THE ATTITUDE OF GERMANY.

(From the 'Commonwealth.'

The Germans, notwithstanding all their feuds among themselves, begin to understand that after all blood is thicker than water.—Prussia and Austria naturally compete for supremacy in the affairs of the great German Confederation, and when Europe is in a state of quiescence there is generally some bickering between the two which might be mistaken for something more serious than it really is. But an attack by a foreign country, and especially by France, is a totally different matter. No circumstance is so thoroughly calculated to make the German Powers act together as an attempt on the part of France to use her influence on her armies for the purpose of coercion. Between France and Germany there are old standing and almost bitter hatred, and it is not by any means improbable that a large portion of Germany would readily seize the opportunity of squaring up accounts. Louis Napoleon has been reckoning without his host. He has been accustomed to underestimate not only the power but the spirit of the Prussian people. He had left them out of the account. He was looking at Austria and the South, and never anticipated that his operations were to be complicated by any decided interference on the part of Prussia and the North. He has been mistaken, and the article in the *Moniteur* of Tuesday betrays the exasperation of the Emperor at the discovery. He can scarcely believe that the Prussians are serious, yet he cannot conceal the importance of "the movement which is attempted to be got up on the Rhine." That movement would place him between two fires. He would have to defend his frontier in the north while making an attack in the south, and that is a consideration which even Louis Napoleon cannot venture to overlook. The article in the *Moniteur* is consequently filled with the usual laudations of the French Policy, of its great magnanimity, its total absence of selfishness, and the virtues of the Emperor. But underneath this exterior there is the evident feeling that the attitude of Northern Germany changes the whole character of the question, and transforms the Emperor from the arbiter of the fate of Europe into the ill-used monarch who is likely to be attacked by more parties than he can readily manage.—The Germans, who have thus so readily supported Austria, are far from being hostile to Italian freedom, and probably would co-operate in any measure that would emancipate Italy. But they feel the inconvenience of allowing France to establish a military coercion, and rather than submit to it they would run the risk of war. By taking this position they can, in conjunction with Great Britain, exert a pressure which France could not attempt to sustain without the most serious hazard. In fact, if war is escaped—of which there appears to be small likelihood at present—it may be owing more to the attitude of the German States, than to any good intention on the part either of Austria or France.

THE WAR PROSPECT.—Last week it was generally believed that all fears of any war in Europe had blown over—now it is anticipated that it cannot much longer be delayed, and that France and Austria must come into collision, but not directly on the Italian question. The present condition of the Danubian Principalities will be the pretext. It is said that Austria and Turkey will resist the union of Moldavia and Wallachia, which has been effected by the dodge of electing one person to be the head of the Government of each Province, notwithstanding the decision of the Congress of Paris, that there should be a Hospodar and a Government for each Principality separately. The union was devised by France, and supported by Russia, but opposed by Austria and Turkey, supported by England. If Louis Napoleon chooses to oppose a demand on Austria for a ratification of the alleged mistake in the arrangement, it will be quite easy to go to war on that pretext, and of course there would be at once an outbreak in Italy; the King of Sardinia would march on the Austrian dominions in Lombardy, and he so immage would begin, to end nobody knows where. In the midst of all this comes out a statement that Russia, in conjunction with Prussia, has declared for a pacific policy. If that be really the case these two powers will be at once in union with England on the question of war or peace; and it is hardly probable to suppose that France will persist in her belligerent intentions. It is, however, much doubted whether the course taken by Russia means anything more than that she will take no active part in any hostilities which may arise. One thing is certain, that poor Lord Malmesbury looks as if he was inclined to hang himself. The present state of things is very much opposed to his idea of his functions, namely, that there should be nothing whatever to do at the foreign office. It is stated that within the next fortnight a sum of at least £30,000 will be raised for the benefit of the Italian exiles who recently landed at Cork. The presence of several of them in London will go far to stimulate the subscription.—*London letter, 18th March.*

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Toronto, Wednesday, April 6.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

DIRECT TAXATION.

Mr. Talbot gave notice that on Monday next he would move the House into Committee of the Whole on the following resolutions:—

1. That in the opinion of this House, the system of free trade is one based upon principles which recognise commercial and individual freedom in its most liberal and enlightened interpretations.

2. That protection to certain branches of trade must necessarily be partial in its application, and can only be afforded at the expense of the other industrial enterprise, and especially to the detriment of agricultural interests.

3. That in the opinion of this house, and consistent with the spirit of the above Resolutions, the commerce of the country should be dependent for support upon the natural laws of supply and demand; and that it is not the province of Government, either by the imposition of duties, [with a view to prevent competition from any quarter,] or by direct bounties to endeavor to divert trade from its legitimate channels.

4. That although it may be inexpedient at the present juncture to adopt a system of direct taxation, yet, in the opinion of this House, it would afford a more economical mode of collecting means for defraying our public liabilities and would tend to the more thorough carrying out of a free trade policy than is afforded under a system of indirect imposts, which is restrictive in its operation, and delusive in its character.

The hon. gentleman addressed the House for about an hour in support of his resolutions. He said that, although somewhat diffident in introducing these resolutions, yet he would offer no apology for doing so. Among the reasons which induced him to take up this subject, the hon. member enumerated—the fact that no distinct party line, has been struck in the House on this question of free trade or protection. The subject of free trade had been taken up some two or three years ago by a number of persons; but for some reason known to themselves, they failed to introduce their scheme into the House. Some years ago, too, and this subject had been taken up by the member for Toronto, in West Middlesex. Perhaps, however, the principal reason which induced him to take this subject up was brought out, in the discussion on the tariff. It was then stated, that under Mr. Cayley's tariff a number of persons had been induced to come into the country and establish manufactures here. It had been stated that one of the effects of the present tariff would be to withdraw from these parties all protection. Now these parties had, surely, a right to know from hon. gentlemen in that House, the duties of their constituents, what really were the opinions on this subject, and what security they had for a continuance of protection without which we were told they would be bankrupt. This subject of free trade or protection had, he would also mention, been much discussed in public of late in his constituency. It had been said, not alone by writers on Political Economy, but by most eminent writers on the British Constitution, that the circumscribing of any man's buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest market, was an infringement on constitutional liberty. And if hon. gentlemen would but bring the matter home to themselves and their constituents, he thought the statement would appear self evident. If they were to prevent individuals buying articles from one store, where goods were sold cheaper than another, would it not be considered a great infringement of his liberty? Yet such was the course honorable gentlemen had hitherto been carrying out by their legislation. Notwithstanding the fact that most enlightened countries on the face of the globe had been advancing in the direction of free trade, here in Canada they had been retrogressing and taking up old Protectionist dogmas, long since exploded. After all, this system of protection appears to have originated in selfishness. Reverting back to the period of the Conquest they found the Normans rendering the Saxons, whom they had conquered, subservient to them and their interests in every way. Then came the Sumptuary laws; and the mercantile classes taking example by their oppressors, formed themselves into trade protective associations originated guilds and instituted long apprenticeships. These laws interfering with the right of the private individual to buy and sell wherever he pleased were of the same species with those laws which interfered with man's free agency in other respects. Far back in these ages they saw prohibitions in importation and exportation. One law, for instance, prohibited the sale of wool within a certain distance from the sea coast. Another prohibited the smoking of tobacco, and another the taking of snuff. All these belonged to the same genus. They were laws to divert trade from its legitimate channels, and to interfere with the free will of man. From this cause a class of politicians sprung up who professed a different policy, desiring to affirm the policy of the state as at variance with all interference with the private rights of individuals. It had been said that, however well the free trade policy suited England it would not suit here. Well, precisely the same objections had been used by the Protectionists in England. There the assertion was frequently made, that the home agricultural-ist would be driven out of the market under the operation of the trade. But experience had proved the contrary. And even their short experience of the system in Canada was such as to lead to a different conclusion. In Upper Canada, at the period of the last census, he found there were 74 woollen factories, of which 63 furnished returns; and these employed 743 hands; there were 223 tanneries, 94 founderies, 49 breweries, 5 comb factories, 7 potteries, 25 soap and candle factories, 6 harness factories, 20 boot and shoe factories, 5 marble works, 5 paper mills, 5 last and peg factories, 4 oil mills, 3 tin factories, 14 carriage factories, 45 coach factories, &c.; and like returns could be procured from Lower Canada. Now these manufactures existed under a tariff which bears the following contrast to that now in operation:—On leather the duty then (in 1850) was 12½ per cent; now it is 20 per cent; on boots and shoes it was 12½; now it is 25; on harness and saddlery, it was 12½, now it is 25; on woollens it was 20, now it is 13½—and so on. A difference of 10 per cent existed between the two tariffs upon staple commodities. If, then, they could be carried on remuneratively under the old tariff, why give them a further protection? It had been argued that incidental protection did not harm any class in the community. But he believed it could be shown that not only did it injure particular branches of industry, but it also proved injurious to the agricultural classes. They were told that by taxing the raw material, no branch of industry suffered. But this he held to be thoroughly erroneous. Tax paper or leather, and you at once compel the printer or shoemaker to pay increased prices in carrying on their business; tax sail or ropes, and their price is increased to the fisherman—and so on throughout. Tax tin plate or hardware, and of course the branch of manufacture in which these are used must be effected. (Hear, hear.) In connection with this subject of incidental protection, honble gentlemen would see that the agricultural classes had peculiar cause of complaint. While they had to pay for this protection, they were, themselves subjected to all the competition of free trade in grain, in tallow hides, horns, wool and other articles from which they derived much of their profits. So that while the farmer is subjected to all the disadvantages pertaining to extreme competition, he has to supply that protection which manufacturers desiring to build up their business, claim at his hands. (Hear, hear) Whenever this subject is broached, protectionists bring forward an array of figures, to show the disparity between the imports and exports, conceiving that by advancing a few statistics of this kind they prove the disadvantages of free trade. Here, they say, our imports are ten millions and our exports seven millions. But he denied the soundness of these arguments. Hon. gentlemen had but to look to the States or elsewhere to see that the imports were nearly always in excess of the exports. In reality the imports were the returns of the exports along with the merchants' profits and the expense of exporting. Suppose a vessel leaves Quebec with a cargo of lumber valued at £10,000. This cargo would probably be sold at £15,000 Purchases are then made on behalf of the exporter, to that amount and thus the return cargo is entered at £15,000—showing a balance of £5,000 against us, while that amount was actually cleared by the exporter. Again suppose the vessel loaded valued at £10,000 to have been wrecked and her cargo lost. Then, by the customs' returns there would be an apparent balance of £10,000 in favor of the country, whereas the merchants would be at a loss to that amount. This argument respecting the imports is an obvious fallacy. With protectionists here and elsewhere it is a favorite theme that employment can be enlarged by the system of protectionist duties. But he was not disposed to admit what had been urged in that direction. Suppose the case of an individual making certain articles. He desires to have a large margin of profits and therefore applies for protection. He obtains that protection and gets an increased price for the article in which he deals, consequently, upon this inducement we will admit that he employed a larger number of hands. This is what is seen. But the farmer who before purchased the article in question for price of a few bushels of wheat is no longer able to do so, in consequence of the increased cost of the article, caused by protection. This is what is not seen. In the same way, supposing we produce a certain quantity of grain, say 1,000 bushels of wheat, for $1,000 and that it takes $1,500 to produce the same quantity in England, while in the latter country it takes but $1,000 to produce a certain quantity of dry goods, and $1,500 in Canada, is it not better for both countries to produce the article which they can do with the greatest facilities and cheapness, and exchange one product for the other? [Hear, hear.] But unfortunately for this theory, facts were against it. Having dwelt on this topic, the honorable gentleman went on to say that this scheme of free trade was one rendered self-evident by the difference between the productions in several countries. What, for instance, was more natural than that they should seek to exchange the products of the North with those who reside under a Southern sun. This would be legitimate trading. Why then seek to force trade from its legitimate channels by endeavoring to produce under protective duties, articles produced elsewhere far cheaper and better. (Hear, hear.) Exception had been made to the protection of food. That being a necessary of life, ought not, it was said, be taxed; but were not many other articles such as wearing apparel, hardware, &c., also necessaries of life? Why then not exempt them? The ground on which protectionists contend for a high impost on products has been well exposed by a French authority, M. Bastiat. He draws out a petition of Chandlers against the sun. They contend that if the sun could only be shut out, a great benefit would accrue to the chandlers, the manufacturers of gas fixtures and many others. [Laughter.] It showed admirably, the fallacy of looking to the means for creating labor, without looking to the result. If the result is to be overlooked in this way, why should they desire to make railroads and subsidise steamships? If the commerce were withheld from them by protection why squander money in subsidies? [Hear] Protection seemed to him an interference of the State with the free will and discretion of the people in commercial matters, as much, open to objection as State Churchism or State Education. The principle was just the same. That class of legislation which sanctioned an interference of Government other than for the protection of life and property, were all of the same dictum, and was a class of legislation fraught with much embarrassment to the country. [Hear.] The honorable gentleman then proceeded to point out that of late no less than eleven European countries had changed their tariffs in favor of free trade. In Russia a reduction of duty from 30 to 80 per cent. took place on woollens, linen, cotton and silk manufactures, as well as cutlery, glass, earthenware and firearms. Sweden has lowered the duty on many staple articles. In Denmark a general reduction of duties has taken place. In Norway a reduction of from 20 to 50 per cent has taken place on several descriptions of cotton, linen and woollen manufactures. And in France he perceived by a recent mail that it was proposed to abolish the duty on food. The hon. gentleman then went to say that he believed that direct taxation, although it had been said that we could not enforce, was much more likely to be carried out than any means which had been suggested for the settlement of our sectional differences. It was contended that we in Upper Canada paid two thirds of the revenue; let us have direct taxation and then we shall know what amount of our burdens are defrayed by one section of the Province, and how much by the other. And when the true relations of the Province are ascertained, if the alleged difference in contribution to the revenue is so great as it is contended, then it will be too glaring to permit the perpetration of this injustice to Upper Canada.

The honorable gentleman then went on to remark that so far from its being impracticable to impose direct taxation, such a system could be felt assured, be enforced in a very short time. It was be believed an insult to the people to contend that they would not honestly and fairly pay for the protection afforded by the State. To those gentlemen familiar with the Public Accounts it was plain that the expenses of collecting the revenue by indirect taxation, were far greater than would be the case by the more direct taxation. (Hear, hear.) The expenses of collecting the customs were 12 per cent.; the expenses of collecting the Municipal taxes was but two per cent. There was too a collateral argument on this subject in which he would say a few words. The establishment of their customs had no doubt caused many demoralizing effects. Among these not the least was the large number of persons seeking situations in that department [Hear, hear] Manufacturers, he need not add, were even found to spring up and flourish under the free trade system. Why, then, should Canada seek to perpetuate a system totally opposite. The present tariff, he looked on as a step in the direction of Free Trade. In conclusion the honble. gentleman said he would be well repaid for bringing the subject of Free Trade before the House if it were taken up by any other gentleman. He could have illustrated his subject at greater length; but in the hope that other gentlemen taking an interest therein to take it up, he would forbear. No greater concession was asked by this motion, and he hoped the day would yet come when Free Trade would become the policy of the country; when we should exchange our products with whoever would give us the best value for them, and when the only imports levied would be those which a free man was willing to pay for the privileges which the State afforded him.

Mr. Gowan differed from his hon. friend. He would like to know what country in the world had ever adopted Free Trade? England certainly had not done so: she was just driven into the protective policy by the hostile attitude of France. And all that the so called Free Traders had done in England was to introduce food free, which was a direct premium to manufacturers, enabling them to live and to produce cheaper. He also differed from the last speaker as to the effect of a protective duty on the farmer here. It the labouring mechanic got more from his labor under a protective system, into whose pockets did it go? Into the farmers' of course. By what indirect taxation, we taxed the foreign, by direct taxation we obliged our people to pay the expenses of the Government. For his part he believed we should give more protection to our manufacturers than at present; and if the tariff of the Inspector General had been more protective than it was, he would have more cordially supported it.

Mr. Bellingham would support the honble. member for Middlesex to a great extent. It it were possible to manufacture in Toronto all the articles required in Toronto and the neighbouring country, where would be the use of our canals, on which so much money had been expended? And he approved of direct taxation, because it was a form of taxation which would prevent our running into debt so much, as under the present system.

Mr. Galt said the motion was of a two fold character, and though no practical result could follow from a discussion of the resolutions at the present time, he would say a few words. If beginning a new state of things in the world, probably the view which the honorable member had so ably expressed would be the best that could be adopted. We did not live in such a state, however, and necessarily we should have regard to the position of other countries, and the manner in which they placed their imports. It was not exactly correct to state that the present tariff was protective; on the contrary it was based with a view to providing for the claims on the public exchequer. With regard to direct or indirect taxation, he would say that it was not possible at the present time to raise the necessary amount of revenue by a system of direct taxation. The country was not prepared for it, and no financial minister would resort to it now for the purpose of raising a revenue. He would not object to the motion for going into committee as the hon. member might desire to have his motion placed on the journals.

M. Bourassa would oppose the motion.

Mr. Merritt said the theory of the honble. member for Middlesex was undoubtedly correct, but the putting of it into practice was an utter impossibility. Reciprocity was the true principle, but he would not give free trade to any country, that did not give us free trade with them. (Hear.) He would willingly assent to the proposition, but he believed it could not be carried out.

Mr. McMicken would like to know how such a great change had come over the view of the hon. member from Middlesex since he voted for the tariff which was essentially protective?

Mr. Talbot said he had explained that; but he would ask the hon. member why it was he (Mr. McMicken) was absent during the passage of the tariff? (Laughter.)

Several Voices—He was sick. [Loud laughter.]

Mr. Talbot replied to some remarks of Mr. Gowan.

Mr. Buchanan hoped no further discussion would take place on these resolution, for the theories propounded in them had long ago been exploded, and they were a tissue of ignorance.

Mr. Talbot would receive such a remark as the best compliment from the hon. member who considered that we should "burn the books," before propounding a commercial policy.

M. Bourassa moved that the house go into Committee this day three months on the resolutions.

The amendment was carried by a vote of 61 to 29.

HOW THE TARIFF IS RECEIVED IN THE STATES.

We continue to receive from Americans journals evidence of the manner in which Mr. Galt's Tariff is regarded by our neighbours. The feeling prevalent at Chicago upon the subject has been already exemplified; and now we have expressions of opinion from another quarter with which Canadian merchants and farmers maintain an equal intimacy. We quote first the Oswego *Commercial Times*:—

'It [the new tariff] will operate strongly against our trade with Canada, and render nugatory the best spirit, if not provisions of the Reciprocity Treaty. It practically closes the door to the admission and importation from the United States of the leading articles of commerce into Canada, because under its customs duties, a Canadian merchant buying in New York or other American city, will be compelled to pay from 15 to 25 per cent. higher taxes on the goods bought, than on those imported direct from the country's production. It lays down and enacts a method of valuation, that cannot but almost entirely and immediately stop the purchase in this country of sugars, teas, coffee, manufactures of leather and metals, as well as other great articles of Canadian import. For instance under the old tariff, on refined sugar the specific duty was, we think, $2 25 per 100lbs. The new tariff with its *ad valorem* taxes, will levy on the same article and amount, a duty of over $4. On other articles the imposition is equally, and on some, are more oppressive. Such rates will, of course, necessarily and inevitably destroy our business with Canada, and effect what was intended and avowed by Mr. Galt: that is, to divert the trade in these articles from this county to the St. Lawrence and build up Montreal a great commercial city. This tariff will not cement, if it is not calculated to destroy, the existing commercial relations between the Canadas and the United States, in the working of the Reciprocity Treaty, the benefits of which are to both countries many and reciprocal.'

The temperate tone manifested by our Oswego contemporary adds to the force of its warning. The new tariff does jeopardise, if it do not destroy the Reciprocity Treaty.

The Syracuse *Courier* handles the matter less ceremoniously, and threatens practical retaliation:—

'It will be observed that there has been a steady increase, with discrimination against the several articles which Canadians would naturally supply themselves with from the United States. Indeed, under the tariffs of 1857 and 1858, American sugars have been nearly prohibited, and the evident design now is to entirely exclude them from Canadian markets. The spirit which actuated the American Government when the Reciprocity Treaty was adopted, has never been reciprocated by our Colonial neighbours across the lakes. Obtaining the lions share of the benefit of the treaty, almost all their products being admitted free of duty at our Custom Houses, while almost all of our's remained subject to duty at their's, they have year by year, by alterations of their tariff, burdened the trade in American goods, until now, by another increase of duties, such goods are nearly excluded.

'It is unfortunate that the Treaty is not subject to notice of discontinuance by either party—that our Government is bound by solemn contract to continue it for the period of eleven years from the time it went into effect But with the spirit manifested by the Canadian Government we should be justified in placing every obstacle possible in the way of the convenient working of the Treaty, and in retaliating in the most summary manner by the imposition of prohibitory duties upon the few articles which may be imported from Canada, and are not covered by the Treaty stipulations.'

From a Washington journal, we learn that the subject is already discussed in the political circles of the Federal metropolis, and that all parties concur in regarding Mr. Galt's scheme as a gross violation of the spirit of the Reciprocity Treaty.—*Globe.*

ARRIVAL OF THE NEW YORK.

New York, April 5

The steamship New York from Bremen, via Southampton on the 22nd ult., arrived here this morning.

The steamship Canada had arrived out on the 21st ult.

GREAT BRITAIN.

In the House of Commons on Monday night, Lord John Russell moved his amendment to the Reform Bill, that it is neither just nor politic to interfere with the present freehold franchise, &c.

The purport had already been received. After some debate the matter was adjourned till Tuesday.

A large meeting of working men had been held in Hyde Park, to oppose the Reform Bill.

The Neapolitan exiles had arrived at Bristol. The quays were crowded with people to receive them, and considerable enthusiasm was manifested.

FRANCE.

The Paris correspondents say that the Emperor having been informed of the ultimate resolutions of Austria, is desirous to recede by diplomatic helps from his aggressive attitude.

Another letter says that Austria and France appear to be more inclined towards a pacific solution. It is certain, however, that the Austrian force in Lombardy is more imposing than was generally thought.

Vienna correspondent says that the dangers of war is falling off for the present.

Paris telegraphs say that the powers have agreed to an European Congress, but the basis of the discussions cannot be settled. The London Times says it is to be held in London, Berlin, or Austria.

The London Post warns the public against too much confidence in peaceful reports, and says that it is very doubtful whether a Congress will be convoked.

The export of arms, gunpowder and sulphur from Austria to Italy is prohibited.

The Daily News says, the last Austrian circular was written by Prince Metternich.

ITALY.

The Morning Herald says, that France intends to protest against the construction of fortifications at Piacenza. Cardinal Antonelli has again requested the immediate evacuation of Rome by the French troops.

INDIA.

The Bombay Mail of February 2nd was telegraphed.

Phobilas had been captured without a blow. Tantia Topee was still at large.

AUSTRALIA.

A week's later news had been received. The mines were prosperous.

LONDON MONEY MARKETS.

The Times' city article says that the announcement of a Congress causes an improvement in the funds of ¼, which would have been larger but for the fact that the Paris Bourse has not yet shown any decided recovery of confidence. A slight increase in the demand for money also checks the buoyant tendency.

Consols closed at 96⅞ to 96¾.

In the Liverpool Cotton Market the sales of the two days were 22,000 bales, of which 4,000 were to speculators and 3,000 for export.

The advices from America by the Canada, together with the pacific aspect of European affairs, had caused an advance of one-fifteenth to one eighth.

In breadstuffs there had been no regular market since the sailing of the Persia.

All articles were quiet, and nominally unchanged.

PROVISION MARKET.

Provisions dull. Beef steady. Pork dull. Lard dull. In produce there was no change to note except animation, owing to the improved political aspect.

In the London market Corn had advanced 1s per quarter. Potashes were firm at 30s; pearls steady. Spirits of Turpentine firm.

ARRIVAL OF THE INDIAN.

Portland, April 7.

The steamship Indian left Liverpool at 11 o'clock on the morning of the 23rd ultimo, and arrived at Portland at 2 o'clock on the 7th inst.

The news by the Indian is as follows:—In the House of Lords on the 23rd, the bill for permitting marriage with a deceased wife's sister was debated and lost by a vote of 49 to 39.

In the House of Commons Mr. Disraeli said the terms of subsidy to the Galway line of steamers were substantially arranged, but not definitely settled.

The debate on the Reform Bill was resumed. Wilson, Sidney Herbert, Crossley and others, spoke against it, and Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, the Solicitor General, and others in favor of it. The debate was adjourned till the 24th.

The Gazette confers sundry honors on numerous Indian officers.

It also announces the appointment of George Hunter Carey as Attorney General of British Columbia.

LATEST.

London, Wednesday.

The Daily News city article says that a considerable degree of indecision prevailed to-day, amongst speculators in the Stock Exchange.

In the morning the announcement in the Moniteur of a Congress of the five powers caused consols to be supported in advance of about one-eighth, but lower prices came from Paris.

A vague rumour was circulated that Austria declines to accede to the proposed Congress, and the fall in the foreign exchanges attracted attention. The consequence was the sudden heaviness in the Stock exchange

Consols left off at the lowest point of the day, and one-fourth per cent. lower than yesterday.

The appearance of all the markets at the close was comparatively depressed.

The discount business at the bank to-day was upon a limited scale noticed yesterday, and in the open market a good demand is still experienced, but the supply of money has increased and in exceptional cases transactions have taken place at a fractional reduction from the bank minimum.

Foreign Exchange this afternoon was decidedly lower.

The Times' city article says:—The English funds opened steadily to-day at the improved prices of last evening, and seemed likely to experience a further advance, but a number of speculative sales were made on foreign account, and a reaction took place, the market closing with a heavy appearance on the report that Austria dissents in some manner from the propositions for a Congress.

MAIL NEWS.

Much disappointment is occasioned by the delay in the arrival of the Australian January Mail.

The February Mail may be expected at Suez four or five days hence, and the news by two mails may thus be read within a few days interval.

RAILWAY NEWS.

An official notice announcing a new issue of one million pounds of East India Railway shares with five per cent guarantee of the India Government, caused a serious fall in India securities generally.

THE CONGRESS.

Geneva, London, Brussels and the Hague has been successively mentioned at which the Congress will be held, but the Times believes that Aix La Chappelle will be ultimately selected.

THE DEBATE ON THE REFORM BILL.

The Daily News says Bulwer's speech last night on the Reform Bill was thoroughly successful as an oratorical effort, but it was no argument. He denounced all concession to working classes as subversive to the freedom safety and honor of England

The Herald takes the entirely opposite of Bulwer's views, and says that ministers are afraid of the influence of working men's speeches, and boldly denies the absurd charges, and declares that they have not consulted their interests.

FRANCE.

The Moniteur of the 22nd contains the following:—Russia has proposed the assembling of a Congress with the view to prevent complications to which the conditions of Italy might give rise, and which would naturally disturb the peace of Europe,

The Congress is proposed to be constituted of Plenipotentiaries from France, Austria, England, Prussia and Russia, and to be summoned to meet in some central town.

The French Government has given assent to the proposal of the Russia Cabinet.

The Cabinets of London, Vienna, and Berlin have not yet returned an official reply.

This article caused a further rise on the bourse of ¼ to ½ per cent., but subsequently was removed.

Austria refused the proposition for a Congress on Italian affairs and reaction occurred. Three per cents. closed dull at 68,85 on money, and 68 65 on account.

Rumors are rife of another grand review of the entire army at Paris.

March 27th.

Lenord Belivres says that in the new European Congress the treaties of 1815 will be taken as the starting point for negociations, and that it has been resolved not to unsettle the territorial arrangements made in that year.

The Post's Paris correspondent says no basis is yet agreed upon for negociations.

The Moniteur this morning contains a report by M. DeLarge on the subject of Protestant worship in France. Henceforth, in order to increase the guarantees for liberty of worship, the authority for opening new Protestant chapels, &c., will be granted, not by Prefects, but by the Emperor in his Council of State.

The Globe's Paris correspondent says that Perrio will be naturalised upon his arrival in Piedmont and enter Parliament at the earliest vacancy.

Continental letters describes uninterrupted warlike preparations on the part of France, Austria and Piedmont.

RUSSIA.

A disagreeable sensation has been produced in officials circles in St. Petersburg, by the declaration of a committee of the Government of Siver, respecting emancipation. The nobility express the opinion that this reform will be the ruin of Russian Nobles. The Committee demands recompense for lands ceded to peasants, and advises the nobility to break off all communication with them.

The document indicates a profound sentiment of bitterness and retaliation.

INDIA.

Bombay news to the 25th Feb. add little of interest to telegraphic accounts.

The Sepoys continued to surrender and were generally starving.

The amnesty, under latest instructions from Lord Canning, had produced remarkable results, 708 men having surrendered in Bariely alone, four thousand in Budden, and one thousand seven hundred in Shahjehanpore, Moradabad and Bijnow.

Lord Clyde it is said will remain in India for the remainder of the year. Precautions had been taken to prevent the return of rebels into Oude.

Stocks were very light.

LIVERPOOL, March 22d.

Since our last the weather has been somewhat boisterous, but with a fine drying wind. A rather firmer tone has characterised the grain trade, but so far without any noticeable improvement in prices.

We have a fair attendance at our market this morning, and millers seemed more desirous to purchase wheat, but holders held for extreme rates, and consequently but little business result.

No change in the value or demand for flour. Indian Corn sold slowly at a shade less for money. No change of importance in other articles.

POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS.

Mr. Postmaster General Smith has presented his resolutions, reimposing a tax upon the transmission of newspapers. He proposes to charge one cent each upon all newspapers sent by mail, excepting only ordinary "exchange papers;" being more than any regular rate exacted since 1854. Prior to that year, the postage rate was a half penny. A moderate commutation rate was then established for subscribers; and in 1856, the free transmission came into operation.

The present movement of the Government, then, is a retrograde movement. It brings back discarded shackles upon the newspaper press, and levies a tax upon the diffusion of knowledge which will be felt most heavily where it should be least known. In the absence of postage, the newspaper circulation has increased immensely. The people and the publishers have been equally benefitted. Where, before, no newspaper was seen, papers have found acceptable entrance; and an impetus has thus been given to the business of publishing, which is visible not less in the increased number than in the improved character of city and village journals.

The proposed tax, amounting on the year to three dollars and twelve cents upon non-resident daily subscribers, and to fifty two cents upon every weekly, is excessive. No minister would think of adopting such rates, but one who desires, under the cover of financial necessity, to strike a blow at the prosperity and usefulness of newspapers. If a tax must be levied, the commutation system of Mr. Malcolm Cameron would be preferable; whilst we believe that its revenue results would be at least equal to those likely to accrue under Mr. Smith's tax. We cannot admit, however, that any such tax is necessary. As yet, the process of retrenchment has not got beyond cheeseparing. The sum paid to the Queen's printer alone admits of a reduction almost equal to the probable revenue derivable from this newspaper tax; and a score of items might be named, all susceptible of the same process. But the saving of public money is not what Ministers want. They are determined to keep the expenditure at a high standard; preferring the invention of new taxes to an improved use of the resources they already have.

We repeat, therefore, that the plea urged by Mr. Smith for the tax is a mere excuse. His desire and his interest are, to lessen the influence of newspapers. To accomplish this purpose, he is indifferent to the losses that will fall upon publishers, or the inconvenience that will be experienced by rural readers.—*Globe.*

A SHOE-PEGGING MACHINE.

In the State of Massachusetts alone the manufacture of boots and shoes amount annually to upwards of fifty million dollars, and when we take into consideration the vast number of boots and shoes made in all the States of the Union, we shall at once appreciate the importance of an invention which tends to cheapen their manufacture. Machinery has of late been made to do almost everything, but to apply machinery to pegging boots and shoes has baffled the ingenuity of the entire race of inventors until recently, when an ingenious Yankee hit upon the right plan. We examined his achievement the other day at a manufactory in this city. We confess to a considerable surprise when we beheld a little machine, made up of three or four cams and a couple of saws, take hold of a large brogan shoe, and peg it in a neat and workman-like manner, two rows all around, in less than a minute! The most skilful shoemaker would have required ten or fifteen minutes to perform the same task, and consequently this machine does the work of twenty or thirty shoemakers, without getting at all out of breath. The shoe, fitted on a last ready for pegging, was placed in an iron frame or jack, attached to the machine, and borne up against it by the hand of the operator. The machine being then put in rapid motion, seized hold of the shoe, gave it a rapid turn or two, and then, after a few seconds of rattling and clattering off came the brogan with the sole firmly pegged. The machine was next moved slowly, so that we might see how the thing was done. There was not much of it, as the man in charge remarked, and the greatest wonder was how so much work could be accomplished by so little machinery.

ACCIDENT BY GUNPOWDER.

A very dangerous and painful accident occurred to a son of Mr. McCloskey, letter carrier, on Saturday evening, and which it is feared will result in a total blindness besides maiming the right hand of the unfortunate young man. His father resides on Victoria street, near Queen. The youth, who is about 16 years of age, was in company with some other boys, engaged in making powder balls. He had a powder flask in his right hand, and after igniting one of the balls some sparks entered the flask, which blew up, completely shattering McCloskey's hand, knocking out his right eye, and fearfully burning his face. The young man lies in a very precarious condition. Such was the force of the explosion that the flask was blown into pieces. The other lads, who were near to McCloskey at the the time of the accident, escaped.—Globe

SENTENCED TO BE EXECUTED.—John Long has been tried at the Middlesex Assizes, and sentenced to be executed on the 21st of June, for the murder of his wife.—The jury recommended him to the clemency of the Court; but the judge in passing sentence, told the culprit lamly that, although the recommendation of the jury would be submitted to the Executive, he was convinced that it would be of no avail. Long is an old pensioner, both he and his wife had been addicted to drinking; he had been in the habit of maltreating his wife, and it was during one of his drunken fits that he beat her so terribly as to cause her death. It is no palliation of the crime that the murderer was intoxicated at the time; but the jury seem to have based their recommendations on the ground of his being drunk, and laboring under a fit of temporary insanity.—*Hamilton Spectator.*

A GOOD REASON FOR DISAGREEING.—On a trial at the assizes at Niagara, last week a jury could not agree on a verdict. After having been locked up all night they were called into court in the morning, but had not yet agreed. The foreman then got up and told the judge that it was perfectly hopeless to expect them to agree: that on the jury there were five Scotch against five Dutch. *Ergo*, a verdict was impossible. His lordship at once admitted the validity of the plea, and told them that if they were in that fix, there was no use in keeping them together, and he might as well dismiss them which he did forthwith.

TYRANNY OF FASHION.—Madame de Genlis, in her Memoirs, describes the training she underwent to fit her for Parisian society during the last century:

"I had two teeth pulled out; I had whalebone stays that pinched me terribly; my feet were imprisoned in tight shoes, with which it was impossible for me to walk; I had three or four thousand curl papers put on my head, and I wore, for the first time in my life, a hoop. In order to get rid of my country attitudes, I had an iron collar put on my neck; and as I squinted a little at times, I was obliged to put on my goggles as soon as I awoke in the morning, and these I wore four hours. I was, moreover, not a little surprised when they talked of giving me a master to teach me what I thought I knew already—to walk. Besides all this, I was forbidden to run, to leap, or to ask questions.'

RICHES NOT HAPPINESS.—The late Stephen Girard, of Philadelphia, with surrounded with immense wealth, and supposed to be taking supreme delight in its accumulation, wrote this to a friend:—

'As to myself, I live like a galley slave, constantly occupied, and often passing the night without sleeping. I am wrapped up in a laybrinth of affairs, and worn out with cares. I do not value fortune. The love of labor is my highest emotion. When I rise in the morning, my only effort is to labor so hard during the day, that when night comes I may be enabled to sleep soundly.'

MOCK SUNS.—The Boston Journal states that on the afternoon of Saturday last, the 2nd of April, a phenomenon of the sun, of very rare occurrence in the latitude of Boston, and somewhat unusual even in places of a more northerly position, was observable in the Western sky in an extraordinary degree of splendour. The appearance was that of two mock suns, together with a magnificent halo of light, exhibiting in different degrees of brightness the several colors of the rainbow. These suns, which form a beautiful as well as rare phenomenon, are called by astronomers *pharhelia*, from their apparent proximity to the true sun which causes them, while in the common language of the uninitiated, for the same reason, they are designated as "sun dogs." They have always been noticed by ancient writers as great wonders, and by modern scholars as remarkable occurrences. The same phenomenon was on the same day observed in the District of Montreal.

A RAT IN BED.—One night last week a lady up town in New York was awakened from sleep by a rat pulling her hair.—She made a brush at the intruder, when he fled, but shortly after she felt him crawling under her night dress. The lady made a spring at the immodest fellow and caught him in the folds of her dress, and then with a hound and a scream such as females only can make, she aroused the household, who supposed a robber or midnight assassin to be in the house. There was great commotion among the inmates till the cause of the outcry became known, and then, when the lady loosened her grasp, the rat fell lifeless upon the floor, having perished in her hand.

Moral—Ladies old enough to get married should not sleep alone.

MAPLE SUGAR.—We are glad to learn that there has been a very considerable quantity of maple sugar made this spring, and that many persons, with good 'sugar bushes,' have this year abundantly provided themselves with sugar for the year, who heretofore have considered that 'it was cheaper to buy than to make their own sugar!' Many farmers in the neighborhood of this town have now, as we are informed, from one quarter to half a ton of sugar in their provision room.—*Norfolk Messenger.*

'When I goes shopping,' said an old lady, 'I alers asks for what I wants, and if they have it, and it's suitable, and I feel inclined to take it, and it's cheap, and it cannot be got at any other place for less, I almost alers take it, without chaffering about it all day, as most people do.'

An Englishman, travelling in Kilkenny, came to a ford and hired a boat to take him across. The water being more agitated than was agreeable to him, he asked the boatman if any person was ever lost in the passage.

'Never,' replied Pat, my brother was drowned last week, but we found him the next day.'

There is a man in Connecticut who has such a hatred for everything appertaining to monarchy, that he won't wear a crown to his hat.

A teacher was lecturing a class of little girls on the influence of pious instruction in the formation of youthful character.

"Ah, Miss Caroline," said he to one of the class, "what do you think you would have been without your good father and pious mother.

"I suppose, sir," answered Miss Caroline, "I should have been an orphan."

A lady of rank, complaining that her husband was dead to fashionable amusements, he replied:

'But then, my dear, you make me alive to the expenses!'

'My hair is eighteen years older than my whiskers,' said a lawyer, 'and I cannot understand why my whiskers should turn gray first!'

'Because you have worded so much more with your jaws than your brains,' repl