AFFAIRS IN EUROPE.

Our Paris Correspondence.

PARIS, September 12, 1850.

The Summer Season — Americans at Mabille — Amusements — New York Hippo Drome — Opera — Theatres — A Debutante — Sub-Marine Telegraph — California — Signor Forti — Mr. Rives — Steamer Franklin — American Painter — The Gossip of Paris, &c.

The summer season is breathing its last, and the public gardens of Paris are trying their best exertions to entice the amateurs of green foliage, *parties de campagne*, diners on the turf, and merry dancers, to visit their enchanted groves. The Chateau d'Asniere gave, on Sunday last, one of the most brilliant *fêtes* of the season, and it was attended by a host of visiters. At the Jardin Mabille, on Tuesday last, the crowd was immense, and the "chit chatting" really incomparable. Americans were numerous in that fashionable place, and among the most prominent were Mr. and Mrs. Bristed, of N. Y., accompanied by young Hoyt, who enjoyed their visit to the *jardin des Lorettes* in the most conscientious style. It was a pleasure thus to behold the aristocracy of New York mingling with the democracy of Paris, and condescending even to speak to Mademoiselle Frizette and her pretty rival Anais. We were a lot of New Yorkers then, and I assure you we saw the "elephant," and had much fun. At the Chateau des Fleurs, on Friday last, the festival given in honor of the "Dancing Celebrities" was a splendid affair, and the lively and lovely beauties, who are the best pupils of Terpsichore, were crowned with flowers, and presented with charming jewels and other nic-nacs. The whole concluded with brilliant fireworks, which represented the "Mill of Satan," and which went off in the most remarkable style. Thus go the amusements in the floral palaces. But if you follow me to the Hippodrome, that splendid arena, so well managed by Mr. Arnault, the new director, you will see the most curious entertainments ever beheld any where. Witness the chariot chase in the Roman style, the monkey's *noing*, the Chinese festival, the *haute ecole*, and other Olympian games. There stands Mr. Pelleven, with his mammoth balloon, the biggest ever made in the world. This audacious aeronaut, after having performed his ascensions on horseback, standing on his animal, has finally concluded by the funny and admirable feat of appearing as Sancho Panza, mounted upon his horse—no, upon his donkey! The poor animal, who did not suspect the trick, arrived in the ring, braying for the greatest joy of his admirers, carrying in his saddle the large Sancho Panza, preceded by a Don Quixotte on foot. I wish you had been present when the cabalistic words, "let it go!" were pronounced; and when Master Alderon lost his equilibrium. Never were astonishment, surprise, and stupefaction, better expressed by any human being. The look, the ears, the feet, everything was "speaking" for itself. As for the balloon, it behaved in the most admirable manner, and by the care of M. Soitwin and his two companions, man and beast, Don Quixotte and the jackass, were all deposited safely on the ground, twenty-one miles below Paris, near the same place where they fell on the preceding Sunday. The experiment will be repeated this evening, and I am persuaded the Hippodrome will be as crowded as ever.

Apropos of the Hippodrome. Here we have in Paris, Mr. Welch, manager of the Philadelphia Amphitheatre, who comes here with the intention to arrange everything for making, in New York, a place on the same plan as the Hippodrome. This able director has already engaged a host of talent among French riders, ladies and gentlemen, and, no doubt, you will appreciate his choice when you have the pleasure of witnessing the performances he will offer to the American public. The company will contain the best *écuyers* of the French circus and the prettiest amazons of the same place. The best proof of what I tell you is that Mr. Dejon, the manager of the Elysian Fields Amphitheatre is most desperately mad with Mr. Welch, who has already engaged the best actors of his company. Professor Risley is associated with Mr. Welch, and you will, therefore, appreciate that I am right in my anticipations.

The grand opera has been already doing an excellent business, with Alboni in "La Favorite." The admirable *cantatrice* has been nightly received with the utmost applause, and remunerated by lots of flowers. Mr. Roquelan is going to coin as much money as ever any manager did. Mde. Laborde re-appeared last night in Donizetti's opera of "Lucie di Lammermoor," and was very successful. This talented artist had just returned from a journey in Belgium, which has brought to her, not only much money, but also a harvest of applause. Her husband, Mr. D'Hur Laborde, was very successful in Lyons, and he returned, last week, after a two months engagement.

At the Theatre Français, the return of Mme. Brohan has created much sensation. Her daughter, a young lady, fourteen years old, and already possessing the finest talent for comedy, will make her first appearance, in a fortnight, in a new comedy, in five acts, by M. Eugene Scribe, entitled "Les Contes de la Reine de Navarre."

La Porte St. Martin will open its doors on the 25th inst., with a new drama, by Leon Goslan, entitled "Main de Fer," (iron hand) and a prologue by Messrs. Coignard, called "Les Boulevards de Paris." The theatre has been renovated, and will be much admired by the public.

At the Variétés a pretty little vaudeville, by Messrs. Gustave Vaëz and Royer, was performed last week with success. It is called "Le Jour et la Nuit," (night and day) and affords Mmes. Castellan and Marquet, (two charming women,) Messrs. Leclerc and Percy, (two excellent actors,) much room to display their fine talents.

At the Theatre Montansier a laughable farce, the best ever heard there, has met with the utmost approbation of the public. It is called "La Fille Bien Gardée," (the well taken care of young lady,) and it is the *ne plus ultra* of folly and amusement. An actor named Grassot, and a young girl, seven years old, are the heroes of the play, and perform their parts in the most admirable manner.

The Theatre du Vaudeville obtained, the other week, great success with the political, satirical and comical review of "Les Pavés sur les Pavé." It is impossible to give you the summary of that novelty. I will only tell you that at the end of the play all the actors appear armed with brooms, and sing the following chorus, upon the famed tune of "Mourir pour la Patrie:"—

Balayons la patrie
C'est le sort le plus beau, le plus digne d'envie!
Netteyons! netteyons la patrie!

And next, upon another tune:—

Du balai, du balai,
Mettons nous y sans délai:
Du balai, du balai!
Faisons un netteyage complet.
A ceux qui matin et soir,
Veut abusant le pouvoir,
Qui veulent le renverser pour
Prendre sa place à leur tour:
Du balai, etc.

There are about twenty verses, which are nightly received with roars and bursts of laughter, and those among your readers who will appreciate the double *entendre* of the above mentioned verses, will appreciate the cause of the plaudits received by Messrs. Delannoy, Lecourt, Schez, the pretty and bewitching Mme. Bader, and her other fair companions.

The National Theatre of the Cirque Olympique opened last night, with a new play, with transformations, change of costumes, sceneries of all sorts, fairy and *diableries*, entitled "Le Lac à la Malice," which was received with much applause. I was not present, but I will go to-night, and will let you know all in my next letter.

Before closing my theatrical reports, I will relate to you an anecdote which took place the other day in the private office of Mr. Arsene Houssage, manager of the Theatre Française. He was conversing with one of his friends, when a lady, her face covered with a black veil, was introduced by the usher, and requested him to hear her in private. The friend of Mr. Houssage retired, and to the great astonishment of the manager, he saw before him the most adorable face. Her sweet lips uttered the following words:—"I am a nun of one of the first convents of Paris; I never went to any theatre, but I am sure that I will play comedy in the most striking style. I come to ask you to let me make my *debut* on the boards of your theatre." Such an audacity disarmed the manager, who requested his visiter to perform and read something in his presence, and she did it with so much talent, energy, and pathos, that he rushed to her, took her hand, and promised to make her *débuter* at the earliest opportunity. The first appearance of the nun-actress will soon take place, in the part of Célimène, in the "Misanthrope" of Molière.

The privilege of a new theatre, to be called Le Champ de Foire, has been signed by the Minister of the Interior, in behalf of Mr. Bourdier. This building, which will be, at the same time, a garden, a theatre, and a concert room, *a la* Niblo, will be erected on the ground formerly occupied by the diorama of Mr. Daguerre, behind the chateau d'eau on the boulevards. The price of admission will only be ten cents, and the performance will take place from seven o'clock in the morning, till eleven before midnight. This is a new idea, which may be very successful, at least, it is worth being patronised by the people.

A very curious discovery has been made on the battle field of Crecy, where King Edward the Third, of England, vanquished Philippe the Sixth, of Valois, King of France, in the year 1349. An agriculturist, whilst ploughing his ground, found a cannon ball weighing 56 grams, and of 24 centimeters. You know that the first cannons were used at the battle of Crecy.

The magnetic telegraph, established in the channel between France and England, is already out of order. The wires have been broken on the shores of France, and the company have begun anew. It is said that when the experiment will have proved satisfactory to its undertakers, they will make another telegraph between England and Ireland; and, very likely afterwards, between Ireland and North America.

You are very likely aware, that since the discovery of California, our city of Paris is "poisoned" with mining companies, or rather "gold humbugs" of all sorts. The police has lately made a severe investigation upon those "green catchers," and many of them have been forced to shut their shops.

Signor Forti, the talented tenor of Max Maretzek's company, is here, in Paris. I received his visit this morning. We had a long conversation together relative to his success in the United States, the kind reception he has met with your public, etc., etc. This young man seems to be very grateful to the dilettanti of America, and intends returning to New York by the steamer Herman. M'me Millet, the wife of the master of the company, goes with him to New York, accompanied by her daughter.

The cholera is raging in Denmark. The last accounts received announce it as very severe in some parts of the country.

Mr. Rives, the American Minister in Paris, returned, last week, from a journey he had made in Scotland and England, for his health. His amiable lady and agreeable family are still travelling in Germany and Switzerland, but will soon return also, to open their parlor of the Hotel de la Rue, Ville l'Evique, to their American friends.

Great preparations are made in Havre for the reception of the first steamer of the American line, the Franklin. Captain Watton has many friends in that city, and no doubt his arrival in our seaport, as commander of the first pioneer of the American line between New York and Havre, will meet with the same reception as that offered to the unfortunate Captain Hebert and his steamer Union. Messrs. Livingston, Wells & Co., whose agency here is No. 8 Place de la Bourse, under the able care of Mr. John Canchoif, are the consignees of the Franklin and the Humboldt.

I visited last week the studio of the American painter, Mr. William H. Powell, who is now busily engaged in painting for the capitol at Washington an immense canvass, representing "The Introduction of Civilization into the Valleys of the West." Ferdinand de Soto, in the year 1542, left Cuba, of which he was governor, and accompanied by many noblemen, monks and soldiers, entered the mouth of the Mississippi river till he fell in with a tribe of red skins. The picture represents the moment when Ferdinand de Soto, mounted upon a splendid gray horse, arrived in front of he tents of the Indians. The chiefs of the tribe offer him the calumet of peace, and in the meantime the monks place upon a mound the sign of fraternity and redemption, the holy cross of Jesus Christ. The variety of costumes, the richness of coloring, the ability of the painter, everything leads me to believe that the capitol will be graced with a very remarkable page of the history of the country. The costumes are of the most accurate style, and Mr. Powell has found here the best models of the kind, either in our public libraries or among our artists. This mammoth picture cannot be finished before one year. The American painter takes much pride in giving his country a *petit chef d'œuvre* upon a large scale. Besides this painting, Mr. Powell is busily engaged in reproducing, upon a small scale, King Charles IX. firing upon the Huguenots, which will be a capital little gem.

Messrs. Goupel & Co. have published a lithograph from a painting by the same artist, representing "The Burial in the Mississippi River of Ferdinand de Soto," which is a very remarkable composition.

James Watson Webb left Paris with his family, on his way to the United States, per steamer Atlantic. He was accompanied by Mr. Daniel Leroy, who was formerly Consul of the United States at Genoa.

B. H. R.

Wreck of the Orion—Sentence upon the Captain and Second Mate.

[From the English Papers.]

Lord Wood said—We have now, my lords, arrived at that stage in the proceedings of this most interesting and anxious trial when it becomes our duty, and a most painful duty it is, to consider and determine the nature of the sentence we are to pass upon the verdict that has been returned by the jury. The two first charges are, in truth, one and the same; and the terms of the verdict apply more strictly to the second charge than to the first, namely, culpable and reckless neglect of duty "by an officer or mariner employed on board the Orion steamship, whereby the ship was wrecked, and many of the lieges were bereaved of life." That is the statement in the indictment of the particular description of the culpable homicide charged against the panels, and then what follows is a statement of the special case, and of the circumstances in which this vessel, the Orion, was wrecked. The Orion left the port of Liverpool on the 17th of the month of June—a fine vessel, one of the finest in that trade—a vessel fully equipped for the voyage, having on board at the time a valuable cargo, and no fewer than two hundred passengers. It was a vessel with a steam engine of great power, and capable of being propelled at the rate of fourteen or fifteen knots an hour. When such a vessel, with such a cargo, and with such a number of passengers on board, left the port of Liverpool, it appears to me that every man who had any charge in it, should have had it most indelibly impressed upon his mind, that there was no vigilance, no care, and no anxiety he could bestow in the navigation of that vessel, which was not his duty to employ. But what is the case? The vessel went wrong in her course; one watch is set at twelve o'clock at night on the 17th of June, and at two o'clock in the morning the ship is driven on the Ward Rocks. It is said in the indictment that the vessel was wrecked by the reckless and culpable neglect of duty on the part of the panels. I do not think it necessary, and I do not consider that it would be expedient for me, at the present time, to enter into all the details of this case, and far less would it be proper to dwell upon the deplorable sacrifice of human life that was the result; but I must look—and we have found it to be our duty to look—particularly at the circumstances in the evidence, as they were detailed, in order that we might come to a just conclusion as to the punishment that is to be awarded. Looking to these, I must confess that I think it would be difficult to imagine a case in which one could feel that it was more impossible to suppose that a shipwreck could have arisen under the circumstances in which this vessel left Liverpool, than in the present case. The calmness of the night, the tranquillity of the water, the clearness of the sky—for the haze was spoken to by the witnesses as throwing no impediment in the way of the safe navigation of the vessel—and the distinct sight they had of the land when they approached the coast of Scotland—all these circumstances—with the fact that, after all, they had been wrecked, is to me, even now, most appalling. I cannot imagine how it could have happened—I am quite unable to account for it; but one thing is certain, that the catastrophe could only have occurred from the reckless and culpable neglect of duty in some one or other of the persons in charge of the vessel before the wreck took place. Hazards were incurred for which there was no conceivable reason or cause—at least if there was any reason, it has not been suggested. All that goes to render it a most aggravated case, for it seems to have been one that proceeded upon a total neglect of what your Lordship (the Lord Justice Clerk) most emphatically said was the great and paramount duty of every one who has to navigate such vessels, namely, the safety of the vessel and of the passengers on board. But here we have a course of navigation carried on of coasting—apparently trying what perils the vessel can be placed in, and yet to carry her safe to her destination, instead of thinking only how she should be carried safe—and carried safe she might have been on her accustomed course—a clear course, and a known course. Now, in these circumstances, the jury have found by a majority Thomas Henderson, the master, guilty of culpable neglect of duty as libelled, under the second charge, but not of reckless neglect of duty; and they have unanimously found John Williams, mate, guilty of culpable and reckless neglect of duty in navigating the vessel, resulting in the great and terrible loss of life charged in the indictment. I am sorry to say that I feel it to be impossible, with such a verdict, and in such a case, to propose any other sentence, at least with regard to the second mate, than that of transportation. No other sentence could be adequate for the offence committed, and no other would satisfy the law. We are, however, enabled—and I am most happy to think that, by the verdict of the jury, we are in a position to make a distinction between the mate John Williams, and the master Thos. Henderson, because the jury have found the latter guilty of culpable neglect of duty as libelled, but not of reckless neglect of duty. Certainly that is a very material difference between the two cases; and if the verdict had included in it recklessness on the part of the captain, of course there would have been no alternative but to pronounce upon him a similar sentence of transportation. But I feel that, in dealing with the case of a person such as the master of this vessel, any sentence we pronounce must be such as to have a bearing upon the nature of the offence. We must take into consideration, though we must not allow it to carry us too far, the momentous interests of the public involved in this case; and we must take care that the sentence will be such as will convey that effect, and teach all those in charge of such vessels, by this impressive lesson, the duty which is incumbent on the strictest, of most watchful and most unceasing diligence in the navigating of those vessels on these short voyages, however propitious the weather may be, or however unlikely the chances are of bringing the vessel into danger. And it is no trifling offence that the master of such a vessel, upon such a voyage, with such a charge in his hands, and with such responsibility upon him, should have culpably left the deck of that vessel, because, although the jury did not find he did anything recklessly, yet the verdict necessarily involves that he culpably left the deck—that he, therefore, ought to have been upon the deck from the Mull of Galloway onwards, and that the crew, and the passengers in particular, should have had the benefit of his skill in conducting the vessel, in addition to the skill of the mate, onwards till he reached the Clyde, and from that to his destination. For, can we doubt for a moment, after the testimony borne to his character as a seaman, that if the captain had not been neglecting his duty, but had remained on deck, ready to exercise his skill, that there would have been no wreck, and that the vessel must have arrived in a few hours at the port of Greenock, instead of fifty of the passengers and crew being drowned, and the lives of the rest being placed in danger. Under these circumstances, and making every allowance for the distinction which the verdict imposes, by every consideration I can bring to my mind, and with every desire to make the punishment as light as I think it can be made consistently with the ends of justice, I have the greatest pain in coming to the conclusion that the sentence upon the captain must be one of imprisonment, and such as to show those having the charge of such vessels, that even for the slightest neglect of duty, followed by such calamitous results as in the present case, they must answer to the law. Upon the whole, I propose that the sentence of the court upon Thomas Henderson should be, imprisonment for eighteen calendar months.

Lord Ivory said that it was with the greatest pain he felt himself called upon to concur in the sentence proposed; and, in the circumstances of the case, he felt that he need not say more than express his concurrence in the remarks of Lord Wood.

The Lord Justice Clerk then addressed Captain Henderson, and said:—You have been convicted by the verdict of the jury, by a majority, of culpable neglect of duty, whereby the ship of which you had the command was wrecked, and many lives lost; and there can be no doubt of the truth of what has been so impressively stated by Lord Wood, that, had it not been for that neglect of duty, this vessel would not have been wrecked. Nothing could have enabled us to make your punishment lighter than that of the mate's, but the fact that the jury have drawn a distinction between the two cases. Had it been proved that you had left the deck in the reckless discharge of your duty, we would have made a distinction in favor of the inferior officer; we must have made yours the higher and far more severe punishment. But culpably to leave the deck in such circumstances—the neglect of duty by which the vessel was wrecked—is an offence which we must take care so to punish that, in the words of the indictment, "others may be deterred from committing the like offence." The sentence of the court is, that you are to be imprisoned for the period of eighteen months. His lordship then addressed the mate, and said:—John Williams, you have been convicted of "culpable and reckless neglect as an officer or mariner employed on board the steamship Orion, whereby the ship was wrecked, and many of the lieges were bereaved of life." Little as you may have thought of the reckless neglect of your duty in navigating such a vessel, how awful have been its consequences! Alas! how little did the numbers on board that vessel imagine that they were to be exposed, so many, to instant death, all to such danger, by the reckless neglect of duty by an officer of that ship. The sentence to be pronounced in your case is, no doubt, one that must produce a great impression; but, on the other hand, the offence is one—the culpable and reckless neglect of duty by which such a steamer is wrecked—the offence is one which, really, one wants words almost to describe; and, as Lord Wood has said, in this case, there is nothing that can account for the wreck, every circumstance being one on which all mankind would have reckoned safety certain. That which, alas! they deemed to be most propitious circumstances, the reckless neglect of an officer on board, in running the ship aground, turned to disaster and calamity. His lordship then sentenced Williams to transportation for seven years.

The Conflagration at Cracow, and the Austrian Government.

[From the London Leader, Sept. 14.]

In the *Leader* of July 27th, we stated that a dreadful fire had broken out on the 18th at Cracow. Since then we have been furnished with some details of the catastrophe, and also with the probable causes of it. It appears that the fire broke out at one o'clock, P. M., in Krupnicza-street, situated in a north-western suburb of Cracow, and, the wind being in the west, the lower mills, and upwards of ten houses, situated in the direction of the wind, were burnt down. At half-past one, the house of Mr. Wysocki, situated at the corner of Glembokastreet and of the Plantations, at a distance of 2000 paces from the seat of the first outbreak (and in a southern direction from it,) at once burst into flames. At a quarter to two, flames were seen issuing from the Polytechnic Institution, situated in Golembia-street, as well as from the palace of the Archbishop in Francis-street, and Wielopolski's palace, to the imminent danger of the University, the Jagelionian Library, and the newly established museum; but, owing to the great courage and zeal of the students of the University and of the high school, headed by their professors, those latter three noble edifices were saved, though at once on fire at four different points. At two o'clock, all the houses of Szeroka-street, with the Dominican church, and Grodzka-street, were in flames; as also were several houses in an eastern direction, between the plantations and the bridge communicating with the suburb of Kazimierz. The fire at the Polytechnic Institution, communicated itself to the buildings containing the printing office and the lithographical establishment of the University, as well as the church of the United Greeks. At a quarter-past two, the Franciscan church, with all its extensive buildings, took fire. The Dominican library and the convent were at the same moment a prey to the devouring element. At a quarter to three, the butchers' stalls, situated behind the Dominican church and convent, caught fire; so likewise did five streets, viz: Bratska street, Grodzka street, Vistula street, Stolarska street, and Golembia street. At three o'clock, every house in the last mentioned street was the prey of the flames. The library of the University in St. Ann's street was saved, but all the other houses in the same street were reduced to ashes. At that moment the confusion and the lamentations of the people at the sight of the churches being consumed by the raging element, were a soul stirring spectacle. At the same hour, St. Joseph's street, and in it the church of the same name, as well as the cloister of the nuns of St. Francis, were in flames. At 5 o'clock, all the most costly shops in Grodzka street were blazing. At 7 o'clock, the students of the University were most zealously endeavoring to extinguish the fire of the palace of the Archbishop. At 8 o'clock in the evening, all the houses and public edifices were burning without the slightest chance of being saved, presenting a perfect sea of flame. An unceasing and fearful cracking noise of the falling in of vaults of churches and other edifices, was heard during the whole ensuing night.

The conflagration, which began on the 18th at mid-day, raged during three entire days; it was only on the morning of the 21st that the fire was almost entirely subdued. Eleven streets, four churches, and 227 houses, were reduced to ashes by the merciless element. The number of houseless families amounts to about 1,500.

Now, if we bear in miad the striking fact, that the fire broke out almost instantaneously with the first, at a distance of 2,000 paces, and not in the direction of the wind (for in its direction not a single house was burnt) and that precisely in a quarter where all the monumental edifices and scientific establishments stood, we must naturally infer that the conflagration was the result of incendiarism, and that the insignificant mills and wooden houses, which were first on fire, was the work of some criminal hand, merely to draw thither the attention of the inhabitants, whilst at a distance of an English mile, (2 000 paces) the same devouring element was busy in destroying the house of Mr. Wysotski, and, at lesser distances, and intervals of time, several other edifices, &c. The question now arises who was the incendiary? Let the sufferers themselves answer this question. They all concur in accusing the Austrian authorities of having been the perpetrators, and ground their accusation on the three following facts:—1st. That Mr. Wysotski's property was doomed, he being a notorious Polish patriot, and odious in the eyes of the Austrian government; and, moreover, because the wind being in the west, the flames of his house assisted to communicate the fire to the whole quarter in which the monumental and scientific buildings were situated. 2ndly. That several churches, convents and other public edifices (some of which were burnt down, whilst others were only partly saved) were destined to be destroyed, because the Austrian government is, and always was, anxious to efface every vestige of the ancient grandeur and national glory of Poland; and 3dly. That all the firemen and engines were so carefully concealed by the authorities, that they could not be found until the conflagration had reached its climax, so that the first engine employed was one which arrived only at night from a small town called Miechow, situated in the so called kingdom of Poland, at a distance of thirty English miles from the Cracovian frontier. "Is it a matter of surprise," add they, "that those who, in 1846, armed themselves with the assassin's knife to slaughter nearly 2,000 families in Galicia,—who last year only employed such butchers and women floggers as Haynau in Hungary, should, in 1850, avail themselves of the torch of the incendiary to destroy the national monuments and relics of Poland, of which Cracow, as her ancient capital, is the preserving sanctuary, rendering, at the same time, nearly 1,500 families homeless?"

On the other hand, we have to quote a fact of a noble and generous nature. A Countess Pototska, whose house was saved from destruction, sent for an architect to value it. He did so; and, having valued the house at half a million of Polish florins (£12,500,) she at once gave this sum to the relief of the unhappy victims.

The misfortune which has befallen Cracow excites the profoundest sympathy with those, specially, who have seen that old town of the Piarts, and with those who can feel how deeply this additional wound must probe the Polish nation, who consider Cracow as the Mecca of their nationality. It is, however, much to be doubted whether adequate assistance for the relief of the sufferers will be obtained, though numerous associations are being formed throughout Germany for that philanthropic purpose; for Cracow is poor, and will not, therefore, meet with the sympathy of the Rothschilds and other European Croesus, as did rich Hamburgh eight years ago.

We cannot refrain from acquainting our readers, whilst speaking of unhappy Cracow, of another fire which broke out in unfortunate Poland on the same day (18th of July), destroying another of her monuments. Not far distant from Cracow, but in the so-called kingdom of Poland, blessed with Muscovite sway, the castle of Pieskowa Skalla (the Degs' Rock) also became a prey to the flames. It was founded in 1532 by one of the first Polish dukes. Upon looking at this castle the idea would cross your mind that it must have really been erected by a supernatural power, so mysteriously did it—standing upon an elevated rock—peep out from amongst other high rocks covered with dark forests; and before its brazen gates stood a rock having the form of Hercules' club (much thicker at the top than at its base), looking like a formidable petrified giant-sentinel, which could be seen from afar, as though watching with a protecting eye the power and riches of his masters.

The Nicaraguan Canal, and the Repudiating States of America.

[From the London Chronicle, Sept. 13.]

It may be regarded as almost certain that very little, if any, of the capital of this country will be embarked in the construction of the great Nicaragua canal, between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, under the auspices of the New York company to whom the contract for that undertaking has been conceded; and this circumstance is well calculated to revive inquiries, and to suggest reflections, which are of no insignificant moment. Why is it that the first commercial country in the world is virtually debarred from its fair share in the profits and credit of an enterprise, towards the promotion of which it has so materially contributed? Why are the merchants and capitalists of Great Britain to be cut off from all participation in the design and construction of a gigantic work, which British commerce will, in all probability, do the most to encourage and sustain? What is the nature of the impediment which forbids a prudent Englishman from embarking his property in a noble and legitimate undertaking of this character, in conjunction with the citizens of the American Union? The answer to this question is unfortunately very simple and conclusive; and it is dictated by events too recent and notorious to be overlooked. The capitalists of England are scared away from such enterprises by the bad faith of the parties concerned. They can feel no confidence that repudiation or dishonesty, in some of its forms, will not suddenly obtrude itself into transactions of this nature; and that they will not be deprived, by the most reckless and reprehensible means, of the returns to which they are justly entitled. The history of our financial dealings with the States of South and Central America may well suggest and justify such apprehensions. But if the risks of European subscribers, backed by American coadjutors, were strictly confined to those arising from the dubious integrity of the native governments, the danger would be by no means so formidable. A perfect identity of interests between the European and the American contributors, supported by the authority of their respective governments, might be fairly presumed to afford no mean security against the casualties of Spanish-American finance. The evil lies far deeper than this. The fiscal history of several of the States of the American Union itself, during the last ten years, has surrounded almost every financial question connected with that part of the world with an atmosphere of suspicion and uncertainty, which is exceedingly prejudicial to the interests of the Anglo-Saxon race on both sides of the Atlantic. We gladly admit that, out of the seven States of the Union which had disgraced themselves by declarations, more or less decisive, of the doctrine of repudiation, six have entered into *bona fide* and specific arrangements for the redemption, sooner or later, of their credit and their good name. Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Louisiana, have become, positively or contingently honest; and Mississippi is the only community which still persists in retaining the badge of its degradation. But the circumstances connected with the refusal of that State to pay its debts are distinguished by so many flagrant features, and they strike so directly at the root of all commercial intercourse and confidence, that, so long as the conspicuous and peculiar dishonesty of Mississippi receives the tacit countenance of the other States of the Union, by being permitted to enjoy a perfect equality with them, the people of this country will continue, in self-defence, to regard with great dislike and suspicion every financial project which attempts to associate them as partners in any American enterprise. We have not the smallest doubt that, if the Mississippi debt had been settled as justly and promptly as those of Michigan, Indiana, or Maryland, the formation of the Nicaragua Company at the present time would not have been left to the unaided exertions of the New York capitalists; nor would that clause in their charter which invites subscriptions from the citizens of every country in the world have been rendered, as it has been, a perfectly inoperative appeal. We have good grounds, therefore, for regarding the conduct of Mississippi as something more than a mere violation of ordinary mercantile justice between man and man—as something more than a mere revival of the freebooting spirit of the Border or the Rhine. We are entitled to consider it as an offence against international as well as municipal laws, and as one of the gravest impediments to that reciprocal aid and confidence, upon the diffusion of which we can alone rely for the effectual prevention of wars, and for the sure progress of civilization. Not the least extraordinary and disgraceful circumstances connected with the debt of Mississippi, are the comparatively insignificant amount of the claim against her, and her own great and increasing resources. In no sense or degree does the refusal of Mississippi to redeem her engagements arise from positive inability. The debt in question does not exceed five millions of dollars—say one million sterling—advanced in the year 1838, for the capital of the Union Bank, and carrying an interest of five per cent., or exactly £50,000 per annum. For the sum, therefore, of £50,000 a year, the people of Mississippi have apparently become convinced that it is worth while to sacrifice the character of their State—to exclude themselves, in a great measure, from intercourse with the respectable part of their species—and to maintain a perpetual and deepening stigma upon the cause of liberty and of popular institutions. If the country were poor—if its soil were sterile, its extent insignificant, its people diminishing, and its resources pared down to the quick—there might be some palliation for conduct so openly at variance with every maxim of honesty and prudence. But the precise contrary is the truth. The territory included in the State of Mississippi enjoys a preeminence even among the most favored of the communities which recognise the federal government of Washington. It takes its name from the great river which drains into the Mexican gulf the superfluous waters of the whole middle region of the North American continent; and for two hundred and sixty-five miles along the lower and the richest line of that river, Mississippi occupies its western bank. It is daily enriched, without any exertion of its own; for every circumstance and every accident which contributes to swell the population who dwell on the higher branches of the Mississippi, the Missouri, and the Ohio rivers, increases the traffic on the lower waters of that mighty confluence of streams. The State of Mississippi is the Holland of the central regions of North America. She is placed on the delta of the chief lines of water communication, through which alone the larger part of the external commerce of those regions can find a passage, and by which the greater portion of their imported commodities must be conveyed. The Dutch have become rich and illustrious, notwithstanding that their country is little more than a sand bank, and a mere speck on the map of Europe. But Mississippi occupies a surface equal to the whole of England and Wales. In point of fact, she is one of the largest States of the Union; and the natural resources of her soil have excited the admiration and amazement of every person who has examined them. These are the general outlines of the picture; and, when we turn our attention to the details, we arrive at equally striking results. Between 1830 and 1840, the population of Mississippi very much more than doubled itself; and when the census of the present year shall be completed, we entertain no doubt that, in point of numbers, the citizens of that State will be found to occupy a position so favorable as to be in some degree disproportionate to their general standing in the federal commonwealth. Between the years 1840 and 1846, the revenue derived from the sale of her public lands increased nearly seven fold; and it must be borne in mind that, among the new western States, the rapidity with which the public domain is absorbed by fresh settlers, is one of the strongest proofs of substantial progress. Notwitstanding, however, this great increase in the demand for land, the State had still on hand, on the 30th of June, 1845, no less than 10,409,034 acres of surveyed and registered lands, awaiting the appearance of purchasers. And if we estimate the value of these at no more than the very moderate price of two and a half dollars per acre, (the rate assumed by the commissioners of the State) it will appear that Mississippi possesses, in her unappropriated public domain alone, a fund equal to five and a half millions of pounds sterling, or more than five times the principal, and more than a hundred times the interest, of the debt which she disgracefully persists in disclaiming. But further, we have at this moment before us a copy of the official budgets of Mississippi for the years 1846, '47 and '48; and what are the prominent facts which these documents disclose? Not, certainly, that the people of Mississippi are poor and helpless. In 1846, the number of taxable acres in the State was 15,272,380; and in 1848 the area of assessment has expanded to 16,019,488 acres; that is to say, in two years it has increased five per cent. The whole amount of public taxes annually collected within the State was under $380,000 or 76,000*l.*; and the burden of these was limited to an infinitesimal assessment on most of the principal kinds of real and personal property. We find, for example, entries of the amount of duty levied on pleasure carriages, race, saddle, and harness horses, gold and silver plate, pianos, pistols, bowie knives, "slaves under 60 years," and "free male negroes." This is certainly not a list of fiscal objects which could be furnished by a starving and exhausted community. By the evidence, then, of their own public documents, the people of Mississippi possess the means of payment. This is a fact as plain as it is important; and, having fairly ascertained that, in calling upon them to fulfil their engagements, we are not making a demand with which it is impossible or even difficult for them to comply, we shall examine, on an early day, the nature and validity of the pleas by which they have attempted to deceive their own consciencies, and to delude others.

Speculation in Cotton.

[From the London News, Sept. 13.]

Whether commercial revulsions be or be not as necessary and inevitable as are the flux and efflux of the tide, form a curious and doubtful question. Certain it is, that in addition to those which are superinduced by purely political causes, and which can never be clearly foreseen or thoroughly guarded against, they make their appearance in the ordinary course of affairs, if not at periods exactly regular, at least in cycles, of which it is not difficult to determine the average extent. In whatever shape they may present themselves, they are pretty generally found to spring either from egregious miscalculations on the part of producers or dealers, or from an extensive derangement of the money market, causing a sudden and violent fluctuation in the quantity and value of money. Difficult though it be acurately to determine the principles which regulate them, they are usually found preceded by symptoms and followed by results bearing an analogy, if not a resemblance to each other. A close attention to these, on the part of our business men, would go far towards the [dissemination of that sound information respecting the laws of trade which would greatly mitigate the severity of commercial revulsions. No one can attentively read the signs of the times without observing that the phenomena which generally usher in those periods of impetuous prosperity, sure to be followed by seasons of ruinous reaction, are now rife in the commercial atmosphere; and that superabundant capital, with a restricted field of employment, is the most prominent feature in our present commercial condition. It is true that our exports and imports are unusually large, showing a healthy state of trade, but so also are our accumulations, notwithstanding the recent wholesale destruction of capital by the railway mania. This is shown by the present cheapness of money, the best evidence of its abundance. Low rates of interest cannot long continue without quickening the ingenuity of capitalists, with a view to devise some mode or other for the profitable investment of capital all but profitless, whilst circulating in the ordinary channels of trade. Such a state of things has been the prelude to reckless speculation before, and will be so again, until the science of trade is reduced to its guiding principles, and universally understood. Even already there are unmistakeable signs that men are disposed to forget the terrible teachings of the last few years; and every condition to a period of active speculation seems to be fulfilled, except that of determining the precise direction which it should take. Already are men considering what the next mania will be, and anxious to discover the actual form of that, the shadow of which seems already to rest on the monetary world, so as to dive early into the vortex, and realize fortunes on the ruin of those who may follow. It is not surprising that the present state of the cotton market should arrest the attention and excite the cupidity of many who are in this temper. The limited extent of the stocks on hand, the firmness and still upward tendency of prices, and the unfavorable prospects, real or supposed, of the growing crop in the United States, have, for some time past, drawn attention to cotton, as furnishing good material for speculation. Many are convincing themselves that present prices are but the prelude to a much higher rise in price, and that a sure road to rapid fortune would be to purchase cotton and postpone realizing. If any attempt is made to reason with such, they point, in refutation of all doubts, to the stocks in Liverpool and in the American seaports, to the unpropitious season with which the growing plant has had to contend, and to the probabilities which exist of not only a steady, but even an increased demand for the mills. It is on these grounds that they rest their hopes of being able some day, not far distant, to realize at prices the attainment of which would be a heavy blow to their expectations, from the check which they would necessarily give to consumption. If any evidence were wanting of the madness characteristic of excessive speculation, it would be furnished us in the partial forgetfulness already occasioned by this incipient mania, of the ordinary connection between cause and effect. It is not our purpose, at present, to deny the grounds on which the sanguine calculations of many are based. We do not question the limited extent of the stocks on hand, both here and in America, as indicated by the serious falling off which has taken place in the export from the American ports to Great Britain. As compared with the corresponding period of last year the decrease is not far from half a million of bales, or about four months' consumption. But there is, fortunately, now some ground for questioning the unfavorable reports received and circulated of the growing crops. Some weeks ago the prospect in this respect was gloomy enough, but our more recent intelligence is calculated to dispel much of the apprehension which then existed. Unfavorable tidings still reach us from the Atlantic States; but the reports are now, on the whole, much more cheering from the great cotton growing regions to the westward, from which the largest supplies are now obtained. There is still time for adverse weather to do its work, but a favorable change had taken place in many of the cotton growing districts before the plant had been irretrievably injured. There is also some ground for doubting the accuracy of the calculation, in as far as it is based upon an anticipated increase of demand on the part of the spinners. It is supposed by many that if a third less of the raw material has been consumed this year than last, there must have been a corresponding decrease in the number of yards of cloth manufactured. Such would undoubtedly have been the case, had the goods manufactured continued of the same weight and texture as before. But this has not been so with a very great proportion of them. For many months the high price of cotton rendered the weaving of course heavy bodied goods so unprofitable as to close some mills and partially suspend the operations of others. But this interruption to business was, in many cases, accompanied by a change in machinery, much of which was adapted for the weaving of a finer class of goods, the price of which would be less affected by the fluctuations occurring in the cost of the raw material. The consequence is that, unless a very low price for cotton should occasion a return to the manufacture of heavy bodied goods, it will be some time ere any marked increase takes place in the demand for cotton, seeing that much less is now actually consumed than was consumed this time last year, by the same number of mills. Nay more, we are inclined to think that the demand, for some time, so far from increasing, is likely to decrease, when we consider what may be anticipated as the natural result of the largely increased exports this year to America. Notwithstanding this, we are not so much surprised at present prices, considering the lowness of the stocks and the extent of the present demand. But we would warn holders against suffering their cupidity to make them too retentive of their stocks, and the public from being tempted by existing prices and prospects to rush headlong into what may seem a promising speculation. For, be it remembered, that the history of cotton speculations is as rife in warning as it is in encouragement. If fortunes have been suddenly made, so have fortunes been irretr