attitude of the German Confederation, of which Austria and Prussia are the leading members.

The accounts from Sweden and Denmark are indicative of some movement in the Scandinavian States, in an anti-Russian sense. The 5th of June, which is the anniversary of the Danish constitution, will probably be selected for some great demonstration at Copenhagen. The Crown Prince of Sweden and Norway openly declares himself favorable to an alliance with the Western Powers.

England and France have resolved to put down the insurrection in Greece with a strong hand. This intention is notified by the French *Moniteur*, of Sunday, which explains the reasons for this measure. Troops have already been sent there.

The siege of Silistria by the Russians, has been renewed with vigor. The Princes Paskiewitch and Gortschakoff, had arrived at Kalarasch. The Turks were defending the place with great bravery.

The reports from Spain, respecting the Black Warrior affair, are somewhat contradictory. A letter from Madrid, of the 9th, says:—

The Spanish government have, I learn, at length sent in an answer to Mr. Soulé, who has despatched the same by a special messenger to the United States. It is reported that the American government have offered to abandon all their reclamations against Spain, if the latter will cede her African possession, Melilla, to the United States.

The same writer says that the correspondence on the Black Warrior affair had been communicated to the English and French governments, and that they had approved of the conduct of the Spanish government. This is, however, only one of the many reports purposely circulated by interested parties.

A letter of the 10th announces that 6,000 Spanish troops are to proceed forthwith to the West Indies.

There was a grand fancy-dress ball last Friday night at Count Walewski's, the French ambassador, at his mansion Albert gate, formerly the residence of Hudson, the railway king. The Queen, Prince Albert, the Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Mary of Cambridge, and all the big-wigs, male and female, in town, were there. It was given on the most magnificent scale. I refer you to the *Court Journal* and *Morning Post*, of last Saturday, for ladies' dresses, diamonds, and sweetmeats. Count Walewski is a natural son of Napoleon I, and bears a resemblance to him. His wife is one of the most fashionable and agreeable ladies in London, and her *soirées* the rendezvous of fashion, talent, and beauty.

We are about to have an Austrian Arch-Duke over here to return the Duke of Cambridge's visit. The young King of Portugal is shortly expected here on a visit to his royal relative Prince Albert. This young king is in his seventeenth year, and his advent has caused quite a flutter among the court belles.

LONDON, Friday, May 19, 1854.

General Position of Affairs in Europe—Reported Loss of an English Frigate—The War—Austria—Prussia—Greece — Montenegro — Bavaria — United States and France—An American Frigate Reported at Sebastopol—The Black Warrior Affair—Bombardment of Sebastopol.

The position of affairs has not changed since my last communication, and in the absence of facts we are driven into a wide field of conjecture. There is a report that an English screw-frigate, of thirty-two guns, has got ashore near Odessa, and the crew surrendered, and that in consequence a renewal of the bombardment had taken place. There are also rumors of battles and victories; but all these require confirmation.

Our latest advices from Constantinople are by letter to the 5th, by telegraph to the 10th May. The Duke of Cambridge had arrived at the Ottoman capital. The Sultan had paid a personal visit to Prince Napoleon—an honor never before paid by a Sultan to any one but a crowned head. A division of the French troops was preparing to leave Gallipoli for Adrianople; and it was presumed that a division of the English troops would take the same route. The greatest harmony existed between the allied troops. A Turkish squadron of twenty two sail had entered the Black Sea, to be stationed at Varna. In a few weeks the whole of Circassia will be swept clean of the Russians. Large reinforcements, money, and ammunition have been sent to the brave Shamyl. It is to be hoped that Guyon, at Kars, will be similarly supported. Sonkum Kaleh, Redout Kaleh, and Anapa will soon be evacuated by the Russians.

There is no news from the Baltic in the shape of active operations. The English cruizers sweep the sea of everything bearing a Russian flag, and venture within range of the land batteries to effect their object. The Baltic is still covered with ice in many parts, and dense fogs have prevailed. The French squadron has now joined Sir Charles Napier's fleet. The more sanguine Swedes and Danes declare that before the end of June Sweden and Denmark will have openly declared war on Russia. As regards Austria and Prussia, matters remain in *statu quo*. The King of Prussia has dismissed another faithful servant, Baron Usedom, the Prussian Ambassador at Rome, as being of too anti-Russian opinions. Manteuffel will go next. Austria professes the warmest sympathies for the Western Powers. She has called out an additional 95,000 men for the defence of her frontiers, and is making quietly immense and warlike preparations. The Western Powers believe her good intentions—but are prepared for the worst. Whatever may be said to the contrary, the formation of the camp at St. Omer, is a counter demonstration to the hostile attitude of Prussia. From St. Petersburg, we learn that the houses on the right bank of the Neva have been pulled down. Montenegro is up in arms for Russia, and Austrian intervention there is expected. You may shortly expect to hear of Athens being occupied by English and French troops. Fuad Effendi, with 15,000 Turkish troops, is at Arta. The piracies in the Greek Archipelago are daily increasing, and it appears that King Otho has issued letters of marque to privateers. These pirates seize the cargo and murder the crews.

A Berlin paper, the *Kreuz Zeitung*, gives the following story, under date of Constantinople, 1st May:—

An American frigate is said (*soll*) to have passed the Dardanelles, coming from Malta, laden with eleven steam machines for Russia. In the Black Sea it hoisted English colors, and got close into Sebastopol, where it hoisted American colors, and got safely with its cargo into port. Some say, indeed, that the frigate was ordered in America for Russia, to which both ship and cargo belong.

There is no means at hand of verifying this, except, that having on my table heaps of letters from various correspondents at Constantinople, not one of them mentions the occurrence; I therefore look upon it as an invention.

Bavaria is said to have notified Austria and Prussia that she will not join the Austro-Prussian treaty unless the safety of the kingdom of Greece is guaranteed. By the marriage of the Emperor of Austria with a Bavarian princess, a cousin of King Otho, Greece and Bavaria have both acquired influence at Vienna, and this may be the means of saving Otho his crown.

The Paris *Moniteur* has two articles relating to the United States. The first is relative to claims made by French merchants on the occasion of seizures at San Francisco in 1849 and 1850. The *Moniteur* says:—

The government of the United States has just settled a new series of claims made by French merchants on the occasion of seizures at St. Francisco, in their prejudice, in 849 and 1850. Indemnities have, in consequence, been consented to by the federal treasury in favor of M. M. Roche, Dupasquier, and Isella, who had chartered the Lange, and of M. Pierre Fort, who had chartered the Abeille. The amount of these indemnities was immediately transmitted, by the care of the Department of Foreign Affairs, to the Caisse des Depots et Consignations, where the money will be paid to the parties entitled to receive it.

The other is in the shape of a letter dated from New York, under date of 23d of April. But the fact of its insertion in the columns of the *Moniteur* demonstrates that the government of Louis Napoleon attaches importance to the movements of Russia in the United States, and anxiously watches the policy of the government at Washington.

The following is the letter in the *Moniteur*:—

Russia does not appear destined to be more fortunate in America than in Europe in her attempts to find allies. The advances made by her agents to induce persons to fit out privateers have failed, before the firm resolutions of the central government and of the States to maintain the resolution which prohibits such enrolments for the account of a foreign power; and a subject of conversation here at the present moment is the mission with which Count de Medem is charged to the Cabinet of Washington, under the name of "Embassy Extraordinary." It is said that he is to treat definitively concerning the cession of the Russian possessions in North America. But the marked opposition in social principles which exists between Russia and the United States, the sympathies which the population of the Union entertain for the policy followed by the great powers of Europe in the interest of civilization in the East, and, in fine, the advantages which the English and French declaration in favor of neutrals insures to the American flag during the war, are so many reasons for believing, even at present, that the new attempt of the Russian government will fail, like those which have preceded it.

Lt. Colonel Sumner, sent on a mission to France by the government of the United States, has arrived at Paris.

From Madrid, under date of 13th May, we learn that Senor Alesla Galiano, attached to the Spanish Foreign Office, left Madrid on the 12th, *en route* for Washington, with despatches for Senor Cueto, the Spanish Envoy. A letter of the same date says:—

It is thought possible that the American government may give up that part of their demands on the Black Warrior affair as regards the dismissal of the General in chief, provided an example be made of the customs authorities, who incurred in that case, but there is nothing yet to show that the Spanish government will make such a concession. The *Espana* to-day returns to the subject of what it calls the "trivial affair" of the Black Warrior, and contends that the documents published show that on the Spanish side there has been nothing but justice and moderation, and on the American side *hauteur* and aggression; and it concludes by saying that the American government must ere this have rectified their first impressions and that all the noise made in this business will die away. It was reported that Mr. Soulé was about to leave Madrid in connection with this question; but a ministerial journal says that the government have no news of his having taken any resolution in that sense.

A decree in the Madrid *Gazette* reinstates Don Enrique in his honors and titles as Duke of Seville and Grandee of Spain for himself and his descendants. Some military changes were spoken of at Madrid. One is, that Gen. Cordova will come in as Minister of War, in place of Gen. Blaser; another, that Gen. Pavia, Captain-General of the Phillipine Islands, has been dismissed, and that General Lara or General Roncali will go out there. It is certain, I believe, that various changes and appointments have been annulled by the government. In case of Gen. Lara going out to Manila, the Count of Vistahermosa is spoken of as Captain General of Madrid.

The market for American State stocks continues extremely quiet, and Messrs. Bell & Sons reported prices to be unaltered.

The Paris *Moniteur* makes the following announcement:—

By order of the Minister of Finance, the interest on Treasury bonds is fixed as follows from this day:—3½ per cent per annum for bonds at from three to five months date; 4 per cent from six to eleven months; and 4½ per cent for twelve months.

A telegraphic despatch, just received, announces that the combined fleets had commenced bombarding Sebastopol with long guns.

Our Paris Correspondence.

PARIS, Thursday, May 18, 1854.

The Camp at St. Omer—What are the Objects of its Formation?—Unsuspicious and Incautious Conduct of England—The De Beauffremont Affair—The Princess Found—Grand Sporting Match—Theatres, &c.

The weather—on which, whatever may be the state of the political barometer, the happiness of the French so much depends—has at length, after ten days of driving rain and tempest, cleared off; and the Champs Elysées, the majestic Boulevards, and the gardens of the Tuileries, present to the casual *voyageur* a colossal bed of tulips. So charming and varied are the toilets, so prismatic are the hues of those beautiful parasols, and so exquisite is the verdure of those lofty umbrageous trees, rejoicing in all the pride of their spring leaf, after the baptismal regeneration of the late sluice-gates of heaven—to see the Emperor in summer costume, and smiling with the placidity of a heart at ease with itself and all the world, drive quietly along the avenue St. Cloud—as he did at 10 o'clock this morning, without any other guard than the two grooms seated at his back—it would never be supposed that suspicion could light upon him as the disturber of a peace such a May morning as the present is emblematic of; and yet there are incredulous men to be found who persist in believing that under that still and complacent mask he is leading all Europe by the nose.

There are always would-be-wise people to be found, who affect sources of private information in the matter of palace secrets; and, under ordinary circumstances, no doubt means are often patent to the persevering. It is quite certain they were so under the first Napoleon, the *abandon* of whose character was proverbial. Strong in the gigantic power of his genius, no less strong in the consciousness of it, he often gave way to impulse, and stood at bay against the world. Not so with Napoleon the Third, who does not talk well at any time; who never, in his life, made a *mot*, and who believes, from his inmost soul, that the great buttress of the empire he has reared consists in the absolute reserve of its chief. Those nearest to his person, and whose interests and affections are eternally bound up with him, in their unguarded moments do not scruple to complain that they are mere ciphers, children in the mist, knowing and seeing nothing but as their mysterious leader vouchsafes them. They are heard to say that this reserve assumes daily an intenser shade in his character, and that, literally, he never discloses to them what, an hour afterwards, they do not see in the *Moniteur*.

So when men ask, as both French and English are found to do, what means this gathering of armies at St. Omer, so close to the English coast—is it for Prussia, or is it to garrison Great Britain while her troops are in the East?—the answer is, the Emperor only knows. In vain with sparkling eyes and animated gesture men discuss the singular position of England at this moment, divested of her coast guard, her fleets and her armies, in a manner unprecedented in her history, and ever that she lies, with all her treasures, a lamb sleeping in security, while over head an ominous eagle hovers with its broad pinions, mighty to stoop if he will and carry off his prey. The answer is, the Emperor is in solemn alliance with England and has pledged his word! And furthermore, the wisest Oepenet knoweth not. But suppose this word to be broken, and absolution to be asked from the nation—and such things have happened before—or suppose the death of Napoleon the Third and a change of policy: it is, certainly, in the opinion of many Frenchmen, a curious position for cautious Albion to place herself in.

In the meanwhile the church has been called upon to add the influence of its exhortations and prayers in favor of the national armament against the Emperor of Russia. And at Bourges, at Tours, at Bourdeaux, at Cambrai, at Nancy, at Cap, at Viviers and at Pay, the cathedrals and churches have rung with appeals from the cardinals and archbishops to their respective sees, and there is little doubt some stimulus of the kind was not unneedful, for the exacting nature of the conscription is beginning to be sorely felt in the provinces.

In my last week's letter I mentioned the fact of the disappearance of the young, beautiful and very wealthy wife of Prince de Beauffremont, residing in the splendid family mansion situated in the avenue Marigny; and that in consequence of the unsatisfactory nature of his replies, he was placed under the surveillance of the police, with an intimation at the same time, that unless all suspicious circumstances connected with the lady's mysterious departure were cleared up by a given day, he would be committed to an apartment of somewhat more limited proportions than that which he inhabited at present, in order to take his trial.

The Prince, alarmed at the serious aspect which affairs were beginning to assume, sent for some of his most intimate friends, to assure them in the most solemn manner of his innocence as to whatever might have befallen his wife. That they had, for some time past, lived unhappily together he did not attempt to conceal; but that, with regard to her present disappearance, he was in the most perfect ignorance.

The friends, on hearing this, put in requisition every available means consistent with secrecy, of finding out the lady's hiding place. All the convents and religious seminaries in France were communicated with, and entreated to save, by ever so reserved an admission, the Prince from the fearful consequences which might otherwise result. Time was, however, wearing on, and the day approaching when stern justice was about to lay hands on the ill-starred husband, when a post letter from Versailles was placed in the hands of one of the Prince's friends. It was from the missing wife. In it she announced the fact of her retirement to a convent at Versailles, in the privacy and retirement of which she should have for ever remained, but for the perilous situation of her husband. She stated, however, that so harsh and cruel had been his conduct towards her, that no power or persuasion could induce her ever again to live with him; that not content with tyrannizing over her in all matters becoming her station, he had, notwithstanding the enormous wealth she had brought him, miserably limited her expenditure, and had not scrupled even to strike her, and often with such violence that she lived with him in fear of being murdered; and here the matter for the present rests. The Prince is no longer under surveillance, and eats his dinner in his palace halls, with what appetite he may.

It appears that the lady let herself down at midnight from her chamber into the garden, by means of a knotted rope; that she opened the small garden gate leading into the Champs Elysées with a private key, and walked up to the Arc de Triomphe, where she found a *voiture de place*, which took her as far as St. Cloud, but where also the horse knocked up; and that then she afterwards walked on, though in great fear and trembling, the remaining eight miles to Versailles.

The sporting world of Paris has been unusually excited in consequence of a bet of 20,000 francs by the Marquis de Croix, that his mare, Impetuouse, of English breed, by both sire and dam, would go and return within three hours and a half, twenty-one French leagues, or fifty-one English miles, the ground being from the Arc de Triomphe to the stables of M. Aumont, at Chantilly. The affair came off on Monday, in spite of the boisterous weather and the heaviness of the roads. She started at five o'clock, reached Chantilly without fatigue, rested a few minutes, and regained the Arc de Triomphe at sixteen minutes past eight o'clock. To complete the exact distance she was obliged to make a turn round the Arc—over two and a half measured miles. Everything went on well till, on making this detour, the mare was wanted to enter on a road which conducted to Chantilly. The sagacious animal resisted the notion, of which she supposed was a second expedition to that place, and not till after a long struggle with her rider would she be induced to do so; the consequence was the Marquis de Croix lost his wager, the mare arriving at her destination just thirty seconds too late—the time, in fact, lost by her resistance. She arrived without any signs of distress, and, as it is, the exploit is one of the most remarkable on record. But for her hesitation at the road in question, there cannot be a doubt that she would have accomplished her task with facility. Among the English who were present was Lord Charles Wellesley, the second son of the late Duke of Wellington. The present Duke is married, but has no children, and Lord Charles has one son and one daughter. He himself is staying at the English Embassy, in order to consult Blanche, the great French occulist, who gives him very little hope of recovering his sight, which, about nine months ago, without any assignable cause other than a cold, caught from standing in the water when fishing, failed him. So the chance of a lineal representative of the late famous Duke of Wellington is slight.

A private letter from the Baltic informs me that the belief is general in the fleet that an attack will be made almost immediately on Cronstadt. Nothing can exceed the heartiness and good will for a fight which everywhere exists.

In the theatrical world, we are all on the *qui vive* for a new drama, entitled "Vienne et Paris en 1815." Talleyrand and Fouché are said to be hit off with admirable precision. The author is said to be a member of the Corps Legislatif, and the drama is to appear very shortly.

INTERESTING FROM SPAIN.

The Black Warrior Affair—Spanish Troops for Cuba—The Condition of Spain—Views of the Emperor Napoleon.

Our advices from Madrid are interesting. In addition to what follows, we refer our readers to our London letter for further intelligence from Spain.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Times*, writing May 15th, says:—

During a recent interview granted to a foreign diplomatic agent, then on his way to a distant mission, the Emperor, Louis Napoleon, is said to have expressed himself very openly and earnestly on the question of the project of aggrandizement attributed to the Americans and directed against the Spanish colonies. *The Emperor expressed his decided disapprobation of that ambitious and encroaching spirit that has characterized the American government, all republican as it is.* He declared that so far as his foreign policy was concerned, it should be the same in the West as in the East—that policy was based on the faithful observance of treaties, and was opposed to attempts on the part of any Power to take advantage of the weakness of a neighbor to rob it of its territory; and I rather think that assurances were given that Spain had nothing to fear about Cuba. What will be the period of the war with Russia no man can with certainty say, but whenever the Eastern question be resolved, I should not be at all surprised if a Western question were to arise which may also require the interference, perhaps the active intervention, of the Powers. The enormous extent of a republican government may be as dangerous to the peace of the world as the unbounded and unprincipled ambition of a single despot, and the South American States may before long require protection from their powerful republican neighbor, as the Ottoman empire from Russia.

The Madrid (May 13) correspondent of the London *Times* says:—There are many rumors afloat of changes in the higher departments of the State, but it would be at least premature to attach credit to them. Gen. Blaser, Minister of War, who has more than once given offence to the court, or to "the ruling influence" there, which is the same thing, by refusing to comply with requests of "promotion and favor for its personal friends, is reported to be about to resign his post to General Cordova, who is a friend and companion of "the influence," and whom, moreover, ministers may be glad to secure, as it has been said that he was coquetting with the O'Donnell party, since he had found that he had not weight or ability to oust M. Sartorius and take his place. I am exceedingly doubtful, however, as to the truth of the report that he is to have the War Office. It is quite laughable to observe the number of men here who aspire to the premiership. So many have been ministers, that nothing less than the first place of all will now satisfy ambitious aspirants to power. It will soon become impossible to form a decent ministry here, because everybody desires to be chief of the Cabinet. I could name at least eight or ten persons—most of them of very ordinary capacity—who hold themselves in readiness to accept that post, which they are convinced will be theirs before very long. General Lara, Captain General of Madrid, is understood to be one of these, and is said to have refused, on that account, the Captain Generalship of the Philippines. Gen. Pavia, who at present commands in that colony, whither he was sent to get rid of him, because he was intriguing with the King to be made Prime Minister, is, I am assured, dismissed from his post, in consequence of his mal-administration and of his unwarranted removal of high officials there to replace them by his own friends and creatures. His conduct, as reported, has been flagrant, although hardly worse, in some respects, than that of his brother governor, General Pezuela, the redoubtable antagonist and conqueror of the Black Warrior. This officer, on his arrival at Cuba, proceeded to get rid of the Colonial Secretary, who had been long in office there, and to replace him by a near relative of his own, a bankrupt merchant, inexperienced in the duties of the post. Another of his relations was set over the Custom House Department, and other changes of the kind were made, said to be so uncalled for and so much disapproved by the government here, that his immediate recall has been talked of. I think he very much surprised if this occurs, since at the present moment it would manifestly be looked upon as knocking under to the United States. If he is removed, it will hardly be before the pending dispute is settled.

There is still talk here of a military insurrection, to occur, say those persons who believe in it, before this month expires. It has been so long talked of that a great many laugh at the idea, and declare that it will never take place. I shall not be surprised if the laughers have the best of it, nor shall I, in the least, if the events prove them to be in the wrong. All that I have reason to know, and can answer for, is, that there is a plot on foot. Whether it will be carried out or miscarry, is another question. O'Donnell and his friends are far from idle, and the Ministers know, or suspect as much, and are by no means free from anxiety. The Count de San Luis sent a day or two ago for a Senator—a man of mark and distinction. "You are in the habit of seeing General O'Donnell?" he said to him. "I am so," was the reply. "Has he been ill?" "He has so." "Is he recovered?" "Yes; but ask me no more questions, for I warn you that I shall not answer them?" M. Sartorius then broke out into vehement expressions of blame of O'Donnell, saying that it was unworthy of a man of his rank and standing to be thus lurking in concealment in Madrid, &c. "My opinion is different from yours," said the Senator, "but I shall say nothing more upon this subject." And so the conversation ended. Should the projected insurrection take place and prove successful, I have grounds for believing that it is intended to have a grand *battue* among the intriguers and unwholesome councillors who at present infest the palace. A clean sweep will be made of these gentry, and the Queen will be surrounded with members of the present opposition, who will act as a check upon her, and restrain her in some of her extravagances and improprieties. She will not like this, but she will probably prefer it to being sent off to the frontier after her Ministers, who, if they are wise, will make for that direction the very moment they see things going against them and power departing from their hands, since, if they remain here, they will assuredly be punished for their misgovernment, and it will probably go very hard with some of them. During their seven months' tenure of office, the only instance in which their conduct has met with public sympathy and approval is in the affair of the Black Warrior, a question wherein the national pride is concerned, and that involves no conflict of interests among parties. I find a very general expectation prevails that the American government will give way, and remain satisfied with the remission of the six thousand dollars fine and expenses. As far as I can trace its source, this expectation and hope is in a great measure founded on the reply to Mr. Soulé's last note, and on the instructions just sent to the Spanish Minister at Washington, who has been furnished with all the *data* and documents necessary to place the matter in its true light before the government of the United States, and to convince it of the injustice of its demands.

A belief is certainly prevalent here that Mr. Soulé has not conducted the matter in the way best adapted to promote its amicable settlement, and that it may better be terminated at Washington than at Madrid. Until the public shall be made acquainted with the contents of the various notes that have passed, it is impossible to decide whether this belief has any foundation beyond acrimonious rumors, and the disposition that has existed here ever since the arrival of the present representative of the United States at Madrid to look upon him as one unfriendly to Spain, and sent hither for the express purpose of intimidating and annoying its government. Upon the other hand, I know, from excellent authority, that Mr. Soulé wholly repudiates any such hostile tendencies, and declares himself to have acted throughout the affair with the tenderest consideration for the susceptibilities of the Spaniards. A short time will doubtless enable us to decide between these conflicting statements and opinions.

The Madrid correspondent of the *London Times* (May 10) says:—The 6,000 men ordered to the West Indies will sail in three divisions of 2,000 each, under their regimental officers, and without any General in command, as they are merely to reinforce the garrisons of colonies already amply provided with officers of high rank. Their destination is Porto Rico, the garrison of that island proceeding to Cuba, probably because the men, inured to the climate, will be less liable to disease, and consequently more immediately efficient than the new comers. *The Spaniards declare themselves determined to make a good fight in defence of Cuba, if fighting there must be, which it is to be hoped may be avoided.* They are in hopes, if not of coming victorious out of the struggle, at least of inflicting severe punishment on the aggressor, and of rendering the conquest, when achieved, less profitable to him than he anticipates. The reinforcement about to be despatched will raise the strength of the army of Cuba to nearly 30,000 men. Under the ministry of General Lersundi a very large number of Paixban guns were sent out to strengthen the defences of the island, and great reforms were introduced in the arms of the infantry, previously of an antiquated and unserviceable description. I am assured that some of the best troops in the Spanish army are now in the island of Cuba. I am far from overrating the value of Spanish troops, having seen enough of them both in the field and in quarters to estimate them at what they are worth, and I do not believe that they could cope, on anything like equal terms, with English or French armies, *nor do I think they would have much chance in the long run against the ill-disciplined but well-armed, utterly fearless, intelligent, self-relying volunteers with whom the United States are wont to operate when at war with their Spanish American neighbors.* But it were erroneous to confound Spanish troops with Mexicans—the most cowardly and worthless of soldiers—or to doubt that the former will fight well upon occasion, and would always do so if properly trained and officered. It is my belief that throughout the Spanish army, now and at most times in the present century, the officers are and have been inferior to the men in the qualities required to fill their respective stations. Nor is this surprising, since the higher you ascend in the observation of the social scale in Spain, the greater is the moral and physical degeneracy, until, upon arriving at the grandees—I mean those of the old stock, and not those of modern creation, although some of these have little to boast of—you witness a really pitiable degradation both of mind and body. I am quite convinced that among the officers of the army are to be found men who would acquit themselves creditably, and even achieve distinction in any service, but these, I fear, compose but the small minority, insufficient to leaven the mass, which is deficient in military knowledge, and in the qualities essential to inspire confidence in soldiers and efficiently to command them. *But to return to Cuba, I think it extremely likely that a stout defence would be made, and that the possession of the forts especially, would cost the Americans very dear.* A good deal would depend on the artillery practice of the Spaniards, of the excellence of which they express themselves confident—a confidence by no means unlikely to be well-founded, since artillery is an arm to which great attention is paid in Spain, and much pains are taken with the education of its officers. The chief defence must be made by the land army; as to the naval squadron, although in numbers it appears respectable, and is to be reinforced by a portion of the vessels now in the Mediterranean, and although some people here expect great things from it, most of its vessels are small, and the Americans could quickly muster a force that would sweep it from the seas if it ventured from under the guns of the land batteries. Admitting, however, that the garrison of the island does its duty gallantly, but finds itself overmatched, it is not improbable that the Spaniards would strip first the mulattoes, who are numerous, and, if driven to extremity, a portion of the blacks, the whole of whom they talk of setting at liberty, if all hope of preserving Cuba to Spain be extinguished—a desperate expedient, the consequences of which would be terrible massacres of the whites upon the island, though it might not prevent the Americans from ultimately subjugating it. *Another means upon which the Spaniards reckon for annoying and injuring the enemy, is the cloud of privateers which, under the Spanish flag, they expect would quickly cover the sea.* It is possible that the consideration of the injury that might thus be done to their commerce may have weight with the United States, and combine with more elevated motives to make them pause before they drive a feeble enemy into a corner, and compel him to stand desperately at bay; but, the war once engaged, there can be little doubt that the Americans would persist, at any price, in carrying their point, and finally would attain their object, unless Spain found aid from allies more powerful than herself.

The same correspondent says:—I am informed that the substance of the reply to Mr. Soulé's last note was, that the Spanish government consider General Pezuela and the Cuban authorities to have acted in a perfectly regular and legal manner; that, out of consideration for the United States—not as an acknowledgment of right—the fine of six thousand dollars has been remitted, but that the demands made upon Spain by the American Minister here are destitute of foundation, and wholly inadmissible. So categorical an answer ought to bring this unpleasant affair to a crisis. If there be nothing less distinct and decided in the document than what I have been told and hear repeated, it leaves the American government little choice but to declare war or abandon its claims. I hear that a courier leaves the American Embassy to-night with despatches for Washington.

The Madrid correspondence of the London *Chronicle*, (May 8,) says:—

The Spanish government have sent copies of all the correspondence which has taken place on the Black Warrior affair to their Ministers at London and Paris, for communication to the English and French governments, whose good offices they hope to obtain in the present emergency. In the meantime six thousand additional troops are to be sent out to Cuba.

Mr. Soulé's last note was sent in, I am told, on the 28th ult., and has not yet been answered. Indeed, I believe that one of the American "griefs," and probably one of the most valid, is that they get no substantial answer at all, but are met either by delay or evasion. In the present case of the Black Warrior, which is the only one which Mr. Soulé is instructed to press at this moment, although there are many more claims in the background, the merits seem to lay strictly with the Spanish government, whose custom-house regulations were undoubtedly violated by that steamer, and, indeed, the petition of the consignee to the Queen for a remission of the fine as an act of grace is an admission of that fact; but looking at things impartially, and considering that so many previous voyages had been made in the same way, and doubtless with the knowledge and consent of the Custom House authorities, it might have been better, as I have heard even Spaniards admit, for the Captain-General—to whose determination to put an end to the abuses and corruption which prevailed at the Havana the seizure was owing—to have considered that fact, and to have contented himself with inflicting a nominal fine on that occasion, with a warning that the vessel would be seized and confiscated, together with its cargo, if the Custom's regulations were again violated.

The Americans, indeed, contend that within twelve hours after the entry of the Black Warrior, which they say was the period allowed by the regulations of the port for amending the manifesto, that process was offered to be complied with, while the Spaniards say that in the first place the term "*mejorar el manifiesto*" has no application to a total alteration of the same, such as is implied in designating a vessel as in ballast at one time, and with cargo at another, but refers to any mistakes which might be made in the description or quantity of cargo, &c. Secondly, that the declaration having been made on the 25th of February by the consignees that the Black Warrior would enter and depart in ballast, for which the usual licenses were applied, the twelve hours allowed for making the alteration dated from the time of making that application, the consignees being perfectly cognizant of the subject. I have stated that there are many other American claims in the background; some of them arise out of injuries inflicted on American commerce through the Spanish quarantine regulations, and a considerable number, I believe, out of the act of the Spanish government annulling in 1844 or 1845 a resolution taken by the authorities of Cuba to admit foreign corn and other provisions free of duty for six months, in order to alleviate the scarcity apprehended there, owing to the destruction of nearly all the crops by the hurricane which had devastated the island. The Captain General and Superintendent of Cuba, in issuing a decree to that effect, and which decree was published by their authority in the Washington *Gazette*, added, of course, the usual clause, "subject to the approbation of Her Majesty's government," and the Spaniards contend that this left the question of speculating in the supplies sent to Cuba under the decree entirely at the discretion of the furnishers, who have no grounds for claiming compensation because the government here annulled the decree of the colonial authorities; the fact must be stated, however, that the latter, on the ground of the urgency of the case, put the decree in force from the date of its publication, and numbers of American, as well as other vessels, were allowed to enter under it, and it had been in force for four months before the counter order arrived from Madrid by which the decree was annulled, and the American and other vessels which arrived after that period were excluded from its benefit, and many cargoes had to be parted with a loss. For this compensation is demanded by some English as well as other merchants, and our government have been endeavoring for years to procure it. The fear of the wholesale demands which will be made on them by the United States, and which could not be resisted if the few English claims were acknowledged and settled, has probably impelled this government to resort to the system of putting off the question, three years having elapsed, I am told, in one instance before a note on the subject received an answer.

THE BLACK WARRIOR AFFAIR IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Commons, on May 19th, Mr. HUTCHINS asked the noble member for the city of London whether the government had received any correspondence from Madrid relating to the affair of the Black Warrior, and whether they were prepared to place all the information from there and from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington upon the table of the house.

Lord J. RUSSELL stated that the British government had taken no official part in the transaction. The communications which had taken place on the subject were merely of the kind which always occurred between friendly governments on matters of interest. Under these circumstances, he could not undertake to lay the correspondence on the table; at the same time, he was happy in having it in his power to state that the last accounts justified the expectation of an amicable termination of the affair. (Hear, hear.)

THE EUROPEAN WAR.

OPERATIONS OF THE RUSSIANS IN THE DOBRUDSCHA.

[From the London Times, May 19.]

When the Russian army under General Luders entered the Dobrudscha, about seven weeks ago, different opinions were formed in Europe of the nature and object of that operation. By some it was believed to be the commencement of a direct attack upon the chief positions of the Turkish army, intended to take advantage of the earliest moment adapted for military operations, and to anticipate by a bold and skilful advance the heats of summer, the pestilential effluvia of the Danubian marshes, and the arrival of a more formidable enemy. By others this movement was conceived to be one of a purely defensive character, for the purpose of preventing the Turkish forces from outflanking the Russians in Wallachia, and from threatening their base of operations, while it strengthened the Russian command of the river by the possession of the forts of Matschin and Isakatcha, so as to render the Lower Danube more difficult of access to the steamers and gunboats of the combined fleets. But, however these conflicting opinions may have been contradicted or confirmed by subsequent events, no one thought it possible that the Russian generals should propose to themselves to remain stationary in such a position, which has all the defects a military station can possess. It is at once insalubrious and unsafe, inaccessible except to the enemy who commands the coast, and communicating by one or two points only with the main body of the army on the opposite shore of the river. All supplies of food, ammunition and reinforcements must be sent by bullock carts for upwards of sixty miles from the bridges near Galatz and Brailow to the scene of operations. The country produces nothing, and hardly furnishes any water that is not brackish or infected. The Turks, on the contrary, remain within comparatively easy reach of their headquarters; the deficiencies of their advanced guard may be easily supplied; and, even in case of defeat, they would only have to fall back on the best part of Omer Pacha's army.

Nevertheless, in this extraordinary and destructive position the Russians have remained since the 24th of March, a delay only comparable to the blunders and the fatal consequences of the Walcheren expedition; and we now begin to receive some of the particulars to which such a state of things has given rise. A letter of the 30th of April, addressed to the *Vienna Medical Gazette*, by one of the medical officers serving on the spot, will be found in another part of our columns, and well deserves an attentive perusal. It furnishes the most authentic information that can be obtained of the hardships to which the Russian troops are subjected, of the pestilential nature of the district, and of the extraordinary energy with which the Turkish outposts have defended their lines. "The ambulances in the Dobrudscha fill with such rapidity that consignments of sick and wounded must be made twice a day to Hirsova and Matschin, and from those places to the left bank of the river." Even there, however, it is impossible they should find proper accommodation, for seven hospitals in the miserable adjacent towns are already overcrowded, and, further, bed accommodation has been ordered for 2,000 more patients. The number of wounded in the Dobrudscha since the passage, is stated to be 2,600 men, which implies a total loss in killed and wounded of double that number. In the month of April, 31 per cent. of the wounded died in hospital—a very large proportion, even according to the averages as published by the Russian medical staff. Although, therefore, we know little of the details of those operations, it may be considered certain that incessant attacks have been made by the Russians on the Turkish lines, that they have been generally repulsed, and that the Russian losses have been most severe. We have also information of a later date than this letter, which states that early in May the symptoms of the spring fever, well known to Muscovite armies by its terrific ravages in former wars, had begun to show themselves among the troops, and had produced a greater consternation than the resistance of the enemy. Reports of the ravages of this peculiar epidemic in the campaigns of 1828 and 1829 have been published by Dr. Seidlitz and others, who were attached to the medical staff at that time. They draw a frightful picture of the virulence of this disease, which might, in some cases, be compared to the plague itself; and there is no doubt that it annihilated a very large proportion of the Russian army in those years. The fact that it now seems to have recurred at precisely the same season is well deserving of attention; and it seems almost incredible that a general should have deliberately kept a division of his army in the very position where they are most exposed to this deleterious influence. The nearer the Russians are to the course of the Danube the more they will suffer by these fevers, while the troops stationed on higher ground may escape them altogether.

Facts such as these present the horrors of war to the mind in the most palpable and repulsive, but also in the truest form. The stir and clamor of the field of battle, the glory of the effort and the grandeur of the result, may make us overlook the heavy cost of suffering and of blood. But the regimental hospital, choked with masses of the dying and the dead, who expire under the stroke of an invisible foe, is a scene which might well give a pang to the most heartless of conquerors. We resent the political duplicity and ambition of the Emperor of Russia—we view with disgust his appeals to the religion which he outrages while he invokes it—but the picture of these poor serfs, who are dragged away by tens of thousands to rot in the marshes of the Danube—the helpless, ignorant, and miserable victims of an all-powerful sovereign—inspires us with a stronger sense of the brutal enormity of these crimes, and brings home to the imagination the great evil of war multiplied in a thousand shapes of individual suffering. There is a prodigality of human life in these Russian enterprises which is not even palliated, as it was in the wars of Napoleon, by the splendor of military success. The Russian government must already be aware that nothing can be made of its present military position. It has failed to overcome the Turks singlehanded, and already, in addition to the Turks, there are 40,000 of the finest troops in Europe within a few hours' sail. If so much as an attempt be made on the passes of the Balkan, that is, as we understand it, even on Shumla, Austria and Prussia have both bound themselves by treaty to make it a case of war against Russia. To advance under such circumstances is impossible, to retreat may soon become almost equally difficult. The Emperor Nicholas cannot delude himself with the idea that he and his forces are in a condition to give the law to the East in open defiance of the recorded will and of the fleets and armies of the rest of Europe. All the evils he is about to inflict upon his people from this time are purely gratuitous, and can lead to no result favorable to his honor or dignity. He alone, in all his broad dominions, bears the responsibility of this war, and nobody believes that the war would be carried on for another week if he ceased to direct it. He endeavors to impose on public opinion; but ere long the extravagant fictions of his bulletins and the affected fanaticism of his manifestoes must be found out. His appeals to his people are like everything else he has said on this question—untrue; and we cannot doubt that when these disasters become better known, as they must be even in Russia, they will exercise a beneficial effect on the duration of the war.

OPERATIONS ON THE DANUBE.

The considerable time that has elapsed since the receipt of any news of importance from the Danube, is itself a fact of some significance.

It will be remembered that the Russian army, under General Luders, effected the passage of the Lower Danube on the 24th March, and succeeded, in the course of the next few days, in taking the small Turkish fortresses of Isaktcha, Toultscha, Matschin, and Hirsova, while the Russian advanced posts were pushed forward without encountering any serious resistance, as far as Trajan's Wall.

In the course of the month of April, Prince Paskiewitch having taken the chief command and reached the scene of operations, the right wing of the Russian army made a sudden retrograde movement, and evacuated Little Wallachia, thereby denoting that the plan which at one time threatened to turn the Turkish left by an incursion into Servia, and an attack on Widdin, is abandoned. This decision may be attributed to three causes—

First, the position of the Turks at Kalafat was