

course, but in reality it is a tremendous breaking up of every hitherto fixed principle in politics, and will lead in all appearance, to consequences not now foreseen. As it is truly said, the Steam Engine has changed the face of the civilized world, so we doubt not it will be found that this popular policy will make changes in the combinations of society, little at present dreamt of.

For instance, Lord John Russell has expressed his determination to do away with all those discriminating duties which in all her extensive dependencies gave a decided preference to the manufacturers of Great Britain. To this must no sooner or latter be added, to complete the free-trade system, the advantages given by her navigation laws to the shipping of the Empire. Indeed the Whig Cabinet, supported as they are by the Peel faction, will show an inconsistency, which would ruin them in the estimation of mankind, if after the principles they have laid down for the guidance of their conduct, they should hesitate in going the full length of the requirements of genuine free-trade. Lord John has actually said that the Colonies of the Empire will be left at free liberty to pass such revenue laws as they may themselves think expedient, only however, which again is not free-trade at all, that they should not be at liberty to lay higher duties on British manufactures. Indeed not a step can the government take but it violates on that point, the principles it pretends to be guided by. When the Minister tells us we must use British shipping, be they at twice the expense of foreign, he is grossly inconsistent with himself. He protects one interest at the expense of others, themselves unprotected.

Let us now reflect a little on the probable, indeed, as we conceive, the inevitable consequences of this wholesale change in the management of the Empire.

In as far as we ourselves are concerned, as well as our Sister colonies, it will throw the legislation, in political economy, into the hands of men who have never at all studied its maxims, or who can be made to understand the effect of the revenue laws of nations on the prosperity of nations. Till now we have had the wise heads—the big wigs at home to guide us somewhat, or at least to prevent us going far astray in this difficult tract. Henceforward we will be left, like young men commencing life, to our own mental resources meagre though they certainly are and liable to be carried away, if we may dare to use scriptural phraseology, by every wind of doctrine. In the next place Custom-houses will be useless, and doubtless will be withdrawn altogether, except perhaps a mere office of registry, and where then will be our officers to protect the revenue and punish smugglers—where that unity of purpose which makes the Empire, as Lord Stanley properly expressed it, one great and consistent whole.

To proceed, we will then receive from the U. States a world of things which the discriminating duties now keep out, giving a preference to those of Britain, and this whether will exchange with us or not. What will the British manufacturers say, what will even the free-traders there say, when they will find us sending our lumber for sale to the markets of Britain, while we are getting our supplies from the States, and paying for them in Bills on London, Liverpool or Glasgow. Yet this, to a very great extent, will be the result of the measures of the Whig Administration. But worse than all this will in probability take place. The States will likely, if we open our ports to their coarse woollen and cotton fabrics, &c. and employ their shipping, open their ports also to some of our products. What we say will be the necessary, the inevitable consequence of a much more friendly, and close approximation to the States, and a very much more limited intercourse with the Mother Country. That which Lord John and his friends must be blind indeed if they cannot foresee. These Provinces, now British, will, in a few years, even should they preserve the same name, and even present the same form of government, be alienated in heart and mind from the parent stem, and will soon, as in the marriage state it is said, leave Father and Mother and cleave to their wife. Let us not flatter ourselves, by believing in the loyalty of the thousands who now look to these States with an eye of partiality that this great change in the mutual relation of the countries respectively can long continue without yearly adding thousands of converts to the cause of republicanism, sufficiently alluring already by its levelling principles, and still more alluring by the superior comfort of the inhabitants of the States of New England. If Great Britain has any desire to keep these Colonies in their allegiance to the Crown, and in respect for her institutions, it is to be done by far other measures than those she has now entered upon; by measures that will render more intimate the ties of interest between the parties, measures which will render these Provinces as prosperous as their republican neighbours, and measures which will tend rather to sever than cement the bonds which now unite us to these States. All else will be found vain and futile when the experience of a dozen years shall have taught wisdom to our statesmen and philosophers.

Just let the most unthinking mark the pains taken by the people of the United States to amalgamate their interests with those of these Colonies. Let him look at the attempt to have a railroad made from Montreal to Portland—at the drawback law by which Canadian goods can be shipped cheaper at New-York than by the S. Lawrence—in short at all their measures, and he will find a continuous effort to make our and their interests the same; while England, on the other hand, is every year throwing off some part of the fastenings that have hitherto bound her to her offspring.

The free-trade system will, carried fairly out have the effect of denationalizing men altogether. The world is the country of a free-trader, and by and bye all early associations, all love of country, kindred, and institutions will disappear in the struggle for riches through all countries, and tongues. Thrones and dynasties will, in the long run, tumble to pieces under this all levelling principle, which makes money the God of all adoration. Learning and science will hide their diminished heads, and be only valuable in proportion to the money they will bring.

The world is apparently in the struggles of an universal disorganization, and the life of one single individual, the king of the French, alone keeping its elements at rest. When Louis Philippe dies, and the unruly factions of France get into commotion, which will bring on a destructive war with England, there is no calculating the changes which then await mankind. But we hardly dare venture to penetrate further into the great deep of probable future events. That *amor patriæ* which was held the principal virtue of mankind by the Greeks and Romans, when they led the world in every manly quality, will henceforth be a thing to look back upon—nations will become one great exchange, where trade alone will be thought of, or valued.

But when war will ensue what a dislocation must then take place in society. The very thought is fearful. While nations endeavoured within themselves to provide for at least their principal wants, war made no striking change in their habits, but if this new policy is persevered in and a new set of habits acquired, to be torn up by every struggle for supremacy among nations, what distress must be the consequence, the imagination can scarcely realize.

European News.

From Willmer & Smith's European Times, September 4.

DOMESTIC.

Whether for good or evil, the destiny of Great Britain is cast in the matter of Free-trade. Every public man, who has the least pretensions to the character of a statesman, is wedded to the new policy. The bone and sinew of the country—the middle classes—are decidedly in its favour. The middle classes elect the representatives of the people, and the House of Commons must become as it is indeed, in a great measure, at present the reflex of the popular sentiment. Symptoms are already abroad that other nations are following in our wake, and the conviction amongst all men capable of appreciating a great emergency is, that without loosening the fetters which have so long bound our national industry and trammelled the enterprise which is a primary ingredient in the national character—we must have failed in the race of competition. Nothing but the most liberal incentives to commerce will enable this essentially commercial country to pay the interest of its huge national debt—to meet the requirements of the state in the matter of taxes—and provide for those great national bulwarks, which are at once our pride and our defence. But let us talk of our armies and navies as we will, Free-trade will do more to give the soldier and the marine an enduring sinecure than any other means which human ingenuity could devise. The great living spirits who rule the intellect of this country, must have been sincerely and honestly persuaded of the fact when they became converts to the new doctrine; and in so doing, they have set an example which will speedily revolutionize the policy of every commercial people on the face of the globe.

COMMERCIAL.

The news brought by the steam-ship Hibernia from America, announcing that the American Government had made overtures of peace to the Republic of Mexico, caused a great change in the aspect of Mexican affairs, and has produced quite a revolution in the market-value of that stock in the English market. Such has been the excitement among speculators for the last few days, that the dealings in the foreign house in London, have been almost exclusively confined to this one description of security. The variations, in both directions, which have taken place within the last few weeks have been so remarkable, that they demand something more than the ordinary notice they receive in the transactions of the day.

The Bank of England has lowered the rate of interest from 3.1.2 to 3 per cent., and the effect has been already visible in improving the price of the public funds. This movement gives, of course, greater facilities to trade, and is intended to obviate the consequences of the failure in the Potato crop. In thus acting with a wise and liberal discretion, the directors of the bank have incurred some censure in certain quarters, which has been counterbalanced by the more general

meed of praise which the step has evolved.

The Share market has an upward tendency. Most of the old lines have improved in value, and as the improvement is pretty general over the country, it is likely to be more than temporary.

The crops have been gathered, and the general impression now is that Wheat will be an average yield; but Oats are thin, and Potatoes, owing to the universal disease, are everywhere a failure. The Potato root is becoming extinct, and another substitute must be found. Turnips, it is gratifying to learn, are in a sound state, and may, to some extent, compensate for the loss of the more popular esculent. In Ireland, a good deal of hostility continues to be manifested towards the use of Indian Corn, but time, which wears away all things, is gradually removing the prejudice, and when the people are accustomed to its use, it will be found a wholesome and palatable beverage.

The accounts from the manufacturing districts are more cheering. A better feeling prevails there, and the value of goods and yarns has advanced with the fine weather we are now enjoying and with the more general confidence which now exists in all quarters. This gratifying change will, in all probability, continue as the season advances for admitting British produce into the American market. When the new tariff comes into operation, a greatly extended business between this country and the United States, must, in the nature of things, take place.

There has been a considerable falling off in the import of Canadian Timber this year as compared with the corresponding period last year. The deficiency amounts to nearly 20,000 tons, all from Quebec. The recent cargoes have met with an advance, and, as the demand at the present moment is good, stocks are being reduced, and the prospects of the trade are favourable. A number of timber vessels continue to arrive from the Baltic, principally laden with railway sleepers.

The commercial intelligence by the Overland Mail appears in another column. Piracy is stated to be frequent in the Chinese waters, and our relations with that singular people do not seem to progress very harmoniously. Canton, the greatest European market, whose populace cannot be kept in subjection, or prevented from expressing their hatred of the "barbarians," appears to annoy the Chinese Government by its turbulence quite as much as it does the European residents. At Foochowfoo, also, a row took place, in which some of the British were injured, and their property plundered. Several of the rioters, however, had been seized and punished, and one of the principal offenders was condemned to death. The retention of Hong Kong was still the subject of controversy. On the score of prosperity, the progress of this colony is not great, and, in the opinion of many, it might be ceded without any injury to commerce. The British Plenipotentiary, Sir John Davis, is somewhat bitterly assailed in the "Friend to China," and other publications. The last accounts from the United States were to the 1st of April.

FOREIGN.

The latest accounts from Paris, it will be seen, announce the fact, that the Queen of Spain has at length been provided with a husband, and not only has the Sovereign found a helpmate, but her sister, the Infanta, aged thirteen, has been equally fortunate. Isabella is to marry her cousin, the Duke de Cadiz, eldest son of Don Francisco; and her sister is to be united to the Duke de Montpensier.

Conservative Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the French Chambers have been elected by large majorities, and the ministry, it is clear, has a working majority of 120. Henri's trial has terminated in his imprisonment for life. The *Constitutionnel* has changed hands, and become the property of a Paris banker. The purchasers, report says, are a number of Protectionists, who desire to oppose, in the press, the Free-trade principles of the semi-official journal, *des Debats*. The affair is significant of the struggle which has just been fought and won in England. The recent visit of Mr Cobden to Paris may, it is possible, have given a fillip to the cause with which his name is connected.

Ibrahim Pacha has reached Constantinople in good health and spirits, pleased with his trip to Europe—pleased, more especially, with the marked attention he met with in England. It is said, but the statement appears too absurd for credence, that the Sultan entertains the hope, on the death of Mehemet Ali, of wresting sovereignty of Egypt from Ibrahim, his successor, and that the dynasty

of the old warrior is by no means so firmly established as he may imagine. The empire of the Sultan, which is crumbling to pieces from inherent weakness, is the last in the world likely to give much annoyance to the present approximate ruler of Egypt.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

ITALY.—Milan, August 23.—Cardinal Gizzi, as was expected, has been definitively nominated Secretary of State. He is the most popular of the Cardinals, and one of the most liberal in politics.

The Pope's popularity increases every day. The people flock in crowds to the little town of Sinigaglia to see the room in which he was born, and actually ascend the stairs on their knees. Everything he does is marked with tact and liberality, really surprising in a Pope. His kindness to the poor is unbounded, and his sympathy with many of the political offenders, whom he released, has been shown in a striking manner; he has even subscribed money for their relief. He seems bent on introducing, as soon as opportunity offers, most sweeping reforms, notwithstanding the remonstrances of Austria, Naples, and other countries. He is the best Pope the world has had.

The province of Tuscany has been cruelly shaken by an earthquake. Whole villages have been thrown down, and 70 persons, at least, have been killed, nearly 180 wounded, and more than 4,000 deprived of shelter. The alarm created was naturally most intense; but there has been no repetition of the shocks, confidence is beginning to revive. In Sicily also the earthquake has done great damage, and caused the loss of several lives.

Typhus fever is raging violently at Milan, but the Government newspaper says nothing about it.

MOROCCO.—A letter from Lalla Magh-rina, in *La Presse*, states that Abd-el-Kader had re-appeared on the Morocco frontier; and had made an attack on Ouchda, whence he had been repulsed with loss by the Kaid of that city. The Emir has divided his men into troops of fifty or sixty, who made forays into various parts of the colony, and plunder all they can find.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Recent intelligence from the Cape informs us that, on the 28th of May, from eight to ten thousand Kafirs swarmed round Fort Peddie. They were dispersed chiefly by artillery and rockets, and retreated, leaving a considerable number of dead behind them; but the firing frightened the cattle brought under the walls of the fort for protection; they broke loose, and were carried off by the retreating Kafirs to the number of four or five thousand. On the 8th of June, a body of between eight hundred and a thousand Kafirs, having assembled to attack a wagon-train, unexpectedly found themselves wedged in between two parties of Cape rifles, dragons, and mounted Boers; fought gallantly for a time; but being seized by a panic, were galloped over and cut down in the retreat, it is said, to the number of some hundreds.

OTAHUTE.—A private letter from Papete, from a person of credit, states that fresh hostilities had taken place. The letter bears the date of 11th April.—"Taking advantage of the absence of the Uranie, the Kanacks, to the number of 1200, on the evening of the 13th, attacked the village of Papete and the camp pitched by the crew of the Uranie. The camp was defended by 50 of the crew of the Heroine, who eventually beat off the enemy. The French had six killed and fifteen wounded, among the latter a midshipman of the Phœton. The buildings outside the camp were pillaged and destroyed. The loss of the Kanacks is not given."

IRELAND.

Since we last addressed our readers, the news from Ireland is of a character which cannot fail to prove interesting. The return of the Whigs to power has gladdened the hearts of the "people" who seem to think they will now be governed with impartiality, and that their religious and political prejudices will be respected. The new Lord Lieutenant Lord Esborough, has returned to Dublin. The corporation of that city have presented him with an address. But both it and his Excellency's reply are of the most formal character. Lord Chancellor Brady is still engaged in restoring the repealed magistrates who were superseded by Sir Edward Sugden.

The world's Temperance Convention.—This body has continued its sittings daily since our last publication. Among the speakers were the Rev. Joshua Himes (U.S.) and the Rev. H. Osborne, Rhode Island, whose speeches have been re-