

NEWS DEPARTMENT.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

THE RAILROAD MISSION.—The Mission of the Hon. Mr. Howe has been entirely successful. The British Government had consented to guarantee the whole amount to build the Rail Road to Quebec and Montreal, at three and a half per cent. Mr. Howe was in great spirits when the last Mail left England: nor was it at all apprehended that any change of Ministry contingent upon the unsettled state of parties would in any wise affect the negotiations which had been virtually brought to a close.

The political world is in a very unsatisfactory condition, and the state of parties is so perplexed that it is impossible to foreshadow what a day may bring forth. The defeat of the Government on the Woods and Forests is a significant intimation that the late patch-up will not be enduring; and that, ere long, we may be in the throes of another ministerial crisis. A "strong" Government, however desirable, is clearly impossible in the present distracted state of public opinion. It was believed when Lord John Russell came back to power that he would be allowed to "tide over" the session in the best way he could; but already the spirit of forbearance, if it existed at all, has disappeared, and the Russell Cabinet may be blown to atoms at any moment.

Hope gleams feebly in the distance. A desperate struggle is impending, into which will be infused all the rancour of religious acrimony, and all the fierceness of rival political creeds. The battle of free-trade will be fought over again. The Whigs, the Whig-Radicals, and the Peelites will be ranged on the side of free imports and exports; the Protectionists will take their stand on helping native industry at the expense of the rest of the community.

A contest in England would probably end in a drawn battle, for the nicely balanced state of parties would prevent the rival forces from claiming a decided victory. The turning point would be Ireland.

The calculation is, eighty ministerialists would be returned—a number sufficiently formidable to decide the fortunes of the field. Now this body, acting together, as, doubtless, they would, could dictate terms to any Minister; and if they threw their strength into the hands of the Protectionists, as a set-off for non-action on the Papal question, the whole commercial policy of the last eight years would be reversed, and all that has been gained would be lost—for a time. Such a contingency must have presented itself to the minds of the Peel school of statesmen when they parted company with Lord John Russell about his Tides Bill, and every one saw in that act a stroke of policy which sacrificed present power for great prospective advantages. If the Peelites could mollify Irish hostility, the Protectionists would be outmanœuvred, and Sir James Graham would ride into office with extraordinary eclat.

DISMISSAL OF ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S CHAPLAINS.—One of the most aristocratic of her Majesty's Chaplains in Ordinary, having addressed, on two several occasions, letters to her Majesty, protesting in the most solemn terms against the worldliness of the Court, he has been informed that his services will no longer be required at the Court, and that his name will be struck off the list of her Majesty's Chaplains in Ordinary. He was a Puseyite.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT.—The Rev. Hibbert Binney, Fellow and Tutor of Worcester College, Oxford, is appointed Bishop of Nova Scotia.

DEATH OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE GOLD COAST.—Intelligence has been received on the death of Commander Sir William Winnet, Knight, Royal Navy, Governor and Commander-in-chief of her Majesty's forces on the Gold Coast. The late gallant officer had written letters dated Nov. 30, 1850, and had caused his luggage to be packed up preparatory to his return home, but letters dated 4th December convey the information of his decease.—*Daily News.*

[The deceased was a brother-in-law of the Rev. Dr. Twining; Chaplain to the Garrison of Halifax. We understand he had just completed his term of Government, and was about to return to England, where his wife and family of three children were residing, when he was cut off. He had been in Africa for several years, and was entitled to a retiring allowance of £1,000 per annum.]

IRELAND.

REJOICINGS.—There are amusing accounts of "rejoicings" for the downfall of the Russell cabinet from the counties of Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Waterford. In each place Lord John had been burned in effigy, and, to add to the insult—old clothes being scarce—his composition was merely hay or straw. A Youghal letter, giving an account of the doings there, adds:—"On Monday night fires were seen for miles along the hills in every direction.

CLONMEL.—The town of Clonmel is in a flame to-night. 'Lord John's effigy,' and such an 'effigy' the world never saw—a dragged, dirty stuffed figure, carried on a dirty man's back, with a set of fellows behind as dirty as the figure itself and the man that carried it, flogging it with wattle. His right honourableness is to be buried to-night at eleven o'clock. What picture can I give you of this town on this occasion? The wild spirits of Tipperary let loose—even the women have forgotten their characters, and as I write they are turning Lord John. I understand an official gives two guineas for tar-barrels, and a shopkeeper in the town gives pitch barrels—a publican, 'not having the fear of father, mother, or brewer before him,' gives the drink. I write this in haste. The town is quiet, only—as Terry O'Driscoll would say—for the row.

DR. POWER, M.P.—A meeting of the electors of Skibbereen was held on Sunday, to consider the vote Dr. Power M.P., on the motion of Mr. Disraeli. A resolution condemnatory to that man, was passed, with a determination to oppose his re-election should he again seek the representation of that county.

The same day the electors of Rillyvalan and several other districts held a meeting for the same purpose.

MEETING OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS.—The Roman Catholic bishops held another meeting yesterday, and adopted an address to the Queen, and another to the people of Ireland, in reference to the Papal Aggression Bill.

A singular instance of the caprice of fortune is related in the *Cork Examiner*. For several years back one of the most miserably poor of the poor of Skibbereen was James Kane, who contrived to eke out existence by disposing of a few bones and old rags, and now and then, a handful of grass plucked from the roadside. On one occasion, his precarious means of livelihood utterly failed him, and he was driven to the shelter of the work house. This same James Kane is now on his way to London, in company with an eminent solicitor, to receive a legacy of £10,000, and property to the amount of £500 a-year.

MR. JOHN O'CONNELL AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

A meeting of the Limerick corporation was held, when after a very warm discussion a resolution condemnatory of Mr. O'Connell's conduct was passed by a majority of 13 to 11; and a second resolution was adopted, calling on the hon. gentleman to resign his seat. Mr. O'Connell has replied that he is willing to retire provided he is called on generally by his constituents, but he will not be dictated to concerning his parliamentary votes; and that he purposely absented himself from Mr. Disraeli's motion, and, if present he would have voted with the Ministers. The corporation have since passed a vote of censure on Mr. O'Connell, and have called on him to resign the representation of the city.

A LADY PLEADING HER OWN CAUSE.—In the Dublin Encumbered Estates' Court, on Saturday, a lady, Mrs. Catherine Winter, appeared to plead her own cause. She took her place at the table where her Majesty's counsel and doctors

learned in the law usually sit, and producing a bundle of papers, large enough to excite the jealousy of a Chancery practitioner, proceeded to untie and arrange them with composure and expertness. On one of the benches immediately behind sat her brother, Mr. N. D. Millard, who seemed content to perform the subordinate duty of a junior counsel, surrendering the more complicated and technical portions of the case to the superior management of the fair advocate who acted as his senior, and who, it must be confessed, discharged the self-imposed with a collected and consecutive fluency and rhetorical tact and force which would not have disgraced any "gentleman of the long robe."

DISCOVERY OF A SECRET SOCIETY AT LYONS.—A few days since, as a priest was passing through the Place Rouville, at Lyons, he was insulted by a number of boys, the oldest of whom was not more than 18. On the commissary of police being informed of this outrage, he arrested one of the party, and on searching the house where he lived, a pistol quite new was found. Several poignards of the most effective kind were seized. These arrests have, it is said, led to the discovery of a secret society under the appellation of "Societe des Velites," of which these youths were members.

A DUEL IN THE CLOUDS.—A contemporary has revived an account of a duel fought in two balloons, now half-a-century ago. Two celebrated French aeronauts, M. de Grandpre and M. Le Pique, having quarrelled about a fashionable opera dancer, who, though the mistress of the former, was discovered in an intrigue with the latter, a challenge was the consequence. Being both men of elevated minds, they agreed to fight in balloons; and, in order to give time for their preparations, it was agreed upon that their duel should take place that day month. Accordingly, on the 3rd of May, 1808, the parties met in a field adjoining the Tuilerie, where their respective balloons were ready to receive them. Each party ascended his car. The weapons to be used, by mutual consent, were blunderbusses, as pistols 'twas supposed would be altogether inefficient in their probable situations. A vast multitude attended, hearing of the ascent, but little dreaming of the hostile intentions of the aeronauts, being merely attracted to the then unprecedented novelty of a balloon race. At nine o'clock the cords were cut, and the balloons ascended majestically, amidst the shouts of the admiring thousands. The wind was moderate from the N. N. W., and they kept, as well as could be judged, between 90 and 100 yards of each other. When they arrived at the height of about 900 yards M. Le Pique fired, but without effect; almost immediately after, his fire was returned by M. Grandpre; the contents of his blunderbuss penetrated his adversary's balloon, the consequence was the rapid descent of the machine, and M. Le Pique was dashed to pieces on a house-top, on which his shattered and collapsed balloon fell. The victorious Grandpre then mounted aloft in the grandest style and descended safe about seven leagues from the spot of ascension.—[It is not sated upon what authority the foregoing narrative rests.]

NEW BRUNSWICK.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—We regret to learn that an accident of the most painful nature occurred in the tenth concession of Zorra, on Thursday night last. It appears that a wedding party had assembled at the house of Mr. James McDonald, whose son was to have been a happy bridegroom on the following morning, and according to the good old Highland custom, the eve of the bridal was to be spent in merriment and dancing. Festivities had but commenced, when the father of the bridegroom went out to draw a pail of water from an adjacent well, which as we are informed, was about 25 feet deep. A keen frost on the preceding days had covered the ground around the well-curb with heavy sheet of ice, and Mr. McDonald in drawing up the bucket, evidently lost his foot-hold and was precipitated into the well, from whence he was taken out, half an hour

afterwards, mangled and lifeless. Deceased bore an excellent character and is much regretted by his friends and neighbours.—*Woodstock American.*

[Continued from 2nd page.]

RESOLUTION TOUCHING "THE PENSIONS."

Whereas, by His Excellency's answer to the Address of this House, offering to allow the proceeds of the Crown Lands towards pensioning the Colonial Secretary and Attorney General, provided it should be considered that the objections of the House to giving compensation to those officers, were insufficient, it appears that His Excellency considers he is bound by his instructions to demand the full amount, claimed by the Imperial Government, for those officers:

And, Whereas it is the conviction of the House, that the Public Business cannot be carried on with either credit or advantage to the country, under the present system of Government:

Therefore, Resolved, That this House do agree to His Excellency's request, to allow compensation to the two Officers in question, relying on His Excellency's assurance to introduce Responsible Government, and to cause the return of any Fees illegally retained by the Colonial Secretary, and to lay the proceedings before Her Majesty's Government. And that a tax be imposed, of one farthing per acre, on all owners or occupiers of Lands, of not less than 500 acres possessed by each individual: the said Tax to be appropriated in aid of the charge of the Civil Establishment of this Colony, and of allowances above mentioned.

To His Excellency Sir Alexander Bannerman, Knight, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The House of Assembly have had under their consideration Your Excellency's Message of the 7th inst., in answer to the Assembly's Address, wherein they expressed their views on the subject of Lord Grey's Despatch of the 31st January, 1851, and pointed out the mode by which they purposed to comply with his Lordship's instructions to Your Excellency.

They observe with regret that "the Lieutenant Governor has no discretionary authority to yield the conditions on which Responsible Government is to be conceded and the Crown Revenues surrendered," and that the mode suggested by the House of Assembly would be insufficient to enable His Excellency to carry out either the letter or spirit of his instructions.

Upon, therefore, a reconsideration of the position in which Your Excellency is placed, and actuated by a desire to proceed with the performance of the public business, the House of Assembly have agreed to provide the full amount of compensation demanded by the Attorney General and Colonial Secretary, on Your Excellency's complying with the well understood wishes of the people of this Island in reference to the reconstruction of Your Excellency's Government.

The Resolution of the House of Assembly, accompanying this Address, will inform Your Excellency of the source whence they purpose to derive the necessary funds for the allowances contemplated to be given to the Attorney General and Colonial Secretary, and in aid of the Civil List Bill. In regard to that subject the Assembly beg to direct Your Excellency's attention to the Extract of a Despatch, from Her Majesty's Colonial Minister, to the late Lieutenant Governor, dated Downing Street, 12th November, 1847, in which His Lordship recommends the Local Legislature to "raise a larger proportion of the Colonial Revenue" by a tax upon Lands, as being "the best mode that could be adopted for providing for the necessary expenditure of the Colony."

Thus it will be perceived by your Excellency, that the House of Assembly are fully disposed to afford your Excellency an opportunity of complying with the long entertained and earnestly expressed wishes of the people of this Island in reference to Responsible Government, and that it will not be the fault of the Assembly if that system of Government be withheld from the Colony.