The San Juan Island Affair.

THE London *Times* of the 27th ult., makes the San Juan Island affair the subject of its leading article. This article, however, is but the echo of other articles which have appeared in the daily "Thunderer." The firm tone of the American journals is caricatured; the moderation of our Government in the face of popular prejudice is praised, and the claim of England to the disputed territory is emphatically sustained. The object which the *Times* has in view is patent enough. All its article relating to the San Juan difficulty, when closely examined, disclose its want of confidence in the justice of the English claim, but it tries to sustain this claim by exciting prejudice against the course of action adopted by General HARNEY.

Denunciation of HARNEY's course is the staple of English criticism. It is regretted (in a pharaisical style) that Gen. HARNEY should, "by his rashness," have endangered the peaceful relations existing between the two countries, and the hope is expressed that the American Government will disavow his interference. Even flattery is used to induce the President and his Cabinet to repudiate Gen. HARNEY's acts, and the *Times*, after misrepresenting the state of the controversy, thus endeavors to mislead public opinion in England, and "soft sawder" Mr. BUCHANAN.

President BUCHANAN, though notoriously predisposed against the English, has, with the full assent of his Cabinet and of the public opinion of his countrymen, shown a disposition to settle the matter amicably, strong the unauthorized act of General HARNEY, and restoring the controversy to the position in which it stood before June last. General SCOTT has been despatched to take the command in Washington Territory, and, unless some unfortunate skirmish has taken place already, there can be little doubt that the two governments will arrive at an understanding. This is the President's crime in the eyes of a section of American journalists! Submission to England, dereliction of duty, betrayal of "our hardy pioneers," are charged against the chief magistrate, mingled with the usual boasting about whipping the Britisher, and planting the flag of freedom on every portion of the continent.

The *Times* is laboring under a mistake. American journals have not yet accused Mr. BUCHANAN of submission to England, nor of dereliction from duty in this matter. They have, as yet, full faith in his determination to maintain our rights; and the dispatch of Gen. SCOTT to the scene of strife is approved by men of all shades of political opinion. We are satisfied that England will not go to war with us to secure possession of San Juan Island, and our government should disregard her bluster. We yielded much in the adjustment of the Oregon Boundary question, and any further concessions at this time would bring upon the present administration a weight of odium greater than it has incurred during its troubled existence. If, as the *Times* says, the island of San Juan is the key to the Gulf of Georgia, it is our duty—when it is our right—to hold that key.

The Capital of Morocco.

The following is some account of the ancient capital of the Moorish dominions. Morocco, or Merakach, having been ruined by disastrous wars and depopulated by the plague, is now only the shadow of what it formerly was. Leon Africanus says that "it is a city larger than Paris, where the King has his palace, which is more sumptuous and more magnificent than any other in the world." At the commencement of the seventeenth century Morocco had a population of 600,000; it now scarcely reaches 50,000. The city was founded in 1073; its walls, which attest its former splendor, embrace a circumference of six miles, and are pierced by eleven double gates flanked by towers; gardens and ruins fill up the greater part of the ground within the walls. The modern city is similar, with regard to its architecture, to the other cities of the empire; its streets are narrow and irregular; the houses are composed of a court with galleries round it, which lead to long and narrow rooms, the windows of which rarely look into the street. Many of the houses are built of stone, but the great majority are constructed of a kind of mortar composed of sand, lime, and earth, which is beaten hard together between planks placed on either side of the wall as it is being built. There are several large open squares, or market places in Morocco, but, like the streets, they are neither paved nor sanded. There are several mosques, the principal ones being those of El Koutoubia and Mouzim, that of the Bentous, and that of Sidi Belabess, the patron of the city. The Sultan's palace is outside the walls; it consists of a vast group of buildings surrounded by pleasure and kitchen gardens. There are also a mosque and large courts, where the Sultan gives his public audiences. Like Hue, the capital of Cochin China, all the buildings form a complete labyrinth of walls. The Jews are not well treated in the empire. At Morocco, they occupy a special quarter, which is surrounded by a wall, the gate of which is closed at night and during the whole of Saturday, and guarded by a caid. The Jews are the only tinmen and tailors in Morocco; the Moors only exercise the trades of shoemakers, carpenters, masons, locksmiths and weavers of haiks and gaudouras.

Louisiana Intelligence.

The Marksville *Central Organ*, of the 29th ult., says: The late heavy rains have done immense injury to the cotton crops on the bayous. There was a great deal open in the fields, on a great majority of the plantations, and the cotton has been literally beaten in the ground by the violent pelting of the rain. The loss will be found to be very considerable. During the storm, last evening, the gin house of Dr. CRENSHAW, a planter in the Big Bend of Bayou de Glaize, was struck by lightning, and set on fire. Some twenty-five or thirty bales of cotton was burnt.

The same paper says: On Monday morning last, about 2 o'clock, those of our citizens who live in the vicinity of the court-house and jail, were aroused from their slumbers by the loud cries and the screams of some one apparently in great terror and agony. These were soon ascertained to proceed from the jail, which was occupied at the time, fortunately, but by one criminal, supposed to be a runaway slave, who had been arrested and confined awaiting reclamation by his master. It was soon apparent that he had set the cell on fire in which he was confined, and that instead of effecting an escape, he must perish in the flames lit by his own hands. Efforts were made to force open the door of the dungeon, but to no avail, even after the key had been turned, as the negro had fired the inside of the door itself, the outside being of iron and so expanded by the heat of the burning wood, that all efforts to force open the door were ineffectual, in the short space of time allowed. The flames in the meantime had caught the woodwork of the floor and other portions of the cell and were bursting out of the windows and with the most horrid yells and screeches of agony the poor wretch expired.

The town of Richmond, La., has been almost entirely destroyed by fire. On the 2d inst., about 3 o'clock, a fire was discovered in the office of the *Gazette*, which soon enveloped the establishment in flames. The destroying element then communicated to the adjoining buildings, until the whole town was a scene of general conflagration.

An Extraordinary Case.

Sir EMERSON TENNENT, in his new work on Ceylon, tells the following remarkable story:—"Lieut. GERARD FRETZ, of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment, while shooting at an elephant in the vicinity of Fort McDonald, in Oovah, was wounded in the face by the bursting of his fowling piece, on the 22d of January, 1829. He was then about thirty-two years of age. On raising him, it was found that part of the breech of the gun, and about two inches of the barrel, had been driven through the frontal sinus, at the junction of the nose and forehead. It had sunk almost perpendicularly, till the iron plate called the 'tail pin,' by which the barrel is made fast to the stock by a screw, had descended through the palate, carrying with it the screw, one extremity of which had forced itself into the right nostril, where it was discernible externally, while the headed end lay in contact with his tongue. To extract the jagged mass of iron thus sunk in the ethmoidal and sphenoidal cells was hopelessly impracticable. But, strange to tell, after the inflammation subsided, Mr. FRETZ recovered rapidly, his general health was unimpaired, and he returned to his regiment with this singular appendage firmly embedded behind the bones of his face. He took his turn of duty as usual, attained the command of his company, participated in all the enjoyments of the mess-room, and died *eight years afterward*, on the 1st of April, 1836, not from the consequences of this fearful wound, but from fever and inflammation, brought on by other causes. So little was he apparently inconvenienced by the presence of the strange body in his palate, that he was accustomed with his finger (partially to undo the screw, which, but for its extreme length, he might altogether have withdrawn. To enable this to be done, and possibly to assist by this means the extraction of the breech itself through the original orifice, (which never entirely closed) an attempt was made in 1835 to take off a portion of the screw with a file, but after having cut 3 parts through, the operation was interrupted, chiefly owing to the carelessness and indifference of Capt. FRETZ, whose death occurred before the attempt could be resumed. The piece of iron on being removed after his decease, was found to measure 2 3-4 inches in length, and weighed 2 scruples more than 2 ounces and three-quarters."

From Pike's peak.

The *Rocky Mountain News*, of Oct. 27, contains the following items:

Dr. MIDDLETON, who has recently returned from the South Park and Tarryall diggings, reports the miners as doing exceedingly well. There had been two falls of snow, but it remained on the ground but a short time, and, up to the time of his departure, the weather was fine for outdoor operations.

Messrs HUTSON, COOPER, and WELLATS, discovered gold in the Clay County, load on the 6th of July, began work the first week in August, have averaged eight hands employed since that time, (five besides themselves,) and have taken out $9 645, at an expense for hands, provisions, tools, &c., of about two thousand dollars; quit work for the season on the 22d of October. They took out the last week, in 4½ days, $982, being the best day's work of the season. Largest yield in one day, $224 70; least day's work, $40. They have reached, in their mine, a depth of 64 feet; at 50 feet deep they drifted 140 feet on the lead. Their mine is steadily increasing in richness.

Mr. MCCRAE has shown us 148 grains of wheat, the yield of two heads, grown in the garden of the Messrs. PARKISON, in Denver City. The wheat stalks were found by accident in a patch of corn, and it is supposed the seed grains were planted with the corn, which was planted about the first of June. The grains are very large, fully one-third larger than the best we have ever seen in the Western States, and fully equal in size and weight to the famous wheat of California and Oregon. We have no doubt that millions of acres of our plains and mountain valleys, will produce wheat, that, for quantity and quality, the world cannot excel.

A Fifth Avenue Lady Buying Books.

A correspondent of the *Newport News* tells the following anecdote:

A certain New York lady, whom I shall call Mrs. X., recently had the good luck to come into the possession of a handsome fortune. No sooner had this agreeable change in her condition been effected, than she immediately had a "loud call" from the direction of Fifth avenue, and yielding to the tempter, prevailed upon her husband to abandon his calling as a purveyor in provisions and fish, and purchase a residence in that aristocratic neighborhood. In due time her house was furnished in a style of magnificence which vied with "the very best." Keeping her eyes open for every new improvement, she recently discovered that "it was about the right thing" to have books, and desirous of being up with the fashion, at once ordered an elegant rosewood bookcase, and started out to purchase the material whereWith it was to be filled.

Provided with a diagram illustrating the dimensions of the library—the length, breadth and height of the shelves, and so on—she called upon one of our largest publishers, and handing an astonished clerk the measure, told him she "wanted the prettiest books he'd got—them with red backs, and to be sure and make *them all fit the librarium*." With this the lady moved away as majestically as a full-blown turkey-cock under full sail. In due time the books went, but such was the novelty of the order that, in exercising his taste, the clerk had selected some a little too long, others too short; some bound in Russia, some in Turkey, some in calf; while the colors of the collection were as variegated as the hues of the rainbow. This didn't suit, and a day or two brought the whole batch back, Mrs. X following close upon them, looking as stiff as if she had been poured into gorgeous clothes, like a candle, in a state of liquefaction, and had then "set." "I sent per books back," said she, "because I told ye to make 'em all of one size and one color, and them ain't no more alike than a parcel of nigger babies is like white children." "But madam," ventured the clerk, "we supposed there were some particular works you would like to have." "No!" said she, with an emphasis, as if she was dictating her cook, "I don't care what's in 'em, all I want is books, to fill them shelves, *that has got red backs*, and will look genteel in my new librarium."

There was no mistaking that order, and this time the "red backs" went, and are probably now adorning one of our "homes of art, taste and refinement." Think of it, ye shades of SHAKESPEARE, BURNS, BYRON, MOORE, and brother worthies, your brains bought by the square inch! But such is life!

The Capitol.

We find the preparations for the coming meeting of Congress about as forward as usual at this period of the year. The new circular benches in the Hall of Representatives are finished, and a fresh and cheerful carpeting is something more than half laid down. The new plan of seating the Members leaves vacant a large section of the hall on the extreme right and left of the Speaker, and the desired object will be attained by having the house more directly in front of the presiding officer. Large tables have been constructed and placed along the spaces around the margin of the hall for the accommodation of Members who may desire to write. To all appearances a very few days will suffice to have the Hall of Representatives in order for the session. There having been no changes of note to be made in the Senate Chamber, it is not yet put in order; but as everything is at hand, a day or two will be sufficient for that purpose. The lobbies, passages, and ways of both houses have been, in a great measure, disincumbered of the scaffolding, planks, and other appliances necessary during the process of frescoing, plastering, tesselating, &c., whereby an examination of the noble edifice is much more gratifying than heretofore. The work on the dome is going steadily forward, and makes as much show as an undertaking so great, and demanding so much time and labor, could be expected to do at this stage of the progress.—*National Intelligencer.*

Organization of Another Territory.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, says the Washington *Star*, has received from New York city a letter, in which was enclosed several circulars of various descriptions, all urging the importance of an immediate, permanent and final settlement of the aboriginal population of the United States, and stating what steps had already been taken in order to secure the accomplishment of such an object. It is proposed also, to form a United States Aboriginal Department. The territory designated for this purpose is the Indian Territory lying west of Arkansas and when properly organized, to bear the title of the "Indian Territory of Neosho." In advocacy of this scheme, the writer says: "We have enfranchised the Anti-American Spanish of New Mexico and California—we have made Utah with her population of the refuse of all the world, and her theocratic-religious hierarchy, an integral part of the Union to be represented in Congress,—while the people of the proposed Neosho, with whom they are not to be compared in point of fitness for American citizenship, are made their subjects. We are not, however, prepared to advocate the full representation of Aboriginal territories. For the present it would be an exceedingly delicate question, one which may, perhaps, be discussed with more profit by a future generation; but we do not think that at least, not only the southwest territory—Neosho—but but some six or eight equally extensive sections should be organized as Aboriginal Territories—that Congress should create an Aboriginal Department, placed under a Secretary as are other Departments of the government. And, further, that at this, "The Aboriginal Department," the several Aboriginal Territories should be annually represented.

Durability of Timber.

The durability of timber is almost incredible. The following are a few examples for illustration, being vouched for by BUFFON, DU HAMEL, RONDELET and others:

The piles of a bridge built by TRAJAN, after having been driven more than sixteen hundred years, were found to be petrified four inches, the rest of the wood being in its ordinary condition. While taking down the old walls of Tunbridge Castle, Kent, there was found, in the middle of a thick stone wall, a timber-curb, which had been enclosed for seven hundred years. Some timbers of an old bridge were discovered while digging for the foundations of a house at Ditton Park, Windsor, which ancient records incline us to believe were placed there prior to the year, 1396. The durability of timber out of the ground is even greater still. The roof of the basilica of St. Paul, at Rome, was framed in the year 816, and now, after more than a thousand years, it is still sound: and the original cypress-wood doors of the same building, after being in use more than six hundred years, were, when replaced by others of brass, perfectly free from rot or decay, the wood retaining its original odor. The timber dome of St. Mark, at Venice, is still good, though more than 850 years old. The roof of the Jacobiz Convent, at Paris, which is of fir, was executed more than 450 years ago. The age of our country's settlement does not enable us to refer to examples of like antiquity; but no good reason appears to exist why timber may not be as durable in America as in Europe. Many old white pine cornices here exist, which, having been properly painted, have been exposed to the storms of more than 150 years. The wood is still sound, and the arrises are as good as when they were made, while freestone, in the same neighborhoods, has decayed badly in less than fifty years.—*Holloway's Book of Modern Carpentry.*

Assassination at Velletri.

A letter from Rome in the *Courrier de Marseille*, says:—

The town of Velletri has been thrown into consternation by the following horrible event:—M. SPONZEN, belonging to one of the first families in the place, was assassinated at the moment when he was leaving the FILIPPI palace. He was about to be united in marriage to Mdlle. DE FILIPPI, daughter of the Count DE FILIPPI, ex-equerry to the Sovereign Pontiff. He had, on the very evening, gone through the ceremony of betrothal, and was returning home, when he was suddenly assaled by two persons wearing masks, one of whom pinioned his arms, while the other stabbed him twice with a dagger. He was not killed on the spot, but after having been conveyed to his home, lived long enough to make his will, leaving part of his property to his intended bride. In 1853, M. SPONZENI had been imprisoned for some political affair, and he is thought to be the victim of the Italian societies, who condemn to death all who abandon them. If credit may be attached to an avowal made by M. SPONZENI before his death, his murderers do not belong to Velletri, but he would not name them.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

Arrival of the Asia.

The Cunard steamship Asia, from Liverpool October 19, arrived at this port on Sunday morning. Her advices are but one day later than those brought by the City of Baltimore, from Queenstown, but her mails are two days later, and from them we make some interesting extracts:

THE WRECK OF THE ROYAL CHARTER.

By the City of Baltimore, we received brief accounts of the wreck of the screw steamship Royal Charter, and of the fearful loss of life in consequence. We are now in possession of graphic and copious details of the sad calamity.

It appears that the Royal Charter, when within 9 or 3 hours' sail of Liverpool, (after a rapid passage from Melbourne) experienced the full fury of a terrible north east gale which prevailed all over England during the night of the 26th and 26th inst. The steam power of the vessel being merely auxiliary, it was insufficient to prevent her from being driven towards the shore, and as the water was rapidly shoaling, it became necessary at about ten o'clock at night to let go the anchors—guns having been previously fired, and rockets discharged in the hope of attracting a pilot, but without success. The gale meantime increased to a perfect hurricane, and at 2 o'clock in the morning the port anchor came parted, and shortly afterward the ship was beating on the rocks in a place called Moelfra Bay, near Puffin Island, on the west of Anglesea. The masts were cut away, but without any beneficial result.

About daylight, (6 o'clock,) a sailor, with a cord tied around his waist, jumped overboard, and, although the sea ran tremendously high, he succeeded in reaching and maintaining a foothold on the rocky shore, when was not more than ten yards distant from the ship, but was almost prostrated on to the height of forty feet. A hawser was then got ashore and a boatswain's chair attached to it, with a view of hauling the passengers and crew ashore. About a dozen seamen were by this means safely landed, and it was hoped that all on board might be saved. At about 7 o'clock however, the waves beating against the ship's broadside with redoubled violence, she suddenly snapped asunder amidships, and tumbled in pieces. As the passengers had mostly kept together, large numbers were killed by the crashing debris, and only 26 persons managed to get ashore—making the whole number saved only 39 out of a total (passengers and crew) of 493.

The scene was terrible in the extreme. Many were washed on and off the rocks several times, and in numerous instances those who thought themselves secure on jutting rocks were hurled back into the sea by the furious waves. But a superior officer was saved, rather a woman nor cowardly. Captain PRICE exerted himself to the utmost, but was finally struck on the head while struggling in the water, by a boat falling from the davits, and was seen no more. The destruction of the ship was rapid and complete, so that by 8 o'clock nothing was visible but masses of wreck, mingled with bodies of the dead washed on the strand. The prostration of the telegraph wires, and the destruction of the sea cot a portion of the Chester and Holyhead railroad (which passes the locality) caused considerable delay in the reception of the news at Liverpool, and a consequent loss of time in sending tug boats to the spot. The specie had on board (supposed) 79,000 ounces of gold, besides a large number of sovereigns. Estimates of the total value ranged from £500,000 to £800,000. And hopes were entertained that this might be recovered by divers.

The Royal Charter was an iron vessel of 2,749 tons register, clipper built, and furnished with auxiliary engines. She was built in 1856, at a cost of over £90,000, and was insured for £80,000. Her general cargo was not very valuable—say £5,000.

Of the persons on board the Royal Charter when she left Austria, 63 were cabin passengers, 325 other passengers, and 123 crew—total, 511. Of these, 17 passengers were landed at Queenstown and 39 were saved from the wreck, so that the total loss of life was 456. Among those reckoned as crew were eleven riggers, who were transferred from a tug-boat to the Royal Charter, in the Channel, for conveyance to Liverpool.

Insurances were being effected at LLOYD's on the bullion, at 25 per cent. premium.

The great gale which caused the wreck of the Royal Charter, and the detention of the steamers North America and City of Baltimore, was most disastrous in its effects around the coast of England. Numerous vessels (mostly coasters) were wrecked, and many lives were lost. Much damage was also done on land.

The following disasters to American vessels are reported: The bark J. M. Tourston, Capt GRANT, from London for Port Talbot, in ballast, was driven ashore near Falmouth, but was subsequently towed off and taken into Falmouth harbor. The damage was not supposed to be extensive.

The ship England, from Liverpool for New Orleans, went ashore in Holyhead harbor, but was expected to be got off.

The American ship Rockingham, from Cardiff outward bound, lost anchors and cables in Penarth Roads, and was run on the mud.

The bark Maidborough, from Baltimore, was totally wrecked near Ilfracomse. Crew saved, with the exception of the pilot and second mate.

The ship Tornado, at Liverpool, from New York was struck by a sea on the 6th of October, which washed overboard the first and third mates, five seamen and two boats. Three other boats were also smashed.

A grand banquet had been given at Edinburgh to Lord BROUGHAM, and on the day the Asia sailed, Lord DERBY was to be honored with one in Liverpool. An imposing demonstration was expected. Lord BROUGHAM was elected Chancellor of the Edinburgh University, by a vote of 654 to 419 for the Duke of Buccleugh.

Lady PEEL, widow of the late Sir ROBERT PEEL, is dead. She retired to rest in apparent good health, and was found next morning dead in her bed.

FRANCE.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Times* writes:—"The state of affairs, as between England and France, on the matter of the Congress, is said to be more encouraging than for some days. It is said it is believed that an English Plenipotentiary will, after all, take his place among the representatives of the Powers that have to settle the very difficult question of Italy. Contracts are said to have been made for supplying the whole French force in Italy, up to the 21st of May next.

A fire took place on the 28th, at the Palace of Luxembourg.

The Salle de Seances was completely destroyed, and four persons were dangerously injured. The galleries, museum, archieves, library, &c., were all saved.

The London *Herald's* Paris correspondent states that Government had given orders to an iron company for 160 gun boats, 25 of which are to be completed with the utmost dispatch.

It is stated that the Tuscan Government had got scent of a plot with a reactionary intent, in which the red republicans were in league with the Grand Ducal and priestly authorities. The papers seized afford clear evidence of a pretty extensive plot, and that the conspirators belong to the upper classes.

LATEST—BY TELEGRAPH TO LIVERPOOL.

London, Oct. 29.—The London *Times'* correspondent on board the Great Eastern, reports the effect of the gale. Capt. HARRISON and the whole crew were at their posts, ready to run the ship out if necessary. Between 2 and 4 the wind almost equaled the violence of a hurricane, at times jerking at the masts as if it would snap them off at the deck, making the Great Eastern tremble perceptibly throughout her immense length and breadth, as if some giant hand were shaking her. Capt. HARRISON's waterproof coat, while on his way along the deck, blown to ribbons off him, and he himself at last carried before the gale and blown down and tumbled along with such violence, as to receive some severe contusions. The saloon skylights were blown up, and wind and rain poured into the saloon. The upper woodwork was leaking at every seam, and the lower decks soft and splashing from the drippings. Three anchors were down, and appeared taut to the very utmost; at 6 the breakwater works were giving way, portions of the wreck once or twice foiling the screw, and it was found necessary to swing by one anchor, at 10:30 A. M., it parted, and the ship was adrift, rolling and tumbling towards the shore. A second heavy anchor was let go, and the screw moved ahead, but it again fouled. The paddles were then driven round at speed, and were somewhat damaged by the floating timbers. The anchor held. Two screw collers, two brigs, two dennies and one gallot all hung to the ship. In this last struggle some of the links of the cable were actually dragged out one-third longer.

Later Intelligence.

Arrival of the Hungarian.

Portland, Nov. 13.—The steamship Hungarian, Capt. JONES, with 64 passengers, left Liverpool at 12.10 P. M. of the 2d inst., and arrived here this (Sunday) morning at 10.30, it being an eleven days' passage, including a detention of six hours at Newfoundland in rescuing and landing the crew of the shipwrecked vessel, as before reported.

Nov 24, passed the three-masted schooner Alfa, from Montreal, towing into Liverpool.

The steamship Teutonia arrived at Southampton on the 29th.

The steamer Vigo leaves Liverpool December 29th, for Philadelphia.

GREAT BRITAIN.

There is nothing new of importance, relative to the loss of the Royal Charter. It is stated that the divers, after an examination of the wreck, reported so unsatisfactorily, as to the recovery of the gold, that the underwriters demanded forty per cent for insurance. Fears were entertained that the bullion room would not be found intact. But few additional bodies had been recovered.

As the steamer Hungarian was coaling in the Mersey from a flat alongside, the flat was swamped and several lives lost. Considerable damage was sustained, by buildings, &c., in London and other inland towns, during the late heavy gale.

The Great Eastern was expected to leave Holyhead for Southampton, on the day the Hungarian sailed. The Directors had voted £40,000 to place the ship in a complete state of efficiency. It is asserted that she goes to Liverpool in the Spring, and that SCOTT RUSSELL's services are dispensed with.

The Conservatives of Liverpool gave a grand banquet to Lord DERBY and the principal members of the late Administration. Numerous political speeches were made, but nothing of importance transpired. The event was simply regarded as a strong party demonstration.

VERY LATEST.

☞ *London, Wednesday.*—The *Times'* city article of Tuesday evening, says:—The intelligence of a friendly understanding between Russia and Prussia, seems calculated to have a favorable influence on prices, from its being likely to interpose a partial check against new European wars.

Among the few speculators that assembled, the nominal quotation of consols was 96¾.

The demand for money has again been active, both at the Bank and the open market.

The Daily *News* city article says:—The stock exchange was closed, according to custom, on Tuesday. There was a marked increase in the applications for money at the Bank, and in the general market it was only by way of favor that the best bills were discounted at the Bank minimum. The immediate supply of money has become very scanty. The impression that money will and become scarcer when desire this year is retained by many persons, and is encouraged by the continued remittance of gold to the Continent, by the failures of the continental exchanges, and by the steady demand for silver for the East. There were no operations in gold at the Bank to-day.

A telegram from St. Petersburg states that 85,000 casks of tallow had been shipped off and business for the season was apparently finished, although the weather continued mild.

The India office invites tenders for 8,000 tons of coal delivable in India.

In regard to the China expedition the London *Times* is urgent in pressing on the government the necessity of dispatch. It says: "If we are at the labouring oar by March we can do the work well in one year; if we are after than April we are almost certain, that it will take two years and double our pecuniary expenses. We hope that no desire of French cooperation will induce us to carry out our previous tardy and expensive an extent as to wait for them. If our ships are not be ready to go with us, we could vide the task with them and meet them at Peking, or expect them at Pei Tang; perhaps we may meet the Americans there. If private Anglo-Indian letters from China speak the truth, Mr. WARD was, with almost intent to ridicule him, drawn to Peking by a single and a donkey, tandem fashion, and his ratified treaty is found to be a piece of paper of no more stipulation in the draft contained, that is to say—regulations for trade and tariff. Then we come to that the Americans may by this time have concluded that their neutility has not answered. We, however, want no help.

Paris, Nov 1.—The *Moniteur* contains the following: The Duke of Padua retires from the post of Minister of the Interior on account of ill health. Mr. BILLAULT, succeeds him.

Dresden, Nov 1.—The Dresden *Journal* asserts: England will send a representative to the approaching congress, without making any condition. The same journal says the Congress will in all probability meet at Paris.

Lisbon, Oct 31.—The steamer Avon has arrived with the Brazilian mail. There is no political news of importance.

Exchange on London 28¾. Coffee had declined 200 to 300 reis; exports since the last mail 104,000 bags; for the United States prices were at 57 to 59 reis, flat; stock 120,000 bags.

FRANCE.

There were some doubts of the authenticity of the letter of NAPOLEON to the King of Sardinia, but it was generally regarded as genuine. The Paris correspondent of the London *Times*, who started the letter, guarantees its authenticity. The Emperor writes to the King to settle with him the course which ought to be followed for the future. The circumstances, he says, are grave, and it is requisite to lay aside idle situations.

Sardinia and Switzerland.

A difficulty has sprung up between Sardinia and Switzerland, which is thus explained by a Paris correspondent:

In spite of all the efforts of friends and umpires, the affair of the steamboats claimed by Sardinia from the Federal States of Switzerland, is likely to become serious. These boats were bought by the Federal Council for 400,000 francs; they are three in number, the Radetzky the Benedik and the Tricino. They were placed during the Austrian rule, beneath the protection of the cannon of the Fort of Laveno. The approach of Garibaldi's forces obliged the navy first to seek refuge in the middle of the lake, in Swiss waters. Once there Austria immediately bargained for their sale, and agreed to give them up to Switzerland, as payment of an old debt of 400,000 francs, still due to the Federation for stores and equipments furnished some time ago.

Sardinia, will not consent to this chaffering, and insists upon an old maxim of the rights of warfare, which declares all vessels to belong to the fortress in whose service they are employed, and therefore the three steamers would seem of right and necessity to Sardinia, as part of the session of the fortress of Laveno. Already has a decree been issued to prevent them navigating in Sardinian waters, under penalty of capture. Thus the same intellectual narrowness which has caused the war and all its horrors, is likely to occasion misunderstandings and agitation in the continent so necessary to between such neighbors. Piedmont and Switzerland are already interesting notes to each other seasoned with the bitter sweet which always ends in open quarrel.

Extraordinary Story.

The following strange story appears in the *Union du Var*: Sir ROBERT PEEL, has just left Nice for Grasse. This young man has been occupied for several years in procuring the information necessary to discover a will made by one of his uncles, leaving him a fortune estimated at thirty-two a billion—part of the fortune consisting of thirty houses at London, and an entire street in Edinburgh. This will, after the death of the testator, could not be found, and all attempts to discover it were fruitless. In August last, the Reverend Mr. HIMBAL, a Catholic Priest at Dublin, received in confession a declaration to the following effect:—The opulent testator, some time ago retired for Italy in the Ville de Grasse, a steamer which sunk near the Iles d'Hyeres. All his effects and papers were lost, but he himself was saved: he was, however, afflicted with rheumatism and having had to stop at Nice, died there. Just before his death he made his secretary write to his nephew to beg him to come in all haste; but the secretary, supposing that he would make a new will in favor of the latter, and having a spite against him, did not send the letter. When he made this confession the ex-secretary was on his death-bed, and he prayed the priest to do what he could to repair his wrong. Sir R. Egerton is now about to endeavor to obtain at La Grasse and Cannes, information as to the precise spot in which the vessel went down. He hopes that the trunks of his deceased uncle may still be in-tact, and that in one of them he can find the will. A company is being organized at London to assist him in getting up the vessel. He has consented to advance 20,000f. in English money towards the expenses, and to give 5,000,000f. out of his inheritance if the will be found at the bottom of the ocean. In the lost vessel were large sums in money and other articles of value belonging to other persons; and the question has arisen whether the English company may not retain all the wealth it may fish up.

Accident to the Steamer Connecticut.

In addition to the facts in regard to the collision near New London on Wednesday morning, between the steamer Connecticut and the oyster sloop Kitty Ann, which we published yesterday, we give the following from the New London *Chronicle* of Thursday:—

The Kitty Ann's bowsprit struck the steamer on her starboard side, a short distance forward of the wheel-house, crushing in the side-sheathing, and forcing in a way some six feet into her. At the point where it came through is located the cook room, and at the time of the accident a group of the boat hands were there eating breakfast. One of them, WM. O'BRIEN, was struck by the intruding bowsprit, and fairly impaled on it, his abdomen being torn open and his body penetrated in such a manner as made a ghastly and exceedingly painful wound, which can hardly fail to prove fatal. His left thigh was partially denuded of flesh where the bowsprit passed along it. He fell helpless, and though he was assisted and raised up as quickly as possible, he was terribly scalded by the boiling water from the coppers which flowed upon him as he lay on the floor.—His left hand suffered most by water, being scalded—or rather cooked—into a shocking condition. DENNIS GALAVAN, the other man injured, was thrown overboard by the shock, and remained in the water five or six minutes before he could be rescued. It seems probable from his appearance that he has received some internal injury. It is doubtful whether he can recover. O'BRIEN has since died.

Richard the Third to a Small Audience.

Mr. FOSTER, the Manager of a Theatrical Company playing at Bucyrus, Ohio, was sitting in a hotel, when a stranger, with a bill of the evening play in his hand, entered the room, and approaching Mr. FOSTER, asked what sum would induce his company to play Richard III. for him that afternoon, as he was compelled to leave town, and could not be present in the evening. Mr. FOSTER, supposing that the stranger was jesting, replied twenty-five dollars, and being asked what he would add the Rough Diamond for, he replied ten dollars. The stranger forthwith counted out the money, and the company, on being consulted, agreed to grant the stranger's request. The stranger desired that the play should begin not later than two o'clock. Two o'clock came, and the solitary audience assembled. Choosing an eligible position, and cocking his feet upon the back of the seat in front of him, he waited patiently for the performance to begin. The bell rang, up went the curtain, and the play commenced. Never did actors do better. They all exerted themselves to give their patron an entertainment fully worth the price paid for it, and they succeeded. The stranger applauded vigorously at different points, and at the close of the play called Mr. FOSTER before the curtain, who responded in a neat little speech. A dance and song followed, after which the farce of the Rough Diamond was played. The audience laughed, roared and applauded, and, as at the close of the first piece, called out the leading actors.

A Wealthy Man.

The New York correspondent of the New Orleans *Crescent* gives the following description of GEORGE LAW:

If anything don't pay, GEORGE LAW respectfully drops it. He now owns nine-tenths of the Eighth Avenue Railroad, which alone is an income of a prince, and growing more valuable every day. He also owns nearly all the stock of the 9th Avenue Railroad, which, when completed, will run through Greenwich st. to the 9th Avenue, and thence to Harlem River—a 9-mile concern. Half the ferries belong to LAW. He owns the Dry Dock Bank, and the Bank owns about forty acres of docks, houses and land, almost in the heart of the city. LAW owns the Statten Island ferry-boats, and two miles of water front nearest New York, that in a few years will be worth for docks—ten millions. He really owns the Flushing Railroad; and heaven knows how much more he owns. That immense thinking brain keeps scouring, rolling. I don't think he goes into large operations now for the purpose of making money. I think he works to keep from stagnating. Though not a politician, he wields a very powerful influence upon politics, especially upon local affairs. Most persons have an idea that he is an old miser. No such thing. He is only fifty-one years old, and possesses one of those vigorous constitutions that will last him forty-nine years longer.

Vermont against the Grand Jury System.

OLD staid Vermont is about taking a stand against the Grand Jury system. A bill, with every prospect of success, has been introduced to the Legislature. The following are its provisions:

Sec. 1. The State's Attorneys of the several counties shall cause prosecution to be commenced for all criminal offences against the law of this State, committed in their several counties, which shall come to their knowledge, when prosecutions shall, in all cases, be commenced by complaint before a justice of the peace, except prosecutions against towns and other corporations, which last may be commenced by information before the County Court.

Sec. 2. In all cases where a person is now held to trial before the County Court, upon complaint before a justice of the peace and not already indicted or informed against; and in all cases where any person shall hereafter be so held to trial, the State's Attorney shall file in the County Court an information against such person for the offence substantially with which he stands charged in such complaint.

Sec. 3. Nothing in this act shall be construed to abridge the power of town grand jurors, but it shall be their duty to bring to the notice of the State's Attorney of their County all criminal offences committed in their several towns, and to give such information and furnish such evidence in regard thereto as they may be able.

Sec. 4. The Grand Jury for the several counties shall not be summoned to attend the County Court, unless by special order of the County Court, or two of the Judges thereof.

Gov. Wise as a Penman.

A letter writer from Richmond, gives the following information in regard to Gov. WISE's rapidity of penmanship:

"Governor WISE, in the character of a scribe, surpasses, perhaps any man living. In point of rapidity he can only be paralleled in short hand, while his writing is almost as legible as print. I had occasion some time ago to copy some writing of his, and I did so, page after page as he produced them. I started when he was about two pages ahead, and, though he had to compose while I had merely to copy, at the close of the tenth page he was still two in advance. At this stage he was called off to dinner, and I availed myself of the opportunity to procure a peculiar style of pen, which I thought would facilitate the operation. We both set to work again simultaneously; and though he stopped occasionally to mend his pen, (he writes with a quill pen) and now and then walked rapidly round the room, while I, meanwhile, wrote with all the rapidity of which I was capable, he wound up at the end of the 29th page with the two pages in advance which he had at the start. I understand he thinks nothing of answering 25 or 30 letters a day or rather within the 2 or 3 hours he spends in his office, besides attending to other duties and receiving visitors, who occupy much of his time. What a reporter he would make!"

Examining Bottoms of Wells.

It is not generally known, we think, how easy a matter it is to examine the bottom of a well, cistern, or pond of water, by the use of a common mirror. The New Hampshire *Journal of Agriculture* says:

"When the sun is shining brightly, hold a mirror so that the reflected rays of light will fall into the water. A bright spot will be seen at the bottom, so light as to show the smallest object very plainly. By this means we have examined the bottoms of wells fifty feet deep, when half full of water. The smallest straw or other small object can be perfectly seen from the surface. In the same way one can examine the bottom of ponds and rivers, if the water be somewhat clear, and not agitated by winds or rapid motion. If a well or cistern be stained or discolored by buildings so that the sunlight will not fall near the open log, it is only necessary to employ two mirrors, using one to reflect the light to the opening, and another to send it down perpendicular into the water. Light may be thrown fifty or a hundred yards to the precise spot desired, and then reflected downward. We have used the mirrors with success to reflect the light around a field to a shaded spot, and also to carry it from a south window through two rooms, and then into a cistern under the north side of the house. Half a dozen reflections of the light may be made, though each mirror diminishes the brilliancy of the light. Let any one not familiar with this method try it, and he will find it not only useful, but a pleasant experiment. It will, perhaps, reveal a mass of sediment at the bottom of a well which has been little thought of, but which may have been a fruitful source of disease by its decay in the water."

The Cost of Learned Monkeys.

The keeper of an inn called the Golden Lion, on the road outside the Barriere de Fontainebleau, brought an action before the Paris Civil Tribunal against two females named TASARO, who got their living by travelling about from fair to fair in a van exhibiting learned monkeys, to obtain from them 120f. for having allowed their van to remain in his courtyard for four months. They resisted the claim on the ground that the charge was exorbitant, inasmuch as Tattersall's only charge 6f. a month for warehousing gentlemen's carriages; and they maintained that the keeper of a roadside inn ought not to demand more for the accommodation in his yard of a travelling show. But the innkeeper answered that the two females having occupied the van as a sleeping room, he was entitled to charge for it as for a chamber, and that besides, he had incurred responsibility in keeping it, as robberies might easily have been effected in it during their absence; lastly, he represented that he had been subjected to annoyance and loss by their dog, a large animal called My-lord, having devoured provisions. The tribunal ordered the woman to pay 100f.

A Hardened Villain.

Nearly a month ago, a man named WILLIAM INGHAM, of Kingston, Ulster County, left that village, under the pretence