

ENGLISH NEWS.

ENGLISH MAIL.—The steam ship *Niagara*, with the Mail of the 21st ult., arrived at Halifax on Friday last, in a little short of 13 days passage from Liverpool. She was completely encased in ice, on some parts nearly a foot thick. She brought out 33 passengers for Boston, and 8 for Halifax; among the latter were the Hon. John Robertson, and Messrs. Wm. Parks, James Kirk, and Thos. Gilbert, of St. John, who arrived here this morning, in the steamer *Maid of Erin*, via Digby.

The state of trade at Manchester and other manufacturing districts is exceedingly good—the late news from India and the Continent having given a decided impetus to trade in woollen and cotton fabrics.

The returns of the Board of Trade will, it is said, enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make many reductions in the present Tariff.

Cotton has advanced from 4s. 1d. to 4s. 4d. per lb.—Sales of the week, 65,660 bales, of which speculators took about 14,000.

Flour market dull at previous rates.—Corn has receded 6d.

The general and political news possesses no features of special importance.

Trade in Paris is exceedingly brisk at the present moment; and, from the general peaceful aspect of continental affairs, it is confidently expected that it will long continue so.

An extensive system of enlistment gives weight to the report, that the Duke of Wellington has recommended an addition of 50,000 men to the Army!!

The Queen's answer to the Corporation of London and to the Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge is not considered satisfactory by the ultras, who are displeased because Parliament is not to meet until the 4th of February.

President Fillmore's Message attracted more than usual attention from the press. Nearly every paper of note printed the document entire.

Liverpool Timber Report, Dec. 14.—We confirm the previous advice we so fully gave in detail, showing the important falling off in the importation of Colonial Wood to this port, and the active demand continuing, we see no reason to alter the opinion we have already expressed, that prices will be fully maintained, notwithstanding the advance that has recently taken place. Sales of three cargoes of St. John Pine, two at 3d. and one of small size at 4d. under the average inches; Birch, 14d. to 15d. per foot; Deals, 17 to 17 10s. per standard; Latakwood, 40s. per fathom; Palings, 30s. and 35s. per M.; and Sawn Laths, 30s. per M.

CARDINAL WISEMAN.—The new Cardinal has received autograph letters of congratulation from the Emperor of Austria, the King of Bavaria, and the President of the French Republic.

The present convent property in Ireland is stated to be worth upwards of seven hundred thousand pounds.

COINAGE IN ENGLAND IN 1849.—The total assets remaining in the mint, at the end of 1848, amounted to £145,552 8s 5d. The total amount of sums issued out of the consolidated fund for the purchase of bullion in 1849, was £150,000. The purchase value of the silver bullion and old defective coin, purchased by the mint in 1849, was £163,605 12s 3d; the mint value of which was £122,072 2s 3d. The total loss on the purchase of worn coin was £13,150 2s 7d. The amount of seignorage, £16,12s 7d. The light and defective silver coin withdrawn from circulation, purchased at its nominal value, of the Bank of England in 1849, amounted to £135,000, the mint value of which was £121,949 17s 4d, making a loss on the purchase of £13,150 2s 7d. The amount of silver and copper coin, delivered by the moneyers into the mint office, in 1849, amounted respectively to £119,592 and £1792. The cash received for the sale of British silver and copper coin amounted, in 1849, to £108,471 17s 6d. The sums paid into the exchequer, from cash received for coin in repayment of advances for bullion, amounted to £120,000.—*London paper.*

THE AFRICAN EXPLORING EXPEDITION.—We have received intelligence from the Saharan African expedition up to the 29th of August last. The expedition had literally fought its way up to Seloufeet, in Aheer, near to the territory of the Kailoonce Prince, to whom it is recommended. Mr. Richardson had been obliged to ransom his life and those of his fellow travellers twice. The whole population of the northern districts of Aheer had been raised against the expedition, joined by all the bandits and robbers who infest that region of the Sahara. The travellers are now in comparative security. It has been a tremendous undertaking for them to force their way amongst tribes who had never seen the face of a Christian, and who look upon Christians as the declared enemies of God.—The great Soudan route, from Ghat to Aheer, is now explored.—*London Times.*

FRANCE.—The grand banquet to Louis Napoleon by the Municipality of Paris, in the Hotel de Ville, on the 10th December, evinces the President's popularity with the middle classes of that city, who gave him credit for the peace and prosperity they have enjoyed for the last two years. The President's term of office, according to the Constitution, is half run, and according to the same constitution he is not eligible for re-election. The following words, which closed the President's speech at the Hotel de Ville, show a keen appreciation of the tendencies and wants of the time:—

"Let us employ all our efforts in embellishing this great city—in improving the condition of its inhabitants—in enlightening them on their true interests. Let us open new streets, purify those crowded quarters that want air and daylight, and let us so act that the beneficent light of the sun shall penetrate every where within our walls, even as the light of truth descends into our hearts."

Louis Napoleon takes a position far in advance of the continental monarchs generally, with whom he is necessarily in competition. He has lost little, and gained much from a long residence in England.—*Glasgow Mail.*

LORD MINTO AND THE POPE.—The Rev. E. Wilnot, vicar of Kenilworth, wrote to Earl Minto, asking authority to contradict the statement which had been made in the public journals respecting his intimating, on the part of the Government, that they would offer no opposition to this step of the Pope, and has received the following reply:—

"Minto, Nov. 1, 1850.

"Sir,—I very much regret that the reserve necessarily imposed on those charged with diplomatic duties does not admit of my entering into unauthorised explanations on subjects connected with my mission to Italy, which I should otherwise have been most ready to afford you. I venture to hope, however, that recent experience of the distrust with which statements from the same quarter are to be received, will induce you to hesitate in lending too easy credit to insinuations that I have been consulted upon, or had sanctioned, any scheme of Roman Catholic organization in this country.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"MINTO."

—*Edinburgh Courant.*

ANOTHER CATHOLIC PEER.—Lord Beaumont has just received the following from the Duke of Norfolk:—"Arundle Castle, Nov. 28.—My dear Lord,—I so entirely coincide with the opinion of your letter to Lord Zetland that I must write to you to express my agreement with you. I should think that they must feel as we do, that ultramontane opinions are totally incompatible with allegiance to our Sovereign and with our Constitution. I remain, my dear Lord, faithfully yours,—NORFOLK. To the Lord Beaumont.

[From the London Patriot.]

The advancement of the Vice-Chancellor Rolfe to the peerage, (under the title of Baron Cranworth,) has given general satisfaction as a well-earned reward of professional merit and sterling personal worth. Upon his distinguished merits as a lawyer, there is now but one opinion; yet, we recollect, when Mr. Rolfe was appointed Solicitor-General, he was considered as a person of anything but shining or commanding abilities; and he never cut any particular figure either as an advocate at the bar or as a debater in the House. But it has been truly said, that there is no man whose rise has been more steadily accompanied by the growing respect of the public and the esteem of his profession. His elevation to the peerage is supposed to be intended to reinforce the judicial staff in the House of Lords.

The Limerick Election has resulted in the defeat of the Tenant League candidate, and the return of Mr. Wyndham Gould, a Whig, for his native county, by a decisive majority, in the face of a very formidable and very embittered opposition. The close of the pole was disgraced by a scene of riot, which terminated with three yells being given for Smith O'Brien, Meagher, and Mitchel.

No new turn in affairs is reported from Germany. Baron Manteuffel's dual plan and its prospects are much discussed, but not yet developed. Faderland is to be divided into two great political bodies, presided over by Austria and Prussia, with a joint organ in Frankfurt. Austria apparently is not disinclined to this plan, but it is threatened with energetic opposition at the hands of Bavaria, Wirtemberg, and Saxony. Hanover, not less active in its opposition, will possibly require a return to the old Constitution of 1815, without the slightest alteration. In either case, the Conferences, the title of which has been well changed from "free" to "ministerial," will prove anything but amicable. Austria will probably carry out her own plans by dint of patience and perseverance.

Hesse-Cassel continues a prey to foreign oppression. Every form of moral torture that ingenuity can devise, is brought into play to crush the spirit of the indomitable people. At Rothenburg, for example, the district judge, with his mother, eighty years of age, has been forced to give up his parlour and bedrooms to soldiers quartered upon him; and it is not permitted to such "rebels" to find another lodging out of their own houses. Personal punishment is added to the cost of entertaining soldiers. At Hanau, an execution company, quartered in the house of a judge, drove a nail through a costly family portrait hanging on a drawing-room wall, to hang their clothes on, and perpetrated unmentionable atrocities. Complaints were received with scorn, and the judge was told, that within twelve hours he must either acknowledge the validity of the

September ordinances, or suffer the consequences. He immediately sent in his resignation.

The Sydney journals are filled with a debate on the conduct of the Rev. Dr. Lang, which lasted several days, and terminated on August 21, adversely to the reverend member. The Legislative Council resolved, *nem. con.*, that there was foundation for the charges preferred against him by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that Dr. Lang, having been warned by competent authority, that any emigrants sent out by him contrary to the regulations would not be entitled to any remissions in the purchase of land, nevertheless induced many persons to pay him for their passages at rates above the current price, and to emigrate under the impression that they would be so entitled to land upon their arrival. Dr. Lang published an address to his constituents, who held a meeting and passed resolutions condemnatory of the Council, and sympathising with the Doctor.

Mr. Smith O'Brien had made an ineffectual attempt to escape from Norfolk Island to California. It is a proper sequel to the scene in the cabbage garden. The Victoria cutter, commanded by a man named Ellis, was observed hovering about the island. Shortly before sun-down, Mr. O'Brien went down to a sandy cove; and just as he reached the shore, boat with three men put in, and he rushed up to his middle to meet it. A constable on duty, who witnessed the act, covered him with his piece, and called to him to forbear, seconding this by rushing at the boat and knocking a hole in her bottom with his carbine. He then pointed out to all four the folly of resistance, and required them to submit quietly, which they did. The officer in charge meantime came rushing down and secured O'Brien while still in the water.

AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA.—The European Intelligence communicates much of the progress of the quarrels and diplomacies of Germany without letting us in fully to the merits of their political questions. The following extract from a letter of an intelligent German Correspondent of the New York Recorder will doubtless be acceptable to our readers.

"I cannot close this letter without alluding to the principal topic of conversation at present throughout Germany,—the threatened war between Prussia and Austria. The ostensible cause of the present belligerent attitude of these two countries is briefly as follows. Austria demands the restoration of the old German Confederate Diet, which was abolished by the consent of all the German States in the year 1848. To this demand Prussia refuses to yield; chiefly for two reasons. In the first place, Austria always had the presidency in the old Diet; but Prussia now claims an equality with Austria, and will by no means consent to the restoration of an old institution which has been legally abolished, and under which she must take rank second to another German power. Furthermore, the form of the old Confederate Diet is acknowledged by all sensible men to have been very defective. The peculiar feature which rendered it almost a nullity for all practical purposes, was this: no measure could be adopted and carried into effect without the unanimous concurrence of all the deputies sitting in council. Even long before the old Diet had been abolished, the necessity of introducing something better in its place was very generally felt. Thus Prussia finds, in one of the main features of the old constitution, another and a very good reason for resisting the demand of Austria. But Austria is, without doubt, moved somewhat by other considerations than the desire of restoring the old Diet. Prussia is looked upon with suspicion as rather favoring the progressive movement of the age, to which Austria stands opposed. Again, the religion of Prussia is, for the most part, Protestant; that of Austria, Roman Catholic. One can see in all this the elements of a great and fierce contest. Whether the gathering clouds will pass away quietly or not, no one can yet predict. The people of Prussia are very resolute to maintain their position. Already something like 500,000 men are equipped and ready for action. The number will speedily be increased to 700,000, the entire force of the kingdom, should occasion require. The people are moreover restless, dissatisfied with the present state of things throughout Germany, and anxious for something new, they seem scarcely to know what.

"But there are two reasons for anticipating after all nothing more than a diplomatic war. These are the pacific disposition of the King

of Prussia, and the embarrassed condition of the Austrian finances.

"At present, however, in the confused and unsettled state of things which now exists, no one can pretend to read with any degree of certainty the events of the coming year.—Whatever be the result of the present movements, whether liberty of conscience and true religion make some progress, or tyranny and false religion gain a temporary ascendancy, it behooves us to remember, as we hear of wars and rumours of wars, that the end is not yet; and to offer with increasing fervor the simple but comprehensive petition of our Lord, '*Thy kingdom come.*'" Yours truly, J. R. B. Halle, Dec. 2d, 1850.

RELIGIOUS WAR.—There has been a religious element in the commotions, which for some months back have threatened war between Prussia and Austria, involving the smaller German States attached to each. A German correspondent, who is a Romish priest, writing to the *Univers*, a Romish organ published in Paris, says:—"It is impossible for the two principles to subsist together; one or the other must be destroyed. Protestantism must be put down by force of arms, and will be put down!"

If this be the sentiment of the Romish interest in the world, it would seem to prove them to have arrived at a point of desperation. For such a war for the extermination of Protestantism in the land of Luther, could not reasonably be expected to be undertaken, without involving all other nations interested for or against Protestantism. And to say that the two principles cannot subsist together in Germany, and that Protestantism there must be put down, is to say the same for the world—is to say, that all Christendom must be summoned to one decisive debate between Romanism and Protestantism on the field of battle! If there is such a decline of Protestantism as Bishop Hughes celebrates, such desperate counsels should not have been divulged.—*Puritan Recorder.*

REDUCTION OF FEES OF MEMBERS OF THE BAR OF QUEBEC.—Considerable excitement has been created lately among the gentlemen of the long robe at Quebec, owing to a proposed alteration by the Bench in the Rules of Practice, as also a reduction in the Tariff of Fees payable to the Advocate, Prothonotaries and Sheriffs in Lower Canada. It appears that the Bench, in whom the power to devise and carry out these changes was vested, did not use ordinary courtesy in communicating the particulars of them to the Bar previous to their being promulgated in Court, although the President of the Bar, at the head of seventy members, presented a petition to the Bench, praying a hearing on the subject, which was refused, and in consequence thereof the seventy gentlemen in black gowns left the Court in a body, resolving not to go back again during this present term of the Superior Court or the approaching Session of the Circuit Court, or until they can have an opportunity of laying their case before Parliament.

The following remarks on the subject are taken from an editorial article in the *Quebec Gazette* of the 23d Dec:—

The first question which presents itself to the mind in considering the matter in dispute between the Bench and the Bar, is whether the tariff of fees promulgated by the former is a fair and just one; whether the interests of the client have been consulted, with a proper reference to the rights and interests of the attorney. If the question were answered in the affirmative, the judges would have a much better case to defend, and the lawyers a much worse one to prosecute. This question it is exceedingly difficult for a layman to answer, so very little can the uninitiated understand of the mysteries of the law, the services which its votaries perform, and the remuneration which they ought to receive. We are of opinion, however, from all the evidence which we can collect, that the reductions made by the judges in the fees of the attorneys are far too sweeping; in many cases, under the new tariff, we are inclined to think, the attorney would be adequately paid for the service rendered. The reductions of the fees are so great, that it is evident that if the new tariff is just, the old one must have been very unjust indeed; in fact, the public must have been fleeced by the lawyers to an extent of which they had no idea. In seven different kinds of cases the fees are raised, but the increase is small, and four of them are in cases over £250, which very seldom occur, and from which, consequently the attorney will receive little benefit. Of the other forty-five charges in ordinary cases there are four which, under the new tariff, remain the same as under the old; but the remaining forty-one are all reduced, and that to a very extraordinary degree, as a few instances will show. In actions settled after default was recorded, or after foreclosure for want of plea, before *enquete*, or before hearing on the merits, where no *enquete* is required, the fees on an action for £250 was, under the old tariff, £7 10s.—under the new, £4 6s 8d to the plaintiff's attorney; while to the defendant's attorney it was £5 under the old—and only £2 6s 8d under the new. On actions for