

effects of the storm were felt at Birkenhead, Bidston, and the neighbourhood, even to a more fearful degree than on this side of the Mersey.

Off Holyhead, two vessels came in contact, and one, it is feared, foundered, with ten persons on board, the number of her crew.

At Bideford, the gale blew terrifically high during the whole of the 22d, with heavy falls of snow, and the wreck of the yacht *Fanny*, the property of Charles Montgomery, Esq., of Swansea was driven into the harbour. During the night two vessels were totally lost, within sight of the shore, and both crews, with the exception of one man, perished.

In the vicinity of the coast of St. Mumble's Head and Cardigan bay, upwards of forty individuals have, it is supposed, perished on board one vessel. Another wreck occurred near the harbour during the same night, believed to be the *Dora*, and all hands perished.

About five miles to the eastward of Cardigan harbour the *Margaret* and *Mary*, of Aberystwith, foundered. All the crew perished save one seaman, who was found on the rocks, dreadfully bruised. Along the same coast, off Pwllheli, Aberystwith, and Portwallaen a number of other casualties happened.

The effect of the gale on the east coast appears to have been as disastrous as in the channel.

The *Mary Ann*, Swansea to London, was totally wrecked, near Bowcastle. Two only of her crew saved.

At Bridlington, the bay presented a most animated scene, by the number of vessels running in for shelter. There were upwards of two hundred at one period, the chief portion of which had lost anchors, boats, bulwarks, and round-houses, by their decks being swept by the surf.

At Redcar, on Sunday evening week, a vessel, supposed to be the brig *Commerce*, of Stockholm, foundered, and every soul on board of her perished.

Near where the ill-fated *Margaret*, Hull steamer, was lost, the gale was fearful. An English vessel, supposed to be the *Bellona*, from Jersey, was totally lost. All her crew, (14 or 16) perished, and no portion of her cargo has been saved. Further up the same coast, four other vessels were lost.

The lighthouse, fixed by Mr. Bush, on the Goodwin Sands, has disappeared. The exact time of its sinking is not known, as the fog prevented observation for two or three days.

There was a hurricane from the west and north-west, on Friday and Saturday nights last, which was severely felt on the river Thames, at Woolwich.

The weather, in the south-west of Scotland, continues very wintry and severe. On Wednesday there was quite a storm of snow and wind, between Newton-Stewart and Stanraer, and on Thursday morning all the high grounds were covered with snow, with every prospect of a severe winter.

The *Inverness Courier* states that the Perth mail for several nights had been late in arriving, owing to a heavy fall of snow in that direction. In Caithness, as well as in Aberdeen, they have already had heavy falls of snow.

At Waterford, on Monday night week, there was a perfect hurricane.

The *Cork Examiner* gives the following account of the ravages of the storm in that city:—"The gale set in early in the evening, and increased as the night advanced; and so tremendous were the gusts that swept the streets, that long before the hour of nine o'clock the high-ways and public thoroughfares were completely deserted, the lamps were extinguished, the shops closed; not a being was to be seen; and even the watchmen were forced to seek shelter as best they might—However, thanks to Providence, we have to announce that no accident of any importance occurred."

**DOMESTIC.**  
One of the most astounding events of the year—of the age—has recently been witnessed in Manchester. That town gave birth to the Anti-Corn-law League some seven years ago. The bantling has grown into a giant so powerful as to make and unmake personages no less potent than ministers of state; and with the increase of its strength the parental fondness has certainly not decreased. A striking proof of this fact was exhibited last week, when a meeting was called at the Town Hall, the immediate object of which was to raise one Million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, as a new fund for carrying on the war against monopoly. The earnestness of this meeting was tested by the fact that during its proceedings, extending over three or four hours, the enormous sum of three hundred thousand dollars was subscribed. There is no mistaking, no resisting, no saying

"nay," to men impelled by feelings—it matters not whether they are pure and patriotic, sinister, or selfish—which, involve pecuniary sacrifices of such magnitude. The collection of £60,000 in a few hours, in one town of manufacturing England, for an object like the repeal of the Corn-laws, shows that the question is regarded by the subscribers as vitally important. They view it, in fact, as an act of the legislature which stands between them and the extension of their business; as the barrier which prevents them from carrying into practice that system of international exchange which is the soul, the vitality of commerce—barter. Extension of commerce is the end, the aim, the *ultimatio* of their hopes. They have "crammed" the people with this idea, and all the great trading interests of the community are not only filled with the spirit, but determined to assist in carrying out the object of the League. The contest is virtually one between the trading and the aristocratic classes—between those who live by labour and those who live on its produce. The struggle, on the part of the former, has been an almost constant series of successes. It is the topic of the day, in which all others, for the time being, are merged; and the feeble resistance which the great land-owners are offering to the further triumphs of the industrial classes leaves no doubt as to which side victory inclines. If, indeed, any doubt could exist on the subject, the collection of such an astounding amount of capital in so short time would remove it. There is no country on the globe where such a sight could be witnessed—there is no class but the merchants and manufacturers of England by whom it could have been carried out.

"Coming events cast their shadows before." Fearing the blow which is about to be dealt by Sir Robert Peel to the protectionists, the great landowners are making efforts to get up sickly agitation in favour of the existing Corn-law. Several agricultural meetings have been recently held, at which the conduct of Peel has been assailed in the bitterest possible terms; the vituperation which they hurl at the Premier is the best evidence of their apprehensions, and of the gulf which now separates the minister from his quondam supporters. But notwithstanding the strong language in which the speakers at these meetings indulge, they seem to have no heart, no hope, in their work. But the peasantry who listen, and the tenant farmers who are sent to cheer the denunciations against Free Trade, in which the landlords indulge, are, after all, reasoning bipeds. They know that the corn question is a mere question of rent, in which the interest of the occupant and the owner of the soil is not the same. "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin," somebody says; but, in the case of the farmer and the landowner, this sympathy of feeling and interest is wanting. The result is, the absence of that impulsive enthusiasm at these meetings which moves men who are warmed to exertion by a consciousness that their principals and their pecuniary interests are identical. The aristocracy grace these gatherings, but the absence of all genial vitality is still apparent. In Surrey, the other day, the Duke of Richmond attended an agricultural meeting to denounce Peel and his Free Trade policy, which he did with a warmth that demonstrated the intensity of his disappointment and his hatred. Nor is this feeling to be wondered at. This same Duke of Richmond boasted, when Peel came into power, that he owed his elevation to the agriculturists—they had made him; and, when he ceased to answer their purpose, and to stick by them, they would depose, upset him. The practical part of the Duke's statement has been fulfilled; they did make him—they raised him to power it is true, but the prophetic part, so far from being consummated, looks at present very like being reversed—for Peel seems disposed to return the kindness of his agricultural Frankensteins by destroying them. But the quarrel, nevertheless, is a very pretty quarrel as it stands: it clearly shows that the cotton spinner's son and the lords of ancient blood and broad acres have few sympathies in common. The lesson is instructive, and cannot fail to point a moral in democratic America.

**COMMERCIAL.**  
The past year has been one of extraordinary vicissitudes, in its commercial not less than in its social and political phases. It opened auspiciously. There was plenty of food, employment was abundant, capital abounded, confidence prevailed, and the machinery of society worked harmoniously and beautifully.

The Cotton trade, during the year, has

experienced the mutations to which we allude—the instability to which all things sublunary are subject. There was an excellent business doing in the great staple in the earlier months; the price, if not high or hopeful, was uniform; and the large consumption, with the encouraging feeling abroad, was a guarantee against further depression in price. At this period, and for some time after, the consumption was greater than at any former time in our commercial history. The public prosperity was so buoyant that capitalists sought out new fields of investment; and the railway mania sprung up with a fierceness that never had a parallel, and it is hoped, never will again find imitation. The elements gave the alarm. They drenched the fields with superfluous moisture; and the confidence which existed gave way on the slightest appearance of danger. Alarm succeeded—a panic followed—and, beginning with the stags of the Share market, it ultimately reached England's Premier—forced on him a reluctant resignation, and, for a time, reduced the executive machinery to a dead lock. The history of the price of food and the varying appearances of physical nature, from the beginning of the past to the commencement of the present year, is, in fact, the history of the Cotton trade so true is it, that commerce and manufactures depend upon the seasons. But, with an ever-changing climate like ours, how weak, how puerile, to depend upon such a contingency!

The state of the Corn trade is very peculiar at the present moment. When it first transpired, through the *London Times*, that Peel intended to abandon the Corn Laws, the immediate effect was to depress the price. When he resigned, business generally, and the Grain market, amongst others, became stagnant; but when he returned to office, the value of every description of food rose. This has been followed by subsequent reaction, arising, however, from causes irrespective of politics or parties. Farmers having rents and other payments to meet at the end and the beginning of the year, are in the habit of forcing their produce on the market to procure the means of meeting their engagements. The result is, that prices fall, and the value of grain is nominally reduced, without any corresponding cause. The test will come in a few weeks, when the markets have retained their customary tone, uninfluenced by the cause at which we had glanced. The recent heavy shipments from America, have commanded attention, without much influencing the market. The speculation which has taken place in bread stuffs on the other side of the Atlantic has been enormous, and the judicious here seem to think that many will burn their fingers with it. The recent events in England have paralyzed speculation on the Continent, and the result is, that the great Wheat markets are dull, and prices stationary.

The alarm respecting the deficiency of the Potato crop is on the decrease, and the present dull period of the year is not duller in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire than usual—perhaps less so.

The Timber trade, like most other branches of commerce, has been in an excited, and, upon the whole, in a satisfactory state of progression. The import has been the largest on record. It exceeds by 52,000 tons the import of any year. A reference to our report will show the current rates which rule here, and the feelings by which dealers and importers are influenced.

**IRELAND.**

The present state of Ireland is still most unsettled—outrages and murders not abated. The Repeal Association continues its weekly meetings, and the projection of railways and other works are among the most important events that have occurred lately therein. The Repeal Association, at its meeting on the 15th ult., was attended by Mr. O'Connell, who made a long speech, in the course of which he pledged himself to support the Corn-law League, in the efforts to repeal the statutes which prohibited the free importation of foreign grain into these kingdoms. He made a kind of half promise to wave Repeal, in order to give Lord John Russell, who was then forming an administration, an opportunity of doing justice to Ireland. On the following Monday, Mr. Clements occupied the Chair.

After letters had been read from Mr. J. A. O'Neill, John, Archbishop of Tuam, and P. S. Butler, the following resolutions were submitted as the report of the franchise and election committee:—

"1.—That it is the imperative and sacred duty of the constituencies of Ireland to return as representatives none but

Repealers, members of this association, at the ensuing elections.

"2.—That every constituency that shall elect, and every individual voter that shall support a non-Repealer, were a Repeal candidate may start, shall be deemed guilty of treason to Ireland."

Mr. O'Connell moved the adoption of the foregoing resolutions, and took occasion to comment, at some length, on the ministerial "interregnum."

#### FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

**FRANCE.**—*Paris*, December 30.—This day his Majesty Louis Philippe opened the Session of the French Chambers with the usual formalities. His Majesty left the Tuileries in grand procession, accompanied by several generals, admirals and others, and very many persons holding high offices in different departments. From the Palace to the Chamber of Deputies, the line was guarded on either side by soldiers and National Guards three or four deep, and as the King passed along, they cried "Vive le Roi!" As usual, the public were kept at a distance of fifty or sixty yards, and all they could see were the rows of soldiers, with elevated bayonets, and the tops of the carriages—no very amusing spectacle.

From Algiers, during the past month, there have been many arrivals of despatches from the generals, some of which are of great length. Their contents may be summoned up into this that Abd-el-Kader is dodging about from place to place, that the French are after him closely, but, apparently, as far from catching him as they were ten years ago. The people are in an excited state, ever ready to revolt, and actually revolting the moment the French troops happen to turn their backs. Besides Abd-el-Kader, one Bou Maza is very active in exciting the population against the French, and as he does so entirely on religious grounds, he has influence in places where the people are more fanatical than Abd-el-Kader himself. The Arab populations have, generally speaking, drawn off their flocks and herds, but it is not believed they have retreated into Morocco, as Abd-el-Kader wished them to do.

#### SHIP NEWS.

##### ARRIVALS IN BRITAIN.

From *Miramichi*.—Nov. 29—*Sylvanus*, Perth. 30th—*Don*, Kinsale; *Pacific*, Dundee. December 2—*Sir F. B. Head*, off Ipswich; *Herrings*, Grangemouth. 3rd—*Stentor*, Yarmouth Roads. 4th—*Athelstane*, Port Talbot. 5th—*Marys*, Limerick. 9th—*Aurelia*, Montrose; *Emily*, Bristol. 8th—*Victoria*, Plymouth; *Ann Rankin*, the Clyde. 10th—*Racor*, Dungarvon. 13th—*Pomona*, Leith; *Sea Bird*, Tralee. 16th—*Idea*, Cork; *George Ramsay*, Youghal. 18th—*Abbotsford*, Liverpool. 29th—*Cambria*, Venus, do. Jan. 2.—*British Merchant*, Liverpool; *Pons Aeli*, Newport.

From *Bathurst*.—Dec. 27—*Brothers*, Liverpool.

From *Dalhousie*.—Dec. 5—*Thompson*, Lytham. 8th—*Henry*, Dumfries. 11th—*Glasgow*, the Clyde. 19th—*Lady Falkland*, do. 27th—*Naomi*, Liverpool.

From *Dorchester*.—Dec. 14—*Romulus*, Gravesend.

From *Gaspé*.—Nov. 17—*Crapand*, Cadiz. 21st—*Christopher Columbus*, Naples. 23rd—*Argus*, do. 28th—*St. Anne*, Gibraltar, and sailed for Naples. 29th—*St. George*, Cadiz. Dec. 5—*Friendship*, Jersey.

From *Paspebiac*.—Dec. 1—*Hematessa*, Jersey. 6th—*Patmos*, ditto. 7th—*G. T. Zutton*, do.

From *Restigouche*.—Dec. 5—*True Blue*, Liverpool.

From *Richibucto*.—Dec. 3—*Northumberland*, Cork. 7th—*Albion*, Lytham. 12th—*Elizabeth Holderness*, off Dover. 19th—*Llan Rumney*, Hull. 26th—*Enterprise*, Leith.

From *Shippigan*.—Dec. 11—*Louisa*, Liverpool.

From *Shediac*.—Dec. 23—*Severn*, Liverpool.

*Aberdeen*, Dec. 4—arrived, *Albion*, Leslie, St. John, N. B.

*Clifden*, Dec. 24—*The Mertoun*, Hamilton, from *Miramichi*, has been brought into Ballenakill Bay, with 7 feet water in her hold, stern-post started, and with loss of spars, sails, bulwarks, &c., having experienced a very heavy gale from the 12th to the 22nd inst.

*Llanelly*, (Wales) Dec. 3—*The Prince Albert*, Peebles, of Newcastle, from *Miramichi*, in entering the harbour yesterday, took the ground, and it is supposed will receive damage.