

The cooling of the body by whatever causes may be produced, increases the amount of food necessary. The mere exposure to the open air in a carriage or on the deck of a ship, by increasing radiation and vaporisation, increases the loss of heat, and compels us to eat more than usual. The same is true of those who are accustomed to drink large quantities of cold water, which is given off at the temperature of the body, 98° 5'. It increases the appetite, and persons of weak constitution find it necessary, by continued exercise, to supply to the system the oxygen required to restore the heat abstracted by the cold water. Loud and long continued speaking, the crying of infants, moist air, all exert a decided and appreciable influence on the amount of food which is taken.

It has been discovered that lignin, or the solid part of wood, affords edible matter; and that when properly prepared, it may be baked into loaves of bread more palatable than those that are made in times of scarcity from bran and husks of corn. The woody fibre forms the chief bulk of vegetables. From the slight work which contains the pulp and juice of fruits, up to the substantial body of forest timber. In all, the actual proximity principle is of the same density; but in some it is closely and others loosely compacted, the latter involving among its pores a considerable volume of air. Thus ebony and lignum vitae sink in water like stones; while oak and pine float with great buoyancy; but if you expel the air from the two latter by boiling or otherwise, they will sink like the two former.

By and by the sun will decline in heat and splendour, and the leaves of trees and plants assume for little while those autumnal tints which steep the season in beauty. The various colours are supposed to depend upon certain acid matters now formed in the withering leaf, which produce a reflection of red and yellow light, with various other intermixtures. All this glory however of the vegetable world, is only a prelude to its decay. Soon come the chill winds with power to lay the forest bare; and these beautiful leaves scattered upon the ground, mingle gradually with its substance, and undergoing new changes, become nutriment for the stems on which they grow. When the grass meadows begin to lose their colour, we see here and there a ring of brighter green, in which we love to fancy that the elfin people are accustomed to dance during the night. But science conjectures that these circles—increasing annually in size, and sometimes presenting a very extraordinary appearance—are rather the production of a fungus, which, on dying away every year, leaves a rich soil for the more luxuriant growth of grass. Towards the close of the season, when slight frosts become common, the meadow presents a still stranger phenomenon, which formerly occasioned not mere poetical excitement, like the fairy rings, but superstitious dread. This is the print of footsteps, which appear to have anchored the grass like heated iron. And they are footsteps, and human footsteps; which falling on the grass when it is crimp with frost, break it completely down and destroy it. When the sun has thawed away the hoary covering from the meadow, its grass appears rich and green—all but these mystic prints, where the footsteps scorched, like guilt, as they passed.

European News.

Willmer & Smith's European Times, October 14

The weather during the past week has undergone a very favourable change. With some unsettled states of the atmosphere in different places, upon the whole, tolerably fine weather has prevailed; and in Scotland it has been so genial that harvest has been got in with greater success than has been experienced for years. The general report of the late harvest so far as it has yet been thrashed, is far from satisfactory; and is generally confirmatory of what we have already stated: that the crop will be rather below the ordinary average of years. The heavy arrivals from abroad prevent prices from rising; and the averages hover about; still look forward for a rise in the duty on the 18th or the 25th inst. But in this case the advance will be but trifling; and will be with difficulty maintained against the continued arrivals from abroad. The crop of potatoes in Scotland appears to be abundant, and the surplus over the wants of the inhabitants will be considered to aid their less fortunate neighbours. The markets throughout the kingdom presents no very remarkable feature, the details of transactions, will we found fully reported in our market columns.

We regret to state the scourge which, during the last few months, has desolated the eastern parts of Europe, spreading its ravaging from Cairo to St Petersburg, and lingering within these few weeks at Hamburg, has at length, as anticipated, reached the shores of Great Britain. It is now officially declared by the Registrar-General that the Asiatic Cholera has appeared in the metropolis, and well authenticated cases of the malady are reported from Sunderland, Shields,

Hull, and Edinburgh. The disease made its appearance almost contemporaneously in Sunderland and in the low lying districts below London Bridge. In both places the first cases were those of intemperate sailors who came from Hamburg and were attacked by the malady on the voyage. As regards Edinburgh, the origin of the disease is left in doubt. The official reports of the Registrar General in London reported 13 cases up to Saturday last. In Edinburgh, up to the latest report, there had been 25 cases, 20 of which had proved fatal. Up to Wednesday in the present week, the number of cases in London is alleged to be about 20, but a daily official report is not yet issued. The authorities in all parts of the country seem to be taking the most zealous precautions to counteract, prevent, and remedy this dreadful malady, which we earnestly hope will make but a brief visit to our shores. The alarm is greatly diminished respecting its destructive effects amongst the great body of the people, and we trust, with the extensive arrangements made to check its progress, that the limits of its mortality will be confined to the seaport towns, and that the great manufacturing hives of industry will be spared this frightful addition to the many sufferings they have lately experienced.

The quarterly statement of the Revenue will be found in its usual place in our columns. In the absence of the details of the Customs' returns, we cannot precisely specify the items whence the improvement arises; but when we say that the last quarter exhibits an improvement of no less than £958,651 over the receipts of the July quarter in the above department, it is plain that the duties on corn must form no inconsiderable portion of this most desirable excess. The increase on the corresponding quarter of the year 1847, is, in fact, £469,839 in the Customs, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer may thus thank the remnant of the Corn-laws for bringing up his income "with a wet sail." The same good fortune, we hope, with a more permanent effect, attends him in the excise department, the increase over the corresponding quarter of 1847 being £562,628, and over the July quarter of the present year, £528,771. The Stamp Duties are on the wrong side of the account by £246,003, compared with the quarter of last year; and with the July quarter of the present there is even still a further comparative decline of no less than £95,698, partially accounted for by the transfer of some of the Stamp Duties and the Excise. The Property Tax exhibits a decline of £25,735, which we hope, will be but temporary; is, however, not a satisfactory feature. Upon the whole there is an increase on the quarter compared with the same quarter last year, of £772,296 net increase, and compared with the July quarter of the present year, of £703,061. Upon the year the total decrease is £308,183.

Without any undue exultation at our improving prospects, we may, upon the whole, congratulate ourselves, that the prospects of the country are altogether in a more satisfactory state. We have no doubt that the increase in the Customs will be explained by the quantities of corn which have been cleared upon the low sliding-scale of duties. In a few months this source of revenue will be dried up altogether; but the improvement in the Excise, in no inconsiderable degree, leaves us the hope that the revenue of the country will be generally maintained by increased consumption; and turning our eyes to the other countries of Europe, and seeing the deplorable deficits which are established in almost all the public revenues of other European nations, we think there is very great reason for thankfulness. It is evident that our national resources continue unimpaired; we have only to put into practice, if possible, a wise system of retrenchment in our public expenditure; and, if the blessings of peace can be preserved to us amidst the general convulsions now going on to the very confines of Europe, we have great confidence in speedily recovering from the disastrous effects of the late deficient harvests and prostrated commerce. The approaching winter must, however, test our resources in almost every department to the very uttermost, great wisdom, great self-denial, and a strong pull *altogether* will be required for the maintenance of our institution.

After one of the most impartial trials ever recorded in British history, a verdict of Guilty of high treason has been pronounced by the jury at Clonmel against Mr. W. Smith O'Brien. Coupled with this fatal decision, the jury earnestly recommended the prisoner to the merciful

consideration of the Government, being unanimously of opinion that, for many reasons, his life should be spared. For the sake of the peace and the future improvement of Ireland we rejoice in every way at this most wise, most courageous, and most upright verdict. If that verdict, with the overwhelming facts proved in evidence, had acquitted the prisoner, it must inevitably have led to the establishment of courts-martial throughout Ireland; and we are not of those who think that country can be governed only by a despotism. Under all the circumstances, therefore, we rejoice at the verdict, because the authority of the law is vindicated; life and property may yet be secured by the protection of the ordinary tribunals; and the Whig Government, whatever may be their other delinquencies, have shewn such unexamplified lenity in the suppression of political crimes in Ireland, that we cannot but entertain hopes that the emphatic recommendation of the jury to spare the prisoner's life will be mercifully conceded by our august Queen. The honest declaration of Mr. Whiteside, that the jury was not only legally but "laudably" constituted, must cut the ground from under the most perverse foes of the Government in impeaching the constitution of the panel; and it is, therefore, with the most poignant regret, not unminged with alarm, that we perceive that one of the jurors of the county has since been molested. Whilst the lives of the confederates of Mr. Smith O'Brien are still in greater jeopardy than perhaps even his own, it is almost like inviting the vengeance of the Government when attempts are made to overawe the jury by terror. We sincerely hope that such proceedings will not be repeated. It is generally understood and believed now that up to the period when Mr. Smith O'Brien left Dublin for Enniscorthy, on the 22nd July, that he himself had no intention of levying war against the Queen, or of committing himself by any act of high treason. It was only when the intelligence was brought to him by Meagher and Dillon, at the house of Mr. Maher, that the Habeas Corpus Act was suspended, that Smith O'Brien plunged irrevocably in the scenes which have brought his life within the forfeit of the law. The rash ill-considered letter to the mining company, threatening to confiscate their property if the insurrection succeeded, unless they obeyed his dictates, furnished the damning proof of intention, which might have, perhaps, with the aid of Mr. Whiteside's ingenious eloquence, been got over, if this fatal document had not been put in evidence. There has been shown a repugnance on the part of the witnesses to furnish testimony against "such a gentleman as Mr. O'Brien," as could scarcely have admitted of actual confirmation of guilt if his own indiscretion had not adduced the most legal proof. The remainder of the report of the trial, which will be found amply recorded elsewhere, will show in what way, even at the 11th hour, a witness was brought from Dublin on the part of the prisoner, whose testimony struck at the root of the evidence given by one of the wretched informers on behalf of the crown. Mr. Whiteside's dexterity and prudence brought to light every, the smallest fact, which could benefit the prisoner, but the proofs furnished by himself could not be overcome, and amidst the tears and deep emotion of the court at Clonmel, as well as the sincere sympathy of thousands, if not millions, in all parts of the United Kingdom, who only regard him as an indiscreet man, Mr. O'Brien was adjudged guilty by a jury of his country. Mr. Whiteside, upon the prisoner being called up for sentence, made ineffectually two legal objections, with a view to obtain an arrest of judgment, but the court overruled both. The form of sentence of death was pronounced with evident distress by the Lord Chief Justice "in awe inspiring accents," but no day was fixed to the execution of the sentence. The deportment of Mr. O'Brien in the last scene, probably, of his public life, was firm, gallant, but imprudent and unadvised. Even the judge on the bench, almost in tears, deprecated somewhat more than in mere manner the ill-timed contumaciousness of the prisoner. His final destiny is, indeed, trembling in the scales of mercy.

The trial of Mr. Terence B. M'Manus followed, and after a trial of four days' duration, he, too, was convicted of the crime of high treason, and, as a matter of course, sentenced to death in the same form as that pronounced in the case of Mr. S. O'Brien.

By the latest news from Dublin, and we may add from the best informed quarters in the metropolis, we deeply deplore to state, that there is an increasing alarm respecting the future disposal of Mr. O'Brien. In Dublin the most anxious rumours

are in circulation, with no little apprehension respecting the final execution, of his sentence. We need not allude to the origin of these sad forebodings; but in London we hear that, amongst many sincere friends of the prisoner, there is a silent condemnation of his defiant speech before the judge passed sentence, which indicates their apprehensions that, however the Crown may be desirous, may even anxious, to extend clemency towards the unfortunate man, it is almost difficult to discover any reasons of state which can justify such a course.

All other subjects sink into insignificance compared with this anxiety. Our readers will see that arrests still continue to be made; that frightful murders are still perpetrated in the south of Ireland; that the rotatory Parliament agitators continue almost unheeded their weekly meetings and addresses; that the Roman Catholic Prelates have assembled in Dublin, and their movements are scanned with great curiosity. A memorial is in progress of signature from the noblemen, clergy, bankers, merchants, and inhabitants of Dublin, expressive of loyalty and order, but supplicating the Lord Lieutenant that mercy in its most liberal sense, where mercy can be shown, may be extended to those men of every rank and station committed to the late movement. It reminds the Lord Lieutenant that the present individuals did not commence the present disobedience to the law, but that excitement has been going on for years. They who promoted that excitement now witness the sad results. The tribulation which Ireland at this moment suffers is deep indeed.

A deputation has waited on His Excellency, touching the fate of Mr. O'Brien, and we are glad to say that the rumours which have prevailed respecting his execution, are unfounded. The Lord Lieutenant, it would seem, is favourable to mercy.

The French revolution is again marching with rapid strides. After all the vacillation, intrigues, and excitement of the last week, respecting the mode by which the President of the Republic shall be elected, the National Assembly has decided by an overwhelming majority of 602 against 211, that the President shall be elected by direct and universal suffrage by ballot, and by an absolute majority.

Our Continental news is still a record of sanguinary conflicts between Princes and their people, of wars and rumoured state of almost the whole of Europe.

The Schleswig-Holstein affair seems to be now subordinate to the great contest going on in the central and southern part of Germany, and the efforts of Lord Palmerston to compel the belligerents to keep quiet is at present successful. Every thing is quiet in the Duchies, and their eventual pacification depends, as we have always said, upon a totally different concatenation of events.

The news from Spain and Portugal is of the usual unsatisfactory character.

A good deal of interest has been excited by a report from Peel's river that the Esquimaux have seen some vessels to the east of the Mackenzie river, which furnish the hope that the long lost party of Sir John Franklin, in the Arctic seas, have conquered the elements, and may, at this moment, be in perfect safety.

The improved tone in commercial affairs which we last noticed has rather subsided. In the produce markets a good business is, however, being transacted by the home trade, but the value of many articles is not supported. On the part of holders there is an inclination to press the home trade will not buy except at reduced prices.

POSTSCRIPT.

FRANCE, Thursday Evening.—The greatest agitation has prevailed to-day respecting the ministerial crisis, and very various reports have prevailed; one of the most generally received is, that the executive have asked M. Armand Marrast to take the leadership. We believe that these are only rumours, and are in hopes that the best course that can happen will happen, and that the present ministry will struggle on till the appointment of a President.

It is thought that King Charles Albert will avail himself of the catastrophe at Vienna to recommence the war in Italy. Several of the generals in garrison at Paris have been ordered to-day to join the army of the Alps. A report prevails late this afternoon that a great number of the German cities are in insurrection. These and similar rumours have, however, little foundation better than conjecture.

In the National Assembly, after the President had rectified an error in the numbers of the division yesterday, the