EUROPE.

THE STATE OF EUROPE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

LONDON, Friday, April 9, 1858.

The Emperor Napoleon has fully succeeded in making the Cabinets of Europe very uneasy about his policy. Belgium, Switzerland and Sardinia feel the pressure of his power, and reluctantly comply with his demands up to a certain point, well aware that their Parliamentary institutions are so much at variance with the Imperial despotism as to expose them again and again to renewed diplomatic aggression from the French Cabinet. The object of these three little States is to delay action and to give up the guaranty of popular liberty so slowly as to outlive the present phase of French history with the slightest possible damage. But despotic Austria has been no less uneasy since the publication of Orsini's first letter, and the first Napoleon's dispatches and anti-Austrian proclamations in the *Moniteur*. The statesmen of Vienna accuse Napoleon of willfully creating agitation in Italy and rousing indistinct hopes, which at any rate are detrimental to Austrian interests; and scarcely has the insertion of those documents in the official papers been explained away by the usual French excuse of inadvertence, when the second letter and the will of Orsini are published in the official Turin paper, to which they could only have been communicated by the immediate officials of Napoleon. Since the appearance of these publications the Italians have been somewhat excited, and are fully convinced that great changes of their political condition are near at hand. The Austrians have been obliged to send three more regiments to Italy, just when they intended to reduce the army. The most serious complication, however, is that with England. The question of the efficiency of English law against conspiracies for the overthrow of foreign governments is not yet settled, and the nomination of Field-Marshal Pelissier to the embassy in London is somewhat ominous, though the English Court and nation have made up their minds to take it as a token of esteem. He is to arrive just about the time of the press prosecutions and the trial of Dr. Bernard, and the finding of the jury may materially influence his demeanor. The Continental papers do not fail to point to the increased activity in all the French dock-yards, and to the present state of efficiency of the French navy; but the English press is too proud and too patriotic to create alarm about these preparations. French diplomacy is everywhere eager to create difficulties for England, and Turkey has, as usual, again been selected as the best ground for attacking England. Lord Redcliffe's absence from Constantinople has left the field altogether to M. Thouvenel, and the result is a solemn protest of Turkey against the English occupation of the Isle of Perim, at the southern entrance of the Red Sea. The rapacious propensities of the British race are sufficiently known, and their tendency under the name of annexation to appropriate the property of others to themselves has often been denounced, but England does it in such an unscrupulous way that she often does not even deign to announce the occupation and annexation to the world. There do not at present exist any public documents about the seizure of Perim and the neighboring islands; we do not know whether it is the Hon. East India Company or her Majesty's Government who have taken possession of those islands and fortifies them hastily, so as to be able eventually to close the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, should the Red Sea ever be opened to European vessels by cutting through the Isthmus of Suez. Turkey, at the instigation of France, now demands "the unconditional restitution of those islands, a step which has become a question of European right, Europe having guaranteed the integrity of the Turkish Empire." The question is certainly grave, though the English point to Algeria, conquered by France without a declaration of war against Turkey, whose unquestionable province it was, and retained against the pledges both of Charles X. and Louis Philippe to England. But all this happened before Turkey was admitted into communion with the European powers, and cannot excuse the impudent occupation of those islands, which reveals the readiness of England not to respect the freedom of the seas, and the intent eventually to close the Red Sea. Should this question ever be brought before the Paris Conferences, as the Emperor of France desires, then it is quite certain that England will have to encounter the unanimous opposition of all the other powers that signed the Paris treaty. The only way to escape from this difficulty is to get the consent of the Sultan to the occupation of Perim, and it is with this view that Lord Redcliffe has again gone back to Constantinople, in order to coax or to bully the Sultan into a cession before the Conferences can be assembled. Such a precedent, however, would certainly soon be followed by Russia, and would actually annul the European guaranty of the integrity of Turkey. Any occupation and any private treaty by any of the great powers of Europe reduces Turkey into a worse position than before the war, and however insignificant may seem the Island of Perim to the British people, its annexation is still the certain seed out of which the destruction of Turkey and a new Oriental war must grow up. Mark these words: within five years, if not before, they will be fulfilled.

The fourth report of the Postmaster-General on the Post-Office, signed but not drawn up by the Duke of Argyle, has just been issued among the Parliamentary papers. Among many interesting and some very amusing details, it contains the following piece of information:

"The great intercourse, both commercial and social, between this country and the United States, renders the present high rate of postage, and the want of comprehensive and liberal arrangements for the transmission of books and other printed matter, highly objectionable. *It is now considerably more than a year since I made proposals to the United States Post-Office, with a view to a great amendment in these matters; but hitherto I have not succeeded in obtaining either assent to what I have myself offered or counter-proposals.*"

The India bill of the Cabinet is doomed; nobody is satisfied with it, and the Cabinet itself is probably soon to be upset. Disraeli is no practical statesman, and is destroying the Tory party in the same way as Lord Palmerston has broken up the Whigs. Both these men are felt to be intolerable nuisances, making mischief and preventing the reorganization of the parties. A. P. C.

THE FRENCH TRIALS IN LONDON.

From An Occasional Correspondent.

PARIS, April 4, 1858.

When Victor Hugo marked the nephew as Napoleon the Little, he acknowledged the uncle as Napoleon the Great. The title of his celebrated pamphlet meant an antithesis, and, to some degree, did homage to that very Napoleon-worship on which the son of Hortense Beauharnais contrived to raise the bloody fabric of his fortune. What is more useful to impress on the present generation is that Napoleon the Little represents in fact the littleness of Napoleon the Great. The plainest illustration of this fact is afforded by the recent "painful misconceptions" between England and France, and the criminal proceedings against refugees and printers which they have led to on the part of the English Government. A short historical review will prove that during the whole of this miserable melo-drama Napoleon the Little has only reënacted with anxious minuteness the shabby part invented and played before by Napoleon the Great.

It was only during the short interval separating the peace of Amiens (March 25, 1802) from the new declaration of war on the part of Great Britain (May 18, 1803) that Napoleon could indulge his desire for interference with the internal state of Great Britain. He lost no time. Even while the peace negotiations were still pending, the *Moniteur* emitted his venom on all the London papers venturing to question "the moderation and sincerity of Bonaparte's views," and gave no very unintelligible hint that "such disbelief might ere long be followed with chastisement." Nor did the Consul confine himself to a censorship over the language and sentiments of the British press. The *Moniteur* abused Lord Granville and Mr. Windham for the part they took in the discussions on peace. Mr. Elliot, a Member of Parliament, was called to account in the House of Commons by Perceval, the Attorney-General, for expressing his doubts as to Bonaparte's intentions. Lord Castlereagh and Pitt himself pitched the key of submission, by inculcating, what had never been done on any former occasions, forbearance of language in debate as respecting the Consul of France. About six weeks had passed from the conclusion of the peace, when Talleyrand, on June 3, 1802, informed Mr. Merry, the British Plenipotentiary at Paris, that Bonaparte, out of consideration for England, had resolved to replace Mr. Otto, the French Plenipotentiary at London, by a real Embassador in the person of Gen. Andréossy; but that before the arrival of that exalted personage at London, it was the First Consul's sincere wish "to see such obstacles removed "which stood very much in the way of the perfect "reconciliation between the two countries and their "Governments." What he demanded, was simply the removal out of the British dominions of "all "the French princes and their adherents, together "with the French bishops and other French individuals whose political principles and conduct "must necessarily occasion great jealousy of the "French Government. * * * The protection and favor which all the persons in question "continued to meet with, in a country so close a "neighbor to France, must alone be always considered as an encouragement to the disaffected here, "even without those persons themselves being "guilty of any acts leading to foment fresh disturbances in this country; but that the Government here possessed proofs of the abuse which they "were now making of the protection which they "enjoyed in England, and of the advantage they "were taking of their vicinity to France, by being "really guilty of such acts, since several printed "papers had lately been intercepted, which it was "known they had sent, and caused to be circulated "in France, and which had for their object to "create an opposition to the Government." There existed at that time an alien law in England, which, however, was framed strictly with a view to the protection of the British Government. In answer to Talleyrand's demand, Lord Hawkesbury, the then Foreign Minister, replied that "His Majesty the King "certainly expected that all foreigners who might "reside within his dominions, should not only hold "a conduct conformable to the laws of the country, "but abstain from all acts hostile to the Government of any country with which his Majesty "might be at peace. As long, however, as they "conduct themselves according to these principles, "his Majesty would feel it inconsistent with his "dignity, with his honor, and with the common laws "of hospitality, to deprive them of that protection "which individuals resident in his dominions can "only forfeit by their own misconduct. The greater "part of the persons to whom allusion has been "made in Mr. Talleyrand's conversation, are living "in retirement." In delivering Lord Hawkesbury's dispatch to Talleyrand, Mr. Merry was by no means sparing of assurances calculated to "soothe, tranquilize and satisfy the First Consul." Talleyrand, however, insisted upon his pound of flesh, stating that the First Consul had solicited no more than the British Government itself had demanded of Louis XIV., when the Pretender was in France; that he could not see any humiliation in the measure intimated, and that he must repeat "that the adoption "of it would be in the highest degree agreeable and "satisfactory to the First Consul," and be considered by him as "the most convincing proof of "his Majesty's disposition to see a cordial good understanding established between the two countries." On July 25, 1802, Mr. Otto, from his residence at Portman Square, addressed a letter to Lord Hawkesbury, requesting, in a very categorical way, nothing less than the suppression of the liberty of the English press, as far as Bonaparte and his Government were concerned. "I transmitted," he says, "some time ago, to Mr. Hammond, a "number of Peltier, containing the most gross "calumnies against the French Government, and "against the whole nation; and I observed, that "I should probably receive an order to demand a "punishment of such an abuse of the press. That "order is actually arrived, and I cannot conceal "from you, my Lord, that the reiterated insults of "a small number of foreigners, assembled in London to conspire against the French Government, have produced the most unfavorable "effects on the good understanding between "the two nations. * * * It is not "to Peltier alone, but to the editor of the *Courrier* "*Français de Londres* (Reignier), to Cobbett, and "to other writers who resemble them, that I have "to direct the attention of his Majesty's Government. * * * The want of positive laws against "these sorts of offenses cannot palliate the violation "of the laws of nations, according to which peace "should put a stop to all species of hostilities; and "doubtless those which wound the honor and reputation of a Government, and which tend to create "a revolt of the people whose interests are confided to that Government, are the most apt to lessen "the advantages of peace and to keep up national "resentments." Instead of meeting these first reproaches of Bonaparte's interference on the subject of the press with a firm and dignified reply, Lord Hawkesbury, in a letter to M. Otto on July 28, made a paltry apology for the existence of the liberty of the press. He says that it is "impossible "his Majesty's Government could peruse Peltier's "article without the greatest displeasure, and without an anxious desire that a person who published "it should suffer the punishment he so justly deserves." Then, after lamenting the "inconveniences" of prosecutions for libel, and the "difficulty" of obtaining judgment against the offenders, he concludes by stating that he has referred the matter to the King's Attorney-General "for his opinion "whether it is or is not a libel."

While the British Government was thus preparing a crusade against the liberty of the press, in order to soothe the susceptibility of its great and new ally, there appeared suddenly, on August 9, a menacing article in the *Moniteur*, in which England was not only accused of receiving French robbers and assassins, of harboring them at Jersey, and of sending them to make predatory excursions on the coasts of France, but in which the English King himself was represented as a rewarder and instigator of assassination: "*The Times*, which is said to be under Ministerial inspection, is filled with perpetual invectives against France. Two of its four pages are "every day employed in giving currency to the "grossest calumnies. All that imagination can depict, that is low, vile and base, is by that miserable paper attributed to the French Government. "What is its end? Who pays it? What does it "effect? A French journal, edited by some miserable emigrants, the remnant of the most impure, a vile refuse, without country, without "honor, sullied with crimes which it is not in the "power of any amnesty to wash away, outdoes "even *The Times*." "Eleven Bishops, presided "over by the atrocious Bishop of Arras, rebels to "their country and to the Church, have assembled "in London. They print libels against the Bishops "and the French clergy." "The Isle of Jersey is full of brigands, condemned to death by "the tribunals, committed subsequent to the peace "for assassination, robberies, and the practices of "an incendiary. Georges wears openly at London "his red ribbon, as a recompense for the infernal "machine which destroyed a part of Paris, and "killed thirty women and children, or peaceable "citizens. This special protection authorizes a "belief that if he had succeeded, he would have "been honored with the Order of the Garter." "Either the English Government authorizes and "tolerates those public and private crimes, in "which case it cannot be said that such conduct is "consistent with British generosity, civilization "and honor; or it cannot prevent them, in which "case it does not deserve the name of a Government, above all, if it does not possess the means "of repressing assassination and calumny and protecting social order."

When the menacing *Moniteur* arrived late at night in London, it produced such an irritation that *The True Briton*, the Ministerial paper, was compelled to declare, "That article could not have been "inserted in the *Moniteur* with the knowledge or "consent of the French Government." In the House of Commons Dr. Laurents called upon Mr. Addington (afterward Lord Sydmouth) as to the French libels on his Majesty. The Minister replied that "he wished he could show to the learned gentleman the satisfactory explanations which had "taken place on that head." It was replied that while the British Government made a public matter of a jest on Bonaparte and his wife, and Mr. Peltier was, for his jokes upon those people, to be brought into the Court of King's Bench and to be arraigned as a criminal; in the other case, when the British nation was libeled and its royal master, in the official gazette of France, styled the rewarder of assassins, the matter was to be settled by an "explanation," and that explanation so secret, too, as not to admit of being communicated to Parliament. Encouraged by the apparent vacillation of the English Ministry, Otto, on Aug. 17, 1802, came out with a most impudent note to Lord Hawkesbury, in which the demand is formally put to adopt effectual measures for putting down all the unbecoming and seditious publications of the English prints, to send out of Jersey certain individuals, to expel the French bishops, to transport Georges and his adherents to Canada, and to send the French princes to Warsaw. With reference to the alien law M. Otto insists that the Ministry must possess "a legal and sufficient power to restrain foreigners, "without having recourse to the courts of law;" and he adds, "The French Government, which "offers on this point, a perfect reciprocity, thinks "it gives a new proof of its pacific intentions, by demanding that those persons should be sent away "whose machinations uniformly tend to sow discord between the two nations." Lord Hawkesbury's answer, dated Aug. 28, sent in the form of a dispatch to the English Plenipotentiary at Paris, has during the late quarrel with Bonaparte III. been quoted by the London press as a model of statesmanlike dignity; but it must be confessed that in spite of the terms of virtuous indignation in which it is couched, promises are held out of sacrificing the French emigrants to the jealous fears of the First Consul.

In the beginning of the year 1803 Napoleon took upon himself to regulate the proceedings of Parliament and to restrain the liberty of speech among its members. With respect to the ex-Ministers, Mr. Windham, Lord Granville, and Lord Minto, he intimated literally in his *Moniteur*, "It would be a "patriotic and wise law which should ordain that "displaced Ministers should not, for the first seven "years after their dismissal, be competent to sit in the "English Parliament. Another law, not less wise "would be that every member who should insult a "friendly people and power should be condemned "to silence for two years. When the tongue of "fends, the tongue must suffer punishment." At the same time Gen. Andréossy, who had meanwhile arrived at London, complained in a note to Lord Hawkesbury that the despicable pamphleteers and libelers of the British press "have found them"selves invariably supported in their insolent ob"servations by particular phrases, taken from the "speeches of some leading Members of Parlia"ment." Of these speeches it is said that "every "reasonable Englishman must be humiliated by such "unheard-of licentiousness." In the name of the First Consul he expresses the wish "that means "should be adopted to prevent in future any "mention being made of what is passing in "France, either in the official discussions "or in the polemical writings in England, as in like manner, in the French official "discussions and polemical writings, no mention "should be made of what is passing in England." While Bonaparte in this tone of mingled hypocrisy and arrogance privately addressed the British Government, the *Moniteur* teemed with insults against the British people, and also published an official report of Col. Sebastiani, containing the most injurious charges against the British army in Egypt. On Feb. 5, 1803, the French *Commissaire de Relation Commerciale* at Jersey, though acknowledged in no public capacity, had the insolence to prefer a complaint against some printers for inserting paragraphs from the London papers offensive to Bonaparte, and to threaten that if the practice was not punished, Bonaparte would certainly revenge himself upon Jersey. This threat had the desired effect. Two of the printers were brought before the Royal Court, and the positive injunction was laid on them not to publish in future anything offensive to France, even from the London papers. On Feb. 20, 1803, one day before Peltier's trial, Lord Whitworth, the English Embassador at Paris, was summoned into the presence of the great man himself. Being received in his cabinet, Whitworth was desired to sit down after Bonaparte had sat down himself on the other side of the table. He enumerated the several provocations which he pretended to have received from England. "He adverted to the "abuse thrown out about him in the English prints, "but this he said he did not so much regard as "that which appeared in the French papers published in London. This he considered as much "more mischievous, since it was meant to excite his "country against him and his Government. He "complained of the protection given to Georges and "others of his description; he acknowledged that "the irritation he felt against England increased "daily, because every wind which blew from England brought nothing but enmity and hatred "against him. * * * As a proof of his desire to "maintain peace, he wished to know what he had "to gain by going to war with England. A descent was the only means of offense he had, and "that he was determined to attempt, by putting "himself at the head of the expedition. He acknowledged that there were one hundred chances "to one against him, but still he was determined to "attempt it if war should be the consequence of "the present discussion; and that such was the "disposition of the troops that army after army "would be found for the enterprise. * * * To "preserve peace the treaty of Amiens must be fulfilled, the abuse in the public prints, if not totally "suppressed, at least kept within bounds and confined to the English papers, and the protection "so openly given to his bitterest enemies must be "withdrawn."

On Feb. 21, Peltier was tried before Lord Ellenborough and a special Jury, for libeling Bonaparte and "intending to excite the people of France to "assassinate their ruler." Lord Ellenborough had the meanness to terminate his address to the Jury with the following words: "Gentlemen, I trust "your verdict will strengthen the relations by "which the interests of this country are connected "with those of France, and that it will illustrate "and justify in every quarter of the world the conviction that has been long and universally entertained of the unsullied purity of British judicature." The Jury, without retiring from their box, immediately returned the verdict of Guilty. In consequence of the subsequent rupture between the two countries, Mr. Peltier was, however, not called upon to receive judgment, and the prosecution thus stopped. Having goaded the British Ministry into these persecutions of the press, and wrung from them Peltier's condemnation, the truthful and heroic *Moniteur*, March 2, 1803, published the following commentary:

"A person of the name of Peltier has been found guilty, before a court of justice at London, of printing and publishing some wretched libels against the First Consul. It is not easy to imagine why the English Ministry should affect to make this a matter of so much eclat. As it has been said in the English newspapers that the trial was instituted at the demand of the French Government, and that the French Embassador was even in the Court when the Jury gave in their verdict, we have authority to deny that any such things did ever take place. The First Consul was even ignorant of the existence of Peltier's libels till they came to his knowledge in the public accounts of the proceedings at his trial. * * * Yet it is to be acknowledged that these proceedings, however useless in other respects, have afforded an occasion to the Judges who presided at the trial to evince, by their wisdom and impartiality, that they are truly worthy to administer justice in a nation so enlightened, and estimable in so many respects."

While the *Moniteur* in the same article insisted that the duty weighed on all "civilized nations in Europe" reciprocally to put down the barbarians of the press, M. Reinhard, the French Plenipotentiary at Hamburg, summond together the Hamburg Senate, in order to consider a requisition from the First Consul to insert in the *Hamburger Correspondenten* an article most offensive to the British Government. It was the wish of the Senate at least to be allowed to omit or qualify the most offensive passages; but M. Reinhard said his orders were positive for the full and exact insertion of the whole. The article appeared consequently in its original coarseness. The French Minister desired that the same should be published in the papers at Altona; but the Danish magistrates said that they could not possibly permit it without an express order from their Government. In consequence of this refusal, M. D'Aguesseau, the French Minister at Copenhagen, received from his colleague at Hamburg a copy of the article, with the request that he would solicit permission for its publication in the Danish papers. When called upon with respect to this libel by Lord Whitworth, M. Talleyrand declared that "the "British Ministers could not be more surprised than "the First Consul had been at seeing such an article "inserted by authority; that an immediate explanation had been required of M. Reinhard, etc." Such was Napoleon the Great.

AFFAIRS IN PARIS.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PARIS, April 8, 1858.

We had a grand public fête here last Monday, on the occasion of the opening of the new Boulevard de Sevastopol. Novel in its kind, this fête of streets and sewers was, for all that met the eye, as brilliant and entertaining as Feast of Eagles, Feast of Reason, Feast of Pikes, or any other in the long catalogue of Parisian public pomps, and is well worth thinking and talking about a little. Such is his Majesty's opinion, at least, and I don't mind saying that I agree with him. He was present and made a speech. He came on horseback, with good, free shooting space between him and a splendid train of Generals, Aids, &c., the road on either side lined with soldiers. He returned by the Boulevards, where were no soldiers. He and the Empress, who followed in an open carriage, were greeted—so an English friend who was looking on tells me—with more than ordinary enthusiasm by the mass of spectators. The topic of his discourse was that plan of "city improvements" which extends from the Bois de Vincennes to the Bois de Boulogne, and from the Barrière de Saint Denis to the Barrière d'Enfer. It has been greatly extended since its first conception. The work has been going on for eight years, at an immense outlay of money: its completion, as at present calculated, will require ten years more, and an outlay of 180,000,000 francs, of which sum 60,000,000, a proposed by a bill now before the Legislature, shall be paid by the nation, the rest by the city. The public works and their cost are followed up by private enterprise and expenditure in still larger proportions. Individuals build up faster even than the municipality tears down, and are fast filling up with solid elegant structures the vacant lots that were so numerous a few years ago in the newer quarters of the town. It is almost impossible to convey to a stranger or to any one not recently familiar with Paris, a correct notion of the material changes that have recently taken place. The foreigner who arrives here to-day would find a city map of 1848 as poor a guide for his town walks, as a chart of Europe before 1789 for his Continental tour.

American urbiculture has produced certain new seedlings that, for mere size, luxuriance and rapidity of growth, are unsurpassed; but the Paris variety, if it has not covered quite as much ground as the wonderful productions of our new Western soil, has spread remarkably, and at the same time is solid and handsome. From 1852 to 1857, inclusive, 1,768 houses have been pulled down in carrying out the plan of public works; private enterprise, during the same period, has constructed over 23,000 houses. The high price of rents still maintained notwithstanding this great increase, is explained partly by the general rise in price of all salable things, and partly by the great increase of the commercial, trading, laboring and pleasure-seeking French and foreign population of the metropolis.

The proverb says that all is not gold that glitters, and some will apply it to the grand embellishment of Paris—seeing in the execution of the plan referred to above nothing more than embellishment. But it is equally true, if not proverbial, that not all gold glitters: the best of it lies in the rough and under ground. The "plan" is sanitary as well as æsthetic. Under the Boulevard, under the new Rivoli, stretches an enormous sewer, receiving from its branches and carrying out to the Seine all sorts of tributary dirtiness from one great quarter of the town. It is 17 feet broad and 14 feet high, and some three miles long, a great subterranean river channel. Within it is an aqueduct of pure water, conducted in a great iron tube, to furnish the part of the city it traverses. Another sewer of similar form, to drain off the impurities of another part of the town, is now in course of construction, and when completed will have a length of 4,000 metres. Most of the new broad thoroughfares cut through and clear away old, narrow, sunless, airless, labyrinthine streets, formerly nurseries of disease and death. So much for the sanitary side.

The "plan" is also economical in its purpose. The demolition and construction raise the value of property; the new streets are also specially arranged so as to open and shorten easy communication between the different railway depots, situate on the outer sides of the town, and the centers of business. Very closely connected with these is the political or military-strategic purpose of the plan. Its execution began by clearing away free spaces about the Tuileries and the Hotel de Ville, so that large bodies of troops can form and act about those two buildings—the first objects of attack for revolutionary Paris. Insurgents will no longer be protected in their approach or in carrying on the siege by the narrow crooked streets and high houses that formerly closely surrounded them. The new Boulevards are so many military roads, broad, straight and unincumbered, running through the very heart of what, as respects any Government seated at the Tuileries, has always been the "heart of the enemy's country"—destroying the most dangerous, and giving ready access for large bodies of troops to the rest, of those dark street defiles most celebrated in the history of Parisian revolutions and insurrections. They also secure ready communication between the center of command and the enormous new barracks of the Hotel de Ville and the Château d'Eu, as well as the smaller barracks, and, by means of the railway, with the out-of-town garrisons.

The objects of this truly large plan are material, moral and political—to enrich, beautify, purify and fortify. Considered merely as a plan, there is something grand and fine in it. There is a French logic and completeness, and almost philosophical coördination of parts, exciting the admiration like similar qualities in their last dozen of political constitutions. If its three first-named purposes are successfully carried out, the success of the fourth will hardly need to be tested. But if poverty, ugliness, misery and death, will still make home here, it is hardly probable that freely communicating barracks and Macadam substituted for paving stones will prevent hard-pressed discontent from finding its way again to the *salle de trône* in the palace. The comfort is, that as something of good has been saved to France out of each of the numerous political constitutions constructed and demolished since '89, so the new Boulevards will continue to gratify the eye and give currents of fresh air to future Parisians, and the sewers will carry away their dirty water, long after the Napoleonic dynasty is blown, swept or washed away by whichever figurative instrument, hurricane, besom or flood, the next revolution is figuratively designated. And this else remains of the plan—not, perhaps, the least regarded of its many purposes in the imperial mind—a monument to Napoleon III. It will be his arch of triumph, spanning the whole city.

Commercial matters, if we are to believe Launay, the best accepted of authorities on this subject, are slightly improving with Parisian shopkeepers and fabricants and provincial manufacturers. On the speculative-financial side, the Bourse continues in low and troubled spirits; and Government keeps "devising devices" to raise it from its low estate of inactivity, not as yet with happy results. A universal fusion of railway obligations and a sort of State copartnership are among the "Morrison-pill" devices in question. Nothing is yet decided upon. The diminution of railway receipts, and the necessity for issuing more and more bonds, in order to carry on the construction of branches, when the market is already flooded with them, keeps down railway stocks, and, by the competition of the "obligations," the State funds. However, the danger of any great crash and general bubble-bursting such as has been steadily prophesied by certain parties—whose political prejudices outrun their financial knowledge—is not threatening. The saving truth in the case is, that the excellent advice so frequently given to your readers, not to buy more than they sell, to reduce expenses as their income is reduced, to pay as they go, and go without rather than not pay, embodies the nominal practice of French tradesmen. Hence it is that, in spite of grave losses and a general stand-still in commerce, they have gone through the crisis so well. Failures have not been noticeably more numerous than in former years among regular merchants. In the way of grand crashes and rascalities in "high finance," France shows nothing to compare with England and America. Odier failed honorably; Prost is the only dashing, adventurous operator who has come to a scandalous end. The Crédit Mobilier, which has been held up as the great bubble type, has never seen its shares sold below par, sells for 760 to-day. It could close its affairs to-morrow by paying all its debts and returning to the stockholders something handsome above 500 francs to the share. At least such is the opinion expressed to me by a financier not interested in, but likely to be familiar with the condition of the concern.

Beside politicians, merchants and speculators, a good many people just now are exercised in their minds by a bill before the Legislative Body which proposes to reinstitute penalties for the wearing of titles of nobility that do not by inheritance or late royal or imperial grace belong to their inventors. True, the law is purposely so loosely phrased that the inflicting of punishment depends almost entirely on the good pleasure of the magistrate, who it is to be supposed will inflict it only in those cases where he is directed to by the higher powers. This of itself, as you may well suppose, is made a grave objection to the law by grave persons; but those most alarmed by the likelihood of its passage are of the larger French class of frivolous persons who fear to be stripped of their title of count, baron, viscount, and other such peacockeries to which they have as little right as your correspondent. Something has been done to quiet their fears by an explanatory article in the *Moniteur*, which would represent the object of the law to be rather a check upon the rapid increase of these borrowed plumes than a plucking of actual possessors. After 1851, any one who chose could put a *de* after his christened name and before the name of his farm or native village, and thus style himself. Instead of Jonathan Jenkins from Onondaga, one could call himself Jonathan d'Onondaga. His acquaintances laughed for six months, and ended by calling him so too. At the end of six years his nobility was patent and confirmed, a prefixed "baron" or "count" was accepted as a natural complement on his card and in social address. Such is the origin of not only a numerous class of nobles who have arisen since 1851, but at different and earlier periods of French history, running back at least as far as some time before the days of Louis XIV., who tried to check the evil of a still more numerous class who now claim hereditary authority for their titular rank. Let this be a warning to American hotel-keepers and private families who are sometimes too ready to extend their republican hospitality to titled strangers. Let it specially be a warning to American young ladies not to extend their hearts and hands to such, lest peradventure their Montmorency prove on historical examination to be bogus—neither first-rate as Christian or baron.

Speaking of names and noblemen, read this curious extract from a provincial paper: "Last "Sunday, the Sub-Prefect of St. Omer delivered "to the young Henri Clay of Haut Pont, aged ten "years, a silver medal accorded to him by the Emperor for having saved two of his comrades from "drowning in the canal. Two days afterward, the "young Henri Clay, hearing cries of 'Help, help, "he is drowning—come quick, Henry,' ran up, "saw a child in the water, dashed in and brought "it safe to land." How there comes to be a French Henry Clay at St. Omer is not explained; but it is good to see the honored name so honorably and characteristicaly applied. Just the style of action that belonged to the original Harry.

THE PERIM QUESTION.

From The London Times, April 7.

Of late years the French newspapers have so much fallen in importance and ability that their articles are rarely read by the general public in this country, and they may be engaged for a long time on a subject before we become aware of it, even though the matter concerns ourselves. Be it known, then, that the great question debated at present by whatever of journalism still exists in Paris is the Island of Perim, the rock at the entrance of the Red Sea which the East India Company occupied some months since. So great is the interest excited by this new theme, that even the Isthmus of Suez is for a time forgotten. This great philanthropic project has, indeed, cause to complain of the inconsistency of the Parisian journalists; several newspapers have not had an article on the subject for nearly a week. Those who still glance over the broad sheets of our neighbors are aware that between a scientific essay on the Artificial Alimentation of Prawns and an antiquarian essay on Carthaginian Horseshoes an article on the piercing of the Isthmus of Suez has a right to a distinguished place about every three days. Judge, then, of the importance of Perim, which has for a time carried the imagination of our neighbors to the other extremity of the Red Sea!

The two questions are, however, one; and, as they have received comparatively little attention in this country, while the continental press has been ringing with them, it may be as well to offer a few words of explanation. Ever since the establishment of the Overland Route to India the political gossips of the continent have seen with extreme jealousy the extension of what they call "English influence" in Egypt and the parts adjacent. It might strike them that a nation which acts is likely to have more influence than nations which merely talk; and, moreover, that a free community of active men must necessarily extend its relations with countries which lie on their way to a most valuable dependency. This country has, indeed, done wonders for Egypt since Waghorn succeeded in his notable enterprise. The whole mail traffic and a large part of the passenger traffic between England and India, China, Australia and the Indian Archipelago has been diverted to the route of Suez and the Red Sea. The perishing cities of Egypt are living again, touched by the renovating influence of British enterprise and civilization. Alexandria, Cairo and Suez are becoming places of the highest importance, and the Viceroyalty is taking its position as the wealthiest and most prosperous State of the East. All this has been done by Englishmen, and what has been done is as nothing compared with what will be effected before a few years have passed away. Already the railway is nearly finished between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. The Indian Mail now traverses the country twice every week, and it is certain that with the rapid increase of trade the departures of first-class English steamers from Suez will soon be almost daily. Our telegraph lines will soon be laid along the Red Sea and the shores of Arabia to Kurrachee or Bombay. Thousands of British soldiers will yearly cross the Desert on their way to and from our Empire in the East. We may add that the direct trade of Egypt with this country is of the very greatest importance, and that the Viceroyalty is linked to England by continually strengthening interests. Such facts as these, one would think, might show other nations the illiberality and folly of endeavoring to thwart the intercourse which has done so much for a country but lately plunged in poverty and barbarism. But national jealousy and national vanity are proof against reason and good feeling. The French people, not content with their high position on the Continent, not recognizing the truth that their destiny, though great, is merely European, seek to follow us over the world, and, without an object but the gratification of an uneasy self-esteem, to force themselves into all our concerns. France has no interests in the Red Sea or the Indian Ocean. She is represented in Egypt only by a few adventurers, who, with a pliancy which Englishmen have no desire to rival, ingratiate themselves with the Mohammedans, and adopt the manners, the morals, and sometimes the faith, of the race among which they live. This clique has always been animated by a bitter jealousy of England, and even in the midst of the Russian war, when France and England were in arms together, it did not care to dissemble its hostility. To the inspiration of these French fortune-seekers is to be attributed the plan of making a canal from the Mediterranean coast to Suez—a scheme so wild and impracticable that no man can believe it to be sincerely propounded for commercial and maritime objects. Our conviction is, that if a concession were granted by the Porte the canal would not be made—that it is not intended to be made, but that the installation of a French company, under French protection, on the route which our mails and passengers follow, would be used as a means of thwarting us in all plans for perfecting the system of transit. In fact, it is merely a political scheme for operating on our line of communications. Whenever we proposed an extension of railway, or another line of telegraph, or an improvement of the port, or the erection of a warehouse, or any practical object, we should be met with the rights of the Lesseps Company, which we should be told was in a year or two to commence that great work of civilization by which France, to whom alone belongs the initiation of ideas, was to attract the gaze of the universe. We sincerely trust that if there are any persons who believe that an improper opposition has been made to the Suez scheme, they will be content to give the successive Governments of the country credit for understanding the question better than themselves. England has done everything for Egypt, and she alone is interested in the traffic across the Isthmus. If, then, the canal were feasible, English engineers would have executed it long ago. All that can be done is to make a railway, and that has been effected while those who clamor for wonderful projects have been sitting idly at home.

The occupation of the rock of Perim is a question of a similar nature. English steamers, as we have said, are passing and repassing the entrance of the Red Sea daily. No other European flag ever appears on the waters of this tropical gulf. Neither France, nor Russia, nor Austria has the slightest concern with it. It is in the exclusive occupation of England, and must in the nature of things remain so as long as England has vast possessions beyond it, and these other countries have none at all. Perim, which is advantageously situate at a point where the navigation is difficult, has been an uninhabited rock, except at rare intervals, since the creation of the world. It was occupied when Sir David Baird was about to invade Egypt from India nearly sixty years ago, and when, a few months back, our people returned, they found, we are told, the fortifications and reservoirs just as their grandfathers left them. And yet, because we form a settlement on this desert rock in a sea where no flag but our own ever comes we must listen to an outburst of spite from the Continental press. We are to forego the possession of a spot which is untenanted by any human being, and which is found to be a convenient halting-place for our mail steamers and transports, simply out of deference to the susceptibilities of Continental politicians, who have not the smallest interest in those regions of the world, and who never heard the name of Perim in their lives. Perim may be necessary for the intercourse between Europe and Asia, but Perim must be left desolate because France thinks that the occupation will too much increase the influence of England on the Arabian and Abyssinian coasts. This is what the science of politics has come to among the publicists of the Second Empire!

We have had enough of such trifling. Ever since the French press has been forbidden to discuss domestic subjects it has always been searching for some paltry matter of this kind, and seeking to elevate it into a great political question. The Continental journalists have also thought fit to insinuate a proposition which we may as well repudiate at once—namely that the policy of this country in Asia is to be subordinated to some general Council of European Powers, and we consequently hear of the occupation of Perim being brought before the Parisian Conference, and of collective notes being meditated on the subject. There is probably no truth in all this; but still, the existence of the report is evidence of notions which we may as well dissipate at once. As for Egypt and the Red Sea, the intentions of this country are soon stated. We have no wish to acquire Territorial possessions in those parts, but we will not for a moment tolerate any scheme for interfering with the great system of intercommunication which we are now building up. As for any nation pretending to a superior or even an equal position with England in Egypt, it is out of the question. We have not labored so much to give up now the fruits of our labor. Twice within the last sixty years have British arms preserved Egypt to the Porte. In the first of these conflicts a great French army and fleet, led by the first of modern generals, was utterly defeated and destroyed. Forty years afterward, when an ambitious viceroy made war against his sovereign, it was again a British force that crushed his pretensions. The policy and spirit of England are what they were in 1798 and 1840. Our own rights and the rights of the Sultan we will support, as we have done before, against either European or Egyptian ambition. So we would advise these journalists who are busying themselves about English proceedings in the Red Sea to attend to matters which more nearly concern themselves. Perim can only possibly belong to the Sultan of Turkey or the Imaum of Muscat. If either of these potentates chooses to make a reclamation, we shall know how to deal with it: but any other State will only lose its time and temper by interfering with the question. Probably all that has been said on the matter proceeds only from the ill-humor of the Continental press, but, should any Government be so ill-advised as to give effect to these suggestions, we trust that Lord Malmesbury will simply decline to listen to any such meddling with our national affairs.

THE FRENCH ASSASSINATORS—TRIAL OF BERNARD.

From The European Times, April 10.

This morning, Lord Chief Justice Campbell and Lord Chief Baron Pollock attended at the Central Criminal Court for the purpose of charging the Grand Jury under the special commission for the trial of Simon Bernard, for being an accessory before the fact to the attempt of Orsini and others to assassinate his Majesty the Emperor of the French.

The Lord Chief Justice said that they were called together to dispose of a case that could not be disposed of in an ordinary tribunal, and the proceeding took place under the statute of the 7th and 8th George IV., sec. 7, which enacted, that if any subject of her Majesty should be an accessory, before or after the fact, to the commission of any murder or manslaughter upon land out of the dominions of her Majesty, the offense should be tried in this country, but only under a special commission; and they were now called together to dispose of a case of this character. His Lordship said he should only briefly allude to the facts upon which the charge was preferred; although the prisoner was certainly not present when the offense was committed, yet, if they should believe that he was cognizant of what was about to occur, he would be responsible for the consequences, and it would be their duty to find the bill. The Lord Chief Justice then said that he should refrain, on the present occasion, from giving any opinion as to the law, but he advized them that should they be of opinion that a prima facie case of complicity in the crime had been made out against the prisoner, to return a true bill, and any question of law that might arise would be most anxiously and carefully considered and solemnly decided.

Before the Grand Jury retired, his Lordship said, that supposing the Grand Jury should return a true bill, the trial would take place on Monday morning, and he expressed a hope that during the trial there would be no discussion with reference to the case on the part of the press.

The jury considered the matter for four hours, when they came into court with the announcement that they had found a true bill against Simon Bernard. The trial will therefore commence on Monday.

The following is the speech delivered by the Emperor at the recent inauguration of the Boulevard de Sevastopol:

GENTLEMEN, MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: The inauguration of the Boulevard de Sevastopol gives me the opportunity of thanking you for the perseverance of your efforts for the embellishment of the capital and for the comfort of its inhabitants. We are at a period when the introduction of railways has changed the whole economical conditions of a country, for not only do they absorb for their construction the greater part of the disposable capital, but when constructed they favor concentration in cities and modify the relations between the producer and the consumer. The Municipal Council had therefore a manifold work to accomplish; it was first necessary to secure the financial resources of Paris, to form new constructions, so as to be able to lodge a sudden excess of population, and, on the other hand, it was indispensable to demolish, to throw open new thoroughfares, giving light and health to unhealthy quarters, making new great arteries favorable to the development of the city, by bringing the center closer to the outskirts. This double result has been achieved; the constructions have exceeded the demolitions tenfold; but your efforts did not stop there; during the famine years, thanks to the Bakers' Fund Institution, you gave the people cheaper bread. No plan of improvement or benevolence escaped you. While founding new hospitals, you increased private charities, you built new churches and new schools; you helped the supply of provisions for Paris by establishing central markets; you commenced the purification of the city by a gigantic work of underground galleries, worthy of the works of ancient Rome; finally, you united to the useful what would satisfy the eye and inspire elevated sentiments.

When future generations pass through our great city, not only will they acquire a taste for the beautiful on beholding these works of art, but on reading the names inscribed on our bridges and streets, they will call to mind the glory of our arms from Rivoli to Sevastopol.

For all these great results I am indebted to the support of the Legislative Council, which, casting aside all provincial selfishness, understood that a country like France ought to have a capital worthy of her, and did not hesitate to grant the subvention asked by the Government.

I am also indebted for them to the enlightened coöperation of the Municipal Council; but I am indebted especially for their prompt and judicious execution to the enlightened magistrate whom I have placed at the head of the department of the Seine, who, while maintaining praiseworthy order in the city finances, knew how to terminate in so short a time so many undertakings, against obstacles incessantly raised in a spirit of routine and party opposition. I am happy in having this opportunity of thanking him publicly.

But our task, gentlemen, is by no means accomplished. You have approved a general plan, which is to continue what you have so well commenced.

The Chambers, I trust, will shortly vote it, and then we shall behold every year new arteries thrown open, populous districts rendered more salubrious, rents lessened, owing to the increase of houses, the working classes enriched by labor, poverty diminished by a better system of benevolence, and Paris responding more and more to her high calling.

EMANCIPATION IN RUSSIA—THE CZAR'S PROCLAMATION.

The *St. Petersburg Gazette* publishes an Imperial