

St. Catherine Docks established it they would have doubled their dividends and their property; but the directors went to immense expense for engines little used, and for cranes not one-hundredth part as efficient. The engines now doing only half their work, might be made to clear every ship, and other duties. When the Mersey is made use of for this mighty purpose, the Corporation of Liverpool may let out power, and mete too as the companies do gas. Let the mind extend the view, and picture to itself the power of that river conveyed to Manchester, which, from that time, would be no longer smothered in smoke. The masses of wretched operatives now huddled in manufactories, because the power necessary to carry on their operations cannot be transferred to any great distance, would gradually be changed into districts of domestic industry, and every father of a family might superintend the work of his children, and every master know what work was done by the measure of power supplied. The operative would earn more,—the manufacturer gain greater profit,—and the community be benefitted by the diminution of demoralization, from human beings at an early age not being herded together.

WONDERS OF THE MICROSCOPE.—COMFORT FOR OYSTER EATERS.—Observations with the microscope have shewn that the shell of an oyster is a world occupied by an innumerable quantity of small animals, compared to which the oyster itself is a colossus. The liquid enclosed between the shells of the oyster, contains a multitude of embryos covered with transparent scales, which swim with ease; one hundred and twenty of these embryos, placed side by side, would not make an inch in breadth. The liquor contains, besides, a great variety of animalculæ five hundred times less in size, which give out a phosphoric light. Yet these are not the only inhabitants of this dwelling, there are also three distinct species of worms.—Etrembert having examined with the microscope several of the infusoria from Africa, animals which ordinarily have no more than the fifteenth part of a line in diameter, and which he fed on indigo and carmine, has discovered that they possess no less than from thirty to forty stomachs!

European Intelligence.

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT PLAN.—The following are said to form the principal features of the plan for benefiting the poor and middling classes of the community, which ministers have had for some time under consideration:

It is intended to form, in every parish, an establishment, under the guarantee of government, for granting annuities, on terms especially favourable to the industrious part of the community. Whether the agency of the savings banks will be used in connection with it has not yet been decided, but letters have been sent to the north, calling for information, which may render the working of the plan more surely and extensively beneficial. Of course the details, it may be presumed, will be varied according to the new light which the expected answers will throw upon the subject. But we have been

favoured with the following outline, which will show what the object is, and the mode by which it is hoped that object may be accomplished.

Under the arrangement now in progress, it is proposed that a person paying, from the age of fifteen, ninepence per week, will, from the time of his completing his 60th year, be entitled to an annuity of £20 per annum for life; if he pay 18d. per week, he will be entitled to receive an annuity of £20 from the age of 35.

Persons paying £67 10s. at once will have considerable advantages held out to them, and the annuity of £20 will be allowed at a period named.

The effect of this, it is supposed, will be to cause a great reduction of the poor rates.

The calculations are made on such principles as to give the poor, who become subscribers, the benefit now enjoyed by the proprietors of those institutions in which annuities are granted, and in which enormous profits are known to be divided. To guard against frauds, by persons buying annuities with others' money, and then going into the *Gazette*, it will be provided, that in bankruptcy cases, the cash received by the bankrupt shall be handed over to his assignees.

If at any period a subscriber would withdraw what he has thus put by, he may do so, but in that case the principal only is to be returned. He will have no claim to the interest.

The money is only to be returned where the subscriber has received no benefit from his deposit. From the time an annuity becomes payable, the principal cannot be touched.

The rules and regulations necessary to this great and benevolent scheme are now being by an eminent barrister, well known in the literary world.

It is hoped this will hold out greater inducements to sobriety and care than even the Saving Bank.

General Mina, who has been for some time in England for the benefit of his health, is on the point of taking his departure for Paris and the South of France. The death of Ferdinand has accelerated his departure, in the hope that his services will be of importance to the young Queen at this moment, as he has a very great influence with the constitutional party.

The General, now in command of the Miguelite forces, has only assumed the name Macdonald; it is believed his real name is Graham, one of those who served in the peninsular war.

In Florence even the nobles sell their wines by retail from their palace cellars.

Since the beginning of January, 1830, four Calcutta houses have failed for the sum of about £12,000,000 sterling, one Bombay house for the sum of £250,000, and two London houses, connected with the former, for the amount of nearly £3,000,000 more—making in all £15,000,000; an amount of debt which, little more than a century ago, would have shaken the Government of this country with a fear of bankruptcy, and which even now, few of the second or third-rate nations could borrow on the mortgage of half their revenues.

It will astonish persons not accustomed to attend to the subject, that there are upward of sixteen thousand officers in the British army.

The German papers state that, at the Congress of Munchengratz, the Emperor Nicholas submitted a plan respecting Poland, which cannot fail to produce a remonstrance from England, and probably from France too.

SPAIN.—The Paris papers of Thursday, Oct. 24, with those dated yesterday, arrived in due course. They contain extracts from the *Madrid Gazette*, of the 17th instant, among which is a decree of the Queen Regent, for confiscating the entire property of Don Carlos in Spain. The appearance of this document gives an importance to the Carlist insurrection, which is singularly at variance with the accounts published by the Spanish Government. It was reported at Bayonne, on the 19th inst., that an insurrectionary movement had taken place at Saragossa, but the *Journal des Debats* throws discredit on the rumour. A Carlist conspiracy had been discovered at St. Sebastian, the object of which was to deliver that place into the hands of their party. General Castagnon was at the head of 1,500 constitutional volunteers, and several other constitutional bands were forming. At Barcelona, on the 14th, everything was tranquil, and the attempted revolt at Vich excited no uneasiness. It was reported on the Paris Bourse on Thursday, that 600 soldiers of the garrison of Pampeluna had deserted to the rebels, and that, on the other hand, the Carlists had met with defeat in various points.

The French regiments have been ordered to be increased nearly one-fifth more than their present number, to be prepared for ensuing events.

A South Wales paper states, that there is at present living in the parish of Eglwys-brwys an old woman called Kate the Sailor, of the age of 104 years, and in perfect possession of all her faculties. About a century since, in the neighbouring parish of Llanmaes, a fisherman of the name of Evan Yorath, died at the age of an 180 years, and his wife did not long survive him, she, also, having attained the age of 177 years.

RESISTANCE TO THE PAYMENT OF THE ASSESSED TAXES.—The Londoners, who hold daily meetings to organize resistance to the payment of these unequal, and therefore obnoxious, imposts, made, on Thursday last, an attack on the officers who had levied a distraint on a Mr. Savage, an inhabitant of the parish of Marylebone. The waggon containing the goods which had been seized was stopped by the mob, the furniture carried off, and the vehicle broken to pieces, in defiance of a strong body of the police.—The goods of another person which had been seized under a distress warrant were rescued in the same way. Singularly enough a woman (Query—a man in woman's clothes?) headed the mob! These occurrences have thrown the citizens into a state of ferment. The ministerial journals are loudly calling on the Government to proceed with the distraints, and to punish every person who shall dare to resist the collection of lawful