

the "stern reserve," as one of our letters terms it, observed by the British Government, was suggesting uneasiness where it had not previously existed, and increasing it in quarters in which the knowledge of the real facts had already occasioned misgiving. It is stated that the nature of the replies received from the foreign courts (southern as well as northern) to which France had appealed in respect of the protests of the British Government against Montpensier's marriage, was not agreeable. In general, they stated that as they knew of no legitimate Spanish sovereign but the Count de Montemolin, the marriages contracted by the daughters of Ferdinand VII. were not matters in which they (those governments) could interfere. In one, or perhaps two, instances, an opinion was hazarded, however, that nothing positively to prohibit the marriage of the Infanta Luisa with a French prince appeared to those powers to have been provided by the treaty of Utrecht; but they accompanied that view of the question by a clear and unqualified expression of their hostility to the arrival of any French prince at sovereign power in Spain.

If, says our Paris letter, such opinions and views have been expressed they only say that, as in private life, a member of the great European family may marry whom he or she please, but always subject to the consequences. The following extract from a correspondent of the 16th instant, is significant of the course events are taking in the northern cabinets:—

Aware of the importance you attach to all that belongs to the Montpensier marriage question, I have endeavoured to arrive at knowledge of the resolve of the Austrian government after its having considered the protest of Great Britain, and the representations of France on the subject. Some days ago all appeared *color de rose* at the French embassy and Count Fishent had the air of a man satisfied not only with that which he had himself done in the matter, but that nothing more could be achieved in Vienna. Such would, however appear not to be the case, for the arrival of emissaries to him from Paris, and their immediate dispatch thither in return, is almost hourly. The persuasive eloquence of M. Guizot must consequently have failed in effect, but I am bound to tell you, candidly, that it is believed that the representations of Lord Palmerston have succeeded only as far as to influence the court of Vienna to declare its incompetency or indisposition to interfere in an affair which, because that Austria has not recognised Queen Isabella as the rightful sovereign of Spain, interests her (Austria) not. The impression produced by all this in the diplomatic circles in Vienna is, that France feels herself in a position to which it behooves her to propitiate the northern cabinets—that of Austria in particular—and that up to the present moment that object has not been attained.

**Revolutionary Movement in Portugal.**—A formidable insurrection has broken out in Oporto, Coimbra, Braga, and neighbouring places. The official journals of Lisbon of the 13th publishes a decree betraying the embarrassment and apprehension of the Government. The officers and soldiers dismissed in 1842 are recalled into service. Those who comply are promised reward, and those who refuse threatened with being treated as deserters.

A letter from Lisbon of the 13th says:—The official account of the insurrection of Oporto has just arrived. The Duke de Terceira has just been arrested, and confined in the tower of the Fort. The Junta of Oporto has proclaimed Don Pedro V, and declared the Queen excluded from the throne. The Marquis de Loule, who married the Infanta Donna Anna, has put himself at the head of the Junta of Coimbra. The Count Das Antas presides over that of Oporto. There have been organised at Coimbra four battalions which are to join with the forces of the province of Aveiro in marching upon the capital. All the steam boats belonging to private companies as well as to the state, have placed themselves at the disposal of the Junta of Oporto.

**The Opposition to the Jesuits in the Swiss Cantons.**—By accounts from Berne of the 22nd, we learn that public tranquility had not been again disturbed. The civic guard had been completely organised, and was in a state to be called out at a moment's notice.

But Basle city had followed the example of Geneva. Exasperated at the temporising conduct of the Grand Council on the subject of the Jesuits, the people rose on the 22nd in open insurrection, and commenced unmaking the streets. The Grand Council immediately resigned, and henceforth Basle city and Basle country will form but one canton. This, with the vote of Geneva, will secure in the Federal Diet a majority sufficient to pass an enactment ordering the expulsion of the Jesuits and the dissolution of the league of the Catholic cantons.

The elections at Geneva took place on the 24th. Upwards of 7000 electors voted. The result has been to give an over-

whelming majority in the Grand Council to the Liberal party. *From Willmer & Smith's European Times, from October 20 to October 31.*

**DOMESTIC.**  
The serious rise in the price of all kinds of provisions has set the political economists on the *qui vive*. Wheat has now reached the lowest duty, four shillings per quarter, and so imminent is the apprehension of famine, that the cry for opening the ports not only continues, but is daily becoming louder and more general.

The truth is, that the famine cry has been overdone. There is much selfishness in it. The price of provisions has risen far beyond the legitimate value, whether estimated by the stocks on hand, or by the state of other countries. There is so much superfluous money in England, that capitalists are always morbidly alive to every project for increasing it. The food market is a better field for speculation this year than the share market proved last year, and the consequences is, that cupidity speculates, the prices rise. Nothing can escape the ken of the sanguine worshipper of mammon. Like the proboscis of the elephant, nothing is too light or too heavy for his capacious maw. A needle or an anchor he can raise with equal gusto—his great revenge has stomach for them all. One of the anomalies which the present state of matters has produced, may be seen in Ireland. The cry of destitution booms fearfully across the channel, and the English Exchequer is opened with a liberal hand to feed the starving people. Yet one tide this week bore on its bosom no less than sixteen vessels up the silvery Thames; all of them laden with provisions from that land of famine and declamatory patriotism! There is a moral in this, if sympathetic philosophy could find it out.

The merchants of this country are about making a crusade against the present high duties on tea. The existing impost has long been found oppressive. All high duties have two tendencies—to limit the consumption and to encourage smuggling. The one cheats the public, the other cheats the honest dealers. Tea is a necessary of life; it has become essential to society, as much as bread, or beef or potatoes. Since its introduction, many diseases which prevailed in England such as the leprosy and others, have disappeared. The mode of living effects, naturally, the health of a people, and a more light, wholesome beverage than this heavily taxed article does not exist.

**IRELAND.**

**State of the country—Deaths from starvation.**—The accounts of the state of the country continues to be most distressing. A letter from Shinrone, Tipperary, says, "A report has reached Shinrone that a young girl has died at Kilcommon of starvation. Several families at the lower end of Kilmurry parish have been living on cabbages and turnips these few days, without any other description of food."—At Borrisoleigh many were living on one scanty meal during the twenty-four hours, and the forbearing of the sufferers was amazing. A letter from Dungarvon of the 19th instant says, "The condition of the people, is truly heart-rending. They are starving! One of the dragoons, a very intelligent man, gave a most deplorable account of the sights witnessed by them as they came along to day by the houses of their prisoners. They were followed by frantic looking women and children, half naked whose cries were unlike anything human—being husky, broken, and quite feeble from starvation."—In the course of a sermon, delivered at Newry, on Sunday, the 18th instant, the Rev. Dr. Butler specified two cases of death from starvation in that neighbourhood.—Our Dublin correspondent, writing on the 24th, says, "There are again most heart-rending accounts of destitution from various parts of the country, and social disorganization is prevailing far and wide. Although the Board of Works have, up to this day, fitted no less a sum than £700,000 for public works, there are still complaints in many counties, either that works have not yet commenced, or that those in operation are totally insufficient to give employment to the crowds of destitute beings who prowl about seeking the means of keeping body and soul together. There are many wicked vagabonds who take advantage of the general destitution, in organizing a system of outrage; but the really destitute seldom join in these confederacies, but patiently endure their sufferings in the hope of speedy relief. This is, I think the most trying period; for we may expect a considerable alteration when employment becomes general

throughout the country. The system of voluntary relief, too, now is pretty generally adopted; but loud complaints are made that some absentees, who own large estates, are not contributing. The workhouses, which two months ago did not contain half the number, they are capable of accommodating, are now crowded, and many of the poor, for want of room, are lodged in out-houses.—The Most Rev. Dr. Murray, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, has directed that, on the vigil of All Saints, the Litany shall be read before each mass in the city of Dublin, and in one church at least of every county parish; after which are to be read, in English, the prayers appointed for the Church to avert tribulation and famine.—The labourers in different parts of the country having objected to work by piece or task work, and shown a disposition to resort to violence to prevent others from doing so, the Lord Lieutenant has addressed a memorandum to the chairman of the Board of Works, to the effect that, if after full explanation of the nature of the task work, and the wages which may be earned, the laborers shall still refuse the work provided for the support of themselves and their families, the officers are at once to withdraw from such locality, as it is not consistent with the directions of the Government that they should be subjected to offence and violence in performance of their arduous duties.—The total amount of money voted at the various meetings in the county of Cork, held under the Labour Rate Act, is £608,015 14s 7d.—A numerous meeting of the landowners and others was held at Fermoy on the 24th instant, to consider the state of the country. Mr. O'Connell was present. The speakers, lay and clerical, seemed disposed to account for the existing distress, not by the failure of the potato crop, but by throwing the whole blame upon the Government, which according to some of them, has merely to will that there shall be plenty provisions and employment, in order to convert the prevailing destitution into peace and plenty.—A general order has been just issued by the Lord Chancellor, (authorising in consequence of the prevailing distress) sums to be granted to local relief committees out of the estates of minors, wards, lunatics, &c. The master in the cause is empowered to grant such sum as he may deem expedient under the circumstances, not exceeding seven per cent. upon the net annual income of the estate. Special cases are to be referred to the Lord Chancellor when the amount sought exceeds £100.

*From Willmer and Smith's European Times from November 1 to November 4.*

The Great Western carried out the fact that there will be no immediate meeting of Parliament, and that the ports will not be opened for the admission of grain free of duty. The tone of the ministerial organs before the Cabinet Council prepared the public for such a result, and although on this, as on all other topics of the day, there is necessarily much dissimilarity of opinion, the judgment of the business portion of the world has already endorsed the resolution at which the Government has arrived, with approval. The feeling is daily becoming more general, and too much has been made of the food alarm, and the meeting of the national representatives would rather increase than abate the evil. For all practical purposes, the executive is armed with powers sufficient to meet any emergency which is likely to arise; and there will be no hesitation on the part of the Legislature, if extraordinary powers are required, to legalise their use. In short, Parliament, if it were to meet now, would meet merely to talk, and to indulge in that party and personal abuse which seems as necessary to the vitality of rival politicians as the air they breathe.

The opening of the ports is a point on which a wider margin of opinion exists. The ultra-liberal and free-trade section of the press has been crying out lustily for the abrogation of the present pauper impost on corn; and looked at with reference to the state of the market and the amount of protection to the agriculturist, it might as well cease altogether. But the Protectionists are a powerful party, who cannot be lightly treated, and to break the compromise which was so recently made with them, would reopen the whole question again, and involve the Government and the country in another conflict with the great landed proprietors.

The Queen, in the exercise of an amiable feeling, is paying a series of flying visits to the residence of some of the nobility. She has but recently returned from Hatfield, and next week is set apart

for the royal countenance illuminating the recesses of Arundel Castle, the seat of the Duke of Norfolk. His grace, it is well known, is a Roman Catholic, as his ancestors, with an occasional exception, have been, and it says much for the more enlarged and enlightened toleration of the present day, that we hear nothing objectionable urged to the Queen's host belonging to the ancient religion of the country.

The news from Ireland is painful. There may be, probably there is, some exaggeration in the accounts of starvation and destitution, but after deducting a liberal discount for every imaginable species of ingenuity on this head, enough remains to show that in various districts the poor people are in a wretched plight. But while there is so much misery stirring, the evil is increased by the conduct of the people themselves.

Instead of looking the evil boldly in the face, and putting their shoulders resolutely to the wheel, the peasantry in many parts of the country, where public works are being undertaken, in order to mitigate the evil, are higgling about the rate of wages, and actually demand a higher scale of remuneration from the Government than they were in the habit of receiving from private individuals! The Lord Lieutenant has been so much annoyed at the absence of all sympathy, the want of gratitude in the people, that he has given peremptory orders where such annoyances prevail, to the servants of the Government to withdraw, and leave the dissentients to their remedy.

Lord John Russell, too, has been obliged to lecture the people, and more especially the landlords of Ireland in this emergency. In a letter addressed to the Duke of Leinster, as the President of the Irish Agricultural Society, the Premier enters somewhat at length into the responsibility of the landlords, the duty of the people, and the policy of the Government in this crisis.

**FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.**

**Germany.—Berlin, October 25.**—The German Diet has agreed to purchase the secret of the fabrication of the new cotton powder for 100,000 florins, provided it shall be proved, by practical experience to be an excellent substitute for the powder now in use. A German chemist has published the secret for making it, which consists in soaking the cotton in the strongest acid, and then washing and drying it.

The Prussian government has ordered that guardians shall be appointed to the children born of marriages celebrated according to the rites of the German Catholic Church, on the ground that, not having been recognised by the Government, the marriages are illegal, and the children illegitimate.

On the 1st of January, 1846, the population of the Prussian kingdom was 15,243,043 souls.

Throughout all Germany there is a scarcity of food, in some districts to an alarming extent. Almost all the governments, little and big, have taken measures to prevent the exportation of corn on the one hand, and to favour its importation on the other.

**Holland.—The Hague, October 29.**—The King opened on the 20th the States General with a speech from the throne. The Speech contains this paragraph:—"The difficulties of our commerce with the United States, occasioned by the elevated duties on the principal of our colonial products, have been removed in the most desirable manner." It states also, the deficiency of the harvest, and that commercial and navigation arrangements have been completed with France, Russia and Belgium.

**Denmark.—Copenhagen, October 19.**—The divorce between the Prince Royal and his wife has been formally pronounced. The reason assigned is the continual ill health of the wife. The real reason is the birth of no children. Strictly, the Prince is not entitled to marry again before the expiration of three years, but a wife has already been chosen for him, and he will soon be rewedded. The recent divorce is not the first or the second of which the Prince has been the hero.

Great distress exists in the country, and in the islands depending upon it, by the entire failure of the potato crop and the scarcity of corn.

The States of the Duchy of Schlesbourg have commenced their sittings.

**Removal.**

**DR. BENSON, SURGEON, &c.**  
Informs his friends and the public, that he has removed to the premises formerly occupied by the late R. BLACKSTOCK, Esq., in Chatham, where he may be consulted professionally, at all hours.  
Chatham, October 30, 1846.