

the present time, but matters are rather better than a few weeks ago. Leicester advices are dull, but not discouraging.

The Money market has continued to improve. The Bank of England, on the 23d ult., reduced the rate of interest down to 5 per cent.; and the facilities of discount of good paper have become greater. This step of the Bank of England has been much commented upon as tending to revive undue speculation by making money cheap; but the Bank, in the present case, exercised no voluntary action in the matter, as their discount business, which, during the excessive high price of money, absorbed nearly the whole requirements of the country by re-discount, now, as the rate of money falls, leaves them, and is again resumed by the private bankers throughout the kingdom, who are, in fact at this moment discounting paper at half or one per cent. lower than the Bank of England. The bill brokers have also reduced the rate of money, at the call of their depositors, to 4 per cent. The example of the Bank of England is expected to be followed by the Bank of France, the commercial circles in Paris anticipating a speedy reduction. The weekly Bank accounts continue to exhibit a rapid progress in the increase of bullion, and in the general improvement of the position of the establishment. In the last week's returns, the increase of bullion was no less than 565,200*l.*, making an aggregate in both the Issue and Banking departments of 11,991,376*l.* The chief importations of gold came from the United States, each packet bringing a considerable amount. Accordingly, the reserve in the Bank has now risen to no less a sum than 8,233,121*l.* These circumstances alone justify the Bank in lowering their rate of interest, which, so long as it is above the rate charged in Lombard-street cannot be said to influence materially the value of money. The Bank has certainly placed itself in a far better position to pay the forthcoming dividends than could have been possibly imagined some few weeks ago. The fluctuations in securities have not been such as to call for any particular comment. The transactions have been generally inactive; the range of fluctuations of Consols being from about 84½ to about 85½ ex-dividend during the week preceding Christmas, and during the present they have scarcely varied so much.

**THREATENING TO SHOOT LORD GEO. BENTINCK.**—A man named Henry Watson was charged at the Westminster police court, on the 18th ult., with threatening to shoot Lord George Bentinck. A police constable, who had been on duty on the previous evening at the House of Commons, said that the prisoner had offered him half-a-crown to point out Lord George Bentinck, as he wanted to shoot him. Other witnesses also proved that the prisoner, who was imprisoned four years ago, for using threatening language respecting Sir Robert Peel, had declared his intention of shooting Lord George Bentinck; the magistrate committed him to prison, with instructions that the gaoler should be informed of the magistrate's impression that the man was insane.

**MURDER.**—A mother at Bath last week murdered her four children by cutting their throats, and afterwards destroyed herself.

**A YEAR OF RUIN.**—The losses during 1847 to the imperial treasury is stated to equal almost the amount of the National Debt.

#### STATE OF IRELAND.

The Government, armed with the new Coercion Bill, have resolved to act with the utmost rigour in repressing the crime and outrage which prevails. Accordingly, a meeting of the Privy Council was held at Dublin Castle on the 24th ult., when a proclamation was issued, declaring the act to be in force from and after the 29th December, in the following districts:—The county of Limerick; the county of Tipperary; the baronies of Bunratty, Tulla, Islands, Inchiquin, and Clonderlaw, in county Clare; the baronies of Glenahiry and Upperrthird, in the county Waterford; the baronies of Clonliff, Ballybrit, Eglis, and Garrycastle, in King's County; the baronies of Athlone, Ballintobber, Roscommon, Ballymoe, Boyle, and the parishes of Crieve, Kilmacsey, Kilmemanogh, and Kilcola, in the barony of Frenchpark, county Roscommon; the baronies of Leitrim, Mohill, and Carrigallen, county Leitrim; the baronies of Clonmahon, Tullybunes, and Upper Loughtee, county Cavan; and the baronies of Longford, Granard, and Ardagh, county Longford. The principal effect of this measure will be, to prevent persons in those districts carrying arms without licence, after the 29th December. We have no doubt that in those districts where the possession of arms indiscriminately, even in dwellings, is considered dangerous to the public peace, the powers of the act for calling in arms will be made use of—and then no person will be allowed to have arms, even in his dwelling house, without licence. The stipendiary magistrates will be the parties empowered to give licences.

The Galway Vindicator thus describes the distress which prevails in Limerick. From four to five hundred wretched creatures, principally women with children at the breast, and whose appearance bespoke misery, besieged the workhouse gates on the 16th ultimo, and sought admission to the interior, which is at present overcrowded with paupers. Such was the apprehension of the master, that a strong party of the city police, un-

der head-constable Joynt, were called out to assist in keeping off the crowds—no easy task under the circumstances. Previous to the arrival of the police, the starving multitude entered a turnip field adjoining the workhouse, and helped themselves with the raw vegetable, which they ate on the ground. The relieving officer (Mr. Donnolly,) and his clerk (Mr. O'Connor,) exerted themselves to admit as many as possible, while several old persons were discharged, on condition of receiving out-door relief, in order to make room for the most necessitous applicants. It was melancholy to hear the lamentations of two to three hundred men, women, and children, when retiring from the workhouse, having been refused admission for want of room.

The state of Sligo is thus described:—'A fearful reign of terror is being established throughout the country. The highest officer in the county—the head of the magistracy—had to make a hasty and undignified retreat from his seat, to avoid the deadly blow of the noonday murderer. A Protestant dignitary was also compelled to leave his house from the same cause, and he had to be conducted out of the county by an escort of police. But this is not all. Notices of a threatening nature have been served upon many of our landlords and their subordinates. At Drumcliffe, one of those fearful documents was posted, in which a declaration of war was made against some of the highest men in the county, as well as others of influence, rank, and station. With an infatuation which we cannot account for, those who did most good during the famine have been selected as objects of attack.'

Mr. Copeman, jun., son of Mr. Copeman, farmer of Blyborough, was found on Sunday, December 19, about nine o'clock, on the road leading from Kirton at Blyborough, quite dead. His throat was cut, and the body was otherwise dreadfully mangled. The young man had a dog with him, which had also been very much cut and bruised, but it was not quite killed.

**TIPPERARY.**—There are at this moment three hundred and fifty-three prisoners in Clonmel gaol, and out of this vast number there is but one in the hospital. On Monday week, no less than twenty-seven persons were committed, charged with various crimes, from murder down to petty larceny. Our approaching assizes promise to be the heaviest on record, as there are already nineteen murder cases for trial.—*Tipperary paper.*

**MAYO.**—Amid all the destitution and suffering of Mayo, murder has not been among its crimes. The peasantry are now passing through the tortures of clearances and hunger, but much to their credit, the trial is patiently borne. That 'at no period within recollection has been the process of wholesale ejection of tenantry carried on with more ruthless avidity,' and 'on every side the eye is attracted by the blackened walls of roofless cottages, from which the wretched inhabitants are cast out even in this inclement season.'—*Freeman's Journal.*

Grattan and Browne, by voting for a Coercion Bill, have irretrievably damned themselves in the estimation of every honest Irishman, and we hope that their constituents will shortly make them feel it. From men like Mr. Grattan, who boast and bluster, and bully, and roar, and swagger, and register oaths in Heaven against English legislation, &c., &c., we confess we expect nothing better. Your *Captain Bobadils* are ever found wanting when the fight comes. For Dillon Browne, we are sorry. He is a man of a high order of intellect, a powerful speaker, and an accomplished gentleman. But we believe his betrayal of Ireland, on this occasion, can be accounted for only by his wishing to get a place from the Whigs, like the poor *Apothecary*,

"His poverty, not his will, consented,"

But while Ireland is obliged to denounce such men, it is a glorious reflection to find the sons of the mighty O'Connell inspired, as it were, with the lofty spirit of their immortal father, standing in the breach for Ireland, and doing battle where her foes are thickest.—*Wexford Guardian.*

**STATE OF THE COUNTRY.**—Although no new murders are recorded, the accounts from the country exhibited a lamentable extent of crime, and continued insecurity of life and property in the disturbed districts. The system of illegal conspiracy and agrarian outrage is extending to districts heretofore comparatively tranquil—to Sligo county in the west, and to Kerry in the south.—*Correspondent of the Morning Chronicle.*

**EXAGGERATIONS OF CRIME.**—The same correspondent, speaking of the reports of crime says,—The most gross exaggerations are propagated every day, and the Tory journals and their correspondents are doing great mischief by attempts to give a sectarian complexion to the system of agrarian crime. Nothing could be more unwarrantable, or indeed more false, than the assertion that religious animosity has had any influence amongst the wretches engaged in the commission of those crimes. All experience, and all the evidences before parliamentary committees, prove conclusively that such outrages have been totally unconnected with religious considerations, and that Roman Catholics, as well as Protestants, have been selected as victims by the miscreants engaged in the successive agrarian conspiracies in this country.

The *Belfast Vindicator* gives some specimens of the

way in which the Tory papers hunt down the Priests on the false charge of denunciation.

The *Newry Telegraph* is absolutely wild with delight. In an article headed 'Romish Priests and Irish Crime,' he runs on in the following style:—'The cry is up! Surplised accessories to the organised assassinations, which are casting such hideous pollution on the Irish character, are the game. The chase, in which the initiative was taken by the Radical member for Marylebone, statesmen and journalists have joined in, &c. This, however, is but a sample culled at random. We could, if necessary, fill the paper with extracts to the same effect.'

#### Colonial and American News.

##### ITEMS OF COLONIAL INTELLIGENCE.

**THE GREAT BRITISH AMERICAN RAILROAD.**—The length of the Railroad from Halifax to Quebec, will be about 600 miles through a beautiful and fertile country, abounding in valuable resources. The Commissioners appointed by the Home Government to survey the route, will remain in St. John during the winter, for greater convenience of communicating with England, and will be occupied for the present with the office work connected with the project. They have traced a good and practical route for a railway for the whole distance from Halifax to Metis, (and from Metis a dead level may be found nearly to Point Levy.) There are only upon the whole line between Halifax and the St. Lawrence, from 20 to 30 miles presenting any difficulties, and these are all of a nature to be readily overcome. The general course is from Halifax to Truro—thence to the eastward of the Cobiqid Mountains, and by the road of Bay Verte to Shediac—thence by the north-eastern coast of New Brunswick to the Restigouche—thence by the Metis road to Metis. This route gives a wide berth to the American Territorial Line besides securing to the fishing coast of New Brunswick the advantage of a road to market.

**CANADIAN POLITICS.**—The greatest excitement prevails in Canada in regard to the elections. Free trade and the church questions, are the most exciting topics in the canvass, and such is the warmth of feeling, that business men leave their daily avocations for the purpose of engaging in the contest for one or the other of the candidates. The ministry are likely to lose four votes in Lower Canada, and as there seems no probability of any proportionate gain in Canada West, this loss will probably throw them into a minority, as their majorities were seldom more than one or two.

**ARROWROOT.**—From a statistical table recently published of the productions of Bermuda, the value of Arrowroot is stated at not less than \$20,000 annually. More than two-thirds are used in Great Britain. Yet from the prejudice of some and the cupidity of others, it would appear that more than five times the whole production of Bermuda is consumed in the United States.

**SUCCESSOR TO SIR FRANCIS AUSTEN.**—Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Briggs, G. C. M. G. is, it is said, to fill the command in chief on the West India and North American station, vice Sir Francis Austen, K. C. B., whose term of service expired on the 27th December. This command was offered to Vice-Admiral the Hon. D. P. Bouverie, who declined it on account, we believe, of domestic affliction.

Dr. Fargues, lately deceased, has bequeathed £6,000 for the establishment of a Poor House in Quebec, to be called Fargues' Asylum.

**NEWFOUNDLAND.**—**BARBAROUS OUTRAGE.**—On Tuesday morning last, about six o'clock, there was a disturbance coming under the well-known character of a row, amongst some six or seven persons in Duckworth street, at the head of the Custom House lane. A man named Thomas Drewhan, who was employed as a watchman by Messrs. Parker & Gleeson, being at the time on his rounds, heard the confusion, and was proceeding to the scene to enquire into the matter, when a stone was hurled at him by one of the party, which striking him in the side of the head, felled the unfortunate man to the ground; the scoundrels from amongst whom the missile had come immediately took their flight. The sufferer remained motionless about ten minutes, when he was taken on a cart to some neighbouring house by a lad who happened to be passing by. He lost his consciousness in a very short time after. Last evening Drewhan was still alive, but there was little hope of his recovery.—*Newfoundlander.*

#### UNITED STATES.

**THE TERRIBLE STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION ON THE OHIO.**—The Cincinnati papers of the 31st ult. contain accounts of the awful disaster to the steamer A. N. Johnson, a brief account of which we publish below. The steamer was a new one, and was making her first trip from Cincinnati to Wheeling.

The explosion occurred about 2 o'clock on Wednes-