

particularly the under part, is full of exceedingly minute pores, which are connected by tubes with the interior of the plant, and perform an essential part in its vital economy. It is here worth remarking, that plants perform important offices in rendering the atmosphere fit for respiration of animals. What constitutes the principal food of the former is indeed poison to the latter. Carbonic acid gas is totally unfit for the respiration of animals; but when it is decomposed, and its carbon assimilated by the plants, what is left is pure oxygen, or that gas which is the great supporter of combustion and animal life.

European News.

From British Papers to the 1st January, by the Steamer Cambria.

IRELAND.

It will be seen elsewhere, that Ireland still continues in a most alarming state. The Lord Lieutenant did not delay an instant after the Royal assent was given to the Irish Outrages Bill, in proclaiming various districts where crimes have been most prevalent. Every military precaution has been taken to preserve the peace of the country, and now that the determination of the Government to maintain order throughout the disturbed provinces is apparent to everybody, it is to be hoped that the misguided peasantry in the sister country will abandon a course which can only tend to aggravate the sufferings of the vast masses who are really suffering from destitution. The report which we gave in our last that the young Marquis of Drogheda, amongst others, was about to quit Ireland in consequence of threats of assassination, has, we are happy to hear, been contradicted by his lordship; but threats of violence, too well authenticated, are continually directed against some of the most benevolent landlords in the country. The denunciations from the altar by the Roman Catholic priesthood, which were so frequently alluded to in Parliament during the late session, have called forth an eloquent letter from the Earl of Arundel, who as the head of the Roman Catholics in England, in point of rank, complains deeply to Archbishop M'Hale, that the exciting language held by the clergy in Ireland disables him in Parliament from pleading the common cause of their religion. The answer of the archbishop has scarcely been deemed satisfactory; as his grace but faintly defends the conduct of the Irish clergy. He endeavours to justify or at least to palliate, the mischievous language used, rather than attempts to vindicate the priesthood from all blame in the matter. This is greatly to be deplored; for until the Irish clergy, in a truly Catholic spirit, use the vast power which they wield, sincerely and energetically, in checking the disposition to violence rather than in exciting it, the present lamentable occurrences must more or less, continue to disgrace the history of that country. There can be no doubt that if the measures now adopted for the tranquillisation of Ireland prove insufficient, that the Government will immediately apply to Parliament for further powers. We trust, however, that they will be attended with success without further coercion. Government has a large stock of provisions still in store, which will be applied for the relief of the destitute; but as the aim of all parties most interested in the welfare of Ireland is to render the Irish people capable of self-reliance on their own resources, relief will be most cautiously administered; and when once the mass of the people understand clearly that self-exertion is necessary for subsistence, and that the landlords are now immediately interested in promoting habits of providence and industry, we do trust the present clouds will pass away, and as spring advances that peace and returning prosperity will once more prevail throughout that unfortunate country.

COMMERCIAL.

The past year has now closed, and will long continue memorable in commercial history as one of the most calamitous which England has ever experienced. We trust with the new year that fresh vigour will be infused into our industrial establishments, and commerce once more resume its ordinary profitable channels. Since our last, although the manufacturing districts appear more actively employed, the state of trade generally has not perceptibly improved. A slight impulse has been observed in the grain markets, but produce of all descriptions continues depressed in price, and most difficult of sale. The large increased comparative stock of sugar has excited much attention, and tends to render

the colonial market heavy. The value of money has declined to about five per cent., money at call being reduced to our per cent.; accordingly, with the low prices of Cotton, we may fairly anticipate a revival of trade as soon as the large stocks of the failed houses shall have been realised, or adjusted to the ordinary demands of trade.

Our advices from the manufacturing districts throughout England, although not of a buoyant character, are nevertheless on the whole rather more encouraging.

The Money market has continued to improve since our last. The Bank of England, on the 23rd ult., reduced the rate of interest down to 5 per cent., and the facilities of discount of good paper have become greater.

FOREIGN.

The pacification of Switzerland, to which the unexpected great moderation of the triumphant party has not a little contributed, has given great satisfaction throughout Europe. At the same time we cannot conceal from ourselves, that the intrigues which have been so actively set on foot at Vienna, with a view to urge upon that fanatical court some vigorous intervention on behalf of the broken up Sonderbund, may yet tend, to disturb the future peace of the country. There is evidently an active spirit evoked in favour of the Catholic party; and if in an evil hour M. Guizot should make common cause openly with Austria, in order to undo all that the Federals have accomplished, it will indeed prove an inauspicious day for Europe. A few days hence, when the discussions in the French Chambers shall have taken place, we shall doubtless be better able to form more correct opinions in future probabilities. A general opinion prevails that the King of France is strongly averse to any kind of armed intervention in Swiss affairs; whilst, on the contrary, M. Guizot's notorious animosity against the successful affair so as to render their triumph a mere barren victory. In Italy tranquillity is once more restored; and it is generally understood that the question of the occupation of Ferrara has been finally settled by the withdrawal of the Austrians from the town. In Sicily the insurrection seems quelled for the present, but much dissatisfaction against the Neapolitan Government still prevails.

The reform banquets are continuing their career in France. One was held on the 21st at Vienna (Isere), at which no fewer than five hundred and eighty persons sat down to table. M. Jaquier de Terrebonne, formerly a member of the Chamber of Deputies, was in the chair; and the company is described as containing an unusual number of the better ranks of society. The king's health was not proposed, but the toast of "To the sincerity of our representative institutions—to governmental probity," was received with repeated acclamations. The same day another reform banquet took place at Grenoble, which was also most numerously attended.

We have just received the following telegraphic notice from Southampton:—Arrived the Iberia. She left Lisbon on the 24. The Cabinet resigned on the 18th, and the Queen signed the same day the nomination of the new Ministry. President of the council, the duke of Saldanha; Minister of the interior, Senor Bernardo George Henriquet; Minister of Finance, Joaquim Jose Faleao; Minister of Marine, Agostino Albano de Silveria Puri; Minister of Justice, Joaquim Jose de Quieras. The Cortes will be opened on the 2nd January.

Earthquakes had been prevalent in Lisbon, families were leaving, and sleeping in tents and gardens.

Intelligence has reached us by way of Malta that a revolution has broken out in Greece. It is said that Grivas is again at the head of the Rebellion. Some fighting has taken place at Patras, and the consequence has been a loss of life of five soldiers fighting against the insurrectionists. The governor is a prisoner. The Grivas party, struggling for a new political existence, has, it is said improved in strength.

A report has revived of the renewal of negotiations with the Pacha of Egypt, for the construction of a canal across the isthmus of Suez. The advantage which the whole world would derive from the consummation of this mighty project forbids us to allude to any objections which might otherwise be urged to the enterprise. Only render the power of Egypt capable of maintaining itself against any foreign potentate, and the incalculable advantages which would accrue to mankind from the formation of such a "high road" through Egypt can scarcely be conceived. The cost of the

undertaking is estimated at between two and three millions sterling, which would no doubt be readily furnished, provided the preliminaries can be satisfactorily adjusted with the present enlightened and commercial Pacha.

PARLIAMENTARY.

The intimation which we gave in our last that Government had acceded to the appointment of a committee, as proposed by Lord G. Bentinck, to inquire into the state of our West India colonies, received confirmation on the evening Parliament adjourned for the recess. Lord G. Bentinck then withdrew the notice which stood for the 23rd ult., and substituted another, worded in obedience to the wishes of the noble lord at the head of the Government. Accordingly, the motion now stands for the 3rd of February, the day Parliament reassembles, for a select committee, to inquire into the present condition and prospects of the interests connected with the different sugar and coffee plantations in her Majesty's colonial possessions, and to consider whether and what measures could be adopted by Parliament for the relief. Connected indirectly, but most essentially, with the interests of the East and West Indian colonies, another notice was given on the same evening, which we deem highly significant, as proving that the Government does not consider the subsisting legislative enactments final. Lord John Russell took the opportunity of stating that if any measure affecting the Navigation Laws were introduced in the course of the session, ample time should be given for the discussion; but, until the state of the revenue was fully ascertained, Government had come to no determination upon the subject. From the public declaration on the part of the First Minister of the Crown, it appears that the modifications of the Navigation Laws, which were intended especially to relieve the colonies, are thus indefinitely deferred; but it must not be supposed that Government aims at shirking the question; on the contrary, the inference to our minds is, that these relaxations in the Navigation Laws, which contemplated the permitting of colonial produce being carried to Europe in foreign bottoms is postponed, in order to allow Parliament if the West Indians prove their case before the committee, to adopt some other more comprehensive measures of relief, more in accordance with the permanent imperial policy. It behoves, then, all parties interested in our vast East and West Indian colonies to press the urgency of their case, in all its various bearings, before the committee. The questions of slave and free labour, the cost of maintaining a useless squadron on the coast of Africa, the operation of the Navigation Act, and of differential duties, can now be submitted to Parliament, with a certainty that justice will eventually be done to all parties. At any rate with the exception of a few extreme politicians who are either warped by party feeling or carried away by a crotchet, we believe the vast majority of sensible men in the House Commons, are ready to go into the question unprejudiced; and being no longer excited by a clamour out of doors, as heretofore, when West India affairs have had to be decided, we entertain hopes that the issue will be such as once more to shed prosperity over our Indian possessions in both hemispheres.

A few nights before the House of Commons adjourned, Lord John Russell intimated "that soon after he came into office he had written to the Duke of Wellington on the subject of our National Defences; and since that time he had been in frequent correspondence with the illustrious duke on the subject." His lordship, after the recess, will declare the intentions of the Government on this interesting question. In the meantime, all the London journals have dedicated whole columns to the discussion of the policy of speedily raising an effective defensive force. Mr. Cobden also, perhaps unguardedly, at two public meetings, broached the doctrine of 'free trade,' as the true bulwark of a nation, rather forgetting the splendid tempting prize which the vast riches of England present to an ambitious rapacious foe. His theory, scarcely suited for these degenerate days, has brought out the Earl of Ellesmere, better known as the late Lord Francis Egerton, who has published an energetic letter on the subject, which we give elsewhere. His lordship's tone of resentment and contempt for Mr. Cobden may be accounted for by the fact that Lord Brackley, the son of Lord Ellesmere was refused by the "free trade" party for the representation of South Lancashire. This perhaps, explains the bitter personal animosity exhibited throughout the letter; but apart from this, it is full

of sound sense and reasoning, and admirably adapted to awaken the dormant energies of the people. We are not alarmists; but having had as many opportunities as most of our countrymen of ascertaining the prevailing sentiment amongst the highest classes in a neighbouring military country, we must bear witness that the universal feeling among them is, that should a rupture unhappily take place between the two countries, the invasion of England would not only be possible, but practicable. Right or wrong the feeling is universal; and as a handful of Englishmen once surprised Gibraltar, history ought to teach us that, with the additional facilities of railroads in France, a vast military land force could suddenly be concentrated at a given point. A foolhardy neglect of the ordinary protective precautions of a state, might therefore, cost us dear. The wealth now lying in the docks of Liverpool alone, is greater far than that which Tyre or Venice could boast of in their palmier days. Their riches invited conquest. The commercial glory of these great cities has passed away. The power of both, be it remembered, was first impaired through their colonies; let us accordingly profit by the example, and place not only our own shores in an impregnable state, but throw also the shield of protection over our colonies, and render them not only self-subsistent, but self-defensible.

CHURCH AFFAIRS.

The Church militant, with thirteen revolted bishops at the head of the insurrection, has beat the 'drum ecclesiastic,' and boldly defied the omnipotent Lord John Russell to arms. We shall certainly require a new Hudibras to record the events of this mighty warfare, where bishops have entered in the field.

*'To prove their doctrine orthodox
By apostolic blows and knocks.'*

The remonstrance of these high church dignitaries, published in our last, with Lord John Russell's pithy reply, have stirred up the latest spirit of orthodoxy and heterodoxy on all sides, and the Bishops of Exeter, Oxford, and Chester have announced that there shall be no surrender until Dr. Hampden, the new bishop designate of Hereford, shall be cast out from the bosom of that church, which we, in our humble faith, have been taught to regard as the sanctuary of civil and religious liberty over the world. The alleged cause of this disturbance is, that Dr. Hampden published some fifteen years ago certain theological opinions in his Bampton lectures, which were objected to as 'rationalistic;' which, by the church definition, means, that our articles of religion and creed are based on merely human and uncertain theories, and not faith. The real cause of the animosity of the bishops is, we fear, envy, hatred and uncharitableness, at seeing a man of irreproachable character and of tolerant opinions raised to a vacant see. After the publication of the Bampton lectures no notice was taken of Dr. Hampden's doctrines until, in 1836, he was raised to the Regius Professorship of Divinity at Oxford by the Whigs. The ultra-Church party then made common cause with the Tractarian party, and a great outcry was raised; Dr. Hampden was censured in a vote of the Convocation by a majority of Tory Churchmen and Tractarians, the latter headed by Mr. Newman and Mr. Ward, who have both since gone over to the Church of Rome. Dr. Hampden appealed for this persecution to the Duke of Wellington as Chancellor, but his grace rudely repulsed him. Time has since flowed on, the whole was forgotten, the coalition between the Church party and the Tractarians has been broken up, when the Crown, as the Head of the Church, significantly appoints Dr. Hampden to a bishopric, obviously with a view to discountenance the movement of the restless young men of Oxford in their advances towards popery. This proves 'the unkindest cut of all,' and the bishops become exasperated accordingly. The bishop of Exeter next pointed forth the thander of his 'infallible artillery' and his attack is to be followed up by the University of Oxford, which, led by Bishop Wilberforce as the head of the diocese, threatens to bring the new bishop before the Court of Arches to make him render an account of his manifold acts of heterodoxy. The Dean of Hereford, the Revd John Merdeth, next inflicted his 'tediousness' upon Lord John Russell, declaring positively that he would never consent to elect Dr. Hampden to which his lordship replied:

Woburn Abbey, Dec. 25.

Sir,—I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 22nd inst, in which you intimate to me your intention of violating the law.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant

J. Russell.

The Very Revd. the Dean of Hereford.

On Tuesday, the 25th ult., the election took place at Hereford. The dean and the canon, Dr. Huntingford made violent speeches against Dr. Hampden, and actually voted against him; fourteen votes, were, however, recorded in his favour, and the chapter finally declared him elected. Some doubts have been raised whether the archbishop of the Diocese will confirm Dr. Hampden, which formality is requisite to perfect the ceremony.