VERY LATE FROM CUBA.

BY THE

STEAMSHIP ISABEL AT CHARLESTON.

Our Havana Correspondence.

HAVANA, Feb. 22, 1851.

The Panic—Its Foundation in Ignorance or Conscience—The Reason Why Annexation is not Probable Immediately—Spain more Spanish in Cuba than in Spain—England's Policy Preserves the Lid—The Liberal Colonial Representation—The Folly of Haste in the Political Change—The Hour that Tareatens—The Proposition for a Freer Commercial Intercourse—Receiving Foreign Coin as Legal Tender—The Post Office—Postal Arrangement with England.

An invasion panic is now travelling the mind of Spain. As usual with panics, it has its foundation in ignorance or conscience. We have seen that the creoles are conservative. Spain perhaps does not know it, or, knowing it, her conscience will cause her to mistrust it. Probably, also, (with all due deference to Spain, I say it,) she is ignorant of the fact, that the question of the annexation of more slave territory is a red hot poker for stirring up the political elements which both of the great political parties in the United States are afraid to touch for fear of getting burned. This feeling is natural, since they were both nearly wrecked on that question last year; and politicians would rather that no new slave territory should, for some years at least, knock at the door of the Union for admission. Perhaps, too, Spain is oblivious to the fact, that the surplus energy of Americans has recently found a field for expansion on the golden shore of the Pacific. Perhaps Spain is ignorant, or her conscience will not permit her to believe that while the United States is averse, at this moment, to agitating the admission of Cuba into the Union, there are Cubans who would for a time prefer that medium wherein they might swim their vessel of State, with its social contents, as in a more natural element than the merging of their island into the great confederacy would at this moment prove to them. Customs, habits, tastes, educational development, social and political intelligence, numerous influences may exist to induce a preference for a liberal and just colonial attachment to their mother country at their stage of their progress—to prefer this to either an entirely independent sovereignty, or to annexation Some may think that the great social revolution would at this time submerge the Cuban identity in the great wave of Yankee enterprise, to the mortification of the former.

It may be that some think annexation would put a stop to that amount of slave importation now practised—that the American planters would put under cultivation such an amount of sugar lands here as would increase the demand for slave labor, and that these causes combined would so enhance the cost of negroes as to lessen the profit on sugar growing. Also, Cubans are aware that invasion and annexation would be attended by those evils that attend violent political changes. Spain cannot be ignorant of the dread Cubans must feel that a disturbance of the tranquillity of the island would give occasion for an insurrectionary movement on the part of the slaves. And Cubans know that Spain would at once issue an edict promoting that end. Cuba is too weak to stand alone among the great nations, coveted as she would be by all. She would, perhaps, for the present, prefer remaining attached to Spain, on a footing similar to that of the Canadas to England.

But while Spain may congratulate herself upon these probabilities and facts, I would respectfully suggest that she may be ignorant of some that have a bearing in a contrary direction. Also, her conscience may suggest to her that the manner in which she is governing Cuba cannot continue when the governed people are daily growing in intelligence. I have said, in a previous letter, that, in the very nature of things, the creoles must be reformers. Spain must not be ignorant that the medium I have spoken of in this letter, wherein the Cubans might swim their vessel of State, with its social contents, is still farther removed from the present order of things here, under Spanish government, than it is from annexation—that its spirit differs more widely from that of the former than from the spirit of the latter. Spain may be ignorant of the fact that there are some here who begin to understand the immense appreciation that would take place in the value of their real estate, in consequence of the free introduction here of American capital and enterprise. There must also be some here who know that the influx of American capital, energy, labor, and enterprise, consequent upon annexation, would produce a division of labor, developing all industrial enterprises and interests that would yield profits upon profits now unreaped. Instead of planters making and raising everything themselves for the consumption of their force, and the conduct of their business, there would be mechanics, small farmers, a division of labor where each would do what could not be done as well nor as profitably by another. The land now untilled could be brought into cultivation. Furthermore, it must always be observed, that Spaniards are, with reference to Cuba, more intensely, more violently Spanish, than in Spain itself. The loss of all their American possessions but Cuba, excites their pride and interest to hold to the possession of this island with a grim tenacity. The hard hand of Spain's military power is here nerved to a firmer tension. It enters into every phase of their political and social existence, and the creoles feel the gripe. Its mark is everywhere; its deep impression is upon all things here. Shall I show you some of its red marks? Gradually, perhaps, they will be revealed to your view. But I have no disposition idly to abuse Spain. Some believe that she is able, and a few may hope, that, when sensibly convinced of all the facts, she will be willing, by a politic course, avoiding extreme measures, to confer concessions and blessings upon Cuba. And who can doubt, that had England governed Canada as oppressively as Spain governs Cuba, there would long since have been revolt and annexation to the United States. But England has wisely left the spout of the tea-kettle open, and preserved the lid. It is well known that Cuba is more oppressively governed under the constitutional monarchy of Isabel, than she was under the more absolute monarchies preceding. The official instruments by whose aid Spain governs this country, are now more insolent and corrupt. Now, (for several years,) the Cubans are taxed much more heavily, in proportion to their wealth, than they were then. Of ninety millions income, thirty millions is absorbed by Spain. There is a profound sentiment pervading the breasts of Cubans, a conviction that it is enough to destroy all chance of an individual's preferment, at the hands of Spain, for her to know that he is a creole of Cuba. There is less freedom of the press in Cuba than exists even in Spain. Cubans cannot be heard. Well, all these things can have, as any observer may see, but one tendency—a severance of the connection between the two countries. Especially are we convinced of this, when we observe that the Creoles generally are imbibing liberal and extended political ideas. So radical is the difference between Spanish and creole sentiment, that every child born on the island, though of Spanish parentage, is a different thinker from those born in Spain. Even in the same family, where there are two or more children, one of whom was born before the parents left Spain, and the others were born here, the latter will always designate their elder brother as "the Spaniard." And it is not regarded by them as an honorary title by any means. In view of these facts, and of the arbitrary government, of the monopoly of offices here by Spaniards, of trade, etc., etc., it has come to be a proverb in Cuba that "Spaniards can make any thing in Cuba but a Spaniard." Is not Spain overreaching herself, politically as well as commercially? The creoles are excluded from official positions. The offices being filled, civil and military, from Spain. A late law prohibits officials, both civil and military, from marrying creoles without special license from the queen. After being ten years in the island they must return to Spain, seemingly lest they should become infected with a patriotic sentiment of the provincial order.

The creoles are daily advancing in intelligence, and are abundantly qualified for the independent government of a liberal colonial representation. What, then, must be their chagrin, at finding themselves uniformly treated as though unfit to fill the offices which administer their own government, and the means for supporting which are derived from their property—a property most heavily taxed. The Cubans have reached that stage of progress that fits them for a liberal colonial representative government. With certain ameliorations, they would, perhaps, rest upon that platform a long time before seeking or being, in all respects, adapted to annexation.

Men sometimes become impatient, and seek to anticipate or hurry the march of events, the strides of which is so well denominated progress. Hence the Lopez expedition, concocted in ignorance, conducted in blind zeal, and ending in folly. Such overt and extreme measures should not be necessary in respect to Cuba. A gradual process of amelioration, that will not infringe upon the rights of Spain, may be peacefully attended by her with a good grace, and would probably be cheerfully received with satisfaction by Cuba. If this is not done, and a feeling of loyalty and sympathy for Spain originated and cultivated, then, most assuredly, in some years hence, about the same hour that will see American parties and politicians lulled into a forgetfulness of the danger to which they were exposed, on the question of annexation of new territory, in 1860; in the same hour that shall see a relaxation of the California movement; in the same hour that will see a generation of American youths, enterprising, burning with those instincts of conquest, of adding new territory to the great republic which they believe is to embrace a new hemisphere; in short, urged by a profound faith in the "manifest destiny" of their country; in the same hour that shall see great interests here that have been long deprived of the free exercise of the commercial spirit that, therefore, and under multiform exactions made by an illiberal government, have gradually, with chagrin, beheld their properties dwindling away, (milch cows drying up;) the same hour that shall see these interests driven to a point of intense conviction that in severing the connexion with Spain lies their salvation; in that hour a sentiment will have ripened here, under the influence of several years' communication, by stern and frequent visits of creoles to the United States,' that shall, intelligently meet "manifest destiny" with open arms.

Should an American minister, on the part of his government make an application, at Madrid, for a freer system of trade between the two countries, and should Spain accede to his views, that hour may be deferred. Not without concessions can Spain hope for the probability of any other result than that the last of those possessions acquired under the first Isabella, shall depart from her under the second of the name. Is there not an ominous conjunction in these names, O Spain? It may be. But it rests with Spain whether these will prove to be such or not.

The subject of receiving foreign coin is further urged upon the government here. At first, having been touched upon the limited ground of receiving American coin only, it shocked the strongest of Spanish prejudices, hostility to anything American. A pointed course of reasoning, upon a broader ground, will yet, perhaps, effect the end of the reception here, as legal tender, of foreign coins at their actual rate of standard value, according to weight and fineness. Spanish doubloons, though coined for sixteen, are legally made to pass for seventeen dollars, a higher rate of value than the foreign coin will possess. The hoarded doubloons will thus be thrown into circulation, and the American and British gold hoarded. The fact that exchange here on New York is seven per cent below par, and that this so much reduces the actual price received for sugar, will perhaps force the government here into a more favorable consideration of the subject of receiving foreign coin, the effect of which would be to reduce the rates of exchange.

Mr. Hobbie, who was deputed by our government to negotiate a postal arrangement with the authorities here, left on the 19th; in the Georgia, for Chagres. The post office here is a private monopoly. The contractors originally put on a line of packets between Cuba and Spain, receiving permission to collect all postages. In addition, they have permission to charge a real on each letter passing to and from the interior of the island; also two reals on all letters coming to the island from foreign countries, and which are merely distributed by them here. It is not surprising that Mr Hobbie failed in effecting any arrangement with authorities here. He, however, has sought to negotiate, through the British Consul here, an international arrangement of interchange of postal facilities between the English West Indian and the American West Indian steamers. This arrangement will probably be consummated, and secure the main object of his mission.

The Captain General has, lately, I understand, ordered a commission, who are instructed to recommend such improvements as they shall find needed in the post office here. I would suggest that the first recommendation made be, that "there be no letters opened at the post office here." It is true that they come under the category of Voltaire's favorable comparison, when he claimed that in France they managed the post offices better than in Germany; for, whereas in the latter country, when they opened the letters, they did not seal them up again; in France, more polite, they always re-sealed them. As far as my observation extends, they do re-seal them here. LEON.

HAVANA, Feb. 22, 1851.

Fresh Views of Havana—Political Intelligence—Postal Arrangements with the United States—The Opera—The Carnival—Bad Segars, &c.

I find politics to be a very superfluous business in this community, these being all taken care of by one set of people, who are sent from the mother country for the special purpose of taking care of them. This must be a great relief to the people of the country; but I have not yet had time to ascertain in what light they view the boon. My progress in Spanish is fair. I have learned two words, or phrases, which are "Cuidao" and "Quien Sabe," the latter being a universal answer to all the questions which my Yankee curiosity has induced me to put to the various people with whom I have yet come in contact. It don't enlighten me much; but I doubt not, when I acquire more of the language, I shall have "more light." My hotel-keeper, who seems to know all about everything, tells me that the Captain General is a most excellent man, having abrogated the necessity of passengers arriving here giving security for good behavior. You will find the decree in the *Gaceta* of this morning. I am sorry I have not yet learned enough to translate it for you. The landlord says he charges passengers a dollar and a half more than formerly; which, I suppose, is done on the principle of insurance of good conduct being a small per centage on a man's value. I must confess, I like this application of the mutual insurance plan. My landlord also tells me, that the intendent, who he says, is minister of finance here, is going to Europe this spring having got tired of holding office.

This is about all I have been able to learn about politics, except that my landlord says (he is a man of wide observation, and deep information, and I recommend him to travellers) that people still talk about Lopez and his "coming." I opine Christmas is on the way too.

Major Hobbie has gone away somewhere. He could do nothing at all here. After laying all his plans before the authorities, and much delay, they concluded that the only way to make a postal arrangement was to go to Spain. Some of the post office officials objected to the plan of sending the Spanish mails, via the United States, for the reason, that their contents might be violated. I thought this was exceedingly cool, after your letter had been opened and handed you unsealed at the post office here. "There are tricks in all trades but ours." Talking of mails, I find there is much complaint here of the mail service rendered by the steamers of Law's line. The bags are not unfrequently carried to Chagres and then delivered on the return of the steamer, or perhaps, left on the isthmus. Moreover, as for the closing of the outward mail there is the utmost want of order. The agents will announce the bags to close at 6 o'clock P. M.; at this hour it is again deferred until 10 o'clock P. M.; then until next morning; and the steamer finally departs somewhere about sunset. Another inconvenience is the simultaneous departure, from the United States, of the Charleston line and the New York line, which constitute each, a semi-monthly communication between the two countries. If the departure of the Charleston line was set back five days—that is, to leave Charleston on the 5th and 20th of each month, instead of the 1st and 15th—the communication would be weekly, and the amount of correspondence, and consequent income, would be doubled. As Uncle Sam pays each line a very handsome figure for carrying the mails, this little alteration in his *menage* could be easily made to his great advantage. There is yet another little trouble in this matter, which it might be well to mention. The absence of a postal arrangement with Cuba encumbers the merchants of the United States with the payment of postage both ways. He must pre-pay his letters to send them here, and then pay to receive the replies. This cannot be in any way avoided, for the rate of postage is fixed at the absurd rate of 12½c., so that even the postage stamps are rendered useless. By-the by, 12½ cents—there is no such coin recognized by the Post-office—how much do we pay, 12 cents or 13 cents? If 13 cents, who gets the odd half cent? On a large correspondence, this must be something handsome in the course of a year.

To-night is the last night of the opera season, and first *bal masque* of the carnival. The opera does not close, however, but gives nine nights more, for the purpose of bringing out Meyerbeer's "Robert le Diable," which has never been given here. It has been got up at great expense; but unavoidable causes have prevented its being previously brought out. I am told the season has not been a profitable one to the empresario.

The city is all alive with the plan of building a new theatre, to be called the Lyceum, on the plan of the magnificent theatre of Bordeaux. I will tell you more of this, when I shall have learned more about it.

There is much talk here about making the gold coin of the United States a legal tender, in order to counteract the excessive decline in exchanges, which, at this moment, are exerting such an evil influence on prices here.

I would here say a word to our countrymen who are bound to California. I think the Jamaica route decidedly preferable to the Havana route. On arriving here, passengers are detained on board from six to eight hours; they are then charged one dollar for permission to land; a boatman then fleeces another dollar for setting them on shore, and before they leave the ship a notice is stuck up advising passengers that the hour of sailing is 6 P. M. After they get on shore, they find few or none who can understand them, and the seeing of Havana is confined to a purchase of some execrable segars, at an exorbitant price, from some small swindling trader, and a drink of bad liquor at a low grog shop.

I am told there is no news. ORSS.

HAVANA, Feb. 22, 1851.

Submarine Telegraph Communication with the United States.

The business men and the merchants of the island of Cuba, as well as all those who have friends and relations in the United States, ask for the formation of a society for the purpose of establishing a submarine and electric telegraph between Cape Sable, (the southern point of the State of Florida,) Cayo Hueso and Havana. This enterprise, which can be created at the cost of five hundred thousand dollars, and which will continue the submarine telegraphic line of Mobile, will have an incessant communication for commerce, manufactures and owners of steamers, of the United States, with the Island of Cuba. We hope, also, that in your celebrated paper, the *Herald*, you will excite the capitalists of these States, and you will urge the Senate of the United States, to the value of a realization of this submarine telegraph from Florida to Havana.

A SUBSCRIBER TO THE HERALD.

Our Paris Correspondence.

PARIS, February 13, 1851.

The Dotation for the President—Remark of Napoleon, First Consul—The Public Subscription—Prince of Moscow Affair—A New Ministry Proposed—Appointments—Dupin—The Heir of the Bourbons—Spain—Switzerland—Bishop Hughes—European Politics, &c., &c.

The dotation demanded by the President has been refused by a large majority. The report of the committee was against it; and, despite the speech of Mr. de Montalembert on Monday last, which, by the by, was very unpopular, the 1,800,000 francs were refused to Louis Napoleon. The press in general, with the exception of a few newspapers which are devoted to the Elysée, did all in its power to enlighten the National Assembly, and to force the representatives to oppose this new demand, which would be employed, as they said, to form the steps of a new throne to the empire. Among the articles published, one in *La Presse* is of the bitterest kind ever written by the *adversaires* of Louis Napoleon. The famed words of the legitimist party, which are, that "Not a day more; not a cent more," ought to be allowed to the President—meaning that Louis Napoleon ought not to remain at the Elysée one day longer than the constitution allows, and that not a "copper" ought to be given to him besides the salary which has been regulated by the constitution—all this was resumed with cunning and ability, and it had, no doubt, great influence upon the voters. Another thing which had much power and weight in the scales of the affair was, that Napoleon Bonaparte, when he was the First Consul, had but a salary of 500,000 francs, which were sufficient for him; and that he, who had conquered the whole of Italy and did many glorious deeds, refused to have this amount of money augmented, for, said he, it was enough for a true republican. Very likely all this was not sincere; but it was thought so, and he had power enough to turn the republic into an empire.

As soon as the demand of a dotation was refused, the partizans of the Elysée began their campaign, and did everything to excite the mob to raise subscriptions in favor of Louis Napoleon. As long as any hope was entertained, nothing was said by the President, but when the private agents reported that it would be a failure, it was deemed necessary to refuse it publicly. Accordingly, a communication was sent on Tuesday last to several newspapers, in which the President declined to accept any money collected by subscription; adding, that his only wishes were to live quietly, without ostentation, and satisfied for the future with the salary of his *poste*. This wise, or political, measure has excited the anger of several supporters of Louis Napoleon: and the journal *De Pays*, which is the most devoted organ of the President, says that he has no right to refuse the public donations, and that a hotel or a mansion ought to built for Louis Napoleon, with the money which has been already collected.

In the meantime, the family of Bonaparte, who pretend to have claims against the French government, have presented a bill for a demand of eighty millions of francs, which, after consultation with a lawyer, has been reduced to only twelve millions of francs. It will be remembered that this demand had first been made under the reign of Louis Philippe, by Lucien Murat, who was the emissary to recover that *petit* amount of money; which, if he had succeeded in obtaining, was to be divided among all the living Bonapartes. We shall see what will happen under this the new sort of dotation.

The demand of Mr. Ramond de la Crorsette to the National Assembly, for authority to sue Monsieur Ney, Prince of Moscow, for insulting him in the saloons of the Elysée, has been granted. It created much trouble in the House. It appears that the President has been grieved at that event, or rather at the attack of Mr. Ney upon Mr. Ramond, for he had some private intentions with Mr. Ney, which now cannot be realized. According to some reports, upon which I think I can rely, Louis Napoleon acknowledged the impossibility of his being re-elected President in 1852, and would have done all in his power to present in his place Mr. Ney de la Moscowa. Then this Prince, No. 2, would have kept the presidential chair for the next four years; after which, Louis Napoleon was re-eligible, according to the constitution. And all this is blown up by the affair of Ramond de la Crorsette.

A new ministry is spoken of in all the political circles, to be composed of MM. de Brillant, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Lamartine, Minister of the Interior; Bethmoul, Minister of Justice; Magne, Minister of Public Works; Waisse, Minister of Agriculture; Dumas, Minister of Public Instruction; Schramm, Minister of War; Collas, Minister of the Navy, and Fould, Minister of Finance. This new ministry is to be named at the end of the month. All this may take place, but what would be the end of it?

It is rumored in certain circles that Gen. Baraguay d'Hilliers, who, as it is known, has taken the place of Gen. Changarnier, is on the eve of being removed by Louis Napoleon. His temper, it is said, does not agree with that of the President. His successor would be Gen. Saint Arnaud, who is the most devoted friend of the President.

Gen. La Hitte, formerly Minister of Foreign Affairs, and who was representative of the department of the Nord at the Legislative Assembly, sent, on Friday last, his resignation to Mr. Dupin; and when it was known by the other representatives, they all manifested their unanimous regrets at such an unforseen resolution. As a minister, Mr. de la Hitte has shown himself just and independent, and as a representative he was one of the pillars of order and a true advocate of the majority.

Mr. Dupin was re-elected yesterday in his capacity of Speaker of the House, by a majority of 371 votes. Every step had been taken to prevent his re-election; but the good sense of the majority prevailed on this occasion, and nothing was able to shake the power of their resolution. This, I think, is also considered as another mark of opposition towards the Elysée, for Mr. Dupin is not a man to be bribed.

Much excitement was caused last week by the news that Count de Chambord was sick at Venice, and that his health was in such danger that his recovery was thought impossible. The agitation among the members of the legitimist party was extreme, and it was the thermometer of the public feelings for the only heir of the Bourbon family. The people of Paris showed such an interest in the news, that the Count de Chambord seems not so unpopular as has been represented by the press of the country.

News from Spain, arrived this morning, announces that a change has taken place in the ministry of Queen Isabella. Count of Mirasol, minister of war, has been replaced by General Lersundi. This was settled on the 7th instant.

From Switzerland I hear that a motion has been privately made in the great council to take a vote, by which the *révolutionnaires* of all nations may be turned from the frontiers of the Republic, and their plans unveiled to the governments to which they belong. If this takes place, the United States will soon be the only refuge of all those who dream of living under a republican government. Well, so much the better! There is in the States of the Union room enough to contain all the democrats of Europe, and besides this, there they will be free from gendarmes and prisons. This, if one throws aside the love for one's country, is quite sufficient enticement to abandon old, rotten Europe.

In Piedmont, the Minister Siccardi has sent in his resignation, which has been accepted. This will, very likely, change in a short while the whole politics of the kingdom of Sardinia. The port of La Spezzia, one of the best on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, is on the eve of being converted into a maritime port, for the use of the royal navy of king Emmanuel.

From Rome the only interesting news is relative to the United States, which, according to letters received from that place, announces in a positive manner, that Pope Pius IX has decided to send to his Christian brethren of the Union an *Internonce*, by whom a concordat would be granted to the Roman Catholic church of the country, from north to south, and west to east.

It is also certain that the Rev. Bishop Hughes will be consecrated Cardinal.

Another priest of Canada, the Abbot Baillargon, curate of Quebec, has been named Bishop *in partibus* of Troy, and coadjutor of the Bishop of Quebec.

A chief of the Montenegro country, having desired to present his respects to the Pope, had a great deal of difficulty to obtain from the chamberlain of his holiness leave to enter in the palace of Pius IX with his arms. But having refused to depart from the habits of his country, which are never to go anywhere unarmed, he was finally admitted in presence of the Pope, who had great pleasure in speaking with this old chief of the most courageous people of the world.

The news from the Dutchies is satisfactory. The greatest tranquillity prevails everywhere, and on the 6th instant the Austrian army entered the country, finding no opposition on their way. 3,300 men passed through Altona on their way to Rendsburg, and 4,000 men were expected on the following day to take possession of the barracks of the city.

In the meantime, the soldiers of the late army of Schleswig-Holstein are enlisting for the Brazilian government, which is in expectation of a war with the Argentine republic, whilst this last government recruits its troops in Sardinia and at Genoa.

It is whispered by some diplomatists who know well the *rouages* of Europe, that the journey of King Otho, of Greece to Europe, has for its object to abdicate in favor of Prince George of Cambridge; a step-cousin to Queen Victoria. This prince will marry a niece of the Emperor Nicholas; and the kingdom of Greece will be augmented with the countries of Epirus, Cyprus, Chios, and the Ionian Islands.

General Dembidski, the Hungarian hero, has decidedly been set free, through the exertions of the ministers of France and England at Constantinople. He was to sail for Great Britain, and thence for the United States. B. H. R.

GOSSIP OF PARIS.

PARIS, February 13, 1850.

The Carnival—Ball at the Elysée—Balls—Mr. Phalen's Concert and Party—The Theatres—Young Adrien—Spring Silks—An Incident—Emigration to Icaria—Mustaches in Turkey—Lamartine—Americans in Paris.

The merry balls of our Carnival are resounding all over Paris, despite the political struggle of all parties, and all is gaiety and cheerfulness. Private feelings are rendered more excitable by the fine and unforeseen kind of weather which we still enjoy. Letters which I receive from the south of France, announce that all the almond, peach, and apricot trees are blossoming, and that even the olive trees are on the eve of opening the snowy buds of their flowers. All these precocious marks of spring are, of course, exciting persons who are fond of amusements; "the Carnival will be short," they say; we therefore enjoy it, and pass our time as merrily as possible.

Balls and parties of all sorts were quite numerous last week. At the Elysée the crowd was immense on Thursday last. More than five thousand persons were invited, and above four thousand five hundred were present—the remaining *invités* being unable to enter the saloons, retired after a short stay in the ante-chamber. Never, in fact, have I seen such a number of persons thus packed, like herrings in a keg. When I left my house to go there, it was about ten o'clock, and the driver of my hack, when we arrived on the boulevards, told me that there was the *queue* beginning at the entry of the rue Louis le Grand and Chaussée d'Autin, at a distance from the Elysée equal to that from the Battery in New York to the New York Hotel. Of course I did not follow the *queue*; and having passed through some small streets, I arrived at the gates of the Presidential Palace, which I entered on foot two hours before those who were in their carriages. The ball was more, I would say, a sort of assemblage of all the friends of Louis Napoleon than a dancing party. All the statesmen belonging to the present government had congregated there, mixed up among officers of all sorts. Many *intrus* had also found their way into that party. And who would believe that I saw there three women well known in our public gardens and in the society of the frail ones of Paris, who were either enjoying a Mazurka and a Schottish, or eating the supper of the President, and swallowing champagne?—Who would believe, also, that I had (*horresco referens!*) my pocket picked of my handkerchief? And I have understood that I was not the only one to whom this misfortune happened. Nevertheless, this rout—or *cohue*, as you will like it better—was quite a sight for a stranger, and many of your countrymen were present. Among the crowd I met with Messrs. Niles, Harriman, Peabody, Monroe, Pillet, &c.; Madames Hepburn, and her two pretty daughters, Phalen, Lapis, Pillet, Moulton, and many other charming American ladies, whose names I cannot recollect. Louis Napoleon was dressed in the uniform of General of the National Guard; and, after having promenaded for some time in his parlors, he retired at about half-past eleven, whilst his guests remained till four o'clock.

Several balls given by the City Halls of Paris, and their different wards, must also be mentioned here. The first, which took place at the Grand Opera, was really a splendid affair. The whole theatre was decorated with so much taste, and the flowers and wax candles were so numerous, that the place seemed to be an enchanted palace of the Thousand and One Nights.

At the Jardin d'Hiver, on Saturday last, another splendid festival took place, and attracted a large society. The magnificence of this mammoth green house, and the luxurious lights, rendered that party one of the most splendid of the season. The President had taken these two balls under his patronage, and he remained there during a great part of the night.

On Monday last, Monsieur Berger, actual Prefect of the Department of the Seine, gave another party, which was equal in magnificence to the former given two months ago, of which I gave a full description in my correspondence. All the ambassadors and the most distinguished personages of the capital, were there; and, with the exception of the President, who was not present, this being the night of his diplomatic reception, I should say that the most respectable and talented persons of Paris had responded to the kind invitation of Mr. Berger. More than four thousand guests were present and the party lasted till five o'clock.

I have also to mention among the charming *soirées* that have lately taken place, that given on Wednesday evening last at Mr. Phalen's residence, a very comfortable hotel in the rue Neuva des Mathurins. This American gentleman, who has a great number of friends among the best class of our first society, organized a concert, and invited, not only his countrymen, (to whom by the bye he is very hospitable) but also many persons of rank, among whom I were ambassadors, diplomatists, and last, not least, a host of pretty women, who were the sweetest ornaments of his saloons. The concert consisted of several pieces of our best operas, sung by Mdlle. Miolan, of the Comic Opera House, and also Mr. Arnault, a barrytone of much talent, who is engaged by Lumley, the manager of the Italian Opera. A Tyrolean singer, who is one of the "lions" of our musical circles, had been also secured by Mr. Phalen, and the entertainment ended with the inimitable comic songs of the renowned actor Levassor, who excited bursts of laughter. A splendid supper, composed of the best delacies of the season, and the choicest wines and liquors, was also offered to the guests of Mr. Phalen, and I must say that his lady did the honors of her house admirably.

Mr. Moulton gave, also, a party last evening, which was a splendid affair.

The theatres have been dull this week. The Theatre Moutansier has offered a new farce, in one act, called "Une femme qui perd ses jarretières," which was very successful. The "Lady who has lost her garters" is personated by M'lle Duval, a beautiful girl, who has much talent besides personal charms.

At the Gymnase, a comedy in three acts, by M. Maseres, entitled "Le Collier de perles," was performed on Saturday last, and received with the utmost delight. This new play will remain in the repertory of the theatre, for it is written with much elegance.

The Porte St. Martin was about producing, on Saturday next, a drama in five acts, by M. Dugne, called "Mr. Pinchard, or a Rascally Honest Man," when the Minister of the Interior, M. Waisse, who had read the manuscript, forbade its appearance on the stage. This measure has created much sensation among the authors of Paris.

The National theatre, formerly the Olympic Circus, prepares, for Saturday next, a grand military drama, in fifteen tableaux, called "The Army of Sambre et Meuse," for which the administration has gone to enormous expense. It is said the scenery and costumes are magnificent.

The son of the celebrated professor of legerdemain, M. Adrien, whose fame is spread over the United States, is here in Paris, and opened, on Sunday last, at the Casino des Arts, on the Boulevard Montmartre, his cabinet of magical experiments, which was much admired by the numerous spectators present. M. Adrien's son is a smart *prestidigitateur*, who will soon obtain a reputation equal to that of his father.

I understand from a merchant, who is busily engaged in the trade with Lyon, and the United States, that great activity is felt in the capital of the department of the Rhone, by the numerous orders lately received, here from the United States. All the *canuts* (silk workmen) are at work, and the goods will be ready in due time.

Vegetables used in Europe, for the food of the people, have been lately augmented. M. Lamare Piquot has introduced in France the *psoralea esculenta*, which comes from the northern part of America. Large plantations of this new potatoe have been made in several parts of the country, and I am told their appearance is already superb.

Two families of French citiziens embarked the other day at Havre for New York, where they go to find their way to Nauvoo. Despite all the enticements of their friends, these emigrants have decided to go and meet M. Cabet, in the new Icaria he has founded in the city of the Mormons.

A reform which gives a true *point de vue* of the improvement of manners and civilization, has been introduced in Turkey, by the Grand Seigneur, who has allowed the grand dignitaries of his army to wear mustaches. Only the Janissaires have ever been allowed to wear this ornament of the human lips, which is considered by the Turkish people as a great mark of honor. When will the United States follow the example of the Sultan?

A grand festival was offered on Monday last, to M. de Lamartine, by the publishers of his works, MM. Gosselin. All the compositors of the printing office, all the *employés* of the house, were invited to the ceremony. This *fête de famille* was a very fine affair.

Before finishing this letter, I have much pleasure in recording a touching instance of kindness of heart, that does infinite credit to a gentleman well known in Paris by all Americans who have visited our capital. Some two weeks since, an American died here very suddenly. His poor wife, who was sitting by his side, did not even know he was dangerously ill. Her situation was deplorable. She was a stranger in our large city, and, at that moment, she was completely without resources. She sent to the American Consul, but got no reply. Fortunately for this unhappy woman, Mr. Vanderbrock, now the head of the old banking house of Green & Co., heard of the event, and called instantly upon her. He offered, without hesitation, to afford whatever funds were wanted; and, even to the neglect of his impoortant affairs, he set about making all the preparations for the funeral. But the poor widow begged to have the body of her husband embalmed, that she might carry it back with her to the United States. Absorbed in her affection, she thought only of this consolation, without dwelling on the heavy expenses attending it. Mr. Vanderbrock, only desiring to console her grief, complied with her wishes, and he had his reward in the comfort his goodness and attention afforded to this heart-broken woman, who has returned to her home, to provide, as well as she may, for the wants of five young children, wholly dependent on her for support. I have only, by chance, become acquainted with these facts, and I beg Mr. Vanderbrock will forgive this unauthorized publication of his name. At the risk of offending him, I think it due to state the case, that it may serve as an example and encouragement to others to do likewise. B. H. R.

AMERICANS IN PARIS.

Thos H Stephens, Newark.	C. J. Meurdy, Conn.
Thos. P. Jacob, Ky.	Mrs. White, Niagara.
Dr. Jas. P. White, Buffalo.	Miss Porter, do.
Isaac Sherman, do.	H. L. King, N. Y.
M. A. Field, N. Y.	T. Hopkins, do.
G. Fleurot, do.	E. Varet, do.
John C. Bloom, do.	T. H. Kimball, do.
T. P. Celton, do.	

Messrs. W. Jackson, Sons & Co.'s Circular.

LIVERPOOL, February 14, 1851.

On the eve of the departure of the last steamer some slight symptoms of improvement began to be manifested in our cotton market, and the opinion was pretty extensively entertained, that for the present, prices had seen the lowest point. The advices which came to hand, per the steamship Asia, on the 9th inst., not only checked this tendency towards a revival of demand, but induced a return of that depression and dulness which has more or less characterised the transactions in cotton for so many weeks past. Yesterday a steadier feeling was apparent, and speculators took about 1,000 bales; much irregularity has, however, existed in prices, and the quotations for the week are reduced about ⅛d. per lb. The excess of 23,000 bales in the receipts, as compared with those of the previous year, is looked upon by many of the trade as confirmatory of the larger crop estimates. The prominent advices of this class are also again freely promulgated; and although the attempt to substantiate the views set forth is so very evidently labored as to pass for little worth with the well informed upon the subject, the speciousness and boldness of the assertions occasion in many quarters doubt and perplexity. A misprint of the figures given in a circular from New Orleans, has also unfortunately given some color and character to these extravagant statements, which favoring the present policy of the trade, contribute in no small degree to depress the prices of the raw material, and as confidence becomes weakened, a most injurious effect was produced in every branch of the cotton trade.

Nothing, besides the present condition of the trade in this staple, could more forcibly show the importance and value of accurate information, with regard to the probable extent of the supply, or impress upon any, holding extreme views, the caution that should be used, particularly when the magnitude of the interests liable to be affected is considered, and especially when such views stand so much opposed to nearly all who venture an opinion on the topic.

Apart from the influence of these conflicting statements, we can only repeat the sentiments conveyed in our late advices—that no previous period has presented a prospect more cheering for a sound and extensive business. The condition of the mass of the people in this country has rarely been equalled. Labor is abundant and food of all kinds exceedingly cheap. Money easy of access, and at a moderate rate. Many foreign markets seem capable of taking increased supplies of goods; and nowhere does it appear that the comparatively high range of prices has resulted in diminishing the actual consumption. Buyers of goods and yarns in the Manchester market naturally keep as much aloof as possible; but whenever a parcel considered cheap is presented, it meets with ready purchasers; and it is very evident, that confidence again restored, an extensive business would be transacted, which would, doubtless, result in a marked improvement upon present prices.

The sales of cotton for the week ending yesterday, amounted to 24,700 bales, and consisted of 19,110 bales American; 1,320 Brazil, 1,750 Egyptian, and 2,520 Surats; of these the trade have taken 22,410; speculators, 1,390; and exporters, 900. The import of the week is 15,468 bales. Stock of American cotton now in this port is 257,600 bales, against 330,900; same time last year; and of all kinds, 443,000, against 515,000. Fair uplands are quoted 7d; fair Mobiles, 7¼d; fair Orleans, 7¾d; and middling Orleans, 6⅝d. to 7d. per lb. To-day the sales are estimated at 4,000 bales, at steady prices, and a better feeling.

The market for grain and flour continues to present a dull and inactive aspect, the transactions being only for immediate use, and prices have generally suffered a further decline. American wheat is quoted 5s. 3d. to 6s. 3d. per 70 lbs; western canal flour, 18s 6d. to 21s. 6d. per barrel. Indian corn, northern yellow, 29s 6d. to 30s. 9d; white, 31s. to 32s; and southern mixed, 29s. to 29s. 6d per 480 lbs.

Lard has been in good demand, and the stock being in small compass prices are again higher. Good to fine commands 44s. to 45s. 6d. per cwt.

Beef and pork are in fair request, at former rates. Prime American mess beef, 74s to 80s. per tierce; prime mess pork, 44s. to 55s. per barrel.

Movements of Fashion in Boston.

MAGNIFICENT BAL FANTAISIE GIVEN BY MRS. JAMES PARKER, AT HER SPLENDID MANSION, MT. VERNON STREET, ON THURSDAY EVENING, FEB. 27, 1851.

[From the Boston Times, March 1.]

Fantastic compliment stalks up and down
Trict in outlandish feathers all his words,
His looks, his oaths, are all ridiculous,
All apish, childish, and Italiate.
Thomas Decker.

In compliance with a written request, couched in elegant terms, and exhibiting a truly beautiful and delicate style of penmanship, we attended, on Thursday evening, the most magnificent fancy dress ball that has ever taken place in the United States. The following card, which accompanied the note, will give our readers an idea of the locality of this brilliant fete:—

BAL FANTAISIE.

The company of A. MacAriel, Esq., and lady, is respectfully desired at Mrs. James Parker's Bal Fantaisie, Thursday evening, Feb. 27, 1851.
65 Mount Vernon street.
N. B.—Please exhibit this card to the gentleman at the door.

Starting with a matchless *corps* of sub-ARIELS, we reached the above fashionable precinct precisely at half-past eight o'clock in the evening. The rush had already commenced, and the stylish equipages, containing most precious burthens, blocked up almost every avenue of access to the splendid mansion, which was to prove the abode of gayety and pleasure for the night. Working our way through, however, to the great prejudice to our valuable costume, we managed to reach the portal, and presented our card to the gentleman usher in attendance. The instant he percieved the name, his joy was unbounded, and he announced our modest soubriquet aloud to the dashing company of guests already assembled in one of the drawing rooms.

"A. Mc Ariel, Esq!" cried the usher.

At the word, the artillery of twenty bright eyes exploded upon us. Not satisfied with the warmth of this mode of reception, a rattling fire of small arms was commenced in the shape of expressions like this:—"Is that indeed Mr. MacAriel?" "What a charming man!" "How noble looking!" "What a splendid eye!" "See his broad and expansive forehead!" "Intelligence shoots from his nostrils!" "How critically correct is the bend of his shirt collar!" "Do you know him?" "Oh, yes, I made his acquaintance at the last All-Mackerel!" "Pray, introduce me!" —"and me!"—"and me!"—"and me!" exclaimed a dozen dulcet voices in a breath.

Nothing daunted by this appalling array, we walked, with all the dignity we could command, into the very midst of the enemy's camp, and politely said:—

"Ladies, your most obedient servant."

This was the signal for a fresh and more deadly volley of compliments. "What beautiful teeth!" "They can't be natural!" "But I know they are." "How so, Maria?" "Oh fie, aunt—don't be too inquisitive." "How graceful are his movements." "Pa, we must have him at our next *fête champêtre*." Pa scowled, and as near as we could understand, muttered that we were "nothing but a d——d foreign adventurer!" The expression was certainly very vulgar, as Miss Nimms remarked to us afterwards.

Being shown into a love of a bed-chamber, which we were informed was expressly allotted for our dressing apartment, we underwent the operation of removing our boots, putting on our white kids, taking a horn of corn-whiskey, and preparing generally for the dance, which had already commenced in the halls below.

Great heavens! what a rare, unique, and magnificent display. Have we left the earth, and been transported to a realm where the bright children of all nations commingle, and are for ever young? Are those queens and princesses, duchesses, countesses, marchionesses, ladies of rank, priestesses, belles of the highlands and belles of the lowlands, fair denizens of a single city, and that city sober, sedate, and puritanical Boston? A tread upon a soft corn convinced us that we were not dreaming, and winning smiles from several familiar faces satisfied us that some, at least, belonged to this terraqueous sphere. So much for the ladies.

Among the gentlemen were—

"Great heroes,
White-headed councillors, and jovial spirits,"

Besides

"A swarm of fools,
Crowding together to be counted wise."

There were kings without dignity; dukes without dukedoms; monks without religion; philosophers without brains; Indian chiefs of the sap-head tribe, and many others, altogether forming a grotesque yet dazzling assemblage. The following is a list of

LADIES DISTINGUISHED FOR BRILLIANCY.

Miss Shaw, of Beacon street, daughter of Robert G. Shaw, Esq., was peerlessly *la reine du bal fantaisie*. Miss S. has a majestic figure, which appeared to great advantage in the character she assumed—that of a lady of rank of the time of Louis XV. Her dress was magnificent, the fabric being cherry colored silk, with under skirt of white satin. Costume throughout, arranged in splendid fashion. Hair powdered, and dressed entirely in the ancient style. Miss Shaw admirably sustained the character, and really appeared as one of those fascinating ladies who, in olden times, conquered the hearts of kings and swayed the fate of nations.

Mrs. Lyman, of Mount Vernon street, as Marquise de la Torraine, of the court of Louis XIII. Costume—rich green silk, black velvet hat, with red feather. Hair powdered.

Miss Ingalls, of Boylston street, as an Italian peasant. Very charming. An innocent and delightful young lady. Part well sustained.

Miss Otis, of Louisburg square, in the costume of a noble lady of olden time. A dashing and agreeable personation. Dress, rich black velvet, black velvet hat, dazzling diamond buckle. Hair powdered.

Miss Mary Otis, sister of the above, as a Spanish lady of rank. Dress—elegant blue silk, made up with exquisite neatness. Hair arranged in beautiful style, and ornamented with brilliants. Rose colored hat, very becoming. A neat and engaging figure.

Miss Peabody, of Salem, as Flora McIver. Costume—plaid, thoroughly Scotch, and eminently becoming. Very pretty.

Miss Spear, of Tremont street, as a lady of the court of Queen Bess. Beautiful girl; character well carried out.

Miss Prescott, of Beacon street, in the character of Norma, the Priestess. If all priestesses were as lively and joyous, we would be content to wear the cowl forever. Costume, white, with veil over the head, which was encircled with a wreath of green leaves. A most enchanting lady.

Miss Gray, of Summer street, as a marchioness of the time of Louis XIV. Hair powdered, and ornamented with red velvet and brilliants. Costume rose-colored satin. Deportment very gracious. Style of head-dress very becoming—would add to her charms if daily so adorned.

Miss Gibson, of Beacon street, as a Spanish lady Costume blue silk, plain, but neat and tasteful. Head dress *a la Espagnole*.

Miss Peabody, of Pemberton square, as a *Marquise fashionable*, of the time of Louis XV. Costume exceedingly rich and beautiful. Hair powdered and arranged *a la ancien regime*. Fine figure—dashing appearance. The powdered hair gave a charming contrast to her lovely complexion.

[*Item*—The Count de la Tour will give a suitable reward for the recovery of his wig.]

Miss Bartlett, of Tremont street, as a milliner; a gay and sprightly character, sweetly carried out.

Mrs. Sargent, of the Tremont House, as Madame Duchatell, the finest lady of the Bourbon blood. Her air and demeanor were decidedly *aristocratique*, and indicated much acquaintance with the *mode* of the courts of Europe. Costume elegant and rich—ornaments rare and valuable. Hair powdered—extremely becoming.

[*Item*—Count de la Tour acknowledges the recovery of his wig, but has now to deplore the loss of his heart.]

Miss Parker, of Mount Vernon street, (one of the fair hostesses,) as Maid of Honor to Marie Antoinette. Costume admirable—neat, but not too plain. A truly beautiful young lady, and sustained her part with exquisite grace.

[*Item*—Count de la Tour has recovered his heart, and received his *congé* at the same time.]

Miss Appleton, of Beacon street, as a Neapolitan Fisher Girl. Her cries of "Here's your fine fresh mackerel, and plump tomcod!" were extremely diverting. Character well sustained.

[*Item*—Count de la Tour leaves in a rage—calls for his carriage—finds it gone with the fair Dulcinea del Toboso. Returns to the punch room in despair, and endeavors to hide his countenance and his vexation behind a huge jorum of brandy and lemon, and sugar and those things.]

Miss Lowell, Beacon street, as Queen Katherine, mother of Henri Quatorze, of France. A vigorous personation of a vigorous queen. Hair powdered. Costume splendid and characteristic.

Miss Adams, of Mount Vernon street, as the gay and lovely Marquise de Chevreux, of the court of Louis XIV. Hair powdered, and costume suited admirably to the character.

Miss Smith, of Pemberton Square, as Nell Gwynne. Fascinating features, and most amiable manners. Costume rich and superb.

Miss Clark, of Beacon street, as Nourmahal. Costume—orange-colored, magnificent, bedizened with brilliants. A most enchanting personation.

Mrs. Parker, the hostess, as a true lady of the present day, uniting all the vivacity, brilliancy and wit of the ladies of the courts of gay monarchs, with the soberness, simplicity and dignity of dames of the nineteenth century. May her shadow never lessen, and her abilities to give and to enjoy festivities like those of Thursday night, increase with her years—if such a lady's years ever increase.

GENTLEMEN.

Mr. Curtis, of Mount Vernon street, as a Marquis of the Court of Louis XV.

Mr. Putnam, of Tremont street, as Edward II.

Mr. Prescott, Beacon street, Marquis d'Angleterre.

Mr. Lowell, Beacon street, Marquis la Sausege.

Mr. Emmons, of Tremont street, as Charles II.

Mr. Otis, of Mount Vernon street, as a Greek philosopher.

Mr. Lyman, of Mount Vernon street, Spanish hidalgo.

Mr. Wainright, of Boylston place, as a French *debardeur*.

Mr. Bates, of Mount Vernon street, *debardeur*.

Mr. Sargeant, Tremont House, as General Taylor, when he met Com. Conner at Point Isabel. Character sustained with infinite fidelity.

Mr. Simmons, Mount Vernon street, as a *Musquetaire de la Reine*. Looked splendid—sustained character admirably. Best fancy dress in the hall.

Mr. Robert G. Shaw, of Beacon street, as a well dressed modern gentleman. Character not assumed.

Mr. Sampson, of Tremont street, as Shylock.

Mr. Spaulding, of Tremont street, as an Indian chief.

Mr. Henrickson, of New York, as a Turk.

Mr. Sterling, of Boylston street, as a Spanish caballero.

Mr. Winchester, of Beacon street, as an Italian Brigand.

Mr. MacAriel, as a Scotch laddie takin' notes.

There were about one hundred and seventy-five persons present, and all, except our friend, De la Tour, seemed to enjoy themselves to their heart's content. When the next *bal fantaisie* takes place among our fashionables, of course our MacAriel will be present.

FLOOD AT OSWEGO, N. Y.—The water in the river rose nearly a foot last night. A perfect world of water is passing over the dam; bringing with it ice, timber, &c. Nearly 200 feet of the coffer dam, near the new lock, has been carried off, and the flood passes down through it with a perfect rush. The new dam was filled with a dozen or more first rate canal boats yesterday. This morning but four are left. During the night they broke loose and were swept off into the lake, and have likely enough broken up or gone ashore. The loss to somebody must be heavy. A schooner broke her fastenings below the bridge at the same time, and was with difficulty prevented from going out into the lake. Her bulwarks were mostly broken off, and she was otherwise injured. This morning large quantities of timber, mostly seeming to be cross-pieces and supporters of dams—passed the city into the lake. Mr. Kimball, one of the canal engineers, who came through from Fulton on the river road this morning, says everything is safe along the line of the canal. The dams are apparently uninjured, except the lower dam, which is in about the same condition it was yesterday. The volume of water passing over it is so large, that it is difficult to determine the extent of the injury. The water this morning had risen over the embankment of the head of the new lock; but by a timely discovery, an embankment was thrown up, and serious injury prevented. The bridges have all stood firm, and it is hoped they will not be injured. They will not be, unless fresh bodies of ice or timber come down upon the piers. Mr. Kimball informs us that two of the ice-breakers of the new bridge at Fulton were carried off yesterday, and another is fast going. The entire structure is considered insecure. Last night the freshet increased to the height of another foot, and is still rising. It has made a breach in the starch factory, but no serious injury, it is hoped, will result.

P. S.—3 o'clock, P. M.—The water continues to rise in the river, and the coffer dam below the new lock is fast giving way. It will probably disappear, most of it, before to-morrow, if the water continues so high and runs so furiously. It is supposed some persons were carried out into the lake in the canal boats. Families, as well as individuals, have been accustomed to occupy two or three of them. About eleven boats have disappeared. A sail boat went in pursuit of them this morning.—*Oswego Journal, Feb. 22.*