

end of its allotted term, and be remodelled under a new system, preserving the present central authority, but permitting the heads of the department to have seats in the House of Commons. This plan, it was believed, would obviate many of the inconveniences experienced under the existing system, and seemed to meet the feelings of the House.

On Monday, January 25th, Lord John Russell brought forward his great scheme for the temporary relief and the permanent government of Ireland. Money is to be advanced for seed for next crop. Loans will be made to such of the Irish landlords as wish to improve their waste lands; or the lands will be bought by government at a fixed price. In cases however, where the landlords will neither improve, nor sell, powers will be taken by government to buy at a valuation. For the reclamation of waste lands a million sterling to be advanced. The land so purchased will be sold in small lots, for the purpose of creating a yeoman proprietary, whose status will fill up the existing void between the peasant and the present race of landlords. Drainage is to be extensively carried out. These may be considered the permanent features of the scheme. The temporary projects of relief are a new poor law; relief committees to administer funds, and superintend the distribution of food without exacting work in return; giving out door relief at the poor houses to the aged and infirm paupers, and other measures calculated to mitigate the severity of the present visitation. Further schemes are announced as being in preparation, but what they are the Prime Minister has not yet deemed it necessary to explain. Probably they refer to some political identification between the institutions of England and Ireland. One thing is clear, that the church of Ireland is not to be interfered with. The statement of Lord John Russell was most favourably received by the House, and more especially by the Irish landlords, who are not only to have twenty two years to repay, at a small rate of interest, whatever sums they require from Government, but half only of the present expense incurred in the productive works is to be borne by them; the other half is to be borne by the nation generally. The Irish landlords as a body are universally unpopular in England, and while there is every desire expressed to mitigate the severity of the Irish famine, people on this side of the water object to the Ministerial project mainly because it saddles the industrious people of this country with additional imposts to screen the owners of the soil in Ireland.

The absentees, who have hitherto danced over the continent, spending money sucked out of their unfortunate tenant, and even under the pressure of the present distress, appear to be the only persons who will be permanent gainers by it.

The question universally asked is, how much will these Irish measures cost? The temporary outlay, it appears, will be at least seven millions only; the ultimate drain will probably reach two or three times that amount. This is really a serious matter for the industrious classes in England, who are now clamouring for the repeal of taxes that press heavily on trade, and obstruct the prosperity of the country. But these and all other subjects connected with Ireland are to undergo a searching analysis. Lord Lansdowne the same evening, made a similar explanation to the House of Lords relative to Ireland.

On Tuesday the royal assent was given to Corn, and Navigation bills, in the Peers, where the business in other respects, were merely routine. In the Lower House the subjects discussed had reference to the Chelsea pensioners, the Ten Hour's Bill, and the National Gallery—all matters, in the present condition of the country, of subdued interests.

On Friday the Montpensier marriage was discussed in the House of Lords, and the House of Commons was engaged in a good deal of multifarious business. In reply to a question respecting letters of marque, under the American flag, Lord Palmerston stated, on the authority of the Mexican Charge d' Affaires, that no person in England had been authorised to issue such letters. Foreign subjects abroad, the noble lord added, were not amenable to be treated as pirates for being engaged in such an enterprise.

We have thus glanced at the Parliamentary proceedings during the last fortnight. The famine in Ireland and the state of society there may be said to have almost exclusively occupied the attention of the people's representatives. The time has come for grappling boldly with the chronic evils of the country. Never was the public mind in so fitting a frame. The fault will certainly rest with the Ministry, and not with the British nation, if a panacea does not spring, like the fabled ashes of the Phoenix, out of the gloom, and misery and degradation which now, like a pall, covers Ireland through its length and breadth.

The topics of the last fortnight are few in number and barren of interest. The Parliamentary proceedings have exclusively absorbed the attention of the nation. The eyes of the nation are fixed on Ireland, where death is doing its work through the instrumentality of starvation. The details are horrible—sickening. The poor of England and Scotland, Liverpool and Glasgow are overrun with these poor creatures. The former towns, as many as one hundred thousand have received out door relief in a week. The pressure of local taxation on the poor is likely to ruin many small households, and leave them without covering or shelter. The pressure has become so overwhelming that Parliament has been appealed to, but has hitherto given no relief.

A determined effort is being made by the wealthy classes in England to assist the Irish by means of private subscriptions, and by abstaining as much as possible from any superfluous consumption of food. A Queen's Letter has appeared, addressed to the ministers of the church of England, requiring subscription to be made, and large sums have been thus collected in every place of worship, and by every form of faith in the Kingdom. Unhappily the state of the Highland poor is nearly as bad as that of the destitute Irish. For them also, liberal subscriptions continue to be gathered. An occasion like the present depicts the virtues or the vices of a people, in the same way that the presence of danger tests the courage of individuals. English sympathy for suffering humanity has long been proverbial, but never under any former visitation, was this philanthropic, god-like virtue exhibited in a more striking and graceful manner. Individuals contribute handsomely to soften the rigours of the calamity; and the first act of the Prime Minister, on meeting Parliament, is to dip largely into the public purse for the same object.

But the distress is not confined to Scotland and Ireland; there is much at present existing in England. The high price of provisions and the reduced stock of Cotton are amongst the causes that have aggravated the condition of the operatives in many of the large towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire. The cotton mills, under the influence of the present quotations of cotton, are working languidly. Mr Bright is going to take up the question of the cotton crop, by moving for a select committee to inquire into the best mode of prompting the growth of cotton in India. Indeed, there is a prevailing conviction that the days of cheap cotton are gone, and are not likely to return for an indefinite time.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.—The state of our commercial and monetary affairs since the sailing of the last steamer has been one of extreme peculiarity and interest. The large drains upon the Bank of England to meet the demands caused by the extensive importations of Grain, Grain Produce, and all other sorts of Provisions into these kingdoms, has induced the governors to raise their rate of interest. This circumstance, combined with others, to which allusion is made below, has caused business generally to be dull, but symptoms of improvement are beginning to manifest themselves, which led to the expectation that ere long it may recover some of the ground lost, and once again assume a healthy and satisfactory position.

The accounts from the manufacturing districts are still unsatisfactory. In Cotton fabrics only a very small business is transacted, and prices are very irregular. But this cannot be wondered at, seeing the high prices which still prevail for every article of subsistence. In the Woolen districts complaints are made of the paucity of transactions and the dullness of trade generally. The Wool markets are steady and prices well supported, but, at the same time, few sales are reported.

The Timber Trade is now in a quiet position.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—Paris, January 30.—The scarcity of the last harvest has occasioned great distress in this country, and this distress has led to serious, and even alarming, disturbances in many departments, among others Magenne, Ile et Valaine, Cotes du Nord Cher. At Chateauroux the population rose and destroyed several houses, murdered several persons, and committed acts of gross violence. At Rennes, too, most serious disturbances have taken place. At one time great alarm was felt by the Government, but the rioting now appears to be calmed down. Nevertheless, it is dreaded that there will be yet more violence and blood shed. The misery of the lower classes is dreadful, and even people comparatively well off complain of the extraordinary dearness of food.

To add to the general distress arising from scarcity of food, a severe pressure has weighed upon the money market. The Bank of France itself has been so seriously embarrassed for money as to be obliged to borrow 20,000,000f from the Bank of England. It has also been compelled to increase its rate of discount to 5 per cent., and to restrict its accommodation—measures that are felt in all their rigour by the small tradesmen who did the greatest part of Parisian business. Some sanguine people hope that the worst has passed, but the shrewdest believe that it has yet to come.

Altogether, the present position of this country is really alarming. Its relations with all the great powers are unfriendly, not to say hostile; thousands are literally starving, food is unprecedentedly dear; and there is an extraordinary scarcity of money.

GERMANY.—Berlin, January 24.—The trial of the Poles, concerned in the events of Cracow, will shortly commence, and, from the number of prisoners—about 250—will, it is believed, occupy three or four months.

It is believed that the three Courts of Russia, Prussia, and Austria have replied in exactly the same terms to the protest of England and France, against the suppression of Cracow.

All throughout Germany great distress exists. Corn and bread are very dear. The governments do all they can, but they cannot prevent great suffering.

SWITZERLAND.—Geneva, January 25.—Considerable agitation exists in the public mind of this country, and there have been some attempts at disorder. On the 6th instant the discontented and faction, aided by the inha-

bitants of Morat—a district distinguished for its Protestantism, but which, nevertheless, makes part of the Catholic Canton of Fribourg—took arms and marched against Fribourg, with the intention of overthrowing the local Government. The authorities took measures for resistance, and were aided by forces sent by Bern, now the Vorori. They soon came to blows with the insurgents, and after a short contest, defeated them. The victors then took possession of Morat.

Russia, Austria, and Prussia have addressed a note to the Canton of Bern, on its assuming the post of Directing Canton of the Confederation, in which they say that they will maintain friendly relations with it as long as it shall respect, in spirit and letter, the pact of 1815. This is equivalent to saying that the three powers will not permit Switzerland to make any changes in the constitution of the Cantons, if it should think necessary; in other words, will not allow it to control its own domestic affairs. To this insolent and extraordinary communication, the Executive of Bern replied, that the questions referred to interested Switzerland alone, that they were only responsible to Switzerland for their acts, and that they were firmly determined to maintain the independence of their country, and not permit any foreign intervention in their proceedings. This bold and energetic answer has afforded general satisfaction throughout the country.

HUNGARY.—Pesth, January 15.—according to an official report, several thousand persons are in danger of dying from hunger before next spring. A demand for 50,000 florins was made to the aristocracy, but only 8000 florins were accorded; and yet that aristocracy takes all the wealth of the country, and keeps the people in slavery and misery.

ITALY.—Rome, January 18.—The Pope has introduced important reforms in the administration of criminal justice, and continues to manifest the same liberal opinions as on his election. The love of the people towards him appears to increase every day.

There have been some disturbances occasioned by the scarcity of corn and the consequent dearness of food. In Tuscany and Naples, the discontent of the people is very great and the Governments are continually in dread of an outbreak.

OVERLAND MAIL.

An express, in anticipation of the Overland Mail from India, reached London on the 23rd ult.

A hurricane of unusual violence, by which much loss has been occasioned to the shipping interests, occurred at Madras on the 25th of November. Similar visitations at this season of the year, are frequent on the eastern side of India, from Calcutta to the line; they are almost unknown in the Arabian sea on the western shore of the Peninsula.

SOIREE AT DOUGLASTOWN.—This entertainment, which was got up for the purpose of raising funds for the relief of the destitution now unhappily existing in the highlands and isles of Scotland, came off in that fine building, the Marine Hospital, last evening. We have but little time and less space to devote to comments, but we would be doing Mrs. Hutchison, and the other Ladies of Douglastown, a great injustice, were we not to bestow on them some meed of approbation, for the philanthropic manner in which they came forward on the occasion, and for the bountiful supply of luxuries they laid out to tempt the appetites of their numerous guests; and if we are to take our table as a criterion for the others, the rapid manner in which they disappeared, demonstrated that the company duly acknowledged the obligation, by doing ample justice to the repast. Too much credit cannot be bestowed on Mr Hutchison, as well as the young men in the employ of Messrs. Gilmour, Rankin & Co. for the lively interest they have taken in the matter, the tasteful manner in which the room was fitted up, and their assiduity in attending to the wishes and wants of the company.

The only drawback was the uncomfortable fullness of all the rooms—they were crowded to repletion; but when the object of the meeting was considered, and that the greater the number the greater the amount obtained would be, all parties good naturedly endured their individual mishaps. Not less, we think, than five hundred persons were present. The amusements of the evening were amply diversified, and the generous attendance of the Chatham Amateur Band, added much to the entertainment.

Mr Hutchison announced that the committee would be enabled to send away by the March mail £100 sterling.

What say the Ladies of Newcastle on the subject of a Tea Party? Mitchell's large ball room would be a first-rate place to hold it in.

PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.—At a recent meeting of the proprietors of the Steam Navigation Company of this Island, a Resolution was adopted, authorising the Directors at once to give instruction to parties in Britain to endeavour to procure a boat of not less than

50 horse power, if one can be procured for £4,500 sterling, or even a few hundreds beyond that amount.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.—We perceive that the salary of this functionary is now fixed at £600.

Ship News.

From Willmer and Smith's European Times, February 4.

ARRIVALS IN BRITAIN.

From Dalhousie.—January 31—Wolfville, the Clyde.

From Miramichi.—January 12—Augusta, Shields. 13th—Leander, Plymouth. 14th—Alexander, Shields. 15th—Eliza Liddle, Gravesend. 22nd—Douglas, Hull. 23rd—Woodman, Gravesend. 25th—Regent, Hull. 28th—Pioneer, Shields, with loss of sails. 19th—Elizabeth Holderness, Hull.

From Restigouche.—January 6—Abbotsford, Liverpool.

From Richibucto.—January 8—Ann Davies, Beaumaris. 15th—Mariner, Liverpool. 16th—Salus, Gravesend. 24th—Salisbury Harrison, Gravesend. 25th—Margaret, Hull. February 2—Olga, Grimsby.

From Shippegan.—January 25th—Janet, Liverpool.

Cork, January 8.—The barque Chieftain, from Miramichi, was on fire this afternoon; slipped her chains, and ran on the Spit Bank. The dockyard engines are now playing on the fire, and it is expected will succeed in getting it under. The men of the custom-house, coast guard, &c., were indefatigable in their exertions to extinguish the fire.

Deal, January 15.—The Douglas, arrived here from Miramichi, was struck by a sea on the 22nd ult.; lost part of bulwarks and stanchions, house abaft, both skylights, binnacle, compasses, &c.

Shields, January 14.—The Alexander, from Miramichi, has lost bulwarks, water casks, &c.

ARRIVALS AT HEA'S HOTEL.

January 16—John Potter, Kouchibouguac; Henry Gatchell, Bay du Vin. 18th—James Bettie, Kouchibouguac; Wm. Grimley, Newcastle; Richard Dawson, New Bandon; James Butler, Bay du Vin; Mrs Buckley, do. 19th—Wm. Wilson, South West; Roland Crocker, do. 22nd—Wm. Stevens, Esq., Bathurst; George Stevens, do.; William Parker, South West; John McDonald, Bay du Vin.

Marriages.

At Bathurst, on the 19th inst., by the Rev. George McDonnell, Mr JAMES MURDOCH, of the Parish of Bathurst, to Miss MARTHA COCHLAN, of the same place.

Deaths.

At New Bandon, Bay de Chaleur, on the 7th inst., after a few days illness, in the full triumph of faith, ELIZABETH, wife of Mr. Richard Dawson, Jun., of that place, in the twenty fifth year of her age.

Mrs Dawson was the only child of Mr. W. Grimley, of Newcastle, and is deeply regretted by a numerous circle of friends and connexions, as well as New Bandon, as in the place of her nativity, Miramichi.



Winter Arrangement

FOR THE
FREDERICTON and MIRAMICHI
MAIL STAGE.

The Subscriber having entered into a Contract for conveying

Her Majesty's Mails,

Weekly, between Fredericton and Miramichi, via Nashwaak, begs leave to return his sincere thanks to the public for the very liberal patronage which he has hitherto received on the Southern route; and he now informs the public, that from and after the Fifth of January next, he will be prepared with comfortable Stages and good Horses, to carry Passengers and Luggage on the Fredericton route, and trusts that by strict attention to the comfort of travellers, the public will extend to him a liberal share of their patronage, on this route. Hours of starting as follows:—

Will leave the Royal Hotel, Chatham, every Monday morning, at 8 o'clock, A. M., and passing through Douglastown and Newcastle, will arrive in Fredericton on the following morning. Will leave the North American Hotel, Fredericton, every Friday morning at Ten o'clock, A. M., and will arrive in Miramichi on the following morning.

Each passenger will be entitled to carry with him a Trunk, not exceeding 40 pounds weight, a travelling bag, and hat box; all extra luggage, 2 1-2d per lb. All luggage to be at the risk of the owners. Passengers will please be punctual to the hours of starting.

The Southern route will be carried on by the subscriber usual; and he will be prepared to forward passengers and luggage on either of the above routes, with extra stages, at all times, at reasonable rates.

WM. KELLY.

Miramichi, 11th December, 1846.