

BRITISH NEWS.

LONDON, MAY 11.

We have on hesitation in confessing that never great was our pleasure and satisfaction, we believe a majority even of the greatest reformers, were surprised at the comprehension of the Reform Bill brought forward by his Majesty's Ministers. We are convinced that the greatest difficulties would be encountered in the attempt to pass a measure of such transcendent importance, constituted as was the late House of Commons; and we felt convinced that nothing short of a recurrence to the voice of the people would enable the Government to carry the bill. We therefore hailed the dissolution as a most necessary and constitutional measure. The spirit in favor of Reform was abroad, and the spirit was not likely to be diminished by the lengthened discussions which had taken place. To the result of the new elections we looked forward with the best founded hopes of success; but that the Commons of England would answer the call of the King to the extraordinary extent they have done, we did not expect.—Courier.

LONDON, May 15.—The returns from various parts of the kingdom, as far as they could be made up yesterday (Saturday) evening, gave a majority of more than 140 in favour of the Reform Bill, and from the aspect of the polls in those places which are still contested, there can be no question that this majority will be still more increased before the termination of the elections.—Observer.

THE ELECTIONS.—The Morning Chronicle of the 16th, says, "The majority of members in favour of the Reform is now immense. The battle has, on the whole, been only fought by the people; and they will calculate with confidence on the success of the Bill."

Cornwall has rejected Sir Richard Vyvyan, who such a ridiculous figure in the debate which preceded the dissolution. Lord's letter has withdrawn from Cumberland, a county which has been under the influence of the family for 72 years.—Great exertions are made in the London papers at the defeat of "Old Banks" in Dorsetshire.

The cause of reform has been strikingly successful in Ireland as in England. It is certain that Ireland will return 80 members favorable to the bill. Two reform members have been gained in the city of Dublin. In Scotland, the elections have turned out much more favourable than had been anticipated. Mr. Jeffrey, the Lord Advocate, has been returned for Perth without a rival. In Aberdeen, the anti-reform member lost his seat.

PROMOTIONS TO THE PEARAGE.—Earl Fitzwilliam will, it is said, be created Marquis of Rockingham, and the Marquis of Cleveland elevated to a Dukedom, and Lord Selton, Lord Conesbury, Sir Francis Baring, Mr. Coke, of Norfolk, and Lord Kinnaird, be called to the Upper House, as Peers of the United Kingdom.

WATERLOO, May 12.—The King has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal, granting the dignities of Baron, Viscount, and Earl of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, unto George Fitz Clarence, Esquire, Colonel in the army, and the heirs male of his body lawfully issuing, by the name of the Duke of Devonshire, the Duke of Devonshire, Viscount Fitz Clarence, and Earl of Monteburgh.

Mrs. WALTER SCOTT.—The London Court Journal of the latest date says, "It is with infinite concern that we announce, in contradiction to the newspaper statements, that this distinguished writer and excellent man still languishes in a very precarious state. He has had a stroke of decided apoplexy. Mr. Lockhart left for Abbeville at the beginning of the week, immediately on the receipt of a letter from his lady, containing the alarming intelligence of her illustrious parent's illness. The accounts have been rather more favourable within these few days. Major Scott, we believe, is still in town."

Lord Darnley.—The Court Journal has the following paragraph:—"Other papers speak of the quarrel alluded to as of an alarming character, but furnish no other particulars."

"We have to state with regret, that we have learned from a source which we cannot question, that serious differences have taken place in India between Lord William Bentinck, Governor General, and Lord Dalhousie, Captain General of the Forces. Such was its extent, that the Governor General deemed it his duty to place Lord Dalhousie under arrest. The important results of this proceeding are nearly admitted as being as the European officers have generally sided with the Commander in Chief, and refused to attend Lord William Bentinck's parties. The moral influence of such a conflict of authorities upon India at large, may prove of a most important nature; and we anxiously await further intelligence on this painful subject."

THE CHANSELOER.—The experimental squadron, at it is termed, which is about to depart from Portsmouth, under the command of Vice Admiral Sir Edward Codrington, G. C. B., is the first naval armament of similar magnitude which has left our shores since the occasion that preceded the gallant and successful attack made on Algiers by Lord Viscount Exmouth. The following is a list of the ships already commissioned; and from the names of their commanders, many of whom are connected with the annals of our maritime glory, we may calculate what the result will be should they have any real work to do:—Calcutta, 120 guns, Vice Admiral Sir E. Codrington; Captain Curzon; Prince Regent, 120, expected daily from the Mediterranean; Asia, 84, Captain Parker; Revenge, 76, Captain Hillyar; Wellesley, 74, Captain Rowley; Donegal, 76, Captain Dick; Talavera, 74, Captain Cobby; Barham, 50, Captain Pigot; Alfred, 46, Captain Bingham; Dublin, 50, Captain Lord J. Ross; Foxhound, 50, Captain Sir T. Troubridge; Curzon, 30, Captain Dunn. With various smaller vessels not yet commissioned.

It is stated in the Court Journal that the Speaker of the House of Commons is about to retire from his distinguished station. Mr. Littleton, the member for Staffordshire is spoken of as likely to be his successor.

Sir Holt Leigh's Brother killed by the Moh.—With feelings of mixed grief and indignation, says the Preston Pilot, we have this week to announce that the savage excesses of the Revolutionary mob at the Wigan election have terminated in the death of an unfortunate gentleman, the brother of Sir H. Leigh.

There was a frost in England on the 6th May—the thermometer, in several places, fell to 26, being 6 degrees below the freezing point. The accounts from various parts of the country state that the frost has done serious damage.

Money voted to the Duke of Wellington.—February, 1810, a grant of £2000 per annum for his life and two other lives. February 1812, a further grant of £2000 per annum with the same limitations. December 7, 1812, a grant of £100,000.—May 12, 1813, a grant of £100,000.—July 1, 1815, a grant of £200,000.—Total, £1000 a year for three lives, and £700,000.—Maidstone (Eng.) Gazette.

In Ireland the disorders seem to be far from being quelled. The Limerick Chronicle complains that its columns are burdened with a mass of outrages from the County of Clare.—Not content with the murder of civilians and policemen, the insurgents have turned their arms against the king's forces. The host of conspirators now arranged in Clare, has set at defiance every obligation of law or religion."

A Proclamation has been issued by the Lord Lieutenant, declaring that the County of Clare and several Baronies in Galway, Limerick, and Tipperary, are placed under the protection of the Peace Preservation Act.

The arguments in the case of the King vs. O'Connell and others, was, on the 11th May, ordered by the Court of King's Bench, Dublin, to stand over until the first day of the next term.

The Liverpool Times of the 17th of May observes:—"We have now, therefore on record, the opinions of every interest in the state on the subject of Reform. The great commercial cities of London, Liverpool, Bristol, and Hull, have not sent a single anti-reformer to Parliament; Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, Sheffield, Nottingham and Leicester, the capitals of the manufacturing districts of the kingdom, have spoken out in a manner too decisive to be mistaken; the mining districts of Cornwall, South Wales, and Staffordshire, have displayed their zeal for Reform by every means in their power; hundreds of towns, inferior in magnitude to those which we have mentioned above, and not distinguished as the seat of any particular manufacture, but still important and respectable places, both on account of their wealth and intelligence, have returned liberal members to Parliament, or petitioned and subscribed in favor of reform; the press, the representative as well as the guide of public opinion, has everywhere thrown its influence into the scale; and to crown the whole, the landed interests of England—the possessors of all the real property in the kingdom—a class of men particularly opposed to unnecessary change, and interested perhaps even more than other classes in the effect with which it has supported them. From what we have seen, we have no hesitation in saying, that if the rotten boroughs could have been cut off for the present, and if the Parliament had been elected by the people, not a dozen persons hostile to reform would have been returned."

REFORM AND THE CHANGEMEN.—We cannot cite a better proof than the Proceedings (Discussions) of the National Convention, that the great measure of reform, that the fact that the Belfast press, hitherto their guardians, are advancing the measure strongly. Hear the terms in which the Belfast Letter describes its former Brunswick associates, and describe them both justly and exactly:—"The Evening Mail is literally fronting on the subject, and as a last resource, it calls upon the Brunswickers and the Orangemen, to unite against the measure of reform.—We have to tell him that the Orangemen themselves have very generally become reformers. The Evening Mail is sufficiently full of terrific forebodings, in anticipation of the success of the bill, while the Evening Packet is, if possible, in a still more deplorable predicament. Despairing, we suppose, of convincing its readers by argument, and naturally concluding that its simple assertion would be of little value in such a case, the Packet has taken to the most unbecoming course that the reform bill will run the country."

Prince Lieven has stated to Lord Palmerston that the Emperor of Russia will cheerfully adopt any suggestion for the settlement of Poland, after having put down the Russian Government. It is certain that the great preference will take place on the part of France and England, particularly France, in M. Casimir Perier observed to the Russian Ambassador in Paris last week, that the tranquillity of France depended on the success of the Poles, and the justice of the Emperor after defeating them, he declared.

Prince Talleyrand has been authorized to state to the Government that the British Cabinet have referred to the Emperor the proposal to place the Crown of Belgium on the head of Prince Leopold, and have left the affair entirely to the discretion of his Royal Highness.—It is stated in the Hamburg Papers that Austria has addressed a note to the English, French, Prussian, and Russian Governments, inviting them to send Ministers to a Congress at Aix la Chapelle for the purpose of agreeing to a general reduction of the armies of the Continental States, and for the purpose of settling the Polish and Belgian affairs."

PORTUGAL.

A Bitter Pill for Don Miguel. Private letters received on Friday night by the mail from Lisbon state that the British squadron consisting of a 74 gun ship, two frigates, four corvettes, and three brigs, had arrived in the Tagus, and demanded a categorical answer to the demands of the British Government, all negotiation on the subject in dispute being expressly forbidden. In the event of an unfavorable answer being given, the British General, Mr. Spencer, was ordered immediately to embark, and the commander of the squadron had orders to make reprisals in any manner he thought fit. The following are a portion of the demands of the British Government:—1. The amount of the indemnity required from Don Miguel may be paid by six months of arrears.

- 1. "The first demand was the immediate recognition of the Conservator Judge, elected by the British merchants at Oporto, and the dismissal of the present Judge.
- 2. "The dismissal of the Captain of the Portuguese frigate Diana, who captured the Saint Helena packet off Penzance, in 1810, and the British Admiral, Captain Curzon, Prince Regent, 120, expected daily from the Mediterranean; Asia, 84, Captain Parker; Revenge, 76, Captain Hillyar; Wellesley, 74, Captain Rowley; Donegal, 76, Captain Dick; Talavera, 74, Captain Cobby; Barham, 50, Captain Pigot; Alfred, 46, Captain Bingham; Dublin, 50, Captain Lord J. Ross; Foxhound, 50, Captain Sir T. Troubridge; Curzon, 30, Captain Dunn. With various smaller vessels not yet commissioned.
- 3. "The dismissal of the Magistrate and soldiers who entered the houses of Mr. Caffery's and an indemnity of 20,000 rials per day to the firmness of his manufactory, for every day he was detained in confinement.
- 4. "Compensation to Mr. Hoockley, who was ordered illegally to quit the kingdom; and a reprimand to the Magistrate who illegally levied a tax on Mr. Hoockley.
- 5. "All extra duties taken on British cargoes to be refunded; and no duties to be levied in future, except those recognized by treaty.
- 6. "An apology to the English merchants who have been ill-treated; and compensation to their clerks who have been imprisoned, whether English or Portuguese.
- 7. "All these demands to be published in the Lisbon Gazette of the 4th of May; and if there was no redress within three days, the English Consul to go on board the squadron, and the capture of all Portuguese vessels immediately to take place.
- 8. "It is added, in a postscript to these letters, that the Portuguese Government, terrified by the appearance of the squadron, had promptly acceded to every demand; and that the whole affair, including the payment of the compensation, was to be settled on Tuesday (31 May).

LONDON, May 15.—The announcement of the result received great disappointment on Saturday among the Portuguese Refugees, who naturally expected Miguel would persist in his obstinacy, and that some contest might take place which would prove fatal to his Government. They may, however, indulge some hopes of such an occurrence in a very short time; for the French and American Governments have both got it into their heads to settle with King Miguel. The claims of the Americans were still more serious than those of the French or English. Several American citizens had been sent from Michael's and the adjacent islands in irons, and were afterwards treated with the greatest cruelty and indignity.

LONDON, May 16.—We received last night Lisbon Gazette of the 4th May. They contain the penitential decrees of Don Miguel, issued in adherence to the demands of our government. The dismissal of the instruments of his tyranny, through fear of the consequences which would have instantly followed a refusal, must have been a most hard to digest.—Extracts follow:—"Official—Department of Justice, Lisbon, May 3.—I having been represented to me that Philippe, Marquis de Silva e Sousa Belfort, Captain Judge, of the quarter of the Ribeira, making a search in the night of the 21st of March last in the house of the English merchant Roberts, did not conform to my Royal Order, which directs that all privileges enjoyed by British subjects in these Kingdoms should be strictly respected, I am pleased to dismiss him from that office which he held in my service. (Signed by his Majesty.)"

"Department of Marine.—Francisco Ignacia de Silva, Lieutenant, Comandante de my Royal Navy, being while he commanded the Diana frigate in the block

ade of Terceira, improperly captured the St. Helena English packet, which had on board, in convey to the English, 2340 soldiers of the British army, and the mail, with despatches for the Colonial Office; having besides, acted with violence to Captain Warren and the crew of the said packet; and desiring, in consequence of these facts, to give to his British Majesty a proof how disagreeable they were to me, and the ample satisfaction which they require; and desiring, therefore, to act as was done in England towards the Captain of the English brig of war the Vigilant, who was dismissed from his post; I think fit to dismiss from my service the said Comandante. (Signed by his Majesty.)"

"Palace of Queen, 23d April, 1831." "Department of Finance.—The King, our Sovereign, having, by a Resolution of the 13th April last, ordered that Joshua Levi, a subject of his Britannic Majesty, shall enjoy the privileges which justly and of right belong to him, and have been granted by the existing laws, and in consequence of the demand wrongfully made of him of the tribute of the Manse, from which he is exempted by his privileges; and his Majesty, desiring the full and entire observance of the law relative to the guarantee of similar ancient privileges granted by the Sovereign of these Kingdoms, has been pleased to order the Board of Finance to summon before the Tribunal the officer who thus acted contrary to law, and to require him to justify his conduct; and that such proceedings, contrary to the said law, may not be repeated in future. (Signed by his Majesty.)"

"Palace of Queen, 1st May." POLAND. (From the New York Observer.) "The Poles continue to prosper. The fourth plan of Gen. Dierbitch for their defeat has been completely frustrated, and according to the latest accounts, the Russian army had retreated as far as the Bar, and was preparing to cross that river. The report of their retreat, which we published last week, was premature; for after leaving Siedlce, it seems, Gen. D. marched towards Warsaw, the Polish army retreating in good order before him till they arrived at Prage opposite Warsaw on the Vistula, where they took firm stand. Finding it impossible to make any impression upon them, and unable to obtain provisions for his army, Gen. D. then commenced his retreat, and at the latest date had got beyond Siedlce, the Polish army in pursuit."

It will be perceived with regret, that the brave Gen. Dierbitch, who at the head of a small body of Poles has done so much by his activity to promote laurels in Volhynia, has at last been driven by a greatly superior force into the Austrian territory, and has surrendered his arms to the Austrian army."

Fourth Retreat of the Russians. The following summary account of the news from Poland, is from the London Courier of the 15th May:—"At length we have received authentic intelligence from Poland, and we rejoice to say, of the most cheering kind. The Russian command-in-chief, who some days since, in the plenitude of presumption, pledged himself to his master, that by a certain day, he would display the Russian eagle in Warsaw, has again been foiled, his plans again deranged, and, with the bulk of his army, he has been obliged to fall back, in circumstances which are very humiliating to the pride of the nation. It is a fresh time that this dauntless conqueror, whose bold pretensions have now become a laughing-stock even to his own thick headed followers, has seen his claims of immortality vanish. Of the details of this last advance of the Russians upon Warsaw, and the retreat of the Poles, we have not had the opportunity of being acquainted, but they differ but little from each other. As usual, the first movement from Siedlce, which was Dierbitch's headquarters for some time, denoted an intention on the part of the enemy to advance. Skrzynecki dispatched couriers to Warsaw to prepare them for the worst. The retreat, in the mean time, continued the Poles every where carrying with them the inhabitants of the country, and every description of provision which could serve as subsistence to the enemy. Upon the 27th, Skrzynecki had reached the capital, and fixed his headquarters there; the bulk of his army was at Milosza, a few miles distant. In their retreat they appear to have been greatly harassed by the Russians, in that Minsk a number of some consequence took place, in which the Russians say the Poles lost a considerable number of men; but this is contradicted by the accounts upon which we are enabled to judge. He is said to have slain about 2000 men, and to have taken 1000 prisoners. He is also said to have been greatly harassed by the Russians, in that Minsk a number of some consequence took place, in which the Russians say the Poles lost a considerable number of men; but this is contradicted by the accounts upon which we are enabled to judge. He is said to have slain about 2000 men, and to have taken 1000 prisoners. He is also said to have been greatly harassed by the Russians, in that Minsk a number of some consequence took place, in which the Russians say the Poles lost a considerable number of men; but this is contradicted by the accounts upon which we are enabled to judge. He is said to have slain about 2000 men, and to have taken 1000 prisoners. He is also said to have been greatly harassed by the Russians, in that Minsk a number of some consequence took place, in which the Russians say the Poles lost a considerable number of men; but this is contradicted by the accounts upon which we are enabled to judge. 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