

the line, and troop of 50 men of a cavalry regiment. At nine o'clock at night a detachment, composed of four companies, takes its station in the centre of the palace, and remains all night with loaded arms; 80 sentinels with loaded arms, keep watch in and around the palace during the night; besides which patrols and detachments visit every part of the palace and the gardens every half hour; 55 of the attendants in the gardens, and of the domestics of the royal household, mount guard in the royal apartments during every night armed with double-barrelled guns. In addition to all this multitude, there is a number of police agents, aids de camp, adjutants, &c, continually on duty. A secret passage leads from the palace to one of the nearest barracks, and some of the guard houses are provided with ladders to enable the soldiers to enter the palace and gardens at any moment.—*French Correspondent of the Edinburgh Register.*

A MARVELLOUS STORY is told in one of our exchanges which we think cannot well be beaten. The truth of it is vouched for:

'It is stated of a man in Illinois, named William Corey, while cutting down a large oak, a flash of lightning came down the tree, and made a hole in the earth five feet deep, and buried him in it up to his neck, so fast as to make it impossible for him to get out. He was rescued by his friends next morning. It is added, as strange, that four panthers had been in the tree which Mr. C. was cutting down, but gave no intimation of their presence, which was discovered only by their being found dead in the upper branches where they had been concealed, and were killed by the lightning.'

POLITICS AND NEWS.

News by the last English Mail.

[From the European Times.]

COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS.—MORE FAILURES.

It is satisfactory to state that the interval which has passed since the departure of the Steam Ship Acadia, has been one of far less excitement than we have had to describe for some time. Numerous failures of mercantile houses, and a heavy list of bankrupts both in England and Scotland, still attest the deep-seated mischief which has crept into our commercial system; but upon the whole, a very marked improvement in public feeling has prevailed. The great discount houses in London have reduced the rate of interest allowed on money at call by one per cent., and money for commercial purposes can now be produced 'at a price;' but whilst the minimum rate of the Bank of England is still kept up at eight per cent., it would be delusive to say that our difficulties are removed. Large importations of bullion are pouring in from all quarters of Europe, the result of our high exchange, and of the vast number of unpaid acceptances which have been returned to the drawers. The accounts of the Bank of England improve accordingly, and indicate that the reserve of notes and the bullion are on the increase. The improvement is slow, and we earnestly trust that we may have no relapse. At the same time, it would be wrong to conceal that in the highest quarters, especially in the banking circles of London, and among the consigners of goods in Manchester, that the next and succeeding accounts from India are looked for with a deep and secret anxiety. The effect, also, of the overthrow of many long-established West India houses in London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, must inevitably spread extensive ruin in our transatlantic colonies; and until we are enabled to appreciate the full extent of the mischief, which must in a greater or less degree reach every quarter of the globe with which we have commercial relations, a certain degree of apprehension must prevail, which will tend to check large transactions in trade. The immense imports of produce which are still pouring in, are also the cause of much anxiety, inasmuch as a fearful reaction is anticipated; and if our requirements of grain should be again, this season, to any extent, the exchanges must inevitably turn against us, and withdraw the bullion which is now steadily returning to the coffers of the Bank. Another feature of a most unfavourable character for our future prospects is, that whilst the returns of the Board of Trade continue to exhibit an enormous increase of consumption of all the chief articles which contribute to the necessities of life, or luxuries of the people, a very considerable diminution continues to prevail in all those imports upon which the success of our future manufacturing industry depends. These considerations must weigh with every reflecting merchant, and will doubtless form the grounds for serious deliberation in the new Parliament about to meet.

We refer to the list, in another column, of failures which have occurred since the departure of the packet, which, although containing a number of names, does not exhibit such a serious aspect as those previously published. In London the failure of the old and respectable West India house of Judah Cohen and Sons, occasioned deep regret. Their liabilities are about £52,000. Thurburn and Co. (formerly Briggs, Thurburn and Co.), in the East India and Egyptian trade, have also stopped payment. Their liabilities are estimated at £120,000. They were for many years agents for the Viceroy of Egypt. The failure of Johnson, Cole,

and Co., East India merchants, has been also announced, with liabilities to the extent of £200,000, and Ryder, Wienholt and Co., in the same trade, with obligations to the amount of 60,000*l.* On Monday last the extensive colonial brokers, Trueman & Cook, of Mincing-lane, whose transactions have been of late years second to none in London, suspended payment. Their liabilities are conjectured at about 350,000*l.* Within these few months they have curtailed their business to a great extent. If the failure had occurred a few weeks ago, their liabilities would not have been much less than one million sterling. This failure is greatly to be deplored, as it must inevitably bring down other houses with which the house is connected, and it proves but too plainly that the mischief is not all over.

Mr. Robert Farrand, an old respectable corn factor in Minark-lane, has also suspended payment. His business was considered very safe, and was at one time very extensive. He sat in the House of Commons during the two first Parliaments after passing the Reform Act, and was much respected.

Messrs. J. Thomas, Son and Lefevre, are making arrangements for the payment of an immediate dividend of 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; and the representations made to their creditors of the state of their affairs are considered satisfactory. A dividend of 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound, payable on the 29th instant, has been declared under the estate of W. and J. Woodley, of the Corn Exchange, whose failure took place in August. A further meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Sanderson and Co. has been held, and out of 1,725,000*l.* of liabilities at the date of suspension, 1,100,000*l.* is understood to have run off, so that the outstanding total, which at the date of the last meeting was 1,000,000*l.* is now reduced to 625,000*l.* The amount of bills held by Mr. Sanderson upon houses which have failed since his suspension, and which have fallen due up to the present time, is stated at about 35,000*l.* The affairs of Messrs. Higgins and Deane (Barton, Irlam, and Co.) and those of M. Tear, Hadfield, and Co., of Liverpool, whose failures we have before announced, are to be administered under a fiat of bankruptcy issued against them.

In Manchester the chief failures have been Kershaw, Holland, and Co., and Marsland, Veltmann, and Co. The liabilities of the latter have not yet been ascertained.

In Glasgow failures continue to take place. Ogilvie, Clarke, and Co., Cowans, Smith, and Co., and Campbell and Batty are the principal. The celebrated Campbell of Islay, the great landowner of Argyleshire, has sunk, under difficulties to the extent of 600,000*l.*; and the Right Honourable Adam Gordon, Viscount Kenmare, figures in the Scotch Gazette as a bankrupt.

The following provincial banks have stopped payment since the 4th:—The Honiton Bank, (Flood and Lott,) and Bridport Bank, (Gundry's); they were both banks of issue, but not to a great amount. Great endeavours are being made to resuscitate the Royal Bank of Liverpool, and it is confidently expected that the institution will resume business on the 1st December next. The London Joint Stock Bank has undertaken the agency in the metropolis; and by an issue of new shares, and a general remodelling of the deed of settlement, it is hoped that the Bank will be reinstated in public opinion, with an ample capital for the transaction of its future business. Measures are in further progress for the re-establishment of the North and South Wales Bank, and the Liverpool Banking Company, and we trust these institutions will also be enabled to recommence business.

We regret to state that the serious decline in the prices of Sugar is now producing in Amsterdam, the seat of great Sugar refineries of Europe, considerable embarrassment. Besides the failure of the house N. Brabaart recorded in our list, which is connected with Drake and Co., of Havannah, and J. H. Rupe and Son, other houses, whose names we forbear to mention, have been in urgent difficulties. A Sugar house, beyond all comparison the most extensive in the world, whose transactions are immense with Germany and the Mediterranean, and, indeed with every spot where Sugar is consumed, has been compelled to seek assistance from the Government, which has been accorded to a great amount.

The old-established house of Palengat and Co., of Bayonne, has stopped payment. Their engagements are estimated at about 32,000*l.* The cause is attributed to extensive speculations in corn.

DR. BOWRING, M. P., ROBBED OF £1,000 BY HIGHWAYMEN.—Late on Friday night the metropolitan police force received intelligence from Wales of the following daring case of highway robbery, perpetrated in noonday on Thursday last, on the public road a few miles from Bridgend. Early on that day Dr. Bowring and his brother, who is the chief manager of the Llynvi Ironworks, at Maesteg, proceeded from that place to Bridgend, to procure from the company's bankers money to pay the workmen their wages. The cheque was for 1,000*l.*, and they received for the same 600*l.* in sovereigns, 150*l.* in silver, and 250*l.* in bank notes. On their return they were attacked by two men, with fire-arms, and robbed of the whole sum. The parties have been taken, and most of the property has been recovered.

MURDER.—A man was on Friday brutally beaten to death by a party of ruffians at Cardiff, in Wales.

POISONING OF A FAMILY.—On Monday morning a labouring man named Newland, together with his whole family, consisting of his wife, mother, and three children, residing in Ratcliff-highway, were affected with most dangerous sickness after partaking of some chickory for breakfast. By prompt measures in the application of antidotes and stomach pumps, their lives were saved. It was supposed that the chickory of which they had partaken was mixed with some poison, but what the deleterious drug consisted of not being ascertained, an analysis for the purpose was commenced.

Another case of poisoning has occurred at Hackney, in which a son is charged with having poisoned his mother.

AMERICAN REPUDIATION.—Twenty-seven states compose that incorporation or confederacy which is called the American Union. Nine of these, being mainly the old north-eastern settlements, together with the westernmost province of Missouri, have no public debt such as we now speak of. Of the remaining eighteen nine have honestly met their liabilities without suspension, viz., Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama; and nine have been proclaimed defaulters—Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Indiana, Illinois, Florida, Michigan, Maryland, Louisiana, and Arkansas. It may be observed that the first of these, which in common conversation has almost monopolised the obloquy of the whole, is the state which is really the least obnoxious to censure. Pennsylvania never denied any particle of her obligations. By gross mismanagement in the construction of those works for which she had contracted the debt, she fell into considerable financial difficulties, but, even before her declaration of insolvency, she imposed a property-tax to meet the coming pressure. This, however, proved ineffective, and in August, 1842, she suspended payment. Since then she redoubled her efforts to levy taxes on an unwilling population, and at length so far succeeded as to resume payments in February, 1845. Of the eight remaining states in this black list, four plume themselves upon the fact of having stopped short of repudiation, that is, of having never positively declared their resolution to pay nobody. These are Maryland, Louisiana, Indiana, and Illinois. The letter of their boast is certainly not otherwise than correct, and we should be loth to deprive them of the credit due for at least taking their public debt into public consideration, although the national acuteness was exercised with very equivocal taste in the arrangements proposed for meeting it. Our City correspondence, from time to time, will have informed the reader of the devices approved by the two latter states for simultaneously saving their pockets and their credit, according to which the public creditor was compelled to sink entirely a portion of his claim, and acquiesce in the transfer of the remainder to such a security as he would never have originally accepted, in order to save the whole from extinction. Maryland is entitled to greater praise. She did impose taxes shortly after her failure, has acknowledged the durability of her obligation, and has even made a beginning towards the liquidation of her arrears. The four states which remain—Michigan, Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas—have as yet met all claims of principal, interest, and arrears, by emphatic repudiation; the only hint ever thrown out of better prospects being an unauthenticated report that the first of them aims to take rank eventually among the solvent states, but upon what terms, or at what period, has not been disclosed. Such is a plain statement of the liabilities and conduct of the members of the American Union, from which any reader may draw his own conclusion as to the average culpability of a republic in which one-half of the debtors are defaulters, and one-half of the defaulters repudiators.

THE INTENDED EXECUTION OF A MOTHER.—A memorial on behalf of Mary Ann Hunt, of which the following is a copy, has been forwarded from Bridgewater to Sir George Grey, Secretary of State for the Home Department:—'The undersigned memorialists, inhabitants of the borough of Bridgewater, beg respectfully and earnestly to call your attention to the case of Mary Ann Hunt, who is now in Newgate under sentence of death, and whose execution is stayed until she has given birth to an expected infant. In this professedly Christian country there is something so peculiarly unnatural, revolting, and horrifying, even to those who are not prepared to do away with the punishment of death, in the idea of making an orphan of a new-born babe, by intentional and violent means, that your memorialists feel bound by every consideration of duty, mercy, to pray that the sentence of death may be commuted for some punishment more in accordance with the claims of humanity.'

An Italian newspaper asserts that Napoleon's widow, the Archduchess Maria Louisa of Parma, has been formally married at Vienna to the Count de Tombelles, one of her ministers.

It is said that Victor Cousin, hitherto one of the Parisian arch-priests of infidelity, has embraced Christianity, and is about to become a monk of La Trappe.

The Postmaster-General, the Marquis of Clanricarde, has gone over to Paris to arrange the details of improved postal communications between this country and France.

It is stated that scarcely a single new railway scheme will be brought before Parliament next session. What a blessing for our overworked members.