

best and surest foundations," for which we pray. When Aristotle would reckon up the requisites of a commonwealth, without which it could not exist, he numbers food, arts, arms, money, "and that," says he, "which I should have named first, care of divine things."

In proportion as we entertain this feeling strongly ourselves, it is natural we should wish it to be shared by others. We observe, therefore, not without some regret, that our brethren of the Church press in England appear to look on but coldly at the change of Administration which has recently taken place.

Most thankful are we to say it—in all that has hitherto passed, on the part either of Lord Derby himself, or of those whom he has chosen to be his colleagues, we see no occasion whatever for allowance or apology. On the contrary, we hail every signification which they have yet made of their intended policy, as regards the Church, with unqualified satisfaction.

Next to the speech of Lord Derby himself, we do not know that anything has afforded us more sincere gratification than the character which was drawn of the noble Earl in the address of Major Beresford from the hustings of North Essex. It shows how the spark of virtue and religion, once struck, may serve to kindle similar emotions in a kindred mind; and no one can tell how infinitely more effectual than any discourse from the pulpit such a recognition of divine truth may prove, when falling unexpectedly on the excited minds of an election mob.

"I trust that on Friday night I shall return to Parliament to perform my duties as your representative, under the auspices of a man whom I am proud to say I acknowledge as my chief and my master—the Earl of Derby—a man who, born in the highest rank of the nobility, endowed with a princely fortune and ample possessions, loved his home, and the proud halls of Knowsley, to devote himself to the honour and welfare of England. With all the Christian humility of a truly religious mind, he feels and acknowledges the deep obligations he owes to his God, his Creator,

\* The last Report of the Committee of the London Union on Church Matters forms, we are glad to see, in some respects an exception to this remark. At the same time, recognising the Prime Minister as the servant of the Crown, and the Crown as exercising a supremacy in the Church of England, within just and lawful limits, we are not sure that the position which that report takes up, and the language which it holds, is, in every portion, altogether such as we should wish. But the difficulties of the English Church, for some years past, have doubtless produced some confusion of ideas; and on that account we pronounce no opinion, how far the whole attitude assumed by the Union (at least a temporary expedient) is, or is not, of undue presumption.

and Redeemer, who has endowed him with all the noble attributes and great qualities which he possesses, and for which he knows that he is to give an account here to his country, and, on a future day, to his Judge. He has now come forward and shewn you that he feels all the devotedness of a Christian, and all the energy of a patriot."

There is one other circumstance in the composition of the new Ministry which we cannot but regard with unfeigned pleasure. We allude to the appointment of Mr. Walpole to the Home Department. Independently of his own qualifications for the office, which friend and foe conspire to pronounce of the first order, his twofold family relationship to the late Mr. Spencer Perceval, Prime Minister (1809-12), during the Peninsular war, cannot fail to recommend him, in an especial degree, not only to all true lovers of their country, but to all faithful members of the Church. We could scarcely desire a better omen of the two great measures which are most needed at the present time—Church-Extension and National Defence, which, in other words, are defence alike from foreign and intestine enemies—than the accession to so important an office as the Home Secretaryship, of one who represents the kindred, the sentiments, and the virtues of that lamented statesman, worthy to be the minister of "George the Good." It is interesting to add, in connexion with the relationship to which we have referred, that the late Mr. Perceval, on his accession to power, succeeded in reducing the Maynooth grant, which in 1807 had been enlarged from £8000 to £13,000, to its original sum. We trust that this example may not be without its effect upon the measures of his present representative in office.

But it may be asked, Are we then no longer in any fear for the Church, now that she has escaped out of the grasp of the adversary that oppressed her, and has passed (so far as the authority of the civil power can reach) under the hand of the new, and, if professions are to be believed, unquestionably friendly and filial Administration? Are we to forget, in a moment of unsuspicious enthusiasm, what the Church has formerly suffered from pretended friends, and even to cast away the solemn warning of the Divine Word itself—"Put not your trust in them?" For our own part, we have no such intention. We know the difficulties which a Government must encounter, that endeavours to do justice to the Church, and to benefit and bless the nation by the Church's aid, under present circumstances, too well to feel secure of any real advantage to be obtained at their hands. But we also know that a well-disposed Government can do much—much of infinite value—towards enabling the Church to do justice to herself. And it is not the way to make any ministry well disposed, to give vent to suspicions of them before they have been tried. Upon this matter, let us learn wisdom from the experience of what took place in 1845. The chief reason why the old and true policy of the constitution, in regard to the Church, has no longer the advocacy of the ablest and most esteemed member of the Peelite party—the sole reason why his valuable aid as a statesman in Parliament, in support of that policy, has been lost to the Church, is, we have good cause to know, because in 1845 he was unwilling to stand alone. There was no response, as he imagined, in the country to a policy which—unlike that either of Sir Robert Peel or of the Whigs, the ministry and the opposition of the day—should resist concession to the enemies of the Church. All parties desired fresh indulgences to ment of the grant to Maynooth. So it was said: so it was granted. Alas! how untruly; or if truly then, how greatly did the error of the people require to be corrected and withstood by the courage and the wisdom of some one man good and true, till they themselves should come, as they have come now, to a better mind. But no; the response was there: only it required to be evoked. Let us not commit the same blunder now. Let us not add to the embarrassments of our rulers by unnecessary distrust of their present intentions, or by sinister interpretations of their past conduct. On the contrary, let us show them plainly that there is a spirit in the country waiting, and impatient to be appealed to, which will not fail to support them to the utmost, under all the difficulties of their position, provided they do not suffer themselves to be deterred from the course which, we are persuaded, their own consciences dictate, and will honestly do neither more nor less than they have said, viz:—

- 1. Maintain the rights and privileges, and promote the efficiency of the Church, not only at home, but abroad.
2. Extend the parochial system, and, as a necessary consequence, increase the Episcopate
3. Encourage and assist the Clergy to educate the people, and that in the only way which the Church recognises or sets forth—the faithful teaching of the Catechism, "serm for that purpose."

Let them do these things, and they will go far, by God's blessing, to bring to the Church and nation better days than any which have been enjoyed since the period of the Reformation.

ENGLAND. DOMESTIC.

The Amazon fund now amounts to above £11,000. It will be kept open for about another month, and it is most probable that it will ultimately reach £12,000. The final disposal of it was to have been made on the 10th inst., by the united committees of Southampton and London. About 150 persons have to be assisted or supported by it; amongst them are 70 children and about 40 widows. About 30 of the children will be placed in orphan asylums. Mrs. Symons, the widow of the commander of the Amazon, has declined assistance from the fund.

EMPLOYMENT OF SHIPPING.—The shipping returns of the Board of Trade for the month ending the 5th of February have just been issued, and exhibit an increasing failure of all the evil predictions that attended the repeal of the Navigation Laws. Since that event the employment of British vessels has steadily augmented, but up to the period preceding the present returns the employment also of foreign vessels had augmented in a greater ratio. Thus the benefit on our side was only partial, and although it could not be denied that the result, even as it stood, presented a singular contradiction to what had been foretold, it was argued that our share had been disproportionately small and that this disproportion might continue until it had rendered the position of England relatively with that of other nations an inferior one. Already, however, the ground even for this complaint seems likely to disappear, since the returns now submitted, while they present again a general increase in the shipping employed, shew an entire change in the distribution of that increase. The following are the results, and it will

be found by an examination of them that the British tonnage, outward and inward, has increased in the aggregate 37,944 tons during the month, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, while the foreign has diminished 10,726 tons. Entered inwards:

Table with 3 columns: Year (1850, 1851, 1852), British vessels, United States vessels, Other countries. Total tonnage for each year is also provided.

With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered inwards was 880,408 in the month ending February 5, 1850; 900,955 in 1851, and 871,153 in 1852. The clearances outward were 1,004,371 in February, 1850; 1,017,960 in 1851, and 927,758 in 1852.

GIGANTIC EGGS.—The committee of management of the Jardin des Plantes de Paris have just presented to the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons the casts of eggs of the gigantic wingless bird of Madagascar (Epyornis maximus) of Geoffroy de St. Hilaire. These enormous eggs are equal in size to 12 ostrich, 16 casowary, 148 domestic hen's, or 50,000 humming bird's eggs.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—We recently laid before our readers the decision of the English Government in reference to the Crystal Palace, to the effect that it was to be pulled down. In relation to this subject we find that Messrs. Fox, Henderson, & Co., have addressed the following interesting letter to the London Times:—

"The Government and the Royal Commission have decided to allow the contract under which the Crystal Palace was constructed to take its course. In accordance therewith the building will shortly be pulled down. We feel that a structure of the kind, novel in its design, and which has excited the unqualified admiration of the whole world, is adapted for many purposes of public instruction and recreation, and ought to be preserved. The extensive uses to which so large covered space might be adapted are well illustrated in the evidence of Mr. Cole and M. Dikie before the Commission on the subject appointed by the Lords of the Treasury; but in the report of that commission the objection is taken, founded on a flagrant misconception of Sir Joseph Paxton's evidence, that it would be possible to construct a new building better adapted for a winter garden at less cost than would be required to render the Crystal Palace permanent, and to adapt it to Sir Joseph's plan. We have no hesitation in saying this is a monstrous mistake, and that if the present structure is thrown away it is simply a wanton destruction of £160,000 worth of public property, which is not likely to be replaced, except under an amount of excitement equal to that which produced the Great Exhibition. The building can only now be preserved by a manifestation of public opinion in its favour; and that the most ample opportunities for that purpose may be afforded we shall for the next week throw open the doors to all visitors free of charge. We of appeal, through the building to this final assembly will yet be carried into effect."

A respondent of the same journal also gives the following particulars:—"At last the report of the commissioners appointed to enquire into the cost and applicability of the Exhibition Building is published, but not until the Government had first declared its decision, which seems to have been made without reference to the opinion which the public may form on the soundness and impartiality of the report. It may be only an accident, but still there is an aspect of some manoeuvring in this result, as if public opinion were dreaded. We may look, perhaps, for explanations when Mr. Heywood's motion is made next Thursday for a select committee to consider the expediency of removing Knights-bridge Barracks, and the improvement of Hyde-park, in connection with the application of the Crystal Palace to the purposes of public instruction and recreation. By jumbling expenses together, the commissioners make Sir Joseph Paxton say, in their report, that the purchase of the building, and the conversion of it into a winter garden, would cost £150,000; and that for this sum he could put up a much finer and more appropriate structure. In the first place, the commissioners have exaggerated Sir Joseph Paxton's estimate by £7,000 (see question 376); next, the commissioners are not candid enough to say that £52,000 of this estimate are chiefly for expenses which would be common to any building for a winter garden, such as warming, walks, heating apparatus, &c. The fact is, that the building, which has cost the public above £190,000, may be purchased for less than £65,000, and would require an outlay of £29,000 to put in thorough repair. So that a total of £92,000 would not only purchase this building for a winter garden, but be the means of economising a projected outlay of at least £200,000 for additional buildings at the British Museum."

Telegraphic accounts by the Baltic states that "the London News, of the 24th ult., says, a committee of noblemen and gentlemen is to be formed to test public opinion with regard to the maintenance of the Crystal Palace."

Advices have been received at Lloyd's that the Abena steamer was on her way from Vera Cruz with £5,000 gold dust from California.

The West India steam packet Company have changed the name of the Arabia, which they recently purchased from the Cunard Company for £110,000, to La Plata. The English Government has issued tenders for a line of screw steamers to ply once a fortnight between Quebec, Montreal and Liverpool.

POLITICAL.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer has stated that there was no mention to interfere with the grant to the Maynooth College during the present session, the supplies there being voted without any objection from the opposition.

In the House of Commons, Friday, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that on introducing the Militia Bill on Monday, the Secretary of State would, undoubtedly state the reasons which would render that measure necessary.

The St. Alban's disfranchisement bill was read a third time and passed. A treaty has just been concluded between the Netherlands and Great Britain for regulating the navigation to the Ionian Islands. By this treaty, the Netherlands ves-

sels enjoy the same privileges which are now in force in regard to British vessels. Netherland subjects, also resident in any of the Ionian Islands are to share the privileges enjoyed by British subjects.

IRELAND. POLITICAL.

Lord Naas, the new secretary for Ireland, was returned for Coleraine on Tuesday, without a contest.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FRANCE.

From France we learn that a Democratic demonstration had been attempted at St. Vrient, Department of Haute, Vienna, on the occasion of the funeral of M. Magdon, formerly a banker, and a member of the liberal party. The disturbance was suppressed by the authorities without any arrests.

The Moniteur of the 24th publishes a decree regulating the course of procedure in the new Assembly, from which it appears that the President has complete control of the action of every member.

The opposition candidate Henon, has been returned for Lyons. The merchants and shipholders of Havre were in great alarm in consequence of a report that it was intended to make a modification in the laws of sugar,—The Chamber of Commerce has held a meeting on the subject, and all the merchants and shipholders of the city have been convoked to hold another meeting to draw up a petition to the President, setting forth the injurious tendencies a change in the sugar laws would have on the commerce of Havre.

The decree of March 18, 1848, is repealed, article 13 excepted, which prohibits secret societies.

The Lyons manufacturers are still waiting for orders from America. Fortunately the demand for exportation to England and for home consumption has hitherto enabled them to employ their operatives.

French advices from the German States have raised the price of flour 3 francs per sack within the last ten days. Flour which could be purchased under 56 francs the sack, last week, is now 58 francs.

It is rumoured that the Empire will soon be proclaimed, notwithstanding the avowed opposition of Russia. Nevertheless, the cities of Paris, Lyons, Lisle, Brest and other centres of population, will contain elements of dissatisfaction, menacing enough to suggest the propriety of violent counsels.

In the French Budget for 1853, which will shortly be laid before the Legislative Corps, a reduction of the army will be proposed to the extent of from 50,000 to 55,000 men, but that an increase will be made in the gendarmerie to the extent of probably 22,000.

Prince Pierre Bonaparte, says the Independence of Brussels, has been sent into a sort of exile, as consul in the United States, with a salary of only 15,000 francs a year.

General Pacheco-o-Obes, the Minister Plenipotentiary of the republic of Uruguay, at Paris, has just sent 200f to each of the Mayors of that city, to be distributed to the poor on the occasion of the downfall of Rosas. The general's national vanity appears to have been hurt by the accounts of the defeat of Rosas, published by the English papers. He has written to the Siecle to deny that there was any Holstein cavalry in Urquiza's army. He also denies.

The Paris Moniteur announces that the dispute between France and Morocco has been completely settled.

SPAIN.

Queen Isabella is now quite recovered; and, after attending a grand levee, the Duke and Duchess of Montpensier have left Madrid. There have been again changes in the Household; and a nun, Sister Patrocino, supposed to hold some infatuation over the Prince Consort, has been sent to a convent at Rome to end her days.

The news from Spain is of little importance. The Madrid Gazette contains a communication from Senor Calderon de la Barca, Spanish Envoy at Washington, with a letter from Mr. Webster to him, dated February 2d, in which the clemency of the Queen of Spain in pardoning the American Cuban prisoners, is duly acknowledged; while another letter from the American Secretary of State announces that Mr. Abel, one of the leaders of the New Orleans mob in the attack on the house of the Spanish Consul, had been found guilty by the tribunal of that district.

GERMANY.

There is a great dearth of grain in all parts of Germany, and, in consequence, at Berlin, on the 3rd inst., the Minister of Finance announced that the duties of entry on importation of corn, flour, and vegetables, are suspended for all the States of the Zollverein till the 31st of August. The potatoe crop has again failed, and the poorer classes are generally in a state of famine.

CHINA.

The London Times of the 26th has a long article on the expedition to Japan which it takes for granted is intended to break up the exclusion of that empire, and in regard to it says, if it is carried out in a spirit of humanity and sound policy without unnecessary waste of life, and under the full impression that the agents of the Government, and not the great mass of the population are in fault, Commodore Perry will be backed with the sympathies of all European nations.—We can have little doubt that the United States expedition against Japan will prove the counterpart of our own late operations in China. May Com. Perry and his forces meet with like success, and use it to as good a purpose.

AUSTRIA.

A Vienna letter states that the Austrian government has ordered a severe control to be exercised in order to prevent the gratuitous distribution of Bibles which have been sent out to Austria by the Bible Societies in London, with the view of making proselytes to the Protestant religion.

PRUSSIA.

The accounts from Prussia state that the report from the Finance Committee on the proposed newspaper tax was submitted. All foreign newspapers are to pay a tax of 25 per cent. on the selling price at the place of publication, and that amount will be levied, together with the postage.

SWITZERLAND.

The news from Switzerland is to the effect that many of the political refugees, particularly the French, have been sent into the interior or received passports, for England and America.

ITALY.

The town of Bagnara, in Lower Calabria, has been visited of late by such violent shocks of earthquake that the inhabitants have been obliged to leave their homes, and live in barracks of wood outside the town.