

and if carried out in moderation would be found to work beneficially, there was no doubt of it. He could not see how any difficulty could grow out of it, as the wants of the country increased, these new principles could be introduced from time to time. He would like to see the Government of this country carried on in such a way, that it would be impossible to get up a vote of want of confidence: Such a Government would ever receive his support, whether in or out of the House, and he trusted that in future such a course would be pursued as would advance the prosperity of this noble Province, and place her in that position in the scale of the Colonies, to which she was justly entitled. Here the hon. gentleman alluded to his late difficulties, and remarked they had been the subject of misrepresentation; but he had lived to see the day, when the Government were about carrying out the very system with regard to Crown Lands, which had drawn down upon him such unmerited abuse.

Dr. Thompson followed in a short speech, against adopting the Despatch: it would make hewers of wood and drawers of water of the people, to support a piece of gilded Government machinery which would do the country no good; but would eventually lead to direct taxation, the greatest curse ever inflicted upon any country.

Mr. End followed next, but having already given the hon. and learned member two speeches upon this debate, I shall be compelled to pass over it.

Mr. Fisher then summed up the debate in a speech that told with withering effect upon the opposition. I regret that it is not in my power to give even a sketch of the speech; but having had the pen in my hand for nearly seven hours without once laying it down even to draw a breath; I felt myself compelled to stop from pure exhaustion, not so much from the labour, as from the crowded state of the gallery and House which rendered the place exceedingly uncomfortable.

Mr. Barbare replied in a few good natured remarks when the House divided on the question.

European News.

From English papers by the Cambria Steamer, to the 26th February.

PARLIAMENTARY.

Lord John Russel propounded his Budget in the house of commons on the evening of Friday, the 18th inst., and the excitement which it created may be inferred from the fact that all the approaches to the house were blocked up by crowds of well dressed persons, hours before the customary time of beginning business. The attendance of members was unusually large, and peers' sons and other favoured persons, who have the entree on such occasions mustered in great force.

The melancholy calamity which has overtaken Ireland during the last two years, the great failures which occurred last year, and the utter prostration of commercial enterprise consequent on both events, had so seriously interfered with the ordinary revenue of the country, that it became palpable the "screw" must be applied to the purse strings of the people with rigor in some quarter, where was the question which interested every one. The mystery is now solved. The "wind is to be raised" by increasing the income tax from three to five per cent., and that obnoxious impost is to be continued for five years longer—for two years at five, and for three years at three per cent.

Never did budget receive a less favorable welcome. The income tax was most unpopular when it was first introduced by Sir Robert Peel; but that accomplished financier, with his customary tact, gilded the pill so sweetly by the remission of other taxes, and a re-adjustment of the tariff, that it was swallowed with faces less wry than was anticipated. He showed too that it was only shifting the burden from one shoulder to the other, and that what was actually taken out of the pocket, by the new scheme, would go into the pocket to the same extent, by cheapening the price of many of the necessaries of life from which he took off the duty. People generally regard the reasoning of statesmen in the matter of taxation as they do the tricks of conjurers—with suspicion, if not with incredulity, scarcely placing reliance on the evidence of their senses; and in this state of bewilderment the ex-Premier contrived to carry his measure, notwithstanding the execration which many persons heaped it. At the time to which we refer, the present Premier was on the opposition benches, bidding high for popularity and place, and he was the most virulent enemy of the tax which he now reimposes with additional stringency.

In its general principles, the income tax, fairly and impartially levied, is as little obnoxious as any other tax. True, it is more inquisitorial than other fiscal imports, for it compels every man to lay bare his business, and, if necessary, his

books, to the prying eyes of the Government agent. But, as the persons who have most property to protect are the persons who ought to be made to contribute most liberally to the necessities of the state, the principal, as we have said, is unexceptionable. Unfortunately however it begins at the wrong end—at the base instead of the apex of the social column. The man with an income of one hundred and fifty pounds per year, the clerk, the struggling shopkeeper, or the small tradesman, is notoriously a poorer man, relatively speaking, than the mechanic whose income is half the amount. Any one of the former classes has to make an appearance in society with which the laborer and the artificer can dispense. Besides the income derived from professional labor, from the sweat of the brain, so to speak, ought to be treated, if taxed at all, with far more tenderness than income derived from real property. The middle classes, the bees that produce the honey, but unhappily store little of it, are constantly up in arms, not only at the renewal of the tax, with greater harshness by the Minister, who stoutly resisted it before he was clothed with official power, but they contend, with much truth, that the really wealthy do not pay in proportion to their means.

The consideration of this subject forces the conviction on every inquirer that the whole system of taxation in this country is faulty. One of two things must take place at no remote day,—either the national creditors must accept a compromise, or the great landed and funded owners property, must contribute, according to their means, to the exigencies of the state. There is a growing feeling in favour of direct, in contradistinction to indirect, taxation, and as the interest on the nation debt sweeps away twenty-eight millions annually—half of the revenue—it is highly desirable to get rid, as speedily as possible, of the locusts in the shape of excise, customs, and other officers, who, under the guise of 'protecting the revenue,' live by the present vicious system.

The other parts of the Budget require little remark. The only remitted tax is that on foreign copper ore, which only produces the trifling sum of £41,000. The national defences are to be improved, for which purpose the Minister asks for £150,000 to embody a militia force; £245,000 for the ordnance department; £70,000 for the navy, and £43,000 for the army; making a total under this head of something more than half a million sterling. This portion of the financial exposé has been virulently assailed, because it reopens, with additional acrimony, the chances of a collision with our French neighbours. Lord John Russel dwelt upon this part of his subject with singular emphasis. The gist of his observations was, that there was nothing to justify a war with France; but that we must be prepared for such a contingency. That this will rankle in the minds of a sensitive people like the French, is undeniable; and they will proceed to imitate our example by placing themselves in a state of armed neutrality. No time could have been selected by the British Minister more inopportune for the display of such jealousy, as the present state of public feeling in France is like a smouldering volcano, the explosion of which may be mainly influenced by the fears or the suspicions of England. Matters amongst our neighbours have reached a crisis that will test all the ingenuity of the King, and all the tact and pliancy of his Minister. What more easy, to stave off a collision with his subjects, than to direct their enmity towards us, founded on the policy of Lord John Russell? A war with England,—although a generation has passed away since the great struggle at Waterloo,—would, there is every to fear, be popular in France, and political knavery could readily fan the flame where an object was to be served.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The measure of the Government introduced into the House of Lords, for legalising diplomatic relations with Rome, has sustained a check, amounting virtually to a defeat. There is nothing which stirs up an Englishman's bile so much as the mention of the Pope. Even the fine talents and firmness of Pius the Ninth,—one of the best rulers in Italy, and who possesses a higher intellectual capacity than any pontiff since the days of Leo the Tenth,—cannot dispel the amiable horror which exists in this country in reference to his office. The 'no Popery' feeling is not confined to the humble and indifferently educated,—it pervades all classes,—is as rampant amongst peers in Parliament as amongst farmers at a country fair, and is made

the *cheval de bataille* of every orthodox warrior who desires to tilt and fence with the prejudices and passions of mankind.

Nothing but stern necessity could have induced the Government to rouse the strong feeling which exists on this subject. A man less firm than Sir Robert Peel would have stood appalled at the hurricane of execration, which raged through the land, when he endowed Maynooth, two or three years back; and, subsequently, the bare mention of quartering the Roman Catholic clergy of Ireland on the public purse, produced astonishment and indignation. A glimpse of the 'scarlet lady' excited in John Bull a passion of mingled fear and fury, somewhat akin to those displayed by his four-footed namesake at sight of the fluttering red cloak of the tattered mendicant. But necessity has no law, and the mission of Lord Minio to Rome clearly foreshadowed the utility, nay, the imperative necessity, of naming a regular accredited agent at the Court of Rome, for the purpose of keeping in something like subjection the fiery spirits of the Roman Catholic hierarchy,—the priests and politicians who contribute to swell the repeal rent, and keep alive the national animosity so unhappily prevalent on the other side of St. George's Channel. The first effects of this mission may be read in the Pope's recent rescript to the Irish bishops, which acted on some of them like a bomb-shell thrown into a citadel. In return, his Holiness required that he should have a representative at the Court of St. James's; and hence the bill which the Lords have already contrived to disfigure.

The bill, as it stood, gave the Pope the title of 'Sovereign Pontiff,' which the Duke of Wellington required should be changed to that of 'Sovereign of the Roman States.' This was somewhat reluctantly acceded to. Then the Earl of Eglintoun proposed an amendment, prohibiting the reception of an ecclesiastic as the Pope's representative in this country. The amendment was carried against the Government by 67 to 64—a small majority, but quite sufficient to mark the animus of the Peers on the subject. The bill has passed through the committee with another amendment by the Duke of Wellington, which declares that the Sovereign of England is the sole and supreme head in all matters, civil and ecclesiastical, in this realm.

Considering that we send diplomatic representatives to Turkey, to Egypt, and to China, and to countries where Christianity is not acknowledged, and would receive their representatives in return, it seems thin-skinned nicety to reject so unceremoniously the overtures of the head of a church whose spiritual supremacy is acknowledged by such a large portion of our own subjects, and of the Christian world. It is easier, however, to dilate on the folly of such proceedings, than to work a change in men's feelings. The Pope has no power to create jealousy or cause uneasiness. He is poor, weak, and needy—impotent for mischief, but capable of rendering incalculable service to the British Government, by restraining his clergy from embroiling themselves with the State in matters foreign to their spiritual functions; and as a stroke of state policy, the Government acted wisely in bringing forward this measure. Whether the Peers exhibited the like discretion in curtailing it of its fair proportions, is a point upon which considerable difference of opinion naturally prevails.

INDIA AND CHINA.

We have an arrival from India and China, from the former to the 16th of January, and the latter to the 30th of December. The political news from India is satisfactory. Lord Hardinge was on the eve of his departure for England. Addresses had been presented to his lordship, and a subscription was on foot to raise a statue of him, and also, to have his portrait taken. The distribution of the greater part of the Scinde prize money has been ordered to take place immediately. The amount captured in Feb., 1843, was valued at five hundred and sixty thousand pounds; that realised at the time amounted to, four hundred and sixty thousand pounds; the amount to be distributed is four hundred and thirty seven thousand eight hundred and eighty three. A riot had taken place at Hyderabad, in the Deccan, where about twenty people lost their lives. The great festival of the Mohurrum had passed off in comparative tranquillity, with the exception of some disturbances at Goomsoor. The rest of India was tranquil. Ragojee Bangria, the notorious Banditti Chief has been captured, and is in Tanna Gaol, awaiting his trial; no one doubts that it will terminate in his being sentenced to the last penalty of the

law. A proclamation has just been issued by the Bengal Government, stating that no fewer than 23 princes, chiefs had been induced by us to put to suttee and female infanticide; put throughout their dominions. There rumour that Dost Mohamed comes plates visiting our resident at Peshawar. It is said he is anxious to secure a of refuge amongst us from the machinations of his sons. In Nepal order been completely restored, and the country seems flourishing. The Earl of house arrived at Madras on the 5th, was expected to leave on the 9th.

From China we have to record a full tragedy in the horrid murder of English gentlemen by the Chinese, three miles from Canton, on the 5th December. After Church they went the river, and landed to take a walk, and shortly afterwards they themselves attacked by a body of Chinese, and cut off from their boat, this attack one or two of the party to escape, but were taken at one of villages and confined, and by the evidence of the Chinese on the coroner's inquest it appears too true that, up to the morning of the 7th, they were alive, they were cruelly put to death.

The commercial accounts, by mail, both from India and China, very discouraging. Several other affairs of mercantile firms had occurred confidence seemed almost entirely suspended.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Insurrection and Bloodshed in Paris. 100,000 Soldiers under arms, in and around the city—Resignation of the Ministry.

We noticed in our last the feverish which political affairs stood in Paris on night of Thursday, the 10th, and we to announce that each day has added excitement which had increased to a pitch on the 22nd, the day on which been fixed to hold the great reform Bill that the entire city was in open insurrection. The conversation which took place in Chamber of Deputies, on Monday evening between Barron and Duchatel, prepared people for the formal prohibition of the form banquet which was to take place on following day. Proclamations by the of the police, and an order of the day by commander of the National Guards, published, forbidding the banquet, and semblages of people, and prohibiting the appearance of the National Guards, unless ordered by their chiefs. In consequence of these acts of Government, the opposites met, and resolved that they should not take place, that the people be treated to submit, and that a motion for impeachment of ministers be made in Chamber of Deputies. It was further that should this motion be negatived, would resign their functions as deputies.

The army collected within Paris and surrounding villages and forts considerable exceeds one hundred thousand men. This unless the soldiers sympathise with the could crush the Parisians; while the M. Guizot might indulge their animosity public meetings with perfect safety, the army join the people, this result would be more effectually completed, the fact that so many men are congregated in the capital and its environs. Orders been given to the military occupation of the points of the capital on which the oblige of the people might be expected, the day advanced the assemblages in streets gradually increased, until dense filled the principal thoroughfares leading the Legislative Chambers, and large bodies police and military were called out to serve order. They assembled in great tudes round the Chamber of Deputies, forced their way over the walls. They attacked by the troops and dispersed; assembled in various quarters. They their hatred of M. Guizot by demolishing windows, and attempting to force an into his hotel; but were again repulsed troops. All the military in Paris, and National Guards, were summoned to every preparation was made on the the Government to put down the people, latter raised barricades in various places, unpaired the streets, overturned omnibuses and made preparations for a vigorous or a protracted resistance.

All the accounts from Paris represent city in a terrific state of excitement, and may the whole of that day. All the leading to the Chamber of Deputies like the bridge, occupied by strong ments of troops, and no one was allowed pass except the deputies, the newspaper porters, and those who were furnished special tickets of admission.

We take the following from the Morning Chronicle:—

Paris, Tuesday Evening. The accounts which I sent you this morning will have prepared you for great on in the streets of Paris, great assemblies people, and partial disturbance, if not insurrection. The results is just what have been expected. Immense masses poured the public thoroughfares through the day. Troops in vast numbers were and occasionally, where the masses