

## The Politician.

### THE BRITISH PRESS.

From the London Weekly Times.

#### THE CRY FOR BREAD IN PARIS.

We are not indifferent to the financial crisis in France, but it has not come unexpectedly.—The Minister of Finance finds reasons in the war, the cholera, the inundations, and a prolonged period of scarcity, for congratulating the Emperor that matters are not worse, while he assures him that the worst does not amount even to embarrassment, but is confined to a groundless alarm on the part of the public.—He denies any scarcity of money, and as some of his countrymen have proved that on every principle of military science, Wellington ought to have lost the battle of Waterloo, so M. Magne proves, we hope to his own satisfaction, that there ought to be no commercial difficulty or unusual demand for money in France. Still the panic is a fact—money is scarcely to be had at any sacrifice; silver is at a premium; the Bank of France has raised the rate of discount, and refused bills having more than sixty days to run; and proposals have been mooted for a suspension of cash payments. France is undoubtedly in the throes of a commercial crisis, and the effect is felt on our own exchange.—Money is tight amongst our neighbours, and the Bank of England tightens her purse strings by following the example of her French sister. All this is the natural result of the fury for gambling on the Bourse, which dates from the inauguration of the Empire. Louis Napoleon inoculated the whole French people with a desire to become suddenly rich, and the excessive speculations from which ministers and even members of the Imperial family are said to have derived immense fortunes, have come to the termination which it needed no extraordinary foresight to predict. The Emperor has, no doubt, done much to promote sound trade, but he has also assisted in blowing many bubbles. The good will remain, and France will probably be richer when the pressure has passed, but the bubbles must burst, and the sufferers will be many. The Emperor gave an undue impulse to credit, he took to himself all the merit of a fictitious prosperity, and on his head will fall the blame of the real adversity which is at hand.

Louis Napoleon desired to give employment to the workmen, and to make Paris magnificent and he has done both. He induced the municipality to engage in building operations, and private persons were led by the desire to flatter and love of gain to embark in lavish building speculations. Old houses have been pulled down and new houses have been erected.—Tortuous, narrow, and dilapidated streets, where barricades were wont to arise, made way for splendid avenues, broad and straight, which may be easily swept by the cannon, and which would, in case of need, afford free circulation to the military. Thus public tranquility and the beauty of the city were secured at one and the same time. All this construction gave abundant employment, and workmen were attracted in large numbers to the capital.—Paris is a city of palaces, and seven thousand grand houses stand in the place of less than two thousand of meaner pretensions. The razing of the old houses made lodgings scarce and dear, and the new houses have not redressed the balance, for they are too fine and the rents are too high. Our correspondent, writing on this particular, reports:—Rent has quadrupled within the last four years, and the condition of thousands, whose income has continued stationary must be deplorable. In the newly-constructed houses rent is enormously high; in some of the principal streets it is not uncommon to find a second and even a third-floor, unfurnished, let for 10,000*fr.* (400*l.*), which a few years ago might be had for less than one-fourth. But it is not merely in new constructions that this increase is found. Houses which have hardly undergone any repair—which have been untouched by the brush of the painter or varnisher—have risen with the same rapidity, so that everything like cheap or even moderate lodging is out of the question. But this is not the worst. Enormous works were promoted by the Government, amounting in the opinion of some political economists, to a reopening of the national workshops of the Republic; but neither Government, municipalities, nor private individuals can go on building forever, and so, as the works are completed, employment ceases. The workmen learned to look up to the Emperor as the source and creator of the good things they enjoyed.—They were kept in the best possible humour, and they were sincere when they shouted *Vive le Empereur*. Now that they feel the pinch of distress, they look to the Emperor for the remedy. They expect that he will still find for them work and bread. And it has been so; the Emperor not only found employment for the workmen of Paris, but he undertook that they should have cheap bread. In 1854, when food was dear in the capital, a baking bank was established on a principle of compensation. By this plan it was intended that bread should be kept cheap in time of scarcity, by subsidising the bakers out of the city funds, and that the city should reimburse itself by keeping up the price in abundant years. The first part of the operation was easily accomplished, and the municipality of Paris, incurred a debt of two millions and a half sterling, but the difficulty is to effect the reimbursement, for the citizens of Paris cannot be made to understand why they

should pay dearer for their daily bread than the inhabitants of the other cities of France.—The evil has been magnified by the meddling of the Government in the corn market. A decree prohibiting the exportation of grain diminished importation, and raised prices. Last year, when it was discovered that the harvest was short, it was officially announced that private commerce would be left to supply the deficiency. Notwithstanding this, the agents of the Government purchased largely in the United States, raising prices there, and then deluged the markets at home inflicting severe loss on the merchants. This transaction is said to have cost the Treasury about half a million, but this is nothing compared with the evil effects of checking private enterprise, and diminishing importation. The consequence is a short supply, and in case of scarcity there must be an undue rise in prices. To complete the picture, it is remarked that the Three per Cents., which on the eve of the revolution of February were at 75, are now at 68, or lower. The public alarm and general decline of confidence may be without foundation, but they exist.

The Emperor has returned from his holidays at Biarritz to find discontent at Paris. There is panic on the Bourse, distress in commercial circles, diminished employment, high rents, high taxation, scarce money, and dear food.—Murmurs and complaints are general and loud, we are told, not only among malcontents, but among men of order belonging to no party, and even some very sincere friends of the Imperial Government. Numbers in all ranks and classes are profoundly dissatisfied with the Providence they have set over them. They begin to see that the country has been too much governed, or the Government having meddled so much is blamed for a great deal that it did not cause or could not control. Then again, the Government to the popular understanding means the Emperor. You do not learn now for the first time, says a correspondent, that by the masses of the population the Emperor, and no one else, is considered as the Government: the ministers are seldom taken into account, or they are supposed by these unconstitutional reasoners to exist as a matter of form, to obey his will, and to cause it to be executed. This supposition, however flattering to Imperial vanity, is not without its inconvenience; it lays on the shoulders of one man the burden which ought to be divided among many, that is, responsibility before the public. The withdrawal, therefore, of the tutelary countenance of the Emperor cannot, in their opinion, be supplied by any other. If he is absent, nothing, they say, can go right, and his long absence at Plombiers and at Biarritz has been criticised in stronger terms than I care to repeat by those who say that it is to them alone that he owes his throne. Louis Napoleon is beginning to learn the perils of autocratic rule. He centered all authority in himself, and he has incurred a corresponding responsibility. He has neither Parliament nor Ministry to break the surge of popular indignation. The best statesmen, and the most independent public men of France have stood aloof from him. He has always wished it to be understood that he had no advisers, and there are no historic names among those who surround him. He has filled his cabinet with adventurers, and entrusted the chief offices of the State to men who did not govern, who did not administer, but obediently registered his will. Louis Philippe had great ministers, who made great mistakes, and the Revolutionary Government of 1848 comprised men of note and ability. It has been noticed that the public men of France have deteriorated under the Empire, and it is a necessary consequence of the closing of the tribune, the gagging of the press, and the prohibition of discussion in a nation long accustomed to extreme freedom in the expression of opinion. The freedom of the Emperor Louis Napoleon is critical, and he has created it for himself. He has received the incense lavishly offered up to every popular idol, but he will do well to remember that the people have sometimes broken their idols when exposed to reverse or suffering. We believe that he will tide over the present crisis, but if he be as wise and sagacious as he is reputed, he will learn from danger the prudence of associating the whole nation with him in the duties of the responsibilities of the Government. If he neglects the warning, his soul will never wear the Imperial crown of France.

There is discontent in Paris, and it has assumed an ominous expression. The first revolution was preceded by the cry of "Bread" and now the walls of Paris are placarded with the words, "Cheap Bread, or—." With these are mingled others denouncing "Death to the house-owners!" and some were inscribed, "Kill your landlord; I will kill mine!" Numerous arrests have taken place of persons supposed to have taken part in posting these threatening proclamations, but still fresh placards are revealed at the dawn of each succeeding day. The artisans of the faubourgs, we learn, make no secret of their disaffection to the Government, and deputations have waited on the Emperor, with what effect we have not yet learned. The increase of the working classes in Paris for the last five years is said to be very great, and now that there are no more public works, the Government will find it difficult to dispose of them. Political changes are rapid in France, and it would be rash to predict the results of social discontent with a Socialist Government. Louis Napoleon staked his success on temporary measures and he must have known before-hand that they would have a fixed term. He may have foreseen and pre-

pared for the crisis, or he may have blindly trusted to his fortunes. He has still on his side the traditional affection for his name, the support of the lovers of order's sake, who always arrange themselves under the banners of constituted authority, and there is no question of the fidelity of the army. We do not apprehend another revolution, and the garrison of Paris is strong enough to prevent even the beginning of a struggle in the streets.—There is no party prepared to take advantage of the errors or the possible unpopularity of the Emperor, but his capability will be tested to the utmost, and France will pass through a sharp pang before the present crisis is brought to an end. The Government must be wary when it hears the cry of "Bread" in the streets of Paris.

## Communication.

### IN MEMORY

OF THE LATE LAMENTED MRS. F——.

But late we met as strangers met—  
Yet parted, not as strangers part;  
For one short hour had wove the chain,  
Whose magic links bind heart to heart.

In cheerful, calm, and happy mood,  
She told me of the days of yore;  
When friends she loved were by her side;  
Now, dwellers upon earth no more.

She spoke of trials—these had been  
To her, as "blessings in disguise;"  
Had weaned her heart from earthly trust,  
And fixed her hope beyond the skies.

Her widowed heart—for lonely years,  
Had been her heaven-appointed lot;  
Yet, as she walk'd the "vale of tears,"  
She prayed, believed, and fainted not.

For "I have faith in God," she said—  
"Whose watchful eye and powerful arm  
Through dangers seen, and unseen led—  
And shielded me and mine from harm.

And will He not protect us still,  
And guide us safely by His care?  
Oh! may he for my children heed,  
Their mother's daily, 'hourly prayer'?"

We parted—but a few short days,  
Had mark'd time's swift, and ceaseless flight;  
When lo! disease, the spoiler came,  
And touch'd her with its withering blight.

We met again—weakened and faint,  
Upon her couch of pain she lay;  
"Have faith in God," her motto still,  
In answer to the watchword "Pray."

Again we met—but oh! how chang'd—  
Death's signet was upon her brow;  
The hand, that late in friendship warm,  
Clasp'd mine—was almost pulseless now.

The dimming eye—the quivering lip—  
The gathering stupor—shortening breath—  
And failing power of language, tell  
She treads the darkened vale of death.

But treads she the dark vale alone?  
Ask those who round her death-bed hung,  
What name her lip essayed to speak?  
'Twas "Jesus" trembled on her tongue.

Sister, farewell! the strife is o'er—  
The contest ended, victory won;  
To faith maintained, the prize is sure—  
And sure the plaudit of "well done."

Be our's thy calm, confiding trust,  
Through all Earth's scenes of care and pain;  
And when like thee, we sleep in dust,  
In Heaven we'll joy to meet again!

Chatham.

Holloway's Pills a certain cure for Determination of Blood to the Head.—Arthur Holmes, Esq., Lieut. of H. M.'s 52nd Regiment of foot, was grievously affected with this terrible malady for upwards of seven years, and while in the discharge of his duties frequently became almost senseless, and completely stupified from the attacks he suffered; finally, he became so bad he resolved on selling out his commission, and quitting the regiment, when he determined on trying Holloway's Pills, these celebrated medicines acted like a charm; they cleared the stomach, restored strength to the body, and thoroughly reinstated the constitution. He is now completely cured as much to his own astonishment, as to the delight of his friends.

### FOR SALE.

BY THE SUBSCRIBER.

Oats, C. dish, green and dry, Herring and Mac-keral, cheap for cash. W. M. F. McLAUGHLIN.  
Store adjoining Messrs. D. & J. Ritchie's store, Chatham, 25th October 1856 (6*o*.)

### DISSOLUTION NOTICE.

The Business heretofore carried under the style of KELLY & ORR, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The Subscriber thanks the Public for their past favours, and as he intends continuing on the Business himself, solicits their continuance and support.

WILLIAM KELLY,  
Chatham, October 18, 1856.

## News of the Week.

From English Papers to the 12th October. EUROPE.

ENGLAND.—Our Late Minister at Washington.

—The elevation of Sir John Crampton to be a Knight Commander of the Bath marks very distinctly the approval of the Government of the way in which that gentleman fulfilled his duties as the representative of her Majesty at Washington, and the time and manner of raising him to the dignity may be considered as intended to harmonise with the far more important indications which have been given by Lord Palmerstone of his earnest desire to avoid any unnecessary offence to the American Government. Approving as they did of Mr Crampton's conduct, under circumstances of considerable difficulty, it was, we think, the duty of the Government to show in some unmistakable way that the aspersions cast upon that gentleman's personal honour found no echo in their minds. To do so at the moment of his landing in this country would perhaps have unnecessarily ruffled our somewhat touchy cousins across the Atlantic. Accordingly occasion was taken to include Mr Crampton's name in the first list of honours to be conferred upon the diplomatic corps, and along with two other old public officers, he has been made a K. C. B. in consideration of his long and meritorious services.

Burning of a Ship.—Destruction of Human Lives.—The following details of a horrible case of piracy and burning of a ship, at Macao, has been received at Lloyd's:—

The Dutch ship Banca, Captain Heymans, 700 tons burthen, with between 300 and 400 emigrants (Coolies) for Havana, put back to Macao, about a month since, (the dispatch is dated Hong Kong, Aug. 10), with her water casks leaking and cargo shifted, having encountered boisterous weather, and on reaching the outer roads, brought to an anchor. There she remained, repairing, the officers of the ship exercising strict vigilance in preventing the Coolies going ashore, for fear they should make their escape. For three weeks, whatever discontent may have prevailed, no fears of an outbreak would seem to have been entertained until a Chinese doctor warned the captain that mischief was brewing. In preparing for such a contingency as a rising of the Coolies, the small arms were placed on the poop, and two guns were loaded with grape and pointed forward. About nine o'clock on the night of the 8th the disturbance commenced, and the crew took refuge on the poop. The captain first fired a shot or two overhead, but as that had no effect and the Coolies were advancing towards them, yelling frightfully, armed with belaying pins, bricks torn from the cooking places, &c., the captain gave order to his men to fire, and immediately a volley was poured into the infuriated mass from the two guns, and also from the small arms. This had the effect of checking and putting down the riot, and the Coolies were driven below, but they sought revenge by setting fire to the ship, and in a few minutes the captain was attacked by seeing flames issuing up from the fore-hatch.

A frightful scene of carnage followed: the Coolies rushed upon deck, and no doubt murdered all the officers of the ship, none of them or the captain having been seen since. The ship was soon a blaze fore and aft. In about an hour the mainmast fell with a crash, then the fore and mizen, and about midnight the magazines blew up with a tremendous explosion. The ship was instantly hurled to fragments, and a vast number of poor creatures, clinging on the chains, perished with her. Of the number who were on board, including crew and passengers—about 500—only 150 escaped with their lives, and the remainder were either burnt in the ship or drowned. The affair has produced great sensation at Hong Kong.

Corn Exchange, Mark Lane.—Oct. 10.—The weather since this day week has been very wet both here and in the provinces. A great quantity of rain has also fallen in Ireland and Scotland, and the reports from the last named place, we are sorry to say, are very distressing. The outstanding crops have been completely deluged with wet, and a large quantity has in consequence sprouted. But a counterpoise to this adverse state of things, it is to be hoped, will be found in the increased acreage of wheat culture over last year, it being computed at 70,000 acres. In the late districts of Ireland, the crops, though not quite secured, have sustained but little injury. The agricultural statistics place our sister Island in a very favourable position; for independent of an immense increase (83,000 acres) in her wheat production, we have the gratifying fact that she has not neglected the potatoe—the increase of the number of acres planted over 1855 being over 122,000. These satisfactory statistics, with more than an average harvest for England and Wales, must remove any delusion as to scarcity, and eventually bring prices down.

IRELAND.—The Tipperary Bank Failure.—A letter from Clonmel, dated Friday evening, states that the furniture of the worthy M. P. for Tipperary, Mr James Sadleir, was sold on the previous day in the presence of the sheriff of the county, and it realised a large sum for the benefit of the creditors of the Tipperary Bank. During the sale, the auction mart was crowded by a number of respectable persons, and the proceedings seemed to create much interest. The Limerick Observer says:—so great is the want of confidence, now felt by some of the trading and farming classes of