

The Frankfort Journal states that the Emperor of Russia, by an Ukase, has modified the Russian Tariff, so as to facilitate the importation of linen, cotton and woollen cloths, and silk mercery.

The Regent of Spain has dissolved the Cortes, and appointed a new Cortes to meet in April.

The Syrian question has been settled according to the wish of the five powers, on the terms set forth in a note to their representatives by the Reis Effendi.

The British troops on their march from Affghanistan to India, were attacked in the Khoord Cabul, Khyber, Kojuck and Bolan Passes, and several officers and men killed and wounded.

One of the most dreadful hurricanes which has happened within the memory of man, occurred on Friday the 13th ult. The destruction of shipping on the South and West Coasts of England, and the West Coast of France, accompanied with a corresponding loss of life, is truly appalling.—This hurricane had also been severely felt along the shores of the Mediterranean.

[From Willmer's News Letter.]

THE character and complexion of the incidents which have occurred in the course of the last month are neither cheering nor satisfactory. Trade and commerce are not relieved from the ruinous depression which has for a long time paralyzed their energies—the hopes of a speedy revival appears even in the minds of the most sanguine to droop—the continuance of the amicable relationships which Great Britain has maintained with some of the Continental powers is perilled by the reckless insolence of brawling and discontented demagogues—a hurricane has swept the seas and strewn the coast with the wreck of untold numbers of the mercantile marine—and to crown all, in the metropolis of the first nation in Europe the confidential Secretary of the Premier has been murdered in a public thoroughfare, and in open day!

The English Exchequer exhibits an officially declared deficiency of a million. This lamentable circumstance is by various parties attributed to various causes. The ministerial journals with all their might and main, and with all the rhetoric they can muster up, stoutly contend that the falling off in the returns, which is chiefly noted in the excise department, is attributable to the spread of tee-totalism. In spite of the dexterity of the sophistry and the brilliancy of the wit with which it is sought to delude and hoodwink the community from the detection and consideration of the actual instigating cause of the mischief, of this fact the majority of the people have satisfied themselves—that the stagnation of trade, and the increase of pauperism, render it impossible to procure those articles of luxury and convenience from which an excise revenue is usually obtained. Is it a subject which should excite astonishment or create perplexity that a nation has purposely abstained from indulging in the superfluities of life, when it is a difficult task with the majority of them to procure the meagre necessities which barely sustain it?

Our coasts were visited, on the 13th and 14th of January, with a most fearful hurricane. The exact amount of the loss which it has occasioned will perhaps never be ascertained. To a brief notice of some of the most disastrous incidents of it we are compelled to limit ourselves. The damage done on shore was not considerable. The Boston steamer *Britannia*, Captain Hewitt, was overtaken by the gale when about 500 miles to the westward of Cape Clear. This noble and well-tried vessel encountered it bravely; and, although neither observations had been made for five days, nor land seen till Bardsey Island was made, she arrived in Liverpool, in gallant trim, in fourteen days. Upwards of seventy fishing boats, with all hands, were lost off Galway Bay, and the distress which this calamity has inflicted on the population of the place is truly melancholy. On the coast of Morne, several fishing-boats were overtaken by the gale and, together with the crew of a boat which mercifully attempted to rescue them, were utterly lost. The vicinity of the catastrophe which has left fifty families destitute, is described as one wide scene of mourning. The Steamer *Monk* was lost in Carnarvon Bay, and more than thirty souls perished. The vessel which was freighted with a heavy cargo, was to say the truth, hardly sea-worthy. A magnificent ship, the *Conqueror*, of 800 tons burthen, on her voyage from Calcutta to London, was wrecked off the coast of Boulogne; of the 80 persons on board her, all, with the exception of a boy, perished. Little of the valuable cargo with which she was freighted was saved. The mishap (the third which has happened to Indiamen in the course of 18 months) is attributed to the faintness and inadequacy of the light exhibited off the coast. We are sorry to add that the bodies of the crew and passengers were stripped by the natives, and the pillaged property exposed to open sale in the neighbouring villages. The *Jesse Logan*, 1000 tons burthen, from India to Liverpool, after encountering fearful hardships in the Channel, was totally lost off the Cornish coast. The captain and crew were saved by the *Lynx*, which conveyed them safely into Cork. The *Percy Steamer* from Tynemouth to London, was totally wrecked in the gale, off Tynemouth. All the crew with the exception of a boy, saved themselves by swimming ashore. The American Packet-ship *Samarang*, was, on the same fatal night, wrecked on the Goodwin Sands. The crew with great exertions saved themselves. The vessel has totally disappeared. These are a few and but a few of the incidents of the hurricane. For the details of it we refer to the daily English Journals. But this circumstance we must not omit to state, that in the opinion of well-informed men, the tale of the direful mischief which this visitation has

caused, when it shall be accurately known, will prove to be one of the most fearful and melancholy ever narrated. The intelligence of every day's post does but swell the list of its calamities.

It is our business to detail the incidents of one of the most astounding and appalling events which a chronicler had ever to record. In a thoroughfare of the metropolis of Great Britain—in broad and bright day—and in the presence of a passing throng—a personage of exalted station—distinguished ability and blameless life, was, by the deliberate hand of a determined assassin—shot! We will not allow ourselves to extemporize those expressions of horror and indignation which the occurrence of this unnatural outrage dictates. It is enough for us that it is our painful duty to narrate it. As Edward Drummond, Esq., the Private Secretary to Sir Robert Peel, was proceeding down Charing Cross, on the 20th of January, a person immediately behind him drew a pistol from his left breast, and discharged its contents into his victim's back. A policeman, whose attention was attracted by the noise of the explosion, observed Mr. Drummond, whose coat was on fire, to reel, and immediately ran to his assistance. At the moment of his reaching the spot the assassin drew another pistol from his right breast, and presented it at Mr. Drummond. The policeman struck the pistol downwards, and its contents were lodged in the ground. It is needless to add that the miscreant was instantly secured. Mr. Drummond was promptly conducted to his brother's house in the neighbourhood. The news of the occurrence excited such a sensation in the city as has seldom been known. The most eminent Surgeons in London were called in. In their presence the ball was extracted by Bransby Cooper. It had entered between the eleventh and twelfth ribs, three inches distant from the inferior angle of the shoulder blade, perforating the midriff, grazing the fat of the left kidney and lodging in the lower part of the stomach. In spite of all the remedies which his attendants could administer, the unfortunate gentleman gradually sank, and on Wednesday morning week expired. Few men have encountered an undeserved fate more calmly or bravely than did Mr. Drummond. He confronted death with the resignation of a Christian and the fortitude of a man. Of the magnitude of the privation which the public has sustained by his death, some idea may be formed when it is known that he was successively Private Secretary to Mr. Canning, Lord Goderich, the Duke of Wellington, and to Sir Robert Peel. And who is the assassin? every one is ready to ask, by whose hand the victim fell—and what were the wrongs which he had to avenge, who did thus mercilessly snatch from society, to which he was an acquisition and an ornament, one of the most unexceptionably inestimable characters. The murderer proves to be one Daniel M'Naughten, a native of Glasgow. It appears he is the illegitimate son of a tradesman of that City, in which he himself, at one time, pursued the business of a turner. The inquiries which have been specially made into the history of his life and habits, prove him to have been a wayward, refractory, and avaricious man. When questioned by Mr. Hall, the Bow Street Magistrate, as to the motives which had actuated him to the perpetration of the murder, he answered that the Tories had ruined him—that they had driven him out of his mind—had pursued him to France, and had altogether destroyed him. It is certain that the man really is, or most deliberately pretends that he is, insane. The opinion of the medical men who have seen him appears to be, that he is not mad. The Coroner's jury who sat on the inquest on the body of Mr. Drummond, have returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder" against M'Naughten.

We have already remarked that mercantile affairs are extremely depressed, and it is of no use to disguise the fact. In the Colonial and other markets the greatest possible depression exists, whilst the home trade continues in the most unsatisfactory state, and in every department of trade there is the greatest want of confidence. The money market is equally affected. Capitalists act with the greatest caution, and with little opportunity of effecting discounts, in consequence of the scarcity of good bills, the brokers are overburdened with cash, and appear more disposed to wait the chances of future events than invest in securities, in which they see no prospect of realizing. The restrictive system adopted by foreign nations is the cause of great alarm, and the vast supplies of Cotton, Provisions, &c., which are expected from America, lead many persons to anticipate that as the Americans will not take our manufactures in return, gold will be required to meet the bills drawn on our merchants against those shipments. In the midst of this alarm, the proceedings of Parliament, which has just assembled for the dispatch of business, are watched with the utmost interest, and canvassed with the greatest freedom. A good deal of hope rests upon the belief that the Corn Laws will be repealed; but the general opinion now is, that they will not be altered in the slightest degree. Freights to the United States have, however, improved a little, and the vessels which have recently sailed have had more valuable cargoes than have been obtainable for some time past. The Liverpool Cotton market remains in a very depressed state, and prices much on the decline. The sales continue moderate in extent, but the large arrivals have produced a great disposition on the part of holders to sell.

FRANCE.—The French Chambers were opened on the 9th ult., by the King in person. His Majesty was received by deliberate civility, but was not hailed with rapturous greeting. The following is the Speech delivered on the occasion:—