

and continue in the finest vigor all winter. By placing a number of bottles thus filled in flower baskets, with moss to conceal the bottles, a show of evergreen is easily insured for a whole season. They require no fresh water.—*Court Journal*

European News.

Arrival of the Steamer Europa.

Willmer & Smith's European Times, April 7.

The revenue returns for the financial year and quarter ending on the 5th, show a continuous, though not very great improvement. It is true there is a decrease on the quarter of £264,093, but this has been occasioned by the stoppage of the China money, which added £455,021 to the return for the corresponding quarter of last year.

The returns show an increase of £1,169,554 in the customs revenue for the year 1848-9, as compared with that of 1847-8; in the excise revenue an increase of £569,632. There is an increase of £39,000, in the Crown Lands. In all other branches of the ordinary revenue there is a decrease; the most considerable item being one of £719,581 upon stamps. The excess of increase over decrease on the total revenue of the year (ordinary and extraordinary) is £867,289.

The result of these returns is, that in the customs revenue of the year just ended, as compared with that of the preceding year, there has been an increase of more than a million; in the excise revenue an increase of more than half a million; in the revenue from stamps a decrease of nearly two-thirds of a million; and in all other branches of revenue inconsiderable variations—in a downward direction in all of them except the crown lands. The customs revenue is obviously recovering with most rapidity from its depression. This is altogether satisfactory, and shows that the country is slowly but, we trust, surely recovering from the depression of the disastrous years of 1846-7.

The Bank of England returns during the last fortnight show the general business of the institution to be in a normal state. The bullion in the vaults is about £15,300,000; so that any drain which may arise from the United States, in order to correct the present inequality of the exchanges, may be amply met without any present alarm being excited that the efflux of bullion can possibly revive the circumstances of October, 1847. Considering the new imports of bullion from California, it can scarcely be a matter of surprise that some portion of it should find its way from hence to the United States. Money has somewhat increased in value; the lowest bank rate is 3 per cent., but with private banks the best bills can be done at about two and a half per cent. The April dividends now due will probably keep it about the present value. There is still an uneasy feeling respecting the threatened hostilities in the north of Europe; but if the Danish quarrel could be adjusted, nothing material would stand in the way of a permanent prosperity in commercial affairs. The Board of Trade returns, ending 5th of March last, exhibit very satisfactory proofs of the commerce of the country having now returned to a prosperous condition.

France, with some exceptional disturbances in the distant provinces, continues tranquil, and Louis Napoleon is proceeding in the surest path to maintain his position, by instantly suppressing domestic disorder, and by steadily avoiding any interference by force of arms in the affairs of contending nations. Notwithstanding the excitement attempted to be created by the Red Republicans, upon the question of Piedmont, Louis Napoleon and his Ministry, supported by all the rational men in France, set their faces against an armed intervention for the preventing, that which nobody contemplates, the dismemberment of Sardinia,—so that men of all parties in England consider that a great step has been made towards the pacification of the south of Europe, as the exemplary moderation of Austria gives a farther guarantee that hostilities will not be resumed upon the question of the Lombard Provinces. The proceeding of the National Assembly continue but of subordinate interest. The defeat of the Piedmontese and the abdication of Charles Albert have been communicated to them; but M. Thiers and others having explained pretty clearly that it will require eight hundred thousand men to enable France to carry on a propagandist war, and that a war with Austria and Russia will be inevitable if

France meddles by an armed intervention in Italian affairs; the Assembly, as well as the nation generally, entertain more prudent opinions than they did when Lamartine talked poetically of the treaties of 1815 being destroyed, and thus an almost universal desire to refrain from crossing the Alps is gaining ground amongst all classes. The Socialists form the chief exception: these seem incurable. In various parts of the country they foment discord, and raise emeutes. Their cry is always for blood. "Money or blood." "Houses to burn, and rich to guillotine or hang." The local authorities are compelled to call in the aid of the military to put down these disorders. The different parties are now engaged in their respective electioneering proceedings.

When we last addressed our readers war was impending in the north of Italy, and we were anticipating that either the Austrians or the Piedmontese would cross the Ticino boundary, in either case that the ruin of Charles Albert was imminent. In a brief fortnight he has fought and been conquered, and now an abdicated king—an exile in Paris. The Austrians passed the Ticino simultaneously with the Piedmontese; the latter however speedily fell back. Three successive battles ensued; in the two latter, on the plains of Vercelli, the Austrians were completely victorious. The last battle, on the 24th ult., the main army of the Austrians, some fifty thousand strong, encountered Charles Albert at Olongo, near Novara. The Piedmontese appeared to be of more than equal force. The battle was fought with terrible obstinacy; and although we hear from many quarters that the Italians shrank the contest, certain it is that Charles Albert behaved with the most distinguished bravery. Finding the day going against him he seems to have sought every opportunity to meet his death on the battle field; and whatever may be the verdict of history as to his past conduct, certain it is that nothing graced his public life so much as his last act, and his quitting it. The Austrians having completely routed the Piedmontese, and driven them to the mountains, Charles Albert abdicated the throne in favor of his son, Victor Emmanuel, and flags of truce being sent to the Austrian camp, Marshal Radetsky at once acceded to an armistice. The new king pledges himself to conclude a treaty of peace; to disband ten military corps of Hungarians, Poles, and Lombards, who are to receive an amnesty; twenty thousand Austrians are to occupy the territory comprised between the Po, the Ticino and the Sesia, and the garrison of Alessandria is to be half Austrian and half Piedmontese. The Sardinian troops are to evacuate all the territories which previous to the war did not belong to Piedmont, and the Sardinian fleet is to quit the Adriatic. Other minor points are determined; and the Austrians who had Turin open to them, have magnanimously forborne to take advantages which might have provoked the susceptibilities of France. Charles Albert fled to France, and is, in fact, in Paris with his mother, the Princess of Carignan. Little is known of the General Chezanowsky, who led the Piedmontese; but his extending his forces some fifty leagues left no doubt that the Austrians would come down in a body and cut his army in two. So it happened; and we have seen no regrets expressed at the demolition of all Charles Albert's visionary schemes of Italian independence, or of his own aggrandisement. The consequences of this important battle are scarcely yet developed in the different parts of Italy. At Turin the Red Republicans vapored immensely, and talked of fighting; but their leaders always disappeared when danger appeared, and it was plain that all resistance was useless. At Genoa the party of the movement have got up a great excitement, to such an extent as to alarm the British Consul, who protests against any act which may produce terrible consequences, and endanger the lives and property of British subjects. Our naval forces are there to protect them if needful. The Genoese have invited the Turin Government to quit that city and go to Genoa; but the fact is the Chamber at Turin is dissolved, the chief agitator has fled to France, and it is to be hoped that the Genoese, when they find that the French will not join the Propagandists, and the Austrians make themselves secure elsewhere, that the people will run to their senses. Modena, Tuscany, and Rome will probably change their views now that all hopes from Piedmont are at an end. It is generally believed that the Pope will soon be able to return to Rome, as whatever boldness the Mazzini agitators exhibit in getting up street revolutions, certain it is that their valour oozes out when they are called into the

field, and from all quarters they are charged with cowardice. The Sicilians hold out. The French and English admirals have failed to make up matters, but still the naval forces remain off Palermo. Most people think the Sicilians have had fair terms offered to them, and eventually they must accept them. Of the Hungarian war very little authentic is known, except that it rages fiercely.—Bem having gained some advantage over a body of the Russians, soon found himself overwhelmed with their numbers, and the emperor will gladly seize upon any pretext to interfere further. We shall not be at all surprised to hear that the Emperor of Russia, upon the solicitation of the Austrians, brings down a large force to crush the Hungarians. At present there seems no probable termination of this deadly struggle, carried on by both parties in the most barbarous manner. The Frankfort Parliament has finally elected the King of Prussia Emperor of Germany, and a powerful deputation has proceeded to Berlin to tender the crown of Charlemagne. At first no one believed that the King "would be so mad" as to accept the proffered honor, but now it is believed that he will, with certain conditions, so as to avoid giving offence to the other potentates of Germany. Our own opinion is, that if he should accept, either it will be a delusion and a snare, or, otherwise, if a *bona fide* acceptance, it will most certainly involve Prussia in a war with Austria and Russia. The latter power seems now resolved to put down the revolutionary spirit in Europe, and only waits the opportunity to let slip her dogs of war. We have had a succession of unauthenticated reports of the prolongation of the armistice between Denmark and Germany, which the Prussian Consul General gave out as being extended from the 26th March to the 15th inst. An official notice of the Danish consul in London, Mr Fletcher Wilson, dated the 2nd inst. denies any knowledge of such alleged prolongation: and up to the moment we are writing it is expected "that the sword must take up the question where the pen has left it." Pending the question of the choice of an Emperor perhaps hostilities may be delayed. But we must repeat, over and over again, that Denmark will not yield the Duchies: Russia will not support her just pretensions. Whether the Germans will be wise enough to yield up theirs remains to be seen. The merits of the original dispute are not in the smallest degree changed from what they were 18 months ago. Germany wants a flag, and does not hesitate a little encroachment to accomplish her desires.

INDIA.

We rejoice to state that our Indian news is of a more satisfactory character. The Sikhs have been defeated in a pitched battle; and although we are as yet unacquainted with the details, upon a consideration of all the circumstances, we are very sanguine that the present defeat will be decisive of the campaign, and that it will be altogether impossible for the enemy to rally for a long period to come. The dates are from Bombay to the 4th of March, and from near Guzerat, where the battle was fought, to the 21st of February; on which day Lord Gough and General Whish routed the enemy, and were in hot pursuit of the vanquished Shere Singh. In our last report the British army under Lord Gough was posted at Chhilaivallah, where it was strongly encamped. Shere Singh having been reinforced by the junction of Chatur Singh his father's troops took up a position to the right of Lord Gough's camp, as if with the intention of outflanking the British. Although Shere Singh resorted to many artifices to induce Lord Gough to leave his camp, and come to the attack, his lordship, now grown wiser, prudently held his position, continuing to act entirely on the defensive. Feigned attacks on the British camp were made up to the 10th of February, but Lord Gough continued immovable. On the 12th the Sikhs made a prodigious show of offensive operations, and under cover of these withdrew the whole of their army. General Gilbert then advanced to their abandoned position, the strength of which gave ample proof that Lord Gough would have erred fatally if he had ventured to attack it. The Sikhs had now disappeared; and from the road they took we do not wonder that Lord Gough was puzzled to know what had become of them. Shere Singh instead of crossing the Jhelum and falling back towards Attock, moved southwards towards the Chenab, which he attempted to cross at Vizierabad. Providentially, General Whish, with the Bombay division, intercepted his progress, having reached Ramnagar with his main body the day before the Sikhs appeared

at the ford at Vizierabad; and by a judicious detachment of 6000 men, posted at the latter ford, prevented the Sikhs from passing. Lord Gough in the meantime fell back to Sudalpoore, where the two British divisions effected a junction, and the next day they brought the enemy to a battle in the open field near the city of Guzerat; and at the period of the departure of the Bombay packet, it was only known that the Sikhs were completely routed, leaving a great portion of their guns and ammunition, as well as their standing camp in the possession of their conquerors. The official intelligence extends no further, but from the concurrent circumstances, it seems evident that the Sikhs could no longer hold the impregnable position which they had judiciously selected, on account of their want of provisions; that they had plundered the surrounding provinces to a great extent, and finding that no support came from Attock or from the east, they determined to move upon Lahore, which they hoped to reach before the Bombay column could arrive. The extraordinary exertions of General Whish, who moved 61 miles in 48 hours, defeated these manoeuvres; and his timely arrival on the banks of the Chenab frustrated all the hopes of the Sikhs. Having no longer the advantage of a field chosen by themselves, British valour prevailed, and we now hope that the war of the Punjab is virtually concluded. We rejoice that Lord Gough has had an opportunity of redeeming his honor, and hope that when the details of the last action become known to us, that it will prove less sanguinary than the previous encounters.—The city of Moulian was being fortified by the British; and it is expected to form an important depot for our manufactures and produce. The commercial news seems highly satisfactory; the usual reports will be found in another column.

Although matters on the continent of Europe are not yet satisfactorily adjusted still commercial affairs continue in a satisfactory state. The Money market continues well supplied with cash; but in the rate of discount there is not any change to report. Good bills of short dates continue in request, and the rates of such are $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Other bills and securities vary from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent. The Bank of England rate continues at 3, and money on call at 2 per cent. The Cotton market has had an improving tendency during the last week; but no change can be noted in the Grain Trade, although a rather firmer feeling has been manifested during the last few days. The tenor of our advices from the manufacturing districts are satisfactory, nevertheless less activity prevails. The Produce markets, both in London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, are steady, and a fair amount of business has been done. The accounts from Antwerp, Amsterdam, and Hamburg possess no new feature. The commercial and monetary intelligence brought by the last Overland Mail are satisfactory. A fair amount of business was doing in Calcutta and Bombay.

MURDER IN LIVERPOOL.—Liverpool, March 27.—We have this day to record the particulars of one of the most horrible and cold-blooded murders which we ever remember to have taken place in this town. About 12 o'clock to day, a boy, named William Bradshaw, was passing the house of Captain Hinrichson, who is in the employ of Messrs. James Atkin and Son, and master of the ship Duncan, at present at Calcutta. On passing Captain Hinrichson's residence he heard a loud and deep moaning, and immediately ran to the police-officer on duty in a neighboring street, and gave the alarm. The persons who first entered the house (for on knocking at the door no admission could be obtained) did so by breaking a window in the front parlour of the house, having first looked through the window, and seen three bodies lying on the floor, weltering in blood, their moans at the time being of the most pitiable description. On the arrival of the police they were of course let into the house by the men who had first entered. A few minutes afterwards Mr. Martin and Mr. Slater, surgeons, were in attendance, and seeing that life was not extinct in the 3 bodies, they gave orders for them to be at once conveyed to the Southern Hospital, which was accordingly done.—The other parts of the house were then searched, and in the back cellar was found the body of a child, lying on the floor in a pool of blood, with his throat cut, and being quite dead. The three bodies found in the front parlor were two women and a child, and they were all dreadfully beaten about the head and body. On the forehead of one of the females (recognised as Mrs. Hinrichson) there had been a dreadful blow inflicted, the forehead be-