

form system, and that too, upon a scale that would secure the full co-operation of all parties, without detracting from the interests of any. These Associations, as has been described in the leading article of this number, should form so many links in a chain, which should be so indissolubly connected and cemented in a bond of union, that the one could not well perform the important duties required, without the aid and full co-operation of the sister or associate Societies. The plan by which this great and patriotic achievement may most effectually be brought into full and complete operation, has been submitted to the public, through the columns of our magazine, and we now, as briefly as possible, proceed to the consideration of the character and objects of the volume of Transactions of Canadian Agricultural Societies, which we hope soon to see published.

**European News.**

*From English Papers of the 18th ult., by the Steamship Caledonia.*

**FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.**

**SWITZERLAND.**—The fall of Lucerne has put an end to military proceedings in this quarter. The king of Prussia insisted upon the neutrality of Neuchâtel, during the civil war, and that province was respected. Sir Stratford Canning arrived at Berne on the 8th, and immediately had an interview with the federal authorities. The only news from their own is, that a note from the Prussian Government had been presented to the President of the Diet, and that the provisional government of Lucerne had, after the example of Friburg, sequestered the property of the members of the former government. A letter from Vienna states that the dissolution of the Sonderbund had produced a profound impression amongst the higher circles of that capital. It is added that if the five great powers, more serious measures will be adapted, of which the execution will be entrusted to Austria and France.

From the state of the chest of the canton of Lucerne, recovered from the fugitive authorities of the Sonderbund; it appears that the treasury of the League derived its chief resources from loans supplied by Austria, and from an examination of the arms and artillery captured or surrendered, it appears that the League derived its arms from France—the cypher of Louis Philippe was found upon the artillery. The cantons of the defunct League were proceeding with the elections of their respective grand councils and other cantonal authorities. The popular assemblies of these cantons respectively had passed resolutions in substance similar to those of Friburg and Lucerne, renouncing the League, acknowledging the authority of the Diet, and appointing a Provisional government.

The general assembly of the people of the canton of Zug adopted on the 5th resolutions similar to those adopted by the other cantons of the Sonderbund, renouncing the League, acknowledging the authority of the Diet, and appointing a Provisional government.

The provisional Government of Lucerne has received a loan of 150,000 francs in Austria, 50,000 in Bale, and 35,000 at the convent of St. Urban.

From official returns made to General Daur, the commander-in-chief of the federal army, it appears that the loss of the federal corps during the late operations has not been very great, as the total only amounts to about 10 killed and 200 wounded, and 60 missing.

**GERMANY.**—The trial of the Polish conspirators at Berlin was brought to a close on the 3rd inst. Louis Mrosowski, Wladislas Kosinski, Felix Sadowski, Severin Elzanowski, Stanislas Labodski, Florian Cedwya, and Joseph Kleszczynski, were sentenced to death as traitors; others to various terms of imprisonment and eighteen were acquitted.

**ITALY.**—The question of Ferrara is considered settled. The Austrians have consented to withdraw from the town into the citadel, merely retaining a post at the gate of the Po, which they were to hold in conjunction with pontifical soldiers, in compliance to Austria the Pope permitted Cardinal Odesci to retire to Pesaro, so that he might not be present at the evacuation of the town by the Austrians.

A splendid celebration took place at Rome on the 24th, on the occasion of the installation of the new municipal council.

The king of Sardinia signed on the 27th ult., the organic law of the municipalities and provincial councils, the most important of the enactments promised in the edict of the 29th October. His Majesty had, moreover, established a ministry of public instruction, at the head of which was placed the Marquis Alfieri de Sestegni formerly chairman of the Reform committee.

Letters from Rome of the 2nd say that all was perfectly tranquil in that capital, and that the work of administrative and organic reform was proceeding in the most satisfactory manner. The new council of state and the municipality had entered on their respective functions, and all hope of effecting any reaction had been given up by the retrograde and Austrian party.

It is stated that the king of Naples had accepted the resignation of all his ministers, and that the accession of the kingdom of the Two

Sicilies to the Italian league might be immediately expected.

**THE TWO SICILIES.**—Advices of the 2nd inst. from Naples, state that "Sicily is on fire." The excessive rigours displayed by the Government for the sake of self-preservation, the imprisonment of a multitude of citizens, and the capital executions have borne their fruit. The entire country has risen in arms, and the soldiers have refused to act against the justly exasperated population. The constitution of 1812, guaranteed at the time by England, has been proclaimed in the whole island. The soldiers refused to fire upon the people. The steamers expected from Sicily has not arrived. This intelligence we are assured, arrives by the Telegraph, and the interruption of the communication with Sicily, must tend to confirm the account of the serious events which have occurred in that island. We have remarked with surprise that a large English steam frigate, supposed to be the Terrible, approached our gulf, and after taking soundings along the coast from Castellamare put to sea again without communicating with the shore. The Terrible, no doubt came from Malta and Sicily.

Subsequent accounts state that great agitation prevails, but the details are so contradictory, that it is scarcely possible to ascertain the truth. The governor of Palermo had, it is said, promised the people that reform should take place in order to appease the general excitement.

**ALGERIA.**—The *Novelliste de Marseille* has published intelligence from Algeria, positively affirming that Abdel Kader had made his submission to the emperor of Morocco, and had agreed to lay down his arms, to compel his followers to reside at such places as should be assigned to them by the Emperor, and to reside himself at some place which he was to select, with the approbation of the Emperor. As a confirmation of this statement the *Marseilles paper* asserts that Abdel Kader had caused all his horses to be hamstringed, as a usual token of Arab submission. The *Journal des Debats* and other ministerial papers of Paris contradict, however, the statements of the *Marseilles journal*, which they declare to be unfounded, and that it would seem that some negotiations are on foot between Abdel Kader and the governments of France and Morocco.

**AUSTRIA.**—Fourteen Jesuits have arrived at Vienna from Switzerland, and have been presented by the imperial councillor, Mr. Hurler, to the chancellor of state. It is very probable that they will, for the first time, be permitted to remain here under the plea of hospitality, and then form the commencement of a regular community; for although their buildings and the other property of the order of the Jesuits have been confiscated in Switzerland, they have still immense wealth remaining. It is doubtful whether the convent of the Kamaldulen, on the Kahlenberg, which has just been purchased for 50,000 florins, or the convent of the Ligurians, which is situated in the very heart of the city, will be assigned to them.

The Austrian treasury is at this moment in so flourishing a state, that there is a disposable sum of fifty millions of florins (about six millions of pounds) in gold and silver bars. This favourable state of things is the result of the success which had for some years attended the working of the copper mines.

**PARLIAMENTARY.**

The long protracted debates on the currency have terminated in the appointment of a select committee in each House of Parliament of the investigation of the causes of the commercial distress in Great Britain, and how far it has been affected by the laws of 1819, and 1844. After a careful study of the arguments adduced on all sides during the discussion which took place, we can only come to the conclusion that an overwhelming majority of both Houses will inevitably maintain, under any circumstances, a convertible currency.

It is well known that the Bank Charter Act of 1844 broke down at the very critical moment when its principle was put to the test, and it must not be inferred that any change will be made in the principle of convertibility established by the act of 1819, and rendered more stringent and compulsory on the Bank Directors of the act of 1844. Lord John Russell in his speech expressed some vague hope that, by the collision of intelligent minds in the committee, some Mediation may be hit upon so as to enable the currency to work more practically. It is impossible to read the speeches of the most intelligent members, as Sir Robert Peel, Lord John Russell, Mr. F. Baring, and his brother, on the opposite side, Mr. Thomas Baring, Mr. Wilson, Sir Wm. Clay, Mr. Edward Ellice, and others, without feeling satisfied that they are all thoroughly convinced of the correctness of their several opinions; but whilst they all maintain the principle of a convertible currency, none of them would be indisposed to alter the act of 1844 if any improvement can be suggested. Mr. Thomas Baring, whilst with his party he condemns the act of 1844, and argues that the letter of the Government to the Bank of the 25th October was its signal condemnation, does not venture for a moment to advocate such a state of things as existed antecedent to 1819. It was remarkable, also, that neither Mr. Spooner nor Mr. Muntz, the champions of inconvertible issues, ventured to broach their extreme views in the House of Commons. From the strong language used by Lord John Russell and Sir Charles Wood, it is very evident that some reconstruction of the Bank direction is contemplated. Under the plea that there is great difficulty to procure competent and "qualified" persons to fill the office of Govern-

nor of the Bank of England, the Bank Directors have intimated to the Government that they would be averse to a modification of their charter in that respect. Now, the practical effect sought by such a change, would not be to mitigate the restrictive character of the act of 1844, but avowedly to place some one at the head of the Bank who would avoid the blunders lately committed, and who at the first indication of derangement of the circulation from internal drain, excessive speculation, or adverse exchanges, from whatever cause, would be expected to raise the rate of discount at once, and thereby put a stop to the mischief before it reached any alarming height. In point of fact, by this proceeding the Bank Act of 1844 would be made more stringent than ever. But, as we doubt whether the vast inland and foreign trade of this great country could be carried on profitably with a constantly fluctuating interest, ranging perhaps higher than five per cent, and as we should fear that commercial intercourse with distant countries especially would be liable to the perpetual interruption by the incessant interference of the Bank of England, we should be very sorry to see so much additional real power vested in that institution, which from its vast capital, and enormous public and private deposits, has exercised already much too despotic an influence over the destinies and fortunes of British and foreign merchants.

The question of the removal of the still remaining disabilities of the Jews, by allowing them a seat in Parliament, was on Thursday evening brought forward by Lord John Russell in the House of Commons. His lordship introduced the motion in a very temperate and eloquent speech, going over the ground which has been so often urged in favour of a large section of our fellow subjects, who, as they contribute to the exigencies of the state, are, it is contended, entitled to all the honours society has power to confer—in fact, to enjoy all the rights of citizenship. The mere respectability and private worth of Baron de Rothschild form but slender grounds for being admitted into Parliament, compared with the higher claims of equal citizenship; and it is urged on his behalf that, with the keen perception he has of the value of the right withheld, exclusion is more to him than mere political disability—it is punishment. The debate opened by Lord John Russell in an able oration, and his lordship was seconded in a maiden speech by Mr. Fox, the popular and celebrated Unitarian preacher. Mr. Gladstone also supported the motion, as well as Mr. Romilly and Mr. Disraeli. It was of course opposed by the consistent champion of the church, Sir Robert Inglis, who was seconded by Lord Ashley, Mr. G. Banks, Mr. Goulburn, and Sir Thomas Acland. After an interesting debate, on the motion of Mr. Law, the Recorder of London, the debate was adjourned. It is the general impression out of doors, that a considerable majority in the Commons will be in favour of relaxing the laws so as to enable Jews to sit in Parliament; but the hitherto wasteful attempts make us still doubt whether that assembly will, as yet, consent to "un-Christianize" the Parliament. In the present temper of a large number of the bishops, that powerful section of the peers will not feel very much disposed to favour any measure emanating from Lord John Russell; and, accordingly, the eventual success of the bill, if it should pass the Commons, would be very problematical in the upper house. The vast majority of public writers in England seem to be greatly in favour of admitting the Jews to a seat in the Legislature; and, indeed, the main argument which is adduced against it, is the inevitable consequence, that Pagans and Mahomedans of which creeds we have millions of fellow subjects in India, cannot afterwards consistently be excluded.

The notice on the order book of the House of Commons, which stood for Thursday, the 9th, for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the state of our East and West India Colonies, has been postponed by Lord George Bentinck until the 23rd inst. Mr. Hope has also given notice of an additional motion to follow Lord George Bentinck's, for a committee of the whole House on the Sugar Duties Act of 1846, with a view of suspending the operation of the annually diminishing scale of the present differential duties. The indisposition of Lord John Russell has been the sole cause of the delay in bringing these important questions formally before the House. It is however generally understood, amongst the best informed circles, that the Government will not offer any opposition to the appointment of the committee to be proposed by Lord George Bentinck. Mr. Hope's motion will, of course, be strenuously opposed.

Whilst we are writing, the intelligence reaches us that Lord John Russell has given notice that in the event of the Irish Outrages Bill being passed on Monday next, the 20th inst., he shall propose the adjournment of Parliament on its rising that day until Thursday, the 3rd of February. This step completely throws over the West India question until after the recess. The delay is greatly to be deplored, but the Government having obtained the measures which they deemed expedient for Ireland, seem resolved to leave the affairs of the West Indies, and the commercial distress of England, to fight themselves in the best way they can without Parliamentary interference.

**GENERAL SUMMARY.**

The present brief session of the British Parliament and the approaching meeting of the French Chambers, have stirred up the few continental questions in dispute, and the enemies and supporters of Lord Palmerston and

M. Guizot respectively, find ample scope for their animadversions or approbation of the policy of France and England. At the moment when all Europe was on the tip-toe of expectation, waiting the result of the mediation of the Five Powers in the affairs of Switzerland, Lord Palmerston, incited by Mr. Osborne, the new member for Middlesex, gravely rises in his place in Parliament, and, amidst the laughter of the House of Commons, declares "that as the civil war in Switzerland was, in point of fact, at an end—as mediation meant an interposition between two contending parties—it was evident that when there was an end of contention there must also be an end of mediation." Upon the enunciation of this self-evident maxim it appears that M. Guizot takes umbrage, and, being thwarted in his designs of mediation, vows he will resign; and the Paris papers teem with the usual abuse of Lord Palmerston, because, forsooth, the Federals have completely vanquished the Sonderbund party in Switzerland. In our last number we said that the tardy intervention of the Five Powers would come too late. The Jesuits are expelled from the Catholic cantons, their property, and that we fear, of other monastic institutions, has been confiscated; and the Federals are completely masters both of the field and of the cantonal sovereignty. However we may deplore these excesses of a triumphant party, flushed with success, they are the almost invariable concomitants of predominant power; and the great fear we have is that, as retributive justice invariably recoils upon arbitrary tyranny, the cruelties practised upon the Catholics may serve as a pretext for the intervention of certain continental governments, not quite so friendly to popular liberty as that of Great Britain. In the mean time, Sir Stratford Canning has reached Berne, and will, doubtless, spare no effort to check infuriate zeal in politics and religion on both sides.

In France M. Guizot's tenure of office is now deemed highly precarious. It is certain that serious divisions exist in the French cabinet, and we receive daily the most positive assurances that the President of the Council will resign before the meeting of the Chambers. The success of the Federal party in Switzerland, to which M. Guizot never concealed his hatred and opposition, must occasion him serious annoyance; and, altogether, the movements in Italy, and the proceedings of the electoral reformists in France, must tend to disturb Louis Philippe's unexcitable Prime Minister.

The visit of Lord Minto, an English Cabinet Minister, to the Court of Rome, has been several times alluded to in both Houses of Parliament, but Ministers unequivocally state, that he has no diplomatic mission entrusted to him, being merely on a tour through Italy "to give advice" to the Italian princes and the people. Lord Palmerston distinctly declares that until the "communion" with the court of Rome, now forbidden by Act of Parliament, shall be interpreted by Parliament as to admit of "diplomatic intercourse" with the See of Rome, the Government will not take upon itself to violate the law. There is certainly a strong feeling that, with a liberal Pope, the present is a very anomalous state of things. The French ambassador at Rome had given an audience to Lord Minto, to which he had invited the members of the Consula di Stato. His lordship had been received by the Pope in a private audience.

A letter from Prague of the 9th inst., in the Cologne Gazette, states that an order had been received to place all the troops of Bohemia immediately on a war footing. This order had excited great sensation. It was supposed that a body of troops would be marched to the Archduchy of Austria, to take the place of those who have been sent to the frontier of Italy.

**COMMERCIAL REVIEW.**

Since our last publication, we regret to state that commercial affairs have not improved to that extent which the increased facilities in the discount market might have been supposed to warrant. In the manufacturing districts there is more employment, but the markets for all description of produce continue in a very depressed state, and in the staples of wheat and cotton there is a further decline. The retail business of the country is also suffering extensively, and general consumption is not a little affected by the state of the public health which occasions considerable alarm. Partial failures continue to occur at intervals in various parts of Europe, but they are chiefly of houses of secondary importance. We can scarcely hope for any great improvement before Christmas; but we trust, with the new year, that the vast energies of the country will once more resume their wonted activity, and develop with renewed profit the reproductive resources of the country.

The corn market since the beginning of the month has been remarkably steady. On the market day of the 6th inst., prices continued unaltered at our last quotations; but on that evening the trade evinced a decided disposition to make purchases, and the finer and best conditioned descriptions advanced about 2s., whilst the common sorts fetched about 1s per quarter above the previous week's prices. Foreign Wheat has been in moderate demand, without a change in prices until Monday last, when prices improved one shilling per quarter. Flour has advanced 2s. per sack, and the best American flour has become more free of sale, the nearest price being about 30s. per barrel for the best fresh Western Canal. Altogether this week the corn-market has assumed a more active tone, to which the declaration of Ministers, that they

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