

Quebec, on Monday morning; and the news of the arrival of the rebels. We insert first below the view taken by the European papers of the Government's proposition with reference to the navigation-laws.

On Wednesday the 14th inst., Mr. Laboucane brought forward the Government's proposition for the modification of the Navigation-laws. Mr. Laboucane, instead of retreating from the position he assumed last year, has adopted a new one. In advance, we have induced him to furnish us with the following extract from his speech:

"British Parliament may be disposed to legislate in this matter before it is ready to legislate on the navigation-laws, based upon complete neutrality, and upon the opening of the neutral trading ports of the two countries to the vessels of both nations. It is, however, scarcely necessary to repeat the details of the measure proposed last session; [1848] we remember with the exception of the existing trade with the home fisheries, the whole of the Navigation-laws were proposed to be abrogated.

"The building-trade, to be thrown open, is to be built at any port of the world, and will be granted." The principle of ownership and right in the plan now proposed to abrogate, is, however, the very important result which would be produced by throwing open the coasting-trade to all vessels of above one hundred tons burden.

This important alteration has been made to meet the wishes of those who concur with Mr. Gladstone in the propriety of throwing open our coasting-trade so that British and Colonial vessels may participate in the American coasting-trade, and indeed in the coasting trade of the countries bordering on the Mediterranean, the Baltic, and other parts of the world. As far as we understand, the measure will require no reciprocity treaties or conventions whatever except as respects minor regulations; but a power is reserved to the Queen in Council of executing the present prohibitory laws in all cases where we find other nations refuse to give the privileges we offer to concede to them. By this proposed law, it will be competent for an American vessel to come to Liverpool from the United States laden with cotton and tobacco, and will be permitted to discharge her part of her cargo in the Mersey, to sail in Manchester goods, or coins, and passengers, and carry them to Glasgow or London in transit, and clear out with perhaps a fresh cargo from her port of discharge.

Such participation in the coasting trade is not to be a regular periodical and to and fro trade, but incidental to the general voyage. It is not yet explained where the strict line will be drawn between the coasting vessels and the foreign trading vessels, but the customs officers having consulted on the point, no difficulty is anticipated. The unequivocal declaration of Mr. Brougham that the United States Government will unite in this vast change, is most satisfactory, and conveys us of many of the apprehensions we should otherwise experience upon the subject. To the Canadians the alterations now proposed will prove of incalculable benefit. The hope of a return to a protective system, going out of the question, an alternative is left to remove the restrictions which prevent the Canadians from procuring freight for a small portion at the lowest terms whatever it can be obtained.

In the session now opened by Mr. Laboucane, a majority supported by the Conservatives, is in favour of the same, as being the most satisfactory, amongst all nations, with the largest number of ships, will enjoy the best portion of the coasting trade of the world. Up to the moment when London, Liverpool, and Hull had discharged their opinion upon the changes proposed, the resolution passed the Commons without a division, that the Protectionists through Mr. Herries, have gained their object in opposing this bill in the most strenuous manner. The form of the resolution was as follows: "That last year, with the aid of the late Mr. Fox, the bill to amend the laws relating to the coasting trade of the United Kingdom, leaving out part of the navigation and tonnage-duty, was a good and judicious measure; and that the House of Commons, in its judgment, should be satisfied with the removal of all restrictions at a future period."

The cholera returns have now swelled to 12,435 cases, of which 6,537 have died, 2,788 have recovered, and 3,110 continue under treatment, or the result not stated. In another poor town near London some unusual mortality has taken place, but in London districts the weekly mortality does not range higher than about fifty. In the provinces the reports exhibit a decline, and indeed in a national point of view, are almost insignificant.

In Scotland the number of deaths has decidedly decreased,

the daily returns from that quarter being generally about 600, and apparently still on the decline.

Indeed every thing indicates, with a daily advancing spring, that the disease is decreasing in violence; and we trust that no reactionary symptoms will discover themselves.

The general health of the metropolis is scarcely so good as the average, but the mortality through Asiatic cholera has manifestly diminished. The weather is generally mild and fine for the season.

The affairs of Ireland have occupied as usual a large portion of the time of Parliament since the session commenced. The necessity for the constitution of the suspension of the Hibernia Corps' Act has been admitted by overwhelming majorities, and even the ultra Irish members have made a feeble resistance to its passing.

The bill will pass the House of Lords with little or no opposition. The additional grant of £20,000, for the relief of the Irish poor, has also been sanctioned, but has given rise to a variety of debates, all hinging upon the question of what is to be done with Ireland.

Mr. Duffy's trial, after innumerable delays, has at length commenced. During its progress one of the jurors very obstreperously exhibited his party feeling by clapping his hands at some of the sentiments of counsel. Mr. Meagher appeared in court by habeas corpus, to give evidence, and was loudly applauded. After the "no-hands" bill had charged the jury, they retired to their room to consider their verdict, but, though locked up on the night of the trial, they could not agree, and were discharged on the following morning, Mr. Duffy, meantime, being sent back to prison until the 7th of April, when he will again be tried.

Conciliation Hall has been taken for a Roman Catholic Chapel of Ease to the Catholic Church of St. Andrew's, Dublin.

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