NEWS OF THE WEEK.

(From the European Times.)

The splendid harvest weather continues, and in many parts of the country, harvest operations are general, the only difficulty in the case being the absence of labour. As a substitute for manual power, the reaping machine is coming into pretty general use, and before many years have elapsed, the benefits of this excellent substitute will be fully appreciated. At present, the difficulty with farmers of limited means is the first cost—the price of the instrument: and it is to be hoped, that this obstacle will vanish at no remote day. In the meantime, to attract men to the fields, high wages have been offered—in some districts high enough to induce "navvies" to abandon road-making and take to shearing. For years past, we have advocated the necessity of the executive Government, at a time like the present, doing everything in its power to aid the farmer to secure, in as fine condition as possible, the produce of the earth; and the Government could do this effectively by allowing the soldiery to work in the fields during harvest time. We are glad that this subject has been taken up by Sir S. Morton Peto, and we hope that through his instrumentality the "pressure from without" may succeed in effecting this concession from the Government. Sir Morton has a strong inducement to push the matter to a successful issue, for his "navvies" have left him, and joined the agriculturists. In France the soldiers invariably aid in securing the crops, and no reason that we know of exists why the same rule should not exist in this country.

The extreme heat which prevailed during the fortnight has been without a parallel in this country of recent years. On some days, the temperature was higher by some degrees than has been known during the last ten years. This has ripened and mellowed the cereal crops rapidly, and precipitated that demand for labor to which we have referred. But the heat has been attended with occasional thunder storms in various parts of the country, and these have done more or less injury in particular districts. Influenced by the fine weather the markets have given way, but the averages show wheat to be still dear. The average struck this week, for example, makes the price of wheat 70s. per quarter, barley 43s. 3d., oats 23s. 1d., and rye 46s. 4d.; but these averages, struck on six weeks' return, will decrease with each succeeding market, as the accounts from all parts of the empire are most flattering. In France also and on the continent, the price of wheat is declining, and the harvest prospects in Canada and the United States are brilliant.

But it is a singular anomaly in connection with this promising state of things, that the condition of the money market is by no means satisfactory. The glorious sunshine in which we have been rejoicing, and which has gladdened every heart, has not raised the price of the public securities, which are lower than they were a month ago; and the scarcity of gold has been such, that the commercial world has been in the expectation every day that the Bank would raise the rate of interest,—the best possible proof, we apprehend, that the laws of nature, as exhibited in an early and superabundant harvest, and the currency laws, are diametrically and irreconcilably opposed. Under the old system of Protection, this was always a critical time of the year, especially when the harvest was unpromising, for then gold left the country in enormous quantities for food purchase, and the Bank, in self-protection, put on "the screw" to stop its egress. At present we have daily arrivals of the "precious metals." This week the Royal Charter from Australia has brought nearly a million sterling, which has been principally purchased by the Bank of France; but the bullion in the Bank of England has declined, the reserve of notes has largely declined, and we witness nearly the same results as if we were on the eve of a famine, while the nation is actually on the point of enjoying one of the most bountiful harvests within the memory of man. Nothing can show more clearly the viciousness of our monetary laws, and these cruelties to the producers of wealth will go on, until we have a *representative paper money system* adapted to every possible contingency of society.

Sir Archibald Alison, the historian, has been propounding some of those fanciful theories this week with which his name is associated. He found an audience the other day in the country of Durham, where a marchioness and a nobleman stood sponsors to his platitudes, and the speaker, believing that no one had read history but himself, gave a new version of certain well-known facts which will indispose many hereafter from trusting implicitly to his guidance, even in matters of opinion. Sir Archibald traced our disasters in the Crimea to an over-reduction of our naval and military establishments in time of peace, and to give an illustration, he cited the Affghan war, for the purpose of proving that a niggardly policy in that instance jeopardised our Indian supremacy, and entailed upon us a loss of twenty-five thousand lives and ten millions of money. The assumption and the inference from it have been promptly knocked on the head by some of the ready writers in the daily papers—men who do not give big tomes to the world, it is true, but have learned the art, which Sir Archibald has not, of being at one concise and powerful. It is quite consistent with the political creed which Sir Archibald holds to maintain the necessity of large standing armies and fleets, but it is the most foolish thing in the world to give reasons for an enormous superfluous expenditure of this kind, when these reasons, duly analysed, prove the very converse of the proposition. Every one not wilfully blind knows that the Crimean disasters were not owing to a want of men or material, but to the want of a *system*—to that wretched thing called routine, as understood in official life, of which the aristocracy, like their historic defender, have always been the advocates, and which wars constantly with that great principle that rules the world—common sense.

The Queen and the Royal family have been enjoying a pleasant cruise to the Channel Islands, and have called, on their return, at some of the coast towns, where they have been received with marked enthusiasm. The weather has been favorable on the whole, interspersed, however, with occasional squalls, which must have tested the sailor-like capacity of the voyagers. Her Majesty loves excitement—must move about, and has therefore gratuated to the plaudits of her people that she cannot apparently dispense with them. But it is innocent sport for a crowned head, which no one would wish to see curtailed. But, somehow or other, Prince Albert is not a general favorite. Perhaps the fact of his being a foreigner may slightly operate; but the real cause, we suspect, is the parsimonious character which he has everywhere acquired. He knows the value of money, knows how to provide for his family, and in the great art of cheese-paring is said to be without a rival. Even this week, we hear of a transaction which will increase the disfavor with which he is viewed—the purchase of an enormous quantity of land in Australia, the paymaster for which,—so goes the story,—is to be the Marquis of Westminster! The fact of the last-mentioned nobleman opening his purse-strings to advance money to the Royal Consort gives an additional flavour to the statement, as the Marquis has the reputation of being one of the greatest "screws" living in these dominions.

The leading journal of yesterday has an article relative to the subscription which was recently opened in this country for the sufferers by the inundations in France. The amount collected is said to exceed a million of francs, but the sum cannot be accurately named, in consequence of some of the towns having sent the sums collected to Paris direct. Liverpool and Birmingham are named as amongst the places which have done this, and, it is added, "Scotland, too, with some of the old feeling which has kept alive and warm to this day the memory of its French alliances, sent its offering in the same way. For the rest, Manchester, Leeds, Nottingham, Bristol, and the towns of England generally, added their subscriptions to the London list, which now exceeds £32,000." With due deference to the authority from which we have taken this extract, we cannot help thinking that this has been a very stupid arrangement on the part of the "towns of England generally." It would have been far better if each district had sent its own contributions direct to one source—either to Paris or to the Lord Mayor of London. As it is, the majority of the people of France are almost certain to labour under a misconception about the subscriptions. They will give London credit for all the money collected in the "towns of England generally" except those sent direct to the French metropolis. We must add, moreover, that we consider a million of francs an extremely paltry sum to be subscribed for such a purpose by the wealthiest country in the world. But if our French neighbors are satisfied, we have no right to be otherwise, and that they *are* satisfied, we infer from another part of the same article from which we have already quoted. "Every day" continues our London contemporary "our relations are becoming more close. We have always respected the literature of France; France has lately begun to study English literature. It is only three years since an exhibition of French pictures was first opened in London; it was only last year, that English pictures dawned upon the French; and now, at the Crystal Palace, both schools may be seen side by side in friendly rivalry. There has just been an agricultural show in Paris, and English farmers thronged to it. The French farmers eagerly are copying their cattle. From day to day, the friendly intercourse gathers strength and takes new forms. The English farmers in Paris, indeed, were amongst the first to come forward with their subscriptions, when the distressing disaster occurred which has elicited so much symyathy."

The *Daily News* of yesterday, in an article on Australia, mentions a characteristic anecdote regarding the rapid rise of a part of the world which now absorbs so much attention, and in which there is a great moral—"One day, in the year 1788," says our contemporary, "a thoughtless 'Middy' was leaning over the bulwark of his ship, then anchored off Spithead, listlessly gazing into the water. His captain who had been pacing the deck, all at once stopped short, tapped him on the shoulder, and pointing to some ship sailing past, said—'mark those vessels, young man; they carry in them the germs of a mighty empire.' The vessels the captain pointed to were the small squadron in which was embarked the first batch of convicts sent to 'Botany Bay.'" As a commentary on the foregoing, it may be added that, including New Zealand, there are now six colonies in Australia, and a population of half a million of souls. Half of the wool imported into Great Britain comes from Australia, and Melbourne exports annually a hundred tons of gold to England. An Adelaide commercial circular with which we have been favored, published by Messrs. M'Dermott, Dutton and Co., contains the following remarkable paragraph respecting the colony of South Australia,—and as it came to hand by the Royal Charter this week, it affords a striking commentary on the "Middy" anecdote, according to this authority the exports from Adelaide during the season amounted to £1,175,000. Relative to population the circular says—

Our population has increased since 1st January, this year, by about 2346 souls, making a total estimate to date of about 93,000. The large and continued success of the gold-diggings in Victoria, however, has had a very serious effect on our colony, by withdrawing able-bodied laborers and skilled workmen from us. Just now the departures from Adelaide for the Victoria Gold-fields have become very numerous again, and there seems to be a sort of contagion in this feeling, which induces people to give up a certain moderate competence here, for the uncertain lure of the gold-fields. Very great dissatisfaction has been created in the colony by the misappropriation of our Emigration Fund by the Commissioners in England, by sending out to this colony a large proportion of unsuitable emigrants. We find, also, that most of the able-bodied emigrants who are brought out at the expense of our Land Fund, proceed on to Melbourne as fast as they arrive. This has now become so serious in its effects, that we look forward to an early cessation of employing the produce of our land sales in introducing emigrants from Europe, at least for a considerable time to come, and to limit ourselves to employ the money in the Colony by constructing great public works of enduring utility, which would have the certain effect of attracting to our shores a full proportion of labor, without any expense to our funds for that purpose.

On Tuesday last the Thermometer stood *—in the Porch!*

NEWS FROM CHINA.—A letter just received from Rev. I. J. Roberts, dated "Canton, April, 1856," states several interesting facts. A list of foreign residents in China has been carefully prepared. There are 894 foreign residents, of whom 88 are missionaries. This number only included the males. The population of Hong Kong now amounts to 72,607, of whom, 571 are Europeans and Americans —males 379, females 95, children 97. Mr. Roberts saw 25 rebels executed on the 23d of March. The rebels have gained possession of Hau-yang, a large city. The Editor of the North China Herald, remarks, "All that comes to notice is suggestive of change in the empire, and there is but little to augur, that any suppression of the rebellion will take place for a long time to come."

HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

Saturday, August 30, 1856.

We have for some time given up taking any notice of the bombastic effusions that from time to time appear under the editorial head of the *Examiner*; all such self-gratulation and self-exudation is, no doubt, very pleasant to the Editor, but convinces no one, and is, we think, disgusting to the intelligent and well informed of his own party. Our attention, however, has been called to some misstatements which have appeared in the last *Examiner* under the title of "Another obstructive movement." It is there stated, that Mr. Robert Bruce Stewart has sought an interview with the Colonial Office for the purpose of preventing the Royal assent being given to the Act for increasing the representatives. Nothing can be farther from the fact; Mr. Bruce Stewart knows nothing of any such petition being in the progress of signature, nor did we ourselves until a day or two since. The *Examiner* calls it a "silly remonstrance," but, like most of his assertions—directly opposite to the truth.

It is a simple detail of facts, not one of which can be disputed. As for instance, that twelve members voted for the Bill in opposition to nine, that two of the minority were absent, who if they had been present would have made the division 12 to 11. That when it was moved to have it printed and published, the division was 10 to 11, and had the two members been present, it would have been 12 to 11, so that, in one sense, the bill has been carried by less than one-half, and taken at the utmost, by only one-half. Now, this is a very important fact, and one that will be very likely to have due weight with the Colonial Secretary of State. It is stated also, and that fact cannot be denied, that it was introduced at a late period of the session, and that it was unsolicited by the people, which is another very important fact, equally capable of being controverted, and it might have gone further, and with perfect truth have stated, that there was not one single good and sufficient reason shown, why the representation, (already greater in proportion to the population than in any other colony) should be increased. It states a very melancholy fact, that while there is this attempt to increase the number of representatives, the population of the Island is decreasing in a most alarming ratio, and this is no gratuitous assertion, for it quotes the returns of the census made by order of the Government.

POPULATION.		INCREASE.
1827	23,206	6.46 per annum.
1833	32,292	do
1841	47,034	6.52
1848	62,678	4.75
1855	71,496	2.01

There are other statements and conclusions from premises stated, and it would puzzle the *Examiner* to prove either that the latter were false or the former inconsequentially deduced.

After all, the prayer of the petition is as modest as can possibly be, it merely requests, "that your Majesty will be pleased to take the foregoing particulars into your gracious consideration, and withhold your sanction from the said Act, *in order that the opinion of the Inhabitants of this Colony at large may be ascertained before any change shall be permitted to be made in their constitution.*" It does not request that the Royal assent should be *refused* but merely *suspended* in order to give time for that to be done which ought to have preceded any attempt of the kind; viz, whether such change were called for by the people themselves or whether it was only a scheme of those in power to perpetuate the continuance of that power in themselves and thereby entail upon the people of this Island a compact infinitely more tyrannical and overbearing than the family compact, which they boast of having destroyed, ever was or even sought to be. The Examiner has voluntarily called the public attention to this moderate, constitutional and necessary petition and the chances are, that it will be the more numerously signed in conse-