

## European News.

## Arrival of the Steamer Hibernia.

Willmer & Smith's European Times, August 4.

Amongst the late discussions in Parliament, perhaps one of the most interesting subjects to many of our readers on the other side of the Atlantic, was the question raised respecting the expediency of levying a small fixed duty on the importation of foreign corn. From the position of political parties, and from causes not necessary to recapitulate here, this important question has been hitherto discussed in either a free trade or protectionist spirit; both parties have jumped to that conclusion which they fancied most conducive to their own class interests. We are not about to speak of the practicability of receding from the step the Legislature have taken in abolishing totally the duty on Corn, far less to advocate the re-imposition of the duty but to show our readers the opinions which a trial of the experiment of a free trade in corn has induced in the minds of practical men, whose experience entitles their opinions to the highest respect. It appears, then, that the practical experience we have obtained of the corn trade during the last two years furnishes certain data which tend to shake the confidence of some of those who vehemently opposed any duty whatever on corn, and makes them doubt whether a small fixed duty would not be more conducive to equitable prices, and considerably increase the chances of rendering Liverpool a more certain and constant market for cereal produce, especially for that coming from the United States. However paradoxical this may at first sight appear, it will seem less so when we point out to our friends in the United States and Canada that on a comparison of the total importations of corn brought in during the present year, when prices have become lower, France and the continent—although it is alleged their importations have not been profitable to the grower and importer—furnish by far the larger proportion, and should prices decline to 35s. per quarter, the United States must of necessity be shut out from the market, as such a rate would be wholly unremunerative.

The closing week in Parliament has been occupied too much in getting thro' the formal business of passing the immense number of bills which have accumulated just at the end of the sessions, to admit of any other debate but what was absolutely essential. Some subjects however, have been incidentally discussed. The House of Commons did not sit on Monday, but the Earl of Harrowby, in the Lords, called the attention of the Government to the depressed condition of the West Indies tracing from the Emancipation Act all the history of the misfortunes of the Colonies. He, however, did not ask for the re-imposition of differential duties, but particularly pressed that the loan of £500,000, which the colonists had not used, as it involved self taxation, might be lent on mortgage like money advanced to English or Irish proprietors, pleading that it would have a beneficial effect. His lordship also suggested that the duration of contracts for labor, might be extended for a longer term than twelve months to which they were now generally limited. Lord Grey, on the part of the Government, avoided entering into a disquisition on West India affairs so late in the session, and positively declined to make any alteration in the Loan Act, which fettered the Government from lending money to individuals. In fact, the executive had no machinery to carry out such a plan. With regard to the extension of the term of contracts for labor, the governors of the colonies would not refuse their assent to any well considered plan for the extension of the period during which contracts might be legally made, subject, however, to the restriction that in no case should it be compulsory upon the emigrant to enter into such contract; and, further, with respect to liberated Africans, the terms should be fixed at the discretion of the governors, as they should not be allowed to enter into long contracts. Lord St. Vincent represented how deeply the West India Islands were suffering; and thus imperial policy with regard to those colonies has been thus briefly disposed of for the present, scarcely an entire evening having been devoted altogether to West India affairs during the whole session.

The Queen having quitted Osborne-house for Ireland, on the afternoon of the 1st inst., the Parliament was prorogued by commission. The speech delivered will be found in our parliamentary

report. It contains, of course, nothing very novel. Ireland closes the session as it commenced that subject, and all nations will concur in the prayer put forth, that the Irish people, "as the reward of that patience and resignation with which they have borne their protracted sufferings, may now be granted the blessings of an abundant harvest and internal peace."

We are still under the painful necessity of reporting a considerable increase on the excessive mortality of last week. It is only in the metropolitan districts where the register is so complete as to enable us to judge of the entire kingdom. In that district the deaths in the three previous weeks were 1070, 1369, 1741, and last week rose to 1931. In 1847, when the influenza raged, the four weeks of extreme mortality were 1086, 1677, 2454, 2416, and the fifth week it continued to decline. The deaths from cholera in the London district, which in the last three weeks were 152, 339, 678, rose last week to 783, which is not so great a comparative increase as in the earlier period of the epidemic. Diarrhoea and dysentery have been equally prevalent, the total deaths from these causes being 1021, whilst the weekly ordinary average is but 92. In fact, to these three disorders the excessive mortality is solely attributable. The Registrar-General calculates, that allowing for defective returns in 1832, it is not probable that cholera will be more fatal now than it was then, and that for a few weeks the inhabitants of London and Liverpool will only incur the same chance of dying in one week as they usually do in two or three weeks. The mortality of these and some other large towns is 40 per cent. greater than in the neighboring counties. In London the vast proportion of deaths and attacks in Lambeth, Bermondsey, and Southwark on the south side of the river, a low ill-drained district; whilst the parishes on the northern side are much more healthy. The deaths are 10 to 1 more on the south side than on the north. In Liverpool there was a decrease of 31 in the mortality of the borough, and of 42 in the mortality from cholera. The deaths from all causes were 601, and from cholera 333. The ravages of the cholera are still chiefly confined to the destitute population in the lower districts of the town. Our neighbors in Manchester appear to escape the malady in a very remarkable manner. It is true that about a dozen cases occur weekly in the Chorlton district, but upon the whole, the mortality is inconsiderable. The reports from the south coast are more favorable; and at Bristol, although it has broken out in a different part of the city, the cases have vastly diminished. At Salisbury, and in that neighborhood, it makes serious ravages.

The inhabitants of Cork, Dublin, and Belfast are making the most active preparations to give a loyal and enthusiastic reception to the Queen, and political feeling are almost forgotten in the general excitement which prevails. A few mischievous agitators meditate the exhibition of devices and flags to signify mutely their dissensions spirit: they propose to appear in the procession along the streets of Dublin, dressed "in the trappings of woe," typical of the gloomy griefs of Ireland; but this wretched display will find no sympathy with the populace, who from the highest to the lowest, seem resolved to give her Majesty a sincere Irish welcome. If we may judge from the extent of the preparations made, and the extravagant prices paid to secure seats to view the procession as it enters Dublin, we can form a tolerably correct opinion of the true and genuine loyalty which prevails amongst all classes, excepting those who will not be pleased on any terms. The Queen's visit has given an extraordinary impulse to the trades of Dublin, Cork, and Belfast and the quiet, unostentatious manner in which her Majesty will present herself for the first time to her Irish subjects, without leading them into such extravagant expenses as a visit of state would involve, just gives sufficient impulse to domestic industry, without the penalty which excessive expenditure would entail upon all parties. The winds and weather all seem auspicious for the complete success of the spectacle, by sea and land; so that we hope this visit will be a source of gratification to both the Queen and our fellow subject across the channel, and that from this day a new era of happier times will commence for Ireland.

Mr O'Gorman Mahon brought before the attention of the House a most extraordinary fact. He produced a candle which he placed on the Speaker's table, which had been manufactured from the

peat of the bogs of Ireland. A discovery has been made by chemical process to make available the vast peat bogs of Ireland, and a gentleman named Owen, whom Lord Ashley pronounced "a discreet, sober, generous, high-minded and religious man" is working the adventure to a considerable extent. It will be seen by a detailed statement elsewhere, that 100 tons of peat which cost £2, and the labor of converting it a further £3, produce no less an amount than £91 16s. 8d!!! Mr Owen, it is stated by Lord Ashley, has experimented upon thousands of tons of peat during the last twelve months with similar results. Well might his lordship add "If only one-half this be true, 100,000 acres of Irish peat is as valuable as the whole region of California." If, however, the attention of capitalists were directed towards the development of the natural riches and resources of Ireland, we believe that not only the peat bogs, but a thousand other new sources of wealth would be speedily discovered. It is therefore with inexpressible satisfaction that we continue to announce the gradually improving prospects opening to the country, by reason of the abundant harvest now promised husbandman. The late rains have done considerable good to the spring sown crops, and the grass lands have been greatly benefited. The potatoes are as sound as they were in 1844. We hear of no complaints from any parts of the country, and should the next six weeks set in fair with dry, warm weather, we shall have, not only in Ireland, but throughout the whole united kingdoms, a most beautiful crop of both cereal produce and potatoes. It is now said that the *Nation* newspaper has arranged with the authorities for the preliminary registry and supply of stamps. The Lord Mayor of London has been invited by the Lord Mayor of Dublin to visit that city during the period of her Majesty's stay, and it is thought Sir James Duke will go over, to mark the interest the London corporation takes in the welfare of Ireland.

By another land mail from India we have advices from Bombay to the 24th June. The news continues to be unimportant. The trial of Moolraj, for being accessory to the murder of Lieutenants Agnew and Anderson, was proceeding, Mr J. B. Bowring acting as prosecutor, and Captain G. W. Hamilton conducting the defence so far as the evidence has proceeded, it was deemed favorable to the Dewan, he having been incited to hostile acts by the population of Mooltan rather than having been himself the instigator of the murder. Some blame cast upon the unfortunate young men for having been indiscreet in demanding concessions which they had no force to compel; that which was at first a mere tumult matured itself into general insurrection, and became in fact the main cause of the late war in the Punjab.

Everything was quiet throughout India and care was being taken to establish friendly relations between the civil and military powers and with the people.

In France a general state of tranquillity prevails, the whole attention of the people being passively directed towards some fresh organic change in the form of government; each day the necessity for some such modification of the new constitution becoming more and more acknowledged. Under pretence of assisting at the inauguration of a railway between Tours and Nantes, the President has proceeded to those towns, visiting Saumur, Orleans, Blois, and Angers on his tour. The enthusiasm of the people in his favor seems to be on the increase. At a future period he will proceed southwards, and visit Bordeaux and Lyons, and perhaps Marseilles, taking the great intervening towns on his route. Whether this is merely to catch popularity from the provinces, or whether it is a prelude to more important schemes, remains to be unfolded. Already it is plainly out-spoken that capitalists refuse to give any confidence to the present Republican form of Government on account of its instability, and therefore the French journals declare that it must be changed.—When Bonaparte usurped the imperial throne, he opened registers throughout France to take the sense of his people upon his election, the whole plan having been predetermined upon in Paris. Some such farce will be gone through at the present day, if Louis Napoleon, after feeling the pulse of the people in the departments, perceives that he can seize the imperial sceptre without material opposition. The Councils General which assemble in the provinces on the 13th September, are to "deliberate calmly" whether an emperor is not better fitted to keep Frenchmen under control than a

shifting executive, which neither furnish security for property, nor even the shadow of political liberty. If we may judge from the cool way in which the overthrow of the Republic is discussed, the whole affair seems already decided upon; and we should confidently announce the fact to our readers, but that we cannot calculate for twenty-four hours continuously what strange event will happen in France. However when the plot is ripe the Councils General will be set in motion, the cry of *vive l'Empereur* will be got up, the mayors and prefects of France, instructed by some Buckingham will extol the various excellencies of Louis Napoleon. There seems every prospect of a most abundant harvest throughout France, in some of the departments the wheat is already cut, under the most favorable circumstances.—The funds are also on the advance, so that material prosperity is within the grasp of the public. It remains to be seen whether they will be content with things, as they are.

The assurances given in the Queen's speech that the friendly character of her relations with foreign powers affords a just confidence in the continuance of peace, and that her efforts will continue to be directed to promote the restoration of peace in those parts of Europe in which it has been interrupted, are indeed a fresh guarantee for the general repose of the world. The Hungarian war, however, rages with unrelenting fury. During the past week we are more in the dark than ever respecting the military operations going on. It seems nevertheless, certain that Georgey has quitted the line of the Danube, after having cut through the Russian lines, and entered Kasha on the 21st ult. The account of the defeat of Jellachich is confirmed. The commander who drove him into Symia appears to be Guyon. We have not heard of General Haynau since he went to relieve the Ban. Of Bem we know little or nothing; he appears to be in Transylvania, but in what precise spot we are not correctly informed. From the latest accounts the Hungarian forces are computed at 160,000 men, with 250 guns; the Landstrum is not included. We are told that another grand conspiracy has been discovered at St. Petersburg; and it is said that no fewer than 280 persons have been arrested in the Russian capital as implicated in the plot which had for its object the overthrow of the present dynasty and the erection of a Republic. Its ramifications were spread over the whole of the empire. The Baden insurrection having been suppressed, great rejoicings have taken place at Berlin, and preparations are being made to give the Prince of Prussia a triumph when he returns to the capital. In the meantime the state of siege has been removed, and tranquillity greatly prevails. We are told that Archduke John is about to return to Frankfort to resume his post at the head of the central government. From Rome and Italy we learn nothing further than the Pope has made an arrangement to carry on the Government by a commission, and that his return to his capital is indefinitely postponed.

From Constantinople we learn that the Porte has issued a solemn protest against the marching of the Russian troops thro' the Turkish territory of Transylvania.—The Divan has at the same time declared that if, in consequence of a defeat, the Russian troops should wish to pass through the Turkish territory, they would be immediately disarmed.

Trade has continued quiet, but very steady since our last issue. The prospects of the harvest being of the most favorable character, and the absence as yet of any disease in the potato crop, has tended to lower the price of Breadstuffs.

The Queen's visit to Ireland.—Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and suite, embarked on the 1st instant on board the royal yacht Victoria and Albert, Captain Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, G. C. H., at half past three o'clock in the afternoon; and the different members of the court and household, the servants, attendants, &c., having also embarked, the Victoria and Albert, with the royal standard at the main, proceeded, under a salute from the Cowes Castle, en route to Cork, Dublin, Belfast and Greenock.

With the Victoria and Albert were the following steam-vessels, under the command of Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence:—The Strumboli, 6, steamer-sloop, Commander Lord A. W. Beauclerk; the Sphinx, 6, steam sloop, Commander Hewlett; the Black Eagle, Admiralty steam-yacht, Master Commander Cook; and the Vivid, steam packet, Master Commander Smithett.