

European News.

From English Papers to the 19th April,
received by the Steamer Caldoasa.

IRELAND.

We continue to receive unsatisfactory accounts from the several districts of the sister kingdom. The people still suffer. What famine has spared, disease is preying upon with a destructive and unrelenting hand. Fever rages in the country districts of Cork. Capt. Drury, R. N., Government officer at Kinsale, has fallen a victim to the disease, at at Dunmanway two men were found dying of disease who had crawled into a dyke, whence the guardians, as they returned from the workhouse, had them removed to the hospital. At Imishannon the lady of the doctor had died of fever; and the Cork Constitution, remarking that fever was "filling the grave-yards" of the country, illustrates the truth of its statement by adding, that one gentleman in Kilmore lost "seven tenants in one day." In the city of Cork, on the 6th inst., three children of one family died within an hour of each other, and the only remaining members, father and mother, are in the same disease and considered hopeless. In a parish in the county of Roscommon, Mr. Rooskey, priest, in a letter to a weekly paper (the Register), states that a townland in his cure, on which seventy families resided a brief time since, is now entirely desolate, and not a house remains. The people had either dropped under disease and famine, or had fled through fright. The Rev. gentleman complains also that a system of proselytising his flock had been put into operation, and forty-one of them who, on Sunday last, had attended at the service of the Established church, were, he says rewarded with a suit of clothes each on the succeeding day. The master of the workhouse at Parsons town had fallen a victim to fever, and the clerk of the union lay sick of the disease. In Castlebar, the Rev. Mr. M'Manus, a Roman Catholic clergyman, had died of fever caught in the gaol while attending on the prisoners. At Belturbet, in Cavan, several respectable inhabitants have fallen victims to fever and dysentery.

The system of plunder has again commenced in the country, which, we regret to find, is of a very heartless character. In Westmeath the house of one man was broken into, and robbed by a large armed party, and five cwt. of oatmeal, together with some articles of clothing and linen yarn, were taken away, while in another instance, in the same county, one cwt. of oatmeal was forcibly taken out of a poor man's house, and a sum of 2s. which he had gathered to purchase seed oats for his land. In Youghal, county Cork, an organised attack was made upon the baker's shops, but little mischief was done; yet it is a further proof of the frightful progress of disorganisation. Another fact we may mention, which we find stated in a Cork paper. A man in that city committed three deliberate crimes in one week, in order to get himself maintained at the public expense. Twice he escaped from disinclination of the parties aggrieved to prosecute, but he said "He was determined not to starve." There are several cases of death by starvation recorded in the journals; in one of these cases, at Maryborough, the jury agreed to the following special resolution which they appended to the verdict: "That vast numbers have lost their lives from destitution, more or less prolonged, and many others, because they could not procure food suited to their state of health." Of 2500 paupers in the North Dublin Workhouse, 1400 are not natives of, or have any claims for residence upon the union; the relief committee have decided upon making the rate under the new act uniform; a resolution strenuously opposed by those having property in the rural divisions of the union.

The police inspectors have got instructions to report on the quantity of arms held by the peasantry in Ireland, and on the characters of those who generally possess them. This would seem to point towards legislation against their indiscriminate possession.

The papers still teem with murders and attempts to murder. We take the following as one of the most recent:—A few nights ago two murders were perpetrated at Kiltankin, in this county, within eleven miles of Caher, at the Mitchelstown side. The facts are these:—A man, named Michael Brien, went to Clogheen to sell oats, and having disposed of them, he returned home in the evening. Two acquaintances of his, named William and Lawrence Cull, came to his house, and after remaining some time they departed. Brien and one of his daughters went to bed, and another daughter, about ten years of age, remained sitting at the fire. In some time after the Culls entered the house, and took their seats by the fire. The daughter who had gone to bed meanwhile fell asleep, but was soon aroused by the crackling of fire. She immediately got up, and found her sister burned to death; she then called her father, but he made no reply, and being almost suffocated with the smoke, she left the house. In a short time it was ascertained that the father was dead also. The money for the oats was taken off. An inquest was held on Monday, the 12th inst., before W. Ryan, Esq. coroner. Dr. Bagwell, after examining the bodies, stated that he found two severe fractures on Brien's head. A verdict in accordance with the facts was returned, and both the Culls have been committed.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.—Generally in most of the counties, the tillage of the land has been well attended to, but there are vast tracts totally neglected. Many landlords have sup-

plied seed on loan, but in parts of Mayo Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, and other counties, cultivation is still very backward. There appears to be much less of actual famine although extreme destitution still prevails in various districts, but generally throughout the country pestilence is at work. The Kilkenny Journal says, "There are about 700 paupers in the hospital of the workhouse, 600 of whom are in fever. Seventy-seven fever patients were admitted from the last board day to this."

EMIGRATION.—Emigration from all parts of the country proceed at a rapid pace. The greater number are conveyed to Liverpool, but many ship directly at Dublin. Two vessels sailed lately with a full complement, and two more in which nearly 1200 passengers are booked, sailed on Tuesday week. A Dublin agent has gone to Liverpool to charter vessels for the conveyance of 1,300 families emigrating from one Irish estate. A ship is filled in a day or two after being put on the berth, and the agents say an hundred vessels would not meet the demand. A committee has been formed on behalf of the Irish noblemen and gentlemen interested in this project with the view of advocating and furthering its principle—namely, the necessity of a systematic colonisation on a very large scale from Ireland to Canada, and of the assistance of the State to promote it; the expediency of making religious provision for the emigrants; the advantage of enlisting private enterprise, in the form of agency, to carry out the plan; and a willingness on the part of the projectors to accept an Income and Property Tax, for the purpose of defraying the cost of emigration, at £1 per cent. for the first year, £2 per cent. for the second year, and £3 per cent. for the third year.

ARRIVAL OF THE JAMESTOWN AT CORK.

The United States ship-of-war Jamestown, under the command of Captain Forbes, laden with breadstuffs and provisions for the relief of the distressed Irish, left Boston on the 29th ult, and after a splendid voyage of 15 days, arrived at Cork on the 12th inst., on her mission of mercy.

The relief thus nobly sent may be regarded as one of the proudest events in American history: it speaks, trumpet-tongued, for the national benevolence, and is probably the noblest charity on record.

At eight o'clock, Doctor Parks, surgeon of the vessel, landed at Cove, bearing despatches for the Lord Lieutenant and Mr. Labouchere, which he delivered at the consulate, with instructions to have them forwarded as speedily as possible. On intimation of the vessel's arrival being notified to Rear Admiral Sir H. Pigott, he despatched an officer to ascertain if any immediate assistance was required; and at half past one o'clock on Monday her Majesty's steamer Avenger went out to tow her in. Her arrival called forth the liveliest sensations of joy and gratitude, and thousands flocked to see the noble ship.

A meeting of the Cork District Railway committee was held on the 13th, when a requisition was promptly prepared, calling on the mayor to summon a meeting of the citizens, to devise the best means of welcoming and acknowledging the gift. 'The Bells of Shannon' and of the Cathedral were joyfully rung, and the Cove was splendidly illuminated on the evening of the 14th.

A deputation of the gentry of Cork, headed by Dr. Millet, J. P., visited the ship on the 13th, and presented Captain Forbes with an address, to which he replied in suitable and touching terms. After some conversation the deputation withdrew, having previously invited Captain Forbes and officers to a public dinner on the 15th instant, at Cove, which the gallant gentleman kindly accepted.

The dinner was a very splendid affair, and attended by the most influential classes in and around Cove. Captain Forbes was the hero of the day, and acquitted himself in an admirable manner. On the 16th a public meeting was held at the county court house, Cork, for the purpose of returning thanks to Captain Forbes and his patriotic crew for the sympathy they had shown towards the suffering and starving population of Ireland.

OPENING OF THE BIRKENHEAD DOCKS.

The new docks and park at Birkenhead were opened on Easter Monday, in presence of an immense crowd assembled to witness the ceremony. We have heard much of the rapid progress of towns in the far-west of America, but we question whether anything in Michigan or Ohio can surpass the magic rise of this new town on the banks of the Mersey. Five years ago Birkenhead was a mere village, resorted to by the inhabitants of Liverpool for the purpose of recreation; when the keen eye of some Liverpool speculators detected the capacity of its banks for the construction of docks, which would relieve the growing commerce of Liverpool. The project once set on foot was followed out with indefatigable perseverance. A company was formed, an Act of Parliament was obtained, and the town which sprang up now numbers a population of 16,000 souls. This is a progress even more extraordinary than that of its gigantic neighbour on the right bank of the river, which, only a hundred years ago, was a chapelry dependant on the now insignificant rural parish of Walton.

The opening of this magnificent work being justly looked upon by the directors as a national event, invitations were sent to distinguished persons in all parts of the country, and thanks to the facilities afforded by the railway, numbers responded to the call. Among others, Lord Morpeth was invited to preside at the ceremony, in his capacity of chief com-

missioner of Woods and Forests, and his lordship, with his wonted urbanity, readily complied. A special train starting from London at six o'clock in the morning also conveyed Lord Monteagle, the Earl of Lincoln, and other guests, to Birkenhead, the distance of more than 200 miles having been traversed within six hours, notwithstanding a short delay caused by an accident to the engine near Birmingham. The party were conveyed at once to Monk's Ferry, this being the first opening of the extension line to the docks, where, by a happy display of ingenuity, the lines are constructed to run on each side of the tiers of warehouses, so that goods can at once be hoisted from the trucks into the warehouses, thus avoiding all the damage and inconvenience of cartage.

A steamer moored at Monk's Ferry received the greater part of the London company on their arrival, and immediately after left the pier, saluted by the roar of cannon and the cheers of the spectators. Amidst these imposing signs of congratulation, the steamer held on its way and slowly entered the Bridge-end Basin, the second compartment into which these docks are divided. The whole afford about as much accommodation as is yielded by the Prince's Dock in Liverpool. The steamer was then moored along the south wall of the Bridge-end Dock, where the commissioners had erected a platform capable of holding 1200 persons, and affording a splendid view of the whole scene.

The party having landed from the steamer, proceeded to the next part of the ceremonial, which was to open the dock warehouses. Twelve of them are already completed, each capable of stowing 4000 bales of cotton. They are of two stories, and when the whole are finished they will form three tiers of buildings running from the shore. On the present occasion one of them was fitted up as a ball room, and the other as a dining room, where covers were laid for 800 persons, while a room between was fitted up as a saloon, in the centre of which an artificial fountain bordered with flowers and moss threw out a cool and refreshing stream. This magnificent suite of rooms was fitted up with extraordinary taste and elegance, and one could not but admire the ingenuity which, by means of the skillful disposition of variegated stripes of calico, had converted the dull storehouses of commerce into a palace resembling the creations of a fairy tale. After wandering about these apartments for a short time, the company were summoned into the dining room, where a handsome *dejeuner* was provided by the liberality of the commissioners.

After the *dejeuner*, which was seasoned by some appropriate speeches from Lord Morpeth, Lord Lincoln, and others, Lord Morpeth, accompanied by several distinguished guests, proceeded to open the New Park, which has been formed with a wise foresight to the future wants and sanitary condition of the population of Birkenhead, at a cost of £127,775.

The park was during the day the scene of great rejoicing and festivity, and in the evening there was a gorgeous display of fireworks. The day at Birkenhead, and indeed partly at Liverpool, was observed as a holiday; and the workmen at Birkenhead Docks, 2000 in number, each received a day's wages. Later in the evening a ball and supper took place in the dock-warehouse, which had been appropriately fitted up for the occasion, at which were present the majority of the principal persons who had attended the previous proceedings.

FOREIGN NEWS.

DENMARK.

Keil, March 28.—Authentic news from Copenhagen informs us that the council of state have come to a determination of going earnestly to work to settle the entangled question of Schleswig-Holstein, in a manner satisfactory to the prejudices of the people; The four assemblies of the states and the legislative assembly (*Althing*), of Iceland, will be extraordinarily convoked in their usual places of meeting in a few days. Seven delegates will be sent from them to Copenhagen, to give their sanction to the proposed measures. It is said to be understood that the peculiar political circumstances of Holstein especially deserve attention, but that, on the contrary Schleswig is to continue to remain a dependency of Denmark.—*Nuremberg Correspondent*.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, March 24.—Yesterday the ambassadors of the five powers were united in a grand conference with Ali Effendi, Minister for foreign Affairs, and it appears to have been decided that the ultimatum is to be carried into force at the expiration of its term. To-day the five powers again met the ministers of the Porte, further to discuss the Greek question.

The Porte is making progress in the path of reform, and at no distant period we shall have, it is announced, some new and salutary modifications in the administration of the laws. These are rapid strides towards liberty and civilisation.

The commercial treaty between England, France, Prussia, and Austria, have run its term, is shortly to be renewed; and it being necessary to make considerable modifications, a commission of merchants and Turkish functionaries has been named. It is heartily to be desired

that the new treaty be more favourable to English interests, which have been completely sacrificed, and ruined on account of his famous convention.

We have all manner of reports regarding the warlike preparations here. It is said that six corvettes of war sailed from hence on the 21st for Salonica, and two more are to sail in the course of a few days. In addition to all this some people say that two ships of the line are being rigged and secretly prepared for active service. This may be, but they can hardly go out before spring. Everything would indicate that the Porte is fully determined to bring matters to an issue with Greece.

From Circassia things appear to be unusually quiet. On the 22nd inst. the newly-constructed government silk manufactories at Brussa were consumed by fire. It is supposed the damage exceeds £300,000.

CHINA.

Private letters, which we have received from Hong-Kong, as well as official despatches from the Governor, bring very favourable accounts of the improved state of health of the European troops serving there. This gratifying change is mainly attributable to the increased barrack accommodation which has been provided, and to the progress made in the general drainage of the island. The mortality amongst a force of 9011 men, amounted to 56 cases only. To every true friend of the army this encouraging intelligence cannot fail to prove highly welcome and acceptable.—*United Service Gazette*.

PORTUGAL.

We have Lisbon news to the 10th inst. Count Tojal, on the part of the Queen and the Government, had called on Sir Hamilton Seymour and Admiral Parker, who had placed the British squadron at the Queen's orders, and promised that the men would land immediately she desired it, to protect herself and throne. This interference will decide the question. The immediate cause of the demand was the tardiness of the Queens generals on the Alemtejo.

Up to the period of this important application the same inexplicable apathy had prevailed. Money was not forthcoming, and the Queen's troops and Generals were everywhere at a stand-still. Very little more energy was displayed by the insurgents, and it appeared nearly evident that of the two Portuguese parties neither could subdue the other. The possibility of a Spanish armed intervention had been increasing, and the prompt action of our resident authorities was the consequence, as it was probable that Donna Maria might solicit the aid of troops from Spain.

SPAIN.

Our accounts from Madrid are of the 12th inst.

Letters of the 11th refer to insurrectionary movements of the Carlists in the provinces. Although the proceedings of the insurgents occasioned uneasiness, it does not appear that they had yet achieved anything of real importance.

The *Augsburg Gazette* of the thirteenth inst. publishes a letter dated the 10th from the banks of the Danube, mentioning that the five great powers had instructed their ambassadors in Vienna to adjust the difference which has arisen between the Porte and the Greek Government.

Letters from Rome of the 8th inst. announce that Cardinal Gizzi, the Secretary of State, had tendered his resignation on the 6th, but the Pope had refused to accept it.

AFRICA.

Horrible Massacre.—We find the following statement in Saunders's News Letter of Dublin:

Cork, March 24, 1847.—I send you a most appalling account of a massacre recently perpetrated on the Coast of Africa, which, for cold blooded and horrible barbarity, has perhaps never been equalled even in the abominable annals of slave traffic. Of the authenticity of the account there cannot be the slightest doubt as it is contained in a letter from a very intelligent naval officer, stationed at the Island of Ascension, not very far from the scene of the occurrence, and is as follows:—

Ascension, 1st Jan. 1847.

"We have just received news of a most horrible massacre on the Coast of Africa. A slave depot, called Gallineoa, known to have 2000 slaves ready for shipping, was so strictly blockaded by our cruisers that the slave owners, finding it impossible to embark them, actually in cold blood beheaded the whole number, placing their heads on poles stuck in the beach, saying, 'if you will