

FREE TRADE.

ANALYSIS OF SIR R. PEEL'S SPEECH.—He showed that the principles of Free Trade, upon which the ministry have said so much, have really nothing to do with the question. The government proposition was not for free trade, but for an alteration and continuance of restrictive duties. It was not then a question of free trade: but a question, whether the duties which the ministry now proposed were more judicious and more adapted to promote the prosperity of the country than those which they wished to abolish. Here he met them, and emphatically said "No," to their proposed sugar duties, and to their absurd corn duties: whilst he hinted that in protecting timber duties the present state of Canada was such as to render the creating any ill feeling towards England, at the present moment, most peculiarly dangerous. On those duties, however, he reserved himself until he was in possession of the official information.—On the sugar question his conviction was grounded on the injustice and impolicy of endangering the success of our noble efforts for emancipation: on the impropriety of neglecting our own Colonies to foster the slave-holding markets; and on the fact that our present supply of sugar was great, whilst the yearly increase from both the East and West Indies bid fair to render it far more and permanently abundant.—On the corn question he had nothing to add or to change in the sentiments he expressed last year. The proposition of an 8s. fixed duty he felt was wholly inadequate for protection to the British farmer, and altogether inadmissible. To a fixed duty of any kind, he certainly objected: it could not be maintained in a time of real scarcity without inflicting deep misery upon the poor; and in a time of abundance, both abroad and at home, it would admit foreign corn when our own markets were already too low; and would then add to our difficulties. A fixed duty would thus aggravate the distress of the poor in times of scarcity, and the distress of the farmer in times of abundance. The sliding scale, on the contrary, accommodated itself admirably to both contingencies: when corn was too dear it threw the ports open; when corn was too cheap it shut them close up: courted a free supply when it was really needed, and cutting off all import when we had already too much. He quoted the solemn conviction of the late Mr. Huskisson, that a fixed duty on corn was impossible. Whilst however he maintained the absurd inadequacy of the protection offered by government, and the superiority of the present sliding scale, he did not bind himself to all the details of the present duties, or the present system of averages.—Sir Robert then alluded to the general state of the country. Distressing as were the accounts which came from the manufacturing districts, and deplorable as were our financial reports, he saw no reason for despondency. He examined our reports, and found that they had fallen off nothing within the last three years, excepting in our trade with America. This he said the banking embarrassments of that country fully explained. He next examined the shipping returns, and found a steady yearly increase of tonnage for the last three years, without any check. He did not therefore believe that either our manufactures or our commerce were permanently or irreparably injured; and he felt the strongest confidence that, if saved from the contemplated ministerial infliction, the country would rise out of her present depression and recover her buoyancy.—Repelling Lord John Russell's charge of factious opposition, he asked the noble Lord to remember in how many cases he, Sir Robert Peel, had assisted him in his distress; and delivered him from his own blunders when he ought to have overthrown him:—He alluded to the Jamaica case, for the help in which the noble Lord had since frankly thanked him—to the case of Privilege—to the settlement of the Canadas, and to the question of the Poor Laws: in all which his conduct had been the opposite to factious. Besides, he added, the very principles of the sugar question, which he was charged with faction for supporting, were precisely those which the government itself last year most strongly declared to be the right ones.—He then hit home upon the Ministry in a most masterly manner. They had now been ten years in power—they had the benefit of a reformed House of Commons, and of having carried most extensive political changes; all, as they announced, fraught with immediate benefit to the country:—and what was the result? When they entered on office the Duke of Wellington, after having reduced the public debt twenty millions, and the annual charge one million, left them a yearly surplus on the budget of £1,600,000; now, at the end of ten years of reformed and economical government, what did they see? An increase to the public debt of £7,500,000, and an annual deficiency of £2,500,000! This was the issue of liberal economical finance! We saw also a government in that very position which Lord Melbourne so emphatically pronounced to be the very worst and most deplorable. "A government which does not possess sufficient public confidence to be able to carry its own measures into effect." This was the issue of ten years of continued political reforms!—He then solemnly addressed Lord John Russell, as the representative of the Government:—"Through your mismanagement these evils have come upon the country." It is not right or constitutional in a representative government that the House of Commons should be seen to withhold its confidence from a Ministry, and yet not influence its fate: it is not advantageous to the monarchy that its servants should be unable to carry the measures, which, in the name of the Sovereign they recommend: it is not fair to important national measures, even were they beneficial, that they should be proposed for party purposes: it is not, believe me, good for your own high characters that you have proposed in such a manner, such vast measures as the present." (And he added with a power of truth, which ought to carry conviction,) "I do not deny your power, when speaking from your present positions, of raising the stormy elements of agitation, and exciting the fierce conflict of opposing interests; and that, amidst the collisions of such passions, you may hope to gather up the fragments of your strength; but, depend upon it, you will read the lesson that, when authority condescends to call the unruly elements of agitation to its aid, it finds, no doubt, a powerful ally for the moment; but it is an ally, which will soon be its master, and not its slave."

INCOMPETENCY OF THE MINISTERS. Sir Robert Peel has given notice, that on Thursday, he will propose to the House of Commons a direct vote of want of confidence in her Majesty's present advisers. This, no doubt, is a bold step, but it is a manly and honest one. In the present state of the country, when it is supposed that an appeal is about to be made to the constituencies, it is right that this question should be definitely determined before Parliament is dissolved. It is by no means the same motion as was proposed by Sir John Yarde Buller. The difference in point of time makes all the difference in the world. Ministers, since the period of Sir John's assault, have committed divers aggravated delinquencies, which their supporters on that occasion may be perfectly justified in de-

nouncing on this. Nor is it to be understood that hon. members who may conscientiously support, or refrain from opposing Sir Robert Peel's motion, are thereby committed (as was reasonably demurred to by Lord Worsley at the Lincolnshire meeting) to pledge their adherence to a Conservative Administration. Neither must it be insinuated that Sir Robert's motion is, in any respect, a factious one. The truth is, apart from the great public principle on which that motion proceeds, a vote of non-confidence is undeniably the least factious measure which any Opposition can propose. In the present case, there cannot be the shadow of a ground for such an imputation. Generally speaking, a resolution declaratory of a want of confidence in Ministers necessarily implies a judgment upon the entire character of their policy. But Sir Robert Peel's forthcoming motion is of a more specific character. By the unparalleled pertinacity of the Whigs in setting up *Crown favour* as a counter-act to invalidate the reiterated verdicts of Parliament, which palpably demand their dismissal, a great constitutional principle, ratified by a long series of precedents, has been grossly and dangerously violated. On this particular point the House of Commons are now called on to record their honest opinion. That Sir Robert Peel's retention of office in 1836, in spite of adverse divisions, affords no parallel or precedent to the existing tenacity of the Whigs, we pledge ourselves to prove, to the complete satisfaction of the country. The insolent and interminable manner in which the Whigs have played off the Royal prerogative against the spirit of the constitution, is highly dangerous to the liberties of the realm. It is, therefore, more than time that Parliament should speak out.—Times.

LONDON, JUNE 3.

The Duchess of Kent embarked at Woolwich, last Thursday morning, in the Firebrand steam-vessel, for the continent. The Queen and Prince Albert were present. She had arrived at Ostend and gone to Brussels on a visit to the King and Queen of the Belgians.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Henry R. Molyneux, expired on Sunday last, at the mansion of the Dowager Countess of Sefton, in Arlington street, London. He was the third son of the late Earl of Sefton, and brother of the present earl.

Lady Frances Somerset expired on Thursday morning, at Tunbridge-wells. The deceased, who was the second daughter of Henry, the fifth Duke of Beaufort, and aunt of the present duke, was born the 3d of April, 1774, and was, consequently, in her 67th year.

Rear-Admiral Samuel Mottley died on Thursday last, at Portsmouth.

We regret to have to record the death of another brave British officer, a victim of the baneful clime of Syria, Col. Bridgeman, in command of the British detachment at Beyrout. He is succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Rose, an officer of the highest promise, and well known at Malta as major, formerly in the 92d Highlanders.

Marrriages in high life are of late the order of the day. The next on the list is Lady Caroline Stanhope (sister of the Duchess of Leinster), who will be led to the hymeneal altar by E. A. Sanford, Esq., M. P.

Dora, the only daughter of Wordsworth, the poet, was married last week at Bath, to Mr. Edward Quilliam, of Canterbury. The venerable poet has for some time past been residing in the city of Bath, principally for the benefit of his health.

A Meeting of noblemen and gentlemen connected with the British North American Colonies took place on the 22d ult., at the Colonial Club-house, St. James's. The Earl of Mountcashel, on taking the chair, explained that the North American Colonial Committee had called a special meeting to determine what steps it might be advisable to take in opposition to the proposed alteration of the Timber-duties. It would, he said, be most prejudicial to the Mother-country, in destroying a nursery for her seamen; and it would be destructive to emigration to the colonies, since the ships employed in bringing home timber were those which afforded the greatest facilities for carrying out the emigrants. Sir Duncan McDougall, the Earl of Devon, Mr. H. Bliss, Mr. Robertson, and several other gentlemen, joined in deprecating the proposed change. The two following resolutions, proposed by Sir Duncan, were passed unanimously; and a Committee was appointed to prepare petitions to both Houses of Parliament:—

"1. That this Committee have observed with deep regret that her Majesty's Government have expressed their intention of proposing extensive alterations in the existing duties on timber, by which the prosperity of the North American Colonies will be materially retarded, their trade, commerce, and maritime interests seriously impaired, and lasting injury be inflicted on the Transatlantic subjects of Great Britain. This Committee, entertaining these opinions, feel it their duty to petition Parliament against the alteration.

"2. That the proposed measure of Government above referred to has the further serious objection of being introduced at a moment the most inconvenient and impolitic, it being the period when the first parliament since the union of the Provinces is on the eve of assembling, and when, according to a report of a recent speech of the Secretary for the Colonies, in his place in Parliament, it was stated that the Governor-General of British North America had expressed an opinion that the proposed measure would embarrass him in his administration in Canada."

At a recent chartist meeting in Bristol, Vincent expressed an opinion that he should shortly see the charter and the return of Frost made cabinet measures.

Commodore Napier, on Friday last, resigned his command in the Mediterranean, in order that no obstacle might be thrown in the way of his aspiring to the representation of Maryland.

The British Queen steam-ship has been exhibited to the public in Liverpool for several days at 6d. per head. The proceeds, which are considerable, are appropriated to the relief of the families of the President's crew in small weekly payments.

Birmingham has been alarmed by a disastrous fire. It broke out on Thursday night, the 27th ult., at Mr. Wicliffe's, a coach-builder, where some men were "ringing" a carriage-wheel with a red-hot iron tire. The stock of timber and the premises were destroyed, and several of the adjacent buildings were injured. So alarming a fire, it is said, has never occurred in Birmingham, except at the riots in 1791 and 1839. The damage is said to amount to £10,000 or £12,000.

THE NIGER EXPEDITION.—The Albert and the Wilberforce sailed for their destination on Wednesday evening last, at half-past six. Captain Trotter and his brave companions take with them the prayers and best wishes of the inhabitants of this town, and of the nation at large, for their health and success in the highly interesting mission in which they are engaged.—Devonport Independent.

NELSON'S COXSAIN.—On Saturday last this venerable tar suddenly expired, at his little fishmonger's shop, in Church-passage, Greenwich. He was upwards of 80 years of age. Skyes was a most daring fellow, and was with Lord Nelson during the whole of the time of his glorious deeds. He most of all distinguished himself at the battle of Trafalgar. His bravery deserved greater reward than it received. Peace to his manes!—Kentish Mercury.

Electioneering movements are taking place throughout the country. It would occupy too much space to give them in detail. Four Conservatives are to be started for London:—Messrs. Lyall, Chapman, Masterman, and Alderman Pirie. In every quarter the number of conservative candidates is greatly increased.

Letters from Constantinople to the 27th April, have been received. The announcement of the participation of France in the last deliberations of the London Conference, and of her adhesion to the Treaty destined to adjust in a definitive manner the affairs of the East, had been received by the Sultan with all the marks of the liveliest satisfaction, and had produced on the Ottoman public generally, the most favourable impression. The Divan had acceded to the modifications of the Hatti Scheriff of the 13th of February last required by Mehemet Ali, and a new Hatti Scheriff to that effect was being drawn up, which would be shortly despatched to Alexandria. The Egyptian question is now considered entirely settled.

We have much pleasure in announcing, that the Directors of the Company by whom the contract for the West India mail-steamer was obtained, have appointed Captain Fayer, R. N., to the command of their first vessel, called the Forth.—Standard.

A crowd assembled on Tuesday afternoon at the entrance to the house of Commons, to witness the arrival of the huge Chartist Petition with 1,300,000 signatures, which was borne by the working-men in procession. Shortly after four o'clock the procession appeared, headed by some well-known Chartist leaders. The petition was carried on the shoulders of eight sturdy men, in fustian jackets. Arrived at the iron gates, a message was sent to Mr. Thomas Duncombe, who had agreed to present it. An answer was sent down analogous to the formula within-doors, "Please to bring it up." The lobbies were crowded with several Members running to see the monstrous document. Finally it was received by Mr. Duncombe and Mr. O'Connell; who was accompanied by some difficulty, to roll it in.

THE PRESENT CRISIS.—The Chronicle of this morning contains reports of numerous Anti-Corn-Law meetings. At Bilston, the Rev. H. Bonnor, Baptist minister, appeared to propose the third resolution:—"That the corn and provision laws of this country are contrary to the Word of God, inimical to morality, and productive of benefit to none but the rich landholders; and therefore of benefit to none but the rich landholders; and every philanthropist, to stand forward against them." The rev. gentleman considered the Corn laws the devil's own laws—(cheers) and injurious to every class of society, save certain needy landowners. (Hear, hear.) He stated that, because the Corn-law was contrary to God's law and God's word, he, as a minister of God, would never rest content until it was repealed. (Loud cheers.)—Patriot.

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.—It may be interesting to our readers to state, on the eve of the forthcoming general election, the number of dissolutions of Parliament which have occurred during the last fifteen years. A dissolution took place in December, 1826, in the reign of his late majesty George IV.; a third dissolution was resolved on by the Earl Grey's Ministry, in April, 1831, in consequence of the non-success of the New Reform Bill; this dissolution was considered a coup d'état. Parliament was again dissolved at the close of the year 1832, for the purpose of having a house of commons according to the provisions of the New Reform Act. The first reformed Parliament lasted about two years, having been dissolved in December, 1834, by the new ministry, of which Sir Robert Peel was the Premier. Sir Robert Peel's Parliament existed about two years and a half, when it came to "an untimely end," in consequence of the lamented demise of his late Majesty William IV. It will thus be seen that the average duration of each of the six Parliaments which have been elected from 1826 to 1837 inclusive, was not more than about two years and four months, (under two years and a half.) The present Parliament, if dissolved, as is expected in a week or two, will not have lasted four years; it has sat during four sessions, including the present one.

Lord Cardigan was balloted for a few days since for admission to the Senior United Service Club; he had fifty-one black balls.

The annual procession of the different branches of Temperance Societies, amounting to several thousands, and accompanied by bands of music and banners, took place on Monday, and from the orderly behaviour and respectable appearance of the members, fully justifies the belief that "teetotalism" has been, and will continue to be, productive of great benefit to the working classes generally.

There are in London and the suburbs fifty total abstinence societies, with twenty thousand members, of whom three thousand are reclaimed drunkards; in Scotland, one hundred and fifty thousand members, and in Ireland, five millions five hundred thousand.

An autograph of Shakspeare, the signature to a deed of bargain and sale for the purchase of a house in Blackfriars, was sold by Evans, on Monday week, for 155 guineas. It was bought by Mr. Elkins, it is supposed, for the City Library. Not very long since the British Museum bought Shakspeare's autograph, on a fly-leaf of Florio's Montaigne, for £130.

The President steamer had three months' rations on board when she left New York, on the 11th March; moreover, her cargo partly consisted of a large quantity of flour; nothing worthy of credit, we regret to say, has yet been heard of this ill-fated vessel, and nothing belonging to her has yet been found afloat.

SINGULAR MARRIAGE.—On Monday week, Patrick Cowan, bachelor, and Sarah Ann Dowers, spinster, were united in the bands of wedlock at the church of St. Dunstan's, Stepney, by Mr. James, the curate. The parties were both young and goodlooking, but both deaf and dumb. Fortunately both had been instructed in the schools instituted for the education of persons thus afflicted, and, by reading the service and writing their assents to the questions propounded, the parties were made to understand the nature of the solemn form of marriage used in the Church. Cowan is a coal-whipper, and is a capital workman.

In the course of a paper drawn up by Mr. Rowland Hill, and entitled "The Results of the New Postage Arrangements," which was read to the Statistical Society on Monday, the 17th May, it was stated, that the present rate of increase on all letters is twenty-one per cent. per annum, or upwards of forty per cent. on the original number; and should this rate of increase be maintained, and each succeeding year bring an augmentation of twenty-one per cent. as compared with the year 1840, the complete restoration of the gross revenue will be effected in about three years and a half from the present time.

The Polish cavalier, who ran away a few days since with the Princess of Spain, the daughter of the Infant Don Francisco, has received the reward of his audacity by being honoured with the consent of the Prince and Princess to his legal marriage with the headstrong and weak-hearted young lady.

The smugglers on the Swiss frontier have adopted the plan of conveying light parcels of valuable articles over the frontier line of customs' stations by means of a balloon; they freight the aerostatic machine with a load of from 160 to 200 English pounds, and then, guiding it by a rope, take advantage of a favourable wind, and walk with their aerial vehicle into France.

IRELAND.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland was to marry, on Tuesday, the Dowager Lady Somerville, widow of the late Sir Marcus Somerville, and stepmother of Sir William Somerville, the Member for Drogheda. The bride-elect is young and beautiful, and described by all as remarkable for her accomplishments and fascinating manners.

It was stated by the secretary of the Irish society at its last meeting that there are about 600,000 persons in Ireland who have no knowledge whatever of the English language, and about two millions more who have some

knowledge of the English, but whose vernacular is Irish language.

AGITATION IN IRELAND.—Mr. O'Connell has addressed the "People of Ireland" in another proclamation, the substance of which is, that the people are "in the throes of a great and important crisis," and they should be prepared to show themselves worthy of the times in which they live." He then gives them advice, under different heads, that the liberal constituencies of Ireland should endeavour, in the event of a single or general election, to return a repealer if possible; if not, a radical; if not a radical a whig; and if not one of these three, to leave the return a Tory to Tories, but to have no hand, act, or part, themselves in such a result. No man is to attempt to support a radical, if by doing so a Tory will get in and a whig walk out. A man is to abuse whigs, even upon points on which the merit of the cause is in dispute, and to advance the interest of the Tory; the man who would do so, would show "his folly" not recollecting that the great crime of the whigs is to be sensible Tories; and that the Tory is nothing more than an exaggeration of all whig faults, without any particle of whig merits." He further says, repeating the same advice in different words, "Get repealers wherever you can—get radicals wherever you cannot get repealers—whigs where you cannot get either, and oppose the Tories everywhere and in every thing." He then goes on to show what the Tories did when they were in power, and what they would do were they in office again, and concludes by calling on the "men of Ireland—brave, but gentle—moral, yet merry—generous, but shrewd, but, above all, religious and temperate"—to rally with him "tranquilly, legally, constitutionally," and, as usual to-morrow's sun shall rise, the Irish Parliament will assemble in College-green."

MURDER OF ROBERT HALL, Esq., OF MERTON HALL.—An inquest was held upon the body of Mr. Hall, (who had been shot on his own estate,) on Wednesday last, by James Carroll, Esq., Coroner. Two persons who had been dispossessed from the land held by Mr. Hall, were excluded from the jury. The first witness examined was John Connell, a coachman in the service of the deceased. He deposed that he left Merton Hall in the morning at ten o'clock accompanied by Mr. Hall, whom he drove to Uskane. He arrived at Uskane at eleven o'clock. Mr. Hall went to the house, and witness heard a shot in the direction in which he went. Mr. Hall was shot about 200 yards from where he (witness) was standing. A man was ploughing in the field when they first came to the place. After the shot was fired there was no one with the plough. There were several men in an adjoining field and they must have heard the shot. They did not stir from their work. When he came to the deceased he found him lying on his right side, with his face turned towards the ditch; he was then quite dead. He had a wound under his left ear. He opened his eyes and found the bullet at the other side of his neck. Mr. Hobbs, of Borrisokane, deposed that he examined the deceased and found wounds under his ear and jaw, inflicted as he supposed, by a pistol bullet. He conceived also that Mr. Hall died instantaneously. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder." It did not appear in the evidence that the assassin was near Mr. Hall when the shot was fired, but the fact of his having been so is to be inferred from the circumstance that the grey hairs of the deceased were singed with powder. The ploughman alluded to by the witness Connell is in custody, but the suspicion against him is very vague and trifling. Mr. Hall is 56 years of age. He was married to Miss Litton, sister to Edward Litton, Esq., M. P., for Galerain, a member of the established church, and of liberal politics, having voted at the last elections in three counties for the liberal candidates, and was frequently heard to boast that he lived in an undisturbed part of the country, and could sleep with open doors. He had little knew by whom he was surrounded. Several other outrages have been committed in Tipperary within the last few nights, such as serving threatening notices on persons to relinquish land, appearing in arms, and firing dwelling houses; but the magnitude of the murder of Mr. Hall places the other outrages completely in the shade.

Another murder, arising from the system of ejection in Ireland, was committed in the County of Wexford on the 27th of May. Mr. Robert Butler Bryan, who purchased the palace and demense of the deceased Bishop of Ferns, was shot on the evening of that day, while riding alone in a wood near the house. Some tenants who had held under expired leases of the late Bishop, having refused to surrender to Mr. Butler, he was obliged to commence proceedings in ejection against them: these succeeded, and the tenants were dispossessed; and Mr. Butler was shot in revenge. An envelope was found lying by him, addressed to him, but containing no writing: it is from this conjectured, that a stranger, brought from a distance, was the culprit, and that he had taken the paper to ascertain the identity of his victim. Mr. Butler was liberal in politics and is said to have been of a very amiable and inoffensive character.

SCOTLAND.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met at Edinburgh on the 20th May; Lord Belhaven presiding as the Queen's Commissioner. The proceedings in the earlier days of the session were confined chiefly to matters of form. Dr. Robert Gordon, of Edinburgh, was chosen Moderator.

The case of the seven Ministers of the Presbytery of Strathgogie, who were suspended by the General Assembly for the preference which they gave to the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts in supporting the presentation of Mr. Edwards to the living of Marnoch, came before the General Assembly on Thursday; the Ministers appearing at the bar as advocates; who spoke for upwards of two hours. They were then removed from the bar, and the Assembly went to prayers; after which Dr. Chalmers, in a long speech, moved that the relevancy of the libel be sustained; or, in other words, that the seven ministers be found guilty of acting in contravention of the acts of the General Assembly. He wanted to include in this finding the punishment that should follow; but upon its being suggested that the question of guilt should be decided first, the motion was confined to that, and so carried, at about two o'clock on Friday morning, by a majority of 222 to 125. Dr. Chalmers then made a motion, that the ministers should be deposed from the office of the holy ministry. A long statement of the case was read at the bar by one of the accused, Mr. Allardyce, of Rhynie; after which Dr. Chalmers's motion was agreed to. The sentence of deposition having been carried, Dr. Cook read reasons of protest against it, in which it was stated, that he and those who signed the protest along with him would continue to regard the deposed ministers of the Church of Scotland, and still stand by that Church as supported by the constitutional authorities of the land. The protest was very numerous and signed. The Assembly having again engaged in prayer, the Moderator pronounced the sentence of deposition, declared the seven churches of the deposed vacant, and ordered the sentence to be published from all the pulpits of the Presbytery of Strathgogie. He was afterwards instructed to acquaint the patrons of the seven churches with the proceedings, that they might make new presentations.

On Friday evening, a decree of the Court of Session was served on the Moderator of the Assembly, interdicting the execution of the sentence of suspension.

SPAIN.

At Madrid on the 9th May, all the Ministers waited upon General Espartero, to congratulate him on his election to the sole Regency. At a Council which was held immediately afterwards, under the presidency of the Regent, the question of the reorganization of the Cabinet came under discussion; and a list of the Ministry likely to constitute the next Administration was circulated in the evening. These were Senors Gonzales, Infantes, Cortina, Luzuriaga, Ximenes, Pitta, Pizarro, and Olozaga.

The officers of the garrison and the civil authorities paid their devours on the same day. The Regent promised energetically to defend the throne, the constitution, and the national independence.