

marks on the subject, with the view of directing attention to its uses and value.

[To be Continued.]

European News.

Willmer & Smith's European Times,
October 28

The weather during the past week has been exceedingly unsettled. During Saturday, Sunday and Monday the rain fell in torrents, and many parts of the country were flooded. Tuesday was a brilliant day, fine and warm, but again on Wednesday the weather was tempestuous; since that time more settled weather has prevailed, and it has been generally fine throughout the country. The grain markets are all firm, with a tendency to a rise in prices. The field operations, which at this moment should be general throughout the country, have been suspended by the recent rains, the land, in fact, being at present too wet for the plough. As the reports of the produce of the late harvest become more ascertained, the statement we have already given becomes confirmed, that in the south and western parts of the kingdom the crop is inferior in quality and considerably less than the ordinary average of years, whilst in the northern parts of the country the results are less unfavourable, and in Scotland the harvest generally appears to be most satisfactory. In Ireland the inclement weather is telling upon the prices of grain, and the markets are firmer. The duty on the 25th inst., as we led our readers to expect, rose to five shillings per quarter on wheat, and with the increased firmness in the markets, it is very probable that this rate may now be maintained; but if the duty should advance another shilling, which many dealers anticipate some weeks hence, it is evident that the arrivals will be put into granary in order to wait the term when the corn duties will definitely cease. The anxiety of the holders of the cargoes to sell them from the ship's side, with a view to save all these expenses and risks, has in fact tended to keep down prices to their present level. Considerable supplies continue to pour in from the Baltic and other ports, and large contracts have been formed in Belgium and the north of France for the supply of potatoes, the shipment of which has in some instances been resisted by the people at the continental outports. The grain which has lately reached this country from the Baltic, if realised at the actual prices, can scarcely have a profitable result. The object of the shippers has been undoubtedly to make funds in England, owing to the distracted state of the interior of Germany. There is an active demand for the finer description of hops at improving prices.

The Bank of England returns show a decrease of the stock of bullion, owing to the drain of gold for the continent, which has again this week proceeded in a steady efflux. At present, however it does not furnish material grounds for anxiety; but if the hoarding of gold on the continent should continue, and the supplies of grain from America and the continent increase to a great extent, there can be no doubt that a vast diminution of the stock of bullion in the bank will take place in the spring; when, if the continent should still be the scene of civil and national wars, the efficacy of Sir Robert Peel's Bank Act will again be tested under a new phase of circumstances. The state of the Bank of France begins to excite not a little solicitude. The total liabilities seem to be about £25,600,000, against which the institution holds about nine millions of specie. The discounts, however, have most alarmingly decreased. Last week the decrease was one hundred and forty thousand pounds compared with the previous one, and this decline has now been going on some time, in some weeks being almost double that amount. Compared with the transactions of last year the business has fallen off in a ratio of four to one, although the rate of discount has been reduced from five to four per cent. during the present year. The state of trade throughout France continues to be most deplorable.

The general state of health both in the metropolitan districts and throughout the kingdom is in a satisfactory state. The number of deaths in London during the past week is one hundred and seventy one less than the average of the corresponding weeks during the last five years. The fatal cases reported of cholera amount to forty five. The disease seems to be hovering over many isolated parts of the country. Instances of individual cases are cited from widely distant districts, but at present they are so inconsiderable

compared with our immense population, that in a national point of view they do not create any especial apprehension. In Edinburgh, Leith, and Newhaven, the malady seems still to exert a malignant influence to a considerable extent. The deaths are far more numerous in that quarter, compared with the population, than elsewhere. They amount to 112 since the 4th inst. Hull and Sunderland furnish also, from day to day, occasional fatal cases. Upon the whole the pestilence has not increased in violence: the relaxation of the quarantine regulations has not led to any unfavourable results; and we earnestly hope that the angel of terror will pass over our islands, without leaving behind the calamitous traces of death and desolation which have marked its path through the eastern countries of Europe.

An Overland mail has arrived from India, bringing dates from Bombay of the 15th September, Calcutta 7th September, and Hong Kong of the 23rd August. A strong force had collected before Moulton, and the troops only awaited the arrival of the battering train in order to commence the siege of that strong city. It was generally expected that Moolraj would sell his life dearly, and would find followers who would stand by him to the last extremity. Endeavors had been made to seduce the Sepoys of our own regiment, but they had failed. Some rain had fallen, which had cooled the temperate. At Bombay there was a considerable improvement in business, and at Calcutta there was a little more animation.

The special commission at Clonmel has closed its deeply melancholy labours. Mr W. Smith O'Brien, Mr McManus, Mr O'Donoghue, and Mr Thomas Francis Meagher, have now been severally found guilty of the highest crime known to society, and by the sentence of the judges of the land, await in prison that punishment which is to atone for their violation of the law. It is impossible to read the final speeches of Mr McManus, O'Donoghue and Meagher, especially of the latter, without being struck with the lofty but mistaken heroism which has evidently been their ruling passion. The simple, unaffected declarations of McManus, that he was actuated by no injustice towards Englishmen, 'that it was not because he loved England less, but that he loved Ireland more,' that he then stood in the felon's dock, and the eloquent enthusiasm of Meagher, will long survive 'in memory's waste' throughout all Ireland, and wherever Irishmen and patriots are to be found. It is altogether a most deplorable issue to so much sincerity of purpose. Would to God that for their own sakes, and for the cause of their country, the patriotism of the men now convicted had been directed in another course,—by the peaceful ways of constitutional freedom, such leaders, by a more judicious application of their talents, might have achieved a glorious regeneration for their country.

On Tuesday a Cabinet Council was held in London, attended by the whole of the ministers of the Crown, and the attendance of Lord Clarendon during their deliberations left no doubt that the final disposal of the state prisoners in Ireland was the subject for which the council was assembled. The decision of the Council, after three hours' deliberation, proved to be in unison with public opinion generally. The lives of the convicted men will be spared. The terms of the commutation of their punishment, will probably ere this be communicated to the persons most interested. In the meantime the public mind is relieved from the anxiety which was universally felt upon the subject; and the prisoners from the agony which the near approach of death, and that an ignominious one, cannot but inspire in the mind of man, however constituted. This is the virtual termination of the ill-concerted, rash, and miserable Irish rebellion of 1848. Its very harmfulness and want of success have proved the best and most effectual pleas for the extension of mercy to offences which, throughout the whole of British history, have heretofore been expiated only at the scaffold. Let us hope that the complete failure of this wretched movement will, out of its very insignificance, awaken the sincere friends of Ireland to a sense of real and genuine freedom, and that henceforth they will only vie with Englishmen in a noble emulation to secure for both countries, really united, the blessings of constitutional liberty. We believe that there is not a statesman in England, let his party be what it may, who would not lend his sincere aid in endeavouring to repair the social evils under which Ireland still languishes, but the first efforts at improvement must be made by the Irish themselves. Let them address

themselves to practical improvements; let political demagogism give way to industrial occupations, which, however undignified, is the only true path to prosperity, and Ireland might, from her geographical position alone, rival us in almost every branch of commerce. Her riches, we believe are boundless; all that she requires is the application of industry to promote which the capital of England would instantly flow the moment that security for capital and labor was firmly established. We earnestly trust that the veil will be drawn over the past, and that a new scene will now dawn over Ireland.

Amongst other unfortunate events calculated to produce a sinister result upon the destiny of Ireland, we are sorry to learn that the Pope has addressed the rescript, so long expected, to the four Roman Catholic Archbishops of Ireland, disapproving of the new statutes which had been framed to obviate all difficulties, which a portion of the former rescript raised with regard to the new colleges. The present rescript disapproves of the new statutes, and consequently of the system on which the colleges were proposed to be conducted, even in their recently modified form. The Pope suggests to the Irish Roman Catholic bishops the necessity of establishing a Catholic university in Ireland, entirely unconnected with the Government Colleges; and to complete the perplexity, his Holiness recommends a thorough and cordial union amongst the Roman Catholic prelates of Ireland. They who bear in mind the difficulties which Lord John Russell had to overcome even to carry through Parliament the very moderate measure which erected the present so called 'godless colleges,' will perceive how hopeless it is to reconcile the clergy of the Protestant and Catholic establishments, to unite in one comprehensive scheme of education which shall rise the Irish people from their present depths of ignorance. Every friend of liberal education must deplore the success which has attended the mission of Archbishop McHale; but it is to be hoped that some future regular diplomatic mission to the Vatican, now sanctioned by law, will bring the Pope to a sense of the benefits of which by his fiat he is at present depriving the people of Ireland.

It will be seen that the law having been vindicated at Clonmel, his Excellency has lost no time in admitting to bail about a dozen state prisoners, who were confined under the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act. Nothing can better demonstrate the earnest wish of the Government to avoid unnecessary harshness. Some foolish projectors have, however, formed a scheme to release Mr C. Duffy from Newgate. This, and detected preparations to escape by the prisoner himself, has superinduced to stricter confinement.

Although everything seems perfectly tranquil throughout Ireland, we are afraid that a vast social change is going on, involving large numbers in great distress. The Dublin Gazette, of Tuesday, contained no less than one hundred and thirty two insolvents for nine counties, of whom no fewer than seventy three were farmers. The rotatory parliament society continues its proceedings, but no other agitation is being promoted. The Conciliation Hall party are making some endeavours to extricate themselves from debt by public subscriptions, and any revival of past scenes seem to be at present quite out of the question.

The events which are in progress at Vienna, and which at one moment threatened the complete disintegration of the elements of the Austrian empire, have assumed a somewhat less threatening aspect; and although all the causes which originated the commotion are still at work, we are in hopes that some compromise will now be arrived at, without deluging one of the greatest capitals in Europe with the blood of its inhabitants. It is our duty to transcribe elsewhere the intelligence we derive from the German papers; but, considering the complicated nature of the quarrel, and the deep feelings of the Germans in the cause of either one party or the other, we are compelled to view the statements we receive through that channel with a certain degree of suspicion. It appears however, that with the exception of some desultory fighting between the advanced guard of the Croats with the Viennese, under the city walls, no considerable action has been fought, but that the interval since our last advices has been filled up by endeavours on the part of the Viennese Diet, to win over, cajole, or threaten the imperial commanders, Auersperg and Jallachich, to induce them to lay down their arms and make common cause with them; whilst on the other hand, Jallachich, Auersperg, and Windisgratz are forming a cordon of troops around the city, which must inevi-

tably compel the Viennese to submit to whatever terms the overwhelming Imperial forces may dictate to them.

The events at Berlin continue to be of the same antagonistic character between the people and the sovereign. The Red Republicans pursue their schemes against property and order, and in the meantime an immense body of troops is silently and gradually encircling Berlin, and we are quite prepared to learn at any time of some fearful contest either to bring about a complete reaction, or to establish a Republic. If the reports which reach us from the Russian provinces are correct, the people are heartily weary of all the late agitation which has effectually paralysed their internal industry; but a reaction can scarcely take place without a fierce struggle.

From Italy we are alike inundated with apocryphal news. We have had rumours of a counter revolution at Milan, and of the extirpation of Radetsky and the Austrians, but they all turn out to be fictitious. His position, however, is very critical, depending as it does upon the upshot of events at Vienna. The assertions so boldly repeated, that Charles Albert would throw down the gauntlet, cross the Ticino, and drive the Austrians out of Lombardy, have again subsided into silence. We have great doubts whether he meditates any such step. The legions of France remain on this the Alps, and woe to that Frenchman who would sign the order for them to cross into Italy. Under such circumstances, Charles Albert is safer at Alessandria than at Milan. In Sicily the relative position of the belligerents continues unchanged. From Spain and Portugal there is no farther news of interest. Sir Harry Smith has had an encounter with the Boers at Cape Colony, in which Pretorius was routed after a three hours' battle. The gallant Governor was wounded in the knee, and had his horse killed under him.

Notwithstanding the hourly increasing machinations and resentment of the Red Republicans, and the approaching election for the presidency of France, Paris has been relieved from the state of siege under which it has been governed during the last four months; and it is now definitely fixed that the 10th of December next shall usher forth to the world the new future executive chief of the French Republic. A contest has been carried on for several days past respecting the temporary prorogation of the Chamber during the excitement of the presidential election. Of course General Cavaignac favored this project as it would strengthen his authority, but the party of M. Thiers unanimously refused to accede to an adjournment for a single day, and the Red Republicans through the mouth of M. Ducoux, the ex-prefect of police, have intimated that if the representatives left Paris for the departments, "on their return they would find the doors of the Assembly closed against them." The long debates on the Constitution have at length been brought to a termination. The discussion was concluded on Monday last. The *ensemble* has been referred to a committee for revision, and it will be returned forthwith to the Chamber for its final sanction. The best commentary on the state of Paris may be found in the statement, that besides the large reinforcements of artillery which have been lately brought into the capital, a fresh train of 45 pieces, consisting of 8, 12, 16, and 24 pounders, all newly mounted, was paraded through the city on Monday, from Vincennes to the new forts on the western line of the *enceinte*; a plain proof that although the state of siege is removed, the precautionary measures of General Cavaignac are not relaxed. Indeed the old post office in the Rue Jean Jacques Rousseau, so well known to all foreigners who have visited Paris, is to be converted into an infantry barracks, whilst the old palace of the Palais Royal is to be turned into a post-office. The change to such a central spot will be a great public convenience. The affairs of the ex-King Louis Philippe are to be put in liquidation, like others in a subordinate rank in life. About a million sterling is to be raised on the private property of the deposed monarch to meet the most pressing claims, and to provide for the support of the royal family, subject to the payment of the dowry of the Duchess of Orleans, amounting to forty thousand pounds a year. The bill has passed without opposition.

The latest news from Paris announces that M. Goudchaux, the Minister of Finance, has persisted in his determination to resign office, and M. Trouve Chauvel, the Prefect of the Seine, has been appointed in his stead. M. Recurt supplies the place of the latter gentleman. M. Emile de Girardin, the intrepid editor of the *Presse*, has been elected for, the