

Norway.—The States of Norway were opened at Christiania, on the tenth, by a speech delivered by the Counsellor of State, (M. Collet) in the name of the King. His Majesty states that the debts of the State had been regularly discharged, and that, though the direct taxes have been diminished since the last Sessions, the receipts have exceeded the payments. He notices the advantages derived by commerce, agriculture, and the revenue of the kingdom, from the National Bank which makes advances at four per cent. He announces that for the necessary protection of the naval commerce of the country, the Government requires to have ships of war at its disposal, and that for this purpose a Bill would be presented.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.—The Sultan is steadily advancing in the career of improvement and reform. Scarcely a week passes that does not furnish us with a proof of this. He has lately sent into Armenia, by way of experiment several Pachas and Governors, who instead of being allowed to provide for themselves out of the surplus of their revenues, are to receive a fixed stipend, in the quality of military governors. This regulation will have the double effect of checking corruption and oppression on the one hand, and securing the punctual and due payment of the revenue into the treasury on the other; by which means, if the system were adopted throughout the empire, the Sultan might safely reckon on having his finances doubled. Another regulation is of the highest importance. The Sultan has long been aware that, since the destruction of the Janissaries, no set of men have thwarted and opposed him in his enlightened policy, more than the body of the Ulemas. In order to pull down their pride, he has established a new scale of dignity and precedence, by which their importance is reduced to its proper level, under the separate heads of "Men of the Sword," "Men of the Pen," and "Civil Officers of the Government." To each of these a relative rank is assigned, and according to this new distribution of dignity, the military section has been exalted, and that of the Ulemas depressed.

The result of the recent elections in Spain appears to be the parliamentary inauguration of the movement party.—This is not to be wondered at in the excited state of the public mind of a country struggling to throw off a despotic regime, which has still the power to dispute, inch by inch, the ascendancy of the new order of things. The voice of moderation has no chance of a hearing, "charm she ever so wisely." Her lessons belong to a later stage of the business, when men begin to see the consequences of political violence. Great changes can only be effected by men of sterner natures and unbending decision of character. Martinez de la Rosa and Toreno trifled with Carlism, until the evil is almost insuperable by Mendizabal, and the fiercer spirits summoned by the late elections to his assistance. The candidates already elected seem to have been supported for the most part by the National Guards. Thus Almeria has chosen three staunch patriots,—namely, M.M. Chacon, an old deputy; Jose Jover, a merchant; and Jose Salamanca, a magistrate. These three deputies belong to the National Guards, and Almeria, celebrated, by public rejoicings this triumph of the popular candidates. Mina, too has been elected for Navarre. On the contrary, M.M. Martinez de la Rosa and Toreno have not been thought worthy of seats in this chamber. Grenada has rejected the former and Oviedo the latter. "The absolute necessity, under which Mendizabal is placed, of calling to his aid men of influence in the country," is the general subject of conversation in Madrid, and reconciles even the most timid to an elevation—disproportionate under any other circumstances—of the democratic elements of constitutional government.

We stated in our last, that the British Legion had quailed, not before the Carls, but at the presence "of the pestilence that walketh in darkness; and the destruction that wasteth at noon-day."—But why, we ask, have the British auxiliaries suffered from the ravages of disease incomparably more than the rest of the combined forces of the Queen

Whence the pre disposition to its fatal attacks? Neither their privations nor aigine account for the immense difference. They have been well clothed and well fed. And though their loss in actual warfare is stated not to have exceeded 700 or 800, yet the number of effective men is now reduced from 10,000 to 3,000. The explanation of the matter is sufficiently easy, by adverting to the habits of the men before they left home; and the whole case is one which will serve mightily the cause of Temperance Societies.—The *Phare* of Bayonne, a journal in the Christiano interest, contains the following very pertinent observations on the subject. After enumerating various causes, which single or combined are inadequate to the solution of the case, the writer proceeds,— "We shall find the cause of the almost total ruin of this corps in the character of the recruits, taken indifferently from the quays of Dublin, and the streets of Manchester. We further attribute it to the complete absence of discipline, and an intemperance the consequence of a deplorable excess of strong liquors, in a country, which requires exemplary sobriety. We know, beyond all doubt, that their pay is exclusively employed in this manner; and that not content with the liquor thus obtained, they almost daily sell, for the trifling sum of a penny, their rations of meat, in order to purchase brandy. Their equipments are also frequently sold for the same purpose."

The recent intelligence from the Canadas is highly important. On Sir Francis Head's arrival, as Governor of Upper Canada, he communicated to the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, then in Session, not only several dispatches from his Majesty's government, in reply to several addresses from those bodies, but also the Royal Instructions to himself and the King's Commissioners in Lower Canada, for their guidance in investigating, and endeavouring to settle the various questions which have of late years been agitated in those provinces, and which have recently assumed a very threatening aspect in Lower Canada.

The disclosure of these instructions seems to have been unexpected and premature, and to have arisen from Sir Francis Head's not distinguishing between furnishing the two branches of the provincial legislature with the substance of his instructions (if desired,) and laying before them the instructions themselves, on his assuming the government of the upper province. As these instructions contain a full and minute exposition of the policy of the present Government, in regard to the Canadas, this early disclosure of them will hasten the crisis which is approaching, especially in the affairs of Lower Canada. In that province, the three-fourths numerical French majority have, since the assumption of the government by the Earl of Gosford, been triumphing in the prospect of absolute ascendancy over their British fellow-subjects, whilst the one-fourth British minority (but possessing three-fourths of the wealth and intelligence of the country) have been appealing to their fellow-subjects, speaking the English language in the neighbouring provinces, to assist them in averting the domination and oppression of an ignorant French majority. But the instructions of his Majesty's government to the Royal Commissioners in the Canadas, whilst they direct a careful inquiry into every complaint preferred by any party, are, we are happy to say, strictly conservative of the institutions of those provinces and carefully guard the prerogatives of the crown against the encroachments of popular ambition, and provide for a firm and efficient, as well as impartial and popular administration of the Government. The joyous anticipations of the Republican party, and the fearful apprehensions of the friends of British Institutions and the British Connexion in the Canadas, are alike terminated. The *Toronto Courier*,—the leading organ of the Constitutional party in Upper Canada,—says, "The expectations of the Republican faction are blasted, and the anxieties, and the had almost said the terrors, of the Com-made, and we may then expect to see the Constitutionalists are proved to be groundless." The *Correspondent and Advertiser*—the principal organ of the Republican party in the same province, and edited and published by an ex Catholic priest,—speaking of the messages of His

Excellency, Sir Francis Head, by which the Royal Instructions had been communicated to the Assembly,—expresses it as follows:—"The message has gone abroad, and produced disappointment.—We find none of the changes which the Tories dreaded, and which the people expected! It contains nothing solid or definitive,—it promises no effectual change in the great evils which have been the cause of all our unhappiness,—it leaves us precisely in our former situation or worse."

We congratulate the government and the country—especially the Canadas—on the Constitutional and Statesman-like views of Colonial policy expressed in these instructions to the provincial Governors; and we still anticipate a long and mutually beneficial connection between these extensive and valuable dependencies of Great Britain and the Parent State.

A noble task was performed in the abolition of Negro Slavery: but in accomplishing that, the British Legislature did not complete all that was requisite to be done in the West Indies. It was truly a great achievement; but so far from being a final measure, it was only the commencement of a series of such as were necessary to secure the welfare of the emancipated race, and place the prosperity of the colonies on a permanent and sure foundation. Slavery was not a mere blot, on the very surface of society, the removal of which, would at once restore it to a beautiful and healthy state: it was rather a gangrenous disease affecting the whole social frame, and rendering a thorough and searching process of purification imperative in order to restore the system to soundness and vigour.

One of the evils originated, or, at all events, greatly aggravated by slavery, was the imperfect administration of justice in the West India Colonies. This evil has long been notorious. Years before Slavery came to an end, it had ceased to excite wonder, how it was that the oppressed negro, and the persecuted missionary, should so often be denied redress in the Colonial Courts. What justice could be hoped for, when the judge and the jury were too frequently interested parties? And even where degree of corrupt bias was absent, what law, it may be asked, was to be expected when, as it appears from the report of the Commissioners in 1822, not a single lawyer could be found among the twenty-five judges in one of the islands? The attention of successive administrations has been called to this subject; and the Earl of Ripon, Lord Stanley, Mr Spring Rice, and the Earl of Aberdeen, severally applied themselves to the task of devising a suitable remedy for the existing evil. The continuance of slavery, however, presented difficulties which proved insuperable to Lord Ripon and his successor in the colonial department. So long as it remained, no efficient reform in the administration of justice in the West Indies could be effected; and the Earl of Aberdeen, was too short a time in office to introduce the measure which he had in preparation for the accomplishment of this important object. The honour has been reserved for Lord Glenelg to bring in a Bill for the better Administration of justice in the West Indies. The principle of his Lordship's bill is to divide the West India Islands into two districts, each of which, a chief justice and a senior judge are to be appointed, who are, at stated times, to go the circuit throughout the islands. On every Island there is also to be a puisne judge resident, who shall assist the other judges, when they arrive on circuit, and who at other times shall transact business as the judges do in their chambers at home, and perhaps preside at the Quarter Sessions. We earnestly hope that the suggestion of the Earl of Ripon will be attended to, and that the spurious economy will be repudiated, which would fix the salaries of the judges on so low a scale, as would prevent talented and competent men from accepting appointments to West India judgeships. Let only a sufficient remuneration be made, and we may then expect to see the West Indies placed on a footing with our own country, with regard to the administration of justice. It was truly gratifying to witness, during the discussion of this subject in the House of Lords, on Friday evening, the Earl of Ripon ex-

pressing his satisfaction with the bill brought forward by the Noble Secretary for the Colonies, and to hear Lord Glenelg, in reply, disclaim all the honour, except that which arose out of his being enabled, by favourable circumstances, to introduce the measure which his predecessors had planned.

FRANCE.

The Paris papers of Friday and Saturday are prolific in domestic news. The debate in the Chamber of Deputies on the question of the amnesty commenced on Saturday by the reading of reports on petitions praying for the adoption of that measure, to extend to all cases of political prisoners condemned since the 25th of July, 1830. Should the measure be adopted to that extent, it will include M. de Polignac and his fellow-prisoners, the ex-ministers of Charles X. This proposition it was expected would lead to a long discussion, the Minister of Justice having proposed that upon a question of so much importance the chamber should take full time for consideration, and not decide hastily and taking that view of the subject, he proposed that the chamber should pass to the order of the day. Public opinion is decidedly in favour of the measure, but doubts are entertained of its being carried.

In the meantime, the official French journal comes out with a rumour of a new plot for assassinating the King and other branches of the Royal Family.—The *Motivair* of Saturday, contains an account of the discovery by the police of a manufactory of gunpowder situated in the Rue de l'Oursire. At the time that the police made their entrance, six men were found at work, all of whom were taken into custody. The quantity of gunpowder found on the premises did not exceed 150lbs; but it was evident from the nature of the apparatus that the manufacture had been carried on very extensively. This discovery was made on Wednesday, and we are told that on the following day the police, acting upon information which they had received, succeeded in seizing four large boxes filled with carbines, muskets, and pistols, and nearly one hundred packages of cartridges. These were found in a house in the Rue de Beaume, where it appears they had been deposited some weeks. These discoveries have led to several arrests, and the police are still actively engaged in their search, under the direction of the Minister of Justice.

SPAIN

Private letters corroborate the accounts previously received of the disappointment experienced by the public at the development of M. Mendizabal's finance plan. The French papers notice two assassinations as having taken place in the Spanish capital. They are neither of them of a political character, although an extraordinary circumstance attaches to them both. The victims were both members of the diplomatic body, one being the cook on the establishment of the Danish Charge d'Affaires, and the other the lady's maid of the French Ambassador.

From Barcelona, there are accounts to the 4th instant. They make no mention whatever of any disturbance existing in the city at the time. Mina, is becoming if possible, more unpopular than ever.—His late atrocious act of brutal, sanguinary barbarity—the murder of the unfortunate mother of Cabrera—has excited against him in the minds of the populace a universal feeling of detestation.

Letters from the north of Spain contain a most melancholy account of the state of the British Legion. The *Courrier* of Monday night publishes a long letter from its correspondent at Vittoria, which gives a frightful picture of the sufferings, deprivations and losses to which the troops under Colonel Evans have been exposed. Our contemporary introduces the following observations, affording us a striking testimonial of Spanish gratitude:—

"General Evans has been, we do not hesitate to say, most shamefully treated. It is obviously impossible to maintain an army which is not regularly supplied and paid. He has had to contend from the very moment of his landing in Spain against the want of a military chest, and of provisions and necessaries for his