THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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ARRIVAL OF THE ATLANTIC AND ASIA.

ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE.

NO TIDINGS OF THE PACIFIC.

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SLIGHT FALL IN BREADSTUFFS, &c., &c., &c.

The Collins mail steamship Atlantic, Captain West, arrived off Sandy Hook at ten o'clock on Saturday night, and reached her wharf about seven o'clock yesterday morning. She left Liverpool at eleven o'clock on the morning of the 6th inst.

The Atlantic experienced strong westerly gales for ten days in succession after she left Liverpool. In lat. 45 30, long. 48 25, during thick foggy weather, fell in with a large field of ice, and tracked it southerly to lat. 43, and westerly to long. 50, keeping it in sight for three days.

The NEW YORK HERALD of yesterday morning contained the leading points of her news.

The Cunard mail steamship Asia, Captain Lott, arrived at three o'clock yesterday afternoon. She left Liverpool on Saturday noon, the 9th inst.

The news by both steamers is one week later.

We regret to state that neither brings any tidings of the Pacific.

Our advices by the Atlantic and Asia are important.

The Peace Congress was to meet in Paris on the 20th inst. An armistice between the belligerent Powers, to last till March 31, had been agreed upon.

The difficulties between England and the United States attracted a good deal of attention, and had caused considerable excitement, both in political and commercial circles. It is the opinion of Lord Palmerston that the troubles can be amicably settled.

The following curious story is sent by the correspondent of the Associated Press at Liverpool:—

We learn, on the authority of the London *Morning Advertiser*, that Sir Henry Bulwer had intimated the gratification it would afford him to act as a sort of official mediator between the British government and the American Ambassador in London. It further states that he was to come from Brighton on Wednesday 6th inst., with the view of seeing what could be done towards bringing about a more friendly feeling between two governments. The same paper again asserts that Sir Henry Bulwer, in concert with a member of Parliament of great diplomatic experience, was endeavoring to arrive at a solution which may be more acceptable to both countries than the plan of arbitration. This interference in a non-official capacity, it is said, takes place at the insigation of Lord Palmerston. An interview was to take place at the embassy, when Sir Henry Bulwer would explain at length to Mr. Buchanan the compromise which he is prepared to recommend.

The *Northern Bee*, of January 26, (a journal published at St. Petersburg,) contains the following passage:—May God grant us peace; but, should it not be concluded, *Russia still has at her disposal sufficient means of resistance to repel her enemies with energy.* Russia desires peace, but she does not fear war. In the same number of the *Northern Bee* it is said:—As regards France, it may be positively affirmed, that *the French nation loves and respects the Russians.* The French prisoners, on their part, have been treated like brothers.

The Liverpool *Albion* says:—

We understand that it is resolved by France and England to despatch two special Commissioners immediately to the River Plate, with a view to concert measures with Brazil for the prevention in future of occurrences such as have recently again rendered some of the finest portions of the east coast of South America a prey to revolutionary license. [Not with respect to Central America, as stated by telegraph yesterday.]

Count V. Esterhazy, the Austrian Ambassador, has become very popular at St. Petersburg. The prospects of peace are generally regarded with great satisfaction.

Advices from Hong Kong of 15th of December, say:—The trial of the American Consul, Keenan, stands over, pending the recovery of Chief Justice Hulme, who has been seriously indisposed.

In Chinese politics we have nothing new to mention, and no authentic intelligence has reached us from the interior. At and around Canton all is quiet, and the Chinese appear more confident or tranquillity than before.

A gale, involving loss of property in Glasgow to the extent of about £100,000 sterling, broke out and raged on Wednesday night, 6th inst.

A most fearful collision took place in the English Channel, off Folkestone, on the evening of the 3d inst., between the Josephine Willis, Capt. Canney, one of the London and New Zealand line of packet ships, and a powerful iron screw steamship called the Mangerton, bound to the Thames from Limerick, which resulted in the foundering of the former ship, and it was feared that over forty lives had been lost.

The London *Globe* of the 8th instant, says:—

The Czar is said to have written an autograph letter to the Pope, stating that ten Roman Catholic bishoprics are about to be established in Poland and in the German colonies of the Volga.

Another conference has been held at Copenhagen on the question of the Sound Dues, at which the representatives of Prussia, Russia, France, Sweden, and six other delegates from the Germanic States, were present. On this occasion the Danish Plenipotentiary laid upon the table several documents requested at the previous meeting by the members of the Conference, relative to the receipts during the last ten years. He also made a new proposition to the meeting, which was sanctioned by his government, viz:—that they would take the sum of 36,000,000 thalers as compensation for their interest in the Sound Dues.

The London *Times* of Feb. 8, says:—

The suspension was announced this morning of Messrs. Chambers and Ellwood, in the wine trade, with liabilities for about £20,000. The firm were very respectable, and their losses are understood to have been caused by serious defalcations on the part of persons in their employ, coupled with some heavy bad debts. Their assets, it is said, will yield at least 10s. to 12s. in the pound, and it is hoped that arrangements will be made for the business to be carried on without interruption.

The Armenian Catholic Church at Constantinople fell down on the 27th of January. About thirty persons were either killed or wounded.

The *New Prussian Gazette* announces from St. Petersburg, that after peace has been proclaimed, the Czar will proceed to Moscow to be crowned.

The session of the Wallachian Divan for 1856 opened at Bucharest, on the 14th ult. The Hospodar's message mentions a surplus revenue the past year, of two and a half millions. Government is in negotiation for the building of railways and the lighting of the capital.

A Milford paper states Enoch Train, Esq., of Boston, and J. Crosbey, Esq., American Consul at Southampton, recently visited Milford. Both gentlemen were on the same errand, namely, to make arrangements for the establishment of lines of steamers from Milford to the United States. Mr. Crosbey does not contemplate removing any of the steamers for which he is agent from the Southampton route, but hopes to create a new and extensive trade, having its entrepot at Milford. The agent of the Milford estate has offered to both gentlemen land on advantageous terms.

A French company is about to purchase eight large steamers from the British General Steam Navigation Company, with the view of establishing steam lines between France and America.

The market for American securities in London, during the week ending on the 8th inst., had been without animation; the few transactions which had taken place had been generally at lower prices, as will be seen by the quotations annexed:—

United States 6 per cents, 1667-68	105	a	—
Do. 6 per cent bonds, 1868	105	a	—
Alabama 5 per cent sterling bonds	79	a	81
Maryland 5 per cent sterling bonds	88	a	90
Massachusetts 5 per cent sterling bonds	98	a	100
Mississippi 6 per cent Pik. Rd. bonds, 1841-71	43	a	45
Do. 6 per cent Union Bank bonds	16	a	18
Pennsylvania 5 per cent stg	73	a	75
Do. 5 per cent bonds, 1877	80	a	82
Virginia 5 per cent stg. bonds, 1888	83	a	85
Do. 6 per cent bonds, 1886	86	a	88
Boston 5 per cent bonds	90	a	92
Montreal 6 per cents, 1856-65	83	a	85
New Orleans 6 per cent stock, 1883	77	a	79
Illinois Central 7 per cent, 1875	77½	a	79½
Do. 7 per cent free land bds., 1860	83	a	85
Michigan Central 8 per cent	93	a	95
New York Central 7 per cent conv. 1864	94	a	96
Do. 6 per cent, not conv., 1883	60	a	62
New York & Erie 7 per cent 1st m'ge., 1867	98	a	100
Do. 7 per cent 3d m'ge., 1883	84	a	86
Do. 7 per cent conv., 1862	75	a	77
Do. 7 per cent sinking fund, '75	79	a	81
Panama 7 per cent 1st mtge., not conv. stg. bonds, 1859	92	a	93
Do. do. do. 1864	94½	a	95½
Pennsylvania Central 6 per cent. 1st m'tge., conv. till 1860, 1880	86	a	88

Our London Correspondence.

LONDON, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1856.

The Difficulty Between England and the United States—Feeling of the English People—Mr. Bright on the Question—The Peace Negotiations—Prussia Excluded—Reported Coolness Between Mr. Buchanan and Lord Palmerston.

The question of peace, or a continuation of the war against Russia, is becoming almost secondary to the question of the misunderstanding which has arisen between this government and the government of the United States.

The omission in the Queen's speech of any allusion to the subject has created surprise, and has been discussed in foreign as well as English papers. The London journals are still occupied at this misunderstanding, and it has been the subject of discussion at a meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

The *Times* of Saturday, observes that it is just as well nothing was said in the royal speech, as nothing pleasant could have been said. In a first leader it deprecates war with the United States as the greatest calamity that could occur to either party. It appeals to the good sense of the American people, and trusts that the intention of the Washington government to demand the recall of Mr. Crampton will not be insisted on. The article concludes as follows:—

The situation is becoming every day more critical, and we must await the result with a firmness inspired by a confidence in our own strength, and the knowledge that we have done, and will yet do, all that a pacific and honorable nation can do to avert the catastrophe which seems impending—not over us, but the nation that has surrendered the care of its honor and peace into such hands at so anxious a moment.

The feeling in England is against war.

At the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, yesterday, Mr. Bright made a long speech on the question. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

That this Chamber has observed with deep regret that difficulties have arisen between the British government and the government of the United States with regard to the construction of a treaty on the subject of Central America, and to attempts which are alleged to have been made to enlist men for the British army within the jurisdiction of the United States. this Chamber would urgently impress upon the government of this country the propriety of considering these questions in a conciliatory spirit, with a strong determination to spare alike to the United Kingdom and the United States the indescribable evils which must arise from any interruption of amicable relations between the two countries.

As regards the war or peace with Russia we are in *statu quo.*

We learn from Vienna under date of Feb. 1, that on the previous day the French and British Ministers received instructions to sign the so-often mentioned Protocol. Immediately after the receipt of their despatches Sir Hamilton Seymour and M. de Bourqueney communicated their contents to the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs and to the Turkish Embassy. In the course of the evening, it was settled that the representatives of England, France, Turkey and Russia, should meet at the Foreign Office on the following day, and then and there sign the important document in question. At the appointed hour the four foreign diplomatists had assembled, and they and Count Buol attached their signatures to the subjoined protocol:—

In consequence of the acceptance by their respective Courts of the five propositions contained in the document hereunto annexed, under the title of Draft of Preliminaries, the undersigned, after having paraphed it, conformably to authorization received to that effect, have agreed that their governments shall each nominate plenipotentiaries, who, furnished with the full powers necessary for proceeding to the signature of formal preliminaries of peace, shall conclude an armistice and a definitive treaty of peace. The said plenipotentiaries will have to assemble at Paris within the term of three weeks, dating from this day, or sooner if it can be done.

Done at Vienna, this 1st day of February, 1856.

Five copies or "expeditions," as they are technically called, of the protocol, were prepared, and one given to each government. Count Buol was to leave for Paris on or about the 12th, and M. de Bourqueney two or three days sooner.

The following is the official announcement of the Plenipotentiaries to take part in the negotiations which are aount to open at Paris:—

FOR FRANCE.

Count Colonna Walewski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Emperor, and Baron de Bourqueney, his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Vienna.

FOR AUSTRIA.

Count Buol Schauenstein, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Emperor of Austria and Baron de Hubner, his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris.

FOR GREAT BRITAIN.

The Earl of Clarendon, Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Lord Cowley, Ambassador of England at Paris.

FOR RUSSIA.

Count Orloff, member of the Council of the Empire and Aide-de-Camp General of the Emperor of Russia, and Baron de Brunow, his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Germanic Confederation.

FOR SARDINIA.

The Chevalier Massimo d'Azeglio, Senator of the kingdom of Sardinia.

FOR TURKEY.

Aali Pasha, Grand Vizier of his Majesty the Sultan, and Mehomed Djemil Bey, his Ambassador at Paris.

You will observe that no mention is made of Prussia.

When signing the protocol at Vienna, on Friday last, on registering the acceptance of Russia, Prince Gortschakoff requested that she should be invited to take part in the Conferences. Count Buol seconded the request. The English and French envoys said they would refer the matter to their respective governments. The admittance of Prussia would be tantamount to the admittance of four Russian Plenipotentiaries.

The *Moniteur* publishes the following official announcement:—

Russia has adhered to the five propositions which are to serve as the preliminaries of peace, and which were presented for her acceptance by Austria, with the assent of France and England. This unreserved adhesion was announced in a note addressed by Count Nesselrode, the Russian Chancellor, to Count Esterhazy, the Austrian Minister at St. Petersburg, and in a despatch communicated to Count Buol by Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian Minister at Vienna. The Russian government, in consequence, proposed the signature of a protocol at Vienna, to enregister the adhesion of the contracting Courts to the propositions intended to serve as the bases of negotiation, and to declare that plenipotentiaries shall meet at Paris within three weeks (or sooner, if possible), in order to proceed successively to the signature of preliminaries, to the conclusion of an armistice, and to the opening of general negotiations.

The British government had already expressed a desire that the conferences should be held at Paris, and the Austrian government having, on its side, eagerly acceded to that suggestion, it is therefore in the capital of the empire that the plenipotentiaries who may be appointed to deliberate on the conditions of peace will assemble. The protocol setting forth the acceptance of all the parties was signed yesterday (Friday) at Vienna, at noon, and it was decided that the plenipotentiaries of the Powers who are to take part in the negotiations shall assemble at Paris before the 20th of February.

The armistice is to extend to the 31st March.

It is stated that Mr. Buchanan felt it his duty to decline the invitation to Lady Palmerston's *soirée*, owing to what he conceived personal discourtesy on the part of one of the members of the cabinet—not Lord Palmerston—when recently, in the discharge of his duties as American Minister, his Excellency was engaged in vindicating what he believes to be the honor and rights of his country at this critical juncture.

LONDON, Feb. 8, 1856.

The Misunderstanding Between England and the United States—Arbitration—The Peace Conferences—The Sound Dues—A Blow at the English Peerage.

Doubtless every mail from England is now anxiously expected, on the chance of some light being thrown upon the misunderstanding which has arisen between the governments of the United States and Great Britain. Very little more has transpired.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Cobden asked whether it was the intention of the government to lay upon the table of the House any correspondence explanatory of our present relations with the United States. The correspondence relative to Central America was, he believed, complete, as it had already been published in the United States and referred to in the President's message. With respect to the other subject of correspondence—the enlistment question—perhaps the noble Lord would say whether the correspondence upon that matter could be produced? Lord Palmerston replied that in neither case was the correspondence completed. When it was so, of course it would be laid before the House, in order that it might be in possession of the full and entire facts.

Mr. Baillie then stated that he would postpone the motion, of which he had given notice, relative to enlistment in the United States, until after the production of the correspondence.

The prevailing opinion is, that the points in question will be submitted to arbitration.

As regards the Peace Conferences, nothing new has taken place. Austria has submitted the Russian acceptance to the consideration of the German Diet. There is no sign of Prussia being admitted to them. She is very sore on the subject, as every loss to her authority is a gain to that of Austria.

Sardinia is represented by one representative only. Baron Terro, the Sardinian Ambassador at Constantinople, protested against his not being admitted to the Conferences held at that capital on the fourth point. He has left Constantinople. The fourth point refers to the Christian subjects of the Porte. A regular reform bill for the whole administration, political and social, of Turkey has been drawn up by Lord Stratford and M. de Thouvenel.

All the docks at Sebastopol are now a chaotic mass of ruins. If an armistice is concluded, it is presumed the blockade will be continued. Palmerston, when questioned on the subject, declined giving any answer till the preliminaries were signed at Paris. Russia, it is said, asks for four months. This would, if the blockade is raised, enable her to replenish her storehouses and re-provision her armies. On all sides the preparations for war are carried on with the same activity as before.

A telegraphic despatch from Copenhagen, dated 6th February, says:—"A conference has taken place between the delegates on the Sound dues. Denmark has made a fresh proposition, asking for $36,000,000, to be disbursed by those interested.

There has been a modification of the Spanish ministry. M. Bruil has resigned his post as Minister of Finances, and is succeeded by Santa Cruz.

A debate took place last night in the House of Peers well worthy of notice. Under the title of Baron Wensleydale, the Queen has created Sir J. Parke a Peer for life. The Peers regard this as a blow aimed at their order—against hereditary descent in titles; they say it is democratic. Now, Baron Parke is made a Peer, because he is a man of talent and a good lawyer. It is a recompense for merit. Supposing he has a son—a fool, or a disreputable character, (he happens to have no heir)—is that son to inherit a title conferred for merit? The ready answer would be, certainly not.

It is, however, regarded as unconstitutional, as an abuse of the royal prerogative, &c. In fact, it has its *pros* and *cons.* It is a great pity, doubtless, to disturb a system which has lasted for so many centuries. At all events, the blow has been struck by the hand of the Queen. The veteran Lord Lyndhurst made a very able and interesting speech on the subject. It will lead to much discussion, and will doubtless be taken up by different parties. It is the signal for a great newspaper war.

For the last three days there has been very severe weather in the Channel, and many of the foreign mails are due.

Our Paris Correspondence.

PARIS, Feb. 4, 1856.

The Parisians under a New Phase—Their Joy at the Prospects of Peace—The Old Leaven Changed—The Thirst of Military Glory Giving Place to the Shopkeeping Spirit—Roebuck's Predictions Regarding the Future of Russia—American and French Alliances—Marriage of a Bonaparte Princess—Procession of the Bœuf Gras.

What with the meeting of the British Parliament, the Queen of England's speech, the commentaries thereon, the Conference to be held at Paris, the expected armistice, the approaching peace, the threatened war between the United States and Great Britain—the French calculation of gain in political and commercial aggrandizement by the Russian campaign—the English dudgeon at its shortcomings—the arrival of great diplomatic dignitaries, giving lustre to metropolitan festivities—the carnival and the Bœuf Gras—Paris is well nigh beside itself.

The probability is, that the great men especially deputed by their respective governments to wind up in a true-love-knot past hostilities will be received on their entry with more enthusiastic acclamation than has ever been bestowed upon the most successful heroes of the present war, and that of these the Russian diplomatists will not be the least welcomed. The most cursory observation will admit that the French people—if Paris is to be taken as anything like an exemplar—are strangely changed from the character universally assigned them in the early part of the present century. The general impression has been that the war trumpet blast had only to be sounded for Frenchmen to forget all party differences, all care of civil regeneration, all dynastic prejudices, every thing but the mustering drum-beat and the military glory of France. Either the enemy has not been fitly chosen or the commercial spirit—like the rod of Aaron—has eaten up the false hallucination of the day—but it is an indisputable fact, that throughout this war the brightest emanations of military enthusiasm have been such as in the United States, or in Great Britain, would have been pronounced *fake.* Either the people generally have never understood the policy of the war, or in the bottom of their hearts they liked not the alliance with which it was necessary to carry it on, for certain it is that the dove which brought the olive branch to the diluvian ark could scarcely have been more welcome than the sound of peace appears to be to a city which, judging from the continual tramp of armed men—from the continual strain of martial music—its military emblems—the military figures of rhetoric which pervade its oratory in the Senate, at the bar, on the throne and in the pulpit—has the soldier in its thoughts from "early morn till dewy eve."

France, it is said, has not to regret the inevitable sacrifices which the war has cost her. "The grandeur," says the semi-official *Constitutionnel*, "we might even say preponderance of the political *rôle*, will compensate for the expenses. There was a time when the commercial relations of France and the Levant were very prosperous, when her flag dominated in the Mediterranean; but all this was annihilated by the English blockade of the first Emperor, and on the return of peace her flag came in presence of the two navies of the United States and England, which had taken possession of the transport lines. All this is now changed. The effective strength of the French mercantile marine has considerably increased. The French flag is everywhere seen in the Mediterranean and in the Black sea. French packets and merchant vessels will not forget the new paths which in the wake of their fleets they have followed. Frenchmen, stimulated by the spirit of enterprise, will remain in the ports of the Black Sea, and prepare the way for our commerce by making known our habits, laws and language."

It is instructive to contrast all this with Mr. Roebuck's language in the House of Commons, remembering that few men at present stand higher in England, as an exponent of public opinion than that gentleman.

"The dominions of Turkey," he says, "are situated between the acquisitions of Russia and our dominions in Asia. Once in Constantinople, once in possession of the Asiatic territories of Turkey, and Russia would be formidable to England in India. Do not let us fancy we can blind the world by pretended ignorance. The world knows what we are fighting for. Kars has fallen. Before the Redan the English army has been repelled. The English navy has come back a second time from the Baltic without a single object accomplished. Our honor has been tarnished. I recollect what has been said abroad: that ours was an army of lions led by jackasses, and I believe that to be a correct description. This is the condition in which we sue for peace. Russia will be in Constantinople in ten years, and when there, the Black Sea is hers, Asia Minor is hers, Persia will be hers, Affghanistan will follow, and then she takes India. That is what we are afraid of." Elsewhere, Mr. Roebuck alludes in almost derisive terms to "our great ally, our big brother," and one cannot help suspecting that when the fight is fairly done and a peace more satisfactory to one ally than the other ratified, the seeds of bitterness, destined to bear deadly fruit, may remain.

The *Moniteur* has formally announced that Russia has adhered to the first propositions which are to constitute preliminaries of peace, and that the plenipotentiaries will arrive in Paris on the 25th instant. The last accounts from St. Petersburg state that the Grand Duke Constantine, who has been represented as the soul of the Russian war party, is in perfect accord with his brother Alexander II. Count Paskiewitch is dead, in his 74th year. He commanded the Russian army which was sent to Hungary in 1849, and thus enabled Austria to display the "splendid ingratitude" which has throughout marked her conduct towards Russia in her late difficulty.

Prince Napoleon has decided that all the articles presented to him by the exhibitors in the *Palais de l'Industrie*, for the benefit of the Crimean fund, shall be disposed of by means of a lottery. The articles are to be exposed, within a few days in the east gallery of the Exhibition Palace. Count de Moony, the President of the legislative body, gave a grand ball on Friday, at which Queen Christina and the Princess Mathilde was present. This gentleman is said to be a half brother of the Emperor. Be this true or not, he is a person of extraordinary talent, and of such refined manners that the legitimist families, which disdain to enter the Tuileries, are often found among his guests. His wealth, since the *coup d'état*, is reported to be of fabulous amount; and it is rumored that all he possesses—his fame, his riches, his immense influence—only await the acceptance of a beautiful American lady—a Miss Hutton. Such, indeed, are her charms, that it is not difficult to imagine that, like the strains of Orpheus, the strongest oaks should bend before them. Indeed, one is continually reminded of the influence of American ladies in this enchanting city. They speak French with a rare facility, and in their dress are quite, perhaps more than equal to that of the French ladies. While the most cynical criticism is exercised upon English toilettes, not a word of disparagement is ever ventured on American. Alliances, too, are perpetually on the tapis between individuals of the two nations, while they become more and more rare between the French and English.

The Empress and Emperor honored with their presence on Saturday, the marriage of the Princess Augusta, daughter of Prince Charles Bonaparte, to her cousin Prince Gabrielli, which took place in the chapel of the Tuileries. The Empress is in the very best health, but during the hospitalities which will necessarily attend the Conference, it has been determined that St. Cloud shall be her residence. The accouchement, as a matter of course, is to take place at the Tuileries, where the Emperor himself was born. Every observance peculiar to such interesting occasions, in the time of France's former monarchs, is to be observed—the great dignitaries of the Emperor, Imperial cousins, &c., stationed in the adjoining room, with the door left open. Poor thing, in such an hour of woman's trial, such mockeries might well be dispensed with. For seventy years and more, no heir to the throne, born in that palace, has reigned over France. The ill fated Dauphin, son of Louis the Sixteenth, the King of Rome, son of the First Emperor, the Count de Chambord, son of the Duc de Berri; the Count de Paris, son of the poor Duke of Orleans, where are they? Echo answers where? *Absit omen.*

A report prevailed that another story was to be added to the Palace of the Tuileries; and although the project, it is said, is not to be carried into execution just at present, it is very probable that it will be so ere long. On the removal of the scaffolding in front of the new part of the Louvre, has so completely dwarfed the Palace by contrast, that it becomes quite offensive to the eye, added to which, the Tuileries, which is nothing but a long thin unsainly corridor, is signally wanting in sufficient accommodation. For the moment, the intention is simply to re-build that part of the Palace called the Pavillon de Flore. The demolition of the Annexes of the Universal Exhibition was commenced a few days ago. Placards have been stuck up by the Administration des Domaines, announcing the sale of certain portions of the long Annexe on the Quai de Billy.

The Paris butchers are becoming, I presume, better tempered, for they have undertaken to supply one thousand kilogrammes (the kilo is two pounds English), of meat, a week, for two months, to the charitable establishments called the Fourneaux de l'Imperatrice. The mention of the Empress' name reminds me that the Minister of State has ordered for the embellishment of the new avenue de l'Imperatrice, the two grand groups of M. Elias Robert, which were in front of the Industrial Palace. Indeed, it is the Emperor's intention to ornament the whole extent of that beautiful avenue with statues and groups of marble. But I must not conclude without adding a word in relation to the procession of that extraordinary spectacle, the Bœuf Gras. This year, by a happy innovation, the six ponderous animals gasping under the enormous coils of fat with which their gigantic carcases are laden, were accommodated each with a carriage, in which, with their horns gilded and surrounded with chaplets of flowers, they rode, drawn by three horses abreast. The importance attached to this sight by both old and young cannot be exaggerated. All Paris seemed yesterday on foot; and when the procession, consisting of a squadron of mounted gendarmerie with burnished helmets and drawn swords, followed by the fat victims and a triumphal car, on which sat, arrayed in pagan splendor, the goddess Ceres and her various priests and priestesses, followed by a heterogenous bevy of mountebanks in masks and another squadron of gendarmerie appeared, the rush of all ages and classes, big women and little women, gray haired old men and boyish urchins, to the immediate spot of interest was so animated, that he was a lucky man who escaped with whole garments and unbruised skins. And this is to continue a perambulating spectacle till Tuesday next. It will levy contributions on all the public offices, all the different Embassies, and last, not least, on the Imperial Palace.

BERTIE.

PARIS, Feb. 7, 1856.

Festivities of the Carnival—Pacific Revolution in the French Mind—All Paris Melting into Universal Love and Charity—The Little Cloud in the West—French Opinions on the Anglo-American Difficulty—The Allied Mode of Asserting the Independence of Turkey—The Ottoman Press—American Delegate to the Paris Conference in the Person of an Alligator from the Mississippi—Petition from the American Shipmasters at Havre to the English and French Governments—Fashionable Gossip, &c., &c.

The festivities of the Carnival have ceased. The Bœufgras has crimsoned with its life blood the marble parquet of the *abattoir.* The masked ball at the Opera has exhausted its last practical joke, and the drop curtain fallen, to remind the devotees of fun and frolic that there is a time for all things—a time for festivity, a time for reflection, a time to die. *Le Mercredi des cendres* has seen the churches full to overflowing; Protestants as well as Catholics have crowded to the altar of Jesus, to sip at the fount of truth fresh lessons of peace and good will towards men.

It would seem that they have not been thrown away for peace is on every lip, apparently in every man's heart. Every one's face seems glistening with newly awakened love. So charmed are all at the pacific aspect of affairs that the soldier—so lately the object of veneration—with his star-covered breast, looks like an excrescence; and the only wonder is that he has the courage to show his face. It is now discovered that at the Conferences last year at Vienna the Russian plenipotentiary exceeded his instructions; that his Imperial master was all the while for shaking hands with the Western alliance, only he forgot to tell his emissary the fact. The conferences being at an end, however, France—at least the Emperor Napoleon—was assured there was some mistake, and that Nesselrode quite approved of the neutralization of the Black Sea. So, accordingly, placable France, in December last, contrived that an intimation should be made at St. Petersburg that she for one had no real hostility to Russia, and that, if an honorable arrangement could any how be suggested, the Emperor Napoleon would be the first to promote it. This brought out the famous Nesselrode circular of December 22, which anticipated the Austrian ultimatum.

Yes, were it not for that little cloud in the West, as Sir Robert Peel called any uneasiness on your side of the Atlantic, a great calm would suddenly have seemed to come over the horizon everywhere; but while it is the personification of the lion and the lamb in the East, it is bull terriers in the West, on either side the Atlantic, and eyeing each other with bristling backs, teeth set on edge and growls so formidable that a furious onset, in which each is to seize the other by the nape of the neck, seems more than threatening. But, to say the truth, the French do not believe in anything of the kind. We have seen all this before, they say, and it only ended in an overflowing of ancient brotherhood, which *au fond is* always remembered by our Anglo-Saxon friends. No one speaks seriously of the difference between the two countries. The causes of quarrel all admit to be of easy arrangement and the Pierce administration will gain nothing by their motives, say the politicians; and such in fact also seems the view taken of the subject by the most enlightened Americans in Paris.

It is true that a notion appears to prevail that the Kansas question is fraught with trouble and danger to Europe, if it does not succeed in dividing America. It is thought that in time the slave States will have a majority in Congress.

When it is discovered, says the *Débats*, that the conquerors bear with them slavery and not civilization, will Europe not feel called upon to stop this current of invasion? The Cabinet of President Pierce has dared to declare that the abolishment of slavery in Cuba would be considered at Washington as a declaration of war. America for us was the land of Washington. To-day all is changed.

The funds continue their upward move, and the Turcos, which you remember were 62 and a fraction, have already touched 73. The greatest interest is attached to what the United States may think of the Russian acceptance of the Austrian ultimatum.

M. Drouyn de L'Huys is no longer a Senator, and intends offering himself as a candidate at the next elections for the legislative body. The announcement in the *Moniteur* of the names of the plenipotentiaries who are to meet on the 20th inst. to settle the peace, gave no information to the *world* which it was *not* before possessed of. Turkey is to send Ali Pacha, Grand Vizier of the Sultan, and Mehemed Djemil Bey, the Turkish Ambassador at Paris. Prussia is to send nobody at all.

Already the compulsory influence of the war on Turkey is boldly asserted by her friends, the allies. Freedom of worship is claimed for the Rayas; admission of Christians into the government schools, administration and military employments; reform of the councils, tribunals, and the admission to the Council of State of the Patriarchs or other individuals designated by religious communities. Two of the Ottoman ministers who were present the other day when these subjects were mooted, said:—"Turkey is now to become one of the members of the great European family, and she must quit the road on which she has hitherto trod. In the first place, a difference of religion must not constitute a civil or political disability; and next, in order that religious freedom may be complete, a Musselman may, if he choose, turn Christian without incurring any punishment, any more than a Christian would in Europe if he turned Musselman." The objection made by the ministers of the Porte, in fact, only bear on the possibility of the execution, and the considerable difficulties which would exist in causing such ideas to be accepted by the nation at large. M. Thouvenal, the French Ambassador, said:—"Under the serious circumstances in which the Ottoman empire is now placed, at a time when the great Christian Powers of Europe have just shed such torrents of blood to protect the independence of the Ottoman empire, the rejection of such a principle would have a very sad effect in Europe."

To which the English Ambassador, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, added, "A most disastrous effect."

The present state of the Turkish press may interest some of your readers. It is as follows:—One official journal in the Turkish language appears irregularly, and another in the same language, twice a week; two in French, on Monday and Thursday; a Greek journal, every Saturday; two Turkish, in Armenian characters, every Saturday; one Armenian every Thursday, and another every other Wednesday; a Turkish journal, printed in Greek characters, every Saturday; a Bulgarian, once a week; and a Spanish Israelite journal, in Hebrew, every Friday. Out of all these, the first named only, which is called *Taquin Vaqui*, (journal of facts,) is official. Of the reviews, two are Armenian, published every month; one Turkish, printed in the Armenian characters, every fortnight, and a Spanish illustrated review, in Hebrew, which appears monthly.

The Museum of Natural History at the Jardin des Plantes has just added to its collection of living animals an alligator from the Mississippi, which measures about six feet in length.

The captains of the American and English vessels at Havre have addressed two petitions—the former to the Emperor Napoleon, and the latter to Lord Cowley—praying that the number of shipbrokers at that port may be increased, so that the French government by a prompt measure may put an end to many existing abuses. It appears that at Havre there are only nine ship and twenty-five goods' brokers. The shipbrokers have remained at the number they were originally appointed in 1770. The shipping movement at Havre at that date was 100,000 tons, and the American flag was not then seen there; now, however, the movement has increased to one million tons, and serious delays and inconveniences are felt in consequence by the present limited number.

The last copy of the *Official Gazette* of Madrid contains the two following paragraphs, which, considering the official seal, are amusing:—

"The Countess de Montijo has given a ball in honor of the anniversary of the marriage of her august daughter with the Emperor Napoleon III., and of the birthday of her elder daughter, the Duchess de Alba. It was like a *fête* of the Arabian Nights' Entertainment, and was worthy of the proverbial grandeur of the mother of those two jewels of the Spanish aristocracy."

The second paragraph is as follows:—

"Mr. Drummond, attaché to the English embassy, gave, in his saloons, a few nights ago, a very curious *fête*, which was attended by the *élite* of the society of Madrid. M. Drummond himself danced some *boleros* with Senorita Piga, and the grace and facility with which he executed our national dances were greatly admired. His agility in particular was really remarkable for a son of cloudy Albion."

Talking of balls, however, that of Count Tascher de la Pelagerie, Chamberlain to the Emperor, in his apartments in the Tuileries, on the 4th instant, was the most unique thing of the kind I have yet had to record. The company consisted of three hundred. All were in fancy dresses. And when the band had finished a beautiful march, while the guests perambulated in pairs the spacious saloons, it suddenly struck up a minuet, then a gavotte, then a Syrian dance, all of which were danced by certain couples, evidently prepared for the occasion. The quaint dresses of every age, clime and calling, with small black masks, had the most charming effect. By and by a second group collected together in the centre of the room and danced, with admirable grace, the Tarantula and the Sicilienne. But the thing of things was the sudden apparition of eight bottles of champagne, each the size of a man, who performed a minuet and then a Styrian dance. *Tout à coup* the bottles, which was inflated silk, opened with a pop, and instead of the foaming fluid, out jumped eight sailors, in perfect nautical costume, who, with arms akimbo, heel and toe, double shuffle &c., did a sort of marine hornpipe. The company was all taken by surprise, and was in perfect ecstacies of delight. I never witnessed such exuberant fun and frolic before. The secret appeared to have been well kept, and the dancers broke upon the spectators with all the advantage of novelty. After this, general quadrilles were formed, and the guests, at parting, perfectly overwhelmed M. Tascher de la Pelagerie with compliments and congratulations. The Emperor and Empress were there, it is said, in mask. No notice was, however, taken.

BERTIE.

OUR RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND.

The Manchester and Liverpool Chambers of Commerce and the Threatened War with the United States—Speeches of Mr. Bright and Milner Gibson—The Question in Parliament—Opinion of Lord Palmerston—Opinions of the Press.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The annual meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce was held on the 4th inst., Mr. Henry Ashworth presiding.

The adoption of the report having been moved and seconded—

Mr. BRIGHT, M. P., addressed the meeting at considerable length on the subject of the threatened contest with America. The subject, in reference to which he had postponed going to London, in order that he might address a few observations to this meeting upon it, was the present state of the affairs between this country and the United States, and he was somewhat surprised to find no allusion to it in the report of the association. He recollected Mr. Cobden telling a story, which he learnt when he was in Paris not very long after the event happened, that at the time when affairs between France and England were very critical—he (Mr. Bright) believed it was with regard to the Tahiti business, or something equally absurd—a deputation came up from the Chamber of Commerce, at Bordeaux, to Louis Philippe. He was not sure they did not call the monarch out of bed, but at all events they remained with him all night, arguing the question which was thus being handled by the diplomatists of England and France, and hurrying those countries into an apparently inevitable war; and they would not leave Louis Philippe until he gave them his word as a king that there should be no war between England and France upon that question. Now, at this moment we knew just this, that we knew almost nothing. All that we knew was, that nothing could be known. Parliament had met; the correspondence between the English Foreign Office and the American government was not laid before it; everything was subterranean—everything was concealed. Our Foreign Minister was going to Paris to attend the negotiations—he trusted, and he hoped they all trusted, that he might be pre-eminently successful. (Hear, hear.) Their Foreign Office would then be left without its authorized head, and in the hands, no doubt, of the present Prime Minister. Now, Mr. Buchanan, the American Minister, had stated in a despatch to his government that if the government of Lord Aberdeen had remained two months longer in office, all the points of difference between England and the United States would certainly have been settled, and he (Mr. Bright) knew also that he had said so in conversation in this country. Unfortunately a state of things had arisen out of the smallest trifle which might bring us into difficulties as great in regard to America as those from which we hoped we were emerging with regard to Russia. The first steps which brought on a war were often so slight that a man would be laughed at if he supposed they would lead to any difficulty; but one step followed another on one side and on the other, until, by some blundering, things came to a point in which each party found his honor was concerned and could not ret