

FRIDAY'S MAIL.

EUROPE.

From Willmer & Smith's European Times, May 29.

We have all along contended that the Maynooth question was purposely introduced into politics by the party in power for ends purely selfish, and if proof were required, it is to be found in the Parliamentary proceedings of the week. That there are some well-meaning enthusiasts strongly and determinedly opposed to the endowment of the Roman Catholic College it would be useless to deny; but it is also notorious that the bulk of politicians who use the cry regard it merely as an excellent device to entrap support to the falling cause of Protection. We can respect the conscientious scruples of every man, but cant is abhorrent to an honest mind, and never, on any occasion within our memory, was this miserable artifice to effect a purpose so unblushingly exhibited as in the too successful effort to bring the discussion on the Maynooth question to an untimely end.

Considerable attention has been concentrated on a statement which Lord Derby made in the House of Peers on Monday evening, to the effect that, in the judgment of his lordship, the constituencies at the ensuing election would not return to Parliament such a majority as would induce him to reimpose a tax on corn. This admission was wrung from the Premier by the taunts and sarcasms to which he was subjected on the night in question by the Duke of Newcastle, Lord Grey, and Lord Granville. In this debate the triumphant effects of Free-trade were ably and most successfully set forth, and the head of the Government, finding himself unable to contend with the weight of evidence arrayed against the policy of which he is the exponent, cut the tangled web by the above emphatic declaration. We should be glad to accept this expression of Lord Derby's opinion as sincere and final, if our faith in his previous declarations had not been a good deal shaken by the uncandid manner in which he and his subordinates have acted since their accession to power on the great question of Free-trade. Never was the theory of playing fast and loose carried to such an unblushing extent. It will be remembered that the budget of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in every feature an excellent exposition of the blessing of Free-trade. In that elaborate statement ample justice was done to the new fiscal system which the late Sir Robert Peel had the boldness to inaugurate; but in three or four days after Mr Disraeli, having been rated, it is said, in the interval by his principal, and taken to task for his too enlightened views by his followers, did not hesitate, for party purposes, to retract all that he had said by declaring that his views on the subject of Protection were unchanged. Even Lord Derby, in the very debate to which we now refer, neutralised, as far as he could, the good effects of his own voluntary admission respecting the probable composition of the new House of Commons, by one of those strange and mysterious announcements respecting measures of relief to the agriculturists, in which the leader of the House of Commons sometimes indulges, and which may be held to mean anything or nothing, according to the construction which the reader puts upon the words.

We are glad to learn, by the latest accounts from the River Plate, that the expulsion of Rosas is likely to be followed by a course of policy on the part of the States known as the "Argentine Confederation," which will prove beneficial to the commerce of the world. It is useless now to descant on the tyranny and brutality of the ex-Dictator. Like all persons who rule by brute force, his system was not only oppressive but expensive. His necessities compelled exactions and confiscations, and he long maintained his power by the enforcement of enormous duties levied on goods landed at Buenos Ayres for transmission into the interior. These duties will now be reduced to an infinitesimal sum, and the result cannot fail to greatly expand our trade with the Plate and its great tributaries. The policy which has been pursued in Buenos Ayres since Rosas was compelled to fly, has been marked by judgment and discretion; and the approaching Congress of all the States at Sante Fé will probably witness the ratification of a liberal commercial code, which will largely benefit those fine provinces, and induce the transmission of manufactures from Europe and the United States.—Trade, in every point of view, seems likely to be strengthened by the new order of things.

Not the least striking of the many political manifestoes which the approaching contest has produced, is the address of Lord John Russell to the Electors of London—It is a masterly document, and the most

striking portions are those which refer to the great success of the Free-trade experiment. The following, for instance, is terse and pointed:—

The financial results of the policy for the last ten years may be thus summed up:

1. Customs' duties have been repealed or reduced to the extent of £9,000,000.
2. Excise duties have been repealed or reduced to the extent of £1,500,000.
3. Stamp duties were reduced in 1850, to the extent of £500,000.
4. The window duties have been commuted for a house-tax, by which relief was given to the extent of £1,200,000.
5. The produce of customs, excise stamps, and taxes was, in 1842, £48,000,000; in 1851, £46,600,000. Thus, the relief to the country has been £12,200,000; the loss to the revenue only £1,400,000.

With these facts before us for our information and guidance, I can have no hesitation in accepting the challenge to decide finally, completely, and conclusively the contest between protection and free trade.

What the present Ministers may propose to the next Parliament I cannot divine. For myself I shall be ready to contend—

1. That no duty should be imposed on the import of corn, either for protection or revenue.
2. That the commercial policy of the last ten years is not an evil to be mitigated, but a good to be extended,—not an unwise and disastrous policy, which ought to be reversed, altered, or modified, but a just and beneficial system, which should be supported, strengthened, and upheld.

Few men deserve better of Ireland than Lord Clarendon. His administration of the affairs of that country during the time he filled the office of Viceroy, was distinguished by a comprehensive liberality which left nothing to be desired. In his hands the scales of justice were evenly poised, and he brought the powers of a capacious mind to bear upon the social and political amelioration of the people.

A portion of the correspondence which has taken place between Count Nesselrode and M. de Mayendorff, respecting the position and status of Louis Napoleon, has been suffered to transpire; and its contents confirm, in the most emphatic manner, the statements we have throughout made touching the disposition of the Czar of Russia towards the Imperial pretender. After an elaborate inquiry into the provisions of the treaties which form the fundamental pact of Europe, originating with those of 1814 and 1815, the fact of Louis Napoleon's election and his investment with supreme authority are declared to be an infraction of those treaties by which Napoleon renounced the thrones of France and Italy for himself and successors; and the Allied Powers pledged themselves to maintain in full vigor the perpetual exclusion of the Bonaparte family from supreme power in France. The events which have happened in Europe have prevented the powers from giving much notice to the various provisional Governments which have succeeded each other in France; but the principle of these treaties is unaffected by this. If Louis Napoleon, by a mere decoration calls himself an Emperor from personal satisfaction, *amour propre*, perhaps *Empereur à vie* might be tolerated, and diplomatic relations might still be continued with him; but if to an Imperial authority *de facto*, he presumes to add that one of *de jure*, the Czar declares that he will not permit it; as such an assumption would infringe the fundamental principles of the European Constitution. When, as it is anticipated, Louis Napoleon claims an hereditary title, with the view to be the continuator or founder of a dynasty, the Allied Powers declare that "it shall not be." If Louis Napoleon becomes Emperor for Life, the Czar intimates he will be required to give certain pledges, involving the questions of peace or war, the guarantees for the maintenance of peace, and the renunciation of all designs to found an imperial house. This remarkable correspondence is the key to the active efforts now making by the Czar, since Prince Schwartzburgh's death, to unite the German Powers in a powerful confederacy with Russia, to counteract and control the designs of Louis Napoleon. It is very plain that the Imperial Council, the wisest body in Europe, has no more confidence in Louis Napoleon's pacific intentions than we have; and the recent visit of the Czar to Vienna and Berlin has given a formal shape to his resolute determination to oppose the ambitious designs of Louis Napoleon, the moment they assume a dangerous character. M. de Heckeren has returned from Vienna and Berlin, having wholly failed to procure an interview with the Czar, and still less to influence his Councils. This repulse is not the only mortification Louis Napoleon is doomed to encounter. It is believed that the report of the Council of State will be favorable to the

competency of the Court below to try the question of the confiscation of the Orleans estates. Louis Napoleon presided on Monday at the sitting of the Council, and was informed of this adverse opinion. Our passive President lost his temper, and required M. Courdail to give in his resignation.—Other councillors also are reported to have been visited with the displeasure of the Prince, and thus this selfish robbery has brought down appropriate retribution with it.

Fresh commotions seem to have broken out in Switzerland. The Council of State of Fribourg has issued a manifesto to the people, calling upon them to put down the disturbers of the public which was threatened by a meeting proposed to be held at Possieux. M. Charles has been arrested and removed from Bule to Fribourg for greater security. A collision was much feared.

The Sultan has confirmed the arrangement with Egypt agreed upon by Foual Effendi.

Fresh contests have broken out in Algeria; various conflicts have taken place between the French and the Arabs, and considerable loss of life has been suffered on both sides.

The news from India by the Overland Mail, is at once gratifying and important. A blow has been struck which will speedily bring the Burmese war to an end. Rangoon and Matarban have been taken under circumstances judging from the quantity of cannon captured, which leaves the vanquished at our mercy.

TRADE.—During the present week we have experienced remarkable steadiness in almost all departments of business, with the exception of some temporary excitement and speculative operations in our Cotton market on Tuesday and Wednesday, and in Colonial Produce to a small extent at the beginning of the week. The extent of trade in the manufacturing districts is also as great as at any time for some years past; general employment prevails, and in several occupations there is a decided scarcity of hands. At Birmingham and at Nottingham large orders and remittances are received from the United States; producing at the former place an improved trade in the iron works, and at the latter greater activity in the hosiery branches. In the wollen districts a temporary speculative feeling sprang up, in consequence of the advance in the price of the staple at the late sales in London, as much as 10 per cent. advance in the price of Australian Wools having been given at the opening, on extensive purchases. But after time for reflection, merchants resolved not to respond to this feeling, and instead of offering higher prices for goods, in some cases a reduction was successfully insisted upon. This wholly unlooked for result has had the effect of checking that pell-mell race, for buying up a commodity at the first intimation of even a possible scarcity, and the alarm prevalent a few weeks back as to the Australian flocks has proved, by the prompt and vigorous measures taken here, to be now wholly insubstantial. It is clear beyond all dispute, that the present year's clip of Australian wool has been secured, and the decided movement for emigration now manifesting itself in all parts of the country, with the good supply of shipping at hand, will enhance to a high degree the prosperity of Australia as well as improve the moral tone of the colony, and add to the security of the peace and property of those who are already settled there. We have to announce several failures of mercantile firms since our last. Mr. John Birse, flax-spinner of Dundee, has stopped with liabilities at upwards of £39,000, and assets to not more than 2s. in the pound; Messrs. Rindlar and Boid, of Belfast, have also suspended payment; but in this case it is satisfactory to be able to state that although the liabilities were at first grossly exaggerated, even to as high a sum as £300,000, the real state of affairs is, that time only was required, £20,000, will pay off all, and the firm have completed the necessary arrangements to pay 20s. in the pound, and go on. We are not enabled to speak in so satisfactory a manner of the stoppage yesterday of Messrs. George Baker & Son, in consequence of difficulties connected with railway transactions; in this case the precise amount of deficiency has not transpired, but it is generally believed to be considerable, and that the estate will prove eminently a "poor" one.

LATEST NEWS

Germany, Berlin, May 25.—The South German journals contain lamentable descriptions of the distress in many districts. The correspondent of Nurembergh Journal gives an article communicated by the Presidency of Oborfrankin. The distress appears to be daily increasing. The price of provisions, which has fallen in other places, remains higher there than in any

other part of the kingdom. The last remains of the harvest have disappeared, and, even among the middle classes want is increasing. Weaving establishments and other branches of employment lie completely idle. What can be gained by field labour is insignificant in consequence of the minute division of holding. The last remains of household furniture are sold to procure subsistence for a day.

CASE OF GOOD HOPE.

Sir Harry Smith's Last Dispatch.—The Gazette, of the 11th instant, contains a lengthy dispatch from Sir Harry Smith, in which he assigns the following reasons for not giving up his command earlier:—He commences by stating that, at the time he received his notice of recall, "such were the prospects of the Caffre war, and so rapid the progression towards the state of things which can alone perpetuate peace, (best shown by the proclamation issued by me on the 6th February, and again enclosed,) that a sense of the duty which has guided me in the service of my sovereign and country for so many years, induced me to persevere in the preparatory steps I had taken for the expulsion from certain strongholds within the colony, of the rebel Gaikas and Hottentots, under the wily chief Macomo, a renegade, from the authority of his paramount chief, Sandilli; as, also for expelling the Gaika tribes from British Caffrari, and driving them over the great Kei."

The gallant general enters at length into a detail of various brave exploits, and thus speaks of the conduct of the troops engaged fifteen months against 25,000 savages and sturdy enemies, in an almost impassable country larger than England: "I am fully aware that I have been accused, during the progress of this campaign, of using the language of hyperbole in describing the numerous encounters which have occurred, and in giving praise to the gallant officers and troops as well as burghers. Possessing, however, some experience in war, I must maintain that such is not the case.—Troops acting in the open field expect not the stimulus of praise; the soldier sees his foe, and his British courage rises at each step; but he who, after, perhaps, a night march of great length, has to ascend mountains or penetrate dense bush and ravines, filled probably with a daring and intrepid enemy, as resolute as athletic, ready to murder any one who may fall into their hands, and whose warfare is of the most stealthy and enterprising kind, appreciates the praise of his commander, because when his acts are conspicuously daring he is conscious he deserves it. He does his duty; but human nature renders even the soldier's intrepid heart sensible of the approbation of his superior, which he is proud to know may reach the eye of his parents and friends."

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Bar of P. E. Island lately presented a highly complimentary address to the Hon. R. Hodgson, late Attorney General, on his elevation as successor to the Chief Justice Jarvis, deceased. The operation of the new system of Responsible Government transfers the right of nomination from the Colonial Office to the Local Executive. Mr Hodgson is an Alumnus of King's College N. S.

It will be seen by reference to our advertising columns, that our enterprising fellow-citizen B. Wier, Esq., in company with Mr John Fontana, has purchased from the present owner, the Magdalen Islands, with all the "privileges appertaining" to the proprietorship. These islands are conveniently situated for the prosecution of the Seal Fishery, which, as we have already had the satisfaction to record, proved in the late season, most successful. We trust that the spirited adventure of Mr Wier and his partner in this speculation, may prove as remunerative as it deserves to be.

The Ministry of the Wesleyan connexion of Methodists held their annual Conference in this city during the past week. Yesterday the new chapel, erected at the south end, was "dedicated" with observances and services usual on such occasions. The sermon of the Rev'd. Dr. Rieley, delivered at the morning service is spoken of as having been very eloquent and appropriate.—Halifax Sun.

UNITED STATES.

Duty on Foreign Coal.—The leading Protection paper in New York has failed to raise an argument in favor of our 30 per cent. duty on foreign coal, and acknowledge to the Independent his willingness to have it removed. The editor of the latter journal handles the whole subject with his usual ability in an article which we have copied in to-days paper.—International Journal.

Arrival of Thomas F. Meagher in New York.—Thomas F. Meagher, one of the Irish patriots who were convicted by the Courts in Ireland and transported to Australia, having made his escape as was reported some time ago, although subsequently contradicted, arrived in New York on Thursday last. The means of his escape is not known, but the New York Courier gives the following account rather remarkable if correct, in the