

European News.

Arrival of the Steamer Canada.

Willmer & Smith's European Times, May 5.

Since our last vast meeting of merchants, traders and agriculturists, has taken place in the city of London, with a view of forming a national league for the purpose of restoring the principle of protection to native industry. The duke of Richmond took the chair, and was surrounded by several noblemen of high rank; and upon the platform were the representatives of almost all the leading mercantile houses in the metropolis. It is not our purpose here to discuss the vexed question of free trade and protection, but to inform our readers in the United States and our distant colonies of the precise position of parties, so that the European Times may be the exact reflex of public opinion in its concentrated and most impartial form. It is now quite evident that Lord Stanley intends to try a fall with the present administration; and the meeting in London was got up for the avowed purpose of fortifying the House of Lords to the step it now seems certain that branch of the legislature will pursue in throwing out the Bill for the repeal of the navigation laws. The enthusiasm of the London merchants when Lord Granby said, 'Thank God we have a House of Lords,' was greater than anything of the kind known for many years. Lord Stanley on Monday next will move the rejection of the measure, and his friends at the meeting of Tuesday declared that his lordship was now ready to take office should the Queen 'send for him.' A dissolution of parliament would follow; and the Protectionists have hopes that a very large majority of their party would be returned in a new parliament by the united efforts of the distressed agriculturalists, the discontented, half ruined colonial interests, the suffering tradesmen, manufacturers, merchants and ship-owners. It remains, however, to be seen whether the House of Lords will reject the bill, as it is believed that the duke of Wellington will support the present Ministers; and his vote will, doubtless influence the course of other Peers. It is very greatly to be deplored that the course of trade should be interrupted by these party struggles, the end of which is difficult to foresee. The fate of the Navigation Bill will probably be settled before our next publication; the larger contest at issue will be fought with great determination by both the great parties in the nation.

The actual proceedings of Parliament have sunk into subordinate interest, as the attention of the public is absorbed in the contest which is to take place next week in the House of Peers nominally upon the repeal of Navigation Laws, but really upon the question of whether the principles of free trade are to be maintained, or whether protection in some shape is to be revived as part of our commercial and financial system. Lord Stanley has given notice that he shall use every effort to throw out the bill, and if he succeeds the bold experiment of a Tory Protectionist Ministry seems inevitable. Out of doors the Protectionists are loud and confident. The London journals, chiefly pledged to party men and party politics, are quite at a loss how to treat the present crisis, as it appears almost certain that an appeal to the people in the present temper of the agricultural interests will not materially improve the position of the liberal party.

Ireland has occupied a large portion of the time of Parliament during the week. The important measures introduced we have fully described in a separate article. The Navy Estimates have been voted with the usual grumbling at some details, but with quite as large majorities as at any period. Mr Ewart has again endeavored to bring in a bill to abolish the punishment of death, and was ably supported by Mr Bright and Mr Brotherton, but, being opposed by Sir George Gray, the motion was rejected by 75 to 51.

The events going on in Canada have been more than once incidentally noticed in Parliament, but Mr Herries, although he pressed Lord John Russell, has failed to elicit any declaration of the intentions of Government upon the question of the Indemnity Bill. The Governor General of Canada has avoided writing any official despatches on the subject, which, if produced might add to the excitement which had prevailed, but which the last accounts indicated had in some measure subsided. From Lord John Russell's reply, which expressed the fullest confidence in Lord Elgin's discretion, we infer that he will take no action on the sub-

ject until the end of the Canadian session when the various Bills will come under the consideration of His Excellency altogether. The Clergy Relief Bill has been considered in committee, and appears likely to pass the Commons, with some alterations tending to place the non-conformist clergyman and the conforming clergyman upon an equal footing. The question raised by the imprisonment of Mr Shore seems very difficult to legislate upon, but all parties have approached the subject in a very fair spirit.

The accounts of the Bank of England do not indicate any further material decrease in their stock of bullion. Nearly £200,000 has been withdrawn in the past week, but this sum is considerably less than we anticipated. The total amount of gold shipped to the United States up to the last week is £411,900. On this side, the corn market has once again relapsed into inactivity, and prices droop. Political events of an exciting character, bearing especially upon the pending question connected with commerce and navigation, must inevitably produce a serious effect upon the trade of the United Kingdom. Superadded to these domestic disturbing causes, the condition of Germany is now seriously influencing all the markets of Europe. Our German friends have resolved, at all hazards, to carry out a theory which almost all reflecting men deem impracticable, find a new and not unexpected impediment thrown in their way. The King of Prussia has definitively refused to accept the Imperial crown of Germany, and hence a new chain of events will follow. As the King's Ministers saw plainly that the acceptance of the crown inevitably involved as its condition a general European war, it is a blessing, perhaps, for mankind that he has had courage to refuse it. But it remains to be seen what wild step a disappointed people will take, seeing their desires thwarted. Blood has again been shed at Berlin; and who can tell how many more lives will be sacrificed in attempting to obtain an object incompatible with the peace of Europe. Whilst these sad disputes are pending, the trade of England suffers, as no state is so adverse to the pursuits of the merchant and trader as that which is neither peace nor open war. The low profits of peace do not 'leave a margin' for the risks and uncertainties of war. The trade of France has sensibly improved.

The progress of events on the continent of Europe is rapid, striking, and pregnant with the most important consequences. The war in Denmark has not been marked by any unusual circumstance, it being plain, as we have said again and again, that these deplorable hostilities are but the outward and visible sign of a far more important intestine commotion. The belligerents may, perhaps, be induced temporarily to support their warfare from some external influence, but it is quite childish to expect that the quarrel can be permanently adjusted until the paramount question of the Imperial authority of Germany is satisfactorily settled. We regret to state that this chimera of the German people appears more distant than ever—the Frankfort Assembly tendered the Imperial Crown of Germany to the King of Prussia accompanied with a constitution framed upon such principles as must inevitably have led to a Red Republic, if the King had accepted the fatal gift proffered to him. Perhaps, even worse than this, a general European war, as we described in our last number, would have been the result. No two impartial men conversant with European politics could doubt it for an instant. The King paused. He could not say "no;" he dared not say "yes." Wurtemberg and Bavaria, with an excited people, were in the same position. Wurtemberg faltered. Bavaria stood firm. Hanover boldly dissolved her Diet, and the members are being worked upon to sign a certain bond, during the prorogation, by virtue of which they promise to compel the Government to yield to the Frankfort Diet. The King of Prussia also, pressed by the same urgent enthusiasts, finding his Ministers in a minority, has in the same manner dissolved the Prussian Diet, and the blood of some Berliners has been shed in the street riots ensued. The breach between the people and the Government was thus made complete; but since, we have received intelligence that the King in a formal document, in which he recites all the difficulties of the case, has definitively refused to accept the Imperial Crown offered to him. The law of election established in the Constitution, which overthrew all barriers, threatened, the King alleges, the very existence of the principle of constitutional monarchy, and accordingly he refuses the responsibility offered him.—This important resolution has brought

about a new and more rigorous state of siege in Berlin, and Germany is in confusion in every district and principality. A vain hope is expressed that the Frankfort Assembly will yield some modification of the terms of the Constitution, but there is a pressure from without at work which precludes the possibility of any such result. Besides, with any constitution, the surrounding nations will not allow the treaties of 1815 to be altered, and everything accordingly is in the most hopeless state imaginable. Whilst these mighty events are going on in Germany, so called, the Hungarian war has assumed a most serious aspect. With a tolerable knowledge of the battle ground of the belligerents, we are quite at a loss to describe with any degree of certainty how the conflict stands. But when we state that the head quarters of the Imperialists are not at Buda, but at Raab, that a report is current that the Hungarians have seized the Schutte Island on the Danube, and that it is probably true, our readers will see at once, that Presburg is in danger, and that nothing but a total change of fortune can prevent the Hungarians from entering Austria Proper, and from appearing forthwith at the gates of the city of Vienna. We ought to correct ourselves. The interposition of the Russians may accomplish that which the fortune of arms denies. We are accordingly quite prepared for the immediate interference of the Russian forces. Indeed we are already told that a large division has already entered Cracow from the north, whilst another body is approaching from Transylvania. If, therefore, the Red Republicans have been beaten at Paris and Berlin, they are at present conquerors in the east of Europe. These events, added to the confusion which reigns in Germany, fill us with deep apprehensions. In Northern Italy we believe the terms of the Sardinian indemnity will be adjusted. The French expedition landed at Civita Vecchia on the 25th ult., and took possession of the town without a struggle. We afterwards learned the troops would not march to Rome until the Pope had consented, at the request of England and France, to give an entire amnesty to his revolted subjects. This he refused to do, and it was expected that the French would occupy Civita Vecchi for some time. However the latest news is, that the Roman Assembly having declared the French hors de la loi, the French troops, amounting to 7000 men, had marched onwards to Rome. Leghorn still holds out against its lawful sovereign the Duke of Tuscany. The Sicilians, finding themselves utterly unable to cope with the Neapolitans, have been compelled to give way. The Chambers, by considerable majorities voted for the acceptance of the mediation of the French admiral. The Ministers of the Government then resigned, but the Neapolitans having required their unconditional surrender, after some delay the Palermitans yielded at discretion. Thus terminates this headstrong rebellion, which turns out to be the work of a few daring resolute propagandists. It is most lamentable that so much blood should have been shed so wantonly and so unavailingly.—The fairest terms were offered to the Sicilians, but under the influence of some infatuation they refused them. The sequel no one could doubt. The Carlist war in Spain, since the failure of the Count of Montemolino, is drawing to a close, and the Queen, it is said was proceeding to Grenada on a visit to the Duchess of Montpensier.

The overwhelming distress which now prevails in some of the southern and western districts of Ireland exceeds anything which it has hitherto been our painful duty to record. The cholera is now added to the sad catalogue of miseries which have so long afflicted the country, and they who have struggled through the sorrows of a three years' famine, are now cut off by this frightful epidemic. Under such circumstances, the first Minister of the Crown finds himself compelled to make some additional advances more than he contemplated, from the treasury upon the credit of the Rate-in-Aid. But although that measure has passed the House of Commons, little disposition is evinced by that body to make any other uncovered advances to Ireland.

Another Overland Mail from India has brought intelligence from Bombay to the 4th April. Nothing can be more satisfactory than the progress of the division of the army under General Gilbert. On the 14th of March, at Rawal Pindee, sixteen thousand Sikhs laid down their arms in presence of the British army; and two days after the remnant of the Sikh force, together with the insurgent chiefs Chuttur Singh, Shere Singh, and thirteen other sirdars of less importance, all surren-

dered, and forty one more of their guns were given up to Gen. Gilbert. Thus no fewer than one hundred and fifty eight pieces of ordnance have fallen into our hands during the present campaign. The rebellion in the Punjab is thus effectually suppressed and terminated. General Gilbert without an instant's delay, pushed on with his force to Attock, and arrived in time to save the bridge of boats across the Indus from destruction. He immediately garrisoned the fort of Attock, and the next day took possession of the fort on the west bank of the Indus, which commands the town. Dust Mahomed has found us once again at his heels. He is flying towards the Khyber Pass, and General Gilbert has opened negotiations with the Kyberries to prevent the escape of the Dost. If his progress is intercepted, he will have no alternative but to surrender. At any rate, all his visions respecting the repossession of Peshawar are dissipated. From the Bombay reports we are led to hope that Gen. Gilbert will secure his person, which will be a fresh guarantee for the future peace of the country. We rejoice to add that Mrs Lawrence and all the other prisoners in the hands of the Sikhs, have reached Lord Gough's Camp in safety. No decision seems to have been come to respecting the future government of the Punjab; the probability is, that it has been referred to the home authorities to decide upon the question of annexation. That the administration of the country will for the future be carried on by our officers there can be no doubt: the precise forms of government has yet to be decided. It will be seen that our commercial report continues highly satisfactory.

The position and prospects of commercial affairs are still dull, consequent upon the unsettlement of political affairs on the continent. The produce markets are very quiet, and for some of the leading articles a decline in prices has been submitted to. The Cotton market has been firmer this week, and the value of American descriptions has improved, whilst that of Egyptian and Brazil has declined. The Corn trade has again become dull, and prices are falling. The Metal trade has been more inactive than last week, and prices lower. In the abundance of money no change worthy of notice has taken place; and the market for English securities is steady, with an advancing tendency.

United States News.

THEATRICAL RIOTS IN NEW YORK.

The subjoined accounts give all the particulars yet received of the fearful and disgraceful theatrical riots in New York, growing out of a dispute between Mr Macready, the great English tragedian, and Mr Forrest, the American Roscius, the beginning of which understanding commenced during the last visit of Mr Forrest to England, which was shortly after Dickens' visit to the United States. During Mr Forrest's engagement in England, sundry newspaper notices and criticisms appeared against his style of acting and speaking, in the London papers, and attempts were made to hiss him off the stage, which Mr Forrest attributed (wrongly, it appears, however) to Mr Macready; but which in reality, it is stated, proceeded from the friends of Mr Dickens, as an offset for the abuse of 'Boz' by the American newspapers and reviewers; but Mr Forrest still unfairly suspected Mr Macready, and on that gentleman's late arrival in the United States, Mr Forrest commenced the 'war' against him in the newspapers, consisting of personal abuse, threats, &c., in the most ferocious manner, to some of which attacks Mr Macready replied. The New York Herald says—'We have never believed that Mr Macready originated or stimulated the attacks on Mr Forrest in London. The whole difficulty arose as we have stated, and Mr Macready will, in a few days, publish letters from Forrest, Fonblanque, Bulwer, and others, giving testimony to that effect. In fact, Macready tried to stop these criticisms against Forrest, but could not effect it. Macready is perfectly innocent on that score, notwithstanding Forrest's belief and interminable letters in bad taste to the contrary.'

DREADFUL RIOTS IN NEW YORK.—Twenty five killed, and thirty or forty wounded.—A dreadful riot took place at the Astor Place Opera House, New York, on Monday night, 7th inst. The friends, or ruffians of Mr Forrest, took possession of the house, and drove Mr Macready from the stage. The New York Express says—'A continual shower of missiles, from parquette and gallery, upon the stage, whilst from one to thirty people were on it, an uninterrupted display of libellous placards, in the hands of men plainly visible to every body in the house—and the throwing of four chairs in quick succession from the most conspicuous part of the gallery, at a moment when the stage was filled with persons, many of whom were females,—were acts that certainly could not have been attributed to the general temper of an audience like that, any more than they could have been overlooked by an