

yet having this characteristic, that they aim at the subjection of the heart; they are repulsive. If it should say, you may gratify your lusts, and enjoy all the pleasures of life freely, provided you give money to the poor, repeat a hundred prayers a day, and make your body occasionally smart, it would be regarded as a very reasonable religion; but when it suspends happiness here and hereafter, on faith in Christ, repentance of sin, love to God, and holiness of life, the multitude turn away with disgust, and regard it as a hard religion. Men would willingly make sacrifices to save themselves in an unrenewed state, but they like not the doctrine of a renewal of the heart, which implies the renunciation of their darling lusts!"

From the St. John Mail Extra of Monday.

Arrival of the Steamship Hibernia.

The English Mail arrived in this City by Express, about eight o'clock last evening, bringing news of much importance, a summary of which, hastily compiled from the latest papers, we lay before our readers.

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

During the ten days which have elapsed since the publication of the last number of the Price Current, commercial confidence has sustained a series of rude shocks from the somewhat exaggerated apprehensions of disturbance at home, but far more seriously from the almost total suspension of credit on the continent.

In the produce markets operations have been reduced to the bare supply of immediately pressing necessities, and, with a falling demand, there is the strong probability that for some time to come the current of continental imports will be diverted to this country, and thus prices will be temporarily depressed below their natural level.

The conviction, however, gains ground, that the depreciation in value can only continue for a short time, and since Thursday a greater degree of activity has sprung up; and as holders have sold freely, buyers have availed themselves pretty extensively of the prevailing low rates.

The corn trade again exhibits signs of weakness. Notwithstanding the limited supplies lately received, at the Exchange, on Tuesday, there was a very limited business done, and prices, for most articles, experienced a reduction. Wheat declined 2d. per 70lbs., and flour was fully 6d. per barrel lower. At yesterday's market the same tone prevailed, and a further tendency in prices to decline was exhibited.

In Manchester the social convulsions which distract the leading continental states have been most disastrous in their effects, not merely in the temporary suspension of trade and the prostration of credit, but still more in their discouraging influence on the manufacturing capitalists of the district, among whom the feelings of alarm and uncertainty are spreading rapidly, and a very extensive diminution of production has already ensued.

With the slight exception of a partial demand for the country trade, there are no transactions to report. The shipping trade is suspended; orders previously received have been extensively countermanded; and a considerable number of the mills are either beginning to work on reduced hours, or are to be closed altogether.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

The chief news during the past few days, is from Ireland, where matters appear to be fast approaching a crisis. So far, however, notwithstanding the expectation to the contrary, the public peace has not been disturbed. The monster meeting held in Dublin on Monday last, for the purpose of "fraternizing" with the French, and which was to make the Government quail, passed off with more than usual tameness, whilst it has called forth from the respectable portion of the inhabitants of Dublin, an expression of confidence in the Government.

A conflict with the executive was never, perhaps, more perseveringly or daringly provoked than by those who now assume the leadership of the Irish people. We are far from being rigid as to the construction to be put upon language used by political opponents, and feel little sympathy with that official prudery which takes cognizance of words uttered in the heat of discussion, while it shrinks not from the misgovernment which renders the discussion necessary. But the tone displayed by the Young Ireland party is too violent and seditious to be palliated; for though its extravagance certainly carries with it its own antidote to intelligent men, there can be no doubt that it does mislead the mass of passionate minds, that remember only their grievances, real or supposed, and pant for an opportunity of removing them without being scrupulous as to the means. We may rest assured that danger is not distant when Mr. John O'Connell, not usually over-nice in his language, deems it discreet to withdraw from an alliance he had courted, and to dissuade his followers from a course he had counselled them to adopt. Nor is it likely that so calm a thinker as Lord Clarendon would have suffered himself to be drawn into the adoption of extraordinary military manoeuvres unless some proximate—at least some possible—danger was actually in existence. The undisguised insurrectionary spirit provoked and promoted by Mr. Mitchell and his associates is at once a cause and an indication of an impending struggle, which only prudence can avert.

By reference to the details of the Irish news

in another column, it will be seen that the Government have at length taken steps to arrest the spread of sedition. The chief leaders, viz., Messrs. Mitchell, O'Brien and Meagher, have had information sworn against them, and have had to enter into security for their appearance when called upon to answer the charge.

The proceedings in Parliament have this week been of a nature to require little special attention. The very fair and equitable attempt of Sir B. Hall to extend the operation of the income tax to Ireland, has failed. In a house of 356 representatives, a large majority pronounced against the idea, almost without condescending to reason upon the subject. In fiscal matters, Ireland already stood in a favoured position: with no window duties, no assessed taxes, no duty on bricks, no horse or carriage duty, and with comparative cheapness in many items of domestic economy, no pretext that can bear examination can be advanced in favour of excepting the taxable incomes of Irishmen, when the obvious consequence of such an indulgence must be to increase the burden borne by English industry.

ACCOUCHEMENT OF HER MAJESTY—BIRTH OF A PRINCESS.

On Saturday morning, at eight o'clock, the Queen was safely delivered of a Princess at Buckingham Palace. In the room with her Majesty were his Royal Highness Prince Albert, Dr. Locock, and Mrs. Lilly, the monthly nurse. And in the rooms adjoining were the other medical attendants, Sir James Clarke and Dr. Ferguson, and also her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, the Lady in waiting on the Queen, and the Ministers and Officers of state summoned on the occasion. The Privy Counsellors present were Sir George Grey, Secretary of State for the Home Department; Sir Charles Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer; the Duke of Wellington, Commander-in-Chief; the Earl Spencer, Lord Chamberlain; the Duke of Norfolk, Master of the Horse; the Earl of Auckland, First Lord of the Admiralty; Lord Campbell, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies; Mr. Labouchere, President of the Board of Trade; and Earl Fortescue, Lord Steward.

Various rumors are actively circulated by our contemporaries respecting certain changes which are meditated in the English Cabinet. Without giving undue or premature credit to these reports, we may remark that it has been long felt that no essential difference of opinion exists between the members of Lord John Russell's Administration and the leading friends of Sir Robert Peel. The animosity, amounting to personal rancour, which still prevails against the ex-Premier amongst a large section of the House of Commons, must perhaps for a long period preclude the Right Hon. Baronet from taking office, even supposing he felt so inclined. But as the events passing around us press upon the conviction of every reflecting man the daily increasing necessity for a strong and united administration, we should rejoice to see the fusion of the most capable and intelligent supporters of Sir Robert Peel into the present Cabinet. The eminent administrative talents of Sir James Graham, and his great influence in the House of Commons, point out naturally his admission into the ministry. Lord Lincoln was at the first offered a seat in the present Cabinet; but perhaps the personage who would most probably represent Sir Robert Peel in the new arrangement would be his active ally, Mr. Cardwell, our business-like and respected representative. The conspicuous talents already developed by this gentleman during his short career, his capacity, courage, and peculiar fitness for office, render him in every respect qualified to fill some high ministerial functions; and, should his appointment take place, we feel fully confident, in spite of the late attempts to bring his name into disesteem in this town, that he would be re-elected for Liverpool, as before, by a triumphant majority.—*European Times*.

IRELAND.

INFORMATIONS AGAINST THE CONFEDERATES.—*Head Police Office, Dublin, Wednesday.*—Messrs. Smith O'Brien, M.P., Thomas Francis Meagher, and John Mitchell, in pursuance of notice served on them, attended before the magistrates of this office to-day, at twelve o'clock, for the purpose of entering into bail to attend the Court of Queen's Bench, upon the first day of the ensuing term, to stand their trials, the two former "for having, upon the 15th of March, 1848, delivered certain speeches in the Music Hall, Lower Abbey street, calculated to excite unlawful opposition to Her Majesty's government;" and the latter, "with having published in the United Irishman newspaper, of the 4th of March, and 18th of March, 1848, certain articles entitled "Striking Terror," "French Fashion," and a letter addressed to 'The Right Honorable the Earl of Clarendon, her Majesty's Butcher General and General Executioner in Ireland,' for a like purpose." The three gentlemen were escorted to the Police office by a large body of their admirers, who loudly cheered them through the streets, and upon entering the Police court, which was crowded to excess for a considerable time before they made their appearance.—Amongst those present were Mr. Maurice O'Connell, M.P.; Mr. John O'Connell, M.P.; Mr. T. M. Reay, Secretary to the Repeal Association; and a great number of the Young and Old Ireland parties.

Mr. O'Brien and his fellow traversers, upon leaving the Board room, having given bail, thanked their worshippers for the great courtesy which had been extended towards them.

They then proceeded, followed by a large crowd, who cheered most vociferously, through Dame street, College-green, Westmorland street, into D'Olier street, when the three gentlemen delivered short speeches, which were listened to by at least four or five thousand persons.

Mr. O'Brien was the first to make his appearance. He said that the government had at last honoured him with a prosecution; and he was proud of it, because he believed it would have the effect of making Irishmen of all creeds and politics unite in putting down tyranny and coercion. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) He was happy to be able to state that the Messrs. O'Connell had in the handsomest manner come forward, and offered themselves to go bail for him, which showed the feeling of fraternization which the policy of the government would engender; for his part he would pledge himself to say and do more than ever he did to procure for Ireland her native parliament. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Mitchell then came forward. He had, he said, been held to bail for writing articles to excite discontent and disaffection amongst Her Majesty's subjects; and he had come there to admit he wrote the articles referred to—and that it was for the purpose of creating disaffection and discontent amongst the Irish people—he had done so. (Loud cheers.) He was candid enough to make that admission for her Majesty's Attorney General, and to inform him and the other law officers that he would continue to write, week after week, articles for the same seditious purpose, and the moment he discontinued to write them, and to swerve from the expression of the same sentiments in public, at meetings and elsewhere, he hoped to be branded as a traitor. (Tremendous cheers.)

Mr. Meagher next came forward, and was received with shouts of applause. He said that as that was the last opportunity he would have of addressing his fellow-countrymen until after his return from France, he had made it a point to be there to tell the bloody government that he was not afraid to meet their hirelings in the Court of Queen's Bench, or in a wider field. (Loud cheers.) The speaker made use of other very strong and exciting language, which was loudly cheered by the mob; but from the crowd and other difficulties in hearing him distinctly, we abstain from publishing them, not being able to give his words exactly.

The mob then dispersed, and a large body of the police who were in attendance, in case any disturbance should take place, were marched back to barracks.

DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF LAW AND ORDER.—The country has been thoroughly aroused against the disciplines of anarchy. Whilst the Jacobin clique have been spouting their treason in Dublin—for, to the metropolis they are almost entirely confined—the declaration in support of law and order, and reprobating the dangerous efforts now making by a few misguided persons to create confusion, and thereby endanger the peace of our common country, has been in course of signature in every county in Ireland, amongst all ranks, from the peer to the peasant, and amongst the various political parties and religious denominations.

Never, in the whole course of our experience, has there been any thing at all comparable to this simultaneous movement amongst the intelligent, industrious, and educated classes, in support of those laws upon which the whole framework of society is based. The country has been tested, and it is proved, to be thoroughly sound and determined upon the side of order.—Living, as we have the happiness to do, under perfectly free institutions, treason can, for a time, be spouted without hindrance. But even before the intervention of authority for the vindication of outraged law, the voice of the country is heard, through this declaration, indignantly reprobating the violence and the atrocity of the incentives that have been applied by bad and wicked men to the passions of the populace.

THE GREAT DEMONSTRATION OF MONDAY.—The day of alarm has passed over quietly. The "Great Demonstration" in Dublin has taken place, and the pavements have not been rooted up for barricades, and the God of Battles rests in his pikes, without an invocation or prayer. Like all the movements and meetings of our city since the 28th of February, peace and order have characterised the gathering of to-day.—Not a riot—not an act of disorder—no tricolour—no seditious or disloyal cry marked the proceedings, which, in all truth, were wholly tame and spiritless. In point of rank, respectability, and even common members, it was an utter and most decided failure.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The usual weekly meeting of this body was held on Monday.—The hall was crowded in every part, even to inconvenience, and betokening that it had not been deserted on account of the open air demonstration on the opposite bank of the Liffey. There was great enthusiasm evinced by those present; and the Earl of Milltown, who was present to-day again, was received with great warmth.—The repeal rent nearly approached £100.

The squadron so long stationed at Lisbon was off Cove on Thursday.

A general order has been issued to the troops in all parts of Ireland, to carry their arms with them to their several places of worship. Sunday last it was acted on, to the annoyance of the repealers.

The High Sheriff of the county Roscommon has convened a meeting of his Bailiwick, to petition parliament against the continuance of the poor-law, as carried out at present in Ireland.

Dr. Slatery, the Roman Catholic Bishop, in a letter to Dr. M'Hale, says he has received intelligence from Rome, that the celebrated letter from Cardinal Frascini to the Irish Bishops, was intended to be private, and that the Papal Government is displeased at its publication.

THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE.

The events of the week has excited the most intense interest; the Provisional Government, the restlessness of the lower orders, the commercial distress which has prostrated the principal banking houses, and driven the Bank of France to the very important step of suspending payments in specie; all combining to produce a painful internal convulsion.

The circular of M. Ledru-Rollin, conferring extraordinary powers on the commissioners of the government with respect to the elections, had created universal dissatisfaction. In Paris, it was proposed to protest against it *en masse*. A deputation of a club went to the government to complain of it. M. Lamartine, in the name of the government, repudiated it.

The dissatisfaction of the National Guards has broken out in the shape of remonstrances and petitions; all the Grenadier and Voltigeur Companies have met, and protested against the decree which orders that they shall be merged into the different companies of chasseurs and of their battalions. Another decree, which has given equal dissatisfaction, circumscribes the choice of officers, who must now be taken from the companies, while formerly the officers might be selected from the whole arrondissement. A third decree has given much offence, for it is to the effect that the officers selected shall be subjected to examination, and if not found sufficiently instructed, dismissed. The National Guards say that those decrees are for the purpose of disorganising the whole institution—for the purpose of swamping the old members by the new.

The immense run upon the Bank of France compelled that establishment to close altogether on Thursday. It was understood that the artisans employed by it in printing notes, were engaged night and day in preparing the new 100f. notes to be issued under the decree of the government for the suspension of cash payments published yesterday.

A very exciting scene took place at a meeting of the provisional government last evening. The majority having demanded the resignation of M. Ledru Rollin, this gentleman replied that he would never resign, and that if they wished to dismiss him he would appeal to the people, at the same time advancing towards a window, no doubt with the intention of addressing the populace. Upon this, M. Garnier Pages drew his pistols, and threatened to fire if M. Ledru Rollin persisted. A most violent scene ensued, M. Ledru Rollin proceeded so far as to raise his hand against M. de Lamartine, who said, "Sir, I would rather die in an *emule* than upon the scaffold. Ledru Rollin then became calmer on the threat of Garnier Pages that he would show the people a treasury bond for 300,000f., drawn on the treasury by M. Ledru Rollin.

The Provisional Government seems not to have been successful in propitiating the clergy. The Archbishop of Lyons has written a fierce letter to the journals denouncing the Provisional Government for closing the establishments of religious communities not authorised by the law.

M. Louis Blanc's committee for the workmen has forbidden any works of artizanship to be carried on in either prisons or schools, or even convents, on account of their competing with the working classes.

The financial measures proposed by M. Garnier Pages have produced a decidedly favourable effect. These decrees of the Minister of Finance, briefly stated, are as follows:—All citizens who are assessed with direct taxes for the year 1848 have, by law, the option of paying their total amount by a succession of small periodical instalments spread over the year. Nothing of this is altered by the present decrees. They may pay their year's taxes either in one payment, as some have already done, or at the intervals assigned by law for the successive instalments. But in addition to the year's taxes, thus regularly payable, they are called upon immediately to make a contribution to the state, amounting to forty-five hundredths of the total amount of the year's taxes to which they are liable. This, when paid up, will bring the Treasury very nearly 200 millions of francs.

Arrival of the Prince de Joinville.—Plymouth, March 20, half-past 5 p.m.—His Royal Highness the Prince de Joinville is reported to be now passing up channel off this harbour in a two masted paddle-box steamer, under steam and canvass, French colours (old—blue, white, red) over the stern, and to all appearance, the Royal Standard forward.

Reduction of the Fee on Registered Letters.—General Post-office, March, 1848.—On and after the 28th inst., the fee charged for the registration of letters will be reduced from one shilling to sixpence, which must be paid in money.—The postage of registered letters must in all cases be paid in stamps. The public are earnestly recommended to register all letters containing inclosures of any value.

Turning to the south of Europe, Sicily has obtained the constitution of 1812, and seems resolved to enjoy a free Government, independent of Neapolitan thraldom.