

European News.

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

KPNINGSBERG APRIL 4.—An occurrence, greatly to be regretted, took place at Kpningsberg on Good Friday. Notwithstanding its having been prohibited by the authorities, Dr. Rupp announced his intention of holding divine service in the rooms of the Jewish meeting house. In consequence of this a police-officer took possession of the rooms. At 9 o'clock, the congregation began to arrive, and on being told to quit they forcibly expelled the police-officer. Two or three hundred persons had by this time assembled. On the report of the policemen, the inspector of police, Steinort, arrived, and called upon the assembly to disperse, but he shared the fate of his subalterns; and one of the congregation declared, "that even if the military were called out they would resist them." A strong body of the police assembled, but when they arrived at the meeting house, service was over, and the congregation separated. M. Detroit also performed divine service on Good Friday in private houses. Great excitement prevailed as to what further steps would be taken by the authorities.

RUSSIA.—the financial condition of the country is far from being satisfactory. The districts of Pskov, Smolensk, and Tschernigon are a prey to famine; the government has taken no steps to alleviate the sufferings of the people, and the French stock have given much rise to censure. This vain display does not impose upon any one, and the Russians cannot conceive how France can favourably receive a visit from the Czar, which is to be construed into money-bags. The Emperor Nicholas is eccentric, and is fond of what are vulgarly called *coups de tête*. His visit to Paris may therefore be shortly expected. Thanks to his usual tactics, he counts upon a hearty welcome from the army, by showering crosses and orders upon them—from commerce, by making large purchases. The nomination of the Grand Duke Michael to the post of the viceroy of Poland will operate no change in the situation of that country, which will continue to be a Russian province. The question of the emancipation of the serfs gains ground apace. The gradually rising, and the senate was lately besieged by the serfs, demanding when their emancipation was to take place. It is needless to add that they were sent back without an answer. At the beginning of the present year the district of Mohilen was the theatre of a Galician massacre. The nobles of the province and that of Vitebsk had met in committee to regulate the relations between lord and serf. An incident which occurred in the domain of a proprietor of the name of Lypowickie, served as a pretext for the massacre. Nineteen proprietors were butchered, and many wounded, women and children being among the victims. The troops put down the insurrection, and the culprits were well knouted, and sent to Siberia. One of them declared that the massacre in Galacia had greatly excited him to a similar act. All of them were presented to the emperor who they hoped would approve of their conduct. These events had created a panic amongst the proprietors in those parts.

ROME.—Addresses are coming in from all quarters, demanding the institution of civic guards, the reorganisation of the communal and provincial councils, and the formation of a council of state consisting of laymen. The Pope and Cardinal Gizzi would, as is said, be disposed to comply with these demands, but they would encounter great resistance on the part of the Austrian government. Cardinal Gizzi, Monsignor Buffend, prolegate of Ravenna, and Monsignor Rusconi, delegate of Ancona, being unable to act as they would have tendered their resignations, but Pius IX. has not yet accepted them. A commission is about to be appointed to present a project for a reorganisation of the army. It is said that General Armandi, who was minister of war under the central government of Italy in 1831, is to be a member of it. The Pope was, on the 6th inst., to hold a council, in order to consider the *mota proprio* of creating a council of ministers, and on Monday following there will be a consistory for the nomination of several bishops. It is said that two French cardinals, one the Archbishop of Cambrai, will be appointed on the occasion.

THE NORTH POLE.—At the last meeting of the Geographical Society, a paper was read on the best means of reaching the north pole, by Admiral F. Wrangel. After detailing the various dangers and difficulties inseparably connected with polar navigation, and enumerating

the many expeditions sent from this country, amounting to fifty-eight, from the time of John Cabot, in 1497, to that under the command of Back, in 1836, whose chief object was the discovery of a shorter passage to the Pacific by the N. W. or N. E. channel, the writer enunciates his own idea as to the most facile mode of reaching that invisible point of the earth, the North Pole. 'My hypothesis,' he says, 'is founded on facts collected during three years' navigation in a sea whose depth is not more than twenty-two fathoms, and which is landlocked on the south by the Siberian coast, and thus defended from the winds and waves over a space of 180 degrees of the compass. The northernmost point of Greenland, Smith's Sound, seen by Capt. Ross, is in lat. 77 deg. 55 min. N; and in lat. 76 deg. 29 min., on the island of Wolstenholme, there is a village of Esquimaux. Taking all this into consideration, my opinion may be expressed in the following plan:—The ships of the expedition should winter near the Esquimaux village, under the 77 parallel, on the western coast of Greenland. There should be previously despatched to this point, in a separate party, ten narty (a particular kind of sledge), with dogs, and active and courageous drivers; likewise an ample supply of stores and provisions. In the autumn, as soon as the water freezes, the expedition should proceed from Smith's Sound. On arriving at the 79th deg., it should seek on the coasts of Greenland, or in the valleys between the mountains, a convenient place for depositing a part of the provisions. In February, the expedition might advance might advance towards that place, and in the beginning of March another station, two degrees farther north, might be established. From this point the polar detachment of the expedition would proceed, during March, over the ice, without leaving the coasts, deviating as little as possible from the line of the meridian. A part of the men, dogs, and provisions should await its return at the last station. The expedition, to reach the pole and to return, must traverse in a direct line nearly 1200 miles, or including all deviations not above 1500; which is very practicable with well-constructed sledges good dogs, and proper conductors.

THE RURAL POPULATION OF CHINA.—farms are small, each consisting of from one to four or five acres; indeed, every cottager has his own little tea garden, the produce of which supplies the wants of his family, and the surplus brings him in a few dollars, which are spent on the other necessities of life. The same system is practised in every thing relating to Chinese agriculture. The cotton, silk and rice farms are generally all small, and managed upon the same plan. There are few sights more pleasing than a Chinese family in the interior engaged in gathering the tea leaves, or, indeed, any of their other agricultural pursuits. There is the old man, it may be the grandfather, or even the great-grandfather, patriarch-like, directing his descendants, many of whom are in their youth and prime, while others are in their childhood, in the labours of the field. He stands in the midst of them, bowed down with age; but to the honour of the Chinese as a nation, he is always looked up to by all with pride and affection, and his old age and grey hairs are honoured, revered, and loved. When, after the labours of the day are over, they return to their humble and happy homes, their fare consists chiefly of rice, fish, and vegetables, which they enjoy with great zest, and are happy and contented. I really believe there is no country in the world where the agricultural population are better off than they are in the north of China. Labour, with them is pleasure, for its fruits are eaten by themselves, and the rod of the oppressor is unfelt.

GERMAN RAILWAYS.—Letters from Strasburg, of the 12th of April, mention that the Bavarian railroad from Ludwigshafen to Spire and Neustadt had been opened. The following statistical account of the German railroads appears in a Frankfort journal:—"All the states of Germany, including Austria, possessed on the 31st of December, 1845, 40 railways, or parts of railways, in activity, measuring altogether 592 German miles (about 2800 miles English). The number of passengers conveyed on all these railways was 16,411,299; 2,266,000 of whom were on the Baden line from Mannheim, to Fribourg, 2,015,000 on the lines running into Vienna, 1,900,000 on the lines of Saxony and Bavaria, and 1,284,000 on the lines running into Berlin, &c. The quantity of merchandise conveyed was 1,591,697 tons, and the total receipts for passengers and merchandise 51,230,842*l.*, rather more than one third being for merchandise. In 1845, the total amount of receipts was only about 38,

500,000*l.*, and the number of passengers not much more than 13,900,000."

LONDON AND YORK RAILWAY.—On Wednesday this line of extension to the proposed terminus at the Middlesex House of Correction was tasked out to within a short distance of the Fever Hospital, at King's Cross, Battle Bridge. The Company have commenced manufacturing their own bricks at that part of their line at Newington Green.

GREAT FIRE AT BUCHAREST.—On the 13th an express came in from Vienna, bringing accounts of a great fire at Bucharest, in Wallachia. The fire had consumed a large portion of the city, but had not yet reached the quarter in which the ware-houses of the principal merchants are situated, although several warehouses in the city had been burnt down. The consternation in Leipzig was very great, and the next post was looked for with the deepest anxiety. Property is not insured in Bucharest. There are in Leipzig just now many purchasers from that city, and the intelligence which the express brought from Vienna was, that the bankers there would not for the present accept any drafts made upon them by Bucharest merchants.

A STONE BRIDGE OVER THE RHINE.—The exertions which France has made, of late, to develop her system of communication, be it by the way of roads or canals, are leading to a proportionate exertion on the other side of the Rhine; and the necessity of a west-easterly communication, uniting Paris with the interior of Germany, is every day more felt. For this purpose, a permanent bridge over the Rhine (be it Mannheim or Maynz) is of absolutely necessity; and the plan lately laid before the common council of the latter city by Mr. Becker, painter to the court of Darmstadt, seems to be one corresponding with, and adequate to, its purpose. It is to be of stone. The arches to be of height permitting the passing of steam and even sailing boats. Another difficulty is the necessary passing of the railway over it. This, Mr. Becker intends to accomplish by suspending a wooden framework on the upper part of the stone pillars (of which there will be twenty-eight), while the upper arching of the bridge would serve for the general traffic. The bridge would lead from the Weisenau Lager, one mile above the city, to the left corner of the Mayne abuchure. By this position several advantages would be accomplished. The arches, being nearly on a level with the hill near the Weisenau Lager, would not impede either navigation or rantage (Flossery); they would, moreover, not be subject to the drifting of the Maynz ice in the spring season. If the foundations of the pillars were to be laid in the same way, as has been done in the Lagune Bridge at Venice, each pillar, with the vaulting, could be made at about 50,000 *fl.* (£5000*l.*) If the wooden structure of the railway and the suspending apparatus (Hangewerk) be estimated at 300,000 *fl.*, the whole bridge, with its twenty-eight pillars, would cause an expense of about two millions of florins. But as the tolls and other dues of the present pantoon bridge, at Maynz even yield 80,000 *fl.*, which is the 4 per cent. interest of the above sum, the advantages of a stone bridge would much increase this revenue, in which calculation the increase of traffic by this centre of the east-western rail line is not to be lost sight of. The costs are proposed to be divided in equal parts, between the Hesse Darmstadt government, the municipality of Maynz, the German League at Frankfurt, and the West-Eastern Railway Company.

IRELAND.
TRALEE.—The report of Dr. Alton to the poor law guardians, with respect to the frightful state of Ratass churchyard, surpasses in horror anything that has occurred in our country for centuries. The bodies of the dead are the chief, perhaps the only, food of great packs of famishing dogs, which nocturnally prowl about our grave-yards, and scrape up the scarce-buried dead as their food. In Kiliarney Lord Kenmare has, we have reason to believe, granted a new burial ground; the old ones in that district, as well as in this, and throughout Kerry, proving inadequate for the immense mortality. Unless new grounds be opened at once, the heat of next month, acting on the miasma generated in such abundance, may produce a plague, transcending in horror any recorded in history.

MONEY MARKET.—The startling announcement was made yesterday, that the Russian government is about to invest the sum of 30,000,000 silver rubles, or about £4,500,000 in European securities. The intelligence was received by the Hamburg mail which arrived yesterday morning, and it came in shape of

an imperial ukase. To the Baltic coffee house is attached the credit of having furnished the first official account of this extensive financial transaction, the authenticity of which was, for the moment doubted by most people, whose attention was called to the subject. It was not long, however, before the intelligence spread; and when it reached the stock Exchange, it created a perfect *furrore* among the speculators; and the markets for public securities, which were before dull, became suddenly animated and prices rapidly advanced. A variety of rumours of course, been circulated in connection with this affair; but it appears to be believed that the stipulations of the ukase have already been put into operation, and that little more remains to be done than to carry out the intentions of the Russian government, in reference to the purchase of English securities. It has, in fact been affirmed in some quarters that the disposition of this £4,500,000 includes the contract with the authorities of the Bank of France, for the £2,000,000 of Rentes bargained for some time back. Who are likely to be the parties fortunate enough to secure the conduct of the operation to its conclusion remains an object for explanation. Whether the business will constitute the leading act of the Bank of England, in their new capacity as agents to the Russian government, or whether it will be entrusted to the management of Messrs. Steiglitz, and their London correspondents, Messrs. Mollet & Co., till all necessary arrangements are perfected, is a point of considerable debate on 'Change. The general presumption is, that the Bank will be favoured with the negotiation; and should this prove the case, the proprietors will have no reason to complain that the executive in Threadneedle street accepted the appointment. Whatever may be the course adopted in this respect. Good reason exists for assuming that the bank agency (the Bank of England) and the merchantile agency Messrs. Steiglitz & Co., represented in London by Messrs. Mollet & Co.) well known how to conduct affairs for mutual protection and benefit. This operation, and its influence on the present position of monetary concerns, has been the sole great topic of conversation in all quarters.—*London Shipping Gazette, May 1.*

United States News.

Horrid Murder and Highway Robbery at Brooklyn, New York.—On Tuesday evening, between ten and eleven o'clock, as 1 of the Brooklyn watchmen was passing along Court street, near Degraw street, he noticed a man lying on the walk, surrounded with blood, and upon going nearer to him, ascertained he was still alive. The alarm was immediately given, and several persons assembled, when the man was recognised to be Mr. Alva Hotchkiss, a clockmaker, who kept a store on the corner of Hudson and Charltown streets, in this city, and residing in Brooklyn. He was immediately conveyed to his home, and a physician sent for, who examined the wounds and found that the back part of his skull was crushed in so as to preclude all hopes of his recovery. At 9 o'clock yesterday morning it was said that he could not live but a few moments, and probably at the time of writing this article he is dead. Investigations were instituted at an early hour yesterday morning, when it was ascertained that he left his store before 10 o'clock on Monday evening, having in his possession about \$260 in money and a gold watch, and that at ten o'clock he stepped into the grocery store No. 17 Atlantic street, Brooklyn, on his way home, and purchased some ham and eggs for which he paid in coppers, remarking that it would lighten his load somewhat. He put the articles into a basket, which he had left in the store in the morning, and then started for home. Upon examining his hat, there were found several marks on it, showing that he had been struck from behind with a slung shot, as the marks of the cord were plainly discernible, and it was also evident that he had been struck several blows of a lighter character. From all the facts that have been gathered thus far, there can be no doubt that he has been followed from this city by some person who well knew what amount of money he had with him, and who knew the road he must take, as he was not attacked until he got into this scarcely populated neighbourhood. The matter is still under investigation, and probably some new facts may be brought to light.—*N. York True Sun.*

The American Mail Steamship Line.—Official announcement by the Postmaster General appears in the Washington Uni-