

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.

We copy the following speech delivered at a meeting of the persons connected with the West India Colonies from the *London Morning Herald* of the 28th May:—

Mr. Bliss said, to his mind this was a terrible crisis. There was nothing of fiction in the present condition of the West India question. If the plan of Government were adopted, widows and orphans who have derived their income from the colonies, and who would be ashamed to beg, would die in silence and want. How insignificant was the question before the meeting, compared with the great effects that would follow in its train. A stranger arriving in London, and coming into that room, would imagine that some great and momentous event had happened at witnessing so large a meeting of the mercantile and shipping interests. He might think that Napoleon had risen from the dead, or that Victor Hughes had appeared again in Guadeloupe. But these would be tender mercies compared to the evils that would result from the spoliation of property in the West Indies—(hear)—and which would place all other property in danger. It may be said that the evils apprehended may be exaggerated, but in all matters of chance it was the maxim to consider the greatest probable danger. They ought to consider what they had to gain and what to lose by the plan. The production of our colonies was between ten and eleven millions annually, and the amount of our manufactures sent out was about four or five millions. Thus a tribute, or rent, was paid to the advantage of England to the extent of seven millions, and at least 250,000 tons of shipping were employed. The inter-colonial trade that was carried on had not been alluded to in the consideration of this great question. The varied interests of British commerce were in fact linked together like a chain, and if one link was broken the most serious results followed. Taking into consideration the inter-colonial trade carried on with the northern colonies and West Indies he considered the value of the trade was at least two millions more than he had stated, and employed in the whole 100,000 tons of British shipping—(hear). Another consideration was, that by interfering with the system, confidence in the Government was shaken, and when capital was invested so extensively as was the case in our colonial trade, any measures to render it less secure alienated the mind of the colonists from the Government—(hear). The aggregate of the West India trade he considered amounted to between ten and fifteen millions annually, employing above 600,000 tons and 40,000 seamen, by which the luxuries consumed in this country were brought home. The northern colonies may be affected by these consequences, and what injury may be reflected from that quarter also to the metropolitan kingdom and to the whole empire; for the British dominions are bound together by such a chain that you cannot strike out any one link without breaking the connection and impairing the power of the whole. The Canadian provinces have so much of their wealth and industry embarked in and dependent upon the West India trade, that if production is to cease in those islands, and the property of their proprietors be thus confiscated, the pecuniary and commercial loss and embarrassment to the Canadians must be great, and to them irreparable. Not only so, but their position with respect to this country would be greatly altered, and the value of their connexion with the common empire lessened, and what is scarce less, their confidence in the Imperial Government shaken, and their attachment repulsed, and their affections disheartened and alienated; for the reason given in the fable, where, when the woodman slaughtered his oxen, his faithful dogs forsook him and fled; for, said they, if our master spared not such great and useful creatures, what have we to hope from his protection? Add, therefore, the commerce and navigation of the inter-colonial trade, and take the British shipping employed between the southern colonies and foreign countries, and we have an aggregate of between five and six hundred thousand tons of ships, and nearly 40,000 seamen, and above 17,000,000 of trade, the exchange of different divisions of the British empire with each other, worth more to the whole community than the trade of the whole continent of Africa put together, and of the whole continent of Europe into the bargain, if you except from the latter two of our sometime allies, Portugal and Holland. This is the sum of what we stake down at this desperate game as if the chances were equal. Against what—for what? There may be a scheme of emancipation, which would redeem the public faith, as pledged by the resolutions of 1823 and be consistent with the safety of the colonies, the well-being of the slaves and the rights of property. Such a scheme is what we demand. But by this measure were it practicable, what have we to gain but sentimentality, and declamation and cant? We shall have the great satisfaction of having indulged the specious sensibility, the theatrical philanthropy of those who are so moved by exaggerated descriptions of evils 4,000 miles off, that they see nothing of those that really exist under their own eyes, and are ready to attempt the most dangerous and impracticable measures for the relief of the one, and will not even give time to inquire into the other. We shall gain the applause of an inconsiderable and extravagant set, whose principles, however else respectable, are certainly not those by which a great empire may be founded, or its independence upheld; and who here have nothing else to hold out to us for all these millions of wealth and power, but that some bait, which a late unwor-

thy member of their Society, whom my Lord Mayor has recently exposed, promises to the simpletons who pay him their guineas, that "we shall hear of something very much to our advantage." But surely it will be as little to the advantage of the same and character of this country as to its power and commerce, to hear it said that having instituted the slave trade, and driven the traffic, and during the last 25 years of its continuance received from the planters for the price of slaves more than would redeem the freedom of all now held in bondage, we discovered, when we had thus sold out, that slavery was inhuman, and called upon the planters to release their bondmen. Cheerfully, they answer, but restore to us their cost. We owe a heavy debt to Africa. Pay it, but not out of our pockets. The slavery of the blacks is a foul stain upon our character. Wash it out, in God's name, but not by the blood of the whites. Do not think to make atonement for the wrongs of the slave by adding this foul injustice—the confiscation of the master's property, and the peril of his life. Or does it now, indeed, become this great country, which has hitherto kept up some pretensions to high bearing and generous policy—which has so often been liberal of her treasures, to solace the calamities and even to satisfy the avarice of foreign Powers—which has paid away within no distant period millions to redeem the slaves, or purchase the cessation of the traffic from Portugal and from the United States, and has expended millions to suppress the slave trade on the African coast—does it become us now at length to be liberated at another's expense—to be generous of what is not our own—to covet that cheap liberality, that most thrifty charity, that easy and economical munificence, of taking to ourselves the whole credit of popularity of a specious action, and leaving all the costs, and risk, and ruin that must follow to be borne by those on whom we once imposed this condition, and for a price? I do not believe the people of this country can think such conduct honourable or honest. The colonial cause is beaten to its last stand and stake; and, unless taken up and saved by those here present must forever be lost. Let us then unite in one more effort to arrest the attention and course of Government and Parliament. Let us make our remonstrance strong and our complaints great, as are our dangers and our wrongs. Perhaps they will yet respect the concurrence of merchants, bankers, shipowners, proprietors, planters, manufacturers—so respectable for number, character—the share they take in the business of this great Empire, and the stake they hold in its common wealth. Perhaps your petitions may yet be received with no less regard than the petition of the 437,000 sentimental spinners who have of late had the courage to offer their counsel and advice to the British Senate, and whose counsel and advice, stranger still, the British senate seems to have the courage to adopt. Peradventure the names of those I see here about me may be thought entitled to equal weight with the Frisillias, and the Tabithas, and Dorcasas, whose knowledge of the world and its evils is derived from melodramas and novels, and who might as well petition to have the fictions of their romances realised, as pray or expect that evils the growth of four centuries are to be immediately abolished by an Act of Parliament; or to put an end to slavery by abolishing it in the colonies, when, in fact, they would perpetuate and increase it, while this country could never interfere to mitigate or to exterminate it—(hear). He hoped this country would never exhibit the spectacle of tearing to pieces its own colonies;—when that was the case, the lordship of the isles, and the supremacy of the seas would soon vanish, and to the world would be exhibited the fact, that this country was not competent to appreciate the value of her own interests.—(loud cheers.)

(From Baldwin's London Weekly Journal.)

We have accounts from the Mauritius, by which we learn that Sir Charles Colville had sailed for the Cape (where he arrived on the 20th March.) Mr. Adrian Depigny had sailed with him, and proceeds to England as a Deputy, to lay the sentiments of the inhabitants of the Mauritius before the British Government.

—Breach of Promise of Marriage.

In the Sheriff's Small Debt Court, Ayr, May 9, a cause was heard, 'Marshall v. Margaret Jack (alias Logan) and husband,' which afforded no small amusement to all present. The plaintiff, Peter Marshall a staid village schoolmaster, in the year 1820, commenced suing his addressee to Miss Margaret Logan, now Mrs. Jack, and continued to be her true lover till 1831, when she took leave of him; and in the month of January last married Robert Jack. The action was brought to recover payment for presents made by the plaintiff to Miss Logan during his 11 years of courtship, the account of which he read in court, where the lady, accompanied by her husband, attended to plead her own cause. The plaintiff's account commenced with three yards dark red ribbon, 4s. 6d., presented in 1820; and closed with three yards white pearl ribbon 4s., and one cape comb, presented the 20th of April, 1831. The entries amounted to 39, spread equally over the whole time and included various articles of female use and ornament, from a necklace, price 11s. 6d., to two white ostrich feathers, 11s. 5s. 6d. The whole amounted to 101. 10s., from which he deducted 11. 9s. 6d., the value of articles returned after his suit was rejected. The plaintiff stated that during the period of his addressing her, he had received from her several professions of esteem and regard; in which he placed confidence, and made her the presents in full expectation of a future connexion. In support of his statement

he gave entries from a diary, in which he had noted down her expressions of regard for him in the different years, and also produced some of her letters; but neither in speech nor writing did it appear that there was any violent affection. In one of her letters, in August 1830, she tells him she will wait for him in the garden till nine, but if he do not come, the disappointment to her will be but trifling. After Miss Logan's marriage the plaintiff wrote to her, not to upbraid her with inconstancy, but to request that she would, within 21 days, return every article which he had given her since 1820, without destroying or injuring any one of them, otherwise a public prosecution in open court would be the immediate consequence, and reminding her that he had returned every article she had given him, even to a pair of worn-out garters and a crooked pin. It appeared that the garters were given in exchange for his. The lady being called on for her defence, boldly denied that she had ever given the plaintiff any grounds to suppose that she meant to pass the rest of her days in his company. His presents were forced upon her, and she received them as free presents, without any pledge whatsoever; the most of them were worn out, or taken by other beaux. The plaintiff demanded that the defendant should be sworn; she was accordingly sworn, and confirmed her statement on oath. The plaintiff's suit was, in consequence, dismissed.

THE LATE DUEL AT EXETER.—Charles Milford, Robert Holland, and Captain George Halstead, were fully committed on Friday for trial at the assizes, for aiding and abetting in a duel fought at Haldon, May 10, between Sir John Jeffcott, Bart., and Peter Henniss, Esq. M.D., in which the said P. Henniss received a mortal wound. All the examinations of these parties before the magistrates have been strictly private.—B.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

(From Stewart's Telegraphic Despatch.)

We can vouch for the truth of the following singular case of speech, imparted to a young lady, the daughter of a respectable wine-merchant at Aberystwyth (Wales). This lady, who is now 22 years of age, never produced even sound of voice until she was six years old, and from that time until lately could not articulate; so that none of the enunciations had been put into practice, and all the sounds which issued from her throat passed through the nose instead of the mouth.

She was kept at school until within a year or two, and every effort was used that her teachers were capable of devising, but all to no purpose. The ordinary methods of teaching were altogether ineffectual; many medical men were consulted, but all of them, with one accord, pronounced the case irreparable. Some declared it to be an organic case, others a high roof; they agreed that it was one of some malformation, and, in general, it was defined to be a case of idiocy.

Within the last few weeks she was placed under the care of professor Sims, late of Bath. He examined her mouth and throat, and found her organs to be perfect and healthy, and undertook to effect a cure, which he has within the last week fully and satisfactorily accomplished, inasmuch that she can now converse fluently, and begins to modulate and emphasize her voice, and is capable of receiving instruction in music, and though formerly, when it was forced upon her by her preceptors, she could not even distinguish one sound from another. She is lively and cheerful.

This is, perhaps, one of the most extraordinary instances of defect of speech being effectually and almost immediately removed, and we sincerely trust that the case may be fully investigated by the medical societies, so general and valuable in London, and the details placed amongst the scientific records of the present day. We feel it a duty to give such cases the utmost publicity in our power; in the present instance the accuracy of the statement is unquestionable.

A very general rumour prevails among those who profess to be informed upon such matters, that an arrangement was made during the Easter recess for the return of Sir Robert Peel to office, and that its accomplishment only awaits the final disposal of the Irish Church Bill, and a few other measures, on which it is felt that it would not be quite consistent for Sir Robert to be committed to after the opposition which he has given to them.—Herald.

The Whig government have commenced a prosecution against the *True Sun*, on one of their most valuable allies, for counselling resistance to the assessed taxes! What will Earl Fitzwilliam say to this?—Morning Post.

The Duke of Orleans, on leaving London, has caused £400 to be distributed to the clergymen, late pensioners of the French civil list, and to distressed French families residing in England.

THE REV. ROWLAND HILL'S WILL.—The will of the late Rev. Rowland Hill has been proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, by the oaths of J. B. Wilson, Joseph Green, William James, and Samuel Long, Esquires, the executors. The personal effects are sworn to be under £18,000. One third of the property of the Rev. gentleman is bequeathed to the Rev. Bryant Hill, the brother, and his descendants. He also gives £5 to each of the women resident in the Surrey Chapel Almshouse, which it will be remembered, was founded by him some years since. Mr. Hill, during his lifetime, provided liberally for all his servants, in addition to which he leaves them 19 guineas each. The residue of the estate, after payment of these and other trifling legacies, is bequeathed to the Village Itinerary, or Evangelical Association for the Propagation of the Gospel.

LORD GAMBIER'S WILL.—The will and three codicils of the Right Hon. Lord Gambier have been proved at Doctors' Commons, and a personal property is sworn to be under the value of £30,000. His Lordship's nephews, Charles James Gambier, and Edward John Gambier, Esquires, are appointed executors. Lady Louisa Gambier, his Lordship's widow, becomes possessed of the greater part of the property during her life, and upon her decease it is bequeathed to the nephews and nieces, eight in number. His Lordship bequeathed £200 to the Foreign Bible Society, and directs that one of his old pictures, representing the action between the British and French fleets, on the 25th and 26th of January, 1783, be hung up in the painted Hall of Greenwich Hospital. He also bequeaths to his friends, Commodore Henry Boys, £50, and the Hon. Francis Monckton, £1,000.

[From the London Times.]

The choice of a husband by the Duchess de Berri has excited, as you will readily believe, a more lively sensation in the Hague than perhaps in any other part of the world. It was in the month of January, 1832, that the putative father of this last born scion of legitimacy arrived at the Hague as the diplomatic representative of the Court of the Two Sicilies, and here he remained without a day's intermission until the beginning of the present month, when he left us, with all his blushing honours thick upon him, to assume the tardy possession of his marital rights, and claim the privileges of his pseudo paternity.

Last there should be any question about the completeness of the *alibi*, it may be as well to be a little more circumstantial as to His Excellency's "whereabouts." It was, then, in the Achter de Stall Straat, at the house of Mynheer Wouters, a well-known lodging-house keeper at the Hague, that the gallant Count took up his residence towards the beginning of February, in the year 1832. In these lodgings he remained until the beginning of November last, without having ever been known to be absent for a single night.

During the nine months in question, the house of Mynheer Wouters was also occupied by a lady, distinguished in the annals of gaiety as having inspired more than one individual of note with sentiments of the tenderest description, beginning with Savary, Duke of Rovigo, then Minister of Police under Napoleon, and the Emperor's aide-de-camp, and ending—no, not ending with His Most Christian Majesty King Louis le Desiré, who conferred on her the title of his Tabatiere. The Neapolitan legation was moved in the month of November last from the Achter de Stall Straat, to the place or square called the Plein, where the Count immediately took up his residence, and it was remarked on the same day the Countess du Cayla took also her leave of Mynheer Wouters, although several months of her term were still to run, and entailed herself very quietly at the house of the apothecary, next door to the Sicilian Legation, where she also remained until the beginning of the present month, when the good people of the Hague had to console themselves as they best could for the loss of two such important personages by a thousand conjectures on the cause of their disappearance, and now and then a charitable remark on the circumstance of their having set out together in the same postchaise. If he had not, in case of need, documentary evidence in his *portefeuille*, or a willing witness in the person of his *compagnon du voyage*, to prove beyond all question that he could not possibly have participated in the political offences for which the Duchess de Berri is now a prisoner at Bayle, there would have been something like knight-errantry in his venturing within the grasp of the French Attorney-General. His *alibi*, however, is perfect, and, if need were, the whole population of the Hague, from the Majesty of Holland to the kitchen maid of Mynheer Wouters may be cited to establish it. The Duke de Bordeaux is known among the legitimates by the interesting name of the *enfant de miracle*, but there is scarcely nothing half so miraculous about the birth or conception of Henri Dieudonne as in the case of his younger sister, since one or other of the impossible conditions suggested by the poet must in this instance have been realized expressly to secure the legitimacy of the Infant Countess de Lucchesa Berri:—
"And thence ye Gods, both time and space,
"And make two lovers happy."

Last night we received by the General Steam navigation Company's mail packet, *Touret*, Hamburg papers to the 29th May. The news from Constantinople is not of later date than that which has already appeared, but the extracts from the St. Petersburg papers contain some further accounts of visits made by the Sultan to the Russian Camp. On the 27th of April, when he inspected the second division of the Russian Army, he was dressed in a hussar uniform, and it is said as he passed along the line he saluted the troops in the Russian language. He took pains to learn the words necessary for this purpose on the previous night, and also some phrases with which, on leaving the camp, he thanked his new allies. After the inspection he entered a kiosk, where General Muraviev presented to him a plan of the camp. On leaving the kiosk he appeared in a Cossack dress, with a sword by his side. The whole of the conduct attributed to the Sultan is remarkable. Whether from policy or caprice, he seems to lose no opportunity of courting the favour of the Russians: On re-embarking he promised to visit the fleet as soon as the festival of the Beiram, which was about to commence, should be over.—B.

DEAL, May 30.—The Duke of Orleans and suite arrived here from Margate about half-past 10 this morning, and after a short stay at the Three Kings Hotel (where he was met by the French Rear Admiral, Baron Mackau, and the officers of his squadron,) they proceeded to the naval yard, and were embarked on board the Rear Admiral's barge, which was in attendance, when a salute was fired from each of the French ships in succession. On his arriving alongside the French frigate *Atalante*, His Majesty's ship *Donegal*, Rear-Admiral Gage, fired a salute, and the yards of the whole fleet were manned, and the ships decorated with flags, which, from the fineness of the day, had a most imposing appearance from the shore. His Royal Highness has visited the *Donegal* and the whole of the French squadron, and was landed at the naval yard at 3 this afternoon, and will proceed hence for Dover.

DOVER, May 30.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Orleans arrived at Wright's Ship Hotel this day from Deal. His Royal Highness intends remaining here till Saturday next, that he may have an opportunity of inspecting the Castle heights, and fortifications, and the beautiful and romantic scenery with which the environs of Dover abound. To-morrow the commandant and officers of the garrison will dine with his Royal Highness at Wright's Hotel.—B.

NEGRO SLAVERY.

(From Lieutenant-Colonel Leach's *Rough Sketches*, 1831.)

"Before I bid adieu to the spot where so many of my earliest and much-valued military friends and companions were taken prematurely to their long homes, I must say a word or two on the idea which I formed of the system of slavery. I am well aware that different persons look at this question in different points of view, but I am willing nevertheless, to believe that the numbers in England who view it with the same degree of indignation, horror, and disgust which I have ever done, preponderate beyond all comparison, and that the time is not far distant when the voices of those will be silenced who are not ashamed to declare that an unfortunate negro, writhing under the lash of the merciless slave-driver, for laying his spade for a few minutes in the heat of a tropical sun, or for sum offence equally trivial, is infinitely better off, decidedly more happy and in a more enviable situation, than the labouring peasant in the mother

country. 'Facts are stubborn things,' and although many years have rolled over my head since I left the West Indies, I have not forgotten what the system of slavery was in 1802, 1804, and 1805. The first exhibition of the kind which met my eye a few days after landing in Antigua, was a huge slave-driver flogging most unmercifully an old decrepit female negro, who appeared bowed down with misery and hard labour. I know not what her offence was, but she was one of a gang, as they are termed, of negroes, of different sexes and ages, working with spades under a mid-day tropical sun. A brother officer, who was with me on a shooting excursion, felt as astonished and indignant at this unnatural and inhuman proceeding as myself, and our first impulse was to threaten to shoot the driver if he did not desist. I am not ashamed to say that, after drawing off to such a distance that our small shot could not seriously injure the vagabond, we peppered his legs pretty handsomely. That we should have adopted so summary a mode of punishment had ever lived twice as long in the world, I will not say, but my conscience has never reproached me for the steps which we took to show our disapprobation of the diabolical act. I adduce this as only one of the numerous instances of flogging which I had ocular demonstration of. I have too often witnessed the application of the lash to old and young, male and female, and have too frequently heard their cries and lamentations, ever to forget it; nor shall I ever cease to hold in utter detestation and abhorrence this infernal system. I have several times been on board vessels laden with slaves from the coast of Guinea, and I have no hesitation in saying that the most highly coloured description of this vile traffic ever given falls short of the reality of the sufferings of those cargoes of ill-treated human beings. Emancipation of the negroes must necessarily be gradual, but I am one of those who hope sincerely that it will in due time be effected.—B.

The collision between the House of Lords and Commons must be regarded with most painful interest by the lovers of their country. Much division is said to exist as to the course which shall be adopted on the Irish Church reform Bill.

"It was believed on Monday that they had made up their minds not to oppose that measure, lest the Opposition should drive Earl Grey to a new creation of Peers; but it appears that some of the Bishops, among whom, even the brother of the Premier is mentioned are determined on opposition; and it is doubtful whether a sufficient number of Tory Peers will be found to pledge themselves that they will vote against Ministers so as to make it safe for Earl Grey to let the Bill take its chance in the House of Lords. Whatever may be the result, however, as regards the intentions of the Tories in the House of Lords, we hear, from good authority, that the King is to be relied upon by Earl Grey, and that there will be a creation of Peers if it should be found necessary."

The committee of the country has assumed every appearance of an improvement. The causes for this change are various, the principal may be stated to be the long stagnation, the very depressed prices—the settlement of the Bank question—the prospect of a renewed circulation of paper by the country bankers, a great part of the most obnoxious part of Mr. Peel's Bill being removed by the making the Bank of England note a legal tender by every establishment except the bank itself and the branches of that company. The settlement of all the threatening foreign relations of the country has also given greater confidence to the moneyed and commercial interests.—London New Price Current.

DEFALCATION.—The general confidence in the legal profession is likely to be considerably shaken from the defalcation and breaches of trust lately discovered in one of the parties in a house of the first eminence as solicitors. It came to light in a most extraordinary manner, through the inadvertency of a paper being left exposed on a desk, attracting the eye of a party interested. The deficiencies are said to be over £110,000 in amount, and their disposal, to the present moment, is quite unaccountable, the only source of extraordinary expense being in the purchase of rare books, on which it is said no less a sum than £20,000 has been spent. The library, it is supposed, will produce about £17,000. Earl Romney, Sir R. Gunning, and Mr. Coke of Norfolk, are among the sufferers; one nobleman to the amount of £27,000. We understand that it has not been decided whether the firm are to appear in the Gazette.

THE KING'S ANSWER TO THE PEERS.—We have heard, and our authority is one of those on which we depend, that this same answer was still more offensive, and that it contained some allusions to the many services of the present Ministry during their tenure of office, which must have raised comparisons by no means advantageous to their predecessors.—The Duke of Wellington, we are told, received some intimation of the nature of the communication, and he forthwith conveyed a message to Lord Grey, declaring that if such an insult was offered to his friends, he would resent it in such a manner as to bring the question of the independence of the House of Peers to an immediate issue. Lord Grey and his colleagues, convinced from the character of the Duke, that the threat was not a vain one, at once abandoned the meditated insult, expunged every part of the answer which had not a direct reference to the address. This explains that Spartan localism which excited the admiration of some of our contemporaries.—Observer.

The Ministers have consented to increase the compensation to the planters to the extent of twenty millions in place of fifteen. The West India interest have had several interviews with the Ministry; they now ask, in addition, a loan of 10 millions as the 20 millions are not payable till after the emancipation is agreed to by the Colonial Legislatures. The Planters then consent that the slaves are to have freedom in seven in place of twelve years; they will then go heartily into the Ministry's plan, and promote the emancipation with all the means they have in their power, which may prevent threatened convulsion.—London New Prices Current.

THE EAST.—The peace between Turkey and Mehemet Ali, it is feared, is a very hollow one, and that disturbances are again fermenting. Exertions are making to equip a Turkish fleet and Russia has now collected in the Bosphorus 20 sail of the line. Universal discontent, and a total suspension of commerce, is the condition of Constantinople. An instrument published in the Ottoman Moniteur plainly indicates that the present peace being forced upon him he is at liberty to resume hostilities when he chooses. This is in all probability the machination of Russia, and should put France and England on their watch for, so as to keep a sharp look-out after the motions of the wily and ambitious northern despot.

Consols continue heavy at 90, for the Account with little doing.