ADDITIONAL FROM EUROPE.

OUR LONDON AND PARIS CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN ENGLAND.

Gen. Paez, of Venezuela, Offering his Services to the Western Powers,

&c., &c., &c.

Our London Correspondent.

LONDON, Friday, Feb. 2, 1855.

England without a Ministry—The "Man of the Situation"—The Voice of the People—England on the Eve of Great Social Reforms—Lord Derby Fails in Making a Ministry—Lord John Russell and the Duke of Newcastle—The Debate on Roebuck's Motion—Fall of Nepotism—Hereditary Legislators—The War—Latest News—Sardinia—Spain—The German Powers—Position of Prussia, &c.

At the moment I write England is still without a Ministry.

The "man of the situation," to use a French expression, is Lord Palmerston. I have on one or two occasions stated my conviction that Palmerston was the most popular man in England, and that he would, sooner or later, be Prime Minister.

The immense majority on Mr. Roebuck's motion for a committee of inquiry into the management, or rather mismanagement, of the war, had, as a necessary consequence, the resignation of all the ministers—*de toute la boutique.* Lord Aberdeen formally announced it to the House of Lords last night, and Palmerston announced it in the Commons. The majority against ministers on Mr. Roebuck's motion was 157. Now, when it is considered that this motion and its consequent vote was not the offspring of opposition machinations, but the legitimate child of indignant public opinion, aroused by the sufferings of our army in the Crimea, the importance which must be attached to it is very great. The vote was received in silence. It is regarded by many as the first blow struck by the hand of the people against our system of government. Public opinion represented in the press by the *Times*, found a mouthpiece in Roebuck, and the government fell, like a house built of cards, at the first breath.

The question now is: who is to be Prime Minister? As I have already said, there is but one man who enjoys the confidence of the people, and that man is Palmerston; but there is such a split among parties that he will find it difficult to form a ministry. Moreover he is not a favorite at Windsor. The nation also will not be satisfied unless he is Minister of War.

On Aberdeen's resignation the Queen sent for Lord Derby, but he has not been able to form a ministry, though he had a long interview with Palmerston after leaving the Palace. I believe he offered him the War office, but Palmerston declined to serve under him.

Earl Grey would make a good War Minister, with Palmerston as Premier, Gladstone in the Echequer—and a few young men of action, as Layard, Stafford and Osborne, who have been and seen things with their own eyes as under-secretaries.

It is to be hoped a ministry will be formed to-day. It is scandalous to leave the country without a ministry at the present moment.

The cowardly retreat of Lord John Russell, who, like a rascally commander, was the first man to leave his ship when he thought she was sinking, is still the theme of universal reproach. Lord John is running the gauntlet of public opinion, and the nine-tails fall heavily on his back. The Queen has expressed her entire disapprobation of his conduct, and his former colleagues have, in unequivocal terms, expressed their indignation at his flight. Personal ambition is the reason given for his conduct.

In the House of Lords, last night, the Duke of Newcastle gave him the lie. It is a strong expression, but a perusal of the Duke's speech will convince you that it is a correct one. The Duke made a frank, open statement. He had repeatedly offered to resign the war office, and he completely refuted Lord John's statements of his reasons for resigning. The Earl of Derby took advantage of the Duke of Newcastle's statement of the dissensions of the late Cabinet, to make a slashing speech which, however clever as a piece of oratory, is regarded out of place just now. If noble legislators do not take care, and amuse themselves in party discussions and personalities whilst the public are expecting something to be done for our brave troops and brothers in the Crimea, public opinion may hit them a second blow, harder than the vote of the other night.

It is worth your while to read carefully the speeches in the debate on Roebuck's motion on Monday night, 29th January.

The fearful statement of Stafford, the slashing speech of Bulwer, and the confessions of Bernal Osborne, all tend to the same end. A thorough reform is about to take place in the whole system of organization in England. We are on the eve of great reforms—of a great social revolution. Merit is henceforth to take the place of family and fortune, and nepotism is to be done away with, in so far as it can be done away with, for it is an evil which belongs and forms a part of human nature, inherent in all, in the republican as well as in the tory, the whig, or the radical.

There is much to be learnt from these debates in Parliament, where the noblest and richest in the land, some of them the hereditary rulers of England, acknowledge that the hour for a great social reform has struck.

The next step will be the abolition of hereditary right to a seat in the Legislature. A Duke's son, even if an idiot, has a right to a seat in Parliament. Let him retain his rank and his estates—they are his—but let not an incompetent man legislate for a great and a free people.

The accounts from the seat of war are more satisfactory. The frost had hardened the ground, and provisions and ammunition had been got up to the camp in considerable quantities. The Russians made sorties continually, always with the same result—a few killed on both sides, and then a precipitate retreat. The French are quite ready for the assault. They throw daily six hundred 13-inch shells into the city. As soon as all the English new batteries and heavy mortars are ready the game will be opened. Admiral Lyons is continually going to Lord Raglan, and I believe there is something in the wind.

We have no news of any action yet near Eupatoria, where Omer Pasha's troops landed. A report that he has resigned the command is, I believe, totally unfounded.

The 15,000 troops of the King of Sardinia are to leave Piedmont for the Crimea early this month. England undertakes to convey them there gratuitously. England, moreover, provides a loan of one million sterling to Sardinia, and an additional loan of another million if the war continues after a year. The Sardinian government to pay 4 per cent interest, 1 per cent of which is to form a sinking fund. England and France guarantee the integrity and safety of the Sardinian territory during the war.

It was rumored at Madrid, but I believe the rumor is devoid of foundation, that Spain had offered an army of 15,000 men on the same terms as Sardinia, if England and France would guarantee Cuba against any filibustero attack upon it from America.

A Carlist movement is expected in Spain.

Prussia has not yet adhered to the treaty of the 2d December. She claims the right to send a plenipotentiary to the conferences at Vienna. No one has any faith in these conferences. I doubt if they will take place. Austria has asked all the minor States of Germany to join her in case of a war. The Austrian government sent a confidential despatch to them all, requesting them to do so, even if Prussia obtained a majority at the Diet.

There is a crisis coming on at Frankfort.

Austria is showing her teeth, but it is high time she should bite.

A telegraphic despatch from Frankfort says that the Austrian proposal for calling out the federal contingents has been rejected, but that another joint motion, to prepare for war, has been accepted. This is quite in the German metaphysical school. It has been rejected, yet it has not been rejected! The general opinion is, that Prussia is standing on the edge of a precipice, and runs a risk of toppling over.

Once Austria draws the sword all Germany will follow the young Emperor Francis Joseph. The people are against Russia.

The weather here is very cold. The Serpentine is daily covered with skaters, and sledges are drawing in the parks. Miss Cushman is drawing good houses at the Haymarket, as Romeo. Kean has made a hit as Louis XI. There is no prospect of an Italian opera.

Should Lord Raglan resign, Sir Colin Campbell is spoken of as his successor.

Our Paris Correspondence.

PARIS, Monday, Jan. 29, 1855.

The English Ministerial Crisis Food for the Paris Badauds—Lord Palmerston's Conferences with Louis Napoleon Supposed to have Led to it—Arrival of the Duke of Cambridge in Paris—His Prostrate Physical Condition—The Duke's Opinion of Affairs in the Crimea—Arrival of Prince Napoleon—Differences Between the ex-King of Westphalia and his Son—Extraordinary Rumors with Regard to the Succession to the French Imperial Throne—Murmurings of Political Discontents—A Congress of Crowned Heads at Paris Spoken of—Prussia and the Germanic Confederation—Paris Gossip, &c.

In the midst of weather so intensely cold that not only the artificial sheets of water in the Bois de Boulogne and the basins in the Tuileries are frozen over, but all the leading thoroughfares of the capital are converted into one glassy substance, on which man and beast shoot forward or backward in positions more involuntary than graceful, there is still one subject which imparts some degree of calidity to the nipped up and frozen frame—namely, an English Ministerial crisis. I told you in my last with what anxiety Frenchmen were looking across the channel; with what—may I not call it envious pleasure?—they were on the *qui vive* for each alternation of the approaching Parliamentary discussion; and how, like the old hunter whose sprung sinews and stiffened joints consigned him to the mute inglorious ease of the straw yard, while horse and hound and bounding steed woke the morning echoes within aggravating ear-shot—they pricked their ears, and sent forth sundry ebullitions significant of the secret longings of their hearts. But now that a species of revolution is in progress—the only one which England happily indulges in—namely, a cabinet crisis, all Paris is rubbing its hands with as much excitement as if the physical temperature did not afford it sufficient occupation in this respect without such political addenda.

The long and repeated conferences which Lord John Russell was known to have had with the Emperor during his very recent visit to Paris, induce the belief that the result of these was not without its effects on the unlooked-for step which that most important member of the British cabinet has just taken, and even that he might have prepared Napoleon, in some measure, for a decision which seems to have taken all the political world by surprise. Lord John Russell's cordial testimony to the sincerity of the French alliance, from, as he himself termed it, his personal experience in the French capital, has, however, relieved the public mind from any notion of a change of policy, and but one idea now prevails that, happen what will in the English ministry—and nothing but a complete dissolution is expected—the war itself will still continue a great fact. This assurance is of great importance, morbidly alive as the French are to any violent changes of policy consequent on the change of men in the English government.

The Duke of Cambridge, who was expected to reach the English embassy from Marseilles at an early hour on Saturday, and when great preparations had been made to welcome him with due honor, did not arrive till 8 o'clock in the evening, and then, too much fatigued to make his appearance before the very brilliant assemblage collected to meet him. Almost all the members of the Imperial Ministry were there; besides—and it is here only that this is seen—many of the old noblesse, who, like contrary currents, mingle with the new regime only to separate themselves the more; and likewise, the chief English families who are now visiting or residing here. Great was the disappointment of these, that the grandson of George the Third, fresh from the fields of Alma and Inkermann, not to mention that awful night in the Bay of Balaklava, when consigned to the Retribution, he hovered on the very threshold of a watery grave, did not appear; but the ambassador, Lord Cowley himself, entirely withdrew from the company, and by his own solicitation evinced his anxiety that his royal guest should keep in a state of repose.

I saw him the next morning at the Embassy chapel, when it was sufficiently evident that report had not exaggerated his distressed physical condition. It was but comparatively a few months ago since, in all the pride of health and of newly obtained command, we saw him occupying the same seat, and now, what a change! His drawn cheeks hang loosely about his attenuated face, his sunk and feverish eye, and a certain nervous tremor throughout his physiognomy, indicate too surely what sufferings he has undergone. All the Guelphs are scrofulous and of most excitable temperament; and mind, as well as body, has with him passed through a tearful ordeal. You cannot look at him without at once perceiving it. A better hearted man never breathed; but whether that head, denuded at so early an age of every vestige of hair, and whose temples are none of the broadest, carries brains enough to regulate his fiery impulses, I am not so sure. He is understood to be full of wrath and bitterness about the manner in which, from beginning to end, the campaign has been managed—to complain that the expedition itself to the Crimea was an insanity—a complaint which he recorded at the preliminary council of war; to protest that the authorities at home, no less than those abroad, have been reckless of the soldier's life, and that a brilliant army has been starved, exposed, and cut to pieces, from sheer incapability.

With all their hot hostility against the privileged class, there is *au fond* among Parisians—an innate *prestige* in favor of ancestral antiquity—of a real *bona fide*, old standing prince of the blood; and, as an instance of this, it is curious to observe the different manner in which the return of the English prince is treated to that of the French; for the following day Napoleon Bonaparte, son of Prince Jerome, also entered Paris. There is no doubt there was some truth in the rumor that old Jerome and his son, notwithstanding a distance of some 3,000 miles, had contrived to hit upon a bone of contention; and that Prince Napoleon had not intended to have sought shelter in his father's house after the dangers of "the imminent deadly breach;" but the Emperor's peace making offices have been understood to prevail. The Emperor has reserved to himself, as you know, the right of naming his successor from among the imperial princes of his house; and a very chief reason, it is believed, for his making this reservation, was the quarrelsome, overbearing, grasping, and unprincipled character of Jerome, ex-King of Westphalia, and all his house. A word or two, therefore, from Louis Napoleon, has before now proved a "word in season."

Such a contingency is too far off, probably, to have any present interest; but I never found any two persons who thought Prince Napoleon's chance of the imperial heritage worth a pinch of salt; and whether justly or not, this military expedition which was to cover him with renown, and exhibit him a worthy scion of the great captain whose name he bears, has certainly not removed any of the prejudices against him. The Duke of Cambridge is known to have gallantly shared the soldier's lot in every vicissitude of toil and and danger; the Prince—possibly he is foully belied—is said to have greatly "voided" all. One among others of the rumors now afloat, is, that the Count de Morny, President of the Senate, is to be raised to the dignity of an Imperial Prince; and some go so far as to say that the Emperor—who is determined to gird on his sword for a campaign on the Rhine in this year of grace, 1855—will appoint him his successor, in case of any casualty befalling himself, as the only man capable of comprehending the present policy of France. This may be a mere *on dit;* but with such stringent gagging of the press *on dits* spring up like fungus in the autumnal damp.

It may become a question whether de Morny himself, who, in all important emergencies, is called forth from the life of pleasure and retirement he so much prefers, will be enabled, in case of any prolonged absence on the part of the Emperor, to keep down the swelling symptoms of impatience under the hard bondage which the upper and middle classes find themselves more and more subjected from the existing régime. They complain that they are completely passed over, in order that the lees of society may be caressed and flattered—that they live in Cimmerian darkness—that the press falls every day more and more under the imperial ban—that the Post Office is hourly violated—that parent and child cannot correspond with each other without being submitted to an intolerable espionage—and that in innumerable instances where the letters from the Crimea contain a syllable which might suggest that all in the French army is not quite so *couleur de rose* as represented, they are altogether suppressed. Paris is certainly very much out of humor just now, and unless the Emperor give it something to do with its heels in the way of dancing, in spite of deaths by the war he may find that too much use of the tongue may lead to something else. Indeed, there are symptoms of this opinion being adopted, for the Ministers are now busily sending out invitations for their usual balls.

Reports have been rife that Prussia had signified her accession to the treaty of the 2d of December, and thus at the eleventh hour flung herself into the arms of the Western alliance; but I see nothing to confirm them, but on the contrary much to induce me to believe that she will ultimately take her stand on the ground on which she now rests.

The *Journal des Debats* has put forth a long article, which, considering its generally suspected Russian tendencies, is remarkable, entreating the King of Prussia to consider his position. "We wished," it says, "that the adhesion of Prussia to the treaty of December should be speedily given, and that that of the Diet should soon follow. War exists, but it may be prolonged or put an end to; it may extend itself to the other countries of Europe, or be concentrated in the distant provinces possessed by Russia round the Black Sea or in the Baltic. If war does not draw near the centre of Europe, there are more chances for its being finished, and it will preserve the character which it has had from the beginning, of a war exclusively political. If, on the contrary, it spreads over Europe—into Germany, for instance—it will soon become a revolutionary war, which will excite passions of every kind, and threaten all interests. This, therefore, is what is to be dreaded should Prussia pretend to keep aloof in the midst of the general movement of Europe. This movement will, sooner or later, carry Prussia with it, unless it should also turn against her, and in truth it would be difficult to say which of the two would be most disastrous for her. The government of Prussia is essentially conservative, and it is the more so, as it has seen revolutions and their excesses close to it. Let Prussia, then, hasten to assume her place in the councils of Europe, and where she may exercise an influence so useful to all."

A letter, however, from Berlin, of the 25th inst., states that nothing has been changed of the political situation. In reply to the Austrian note of the 14th, a despatch was sent off on the 21st to Count d'Arnim, to be shown to Count Buol, and in which Prussia maintains the conclusions of her despatch of the 5th, copies of which despatch have been forwarded to London and Paris, to be communicated to the Cabinets there. It is said that the Cabinet of Berlin insists in it, on the independence which it has a right to enjoy, but at the same time it gives assurance of its desire to remain in European concert. The letter also mentions a rumor current at Berlin, of a meeting at Paris of crowned heads at the period of the grand exposition, a rumor which is not likely to find much credit. The probability is that the crowned heads about that time will have more stormy events to occupy their attention.

Supposing Austria and Prussia to take opposite sides in their appeal to the Germanic Confederation, the following calculations have been made of the votes of the Diet:—

For Austria there will be, first, her own votes, 4; Baden, 4; Brunswick, 2; the States of Thuringen, 3; Hesse Darmstadt, and Sunderhausen, 2—in all, 19 votes.

For Prussia, her own votes, 4; Saxony, 4; Wirtumberg, 4; Holstein and Lairenburg, 3; the two Mecklenburgs, 4; Nassau, 2; Saxe-Meinengen and Altenburg, 2; and the small States of Anhalt, Waldeck, Reass, &c., 6—in all, 29 votes. In this way the majority would be in favor of Prussia; but there are still Hanover and Bavaria, each with four votes, who are said to be inclined to support the Austrian policy, though with reserves that Austria cannot admit.

There would then remain to be classified Electoral Hesse, Saxe-Weimar, Oldenburg, Luxemburg, Limburg, and the free towns, which might leave the balance pretty equal in the end.

The miscellaneous news may be thus comprised:—The NEW YORK HERALD is confiscated three times out of four. Mr. Philips, an American citizen, from his unfortunate resemblance to M. Mazzini, the Italian patriot, or whatever it may please parties to call him, was arrested at Basle. Count Buol and M. Droyn de l'Huys exchange orders—or rather, the first receives the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, and the last the Order of St. Stephen in Austria. Count de Montmerail, whose leisure hours were employed on the Bourse, and whose fertile imagination led him to circulate certain false news and injurious reports about Louis Napoleon, has been consigned to prison for six months, and sentenced to pay a penalty in addition, of five hundred francs. At Havre de Grace there is no be a new dock, and every ship since the first of the year, entering into the harbor, is made to pay the sum of ixpence towards the expense. The macadamization in the streets of Paris, spite of the dust in summer and the mud in winter, answers admirably in one respect—houses in them let at an increase of ten per cent, in consequence of their freedom of noise, and carriages go through the year without springing bolt or screw; in fact, save fifty per cent in value. While it is ruin to pasquinade the Emperor of the French, anything in the shape of satire on the Emperor of all the Russias—if very, very broad—is an excellent speculation. The Marquis de Bigaris, formerly Sardinian Minister, is now President of the Historical Institute of France, Prince de la Moskowa, Honorary President; and Count Reenhard and M. Jules Barbier, Deputy Vice Presidents; and M. Achille, Internal Secretary. The French clergy—in fifty parishes—have exhorted their parishioners to bring all the old linen and lint they can spare for the use of the army in the East. General Archet is Chief of the Police at Constantinople; and now that the gendarmerie patrol the streets a little better order is kept, though the unfortunate Turks have still reason to exclaim, as the peculiar kick of the French assails their unwieldy bodies, "Call ye this backing your friends?"

On Wednesday a very brilliant concert is to take place at the Salle Hartz, for the benefit of the soldiers and sailors in the Crimea. It is given by the great pianist, Famagelli, aided by Madame Bosio, MM. Baucardé and Graziani, and M. Jules Lefort, who is to sing a romance composed for the occasion by M. Dufrène, "En avant, les Zouaves;" and M. Famagelli is to execute his grand fantasia, "Robert le Diable," all with the left hand. Paganini, with one string, must necessarily be quite eclipsed.

The accounts from Spain promise ill for the repose of that country. M. Soulé, on his return to the United States, should publish a volume; the occupation would be good for his energetic character, and few men must be better acquainted with a state of things of which he may say, "*Quorum dans magna fui.*" BERTIE.

The Ministerial Crisis in England.

[From the London Globe, Feb. 27.]

Immediately after the return of the Earl of Derby from Windsor, yesterday afternoon, on which occasion he declined to undertake the duty of forming a government, her Majesty commanded the attendance of the Marquis of Lansdowne, who forthwith proceeded to Windsor, where he arrived at seven o'clock last night. His lordship remained in consultation with her Majesty until ten o'clock, and this morning the conference was renewed.

A few minutes after the arrival of the noble marquis in town, this morning, his lordship sent for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who came to Berkeley square a few minutes before 11 o'clock. The right honorable gentleman remained in consultation with the noble marquis until half-past eleven, at which time he proceeded to the residence of Mr. Sidney Herbert, in Belgrave square.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Herbert, remained in consultation until nearly one o'clock, when the noble marquis proceeded to the residence of Lord John Russell in Chesham place, with whom he staid until half-past one.

On leaving Lord John Russell's house, the Marquis of Lansdowne called upon Lord Palmerston, with whom he remained in consultation until two o'clock. On leaving Lord Palmerston, the noble marquis proceeded to Buckingham Palace, where he had an audience of the Queen, who came up from Windsor this morning, for the special purpose of assisting in the formation of a new administration.

[From the Liverpool Times, Feb. 3.]

Although the Marquis of Lansdowne, from his political connection with Lord John Russell, could not well avoid communication with his lordship immediately after his return from Windsor to-day, the rumor is that Lord Palmerston will immediately be intrusted with the duty of forming a cabinet. It is said that his lordship will be obliged promptly to execute his task. The number of Cabinet Ministers will be reduced from fifteen to probably ten. In the last ministry Lord Lansdowne and Lord John Russell had seats without offices. This expedient will not be resorted to. The Cabinet of Lord Palmerston will consist primarily of his lordship, as Premier; Earl Grey, War; Clarendon, Foreign; Gladstone, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Graham, Admiralty; Mr. Sydney Herbert will perhaps resume office; and since the Duke of Newcastle's speech last night there has been a very decided change in his favor, and the public would probably be pleased if justice were done to him by assigning the seat of the Colonial office to him. The remainder of the Cabinet would be elected in reference to the state of parties from the liberal conservatives and the conservative whigs, in accordance with Lord Palmerston's avowal on Monday, of the coalition principle being indispensable.

There were two rumors in circulation at the West End. One is that the Earl of Clarendon has been empowered to form a cabinet; the other is that this task has assigned to the Marquis of Lansdowne, conjointly with Lord Parlmeston.

Lord John Russell and his Late Associates—Explanations in the Lords.

[From the London Times, Feb. 2.]

The interest of the ministerial and personal explanations delivered last night in the House of Lords was so surpassingly great that it threw into the shade even the momentous political events of the hour; the fall of one cabinet and the failure of another agitated the Parliament of England less vehemently than the manly defence of the Duke of Newcastle, and the overwhelming refutation which he hurled at the head of his late colleague and accuser. Nor is the interest in such matters unreasonable or misplaced; we may have difficulties to surmount we may have omissions and miscarriages to repair, but no crisis in public affairs can be so formidable as to induce the British Parliament to suspend an inquiry which affects the honor of its debates, or to delay an act of justice to one of its members. The Duke of Newcastle's explanation was, according to all ordinary rules, irregular; it intervened between the two statements of Lord Aberdeen and Lord Derby; it was a direct reply to a speech delivered in the other House of Parliament, and it disclosed to an unusual extent the confidential transactions and correspondence of the late cabinet. Her Majesty had, however, been pleased to release the Duke of Newcastle from the obligation of secrecy, for the express purpose of making this vindication of his own character, and, under the circumstances of the case, such an explanation was indispensable.

If it be put to any impartial man to say, after having read the particulars of this transaction, whether he had rather stand before the people of England and the judgment of history as the Duke of Newcastle or as Lord John Russell, not one man in a hundred would hesitate to choose the fate of a Minister who has fallen at his post, surrounded by his colleagues, rather than that of a politician who has terminated his official career by flight, and sheltered that flight under a misrepresentation. The one may have been unfortunate in the selection of his instruments, but the other has been insincere in his dealings with his friends. The Duke may have carried his candor and disinterestedness to a fault, but that is a fault of which Lord John Russell can never be accused. The Duke of Newcastle has been unsuccessful in the task of restoring order and efficiency to military and administrative departments so rotten and faulty as ours have turned out to be; but no one has impugned his zealous industry in the public service, his generosity, or his honor. When we took the liberty in the autumn to advert to the prolonged absence from town of the court and the majority of the Ministry, it was because we knew that the Duke of Newcastle and Lord Clarendon were left almost alone to bear the whole burden of the war, though it now turns out that Lord John Russell was still evincing his profound solicitude for the success of the army by despatching from Minto or from Scarborough a few impracticable suggestions or querulous complaints. Lord Derby indulged last night in one of his accustomed sallies on the domestic felicity enjoyed by such a cabinet, and on the effect of such disclosures as these; but, in truth, if the history of Lord Aberdeen's administration be ever faithfully recorded, it will be found that the disunion of the Cabinet was due to one cause only—the petty but incessant attempts of Lord John Russell to supplant the chief minister and to obtain a position over his colleagues. Mr. Roebuck's motion appeared to him a favorable opportunity to strike the blow which was to restore him to the Premiership; but the blow was a foul one, and, though it shattered the Cabinet, it has inflicted a far deeper wound on Lord John Russell's fame. The existence of the late administration was in his eyes no more than a period of transition, which was to restore him to the position he had already forfeited; and to that object he has sacrificed without hesitation his fidelity to his colleagues and his duty to the country.

The facts distinctly proved last night by the Duke of Newcastle, from authentic correspondence or competent witnesses, contradict in many important particulars the statement of Lord John Russell, and it seems incredible that such a statement should have been made in the presence of at least half a dozen persons able, on the first occasion, to demonstrate its inaccuracy. It appears, in the first place, that upon the separation of the War and Colonial Departments the Duke of Newcastle placed himself entirely in the hands of his colleagues, declaring his readiness to retain either or neither office, and that it was by their unanimous decision, not by his choice, that he took the seals of the new Department for War. It is shown that down to the 8th of October, and consequently during the whole of Lord John Russell's autumnal recreations, he continued to write to the Duke, "You have done all that could be done, and I am sanguine of success." On the 17th of November, when Lord John Russell first urged a further change in the War Departments, the Duke and Mr. Sidney Herbert placed their offices entirely at Lord Aberdeen's disposal, and urged him to do what he thought best for the public service. On the 16th of December Lord John Russell informed the Prime Minister that he had changed his views and abandoned his former plan. At the Cabinet held on Saturday, the 20th of January, three days before Parliament re-assembled, Lord John Russell himself brought forward another plan for the reorganization of the military departments, more nearly resembling the scheme of Lord Grey. This plan was agreed to by the Duke of Newcastle, and adopted by the other members of the government, with the exception of one or two insignificant details, on which Lord John had made a blunder. Yet to the astonishment of his colleagues, Lord John has since asserted that he had no reason to suppose that the reforms which had been under consideration would prevail, and that he was unable to assure the House of Commons that arrangements were being made to remedy the state of the army—the fact being that Lord John's own plan had at that very time been agreed to, and that the Duke of Newcastle had already announced to Lord Aberdeen his absolute determination to resign office altogether, on account of the unpopularity attached to his administration of the War Department. Under these circumstances, the sudden announcement of Lord John's flight from the treasury bench excited the unfeigned amazement of all who knew the facts of the case, and we must add that these facts are wholly irreconcilable with the motives he thought proper to assign for his resignation. The truth is, that of all the proposals connected with the war, which Lord John Russell has made to his colleagues, none have been rejected, and of the objections he has started none have been overruled. The causes which led him to destroy the government at this difficult and perilous crisis in the affairs of Europe must therefore be sought altogether in his own personal ambition. Calling the assembled Peers of England to witness, and in the presence of all the late ministers of the Crown, who have personal knowledge of all these occurrences, the Duke of Newcastle *proved to demonstration that most of the allegations made in the House of Commons by Lord John Russell on this subject are at variance with the truth*, and that the obloquy arising from this transaction does not remain where he attempted to cast it.

It has been our painful duty, in commenting on the accounts received from the army, to animadvert as forcibly as we could on the numerous instances of mismanagement which have exposed our troops to dreadful hardships and losses, lowered our military reputation abroad, and compromised the success of the Crimean expedition. But we have never said one word which could be construed into a personal imputation on the Duke of Newcastle more than on the other members of the government and the chiefs of the army. On the contrary, we knew with what indefatigable energy he has worked, while other members of the government were not even within reach of London; and we could not but draw, and have ever drawn, a favorable contrast between his laborious zeal in the public service and their supercilious indifference.

Great mistakes have been committed in the choice of the men selected to carry on this war, both at home and abroad; and the government has been justly blamed for not reorganizing the administration of the army, embodying the militia, forming a reserve, and proceeding to place our military establishments at once upon a full war footing. But on all these points Lord John Russell must be content to share the censure which his colleagues have incurred, and it is because these evils and omissions were not more promptly remedied that the task became impracticable. The Duke of Newcastle has failed, but it was the system as much as the minister which broke down; and no minister will succeed in guiding this country to the glorious termination of a successful war until the military establishments have been thoroughly reformed. We think, therefore, that the Duke of Newcastle overstates the accusations which are or can be preferred against himself; and we are confident that no man will read his manly and becoming defence without sympathy and respect.

Brighter Prospects of the British Crimean Army.

[From the London Times, Feb. 2.]

The public mind has been so occupied of late with the deplorable condition of our army, with the defects of our military system, and with the imperative demand for improvement in the organization of those departments through which war is conducted, that the prospects of the war itself have been comparatively overlooked. The sufferings of the troops before Sebastopol have so completely and so justifiably engrossed our attention that we have almost ceased to inquire into the progress of the siege, and appear to have assumed that the effectual prosecution of offensive operations was virtually beyond our power. From the letter, however, of our correspondent, which we yesterday published, it will be seen that to the virtues of heroic courage and indomitable endurance the British soldier adds those of unflinching confidence and neverfailing hope. On the very scene of all that misery which has recently been so vividly depicted, there actually prevailed a universal belief that our arms would be triumphant, and that Sebastopol, so long and so fruitlessly beleaguered, must infallibly fall before the valor and resolution of the allies. "There is no doubt," says our correspondent, "no despondency out here. No one for an instant feels diffident of ultimate success." If anything were required to complete the admiration with which our soldiers are regarded, it would be found in this astonishing expression of military confidence and patriotic faith. While we, with too much reason, were trembling for the very salvation of our army, that army itself was still talking of victory and anticipating triumph! No sufferings could rob it of that belief which British soldiers entertain in the power of their arms; and certainly, if any cause could contribute more forcibly than another to insure such a success, it would be that dauntless resolution which in the midst of misfortunes is determined to command it. We may venture, however, to consider this subject a little further, and to resume for a moment that survey of operations which other topics have interrupted.

The siege of Sebastopol has never been absolutely suspended. Our own works, it is true, proceeded but very slowly, and our batteries were too often silent for want of ammunition; but we lost no ground, and while we were waiting for better means of action, and suffering, unfortunately, from excessive privations, our brave allies were pushing their approaches against the town with indefatigable activity and no inconsiderable effect. They have received constant reinforcements, the abundance of their resources has been evinced in their generosity to ourselves, and they are well prepared to avail themselves at the first opportunity of the advantages they have acquired by three months' skilful exertion. We, on our side, seem to have struggled at last through the darkest hour of the campaign, and to have obtained a view of some brighter prospects. Something like order has been established in the chaos of Balaklava; a road from the harbor to the camp is, thanks to the aid of our allies in process of construction; central depots have been instituted for the facilitation of supplies, and considerable quantities of clothing have at length been distributed in the camp. It may be hoped, therefore, that both armies will soon be in a position to re-commence operations; and great progress had been already made, at the departure of our last advices, in bringing up guns, mortars and ammunition stores to the front.

Supposing, however, that we should find ourselves relieved from the necessity of comparative inaction, what would be the prospects of the siege? On a question which has proved itself so embarrassing it would be vain to affect any decided views, but reasons undoubtedly exist for attaching some value to the confidence which soldiers seem to imbibe from the spirit of their profession itself. Sebastopol has many advantages, but it has some disadvantages. It is not a town regularly fortified with ramparts of masonry, requiring the tedious approaches of the sap and the concentrated fire of breaching batteries. The principal defences of the Russians consist in their lines of earthworks, and it is a maxim in military engineering that earthworks cannot stop good infantry—such infantry, in fact, as the allied armies could send to the assault. A perpendicular wall of stone must necessarily be breached before it will admit an attacking column; but earthworks, in order to stand, must unavoidably be made with a certain slope, which slope troops find little difficulty in ascending. The condition of success here is that the fire from these works should be so far subdued previously to the assault as to give the soldiers a fair chance of coming to close quarters with the enemy; and if, therefore, this object can be effected the attack may be made with a prospect of decisive results. Hitherto the fire of the Russians has been superior to our own; but, if by means of more powerful artillery more advantageously placed the allies could obtain even a short ascendancy, there is nothing unreasonable in anticipating that the conquerors of the Alma and Inkermann may do the rest of the work. We have beaten the Russians in fighting, though not in firing, and the question is whether the main business can be fairly brought with n the category of a fight.

Our chances, it is evident, would be materially improved if we could calculate upon any exhaustion on the part of the enemy. It has already been found that the Russians could not, at any rate, collect sufficient strength to drive us from our position, and reports which have no intrinsic probability represent them as having suffered most severely from the various hardships of the campaign. They have even been described as in want of ammunition, though it is hard to reconcile such a supposition with the activity of their batteries. Nevertheless, their communications with the interior must have become very difficult, and there must be a limit somewhere to the stores of even so prodigious an arsenal as Sebastopol has proved. As far as mere numbers go, if all our troops returned as effective are really in fit condition for the work of an assault, there can be no doubt but what, in conjunction with our allies, we could easily bring as many men into the field as the operation would demand, nor can there be much question about the relative prowess of such soldiers, when fairly tried. To describe the general situation of affairs concisely, we may say that hitherto the lines on which the defence of Sebastopol rests have not been assaulted, because, owing to various causes, we have not been strong enough in artillery to accomplish the preliminary work of subduing their fire. Great exertions have recently been made to increase the power of the Allies in this important respect, and, if they should prove effectual, the result may be followed at any moment by a more material success. Of course, even a successful attack upon the lines would not insure the immediate or entire capture of the town; but a lodgment effected in such a position would give us immense advantages, and would probably enable us, with such a co-operation as may be anticipated from Sir Edmund Lyons, to pursue to good purpose the work of victory. We can only express our fervent hopes that such an event may be at hand; but, in our ignorance of the real strength of the enemy, and after the experience we have had of war's contingencies, it is impossible to venture upon anything like precise speculation.

General Paez on the English Light Cavalry Losses—His Offer of Service.

(To the Editor of the London Times.)

SIR—We occasionally peruse, on this side of the water, the interesting periodicals that come over from the Old World, and ought candidly to confess that it is generally with a view to cull information and instruction therefrom. Latterly, however, their perusal has led some of us—albeit not of Anglo-Saxon race—to fancy that we could, upon military matters at least, give a few hints to Britain's sons that might be useful to them in their present Crimean difficulties. I am myself a Venezuelan Llanero, and you will not be surprised that my sympathies are with your poor cavalry and their unfortunate horses in the Crimea. You are aware that my country was the scene of much hard fighting during the war of Independence, and that in the course of that interesting struggle the Spanish cavalry, both heavies and lights, was destroyed. As I myself had something to do therein, allow me to give you the fruit of my experience, and to explain to you our tactics. My men were mounted upon small active horses, all under 15 hands, and they were not selected according to any standard, in fact they were the Llaneros, or men of the plains. Their arms consisted of the "rejo" or lasso (a stout leathern noose, 40 yards in length) and a light and tough lance. Very few of them had swords, and their dress consisted of a large "ruana", (poncho,) not one in ten of them having even a pair of drawers besides. You will thus perceive that they had neither pipeclay nor "dangleums" of any sort to impede their movements, nor any useless weight to bear down their horses with. As few of them had stirrups, you may suppose that they rode *au naturel*, and not in the pig tail fashion, or, as we call it in Venezuela, *enjuaga-botella* (bottle washing) fashion, which I understand was introduced into the British cavalry by the Duke of Cumberland, a century ago, in order to frighten the Scottish partisans of the Pretender. This was a great advantage to the poor horses in the campaign, as their backs and ribs were never sore; as also to the riders, as they never lost leather. Our tactics in the presence of the enemy were as follow:—In dealing with infantry, we would endeavor to get to windward and kick up a great dust, or set fire to the long grass of the plains, so that lots of dust or smoke should blow in their faces, and we would then charge and wheel about *ad libitum*. If regular cavalry, heavy or light, opposed us, we would send out small troops of forty or fifty men to lasso them by throwing the noose either right over the men's heads and arms, and bodily dragging them off their horses; or by catching the latter by the legs, thus throwing both horse and rider. Our men in the rear would then dash forward and lance the poor regulars as they lay sprawling on the ground. Another plan was, to take a few unbroken mares and turn them loose, with dry raw hides attached to their tails, into the midst of the Spaniards. The noise thus created caused horrible confusion among the Spanish pipeclays (and they were fine troops,) and we had nothing to do but to spear them. With sixty men I once destroyed a whole regiment of them thus.

Depend upon it, that light horses and light men, with strong right arms, form the most efficient cavalry. The Llaneros, from the habit of throwing the lasso among the wild cattle of the plains, were hardy, strong, and inimitable horsemen. As a weapon, I should probably prefer a good useful cut and thrust sword to a lance; and would only add thereto that modern invention, the revolver, carrying the cartridges in a belt round the waist, after the fashion of the Spanish contrabandist's "canana," from which I would also suspend the sword. By these means, all straps, buckles, and encumbrances would be avoided, and the horse would have less weight to carry, and the whole be more effective.

Having thus far entered into details, I may now venture to say that I have been honored by my countrymen with the Presidency of Venezuela. I am now residing in New York, and would be most happy to cross over to England to aid in any manner in the equipment of some effective cavalry for the forthcoming campaign in the Crimea. It would afford me much gratification could I be the means of saving some thousands of fine English horses, as well as the lives and leather of the men. I need not say that, as a South American Republican, I have a great detestation of Nicholas.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant.

NEW YORK, January, 1855. PAEZ.

From New Mexico and the Plains.

RUMORS OF TROUBLE IN THE MESILLA VALLEY—MEXICANS IN THE LEGISLATURE—A BILL TO ABOLISH THE CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Giddings arrived at San Antonio, Texas, on the 23d ult., from Santa Fe. He is the mail carrier under the last lettings; but it appears the Postmaster at Santa Fe refused to give him the mail, because he had not received official notice to do so. The San Antonio *Texan* has a letter from a correspondent, dated Santa Fe, Dec.