

foreign reprints as would secure to the English publishers a small profit on their works when reprinted in a cheap form, or in the Literary Journals, for circulation in the Colonies; but if from the larger profits derivable from the sale of high priced books in England the minor advantages from such cheap reprints for the Colonies should not be a consideration to English publishers, the policy would be questionable of altogether prohibiting the circulation of the Journals which are engaged in such republications, by which the public are deprived not only of the works protected by the Copy Right Acts, but of others claiming no such protection.

As the interest of English publishers cannot be injuriously affected, either by a reduction in prices of books in the Colonies, or their circulation through literary Journals amongst classes of readers to whom they would be otherwise unknown, I hope the measure may be abandoned of enforcing by Parliamentary authority a prohibition which, if not evaded through the facilities every where presented, would have the effect of excluding English literature from the Colonies.

I have, &c.

W. M. G. COLEBROKE,
The Right Honorable Lord Stanley, &c.

Downing Street, 5th November, 1846.

Sir.—Her Majesty's Government, having had under their consideration the representations which have been received from the Governors of some of the British North American Provinces, complaining of the effect in those Colonies of the Imperial Copy Right Law, have decided on proposing measures to Parliament in the ensuing Session, which, if sanctioned by the Legislature, will, they hope tend to remove the dissatisfaction which has been expressed on this subject, and place the Literature of this country within the reach of the Colonies, on easier terms than it is at present. With this view, relying upon the disposition of the Colonies to protect the authors of this country from the fraudulent appropriation of the fruits of labours upon which they are often entirely dependant, Her Majesty's government propose to leave to the local Legislatures the duty and responsibility of passing such enactments as they may deem proper for securing both the rights of authors and the interests of the public. Her Majesty's Government will accordingly submit to Parliament a bill authorizing the Queen in Council to confirm and finally enact any colonial law or ordinance respecting Copy Right, notwithstanding any repugnancy of any such law or ordinance to the copy right law of this country, it being provided by the proposed Act of Parliament that no such law or ordinance shall be of any force or effect until so confirmed and finally enacted by the Queen in Council; but that from the confirmation and final enactment thereof, the copy right of this country shall cease to be of any force or effect within the colony in which any such colonial law or ordinance has been made, in so far as it may be repugnant to or inconsistent with the operation of any such colonial law or ordinance.

I have, &c. GREY.

Lt. Govern or Sir W. Colebrooke.

European News.

From British Papers by the Sarah Sands, to the 20th of January.

The Parliament this day opened by her Majesty in the usual forms.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

"It is with the deepest concern that upon your again assembling I have to call your attention to the dearth of provisions which prevails in Ireland and in parts of Scotland.

"In Ireland especially, the loss of the usual food of the people has been the cause of severe sufferings, of disease, and of greatly increased mortality among the poorer classes; outrages have become more frequent, chiefly directed against property; and the transit of provisions has been rendered unsafe in some parts of the country.

"With a view to mitigate these evils, very large numbers of the men have been employed, and have received wages in pursuance to an act passed in the last session of Parliament. Some deviations from that act, which have been authorized by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in order to promote more useful employment, will, I trust receive your sanction. Means have been taken to lessen the pressure of want in districts which are almost remote from the ordinary sources of supply. Outrages have been repressed as fast as it was possible, by the militia and police.

"It is satisfactory to me, to observe, that in many of the most distressed districts, the patience and resignation of the people have been most exemplary.

"The deficiency of the harvest in France and Germany and other parts of Europe, has added to the difficulty of obtaining adequate supplies of provisions.

"It will be your duty to consider what further measures are required to alleviate the existing distress. I recommend to you to take into your serious

consideration, whether by increasing, for a limited period, the facilities for importing corn from foreign countries, and by the admission of sugar more freely into breweries and distilleries, the supply of food may be beneficially augmented.

"I have likewise to direct your earnest consideration to the permanent condition of Ireland. You will perceive in the absence of political excitement, an opportunity for taking a dispassionate survey of the social evils which afflict that part of the United Kingdom. Various measures will be laid before you, which, if adopted by Parliament, may tend to raise the great mass of the people in comfort, to promote agriculture, and to lessen the pressure of that competition for the occupation of land which has been the fruitful source of crime and misery.

"The marriage of the Infanta Louisa Fernanda of Spain to the Duke of Montpensier, has given rise to a correspondence between my Government and those of France and Spain.

"The extinction of the free trade of Cracow appeared to me to be so manifest a violation of the treaty of Vienna, that I have commanded that a protest against that act should be delivered in the courts of Vienna, Petersburg, and Berlin, which were parties to it. Copies of these several papers will be laid before you.

"I entertain confident hopes that the hostilities in the River Plate, which has so long interrupted commerce, may soon be terminated; and my efforts, in conjunction with those of the King of the French, will be earnestly directed to that end.

"My relations generally with foreign powers inspire me with the fullest confidence in the maintenance of peace.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"I have directed the estimates to be prepared, with a view to provide for the efficiency of the public service with due regard for economy.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

"I have ordered every requisite preparation to be made for putting into operation the act of the last session of Parliament, for the establishing of local courts for the recovery of small debts. It is my hope that the enforcement of civil rights in all parts of the country to which this act relates, may by this measure be materially facilitated.

"I recommend to your attention measures which will be laid before you for improving the health of towns, an object the importance of which you will not fail to appreciate.

"Deeply sensible of the blessings which, after a season of calamity, have been so often vouchsafed to this nation by a superintending providence, I confide these important matters to your care, in a full conviction that your discussion will be guided by an impartial spirit, and in the hope that the present suffering of my people may be lightened, and that their future condition may be improved by your deliberative wisdom."

As an earnest that ministers intend to act, Mr. Tufnell rose in the House and gave notice, on the part of the First Lord of the Treasury,

That he should, on Tuesday next, move for a committee of the whole House to consider the question of the laws relating to the importation of corn in the country he would also, on the same day, move that the House resolve itself into a committee on the navigation laws. He would also move on Friday next, that a select committee be appointed to consider the law of settlement. On Monday the Noble Lord would bring the state of Ireland before the House, and on Friday week he would announce the order in which the business of the House would be taken.

The measures proposed will be—

1. To open the ports, and admit grain of all kinds duty free.
2. To suspend the navigation laws, so as to permit the vessels of any nation to bring in grain from any part of the world.
3. To introduce the English Poor Law System more generally into Ireland.
4. To permit Brewers and Distillers to use sugar in the manufacture of their liquors, instead of restricting them to malt and grain as heretofore; thus leaving more of these articles for food.

In addition to these remedies a British Association has been formed, for raising a large subscription for the sufferers both in Ireland and Scotland. The committee of this association consists of the Lord Mayor, Thomas Barring, Baron L. Rothschild, and others, who have already received the following donations.

Her Majesty the Queen.	£2000
The Queen Dowager,	1000
Prince Albert,	500

Duchess of Kent,	300
Duke of Cambridge,	300
Duchess of Cambridge,	100
Duchess of Gloucester,	200
Archbishop of Canterbury,	300
Archbishop of York,	100

The bank of England has also sent a donation of £1000; and Irish landlord for Skibbereen £1000. The Earl of Drysale £500, &c. The whole amount already raised is about £50,000. No doubt the entire subscriptions will run up to two hundred thousand; say perhaps a million of dollars. This, be it remembered, will be from private subscriptions and private pockets alone. Such noble efforts gladden the heart and do honor to human nature.

The drain of specie from the Bank of England under these multiplied importations of foreign grain will be very great, and its effects will be extensively felt. Already has the Bank raised the rate of interest, and contracted its issues; and the payment to foreign railways, in which England capitalists are large holders, will add to the pressure. Whether a panic or a great money crisis will take place in consequence, time will reveal. The dispensation of the loss of crops comes from the hand of God, and the people of great Britain must meet it with fortitude and resignation, as becomes men and Christians.

Some alarm is created, in consequence of letters of marque being issued by the Mexican government to cruise against the United States.—To what extent this practice will be carried on we do not know. Privateering was practised to a serious extent by the Americans against British commerce during their two wars with England. It was indeed from privateers that British commerce on those occasions, almost exclusively suffered. The scheme, however, now as relates to Mexico, is not well received in England. The Commercial Advertiser, gives the following intelligence:

London, Jan. 19, 1847.

Three privateers sailed from the port of London on the 9th of January, 1847. They are British ships, but have been renamed according to Spanish regulations, and they carry letters of marque. The names are as follows:—

Reina de Castilla, Capt Moody, 214 tons, 30 men: Sebastian del Canto, Capt Smith, 153 tons, 30 men: Magallanes, Capt Lash, 153 tons, 20 men.

These three vessels cleared out of the port of London for Manila, but are really for privateering on the broad Atlantic.

IRELAND.

On the 14th ult. a very large meeting of the landed gentry of Ireland, was held at Dublin, the object of which was to consider the present distressing crisis.

It was attended by nobility and gentry of every political and religious creed, and from nearly every county.

A strong determination to do the utmost in their power pervaded the addresses of the speakers.

Resolutions were adopted embodying these sentiments, and also pointing out the necessity of providing additional means of employment upon works which would permanently benefit the country.

Also that the acts should be passed for affording facilities to landed proprietors for selling portions of their estates—an amendment of the grand jury system—and some others calculated to improve the social condition of the humbler classes.

It was at one time feared that the meeting would not be unanimous in feeling, and it was proposed to prohibit the publication of the proceedings. This prohibition was withdrawn on motion of a speaker, who said that the unanimity of the meeting was a phenomenon in Ireland.

Numerous vessels of war are employed in the transit of provisions from Portsmouth to Ireland. The whole number of ships employed in this service is 44; tonnage 27,253. Of steamers there are 31, tonnage 21,773; horse power 7943 and men 2363.

In addition to the above there must be added the crews lent from the guard-ships, &c., amounting to between 600 and 700 men, making a total of nearly 3000 men. And three of the larger packets will be temporarily taken from their stations for the relief service, of which the aggregate tonnage would probably be about 2000, and the amount of horse power between 600 and 800.

At some few points on the Southern shore of the the sufferings of the people had been greatly mitigated by the liberality of residents and the aid of Government.

The mountainous and boggy districts suffer most severely, the means of relief having yet scarcely reached them.

At a meeting at Fermoy, the Earl of Mountcashel, who presided, made the following statements:—

At this moment, the people are living upon nothing but turnips and cabbages. In the mean time they were falling away from disease. They would not be allowed to move from their huts. They had, at this inclement season of the year, pawned all their clothing, and had almost nothing to cover them.

There was a disease among them which went by the name of road fever, and which carried them off, he might say without exaggeration, in taking a large extent of country, by thousands at that very moment.—(Hear.) Look at the state of the poor houses. They were all full.

That of this union, which was adopted to hold 900, was now occupied by 1500 paupers, and the guardians were obliged, with the sanction of the commissioners, to rent a store which was now crammed with these unfortunate people. They were marched to the work house in the morning, and then they were marched back at night. In the sick wards there were from 3 to 8 persons he believed in each bed. The week before last there were 34 deaths and the last week 47.

DREADFUL SCENES IN IRELAND.

The increase of robberies and depredations close to the public works, has elicited a circular from the Board of Works, announcing that "in all cases where such might have been prevented by the men employed on the works, or the offenders seized by them, and where they do not assist to bring the guilty parties to justice, the works will be forthwith suspended."

The accounts from Mayo given in the Freeman's Journal are very painful. In the parish of Cong, 27 deaths occurred within a week; in a neighbouring parish, a like number in three weeks. The Rev. Patrick Fitzgerald, Roman Catholic curate of Kilgeever, thus illustrates the intensity of the famine—

"I shall never forget the impression made on my mind a few days ago by a most heart-rending case of starvation. I have witnessed the poor mother of five in family, sending her little children, almost lifeless from hunger, to bed, and despairing of ever seeing them alive, she took her last leave of them. In the morning, her first act was to touch their lips with her hand to see if the breath of life still remained; but the poor mother's fears were not groundless, for not a breath could she feel from some of her dear little children; that night buried them in the night of eternity."

The Cork Examiner sums up the state of things in neighbourhood of Skibbereen—

"In the parish of Kilmoe, 14 died on Sunday; 9 of these were buried in coffins, 11 were buried without other covering than the rags they wore when alive. One gentleman, a good and charitable man, speaking of this case, says—'The distress is so appalling, that we must throw away all feelings of delicacy;' and another says—'I would rather give 1s. to a starving man than 4s. 6d. for a coffin.'

"140 died in the Skibbereen workhouse in one month; 8 have died in one day! And Mr. McCarthy Downing states, that 'they came into the house merely and solely for the purpose of getting a coffin.'

"The Reverend Mr. Clancy visits a farm, and there, in one house, he administered the last rites of religion to six persons.' On a subsequent occasion, he prepared for death a father and a daughter lying in the same bed."

"The Reverend Mr. Caulfield sees '13 members of one family lying down in fever.'

"The Reverend Mr. Fitzpatrick retires to rest at three o'clock in the morning, and rises after a couple of hours' heavy sleep. It is the same with his coadjutors.

"Dr. Donovan solemnly assures a public meeting that the people are 'dropping in dozens about them.'

"Mr. Meirmon says that work on the public road is even more destructive than fever; for the unfed wretches have not energy enough to keep their blood in circulation, and they drop down from the united effects of cold and hunger—never to rise again."

Accounts from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland are still very deplorable.

The Cambria arrived out on the 13th. The Bank of England had raised the rate of discounts to 3 1/2 per cent.

Bonded flour was held at forty two shillings a barrel. Food of every kind is scarce and dear in England, Ireland and France, notwith-