

The veteran Mr. Hume has, indeed, already opened the campaign, by giving notice to the House of Commons that shortly after the recess he shall call attention to the present state of the representation of the people, and take the case of the House on the question.

Not the slightest amelioration has taken place in credit or confidence throughout Europe. In France commerce is at a complete stand, and the uncertainty which hangs over the financial position of the republic quite totally precludes any security being felt for the future. The paper currency is gradually depreciating in value, and gold and silver continue to be hoarded up. At Bordeaux any appearance of reviving confidence is constantly checked by disturbances of the populace, and the same thing prevails in almost every commercial town throughout France. From Hamburg merchants write with great despondency. The next accounts from that quarter are looked for with great anxiety. A Bank of Discount is formed at Brussels, upon the principle of mutual assistance to all cases connected with trade. The same principles will be brought into play at Charleroi and Luxembourg. The capital is to be guaranteed, and Government will be applied to grant a licence for 25 years. Business is improving in Belgium, and will increase if the Belgians are permitted to remain at peace. The last accounts of the Bank of Discount continue to be unfavourable. The circulation shows an increase of 1,320,000, the specie a diminution of £180,000. The Treasury deposits have been reduced £210,000, and the private deposits are also less £148,000. The necessity of advancing £2,000,000 to the Government has diminished the power of the Bank to discount so large a sum of commercial bills as before, the present weeks amount showing a diminution of £983,000 over the preceding. The Finance Minister has not come to final determination about the expropriation of the railways, Paris during the week having been occupied with moral concerns; but the general impression prevails that the Government meditates carrying into effect some comprehensive scheme of the kind. The five per cent rentes are about £61 50; the three, £41 75.

There has been less excitement in political circles during the last week, and trade, although not active, has been a little more steady. The transactions in Colonial Produce continue limited, but the markets have assumed a healthier aspect.

We regret to state that intelligence has reached us of the regular organization of the Chartist forces in Scotland. A public meeting has been held at Aberdeen, for the purpose of electing a delegate to the 'National Convention,' and measures were adopted for the enrolment of volunteers. After the public meeting about 1600 persons adjourned to the union hall. 500 members were enrolled as a National Guard, and after some correspondence with Birmingham, respecting the supply of arms, had been read, it was resolved that a gun and a bayonet should be ordered for each member forthwith. A good deal of uneasiness prevails in Warwickshire, where, in some of the coal districts near Coventry, the colliers were expected to turn out, but the troops in that quarter were all ready to act in the event of any emergency. We believe the military precautions taken throughout the country, especially in Ireland, afford no hope to the disaffected that their wild objects can be obtained by physical force.

The wars and general commotion on the continent have not assumed a less alarming aspect than on the day of our last week's publication. The hostilities going on in Schleswig-Holstein and Lombardy naturally occupy most attention; but the universal disruption of society in almost every quarter of Europe, forbids the hope that matters can resume their ordinary peaceful course for a long time to come.

In Lombardy Charles Albert has established his headquarters, since the last engagement, at Voltra, on the right bank of the Mincio, and not the left bank, as some of our contemporaries erroneously place it. A part of the army, however, occupies the left bank. A glance at the maps of Napoleon's celebrated campaigns in Italy will make it evident that, notwithstanding the hitherto rapid success of the Piedmontese army, it is yet far from driving the Austrians from the strong position they have taken up on the Adige. With the almost impregnable fortresses of Mantua and Verona on his line, Radetzky, with effective support, may offer a determined front to this point of vantage, and is compelled to ascend the Adige through the Tyrol, the whole of Lombardy may be deemed lost to Austria; nor could she, even by the advance of a second army, hope to regain the lost provinces. But military opinions by no means tend to the belief that Radetzky will be so easily expelled from Italy. It is alleged that an Austrian party receive faithful succour from this quarter, or that, if the Venetians should not molest him, he may well maintain himself until Austria can send him reinforcement. The insurrectionary movements at Treviso and the westward to Isera and Dalmatia, which provinces are said to have declared in favour of the Italians, and, altogether, the interruption of the lines of communication with Vienna, must, of course, materially lessen Radetzky's chance of success. In the mean time, we may state that there exists but one opinion throughout all Europe respecting the motives of Charles Albert in thus rushing into a

war, who, even if he should succeed in expelling the Austrians, will never reap the advantage of his successes himself,—the Crown of Lombardy will never long grace his brows, even if he should grasp it for a moment. He has set his own crown at the hazard of a die, and he can only be regarded as a mere instrument of the Italians, whose ambition subserves their paramount object and desire to drive the Austrians out of Italy. The provisional Government at Milan are indeed by no means inactive. They have assumed the title of Central Provisional Government of Lombardy,—dissolved all the local Provisional Governments, and have invited deputies to regulate and convolve the primary Assemblies. Before Italy can be made free, of course the first object is to expel the Austrians. To accomplish this the Neapolitans are rapidly marching northwards to join the standard of Charles Albert, and already considerable bodies of troops have arrived at head quarters. The king of Naples has published a proclamation declaring his adhesion to the unity of Italy, and invites his subjects in the Two Sicilies to union and concord. Tuscany furnishes a contingent of 5000 men, who are placed at the disposal of Charles Albert. By the latest accounts an attack had been made upon Peschiera by the King of Sardinia. The attack was made by the artillery only, the garrison being expected to surrender. The fortress, however, proved too strong; and after a harassing fire, which annoyed the garrison, who returned a well directed fire, the King, after a fruitless demand for the garrison to surrender, was compelled to resume the positions we have described.

The Croats have set fire to the village of Castel Nova, containing 2000 inhabitants. They then formed a cordon round it, and the villagers were all burned to death, uttering the most appalling shrieks.

The whole of that part of Europe which skirts the Rhine, and borders on France, seems quite disorganised. The wildest radicalism has taken root in the Grand Duchy of Baden; and the secret societies of Germans, Swiss, Baden radicals, and French emissaries, seem organising an armed invasion. At Hesse Cassel the soldiers and the citizens are at violent issue, the military having attempted to restore their former reign of physical force. In Saxony a frightful incendiary insurrection seems to be going on, which the Government cannot succeed in putting down. In Alsace a complete insurrection of the peasantry exists. The troops have been attacked at Marmontier, and 15 killed; the rioters were repulsed with great loss, and their leader captured.

We have referred, in a separate article, to the important question of the Schleswig and Holstein duchies, now the seat of open war. We were enabled in our last number to record the first actual battle which has taken place, in which the Danes were victorious. No fewer than 1400 fell on both sides, including members of the noblest families in the country. The corps of students were completely cut up or taken prisoner by the Danes. The whole of the Prussian troops have now advanced into the Danish territory. The artillery was to cross the Eider on the 13th inst. A skirmish was reported to have taken place since, near Eickenforde, in which the Danes were defeated; but, if true, it must have been an inconsiderable affair, and not likely to have any influence on the ultimate success of the campaign.

In Prussia there seems a growing feeling that the Polish-Prussian provinces would be relinquished; but the uncertainty which yet prevails respecting the movements of Russia, leaves all those questions which virtually affect the political existence of eastern Europe in a state of abeyance. Prussia seems proceeding vigorously to arm her vast population.

Danish vessels have appeared off Stettin and Swinemunde, evidently with hostile intentions, but no intelligence of any actual act of hostility on the seas has reached us, although we are in hourly expectation of some intelligence of the kind. The cessation of the cholera has caused the removal of the quarantine regulations by the board at Stockholm. No particular changes have occurred in Holland or Belgium.

We have endeavoured in vain to seek in the extraordinary events still passing in France and especially in Paris, for some gleam of hope to remove the deep apprehensions under which we still labour for the future destinies of that great country. When we reflect upon the vast interest directly affecting so many thousands of our countrymen, who are linked by fortune, inter-marriage, consanguinity, and all the varieties which grow out of an almost unfettered intercourse of more than one generation, a feeling akin to despair takes possession of our minds when we contemplate that the events of which France is now the theatre may terminate even in a civil or European war. Upon the issue of the great struggle now going on depend not only the lives and property of thousands and thousands of our fellow-men, but what is even perhaps of more consequence, it must influence the rights and liberties of unborn millions. The great example now held up to mankind by the French Provisional Government must bear its fruits for good or for evil in ages yet to come. As each day unfolds the history of its momentous occurrences, all Europe waits in breathless suspense anxiously expecting some new and hitherto unanticipated event.

The House of Commons having passed the Crown and Government Security Bill by an overwhelming majority, virtually adjourned on Wednesday evening for the Easter recess. The House reassembles *pro forma* this day, to present at the royal assent to the above bill,

but all other business is suspended till the 1st May when the House will again re-assemble. The Lords have of course sanctioned the passing of the new bill, which, by the time we go to press, will no doubt be the law of the land. It is satisfactory to reflect that, notwithstanding the admitted necessity of some such measure by all reflecting men, at the present moment, the constitutional jealousy of the House of Commons incited many champions to defend successfully the cause of public freedom. The bill is for a limited period; and the guarantees introduced into the measure that it shall not be abused by men in power, have been generally approved.

On the 1st May, the first business as stated by Lord John Russell, will be the advances for special purposes; the one to ascertain the West Indian loan for emigration, already referred to by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the beginning of the session, on which he will give a more particular notice. The second object is to enable Government to advance again any repayments of money which were made in Ireland in the course of last year. The Alien Bill, which Lord John Russell declares to be opposed to the general policy of the country, out which, from information, he cannot well disclose to the House, has been deemed necessary by the Cabinet, will be read a second time on the 1st May.

The deplorable state of Ireland, apparently on the verge of a civil war, continues to occupy the deepest attention of all classes. In the wild and tumultuous passions now evoked, it is scarcely to be hoped that the calm exhortations of wisdom and experience can be listened to. The majority of the people of Ireland, now to a great extent armed, seemed resolved upon some desperate act, which will secure for them the accomplishment of their darling hopes, or plunge them still deeper into the abyss of misery. Whatever may be the issue of the impending struggle, no one can doubt that a vast amount of misery will be suffered by the middle and humbler classes, and however slow the process of quiet and peaceful legislation might be in ameliorating their condition, a direct appeal to arms appears to us far more certain of bringing down accumulated troubles upon our high minded, but misguided fellow subjects. The divergence between the Republicans, headed by Mr O'Connell, and the party led on by Mr Mitchell, becomes greater every day. The O'Connells' manfully declare that they will take their stand upon the very *ne plus ultra*, the uttermost bounds of the law and constitution, and will adhere to the counsels bequeathed to them by their father, to obtain repeal by peaceable and constitutional means only.

If the association transgresses this line, the O'Connells' will take no part in their proceeding. At the last meeting of the repeal association, Mr Maurice O'Connell, after betraying by his language that a division of opinion existed in the committee, the advocates for physical force, being not insignificant in numbers to those who still would persevere by moral force only, said significantly that if the people were to be hurried, coerced, compelled beyond the law, the guilt must fall on the heads who counselled them to that mad career; but the sons of O'Connell and those around them would not be seduced beyond the bounds of the law. Upon circumstances which might shortly happen would depend whether he ever again should appear in Conciliation Hall. Mr John O'Connell repeated this declaration, so that but a short time can elapse before a crisis takes place. The rent has fallen to £25, and it is evident that a numerical majority of the Irish people are in favour of outrageous measures. In the meantime the people in every part of the country continue to supply themselves with arms; some arrests have indeed taken place in Dublin, Cork and Limerick, to check the progress of the armament, but these steps are, of course, wholly inadequate to ward off the danger. We expect, almost by every post intelligence of some disastrous event arising out of the excited state of the country.

Great and influential bodies continue to pour in addresses to the Lord Lieutenant, expressive of their determination to support the government; but the train of discontent seems now to be laid so extensively, and with such mischievous effect, that we doubt whether the whole weight of the Government, with even the support of the O'Connells', will be able to prevent some great explosion. Another significant feature attends this unhappy state of things. Thus far as the Savings Bank in Cork, and in the south of Ireland, goes on with accelerated speed. The depositors desiring their funds, are paid in Bank of Ireland notes, which are speedily converted into gold. Mr Mitchell's language in the United Irishman increases in violence daily. The Nation also vies with the younger journal, in disseminating treasonable doctrines. A late number contains a letter from a parish priest, setting forth the doctrine of Catholic resistance. It jocosely calculates the duty of arming quietly, and goes on to say to the people, 'make your peace with God; put your houses in order and prepare to die.' It then teaches them to bide their time; and then when it comes, every man must vow 'before God and his country, to lessen, if he can, by one man at least, the enemies of his native land, and then to die.' Such language as this, coupled as it is with minute instructions from the United Irishman, how to drill, carry and use the pike and the rifle, can only be productive of some mighty catastrophe. The feeling as to the efficacy of Repeal in staying the mischief, appears in some quarters to gain ground; but there is not the smallest appearance of any such feeling being

entertained by the government. Amongst the converts to Repeal, however, is said to be no less a personage than the earl of Shrewsbury, who no doubt trembles for his estates. The state prosecutions against Mr Mitchell, O'Brien, and Meagher, commenced on the first day of term, and true bills have been found against them. Connected with Ireland we may here record, that the celebrated Tom Steele, 'Lead Pacifier' in the days of O'Connell, made an ineffectual attempt to put an end to his existence on the 19th inst. by throwing himself off the parapet of Waterloo bridge, in London. He was seen to perform the rash act, and a boat put off to his assistance. He received no injury.

FRANCE.—It appears that there was actually an attempt made to depose the moderate members of the Provisional Government, which was rendered abortive by the firmness of M. de Lamartine. Before the procession began to move from the Champ de Mars towards the Hotel de Ville, M. Cabet went to the Hotel de Ville and demanded an interview with the Provisional Government. M. Lamartine was the only one who received him. M. Cabet immediately declared that the Provisional Government had betrayed the cause of the people, that it was necessary, and that it should be reconstituted. He then handed in a list of those who should form the new Provisional Government, and declared, that if it were not accepted, the people then assembled in the Champ de Mars would march on the Hotel de Ville, and effect by force, that which they hoped would be granted by peaceable means. The list given in by M. Cabet contains the following names:—Messrs. Ledru Rollin, Cabet, Blanqui, Albert, Louis Blanc, Flocon, Arago, Raspail, and Pierre le Reux. M. Cabet was proceeding to make some remarks, when M. Lamartine stopped him, declaring that he was a traitor to the Republic, and that he would not listen to him. M. de Lamartine immediately left the room, and after consulting with M. Marrast, M. Pagnere, and some other members of the Government, issued an order for the arrest of M. Cabet, but that citizen had previously left the Hotel de Ville. It is stated, however, that he was taken at a late hour in the evening, and that he is now in custody.

The accounts received from the departments are becoming every day more and more alarming. Serious disorders have taken place at Toulouse, Auxerre, Troyes, Beauvais, Rheims, and other places. At Toulouse, a club called 'La Voix du Peuple,' consisting of about 400 members, went *en masse* to the Hotel de Ville to demand arms, and, on being refused, attacked the authorities and broke into the apartments of M. Joly, the commissary general who was in imminent danger till rescued by the national guard. By the last accounts tranquillity had been in part restored, and the club in question has been closed by orders of the commissary, but fears were still entertained, that the disturbances were not at an end. At Auxerre the clubs met and forced the commissary to march in procession with them, after which a riot was got up by a party in opposition to the commissary. The town divided itself into two hostile camps, and by the latest accounts a collision was expected every moment. At Troyes the people and the national guard came in collision, two men were killed, and a great number were wounded. The national guard of the arrondissement had marched to the assistance of the national guard of the town, and at our last accounts was bivouacking, to the number of between 5000 and 6000, in the streets. It was the unpopularity of the commissary that gave rise to this *emeute*. The national guard of the neighbourhood of Troyes is furious at the dictation of Paris, and threatens to march upon the capital. The same feeling pervades many of the towns in the middle and west of France. At Troyes the rioters lifted the rails to prevent the arrival of the national guards, the consequence of which was an accident by which two persons were killed.

It is said that the Provisional Government is engaged in organising *ateliers fraternels* in the twenty detached forts which surround Paris. Each fort, it is said, can lodge about 2000 workmen.

POSTSCRIPT.—From France we learn that the grand national festival to celebrate the fraternization of the army and the national guard, took place as announced on the 20th, and was concluded by a grand military demonstration, the like of which has never before perhaps, been witnessed. 330,000 National Guards and Gardes Mobiles, and 5000 troops of the line, fell into rank, and marched round the Boulevards and through the city in military order, with drums beating and colours flying. The procession took eight hours in passing any given spot in the line of march. All quiet.

It was reported in Vienna on Sunday evening that a courier had arrived from the seat of war in Italy, with intelligence of an important victory said to have been gained by Radetzky. The Austrian Government has ordered the Jesuits to quit Linz. This step has given considerable satisfaction even to the Roman Catholic population.

AUSTRIAN ITALY.—The advices from Milan announce that the Sardinian troops have some advantages over the Austrians at the Bridge of Goito; and it was at first stated that 2000 Austrian prisoners had fallen into the hands of the Piedmontese. It appears, however, that this statement was greatly exaggerated, and that the number of prisoners really made did not exceed 400.