

European News.

Willmer & Smith's European Times,
September 2

THE SEASON.

We rejoice to state that since our last number a decided and very favourable change has taken place in the state of the weather, which, at this critical moment, is one of the most vital importance to all classes. During several days past we have been blessed with the most genial sunshine, which we find from all the reports which have reached us appears to have been general throughout England and Ireland. In London and the southern counties the weather during the week has been splendid. On Thursday afternoon a little rain fell, but it was only partial. Upon the whole, there is a well grounded hope that the harvest of wheat, at least, will prove nearly an average one. Mr Hudson, the member for Sunderland, an intelligent observing man, reported in the House of Commons on Wednesday that he had travelled over a great extent of ground in the north within these few days, and gave a very sanguine opinion of a favourable result. Lord John Russell, also, with reference to Ireland, avowed that the Government reports were most contradictory; but, upon the whole, they were more favourable than they were a short time ago. He thought that a very considerable portion of the crop would prove available; but as that expectation might be disappointed, the result must be patiently waited for. Within the last week a far more cheerful feeling has existed; the rise in the corn market at Mark Lane on Monday is scarcely maintained, and we hope that in our next publication we shall be able to announce a continuance of the present auspicious weather. The lives and worldly happiness of thousands of human beings depend upon the issue.

THE REVENUE.

Nothing is so refractory,—so incurable as a deficient account. Whenever a merchant or a private individual tests his income and expenditure by an infallible debtor and creditor statement. The undisguised fact of a deficiency must show itself. It is true he may borrow to stop the gap in the cash account, but no power on earth can alter the mathematical fact of a deficiency, if it exists. A wise man looks the truth in the face and tries to find a remedy; the spendthrift, who has no thought for the morrow, only thinks of patching up the account for the purpose of making a statement in order to raise the money, and leaves the liquidation of the debt incurred to a future time or to posterity. Our Chancellor of the Exchequer pursued the latter course. For the fourth time during the Session he has tried to make out that the account current of the nation is in a satisfactory state; but it all ends in the fact announced some months ago, namely, that there is a deficiency, of about two million sterling, and that he must borrow that amount in the market, either by issuing Exchequer bills or by 'selling,' as he calls it, meaning by creating stock to the amount of the deficiency admitted. The Chancellor of the Exchequer paraded a statement, for the third time, that he had 'saved' about £828,000; and then he added the deficiency of income and expenditure was only about £292,335. Upon this some London Journals, on the following morning, quite congratulated the country upon the smallness of the deficiency. A little more attention was needed. They discovered the succeeding day that the £292,335, was swelled into no less an amount than £2,031,256,—the Chancellor of the Exchequer having so mystified the statement that it required no little attention to disentangle all the intricacies of the account. However, such is the case; the Chancellor of the Exchequer must borrow two millions to replace the deficiency to that amount; and, we regret to say that this does not show the whole state of the case, inasmuch as there is, moreover, a sum of five hundred thousand pounds of the 'appropriations in aid' which the Chancellor of the Exchequer anticipates from the revenue of the next year; so that, in fact the real deficiency in the revenue is two and a half millions sterling. The savings so much boasted of are merely sums which were intended to be spent, but which have been prudently kept in the public purse to meet more pressing exigencies. As might have been expected, the statement of Sir Charles Wood caused a decline of nearly one per cent. in public securities, but the decline from that cause was but temporary. In fact a small loan, since disguise it in whatever manner it may be decided upon,

whether by sale of Exchequer bills or stock, it is still a loan, but a small issue of stock would at the present moment be readily taken off the market, and will occasion no inconvenience. However, it swells the national debt, and is admitted on all hands to be a most unjustifiable course to pursue. When Sir Robert Peel practised a similar experiment in 1842, it was in anticipation of the results of the income tax about to be imposed; and we do not perceive in what way this new creation of stock can be extinguished, and the expenditure of the ensuing year be provided for unless by some fresh loan of larger amount or a considerable increase in taxation. The corn duties have helped to increase the custom duties about five hundred thousand pounds, but these will terminate in February, and if a considerable rise in grain takes place will cease to be productive long before that time. It is some little satisfaction to learn that the Customs, apart from the produce of the corn and sugar duties, exhibit an increase of twenty two hundred thousand. The ministerial Journals congratulate the country that the deficiency of £3,500,000, declared at the early part of the year is now only two millions. They now magnify the difference which they tried to diminish at the early part of the year, in order that the present deficit may be taken as a matter of course. These tactics may serve for party purposes, but they will not satisfy the country. The real deficiency is twenty two millions and a half sterling.

FRANCE.

Since our last debate and the decision upon the Report on the Insurrections have taken place by the National Assembly. After one of the longest sittings on record, which commenced at noon on Friday the 25th ult. and continued during the remainder of the day and the whole night till six o'clock on Saturday morning, the Assembly determined to hand over Louis Blanc, and Marc Caussidiere to the legal tribunals, on the charge of being implicated in the affair of the 15th May, when the National Assembly was invaded; the Assembly, however, having been told that if their vote extended to the charge of the 25th June, the culprit would be delivered over to the military tribunals, thought it might be any member's fate at the next turn of the revolution, so they faltered and refused to give a vote inculcating the accused in the affair of the insurrection of June, although the guilt of Caussidiere, at least, has been established in the most undeniable manner. The debate was highly interesting. After numerous minor explanations and interlocutory criminations and recriminations, M. Ledru Rollin commenced his defence. One statement he made will illustrate the reckless falsehood of this man. He admitted that he formed the Belgian legion to revolutionize Belgium, because the fallen dynasty were conspiring in Belgium, and three English ships of war were in the Schelde ready to seize on Antwerp. So he did for Belgium what he done for the Germans and the Poles; that is, stirred them up to a senseless revolution which will end most miserably, as it bids fair to do in France. No wonder that Ledru Rollin ended his speech by begging the National Assembly to throw a veil upon the past. Louis Blanc followed, and wearied the Assembly by his theories, and his incoherent denials of guilty participation. Caussidiere followed in a written defence, and denied that he was on the barricades in June. He said he was ill in bed on the 15th of May. At the conclusion of these speeches a requisitory was made by the Attorney General to prosecute Louis Blanc and Caussidiere. Great excitement ensued. Louis Blanc had the effrontery to exclaim repeatedly that there was not a man in France who believed him guilty. At length when broad daylight had arrived the Chamber decided by a vote of 201 majority to proceed to a decision at once. Upon this declaration of urgency, Louis Blanc and Caussidiere left the chamber. The authorisation to prosecute L. Blanc for the affair of May only was granted by a division of 504 over 252; and for the prosecution of Caussidiere for the same affair by a division of 577 against 368. But when the President of the Assembly intimated that they must then proceed to the authorisation to prosecute Caussidiere for the June insurrection, which would have the effect of delivering him over to the military tribunals, a great outcry took place, and upon a division the numbers were found—

For the authorisation	370
Against it	558
Majority against it	—58

So Marc Caussidiere escaped for the greater crime of which there is not the slightest doubt of his guilt, whilst he

stands charged with the lesser crime of the affair of May. The Assembly broke up at six in the morning. In the interval of the last division the accused were occupied in writing numerous letters. Some delay took place in issuing the warrant for their apprehension, and when at last the commissary proceeded to their lodgings the birds were flown. Louis Blanc fled to Belgium by the railway, was arrested at Ghent for want of a passport but was released the next day, and is at this moment safe in a whole skin in London, where he arrived on Wednesday. Caussidiere is no doubt concealed in some of his secret haunts in Paris, and will probably defy the vigilance of his old friends the police. The French Government has been relieved by the withdrawal of these men, from a great difficulty, and it is generally believed they connived at their escape. Whilst these events were going on, a huge encampment was created on the Champs de Mars as if by enchantment, and the most efficient measures were adopted to maintain tranquillity. However, the rumours of Legitimist movements have all died, and as we said last week, we do not believe that they had any foundation whatever. A greater difficulty however, threatens the Dictatorship of General Cavaignac. He finds the respectable press stand up nobly against a prolonged undisguised military despotism. The Gazette de France, a highly respectable legitimist journal, was suspended last week, together with the Bouche de Fer, a new paper of similar principles; and plain intimations have been given to the Reforme, the Constitutionnel, and the Democratique Pacifique, that if they are not more measured in their language they will also be suppressed. The Constitutionnel has accordingly appeared several days without any leading article, and we can only say that if General Cavaignac succeeds in crushing a free and independent and respectable journal like the Constitutionnel, then will be more successful than Napoleon himself.

IRELAND.

The announcement we made last week of the intention of Lord John Russell to make a short visit to Ireland is confirmed, and has been received throughout the sister country with considerable satisfaction. His lordship will remain a few days at the Viceregal Lodge, and will probably visit some of the southern counties. His stay in Ireland will be about ten or twelve days, after which the noble lord will proceed to Scotland on a visit to Lord Minto, and afterwards join the royal party at Balmoral. We think it very probable that extensive political and social consequences will follow from this visit. It is suggested that the question for the payment of the Roman Catholic clergy will be one of the subjects to be taken into consideration during his lordship's sojourn in Dublin. Many circumstances concur in rendering such a step probable. We observe, amongst other signs, that the tone of Mr John O'Connell, who has resumed his seat in Parliament, is very much modified within these few days. On his first appearance in the House of Commons, after his long secession, his remarks were captious and antagonistic to the Ministers; but within these few days his demeanour has much changed, and he seems more disposed to render them his support. He has divided with them on two occasions during the week, when he might have consistently voted against them. We think accordingly, that he is at length convinced that Ministers are earnestly anxious to do everything in their power to raise Ireland from the depths of degradation and misery in which she is plunged. The insurrection is put down. No steps have yet been positively decided upon relative to the trial of the chief parties engaged in the late outbreak. It is probable that a special commission will eventually issue, but the trials are not likely to come on for a couple of months. We believe we may state with confidence that Dillon and O'Gorman have both escaped to France, but numerous arrests still continue to be made.

The intense alarm which prevailed last week respecting the result of the potato crop has, we rejoice to say, greatly subsided. The weather has undergone a most favorable change; and, in spite of the undeniable injury which the plant has already received, we are not without hopes that the greatly increased breadth of land planted will compensate for the deficiency in the diseased potatoes. From an official statement drawn up at the office of Public Works, it appears that in 1847, the extent of land in statute acres in twenty-one counties, planted with potatoes, was 218,441, while in 1848 it was computed as no less than 813,899 acres. Wheat, oats, barley, and rye taken together, are about the average of last

year. Flax is only 26,176, against 34,520 acre planted last year; but taking every description of produce there were 3,621,313 acres planted in 1847, whilst in the present year the quantity amounts to 4,162,134. And this is only in twenty-one counties out of thirty-two; from the remaining eleven counties, chiefly in the north, no returns are made. Upon a comparison of the whole of Ireland, taken upon the above average, the increase in acres, cultivated with potatoes, would be on the same scale, 284,116 acres in 1847, against 1,054,000 acres in the present year. If these returns are to be relied upon, it will follow, that even supposing a very large portion of the potato crop to be totally lost, there will still remain a considerable excess of supply over last year. If even one-third of the potato crop should be saved, there will be still as large a quantity of this description of food available as there was in 1847. The favorable change in the weather will, it is to be hoped, at any rate enable the husbandman to secure his crop of oats, which will materially lessen the distress unavoidable from such partial destruction of the potato crop as may unfortunately take place.

We may, perhaps, here allude to a subject which must more or less influence the future destinies of Ireland; we mean the Diplomatic Relations with Rome Bill, which has at length passed both Houses of Parliament. After remaining in abeyance more than three months, Lord Palmerston last week carried the second reading; the bill went through the committee without essential alteration, and now waits the royal assent. Without subscribing to the opinions so industriously circulated by the Tory party, that the Ministers intend for the future to govern Ireland through the Pope; we may yet express our earnest hope, that a political intercourse with his Holiness especially now that his Government is completely secularised, will tend to a better understanding between the British Government and the Catholic Hierarchy in Ireland. It cannot be doubted that the vast majority of the Catholic priests have set their faces against the late movement; and it cannot but conduce to peaceful government in Ireland, if for the future, either directly or indirectly, the authority of the chief of the Irish Church could be brought to influence the inferior clergy in promoting peace and goodwill, instead of strife and insurrectionary violence. The political power of the Pope is at this moment almost annihilated, but this moral and religious influence might be most beneficially exercised in restoring Ireland to a state of peace and tranquillity.

By our latest advices from Dublin there is a complete lull in politics and the southern counties furnish no subject worthy of comment.

FOREIGN.

Our continental news is but little satisfactory. The war in Schleswig-Holstein seems to be virtually suspended, and by a telegraphic despatch from Hott we have the intelligence that an armistice has been signed on the 26th ult., to remain in full force till the 1st of March, 1849, and has been sent to Berlin for ratification. It would from this certainly appear that the quarrel is in a fair way for adjustment, but other considerations are now beginning to have influence in the dispute, and until a comprehensive adjustment of the Italian question takes place, we can hardly expect that Archduke John, representing as he does German prejudices and interests, will waive the pretensions of his people to the duchies. The only hope we see of a final termination will be by a general pacification simultaneously of the contest both in the north and south of Europe.

We regret to state that Berlin and Vienna continue to be the scenes of fatal riots and confusion. On the 21st ult. the people and the burgher guard had a conflict at Berlin, in which thirty-eight constables and many leaders of the mob were wounded, the rioters were at length dispersed at the point of the bayonet. A rigorous law for the prevention of public meetings in the streets is in progress. At Vienna a similar outbreak took place with the like results. At Frankfort the business of discussion still goes on, but whether central Germany is really to take a serious part in the affairs of Europe, or whether the assembly at Frankfort is only made an instrument for private as well as royal ambition, remains to be seen. In Hungary and Croatia active military proceedings are going on. But in the meantime all Europe is anxious respecting the affairs of Italy, which occasion us considerable uneasiness. A more than reasonable time has now elapsed, and Austria still avoids giving any reply to the offer made of mediation