeded to congratulate the women of Wexford on their present safety. The ruthless barbarians should never again even think of slaughtering one of them. His countrymen would die by inches sooner than permit them to do so again.—(Cheers.) Mr.