

the disturbed districts. Your reporter, writing from the neighbourhood of Ballingarry, says, 'at present all is perfectly tranquil, but fears are entertained that the people are preparing for an outbreak the moment the military force is withdrawn. No accurate intelligence of Smith O'Brien's movements has been received.'

CORK, July 31.—I am informed on good authority that before entering on his final crusade against the British Government, Mr. O'Brien made over the whole of his property.

The judges to preside at the Dublin commission, which is to open on Tuesday next, are the Chief Baron Pigot and Mr. Justice Torrens. The Crown prosecutors are preparing indictments against the poor newsvendors arrested for selling the *Nation* and *Felon*.

MR. SMITH O'BRIEN.—The history, genealogical, and otherwise of this gentleman, cannot fail to be interesting to the public at the present moment. He was born at Dromoland, county of Clare, on the 17th October, 1803, being the second son of Sir Edward O'Brien, fourth baronet, (who died in 1837), by the daughter and coheirress of William Smith, Esq., of Cahirmoyle, county of Limerick. The latter lady was a very rich heiress. The issue of this marriage, in addition to the subject of our notice, consisted of eight other children, including Sir Lucius, the eldest son; Edward, born in 1806, and married to the daughter of Massy Dawson, Esq. late M. P. a scion of the noble house of Cremorne; Robert, born in 1809, married to the daughter of Sir Aubrey de Vere; the Rev. H. O'Brien, married to the daughter of John Godley, Esq.; Grace, unmarried; Anne, married to the Rev. Arthur Martineau; Harriett, married to the Rev. Charles Monsell, a relative of Mr. Monsell, M. P., the colleague of Mr. Smith O'Brien in the representation of Limerick county; and Katherine Lucia, married to the Hon. and Rev. Aymar Harris, brother of the Earl of Malmesbury, one of the Prebendaries of Salisbury, and Rector of Wilton.

The present head of the house of O'Brien, or O'Bryen, is the Marquis of Thomond, who adopts the latter form of orthography, and he deduces his descent from the royal line of Thomond, a race of princes which sprang from the celebrated Hibernian monarch, Brian Borroime, or Boru, who commenced his reign in 1002, and terminated it with his life, near Clontarf, in 1014. Should the present Marquis die without male issue, a circumstance not improbable, Sir Lucius O'Brien will succeed him as Baron Luchiquin; but not to the higher titles, which will become extinct. In reference to the existence of these titles, we may observe that in 1543, Murrough O'Brien, the then head of the house, repaired to England, and resigned his sovereignty to Edward VI. and was in recompense created Earl of Thomond for life, and Baron Luchiquin.

The second holder of the Baronetcy, Sir Edward O'Brien, was son of the Right Hon. Lucius O'Brien, who died during the lifetime of his father, by Catherine, daughter of Thomas Keightley, Esq. of Harlingford, county of Herts, grand daughter of the first Earl of Clarendon, and first cousin of Queen Mary and Anne. In the latter points the records of the several families agree.

Mr. O'Brien married about twelve years since the daughter of Joseph Gabbett, Esq. of Limerick, by whom he has had issue either six or seven children.

Mr. O'Brien is a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge; when first returned for the family borough of Ennis, in 1830, Mr. O'Brien was a Tory, and as such opposed Mr. O'Connell in the case of the memorable Clare election. He subsequently became a Whig, then a Radical, and in 1843, he first joined the Repeal ranks. Since 1835 he has represented the county of Limerick. On the last occasion he succeeded in defeating Mr. Caleb Powell, the Old Ireland Candidate, by 24 votes. Mr. O'Brien fought a duel with the late Mr. Thomas Steele, having exchanged two shots with that gentleman. Sir Lucius O'Brien, elder brother, is Lord Lieutenant of the County of Clare. The Dowager Lady O'Brien is still living, and possesses a property of about £5,000 per annum, to which her second son was always considered to be the heir, but in no other respects than as heir in prospect. Mr. O'Brien never was wealthy. He has, when in Ireland, taken up his residence at the seat of his mother.

ENGLAND.

Government have acted on the Colonial motion of Sir W. Molesworth in a way that must give great satisfaction to the country. The purport of his resolutions was, that we spent too much on our colonies, and that, in order to lessen our expenditure, the benefits of self-government should be extended to them. Every body out of Parliament, excepting those who in some way have a finger in the pie, have had their minds made up upon this question. We lately gave a few statistics of the salaries of officials in Jamaica. The whole colonial system is on the same monstrous scale. The governors cost each, on an average, as much as the President of the United States, and some of our barren rocks are ruled in profound peace at an expense equalling that disbursed for a Republic stretching over a mighty Continent. We force our colonial subjects to shovel their wealth into this devouring gulf, and even when some of our possessions are on the verge of bankruptcy, we propose no abatement, and permit no alleviation. They again pay us back in our own coin, and drain millions from the public treasury

every year, which are never in any shape returned to it. One colony costs the Imperial coffers more than the value of all our exports to it. Every sensible man, able to read and write, can fully estimate the damage done by this wicked extravagance, and it is therefore so far satisfactory that the Colonial office regards Sir William's motion with approbation. It is to come on again upon the 8th of August, and will no doubt be carried through. But will it be carried out? That is what we greatly doubt. There is a dreadful ado just now about profuse expense. A terrible assault is making upon doorkeepers and porters, and the ministerial broom is mercilessly sweeping back the hundreds into the Exchequer. But as yet we see no symptom of the thousands being touched. Malta is one of our possessions where we act the spendthrift in the most unblushing style. £500 has just been taken from the Governor's salary; but for what purpose? To add it to the Commander-in-Chief's. That process is not exactly what Sir William Molesworth means, or what the public anticipate.

PROSPECTS OF THE HARVEST.—The unsettled weather experienced in the early part of the week, and rumours of the spread of the potato disease, gave rise to a great deal of uneasiness in regard to the future, and predictions of scarcity and high prices were freely circulated till within the last day or two. The auspicious change which has taken place in the weather since Wednesday has, however, had the effect of allaying the excitement, and a less gloomy view is already beginning to be taken of the probable result of the harvest. The principal cause of the recent rise in the value of wheat was undoubtedly the apprehension entertained in respect to potatoes; and we have consequently endeavoured to obtain as accurate information as to the real state of that crop as possible. To speak with certainty as to the extent of the probable loss by the disease, is of course out of the question: but after diligent enquiry, we have come to the conclusion that the alarm naturally caused on the first discovery of the disorder has occasioned the evil likely to result to be somewhat overrated. That a considerable proportion of the crop may be lost is, we fear, more than probable; but there are several redeeming circumstances. The breadth planted was great; the produce to the acre is generally admitted to be very large; the late, or main crop, if not wholly free, has as yet been but very partially attacked; and lastly, the disorder does not appear to be spreading so rapidly as was the case in 1846; many fields which exhibited symptoms of the disease eight or ten days ago remaining in much the same state, the blight not having extended, and the plants which then appeared sound still wearing the same aspect. We are, therefore, induced to hope that the loss may not after all, be so serious as at the first blush was apprehended. Since the rain has ceased the cutting of wheat has been commenced; and should there be no return of wet, reaping will be pretty general next week. We believe that in regard to the probable yield in Essex, Kent, and many of the southern and western counties, the produce to the acre will fall materially short of that of last year; but this will, we think, be compensated by a large return in many of the eastern and northern counties; and with a favourable time for harvesting the crop, we do not apprehend any material deficiency. A great deal must still depend on the weather, both as regards grain and potatoes; and to speak positively as to the range of prices for even a week in advance, would be the height of folly. At all the markets held in the early part of the week, high prices were asked for wheat; but subsequently something like a check has been again given to the upward movement, showing the effect of only a few days' sunshine.—*Mark Lane Express*.

A number of Chartist leaders were arrested on Wednesday, in Edinburgh. Amongst them were Henry Rankin, upholsterer; Archibald Walker, publisher of the *North British Express* newspaper, the weekly organ of the Chartist body in Edinburgh; and James Cumming, bootmaker, who represented the Edinburgh Chartists at the late meeting of the National Convention in London. The houses and offices of the parties were entered and all their papers seized.

The British Army consists of one hundred and twenty-three regiments and thirty-nine battalions; having sixty-one depots. There are in the East Indies, twenty-eight regiments and four battalions; in British America, nine regiments and four battalions; in Africa, five regiments and three battalions; in Australia five regiments; in China, one regiment; in St. Helena, one regiment; in the Ionian Islands, two regiments and three battalions; in the Channel Islands, two depots; in Malta, two regiments and two battalions; in England and Wales, twenty-six regiments, eleven battalions, and forty-six depots; in Scotland, three regiments and two depots; in Ireland, thirty-two regiments, two battalions and eleven depots. The force in Ireland, it will be observed, is much greater than that in any other portion of the Empire.

FRANCE.

The National Assembly of Paris has planted a deadly blow to communism. By an almost unanimous vote of censure of M. Proudhon's plan of seizing one-third of the income of the landlords, the mover having only one supporter in the Assembly, his scheme was declared an odious attack on the principles of public morality; a flagrant violation of the rights of property, the basis of

social order; that it encouraged informers; and was an appeal to the vilest passions; and that as an outline of it has tarnished the revolution of February, by making it an accomplice of the theories he has developed in the tribune, and the Assembly passed to the order of the day. So that, in other words, the dogma of 'Liberty, fraternity, and equality,' pronounced by the February revolution, has been declared a delusion by a majority of 691 members to 2! This difficulty being now removed, France has a fresh path open to her. In the meantime, however, European affairs have seriously changed since February. It will be seen that, after four days hard fighting, the Austrians have gained a decisive victory over the Piedmontese, and have passed, to the right bank of the Mincio, spreading the greatest alarm throughout Lombardy. The Provisional Government at Milan, panic-struck, has sent a deputation to General Cavaignac imploring French intervention by sea and land. We are deeply afraid that the Dictator of France will be compelled to yield assent. But the Austrian power is now in a very different position to what it was before the election of the Archduke John to the virtual sovereignty of Germany. If the Frankfurt Parliament could declare that it would view the continuance of the blockade of Trieste by Charles Albert as a declaration of war against all Germany, it will probably regard French intervention in Italy with similar jealousy; and if the French army passes the Alps, it can only be considered as a declaration of war against all Germany. Besides, it is not likely that Russia will stand with her arms folded whilst these changes are going on; we, therefore, feel the deepest apprehension for the peace of Europe. M. Mauguin charges the Lamartine Government with having employed two sets of agents,—one for the Government, the other for the governed,—one for diplomacy, the other for propaganda, to conciliate and to excite; and now the fatal consequences of all this mischievous policy is being developed, for the purpose of strengthening no mortal man knows what sort of Government in Italy, but with the almost inevitable certainty of embroiling all Europe. There is a war of nationality in Italy, a war of territory in the Danubian principalities and in the Duchies, a war of race in Slavonia, and a war of principles at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, and even in Italy.

Whilst we are writing the satisfactory rumour reaches us, upon the authority of the London *Globe* newspaper, that the intervention which the Piedmontese have so imprudently asked has been prudently declined by General Cavaignac. This report, if it be confirmed, will remove a load of anxiety from our minds respecting the general development of events in Europe. General Cavaignac, it is said, has pointed out to the envoys sent to him from Milan the expediency of settling the affairs of Italy by negotiation; and Charles Albert, whose ambition we have blamed from the first, will do well to listen in time to the propositions made to him a short time ago by Austria.

In consequence of the alarm of French intervention the French Funds have declined. The closing prices were—the Three per Cents. 43 75, the Five per Cents. 70 25.

GERMANY.

According as the German Parliament progresses in assuming, if not actually in exercising, the central authority over the Empire, the merchants of Great Britain are beginning to feel the great importance which attaches to their proceedings with regard to commerce. It was reported last week, and indeed the rumour gained such credit as to be mentioned in the House of Commons, that some serious alteration of duties was meditated by the Germans, which would have the effect of prohibiting the importation of cotton yarn and some cotton manufactures from England. The Government denied that any such measure had been adopted; but we have heard the rumour repeated from more than one quarter. We should deeply regret if the first commercial act of the incipient German Empire should be one of a retrograde policy. But if Germany should follow the example of Belgium and France, and commence a system of prohibitory duties on the one hand, whilst her exports are to be encouraged by large bounties or drawbacks on the other, it would indeed prove a most unfortunate issue of all the efforts which have been made of late years to establish a sound system of free trade in Europe. Amongst the liberal party in Germany it cannot be concealed that the leaders have a great bias in favour of a restrictive policy; and when it is considered that one of the main objects of the German Union is to create a mercantile and state navy, with a flag, it certainly appears a very short-sighted policy to limit the circle of the demand for their own manufactures, which must inevitably arise from an increase of prices. We are glad to hear that Lord Cowley is to proceed to Frankfurt to represent British interests, and we hope his wise counsels will prevail respecting the establishment of a judicious system of trade, as well as regards many political measures which are pregnant with the most alarming consequences to Europe if persevered in.

ITALY.

The result of five days' hard fighting has been, we regret to say, the retreat of the Piedmontese army under Charles Albert, before its too successful and too numerous adversaries. The Italian monarch and his army have abandoned the line of the Mincio, after