

which lasted about seven months, Capt. Warr-gresh touched at some islands not visited probably since Cook's time, and four others not to be found on the map. The captain took possession of them in the name of King Charles John. The inhabitants were a mild race, ignorant of the use of iron, and ready to give up even for a rusty nail, a turtle. They were also fond of bits of glass, and would remain three or four hours shaving themselves with pieces of broken bottle. A single musket shot was sufficient to disperse thousands of them—a proof that they had not before been visited by Europeans. The king of one of the islands presented the captain with his sceptre, made of wood majestically carved, and having a thin circle of jasper on the top.

IMPROVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE, CHIEFLY THE WORK OF THE ANGLO-SAXON RACE.—It is a most remarkable fact, if you will pardon me for indulging in a general reflection, that till lately all great discoveries and improvements in agriculture seem to have been the product of the very earliest infancy of mankind. Who can tell, my lord, when that instrument that lies at the basis of all civilization, the plough, was invented? Who can tell when man first called in the partners of his labour, the horse, the ox, the cow, the swine, the sheep, and took them into profitable alliance with himself? If you could find out who was the shepherd who first caught the wild dog, and taught him to help and tend the flock, you ought to rear a monument of brass or marble cenotaph to his memory—a higher monument than was ever raised to hero or monarch. Who knows where the cereal grains or the esculent roots were first cultivated? There is but one of them, as you know, the potato, of which the history is known—all the rest retire back into the darkest antiquity. There were cultivated at a time when your ancestors were roaming over the morasses of the now beautiful, free and merry England—(cheers)—when our ancestors were roaming painted savages through the land. Aye, and when the Romans and Greeks were living on beech nuts and acorns.—(Hear hear.) It seems, in fact, that in reference to the progress of agriculture, mankind has followed that curious law which Mr. Owen alluded to at the council yesterday—the law that governs the ruminating animals in the tropics. He pointed out to us most beautifully that the ruminating animals there have a large lump of fat between the shoulders. This is nourished and grows in the first five months of the year, when there is plenty of food, and they get along with the lump as well as they can through the seven succeeding months of scarcity. So it seems with mankind, with respect to agriculture discoveries. In the very infancy of the race, they got this large fat hump between the shoulders; and for 3,000 years they live upon little or nothing else.—(Cheers and laughter.) The very plough that we read of in Virgil we may now see in use in the South of Europe. We see it still in the hand of the peasantry as we discover it in bass relief on the sculptured remains of antiquity. It is a most pleasing fact, that this revival of the great art of agriculture in these latter days of the world is the work of the Anglo Saxon race of which you have spoken. It has been left to you, and if you will permit me to say to us, living as we do in this ungenial climate, beneath these weeping skies (the rain was at this moment descending in torrents, and the observation was loudly cheered,) it has been left to us to do with all their climate. Yes, and it is the want of those tropical luxuries, those enervating breezes of the south, that has given you, that gives us, that hardihood, that perseverance, that industry, that resolution, that are worth all the specie and all the gold of the tropics.—(Cheers.) Yes, it is that enables you to make that boast in which I hope you will permit me for my country to join—

"Man is the nobler growth our soil supplies,
And souls are ripened in our northern skies."

Mr. Everett at the Royal Agricultural Meeting.

ABSURDITY IN DUELLING.—A person ignorant of the origin and history of the modern duel would be at considerable loss to analyze its nature and elements. If he were to conceive that a mere spirit of revenge dictated the practice he would find cases where an adversary, having met his antagonist in the field, shook hands with, took his

ground, exposed himself to a mortal fire, and finally discharged his own pistol into the air; revenge thus taking the whimsical course of receiving, not imposing, an infliction. If it were then supposed that the duel might merely be an invention to enable two men to display their physical courage and contempt of death, a mistake would be found on this view also; for not unfrequently, where two individuals are prepared to go all lengths as principals, their seconds or friends, into whose hands they have put their case, will permit no farther procedure, on the ground that, by the code of duelling, no infringement of honour has, after all, taken place. If the inquirer persisted in his investigation, and endeavoured to ascertain, in what the gentlemanlike satisfaction of duelling consisted, he would perhaps be surprised to find that a man, having sustained an injury, possesses, by duel practice, the further advantage of a chance of having a final end put to all his earthly cares and annoyances.—John Dunlop.

CIVIL INTELLIGENCE.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

By the Packet Ships *England* from Liverpool, and *Mediator* from London, we have later foreign advices—London to the 8th and Liverpool to the 9th of December.

In the lack of other excitement, while the state trials are in abeyance and Mr. O'Connell ratiocating, the repeal journals in Ireland were martyring the Rev. Mr. Tyrrell, parish priest of Lusk, who has recently died. They ascribe his death, and probably with reason, to his going about through the day and night of October 7, to notify the people not to attend the meeting at Clontarf. It rained heavily all day, and his clothes were wet through, whereby he took a severe cold, which terminated in death. Great demonstrations were to be made at his funeral.

The commission to investigate the landlord and tenant grievance of Ireland, assembled at the Castle, in Dublin, on the 5th of December.

The Duke of Bordeaux was in London, holding a sort of regal court in Belgrave Square. The *London Herald*—now the principal journal of the Peel Ministry—comments with much severity on the bad taste and the uselessness, politically speaking, of his proceedings.

The dinner to Mr. O'Brien, M.P. for Limerick—a recent convert to the repeal—was attended by Mr. O'Connell, who said among other things:—

"It has been suggested to me, that if I consented to abandon the repeal, the prosecutions would be given up; or, even if convicted, the sentence would not be enforced—that offer was made to me. I said at once there shall be no compromise of repeal. I would rot in a dungeon first—(loud and enthusiastic cheering). No, not while I have breath will I make a compromise—(renewed applause). While I live I shall continue to argue Ireland's right to a domestic Parliament, and if I be incarcerated, my pen will enable me to teach my countrymen my sentiments.—(cheers)"

Of this the *London Herald* says:—

If Mr. O'Connell meant in this passage to convey an intimation that any such suggestion or offer had been made to him, directly or indirectly, we have good reason for declaring that he uttered a wilful and deliberate untruth.

COLONEL STODDART.—There is a rumour current in well-informed quarters, that Colonel Stoddart, whose death has been long believed, is yet alive. This rumour we shall be delighted to see verified. It has, as we hear, been in some measure corroborated by the appearance at Hyderabad of a native traveller, who says that as he had on previous occasions during the late campaign been acquainted with several British officers, he being in Bokhara within some months past, has seen Colonel Stoddart, by whom he has been requested to make known the Colonel's position. We give this statement as we have heard it, and with the hope that the life of this distinguished officer, whose sufferings have called forth the commiseration of the whole world, may yet be spared, and that he will one day be restored to his country and friends.—*Bombay Gentlemen's Gazette*, Sept. 29.

The Weather and the Wheat Sowing.—We have not for some years had so unfavourable a season for wheat sowing as the present in this part of the country. Owing to the heavy and continued rains of the last month, the land is every where saturated with wet, and on the heavy and ill-drained soils, of which there is only too great a breadth in Lancashire and North Cheshire, the water stands in the furrows to as great a depth as ever was known before. The consequence of this is, that wheat sowing has made no progress for the last three weeks, and that many farmers who had 20 or 30 acres sown at this time last year have either none or only two or three acres at present. Even those who have their seed in are not

out of danger; for all the low lands which are ever liable to be flooded have been under water more than once during the last month, and those that are not are too full of water for the seed to germinate kindly. If the same kind of weather that we have had here has been at all general, considerable quantities of land which ought to have been sown with winter wheat will have to be sown with spring corn of some kind or other.—*Liverpool Times*, Dec. 4.

The Rev. Robert Montgomery, late minister of St. Jude, Glasgow, and now incumbent of Percy Chapel, London, has just been offered to succeed the celebrated Dr. Hawks, of New York, at St. Thomas Church, in that city. The income is 4,000 dollars, or about £830 per annum. We believe the Rev. gentleman has very respectfully declined to accept his appointment.

The Marquis of Aylsbury has made a donation of £100 towards the restoration fund of York Minster. The British Association has, since its establishment, expended £83,000 in scientific investigations.

CHINA.—Another Indian Mail had been received in London. The *Standard* says that the commercial accounts from China, both public and private, fully confirm the necessity of the propriety of extreme caution on the part of exporters, both as it respects the description and qualities of the commodities they send out for the consumption of the Celestials. There are already unequivocal symptoms of a glut in several leading articles, which must necessarily lead to low prices.

The Sikhs have adopted the plan of placing guards at the different fords to prevent the news of what is going on at Lahore from reaching the English.—Vague reports pass the frontier of the soldiers being disaffected, and demanding exorbitant pay. Lord Ellenborough remains quiet. The *Times* recommends that the English abstain from interference with the Indian affairs in the interior.

The state of business in China, with the exception of the coasting trade, does not appear satisfactory at Hong-Kong, so that many of the merchants declined going there. Sickness existed there to a considerable extent. Opium was not to be protected by the British, and yet smuggling continued to prosper. The Bogue forts were rebuilt in nearly the same state as before. The Chinese Government had claimed 4,000,000 dollars from the Hong merchants as a contribution on account of the Canton ransom. The Emperor had issued several proclamations, exhibiting a wish to protect "the foreign barbarians," and to punish those officers who had maltreated the sailors that were shipwrecked in the *Nerbudda* and *Anne*, in the beginning of 1842.

THE HORRORS OF SLAVERY.—The *Frolic* arrived here last night with a slaver she had captured off Cape Frio, having on board 360 slaves, men, women and children. This slaver was only about double the size of one of our launches, and the poor unfortunate beings were packed in her like as many herrings would be in a cask. It appears that they had been stowed in like this for the space of forty-five days. Death had happily released a great many of them from their torture. But, oh! the sight of the living masses of corruption was enough to strike terror into the most flinty heart, as they were covered with sores from head to foot. They were as soon as possible relieved from their forty-five-day region, being taken out and placed on board the receiving ship for that purpose. You can more easily imagine than I can describe the skeleton frames of those poor wretches, when I tell you that 220 of them were taken at once into our launch, and conveyed to the receiving ship. Our men really sickened at the spectacle they had to behold in the shape of humanity; and I was glad when the last had been taken out, for I never beheld such a sight before. There were among them fifty female children supposed to be under seven years of age, and forty-five males under ten.

TURKEY.—*Asad Pasha*, the governor of Beyroul, has given orders to the Druse Sheiks to collect among their people the amount of 25,000 purses, for the Christian inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, as a recompense to the latter for the losses which they have sustained during the late disturbances.

Moslemism.—*Constantinople*, Oct. 18.—During the present Ramadan, a firman has appeared, recommending to the inhabitants of Constantinople greater austerity of manners, and a more strict observance of the sacred month. Among other things, the ladies of Constantinople are commanded modestly to veil their faces, not to stare boldly at the men, and to behave modestly and reservedly on their promenades in the public streets. By another order, it is enjoined that the men shall not wear their coats open on the breast, especially in front of the Palace of the Grand Seigneur; but, as is suitable with the present style of dress, buttoned up to the throat.—*Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*.

The provisional government of Hayti has sent an agent to England, to endeavour to form companies for working the mines and clearing the forests of that country.