

European News.

From Papers received by the Steamship Niagara, up to the 20th of May.

An important meeting is announced to take in London, on the 27th inst., of all persons desirous of upholding the system of free labour in the British Colonial possessions, of preventing England from becoming dependant for its supply of Sugar and Coffee upon the extension of cultivation by means of slavery and the slave trade. The requisition calling this meeting has no fewer than 129 mercantile London firms attached to it, comprising names of the highest eminence. The movement is intended to support the efforts about to be made in Parliament for a modification of the Sugar Act of 1846, and every endeavour will be made to bring before Parliament in the most influential form the views of the requisitionists. It is expected to prove one of the most numerous meetings of the commercial interests in the metropolis since the remarkable one which took place at the London Tavern at the period when the Emancipation Act was carried.

In the House of Commons Mr. Horsman, with that persevering industry which marks his parliamentary career, has again brought forward the affairs of the Church with a view of salutary reform. His motion of Tuesday last, had for its object to inquire into the state of our cathedral and collegiate churches, in order to ascertain whether they may not be rendered more conducive to the service of the Church, and the spiritual instruction of the people. Mr. Horsman endeavoured to shew that these ecclesiastical establishments instead of promoting religion only led to its decay, and that wherever a cathedral establishment reared its head, there religion was weakest and dissent vigorous.

We regret to announce the death of Lord Ashburton, formerly Mr. Alexander Baring, which took place on Friday, the 14th inst., at Longleat, Wiltshire, at the seat of his grandson, the youthful Marquis of Bath. His Lordship died in his 75th year, surrounded by his family, and has thus speedily followed to the grave his two brothers, Sir Thomas Baring, Bart., and Mr. Henry Baring, both of whose deaths we recorded a few weeks ago.

The importance of the free navigation of the St. Lawrence, both to the people of the United States and to our own colonists, can scarcely be overrated. Placed as that river is, as the boundary between the great Republic on the south and our own people on the north of the American continent, any restrictive laws which impede the interchange of commodities between the great population on the banks of that mighty stream cannot but be prejudicial to both. Mr. Gillespie the intelligent Canadian merchant, whose political bias as a Protectionist is perfectly well known, plainly told Mr. Labouchere, upon a recent occasion, that if the St. Lawrence navigation was not thrown open now, that their differential duties were entirely abolished, that he should quit business altogether. It seems therefore, inevitable that the future policy of the country having been declared to be upon an entirely free trade footing, it is quite impossible, as regards Canada and the West Indies, that the restrictions of the colonial trade can be any longer maintained. The opening of the trade of the St. Lawrence to the ships of all the world, upon a footing of entire reciprocity, cannot fail to prove of incalculable advantage to the Canadians, and will further cement the good feeling that subsists between them and the people of the United States. This will be one of the benefits which must necessarily flow from a modification of the Navigation Laws.

The sudden revulsion in the popularity of M. Lamartine has become the chief topic of comment and speculation in the French capital. The influence which, since the 24th of February, he has been supposed to exert over the destinies of France and of Europe has, we think, not been over-rated; but his recent speeches and conduct inspire very great doubts whether he will be able successfully to ride the whirlwind and direct the storm which he has raised. The executive authority, of which he and M. Ledru-Rollin are members, has appointed the ordinary ministers of state. Their names were published in our last number. The character of the administration is not deemed, in the circles of London and Paris, such as will be likely to stand the wear and tear of the business of the National Assembly. The War Minister M. Charas, is supposed to hold office only until M. Cavaignac, who has just arrived in Paris from Algeria, will consent to un-

dertake the arduous and dangerous duties of that department. It is believed that Cavaignac will still persist in refusing the portfolio of a War. The turbulence of the Parisians in agitating, by a mob demonstration, for the interference of the Government in the restoration of Poland, is clearly doing mischief for the sake of mischief. For France to interfere she must march an army of at least 400,000 men across Germany, amidst a hostile population, to be received by the Russians in a position of almost impregnable strength. At present such an enterprise would be wild and impracticable. Indeed the rebel Poles in Prussian Poland have laid down their arms, and have no settled plan of action whatever. The opinion, however, gains ground, that the Emperor of Russia will re-integrate Poland as a separate monarchy, under his son-in-law, the Duke of Leuchtenberg. In this event, Prussia will run the chance of losing Danzig, and perhaps Stettin, as the penalty of her rash quarrel with the Danes; since Russia will be too glad to seize this long-looked for opportunity to enable her to secure for herself those important ports in the Baltic. Whilst Germany has been occupied in a silly unjust quarrel with the Danes, she runs the chance of seeing the most valuable outlets cut off from her, with little means of preventing it, owing to her own divisions. If one half of what we learn from the metropolis respecting the views and intentions of Russia about the present state of affairs be correct, the opinions we have more than once expressed upon this subject will be fully verified. The presence of a large Russian fleet in the Sound will soon become a great fact, bringing about important political consequences. We are assured, however, that Russia will do nothing rashly, but that the Emperor is disposed to unite and join with England in any course of policy which may bring again the blessings of peace to the European world. The national fete of the Paris workmen has been postponed till Sunday next. In the present temper of the populace, it would be anything but a day of festivity.

The 15th of May will be ever memorable in the history of France. On that day the National Assembly, the offspring of the Republic, passed through its first serious ordeal. For a moment it was overawed, and an unruly mob, with their daring leaders, sword in hand, contrived by the most unbounded audacity, seconded by treachery, to obtain possession of the seats of legislation and of the Government; but whilst in the first frantic act of exercising their usurped authority, the national guards stepped in, backed by an overwhelming physical and moral force: the conspirators were routed, dispersed, and the reign of the moderate Republicans was at once restored, and the principal conspirator arrested. These most extraordinary occurrences will be found in detail amongst our usual French news.

By the proclamations and declarations of the Government, it is evident that the whole of the conspirators will be brought to trial. The sterling Republican feeling which prevailed in the Assembly, which acted throughout with creditable calmness and courage, furnishes grounds for hoping that the machinations of the ultra party will not succeed in overturning the Government which they, in fact, originated. But in the meantime Lamartine falters. Upon being pressed by members to dissolve the republican guards, he did not answer, and Garnier Pages, with violent gesticulation, said that if the Assembly persisted in such an act, — an act which we deem indispensable to the peace and security of Paris, — it would lead to bloodshed. In fact, Caussidiere is protected by Ledru-Rollin, and Lamartine dares not exhibit that firmness which alone can save the Republic. If the conspirators, who are now confined at Vincennes, are, however, allowed to escape punishment, what guarantee for future tranquility will exist? If, on the contrary they are tried, and proved guilty, we fear that their accomplices are so numerous, and will be found to be such important personages in the Government, that it will be impossible to make them scapegoats.

The news from Paris of Wednesday has now reached us, and tranquility seems for the present restored. Caussidiere, the Prefect of Police, has resigned, and M. Trouve Chauré, a Parisian banker, is, it is said, appointed in his place. From the proceedings of the Chamber we collect also that Louis Blanc is ejected on account of informality in his election for Corsica. Arrests continue to take place, but it is not quite so clear that the Government possesses strength enough to crush and dissolve the clubs. The chief feature of satisfaction which, from

all the various accounts presents itself is, that the new executive wish to preserve amicable relations with foreign nations, if the mob will allow them. In fact, without finances, without preparations, without alliances, how could France plunge into a war without bringing down upon her the combined action of all Europe. Lamartine confesses that Italy has not solicited the interference of France. The Italians remember too well the French campaigns in Italy to wish to see any more French soldiers on her soil. Italy may detest the Austrians, but she has no love for France. From the French departments we are singularly deficient of intelligence. The post-office establishment was never at any moment interrupted, but rumours of disturbances reach us incidentally which make us fear that the French will yet furnish us with plenty of materials for our editorial labours.

The growing want of confidence so long apparent between the King of Prussia and his subjects seems likely to produce important results. The people of Berlin having extorted from the King an unwilling sanction to a constituent assembly, which will shortly meet in that capital, that monarch embarked in a foolish war, in order to divert their attention to the Schleswig affair, rather than to the amelioration of the constitution. The people, plunged in deep distress, view with increasing distrust the conduct of the King. The Ministers find themselves compelled to present to him a remonstrance, requiring the recall of the Prince of Prussia from his journey to England. His presence is insisted upon as an additional guarantee to the proceedings and declaration of the new Constituent Assembly. When some of the candidates for a seat in this Prussian Parliament, elected by universal suffrage, claimed support by professing their eagerness to abolish all prerogatives, even of talent and scientific pre-eminence, the friends of real constitutional liberty may well tremble for the result. Accordingly, it is given out that if the new Constitution does not provide for an upper chamber the King will resign. In the mean time, the simple question of the recall of the Prince of Prussia causes the most violent excitement and disturbances. The national guards claim the right of alone deciding upon the matter; and the walls of Berlin are covered with placards requiring those who disapprove of it to absent themselves from parade. The King, who, in his ambition to become the future Emperor of Germany, has not hesitated to flatter the prejudices of the Germans by engaging in hostilities with the Danes in an unjustifiable war, finds his own throne threatened by the populace of Berlin. On the 12th instant the whole city was in a state of excitement; the clubs declared the recall of the Prince unlawful and against the will of the people, and a vast multitude was threatening to march to the Minister Camphausen and demand the repeal of the King's order. For the present the return of the Prince of Prussia was deemed hazardous to himself and the public tranquillity.

The latest intelligence from Berlin states that the mob assembled at the Zetten, where violent resolutions were passed, declaratory that the mission of the Prince to England was artifice; that his return was an aristocratic reaction, and that the Chambers not having yet met, the right of judging rested with the people. A deputation of the whole body, amongst which were four hundred students, proceeded to the Minister's house and delivered their 'commands,' which Camphausen said should be considered. The multitude then dispersed, after giving the Minister a sharp lecture, and a vast body repaired to the Linden, from whence they proceeded to the Prince's palace, and inscribed on the walls 'National property,' and shouting 'perceats.' The tumult lasted almost the whole of night, until the burgher guard had collected in sufficient force to disperse the rioters. Upon the answer to be given by the Ministers to the demands of the people depended the tranquillity of the city. At eight o'clock in the evening a Government proclamation appeared, desisting from calling back the Prince of Prussia. It states, in obscure terms, that he will not return to Berlin before the Diet shall have been consulted. The people are triumphant. Some fresh subject for agitation will soon be discovered.

We observe with much gratification that the improvement which we noticed in trade last week still continues, though in a very partial and limited degree. The political aspect of the several kingdoms and states on the European continent excites much uneasiness, and an opinion seems to be pretty generally en-

tertained that we are on the eve of a war, inasmuch as the peace of Europe cannot be much longer maintained. In the Produce markets there is a fair average amount of business doing, and prices of Sugar have further advanced.

IRELAND.

Since Saturday last strange and startling news has been received from Ireland. On the evening of that day Mr Mitchell was arrested and sent to Newgate, on a charge of high treason, said to be contained in his paper, the United Irishman of May 6th and 13th. Our advices from Dublin state that, on being landed over to the gaoler at Newgate, he was taken into a room on the upper story of the prison, with a single window looking into Green street. It contained no bed or bedstead and he was informed that such was the apartment assigned to him, and that he might have straw to sleep on—that they had nothing else. Insignificantly refusing this kind accommodation, and resolved to spend the night walking about his cell, he was informed that any farther convenience he might require he would be permitted to have, if brought to him, he sent to his own house for a hair mattress, which was at once brought to him, and having settled it on two or three forms, he passed the night there. On Sunday morning, at an early hour, Mr Mitchell's lady came to the prison, and was permitted to see him. When it became known through the city that Mr. Mitchell was an inmate of Newgate, numbers of his personal friends, and many whose political doctrine did not agree with his, visited him. He was allowed to receive his friends and legal advisers in the prison yard—a narrow flagged square. There is in this unusual degree of harshness and severity towards Mr. Mitchell. As yet he is guiltless in the eye of the law of the serious charge preferred against him; and to treat him as a felon before his trial, is not only at variance with the spirit of the British constitution, but completely antagonistic to brotherly kindness and Christian charity.

The trial of Mr Smith O'Brien, for sedition, took place on Monday in the court of Queen's bench. From an early hour in the morning considerable excitement was apparent in the neighborhood of Westland row, where Mr W. S. O'Brien lodges; and, at about nine o'clock, large crowds of persons connected with the confederation clubs began to assemble in order. They marched down the street, drew up opposite the traverser's residence, and loudly cheered the hon. gentleman, after which they passed two and two abreast into lower Merrion street, where a procession was formed. At half past nine o'clock this large body, numbering between two and three thousand individuals, began to move, and proceeded by Merrion square, Clare street, Leinster street, Nassau street, Grafton street, College Green, Dame street, Parliament street, along the quays, down to the courts. The order and regularity of the procession was most remarkable. Upon arriving at the Four Courts, the gates of which were locked, and guarded by a strong police force, the several clubs dispersed, loudly cheering Mr. O'Brien, who was accompanied by Mr. F. Comyn, of Woodstock, one of his sureties, Mr. Meagher, whose trial was fixed for the 16th, and a few other gentlemen of the repeal party, connected with both Old and Young Ireland.

MR. SMITH O'BRIEN'S TRIAL.

The Four Courts presented a scene of much interest and excitement. Long before nine o'clock the doors of the Queen's Bench by a number of barristers and the public generally, anxious to get possession of convenient seats. When the doors were opened there was a great rush for places, and in a very short time the body of the court and the gallery were crowded. A very numerous array of ladies graced the galleries and other parts of the court. When Mr W. Smith O'Brien entered the court, he was cheered by a number of barristers from the front benches of the junior bar and the galleries; Mr Meagher was also cheered; and when Mr Butt, Q. C., the counsel for the traverser, appeared and took his seat by the inner bar, he too got a round of applause. The attorney General, sergeant Warren, Mr Henn, Q. C., Mr Whiteside, Q. C., and Mr Perrin took their seats as counsel for the crown. The chief Justice took his seat on the bench at half past ten o'clock. After the special panel had been called and the jury taken their places, Mr Perrin opened the proceedings by informing the court and jury that the traverser at the bar, Mr W. S. O'Brien, had been arraigned upon an *ex-officio* information, charging him with (with being a wicked, seditious and turbulent person) having delivered a speech on the 15th March, in the parish of St. Thomas, for the purpose of exciting hatred and contempt against the Queen in Ireland, and induce the people to rise in rebellion. The traverser had pleaded not guilty.

The attorney general stated the case on behalf of the crown in a long speech, chiefly made up of extracts from Mr O'Brien's speech. The witnesses for the crown, Mr Hodges, the Government reporter, and a Mr Bannan, of the constabulary force, were next examined in support of the prosecution. Mr Butt, Q. C. addressed the jury on behalf of the traverser in a most powerful speech, which was frequently applauded, despite the efforts of the court to repress any manifestations of the kind. Mr Sargent Warren replied on the part of the Crown. The Chief Justice then charged the jury, not only laying down the law of the case, but pronouncing the case most seditious. The jury retired shortly after six o'clock. A little before seven they returned into court, when the foreman intimated that