

Miscellaneous Extracts.

Parliament is summoned to meet for the despatch of business on the 18th instant. The chief cause of meeting so early is said to be the alarming state of Ireland, which is represented to be in a deplorable condition. The Roman Catholic hierarchy of Ireland had an interview with the Lord Lieutenant on Monday week, in order to present a memorial on the state of the country.

The assembled prelates declared that several extensive districts of Ireland are threatened with a recurrence of the horrors of last winter; and that large masses of the people, particularly in the south and west, will perish from destitution, unless relief on an extensive scale be promptly administered. The Poor Law they denounce as inadequate to meet the emergency; and, with a somewhat incongruous intermixture of theological and political considerations, deplore the "decay of the charitable spirit of former times," and the "destruction of those asylums in which were treasured, in trust, for the indigent, the accumulations of piety, cheaply feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, educating the ignorant, and affording consolation under every infirmity that affects human nature." They, moreover, vindicate the character of the Irish people, whose present condition, they affirm, is not the result of natural indolence or improvidence, but is a consequence of those penal enactments of former times, which, though now removed, have left their fruits in the degraded social and political state of the country. And while acknowledging that "the legitimate rights of property are essential for the maintenance of society," they urge that human as well as divine laws recognise the maxim that "the labourer is worthy of his hire," and that it would be a violation of it to permit "the appropriation of the entire crops of the husbandman, without compensating him for the seed or labour expended on the cultivation of the soil."

The reply of the Earl of Clarendon to this memorial or address is conciliatory and yet firm. He deplores the fact of the wide-spread destitution thus brought under his attention by the Roman Catholic prelates; and emphatically declares that in districts where local exertions are inadequate to the relief of such "dreadful misery," the Government *will* interfere for "the preservation of human life." He admits that by former penal enactments, "industry was discouraged, property was unequally distributed, the growth of a middle class was retarded, the people were demoralised, and the whole fabric of society was rendered hollow and insecure." The remedy for such a state of things is of necessity slow and difficult: but speaking for himself, and the Government, he affirms that they "have at heart the true interests of Ireland," and are desirous of "effacing the memory of the past," by "equal laws, forbearing patience, and impartial justice," and that through these they hope to be able to "carry on the work of social regeneration," and to place the people of Ireland "in the position they ought to occupy."

With a pointed reference to his former residence in Spain, the condition of which in some respects resembles that of Ireland, the Earl of Clarendon informs the assembled prelates, that with respect to those Asylums, the destruction of which they deplore, his own experience points to "opposite conclusions," after "long residence in countries where similar establishments have existed." He understands by the periphrasis of leaving to the labourer compensation for the seed and labour he may have expended on the cultivation of the soil, the simple proposition, that "a cruel and disproportionate rent" should not be exacted, and he admits its justice. At the same time he points out that while landlords should fulfil their duties, they should not be deprived of their rights; and in no ambiguous language tells the prelates, that many of the terrible outrages which are committed against life and property, are instigated by those who will neither pay a fair rent, nor give up possession of the land.

In some districts, the Lord Lieutenant, who says he speaks from official information, states that landlords and occupiers are exerting themselves to meet the claims which are morally and legally due, and are contributing what they can to provide for "the wants and sufferings of those around them." But in other districts, no exertion whatever is making. Persons in "easy circumstances are resisting the payment of the poor-rate," many, who are well able to afford it, are not employing a single labourer; and "people not really in distress" are promoting "tumultuous assemblages," in the "vain hope of intimidating the Government to resume the public works, which led to so much demoralization." His Excellency very properly puts to the assembled prelates, if, in such circumstances, and with such evidence of wilful neglect of paramount duties, the Government would be justified in throwing upon Englishmen the burthen of supporting the Irish poor, "at a moment when in England trade and credit are disastrously low, with the immediate prospect of hundreds of thousands being thrown out of employment, and being as destitute of the means of existence as the poorest peasant in Ireland."

The frank and manly style in which the Earl of Clarendon has answered the memorial of the Roman Catholic prelates, is much approved of; and the publication of these documents, departing altogether, as they do, from cold official formalities, will do much to enlighten us all as to the actual state of Ireland, the nature and distress of Irish demands, and the duties which we ought to perform.

There was another great meeting on the subject of Tenant Right held on Sunday last, at Kilmacthomas, about fifteen miles from Waterford. Certainly, the social state of Ireland, full of evils as

it is, will not be reclaimed, until the rights of tenant and landlord are defined, and this terrible contest for the possession of land is composed by the administration of impartial law. On the following Monday, famine-stricken Ireland, stretching out her hands to impoverished England for relief, contributed, as a weekly rent, to the coffers of Conciliation Hall, the sum of ninety five pounds. But of course, the Repeal of the Union will convert Ireland into a paradise, and feed and clothe every native of the Emerald Isle. Certainly, Britain would be the least sufferer by the separation, were it not for the dreadful prospect, that in the state of wild anarchy into which Ireland would fall, self preservation, to say nothing of ordinary national prudence, might leave us no alternative but that of re-conquest, after intestine feuds had once more sunk the country into barbarism.

To add to the confusion, the Pope has sanctioned a Rescript from the Propaganda, or "Sacred Congregation," at Rome, forbidding the Roman Catholic prelates from connecting with the colleges, for the endowment of which Sir Robert Peel procured a special Act of Parliament. Irish Roman Catholics are thus to be isolated from all educational association with their Protestant fellow-subjects, and to be debarred from that intercourse in youth, which lays the foundation of mutual toleration and good-will. "True, 'tis pity; and pity 'tis, 'tis true."—*Charles Wilmer's European Mail*, Nov. 4.

One of the Paris Journals affirms that a collective note has been remitted to the Vorort by the representatives of Austria, Russia, and Prussia, disapproving of the decrees of the Diet, and that a separate note to the same effect has been sent from M. Guizot. It is added, that these Ministers have orders to leave Switzerland when hostilities commence. This has already been stated as likely to take place.

The Diet has ordered 60,000 men to be instantly put on war footing, to consist of five divisions and ten brigades.

The following is the report of the result of the affair of the British Minister, according to the same authority:—

Mr. Peel vainly waited during the evening of the 21st for the reparation which he had demanded.—On the 22d. M. Funk waited on him in plain clothes to offer reparation. But as he only presented himself in the name and the as representative of the Canton of Berne, Mr. Peel refused to receive him in that quality. He afterwards told him personally that he could not accept the excuses which he expected unless they were made by the President or Vice-President of the Vorort, or at least by two of its members. A little while after, a letter of apology was remitted to him in the name of the Vorort; but Mr. Peel declared that it was not sufficient, though he kept it. At length M. Funk, Vice-President of the Vorort, presented himself in official costume, and was admitted to Mr. Peel, followed by his *Huissier*. Mr. Peel received him in uniform having the Secretary of the Legation by his side. M. Funk told him that he deplored the accident of which he had to complain, and that he begged of him to accept the excuses of the Vorort.

A correspondent of *La Presse*, writing from Berne on the 23d ult., says that the malle-poste of the Simplon has been seized in the Valais, on the ground that it belonged to a Vaudois company.

A letter from Berne, of the 25th ultimo, mentions that the Diet held another secret meeting on that day. A despatch from the Government of St. Gall was communicated to the assembly, announcing that the revolt had been suppressed in that Canton, but that the Governments of Zurich, Argau, and Thurgau, had nevertheless, thought proper to call out the entire of their first contingents. Colonel Dufour, the Commander-in-Chief of the Federal army, took the oath in presence of the Diet, by which it was decided that orders should be forwarded that night for the levy of 50,000 men. The Diet was informed on that day that Switzerland would be surrounded by a military cordon on the side of Austria, Bavaria, Wirttemberg, and France. The Grand Duke of Baden had refused to participate in the blockade, saying he felt no apprehensions from Switzerland. The Deputy of Lucerne having asked if the levy of 50,000 men was a commencement of execution of the coercive measures, the President replied that the Diet would give its attention later to that object. M. Amrhyn, the federal chancellor, had resigned that office. As a native of Lucerne, he could not, he said, sign acts directing hostile measures against his own Canton.

It was reported at Berne, that an expedition would be immediately sent against Friburg. The prisoners recently escaped from that Canton were urging the federal directory to adopt such a course. It was believed that as the Canton of Friburg was naturally open, the federal troops might obtain an easy victory, which would tend to raise their courage, of which they have much need. The correspondent of the *Journal des Debats*, however, is of a contrary opinion. He says that Friburg is well fortified, its troops are the choicest of the confederation, and are animated with the best spirit. The Radicals, consequently, in place of achieving a victory, might meet with a serious check. The last accounts received at Berne from St. Gall, announced that the Roman Catholics of that Canton had revolted against the Government.

SIX NEW BISHOPS FOR INDIA.—It is contemplated to apply the principle of subdivision which has recently been made in the diocese of Australia to India, the whole of which enormous territory is under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the four Bishops of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and Colombo. These four sees are to be divided and six new sees formed, so that for the present there will be ten Indian Bishops instead of four, and this number will be increased as speedily as circumstances will admit.