

European News.

Arrival of the Steamer Cambria.

Willmer & Smith's European Times,
June 2.

Ireland furnishes but slender materials for comment in the events of the past week. Lord Clarendon has returned to his vice-regal residence, but has not yet intimated the intentions of Government respecting the final disposal of the state prisoners so long under sentence of death for high treason. Considerable efforts are being made by petition to procure a commutation of the capital punishment, and little doubt exists but that the whole of the unfortunate men will be transported for life. We have seen it stated that Government has held out hopes that, at some future period, the whole of the prisoners might be fully pardoned; but the smallest reflection must satisfy any one, that no Minister of the Crown ever did, or ever could, hold out a pledge which he might have no power whatever to carry into effect. We rejoice to observe that a somewhat better feeling prevails at the north respecting the Rate-in-Aid. At the meetings which have been called with a view to organise some passive resistance to the collection of the obnoxious impost, notwithstanding various schemes were proposed to evade the payment of the money, upon being successively debated, the feeling of the people showed itself decidedly in favor of obedience, and against all resistance, whether active or passive. This is precisely what we expected. It must be apparent to every man, that the present Ministers have exceeded the powers even granted reluctantly by Parliament; and whilst the south and west of Ireland are in a more deplorable condition than perhaps at any antecedent period, it is scarcely a defensible ground for a rebellious attitude, to refuse a contribution constitutionally imposed and levied, when so many voluntary sacrifices have been made by the English classes, to so much greater extent for the same object. It would only be superfluous repetition to recite all the painful circumstances which are daily reported respecting the destitution which prevails in Ireland. A statement, however, made by Mr Herbert in the House of Commons has not been contradicted, that a shipwrecked human body was cast ashore in a neighboring union to Ballingrobe, and that the corpse had actually been eaten up by a starving man and his perishing family. We trust this horrible statement will prove altogether fabulous; but, however it may be, no doubt can exist but that the misery and suffering which prevail are more extensive than almost at any former period. Lord John Russell being pressed to answer whether, under any circumstances, no further grants were to be made to Ireland beyond what would be covered by the Rate-in-Aid, finds himself in a position of great embarrassment. He perceives that Parliament is disinclined to make any further advances whatever; whilst the daily increasing destitution, and the contingency of some frightful event occurring, which may raise public sympathy and indignation, compel him to reserve to the Government the power to deal with any circumstances which may arise upon their Ministerial responsibility.

Considering the events which are going on in France and in eastern Europe, the English funds have been maintained in a very remarkable manner, and money continues abundant at 1½ per cent. on call, and the best paper is readily discountable at 2½ per cent. The Bank of England returns still exhibit a slight increase in the stock of bullion, whilst, however, the decrease of the circulation is still becoming more and more limited. The French funds during the week recovered in some degree the excessive fall which first took place when the result of the elections was known; but there is a daily increasing distrust apparent on the Bourse, the brokers refuse to carry over any account to the next month, and we are quite prepared for some serious blow to public credit, and the vigor of the authorities is so manifested as to crush the very first attempt at violence. But with such a powerful body of Socialist members in the new Assembly, all bent upon some desperate scheme to overthrow the present system, a long time must elapse before confidence can be thoroughly established. In Italy and Germany the interruption to the general course of trade is becoming seriously felt in our commercial circles at home; and the hopes so long entertained by many, that the Danish war would be brought to a conclusion, have not been realized. We think it a great misfortune that we have patterned with this question

in endeavoring to reconcile the impossible German claims with the Danish indefeasible rights; and, although we disbelieve totally the report that Russia has declared distinctly to Prussia that the entrance of her troops into Jutland would be deemed a *casus belli*, yet it must come to that in the sequel, unless the Germans, by some reaction of national feeling, can be induced to waive a foolish pretension which has only been set up by designing men for their political purposes. In the meantime the capture of vessels by sea, and the battering of towns by land, proceed without intermission, to the disgrace and reproach of all the great powers of Europe. Mercantile men begin to think that non-intervention is not always the principle most conducive to their interests.

The history of France furnishes too many instances of rapid transition from tranquillity to revolution, and from terrific excitement to holyday repose, for our readers to wonder at any results of the events of last week. It is, however, satisfactory to state that the threatening aspect of affairs at the dissolution of the National Assembly has passed over without tumult, and the new Legislative Assembly of France was formally opened on Monday last. The threats of the Montagnards to prolong their power by some *coup d'état* evaporated in empty denunciations; and the National Assembly having been closed by a long speech from the President, M. Marrast, recounting its labors from the beginning has ceased to exist, and is now merely matter for history. Upon a more close analysis of the results of the elections it does not appear that our statement last week is materially incorrect. Each party strives to make the exact numbers to favor their respective views; but it seems beyond a doubt that 230 or 240 ultra Democrats have seats in the new Chamber, whilst the Moderates, split into several parties, count rather more than 500. Now, as it was confidently anticipated that the Red Republicans would not muster above 100 votes, it is beyond controversy that their success is much greater than was expected, and being united in their purposes, ready and unscrupulous to take advantage of the divisions of the Moderates, it is difficult to imagine how the Republican Executive Government can be satisfactorily carried on. The presidents and secretaries of the standing committees show a majority for the Monarchical party of twelve out of fifteen. Count Mole, Marshal Bugeaud, Gen. Bedeau, Dupin, Remusat, M. de Broglie, Thiers, Mauguin, Arago, Gen. Cavaignac, and others, are appointed presidents, or, as we call them, chairmen. But it seems to us from the excitement already set on foot by the Red Republicans, that they meditate mischief. The Chamber was inaugurated amid hundreds of thousands of bayonets; and at one moment the fear of an invasion by the mob was so great, that the troops, previously instructed, were ordered to advance and clear the adjoining streets. In fact, if the most stringent military precautions had not been used, the day would not have passed over without bloodshed. The moment the soldiers disappeared the populace again collected, and many arrests were made. The next day the sanguinary Lagrange, at the head of a number of the Lyons representatives, entered and demanded why the Assembly was surrounded by troops; were they to intimidate the Assembly? The President, however, had sanctioned the precautionary measures taken. Lists of a new Ministry are circulated; but Dulaure will not take office with Marshal Bugeaud; another requires the retention of M. Passy, M. Falloux has also his supporters, but is left out of the new scheme, and thus France is tossed from one set of men to another, because jealousy prevails at head-quarters, and to assume the reins of power is at the present moment a duty more fraught with danger than pleasure. The Italian affair complicates the position of all parties. M. Lesseps has not succeeded in deluding the Romans so far as to allow the French troops to enter Rome, and the position of General Oudinot, with malaria threatening his army, is not pleasant.

Our latest news from Paris adds but little further development of the ministerial crisis. It is plain that personal disputes amongst the great leaders, chiefly M. Dulaure, and perhaps Marshal Bugeaud, tend to prevent the formation of a strong united Ministry, which would be able to cope boldly with the Red Republicans. The Legislative Assembly is proceeding with its preliminary business, but pending the nomination of a Ministry, the election of the President, Vice President, Secretaries, and Quæstors of Assembly, will not take place till to-day. The position of the army of Italy has not changed. No attack on Rome has yet

been made, and when General Oudinot learns the result of the French elections, it is very doubtful whether he will venture on such a step, whatever may be his instructions. In the meantime fresh reinforcements are being sent from France, and 10,000 men, with the whole of the French Mediterranean fleet, is expected to be despatched to the Gulf of Spezzia, so as to be ready to enter Italy immediately. The French General, Oudinot, has also requested the Austrian General, who was advancing on Rome from the north, to suspend his march; and seeing the evident indisposition of the Pope to avail himself in any way of French intervention, certainly the whole affair is in a most entangled state.

We have furnished our readers with all the information as it has reached us, desultory and scanty as it has been, respecting the war now going on in Hungary; but the shape which the conflict now assumes makes it more than ever important to the statesman and merchant. Prior to the interventions of the Russians it was abundantly clear that the Hungarian Generals had taken possession of nearly the whole of Transylvania—that they had pushed forward their successes to the very verge of the Hungarian western frontier—that, in fact, the whole left bank of the Danube, and a portion of the right was in their possession; whilst, in the south their commanders or allies were pushing forward their lines through Slavonia into Croatia, and were advancing over the hills to the port of Fiume, which when once in their possession, the Hungarian cause must receive a vast impulse. Without giving undue credit to the statement made, that the Captain-General Kossuth has authorized a ready cut and dried tariff to come into force provisionally, it is plain that the necessity for the free introduction of arms, ammunition of war, and all kinds of warlike accoutrements, is too great not to require that their importation should be encouraged by means of every facility. The importance of opening the port of Fiume, as a free Hungarian port, is incalculable.—With a moderate duty of 10 or 15 per cent. on cotton goods and manufactures of that class, with lower duties, or a complete freedom in the importation of all raw materials for manufactures, colonial produce, medicines, saddlery, cutlery and hardware, the English manufacturers, and those of all Europe and America, would find a new and most extensive market thereby opened to commercial enterprise. We perceive that some of our contemporaries are already "counting their gains," in the confident expectation that the Croats will not effectually resist the detachment of Hungarian forces sent to push on to Fiume. No one would rejoice at such an event more than ourselves. We think, moreover, that it is very probable that the Hungarian troops on that special service, may succeed in their attempts to secure the opening of Fiume. Such an event would assuredly form an important new era in European commerce. But it would be folly to conceal from ourselves that the Russians, in immense force are now manœuvring in the very heart of Hungary. Respecting their position and military movements we are totally in the dark. The German statements, which reach us of their force, marching and counter-marching, and plan of operations, are not in the smallest degree to be relied upon. If, once a week, we learn one single well-established fact, we consider ourselves lucky. But, judging from past history and present political appearances, we are very much afraid that Hungary, single handed, powerful as she has proved herself to be, will scarcely be able to contend successfully against the whole power of Russia now arrayed against her. If the French can be kept quiet within their territory, in that case the solution of the Hungarian quarrel may not be distant. Although the Hungarians may be overpowered in the open field, under prudent statesmen and generals they may nevertheless achieve their independence. Commercial freedom, to a greater or less extent, must inevitably follow. If Russia is wise she will yield to the general feeling prevalent in Europe, in favor of free-trade, however she may act in putting down that which she calls "the spirit of anarchy." But before these results can be secured, a decisive campaign in the field has yet to be fought; and the events going on in France and Italy must materially influence the future destinies of the Hungarians. The appearance of a Russian fleet at Fiume is what we have long expected, and plainly indicates that Russia will lose no time, during the summer, in bringing matters to a conclusion. With an immense army in the field, and an efficient fleet in the Baltic, she is in a position to enforce her views which if they are

wise and have no eye towards aggrandisement, may conduce eventually to the peace of Europe, but otherwise must inevitably end in a bloody and exterminating war. The personal regard of the Emperor of Russia for the present President of France, which has induced him to recognise the French Republic, may tend to a peaceful settlement of all the strife now going on; but it remains to be seen whether the French people can, by any means, be prevented from blindly rushing into a war. The progress of commerce and the peaceful arts, for many years to come, depend upon the events now fast coming to a crisis.

During the past week the relative position of the belligerents in the north and east of Europe, as well as that of the French in Italy, has not materially changed. But the whole system of diplomacy which has heretofore regulated the relations of one state of Europe towards the other has no longer any influence; the power of the people is brought into play instead of the caprice of courts, and as national passions find their influence extended, so are the chances multiplied against a peaceful solution of all the difficulties of the present day. A division of the Russian fleet has appeared in the Danish waters; and although we do not apprehend that the instructions of the commanders extend to any act or intervention, still their appearance at this juncture is quite significant of the intentions of the Russian Emperor. It will be seen that the frightful bombardment of Fredericia has been continued, and the town itself is now a ruin. The attempt to aggrandise Jutland, which is beyond all doubt whatever Danish ground, is not stigmatized as it ought to be by the press; but the blame of the war is laid upon diplomatists, who have no more power to stay the current of German "nationality" than they have to put a stop to all other monstrous evils which prevail, solely arising from mischievous over excitement. The termination of the war is as far off as ever. From Berlin we know very little more than the previous accounts. It seems that the western Prussian provinces have generally become more tranquillised; but passing southwards to Baden and Bavaria, and all that region, the popular chiefs are pausing to ascertain the result of the French elections; and, to speak truth, we are more alarmed for the tranquillity of that quarter of Europe, than of any other. From the vague accounts which reach us, we are led to the conviction that the whole of that populous country is in active communication with the leading Propagandists of Paris; and we have scarcely yet time to have developed the full effect of the French elections, but we have proof enough before us to show that the whole zone of country is pregnant with mischief. Propagandist chiefs are sent to Paris, whilst royal troops of doubtful fidelity are dispatched against the insurgents; the battle of freedom or order has yet to be fought. Turning to Austria, we have, as usual, little or no authentic information. We know that vast armies from Russia are now bearing down upon the Hungarians. But by the latest news Buda is positively stated to be in the hands of the Hungarians, who, either on the 21st or 22nd May, gained possession of the place by treachery, and put the whole garrison of 5 or 600 men to the sword. General Heurze fell alive though wounded, into the hands of his enemies. But whilst these otherwise important successes crown the glory of Hungarians, it is evident the certainty that the Russians have interfered is producing its inevitable effect. The Hungarians are said to be falling back with great precipitation, and it remains to be seen whether this is to entice their combined enemies into a more defensible country, or whether they are really alarmed at the approach of the Russians. We have but little authentic accounts of the progress of the Hungarians in the south. The contradictory reports reach us from Syria, a division of Slavonia; but the greatest interest is felt respecting the future commercial destiny of Fiume. Our Birmingham friends would soon supply the necessary sinews of war, in the shape of serviceable guns and percussion muskets. Beyond the fact that the emperor of Austria has had an interview with the Autocrat of Russia at Warsaw, very little is known. Saxony, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Baden, are all torn by intestine divisions. But the gradually increasing strength of Prussia, supported as the court appears to be by the vast majority of the army and the landwehr, leads to the belief that the whole of the insurrectionary movements will be put down. The Central Power, or rather the "rump" of the Frankfurt Parliament, since only 100 members now constitute "a house," is increasing in violence as it is declining in real power.