THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 6831. MORNING EDITION—THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1855. PRICE TWO CENTS.

THE EUROPEAN MAILS

BY THE

STEAMSHIPS HERMANN AND ASIA.

END OF THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.

THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN ENGLAND,

&c., &c., &c.

The American mail steamship Hermann, Capt. Higgins, arrived at this port at two o'clock yesterday afternoon. She left Southampton on the 25th ult.

The Cunard mail steamship Asia, Capt. Lott, reached her dock in Boston at half past five o'clock yesterday morning, making the run from Halifax in 30¾ hours. She left Liverpool on the 28th ult.

The mails by both steamers were delivered in this city during the afternoon.

A despatch from the Crimea, dated April 17, reports the cholera raging fearfully in the French camp.

Cholera continued its ravages at St. Petersburg.

A serious overflow of the river Neva had taken place, causing much distress and destruction of property.

A telegraphic despatch from Varna, dated the 27th ult., announces that Lord Stratford de Redcliffe left Constantinople for the Crimea on the 25th.

On the 11th, Broussa was visited with another earthquake, which destroyed most of the stone buildings, while the wooden ones were burned up. The Jews' quarter of the city was buried under huge masses of earth and rock, detached from the adjacent mountain.

The village of Zikindji, one league from Broussa, was totally destroyed. The earthquake appeared to be continuous, 150 shocks having occurred within 24 hours. The loss of life was not known.

Several English and American *attachés* of legations arrived on the 20th at Marseilles, in the Neapolitan steamer Capri.

Mademoiselle Parodi, of the Italian Opera, is a passenger by the Hermann. She gave a concert on board the Hermann on Tuesday, and was assisted by Mademoiselle Slavenuter. The passengers were delighted.

The Paris correspondent of the 24th ult. of the London *Times* says:—

A private letter from New York, received in Paris this morning, mentions as a positive fact that the home squadron of the United States had received orders from the government of Washington to proceed instantly to Cuba and demand immediate reparation for the injury done to American merchant vessels, which were fired into by some vessels of the Spanish navy. Indeed, the letter mentions the general impression that the American squadron was ordered to attack the Spanish ships without more ado. A war between the United States and Spain would exceedingly complicate our present position.

Our London Correspondence.

LONDON, April 27, 1855.

The War—Telegraphic Communication between London and Balaklava—The Last News from Sebastopol—The Vienna Congress Adjourned sine die—Austria's Position—Denmark and the United States.

The great event here is the opening of a telegraphic communication between Lord Raglan's headquarters and Downing street, or, more properly speaking, Whitehall, where Lord Panmure, the Minister of War, has his official residence. Messages have already passed to and fro. The first message took 24 hours; but then there were twenty miles unfinished on land. The line is now completed, and Lord Raglan and Lord Panmure can converse hourly, if they like. As the last telegraphic despatch from Lord Raglan is dated the 25th April, it is presumed that the town still held out at that date. The government was questioned on the subject last night, when Lord Palmerston replied that the message did not bear upon the question! It probably informed the government that it was raining, or that the sun was shining

We have no further details of the operations than the 19th. Up to that date the news is satisfactory. The allies had gained ground considerably. The extreme right of the positions occupied by the besiegers is in the hands of the French, and they have constructed extensive batteries on the heights in front of the scene of the battle of Inkermann, so as to answer the Russian batteries on the other side of the Tchernaya, and also to reply to the fire of the Mamelon, which is at a distance of about 600 yards. Passing from the right to the left, the next works are Gordon's and Chapman's batteries with the Lancaster battery over them, rising up to the Victoria redoubt, which is almost in front of the Redan. On the 12th inst. it is reported that the fire of these guns had kept under one face of the Redan, damaged six or seven guns in the Round Tower, and injured the other Russian batteries on the left. The latest accounts, which are of the 19th, brought by the Asmodée, state that the whole of the ambuscades in front of the Centra Tower have now been occupied by the allies, and converted into a portion of our own lines; so that on this point there is a considerable advance, for we have first silenced the Russian guns in the rear of this position, and then acquired possession of the approaches they were beginning to direct against our centre. This advance is the more important, as the ground occupied by the Russians in front of the Mamelon and the Round Tower separated the two divisions of our left attack, and to a certain extent enfiladed both of them. Crossing the ravine which descends to the Careening-harbor, we arrive at the scene of the principal French operations directed against the town itself, and here again the results of the fire appear to be considerable. The most advanced work of the Russians on that point is the Flagstaff Battery, which not only commands the approach to the town on the left of the Careening harbor, but also crosses its fire with the Malakhoff Tower on the other side of the ravine in such a manner as seriously to impede the advance of the besiegers. From the first day of the siege, eight months ago, the reduction of the Flagstaff Battery has been one of the most essential objects of the assailants. It is now stated that the French fire had completely crushed the guns of the Flagstaff Battery, and considerably injured the Garden Battery behind it, these two works being in front of the right of the French main attack. There is no doubt though that the town has been defended with the greatest courage and pertinacity, repeated sorties have been made, both on the night of the 13th and again on the 18th, and a French mine has been successfully exploded. Passing to the extreme left of this attack, the front of the Quarantine Fort is stated to be entirely destroyed, and in front of the town our brave allies have succeeded in tracing and digging the trench of their fourth parallel, which must bring them into the closest proximity to the Russian works.

Six days' and six nights' bombardment have passed since then, and if the town is not soon stormed or does not surrender, the guns will be worn out from incessant firing. The Russians made a sortie on the night of the 18th, but apparently with little success.

From Vienna there is nothing new. Lord John Russell and M. Drouyn de L'Huys have left. There are all sorts of rumors afloat as to the attitude Austria is now likely to assume. The Emperor Napoleon III. has, it is said, instructed his Ambassador at Vienna to demand a categorical answer from the Vienna Cabinet on the question. Lord John is expected in town to-day, and will, of course, give a long explanation in the House of his mission and its results.

From the Baltic we learn that all the Russian ports there have been declared in a state of blockade. One prize has already been made. The fleet is at Kiel.

A Berlin paper, the *Zeit*, states, in the most positive terms, that on the 12th of this month the American Minister at Copenhagen gave the requisite and formal one year's notice, that the treaty of April 26, 1826, between the United States and Denmark regulating the Sound dues, would determine and expire. It is strange how firmly people here believed that the determination of a treaty regulated the *modus* under which this impost is levied, must necessarily bring with it a cessation of the impost itself; and further, that when this takes place in favor of our State, it necessarily will be extended to all other States whose treaties contain the "most favored nation clause."

The United States mail steamship Union arrived at Liverpool on Wednesday.

In the House of Commons, on the 24th ult., Mr. Bennet inquired whether the House was to understand that Lord John Russell had left Vienna, and that the conferences and negotiations were considered by government to be at an end. And in that case, would the noble lord (Palmerston) inform the house on what day he would be prepared to make a specific statement upon the subject, or supply the house with such documentary information as would enable hon. members to ascertain precisely what was the difference between the terms offered by the allies and any terms that might have been offered as counter propositions by the Russian government, so that they might clearly understand, if the war was prolonged, what was to be its object in future (Hear)

Lord PALMERSTON—The matter to which the honorable gentleman has addressed his question is of too great and deep importance for me to shrink from giving some explanation even at the present moment. What may be the time at which the government may think fit to furnish more detailed information, I am not now in a situation to state. But it is well known to the House that the English and French governments, in concert with the government of Austria, have determined that the proper development of the third point, which regarded the treaties of 1841 with respect to the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, should, among other things, be, that the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea should henceforth be made to cease. That was the principle laid down by England and France, and agreed to by Austria; and that principle was, in the abstract, accepted by the Russian plenipotentiary. On Thursday last, at a conference, at which were present the English, French, Austrian, Turkish and Russian plenipotentiaries, the plenipotentiaries of England, France, Austria and Turkey, proposed to the Russian, as a mode of making to cease the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea, which, in principle, had been admitted and accepted by Russia—they proposed, as the method of carrying that principle into execution, either that the amount of Russian naval force in the Black Sea should henceforth be limited by treaty, or that the Black Sea should be declared neutral ground entirely, and that all ships of war of all countries should be excluded from it, so that henceforth it should only be a sea for commerce. (Hear, hear.) The Russian plenipotentiary required forty-eight hours to take that proposal into consideration; and these forty-eight hours elapsed on Saturday. On Saturday another conference was held, and at that conference the Russian plenipotentiary absolutely refused to accept either of those alternatives—those alternatives being pressed by the four other plenipotentiaries unanimously. (Hear) Thereupon the conference adjourned *sine die*, and my noble friend, the member for the city of London, and the French Minister, M. Drouyn de l'Huys, were to take their departure from Vienna in the course of the present day.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY—Were any counter propositions made by Russia?

Lord PALMERSTON—Russia made no counter propositions. (Hear, hear.)

Now, any old apple woman could have told the government long since that the Vienna conferences would end in fudge I have so often harped upon that one string that I need not dwell any longer upon it.

But now comes the second question. How will Austria act? She is bound by her treaty with the Western Powers to unite her own efforts with theirs until their common object is entirely obtained. The moment has come. She must show her true colors at last. Better an open foe than a secret enemy. But let Austria beware. Louis Napoleon has not yet played his trump card; and whatever the consequences he will play it if all other means fail—that trump card is a war of nationalities. He will restore Poland, Hungary, Lombardy, Venice, &c. The devils in hell will then shout *Te Deum laudamus*—all Europe will be fire and flame.

Louis Napoleon and his Empress have returned to Paris, well satisfied with his visit to London He had an idea that he would be shot in the Strand, but happily he was mistaken. The illustrious Moon has been made a baronet.

Our Paris Correspondence.

PARIS, April 26, 1855.

The Grand Industrial Exhibition—American Commissioners to the Exhibition—Complaints of Artists.

The probable number of competitors in the Olympian games of industry, which will open in a few days at Paris, is estimated at 17,000 or 18,000. Only ninety American exhibitors have thus far sent in their applications for admission. At one moment, indeed, it seemed possible that the Commissioners appointed by the Governors of several States would outnumber the exhibitors. The Imperial Commission is less frightened on this point than it was a short time ago. There are, I believe, but eight American commissioners actually in Paris, and the space of 2,200 square feet allotted to the American department in the Palace of Industry, is not yet so much crowded with productions of art and industry as to leave no room for more. At a recent special meeting of the Central Committee of the American Commissioners, Mr. Maunsell B. Field, of New York, was unanimously chosen Chairman, in place of Mr. J. Swaim, of Pennsylvania, who had resigned, and who received a unanimous vote of thanks from his colleagues for the patriotic zeal with which he had exercised the functions of chairman. Mr. Daniel E. Gilman, of Connecticut, Secretary; Mr. Marshall Woods, of Rhode Island, Special Commissioner for the Department of Fine Arts, and Mr. Charles Fleischmann, Special Commissioner of Arrangement. Mr. Valentine, of Massachusetts, Mr. Williams, of Rhode Island, Mr. Galpin, of Connecticut, and Mr. Alexandre Vattemare, who represents the States of New York, Virginia and South Carolina, were present at this special meeting.

The many complaints which have arisen against the Imperial Commission on the part of the French, and particularly the Parisian aspirants for the honors of this great Exhibition, have been loudest, and it would seem not least founded, on the part of the artists, (painters and sculptors,) whose works have been refused in the most summary manner. The Jury of Examination are accused of almost as much levity in some of their decisions as severity or partiality in others. One picture that was brought before the jury at a moment when their fatigue, (naturally enough in view of the multiplicity of the productions they were called upon to examine,) or some other cause, prevented them from seeing aught save the faults of the painting—from seeing even the name of the artist—was hastily condemned, when a more vigilant member of the jury chanced to discover on the corner of the canvas the name or one of his absent colleagues on the jury, an academician, who remonstrated against the carelessness with which the whole business of examining appeared to be managed. The picture was brought back, its merits became visible when the name of the artist was revealed, and it was accepted. Works of equal and of superior merit have met the fate which the work of M. de P. thus luckily escaped. Nor was he the only artist of distinction who was exposed to the same danger. Among the works refused are not a few by artists who have successfully passed the ordeal of many a previous examination. Oddly enough, of the three pieces by Gustave Doré, which were accepted out of the eleven he sent in, one had been unanimously refused, three years ago, and had not since been retouched. All the twelve numbers of his marvellous series, illustrative of the legend of the Wandering Jew, were rejected. The lack of space is assigned for the merciless, and in some instances, it must be added, the tasteless rigor of the jury. Foreign artists are treated more liberally than French artists, which is perhaps more polite than just. If the foreign schools excel in spite of the removal from the different museums of the choicest productions of the modern French school, in order that they may compete with those of the former, there will be plenty of disappointed artists to exclaim, "Ah! the glory of France would have been saved if my picture had not been refused." They will enjoy at least that satisfaction.

Only one American sculptor, Eugene Warbury, of New Orleans, has yet forwarded anything for exhibition. Mr. Healy, and ten or eleven other American artists, whose names I will send you with notices of their pictures, as soon as I shall have seen the latter, will exhibit.

The invasion of foreign visiters does not yet begin to confirm the extravagant hopes of the landlords and tradesmen of Paris, who still, however, regard the approaching exhibition as an inexhaustible mine of wealth.

Our Madrid Correspondence.

MADRID, April 18, 1855.

Debates in the Cortes on the Constitution—The Law of Mortmain—Passage of the First Article—Arrival of Specie from Cuba to Defray the Expenses of the Military Reinforcements for the Island—Effect Produced by the Publication of the Ostend Correspondence in Madrid, &c., &c

The only news stirring here at present is relative to the proceedings in the Cortes concerning the constitution and the civil and political organization of the country, although just at present the debates on the subject of the constitution are suspended, and they are discussing various projects of laws. Chief amongst these is the law releasing from mortmain civil and ecclesiastical property. The first article has already passed, which authorizes the sale of the above mentioned property. They have also authorized the reading of the following projects of laws:—One for establishing banks upon the safety fund principle, with the proceeds of the sale of lands pertaining to townships and municipalities; another, that the office of Minister be held as a commission, without pay; another, taking the monopoly off salt; and yet another, asking for the adjournment of the Cortes from the 15th June to the 1st October. A proposition to take the monopoly from tobacco was not read.

About a million and a half of dollars have just arrived, sent by the Captain General of Cuba, in bills of exchange, for the purpose of the equipment of the troops who will leave for Havana in May.

The state of finances here at present is not very good. A loan of $2,000,000 which had been realized has been spent, and the propositions made to the government for the large loan of $25,000,000 are inadmissible. The parties wanted scrip at 32 and 33 per cent, and that more than half the loan of $25,000,000 should be appropriated for four years, as a guarantee of the interest of the debt; so that an operation of this nature, instead of assisting the treasury, or enabling it to pay off the floating debt, would only be a good business for the contractors. Of Carlists I can say nothing. The last news says that if any invasion of Spain is to be made, it will be by sea, as the frontier of France is too well closed, and this is an event little to be feared, as the party want money, and the coast is well guarded.

The Madrid journals have just commenced the translation of the Ostend documents. The sensation they produce is anything but favorable. Our graceful and captivating diplomatist, Mr. Soulé, is most cordially hated. EL CID.

The Bombardment of Sebastopol.

LORD RAGLAN'S DESPATCHES.

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, April 10, 1855.

MY LORD—In accordance with the arrangement made between General Canrobert and myself, the batteries of the French and English armies opened upon Sebastopol soon after daylight yesterday morning.

The weather was extremely unpropitious. Much rain had fallen in the course of the night, and it continued during the day, accompanied by a tempestuous wind and a heavy mist, which obscured everything, and rendered it impossible to ascertain with any degree of accuracy the effect of the fire, which has been continued, with little or no interruption, from the commencement, and has been superior to that of the enemy, who were evidently taken by surprise, and, except upon the extreme left, did not respond to the attack for nearly half an hour.

This morning has been hazy, and for some time there was a drizzling rain, but it is clearing this afternoon, and there is again a prospect of fine weather.

The country yesterday was covered with water, and the ground was again very deep The trenches were likewise extremely muddy, and their condition added greatly to the labors of the men employed in the batteries, who, consisted chiefly of sailors, artillerymen and sappers.

They conducted their duties admirably, and I am sorry to say that the former, particularly the navy, sustained considerable loss.

I have not yet received the returns of the casualties beyond the 9th inst., which are herewith enclosed; but the death of Lieutenant Tweedford of the Royal Navy, a most promising officer, and generally respected by all, has been notified to me; and Capt. Lord John Hay, who has taken a most active part in the gallant and distinguished services of the naval brigade, was wounded almost at the very moment, I believe by the same shot. I hope the injury he has received is not very serious; but the loss of his assistance, even for a time, is much to be regretted.

The Russians have not shown themselves in any force in front of Balaklava. I have, &c., RAGLAN.

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, April 14.

MY LORD—Since I wrote to your Lordship on the 10th inst., a steady and heavy fire upon the works of the enemy has been maintained from all the batteries of the allies.

The fire of the British artillery, chiefly directed against the Garden batteries, the Barrack battery, the Redan, the Malakoff tower, and the Mamelon, has been most effective, and the enemy's works have suffered very considerably, although they have, as usual, made a good use of the night to repair damages, notwithstanding that the vertical fire has been continued throughout the twenty-four hours.

The practice both of the naval brigade and the artillery has been excellent.

The casualties have not been very numerous, but the loss has fallen heavily upon the sailors, as your Lordship will see by the accompanying returns, and the Royal Navy has to deplore the death of Lieutenant Douglas, who had served with great ability and zeal from the commencement of the siege.

Lieutenants Urmston and D'Aeth, Royal Navy, and Steele, Royal Marine Artillery, all valuable officers, have been wounded

The Royal Artillery has also to lament the death of Lieutenant Luce, who was an officer of much promise; and Lieutenants Sinclair and L'Estrange are among the wounded. The former has sustained several severe injuries, but I am happy to add that there is every hope of his recovery. They are both highly meritorious officers.

Captain Crofton, of the Royal Engineers, who had, in the course of the protracted operations before Sebastopol, rendered most essential service, has also received a wound which will, I fear, detain him from duty for a very considerable time.

Our batteries and parapets continue to stand remarkably well, notwithstanding the very unfavorable state of the weather.

The enemy's fire has been comparatively slack, but the practice good; and, owing to their having ascertained the range of our batteries with great nicety, several guns have been disabled in both the right and left attacks.

Towards the Tchernaya nothing important has been observed; but small bodies of men, from 150 to 500, have been seen, with a heavy gun and some ordnance carriages, moving along the Inkermann heights towards Mackennie's Farm road, near which it has been placed in position.

Although the duties have been unusually severe and arduous, both by day and night, during the week, they have been carried out with the utmost cheerfulness and zeal, reflecting much credit both on officers and men.

The submarine telegraph has been safely brought to the Monastery from Cape Kelegra; and as soon as it is established at the former place, the engineers will proceed to convey it from the latter to the immediate neighborhood of Varna, where I hope it may be in a state to act in a week or ten days from this time.

The first division of the 10th hussars arrived this day at Balaklava. I have, &c., RAGLAN.

ANOTHER TERRIBLE NIGHT CONFLICT.

Since 11:10 (Saturday morning 12:30 A. M., April 14,) the fight has been raging, and I have returned once more to my den, in despair as to its cause. I am now inclined to think it was a sortie in the trench, which was unsuccessful, was renewed, and was finally repulsed victoriously, and with great loss to the enemy. It appears that at first, about 16 o'clock, drums were heard beating a charge or alarm all along the French lines at first; but whether they were Russian or French drums no one can say. The cheers were undoubtedly Russian. Sir John Campbell despatched Captain Hume, aide-de-camp, to head quarters, to learn the cause of the firing; but as nothing was known there respecting any attack to be made by the French, it is almost certain that this busy night has been the work of the Russians. There is now a profound silence—not a gun can be heard, and the horrid din of shot and shell screaming and whistling through the air, the bursts of cannon and bombs, the cheers, and rolling volleys, have all died away, and the deadly lights have died out and left all the black waste in darkness. While the fight lasted the quantities of shell thrown by both sides were prodigious. They might be seen six and eight at a time scaming the sky with their fiery curves, and then bursting with a bright red flash, which lit up for an instant the smoke, and flashed through it like a beam from the setting sun through a murky cloud. The French threw "bouquets" of two, three, and four shells from one mortar, in flights at a time, and must have caused fearful havoc in the enemy's lines. At every crashing volley our men used to grow quite excited, and many a "Bono Francese" ran through the crowd; but the few Frenchmen who were there talked in subdued and eager tones with a deeper interest in the fate of their gallant comrades than we could feel. Towards the close of the struggle the Russians fired angry volleys from their cannon, and threw a multitude of shells into the French lines, which were paid back with interest. It must have been the most sanguinary affair we have had since Inkermann, and no doubt the *Moniteur* will let us know the truth of it, and give us additional reason to admire the gallantry of our allies. Our men seemed to think it was a French attack, and one fellow exclaimed, "Oh, when are we to get a chance?" Another exclaimed, "When we do, Jack, I hope to the Lord they'll let us go at it by daylight. I like to see my enemy!" The progress of the battle was watched with the most intense anxiety, and many were the speculations and arguments respecting the lines of fire—as to whether they were from friend or foe, and as to which was which, and who were gaining and who were losing. At last, with the silence we all dispersed, and the camp is once more profoundly quiet, for the reports from the rifle pits are deadened by the wind.

THE LATEST FROM SEBASTOPOL.

General Prince Gortschakoff reports on the 22d April, from Sebastopol, that on that day the enemy had slackened their fire, which had been very violent during the preceding twelve days. The loss of the garrison had been much less in the last few days than those preceding. There was nothing important from any other part of the Crimea.

[From the London News of April 27.]

A telegraphic message from the Crimea, of date as recent as Wednesday, reached the Admiralty yesterday; but to a late hour this morning the government, now in sole possession of the quickest means of communication, appears to have had nothing important to announce. An opinion is gaining ground that the assault will not take place before the disembarkation of the Sardinian troops in the Crimea.

THE RUSSIANS IN THE CRIMEA.

According to some papers found on a supposed deserter, there are two divisions of Russian infantry at Perekop. Except these and four battalions, chiefly invalids, at some villages four leagues from Eupatoria, on the road to Simpheropol, there is no infantry on this side, as the greatest part of the cavalry seems concentrated about Eupatoria. Seven regiments of cavalry are on the two roads to Simpheropol and Perekop. Odessa is strongly fortified. Nine new batteries had been thrown up.

The Probable Departure of Louis Napoleon for the Crimea.

[From the London News, April 23.]

There appears to be no longer any reason to doubt that the Emperor of the French will proceed forthwith to the Crimea. In the *Constitutionnel* of Monday it is stated that his camp equipage has already been sent off; and the 10th of May is confidently named in Paris as the day on which he will take his departure. The abilities of Napoleon III. are about to be tried in a new field. His victories have hitherto been gained in civil contests; it remains to be seen whether he has inherited the military talents of his house. Various considerations concur to recommend the step he is about to take. His presence in the Crimea seems desirable as a means of giving unity to the operations of a campaign carried on by the armies of at least four independent nations. As victory will tend to consolidate his throne, he has every inducement to urge on the war with energy; and at the same time, from all we can learn, the Emperor is too profoundly impressed with the necessity of not overstraining the resources of France to be led astray by success.

What course the Emperor will pursue remains perhaps to be decided by the state in which he will find affairs when he lands in the Crimea. The telegraphic accounts of the progress of the bombardment of Sebastopol are necessarily curt and incomplete. Rumors are afloat, however, to the effect that no great progress is being made by the assailants: that the advantages they have gained have been purchased by considerable loss of life; and that the defences still in the hands of the Russians are of the most formidable strength. If these statements are well founded, they go far to confirm the opinion we have more than once had occasion to express that the Russians in the Crimea must be beaten in the field before Sebastopol can be taken. It will also be borne in mind that in the review of the operations of the Allies in Turkey and the Crimea, which was published in the *Moniteur* of the 11th inst. regret is expressed that the plan of disembarking at Theodosia, advancing by the way of Simpheropol, cutting off the Russian communications and beating them in the field before investing Sebastopol, had been abandoned. This was the Emperor's original scheme of a Crimean campaign. The actual position of the allied forces in the Crimea may prevent its being resumed to its full extent; but both the natural predilection which Napoleon III. must feel for his own plan, and the probable state of affairs before Sebastopol, seem to render it most likely that some combination will be made with a view, first, to defeat the Russian army, and then invest the fortress in due form. Something might assuredly be done by the vessels of lightest draught in the allied fleets, to cut off the Russian communications with the Crimea by way of the Sea of Azoff. We confidently believe that the depth of water in the straits of Yenikale has been systematically understated by the Russian authorities. It is well known that vessels of a certain draught of water are compelled to unload part of their cargo at Kertch, in order, it is alleged, to enable them to pass through the straits. But we are credibly informed that some years ago, a Greek felucca, requiring much deeper water than is said to be found in the straits, passed through with her whole cargo on board, the master having represented her as of less draught than she really was. Again, the force under Omer Pasha at Eupatoria, if augmented by the Sardinian contingent, might be able to strike a blow at Perekop, whilst the French and English troops in the Peninsula of the Chersonesus kept a part of the Russian army in check. We draw attention to these circumstances, as seeming to indicate what possibly may be attempted after the Emperor's arrival in the Crimea.

In the *Moniteur*, it is stated that the occupation of Sebastopol and the Crimea "might put into the hands of the allies a province and a fortress which could be used as a guarantee and an exchange in the event of a negotiation for peace." This seems to point to an intention of restoring both to Russia at the close of the war. It ought, however, to be kept in mind that Sebastopol, in the possession of Russia, must always be in the Black Sea what Algiers was in the Mediterranean. It threatens at once the mouth of the Danube and the entry of the Bosphorus. It does appear highly inexpedient to allow Russia to maintain such an advanced post on the Euxine. There is little or nothing of Russian nationality in the Crimea; it is not, in fact, an integral part of the Muscovite empire. Whatever is to be done with the province at the close of the war, the interests of Europe require that it should not be allowed to revert to Russia.

Operations in the Baltic.

[From the London Chronicle, April 26.]

The appearance of the magnificent British fleet in the Baltic sea has once more paralyzed the commerce of Russia, and imposed upon the naval forces of that empire the humiliating alternative of remaining under the convenient shelter of the granite walls of Cronstadt and Sweaborg, or of courting certain destruction by venturing into the open sea. A commendable activity has been displayed by Commodore Watson and the flying squadron under his command, in pushing forward, in despite of the difficulties of the navigation, and of the impediments created by the floating ice. That squadron will anticipate the departure of scores of Russian vessels that were only awaiting the breaking up of the ice to escape the vigilance of our cruisers. Few of these vessels will reach their destination, and whilst an unexpected number of valuable prizes will reward the promptitude and activity of our ships, the commercial navy of Russia will be crippled beyond recovery.

Admiral Dundas has signalized his arrival in the port of Kiel by proclaiming the strict blockade of Libau, and of all the ports along the littoral as far as Riga. Without a doubt a rigorous blockade along the whole coast will be enforced, and there, we fear, terminate the services that can be reasonably expected from the Baltic fleet. Not that these are trifling, for they result in completely neutralizing the existence of the enemy's fleets, and in destroying the mercantile navy of Russia. To anticipate any other success would be foolish; and it would be alike unpatriotic and inconsistent to encourage the public to believe that an attack either upon Cronstadt or Sweaborg is practicable or to be desired.

Attitude of Austria.

The Paris correspondent of the London *News* points to the method which Austria will most probably adopt in order to creep out from the engagements of the treaty of December 2d. Thus she will continue to say that she is ready to declare war upon Russia when the conferences are broken up; but this is not the case; they are only suspended. The semi-official Austrian *Correspondent* has already broken this ground.

The London *Times'* Paris correspondent states that on Tuesday night a courier left Paris for Vienna with despatches from the Emperor for M Drouyn de l'Huys. These despatches are described as decided in their tone, and the French Plenipotentiary is instructed to call upon the Austrian Cabinet to declare categorically whether it means to fulfil its pledges, and to take the part that becomes it as a great power against the common enemy, now that Russia has rejected the propositions of the powers. The demand is said to be made in terms which admit neither of evasion nor delay.

The *Patrie* publishes a despatch from Vienna, dated the 26th, which states that the Austrian government is about to decree a new levy of 80,000 men, and that the propositions relative to the mobilisation of the federal contingents are about to be renewed.

The Vienna Conferences.

[From the London Chronicle, April 28.]

On Monday last we were officially informed by Lord Palmerston, that the propositions of the allies had been absolutely rejected by Russia, and that the negotiations were at an end. Moreover, on the same high authority, no counter-propositions had been submitted by the Russian Plenipotentiaries to the attention of the representatives of the Western Powers, so that all hopes of a peaceful solution of the Eastern question had vanished. After the official statement in the House of Commons, our great surprise may be imagined when, from an authentic source, we are informed that the negotiations had not ceased at Vienna, and that counter-propositions had been advanced by Prince Gortschakoff. The latter were apparently of an unsatisfactory nature, for their rejection by the Allied Powers ensued. In the meanwhile, Lord John Russell had taken his departure from Vienna, but this event had apparently exercised no great influence on his brother diplomatists, who resumed their deliberations even in the absence of the great whig luminary.

* * * * * *

Of the precise nature of the counter-proposition offered by the Russian Plenipotentiaries, we are as yet uninformed. From the fact of their having been rejected by the Allied Powers we infer, not alone that the conditions imposed therein were inadmissible, but that the proposals themselves were a new ruse of the Russian diplomatists. It was less with a view of concluding a peace that these counter-propositions were framed; for, had the Czar been sincerely desirous of arresting the progress of the war he would not have refused the moderate and honorable interpretation of the four points. The counter propositions were, in a word, advanced with the definite view of proving to the willing eyes of the German Courts the pacific instincts of Russia, and of throwing the responsibility of the war, by their rejection of this last appeal, on the Powers of the West.

* * * * * *

The departure of M. Drouyn de l'Huys from Vienna has been deferred for the moment, less in the expectation of a renewal of negotiations than with the view of arriving at a perfect understanding with Austria. That empire has at length entered into a stage which was perhaps little anticipated by its rulers when, in concurrence with the governments of Great Britain and France, they accepted the responsibilities of the treaty of the 2d of December. Austria has, we believe, never despaired of a peaceful solution of the Eastern question, which would increase her influence in Europe, and perchance add to her territorial extent. By the absolute rejection of the four points by Russia, the day dream of peace indulged in by Austria has been rudely destroyed, and she is now called upon, in the name of honor and in her own interest, to declare herself openly against the Czar. The day of "wonderful ingratitude," predicted by the late Prince Schwarzenberg, is steadily approaching. Were Austria to enter frankly and with energy into the lists, the war with Russia would be less protracted and more decisive. Hesitation in the council chamber and in the field infuse fresh determination and vigor into the breast of the enemy. Some delay will, we fear, take place before an open determination is taken by Austria. It is, however, satisfactory to know that the interests of the Allied Powers are in safe keeping, and that the influence commanded by talent and perspicacity exists in the presence, at Vienna, of M. Drouyn de l'Huys.

The Political Crisis in England.

[From the London Chronicle, April 28.]

The Cabinet of Lord Palmerston may now consider itself as at length completed. It remains to be seen whether the accession of Lord John Russell to its members will work any visible effect upon the cause of administrative reform. The career of that noble lord has of late been strangely checkered with alternate victory and defeat. The redoubtable vanquisher of the Aberdeen administration, who by a *coup d'état*—by the mere stroke of his pen—annihilated the coalition under which the Derbyites had been overthrown, was gallantly sent forth to battle with the statesmen of Russia. But to be a victor at home was very different from being also a vanquisher abroad. Lord John Russell returns to this country humiliated by another defeat. He beats at length a hasty retreat from Vienna, overwhelmed and dismayed by the legion of evasions and mystifications [illegible] existence, as by the wand of the genii in Eastern story, through the creative ingenuity of Titoff and Gortschakoff.

* * * * * *

While discontent is spreading among all classes of the community, and Her Majesty's ministers rest indifferent or paralyzed spectators, active and ambitious persons are seizing the propitious occasion to profit by a coming excitement. The great question which has latterly agitated the country, to an extent establishing how profound is the national disappointment and shame, is at no very distant date to be mooted in the House of Commons in a manner too formal to permit of ministerial evasion.

When a whole nation is crying out for justice, the magnitude of the case reflects a kind of importance on almost any person who may take it in hand. One of the most menacing symptoms of the present state of public feeling is the absence of a rallying point. A movement taken up by a party too often shrinks to the dimensions of party. In that which it is to be feared is now preparing in this country, it is difficult to say how it could be headed by any of the statesmen to whom the public have been accustomed to look as the chiefs of various political sections. *In its features it is too analogous to the "Know Nothing" movement in America to allow of its being affiliated by whigs or tories.* As it has its origin in the profound disgust of the public at the feebleness with which the war is conducted, it can scarcely be led by those other gentlemen—the self appointed political representatives of the great industrial and commercial community—who lost their once brilliant position by their maudlin cry for peace. There is but too much reason to apprehend that men may arise, less bound to society by the hostages of wealth and station, who will strive to push beyond its fair limits an agitation for a perfectly legitimate object.

In the absence, then, of accredited leaders, clever adventurers rush in to avail themselves of a tempting opportunity to achieve notoriety and join in the scramble for power. They have their use, however, if, by their ill regulated energy, and their "passion for reforming the world," they open a safety valve for public discontent, and cause the national opinion to be definitely pronounced. Mr. Layard has shot up, rocket-like, into a prominency too sudden to be permanent. By his valuable labors at Nineveh, he earned and obtained the gratitude of mankind. It is one thing, however, to dig up buried cities, another to aspire to a share in the government of this country. We should be sorry to prejudge any man, yet should not be sorry to see a little less egotism, assurance, and obtrusiveness in the public conduct of this gentleman. If the notice of motion he gave last evening should still further feed his evident passion for notoriety, it will be less on his account than that of its subject. Nor should we be surprised if it were regarded with mistrust by those who most desire to see that subject grappled with and disposed of; for, judging by the honorable gentleman's past doings, his friends can never be sure that the momentary impulse over, he will not abandon them at the moment when perseverance might ensure success.

Mr. Layard's notice of motion is so worded that it may be made to serve the mere purposes of a party, or it may force a discussion on the questions most this moment dearest to the nation. It may be used as a lever to attempt the overthrow of the present ministry, or it may be made to raise the issue—whether aristocratic government has or has not proved disastrous to the best interests of the country? Few men will demur to the proposition, that "the manner in which merit and efficiency have been sacrificed to party and family influence, and to a blind adherence to routine in the appointments to the great offices of State, and to posts in diplomacy, the army, and other branches of the public service, is opposed to the best interests of the State, has already given rise to great misfortunes, threatens to bring discredit upon the national character, and to involve the country in serious disasters." Nor in the present condition of affairs will any one deny that "this House will give its best support to any ministry which in the present emergency shall propose to itself as its main objects the efficiency of the public service and the vigorous prosecution of the war as the only means of securing an honorable and lasting peace." But when it comes to be asked, "How will you work your reform?" or "What ministry will you suggest as capable to meet the demands embodied in both your propositions?" is Mr. Layard the kind of man to be provided with an answer, or can he point out any others who are?

The aristocracy of this country may thank Lord Palmerston for the dangerous position in which they are likely, ere long, to be placed. It is not inconsistent with some antecedents of Mr. Layard, that the offence given to his vanity by the Premier's contemptuous treatment of his questions on Thursday evening, may have been the immediate cause of this notice of motion. Though the mover may have little specific weight, the motion is rendered a grave one by the peculiar temper of the public mind at the time of its announcement. It has been by a dexterous choice of occasion that Mr. Roebuck and Mr. Thomas Duncombe—both prominent members of the active class in which Mr. Layard has enrolled himself—have, from time to time, produced parliamentary results disproportioned to their personal influence. It is the fault of the minister of the day if he permits the public affairs to be so mismanaged, that these small aspirants are able to invest themselves with a factitious importance. In Lord Palmerston's case, this course of conduct has been singularly unpardonable, because the public would have been content with so little at his hands, had that little been offered with a frank sympathy and a hearty good will.

Mr. Layard and his motion would be alike insignificant, were it not that the evils pointed at undeniably exist. Lord Palmerston has formed his ministry as if he were at the beginning instead of at the end of his career. Even this might have been overlooked, because the people have been accustomed to see the aristocracy in the high places, and the day is not yet come for that final struggle between Saxon independence and Norman privilege, which Thierry shadows forth in his profound and eloquent history. It is rather the Premier himself who has wounded the pride of the nation, by treating disaster with indifference and remonstrance with disdain. We know well that all the changes demanded, not more by the public will than by the justice of the case, cannot be effected in a day. *We know that a silent but universal revolution in our system will alone meet the growing wants and aroused intelligence of the people.* We are not so unreasonable as to demand all this at the outset of a gigantic war. But Lord Palmerston, who had the ear and the confidence of the nation, might have shaped out a programme, to which he would have pledged himself and his successors; and a few instalments—especially if they had involved a little self-sacrifice on the part of "the families"—would have been accepted as ample payment on account. As it is, the Premier has incensed the public into a tacit adoption, by anticipation, of the first petition of grievances that may be presented for their acceptance. It is not the first instance of an aristocracy being endangered by the rash obstinacy of one of their own order.

Bank of England.

Account for the week ending Saturday, April 21, 1855.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£28,372,290	Governm't debt	£11,015,100
		Other securities	2,984,900
		Gold coin and bullion	14,372,290
		Silver bullion	—
Total	£28,372,290	Total	£28,372,290

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' capital	£14,553,000	Government securities, (including dead w'gt annuity)	£14,274,373
Rest	3,127,862	Other securities	13,032,442
Public deposits (including exchequer, savings banks, Commiss'ners of National Debt, and dividend acc'ts)	4,450,664	Notes	8,069,425
Other deposits	13,019,567	Gold and silver coin	683,210
Seven day and other bills	928,357		
Total	£36,079,450	Total	£36,079,450

Mayor's Office