

ty of annexation *this side* of the Capitol. We should at once undeceive them in this particular. By so doing, we should not only secure their lasting gratitude, but we might reasonably hope for that Reciprocity we now so much covet, and which it is alike their interest as it is ours to enjoy. At every step in our progress, we are reminded of the blundering of the Colonial Office, and the want of united, independent, and intelligent action on the part of the Colonies.

The body of a man was taken out of the water at Roxbury, near Boston, last Thursday—which so completely answered the description of the late Dr. Parkman that many persons were deceived into the belief that it was really that unfortunate gentleman. But a closer investigation convinced the most believing that it was not the Doctor, and subsequently the body was ascertained to be that of a carriage spring maker, who had been missing some weeks. Great excitement existed in Boston until it became known that the rumour, which spread like wild fire, was unfounded.

European News.

Willmer & Smith's European Times,
February 23.

The returns of the Board of Trade are regarded as the best, because the only official record of the commerce of the country. They form an excellent criterion for the guidance of the commercial classes, here and elsewhere. The declared value of our exports has been £58,848,042 during the past year, against £48,946,325 in 1848. The increase is £9,901,717; the increase, as compared with 1847 is five millions sterling. Beer, coals, machinery, and refined sugar show a decrease in the export. The decrease in the machinery amounts to £108,585. The increase in the value of exported cotton manufactures is £3,435,505, and in cotton yarn £774,089. The increase in linen manufactures is £563,024, and in linen yarn £224,201. In silk manufactures the increase is £292,238; in thrown silk £51,460; in silk twist and yarn £68,452. In woollen manufactures the increase is a million and a half; in woollen yarn £312,992. The imports show a large increase in corn, salted provisions, cotton, wool, silk, hemp, and flax.

Commercial affairs are very quiet. The price of most articles of produce continue drooping, and no symptom of restored activity is visible. The trade purchase very sparingly, and with reluctance. Whilst little demand is experienced for articles usually taken for export.

The cotton market still exhibits a downward tendency, though prices have been somewhat irregular. Spinners operate with caution, under a belief that a further decline may take place, and speculators, from the uncertainty of the coming crop, purchase to a limited extent.

The grain trade, in all its branches, remains much depressed. All articles are lower; nevertheless, the actual transactions going forward are as limited as ever.

The result of the debate on Mr Disraeli's motion cannot fail to amaze and alarm the country. The apparent weakness of the Protectionists on the opening night of the session, is in startling contrast with the force which they exhibited yesterday morning. In a house of five hundred and twenty five members, Ministers could only command a paltry majority of twenty one, on a subject involving not only their own existence, but what is of far more consequence, the progression or retrogression of free trade. Those who have hitherto been disposed to undervalue the agricultural strength in the House of Commons, and have contended that what the country has willed the House must obey, may, perhaps, be induced to revise their opinions, and take a less disinterested view of the feelings which prompt representatives in a matter vitally affecting their own purse strings.

The proposition involved in Mr Disraeli's motion was this, to relieve the landowners of taxes to the extent of £2,200,000 by throwing the amount on the consolidated fund; in other words, making the country pay that sum annually as a sop to Cerberus, because the bread of the people has been freed from the landlord's tax. Measures for the public good are often, it is needless to state, accompanied by individual suffering, but we never heard that the proprietors of the old stage coaches, which were driven off the road by the superior speed and cheapness of the locomotive engine, found any sympathy in Parliament. No member had the temerity to rise up in his place,

and propose that the proprietors of exploded vehicles should be quartered on the country for the remainder of their natural lives. The trustees of the turnpike roads, if they preferred a complaint, would be coolly told that their grievances was one which could not be listened to, as the advancement of society was the first object of a Government, quite irrespective of individual interests.

It is gratifying to see that all the men of mark, all the comprehensive intellects in the House, who possess any weight with the country, or aspire to guide the vessels of the state, voted the right way. When Sir Robert Peel does take a step in the right direction, he follows it out with consistency and spirit. His speech was a noble vindication of the policy which, although forced on him when he was in office, he adheres to because he believes that the salvation of the country is mixed up with its success. But enough remains to show that protection is not dead, nor even asleep. 'We have scotched the snake, not killed it.'

The excitement which prevailed in France during the last few weeks has gradually subsided, and, except in those departments which are continuous with Switzerland and the Rhine, the country is tranquil. In that district which is marked out as the sixth military division, there is evidently a good deal of intrigue and subdued revolutionary spirit among the Socialists, but the stern attitude assumed by the generals in command keeps in check any overt acts of violence. The whole of France is to be apportioned anew into four or five military divisions, with fresh and more stringent powers for declaring martial law, so that the entire country will be subject to the most complete military despotism. The elections for the vacancies caused by the late convictions at Versailles are now definitely fixed for the tenth of March, and the several parties are making strenuous efforts in favor of their respective candidates. It is plain that a dread of the success of the Socialist party exists to a great extent; and whilst the prefect of police recommends order and legality to be observed, he urges that the ignorant people should be enlightened upon the great social questions of the day. These elections will be a severe test of political opinions in France after two years' experience of that strangely constituted Republic. At present society is only kept together at the point of the bayonet; and the new military organization going forward must, if Louis Napoleon is to preserve his authority, terminate in a naked despotism, whatever name the Government may choose for its title. Until the result of the elections is ascertained, all attempts for the change of the constitution by violence, or otherwise, will be postponed.

The Greek question has, as we expected, dwindled into its natural insignificant dimensions, and will in few days be wholly forgotten. The French Government in the most friendly manner has offered its mediation to effect an amicable adjustment; and Lord Palmerston having accepted this offer, made through M. Drouyn de L'Hoy, orders have been sent out to Admiral Parker to desist from any further hostile proceedings. Before this took place the vessels of war belonging to the Greek Government were intercepted and brought back to harbor, with the guns of a battle ship placed in a position to command their motions. We have no doubt the question of damages claimed will now be settled upon its merits, and justice done to the parties injured.

The feeling of Russia has not yet been ascertained on the subject, but a good deal has been written to show that the intrigues of Russia in Greece are more active than ever: that 35,000 Russian troops are now in the Danubian principalities, instead of only 10,000, as stipulated by treaty; and from these facts it is inferred that Russia only bides her time to excite the Turkish Greek population to revolt, with a view to accomplish her darling object of obtaining a permanent footing in the Mediterranean, by the dismemberment of Turkey. Lord Palmerston, however, still declares his belief that Russia will withdraw her troops according to the pledges given, and, consequently, that the peace of Europe will be preserved. The Austrian Government has issued an important document, addressed to the Central Power, wherein, after an elaborate argument, she invites a Customs Congress to be convoked for the purpose of adopting a comprehensive scheme of Customs to be in force throughout all Germany; and by this Zollverein, besides removing internal restrictions of tolls, &c., it is proposed to substitute mod-

erate protective duties for prohibitive duties, and to proceed to the regulation of uniform weights and measures, postal communications, railroads, telegraphs, &c.,—in short a very large measure of commercial reform. It is altogether a step in the right direction, and, from its practical character, bids fair to be more successful than the crude schemes hitherto proposed by the other states of Germany. Great difficulties however, have to be overcome.

In Berlin the King of Prussia has formally taken the oath to the constitution. The elections, in conformity with the provisions of this constitution for the Parliament at Erfurt, are proceeding. The assassins of Prince Lichnowsky and M. Von Auerswald are at length to be brought to trial at Haynau. We regret to say that the negotiations at Berlin, with regard to the Duchies, are progressing but slowly. Prussia, in spite of Lord Palmerston's urgency, still continues to throw every obstacle in the way; but it is generally understood that Lord Palmerston has, nevertheless, advised Denmark to prolong the armistice. However this may be, the Danes themselves show every disposition to renew the war; which alternative can scarcely be avoided, if, as the King of Denmark in his late speech says, the King of Prussia continues to abet the rebellion of his subjects. The opinion of the whole of Europe is becoming more and more pronounced in favor of the entire justice of the King of Denmark's claims. If a fresh war breaks out in the spring there will be no alternative but for France and England to put a step to it under the treaty of 1720.

From Italy we have only a revival of the reports of the speedy return of the Pope to Rome, but no credit seems to attach to them.

Since the above was set in type we find that the new military arrangements, by which France is now parcelled out into four grand divisions, under as many generals who have the confidence of the Government, have at once been carried into execution; and it seems clear that Louis Napoleon, fully apprised of the machinations of the Socialists to stir up a fresh revolution, has opposed to them a vast, complete, and overwhelming military organization. Whether the insidious poison of socialism can be counteracted and extirpated by making the centre of France, where it is most virulent, one vast prison, subject to the rigour of martial law, remains to be seen. At any rate, at no antecedent period has France ever exhibited so undisguised a policy of military repression and despotism.

It was asserted with some degree of positiveness that M. Mazzina has quitted Switzerland, and is now on his way to England. The Federal Council insists upon its orders respecting the other refugees being obeyed, but there nevertheless appears a power behind, secretly working in the Cantonal Councils, which up to this period has contrived to render nugatory any effective measures. The pressure of Austria and Prussia, and indirectly, that of France, will no doubt eventually prevail in removing the unfortunate men who have taken asylum in Switzerland.

The Pope having procured a loan is actually about to return to Rome. In consequence of the continued assassination of his soldiery, General Baraguay d'Hilliers has issued a decree forbidding any one to carry knives or other weapons, under the penalty of being instantly shot.

CONTINENTAL AFFAIRS.

France.—The preparations for the expedition to the River Plate are proceeding with great activity in Toulon. The greater portion of the ships will be ready in a few days, and it is thought that the expedition will be ready to sail about the middle of the present month. The commander of the infantry of the expedition, Colonel Berin Duchateau, has arrived at Toulon from Paris.

A letter from Marseilles, of the evening of the 7th, states that there was great agitation in that city and the whole of the department. The troops had received orders to be ready for action, and ball cartridges had been supplied to the national guards. The red republicans are said to have formed a plot to take the arsenal and the prefecture by surprise: but it had been denounced in time for full precautions to be taken.

The Government, on the approach of the anniversary of the 24th February, has addressed pressing instructions to all the public functionaries, calling on them to use every means in their power to prevent any manifestations which may disturb public tranquillity.

Letters from Lyons state, that on the news of the riot which took place in Paris on Monday evening reaching that city,

detachments of soldiers were ordered to patrol the streets, and expresses sent to the neighboring towns. Otherwise the city remained perfectly tranquil. The same letters mention that measures continue to be taken by the authorities for the maintenance of tranquillity. The low reading rooms, where the socialist papers were received, have been ordered to be closed. Numerous arrests were made amongst the idle and mischievous vagrants who were known to be active in getting up insurrections. Some of the secret societies continued to meet, but they were those whose meetings had not been interrupted, notwithstanding the exertions of the police hitherto. The military authorities had prohibited all sorts of manifestations, whether by means of banquets, processions, or otherwise, under pretext of celebrating the anniversary of the 24th of February, 1848. General Gemeau, who commands the 6th Military district, had also forbidden, by proclamation, the sale of some socialist works.

Accounts from Rouen, mention that the Seine had risen there to an alarming height, and fears were entertained of rising still higher. A good deal of damage has been already done in the town. From Bordeaux the intelligence is nearly to the same effect, the Garonne having inundated the quays.

The National publishes a letter from Athens of the 29th ult., which states that Lacine, a Greek town on the frontier of Turkey, had been attacked by a band of Kalephthes. A battle was fought, but the result was unknown.

Letters from Marseilles, of the 4th, announce that 22 merchant vessels were totally lost during a terrific hurricane which prevailed on the coast of Algeria on the 27th and 28th of January last.

Hamburgh.—Letters of the 12th inst. reports the river as more free from ice. Some vessels were on their way from Cuxhaven, and in a few days free navigation is expected. Letters from Copenhagen state that an intense desire is existing for the resumption of hostilities, once unless the matter can be forthwith arranged and concluded.

Austria and Hungary.—From all parts of the country, sad accounts are received of the inundation. At Presburg the water attained greater height than was known in the memory of man; the whole city and environs are one vast sheet of water; and streets are traversed by boats.

The Wiener Zeitung, of Feb. 14, publishes an article from Pesth, which makes known the sentence passed by the court martial upon 12 officers of the 2nd infantry regiment, Emperor Alexander, several of whom were sentenced to death, others to 15, 12, 10, and 8 years' imprisonment. These have been commuted to Baron Haynau in the following manner:—Sentence of death to 15 years' imprisonment in irons; those of 15 years to 10 years; those of 10 years to 8 years; and those of 8 years to 4 years.

It also publishes the list of those whom the sentence of the court-martial was passed at Arad on the 16th Jan. The condemned are 11 in number, and lieutenants or officers belonging to the Hungarian body guard, who are sentenced respectively to death, with confiscation of property, and in one case to 10 years' imprisonment. The sentences of death were commuted by Baron Haynau respectively into 16 and 12 years' imprisonment in irons, and in one case to 10 years without irons. Accounts from Innsbruck state that a very serious collision has taken place between the private of the infantry regiment Nugent and the infantry regiment Kaiser. Thirty were wounded, two dangerously, and the occurrence has caused a very great sensation at Innsbruck.

IRELAND.

Serious disturbances have been apprehended in Limerick in consequence of the distress which prevails. A troop of dragoons was called out, and patrolled the city.

At the meeting of Repeal Association on Monday, Mr John O'Connell endorsed Lord J. Russell for his motion for relief of the Irish poor. The rent for the week was £20 9s. 8.

Abolition of the Vicereignty.—Evening Herald says.—'That with the departure of Lord Clarendon the vicereignty of Ireland shall cease and determine there is not now the shadow of a doubt. In the London Military Gazette the departure of the Guards for Dublin the month of May is regarded as a preliminary long since arranged—this step being preliminary to the periodical visitation of Her Majesty, and a sojourn in her capital of some weeks' duration in the summer.'