

however combined, can do little towards permanent relief.

#### PARLIAMENTARY.

The proceedings during the last two or three days, in both Houses, possess considerable interest, as bearing upon the future prospects of the Ministry. Lord Brougham, the first to rush into every conflict, no matter how much it may damage himself, led the first assault on his old colleagues in the matter of the judges' salaries, arising out of certain informalities which occurred during the time he held the great seal. Earl Gray showed that if blame attached to any one, it was to the noble and learned lord himself, but in his rejoinder, as in his general conduct, Lord Brougham realised the fidelity of Goldsmith's couplet—  
"In arguing, too, the parson own'd his skill,  
For ev'n though vanquished, he could argue still."

There are men whose censure is more complimentary than their praise, and in this family of the wrongheads, Lord Brougham holds a distinguished rank. But in the Lower House, the Ministry on Thursday night met with a different class of assailants—more commanding, more truth-telling, whose talents and influence with the country are not to be despised. The discussion took a wide range, and embraced matters of the highest interest to the welfare of the nation, and the progress of enlightened opinion.

Mr. Duncombe, who maintains an elevated position as a debater, and as a thoroughly independent member, wished to hear from the Prime Minister a distinct avowal of his views on the leading topics of the day. Lord John Russell declined this categorical analysis, but while doing so, said sufficient to point the moral of his future career as a Minister. To the principles of Free-trade he avowed his unswerving attachment; justice to Ireland he would literally carry out; but with respect to the Established Church of that country, the new Premier evidently thinks it imprudent to meddle. He dreads the storm of opposition it would provoke, and apprehends, clearly, that public opinion on the subject has not kept pace with his own more comprehensive views. He entered into an explanation respecting his celebrated finality speech, and showed that he had been misrepresented—that he never said, never believed, "finality" in politics possible.

This speech has not given, will not give, satisfaction to the more extreme politicians. One of the party, Mr. Wakley, plainly intimated that he could see no difference between Russell and Peel, and the fact is as the Member for Finsbury stated it. With the Irish Church the Whigs will not burn their fingers. They can hardly be blamed for declining to spring a mine that would probably end in their destruction. True, it is a monstrosity to see the richest Church in the world feeding, in sick lethargy, on the poorest people, only an eighth part of whose population it represents. But the Ministers of the Crown are the creatures of circumstances. As the author of the Deserted Village has it,

"A breath can make them, as a breath has made,"

and trying to achieve an impossibility is not a proof of sanity, much less of executive capacity. The education of the popular mind is not progressive enough to enable him to act. Sooner or later the Irish Church will be swept away; but not until religious prejudice is under the influence of reason—not until the great principle of Christianity—"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"—is fully appreciated and acted upon. The Irish Church will endure, a spectacle of enormous, unblushing jobbing and injustice, until that happy epoch—but not an hour longer.

#### THE OREGON TREATY.

The outward bound steam ship Hibernia, this day, conveys to the United States the Oregon Treaty, ratified by the British Government, under the hands of its Foreign Minister, Lord Palmerston. This important document was signed by his Lordship and the Hon. Mr. Lane on Friday, the 17th, at the Foreign Office, and afterwards conveyed to Liverpool, for despatch by the Hibernia, by Mr. M. Lane, who, before he leaves this town, will pass a few days as the visitor of Wm. Brown, Esq., of Richmond Hill.

In the House of Lords, on the 17th, the Marquis of Lansdowne rose and said, that it was his duty to lay before their Lordships' house the Treaty concluded between her Majesty and the Government of the United States in reference to the Oregon treaty. He had the satisfaction of informing their lordships that the ratifications had that day been exchanged. A similar communication was made in

the House of Commons by Lord Palmerston, who appeared at the bar, and stated that he had a paper to present by command of her Majesty. He then took it to the table, and added that he had great satisfaction in informing the House that the document was a copy of the treaty recently concluded between Great Britain and the United States for settling the Oregon boundary. The ratifications had been exchanged this day by the Minister of the United States and himself. [Want of room compels us to postpone the publication of the Treaty until our next No.]—Ed. Gleaner.

#### COMMERCIAL.

Business, on the whole, is in a more active and settled state than it has been for some time past. The manufacturing districts are busy, and confidence prevails. The accounts from Lancashire and Yorkshire show that the new commercial policy has given a stimulant to trade, although, had it been adopted earlier, the result would have been better.

The season continues all that the most fastidious could desire. The crops are in splendid condition, and one of the earliest and most productive harvests on record is nearly ripe for the sickle in every part of the country.

The Cotton market is firm, with a good steady business, and prices have an upward tendency. The latest arrivals from the United States show that the last crop will not exceed 2,100,000 bales, and that the prospects of the crop for the present year, owing to the lateness of the spring, are not particularly promising.

The Timber trade is in a more flourishing condition, owing to the strike being at an end amongst the operative builders in every part of the country. Prices are stationary, with a tendency to improve. The imports during the last fortnight have been limited. A glance at our last page will show the operations of the market in a more circumstantial form.

Rumours prevail that the potato disease of last year is doing the work destruction on the growing crops. The same report reach us from Ireland. If these statements are correct to any great extent, the price of bread-stuffs will, of course, correspondingly improve.

The Iron trade has received an impetus during the last fortnight; the particulars of which will be found under the proper head. The immense number of railways which have produced their acts must have their effect in the trade for a considerable length of time to come.

The Corn trade is in a lethargic state, owing to the large quantities which were released from bond a fortnight ago at the low duty, and which has more or less affected the market since. The prospects of the impending harvest, too, have had a tendency to send prices down, and depress speculation. The finer descriptions of American Flour command the extreme rates of the current quotations. The Continental markets have been rather firmer, in consequence of the passing of our Corn Bill. That measure must, in the nature of things, have a tendency to produce a regular, and, of course, as regards prices, a tolerably uniform demand.

#### THE CROPS.

The recent change which has taken place in the weather has had a truly wonderful effect; freshness has been imparted to vegetation—the mellow notes of the blackbird, lark, and others of the feathered tribe, are as enlivening as in spring, and everywhere the face of nature seems to wear an animated and renewed appearance. The grain, which had been prostrated by the late rains again stand erect; the spring corn, threatened to ripen prematurely, is beginning to grow again, and even if it should not be very long in the straw, will be heavy in the ear; the root crops are throwing out fresh leaves and branches, and will soon cover the ground with a coat of verdure thick enough to protect them, even if the heat should return; the meadows, which were becoming brown after the removal of the hay, are throwing up a second crop of clover and after-grasses; and the pastures are also sending up a plentiful green herbage amidst the withered stems of the earlier grasses. Reports are again current as to the disease amongst the potatoe crops.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

*Sir Robert Peel in Opposition.*—In the late Premier's reply to the congratulatory address voted to him by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the following passage occurs: "Be assured that, in a private station, I shall give my continued support to those principles of commercial legislation which have been approved

equally by the deductions of reason and by the result of practical experiment, and that I shall rejoice in the progress of all measures adopted with due caution and circumspection, that shall be calculated, by extending commerce, to give additional security for general peace, and by insuring their just reward to skill and industry, to lay the best foundation for the intellectual and moral improvement of the people."

*Colonial Bishopricks.*—The benevolent individual who recently contributed the sum of £35,000 for the endowment of two colonial bishopricks was Miss Burdett Coutts. It is understood that Miss Coutts consulted a right rev. prelate as to the sum that would be required for the purpose, and, on being informed, immediately gave a cheque for the amount. Miss Coutts then asked if she might be allowed to name the bishopricks to which she wished her subscription should be applied, which of course met the ready acquiescence of his lordship. She accordingly named Adelaide (South Australia) and the Cape of Good Hope.

*Accident to Sir Robert Peel.*—We regret to learn that the absence of Sir Robert Peel from the House of Commons on Monday night arose from the right hon. baronet's being confined to his residence by the effect of an accident. We hear that while dressing in the morning he incautiously rested his foot on a china basin, and by the weight of his person the bottom broke, and severely lacerated his foot.

*England.—The Globe Newspaper.*—Nineteen shares of this property were sold by auction in London on the 16th, which realised 12,900 guineas. Fifteen of the number were purchased by Mr. Ridgeway, the publisher, of Piccadilly, London.

Since our last publication, Liverpool has been visited with three destructive fires—a large cork manufactory in Cooper's-row, the Apothecary's Hall, and Ogden's foundry. The united loss is estimated at 150,000 dollars.

In spite of the repeal of the corn-laws, the estates of the late Philip Dykes, Esq., at Roydon and Bressingham, were sold by auction at Diss, on Friday last, by Mr. Rix, at thirty-four years' purchase, on full annual rental.

*Free Trade rents.*—We have the fact, on excellent authority, that the utmost eagerness prevails at the present time to get possession of farms. The Earl of Yarborough has a farm in Lincolnshire, for which there were this week as many as forty applicants.

In the year 1825 there were 200 pilots belonging to the port of Liverpool. Within the last twenty years 220 were added to the staff, making a total of 420. Of these 184 have either died or been removed, so that the present number of pilots belonging to the port amounts to 236.

*National Testimonial to Sir R. Peel.*—It is contemplated to erect a statue, by penny subscription, as a national testimonial to Sir Robert Peel, for the unfinished manner in which he has advocated the nation's interests in the late free trade measures. To carry out this object a central committee is now in course of formation in London, with which all other committees throughout the kingdom may communicate.

*The Atlantic and Pacific Canal.*—The engineers despatched by the French Government to take the requisite surveys for the projected canal across the Isthmus of Panama which is to join the two oceans, are stated in accounts from thence to have successfully accomplished their mission. The preferable point for the end of the canal on the Pacific side was selected at Vaca de Monte, a few miles west of the city of Panama, in the valley of the Caimito. On the Atlantic side, the bay of Leonon was fixed upon as affording superior convenience for shipping to the port of Chagress. The total cost of construction of the canal was estimated at 125,000,000 francs, or say five millions sterling. The total length would be 76 1-2 kilometers. There would be the necessity for cutting an "immense tunnel," which for shipping, must form an important portion of the estimated expense. The depth of the canal was to be about seven yards, the width of the bottom twenty yards, and on the surface forty-five.

*Iron Tunnel across the Menai Straits.*—Mr Stephenson, in order to set at rest the doubts, expressed respecting the practicality of this scheme, has had an iron model of his intended tunnel, 20 feet long and 4 feet high, made and fixed at an engineering factory at Millwall. Extensive experiments were made on it in presence of several distinguished scientific gentlemen, with the most satisfactory results.

#### IRELAND.

*Repeal Association.*—Mr. O'Connell left London on the 4th inst., and arrived in Dublin on Monday morning. He appeared at the meeting at Conciliation-hall in the afternoon, when there was a crowded attendance. Mr. N. Maher, M. P., was called to the chair. The secretary was directed to write to the Repeal wardens in the north of Ireland, deprecating any interference with the Orange anniversaries. Mr. O'Connell, in the course of his address to the meeting, after describing the fall of the late ministry, and warmly eulogising Sir R. Peel, asked what course the people of Ireland ought to pursue under such circumstances. The wonderful success which had attended the persevering and untiring exertions of the Anti-Corn-Law League ought to inspire them with new hopes and expectations: that the object on which they were bent might not unreasonably be expected. The success of Cobden was the triumph of moral force, a principle which, he might say, was first acted upon by the people of Ireland. The Chartists, on the contrary, had adopted physical force, and what had become of them? They were not in existence. The Corn laws, then, were repealed, and their repeal was mainly owing to the Liberal Irish members. The people of England were, therefore, bound in gratitude to assist the Irish people in obtaining measures of amelioration. It remained to be seen whether they would or not. But what ought they (the Irish people) to do under existing circumstances? He had a plan to propose, and it would rest with the people whether they would accept it or not. They (the people) might differ with him, but he would not differ with them. He came to Ireland for the purpose of telling them, first, that he intended, at the earliest possible moment in the next session of Parliament, to bring under the consideration of the Legislature the question of the Repeal of the Union; secondly, he required the association to declare what acts they considered to be necessary for placing the people of the two countries on an equal footing in point of civil rights; thirdly, he required their sentiments on a law to alter the relations between landlord and tenant; fourthly, he wished means to be taken for restoring the influence of the association throughout the country; fifthly, he insisted on an immediate attention to the registry, particularly in such places as were likely soon to become vacant; and, sixthly, that the committee of the association should fix upon such candidates to fill the vacancies as they considered proper.—(A voice: "Who shall be in for Dungarvan?") Mr. O'Connell resumed: He was delighted that the question had been put to him. If he had any influence with the electors of that town no one but a Repealer should be returned. The matter, however, should be referred to the committee to decide. He would merely say, that, perhaps, at the present moment, it would not be expedient to harrass the Government by any vexatious opposition, unless there was a certainty of success. After speaking of the eleven measures which he has already stated he wants from Government, Mr. O'Connell proceeded to state that he would take every measure of good that he could get for Ireland, but would not give up repeal. After a warning against violence, and an appeal for that confidence which he had earned by his past services, the hon. gentleman moved that the documents which he had read should have the approval of the association. A vote of thanks to the Liberator was proposed by Mr. Grattan, supported by Alderman O'Brien, M. P., Mr. M. J. Barry, Mr. J. O'Neill, the Lord Mayor, and Mr. Steele, and carried unanimously. The rent of the week was announced to be £114 9s.—At the meeting on the 13th there was a violent dispute among the chiefs. The Lord Mayor of Dublin occupied the chair. A letter from Mr. Wm. Smith O'Brien having been read, his lordship briefly addressed the meeting, denying that repeal was to be given up, although they should give the new ministry a full and fair trial. The Liberator spoke with the view of putting an end to all the differences that had sprung up among the members of the association. As soon as Mr. O'Connell resumed his seat, Mr. Meagher said "that, if any landlord or nobleman were to prevent the repeal principle from being put forward, then farewell to public virtue and honour, and farewell to Irish nationality. A contest in Dun garvon would show the Repealers what their strength was, but the return of Richard Lalor Sheil was a slur upon the Repeal Association. If the course adopted relative to Dungarvon was right, the people of Cork and Cashel were not well-treated in being called upon to make sacrifices to reject Sergeants Murphy and Stock Good measures should be accepted from the Whigs, but they should be opposed wherever they could be with success, for he did not approve of vexatious opposition. It is the curse of society that from principles the most important there have been apostates." Here a very violent discussion ensued, in which feelings of a bitter and malevolent character were manifested. Mr. Meagher, who had applied the term apostate to Mr. Clements, was obliged to apologise, as that gentleman had not taken office under the government. It would appear that the Young Ireland party feel very dissatisfied with the manoeuvres of the Liberator, and those who have countenanced his doings in the committee of the association. Mr. O'Connell proposed and carried the adoption of a report of the committee of the association, condemning the efforts which some parties connected with it were making, for the purpose of creating dissension in their ranks, and advocating the necessity of physical force should other means fail, to carry the great project of repeal. The rent for the week was announced at about £130.

On Wednesday a banquet was given at Duncalk to Mr. Daniel O'Connell, jun. Mr. P.