THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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DOUBLE SHEET.

SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE ASIA.

Election of Louis Napoleon President of France.

Exultation in Austria Upon the Resignation of Lord Palmerston.

STATE OF THE MARKETS, &c., &c., &c.

The steamship Asia, Captain Judkins, arrived at her dock, Jersey City, yesterday afternoon, at half-past five o'clock, with seven days later intelligence from all parts of Europe.

The news is not important.

The political intelligence from France and the Continent is interesting.

There has been no change in the markets.

Her Majesty's ship Champion had arrived from South America, with $700,000 freight.

Our London Correspondence.

LONDON, Friday Evening, Jan. 2, 1852.

The Ministerial Crisis in England—Reasons of Palmerston's Resignation—Lady Granville—Louis Napoleon Takes Another Step Towards the Empire—The Eagle—The Tuileries—Address of the Consultative Commission—Reply of the President—The Ceremony at Notre Dame—The Te Deum—The Reception at the Tuileries—Illumination of Paris—Hints of Coming Events—Belgium and the Peninsula—The Rhine—The Emperor of Russia—The New Constitution—Miscellaneous—Austrian Exultation at Palmerston's Fall—Sentence of Death on the Stratfords—The Levant Mail—Overland Mail—Commercial, &c., &c.

The resignation of Lord Palmerston is still the great topic of conversation in the clubs and political *salons* of London—I may say also, of Europe. As yet, the real cause of the noble Viscount's retirement from office has not transpired—at least, various versions are given; it is, however, quite clear that, owing to the misunderstanding with Lord Grey, the government of the country could not be satisfactorily carried on. The sudden resignation of Palmerston, however, is now generally attributed to the entire approbation he is said to have expressed to Louis Napoleon of his recent *coup d'état*—an approbation not shared by the other members of the cabinet.

An able political writer thus expresses himself on the subject:—

"The fall of Lord Palmerston changes the aspect and the diplomatic combinations of Europe. It was on him—on the English patron of all the European revolutionists—that the just resentment and mistrust of the great continental powers fell. It was on account of him that Austria, Prussia, and Russia lately addressed to the English Cabinet very strong notes on the subject of the revolutionary refugees in London, and that Austria gave notice of police regulations, which were very annoying to English subjects travelling in her States. All the foreign policy of the regular governments of the Continent bore the impress of the well-merited feelings with which Lord Palmerston inspired them. He more and more isolated England in Europe. He has fallen. Neither his successor, Lord Granville, nor the head of the English Cabinet, Lord John Russel, inspires European governments with similar sentiments. As men, they have not the same intermeddling and irritating character; as ministers, they have not the same antecedents. They are, it is well known, as we and our friends are, constitutionalists and liberals; but they have not undertaken and contracted the habit of everywhere encouraging and supporting revolutions. The governments of the Continent, while thinking and governing differently from them, may still live in good, tranquil, and even intimate relation with them, as if they may themselves, while remaining constitutional and liberal ministers, withdraw England from the isolation, and from the bad position abroad, into which Lord Palmerston has thrown her. Will they do so? The question may appear strange, but it is nevertheless one that must really be put. The policy pursued towards Europe by Lord Palmerston has not been the only cause of his fall; there is evidently a second, a more immediate and perhaps more decisive one—his policy towards France. In declaring himself the admirer of the *coup d'état* of December 2, Lord Palmerston placed himself in open contradiction with the more reserved attitude of his colleagues with the constitutional sentiments of his country, and also in hidden contradiction with himself. It is difficult to support at the same time revolutionists in Europe and in France a government which announces its resolution to oppose the socialists and the demagogues; to support M. Kossuth in the morning, and Louis Napoleon in the evening. He could not be permitted to compromise and embroil his own cabinet on the Continent with the conservatives, and in England with the liberals. The feelings of the great continental powers towards Louis Napoleon, and what is now passing in France, appear to be favorable; whether they explain themselves, or not, on the *coup d'état* itself, they show themselves, it is said, disposed to encourage the President in his struggle against socialism and demagogy. They will benefit by his triumph, having themselves the same struggle to support. What will Lord John Russell do? He has repeated himself from Lord Palmerston, whom he considered too favorable in Europe to the revolutionists. In France to a government struggling with demagogy. Which of these two lines of policy will he himself adopt? Will he be more anti revolutionary than liberal, or more liberal than anti revolutionary? Will he return to more intimate relations with the great powers of the Continent, in order that England may not remain isolated, or will he separate himself from these powers because he finds them better disposed than he is himself towards what is taking place in France, and towards the present policy of the President? We by no means pretend to know how the English Cabinet will solve this question; we confine ourselves to mooting it. The solution is very important for France. When the present French government had in Lord Palmerston an approver and a support, it might assume, between England and the great continental powers, an intermediate and balanced position, inclining towards one or the other, according as it met with feelings more or less favorable, or as its own interest might dictate. Now if Lord John Russell again places England on good terms with the continental powers, and remains at the same time less well disposed for the new *régime* in France than Lord Palmerston was, will not the French government have less latitude for its policy, and will it not find itself under the necessity of taking, either in common with all the great European powers, or singly and on its own account, a more determined and fixed line of conduct? Will this be a mischief, or will it be an advantage? We shall not discuss the point; we merely state facts and situations. To see things as they are is, in politics as in every thing else, the first rule of good sense, and the best chance of good conduct and of success."

I may add to the above, that a general break up of the cabinet is expected; but what the new combination will be, it is at the present moment impossible to conjecture.

It is not impossible that Parliament may meet earlier than usual. The session will be an interesting one. Lord Palmerston will be called upon to give an early explanation of his policy as Foreign Minister, and of the reasons which induced him to retire. He will achieve a triumph in the House. I should not be astonished to see him return to office as Prime Minister.

Lord Granville, our new Foreign Minister, is a business like man, and much esteemed. The ultra Protestants are violent in attacking him. He is married to an Italian lady, a Roman Catholic, and they say that all the cabinet secrets will be by her transmitted to the Papal party, through her confessor.

It was fully expected that the French mails which reached town this morning would have brought the intelligence that Louis Napoleon had been proclaimed Emperor; this expectation was increased by a submarine telegraphic despatch received last evening, announcing that the following decrees appeared in the *Moniteur*:—

"In the name of the French people, the President of the Republic, considering that the French Republic, with its new form sanctioned by the suffrage of the people, may without mistrage adopt the souvenirs of the empire, and the symbols which recall the remembrance of its glory; considering that the national flag should not be any longer deprived of the renowned emblem which led our soldiers to victory in a hundred battles, decrees:

Art. 1. *The French eagle is re-established on the crest of the Legion of Honor.*

Art. 2. *It is also re-established on the standard of the army.*

Art. 3. The Minister of War and the Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor are charged with the execution of this decree, dated the Elysée, 31st December.

LOUIS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE."

The first day of the new year was fixed upon by Louis Napoleon for public thanks throughout France, for his re-election as President of the republic. For this purpose he addressed the following circular to the bishops of France:—

"Monseigneur l'Evêque:—In order to call down the blessing of Heaven on France and on the great mission which is entrusted to me by the French people, I have to request you to have sung in your cathedral, on the 1st of January, a solemn *Te Deum* of thanks. Receive, Monseigneur l'Evêque, the expression of my good wishes, and of my special sentiments of affection.

"LOUIS NAPOLEON."

At Paris, the ceremony was to take place at Notre Dame, on a scale of great magnificence.

The following announcement appeared in the *Moniteur* of Sunday:—

"The official receptions of the constituted bodies, the delegates of the departments, and the civil and military authorities, will take place after the *Te Deum*, at half past one, at the Palace of the Tuileries."

This was regarded as a hint that Louis Napoleon purposed taking possession of the palace of the kings of France—which he will do, sooner or later, unless he falls by the hand of the assassin.

I now subjoin you full details of the ceremony of yesterday—a ceremony which will take its place in the pages of French history.

On Wednesday evening at 5 o'clock the Consultative Commission proceeded to the Elysée, where it was received by the President of the Republic surrounded by his ministers and his aides de-camp. M. Baroche, the Vice President, then read, and placed in the hands of the President, the extract of the *procès verbal* which declares that the number of votes given in 86 departments, Algeria, the army and the navy, on the *plébiscite* of December 2, was 7,439,216 in the affirmative, and 640,737 in the negative.

M. Baroche then spoke as follows:—Monsieur le Président—In making an appeal to the French people, by your proclamation of December 2, you said:—"I no longer will hold a power which is powerless to do good, and which chains me to the helm, when I behold the vessel driving towards an abyss. If you have confidence in me, give me the means of accomplishing the great mission which I hold from you." To that loyal appeal, made to its conscience and its sovereignty, the nation has responded, by an immense acclamation, by upwards of seven million four hundred thousand votes. Yes, Prince, France has confidence in you. She has confidence in your courage, your elevated good sense, and your love for her. And the testimony which she has just given you of that fact is so much the more glorious that it is accorded after three years of a government, the prudence and patriotism of which it thus consecrates. Has the elect of December 10, 1848, shown himself worthy of the mission which the people had confided to him? Has he well comprehended the task which devolved on him? Let that question be asked of the seven millions of votes which have now confirmed the former mandate, even adding to it a more extensive and more noble mission. Never in any country has the national will been so solemnly manifested. Never did any government obtain a similar assent—never had it a basis more extensive, an origin more legitimate, and more worthy of the respect of nations. (Approbation.) Take possession, Prince, of this government, which has been so gloriously confided to you. Use it in order to develop by wise institutions the fundamental bases which the people themselves have consecrated by their votes. Re-establish in France the principle of authority which has been too much shaken for the last twenty years by our continual agitations. Oppose unceasingly those anarchical passions which attack society to its very foundations. It is not only odious theories which you have to pursue and to suppress for they have been changed into facts and terrible attempts. May France be at length delivered from those men who are always ready for murder and pillage—of those men who in this nineteenth century barbarize civilization, and appear, by awakening the most distressing reminiscences, to carry us back a period of 500 years. (Loud assent.) Prince, on the 2d of December you took for my shield, France regenerated by the revolution of 1789, and organized by the Emperor; that is to say, a wise and well regulated liberty—an authority strong and respected by all. Let your wisdom and your patriotism realize this noble idea. Restore to the country, so rich, so full of life and of future prosperity, the greatest of all blessings—order, stability, and confidence. Express with energy the spirit of anarchy and revolt. You will thus have saved France, preserved the whole of Europe from an immense danger, and added to your name a new and imperishable glory."

Considerable applause followed this address, to which the President of the Republic made the following reply:—

"Gentlemen—France has responded to the loyal appeal which I made to her. She has comprehended that I departed from legality only to return to right. Upwards of seven millions of votes have just absolved me, by justifying an act which had no other object than to save France, and perhaps Europe, from years of trouble and anarchy. (Loud assent.) I thank you for having efficiently shown to what an extent that manifestation is national and spontaneous. If I congratulate myself on this immense adhesion, it is not from pride, but because it gives me the force to speak and act as becomes the head of a nation like ours. (Loud cries of "Bravo.") I understand all the grandeur of my new mission, and I do not deceive myself as to its difficulties. But with an upright heart with the co-operation of all right minded men, who, like you, will assist me with their intelligence, and support me with their patriotism, with the tried devotedness of our valiant army, and with the protection which I shall to-morrow solemnly beseech Heaven to grant me, (prolonged sensation.) I hope to render myself worthy of the confidence which the people continue to place in me. (Good approbation.) I hope to secure the destinies of France by founding institutions which respond at the same time to the democratic instincts of the nation and to the naive sally expressed desire to have henceforth a strong and respected government. (Warm marks of adhesion.) In fact to give satisfaction to the exigencies of the moment by creating a system which reconstitutes authority, without wounding the feeling of equality, and without closing any path of improvement, is to lay the foundations of the only office capable of supporting wise and beneficent liberty."

Cries of "*Vive Napoléon!*" "*Vive le Président!*" were then raised. The members of the commission pressed round Louis Napoleon to offer him their congratulations. A conversation took place between the President and several members of the commission, which lasted about twenty minutes.

The *corps diplomatique* were then presented by the Apostolic Nuncio, but no speeches were made. The Archbishop and the clergy were next presented.

THE CEREMONY AT NOTRE DAME—PROCLAMATION OF THE VOTES—THE TE DEUM.

[From the Correspondent of the Morning Chronicle.]

The ceremony of returning thanks to heaven, as ordered by the President of the republic, for the success of his late election, was celebrated to day at the cathedral of Notre Dame, with most imposing magnificence. The weather was not by any means propitious for the occasion, the cold being exceedingly severe, and a thick fog during the whole day, but particularly in the morning, enveloping Paris. Notwithstanding this drawback, a considerable number of persons had already collected in the neighborhood of the cathedral as early as nine o'clock, although no person was permitted to approach the building itself unless provided with a ticket.

Immediately in front of the sacred edifice workmen were to be seen completing the preparations of the ornamentation. Some were finishing the laying down of the painted basements of the gigantic flagstalls from each of which were floating vast streamers of tri colored silk; others were covering the pavement with sand, to prevent accidents from the slippery state of the pavement; and others again were removing from covered wagons stools, benches, and other articles required inside for the accommodation of the spectators; all was bustle, but without confusion.

The appearance of the open space in front of the cathedral, or, as it is technically designated, the *parvis*, was exceedingly striking. Down the whole length of the Rue du Parvis tricolored flags were streaming from lofty masts; further down, in the open space itself, more elevated flagstaffs bore still larger streamers; whilst close to the entrance the tricolored flags were intermingled with others of green silk, sprinkled over with silver stars—green being the color of the Prince Louis Napoleon, as it was formerly of the Emperor his uncle. Springing from the fretwork of the old cathedral, immediately over the grand entrance, was erected an awning of crimson velvet, ornamented with gold embroidery, under which the President of the republic was to alight from his carriage. At each side floated green flags, bearing the letters "L. N." within a laurel wreath. Beyond them, at each side, trophies were erected, with a shield in the centre, also bearing the same initials, the whole surmounted by a *faisceau* of tricolored flags, artistically arranged; still farther on, at each corner of the front of the building, were to be seen lofty hangings of crimson velvet, to match the canopy in the centre. In the recess of the grand portal were suspended pieces of ancient tapestry, admirably executed, representing sacred subjects. As each of these works of art bore in the wrought portion of its bordering the cross and arms of the See of Paris—namely, the Virgin overcoming the hydra of doubt and anarchy—it is to be presumed that they all belong to the cathedral itself. The *façade* above the grand portal was also hung with draperies of crimson velvet and gold, the whole being profusely sprinkled over with golden stars; and at each side of the large rose-window of the centre were placed two painted panels, representing—on the right, Charlemagne and St. Louis, and on the left Louis XIV and Napoleon.

Half-past nine had been appointed as the hour for opening the doors to the public, and it was arranged that the ministers, the diplomatic corps, the marshals, and the officers of the staff should enter by the grand portal in the centre, whilst the two lesser entrances at each side should be appropriated to the public. The central entrance was, in conformity with this arrangement, duly thrown open at the appointed hour; but the persons who arrived with tickets for the central doors had to wait upwards of half an hour, in the midst of a bitter frost, and a fog so dense that it would not have disgraced the good city of London on one of her worst days of November exhalation. At last, however, the huge doors turned slowly on their hinges, and the slight inside served to dissipate the slight discontent which the unexpected penance at the door outside had generated in the minds of those kept waiting. The whole of the pillars of the interior were encircled with crimson velvet, ending with a binding of gold embroidery immediately below the capitals; between every two pillars was suspended a beautiful chandelier of cut glass, from the centre of the arch which they supported; each of these chandeliers contained forty five wax lights. Down the centre aisle, three ranges of chandeliers, of infinitely larger size, though not of a more beautiful form and proportion, were hung from the fretted roof by ropes of great thickness, for which above seemed scarcely thicker than whipcord, so great was the distance from the spectator to the points from which they descended. The nine chandeliers, forming the central line, were of larger size than the eighteen lateral ones, and not being let down altogether so low as the others, prevented the monotony which would otherwise have struck the eye. The part of the sacred edifice which the eye of the spectator could freely wander over terminated at the iron railing which separates the choir from the rest of the centre aisle; at that point a lofty screen was erected, which effectually cut off that part of the church from the rest; so that of the four parts of the Greek cross which forms the church, the eastern one here no especial part in the ceremony. It was, however, most usefully occupied, as in it were placed the orchestra and singers, who were to perform the pieces of music appointed for the day. But though the screen in question rendered the choir completely isolated from the crowd, it only did so below, as above, the blaze of light from innumerable wax tapers almost caused the eye to ache when it first cast its gaze in their direction. After a time, however, this extreme brilliancy faded away, for, as the day advanced, the fog entered the cathedral and to a certain extent clouded the immense glare of light which was at first so perceptible. In addition to all these lights, smaller chandeliers were to be seen above, at the back of the tribunes, erected high up between the pillars, for the public; and at the same height gilt bronze sconces were placed at each side of the pillars above—all adding to the general illumination. Also, in the aisle below lofty candelabra of gilt bronze stood along the sides, containing each about two dozen of lights. The whole number of wax lights burning was 12,000.

The manner in which the sacred building was arranged for the ceremony was alike simple and convenient. The centre aisle was only used on the occasion, the side aisles being employed as passages to the various tribunes. These tribunes were erected in the centre aisle, up to the pillars already described as covered with crimson velvet; the tribunes on the right were reserved for the public in general, and those on the left for the mayors, delegates of the departments, the consuls, and a portion of the public functionaries. The transepts were converted into immense amphitheatres of seats (if such a term can be applied) the right being appropriated to the bar, the diplomatic body, the council of *prud'hommes*, the Institute, the municipal bodies of the *banlieue*, &c., and the left to the Ministers, the Prefect of the Seine, the Prefect of Police, the academic body, the *Juges de Paix*, &c. The lower part of the central aisle was exclusively occupied by the officers of the staff, and those appointed from the different regiments of Paris and its vicinity. This portion of the spectators at last became so predominant, that it was impossible not to conceive the idea that some great military spectacle was about to be presented.

In front of the screen, before the choir, was erected the altar, which was covered with white silk embroidered with gold. At some distance from it was placed the President's chair, having in front of it a *prie dieu*, both of a very simple description. Behind him were seats for the marshals of France and the officers of the President's household. The clergy were assigned seats on the right, just below the benches appropriated to the bar, &c.

About half-past ten the tribunes were nearly all filled, and at eleven every place was occupied. The cold was so intense that, notwithstanding the immense amount of heat which the vast number of lights must have emitted, most persons were heard to complain that their feet were benumbed. The number of ladies was not very great—decidedly much less than the fairer portion of the creation who are generally seen at public spectacles in France.

One of the peculiarities of the decoration was the prevalence of the cipher "L. N." in every part of the cathedral. It was to be seen nigh up on every pillar, on the front of the tribunes above, and on the shields which were to be seen at each side down the centre aisle; it was also to be seen on the highest part of the immense canopy of crimson velvet which surmounted the altar and part of the central space between the transepts.

But above the altar, and midway between it and the canopy just mentioned, a lofty shrine was erected in the Byzantine style, overshadowing, and, as it were, protecting the altar and what it bore. And most precious was, in the mind of the devout Roman Catholic, what the altar bore, being nothing else than a piece of the true cross, contained in a silver gilt receptacle. The ornaments of the altar were all of silver gilt, and must have been of great value, both intrinsically and as works of art—the candlesticks (fourteen in number) being not only of silver gilt, nearly five feet high, but admirably executed.

About a quarter past 11 o'clock the ministers arrived, and at once took their places on the left; and immediately after a considerable number of general officers were seen advancing to the place. Amongst the first was General de la Bancière, an old cavalry officer of the Emperor's, with his left arm wanting; then Generals Lebreton, Cornemuse Carrelet, Levasseur, Dulac Feret, and a crowd of others; also Admirals Rousin and Machan. Much interest was excited by the appearance of Marshals Excelmans and Jerome Bonaparte, the ex-King of Westphalia, who entered together, the uncle of the President following his younger fellow-soldier. They both took their seats behind the President's chair of state—this being the first time Jerome Bonaparte has appeared where his nephew was to be, since his letter to him on the 4th of December. Near them, at a later part of the day, were to be seen Marshals Reille, Valiant, and Harispe.

A little later the ambassadors of the foreign powers began to arrive, and came, as was befitting, so imposing a ceremony, in grand official costume. One of the latest of the high functionaries who arrived was the Marquis of Normanby, and his appearance caused a certain sensation, in consequence of one of the gentlemen in his suite wearing the scarlet coat of the English uniform. At an earlier part of the day another officer had entered dressed in a similar manner. The *corps diplomatique* was exceedingly numerous, and amongst them was Mr. Rives, the American Minister, who appeared on this occasion for the first time, since the late *coup d'état*. The Papal Nuncio was also present, and in full ecclesiastical dress.

It was very nearly twelve when the Archbishop of Paris and the clergy moved down the aisle to receive the President of the Republic. Only one bishop was present during the day, with the archbishop, namely, the Bishop of St. Flour, situated in the south of France; the rest of the episcopal *cortège* was composed of canons and cures in splendid canonicals. Just as the body arrived at the grand entrance, the drums beat to arms, the *bourdon*, or great bell of Notre Dame, pealed forth, and Louis Napoleon descended from his carriage. On alighting he was received by the archbishop, who tendered to him the holy relic, the morsel of the true cross to him presented to him the holy water, and then, turning round, led back the procession to the altar. The Prince followed immediately behind the clergy, having on his right hand the General St. Arnaud, the Minister of War; and on his left General Magnan, commander-in-chief of the army of Paris. The President of the Republic was received with loud cries of "Vive Napoleon!" and the same shouts greeted him as he advanced. Louis Napoleon acknowledged the reception by slightly bowing from side to side. He looked in excellent health, and on this occasion had changed the attire in which he has hitherto appeared at public ceremonies having put off the uniform of the National Guard, and assumed that of a general of the army, but still wearing his cordon of the Legion of Honor and the red ribbon as grand cordon of that order.

The Prince at once proceeded to his seat, the orchestra organ, and singers thundering forth at the time the "Grand March" of Meyerbeer, composed for the Emperor's coronation. The whole of the spectators stood up as he passed with his splendid staff, and all, even the military, stood uncovered during his passage from the guard entrance to the chair of state. It may be as well for a faithful historian to state that several cries of "*Vive l'Empereur!*" accompanied the otherwise universal one of "*Vive Napoléon!*"

After the "Grand March" came the "Vivat," and then the "Te Deum." Afterwards was executed, all in the most admirable style, the "*Domine, salvum fac Napoleonem!*" after which, the archbishop gave the benediction, and the ceremony terminated. The clergy then, as before, led the way, and the Prince departed nearly as he had entered, supported on each side, as before, by General Magnan and General de St. Arnaud. The orchestra raised a lively march as he departed, the *bourdon* again pealed forth, the cannon of the Invalides thundered forth from their iron throats, and, lastly, the vast multitude in the cathedral raised the shout, "Vive Napoleon!" so loud and sustained, that no one who heard it will easily efface it from his memory.

The Prince then entered his carriage, and taking the Rue d'Arcole, the quai Napoleon, the Pont Michel, and the quays on the right hand of the Seine, arrived at the Tuileries.

Troops lined the whole way on both sides, and the reception given to him outside was exceedingly satisfactory, though not of necessity of so concentrated a character as that within the walls of the cathedral. The reception of the authorities at the Tuileries then took place, and to-night the public buildings are to be illuminated.

I now add a few details which may serve as indications of what is likely to take place in the future.

At the reception of the Consultative Commission, it was observed that Louis Napoleon had put on the uniform of a general officer of the army of the highest rank; hitherto he had always worn the dress of the national guard.

M. de Persigny has just returned to Paris from Brussels, where he was sent on a mission which has created considerable sensation in the political circles of Paris. A great secret has been made of the object of this mission, but the belief, in generally well informed quarters is that there were two principal points which M. de Persigny had to arrange. In the first place, he had to demand that M. Thiers and some other refugees who have taken up their residence in Brussels, should be sent away from the Belgian territory; and, in the second, to ask payment of the indemnity claimed by France for the expedition to Antwerp in 1832.

It appears that with respect to the first of these objects the French government had received information from Brussels, which announced that the French refugees residing there since the 2d of December were very active in their endeavors to get up a movement in France, and M. Thiers was not only the principal mover in these affairs, but that he exercised a great influence over the king and the political men of the country. M. de Persigny was consequently charged to make inquiry into the real state of the affair, and to report on the subject to the President, who would then take the necessary steps. With respect to the second point, he was directed to represent to the Belgian government that in the present position of the finances of France—a position not produced by the government of Louis Napoleon, but inherited by him from the dynasty of July and the Provisional Government of 1848—he should be under the necessity of calling for the payment of all such claims. It will be seen from this that on this point the mission was not of a threatening character; the object of it was merely to assert the rights of France to the indemnity in question, and no doubt it was not intended that the money should be actually demanded till some more favorable opportunity, or perhaps not at all, if the attitude assumed by the Belgian government towards the new order of things in France, and towards the *emigrés*, should not appear to warrant it.

It appears that the Belgian government has given the most satisfactory assurances to the French embassy. They declared that, so far from M. Thiers exercising any influence over the King of the Belgians, his Majesty had not seen that gentleman at all; and that, moreover, there was not one word of truth in the report that M. Thiers had had any conference of a political character with any one of the Belgian Ministers.

It appears that the President of the Republic has also directed the French Minister at Madrid to put in a similar formal claim, on the part of France, on the subject of the eighty-four millions of francs which is due to the latter country ever since the Duke d'Angoulême's expedition to Madrid, in 1823.

Having made these two formal demands, the President (it is said) protests that his object is not to quarrel with either of the States in question, in the event of their assuring him of their alliance and friendly feelings, or, at all events, their neutrality. I am bound, however, to say that many persons of standing here are not by any means satisfied as to the pacific intentions of Louis Napoleon. It is not yet forgotten that one of his first projects, after his election in 1848, was to have a brush at foreign war, and that M. Thiers declared from the tribune of the National Assembly that he had great difficulty in dissuading him from his intentions. To those who know the doggedness with which Louis Napoleon follows out an idea, even when thwarted in it for a time, this subject gives considerable uneasiness.

Another circumstance has recently occurred which is curious although the importance of it is perhaps exaggerated. In the decree issued a few days ago by the Minister of War, respecting the division of France into twenty-one military divisions, while speaking of the division of which the capital is Strasburg, he states that that division shall not be changed "as long as the frontiers of France shall not be changed." This expression certainly looks like an allusion to the long desired frontier of the Rhine; but I understand that General de St. Arnaud declares that the phrase was not meant to have the signification which has since been attributed to it. Be this as it may, such expressions, appearing in official documents are not calculated to improve the confidence of other States.

It is said that the Emperor of Russia has sent Louis Napoleon the grand cordon of the order of St. Andrew.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

It is expected that this day's *Moniteur* (Friday) will publish the new French constitution. I am enabled to give you the following details of that measure, which received from a source which, I think, enables me to guarantee its correctness.

The constitution will be based on a Council of State, which will be entrusted with the preparing and drawing up of all new laws, and two Chambers one of which will be elected by direct and universal suffrage.

The two Chambers will be called the Senate and the Chamber of Representatives, or legislative corps. Neither the members of the Senate, nor those of the legislative corps, will receive any indemnity or other remuneration for their services. The attributions of the two Chambers will be perfectly distinct, so that they will never deliberate upon the same question, nor can there be any conflict between them.

It was MM. de Montalembert, de Mortemart, de Morode, de Beaumiary, and de Mouchy, who induced the President to abandon the plan which he originally contemplated, of giving each senator a salary of 25,000 francs. They all declared that if the office of Senator were to be remunerated they should be under the necessity of declining the dignity. As regards the election of the legislative corps by universal suffrage, it appears to be the pleasure of Louis Napoleon himself. He was strongly advised by all his official advisers and especially by Messieurs de Morny, Baroche, Troplong, &c., if he retained universal suffrage to make it by two degrees; but he followed his own opinion. M. de Persigny strongly recommended direct universal suffrage.

The Senate will be composed of eighty members, who will be nominated by the President of the Republic. They will be nominated for life, and will only be removable for offences which are punishable with deprivation of civil rights. The Senate will vote the organic laws and other laws, excepting those connected with financial questions.

The Chamber of Representatives will be speedily charged with the voting of the budget, and the laws on the finances. If the Chamber of Representatives should refuse to vote the budget, it will be carried to the Senate, whose vote will have the force of law. The Chamber of Representatives is to be elected for five years, but the President of the Republic is to have the privilege of dissolving it when he thinks fit. If the country should elect a Chamber of Representatives hostile to the President of the Republic, or that the Chamber should in the course of its labors disagree with the President to the extent that the President should dissolve it, the new Chamber of Representatives will not re-assemble for one year afterwards. During this suspension, if the budget has not been voted, the Senate shall vote it; and if the newly elected Legislative Corps or Chamber of Representatives should again disagree with the President, there will be a second dissolution and a general appeal to the nation, as was done on the 2d of December.

The Chamber of Representatives is to consist of from 250 to 272 members. The representative is to be elected for each arrondissement so that the number for that department of the Seine will be fourteen.

The ministers are not to attend either of the Chambers, nor to assist in the deliberations.

Such are the heads of the constitution. The Chamber of Representatives is, I understand, to be elected in the course of the present month of January, and, until its election, the present state of affairs, that is to say, the state of siege and the censorship for the journals will be maintained as at present, in order (so say the great authorities) that the choice of the country may not be misled by the license of the press. In the meantime the organic laws, and the laws relative to the press are to be prepared under the special direction of the President himself.

The discussions in the two Chambers are nominally to be public, but only fifty persons are to be allowed to be present at the sittings. The representatives of the journals are not to be admitted and the papers are not to be allowed to publish any account of the proceedings except from the official *compte rendu* published in the *Moniteur*.

Great cordiality reveals between the President and Lord Normanby. You will have seen from the account of the proceedings at Notre Dame, that Mr. Rives, the American minister, was present.

The marriage of General Cavaignac and Mdlle. Louise Gabriel Odier took place, on Wednesday evening, at the church of the *Chaussée Saint Hubert*. The service was performed by M. Coquerel. The ceremony, according to the Catholic rites, took place on Thursday evening, at Notre Dame, before the Archbishop of Paris.

Changarnier is still at Ham, but will, it is said, now be set at liberty.

Louis Napoleon has presented Queen Victoria with the handsome carpet from the Gobline at the Great Exhibition.

I am rather curious to hear what Kossuth says of all this.

The Pacific has brought the correspondence relative to the Dardanelles. It is to be hoped that this affair will be speedily and amicably settled.

The exclusion of Austria at what the Austrian journals call "the fall" of Palmerston, is something absurd. As soon as the news was received by telegraph at Vienna, an extra number of the *Gazette*, containing the news, was issued. Groups formed in the streets, and champagne flowed in honor of the event. This is all very complimentary to Palmerston, whom all the despots of Europe hated. Similar joy will be felt at Naples. When King Bomba heard of the *coup d'état* at Paris, he embraced the officer who brought the intelligence and promoted him on the spot.

The young year promises to be prolific in important events.

The two Sicilicide (natural sons I believe, of Lord Aldborough) who were imprisoned at Leghorn for being members of a revolutionary society, and whose case I mentioned fully at the time, have been condemned to death by an Austrian court martial. Their sentence has been commuted to ten years' imprisonment in a fortress. This may give rise to a question of the law of nations. Austria, it is true, governs *de facto* in Tuscany, but not *de jure*. Had Palmerston been in office he would have sent a man of war there.

A telegraphic despatch from Vienna dated 28th inst., announces that Baron Kraus, Austrian Minister of Finance, has resigned. He is succeeded by M. de Baumgartner, formerly Minister of Commerce.

The sales of cotton at Liverpool on Wednesday were 5,000 bales.

Messrs. Bell, Son & Co., bullion dealers and bankers, Cheapside, have failed.

American stocks remain unchanged.

English consols have had a decline, owing to our ministerial crisis, but have recovered their tone.

At Paris, there has been a fluctuation, but prices are firm.

An overland mail has arrived with advices from Bombay to the 3d December, and Calcutta 23d November. With the exception of some slight skirmishing in the interior, India is tranquil.

The commercial reports received from India are considered as very unsatisfactory. At Calcutta both the import and export markets were in a most depressed condition. Several additional failures in the Bazaar had increased the want of confidence in the money market, and though the rates were not higher, the stringency as regards supply was greater than before. Freights were in a very depressed and unsettled state, the tonnage being in excess of the demand. Exchange for first-class credits had risen to from 2s 2¾d. to 2s. 3d. per rupee.

At Bombay, the market for cotton goods and yarns had been more active, but this had been met by corresponding large arrivals; prices had, however, been tolerably well supported. The export market was dull, and the prices of cotton were lower. In the money market there was rather more demand, and some distrust existed regarding the Banwarrie Schroff in the Bazaar. Exchange was sold at 2s. 1¾d. per rupee.

The Foreign Policy of England.

The London *Globe* gives the most prominent place in its columns to the following apparently official notification:—"It would be a great mistake to suppose that, because there has been a change in the Foreign Office, there will be a change in the foreign policy of this country. Still greater a mistake would it be to suppose that foreign powers have influenced the change of men that has happened or would cause the change of measures that are contemplated. Most emphatically all is the supposition that England would abet the claims of the elder descendants of the house of Bourbon against the existing government of France, recognized as it is by the great mass of the French nation. The policy of the government has been English; it will continue to be so. It has been directed to the maintenance of peace; it will continue to be so. When foreign countries have successfully established constitutional government they have received the moral support of England; they will receive in future the same sympathy and the same moral support. But if other nations choose to live under a different form of government, placing more power in the executive, or giving greater control over the executive, this country will always respect national institutions. A policy so simple and so just ought not to excite timidity or require concealment. It is consistent with a respect for the rights and a desire for the prosperity of all nations."

Austria.

A letter in the *Boston Gazette*, dated Vienna, December 18, (before the retirement of Lord Palmerston from office was known,) says:—It is rumored here that secret negotiations are going on between persons high placed in London and the court, behind Lord Palmerston's back, the object of which is nothing less than a better understanding between the Austrian and English courts, the first fruits of which, it is hinted, will naturally be the fall of the English Foreign Secretary. The reception of Lord Westmoreland by the Emperor, which was immediately followed by an invitation to dinner at the palace, is regarded as the first indication of the *entente*, and hopes are openly expressed that England will very shortly return to the continental system of policy, which does not imply the introduction of military government, (which is contrary to English notions,) but rather adhesion to the anti revolutionary system, which begins with the removal of political refugees, and is of a nature to give support to all measures for the suppression of the European propaganda.

Prussia.

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—The official project of Prussia continues, and assumes a more decided tone. It is argued that Austria is endeavoring to establish a centralisation in commercial matters that would introduce elements altogether foreign to Germany. Alluding to the Italian and Hungarian provinces of that power, it is also thought that Austria wishes to increase the value of her paper money by circulating it beyond her frontiers.

The Levant Mail.

We have received Constantinople journals of the 14th. The news of the events in Paris had just been received, and a council had been held at the Porte in consequence. The Sultan had issued a decree, assuring to his Christian subjects liberty of worship, and the registration of their marriages and births. Letters received from Trebisond, announced that Mirza Taghi Khan, First Minister since 1848, had fallen from power, and been replaced by his brother, Mirza Agha Khan, the Minister of War. The day after the former's retirement, great anarchy prevailed at Teheran. The residence of Mirza Taghi Khan was pillaged and devastated, and without the energetic intervention of M. Dolgorouki, Minister of Russia, his life would have been in danger.

Markets.

LONDON MONEY MARKET, January 2—1 o'clock, P. M.—The reduction in the rate of discount by the bank directors to 2½ per cent on commercial bills, as announced in the *Shipping and Mercantile Gazette* yesterday, appears to be a measure which gives general satisfaction. Its tendency is to give additional stimulus to trade, which opens with the new year under comparatively favorable circumstances, as the working classes are fully employed, the prices of food and other articles rule low, the money market is easy, arrivals of specie are heavy, and peace prevails at home and abroad. But, at the same time, it must be acknowledged that the present ministerial crisis, the failure of Messrs. Bult & Co., of Cheapside, bullion dealers, (the house alluded to on day this head yesterday) the report of the failure of a large mercantile house, with the rumor that others will probably follow, are circumstances which greatly mitigate against the otherwise satisfactory aspect of matters.

The stock markets on the Continent during the week have been generally firmer, at improved prices.

The effect which the reduction in the rate of discount would otherwise have upon the English stock market is counteracted by the failure of Messrs. Bult, and the report in circulation of other houses being in difficulties. In one instance it is known that the rumor is without foundation, as the firm alluded to have been meeting all demands upon them to day with promptitude and the usual regularity. Consols are 97⅞ to ⅞ for the opening, less the dividend.

TWO O'CLOCK.—The English funds are not quite so firm as they opened. Consols are 97 to ⅞.

TURKISH STOCKS.—No change.

PARIS BOURSE, Dec. 31.—Closing prices—Rentes Five per Cents. 101f. 75c.; do. Three per cents, 67f. Bank of France, 3,060f.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET, Jan. 2.—Cotton.—Owing to the Christmas Holidays there has not been much animation in the Cotton Market; the sales reach 24,730 bales at prices ⅛d per lb. lower than last week.

LIVERPOOL CORN MARKET, Dec. 30.—At our market today, a few large arrivals of wheat changed hands for the purpose of investment, good samples of red requiring 1d per 70 lbs. over the currency of Tuesday last, whilst other descriptions scarcely exceeded the rates then stated; the million, however, were by no means free buyers. States and Canadian flour realized a further advance, making quotations 6d. per barrel above the rates of this day week, and dismissing the stocks materially. French and Irish remained steady at late prices. Barley, malt, beans and peas merely sustained our last quotations. Oats were dull, at last week's prices and oatmeal was the turn cheaper. Indian corn, on the spot, without alteration in value. Nothing of importance doing in floating cargo.

PARIS, Jan. 2.—The corn exchange, this morning, was well attended by buyers from wide and distant points and a good business was transacted in wheat and flour, at an advance, since Tuesday, of 1d to 2d per bushel on all descriptions of wheat, and 50c. per sack, and 1s. per barrel on flour. Some parcels of the former changed hands on speculation. There was less doing in Indian corn to day, and the price was a shade easier. Oats and oatmeal