

Joan is broadly fringed, at short intervals with rich low lands, which afford a luxuriant vegetation. The islands which are situated in the River, in considerable numbers also possess extraordinary fertility.

[Remainder next week.]

## European News.

From Willmer and Smith's European Times, February 22.

Last week, it will be remembered, Sir Joshua Walmsley put a question to Lord John Russell in the House of Commons, relative to a Government measure for the extension of the franchise. The reply of the Premier was not over courteous, but it was clearly and distinctly intimated that the Government had no such measure to propose. On Thursday evening, Mr Locke King moved for leave to bring in a bill to make the franchise in the English and Welsh counties somewhat analogous to the franchise in the boroughs,—by giving the right of voting to all occupiers of tenements of the annual value of £10. Lord John Russell opposed the motion as was natural; but the grounds on which he did so seem a little extraordinary. He alleged as one reason that the power of the forty-shilling freeholders in the counties would be diminished by the proposed innovation. Another reason assigned was, that a desirable uniformity to the right of voting would be introduced. At the same time he announced his intention of introducing a measure for the extension of the suffrage in the next session. This intimation was too tardy to effect its object; for when the House divided, 100 members voted for the introduction of the bill, and only 52 against it, leaving the Government in the formidable minority of forty-eight. Misfortunes seldom come singly. A civil answer to Sir Joshua Walmsley, last week, would probably have averted this humiliating defeat. But, at that time, Mr Disraeli's motion had not exposed the weakness of the Government; and there was no necessity, therefore, to conciliate the liberal members. But the tables are now turned; support must be looked for out of doors; and the Minister in his hour of peril was obliged to profess intentions, the mere announcement of which at a becoming time, would have spared him this needless defeat and disgrace. The House, it will be observed, was not a thin one; nor could the Government say they were taken by surprise. The presence of 152 members on a motion brought forward by a member of the House who has attained no high standing, is beyond the average of ordinary nights, and affords indubitable proof of the statement we have made in another article, that the ground is sinking under the Whigs.

The reasons assigned by Lord John Russell for opposing Mr Locke King's motion, come with a bad grace from a Minister who now speaks so glibly about an extension of the franchise. Surely, uniformity in the franchise is a desideratum, not a drawback: and as to impairing the power of the forty-shilling freeholders, his Lordship might be talking of some beneficial interest in the mode of returning members to Parliament, which could not be introduced without positive injury to those who are in possession of the privilege. His Lordship's notions will have ample time to expand when he has sat a few years on the left of the Speaker's chair. We regret these tortuous tactics for the sake of the noble Lord himself, who possesses with all his faults, some sterling qualities. But he has been a prodigal of his popularity, and a little schooling in the "cool shade of the Opposition" cannot fail to liberalise his views, and may possibly make him a better strategist in future.

It may be well, as we are threatened with a Protectionist Ministry, to glance for a moment at the enormous strides which the foreign trade of the country has made since the introduction of the measures which freed our commerce from many of the restrictions to which it was previously exposed. The returns of the Board of Trade issued during the last few days, show that the exports from this country amounted, in 1850, to more than £70,000,000, in 1849 to £63,000,000, and in 1848 to £53,000,000—a rate of increase without a parallel in the history of the country. These were years during which there was neither speculation nor excitement. The trade was perfectly legitimate, and therefore the best test of the healthy operation of the new system.

Cotton, of course, stands foremost amongst the articles of export; the exported value amounted in 1849 to £26,775,000, in 1850 to £28,250,000. This increase is the more remarkable as the price of the fibre has increased during the last two years upwards of 75 per cent, and the contrast is the stronger if we go back 1840, when the price of the raw material was low, and when the exported value was only £21,000,000.

In woolsens the same gratifying results are seen, but in a less striking degree, owing to the low price of the article and to an improved course of manufacture. Although the increase is greatly in advance of former years, the money value from these causes, is less apparent. The activity of the woollen trade in the West Riding is reflected in the increase of the population and the prosperity of the people.

The linen trade, of which Ireland is the principal seat, has also been steadily and most satisfactorily advancing. For instance, in 1840, the exported value was £3,424,000; in 1849 £4,226,000; and last year £3,845,000.

The extended growth of flax and its combination with cotton will give a still further impetus to the energies of the sister kingdom.

But the expansion of the silk trade under the force of competition, is still more extraordinary. It was always argued that without protection the silk trade could not live—witness the results. In 1840 we exported £734,000; in 1849 £998,000; and in 1850, no less than £1,265,000, or more than seventy-five per cent. in the last year of free trade over the exports ten years ago. No stronger proof can be adduced of the beneficial results of competition to a trade which, until its energies were stirred up, was all but cuddled and protected to death.

The same happy results are witnessed in almost every other article of export. The shipping interest, too, which was depressed and always complaining in the days of protection, is now brisk and flourishing. With increasing imports and exports the mercantile marine is of necessity fully employed, and we believe that more ships are now building in the various rivers of England than at any former period of our history.

These are gratifying nuts for Lord Stanley and his Hebraic ally to crack, and they will have ample time to digest them, we hope, ere they are called upon to retard the progress of a system which is so steadily adding to the material wealth, and advancing the permanent prosperity of the country.

Political events in France have not attracted this week, so much public interest as at previous intervals; but we are very much deceived if greater intrigue and greater activity have not been brought into play, threatening, in the sequel, more danger to the peace of Europe than, perhaps at any antecedent period during the last three years. We informed our readers, last week, of the resolution taken at Dresden, under the sanction of the Emperor of Russia, to admit Austria into the new German Confederation with all her Sclavic and Italian provinces; a pretty scheme whereby the barbarian Croats from the south will be sent to Hamburg to keep down the spirit of revolution in that city, whilst the sturdy Germans will be marched southwards to crush any of M. Mazzini's exploits in that quarter. This is the German 'Unity' we have never ceased to deride and condemn, having been all along quite alive to the consequences. But, of course, far higher political considerations, as they effect the peace of the continent, are involved in this bold rash attempt of the new Holy Alliance. As we predicted, Lord Palmerston, on the part of England, has protested, in the strongest manner, that we will not permit the balance of power, as settled by the treaty of Vienna, to be disturbed, unless with the full consent of the contracting parties to that treaty. But with whatever feelings of resentment we may view this aggression, as we said last week, France is the power most immediately and directly interested in preventing its consummation. The Legislative Assembly on account of the intestine divisions, which render it powerless, has not yet pronounced its opinion; but in all the diplomatic circles in Paris the utmost excitement prevails upon the subject. Reinforcements have already been sent from Toulon to the army of Rome, which is again placed on a war footing. We are told that the Assembly is opposed to any demonstrations of energy on the part of Louis Napoleon; but this cannot last long, since it is perfectly absurd to suppose that France will abandon the foreign policy she has pursued from time immemorial. We have contradictory reports about the concentration of the Austrian forces on the frontiers of Lombardy; but it is certain that Switzerland is threatened with absorption by Germany, and the first soldier who crosses the frontiers, and enters the Cantons, would be a clear *casus belli*, and the signal for France to march her armies to the Rhine and across the Alps, and a general war would be inevitable. Napoleon at the weak periods of his career, turned to Russia for support to enable him to clutch the Imperial crown; when he became Emperor, he alternately cajoled Alexander and invaded his dominions. Louis Napoleon seems, just at this juncture, to be looking for support to Russia. Will he prefer the caresses of the Emperor Nicholas to the glory and independence of France? Our own opinion is that he cares not a rush what happens, so that he can compass his ambitious projects. Our chief regret is to see the English journals employing their influence to puff into imperial importance an adventurer, whose career furnishes but slender guarantees that he will keep peace with England if ever he should be in a position to strike at us. However, humility is the cloak worn just now; Louis Napoleon has put a stop to his receptions, sold his hunters and saddle horses, and now he drives or walks about the city of Paris affecting to make a very seedy appearance, but succeeds no better than the well-dressed 'despotic Poles,' who fatten and flourish on the Italian boulevards. The Legislative Assembly has been occupied with the law relating to Communal arrangements, and the upshot of their efforts seems likely to be the perpetuation of that centralising system which makes Paris the supreme central despotic authority, and which keeps the people in the departments in profound ignorance of the details of municipal government. This system may contrive to keep a strong executive; but as for its developing republican liberty and free institutions, it would be as idle to expect figs from thistles as free municipal government from the French communal system. General Narvaez has arrived at Paris, and has been received with a certain distinction.

Garibaldi has made his appearance near Ge-

neva. He and Mazzini with, it is said, ample means, are making extensive arrangements for the revolutionising of Italy in the Spring. All kinds of surmises are thrown out respecting their alleged intentions. Certain it is that the relations of Switzerland and Germany are very critical. Indeed, as we have said, the complication of politics arising out of the German question is very threatening. The great men Manteuffel and Schwarzenburg, and the diplomatists of first class, have again met at Dresden, no doubt with a view to reconsider the project which they have put forth as agreed upon, but which in our opinion, so far as relates to the great Central power seems as undecided as ever.

The authorities of Southampton have received official information that a number of exiles detained in Turkey would shortly arrive in port; but if we understand rightly the intelligence from Constantinople, they will be chiefly Poles, as at the last moment the Hungarians could not be induced to go on board, having been led to believe that there would be a demand for fighting labor in consequence of impending troubles in France.—All these men had received gratuities to pay their passage, with a small surplus to provide for their immediate wants.

We have very little news from Rome and Naples, but all the private letters speak of increasing anxieties respecting the movements of Mazzini and his confederates.

It would appear by the news from Alexandria that the Porte has required the Viceroy of Egypt to reduce his army to 20,000 men, place his fleet at the disposal of the Sultan, and comply with many minor arrangements of an equally unsatisfactory character. The practical reply to this has been that the Viceroy has ordered new levies of 40,000 men for his land forces and 15,000 for his navy, and he threatens to resist the Sultan's demands, if necessary by force of arms.

TRADE.—There is still much dulness in commercial affairs; nevertheless, holders of Produce continue firm in their operations, and prices of all articles are generally well supported.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

### NEW BRUNSWICK.

FREDERICTON, March 6.  
THE TARIFF.

We take the following extracts from Mr Wilmots Speech, in introducing the Resolutions on the Revenue Law, published in our last week's paper:

Upon investigating the effect of fiscal changes upon the trade of the Province they gather from the Custom House returns the following results:—

The imports and exports of the Province during the past twenty years, divided into periods of five years each, are as follows, viz:—

	Imports.	Exports.
From 1823 to 1832, in.	£3,283,159	£2,611,499
Excess of Imports,		671,660
From 1833 to 1837, in.	5,244,243	3,092,945
Excess of Imports,		2,151,298
From 1838 to 1842, in.	5,577,515	3,347,554
Excess of Imports,		2,229,951
From 1843 to 1847, in.	4,703,184	3,444,772
Excess of Imports,		1,258,412

Making a total Excess of Imports during the twenty years, of £6,311,331, sterling.

The sale of new ships in Great Britain, and freights earned are to be added to the exports, but no correct estimate can be formed. But it must be taken into consideration that a large amount of the Imports is valued at the cost of the article at the place of shipment—to which must be added commissions, freight and other charges—and probably the cost in many cases is undervalued in order to lessen the *Advalorem Duties*. It is also feared that a considerable amount is smuggled into the Province, which does not appear in the Imports. The American timber also shipped from the Province, swells up the exports, although merely passing through our waters. It is also questionable how far the value placed upon timber and deals is realised in the British markets.

Again, in referring to our trade with the West Indies, the committee found that our exports had decreased from £159,358 sterling to £4,612 sterling; while our imports had fallen off from £92,795 sterling, in 1830, to £1,254 sterling, in 1846. In our trade with the North American Colonies the result was also unfavorable. Imports had decreased from £384,792 to £163,000; while our exports had decreased from £181,022 to £82,000. That committee also found that the Province was in no better condition with reference to the trade with the United States. On this subject they say:—

Our trade with the United States shows the following results: Imports have increased from £77,000 to £312,000; exports diminished from 35,000 to 10,800.

How, he would ask, was it possible for a country to thrive under a system of trade which had produced the results already enumerated. He would now, from the same report examine what had been the effect of a different line of policy on the prosperity of the neighboring Republic. In the year 1833 the free traders were in power in the United States, and determined to reduce the duties by a scale which, at the end of ten years, would leave no article bearing a higher duty than 20 per cent, and the result was, that under the reduced duties from 1832 to 1842, the aggregate of imports from 1833 to 1837, inclusive 5 years, was \$653,473,895; and the aggregate of exports from 1833 to 1837, 5 years,

was \$540,786,580; giving an excess of Imports amounting to \$112,667,315. The aggregate of Imports from 1838 to 1842, inclusive, was \$569,748,565; and the aggregate of exports from 1838 to 1842, inclusive, was \$545,094,641; giving an excess of imports amounting to \$24,653,924. It was unnecessary for him to mention the ruin and distress which prevailed among the commercial classes and throughout the entire Union during the first five years of the period to which he alluded. It was well known that the currency was devalued, and bankruptcy and ruin prevailed over the entire country. He would now contrast this period with that which followed when the opposite party came into power and the high tariff was restored. Under the high duties from 1843 to 1847, the aggregate of imports from 1843 to 1847, inclusive, five years, was \$558,560,806; and the aggregate of exports from 1843 to 1847, inclusive, was \$560,962,657; giving an excess of Exports of \$2,401,851. From what had already been advanced, hon. members would perceive that in the United States increasing the duty on certain articles had not had the effect of lowering the amount of exports; on the contrary that measure had had the effect of stimulating the productive powers of the country, and while it restored the equilibrium between the exports and imports, it also increased the value of the exports to a large amount.

He believed there were but few in that House or in the country who would be inclined to oppose the principle involved in the resolution just read, but the misfortune was that they could not agree on the details. He (Mr Wilmot) would say at once that he was in favor of free and unrestricted trade with the British North American Colonies, and if a balance of imports should be against the Province, they would at any rate know that the payment of the difference went into the pockets of their fellow subjects, who would reciprocate with them, and not into the pockets of foreigners who shut their markets against the inhabitants of British North America. There was also another principle for which he had always contended. He would admit the necessities of life which they could not produce within the Province, at a low rate of duty, while he would lay a much higher rate on what might be denominated the luxuries or superfluities which were used only those who could afford to pay the tax. It was idle to talk about commercial prosperity in any country where its productive labor was unemployed or its exports fell short of its imports, and it was a remarkable fact, and one which he had frequently urged on the attention of the house, that whenever they had protected productive labor, the article produced in the Province had invariably fallen in price to the consumer. On a former occasion he had given candles as an instance in point, which had fallen from ten pence to seven pence half-penny per pound, although the price of tallow in the United States since the establishment of candle manufactories in the Province, had varied but very little. Candles was another; that article had fallen from five pence to two pence half-penny per pound since the introduction of manufactories of the article into this Province. Leather, castings, and a variety of other articles which they could and did manufacture in the country had fallen since such a duty had been imposed on the imported article, as it gave a stimulus to their being manufactured within the Province. In conclusion he would read an extract from the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, bearing on the subject under discussion, by which they would see that instead of meeting the wishes of the British Government by conceding reciprocity, they were about to raise the import duties on articles which they wished to exclude, or to check the importation of into the United States (here the hon. member read an extract from the report). In this report it is said some further modification in the tariff of the United States is required. Now this word modification meant the imposition of a higher rate of duties. It had therefore become necessary for the Representatives of the people of this Province to see if they could not devise some means by which countervailing duties should be imposed on articles from the United States, and some measure adopted by which the imports from that country could be kept within the amount of our exports to the United States. After some further remarks and advancing some further statistics, to prove the position which he had assumed, the hon. member concluded by moving the resolution which he had read.

This Resolution also passed without opposition.

March 10.

The house went into committee on a Bill (introduced by Mr Johnson) to reduce the fees of Registrars of Deeds and Wills. Under the existing law the Registrar is entitled to five shillings for recording the first five folios, or under, and 1s. for each additional folio. The new Bill proposes five shillings for the first five folios, or under, and sixpence for every additional folio. Another section of the Bill proposes to make a member of the Bar ineligible to the office. A long debate ensued. To the proposed reduction there was not much resistance, nor to the prospective exclusion of lawyers, but the immediate exclusion of lawyers was strenuously opposed. Messrs. Ritchie, Gray, Needham and Johnson pointed out in strong colors the impropriety of practising Attorneys being Registrars—first, because it gave them an undue advantage in the Courts over other members of the Bar—secondly, because many deeds were defective, and a professional man being Registrar, could, if he were so disposed, disclose the same to interested parties, and not only promote litigation but cause the ru-