

With this number concludes the Quarterly of the British Periodic.

Foreign Intelligence.

ENGLAND.—The most anxious task is to find ways and means to meet the urgent demands for construction, a more healthy and promising operation than the millions formerly expended on the poor rates. The most eligible man to help themselves. The energetic intelligence and capital of Great Britain are evidently destined, in the councils of an adorable Providence, to be the mainstay of the world. The Continent and Islands, diffusing an infusion, a language impregnated with the spirit of association, with its free institutions, and rational liberty. By its judicious and wise concessions, the Derby administration, to the surprise of all, gives indications of stability and vitality. The main principle is quite correct, and no one questions or thinks of questioning the desirableness of cheap and abundant food for the willow, so cheap that they can earn it by their own labour, and enjoy it with the consciousness of personal independence and respect. The following discussion in the House of Lords, on the "Commercial Policy of the Country," is of an interesting and important character. The Marquis of Clanricarde, referring to the subject of the free trade which the Government had given their adherence, expressed surprise to find that Lord Derby desired to adopt this system, a measure which had been passed by the House of Commons. Had he done so, great advantage would have resulted from the changes in the cotton industry—(hear, hear.) Under these circumstances, had any objection might be obtained, it would have been of a unanimous vote, at least of a great majority, and for the purpose of taking the Chancellor of the Exchequer's amendment without introducing any objectionable matter, though, in this respect, he had changed the words. The following was the resolution he proposed:—"That this House acknowledges with satisfaction that the cheapness of provisions, occasioned by recent legislation, has materially contributed to improve the condition of the country, and increase the comfort of the industrious classes; and that, having been adopted, after due deliberation, as the principle of our commercial system, this House is of opinion that it is a wise and expedient measure to adhere to that policy."—(hear, hear.) But, as you will have observed, this resolution was no longer confined to without any objection of principle, and also such as noble lords with whom I formerly differed in opinion might also concur in without any feeling of pain, he should be content for the opinion of the House to be recorded in any language which best expressed its feelings.—[Cheers.]

The Earl of Derby: My lord, I must, in the first place, express my satisfaction with the calm, unqualified, and temperate manner in which the noble marquis has treated the question, which he had given me notice of some months since, and which has had your consideration. And, in the position in which the country is now placed, I am bound to say, that my wish is, that your resolution should be decided in the form of a resolution by your lordships' house; it should be put in a resolution, and should be carried in terms as being led to the least possible chance of leading to a conflict of opinions between your lordships' house and the Government. I have myself taken any great objection to the terms of the noble marquis's motion, and I believe that I am not alone in this combined with other causes, the cheapness of provisions, occasioned by recent legislation, and which has contributed to improve the condition of the country, and the working of our commercial system, and which has, as I believe that we should not raise the discussion invited by these words of the noble marquis by going into any other subject of that degree or to what extent that cheapness of provisions has been the main cause of the increased prosperity of the country. My object is to couch the motion in such terms as shall to the fullest extent recognize the advantages of your resolution, and which are principles now sanctioned by the vote of the other house of parliament, and also, I am bound to say, by the opinion of the noble marquis and myself, and also, I am bound to say, by the opinion of the country, and avoid, at the same time, entering on topics which might raise any question which might possibly raise any

controversy.—[Cheers.] I apprehend the noble marquis and those who sit with him are desirous, most firmly, to secure an adherence to that policy which I am honour to say the country has, by a very large majority, signified its determination to uphold; and I think the object of the noble marquis will be best attained by dealing with a resolution which has reference to the future only, provided the terms of that resolution are as clear and definite as regards the future as the noble marquis has done me the honour to say he considers the words to be which I have suggested.—[hear, hear.] The terms which I propose to the noble marquis to submit to the consideration, and which I should be very happy to place in his hands, in order, if he thinks fit, to move them as a resolution upon your lordships' house by himself, in which case I should give him all the assistance in my power, are these:—"That this House thankfully acknowledges the general prosperity, and, deeply sensible of the evils attending frequent changes in the financial policy of the country, adheres to the commercial system recently established, and would not by any means, either directly or indirectly, attempt to disturb its operations or impede its further extension.—[hear, hear.] That, I think, is the main business, and the main business of the policy recently established as it is possible for noble lords to carry out in the present session of the same time, many might concur in such a resolution as this, which would have the effect of bringing about the changes in the first instance, who may doubt the policy of the measure of 1846, and who even now, if we are to begin again, would desire to see a different policy adopted; yet, sensible of the evils likely to result from constant changes in our financial system, might consistently desist from any further agitation of the question, as tending to disturb the peace of mind of the country, and the keeping up a degree of dissent in the minds of the people, which would be a daily transgression of business, without leading to any great consequences.—[hear, hear.] It is in these grounds that I wish to submit to the noble marquis the words I have just read, and which I have been glad to hear he so judiciously and so wisely interpreted, as he wishes to propose them as a resolution at the present moment or on Monday next, the day upon which he originally proposed them, shall be put an end to, and that there shall be a renewal of debate and discussion between you and that system in future.—[Cheers.]

With the prospect of peace, Mr. Disraeli's Budget is expected to be a successful one. The following notice will convey a general idea of its character, and the financial pretensions of its author, which might already eclipse his established literary reputation.

(From the Times.) "Had it been possible for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to surprise the House of Commons by the resolution which he did so on Friday by a financial statement, which Lord himself would only have ventured on at that time, it would have been a most judicious and one of his most exuberant moments. But such a resolution, which is impossible, as concerns the annual ceremony of the Earl of Derby, would have done more than fill the lamentable gap left by the most illustrious of his recent predecessors. With the prospect of peace, Mr. Disraeli's Budget is expected to be a successful one. The following notice will convey a general idea of its character, and the financial pretensions of its author, which might already eclipse his established literary reputation. The characteristics of the financial scheme now submitted to the careful consideration of the noble marquis are based on the principle of "unrestricted competition," applying that principle not only to the removal of existing restrictions, but also to the removal of existing restrictions and burdens of questionable utility, and to the removal of existing restrictions on the wide range of the proposed financial reform; lastly, its great boldness, as exhibited in its daring proposal to take away some of our greatest common burdens are dealt with, and the confidence displayed in the growing prosperity and resources of the nation."

AND

(From the Morning Post.)

Those who were led to expect any great comprehensive revision of our financial system, in which system must be adjusted to some supposed requirements of a new principle, will read the speech of the right honourable gentleman with surprise and disappointment. Those who looked for the new adjustment and arrangement of the public business which has been so often promised to the agriculturists as a relief, will read with feelings not far removed from dismay, the somewhat cool announcement that so little of the kind is to be attempted; and persons of all classes, let us say, will wonder why parliament has been called together at this unusual period of the year to hear a fine-voiced anything very stirring or very strange. The whole financial operation which Mr. Disraeli proposed consisted simply in this: he finds at present a surplus of income over expenditure of about 1,300,000. He proposes to use that surplus for the remission of certain taxes; and as he gives us the remission a little beyond his margin, he proposes to use the surplus for the doubling and extending the tax upon houses.

FRANCE.—The extinction of the Republic, and the restoration of the Empire, are the topics of the day. They took place consecutively, almost simultaneously, on the 20th December, 1851. Great as has been our anxiety to see, in what form the present content ourselves with a condensed account of its leading features. "The Corps Legislatif met again 23 December at 10 o'clock. At 11 o'clock the bureaux appointed to examine and count the votes relative to the re-establishment of the Empire. The President announced that the reports of the bureaux were terminated, that some returns of little importance were still wanting, and would give us too late. He accordingly invited the reporters to meet immediately at the Presidency, to sum up the whole of the votes. In order that the definite result be proclaimed in the evening, the assembly afterwards adjourned to 7 o'clock, when the following was proclaimed as the definitive result of votes on the *plébiscite*."

Ayes 7,354,149
Noes 2,063,185
None 2,365,185

The result was received with unanimous cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" Immediately after the result was proclaimed, the Emperor, in St. Cloud, *en costume*, to present the result to the Emperor.

LOUIS NAPOLEON, in the uniform of a General of Division, entered the Gallery of Apollo, with all his household, Count Bacciocchi and Mr. Fauchel, de Combaux leading the way. Louis Napoleon had on his right the ex-king Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, as Marshal of France, on his left Prince Jerome Bonaparte, in plain clothes; and behind him the Ministers of State, M. Baroche, and M. Berger.

The moment Louis Napoleon appeared he was saluted with loud acclamations of "Vive l'Empereur!" M. Billant, President of the Legislative Body, advanced, and, in a firm and emphatic voice, read the following proclamation:—"Sir,—We lay before Your Majesty the solemn expression of the national will. In pursuance of the law, we have proceeded to deliver to you by popular enthusiasm, you showed no anxiety to assume the crown which was offered you, and which had been desired; that France should have time for reflection; that you wished that the supreme decision, by which a people, marvellously disposed soverely of its destiny, should only be taken coolly and in complete liberty.

"Your wish was freely obeyed; a ballot free, secret, and open to all, has been honestly examined and counted; it has numbered up 8,000,000 of votes, it gives to the legitimacy of your government the widest basis which any government which has ever been established. From the day when 6,000,000 of votes collected for you by the votes of the people, and which were deposited in your hands the fate of the country, France, at each new ballot, would have been entrusted to your hands; and the continued endurance of her confidence in you. Without as within her participation, in the day when you were elected, your heart feelings have burst forth; from one end of the country to the other, flocking on your banners, hastening to your arms, from the man of their hopes and of their faith, our people has sufficiently made known to the world that you are the only man who has been chosen by the people; and that you carry with you that most precious of all gifts, the day marked out by Providence, crowns

new dynasties, and sears them in the place of those which it no longer animates. "Taking shelter under an immense recollection of glory, under what it holds most precious, its honour abroad, its security at home, and those immortal principles of 1789—the firm basis of a new French society so powerfully organized by the Emperor, your uncle—one man against millions, up with proud love that dynasty of the Bonapartes, which sprung from him, and which was not overturned by French hands; but, while preserving a proud remembrance of the great events of war, it hoped to find from you the great which, in its turn, it entrusts you to your work it expects from you a resolute, prompt, and prosperous government. In order to aid you in it, it entrusts you to all its sympathies, it delivers itself wholly up to you. Take, then, Sir, take from the hands of France that glorious crown which she offers to you; never has a royal viceroy worn one so justly and so lovingly bestowed." The President was again interrupted by applause, and cries of "Vive Napoleon III," and "Vive l'Empereur!" M. Billant afterwards presented the declaration of the Legislative Body, with the result of the votes.

M. Meunier, Vice-President of the Senate, then delivered a brief speech.

"The most profound and noble sentiment of the Emperor, in a firm voice, replied as follows:—"Gentlemen,—The new reign which you this day inaugurate is not founded, as so many orators mentioned in history has been, on violence, conquest, or stratagem; it is, as you have just declared, the legal result of an act of God; and it is a fact which, during the calm that which it found in the midst of agitation."

"An appeal grateful to the nation which three times in four years has supported me with its suffrage, and each time has by its vote its majority to increase my power."

"But the more that power grows in extent and the vital force, the more need has it of a enlightened men, like those who have this day surround me,—independent men, like those who have this day stand by me,—and to contain my authority within just limits, I never should stray beyond them."

"I take this day, with the crown, the name of Napoleon III, because the logic of the people has already bestowed it upon me with the acclamation, because the sense has legally proposed it, and because it has been ratified by the whole nation."

"Let me say then that in accepting this title I fall into the error attributed to the prince of Orange returning from exile, declared null and void all which had been done in his absence? Such a sentiment is far from my thoughts."

"Not only do I recognize the governments which have preceded me, but I in some degree identify myself with their objects, good and for evil; for succeeding governments, notwithstanding their different origin, are, as a party to the acts of their predecessor."

"But the more readily I accept all that, for the year which has elapsed, has been an inextinguishable glory, the less was it allowed me to pass over in silence the glorious reign of my ancestor, Louis Napoleon, the Emperor, the regular although ephemeral, of his son, which the members proclaimed in the acts of their careers of legislation. Thus the title of Napoleon III, is not one of those dynastic titles which are given to the victors, but both truth and common sense; it is the homage paid to a government which was the product of the free will of the people for the finest pages of our modern history."

"My reign does not end from 1853; it dates from the day when you were constituted to me the suffrages of the nation."

"Accept, therefore, my acknowledgments. Let me say to you, as I have said to you, in the manifestation of the national will, in making it more evident by your working the votes, and more important by your declaration."

"I thank you, also, M. les Senators, for having the honour to congratulate me for the times when you were also the first to embody the popular wish.

"As I assist me, also, to establish in this land, harassed by so many revolutions, a stable government, which I desire to be more just, and more moderate, and the love of the less fortunate classes."

"And here receive the oath, that I will support the constitution, and the prosperity of my country; and that, while maintaining peace, I will yield in no point which can compromise the independence of France."

His Majesty, after several times bowing

