

LONDON, FEB. 2.

The influenza appears to be more serious in its effects than was at first supposed.—The deaths in the Metropolis have been very numerous; the burials on Sunday the 22d ult. having been more than a thousand. To many of the very old and young, the disease has been fatal to a great extent. The country papers are filled with accounts of its devastations. The increase of burials, it appears by the weekly Bills of Mortality for the week ending the 25th ultimo and that which preceded it, was 394; the number of deaths returned from influenza is 106. The number of deaths amongst the old Greenwich pensioners from the first of the month amounted to not less than 91. It is, however, a singular circumstance, that although one-fifth part of the Metropolitan police force have been taken by the disorder, none have died from it. From Edinburgh it is stated that the mortality is believed to be as great as during the well-known period of the cholera. Everywhere the attendance at places of worship has been diminished in a most extraordinary degree.

EXTENT OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE.—In no age, nor in any record of by-gone nations, is a parallel to be found for the almost boundless extent of the Russian dominions, as they exist in the present day. This colossal of power forms a connected whole, which is dislocated by no seas, and intersected by the possession of no intervening sovereignty. There is not any part of it which lies at all disjoined from this congruous mass, save that which lies in America, and is severed from it by a narrow strait. This portion, after all, does not amount to a fifteenth part of the Moscovite territory, which of itself is larger than Europe and Australia put together. It stretches over three quarters of the world; occupying the larger portion of the north of Europe, the whole of the north of Asia, and part of the north-west of America. The connection of the latter with Russia in Asia is maintained by a chain of islands which run from the Peninsula of Kamtschatka in Asia to the Peninsula of Alaska in America. The Russian empire comprehends nearly two hundred and fifty degrees of longitude—consequently, nearly two-thirds of the circumference of the whole globe; and about forty degrees of latitude—for it extends from Pyszdy, the last station on its Polish frontier, to Queen Charlotte's Sound in America. When it is 12 o'clock at midnight at its westernmost point, it is 16 minutes past two at midnight at its easternmost. It comprises a seventh part of the habitable earth, and a five-and-twentieth part of its superficial extent, land and water. It is 75 times larger than Prussia; 70 times larger than Great Britain and Ireland; 68 times larger than Italy; 64 times larger than Sweden; 37 times larger than France; and 31 times larger than Austria. The climate of this immense sovereignty is as varied as its component parts—here we have the heats which ripen the grape, the almond, the fig, and olive, the pomegranate and orange in the open air; and there, the excessive frigidities which reduce mercury to the state of hardness in which it may be hammered; at one extremity the bear hounded amid eternal ice, and at the other the camel passing over a hot bed of arid sand; spring blooming along the Caucasus, whilst life and vegetation are entombed along the frozen strand of the Vistula and Neva. Yet in all his greatness, the autocrat scarcely counts twice as many lieges as the King of England; and is lord of scarcely as many cities and market-towns as the single Emperor of Austria.

FRANCE.—The trial of the prisoners connected with the affairs of Louis Napoleon at Strasburg terminated on the 18th Jan.—The questions submitted to the Jury were 24, and after twenty minutes' deliberation, on returning into court, which was crowded by an anxious audience, the foreman in the midst of profound silence said—"On my honour and conscience, before God and before man, the answer of the Jury is No, to all the questions which have been put to it." The prisoners embraced each other with great emotion, and each of them warmly pressed the hands of his counsel, all eyes were filled with tears, and notwithstanding the warnings of the President, the court resounded with the shouts of "Vive le jury! Vive le jury d'Alsace!" The same feeling displayed itself in the court yards, and environs of the Palais de Justice. The Jury had the greatest difficulty in making their way through the crowds, who applauded their decision. The prisoners got into a carriage, which was followed with continued acclamations, and thus proceeded to their respective homes. During the rest of the day the town displayed the appearance of a fete, and even the garrison participated in the general satisfaction. It was reported in court that the verdict was returned by a majority of eight to four. The whole of the liberal press at Paris exult in the termination of the trial which they consider "an energetic protest against a flagrant violation of the laws." "A noble indication of the principle of equality, which requires that justice should be equal for all," and "a severe lesson both for the ministry and the

chambers, that voted the address without inserting therein an expression of blame against the legal abstraction of Louis Buonaparte.

[The solemn acquittal of men who made no secret of their guilt before the Court which tried them—nay, who even gloried in the acknowledgment—may be a source of exultation to the multitude; but few calm, rational minds will look upon such a verdict without alarm, as furnishing the government with a strong argument against the competency of French citizens to participate in the administration of Justice.]

The Paris evening papers of Friday, contain various, but by no means important, commentaries upon a Royal Ordinance published in the *Moniteur* of that day, prohibiting the sale or the carrying of pocket pistols. Several individuals were seized on suspicion of participating in the plots of Champion and Meunier. Most of them are labouring men out of employment. The vigilance of the police is so excessive, as to be almost intolerable. Taverns, coffee-houses, and lodging-houses are entered by them at all hours, and the inmates subjected to the most humiliating annoyances.—There is no such thing as personal liberty now in France.

The *Gibraltar Chronicle*, received this morning, contains the particulars of the earthquake which took place at Saffet, and which destroyed the whole of that town, Tiberias, and many of the surrounding villages. About 500 Jews, and as many Christians and Musselmans, fell victims, without including a great number of persons mortally wounded and maimed. Such an appalling event is scarcely to be met with in the annals of history.

The Carlist chief Cabrera had entered the rich town of Iniesta, in La Mancha, on the 14th inst., at the head of between 2,000 and 3,000 infantry, and about 400 cavalry. It was even reported that he had taken possession of Murviedro, the fort of which had been abandoned by the Christianos garrison. The deputies of Cuenca, Señor Lontoya, called the attention of the Chamber, during the sitting of the 17th, to the fact that his Province was invaded by the Carlists, who were opposed by only a score of horse and some marines. In consequence of these statements, a detachment of the Queen's regiment, of about 800 men, quitted Madrid on the 18th in the direction of Ocana. The province of Cordova continued in a state of siege, and the cities of Valladolid and Palencia were being fortified, lest the Carlists should make a new incursion in that quarter.

A private letter of the 10th inst., from Pampeluna, states that an attempt had been made on the life of Don Carlos by an individual, who hoped, it is said, to obtain a sum of money and the favour of the government of Madrid by assassinating the Pretender. The attempt was made at a little village between Tolosa and Onate. It appears that Don Carlos took a few moments' repose in a chamber of the village inn, when a muleteer, supposed to belong to the house, approached him, but had not time to discharge the pistol with which he was armed. Hearing some one coming up the staircase which conducted to the Pretender's chamber, he quietly retired, without being noticed by the aides-de-camp and guards, and escaped into the country. On arriving at Pampeluna some days afterwards he mentioned the circumstance, and said that if the Queen's government would secure him a maintenance for the rest of his life, he would engage to kill the Pretender. The individual in question is remarkable for his courage and the determined character he evinces in everything he undertakes.—*London Standard*.

The attack from St. Sebastian on the contiguous Carlist forts of Irun and Fontarabia had been again deferred from the 18th to the 20th, or later. No particular reasons are assigned for these frequent postponements, but they are no doubt owing to the indecision of the English General, Evans, and to the want of certainty, on his part, that he will be supported by the Spanish Generals in command of the divisions. In the meantime Don Carlos had ordered the hospital at Irun to be evacuated, and the sick and wounded inmates to be carried to private dwellings, his intention being to render the hospital itself a strong point of defence, should the assault succeed, and the Christianos gain possession of the streets. In consequence of intelligence having reached the Carlist camp that some heavy guns had been permitted to traverse the French territory, for the purpose of being planted against Irun, on the bridge of Behobia, which is exactly on the frontier line, General Giubelalde addressed General Harispe in command at Bayonne, informing him, that if, in returning the fire from the fort of Behobia, the balls were to fall on the French territory, that circumstance must not be considered as any intentional outrage against France, but simply as an act of self-defence. Don Carlos had likewise sent formal protests against this act to all the European courts, including that of Louis Philippe.

Great Meeting in London in support of the Church.—On Saturday last a public meeting of the members and friends of the Established Church was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, for the purpose of petitioning both Houses of Parliament against any plan for the extinction of church rates which shall compromise the principle of a national establishment. Amongst the company on the platform were, Lord Kenyon, Lord Teignmouth, Lord Sandon, M.P., Mr W. E. Gladstone, M.P., the Rev. Dr Jabez Bunting, Mr C. Barclay, M.P., Mr H. Fleetwood, M.P., Mr Plumtre, M.P., Mr Hardy, M.P., Mr Hardy, M.P., Dr Lefroy, M.P., a number of distinguished clergymen, &c. &c. The Right Honorable Lord Ashley having been called to the chair, the Secretary read letters which had been received from the Duke of Wellington, Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Stanley, and several other noblemen and gentlemen, regretting that previous engagements or indisposition prevented their attendance, but expressing firm attachment to the Established Church, and their readiness to second the exertions of the meeting in their places in the respective Houses of parliament. In moving and seconding resolutions, having for their object the support of the Established Church, several gentlemen addressed the meeting: amongst the speakers were Lord Teignmouth, Henry Hoare, Esq., the Rev. J. Cumming, (a clergyman of the Church of Scotland,) Dr. Sandwith, (editor of the *Watchman*) &c.

and took his place at the Board accordingly.
Secretary's Office,
8th April, 1837.
Ibid.

A Vessel's boat, or rather the wreck of a boat, had been driven on shore to the southward of Renew, and eight dead men had been thrown ashore on the beach. The vessel, our informant conjectures, must have been lost in the ice, and these unfortunate men perished in endeavouring to reach a harbour. One of them is supposed to be a Captain, as he had a watch in his waistcoat pocket, with a guard round his neck. There was one black man amongst them.—*Ledger April 14.*

Extract of a letter from a mercantile House, dated,
Lisbon, 25th February, 1837.

"A new Tariff is, by decree to come into operation on the 10th of next April, but there seems to be a general impression, that it will, meanwhile, be suspended. Mr Robinson called the attention of Lord Palmerston to the subject in the British House of Commons, and the latter, while he admitted the injurious tendency of the new tariff (in case the "Portuguese Government should not avail itself of the time for reflection") stated, that as he was unprepared to say whether or what steps the Ministry might advise the crown to take, whether, in fact, to retaliate, or "to leave the error committed by Portugal to work its own cure." We, individually, cannot help entertaining the opinion, that the new tariff will come into operation, but that these good people will soon enough be taught, by positive experience, as to the injurious effects which will result from a pro. temp. introduction.—Its permanent adoption, is out of the question, but the actual government here is so weak, that it will not we apprehend, dare, in the face of public clamour, to suspend the execution at the appointed time, and we question whether the Cortes, should they lean towards abandoning the project, will be bold enough to do so, so feeble has all authority been rendered here by the late political movements.

"In future, fish cargoes delivering short weight will be liable to pay double duty on the deficiency, if exceeding 10 qtls."

The Supreme Court of this Island opened on the 10th inst., pursuant to proclamation, when the Chief Justice delivered the following charge to the Grand Jury:—

Mr Foreman,
And Gentlemen of the Grand Jury—

I am happy to inform you that the Sheriff's calendar is extremely light, presenting only three cases of simple Larceny for consideration, upon neither of which will it be necessary for me to make any remark.

There is, however, a case of Perjury, which will be laid before you by the Attorney General; and although the party is out on bail, and therefore his name does not appear on the calendar, yet as the charge is one of no common character, I shall detain you a short time while I make some general observations upon the nature of the offence.

The crime of Perjury at once strikes the mind as most odious and detestable; and in whatever point of view it may be contemplated, is perhaps in its effects the most injurious and prejudicial to the best interests of man, of any which comes within the range of judicial investigation.

In all ages of the world, and in every stage of civilization, even among heathen nations, the solemnity of an oath has been held in the highest veneration, and has been regarded as the surest pledge which man can give of the sincerity of his intentions, or for the fidelity of his conduct; and very heavy punishments have been inflicted on the infraction of this sacred obligation; even death itself has not unfrequently been considered as a fit penalty for the commission of a crime at once odious in the sight of man, and insulting to the Majesty of Heaven.

Among the polished nations of heathen antiquity, the crime of perjury was looked upon as one of the most flagitious and disgraceful among men, and as impious towards the gods, who, it was believed, would pursue the perjurer with vengeance, even beyond the grave; and one of the Greek poets represents the Furies as going abroad on the fifth day of every month to haunt the bosom of the perjured wretch. The idea was also generally entertained that the sin of the perjured father would be visited on the child, who no doubt must suffer from the disgrace of the parent; and how much more should we, enjoying the light of the gospel, feel the enormity of the guilt incurred by such a desecration of the Lord's name, as that involved in our calling upon God to witness a base and wilful falsehood? When we reflect that the Holy Scriptures abound with denunciations against this abominable crime, and that the most striking instances are recorded in the sacred volume, of its commission being punished with instant death, as well as with sore and grievous punishments, by the immediate visitation of offended Omnipotence, ought we

THE STAR.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1837.

Proclamations appear in the *Gazette* of to-day, announcing that Writs bearing date the 10th inst., and returnable on the 30th June next, have been issued for the election of Members to serve in the General Assembly—and that the Legislature is to meet on the 3rd July for the despatch of business.—The inconvenience, as well as detriment to the interests of the colony, which it was apprehended would have been occasioned had the Legislative body not been called together this season, has therefore, we trust, been obviated.—*Gazette, April 11.*

BY AUTHORITY.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ARCHIBALD WALKER, Commanding Royal Engineers, having succeeded to the Command of His Majesty's Troops in this Island, was this day Sworn a Member of His Majesty's Council,