

Europe, that lime is of much more use when thrown on a fallow, than when put upon the sod; and we have no doubt that it effects one important object, better in this way than in the other—that of extirpating weeds. A good deal of labour is necessary in this mode of cultivation; after the land is fallowed and harrowed, and the lime spread, it is then harrowed again, and then plowed with a very shallow furrow, to bury the manure.

A. L. ELWYN.

## European News.

From Wilmer and Smith's European Times, July 4.

Passing of the Corn Bill and Customs Duties Bill—Defeat of the Irish Coercion Bill—Resignation of the Peel Ministry—The Whigs in Office.

Two highly important events have occurred since we last addressed our readers. These are, the passing of the Corn Bill and the dissolution of the Ministry. On the evening of Thursday, June 25, the House of Lords passed the third reading of the Corn Bill without a division, and at two o'clock the succeeding morning the House of Commons left Sir Robert Peel's government in a minority of 73 on the Irish Coercion Bill.

The two measures we have named stand towards each other in the relation of cause and effect. Nominally, the ministry has been strangled on Irish ground; actually, its existence has been terminated by the exhaustion of vitality in upsetting the corn monopoly.

The result which has happened has long been foreshadowed. It has taken no one by surprise. The disruption in the Conservative ranks produced by Sir Robert Peel's Free-trade policy was so complete that the party could never work again harmoniously, and the first opportunity for smiting the leader was sought eagerly by those who thought themselves betrayed. The Irish Coercion Bill presented that opportunity. On the first reading, the Protectionists gave it a willing, the Whigs a qualified support. But the intervening three months had so completely changed the ordinary position of parties, that Lord John Russell and Lord George Bentinck found themselves in the lobby last week, voting against the Minister. The result has been his overthrow.

The ministerial interregnum has produced less stir than was expected, probably because it was looked for. On Saturday Sir Robert Peel proceeded to the Isle of Wight for the purpose of tendering his own and his colleagues' resignation to the Queen, and on Monday night he made a lengthened exposition of his motives for resigning in the House of Commons, which will be found in another column.

To it we call the attention of our readers. It is one of the most important statements ever made in a popular legislature, and it will influence more or less the policy of every commercial country in the world. It indicates a new phase in the domestic policy of England, a new combination of parties, and a much more enlarged and liberal course of action in future.

This speech completely uproots the old landmarks of party. It shows that the ablest man in England—the most successful Minister that ever swayed the destinies of this country, has risen superior to the narrow prejudices of party, and that his future course of action will not be less liberal and enlightened than the glorious example which he has so lately given to the world.

Having found from vast experience that Ireland has been the "chief difficulty" of his own, and indeed of every other cabinet, and that no permanent peace can be hoped for in that country until the people are placed, as regards political privileges, on a footing not inferior to their Saxon citizens, the retiring Premier insists upon a perfect equality of rights for the Irish. Unfortunately, while in power, he was not able to carry out this system of justice and impartiality; but he encourages his successor to do what he was, in some measure, prevented from doing; and he intimates that permanent peace and prosperity cannot be expected so long as the least inequality exists in the spirit and the government of the two countries.

Not the least remarkable phase in this remarkable speech is the graceful and glowing compliment which he pays to Cobden, the father of the Free-trade movement, and the taste with which this is done is enhanced by the memory of the former feud between them. He puts, in this respect, the "saddle on the right horse," for while he disclaims the credit of having originated the enlightened commercial views which have sunk so

deep into the public mind, he takes care that the Whigs shall not rejoice in the laurels of others, by pretending to have earned them.

But the whole speech, albeit it contains a somewhat glowing eulogy on his own Government, is yet marked by so much truth and apparent sincerity, that now, when power has departed from the fallen Premier, it may be said of him as was said of the final career of another personage, that nothing in office became him like the taking leave of it. He has forsaken power with a degree of personal *eclat* which has belonged to no other minister of his age.

The influence of one great mind on the destinies of the world is incalculable. Sir Robert Peel has colleagues, many of them able, and all of them more or less efficient as practical statesmen. He nevertheless seems to have exercised such a wholesome surveillance over every department; his spirit has been so thoroughly absorbed in his government, that he has literally robbed the other cabinet ministers of their fair meed of approbation, and concentrated the credit, as well as the power, in his own person. The moment he announced his intention of carrying the repeal of the Corn-laws, every one felt that he was the only man living who could do it. He thought so himself, and he has realised his anticipations.

A variety of concurring circumstances at home and abroad have combined to make the last five years a brilliant contrast to the preceding years. Much, no doubt, is due to wise councils, much to good fortune, much to the able adjuncts in various parts of the world who were instrumental in carrying forward their country's glory; and in dwelling upon these gratifying topics with swelling pride, the sympathies of the patriot are in unison with the feelings of the nation. The most extraordinary anomaly is, that in the zenith of his fame, like Cæsar in the senate, he is assassinated by the friends he is presumed to have betrayed.

Lord John Russell, is, of course to be the new prime minister. The following is the list of

### THE CABINET.

Lord Chancellor.....Lord Cothranham.  
President of Council.....M. of Lansdowne.  
Lord Privy Seal.....Earl of Minto.  
Secretary for Home Deptt.....Sir George Grey.  
Do. for Foreign Deptt.....Vet. Palmerston.  
Do. for the Colonies.....Earl Grey.  
First Lord of the Treasury.....Lord J. Russell.  
Chancellor of the Exchequer.....Mr C. Wood.  
Chan. of Dy. of Lancaster.....Lord Campbell.  
Paymaster-General.....Mr Macaulay.  
Woods and Forests.....Visct. Morpeth.  
Postmaster-General.....M. of Clanricarde.  
Board of Trade.....E. of Clarendon.  
Board of Control.....Sir J. Hobhouse.  
Chief Secretary for Ireland.....Mr Labouchere.  
Admiralty.....E. of Auckland.

### NOT OF THE CABINET.

Master of the Mint.....Rt. Hon. R. Sheil.  
Secretary-at-War.....Hon. Fox Maule.  
Attorney-General.....Sir T. Wilde.  
Lord Advocate.....Mr A. Rutherford.  
Solicitor-General for Scotland.....Mr T. Maitland.  
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.....E. of Besborough.  
Commander-in-Chief.....D. of Wellington.  
Master-General of Ordnance.....M. of Anglesey.

It was only announced yesterday. Most of the members belonged to the old Melbourne Cabinet. The admission of Cobden was discussed, and if the state of that gentleman's health and his finances had enabled him to become a professional politician, he might it seems, have risen to the dignity of a Cabinet Minister—a splendid compliment to his talent and his great personal popularity. His colleague, Mr Bright, there is every reason to believe, will join the government in a responsible capacity, and Mr Wilson, the Chairman of the League, has also been offered an appointment.

In thus striving to mingle the aristocratic with the more democratic elements of the country, the new Premier is not merely strengthening his influence out of doors, but he is breaking down, as far as he is able, the barrier which has too long existed between the titled and the commercial classes. Every wind that blows proves more clearly that the exclusive airs of the great aristocratic families to govern the country are being tamed down, and that in future the representatives of the middle classes will not be deemed unworthy to serve their country by filling its highest offices. The late commercial changes have brought in their train a great social revolution.

Appointments under the new Government were offered to three rising young statesmen, members of Sir Robert Peel's Cabinet, and declined—Mr. Sydney Herbert, Lord Dalhousie, and the Earl of Lincoln. Sir Robert Peel was unwilling to urge office upon them in his rival's Government, but personally had no objection to their acceptance of it. The

Duke of Wellington is to remain at the head of the army, without a seat in the Cabinet.

Public feeling has not yet had time to exhibit itself respecting the *personnel* of the new ministry. One remarkable feature, however, is, that the *Times* the most influential paper in the British empire, is disposed to regard it favourably, and to give it a candid trial. This, in the present state of public opinion, it is tolerably sure of receiving. Sir Robert Peel, if gossip is to be credited, not only views it without jealousy, but with a friendly eye. If the new Premier is awake to his own interest, he will make the principal proprietor of the *Times* a baronet. The last premier neglected to conciliate him, and he has compound interest, for the omission.

The general impression is, that the new Premier will hastily wind up the business of the session and dissolve Parliament in the course of the autumn. The speech of Sir Robert Peel, the feeling out of doors, and the utter disruption of old associations, point, at no distant day, to a fusion of parties, in which the liberal conservatives and the old Whigs will coalesce. Such a result seems inevitable.

The new policy to be pursued towards Ireland naturally attracts much attention. It is a critical period for O'Connell. Already the elements of disruption are rife amongst the Repealers; already has "Dan" intimated his intention of denouncing the refractory amongst the "Young Ireland" portion of his adherents. If he finds them untractable he has still sufficient power and popularity left to crush those who will not be subservient to his views. While he lives he will endure no rival—tolerate no insubordination in the camp.

Personally, O'Connell prefers the Whigs to the Tories, but a large section of his supporters do not. It will test the sincerity of the "old man, eloquent" in the Repeal cause. He cannot ride his hobby, and maintain his supremacy with the Whigs. Which will he forego? The answer to this question involves the continuance or otherwise of combined action amongst the Repealers.

The only question that presses for an immediate settlement is the sugar duties, a question upon which the incoming Premier is said to feel strongly. A short bill has been introduced for extending the existing duties over another month. Peel would have settled the question before his retirement, if the multitude of his embarrassments had enabled him. As it is, his successor will probably cut the matter short, and level the distinctions between slave and free-labour sugar, by admitting the produce of the Spanish colonies under the "most favoured nation" clause of the treaty of Utrecht. On this point, a short article from the *Globe*, one of the organs of the new ministry, which will be found in another column, will be read with attention.

If Sir Robert Peel had desired the continuance of power, he might by dissolving the Parliament, and appealing to the country, have maintained himself in office for years to come. But he is anxious for retirement—for repose. He is declining too, into the "vale of years," and the excessive physical and mental drudgery of official labour he probably finds too much for his strength. As he is, far and away, the most popular man in England, his reluctance to risk a general election, shows unmistakably, that the charm of office has lost its influence—at least for a time. He is anxious by retirement, to throw oil on the troubled waters, and to bring a brilliant official career to a close at a moment when his success is unclouded by a speck.

The elevation of Lord Francis Egerton to the peerage, the creation of a few baronets, amongst them the elder Gladstone, father of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, well known in the West-Indies, are amongst the last acts of the Peel ministry. The honours thus distributed, appear to have been sparingly as well as worthily bestowed.

### SETTLEMENT OF THE OREGON QUESTION.

No event within our memory has produced a feeling of more general satisfaction and joy in this country than the intelligence which came to hand by the *Hibernia*, that the Oregon question had been amicably settled between the American and the British Governments. The news arrived at a critical moment—literally on the eve of the dissolution of the Peel ministry—and the excellent purpose to which this message of peace was turned by the outgoing Representative of the Crown, will be best appreciated by those who read his last official speech.

The American papers which came to

hand by the *Hibernia*, differ in one point from the British Minister's version of the terms of the settlement. According to them the navigation of the Columbia is contingent upon the duration of the Hudson Bay Company's charter; according to his reading of the treaty, the navigation is common to the citizens of both countries in *perpetuity*—a distinction of some importance, which has formed the subject of a good deal of comment in the English press. It is assumed on this side of the water, not irrationally, that the late Premier is right, and that the American papers are wrong.

Thus has terminated a feud which threatened to embroil in a bloody and protracted war two of the mightiest and most civilised countries on the face of the earth. We may claim for our countrymen, during the continuance of this dispute, the credit of having exhibited a dignified and noble attitude, the absence of all irritation, and a fervent desire to bring the dispute to a pacific close.

If the American President took high ground, at the outset of his official career, on this subject, his subsequent policy has been marked by judgment and discrimination; and, in submitting the proffered compromise to the decision of the Senate, he has shown true patriotism, and a pliant recognition of the difficulties which surrounded him. Like ordinary men, the chief magistrate of a free people is only, after all, the creature of circumstances. If he cannot secure all he wants—all he thinks himself justified in demanding, he shows excellent sense in getting what he can, to avoid results more dire than all the benefits which would accrue from the consummation of his wishes. Life itself is but a series of compromises, and the possession of power does not exonerate its occupant from the inevitable laws of our existence.

With the disappearance of this temporary cause of irritation, will also disappear, we hope, the last vestige which can, by possibility, embroil two countries, whose habits, language, manners, and feelings beat so powerfully in unison. There seems to be wanting only another move to bring England and America into permanent harmony—to make their interests mutual, their sympathy and respect unfeeling. A free interchange of the commodities of both countries would do this—nothing else so effectively can. The example has been set by England. We hope to see it followed by America.

Attention is now fixed on this side of the water on the American tariff, and hopes are being expressed amongst commercial men in all parts of the land that the present session of Congress will not terminate without a reduction of the rates on imported goods—without, in short, an effort being made to carry out the free and enlightened commercial policy which England, in the teeth of all but insuperable difficulties, has given such a glorious example to the world.

We cannot close this brief article without bearing honourable testimony to the talent and popularity of the American Minister in England, Mr. M'Lane—a gentleman whose intelligence, respectability, and patriotism, reflect credit on his country and himself. He is universally respected, and his popularity is certainly not inferior to that of any former Minister at the Court of St. James's. The Earl of Aberdeen, in the House of Lords on Monday gave expression to the following sentiments respecting this distinguished American:—

"Gratifying as that intelligence was, (the arrival of the *Hibernia's* news,) he felt it an act of duty and justice, as it was a duty of as much pleasure as justice, to pay his tribute to the friendly and conciliatory course which had been adopted by the United States Minister in this country. He had long known him, and he had reason to respect him in an official capacity some fifteen or sixteen years ago. He was certain that by every means in his (the American Minister's) power, he had contributed to the present result. He was certain that there was no person in that House, or this country, who more cordially participated in the satisfaction which they might experience than Mr. M' Lane, the American Minister."

### DOMESTIC.

The death of poor Haydon, the painter, who fell by his own hand, in consequence of pecuniary embarrassments, has given a shock to public feeling, and has opened to controversy the peculiar position in which artists and *litterateurs* stand towards society. Haydon was a genius—but an eccentric one—self-willed, dogmatical, and very egotistical. But he possessed many redeeming points. Warm in his friendship, he was equally implacable in his hate, and he made enemies where a more prudent man, or a less sensitive one would have neutralised hostility. Throughout life he was the avowed enemy of the great corporation of artists—