

## NEWS.

## NEWS BY GREAT WESTERN AND HIBERNIA.

The loss of the potato crop is farther confirmed, and the papers abound with speculations as to the great economical, and perhaps moral changes which the permanent abandonment of potatoes as an article of food is likely to produce.

The other crops were excellent, and business of all kinds in a remarkably flourishing state—all descriptions of handicraftsmen and labourers being well employed at good wages. Indeed, the employment of so many hands on railways had occasioned a deficiency of reapers, who, it is said, were getting in some districts 4s. to 4s. 6d. a-day.

All this prosperity has occasioned a greatly increased consumption of wheat bread, which, together with the potato rot, and a decidedly short crop in France, had given a considerable start to prices. The extreme quotation for flour is 31s., which, so far as we can see, is, however, merely nominal.

With the exception of cheap postage, there probably never was an innovation which gave such general satisfaction as Free Trade. Even land, which it was thought would be depreciated, is now selling higher than ever.

Ireland is likely at last to be made an integral part of the British Empire in reality as well as in name, and by the same process which accomplished the end in the Highlands of Scotland, namely, public improvements.

Railroads and other means of communication, together with quays, harbours, &c., are to be constructed forthwith, at Government expense in the meantime, but ultimately to be repaired, doubtless, by the parties benefited. The immediate reason for this mighty undertaking, is the absolute necessity of feeding the millions, who would otherwise starve on account of the failure of the potato crop. These measures have rendered the present Ministry exceedingly popular among all classes of Irishmen, except the small defeated party called "Young Ireland." Indeed, after such a substantial manifestation of goodwill on the part of the Saxon, we do not see how hatred towards him can be kept up. O'Connell has retired to his home at Derrynane, and things are quiet at Conciliation Hall.

The news from India is distressing. The cholera is raging in some quarters, and it is feared the war in the Punjab is likely to break out again.

Cotton has advanced from 3d to 3d per lb. The previous prices of grain and flour, are barely sustained, under the apprehension of a tightness in the money market, and the expectation of large importations from the United States.

## LORD METCALFE.

This nobleman is dead, and though, as a politician, it is not our province to judge him, we feel constrained to yield our tribute of praise to him, as a kind, generous, and amiable man. The following extract from the *European Times*, probably expresses the sentiments, with regard to the deceased, of the British public generally.—

Poor Lord Metcalfe has paid the debt of nature. The decease of this eminent man, long expected, has excited less surprise than regret. His country mourns his loss, for, truly, he was amongst the most useful, albeit one of the most modest, of her sons. His diplomatic career, which commenced at an unprecedentedly early age in the East, terminated, as most of our western readers know, on the banks of the St. Lawrence. With the exception of the skillful and accomplished diplomatist who brought the Chinese war to a close, Sir Henry Pottinger, no contemporary negotiator was ever entrusted with so many delicate commissions—no one ever executed them with more tact and judgment. He served the early part of his life in an excellent school—that of the East India Company, in which he proved himself to be fully a match for the wily tactics of the Eastern Princes. It is creditable to the character of the lamented nobleman that he showed his devotion to the cause of progression throughout the world, by the sacrifice of his personal interests. The East India Company never overlooked or forgave the noble conduct of their servant, during the time he was the temporary Governor-General, in freeing the press of India from the degrading restrictions under which it had previously laboured. Lord Metcalfe died on the 12th and was buried on the 15th ult.

## CANADA.

A considerable number of Welsh emigrants arrived here yesterday morning, and immediately left for the mining District on Lake Superior.—*True script.*

A large temperance hotel has been opened in Picton. The property cost £4000, and was purchased in shares of £2 10s. each by the Temperance Society.

A CHINA KID: TO BY ARDENT SPIRITS.—An inquest was held, last week, upon the body of a child named James Sheridan, the son of a Stevedore, who had got hold of a bottle of gin on Sunday morning while his father was at early mass, and his mother in bed, and drunk of it to intoxication, which eventually brought on spasms and terminated the child's life about noon of the day. Verdict of the Coroner's Jury: "That James Sheridan, being an infant under the age of discretion, and not having discernment between good and evil, of excessive drinking, and not otherwise, did die." Those for whom use the bottle of gin was placed where the unfortunate child found and drank his death in it, were no doubt of sufficient age to have discernment of good and evil.—*Quebec Herald, Sept. 21.*

We find by actual and accurate admeasurement, that the water at our wharves at Kingston this day, 26th of September, 1846, is three feet five inches lower than it was in 1835. This involves considerations of deep

importance to our Navigation, and of course affecting our new Canals. It is a well known fact, that as a country becomes cleared and open to the influence of the sun and air; that by the action of evaporation, all rivers diminish, hence the many instances in the old country where valleys which have formerly been channels of important rivers, are now become dry, or mere streamlets during wet seasons. It is not difficult to imagine that from the same, or similar causes, our magnificent rivers may gradually get more and more shallow: nor is this a circumstance which ought to have been overlooked in the construction of our canals. We shall on some future occasion give some striking instances on this subject which have come under our own notice in Canada.—*Ibid.*

The preparations for the Grand Provincial Cattle Show and Agricultural meeting on the 21st proximo in the City of Toronto, are proceeding with great spirit. Mr. Bethune, we hear, with his accustomed liberality, has offered his tents for the occasion, for transport to and from the exhibition, of Stock, implements and passengers at half the usual fares; and it is expected other proprietors of the various public conveyances will follow his example. This will be a great accommodation for parties at a distance, and we have no doubt will largely conduce to give the projected Institution a successful start.—*Cobourg Star.*

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

CLOCKS REGULATED BY ELECTRICITY.—A clock has been so arranged in Edinburgh, by its connection with the magnetic wires, that the oscillations of its pendulum mark the hours on a dial plate in Glasgow, and upon another in Edinburgh, at one and the same moment. So perfect is its operation that the electrical current passes from one city to the other in a point of time not perceptible, since the two clocks never vary perceptibly. Two other clocks are also to be placed in the intermediates of Lanthgow and Falkirk, to be regulated by the one in Edinburgh. It is proposed, as soon as all the railroad lines are supplied with telegraphic wires along their whole extent, to establish the general regulator in Greenwich, which will mark a uniform time upon several stations upon every railroad in the whole kingdom. In this manner, the present danger arising from disagreement in watches, and the sad catastrophes they have not infrequently occasioned, by mistakes in the departure of the trains, will be obviated.

LIBERATION OF CONVICTS.—The Secretary of State for the Home Department has issued warrants for the release of one hundred and thirty convicts, recently brought to England in the Scotia transport, from Bermuda, and placed in the Warrior hulk, part of the term of transportation having been remitted by recommendation to Her Majesty's free pardon on account of their exemplary conduct. The unfortunate men are leaving Woolwich daily, and have received sums varying from £5 to £20 each, according to servitude, for the purpose of carrying them home to their families and friends, instead of being turned off in a state of destitution, and compelled to resort to crime again.

Cholera is stated to have appeared in a very aggravated form, at Medina, in Arabia Felix. So many as 300 deaths a day have occurred. It appears that the disease broke out at Mocha, subsequently to its quitting Aden, and has travelled along the coast of the Red Sea, northward in the direction of the place named.

Letters recently received from Jerusalem state that all Palestine is a prey to the horrors of famine, caused by the drying up of the rivers and streams. At Safet, numerous persons had died for want of food.

A letter from Leghorn, on the 17th, says:—"Our town has just been thrown into great alarm by an earthquake. On the 14th, at ten minutes to one p. m., the first shock was felt, preceded by a rumbling noise. The shock lasted seven or eight seconds. The oscillations seemed at first perpendicular as if the ground was raised in a direction South-east to North-west. The inclination of the houses was such at that moment that it was difficult to stand upright in them, and the cracking of the walls and beams warned the inhabitants, who rushed into the streets. In the country the effects were more disastrous, principally in the Maremma, where ancient traces of volcanic eruptions are numerous. Whole villages were destroyed in the districts of Tausu, Lorenzana, Orciano, and Cascano. At Volterra a state prison fell in, burying some of the prisoners in the ruins. The number of lives lost is estimated at 38, and 110 wounded, some dangerously. Various natural phenomena occurred. Near Lorenzana and at Troina mud and boiling water issued from the earth; a lake was formed in a hollow. All the villas on the hills near Pisa have suffered considerably. For the four last days the ground has not ceased to shake at intervals. In the present shaken state of the houses, another powerful shock would be the ruin of Leghorn. Part of the population have left the town. Others live in tents, or have sought refuge in boats."

GAMBLING.—All the gambling houses in Germany are to be suppressed. Baden-Baden, Ems, and other watering places in that country have long swarmed with gamblers, and their suppression is a mark that there is an advance in morals, as in other things. Lotteries are also prohibited.

THE MORMONS.—It is stated that the war in Nauvoo is at an end, by the surrender of the Mormons, and the peaceable marching into and taking possession of Nauvoo by the anti-Mormons; the former evacuating the city immediately, leaving a committee of five, who are to take charge of the property and settle the business of their friends.

THE PORK BUSINESS.—In 1839, there were 26,401,283 hogs in the United States. The number has probably increased since that period to 30,000,000; sufficient to crumch down 200,000,000 bushels of corn! Upon the supposition that there are 30,000,000 of hogs—that they average 280 lbs. each, and that pork is worth \$3.50 per cwt., the value of the number annually killed is \$180,000,000, or more than three times the value of the cotton crop for 1845. A Cincinnati paper estimates the entire number of swine in Europe at but 46,478,160, so that Russia, Austria, and Great Britain, having a population of one hundred and twenty millions of people, have only as many swine as the United States, with twenty millions.

PENALTY OF MALPRACTICE.—A verdict of five hundred dollars damages was recovered in the Berks County (Pa.) Common Pleas last week, against a physician residing in Kutztown, for unskilful and negligent treatment of a fractured arm.