

GREAT BRITAIN.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

APRIL 26.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS (IRELAND) BILL.—Viscount Melbourne having moved that the House go into committee upon this Bill, Lord Fitzgerald and Vescei, after a long speech against the measure, moved—That it be an instruction to the committee that they have power to make provision for the abolition of such corporations and for such arrangements as may be necessary on their abolition for securing the efficient and impartial administration of justice, and the peace and good government of cities and towns in Ireland.—The Lord Chancellor supported the bill, contending that after the Catholics had been entrusted with the highest civil rights, he could not understand why they were not to be entrusted with a voice in the election of mayors or aldermen.—Lord Abinger supported the amendment.—Lord Holland made a most excellent speech in favor of the bill.—Lord Lyndhurst spoke in favor of the amendment.—Lord Melbourne said their Lordships would commit a very hasty, a very rash, and a very imprudent step, if they voted for the amendment.—The house then divided, when the numbers were, for the amendment, 203—for the original motion, 119,—majority for the amendment, 84.

MAY 3.

It has been for some days past confidently rumoured that Lord Melbourne has expressed a strong disposition by means of mutual concession, to come to some compromise with his formidable opponents in the House of Lords on the subjects of the Irish Church and Corporations, but that such disposition has been met with determined opposition by the majority of his colleagues, who feel themselves compelled to adhere, *coute qui coute* to the dictates of the tyrant hand which rules them.—*Morning Herald.*

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has fixed the *maximum* size for newspapers at 1,530 superficial inches. This is large enough to all conscience, and will include the largest papers now published. The original size contemplated was only 1,066 inches, so that he has increased the extent nearly one half. This is exceedingly liberal, and is a convincing proof how desirous the Chancellor of the Exchequer is to do justice to, and to meet the wishes of all parties, consistently with his public duty.

NEW COMPANIES.—No fewer than 119 new companies have been started in London during the last year; of these 41 are mining companies, 85 for the establishment of railways, and 43 miscellaneous. The nominal capital is, mines £2,804,000; railways £34,040,000; miscellaneous £19,811,000; total £56,815,000.

PORTSMOUTH, April 26.

The eight line-of-battle ships recently commissioned are getting fast ready for sea; the 3,200 seamen requisite to man them, independent of the officers and Marines, are nearly all raised at the different ports, there being only 240 men required by the returns to the Admiralty on Thursday last.

From the Scotsman.

EDINBURGH, April 27.

General Evans has addressed a very interesting letter from Vittoria to his constituents, the electors of Westminster. In apology for his absence from Parliament, he expresses a hope, that he will be considered as laboring in Spain for that cause of reform and good government which the electors of Westminster have so strenuously supported. In confirmation of this inference he observes, that the

partisans of ancient abuses, of whose hostility he had his full share in Parliament, have pursued him with increased virulence and malignity in the present sphere of his labours. On the subject of the insurrection, he states, that it is confined to one fiftieth part of the population of Spain, inhabiting a very small district, which is rendered almost a natural fortress by its rocks and woods; that the people have long lived under peculiar laws, and enjoyed privileges unknown to the other inhabitants; in particular, a monopoly of smuggling, extremely injurious to the national treasury, but of which they are excessively tenacious. They are the most free, but the least enlightened, subjects of the monarchy; and they are not so much frightened by Carlos, as for their ancient usages, and their contraband trade. Elsewhere throughout Spain, he observes, the Queen's government has the confidence of all classes, and the nobility and wealthier inhabitants are particularly zealous in its support. He then adverts to the fabricated accounts so eagerly circulated by the partisans of absolutism in France and England. 'They say we have experienced a succession of defeats; I say most distinctly that we have not suffered the slightest check.' The Queen's army is now operating upon the principle of a blockade; it has been gradually hemming in the rebels within narrower boundaries; it has taken and fortified above twenty villages, and dispossessed the enemy of 4,000 square miles of territory. The rebels, he says, are becoming tired of the privations attending the contest, and with the force now provided by the government, he anticipates the complete success of the Queen's cause at no distant date. On the subject of the sickness of the British legion, he shows from Colonel Napier's History, that the proportion of sick was much greater at various periods in the Duke of Wellington's army, amounting to more than a third, and on some occasions exceeding one half of the whole number of men! The monstrous statements uttered by that walking absurdity, the Marquis of Londonderry, are, as might be expected, pure fictions. He asserted that the British Legion went into action on the 16th of January in a state of intoxication, that it retreated to Vittoria in the same state, and that it murdered a number of unarmed prisoners. "There is not one word of truth," says General Evans, "in these statements. We were not intoxicated—we did not murder unarmed prisoners.—We did not retreat to Vittoria." The Marquis has since noticed the contradiction in Parliament, and produced authorities—and such authorities! An anonymous letter in the *Gazette de France*, the daily venter of Carlist forgeries, translations of that letter into the English papers; and a letter which he refused to produce, from an individual he refused to name! Bravo, thou "head of the Wrongheads!"

From the Scotsman.

UNITED ASSOCIATE SYNOD.

At their meeting on Wednesday, the Synod approved of the Correspondence which their late Moderator, Mr Thompson had held with the government during the past year, respecting the interests of the Scottish Dissenters. It was also agreed that the meeting of the senior class of Theology should be held in Edinburgh, and the junior class in Glasgow—the former under the tuition of Professors Balmer and Duncan; the latter under Professors Brown and Mitchell.

The afternoon sederunt was devoted to the Missionary business of the Synod.

The Synod were occupied on Thursday forenoon with Missionary business,—such as receiving reports from Presbyteries in regard to regulations for conducting missions, and with making interim regulations, &c. As connect-

ed with the subject of Missions, the committee states that some congregations had expressed a wish to take part in a mission to the South Sea Islands, and the Synod authorised their sub-committee to give attention to the proposal and to sanction the same should they find it expedient.

In the afternoon the Synod proceeded to hear the papers read in reference to the proposed Union with the Relief Body, which occupied till six o'clock; and that being the hour at which it previously agreed to take up the subject of American slavery, the consideration of the Union was postponed.

The overtures in regard to slavery in the United States having been read, a motion was made and unanimously agreed to, for the appointment of a committee to address the Christian Churches in America, with which the Synod is in correspondence, on the evils of negro slavery, and for the adoption of measures for immediate emancipation. According to agreement, Mr George Thompson was present, and addressed the Synod in a powerful speech, for which the thanks of the Synod were communicated by the Moderator. The Committee on the address were directed to frame resolutions in reference to the subject, to be submitted to the Synod for their adoption.

Yesterday the question of a union between the United Secession and Relief Bodies, was taken up and discussed. After a long discussion, the Synod unanimously agreed to appoint a committee to examine and report on the principles held by the Relief Body; and to appoint a deputation to wait upon the Relief Synod, and give expression to the friendly feelings of the United Associate Synod to that Court.

From the Courier, April 18.

SPECULATION MANIA.

We are persuaded that a dangerous spirit of speculation prevails at this moment, in many parts of the empire; that numerous projects are on foot that cannot end otherwise than in loss and disappointment to those who embark in them *bona fide*, and that improper facilities are afforded to those engaging in speculative transactions. How this may terminate it is impossible to say; but no one acquainted with the facts, can doubt that present appearances are a little threatening. We have no doubt, as we stated before, that the proceedings of the country banks have had a good deal to do in bringing about the existing excitement. Some of the Joint Stock Banks have been managing their affairs in a very extraordinary way, and we question whether the mighty structure they have been raising be really more substantial than a house of cards. It has been affirmed, or what we believe to be good grounds, that one of these associations, with a paid up capital of less than £500,000, had very recently discounted bills to the extent of £5,000,000, or to ten times the amount of its paid up capital! The bills were discounted at 4 or 4 1/2 per cent., the money for the purpose, being procured in the metropolis at three per cent. But it is obvious that the smallest disturbance would be fatal to a business of this sort. If any circumstances, should occur to lessen the facilities for borrowing in London, or if those to whom the banks have been lending should get into difficulties, the baseless fabric would instantly fall to pieces. Now there is but too much probability that some such circumstances will occur. A rise of prices tends at one and the same time to lessen consumption, and to increase stocks; and is thus sure in the end to destroy itself. It is next to certain, too, that the country circulation will, at no distant period, become redundant; and that redundancy by acting upon London, will occasion a fall of the stocks and a demand for bullion.