FROM EUROPE.

Additional News by the "Scotia."

THE PEACE OF EUROPE IN THE HANDS OF THREE OLD LADIES.

The London *Times* has the following from Berlin, May 30:—

Three of the five royal ladies to whose good offices the world was to a great extent indebted for the preservation of peace in the Gastein days ago, as well as six weeks ago, when Prussia offered to disarm, have, in the eleventh hour, resumed the peaceful mediation. The "Archduchess Sophia, the ambitious mother of Austria," the Queen Dowager Amelia of Prussia, and the Queen of Saxony, three sisters whom a prescient Providence has placed on a throne, are engaged in this ominous controversy, spare no efforts to prevent the actual occurrence of a rupture which would be equally fatal to either of the three dynasties with whom they are connected.

This female triple alliance is inspired by conservative motives, and appeals to the absolutist idiosyncrasies of the several sovereigns, whose pride and mutual hatred they are anxious to soften. If—their plausible argument runs at Berlin, as well as at Vienna and Dresden—you, our beloved relatives, should allow yourselves to be hurried away by your jealousy of each other, it is not you but democracy that will reap the benefit in the end. What impression these friendly remonstrances are destined to produce upon the grim and irritated royal personages to whom they are addressed is, of course, impossible to foresee; but if peace is preserved, it will be partly due to the indefatigable assiduity of these beneficent ladies, and the conclusive reasons they urge.

Two other fair mediators at the Prussian Court, who six weeks ago made common cause with them, have since suspended their well-meaning exertions, and now let things take their course, without any more interference on their part. Being liberally inclined, they possess no influence at a time when dynastic hauteur has risen to such a pitch as to contemplate war, unsupported by popular sympathy. Still, war is not yet certain. At this moment the three conservative Queens are trying to induce the Emperor of Austria to adjourn all violent intentions until after the Paris Conference has pronounced upon the question of the Duchies.

To the King of Prussia they hope to prove the necessity of either making all square with the Kaiser, or else submitting to the arbitrament of the Congress, even though it may be to the effect that the succession in Holstein is to be settled by the Bund and the future of Schleswig, which forms no part of the Confederacy, regulated by the oracular verdict of *le suffrage universel*. The nearer it comes the more the King of Prussia shrinks from the horrors of a German war; yet it is questionable whether his military *point d'honneur* will allow him to accept the terms of Austria or the Conference so unconditionally as to leave the Kaiser no pretext for entering upon hostilities.

Speaking of woman's influence upon politics, Queen Olga, of Wurtemburg, the sister of the Czar, has, on her journey from St Petersburg to Stuttgard, just arrived at Vienna, to communicate to the Kaiser the serious apprehensions the Russian Court would entertain for the quiet of Europe were Austria to act rashly in the present unprecedented state of continental affairs.

DIFFICULTIES ATTENDING AN ITALIAN INVASION OF VENETIA—STRENGTH OF THE QUADRILATERAL.

Some papers have expressed an opinion that an Italian army may, with a fair chance of success, attempt the conquest of the Austro-Venetian provinces. There are, however, great difficulties to be overcome by an Italian invading army. The Mincio must first be crossed. That river is forty miles long, from Lake Garda, whence it derives its source, to Governolo, where it falls into the Po, and it is throughout sufficiently deep to present a serious obstacle to an invading army.

An army attempting to cross the Mincio would find itself between two formidable fortresses, Mantua on its right, and Peschiera on its left. These two fortresses are not more than twenty miles distant from each other. Peschiera, situated north-northwest of Mantua, and a little more than a mile from Verona, rests on Lake Garda, of which it occupies the southern extremity at the source of the Mincio. The population is not more than 3000 and the fortifications are not extensive, but there is a vast intrenched camp close to the town, capable of accommodating 15 000 troops.

It would be impossible to attack Peschiera with any chance of success on the side of Lake Garda. Any vessel attempting to aproach would be destroyed by the guns of the fort, and the Austrians, are moreover, masters of Lake Garda. A narrow paved road, defended by two *tetes-du-pont*, serves as a communication between the intrenched camp and the town. The camp commands Peschiera and the entire plain around it, and would render the town untenable were it captured. It has been compared to the bastion Malakoff at Sebastopol.

Peschiera is the weakest of the four fortresses which constitute the Quadrilateral. Mantua is situated on an island to the southeast of Peschiera. It contains a population of 30 000 and a garrison of 40,000. It is connected with the land by five paved roads, defended by three tiers of guns. It can only be captured by a regular siege. A besieging army would be incessantly exposed to the attacks of the Austrian army. Vanquished, it would be destroyed; victorious, the enemy might retreat to Verona, Peschiera, or Leguano.

Suppose an invading army in possession of Peschiera and Mantua, it would have the line of the Adige to force. At the north is Verona, the key of the Friouli and the Tyrol. Verona is a city of 60,000 inhabitants, and is divided into two parts by the Adige, and is strongly fortified. Porto Leguano is twenty-five miles southeast of Verona. It contains only 9000 inhabitants, but its fortifications are more extensive than the town.

Two detached forts, a triple wall with bastions, and two *tetes-du-pont*, present a formidable defense. The approaches to the town may be completely flooded by the waters of the Adige. Verona is placed in communication with Legnano by a road protected by a line of batteries. The garison of Legano may send a reinforcement to Mantua and to Vicenza by means of a double *tete-du pont*.

Progress of Dr. Livingstone's African Expedition.

At the recent annual meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, Sir Roderick Murchison stated that he had learned, through a letter of Dr. Livingstone's, dated the 24th of March, to his daughter, that he had reached the mouth of the Rovuma river in an Arab dhow, with his followers and six camels, three asses, and three buffaloes.

As it was found impracticable to ascend the Rovuma with their vessel, or to disembark the animals on its banks, the party was taken on by Lieutenant Gariorth, R. N., to a fine harbor north of the Rovuma, where they were about to land when the letter was despatched. As the people of that tract are under the control of the Sultan of Zanzibar, with whose protection Dr. Livingstone is fully provided, he wrote in the full persuasion that he will not only reach the watershed between his own Lake Nyanza and Tanganyika of Burton and Speke, but also be able to settle the question as to the elevation and drainage of the latter. If he can reach it, and, after building a boat on it, is able to proceed to its northern end, he will at once set at rest the dispute as to whether this lake be really the ultimate southern water basin of the Nile. It it should prove to be so it will follow that the altitude of the Tanganyika, as given by Burton and Speke, was very erroneous, for by their measurement it was more than eight hundred feet below the level of the Albert Nyanza, as fixed by Baker.

A New Play by Sheridan Knowles.

The late James Sheridan Knowles, who in the last years of his life became a minister, and denounced the stage, never neglecting, however, to receive the profits which accrued to him therefrom as a maker of plays, left, at his death, an unpublished and unacted drama, which was recently produced at the Strand Theatre, under the title of *Alexander, or, True Unto Death*. "It bears," says an English paper, "the marks of the poet's last mood of mind, which was decidedly inclined to piety, and preferred to look on events and persons from a religious point of view. The theme, as propounded in express terms in this drama, is contained in the question, 'Who will dare to die for, and in place of, a friend?'" Then follows a summary of the plot, which is melodramatic in the extreme, showing Knowles in his earliest and worst method.

This play, which was intended by the writer for the libretto of an opera, and which was accompanied with songs that, of course are omitted in the dramatic representation, has already occasioned a dispute between Knowles' heirs and the holders of the manuscript, which is not yet settled. In the meantime it has been played with tolerable success, and will shortly be published.

The German Question.

THE INVITATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE.

The following is the text of the note transmitted by the French Ambassador at Frankfort to Baron de Kubeck, the Austrian Minister, in his character of President of the Germanic Diet, and is, of course, *mutatis mutandis*, the text of all the invitations to the Conference:—

The undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of his Majesty the Emperor of the French, has been instructed by his Government to lay before the High Assembly the following communication. The difference which has arisen between Austria and Prussia in connection with the Schleswig-Holstein question has become a subject of great anxiety to Europe. Public opinion is alarmed by the possibility of a war in which so many various interests would be engaged. France, Great Britain, and Russia therefore could not without uneasiness contemplate the possibility of an armed contest which would array against each other States towards which they entertained equal friendship. The highest considerations incited them to seek some means of staving off the danger. The three powers have consulted among themselves, having the same idea of peace and conciliation, and, after having interchanged their respective views, have formed an agreement to invite to a common deliberation the Governments which are, or which may be, implicated in the dispute—that is to say, Austria, Prussia, Italy, and the Germanic Confederation. The object of these deliberations is one that must impress all minds. It is, in the interest of peace to resolve by diplomatic means the question of the Duchies, that of the Italian difference, and finally that of the reforms to be introduced into the federal pact, so far as they affect the European balance of power. If the moderate serene Germanic Confederation consents to yield to this appeal, as the three neutral Courts entertain a hope that it will, its plenipotentiary can in Paris join those of France, Great Britain, and Russia. As to the dates of the meeting, it is desirable that it should be as early as possible. The apprehensions created by the present crisis cannot be too soon dispelled, and a pledge of security afforded to Europe. The negotiations will present greater prospect of success if they be not disturbed by the clash of arms and by the susceptibilities of points of military honor. The Government of the Emperor relies that in assenting to the proposition of the three Courts the powers which at this moment are engaged in making preparations for war will show themselves disposed to suspend these preparations, even although they should hesitate to restore their forces to a peace footing. The Government of the Emperor awaits with earnest solicitude the determination of the Germanic Confederation. The undersigned has the honor to request his Excellency the Baron de Kubeck, Minister of Austria and President of the Germanic Diet, to transmit to that high assembly the invitation of the three neutral powers, and to receive the assurance of his very high consideration.

FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAIN, May 28, 1866.

The International Sculling Match.

THE DAYS APPOINTED FOR THE RACING TO TAKE PLACE.

From the London Sportsman, June 2

The weather having been exceedingly favorable during the early part of the week, Hamill has a couple of good spins over the course daily, some days rowing between twelve to fourteen miles. His long expected skiff, built by Stephen Roberts, of New York, arrived at Newcastle via Liverpool, on Thursday afternoon, and was at once conveyed to the Blenheim House Hotel, where Hamill and party are still staying. She is a somewhat stout boat, though scarcely of so large dimensions as stated. In appearance she is much about the same as the skiff built here, though much heavier, weighing, in fact, altogether, some forty-two pounds, or fourteen pounds more than the boat which, it will be remembered, the American champion brought over with him. He at once discarded the latter, after a couple of trials, as being too light; it may, perhaps, yet turn out that with respect to the one just arrived he may have to do the same, though for a contrary reason. Meanwhile the "veteran" Harry is busily engaged in a new boat for him, and, indeed, has made so much progress with her that she will, in all probability, be ready in the course of a few days. Hamill will make his first essay in his new boat.

We yesterday received a communication from James Hamill informing us that he had decided to row on the Tyne, on Wednesday and Thursday, July 4 and 5, and had written to Kelley by the same post, giving a month's notice of his intention, as required by the articles.

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SUMMER DRESS GOODS

At 20 and 25 cents.

Several lots reduced to this low price.

CLOSING OUT SUMMER STOCK

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Nos. 450, 452, and 454 N. SECOND Street

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FRENCH LAWNS,

FRENCH PERCALES,

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from late Auction Sales at

REDUCED PRICES.

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At 44 and 50 cents.

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CHEAP DRY GOODS, CARPETS, MATTING, Oil Cloths and Window Shades.—V. P. ARCHAMBAULT, N. E. corner ELEVENTH and MARKET Streets, will open this morning from Auction—White Canton Matting, 31 cents up; Red Check Matting, 37 cents; Ingrain Carpets, 50, 62, 75, 87 cents, $1, $1·25, $1·37, $1·50; English Tapestry Brussels Carpets only $1·75; Three-ply Carpets, only $2·12½; Hemp Carpets, 37 cents; Rag Carpets, 62 cents; Cottage Carpets, 37 cents; Floor Oil Cloths 62 cents; Window Shades $1 to $3; Plain, Buff, Brown and Green Shading, 50 cents; Sheeting Muslins, 25 to 31 cents; Table Linens, 62 cents to $1·50; Napkins, 25 cents; Towellings, 12 cents up; Cloth Table-covers, $1 75; Mozambiques, 37 to 45 cents; Lawns, 31 cents; Plain all wool Delaines, 50 to 62 cents; Alpacas, all colors, 37 to 62 cents. Cheap Wholesale and Retail Store, N. E. corner ELEVENTH and MARKET Sts. 6 9

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JUST RECEIVED,

YARD-AND-A-HALF-WIDE

VELVET CARPETS,

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WHITE, RED, AND FANCY

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ENGLISH BRUSSELS,

FOR STAIRS AND HALLS,

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500 PIECES

NEW PATTERNS

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