

be borne no longer without " prompt retaliation on our part."

RAVAGES BY FIRE IN RUSSIA.—The town of Petropavlovsk, in the government of Omsk, where it ranks as the capital, has been nearly reduced to ashes by a terrific conflagration which broke out in a brewery, the burning embers being wafted to all parts of the town, by a whirlwind that unfortunately arose just as the flames burst out of the roof of the devoted building. The structures destroyed by this calamity are 260 three private houses, three Tartar Mosques, the Exchange, the Military Academy, two large hotels, the bureau of police, the prison, (its inmates saved,) a bread warehouse, a rope walk, and the wooden dome of a church. Twenty-two bodies had been taken out of the ruins, but a much greater loss of life apprehended and upwards of 8,000 persons are rendered homeless by this dreadful disaster. The whole amount of damages done by so deplorable an occurrence is estimated 800,000 roubles or £135,000.

BOSTON, FEB. 5

UNITED STATES ARMY.—It appears from documents appended to the Report of the Secretary of War, that the number of men enlisted into the United States Army from October 1st, 1837, to September 30th, 1838, was 4,247. The entire force of the Army, at the last mentioned date, was 8,653, being 3,833 less than was authorised by the Law of the last Session for the increase of the Army. Of course this last number of men (3,833) remains to be recruited. The Army, when full, will comprise 12,539, officers and men.

As an instance of the good feeling of the inhabitants of Ogdenburgh toward British subjects we would mention a circumstance that occurred yesterday. One of our Militia happened to be there on business at the time the fire broke out. He was surrounded by a mob and detained some time, upon an alleged suspicion of having fired the building!! no other reason was assigned than that he was a British subject!! he was of course discharged, not, however without being grossly insulted and beaten.

We can tell our neighbours, we do not play such a cowardly Yankee game as this,—if their town is fired by people from our shore, they will know it, it will not be done secretly, but openly, fairly, and in a soldierlike manner.

Two deserters from the American Regulars at Ogdenburgh came over here during the past week, and four more on Sunday evening; they were all Americans but one, they make bitter complaints respecting the hard treatment they received from their officers, and state that some 15 or 20 more are only waiting an opportunity to come to this side.—We learn that several have crossed over to Brookville.

RESTORATION OF THE JEWS.—A most important undertaking has been begun by the zeal and piety of those who entertain an interest for the Jewish nation. They have designed the establishment of a Church at Jerusalem, if possible on Mount Zion itself, where the order of our service and the prayers of our liturgy, shall daily be set before the faithful in the Hebrew language. A considerable sum has been collected for this purpose; the missionaries are already resident on the spot; and nothing is wanting but to complete the purchase of the ground on which to erect the sacred edifice. Mr. Nicolayson having received ordination at the hands of the Bishop of London, has been appointed to the charge; and Mr. Pieris, a Hebrew convert, is associated in the duty. The service-meanwhile, proceeds, through "the ark of God is under, curtains;" and a small, but faithful congregation of proselytes hear daily the Evangelical truths of our church on the mount of the Holy City itself in the language of the prophets, and in the spirit of the Apostles. To any one who reflects on this event it must appear one of the most striking that have occurred in modern days, perhaps in any days since the corruption began in the Church of Christ. It is well known that for centuries the Greek, the Romanist, the Armenian, and the Turk, have had their places of worship in the city of Jerusalem, and the latitudinarianism of Ibrahim Pacha has lately accorded the privilege to the Jews.—*Quarterly Review.*

RADICAL PARTY PROSPECTS.—The following sketch of O'Connell's oratorical doings in Ireland, and his cessation of influence in England, coming as it does from his Radical friend the *Spectator*, is instructive as well as amusing:—"Party prospects—the dissolution of the Ministry, which many fancy to be near—the proceedings in the approaching session, what Lord Darnley will do, and Lord Brougham say—and the 'goings on' at Windsor Castle—have supplied politicians in England with matter for gossip and speculation. But there have been no dinners, meetings, elections, or events deserving special notice. Ireland, however, is undergoing a course of O'Connell.—Emerging from Darrynane, primed with a speech, the Agitator has been making a triumphant progress through Kerry, Tipperary and Cork; availing successive parties with various editions of a high-flown harangue. It would be presumption to question Mr. O'Connell's skill in putting his wares to the Irish market. He delights all who flock around him; and if they are easily pleased who has a right to complain? The time is past when Mr. O'Connell's speeches possess influence in England. They are read for amusement, not for political guidance. It is well understood that Mr. O'Connell will be the humble

servant of the Whigs as long as they remain at Dublin Castle; and with his character for independence, his power over the people of England and Scotland has departed. The new speech exhibits symptoms of imaginative decay. Some of the figures are ludicrous, and nearly all appear to have been "cut and dried" at Darrynane ready for the journey. Starting in November, Mr. O'Connell knew there would be frost, rain, and occasional sunshine; so he has something pretty and tawdry to say on all three; but bearing the impress of artificiality, instead of the natural freshness with which he formerly threw off beautiful imagery."

Deaths in High Life.—Among the deaths recorded in the London papers, we observe those of Prince Lieven, for many years ambassador from Russia; of Lady Dalhousie, widow of the late Earl; of the Duke of Buckingham; of Lord Clements, eldest son of the Earl of Leitrim; and the hon Lady Manners Saffron.

The father of Lord Byron's wife, Sir John Milbank, was taken into custody on Wednesday, Feb. 15 for stabbing Mr. Pocock, solicitor, the previous night, at the Odd Fellows' Hall, in Southampton, and remanded, was fully committed to Winchester gaol, to take his trial at the March assizes for the country. Sir John Milbank was master of the ceremonies, and had arranged a country dance; Mr. Pocock wanted a quadrille, and clapped his hands to the band to commence one; words and a scuffle ensued, and Sir John stabbed Mr. P. in the neck with a dagger. The latter was very averse to any proceedings being taken against Sir John, but others thought proper to take the matter up, and it has assumed a very serious appearance. Mr. P. is not in any danger from the wound.

The murderer of Lord Norbury had not yet been discovered. The murdered nobleman was the son of a celebrated judge and a joker, who died in 1831.

The cold at Rome has been very intense this winter.

Large quantities of wheat had arrived at Marseilles from the Black Sea.

The Humane Society, founded in Liverpool immediately after the disasters on the 7th and 8th, had already received subscriptions to the amount of £4000. Lord Francis Egerton gave £500.

The house of Assembly of Jamaica having its determination to abide by the decision, which the former house had come to. The Governor would not allow them proceed in business, but adjourned the House on the 22d Dec., to the fifth February.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FEB. 11.

Lord J. Russell then gave a general outline of the views of her Majesty's Government respecting education. He was one that still thought that there was a lamentable want of education in the country, particularly amongst the poor. There are many who do not receive the slightest elementary education, and defective as education at present is in quantity, it is still more defective in its quality. It was impossible, his Lordship continued, that in this country we could either imitate foreign governments who made it imperative that all should be educated, or the United States of America.—Referring to the Church plan lately put forward at public meetings, which implied that the whole of the education of the country must and ought to be confided to the hands of the clergy of the Established Church, and that no system of education ought to receive any countenance which should not be conducted under the clergy, and in accordance with the doctrines and tenets of the Established Church, it did appear to him that the propounding such a plan at the present time, so late in the history of the country, was opposing a very serious obstacle in the way of the general education of the people. It was a general and recognised doctrine of the State since the Revolution, and more particularly since the accession of the House of Hanover, that education was free not only to the Church, but to every religious denomination; and this principle was carried still further by the acts of 1828 and 1829 granting relief to Protestant Dissenters and to Roman Catholics. He thought the best way of proceeding would be to endeavour to establish some body, by which any exertions to be made in favour of education might be deliberately considered and systematically arranged, com-

posed of persons who being already the official servants of the Crown, must always be responsible to Parliament for their conduct.—He, therefore, proposed that the President of the Council should be at the head of a board of Privy Councillors, not being more than five, who should consider in what manner the grants of money should from time to time be distributed. He wished the grant to be £30,000 rather than £20,000 per annum. The money at the disposal of the Board would first be applied to the formation of a normal school, and to make that normal school as perfect as possible, the objects of that education ought, in the first place, to be religious instruction; next, in religious training; then, habits of industry; and, lastly, such knowledge as fitted for a trade or profession; and he was of opinion that the instruction hitherto given in schools proceeded on a very false assumption when it made reading and writing, with some of the elements of religion, to form education. The Noble Lord thought there was a good deal of force in the late Mr. Cobbett's objections to popular education, of which he was a decided opponent, that it did not enable a man to discharge better the duties of his situation, and to gain his bread.

Sir Robert Inglis thought that in Lord John's scheme there was less mischief than might have been expected, considering the opinions of those with whom he acted.

Several Members put questions on the subject of the plan, after which **Sir Robert Peel** said he wished the House to know distinctly the principles on which the Board of Education should be guided? The proper time, however, was when the proposal for the great of money was made. Sir Robert, too, suspected there was more in the plan than transpired in the statement of the Noble Lord, from the readiness with which it received the assent of certain Honourable Gentlemen. He claimed only for the Church the same liberty of education which he conceded to others. The Right Hon. Baronet concluded with declaring—

"I, for one, am deeply convinced of the absolute necessity. And of the moral obligation, of providing for the education of the people.—(Cheers.)—But I am, at the same time, perfectly convinced that that can only be effectually done in this country, were so much religious dissent prevails; and that it is infinitely more likely to be done without disturbing the good understanding, and the existing harmony between the professors of the different faiths, by leaving it to the voluntary exertions of the parties themselves.—(Cheers.)—and by permitting each to educate his children, as he at present is at liberty to do, in these principles of faith in which they were born.—Great cheering.—I cannot help expressing my confident belief that the Church of England is now awakened.—(Cheers from both sides of the House.)—to the absolute necessity—not by force, not by compulsion, not by interfering in the slightest degree with the principles of perfect religious freedom.—(Cheers.)—but awakened to the absolute necessity of assuming that position which she ought to assume, in constant and cordial co-operation with the landed proprietors and others of this country;—(Cheers)—and that the only satisfactory way of having a system of education—which ought to be founded upon the basis of religion—in this country is, for each party to act for themselves—imposing no restriction upon others,—but, above all, that the members of the establishment, whether lay or clerical, shall not be ashamed of insisting that, in their education, the doctrines and principles of the faith which they profess shall be an

indispensable condition to any voluntary system of education introduced among them."—(Great cheering.)

Lord John Russell rejoiced that the Church was awakened; but he must be permitted to doubt whether, if there had been no such changes as they had been of late years, there would have been any further exertion on the subject of education than they saw during a long period of year, when those who assumed to themselves to be exclusively the friends of the Church, had the almost unopposed management of public affairs. This was a home thrust, and it told with great effect upon the House. Lord John very happily added, that—

"While seeing with very great pleasure the exertions that have been recently made, and learning with equal pleasure that there is an awakening upon this subject on the part of those who certainly have been slumbering a very long time.—(Cheers)—still I do entertain—groundless as the Right Honourable Baronet may think them—some apprehensions with regard to the manner in which this newly awakened zeal would be exercised, if there were no suspicions timely aroused as to the possibility of its being abused and perverted to ends very mischievous."

The *Randelsblad* quotes a letter from Frankfurt, stating that the 9th division of the federal army, being the contingent of Nassau, would positively march for Belgium in the name of the Germanic Diet; and confirming the report that if Belgium should refuse to adhere to the treaty of the Twenty-four Articles, she would be blockaded by England, France, and Prussia.

Sir George Grey has been appointed Judge Advocate General.

THE STAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1839.

We had intended this week to offer a few remarks upon "A FRIEND TO EDUCATION" which appeared in the *Mercury* of the 5th inst., but, on reference to our columns, it will be seen that the subject has been taken up by a Correspondent, in whose hands we are inclined to leave to him.

[To the Editor of the Star]

SIR,—I believe it is an unquestionable fact that the Protestants of Conception Bay (comprising nearly two-thirds of its entire population) are decidedly averse to what is termed the National System of Education. They contend that to support such hollow and unholy establishments, as those Schools most undeniably are from which the Sacred Scriptures are formally ejected as something dangerous and corrupting, would be no other than a total abandonment of those unalienable rights which they can no more barter away with impunity than they can their life's blood. For this unflinching maintenance of principle, that ought to have insured approbation instead of reproach, they have been derided as stubborn, bigoted, and intolerant,—opposed to all improvement and to those essential blessings which an enlightened education is calculated to confer. Mr. Editor words like these when applied to some of the most cultivated understandings in the Island, sound, to my ears, exceeding strange; and, coming as they do from those who for a long succession of ages have uniformly taught that IGNORANCE IS THE MOTHER OF DEVOTION, must, to most minds, appear rather unintelligible.

"When the Fox preaches, let the goose beware" was a favorite expression of my old grandmother's; and however unclassical, it conveys an admonition which has been of invaluable service to me at many a period of my life; whether or not it will be of equal benefit to the majority of your readers is, perhaps, another matter; however, I sincerely trust that it may.

It has again and again been asserted (and is it not strange a thing so very plain should require reiteration) that the grand fundamental doctrine of Protestantism is, that the BIBLE should be placed within the reach of every one—man, woman and child; that it should be circulated without any manner of restriction or interdiction whatsoever; and that whoever reads it, is accountable to his Heavenly Father for the conclusions he may draw therefrom. A man can no more be a Protestant whilst he refuses his assent to these maxims, than he can be a follower of Mahomet whilst he scorns

the pretensions of It is in vain that where then is your Protestant with equal out where is yours. Council against a Pope against another Protestant against himself; relations made by in the same infallible aside to-morrow. the Protestant "I for the sole of my alone; it has been a candle to my pat and I have never I have closed my influence."

A writer in the *Mercury* of the taken a very different matters; he thinks ought to be banish and principally is zone:—

First,—Because dreen has never been ble, since it is in precept that man where the example the word of Omnipotent service.

2dly,—Because dreen inasmuch as of crime; and on a fisher, if call could not, with explanation.

3dly,—Because mirth at which tenuous to read w Law and the Pro which contains the of use, cease to be

4thly,—Because our have been ch Time!! that the be given to any.

Now upon these call them, I beg simple remarks, arguments (if any are condensed to obvious that they most confused an of assumptions an It is equally clear the writer is st make as forcible any where as the it in the Schools. Brians scribe "well, suppose we old maxims, what no utility at all? asserted that the than a collection. it may be term series of Exam end! Where all so forcible—so of those to be found. Where else shall such sublimity and there the ch darkened picture friends of the an ESQUILLING mass of postage lung against his at the same time ing judgments of warned. Let us treasure—in this ex amples" in the under the assurance quick and pos a two edged sword ous nor vain. I of wickedness gi and you furnish will enable him on which they if sacred book will and enforce that if we come to fac my opponent with which parents of and some of them have been brought Christ by the an infant tongue. babes and sucklings STRENGTH." Let weighed in the candour; and the Bible in the not conduce to fr with-hold it fr would not be opp tion "Suffer the unto me and for"

But "A Friend ready to exclaim altogether! I d (as parts of my l tions may be big Mr. Editor whe their thoughts t unravel what the do not; if it be select portions