gives a version of that which he had understood me to say, but which I hope I have satisfied your lordships the noble earl misunderstood, and now upon that understanding he is proceeding to argue. (Hear.)

Earl Grey.—I appeal to your lordships whether this interruption, on the part of the noble earl, was strictly regular. I said I was greatly relieved. I then explained in what sense I had understood the words of the noble earl; and then, though I was glad to find he put a somewhat different construction upon them I was then about to say that even now the distinction is not very clear, so that, at first it must have been difficult to put any other construction upon the words of the noble earl than in the exercise of my judgment I had fairly placed upon them. Even at this moment I am not quite convinced that I accurately apprehend the noble earl. Because I do not know whether that revision, upon which he conceives sound principles of legislation, is contemplated by her Majesty's government or not. Now, this is a question on which I do not press for any immediate answer or decision; but as one deeply interested in the landed interest, as a member of the community, every class of which is deeply interested in that question, I do implore the noble earl to let no long time go by before he explains distinctly and clearly the views of her Majesty's government on this most important, exciting, and agitating question. After the events of the last ten years, the question of a tax on the food of the country is not one to be kept long in suspense. We are entitled to know—I do not say to-night, I do not say in a fortnight, but I do say at a very early period—the clear and decided intention of her Majesty's government. I implore the noble earl, in justice to the great interests which are affected by leaving this question in doubt, that he will not leave that doubt to continue longer than is absolutely necessary; because let your lordships only consider the effect of that doubt. There is not a transaction between landlord and tenant, not a transaction in trade, commerce, or manufactures, which is not vitally affected by our being in ignorance of what is to be the policy of the country on this all-important subject. (Hear, hear, hear.) In justice, therefore, to all these great interests which are affected, I do hope and trust that we shall not be long in learning more clearly, and in having a distinct explanation of, the views of the government. (Hear.) We are not to be told that this is a question to be cast loose, and decided by public opinion. This is not the way in which a government can deal with a question of this sort. It is the duty of an administration to have a policy on such subjects, and having that policy, distinctly to avow it, and take the responsibility of submitting it to Parliament. (Hear, hear.)

Earl Fitzwilliam said that he was in hopes that no further debate would have taken place after the speech of the noble earl (the Earl of Derby), which, in so ample, frank, and honorable a manner, explained to the House the position in which he stood, the consideration which had induced him to undertake the great task, and the difficulties of the situation in which he was placed.

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The Marquis of Clanricarde said he could not help rising to utter his protest against the censure which the noble earl has just thought fit to cast upon his noble friend lately at the head of the colonial department, for the very judicious, and, in his mind, perfectly justifiable comments he had made on a most important part of the speech of the noble earl (Derby). The noble earl (Fitzwilliam) complained that his noble friend had not taken a comprehensive view of that speech. Now he should very much object to such a course, because, if taken, it would lead to a very wide and extended discussion, which he thought on that occasion it would be best to avoid. At the same time, after the peculiar language and peculiar views held by the noble earl opposite, he considered it perfectly right in his noble friend near him to express the sentiments he did, and in which sentiments he (the Marquis of Clanricarde) cordially concurred. He would remind the noble earl and the house that this question had not been brought for the first time before Parliament by his noble friend or by the late government, but that the noble earl opposite (the Earl of Derby), on the first night of the session, thought it so necessary that the government of the country should have an opinion on the subject, that he blamed the omission of the question in the speech from the throne. It was not in her Majesty's speech or in the address in answer thereto; but the noble earl thought it necessary to express the opinion that, with the price of corn which then ruled, the cultivation of wheat in this country must cease to an alarming and a dangerous degree. Well, if that was the opinion of the noble earl on the first night of the session, was it wonderful that when he came forward that night to make an exposition of the principles of his government, the peculiar language he had used should be remarked upon by his noble friend? Why, what was the language of the noble earl? As he understood it, the noble earl declared that his opinions remained unchanged, and when he had got a majority in his favor he would act upon them; but that until he had obtained that majority he would not act upon them; in other words, so long as the majority was adverse to his views, the present laws should continue unaltered; but that as soon as the majority went round to him, the laws should be changed. Now, he said that such language as that, coming from a government, would involve every transaction affected by these laws in incalculable uncertainty and embarrassment. Passing from that point, he must next say that, although he agreed with the main part of the doctrine laid down by the noble earl with regard to the intercourse between the government of this country and foreign nations, there were yet some remarks that fell from him which, just at this particular moment, he had not heard with great satisfaction. Neither was he entirely satisfied with the mode in which he had treated another subject on which the government ought to be more frank and explicit, but which the noble earl had touched extremely lightly—namely, the state of what he had himself termed, on the first night of the session, "the Protestant securities" of this country. On the opening night of the session the noble earl went out of his way, and declared, on that subject, that the law as at present constituted was defective, or that the late government were deficient in energy in their administration of it. The natural inference that might be drawn from these expressions was that the present administration intended to alter the law, or at least to administer it in a different spirit from their predecessors. He hoped, however, that no such inference would be drawn, and he hoped so particularly for the success of the administration of the noble earl opposite (the Earl of Eglinton), who, he understood, was to govern Ireland; and he was greatly relieved to find that all the government intended was to render aid and assistance to the church. If he did not agree with other of the noble earl's remarks, this was not a good time for entering into them; but he must, in conclusion, repeat that, looking at the importance of all the transactions of this country, it was highly essential that his noble friend should have expressed the opinion entertained by himself and by many others on the same side of the house, that a subject of this gravity should not be left in abeyance in the indefinite manner which the government proposed, but that it would be better, as soon as they had given it due consideration, to come forward and frankly and fairly avow the opinions of the government.

The Earl of Aberdeen (who sat on the front bench of the opposition) then rose and said—My lords, if I may venture to detain the house for one moment, I wish to state very briefly the impression which the speech of my noble friend opposite (Lord Derby), in some portions of it, has made upon my mind. Although the noble earl below me (Earl Gray) has expressed very much the sentiments which I entertain on this subject, nevertheless there are one or two points on which I am desirous of saying a few words. My lords, long and intimately connected as I was with the eminent man whose untimely fate we all deplore, and whose loss, in proportion as the difficulties of the country increase, we shall have more and more cause to lament. I think this is not an unfitting occasion—the very first which presents itself—for me to declare my determined adherence to his policy—(hear, hear)—my firm resolution to maintain, as far as in my humble power lies, the permanence of that great system of commercial policy which he established. (Hear, hear.) My lords, I have no right or authority to speak for others; but I shall be much surprised and disappointed if all those who cooperated with him in instituting that policy shall not be found to entertain the same sentiments which I now express. (Hear, hear.) My lords, my noble friend has described the principles on which he considers the policy of this country, in relation to commercial affairs, should be founded; and he has on other occasions, as well as to-night, advocated the possibility of the imposition of duties on the provisions of the people, if not for "protection" at least for revenue. Now, my lords, these distinctions, I confess, are not very intelligible. (Hear, hear.) They appear to me to be but shadowy and unreal. But at all events, with me they have no application; for I am equally prepared to oppose a duty on corn whether for revenue or "protection." (Hear.) My lords, I think the time is past when any such tax can ever again be levied. (Hear, hear.) I consider the system established by my late right honorable friend already to have proved eminently successful. (Hear, hear.) I am convinced that by a persevering adhesion to that system its wisdom will become more and more apparent; and I therefore take this opportunity of declaring my firm adherence to that legacy which he has left to his successors. (Hear, hear.) My lords, I will not enter further into the topics alluded to in the speech of my noble friend. I have already adverted to that one on which I am totally at variance with him; and, as far as I know, there are no other subjects on which I may not hope to have the pleasure of giving him my support. In all that portion of his address in which he laid down the course of policy that he means to pursue towards foreign powers, I entirely acquiesce. He and I have acted for the last ten or twelve years—in office and out of office—in full concert and communication on these subjects; and as far as I am aware there is not the shadow of a difference between us. In all that he said to-night I entirely concur. On other portions of his speech I have no observation to make, nor is any called for at this moment. I can assure my noble friend that I am fully aware of the great difficulties with which he is compassed; and that he might always rely on receiving from me, whenever it is in my power, a cordial and most sincere support. (Hear, hear.)

Lord Brougham said—I hope the noble lord at the head of the government will have no objection to agree to the proposition that I am about to make, namely, that we ought not to adjourn longer than is absolutely necessary, and that there is nothing to prevent us from meeting next week. Our sittings have already been interrupted—I am aware, almost unavoidably so; but I think that, if possible, we ought to meet next week. There is another thing I wish to know from my noble friend. He has stated, clearly enough, that all subjects are to remain for a certain time in abeyance, with only one exception, that exception being questions relating to social improvement. Now, I hope and trust he included under the head "social improvement" that great and important subject, the amendment of the law. (Hear, hear.) I have no doubt that he meant so to include it, but I think he did not mention it by name. With respect to the conversation on the subject of the corn laws, I wish that it had been avoided, and not been introduced even for a moment—not that I differ at all from my noble friend near me (Earl Grey), and of his alarm I for a moment partook, from what was stated by the noble earl. But I think I heard something more than my noble friend can have done, which at once quieted my apprehensions. For I think the noble earl stated that these were his individual opinions, but that whether the government were prepared to act upon these opinions, or to introduce measures based upon them, was a question which must depend upon what is the general opinion of the country—to which proposition I entirely accede, and would be the first myself to subscribe. How that general opinion is to be taken and at what time it is to be taken, I am not at all aware. (Laughter from the opposition.) I certainly do not think I have said anything to excite mirth for I understood the noble earl to say, and I was happy to hear it, that a dissolution in the present state of affairs was out of the question; and that the opinion of the country being only to be elicited by a dissolution, the appeal to it must, of course, be postponed till that event. In the meantime, whatever other measures do not depend on that event, and do not depend on the opinion of the country, which measures (I understood the noble earl to say) will be proceeded with. I repeat I hope no account will be ... ment of the law is among those measures; for it is a subject which, if it ought not to stand first amongst questions of "social improvement," at least ranks second to no other.

The Earl of Derby replied—I have to thank the noble and learned lord for affording me an opportunity of explaining more clearly my meaning. With regard to the question of law reform, I think I did state, as I certainly intended to state, that, exclusive of those great party questions in which it is notorious that the government are in a minority, and would therefore only bring them forward with the certainty of defeat—exclusive of those more exciting topics—we shall purpose to parliament to deal with those great measures generally called for by the country—legal reform and social improvement; and I am sure that my noble and learned friend the Lord Chancellor, when he has taken his seat in this house, will apply his vigorous powers of mind to the consideration of that subject, and the promotion of those objects which were recommended by the Chancery commissioners in their report. (Hear.) With regard to the subject of the adjournment of this house, I am about to propose that the house should only adjourn, as usual, till Monday next, and on that day it may be seen whether it is not possible to proceed with the judicial business. In the meantime, your lordships will understand, that if the house sits, it will only sit for the transaction of judicial or of private business; and that no matter of more general interest shall be dealt with while the House of Commons finds it necessary to adjourn until the re-election of the members of the government who have seats there.

Lord Brougham—Doubtless the house, without a formal resolution, will come to the understanding which the noble earl has stated, not to proceed with anything but private business.

Their lordships then adjourned till Monday next accordingly.

The Probable Fate of Switzerland.

MOVEMENTS OF AUSTRIA AND FRANCE—THREATENED SUBVERSION OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION.

[From the London Times, Feb. 28.]

While Louis Napoleon is amusing his English guests with the most positive assurances of his pacific intentions towards this country, we receive information from various quarters which conveys a different impression of his designs on some of the minor States of Europe. Anxious he may be to avoid war, especially with a powerful nation, resolved with its allies to uphold the territorial arrangements of the Continent; but meanwhile no means are neglected which can extend the ascendancy of France, and oppress the independence of her neighbors, without actually kindling a general conflagration. The complacent organs of the French government assure us that, in selecting the Earl of Malmesbury for the important post of foreign minister, the choice of the Queen of England was directed by the particular friendship and confidential intimacy known to have existed for many years between that noble person and the Prince President of the French Republic. It is unfortunate for Lord Malmesbury that this should be the first qualification he is stated to possess for his high office. He may have entertained an exile in the New Forest, and he may have visited a prisoner at Ham; but we can hardly conceive a more bitter accusation against an English nobleman and minister than that, after the occurrences of the last three months, he should still rank M. Louis Napoleon among his personal friends.

But while these lures are held out to public opinion, and the extinction of the French press enables the government of that country to mask its real policy by uncontradicted assurances, the views of the French cabinet may be more accurately traced by their conduct abroad; and it is in Switzerland, as has long been anticipated, that their measures are most prominently marked. Soon after the *coup d'état* at Paris, M. Salignac de Fenelon was despatched as French ambassador to Berne, with instructions to disclaim to the federal government all intention of armed intervention in the affairs of Switzerland, but at the same time to make very positive requisitions on the subject of the refugees in the cantons. The Swiss government, aware that the independence and tranquillity of the confederation were placed in jeopardy by the presence of aliens who had taken an active part in the late revolutionary movements of Germany, Italy, and France, had of its own accord labored to diminish the number of these persons, and large numbers of them had been removed to England or to the United States. It does not appear that the whole number of political fugitives now remaining in the cantons exceeds 500 or 600. Nevertheless, the tone assumed by the French ambassador was imperious and exacting, and on the 24th January a note was presented by M. de Salignac to the Federal Council, in which he demanded for France the right of expelling from Switzerland such persons as she might think fit to designate, not being citizens of the confederation. Such a power would have extended the arbitrary regulations of the French police over the whole territory of Switzerland, and might at any time have been converted into a means of intolerable interference in the affairs of a foreign nation. It would, moreover, give rise to perpetual conflicts between the federal and cantonal authorities, and would have annihilated that liberal and independent hospitality which the Swiss people have exercised in the worst of times. To this note the Federal Council returned, on the 9th February, a firm and dignified refusal. They expressed their readiness to take measures for preventing conspiracies or political intrigues hostile to foreign governments being carried on within their frontiers; but they declared they would never willingly submit to demands inconsistent with the liberty and independence they had so long enjoyed.

The preparations which had already been commenced in France for hostile operations upon the Swiss frontier were immediately conducted with greater vigor. The army collected in the departments round Lyons had been placed in readiness for action, under the orders of General Castellane. Fresh indications became perceptible *that France and Austria were acting together in this matter, and it is now highly probable that the next move will be to suspend commercial intercourse with Switzerland on the French and Austrian Frontiers*, to be followed, ere long, by the occupation of Geneva and Vaud by the French, and of Ticino by Austrian troops. Prussia, we have reason to believe, has honorably refused to take any part in this projected invasion and oppression of a free people, and her influence will, doubtless, be employed, in conjunction with that of England, to avert, by remonstrance, if possible, so serious a calamity and so mischievous an injustice.

The mere question of the refugees in Switzerland, whatever may be its importance, is rather the pretext than the cause of the hostility of these powers to the independence of the confederation. They are well aware that the occupation of Geneva on one side, and of Ticino on the other, by the armies of the absolute powers, would be immediately followed by a counter-revolution in the little cantons, in Friburg, and possibly in Berne, where the radical party has now again recovered the ascendancy it had almost lost by a former conservative reaction. The fatal consequences of the Sonderbund war of 1847 are still deeply felt in the divisions of the cantons, the resentment of parties, and the bitter intolerance of the rival confessions. The catholic and conservative cantons, crushed by the federal power in 1847, would instantly throw off the yoke of their adversaries, and probably hail their deliverance even by foreign arms. The Ultramontane faction and the Jesuits, supported by Prince Schwarzenberg and Louis Napoleon far more actively than they were ever supported by Prince Metternich and M. Guizot, would no longer be contending for toleration in the Catholic cantons, but for ascendancy, and their hostility would be most bitterly directed against the Protestant cantons of Zurich, St. Gall, Naud, and, above all, Geneva. The destruction of the religious independence and moral importance of that city, which has been for upwards of three centuries one of the firmest seats of Protestant learning, piety, and influence, is an object dear to the whole Romish party. The Roman Catholics combined even with the radicals to destroy her institutions; they will combine with a foreign enemy to complete the ruin of the Genevan Church. These cantons, with their free press, their political asylum, and their creed, are intolerable to the jealous eye of neighboring despotism. The ray of civil and religious freedom which shoots from those small and simple communities was insignificant when Europe was possessed of equal freedom; but it is a beacon in these times to the nations that sit in darkness. For that reason the power that rules in France will seek to put it out, and to transform the Helvetic Confederation into what it was under the protectorate of the French empire, if Austria be mad enough to lend herself to a scheme which will place the passes of the Alps in the hands of her most constant adversary.

These are no imaginary dangers to which Switzerland is exposed, and we should not have alluded to them thus fully, if we were not convinced that they are serious and urgent—an opinion which we know is shared by several of the first statesmen of this and other countries. But we may still doubt the success, and even the actual commencement, of so rash and wicked a scheme. The Swiss people, though divided by internal parties, are still that intrepid and independent race which has never yet submitted to a foreign yoke, and they have recently shown that their military organization is by no means contemptible. Their government has proved its firmness as well as its prudence; and though the extent of the demands made upon it has been kept from the knowledge of the public, that precaution was employed to prevent an explosion of public indignation. In case of attack, we believe that every portion of the soil of the confederation would be defended with equal vigor, and that the French army would learn, what they may have forgotten, that men fight best when they are armed by law and contend for freedom. Lastly, the public opinion of Europe would be roused to the highest pitch by so base and unprovoked an aggression; and though the geographical position of Switzerland leaves her no actual means of defence but the rugged configuration of her territory and the dauntless courage of her citizens, her resistance to such an attack on her rights and independence would give her the strongest claims to the support of the other powers of Europe.

Turkey.

It is stated by telegraph from Constantinople that the dispute concerning the holy places is adjusted. Equal rights are reserved to all Christian creeds.

The Death of Thomas Moore, the Poet.

[From the London Chronicle, Feb. 28.]

An event which has been long anticipated has just occurred. On Thursday last (Feb. 25), the poet Moore died at his residence of Sloperton Cottage, near Devizes. For several years back the illustrious deceased had been alive only in the body. Like Sir Walter Scott and Southey, the tenacity of physical existence had, in him, outlived the term of the mind. A year ago the poet was brought to Bath without any consciousness of where he was, or who were around him, and he passed peacefully away in the same condition of semi-slumbering unconsciousness.

With Moore there is snapped the last tie, save perhaps one, represented by the veteran Rogers, which connects the present generation with the outburst of "all the talents" which signalized the opening of the century. That great kindling of genius—embracing almost all sides of imaginative literature, of criticism and philosophy—is fast becoming more a thing of history than a thing of fact. Day by day, and year by year, the lights are going out. Wordsworth was the last extinguished before the present event; and now, to all intents and purposes, the great mental galaxy which poured such a flood of blazing, vivifying light upon the literature of fifty years ago—which extinguished the school of Rosa Matilda fiction and Della Cruscan poetry—which substituted true criticism for technical carping upon philological points, and established new styles in every branch of the *belles-lettres*—this great intellectual constellation may now be said to have disappeared. One of the brightest, if not of the largest stars, has long been obscured. It is now extinguished.

What amount and what duration of fame Moore will leave behind him, is fairly a matter of discussion. It cannot, we believe, be denied that much of his serious and more ambitious verse, founded upon the promptings of a more luscious and florid fancy than the present tastes inclines to admit—and no inconsiderable portion even of his sweet lyric snatches, as being too wire-drawn and refined to attenuation—are by no means so much read or admired as they were a score or thirty years ago. A severer and a sterner school of poetry has succeeded to it—one of deeper feeling and more sober thought; and the representatives of those who revelled in "Lalla Rookh," and delighted in the strains of Mr. Little, now generally address themselves to more staid and philosophic poetic musings. The "Irish Melodies," too—exquisite as is their word-music—fanciful as is their conception—delightful as is their playfulness, and profoundly touching as is their pathos—even the "Irish Melodies," we believe to be declining in popular estimation. The reasons are not far to seek. In the first place, the "Irish Melodies" are not particularly Irish; they have perfect grace, high and sparkling fancy, delicious feeling; but they are too fine-spun to do the work-a-day duty of popular songs. As literary performances, nine-tenths of Burns's songs are inferior to Moore's; and all Dibdin's ditties are immeasurably and incalculably beneath them. Yet the strong probability is that "When Willie Brewed," and "Poor Tom Bowling," will be in the full tide of their popularity and everyday use, where "Rich and Rare," and "Oh Breathe not His Name," will be unsung and forgotten. In a certain circle, and amongst people of a certain reading and appreciation, Moore will live as long as the language; but his genius was delicate and acute rather than catholic and vast. He had a rich and vivid play of fancy, but none of the soaring imagination of a Shelley or a Byron. His mind, in fact, was a first-class second-rate. It had no pretensions to stand in the foremost line of the giants of our day. Brightly fanciful, rather than continuously imaginative—teeming with poetic imagery—loving to sparkle along the floweriest paths, and beneath the balmiest skies—revelling always in fays and flowers—in love and mingled intellectual and sensual pleasures—playful in the extreme, and always ready to stop to make mirth as joyous and as delightful as the passion—Moore's muse, in his great romantic poems, is the incarnation of a charming Epicureanism; and the mirth and playful jollity could go a long step further. Moore had wit, which sparkled as brightly as it could cut deeply; and the humor, and sense of the ludicrous, which could be as well, if not more effectually applied to living persons and actual things than to the creations of his own fancy; and, accordingly, we find him loving to turn from the etherealized voluptuousness of the "Loves of the Angels," or the mystic imaginings of the "Epicurean," to the sharp and brilliant hitting of political and social squibs—to the restless and biting satire with which, in the "Fudge Family" and hundreds of ephemeral but not the less clever lays, he quizzed his political and literary opponents, abolished the Earl of Mountcashell, or shot stinging shafts of fun through the very heart of the Benthamites. It is, indeed, far from probable that Moore's political and satiric poetry, little, perhaps as he thought of it at the time, will live after his more ambitious works have been—not forgotten, but sunk into that chronic state of classicism, in which books are labelled with an excellent character, and shelved—turned, in fact, into the category of works without which no gentleman's library is complete, and accordingly doomed, not to actual obscurity, but to an honorable retirement.

The very last of the political squibs and short poems published by Mr. Moore, were given to the world in the columns of the *Morning Chronicle*, and referred principally to the earlier struggles of the Anti-Corn Law League—the verses having in most cases been evidently suggested by the passing political events of the day.

Thomas Moore died at the ripe old age of 72. He was born on the 28th of May, 1780, in Angier street, Dublin, where his father, a strict Roman Catholic, carried on a grocery and spirit business. As a child, young Moore is said to have been remarkable for personal beauty; but his appearance in after life hardly carried out the promise of infancy. He was short, with a heavy, expressive, but not handsome face, which, however, lightened up wonderfully when engaged in animated conversation or singing his own balled poetry. Young Moore was educated at Dublin, and one of his first noted peculiarities was a fondness and a talent for private theatricals. Taking advantage of the boon, as it was then considered, the young Roman Catholic was entered at Trinity College. He could not, of course, obtain a degree; but some English verses tendered at an examination, in lieu of the usual Latin composition, procured a copy of the "Travels of Anacharsis" as a reward. The wild times of the Irish rebellion were now approaching, and the future poet was naturally to be found in the ranks led by the Emmetts and Arthur O'Connor; but his treasonable lucubrations in prose and verse, though, as his own sister remarked, "rather strong," were passed over without any measures being taken against the enthusiastic young champion of Irish liberty. Politics, however, were by no means the only subject of his muse. At the age of fourteen he published poetry in a Dublin magazine, and afterwards composed many semi-poetic semi-burlesque pieces for private representation.

In his twentieth year, giving up republicanism once and for ever, Moore came to London to study at the Middle Temple, and to publish his translations, or rather paraphrases, of Anacreon. As may be imagined, he attended much more to the Greek than to "Coke upon Lyttleton," and a permission, obtained through the friendship of Lord Moira, to dedicate the work to the Prince Regent, was the means of Moore's introduction to those elevated circles of society in which he was ever afterwards to move and shine. The Anacreontic paraphrases, brilliantly and warmly expressed, were highly successful. They were speedily succeeded, in 1801, by "Poems and Songs, by Thomas Little." Whatever objections may be raised by the present generation to either of these works, there can be no doubt of their vivid play of fancy, their great grace of idea, ever when that idea was not strictly proper, and their exquisite melody of versification. Moore's translations of the "Old Greek Lover," of "Women and Wine," are probably the finest and richest versions of these often translated songs in the English language—always excepting the rough but thoroughly racy version of the last of the lyrics in question by quaint old Dr. Donne.

In the days of the regency, poets came in for patronage, and Mr. Moore, made registrar to the Court of Admiralty at Bermuda—as singularly appropriate an appointment as some we have seen in our own day—went out to the islands, appointed a deputy, took a glance at the States, and came home again. He then published "Sketches of Travel and Society beyond the Atlantic"—a satiric work in heroic verse, vigorously written, but politically, miserably short-sighted. Soon afterwards, a savage review in the "Edinburg," of a republication of "Juvenile Songs," &c., led to the celebrated rencontre between Moore and Jeffrey, at Hampstead, when the great critic, as Byron asserted, stood valiantly up:—

> When Little's leadless pistol met his eye
> And Bow-street myrmidons stood laughing by.

The affair was ultimately made up, mainly through the intervention of Mr. Rogers, and at his house Moore shortly afterwards made his first acquaintance with Byron and Campbell. The long and affectionate intimacy between the subject of this sketch and the author of "Childe Harold," which resulted from the meeting, we need not here stop to do more than allude to. Moore had about this time married. His wife was a Miss Dyke, a lady of strong sense and character, as well as great beauty and amiability. The last survivor of their offspring is unhappily no more.

A couple of political satires of no great note—one of them, by the way, setting forth a sober and earnest panegyric upon ignorance—were followed by the famous "Two-penny Post Bag," a bundle of rollicking satire and fun. It made a great hit, and attained a wide popularity. Not so its author's next venture, a farce called the "Blue Stocking," damned at the Lyceum. Moore's intimacy with Byron and Hunt was broken off by the perfect out-spoken tone of the "Liberal," and especially the "Vision of Judgment." Moore thought that his friends had gone too far. What would Carlton House say? For if, as Byron said, "Little Tommy dearly loved a lord," with how much more affection did he worship prince of the blood royal?

The "Melodies" were Moore's next, and perhaps his most popular, effort. Charming as these word-melodies are, exquisitely happy in their ideas and illustrations, and perfection as is their lyrical workship, we again repeat our doubt as to whether they have the intellectual stamina and the heart-rooted earnestness, both of which are requisite to make songs immortal. Mere beauty fades in words as well as in flesh, and only the strongest heart and the manliest brain produce offspring to suit all tastes and to last all time.

It was in 1812 that Moore determined to write an Indian poem. Mr. Perry, of the *Morning Chronicle*, accompanied the poet to the Messrs. Longman, and through his intervention the great sum of 3,000 guineas was settled as the price of the poem, not one word of which was as yet written. Moore then retired to Mayfield Cottage, a desolate place in Derbyshire, and after a long and hard struggle with a coquettish muse, forth—after a three years' retirement—came "Lalla Rookh." The success was immense; the poem ran rapidly through several editions, and Moore's fame stood upon a higher and surer pedestal than ever. The bright fancy and immense command of imagery of the poet were now at their climax. The tales were the triumph of poetic lusciousness; but not a few old judges stigmatized their taste by preferring Fadladeen and his criticisms, even to the Fireworshippers, or the tribulations of the Peri. We need hardly say that the judgment of these tough old critics has now a far greater number of adherents than it once commanded.

After a continental tour, Moore wrote the clever and popular "Fudge Family." In the following year he met Byron in Italy, when the latter entrusted to him his memoirs for publication. These memoirs Moore sold to Murray for two thousand guineas; but, as is well known and a good deal regretted, the purchase-money was refunded, the papers re-obtained, and destroyed. Pecuniary difficulties connected with the misconduct of his Bermuda deputy, about this time, compelled Moore to seek a temporary refuge in Paris, and there the poet led a pleasant social life, such as he loved, and composed the "Loves of the Angels," which is not much more than an elaborate and carefully wrought out repetition of all Mr. Moore's previous love and flowery poetry. The whole thing is dreamy, lulling, beautiful, but vague and misty. The words tinkle like falling fountains, and the essence of the closing poetry floats about one like perfume; but this enervating species of composition is far from being high or true poetry, and accordingly the poem is now far oftener alluded to than it is read.

In 1825 Moore paid a visit to Scott, at Abbotsford. The author of "Waverley" pronounced the Irish melodist to be the "prettiest warbler" he had ever heard. One evening Scott and his guest visited the theatre at Edinburgh. Soon after their at first unmarked entrance, the attention of the audience, which had, till then, been engrossed by the Dutchess of St. Albans, who was present, was directed towards the new comers; and, according to a newspaper report, copied and published by Mr. Moore in one of his last prefaces, considerable excitement immediately prevailed. "Eh!" exclaimed a man in the pit, "eh, yon's Sir Walter, wi' Lockhart and his wife; and wha's the wee body wi' the pawkie een? Wow, but it's Tam Moore just." "Scott, Scott!—Moore, Moore!" immediately resounded through the house. Scott would not rise; Moore did, and bowed several times, with his hand on his heart. Scott afterwards acknowledged the plaudits of his countrymen, and the orchestra, during the rest of the evening, played alternately Scotch and Irish airs.

Soon after this period, Moore was established, by the kind offices of his old and staunch friend the Marquis of Lansdowne, in Sloperton Cottage, where he passed the remainder of his days, and where he ended them. It was here that the poet commenced his career as a biographer, and produced successively the memoirs of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, of Lord Byron, and of Sheridan. The two latter are too well known and too highly appreciated to demand more than to be alluded to here. It was in the previous year that the poet had first come out as a prose writer in the "Memoirs of Captain Rock," a bitter and unfair account of—or rather commentary on—English misgovernment of Ireland, and a curious instance of how warped and twisted become the views of even a man of the world like Moore, if he be an Irishman, in writing on an Irish subject. The next serious work of the poet—he continued his squibs and light sparkles of occasional verse, as before—was "The Travels of an Irish Gentleman in search of a Religion"—in which he sought to show that the doctrines and practises of the Roman Catholic Church date from the apostolic period. The last of Moore's prose works, and that which has attained the greater sale, we believe, than any of them, was the romance of "The Epicurean." Here Moore's style, always too rich, effloresced into clouds of tawdry rhetoric, which are only here and there redeemed by passages of great eloquence and natural feeling. There was much out-of-the-way learning in the book, but the pompous march of cumbrous ornamentation overlaid everything. The book had a great success, but one not likely to be lasting. It partook of what Mr. Carlyle calls the "wind-bag" nature. The wind inside was very highly perfumed, and sighed with very pleasing murmurs, but, after all, it was only wind, and, as such, will ooze out and away, to the collapsing of the bag and the disappearance of the "Epicurean."

Of late years the political and social squibs to which we have alluded were the only literary occupations to which Mr. Moore devoted himself, until, gradually and fitfully, mental darkness came down upon him, and the quick and fanciful brain throbbed with thick-coming fancies no more.

Peace be with the poet! He led a long, a pleasant, and a prosperous life. His poetic genius was not of the deep, enthusiastic cast. He could write wailing stanzas over the fate of Curran's daughter on treasury paper, and become sentimental over the wrongs of Ireland while an English placeman. Universally courted and flattered in society, Moore fluttered from one brilliant coterie to the other, and was always in his most perfect element at the two great whig resorts—in Berkeley square and Kensington park. In every one of his characteristics the poet was formed for society. A lover of pleasure, with a keen appreciation of its every refinement, intellectual, social, and sensuous, Moore must have enjoyed to the very top of his bent every gratification which the greatest popularity in the most brilliant circles could heap on him. His nature was to enjoy, to amuse, to excite, and to be amused and to be excited. Successful in almost every literary effort, accounted as brilliant a conversationalist as he was a poet, as charming a singer as he was a song writer—a privileged person in a sphere to which his mind, by its very nature, looked up with longing for notice and for praise—few men have had a career so corresponding with their wishes and their ambition as Thomas Moore.

The death of the poet coming so shortly after the setting of the public life of his good and constant friend, the Marquis of Lansdowne, is a curious and touching coincidence. The ex-Minister will lament the departure of him who was so long the lyrist and the minstrel of his party; but to Moore the world was for years uncared for and unknown, and it is better that the spirit is released than that it should linger on in the midst of melancholy and hopeless darkness.

Switzerland.

The following additional details of the trouble between France and Switzerland, have come to my knowledge from sources the authority of which cannot be questioned. Austria is at the bottom of the whole affair, and it is to the initiative taken by that power on the question of the refugees that must be attributed the gravity of the present state of things. After the *coup d'état* of the 2d December, *the Austrian government, in concert with the governments of Bavaria and Baden, demanded the assent of the French government to a military occupation of Switzerland, as the only means, it said, to stifle a revolutionary hotbed which threatened the tranquillity of their States.* Prussia, which had been solicited to join in this demand, refused positively to have anything to say to it.

Without questioning the legitimacy of such a step, the French government replied that it should first attempt conciliatory measures; that to that effect it would address an *ultimatum* to Switzerland relative to the refugees, and, in case of non compliance on the part of the Federal Diet, France would not oppose the military occupation of Switzerland. This ultimatum is the note which I alluded to in my last letter. It was presented by the French envoy, and peremptorily demanded the expulsion of certain refugees. Now, as the Swiss Diet is firmly resolved not to give in to such a species of intimidation, which is not compatible with the dignity and independence of the nation, it follows that, as soon as this refusal shall have been officially notified to the French government, complications may arise at any moment which, as M. Turgot himself expressed it, may lead to the advance of an Austrian army into the Canton du Tessin. Such a step might be averted by France declaring that the measures recently adopted by the Federal Council offer to Austria and other States a sufficient guarantee for tranquillity; but will France withdraw her ultimatum, and be satisfied with conditions less prejudicial to the honor of Switzerland? This is still to be seen; but the contemptuous language held by the legations of France and Austria here speaks but too plainly of what sympathy they entertain for the federal institutions, and testifies clearly enough in what spirit they report events here to their respective governments.

Meantime the federal council is greatly perplexed. M. Druey, who has always been looked up to for advice by his colleagues, in matters of difficulty, is seriously ill, and cannot take an active part in the deliberations, which are chiefly held at his house; and it is, moreover, feared that, if the real state of affairs gets wind, an explosion of public opinion will follow, and add to the difficulties of the situation. The English Charge d'Affairs has recommended great caution and remonstrated *efficiently* with the envoys of France and Austria; but the former replied that it was a question which must be decided at Paris, and the latter gave an evasive answer, to the effect that Austria intended adhering to the treaties of 1815.

The English government ordered Mr. Magenis, the English minister to the Federal Diet, to return forthwith to his post, and he is hourly expected here. Mr. Magenis had only left a short time previously for London, on leave of absence. It is inferred from this that the English government will endeavor, by its intervention, to prevent matters coming to a crisis.

In a recent interview at Paris, held between M. Turgot, the French minister, and M. Barman, the Swiss charge d'affaires to the French court, M. Turgot expressed himself as follows:—

"I have pointed out to you (he said) the dangers which menace Switzerland. These dangers are daily becoming more imminent. I have hitherto overlooked many things, but as Switzerland refuses to comply with anything, and has sent no answer to my note of the 24th January, I tell you clearly that I shall let matters take their course, (*que je laisserai faire.*) and you may manage as you can; the blame be upon your own government."

To this M. Barman replied that there was a great difference between the demand *motivé* and a peremptory order from a foreign State, and that Switzerland could not be expected to sacrifice its independence. "Very well," replied M. Turgot, "you wish to try diplomacy. I tell you candidly that I have given Switzerland warning, and I must have a categorical answer. This is the opinion of the President. *France fears nothing, and if Austria advances an army into the Tessin, Geneva will be immediately occupied by French troops.*"

You will judge from this that matters are somewhat complicated, and that the relations of Switzerland with France, notwithstanding the disavowals of Louis Napoleon, are anything but friendly.

The English charge d'affairs exerted his good offices on the 13th ult. with the French envoy, to endeavor to obtain terms less offensive to the *amour propre* of Switzerland, but with as little success as before. *M. de Fenelon again declared, in very precise terms, that this was a question to be decided at Paris.*

Piedmont.

MODIFICATION OF THE MINISTRY.

The *Corriere Mercantile*, of Genoa, quotes a letter from Turin, of the 19th, stating that the following ministerial changes in the Piedmontese cabinet may be relied on as certain:—M. de Foresta, Minister of Justice, is to retire, on account of his opinions in favor of a concordat; M. Galvagno, Minister of the Interior, is to take his portfolio, and is to be replaced in his present office by M. Pernati, an excellent administrator, but new to political life.

Russia.

EXTENSIVE MILITARY PREPARATIONS.

A letter from the Polish frontier, given in the *Augsburg Gazette*, has the following upon Russian military movements:—"According to our latest advices from Kalisch and other parts of the kingdom of Poland, *the Russian government appears to doubt either the stability of Louis Napoleon's power, or the sincerity of his assurances, as military preparations are on every hand again urged forward with surprising activity and upon a large scale.* The westward movement of troops are recommended, and the munitions of war are produced and accumulated with great zeal. The officers believe that the summer will bring with it a campaign; and as the common soldiery believe absolutely that the Czar is the supreme and rightful disposer of events on earth, they only wait the word to march with alacrity wherever their master may bid them."

Fashions for March.

[From Le Follet.]

The taffetas d'Athenes is appropriate for ball dresses, and obtains general success; the ground is white, blue, or pale pink, brochees in silk of all colors in wreaths, or bouquets, forming undulated festoons round the bottoms of the triple skirts. The upper skirt is flowered over in small designs to the waist, as is also the body and sleeves. The taffetas flore has a white ground, covered with small bouquets of wild field flowers. The taffetas rose has wreaths of large roses, brochees in white silk round each skirt, and rose buds over the top skirt and body. This toilet should be accompanied with a coiffure, composed of a wreath of white roses, fixed behind by a bow and long floating ends of satin ribbon, forming an elegant evening toilette for a bride. The lampas and the moire antique brocches in silk, mixed with light gold thread, are among the most elegant novelties of the season.

Ball dresses are composed of various material; among the most elegant may be seen those of gold or silver lama, tulle, or silk gauze, embroidered with silk. We have seen one of the latter, made with three skirts, embroidered with rosebuds in their natural colors; the two upper skirts raised at the side by bouquets of roses, with graceful hanging foliage of leaves and rosebuds; a bouquet to match on the body, and light hanging wreath falling across the head, over the shoulders. This toilet is suited for a young lady.

Among the many splendid dresses worn at the ball given at the Palace of the Tuileries, we remarked the following:—A robe of sky blue brocade, the body ornamented with two torsades of pearls of different sizes, fixed on the chest with a brooch of diamonds, in the form of a bunch of grapes; the sleeves were trimmed to match, with smaller torsades and brooches. The skirt was longer behind than in front, raised on each side in large plaits, fixed with agrafes of diamonds. The coiffure composed of a large plait of hair, with pearls placed over the bandeaux, rather pointed in front, in the Ceres form; an agrafe of diamonds between the bandeaux.

A new and graceful toilet was worn by a young lady of distinction; it was composed of white taffetas d'Italie, under a tarlatane, with narrow gold stripes; the upper skirt being rather more than a quarter of a yard shorter than the under one, showed the narrow plait of gold which was placed on the top of the hem; the upper skirt had a hem and plait of the same width. The low full body was drawn into a narrow band of gold at the top, and the sleeves were trimmed to match. A bouquet of Parma violets at the waist. The coiffure was composed of three tresses, one of gold lace, one of hair, and the other of violets. The bandeaux were flat; the plait of gold was placed on the top of the forehead, then the plait of hair, which was much wider, and Ceres wreaths of violets, which fastened under two large coques of hair placed very low behind, almost on the neck.

The waistcoat will still remain in vogue until it has made the tour of the globe. The Parisiennes, who had commenced to turn it into ridicule, still patronize it; and the pretty provinciales need not fear to adopt it. But some conditions are necessary in order to render it becoming and stylish. The figure of the wearer should be thin, tall, and sylph-like; all others should avoid this style. Rounded, white shoulders appear to much more advantage in toilette Pompadour than in toilet Louis XIII.

The corsage Louis XIII. and the waistcoat accord so well together that they are scarcely ever separated. However, some bodies a basquines are made to be worn without the waistcoat. They are then trimmed with velvet or ribbon bands, which cross the chest and fasten with buttons; the chemisette being composed of frills of English point, or Valenciennes, separated by embroidered insertion.

The manteaux, with hoods, continue in fashion; they are generally made of cloth. We have noticed some in very good taste; the hood was lined with moire, and a broad moire ribbon was placed round the manteaux. A lady of distinction has been seen in a very long Talma of black velvet, trimmed with a broad embroidery of jet, which formed a pelerine, pointed on the shoulders and back, each point terminated by an immense tassel of silk and jet.

The mantelet-echarpe has already been cited for its elegance and taste. It is more dressy than the manteaux, marking the waist, and descending in front in square ends.

The sorties de bal are very fanciful. Some of white cachemire, trimmed with beads, silk, and jet, with magnificent lace or deep fringe. Others of white or pink satin, edged with ruches of guipure lace, or rouleaux of marabouts. They have hoods and large Venetian sleeves, so shaped as to leave the sleeve of the robe undisturbed.

The Cosaque is making its appearance; made in violet velvet, and lined with white quilted satin, it forms an elegant costume for a young lady; it descends a little below the hips, and has large pagodes sleeves.

There is but little alteration in the style of bonnets this month; capotes, with velvet fronts and satin crowns, a la vieille, with two rows of black lace covering the crown, and forming a point on the curtain, seem much approved of.

The pouf is the most graceful and piquante style of coiffure invented since the time of Marie Antoinette. To give an idea of this pouf, we must picture some bouillonnes of tulle, forming a head-piece, allowing the plaits and bows of ribbons to escape behind, falling very low on the neck. Across the bouillonnes is twisted a very small wreath of roses, widening as it reaches the bandeaux, and falling in light branches over the ears. The blonde pouf is more elegant with pink satin curled ribbon, hanging among the curls of the hair. Two light feathers are laid across the head and fall just below the ear. A still more elegant one may be composed of gold blonde, with gauze ribbon, embroidered with gold, forming coques, with long floating ends reaching the waist.

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S LEVEE.

[From the Court Newsman, February 27, 1852.]

The Queen held a levee (the first this season) yesterday afternoon, in St. James's Palace.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Albert arrived shortly before two o'clock, from Buckingham Palace.

The Queen wore a train of blue and gold brocaded silk, trimmed with blue and gold ribbon and white tulle. The petticoat was of white satin, trimmed with white tulle and blue and gold ribbons. Her Majesty's head-dress was composed of rubies and marabout feathers.

Markets.

TRAIN & CO.'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR.

Liverpool, Saturday, Feb. 28, 1852.

Ashes continue to meet an active demand, the sales being upwards of 700 bbls., at 25s. to 25s. 6d. for pots; and 27s. per cwt. for pearls.

Bark, Quercitron.—9 tons of Baltimore sold at 6s. 3d., and a small parcel of Philadelphia at 7s. 9d.

Corn.—There was an increased consumptive demand in the early part of the week for wheat and flour, which was freely met by holders, at about former prices; sales of the latter were made to the extent of 20,000 bbls., from 21s. 9d. to 22s. 6d., but principally at 22s. At yesterday's market general dulness prevailed, buyers holding off in anticipation of lower prices in flour, consequent upon the large sales up to Thursday—a slight decline has taken place in red wheat, but white is without change. Indian corn firm, at 29s. 6d. for yellow, and 32s. for white. By Telegraph.—London corn market steady at Monday's rates. Value of white wheat 42s. to 49s. per qr.; red 40s. to 44s.

Cotton.—The sales of cotton have been less extensive this week, but the demand has been sufficient to cause a further advance in prices of partially one-eighth of a penny per lb. The effect of the ministerial crisis was slight and momentary. Importers still prefer quick sales, and were the arrivals heavy, this reluctance to hold might injure the firm tone of the market. The total sales of the week are 54,040 bales, including 7,510 American for speculation and 1,440 American for export. Stock on hand 344,700 bales.

Dyewoods.—The sales of the week are only to a limited extent.

Linseed Cake has been in good request during the week at our quotations.

Naval Stores.—Rosin—For the common descriptions there is a good demand at 3s. 1d. per cwt. Tar—The high price asked checks the demand. Turpentine at 35s. to 31s. per cwt.; a few tuns of spirits have been sold; in rough, there are no transactions.

Provisions.—Bacon—There is no change to report in the demand. Beef—New has been sold at an advance of 3s. to 5s. per tierce. The market is very bare of stock, which is much wanted. Cheese meets with a moderate demand. Lard at a further advance of 1s. to 2s. per cwt.; the sales of the week reach 80 tons. Pork—A parcel of French sold at 67s. per bbl., to arrive. There is no American on the market.

Rice.—About 260 tierces sold at 16s. for ordinary, up to 19s. per cwt. for fine.

Tallow.—A fair business has been done at 36s. to 36s. 9d. for Petersburg Y. C.; 33s. to 35s. 9d. for South American; 35s. 3d. to 36s. for New Orleans; and 35s. 6d. to 36s. per cwt. for New York melted.

Monetary and Commercial Intelligence.—The uneasiness which was created on Saturday last, by the unexpected breaking up of the Russell ministry, has now in a great measure subsided. The list of the new protectionist cabinet has been received in free-trade circles with astonishment and regret. Some of the highest offices in the State are assigned to partisans scarcely known to public life, and some of the more conspicuous names are curiously attached to departments for which they possess some special unfitness. The idea that the Bank of England must lower its rate of discount is still entertained, but no step in that direction has been taken, up to this time. It may, under circumstances, be useful to defer the change for a week or two, because if there is the excitement of a general election, there will be temporarily more demand for cash, and the customary shyness among capitalists in launching out, pending the uncertainty of the issue. Most impartial men are of opinion, that if a reversal of free-trade policy is to be commenced, if even the slightest alteration in that direction be made, the annoyances must be most pernicious; the mere fact of false hopes being inspired among the colonial planters and the British agriculturists, just as they are settling down on a wholesome basis, and having their burdens adjusted, being enough to destroy confidence. What would occur, supposing a House of Commons is formed that will overturn past legislation in any important degree, one might well contemplate with anxiety—were such a House likely to be formed, which few can believe, now the country has enjoyed the blessing of cheap food, however imperfect the electoral system is known to be in affording fair representation for the people at large. The Anti-Corn-Law League at Manchester has been revived to watch the proceedings of the new administration, and to act in case of need. At the Bank Court, on Thursday, the directors came to the determination of making the usual quarterly advances, on government securities, until payment of the dividends, at the rate of 2 per cent per annum, being a reduction of a half per cent from the rate charged during the previous quarter. Consols for account, on Friday noon, 97 ½ ¾. American stocks firmly supported, at the top quotations of last week.

Freights and Charters.—Since our last, only two American ships have arrived (and those from New Orleans). The wind has blown constantly from the eastward, with fine, clear weather. The telegraph report from Holyhead is E. N. E., with a high and steady barometer. The ships on the berth for New York, Boston, and New Orleans, are filling up at last week's rates—say 12s. 6d., 17s. 6d., and 9s., for iron to the respective ports. For future shipment, higher rates asked. Neap tides for the next week will prevent any large ships going out of dock. Most of the New York packets appointed for the first of the month, will lay over till about the tenth, to fill with passengers.

Passengers.—A slight improvement is perceptible this week. Prices for New York—£2 15s. for early ships, £3 for the middle of next month. The most stringent feature in the proposed new Passengers' Act, referred to in our last, is found in clause X., which provides that if any passenger-ship shall clear out, or proceed to sea, without the master's having first obtained a certificate from the emigration officer, the ship shall be subjected to a penalty of £500; and, in addition to this, "be forfeited to the use of her Majesty, and may be seized by any officer of the customs, if found, within two years from the commission of the offence, in any place in the United Kingdom, or in her Majesty's possessions abroad." The only change in the dietary scale is an addition of two ounces of salt weekly, and the ship has the option of substituting cocoa or coffee for the required rations of tea. Stowaways are to be fined £5, or in default, to three months imprisonment, with hard labor.

MR. JAMES M'HENRY'S CIRCULAR.

Liverpool, Feb. 27, 1852.

Bacon is scarce, but not dearer. Fine beef is in considerable request. Irish prime mess pork is selling at 70s. Cheese continues very dull. The market is well cleared of lard; the quotations are nominal, in absence of stock. There is no improvement in the demand for quercitron bark. Linseed cakes are rather dearer. The demand for clover seed is active, at fully previous rates. Tallow is a shade firmer, without actual advance. In sperm, lard, or whale oils the business is trifling. Rice is more saleable, without change in value. Breadstuffs.—There is increasing confidence now current that prices will not yield further. A large business has been done in flour at 22s., chiefly Western canal brands. Wheats are very saleable, and firm; Baltimore white and red bring a slight advance. Indian corn is in fair request.

Cotton.—Another week's brisk demand has only resulted in a bare one-eighth penny per lb. advance in price, and this improvement almost confined to the middling qualities of Orleans, the change in bowedь and Mobiles being scarcely perceptible. The market closes firmly, but should the wind become favorable a fair amount of cotton would arrive, and, leaving a profit, will probably come at once on the market, and as the trade have in the last few weeks added some 40,000 bales to their stocks, should the demand slacken, it is not improbable some temporary irregularity might exist in prices, but business is too good in Manchester to allow any lengthened dulness. Stock this day, 344,700 bags, of which 197,491 are American; do. last year, 441,336 bags, of which 254,103 were American. Sales this week 54,040 bags, including 44,010 American; 10,170 bags being on speculation, and 2,940 bags to exporters.

London Money Market, Feb. 27.—Gold-mine shares have been rather in decline, from the deliveries being more considerable than was anticipated. Central Australian were quoted 1-16 to ½ premium. The Nouveau Monde Company report the receipt of letters from Panama, dated the 21st January, stating the arrival there of Mr. Clement, the superintendent, with the mining staff and the whole of the machinery, from across the Isthmus, in perfect safety.

Hamburg, Feb. 24.—Prices of Funds.—American Six per Cents. 107¾ bills, 107¾ money; Maryland Five per Cents. 85½ bills.

London Corn Market, Feb. 27.—There was a moderate show of English wheat at market this morning, and though the demand was not active, the full currency of Monday last was realized. Foreign firm, at quite former prices. A steady retail business transacted in barley, beans, and peas, but Monday's rates are not exceeded. The arrivals of oats from Ireland and abroad have been liberal, and dealers being out of stock, former terms are well maintained. English white wheat, 42s. to 49s.; red, 40s. to 44s.; malting barley, 34s. to 36s.; distilling, 26s. to 28s. Arrivals:—British wheat, 4,280; barley, 3,970; oats, 2,830; malt, 6,910; flour, 3,510; Irish barley, 1,910; oats, 15,230. Foreign:—Wheat, 3,450; barley, 3,490; oats, 19,280; flour, 440.

London Produce Market, February 27.—Sugar—West India quiet, and prices unaltered. Sales 221 hhds. making 1,833 for the week. For refined, the home trade demand very good. Brown lumps, 44s. 6d. Foreign quiet. Public sales of 10,000 bags Mauritius went off at full prices—nearly all sold. The market for coffee closes quiet, and parcels offered at public sale were nearly all bought in. Good native Ceylon refinery, 39. to 39s. 6d. No change in tea. Good sound congou, 8½d. to 9d. Tallow was held at 35s. 6d. to 36s. on the spot, and little doing. The prices of cotton were fully as high as last Friday's. Sales of the week 2,000 bales.

THE VERY LATEST.

London, Saturday, Feb. 28, 1852.

THE NEW MINISTRY—OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

[From the London Times, Feb. 28.]

Lord Derby has often done wonders when he need not have done anything. But last night he had not a choice, for he appeared to a challenge; he had to compromise between a visionary class and a practical future. *As far as theory goes he is as decided a protectionist as ever—and, as the people of this country choose to bear with him, there will be the anomaly of the two freest and most self-governing countries in the world—Great Britain and the United States—having an executive of one opinion, and the people of another, on the most interesting point.* One thing is certain, that he does not care enough for his creed to understand it and improve it. He will confess himself a Protectionist, without being one in any intelligible sense. He has dreamt, not thought, of protection. We wait to see how the obscure text of Earl Derby will be interpreted by conservatives on the hustings.

[From the London Herald, Feb. 28.]

The safety of all our institutions, not excepting the monarchy itself, depends upon the result of the next general election.

[From the London News, Feb. 28.]

Earl Derby, like a bold man, has at once put the question at issue beyond doubt. His cry is "Toryism—No Reform—No Free Trade."

[From the London Chronicle, Feb. 28.]

The speech of the Earl of Derby, after all, amounts to neither more nor less than a covert abandonment of protection. He would make the Custom House the mere instrument of monopoly, but he shrinks from giving practical effect to his opinions.

[From the London Post, Feb. 28.]

Nothing could be more manly or more candid than the way Earl Derby looks his parliamentary position in the face. Nothing could be more graceful or dignified than his appeal to his opponents to forbear to interrupt the business of the country by factional opposition. The *Post* adds: "That Earl Fitzwilliam did well in rebuking Earl Grey for indulging so early in ebulitions of party bitterness."

THE PENINSULAR MAIL.

The Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamship Madrid arrived at Southampton last night, Feb. 28, at half past eleven.

Her dates are—Gibraltar, 17th February; Cadiz, 18th; Lisbon, 20th.

She experienced very heavy weather both out and home.

In the district of Guarda, a guerilla party had proclaimed Don Miguel. The attempt was suppressed.