

Mr Labouchere's Bill for the relief of the mercantile marine is an admirable complement to his great measure of the repeal of the navigation laws, and if the hon. gentleman can carry out his plans, and eventually procure the consent of Parliament to the complete re-adjustment of the Merchant Seamen's Fund, he will have the credit of compassing a far greater improvement in our marine system than any of his reforming predecessors. One benefit is near and certain. On the first of October next a remission of the present light dues will take place, to the extent of nearly £100,000 a year. Of this amount £70,000 a year will be applicable to coasting vessels, and the balance, nearly £30,000 a year, will be abated from the dues levied on 'oversea' vessels. A further boon will be conceded to 'oversea' vessels, namely, by exempting them from the payment of double tolls on entering and on leaving a port in the United Kingdom; for the future the payment of one toll will suffice for the voyage. An arrangement made by the Trinity House, to extend over a series of years the payment of their existing debt, enables the body, with the concurrence of Government, to make this reduction without the intervention of Parliament. But the Legislature, next year, will be asked to authorize far greater changes. Mr Labouchere's bill proposes to relieve the vessels engaged in the 'oversea' trade, ships of the United States, for example, from the necessity of taking in pilots to conduct their vessels into our ports, provided the masters hold a certificate of qualification to pilot the vessels under their command. In order to judge of this qualification a board of Examiners will be connected with the Board of Trade, and, after examination, will confer the requisite certificates. It remains to be seen whether American and foreign captains will be disposed to submit to an examination by a British Board, formed of two naval officers connected with the merchant service, for the advantage of saving the expense of pilotage. The boon offered must be a great temptation; how far the plan proposed to test their qualifications may be acceptable, has yet to be discussed. As the bill is only placed on the table for the purpose of eliciting opinions, might we not suggest that American and foreign captains should be deemed qualified, upon producing certificates from some competent Board, each in his own country. The concession is a great one; some unobjectionable mode of working it in practice will, doubtless be devised. The pilots in the Cinque Ports are already alarmed at this meditated encroachment on their rights, and we may expect a serious opposition to the bill next session, but that some such measure will pass we have no doubt. We shall have other opportunities for discussing the other part of Mr Labouchere's bills, by which he contemplates a Radical change in the present system of contracting agreements between master mariners and seamen. For the future these contracts are to be made in the presence of a shipping officer appointed for that purpose, who will supersede the present crimping system, and will be armed with power to hear complaints, redress petty wrongs, inspect the log, which is to be rigorously kept for the future, and to stand generally, between the seaman and his employer, for the protection of the seaman. The fees of these officers will be paid by the shipowners or master, and a sum of forty thousand pounds is expected to be raised by these fees, and by the fines levied upon sailors for petty delinquencies. After providing ten thousand pounds for the payment of the shipping officers, the surplus, may, perhaps, be applied to good service pensions, or to the purchase of some decoration to be bestowed upon masters who may distinguish themselves. Impropriety of conduct will be visited by the loss of certificates. To effect these modifications an act of Parliament is of course necessary. During the recess the shipping interest will have an opportunity of considering the bearings of the very important changes now proposed, to which we shall refer more particularly at a future opportunity.

The conflicting opinions which are held by our legislators respecting the working of the poor law in Ireland threaten to neutralise completely all the endeavors now making to release the land from the grasp of bankrupt landlords, whose supineness and want of care for the poor have had so large a share in producing the existing evils, for which all good men are seeking a remedy. It was hoped that, by passing the encumbered Estates Bill, and the Poor-law Amendment Bill, limiting the amount of rates to a maximum of seven shillings, that capitalists would readily compete for the purchase of land in Ireland, and that powerful bodies, like the Corporation of London would step forward and become the possessors and regenerators of the vast estates now lying desolate in the western districts. Lord Stanley states that after he had expended about £1500 in the cost of the emigration of 375 persons from his estates, instead of receiving the benefit of his liberality, a neighboring landlord expelled the like number of paupers from his lands without furnishing the ejected parties a single farthing to enable them to quit the country, they became chargeable upon Lord Stanley's union, and his lordship is again burdened with this amount of pauperism, after having expended a large sum to get rid of it. The 12th of July has not passed over without bloodshed. A violent conflict took place between a party of Orangemen and Ribbonmen at the pass of Dolly'sbrae near Castlewellan, and several lives were lost. It appears from the evidence on the inquest which has been held on the dead bodies, that the par-

ties were not agreed which fired the first volley of musketry; but the ribandmen having at length fired at the soldiery, as Major Wilkinson describes it, "a regular round-my-hat affair," the troops interfered and put an end to the affray.

Both Orangemen and Ribbonmen appear equally to blame in the affair and it is greatly to be lamented that demonstrations on either side were permitted at all. The Repealers in Dublin have failed to procure the mention of 'Repeal' in the address to be made to the Queen at her approaching visit. Such a subject is scarcely so inviting as the Queen deserves. But some men are monomaniacs on certain subjects, and cannot apply their understanding to the practical duties of life.

Throughout the past week we have had a steady business going forward in most departments of trade. The produce markets are well supplied, a healthy feeling continues to prevail, and a fair extent of business has again been done at steady prices. The Grain Markets are dull, and prices, as the harvest approaches, shew symptoms of a decline.

We regret to state that the cholera has made a greater progress than ever, and the epidemic is now raging in many parts of the country. Within the Registrar-General's circuit of London the deaths have increased in the week from 1070 to 1369, the difference arising from cases of diarrhoea and cholera; the deaths from cholera were 339, whilst last week they were 152, and six weeks previous but 22. At Bristol it seems to rage in a very malignant form. The whole of the south coast is suffering; and at Portsmouth and Plymouth the mortality is very great. In Manchester and the neighborhood some cases have occurred, but at present there seems to be nothing like a serious epidemic in our own town, however, we are much less fortunate.

Since our last, the efforts of Lord Palmerston through our Minister at Berlin, to bring about a pacification between Denmark and Prussia, have so far succeeded as to prevail upon the negotiators of the belligerent powers to sign an armistice for the suspension of hostilities, as the first step towards a settlement of the preliminaries of peace. The agreement was signed at Berlin on the 10th inst. Our Austrian news reports the progressive advance of the Imperialists and the Russians. Buda and Pesth are both in their hands; but this we expected; it remains to be seen, whether, after Comorn has fallen, for we suppose it cannot long hold out, the Hungarians will make a stand in a general pitched battle. The moment is most critical for their final independence. Venice still holds out manfully against the Austrians. From Rome we learn that the French are not made quite so welcome by the inhabitants as they expected. Many people have been assassinated, and it will require a little time for matters to settle down. The American Charge d'Affaires has been compelled to take down his arms, in consequence of his house having been forcibly entered by the French patrol in pursuit of two deserters. We are quite in the dark whether the Pope will be permitted to return to Rome unlogged by conditions. As far as we can learn, his Holiness persists in re-assuming his spiritual and temporal throne unconditionally; whilst the feeling amongst the Romans is evidently conclusive against the future union of the two authorities. We still think the reign of the cardinals is virtually at an end.

If we refrained from alluding to the great struggle now going on in Hungary, it would seem as if we were indifferent as to which party might ultimately be predominant. On the contrary, we watch every turn of events in the hope that the great issue in which the Hungarians are engaged, may terminate in securing them a glorious independence, and placing Hungary in an honorable position among the great nations of Europe. But at present the destinies of Hungary are seriously threatened. The Russian armies certainly occupy Debreczin, Paskiewitch has entered Pesth, and the whole line of the Danube, except in the neighborhood of Comorn, is now in the hands of the Imperialists or their ally. A battle has been fought near Comorn, and Haynan, the Austrian commander in chief, claims the victory; but it was evidently quite an indecisive action. In short, the great battle which is to decide the present fate of Hungary has yet to be fought.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

Great Victory of the Hungarians over the Russians.—The Turkish Ambassador in Paris received a despatch on the 19th inst., by courier, announcing that the Polish General Bem had again completely defeated the Russians under the command of General Luders in Transylvania, and that the latter had been obliged to take refuge in Wallachia, with a small remnant of his army.

The communication between the Austrian head-quarters, which are advanced to Alt Galas, near Dotes, and the corps of Paskiewitch, posted between Waiizen and Hatvan, has been re-established by way of Pesth. The official report of Pesth and Buda has arrived in Vienna. In Comorn a white and black flag were waving on the battlements, as symbols of the contest for life or death.

The Russian General Grabb's troops occupied on the 5th, Neusohl, Kremnitz, and Schemnitz, and had met no opposition. Field-Marshal Ottinger, on the 5th, had advanced to reconnoitre from the head quarters of Jellachich with a detachment of cavalry, but was attacked by the Magyars, and driven back.

As the Ban Jellachich demanded, by a flag of truce, the garrison of Peterwardein to surrender, the commander of the garrison replied, "I know well how affairs stand, and that the so-called Ban of Croatia will soon find himself surrounded, and, with his whole army, be destroyed."

The entrance of the Austrians into Buda, and the evacuation of Pesth by the Hungarians are confirmed.

Bem has collected all his troops near Szege-din to make head against the Russians. Kosuth is not heard of. The Ban holds the enemy in check, making successful sorties. Comorn will soon be invested. The corps of General Grabbe were marching on it.

The Hungarian general, Georgey, is still alive, and in the field, in spite of the Vienna press, which has lately not only wounded and killed him, but also deprived him of his command.

ITALY.—The Roman troops who had agreed in the first instance to do duty conjointly with the French are all leaving, and the whole force remaining now amounts to less than 1000 men. Of these, many were anxious to leave, but General Oudinot would not give congés. The Pope's engineers having been asked to make a demonstration in his favor, preferred quitting the service. Thirty nine out of forty seven resigned, and all the rank and file were disbanded. The same thing occurred in the artillery, all the officers resigned, with the exception of three captains and a sergeant. The reason given is, that the French authorities refused to give them any promise or guarantee, as to the protection of the rights of the people.

General Oudinot has dismissed all the persons in office under the Republican Government and even under Pius IX, himself, and put in their places all persons whom he could find that had held office under Gregory XVI.

COLONIAL.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—The Saint John New Brunswick states that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor left Fredericton on Friday last, for the Tobique, where he would be joined by Mr John Grant, of the Crown Land Department, in order to devise measures for the permanent improvement of the River Navigation. We learn that it is His Excellency's intention to proceed up the River Tobique to its source, and thence portage to the Nepisquit, which river he will descend to the Bay of Chaleur, returning to Fredericton by way of Miramichi. His Excellency is desirous of becoming personally acquainted with the line of country proposed to be traversed by the Halifax and Quebec Railway, and will have an admirable opportunity of doing so by this route.

We copy the following items of news from the Saint John Courier of Saturday last:—

Canada papers of Monday last, received by mail this morning, give some particulars of the League, which met at Kingston on the 25th ult. The sitting opened with 118 members. Hon. George Moffat was appointed Chairman; the Secretaries were, W. G. Mack, Esq. of Montreal, and Wm. Brooke, Esq. of Sipton.

The rules of order of the House of Assembly, were adopted for the guidance of the Convention. That part forbidding members to speak disrespectfully of the Queen, the Royal Family and the Governor General, was passed after some discussion, with the Governor General's name omitted.

On the 26th, a motion submitted by Mr Wilson of Quebec, for Elective Councils, was negatived—85 to 9. The next day, the Convention decided in favor of protection to home industry, and of a reduction of official salaries; they also passed a resolution condemnatory of the Government for having taken no steps to secure the peace of the country.

A telegraphic despatch received in this city on Thursday morning, by R. Jardine, Esq., states that the Convention had decided upon recommending a federal union of the Provinces, and that the inhabitants of Kingston had determined upon presenting an address to the body, expressive of their concurrence in the proceedings of the League.

The interment of persons who had died of cholera at Quebec on Saturday last, were 41, on Sunday, 23. At Montreal on Friday the Board of Health reported 23 interments, of which nine were from cholera.

Brother Macarius, the itinerant Trappist monk, from Mount Mellaray, has fallen a victim to the cholera at Kingston.

We understand that the celebrated Professor Johnston sailed on Saturday last by the steamer from Liverpool to Halifax, on his way to the United States, which he visits on the invitation of the New York State Agricultural Society. The Government of this Province have requested him to spend a month in the Province, and to make a report on its Agricultural capabilities, which he has agreed to do; and we are informed that Dr. Robb, and James Brown, Esq., M. P., have been appointed to accompany him on his tour through the Province. We believe that he may be looked for in Saint John within the next fortnight.

At a meeting of the Saint John Agricultural Society: It having been intimated to the Society that Professor Johnston is about to visit this Province, and may be expected here in the course of a fortnight—

Resolved.—That a committee of five members be appointed to receive Professor Johnston on his arrival, and to afford him every facility and assistance in examining the County, by ac-

companied him to such districts as he may wish to visit, or in whatever other way may be most useful or acceptable, and that Mr Jardine, Mr Drury, Mr Dewar, Mr Donn, and Mr Bowes, be the Committee; and further, that if time will allow, a meeting of the whole Society be called to meet with the Professor, so that all possible advantage be derived from his visit.

Resolved.—That the foregoing Resolution be published, and a copy of the newspaper sent to each Society in the Province—to be held as a request that united action may be taken—and that if Committees are appointed, they are requested to communicate with the President of this Society, who will furnish such information as to the Professor's routes, time of arrival in different districts, &c., as he may be possessed of.

THE CHOLERA.—In New York on Monday last, the Board of Health reported 184 new cases and 81 deaths during the preceding twenty four hours.—In Albany there were 21 cases and 14 deaths in forty eight hours.—At Buffalo 141 cases and 43 deaths during the same period. There were 11 deaths from cholera at St. Louis on the 29th, and 15 from other diseases.

The Richmond papers report 12 deaths by cholera in that city during the last week, and 141 deaths since the commencement of the disease in that city.

The steamers Algoma, San Francisco, Mary, Dubuque, and Phoenix were all burnt to the water's edge at St. Louis on the 29th ult.—Total loss estimated at \$130,000. The fire originated on board the Algoma, the pilot of which boat lost his life.

AGRICULTURAL.—Various reports are in circulation regarding the Potato rot having made its appearance in different sections of the country. We have made careful enquiry, and are inclined to think that the real disease does not yet exist. From personal observation in the neighborhood of the City, (where the disease has hitherto first shown itself,) we can pronounce the crop to be healthy and luxuriant. The hay crop is also much improved within the last month, and on meadows, and even on uplands not worn out, will be a fair crop. Oats look well everywhere. Turnips on good soils and properly cultivated, promise well. There are some fields of Wheat in the vicinity, which have so far escaped the weevil and rust, and promise an abundant yield—they were from North Shore and Black Sea seed.

The Amended Charter.—We copy to-day, from the Royal Gazette of Wednesday last, the official announcement of the confirmation, by Her Majesty in Council, of the act passed at the last session of the Provincial Legislature for the amendment of the Charter of this city, with appointment of Benjamin L. Peters, Esq. to the office of Stipendiary Magistrate.

We learn that there were upwards of twenty applicants for the office to which Mr Peters has been appointed. That Gentleman has been long conversant with Magisterial duties in St. John, having been in the commission of the Peace for many years, and at times held the office of Alderman and also Mayor of the city. He may therefore be presumed to be well qualified for his new situation; and from his experience and love of system and order, we anticipate the organization of a police establishment which will redound to his credit, and retrieve the character of the city for good order in every department which comes under his surveillance. He has the power, and we give him credit for the energy and talent to carry out the expectations of all good citizens. We trust we shall not be disappointed.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.—William McLeod, William Bowser, Lestock P. W. DesBrisay, John Main, and Peter L. Smith, Esquires, to be commissioners of the sick and disabled, Seamen's Fund, in the County of Kent, under the Act 12 Vict. cap. 26.

List of Letters for June, 1849.

Remaining for delivery in the Post Office, Chatham, 15th July, 1849.

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Burk John Innkeeper | Mariner Walter do |
| British Princess barque | McLean Lanchlan do |
| 2nd mate | M Dearmid Finlay do |
| Carns Mr | McNaughton Donald do |
| Campbell D Dunlop | black river |
| Connor Lawrence care | McLaggan J W D do |
| of James M. Mano | McGrath Mary care of |
| Copp Henry sen | Andrew O'Neil do |
| Carter Francis | McKay Christy miss do |
| Duplacy Benj Glenelg | black river |
| Duall Catharine | McDonald Hugh bay |
| Chatham | do via |
| DeLany Catharine do | O'Flannigan Michael do |
| Fitzgerald M stevedor | O'Brien Mrs care of J |
| Giblin Monica miss | Noonan do |
| Guan James point'ca | Parsons M's Chatham |
| Hennessey John | Sinner Mary do |
| Haughton Michael | Shea James do |
| lower bay do via | Theragan Israel Napan |
| do Mrs do | Tierney Mrs Chatham |
| Jane brig Jas Morris | Tayte Wm lower bay |
| do Jas McPherson | do via |
| do Thomas Rugg | White Jas innkeeper |
| Kehoe John Chatham | Whitmore Thomas do |
| Kens James | Wells William do |
| Kennedy Phoebe | Ward W W harness |
| Keating John care of | waker |
| Wm Dicken | Wallace John Nelson |
| Lobban John | Williams Thomas care |
| Labej James care of | of Chas Taylor |
| Luke Pk | Ullock Thos baydown |
| Lloyd Michael Chatham | |

N. B. Persons, when asking for any of the above letters, will please to say "advertised." JAMES