

## POLITICS AND NEWS.

## News by the last English Mail.

MORE FAILURES OF MERCHANTS, BANKERS, AND MANUFACTURERS—CONTINUED COMMERCIAL DISTRESS AND FALL IN PRICES.

We give, in a separate list, the names of such houses as have suspended their payment since our last number. We regret to state that, besides mercantile failures, we have to record the stoppage of several banks in various parts of the country. The North and South Wales Bank at Liverpool, having numerous branches in the Principality, has succumbed under the influence of a mischievous report, which caused a run upon the bank. The Salisbury Bank (Brodie & Co.), the Shaftesbury and Hindon Bank (Brodie & King), and the Shrewsbury Bank (Adams, Warren, & Co.), have also stopped payment.

Manchester has not escaped amid the extensive ruin which has prevailed elsewhere. The failure of Mr. Robert Gardner, a merchant trading largely to China and the East Indies, besides having extensive spinning and manufacturing establishments, has produced great surprise. The houses of R. & J. Farbridge, and Martin & Hartwright, besides several minor firms, have also failed.

In London the chief suspensions have been Scott, Bell, & Co., extensive East India merchants, who have, however, it is stated, since resumed business. The colonial brokers of Mincing lane, J. P. Howard & Co., and Charles Sutherland & Co., have also been compelled to call their creditors together. The latter has resumed business. We regret to state that Messrs. Coates & Co., the buyers of goods for the American market, in Bread-street, Cheapside, have stopped payment. Their liabilities are estimated at about £100,000. Mr. J. S. Curtis, an old house in the hide trade, has also failed.

On the continent considerable failures have taken place; Leghorn, Genoa, Trieste, Lisbon, and Ghent have chiefly suffered. The French house, at St. Petersburg, of C. Riva & Co., has also failed.

We may mention here that the drafts of the Union Bank of Calcutta have been refused acceptance by the London agents, and have been returned, the effect of which will be serious to the parent establishment.

The statement of the affairs of Messrs. Gower & Co., is not very satisfactory. Their liabilities are £450,832; their ledger balances are £573,501; the present valuation of their assets only £112,331. The Mauritius estates do not seem to be capable of valuation. The debts of Fry & Griffiths are £90,979, whilst the credits are but 19,231l. An investigation of their case is in progress. It is with sincere regret that we had to announce in our paper of the 5th ult., the failure of the highly respectable firm of Messrs. Thomas, Son, & Lefevre, extensively engaged in the Russian trade. Letters received in Hamburg state that "the Emperor of Russia had given orders to the bank to assist every merchant that might be able to prove his solvency by his books." We are gratified to learn that Messrs. Thomas, Son, & Lefevre were the first to whom this generous aid of the Emperor was extended. In consequence of this, it is generally anticipated that the London correspondents of that firm would forthwith resume business. A statement of the affairs of Barclay Brothers & Co. has also been made public, by which it would appear that 14s. in the pound is the most that can be hoped for the creditors, and we are afraid the dividend will scarcely amount to that figure. It is satisfactory to state that Messrs. Barlett, Hoare, & Co. have announced the receipt of ample funds to cover the drafts of the Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Company at New York, on Gowers, Nephews, & Co., and request the representation of the bills for the needful; and it has also been notified that the drafts of the Gore Bank, Upper Canada, drawn on Reid, Irving & Co., will be protected by Glyn & Co., ample funds having been remitted for the purpose by that institution.—*European Times*.

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY IN ENGLAND.—All the documents relating to this long-debated question among the Catholic clergy in England have now arrived in London. The Right Rev. Dr. Walsh, heretofore vicar apostolic of the midland district, becomes archbishop of Westminster; Dr. Wiseman, who it was expected would occupy that position, is to be bishop of Birmingham. The title of vicar apostolic is to be abolished, and the bishops are to be called after their respective sees—such for instance as bishop of Northampton, now held by Dr. Waring. Preparatory to the further increase of the number of bishops by four more, the division of England into a greater number of bishoprics is under the consideration of his holiness. There are also to be created one or two more archbishoprics, and it is not improbable that ere long all the arrangements respecting a nuncio from Rome will be effected.

THE DUKE AND MISS BURDETT COUTTS.—A correspondant of the *Augsburgh Gazette* gives the following explanation of the foundation that probably gave rise to the report of a marriage between the Duke of Wellington and Miss Burdett Coutts. The letter is dated Berlin, September 27:—"Sir Robert Inglis, who stayed there a few days, flatly contradicted the report of the approaching marriage of the Duke of Wellington with Miss Burdett Coutts. The whole rumour,

said he, originated in a mere joke. Miss Burdett, having called upon the Duke with a large sum of money for the erection of churches in the colonies, the Duke praised her liberality, adding playfully, 'You deserve to be a Duchess,' to which the Marquis of Douro, who was present, remarked, 'You see, Miss Burdett, my father makes you an offer.'

THE STATUE OF SIR R. SALE.—On the 15th instant the marble statue of the late Sir R. Sale, G. C. B., the 'Hero of Cabul and Afghanistan,' was deposited in St. Paul's Cathedral.

PENSIONS TO DR. CHALMERS'S WIDOW AND DAUGHTERS.—Her Majesty, 'in consideration of the piety, eloquence, and learning of the late Dr. Chalmers,' has granted a pension of 50l. a-year to his widow, and 25l. a-year to each of his five daughters.

The Government and the Currency.—Government, we understand, has come to no definite resolution with respect to the demands made upon it by the Liverpool deputation and other members of the mercantile body. Ministers deeply sympathise with the numerous classes who are suffering from the present state of panic and distrust. They have anxiously weighed every proposition for relief; and do not preclude themselves from further considering any suggestions that may be made, or any measures that may occur to themselves; but hitherto every kind of interference that has been proposed appears to them likely to bring on a recurrence of the evil, in some aggravated shape, at a future time.—*Daily News*.

Death from Want.—An inquest was held on Monday on the body of a female, aged 64, who had lived (or endeavoured to live) upon sixpence a-day, and earned it at straw-bonnet making, but who died from want, having to pay one shilling and sixpence out of her earnings for rent.

Tired of Life.—One of the magistrates of Bristol having, when committing a man for an attempt to rob accompanied with violence, told the prisoner the offence was a capital one, and he might be hanged for it, he replied 'that was what he wanted.'

Murderous Assault and Robbery at Westminster.—A few days ago two well-known thieves, named George McKay and Thomas Doyle, were remanded at the Westminster police-court on a charge of having brutally assaulted a gentleman named Bellchambers, residing in Pimlico, in Orchard-street, Westminster, on the night of the 10th inst., and robbing him of his watch and other property. Mr. Bellchambers has since died of the injuries he received.

The Queen's Presents from and to Scotland.—*Scotch Charity*.—In reference to presents sent to her Majesty, Sir Denis le Marchant acknowledges the receipt of a volume of penmanship from a writing master in Glasgow, and the *Scotsman* has the following notice of a gift which has been offered and accepted without the intervention of the under-secretary:—"The Prince of Wales's Whiskey.—We understand that Mr. Macdonald, distiller, Ben Nevis (better known as 'Long John'), has received the Queen's permission, dated on board the royal yacht off Campbelltown, to present the Prince of Wales with a cask of whiskey, to be kept at Buckingham Palace till his royal highness is of age. Her Majesty's own presents, although not so long deferred in their operation as 'Long John's' aqua is to be, are, nevertheless, tedious in some cases. Thus, the commissioner of the *Mail* asserts that the 1000l given by the Queen to the poor of Blair Atholl, took two years in being distributed—it being given out by the Kirk Sessions in sums of 5l. from time to time, and was a relief to the heritors rather than to the poor, as, in many cases, it was substituted for the allowance which the poor would otherwise have received from the parochial fund. As might be expected, the present state of pauperism in the vicinity of Glen Tilt, is not favourably spoken of by the commissioner. There is no legal assessment for the poor, and the general allowance to the seventy paupers of the parish is 6d. a-week. Some enjoying the special favour of the Duke of Atholl are better off, but for the most part the charity of neighbours is the stay of the pauper in Blair Atholl, verifying the saying of William Thom, the waver poet, that but for the poor the poorer would perish.

Mr. Brooke, the Rajah of Sarawak, was among the distinguished personages who have enjoyed the hospitality of the Queen during the past week at Windsor.

A Strange Insurance.—A well-known actor on the Edinburgh stage entered into an engagement with Jenny Lind, securing her singing powers for the gratification of the lieges in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Perth; the terms were 400l. per night. When the gifted Swede was performing in England she was taken ill, and as before the event considerable preparatory expense had been incurred in Scotland, the speculator became rather alarmed, and accordingly insured the life of Jenny Lind for six weeks, for 1,000l. The only effect of this step was to reduce the gross profits of her visit by a 20l. note.—*Times*.

The Board of Trade Appointment.—Mr. Fonblanque, for many years connected with the press, chiefly as editor and proprietor of the *Examiner*, has been appointed to the office in the statistical department of the Board of Trade, vacant by the promotion of Mr. Porter to the place formerly filled by Mr. Lefevre.

Appointments.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint Captain the Hon R. Gore, R. N., to be her Majesty's Charge d' Affaires and Consul-General in the Oriental Republic of the Uruguay. Sir Edmund Walker Head, Bart., to be Lieutenant-Governor of the province of New Brunswick. Sir Donald Campbell, Bart., to be Lieut.-Governor of Prince Edward Island. John Hes Mantell, Esq., to be Chief Justice, and Sidney Billing, Esq., to be Queen's Advocate, and Police Magistrate, for her Majesty's settlements in the Gambia.

New Post-Office Regulation.—The Lords of the Treasury have issued a new warrant respecting the bulk of letters. It is directed that, on and after the 10th of November next, no letter which, in length, or breadth, or width, or depth, shall exceed the dimensions two feet, or twenty-four inches, shall be forwarded by the post between any places within the United Kingdom, nor by the post of any post town in the United Kingdom. This does not apply to Parliamentary petitions and the like.

Free Trade with India.—A meeting of the inhabitants of the Tower Hamlets was held on Tuesday evening at the Eastern Institution, Commercial-road, to hear an address from Mr. G. Thompson, M. P., relative to the industrial resources of India, and the causes which retard their complete development. The large room was densely crowded. The Chair having been taken by Mr. Francis Carnac Brown, the meeting was addressed at considerable length by Mr. Thompson, principally on the subject of the cultivation of cotton in India, and its connection with the abolition of the slave trade in America, where, it was stated, every sixth man, woman, and child, is a slave. He asked—Why were we dependent on America for cotton? Eleven years since the Directors of the East India Company had published a volume of reports relative to the growth of cotton in India, from which it appeared that there was not an acre of land in that country to which the cotton plant was not indigenous. (Hear.) But then an objection had been started, that the natives were incapable of its cultivation. Why, they had cultivated and fabricated it for thousands of years, although now their manufacture of textile fabrics was fast passing away. Last year was in fact rendered remarkable by its being the first in which not a single article of Indian cotton manufacture was exported from that country. What was the cause of our non-supply? He would tell the meeting. (Hear, hear.) The cause was, that the East India Company first extorted one-half the produce in land-tax, and then obliged the cultivator to sell the other at a price arbitrarily fixed by them.

Railway Accident.—Above sixty persons were more or less injured in consequence of a collision on the York, Newcastle, and Berwick Railway.

Suicide of a Clergyman and Magistrate.—On Sunday, the 16th inst., the Rev. W. Gray, rector of Haslingden, and also a magistrate, committed suicide by cutting his throat. It appears the reverend gentleman read prayers in the morning, and afterwards christened or baptised several children in the church. He eat his dinner as usual, and at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon he was found dead in his bed, with his throat cut in a shocking manner. A razor was found in his hand. No reason can be assigned for the rash act. Deceased was about sixty years of age.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

Brutality of Husbands.—No less than four cases of brutal and murderous attacks by men (should we call them such?) on their wives were brought before the magistrates at the metropolitan police offices last week.

Glasgow threatens to furnish an addition to the list of matrimonial murders; but in this case the husband is the victim. The victim is a man named Keenan, a labourer. He died on Sunday last, and the autopsy proves that he had been poisoned by laudanum. Suspicion resting on his wife, she is now in custody.

ALLURING INVITATION.—The following tempting invitation to 'come and be buried,' has been issued by an Edinburgh cemetery company. The taste and feeling with which the advertisement is concocted is perhaps unparalleled:—

## "THE CEMETERY.

"Fools that we are,  
Never to think of death and of ourselves  
At the same time; as if to learn to die  
Were no concern of ours!"

The public, and especially parties having deceased relatives to inter, are respectfully invited to visit the grounds, which are allowed by competent judges to possess advantages superior to any other place of sepulture in this country. The well-chosen site of the cemetery, combined with the fine old trees covering the sloping bank and the gentle murmur of the river gliding at its base, induce that stillness, seclusion, and solemnity, so desirable when

'Slow moving o'er the prostrate dead,'

while the varied luxuriance of the numerous, rare, and appropriate evergreens—profusely planted—indicates to the mourner that the memory of the dear departed, should never fade. The great display of sweetly-scented and richly-variegated flowers point the Christian's hopes to the period when the seed he has here committed to the 'clay-cold bed,' will like them, spring up to