

Although our legislature have yet had but one session, care has been taken to provide for schools. 640 acres of land are in each township assigned for the support of schools; and in the state, one whole township, of 36 square miles, for the support of a college. Twelve miles south of us is a salt lick, at which much salt is made. I know of no country where a plantation can be commenced and managed with greater facility than on these prairies; nor where the agriculturist is more richly rewarded for his labor. Not a foot of land needs to be cleared. In first breaking up our prairies, three yoke of stout oxen, or four stout horses, are needed. We plough once, and plant our corn with axes struck through the sod; and with no other culture, obtain from 20 to 40 bushels of good corn per acre, which makes much better bread than the northern corn. A first crop of wheat is raised by ploughing the prairie, say in May, or June; and in the latter part of September following, cast on the seed, and harrow it in, passing lengthwise of the furrows; or, by sowing the seed among the standing corn, and plough it in with one stout horse, and a crop is obtained from 20 to 40 bushels per acre. The subsequent crops of corn and wheat are much more abundant. This part of the state is settling very fast. Very many have come on since last fall. Though we have had a severe drought this season, the wheat harvest has come in pretty well. Corn, after a first crop, grows very high. I have seen much already from 12 to 16 feet high, and this is still in rapid growth. Many ears are set too high for me to reach them and hang my hat on them. I advise my northern friends, who wish to improve their worldly interests, to come on with their families and good northern habits. I think they will not be disappointed. As to health, those who build in the timbers, too near the bottom lands on the creeks, are subject to the fever and ague; but those who build on the edge of the open prairies, are generally blessed with health. It is found that the people who have come from the north and settled in this state, do generally enjoy better health than those who have come from the south. I do not find the heat in this country much different from what it is with you. We have had some very hot days; but the breezes which daily sweep across the prairies are very refreshing.

In a commercial view, I am sanguine in the belief, that the steam-boat navigation of the Mississippi, which is already very considerable, will progress in proportion to the increase of population in these trans-allegany states, and continue to give us a good market at New-Orleans, New-York, &c. With the moral state of society in Illinois, I am agreeably disappointed. I have already found many very fine people, and morals are improving. Missionary labors are much desired, and greatly needed. I am steadily supplying a congregation at Signal Creek; where, about three years ago, there was not a white person lived, but where now there is a Presbyterian church of about 30 communicants. As yet we meet and worship under the shade of trees in the woods, and I hope enjoy the presence of Him who dwelt in the bush. This congregation are expecting soon to build a meeting-house for worship.

I have guarded in this letter against exaggeration; and have stated, as far as my knowledge of this country extends, such things as will bear examination.

Yours with esteem,

JESSE TOWNSEND.

ORIGIN OF THE GENERAL DISTRESS.

From "An Examination of the Tariff proposed by Henry Baldwin, a Representative in Congress—N. York, 1821, Octavo p. 268."

After the storms of thirty years, which have shaken the very foundation of industry, trade and morals throughout the world, mankind have a moment's pause; and seem much astonished at the consequences of a sudden relief from the horrors and uncertainties of war.

We are in a general calm, but the delirium of the fever which is just leaving us, still disturbs our fancy with strange dreams; each man undertakes to account for the general distress, and each one seizes on the circumstances around him, and ascribes all his misfortunes to them; one attributes all to Banks; another to want of specie capital; a third to cash duties and lending the government's money to Englishmen; and a fourth ascribes all to a ruinous system of revenue, which must be "radically changed." What will all these croakers say, when they look around the world and find all mankind involved in the same general ruin? They are driven to the conclusion, either that they have not discovered the cause, or that every nation is afflicted with similar evils in government. In answer to those who ascribe our distress to a want of protection to our domestic industry, we may say that no nation on earth complains more bitterly or loudly than England, in the full enjoyment of all the blessings of a system of protecting industry with bounties and monopolies.

The causes of general distress throughout the world are, however, paramount to all legislation. They are such as ever have, and ever will agitate and control the industry of man; and at times sweep over nations with the shock of a whirlwind.

Let us look at the condition of the world in 1815. Europe had just rested from a war of twenty-five years; the United States had passed through eight years of embargo, restrictions, and war. During these periods, the industry of nations had been disturbed; the capital of mankind waited an opportunity, when it might be set in motion with security. Europe, by restrictions and uncertainties of commerce, had been depri-

ved, in a measure, of the productions of Asia and the Americas; and, on the other hand, these countries had, for the same reasons, but a small supply of the manufactures and produce of Europe. The productions of every nation were consequently in great abundance and low, in that country where they were cultivated or manufactured; and all foreign merchandize was scarce and high.

This was the condition of things in 1815, when the capital and enterprize of the world were let loose by a general peace; this circumstance was sufficient of itself, but other causes, almost as powerful, assisted in giving impetuosity to the tide of commerce. Men who had been almost for a generation idle, or occupied in the various employments of war, suddenly and without experience, entered into a new business; the merchants of the world had become a little better than speculators amidst the risks, great profits and heavy losses of war. He, who duly reflects on the importance of these causes, will be prepared to expect the consequences which followed.—The year 1815 and 1816, yielded large profits; we were all-buyers, and the productions of one country were hurried to another; this general exchange was profitably continued during these years; confidence, enterprize and capital, real and fictitious, contributing to augment the business of the world, and producing, at length, the melancholy reverse of the summer of 1817. The markets of every nation were crowded with the productions of other countries, and foreign merchandize was at a lower price, than it would have commanded at home. Confidence was suddenly destroyed, fictitious capital lost its powers, enterprize was broken in spirit, the world was in debt, and ruin was inevitable.

In 1817, and 1818, we were all sellers, and prices fell. Still the debts of the world were to be paid, and property of every description, real estate, ships, manufactures and produce, were sacrificed for the payment of these debts; this sacrifice and this fall were simultaneous throughout the world, as well as the bankruptcies of 1818, and 1819; which together, relieved mankind from the mass of debt, which they had been tempted to contract by the great profits on trade in 1815 and 1816.

The year 1820 has brought us some relief; we may congratulate ourselves, that the storm is over, and we may once more venture abroad. We are no longer alarmed with the fear of bankruptcies, confidence has returned to give an impulse to trade, and will, through that, operate on industry of every kind in the country.

We are beginning a series of years, probably the happiest we have experienced since 1806. As the nations of the world are all now more or less engaged in commerce, we cannot expect so large a share of foreign trade as we had when they were fighting the battles of ambitious men; but our coasting trade is increasing rapidly, and will permanently supply its loss. We shall probably too enjoy as large a foreign trade as any other nation.

Indeed, if we could but forget old dreams, we might believe ourselves at this moment, in a happy condition; we have a surplus of money, of food, and of clothes. Let us have a little patience, and we shall have something better to do than to croak about the times.

If men would pay but more attention to these changes in the world, as natural as day and night, and trouble their brains less for discoveries of fanciful causes and new systems, we should all make better farmers, better merchants, better manufacturers, and better legislators.

EDUCATION.

The Superintendent of Common Schools, in his report to the legislature of New York, states that in 345 towns, there are 6332 common school districts, organized according to law; and that in 5489 of these, there have been taught, during the whole or some part of the year, 304,550 children—since 1816, the number of children taught has increased from 140,106 to 304,559; and the public monies disbursed on this object from 55,000 to 146,000 dollars. Of this last sum, 80,000 dollars is annually drawn from state funds set apart for this purpose; the balance is made up of local funds arising from lands set apart for the use of schools in different parts of the state, &c. &c. She has not been indifferent to the higher schools; but during the present session of her legislature, she has proposed to endow two of her colleges, and five of her academies, with handsome sums. These acts of munificence reflect great honor upon New York.—If Virginia has not done quite as much for education as she has, it is partly because we gave away, almost for nothing, the whole of our western lands N. W. of the Ohio river; whereas New York has sold out her back lands to great advantage, as the tide of population flowed westwardly; hence she derived greater facilities for the advance of her public improvements.

The schools of Massachusetts are organized upon a different principle. The state is divided into 450 townships, each six miles square, and subdivided into seven or eight school districts, making the number of school districts, in the whole state, 3,600.

No scholar, says the person who gives this account in the newspapers, "is obliged to walk more than three-fourths of a mile from the extremity to the centre of the district, where the school is situated. Each township is, by law, obliged to raise money for schools, not less than \$300, if I mistake not, and as much more as it deems proper. The sums raised usually vary from five to fifteen hundred dollars, each township, according to the abilities of its inhabitants, each of whom pays his proportion, not as a con-

tribution or subscription, but as a tax regularly assessed as other taxes are for other purposes.—Two methods for distributing the money among the people are used: 1st, the quantity received by each is regulated by its number of scholars; 2d, the district receives no more than was raised in it. Generally for three or four months, in the winter, a master is engaged at from ten to twenty dollars per month; and a mistress for five or six months, in the summer, at from four to five dollars per month."

Rich. Eqg.

Foreign.

NEW-YORK, APRIL 3.

LATE FROM ENGLAND.

The ships Meteor and Falcon arrived at Boston, on Saturday last, from Liverpool. The Editors of the Commercial Advertiser are indebted to Messrs. Russell and Gardner, their attentive correspondents at Boston, for proof sheets and London papers to the 16th of February, and to their London and Liverpool correspondents for Lloyd's List to the 20th, and Liverpool papers of the 22d, all inclusive. Both ships sailed from Liverpool on the 22d of February.

Affairs of Naples.—The following important intelligence we copy from Gore's Liverpool Advertiser of the 22d of February:

PASSAGE OF THE PO.

This movement, concerning which so much scepticism has existed for the last eight days, is positively announced, in letters received yesterday by the way of Frankfort, to have taken place on the 29th of January, the day originally stated. The following is an extract of a letter, dated

Frankfort, Feb. 12.

The important information which follows is taken from one of our journals:

Laybach, Feb. 2.

"The Austrian army passed the Po on the 28th and 29th of January, and is advancing upon Naples by three different routes. Forty thousand men will first advance to the frontiers, who will announce, in case of resistance, that they will be followed by 80,000 more!

"His majesty the king of Naples has addressed a proclamation to the inhabitants of the Two Sicilies, in which he orders the immediate dissolution of the Parliament. He also calls on them to receive the Austrians as friends; and promises, on his return, to give them a constitution. "We have not time to ascertain the effect of this intelligence on our exchange.

"P. S. We just learn that a copy of the proclamation by the king of Naples has been received in this place; and that it accords, in substance, with what is above stated.

"To the above we must add, in brief, that the French papers last received contain a variety of paragraphs, whose tendency is to confirm the ominous intelligence, that the Austrian army had positively marched for Naples."

The Augsburg "Gazette Universelle," announces positively, the march of the Austrian troops towards Naples.

Intelligence from Vienna of January 31st, mentions that it is the general belief in that place, that the army under General Frimont has passed the Po. General Paulucci, has received orders to take the command of the flotilla fitted out at Venice. The terms for the passage of the Austrian troops have been concluded with the courts of Tuscany and Modena.

An article dated Vienna, the 4th of February, states that the Duke de Gallo, had sent out on the 30th of January from Laybach, with the ultimatum of the Sovereigns for Naples, and that it offers to the Neapolitans the chance of seeing among them 150,000 Austrians as enemies, or 40,000 as allies.

A private letter from Borgofort, on the Po, dated the 27th January, states that an Austrian garrison entered that city, coming from St. Benedetto, from which place he had marched at eleven o'clock on the night of the 18th. The Statterhem division, 22,000 strong, passed the Po on the 19th.

The Globe, in alluding to the above article, observes:—"Had the passage been effected so far back as the 19th, the fact must have been clearly known long since. We therefore do not attach any importance to this Milan article."

A messenger from the court of Austria, arrived at London on the 17th of February, with despatches for the Austrian Minister, who immediately had an audience with Lord Castlereagh.

In the House of Lords on the 19th of Feb. there was an interesting debate on the affairs of Naples, a summary of which will be found in a subsequent column.

Insurrection at Madrid.—A second edition of the London Courier, of the 12th February, states that a letter from Paris has been received, of which the following is an extract:

"While closing this letter, a note from the Spanish Embassy informs me, that yesterday a courier arrived in about six days from Spain, bringing news of a general insurrection at Madrid; the King's guard massacred, his person threatened—in short, a most terrible catastrophe. This I unfortunately consider official."

The fourth edition of the same paper, contains advices from Madrid to the 8th. On the morning of the 4th his Majesty communicated to the municipality, that he had heard some insulting expressions used towards him on the preceding evening, as he retired from the promenade, and he hoped that they would take the proper measures to prevent such an offence in future. The measures which the municipality adopted, were to send the strikers to the arsenal round the palace.

"On the 3th the King went out at his usual hour. He had scarcely quitted the palace, when most insulting cries were heard, mingled with those of "Live the King of the Constitution."

The body guards who were on duty, fell on the mob, sword in hand, and some persons were wounded. [One account says, that some of the citizens were killed.]

"Towards midnight, on the 6th, the municipality of Madrid sent a request to the king, for the disbanding of the body guard.

"The King ordered its dismissal, and the persons composing it will receive some other appointments.

"The municipality of Madrid, in announcing this intelligence to the people of Madrid, declared that the person of the king was sacred and inviolable.

"The quarters of the body guard were surrounded by the garrison troops, during the night of the seventh."

British Parliament.—Our last advices brought their proceedings to the 9th February. In the house of lords, on the 12th, Lord Roselyn, in alluding to the affairs of Austria and Naples, said, "that this conduct of the "Holy Alliance," as regarded the step they had taken with Naples, was not exceeded in the history of Bonapartes. That most extraordinary act of violence, he thought, might produce the most serious effects on the peace of Europe, and of the world." Earl Grey rose to express "his horror and detestation, at the blood-thirsty and infamous conduct of the allied sovereigns."

In the House of Commons on the 12th, numerous petitions were presented praying the restoration of the Queen's name to the Liturgy, on which debate ensued, which occupied most of the evening. On the 13th Lord Castlereagh stated, that at present government were in possession of no official information relative to the hostile intentions of the Holy Alliance towards Naples. Mr. Hobhouse presented a petition for parliamentary reform, which caused some debate. Mr. Hobhouse said, "that reform must come some time or other; if not by the constitutional means which the Noble Lord (Castlereagh) in his youthful ardour advocated, we should have Lord Chatham's Reform from without. Come it must, not so soon as some, but not so late as others seem disposed to imagine."

CRACOW, JAN. 30.

"Only 17,000 Polish florins are yet subscribed towards the monument for Kosciusko; yet it seems determined to execute the plan on an extensive scale. The mound, or tumulus, is to be so large that the expenses of bringing or casting up the earth are estimated at 40,000 florins. On the top is to be placed a block of granite of proportionable size, to be hewn from the rocks on the Vistula, and which is to bear no inscription but the name of Kosciusko. It is farther intended to purchase the whole mountain on which the mound is to be raised, with a piece of ground as far as the Vistula, to plant it in a useful and agreeable manner, and to people it with veterans who have served under the General. They are to have the land and dwellings as freehold property, and to form a little society by the name of Kosciusko's Colony. It is also proposed to support two young daughters of Kosciusko's brother, who are orphans, and in narrow circumstances. In order to obtain the means of doing all this, the committee who direct the subscription have resolved to apply to the admirers of Kosciusko in foreign countries, and to invite in France, General Lafayette; in England, Lord Grey; and in North America, the late President Jefferson, all friends of the deceased hero, to collect subscriptions."

Mr. Brougham's testimony to the Queen's innocence.

On the 6th of February, in debate on the marquis of Tavistock's motion, concerning the conduct of the ministers, Mr. Brougham observed:

"It could only be known to her majesty herself, whether the charges were just or otherwise. Her own conscience told her she was innocent of those acts which had been falsely imputed to her, in charges which had been, as they were now told, finally abandoned.—I have stated thus much," continued the hon. and learned gentleman, "as to the conduct of the queen.—It is fit I should now discharge a debt of gratitude to her.—I know it has been invidiously and malevolently asserted, and most industriously circulated for purposes which must be obvious to every man, that my expressed opinions of her majesty's conduct are not the same in fact with my own conscientious conviction.—It is necessary, sir, for me, with that seriousness and sincerity which it may be permitted to a man upon the most solemn occasions to express, to assert—and I do now assert in the face of this house—that if instead of an advocate, I had been sitting as a judge at another tribunal, I should have been found among the number of those men who, laying their hands upon their hearts, conscientiously pronounced her majesty "not guilty." For the truth of this assertion I desire to tender every pledge that may be most valued and most sacred. I wish to make it in every form which may be deemed most solemn and most binding; and if I believe it not, as I now advance it, I here implicate on myself every curse which is most horrid or most penal."

It would be difficult to describe the earnest emphasis with which this asseveration was delivered, the deep interest with which it was listened to, or the enthusiastic and general cheering with which it was greeted.

EARTHQUAKES IN ZANTE.

Extract of a letter dated Zante, Jan. 6. Having been absent from Zante, I have es-