

similar to that on which Loveless and the other Unionists were convicted at Dorchester. Two of the men, whose names are Daniel Gill and James Stoddart, were delegates from London; they had arrived here for the purpose of establishing a "Lodge" for the bricklayers or masons, and belliers, as they are called here. The other 14 were amongst the first who were initiated; but the Magistracy acted with so much promptitude in their attack upon the system here, that some of them were apprehended before they had passed through their initiation. The charge against them is unlawful confederacy and combination. There are five Counsel engaged for the defence; Mr Clarkson of the Old Bailey, who is specially retained; Mr C. Buller, M.P. for Liskeard; and Messrs. Crowder, Praed, and Tyrrell. The attorney for the accused is Mr Flower, from Alderman Harmer's Office, Hatton-garden. No expense has been spared in preparing for the defence, and providing for the comfort of the men, who have all been out on bail. I heard to-day that there was a letter of credit with one of the bankers here on their account, to the amount of £2,000. The prosecution has acted as a stimulant to the formation of lodges here, rather than a check; there were three formed here last week: the shoemakers, the tailors, and the plasterers was I believe, the third. There are two millions of men in union, it is stated throughout England, and such is the anxiety to learn the result of this approaching trial, that Union expresses are provided to start to London and Birmingham as soon as it closes. The Sessions were adjourned from Monday last till tomorrow, to suit the convenience of our worthy Recorder, Mr Sergeant Coleridge, whose engagements on the Western Circuit, prevented him attending at the usual time. Lord de Walden, the British envoy at Lisbon, has given great offence by attending a levee in boots!

Recent accounts from Napoli di Romania, announce the death of the Greek Captain Colotroni.

The advices from Berlin are to the 29th March, and are chiefly taken up with the accounts of the great preparations making for the approaching reviews of the Prussian corps d'armee. It is said that these spectacles will be the most splendid of any that have been seen for a long time; the 2d, 3d, and 4th corps will form the royal guard, and the whole division amount to 60,000 men. Several foreigners of high rank, are expected to be present on the occasion.

The Congress of Vienna now sits daily. Little appears to be known of its proceedings, which as yet we believe, relate almost exclusively to the internal affairs of Germany.

A meeting of representatives of the "Dissenting Body" from different parts of the kingdom, will take place in the metropolis, in the early part of the month of May next. At a meeting of the deputies, held on Wednesday, the subject of the marriage contract was brought forward, and after a long discussion, the following resolution was agreed to:—"Resolved, that in the opinion of this deputation marriage ought to be considered as a civil contract. That, after due public-

ty, the act of registration in the presence of competent witnesses, by an official responsible registrar, should constitute the legal act. As to the religious part of the ceremony, it should be left to the parties to adopt such modes as they think proper.

The policy of Russia is not a whit changed, nor indeed, is that of France; but this visit of Earl Durham and Mr Ellice to Paris, has a little disconcerted M. Pozzo di Borgo; and also it would seem, the new object of all Russian regards—The Monarch of the Barricades. Each (I mean King Louis Philip, and M. Pozzo di Borgo,) has endeavoured to vie with the other in cultivating the good opinion of the extra representatives of England; and Earl Granville—*blasé* as he was with their previous blandishments—has been *accablé* with their respective civilities since the arrival of his Noble and Right Honourable Friends. Russia will consequently, be made to appear as divested of all unfriendly feeling towards Great Britain, and the King of the French will figure in the Ministerial orations in Parliament, as clinging, with almost desperate fidelity, to your embrace. Friendly and loving will both remain, so long as you shall exact those returns from them: but, as for sincerity, beyond the period of expediency, no human being could suspect either of them. You will of course, take the proper measures, to ensure their continuance in the line of peace and amity.

It occurs to me that I ought, before quitting the subject of Earl Durham's visit to make some reference to the diplomatic banquet given last week, in honor of his Lordship and his Right Hon. Friend, Mr Ellice, by Count Pozzo di Borgo. A report went abroad next day that M. Dupin, President of the Chamber of Deputies, had interrupted, and been smart and severe upon the Corsican, insomuch as to have drawn from Marshal Soult, an expression of satisfaction. Now, without dwelling on the falsely-rumoured observation of M. Dupin, and the fact that Marshal Soult had not been present at the entertainment, I shall state that M. Dupin was really *smart* upon the Russian Ambassador (with what pretension to tact, good taste, and wit you will see presently). In a long and rambling encomium upon his Imperial master (the humane parental Sovereign of the Poles), M. Pozzo di Borgo exemplified the Imperial beneficence and benevolence by asserting, among other *extravagancies*, that he (the Emperor Nicholas) had actually bestowed a quantity of *wheat*, absolutely *wheat*, upon his *Cossack* subjects! "Wheat! why we give *that* to our rats in France."

OPPOSITION TO CHURCH-RATES.—A public meeting of Protestant Dissenters and persons hostile to Church-rates was held on Thursday evening, in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Holywell, the Rev. John Bentley, the officiating minister in the chair.

A string of resolutions in favour of the total abolition of Church-rates was passed without a dissentient voice, part of one of the resolutions being to the following effect:

"That this meeting considers the compulsory payment of rates for the maintenance of a church to which they do not belong, a grievous oppression, and for the

following reason,—because religion, being between man and his Maker, no earthly power has the right, directly or indirectly, of compelling him to support and promote the interests of a church, from which he conscientiously, and on principle differs."

Thus the first blow against this oppressive tax has been struck in North Wales, and by Wesleyans, whom the Church has always looked upon as firm allies and supporters in the hour of need, but now shows that, however favourably they are disposed to the discipline and doctrines of the Established Church, they will not countenance any of her abuses.

BAYONNE, April 4.

Another commercial courier arrived here last evening at nine o'clock, having started from Madrid on Tuesday evening last. He was not stopped on the road, but stated that the Spanish Capital although tranquil, was somewhat agitated.

The driver of a car from Bilboa, who reached Bayonne in the evening, informed me that the greatest part of the Queen's troops had been marched into Navarre—that a very feeble garrison remained in Bilboa—that the factions were surrendering their arms to the authorities, and that he met many conscripts on their way from Vittoria, to Bilboa.

General Butron was, on the second at Bergara, and El Pastor at Villa Franca, preparing to attack a corps of 800 insurgents, stationed at Onate.

The Cadet taken by the insurgents at St. Martin, near St. Sebastian, has been exchanged for a cousin of Sagastivera, whom El Pastor had made prisoner.

Letters from Bilboa of the 30th state, that several engagements had taken place between the troops of General Espartero, and the bands of Castor, Lequi, Torres, in the neighborhood of that city, from the 19th, to the 30th ult., and that the latter were defeated everywhere, losing in those various encounters 40 killed, upwards of 100 wounded, and a quantity of arms and ammunition. The soldiers taken in the battle of Guernica had been released, as also the hostages, whom Zabala had carried away from Leque-tio. The loss of the Christinos was only 5 killed, and 20 wounded. On the 30th, Espartero left Bilboa, with the 3d and 18th regiments of the line, for a village situate within a league of the town, where Torres and Lequi had collected from 2,500 to 3,000 men.

I have received the following account of the engagement at Villa Fuerte.—Lorenzo had left Estella to attack Zumalacareguy, who occupied a position at Villa Fuerte, within three-quarters of a league from Estella, with the 1st and 3d battalions of Navarre. The firing commenced at eleven o'clock in the morning, and lasted until four in the evening. Zumalacareguy had charged the Queen's troops with the bayonet, and driven them from their position; but Lorenzo having intrenched on a small hill behind some old walls, there stood his ground until the 2d battalion of Alava, appearing on his rear, forced him to retreat on Estella, in order to avoid being cut off.—The person who gave me this information