EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.—THE NIAGARA'S MAILS.

The European mails by the steamer Niagara reached this city on Monday evening. The London Times of March 26 furnishes the following comparison between the popular forms of government in the United States and Great Britain:

From the London Times, March 26.

By a coincidence of occasions the two great Anglo-Saxon communities of the world will, in the space of a single month, have laid the foundations of new governments for their respective countries. In America these alternations of policy proceed according to fixed laws, and with the regularity of a machine. After four years of office the President and administration of the United States are absolved from their duties on the 4th of March, and as the clock strikes 12 on that day the existing government gives place to another. In England the course of affairs is different. The Usher of the Black Rod can, indeed, convey to our legislative body in a few brief words the tidings that dispersion awaits them, but the event, except that it must occur once in seven years, is not assigned to any fixed season or period. It is accident alone which on this occasion has brought the constitutional solemnities of the two countries into signal and striking contrast, nor do we think that, upon temperate reflection, a comparison of the rival institutions will leave us much to repine at on this side of the Atlantic.

The American Congress, according to pure democratic theory, may certainly appear to be more absolutely a creation of the people than the British House of Commons, for the numbers of a constituency determine the numbers of its representatives, votes are taken by ballot, and members are paid. We do not pretend, indeed, to doubt that Congress does give an effective representation of American opinion, but Congress is not the only power in the State established by popular election. The President himself, the head of the administration, is also appointed in the polling-booths of the country, and we have recently witnessed the thoroughly-electioneering character of which this mighty contest partakes. The President of the United States does, beyond all question, personify the choice of the people, but the suffrages are given without power of revocation, and they commit the great constituency of the Union for four years together, on many most important points, to the guidance and policy of a single man. An American administration cannot, except by a solemn and express renewal of public confidence, last longer than four years; but four years, as regards its controlling authority, it must last, whatever may be its mistakes, its incompetence, or its perversity; nor is any opportunity afforded to the public of reconsidering its resolution. There is no "appeal to the country," no consultation of "the constituencies," no "want of confidence vote" practicable. At the appointed period, indeed, the constitutional fabric will be submitted to the people for reconstruction, but until that hour arrives the electoral decision cannot be rescinded. President Pierce might, if he had so pleased, have disturbed or destroyed the relations of the Union with any State in the universe, against all the opinions of his constituents; but until the 4th of this month his authority could not be impeached nor his policy effectually controlled. The attributes and power of this great appointment are derived, it is true, in the first instance, from the voice of the whole community, but when the community has spoken the word the vow is irrevocable, and for a certain term of years the President and the people are indissolubly joined together.

With these institutions compare our own. The office of Prime Minister depends virtually upon the votes of Parliament, nor could it be retained without the confidence of the House of Commons; but from this House of Commons there lies at any time an appeal to the constituencies, and Lord Palmerston is at this moment challenging the judgment of the country as completely as Mr. Buchanan did last autumn. If the verdict of the constituencies proves to be such as there is every reason to anticipate, his lordship, as the first minister of the Crown, will represent the decision of the electors with as much faithfulness as the American President. Here, however, the resemblance ends, and the contrast—as we think to the advantage of England—will be found to begin. Not only do our institutions provide other powers to ballast and trim the vessel of the State when careering under the impulse of popular will, but this will, itself, is open at all times to correction or revocation. Not only can the House of Commons be reconstituted, but even without reconstitution, and while composed of the same elements, it can withdraw, at brief notice, that confidence on which the administration relies. It is under no necessity of waiting for a fixed period, or of enduring the miseries of an ill-starred union till the appointed hour of divorce and release. A vote of censure or want of confidence can be moved by any member in the house, and, if carried, will subvert the government. Such a creature as a "despotic" Minister exists, as far as this country is concerned, only in the imagination of Mr. Cobden. Applied to American institutions, the phrase might, indeed, be more justifiable, for there the country stands inextricably to its first vote; but in England the offices of government are always held during pleasure. The very Parliament which Lord Palmerston will have to meet, however his popularity might have influenced the elections, could abandon him as soon as it was formed; and, if there were good reasons for the proceeding, the opinion of the country would support it. The approbation justly yielded to the Premier's past services gives him no kind of impunity or irresponsibility for the future. His security does not extend to his forthcoming policy, except in so far as that policy shall continue to receive public approval. The country will not be tied or bound to him in any way whatever. He cannot commit us to any unpopular or unpatriotic course. If, instead of despatching such reinforcements to China as will place our countrymen beyond the risk of harm, and establish our relations with the Chinese on a safe and respectable footing, he were to adopt the alternative he has himself described, and surrender the honor of England to those truculent barbarians, Parliament would terminate his administration without waiting for the 4th of March, 1861. The country is answering the appeal of the government, not as exempting that government from future accountability, or as voting it a definite lease of power, but simply as acknowledging service rendered, and accepting it as a pledge for more. We can only augur the future from the past. Lord Palmerston and his colleagues have earned the approval of the country by what they have done, and it is not only in the hope, but, what is far more important, on the notorious condition that their policy shall continue to be satisfactory, that the suffrages of the constituencies, as we confidently expect, will confirm them in power.

We cannot but consider that in the balance of those institutions the scale of British freedom preponderates, and we believe, indeed, notwithstanding the demonstrations to the contrary which might be offered on paper, that we are in the enjoyment of a much more genuine political liberty than our transatlantic kinsmen. They stand now committed, as regards their foreign policy, to Mr. Buchanan—a man of high abilities, no doubt, and unquestionably the President of their own free choice; but, though they chose him, they must also keep him, whereas no electoral judgment, however strongly pronounced, will commit us to Lord Palmerston any further than as regards the approval of his past acts. If his foreign policy should become pusillanimous or perilous, weak or wanton, "turbulent" or "aggressive," in the eyes of the legislature, he will lose the support at once on which he leans, and the impending verdict of the constituencies will not avail him one jot. If he should point, under such circumstances, to the suffrages this week recorded in favor of his policy, he would be promptly told that the favor in question, to be worth anything, must be continuous, and that, whatever willingness to support him might have been entertained by a Parliament at its first assembling, the confidence of that body could only be retained by the same merits which acquired it. Lord Palmerston and his colleagues have, in our opinion, deserved the approbation of the constituencies, and we believe they will obtain it, but they will not be taken for better or worse for four years to come.

THE ENGLISH ELECTIONS.

The Liverpool Times sums up the progress and prospects of the contest in the following paragraphs:

"It will be seen by reference to our election news that Lord John Russell had the largest show of hands at the city of London nomination; that the popular candidates at Manchester, tested by the same standard, were Messrs. Bright and Potter, 20,000 being present at the nomination; that Mr. Massey, in Salford, had the show of hands over Sir E. Armitage; that the show of hands at Sheffield was in favor of Messrs. Roebuck and Hadfield; that the show of hands at Huddersfield was in favor of Mr. Cobden; that Westminster has returned Evans and Shelley without opposition; that the brave old General Thompson, of anti-corn law notoriety, has been returned for Bradford; that Sir James Graham is in for Carlisle; that Mr. Weguelin has succeeded at Southampton; and that at Birmingham the old members were returned without opposition.

"Lord Palmerston's personal popularity, which three weeks ago stood so high, will be tested in this struggle, and we shall soon see whether his majority in the new House of Commons will be such as to enable him to retain permanent power. At present, to make use of an expression of his own, 'he is master of the situation,' and in the course of a fortnight we shall be enabled to judge whether this advantage can be maintained. New party combinations are certain to arise out of the existing chaotic confusion, which may ultimately advance those domestic reforms of which the country stands so much in need. To show the interest which some of the leading statesmen of the age are taking in the composition of the new House of Commons, Mr. W. E. Gladstone presented himself at Mold on Thursday, avowedly to eject Mr. Mostyn from the representation of Flintshire, and substitute Mr. Gladstone's brother-in-law, Sir Stephen Glynn. The speech on this occasion, like all Mr. Gladstone's, was a great effort, and a strong contest may be expected in that county."

With regard to the latest news from China the same journal says:

"Lord Palmerston is the most fortunate of ministers. His star seems to be always in the ascendant. Compelled to dissolve Parliament because he justified the course which the agents of the British Crown pursued in China, we now learn, by telegraph last night, that the Emperor of China disapproves as strongly of the proceedings of Commissioner Yeh at Canton as the British Premier himself. Not only is the head of the 'Celestials' anxious to conciliate the British, remembering former troubles in which he was involved with them, but he will *have no war*. In a word, the 'Chinese difficulty' may be said to be arranged by the spirit of Lord Palmerston—a fact which cannot fail to tell upon the elections which are now pending.

"At a moment of excitement like the present, intelligence so stirring must have an important influence on the constituencies; and on that of Liverpool more especially, which must feel the necessity of returning to Parliament the old members who supported Lord Palmerston in the crisis of his fate, arising out of this very Chinese question."

ENGLAND AND JAPAN.

The following appears in the *Journal Des Debats*:

A circumstance of considerable interest which lately took place afforded the Emperor of Japan an opportunity to declare officially in favor of the execution of the treaties some time back concluded with several European powers. On the 11th of December last, two English vessels of war, after having visited the ports of Simoda and Hakodadi, appeared before Nangasaki, but were refused admission by the mandarin acting as governor. The two captains, however, strong in their right, penetrated into the port, and anchored within gun-shot of the land batteries, which remained without any act of hostility against them.

The next day they repaired with a numerous escort to the residence of the mandarin, who refused to receive them, but who, at the same time, sent word that, if they had any complaint to make, he would forward their representations to the imperial court, and transmit to them the reply. This he did most scrupulously. The two captains wrote to Jeddo to claim the right of remaining some time at Nangasaki, in conformity with the treaty, signed in 1856, between England and Japan.

In about a fortnight after, the Emperor's answer arrived, announcing that his Majesty, being desirous of executing the obligations which he had entered into, had given orders for the three ports of Simoda, Hakodadi, and Nangasaki to be open to the vessels of France, Russia, England, and the United States. Such vessels were to be permitted to refit there, to take in provisions, and to trade to a certain defined extent. The Emperor, in order to carry out that determination, issued an edict, which was without delay posted up in every part of his dominions. The seamen belonging to the vessels admitted to enjoy the benefits of the treaty are not to penetrate into the interior of the country. Should they contravene that provision, they are to be subjected to an imprisonment, the length of which will be every time fixed by the Emperor, according to the circumstances of the case.

THREATENED WAR BETWEEN SPAIN AND MEXICO.

A Madrid letter of March 21, in the *Pays*, states that the Mexican affair appears to be entering on a new phase. It seems certain that even in the case of an arrangement being made the Spanish squadron will land a force which will occupy a point on the Mexican territory until the execution of whatever may be agreed to be done. This force will protect Spanish subjects, whom, it is alleged, the Mexican government is not in a condition to protect on account of the state of anarchy in which the country now is.

The Madrid correspondent of the London Post, writing on the 21st of March, says:

"Nothing further has transpired as to the intentions of the government with respect to Mexico. The agent of that republic has not yet arrived in Madrid, but he may be expected this evening, as by telegraph we have heard of his departure from Paris. Although Senor Lafragna will not be received officially, the government will hear what he has to say. It is doubtful if any large military force will be despatched to Mexico. In the first instance, Tampico and San Juan will be taken possession of by the squadron, and held until the assassins are punished by the Mexican government, indemnity granted to the families of the victims, and the expenses of the war paid. By such cautious but energetic measures the government will sustain the dignity of the nation without incurring the risks of a campaign on shore, and a large attendant outlay they can ill afford."

A telegraphic despatch states that the first division of the Spanish squadron for Mexico was expected to weigh anchor for the Havana on the 28th.

[Naples correspondence of the London Times, March 19.]

THE RUMORED ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN NAPLES AND THE WESTERN POWERS.

For several days the report has been circulating on the Exchange and in the city that the difficulties between the allied powers and the government of the Two Sicilies were, if not arranged, at least on the point of being so. All that I know for certain is this, that a communication was made, directly or indirectly, by this government, to the effect that it was ready to consent to a *pourparler* on a given basis. This communication would arrive, it was expected, in Paris last Saturday night. The basis I have heard mentioned is an enlargement of the Argentine treaty—that is to say, a wider system of transportation is to be adopted, which is to be baptized "an amnesty," and so his Majesty is to come forth clear from his present embarrassment. It is asserted by those who are supposed to be well informed, that the King begins to feel the extreme isolation of his position, and would willingly enter again into the comity of nations; but if it is by such a way as is now suggested, it will reflect great dishonor on those who have withdrawn from his friendship and leave all the elements of discontent and strife as active as ever, because not a single social or political evil will have been removed.

THE DIPLOMATIC RUPTURE BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND PIEDMONT.—OFFICIAL DESPATCH FROM AUSTRIA.

The Austrian government, in recalling its representatives from Turin, addressed a circular despatch, setting forth the reasons by which it is guided, to its agents at the European courts. A letter from Berlin, published by the *Nord*, contains a summary of the despatch on this subject.

According to this summary the cabinet of Vienna is not only dissatisfied with Count Cavour's reply to its complaints of the Piedmontese press, and of the tolerance with which these attacks are treated by the Sardinian government, but it sees a new offence in the language used by that government on the occasion of the debates which have taken place relative to the fortifications of Alessandria.

The despatch adds that "the Austrian government has become convinced that Piedmont seeks to place itself at the head of the revolutionary movement in Italy—a movement of which the success would be the destruction of the Austrian domination in Italy. Piedmont pursues, then, a policy which not only tends to disturb social order in Italy, but even to totally change the European political systems established by the treaties of Vienna."

In presence of these facts, Austria deems that her dignity will no longer permit her to maintain official relations with Sardinia. Nevertheless, Count Buol, in informing the foreign courts of the step which Austria has determined to take, declares formally that this measure will not be followed by others of a more hostile character, and that in any event Austria will avoid, up to the last moment, all that can compromise the maintenance of peace or create embarrassments amongst the European cabinets.

LATER FROM CENTRAL AMERICA, CALIFORNIA, AND OREGON.—ARRIVAL OF THE MAILS BY THE GEORGE LAW.

By the arrival of the steamer George Law at New York from Aspinwall we have received full files of San Francisco papers for the fortnight ending March 20.

The Alta Californian gives the following summary of the fortnight's news:

No events of more than ordinary interest have occurred in our State since the sailing of the last steamer.

The weather, upon which California is so dependent for her prosperity, has been, during the past fortnight, of the most favorable kind, both for the mining and agricultural interests. And, inasmuch as these two great branches of industry are the principal sources of our wealth, we may confidently count upon a season highly favorable to every department of business. In fact, every species of labor for which there is any demand is now being well rewarded in this State. We have never before had such a copious supply of rain, and at the same time so favorably distributed throughout the season.

The news of the passage of the wagon-road bill has been received by our people with great satisfaction.

Henry Bates, our late State treasurer, having proved a defaulter to the amount of $124,000, has since been impeached, tried, and convicted of the offence, and declared incompetent to ever again hold any office of honor, trust, or profit in this State. He has also been indicted, and is to be proceeded against criminally. Rowe, his accomplice, still remains in prison. Comptroller Whitman has also been impeached for malfeasance, but has not yet had his trial.

It is not to be denied, our finances are in a state of embarrassment and confusion, which may lead to a temporary non-fulfilment of our obligations, but that we shall eventually, and we may add speedily, redeem every dollar of our indebtedness faithfully to the letter, no person acquainted with the public sentiment of our people on this point can for a moment doubt.

Since the summary executions of the robbers at Los Angeles, great quiet has prevailed in that quarter, and the most happy effects are likely to result from these severe but well-timed acts of retribution. The late copious rains give assurance of abundant crops of grass, grain, and fruits, the coming season, and the prospects of the people were never more flattering than at present.

Gold is reported to have been found on the island of Anacapa, near Santa Barbara, and also on a branch of the San Buenaventura river, 45 miles northeast of the city, near where the old mines were worked previous to the late gold discoveries.

All kinds of business have been much impeded of late in the northern part of the State by deep snows; these, however, were melting rapidly at last accounts, and will be the means of affording an abundant and durable supply of water for mining operations, thereby infusing additional activity into every department of business.

The rumored finding of the 106-pound lump at Sucker creek is confirmed.

Farming will be carried on to a large extent in the northern mining region the ensuing summer.

The clipper Great Republic, Capt. Limeburner, arrived on the 9th ult, 91 days from New York, making the fifth best voyage between the two ports. She attracts considerable attention, and was visited by thousands on Sunday last.

CARSON VALLEY.

The weather has been severe, with some snow in the valley the past winter. The Indians have driven off some of the whites, who were unable to make pursuit, owing to the storms.

The Mormons are a little more shy of the Gentiles, and there is a rumor of their having been ordered to Salt Lake.

The miners in the vicinity are doing well.

Goods at last accounts were scarce and dead.

GREAT SALT LAKE.

The News of January 28th says Mr. Gerrish arrived at that place on the 19th from Missouri, which he left on the 13th of November; reports passing at the Platte Bridge some old mail matter for Salt Lake; met at Independence Rock Brothers Feramora Little and Ephraim Hanks on their way east with the mail; they were well and making good progress.

Over eight feet of snow had fallen up to the 24th of January. November, December, and most of January, have been remarkably stormy, and many grass ranges have snowed under where heretofore but little snow has fallen. Some stock has been starved to death, and some roofs crushed by the depth of the snow—a good hint to provide shelter and forage for stock and make stronger roofs.

The department have awarded to Hiram Kimball, esq., of Utah, the contract for transporting the mail between Independence, Mo., and Salt Lake City from the 1st of December, 1856, until the 30th of November, 1860.

Great efforts are being made to introduce cuttings of improved fruits and vines into the Territory.

OREGON.

By the arrival of the steamship Columbia, Captain Dall, from Oregon, we have dates from Portland to the 12th inst., being two weeks later.

The democrats are moving in the matter of a convention to be held in April for nominating a candidate for delegate to Congress.

Much feeling seems to have been awakened, and a good deal of discussion is going on, in regard to the introduction of slavery into the Territory. The popular sentiment would appear, however, to be strongly against the measure.

Travellers through the Willamette valley say that there are a great many dead cattle and horses lying along the road, that have died from the effects of the late very severe winter.

PUGET SOUND.—The Pioneer, published at Olympia, states that fifty-two vessels obtained cargoes of lumber at Keller's mills, Puget Sound, within the last year; that the coal mines at Bellingham Bay are worked by steam; and that the steamer Resolute is to be placed on the sound.

The weather about the sound continued pleasant, and highly favorable to vegetation.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

We are in possession of dates from Honolulu to February 14, being two weeks later.

Trade still continues dull at the islands. In the absence of shipping the demand for goods is light, and confined principally to domestic wants. There appears to be little confidence felt in the approaching spring trade, and dealers are disposed to make no addition to their stocks. The stock in the market, together with the cargoes on the way, will form a large supply for all the wants of the spring and summer trade.

The weather of late has been very fine, with strong trade winds.

The King's birthday had been celebrated by all classes with unusual festivities. Fruit trees introduced into the islands from California and Oregon were doing well.

There is a rumor that the islands are to be visited during the coming summer by his Royal Highness Duke Constantine, brother of Alexander II, Emperor of Russia, in a line-of-battle ship.

The past winter in Hawaii, as in California, seems to have been one of uncommon severity—the most, says the "oldest inhabitant," of any since 1827. Rain in large quantities has fallen, accompanied with terrific thunder and lightning.

NEW GRANADA.

The Panama Star of March 28th says:

Our readers will not be surprised to learn that Mr. Bowlin, the United States minister, and Mr. Morse, the special commissioner, jointly deputed to lay before the executive of Bogota the proposition of the United States government relative to the 15th of April, have been unsuccessful, that negotiations have been suspended, and that now all further action in the matter rests with Mr. Buchanan and his cabinet at Washington.

Not only has the demand of the United States government been refused, but, according to our private advices, the refusal has been so insultingly conveyed, that there remains but one of the two courses for the United States to adopt—namely, either to be insulted and brow-beaten by New Granada, and quietly to withdraw her claim, or to adopt that principle of "self-preservation," of which the new President's inaugural spoke, and take by force the indemnities and guarantees that have been denied to her demands for redress.

The *Tiempo* of Bogota asserts in its issue of March the 4th that the ultimatum of the United States government demanded $400,000 as indemnity for the 15th of April, and that this was rejected by Mr. Pombo, and further that Mr. Morse was about to leave the capital. Whether the terms of the ultimatum are correct or not we cannot state, but we are in a position to assert that both Mr. Bowlin, the minister, and Mr. Morse are about to leave Bogota as soon as circumstances permit, and then all further negotiation is broken off.

The *Tiempo* considers this a victory, and ascribes its advantage to the assistance derived by the New Granadian government from the reports of the foreign consuls here.

We are very much inclined to doubt the correctness of the *Tiempo's* statement relative to the ultimatum and the $400,000, or, at least, we believe that the payment of that sum forms but a part of the demands made by the United States. The *Tiempo* is assured that $50,000 would cover all the damage done.

Mr. Morse, it is stated, left Bogota on the 8th of this month, but did not arrive at Carthagena in time to meet the British steamer for Aspinwall. Mr. Bowlin, we understand, will leave the capital so as to reach here in May or June.

There remains nothing now but to await intelligence from the United States as to how the matter will be looked upon by the new President and his cabinet.

In regard to other news from the capital, we learn that Sr. Ospina, the President elect, is in parts unknown, having left Medellin, it is said, for Bogota by a circuitous route, for fear of assassination.

The Chamber of Representatives have passed the third reading of the bill for the settlement of the Mackintosh question, and also the treaty with France, which was supported by the conservative party and opposed by the liberals.

The Senate has read the Mackintosh claim bill for the third time, and also the new federal constitution bill. The name has been changed from the Columbian to the Granadian confederation. The Chamber of Representatives has rejected almost unanimously the proposed treaty to settle the debt due by New Granada, on account of the old Columbian confederation, to Mexico.

Padre Vigil, of Nicaragua notoriety, has been appointed curate of Mompos by the Bishop of Carthagena.

ASPINWALL VIEW OF WALKER'S AFFAIRS.

The Aspinwall Courier of April 3 says:

The present appearance of Central American matters gives assurance of considerable changes of which the public generally ha'e na ken. We have less doubt than ever about the success of the cause. But we think the work is to be accomplished by a much more direct and immediate use of the weapons most familiar to the commercial generals, commodores, and would-be presidents valiantly leading on the hosts.

We believe that Walker has been or is to be approached by both parties principal in the actual outside struggle, and we are confident he might, ere this, have received aid and comfort from the enemy's camp, even to their own destruction, but thinks the terms upon which such work could have been hired did not suit him.

Finally, we are of the opinion that Walker cannot be whipped out by the Costa Ricans, &c., even with all the aid they are getting from outsiders; that the withdrawal of the said aid would enable him to whip them; that both they and their allies in New York are beginning to be convinced of these facts; and that, per consequence, one of these parties, or some from among them, will aid him (or whoever may succeed him) even to an early triumph.

That there are moves now on the board that will finish the game in a few months is our honest conviction. The emissaries who are continually passing and repassing within our vision, and the evidence of the presence of others in high places, furnish us convincing proof that the game is at a very interesting and decisive stage.

NORFOLK AND PETERSBURG RAILROAD.—It is expected that the track of this road between Wood's Point (Norfolk) and Suffolk will be ready for the cars by the 4th of July, and that the whole of the first division of the road, (viz: the thirty miles next to Norfolk,) including the East Branch bridge and the connexion between the streets of Norfolk and Bramble's Point, will be completed in August next. The arrangements contemplate a final finish in time to run the cars through to Petersburg (80 miles) in December next.

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 15, 1857.

TO THE READERS OF THE UNION.

The Hon. John Appleton has already announced to the public the circumstances which have induced him to discontinue his connexion with the *Union* as its editor and proprietor. I am glad to know, however, that his health is so far recovered as that his talents and experience may be usefully exerted in that important sphere of duty to which he has been called.

Having purchased the entire property of the Washington *Union* newspaper, I shall, to-morrow, commence my duties as it *sole editor and proprietor*. The paper will appear in an entirely new set of type; and it is my intention to enlarge its size as the demands or the necessities of the future may require. It is my fixed purpose to spare neither expense nor effort to make it the great central organ of the democratic party, every way worthy of their confidence and support, and a reliable and faithful medium of communication between the capital and the country. Having for many years exerted my best efforts to bring Mr. Buchanan into the presidential chair, I shall render to him and to his administration all the support which party ties and personal friendship can inspire.

A great crisis in the affairs of the country—a crisis fraught with peril and danger to the rights of the States and the permanency of the Union—demonstrated to the national democracy and the patriotic people of the country that his acknowledged talents, matured wisdom, approved statesmanship, and long experience, were necessary to their peace and safety, and they placed him, with acclamations, at the head of the government and the nation. He realized at once their hopes and expectations by calling to his assistance a cabinet of men combining the rarest qualifications of talents, experience, and statesmanship—men endeared to the democratic party by all their antecedents; by the zeal which they had displayed and the services which they had rendered in some of the most honorable offices of the country, in supporting and sustaining the principles, the measures, and the policy of our party. A single month has sufficed to fill every patriotic heart in the land with confidence and hope. Even his political enemies seem to respect him. Fanaticism itself appears willing for a moment to moderate its tone; and the enemies of our peace, of the constitution, and the Union, will not be able much longer to disturb the public mind by their fanatical shrieks and treasonable agitation.

I bring to the duties of my position considerable experience in editorial service, no small share of zeal, and a faith and devotion to the great principles of the democratic party as strong and abiding as I have in the principles of the Christian religion itself; for the principles which are the basis of the measures and the policy of that party are but the principles of eternal truth and justice applied to the operations of government, and intended to regulate the conduct of man in his social and political state. These principles are fully imbodied in that impregnable platform adopted and promulgated by the National Democratic Convention in June last at Cincinnati. Our political chief, in his acceptance of our nomination, most cordially approved that platform, and placed himself upon it. Upon it, with all its issues, doctrines, and policy, he was elected. He reaffirmed it all in his matchless Inaugural Address, which carried confidence and hope into all parts of the country. It caused the anxious and the timid to take courage; the doubting looked forward with resolute faith; and all good citizens now see in the future the inspiring omens of peace, prosperity, and safety. Upon that platform I also stand. I placed myself there by my vote and my action at the moment of its adoption, and there I shall continue to stand, and by its principles and its policy I shall conduct the *Union* as long as I have an interest in its property or continue to direct its course.

I am fully aware of the high responsibilities of my position. Its labors, anxieties, and difficulties I fully understand and appreciate; but, with unflagging zeal and unyielding purpose, I shall go forward in the line of my duty, adhering to the principles of the party, doing battle in its service, and willing to stand with it or fall with it, if it must be, but ever battling for the right.

W. A. HARRIS.

THE CONNECTICUT ELECTION.

The New York Evening Post is afflicted with as treacherous a memory as its neighbor of the Herald. In its issue of the 8th instant we find it stated that there was no cause for the fusionists to despond over the recent election in Connecticut, for the result showed that the opponents of the democratic party were as strong now in that State as they were "in the time of Pierce." In the Evening Post of last Monday's issue we find the following querulous admission:

"The result of the late Connecticut election may be turned to profitable account by the opponents of the administration in that as well as in other States where they are striving to preserve their ascendency. In a State where a large majority of the voters are known to sympathize, and at the preceding election to have acted with the republicans, the loss of half their delegation in Congress and a narrow escape from defeat in the choice of State officers must, under existing circumstances, be due to something besides the strength of the enemy. And the question therefore arises, To what errors of policy on the side of the victorious party shall we attribute their failure to achieve a more complete success? These errors we propose, in a brief statement, to exhibit."

The Boston correspondent of the Post not only takes the discomfiture of its friends in Connecticut deeply to heart, but, as will be seen from the subjoined extract from his last letter, he evidently despairs of the future:

"We feel rather blue over the Connecticut election. We have not been beaten in Connecticut, but, then, we have won no victory there. The democrats seem to have a firmer hold of Connecticut than of any other New England State. Coming, as they do, immediately after the Dred Scott decision, the congressional victories of the democrats are a disgrace to the State of Connecticut. She has broken the line of New England. The old excuse of 'sploshy weather' is brought forward, but what is a party good for that can't stand an April rain, and which is ever to be at the mercy of the elements?"

The recent successes of the democracy in Connecticut are everywhere regarded not simply as a local triumph, but as the beginning of that reaction which is to redeem the New England States from priestly thraldom and the domination of fanatics, traitors, and demagogues. The Memphis Appeal well remarks:

"This Connecticut election may therefore be regarded as one of the most auspicious events which, as journalists of the day, it has been our duty to record for some time. Next to the Dred Scott decision itself, it assumes importance, as showing that there is a limit to which demagogues and wild fanatics may lead astray the prejudices of the people and imperil the dearest interests of millions. It may now be fairly trusted that the election of Buchanan and the learned and wise decision of Chief Justice Taney will at last 'head' 'the negrophilists of the North, and that henceforth the abolitionist's occupation's gone.' We hope so; and we think there is good ground for hope in the signs of the times, and especially in this Connecticut election."

We copy the following from the Cincinnati Enquirer:

"We knew from the silence of the telegraph—always prompt to give an account of an anti-democratic success—that the fusionists had met with a decided reverse in old Connecticut at the late State election. It turns out that the democrats have elected two of the four members of Congress, both being gains, and that the fusion ticket has but one thousand majority for State officers. Last fall the allies had ten thousand majority for President, which shows a democratic gain on the popular vote of nine thousand. The gain of two members of Congress is a reasonable reinforcement to the constitutional battalion in the House of Representatives, and makes it certain that the democrats will have control in that body, over all opposition of republicans and southern know-nothings. There is now but five to gain in the South, which change, with several others of a like character, will be very easily effected."

THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN.

In another part of our paper this morning will be found an article from the London Times of the 26th ultimo, in which a comparison is instituted between the forms of free government in the United States and England; the writer, as might have been expected, arriving at the conclusion that in the balance of the institutions of the two countries "the scale of British freedom preponderates." The loyal subjects of Frederick, Ferdinand, or the Czar, have no doubt a decided preference for their respective forms of government, and are persuaded, possibly, that they enjoy as large a share of civil and religious freedom as the citizens of a republic. We are, therefore, not surprised that intelligent Englishmen, in their admiration of a government which partially recognises the representative principle, and is sensibly influenced by constitutional restraints, should exaggerate the blessings which they have fairly and boldly won, and we may with much truth add, temperately enjoyed.

The Times reasons well; but as its premises are irreconcilable with facts, and betray the sheerest ignorance of the institutions of our country and the workings of our government, its conclusions necessarily fall to the ground. In its comparison between the two governments, no mention is made of the Queen of England or the House of Lords. Their existence is studiously ignored. The government alone consists of a House of Commons and the Premier for the time being; the Premier, *ex officio*, having exclusive executive and senatorial powers and functions. But, argues the Times, the people of England can at any moment revoke this great power by a condemnatory vote of their representatives in the House of Commons; and herein they possess a larger share of liberty than the people of the United States, for the latter elect their President for a term of four years, and no matter how rashly or tyrannically he may exercise the delegated sovereign power, there is and can be no redress until the expiration of that period. He can, so asserts the Times, violate the clearly-expressed wishes of a majority of his constituents, with perfect impunity. He can, if he so pleases, disturb or destroy the relations of the Union with any State in the universe, against all the wishes of his fellow-citizens; but until the expiration of his term of office "his authority could not be impeached nor his policy effectually controlled."

Is the Times aware of the existence of such an instrument as the constitution of the United States in which the power and duties of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal government are clearly, carefully, and strictly defined? There is scarcely a school-boy in the Union that does not know that the war-making power is not lodged with the President alone, but is shared jointly with the Executive and the two houses of Congress. The treaty-making power is lodged with the Executive and the Senate; and so jealous were the framers of the constitution in regard to the aggregation of excessive power in the hands of the Chief Magistrate, that the appointing power with which he is invested is not sole, but divided. The President can appoint no person to office without "the advice and consent of the Senate."

From the very nature of his office, the President is necessarily invested with large powers; but those powers are so guarded with checks, restraints, and remedial appeals that it would be impossible for him to commit with impunity the excesses hinted at by the Times. Without the collusion of the Senate, the appointing power could not be used for corrupt purposes. Without collusion from the same source, treaties opposed to the honor or prejudicial to the interests of the country could not be made. Without the consent of the two houses of Congress, no war could be entered into. As the supplies for the support of the army and navy come from Congress, Congress virtually has control over these two branches of the national defence. It is true that an obnoxious President, unlike an obnoxious Premier, cannot be reached by a condemnatory resolution; but, should be attempt to set the laws and the constitution at defiance, his course can and would be arrested before the expiration of his term by impeachment and trial.

Nominally, the executive branch, if it may be so termed, of the British government, can be overturned every month, if the House of Commons so wills it. But a shrewd Prime Minister, with the immense patronage of the government at his unadvised and undisputed bestowal, and not scrupulous in its use, can retain power for a period four times as long as a presidential term. Direct and frequent accountability is all very well in theory in England, but it is not so in practice, if we have read correctly the history of that country. Sir Robert Walpole was in office some twenty years. The Pelhams were in office for the same length of time. Pitt was in power from extreme youth until a short time prior to his death. Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell were Prime Ministers for a much longer period than a presidential term.

England has a constitution and a House of Commons which has some of the elements of popular representation and popular will, and here the parallel with this country ceases; as the Executive and upper branch of the imperial legislature are hereditary, not elective. We of the United States believe that, under the workings of our free, republican institutions, we enjoy a larger share of civil and religious freedom than was ever before vouchsafed to any nation in the world. The Times thinks that we are mistaken, and that England with its tithes and taxes, standing army and standing clergy, close boroughs and hereditary lawmakers, is the favored nation. With such a harmless belief, which to us savors largely of delusion, we have not the slightest wish to interfere.

IOWA ELECTION.

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in this city from a friend in Iowa city, under date of April 8:

"I am happy to inform you that we have carried the city and county in the election on Monday last.

"Reno beat Jerome for mayor 14 votes. We elected 8 aldermen; black republicans, 4; they having made a new ward out of Lyon's Addition—making 4 wards. H. Tuttle is elected county assessor. Geo. W. Clark also has a majority for judge in this county, but is probably defeated.

"I have no returns from the other counties; but if they have done like Johnson we have carried the State.

TRUST LANDS IN KANSAS.

We neglected to call the public attention to the advertisement of the Indian trust lands in Kansas, published in Saturday evening's issue, announcing a change in the days of sale of those lands. The Iowa land sales will commence on the 3d of June; the lands of the Weas, &c., on the 24th of June, and the Delaware lands on the 13th of July next.

SOMETHING FOR THE ISMATICS TO PONDER OVER.

That spirited and ably-conducted democratic journal, the New Haven Register, puts forth the following seasonable advice:

"The opposition press takes to heart the loss of two congressmen in Connecticut, and they seem to feel especially bad over the defeat of Mr. Ferry. Be patient, gentlemen; wait and see how far better and more acceptable to his district and State Mr. Bishop will fill his place in Congress than his opponent could have hoped to do had he been successful. Then you will become reconciled to the event; and most of your party will really rejoice that Connecticut has such an honorable and popular young man to represent her in Congress, whether they acknowledge it or not. How much better it is to send men to the national legislature who will not belittle themselves and their State by taking a narrow-minded, *sectional* course, as Ferry, or Garrison, or Fred Douglass would do were they in Congress? Isn't it about time for the New England States to take a more liberal and just view of our whole country and its great future? We think so; and Connecticut very creditably takes the initiative in that movement by sending two sound, conservative, Union democrats to Congress. The good sense of her citizens will more and more approve the change, as time and experience shall demonstrate its propriety."

THE FRENCH TREATY WITH PERSIA.

The following translation of the treaty between France and Persia has been kindly furnished for our columns from the Statistical Office, Department of State, and will form an appropriate sequel to the treaty between England and Persia, published in the *Union* of yesterday:

Treaty of friendship and commerce, concluded July 12, 1855, between France and Persia, the ratifications of which were exchanged at Teheran on the 14th of the same month. Publication ordered in France by decree of February 14, 1857, and the treaty accordingly inserted in the "Bulletin de Lois" of February 21, 1857, No. 470.

TREATY.

In the name of the clement and merciful God,

His high Majesty the Emperor Napoleon, whose elevation is like to that of the planet Saturn, to whom the sun serves as a standard, the luminous star of the firmament of crowned heads, the sun of the heaven of royalty, the ornament of the diadem, the splendor of standards, of imperial insignia, the illustrious and liberal monarch:

And his Majesty elevated as the planet Saturn, the sovereign whose standard is the sun, whose splendor and magnificence are like to those of the heavens, the sublime sovereign, the monarch whose armies are as numerous as the stars, whose grandeur revives that of Djemchid, whose magnificence equals that of Darius, the heir of the crown and of the throne of Keyaniens, the sublime and absolute Emperor of all Persia.

The one and the other equally and sincerely desirous of establishing relations of friendship between the two States, have determined to consolidate such relations by a treaty of friendship and commerce, reciprocally advantageous and beneficial to the subjects of the two high contracting parties.

To this end they have designated their plenipotentiaries. His Majesty the Emperor of France, Sieur Nicolas-Prosper Bowrée, his envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, commander of the Imperial Order of the Legion of Honor, &c., &c.; and his Majesty the Emperor of all Persia, his excellency Mirza-Aga-Khan, his Prime Minister, Etemad-el-Dowlet, (strength of the government,) decorated with the star of the Order of the Lion and of the Sun in diamonds of the class of Amir-Touman, with the green and red ribbon, the portrait of his Majesty, &c. And the two plenipotentiaries having met together at Teheran and exchanged their full powers, which were found in good and proper form, agreed upon the following articles:

Art. 1. From the present date and perpetually there shall be sincere friendship and a constant and good understanding between the empire of France and all its subjects, and the empire of Persia and all its subjects.

Art. 2. The ambassadors or ministers plenipotentiary whom it may please each of the two high contracting powers to send and maintain near the other shall be received and treated, themselves and the entire *personnel* of their legation, in the same manner as the ambassadors or ministers plenipotentiaries of the most favored nations are received and treated in the two countries, respectively, and they shall enjoy, in every respect, the same prerogatives and immunities.

Art. 3. The subjects of the two high contracting parties—travellers, merchants, artisans, and others—whether removing from or residing in the territory of either empire, shall be respected and fully protected by the authorities of the country, and all acting under them, and they shall be treated, in all respects, as are the subjects of the most favored nations.

They may reciprocally introduce, by land or sea, into either empire, and export therefrom all descriptions of merchandise and products; and they may sell, barter, or purchase the same in all places within the territory of either State.

Art. 4. The merchandise imported or exported by the respective subjects of the two high contracting parties shall pay only the same duties, on entering and clearing, in either State, that are paid on the merchandise and products imported and exported by the merchants and subjects of the most favored nation, and no exceptional imposts, under any name or pretext whatsoever, shall be levied in one or the other country.

Art. 5. All suits, differences, and disputes which may arise between French subjects in the Empire of Persia shall be referred to the jurisdiction and decision of the French consul or agent who may reside in the province in which the suits, misunderstandings, and disputes shall have originated, or in the nearest adjoining province. Such consul or agent shall take cognizance of and decide such matters according to the laws of France.

Suits, differences, and disputes between French and Persian subjects, in Persia, shall be referred to the appropriate Persian tribunal, where a French consul or agent shall reside, and shall be examined and judged according to equity in the presence of an attorney of such consul or agent.

Suits, differences, and disputes occurring in Persia between French subjects and the subjects of other foreign powers, shall be examined and judged by the respective consuls or agents of France and of such foreign powers.

In France the subjects of Persia, whether in regard to disputes among themselves or with French or other foreign subjects, shall be placed on the same footing as the subjects of the most favored nation.

Art. 6. In case of the death of a French or Persian subject in the territory of either State, respectively, the succession shall descend to the family or partners of the deceased, if any such exist. If the deceased have neither parents [family] nor associates, in either country, as the case may be, the property shall be confided to the management of the consul or agent of the nation of which the deceased shall have been a subject, who shall hold the same conformably to the laws and customs of his own country.

Art. 7. For the better protection of their respective subjects and commerce, and in order to strengthen the good and equitable relations between the subjects of the two States, the high contracting parties reserve, each to itself, the power of appointing each three consuls. The consuls of France shall reside at Teheran, at Bender-Bouchir, and at Tauris; the consuls of Persia shall reside at Paris, Marseilles, and the isle of Reunion, (Bourbon.)

The consuls of the two high contracting powers shall reciprocally enjoy in the territory of each the respect, privileges, and immunities accorded to the consuls of the most favored nation.

Art. 8. The present treaty of commerce and amity, cemented by the sincere friendship and confidence which prevail between the two empires of France and Persia, shall, with God's help, be faithfully observed and maintained by both parties forever; and the plenipotentiaries of the two high contracting powers mutually engage to exchange the imperial ratifications of their august sovereigns, either at Teheran or at Paris, within the space of six months, or sooner, if possible.

In faith whereof, the respective plenipotentiaries of the two high contracting parties have signed the present treaty and affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate in French and Persian, at Teheran, July 12, A. D. 1855, and the 27th of the month of Chawal de l'Hegire, in the year 1271.

F. BOWRÉE,
MIRZA-AGA-KHAN.

THE NEW ORLEANS ELECTION.

The Louisiana Courier of the 7th says:

"The election for judges of our district courts, which took place yesterday, presented no features of importance beyond those showing that the democratic party took no part in it, either by nominating candidates or otherwise; that the terrorists had it all their own way; that, in a population of some 150,000, the vote was, consequently, somewhere in the neighborhood of 4,000 or 5,000, and that, notwithstanding all this, gross outrages were not wanting. Mr. Robert Wooldridge, member of the house of representatives, and others, were knocked down, but we defer particulars."

We copy the following from the Nashville (Tennessee) Union of the 10th instant:

"Mrs. A. V. Brown, her daughter, and others of the family, left the city yesterday for their new residence in Washington. It had been the intention of Gov. Brown to visit Nashville for the purpose of attending to some pressing private business, and accompanying his family to Washington. He found his public duties too exacting for this, and he will not visit Tennessee at present.

"We make this explanation for the information of many who expected to see Governor Brown here this month, and of those of his correspondents who still address their letters here.

"We hope it will not be considered inappropriate in a Nashville paper to claim that Tennessee has been as highly honored by those of her daughters who have represented her in Washington society as by her most distinguished sons in the political circles of the national capital. Our citizens will all feel a pride in knowing that in the accomplished wife and daughter of the Postmaster General our State continues to have representatives by whom this distinction will be sustained."

TROUBLE IN NEBRASKA.—The Missouri Democrat learns from a gentleman who recently arrived from Council Bluffs, that the people of the various towns on the river above St. Joseph were destitute not only of the luxuries, but many of the necessaries of life. As the steamer St. Mary passed along eager crowds hastened on board at every landing for the purpose of purchasing portions of her cargo that might be for sale. Several persons who went up with her had provided themselves for such demands, and realized large profits on their ventures. The Democrat learns, further, that four men were shot at Plattsmouth, Nebraska Territory, on Saturday evening, March 19th, by the orders or hands of the vigilance committee, and that five others were banished by the same party from Nebraska across the river, and forbidden to return to the Territory under pain of death if caught. Their offence was claim-jumping.