Western Powers to the abnormal and unfortunate condition of Italy. Had the war assumed a greater developement there would have been reason to hope that the programme of the Western Powers would have been extended; but, in the present situation there was no possibility of demanding or expecting territorial changes. Diplomacy is impotent to modify the condition of nations; it can only sanction accomplished facts. The present condition of Italy, however, not being conformable to the treaties in force, the principles laid down at Vienna having been violated, and the political equilibrium destroyed, the Sardinian Plenipotentiaries invited England and France to take that state of things into serious consideration. Our allies favorably received that demand, and took the deepest interest in the affairs of Italy. They admitted that the occupation of the Italian provinces by foreign troops was abnormal, and expressed a desire that it should cease. But an objection presented itself. It was asked what might be the consequences of the withdrawal of those troops. The Sardinian Plenipotentiaris did not hesitate to declare that, without the adoption of preservative measures, those consequences might be serious and perilous. But they thought that those dangers might be obviated, and drew up a memorial, which was addressed, in the form of a note, to the governments of England and France. England gave her full adhesion to it. France admitted the principle, but for particular considerations, she reserved her opinion as to its application. The Soverign Pontiff is not only the temporal chief of a State, he is also the religious chief of the Catholic world. Hence arise for the French government certain duties to fulfil, and if we consider the influence which an act accomplished at Rome may have on the interests of France, it will be concived that the French government does not deserve from us less gratitude than the English government. In the eyes of England the Roman question is merely political, and the English Plenipotentiary treated it with the liberty and talent becoming so important a question. I am delighted to have it in my power to proclaim here that that illustrious statesman, whom I am happy to call my friend, evinced so much sympathy for Italy, and so sanguine a desire for the improvement of her condition, that he is entitled to the gratitude not only of the Piedmontese, but also of all the Italians. The Austrian Plenipotentiary opposed a plea in bar; that is, he observed, with reason, that his government, having received no intimation on the subject, he had neither powers nor instructions to enter on the merits of the question. But he maintained the right of intervention when applied for by another government. That doctrine, admitted by France, was opposed by England, and it was not possible to arrive at a precise solution, but we have gained a great point by inducing England and France to proclaim the expediency of putting an end to the occupation of Central Italy. The Sardinian Plenipotentiaries suggested that some of the Italian governments might be advised to adopt a system of moderation. I will not here attempt to describe the warm manner in which the representatives of England and France supported that motion. If the diplomatists of the other nations did not concur in it, from motives of propriety, I must say that not one of them, either officially or officiously, impugned the validity of the arguments adduced by England and France, and I am of opinion that the advice, given only by those two nations, will not be the less efficacious. The Sardinian Plenipotentiaries called the attention of the Assembly to the erection of fortifications at Piacenza, and denounced that fact as part of a system against which they considered it their duty to protest. Thus, the abnormal and unhappy condition of Italy has been exposed to Europe, not by furious and revolutionary demagogues, not by passionate journals, not by party men, but by the representatives of the first nations of Europe. The second advantage obtained consists in those Powers having declared that it was the interest of Europe that the evils of Italy should be remedied. A verdict given by England and France cannot long remain sterile. On the other hand, it is certain that the Paris negotiations did not improve our relations with Austria. I must say that the Sardinian and Austrian Plenipotentiaries, after sitting side by side for two months, and co-operating in one of the greatest political works accomplished during the last forty years, separated—without any personal anger, it is true, for I must do justice to the perfectly courteous demeanor of the Austrian representatives—but with the intimate conviction that the political systems of the two countries are more opposed than ever. Those differences may give rise to difficulties, and create dangers, but that is the inevitable and fatal consequence of the system of liberty which Victor Emmanuel inaugurated on ascending the throne, and which you have ever since upheld. I do not think that the foreseeing those perils ought to induce the King to alter his policy. To-day, the cause of Italy has been brought before the tribunal of public opinion, whose decision, to use the noble expression of the Emperor of the French, is without appeal. The trial may be long, but I am confident that its definitive issue will be conformable to the justice of the cause.

M. MAMIANI spoke as follows:—The Paris Conferences have demonstrated a certain and uncontrovertible fact—namely, that Russia, on account of her losses, was compelled to accept the conditions of peace offered to her. Russia showed that she was weak and unable to continue the struggle, and that a semi-civilization is worse than complete barbarism. The humiliation of Russia has broken the Northern league, and the compact of the Holy Alliance is now at an end. Russia has lost the supreme patronage she exercised over Germany. The last war has proved to Great Britain that a nation entirely given to trade and industry often runs the risk of losing its vigor and original magnanimity, and that no nation should remain isolated in the world, without powerful and tried friends. The two greatest nations in the world have concluded a fruitful and durable alliance. Without renouncing her alliance with France, England must seek hereafter new friends among nations ripe for civil liberty, and ready to assert their legitimate and natural rights in Italy and Germany. The latter does not want for independence, but for life and a national representation. In order to be fruitful, the policy of England must tend to assist other nations to conquer their liberty. I am inclined to believe that ere long in civilized Europe—not even excepting Russia—there will be no other absolute Power but Austria. That Power, owing to the hetorogeneous elements which compose it, can never adopt another form of government. As for the pale satellites of Austria—such as Naples, Florence, Parma Modena, and Rome—it will soon be seen whether they can long continue to govern in an arbitrary and illiberal manner. As respects Sardinia, the glorious presence of her tri-colored banner next to those of England and France has fixed the attention of Europe upon us, and the honest press of every country is now pre-occupied with our affairs. In the British Parliament the ministers of the Queen pleaded the cause of Italy. Such are the fruits of the noble, becoming, and straightforward conduct of Count de Cavour, constituting himself in the Paris Congress the defender of oppressed Italian nations. The voice of Piedmont has been heard, and if ever the ministers of King Victor Emmanuel were called upon to justify their mandate they might reply that it was written with the blood of the Piedmontese who fell in the plains of Lombardy and under the walls of Sebastopol. Ministers of the King, I entreat you to preserve entire that precious and noble mandate. To-day you have no other alternative left but to recede or move forward and energetically and loyally execute the honorable and legitimate mission confided to you by Italy and the hand of God.

In the morning sitting, the debate was opened by Count MAMIANI, formerly a minister of Pope Pius IX., who has lately been naturalized in Sardinia, and almost immediately afterwards was elected a deputy for Genoa. This was the first occasion of his addressing the Chamber, and he spoke in favor of the government policy (Vide Sardinian Parliament.)

M. CADORNA asked Count Cavour if he had any objection to read the "Note" communicated by him to the governments of France and England, dated April 16, 1856; and also questioned him as to the truth of the reports in circulation as to a concordat being negotiated with the Court of Rome by the Sardinian government.

Count CAVOUR answered the first question by reading the Note. As to the second, he declared that under present circumstances it would be impossible to enter into fresh negotiations. Some years back, he said, the government had been recommended by exalted personages to endeavor to reconcile its differences with the Court of Rome; but now those same personages, seeing the tendency of the Austrian Concordat to revive mediæval institutions, had altered their opinion, and encouraged the Sardinian government in preserving the rights of the civil power. (It is almost unnecessary to explain that Count Cavour was understood to allude to the Emperor of the French.)

M. CADORNA then proposed to the Chamber to declare its approval of the Ministerial foreign policy, and express a wish that it should persevere in the same track. This motion was supported by Count de Revel and M. Moia (the former the leader of the right, and the latter a member of the left,) and on the motion being put to the vote by those in favor standing up, the whole House rose *en masse*, with the exception of Count Della Margherita and some half-dozen members of the extreme right, whose peculiar position served the better to mark the general approbation. The result was received with loud and repeated cheers from both the galleries and the body of the house. This debate, therefore, has not only been highly gratifying for the government, for no part of Count Cavour's speech was more applauded than when he declared that the policy of the King and of his Majesty's present Ministers would not be affected by any means from without, but it was most satisfactory for the country to see how on the faintest alarm of foreign aggression all parties, with the exception of those above indicated, hastened to support the throne and the King's responsible advisers.

[From the London Times, May 14.]

We announced some time since the fact that the Sardinian Plenipotentiaries at Paris had invited the attention of the allies to the state of Italy, and that, not content with general expressions in favor of a better government, they had proposed a definite course of action, which was said to be viewed with no disfavor by the Western Powers. The first step to any improvement of Italy must be, according to the Sardinians, an interference to check the misgovernment of the Papal States, and as alternately the effect and cause of such misgovernment has been the occupation of Italian territory by foreign troops, it was the duty of the Conference to devise means for bringing to a close the military rule which has now for so many years taken the place of municipal law throughout a large portion of the Italian Peninsula. The note presented by the Sardinian Plenipotentiaries to the Ministers of France and England on the 27th March is now made public, and the world may judge in detail the plan for the secularization of the Papal Legations, which is the first article in the Sardinian programme. The history of these provinces during the last sixty years is well known, and is the natural result of their geographical position. Before the French Revolution their people, amid the decline of Italy and the general want of vitality in Europe, preserved something of the spirit which a better age had nourished. In no part of Italy was there more independence of clerical control, or a greater appreciation of the liberty of action and conscience, which then began to be discussed in Europe. Although part of the patrimony of the church, they enjoyed their own privilege of internal administration, their own franchises as a legitimately governed province, and looked down with something like contempt on the populace of Rome or Naples, who were at the mercy of priests or women. The Sardinian Note reminds the allies how, even at that time, the army of Bonaparte was received with enthusiasm, and that the Legations, as part of the Republic and Kingdom of Italy, were faithful to French rule for a period of more than 20 years. The new French code, the dissolution of numerous monasteries, the construction of roads, and the encouragement of commerce, science, and art, developed the resources of the country, in spite of great and unceasing wars. But Napoleon fell, and the Legations were once more without a master. Such a prize was naturally coveted by the empire which had with such obstinacy, through 20 years of defeat, contended against the power of the French ruler. The other Cabinets were unwilling to grant to Austria such an extension of territory. The Court of Rome, with characteristic skill, took advantage of the mutual jealousy. After the battle of Waterloo the Legations were formally re-annexed to the Papal State.

But the politicians of Vienna were not men to respect the rights of a weak province. In old Europe there was a number of small communities preserving from earlier times a free government, under the sanction of public law and treaties, which even the greatest sovereigns were forced to respect. All these had been swept away, and the Congress were determined never to restore them. The republics of the Netherlands, of Venice, of Genoa, were given up to the purest and most unlimited monarchical rule, many a free city in Germany was incorporated with the dominions of the repossessed kings, and the Legations were now made Papal as Rome itself. In some parts of Europe, as the Rhenish and Belgian provinces, the code Napoleon was permitted to retain its place; but no such weakness was to be expected of Roman priests, supported, as they soon became conscious, by Austrian bayonets. Law, commerce, even domestic freedom, soon vanished, and were succeeded by priestly rule, spiritual rescripts, spies, arrests, tumults, and finally by an Austrian occupation. Since the restitution of these provinces to Rome 40 years have elapsed. In this period the Austrians have held military possession of the country no less than twenty-four years. Three times the sovereignty of the Pope has been repudiated by his subjects. Three times the insurrection has been put down amid a deluge of blood, and for years after the country has borne all the ills that a foreign invasion brings with it. The last occupation began in 1849, and still continues. So deplorable was the condition of the legations ten years since, that Pius IX., who had been Bishop of Imola, found it necessary at his accession to attempt some reforms. But the revolutions of 1848 dispersed forever any liberal ideas which the weak prelate had ever conceived. The successes of Radetzky and the general ebb of the revolutionary tide brought the Austrians across the Po, and for seven years they have lived at free quarters in the unhappy province. Much is said about the progress of humanity, but there still seem parts of Europe where there is not only a relative but an absolute retrogression. The condition of the Legations causes their inhabitants to look with envy on ages which are past and gone. No excess of insolence towards Italians will call down any punishment on an Austrian officer from his superiors. No claim of justice insures the redress of an Italian's wrongs when his opponent is an Austrian who has influence with the commandant of the district. The regular functionaries—generally priests or their nominees—are bad enough, but even their slow and inefficient administration is further hindred by the fear of offending the imperious foreigner, who can put down and set up officials at his pleasure. But from the wrongs of a race we may pass to the general interests of Europe. The Papal States are occupied by the armies of two great Powers. As the Sardinian Plenipotentiaries observe, France replied to the second Austrian intervention by the occupation of Ancona—to the third by the taking of Rome. Foreign interference by force of arms tends to become the habitual state of things. A peninsula the neutrality and independence of which has been thought necessary to the safety of Europe is the field on which two empires which have been enemies and must always be rivals, display their mutual distrust. It is for the interest of all that this unhappy complication should end, and, to do the French government justice, there seems to be no objection on its part to the change.

Sardinia, therefore, adopts as its text an expression of the French Emperor, who, in writing of the Papal States, proposed as the solution of the problem, secularization and the Code Napoleon. But, say the Plenipotentiaries, it is evident that the Court of Rome will oppose to the last extremity, and with all the means in its power, the execution of these two designs. The Sardinians speak of the head of their church pretty much in the terms which English writers apply to Turkey and its effete government. Rome, they say, well knows how to accommodate itself by accepting civil and even political reforms, sure of rendering them illusory in practice. So convinced is Sardinia of Papal obstinacy and cunning that it does not even suggest the secularization of Rome and the surrounding country. The Code Napoleon introduced into Rome itself, where the edifice of the Pope's temporal government has its foundations, would cause it to fall, by cutting away its principal support—clerical privileges and canonical law. For the present, then, Europe must be content to see reforms introduced into those parts that show themselves less resigned to the clerical yoke, which is a burning torch of insolence and corruption, which is a pretext for the permanent occupation of the Austrians, excites diplomatic complications, and disturbs the peace of Europe. If Rome is to remain as she is, at least her outlying provinces are fit for, and would welcome, achange.

It only remains to mention the details of the Sardinian scheme, which seems likely to give satisfaction to the inhabitants of the Legations, without running the risk of any disturbance to Europe. The advocates of the past may be glad to find that the new plan proposes a return, with some modifications, to the system which was in force before the great revolution of 1789. It is proposed that the provinces of the Roman States situated between the Po, the Adriatic, and the Apennines (from the province of Ancona to that of Ferrara), shall be completely secularized for all purposes of internal government, though remaining subject to the high dominion of the Papal See; the administrative organization to be established as it was in the reign of Napoleon I., before 1814; the Code Napoleon to be promulgated, with the requisite modifications. A lay pontificial vicar is to govern the province, with ministers and a Council of State; the provinces will contribute their fair propertion to the maintenance of the Court of Rome and the service of the public debt; a native army will be raised by conscription; and, besides the communal and provincial councils, a general council will be formed for the examination and regulation of accounts. Finally, all Austrian soldiers will leave the country, and be succeeded by the French troops now in Rome, but only until such time as the native army shall have been fully formed. Such is the plan which, after mature consideration and much experience of similar evils, the government of Sardinia has recommended to the allies, whom it has served faithfully in a great war. We feel that few words are necessary to recommend it to the great body of our countrymen, who have watched for so many years the calamities of a beautiful land and a highly gifted people. The governments of the two countries will, we are sure, not fail to give their earnest attention to all that the Sardinian document urges, and thus they will merit and receive the approbation of their own people, and of the world at large.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

The British Enlistment Difficulty—First Understanding Between Marcy and Clarendon.

[From the London Times, May 14.]

The proclamation of an European peace—the discussions of its conditions—the gallantry of General Williams—the thanks of Parliament to the army and navy—have distracted public attention from a subject to which it will now have leisure to recur. The American blue book upon our enlistment of recruits in the United States, from which we have already made extracts, gives the full history of a dispute which we hope will turn out rather curious than serious; and its perusal, we think, will leave but one impression on all candid readers, both in this country and the United States. We now wish to direct the attention of our readers to one or two salient points in the correspondence, which it will be necessary to bear in mind.

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Throughout all these transactions there has been the most precise scrupulosity on the part of Mr. Crampton and the Consuls, Lord Clarendon and the home government, in discouraging and disclaiming any attempt to recruit soldiers on the soil of the United States, and this final concession of Lord Clarendon, by which the Queen's government consents, out of deference to that of the United States, to yield the obvious and incontestable right of making known on any part of the American continent the terms of enlistment in the British army, and the mode of carrying them out in a British province, pushes the principle of comity to a degree which we believe no one nation ever yet showed to or expected from any other, except where the one pretended to be a paramount and the other confessed to being a subject nation.

Now we come to the most extraordinary part of these proceedings.

In the month of September—two months after the transmission of Lord Clarendon's most conciliatory despatch—Mr. Marcy addresses to Mr. Crampton a despatch, charging him and other British officers, both in the republic and British colonies, not only with a breach of the municipal law, but with a violation of the sovereign rights of the States, by countenancing the enlistment of subjects and sojourners in the States. As Mr. Marcy harps upon this distinction, it is worth while to ask what it means. To us it appears rather like nonsense. Where an offence is defined by the written law, it is needless to recur to the unwritten for illustration or for culmination. No one doubts that every independent State has the right to prevent that which compromises its neutrality—vizr, the enlistment of its citizens or its residents in a foreign army. It may insist upon this by specific treaty with other nations. It may may make it the subject of a municipal law. But, when it has once done either of these. we do not see how it can also fall back upon the abstractions of an unwritten code. It has already made its municipal law the exponent of its national rights, and the standard of the penalty to be pronounced against the infringement of those rights, and it is to the municipal law that every sensible man will look for a definition of the offence and an exposition of the penalty. and it was the municipal law which Lord Clarendon had been so anxious to respect. But, not content with this view of the case, Mr. Marcy extends, by false translations, the purport of the dicta which he quotes on the subject under discussion, attributing the same degree of criminality to the "raising" of soldiers, or to "inducements to go and enlist," which the great writers on national law attach to the abduction or enlistment of soldiers from or in a neutral State; this, too, be it observed, at a time when the vast majority of offers made to the British Minister were entirely voluntary, and when no small number of American citizens were actually engaged in the Russian service! The only interpretation which Mr. Marcy's dictum will bear is, that her Majesty's servants had no right to announce on any part of the American continent, even in her Majesty's colonies, any proposal for raising soldiers for her army. Imagine any European State imposing similar conditions or exacting similar concessions from its neighbors.

Of the prosecutions to which Mr. Marcy refers, and on which he grounds his complaints, directed ostensibly against collusive defendants, but in reality against the British Minister and Consuls, of the character of the defendants and the witnesses, of their shameful mendacity and perjury, of the violence of the State prosecutos, his pœans over our presumed ill success in the Crimea, and his denunciations against the decaying aristocracy and tottering governments of the Old World, we will not say much at present. Those who like may read them, but we warn them they will do it at the risk of losing that respect and that esteem which it is desirable that educated and intelligent Englishmen should cherish towards the American branch of our great family. We will remind our readers that throughout the whole of tais dispute the amplest concessions have been made—concessions almost trenching on the sovereign rights of England—and the most courteous and conciliatory language held, the handsomest apologies tendered, by Lord Clarendon; and yet that, after all, the American Minister persists in demanding the recall of Mr. Crampton, and representing his country as insulted by us, for no other reason which we can see than that the English Minister at Washington and the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia venture to think that they might, within the limits of the British provinces of North America, enlist in the Queen's army men who had freely volunteered thither from the United States. Englishmen who read this correspondence will at least have the satisfaction of knowiag that arrogance and querulousness have not been exhibited on their side.

The Reported Secret Treaty Against Russia and the United States

[Correspondence of the London Times.]

PARIS, May 11, 1856.

It is reported very currently in Paris that serious explanations have been or will be demanded of the British government by Russia as to the treaty of the 15th, signed between Austria, England and France only fifteen days after the signature of the Treaty of Peace by all the members of the Congress. The conversation that has taken place between the Russian Envoy and the French government was probably of a less official character, inasmuch as the *Moniteur* has not published that treaty, while it was presented to the English Parliament by Lord Clarendon with that of the 30th and the protocols. Perhaps excessive importance is given to the former document, but there are persons who hold that it to some extent annuls the latter, instead of being its complement or corollary.

It was at first supposed that there was a secret article; now it is suspected that instead of an additional clause there is a secret treaty, of which no hint whatever has been as yet given. I cannot say how far this suspicion is well founded.

It appears that the governments have resolved not to communicate the declaration annexed to the protocols respecting maritime law, particularly the abolition of privateering, to any other governments *except the parties signing, aware that the government of the United States would not accept it.*

It was rumored, but I believe without any good foundation, that the treaty of the 15th would have the effect of retarding, if not stopping, M. de Morny's mission to Moscow. It is certain, however, that the Russians are still greatly irritated at it, and I doubt whether Count Orloff would so soon have signed the act of the 30th had he known that of the 15th.

The Sound Dues Question.

[Correspondence of the London Times]

COPENHAGEN, May 4, 1856.

In my last letter I gave you a short *résumé* of the Sound dues question. Since then this negotiation has made no progress, but the fault rests not with the Danish government. Before making any proposal, the Danish government endeavored to find a way of solution which at the same time was acceptable to foreign powers and consistent with Denmark's interests. This double end the Danish government has only been able to attain by proposing the abolition of the Sound dues for a capital of 35,000,000 rixdollars Danish money—a sum which scarcely exceeds one half of the capital which, at 4 per cent interest, represents the yearly income of the Sound dues. Although this arrangement imposes considerable pecuniary sacrifices upon several States, it is the only practicable one, and it must be kept in mind that the powers to whose lot the heaviest share would fall are those most interested in the abolition of the Sound dues, as well as in every important European question. In fact, no voice has been raised against the equity of Denmark's proposal and against the moderate views the Danish government has taken in this question. Several Powers—as Sweden, Norway and Russia—whose share in the capitalization would exceed 7,000,000 silver roubles (28,000,000f.), have not hesitated to accept it. Others have not yet answered to the call, and England, whose interest it seems to be to watch over the independence of Denmark, has declined to enter into the proposed arrangement. It is easily understood that the payment of more than £1,000,000—the proportional share of Great Britain—may awaken apprehensions in a constitutional government; and no government can be expected to be very inclined to call upon the nation whose interests are committed to their care to pay a similar sum

But the English nation has interests of a higher order than pecuniary ones—interests calculated for future times—interests of European influence and hegemony. From this point of view I think England might try to identify its own advantage with that of other nations, and I am scarcely wrong when I affirm that the British sympathies of this country, which in later years have greatly increased, would be considerably impaired if Denmark's moderate and reasonable proposals should meet with opposition from the very country which has the solution of the question in its hands, and which of all States is the one best qualified to prepare a transition from the existing state of things to another state, more consistent with the exigencies of the time, without violently making away with old traditions.

It is a well known political maxim that great powers ought to seek their alliances with weaker countries, and it certainly would not tell against British interest to promote and strengthen the sympathies of a people so attached to and such great admirers of British institutions as the Danish nation.

[From the Liverpool Times, May 14.]

The latest intelligence received from Denmark, represents the Sound dues question as being in a state of abeyance. Russia has agreed to the capitalization scheme. Great Britain, the public will be rejoiced to hear, has declined to pay £1,000,000 as her quota towards the abolition of a piratical tax, levied on the ships and merchandise of her subjects. Whether this refusal was based on the financial difficulties of the day, or on a simple principle of equity, remains to be seen. The Czar's ready acceptance of the terms proposed by the Danish government, looks as if he fully approved of them, and would have no objection to demand of other States, the fulfilment of the conditions lo which Russia has been the first to subscribe. We will not, however, speculate at this moment, on the eventualities which these circumstances may lead to, at some future date. The Sound dues come under the denomination of passing tolls on shipping, a species of taxation, against which the Palmerston Cabinet have taken an oath of abjuration before the House of Commons. They would fain abolish all such taxes in this Borough, and, therefore, could not sanction them at Copenhagen with any show of consistency. That some determined stand has been made against the scheme for capitalising the Danish dues, is quite evident from the tone of the Press of Denmark on the subject.

Having failed to work successively on British sympathy, the cry is, what shall we poor Danes do if we are deprived of the rich spoil we have made of the ships and cargoes of all nations? England's commiseration for the afflicted has been carried to great lengths before now, but then her supplicants have always had some show of eqity and reason on their side. They have not, after taxing our trade and industry for centuries, borrowed our money, and when a day of reckoning has arrived, said, "capitalize the taxes we demand without consideration, or any show of justice, and pay yourselve the money due to you." All that Russia would have to the Sound dues abolition fund would be a mere bagatelle, as compared to England's portion more particularly, as she not unfrequently pays her debts to inferior powers in kicks instead of coppers. Still, as it would be a great matter for the Czar to divert the friendship of Denmark from the Western powers, it is just possible that Alexander may pay Russia's share of the exaction project. But England must be no party to the purchase of a right of way for her ships and commerce on the seas. Once countenance such a precedent, and where will the like demands end? There is no calculating the danger to be apprehended from the admission of such a principle.

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The great influence we want is freedom for our commerce from all unjust and arbitrary taxation. What can Denmark add or take away from our influence as a mercantile power? She has mulcted us to the extent of millions in the payment of dues, and will continue to do so if the people will let her; but she was not so ready to side with England against Russia in the late war. We owe her no homage, and we are not bound by any rule of international law or public equity to continue paying he several hundred thousands a year, for which we receive no consideration beyond a right to navigate ar open seaway. And since the British Cabinet have been prudent enough to decline entering into the capitulation scheme, it is to be hoped that they will not, at the eleventh hour, lack the moral courage to say, "these Sound dues are a public nuisance—let there be no more Sound dues!"

The Wreck of the Ship Racer for New York—Passengers Safe in Dublin.

[From the London Chronicle, May 14.]

Six hundred of the passengers of the ill-fated Racer, Captain Ainsworth, which was wrecked at Arklow Bank on the night of the 6th, arrived in Dublin on Saturday evening, by the Dublin and wicklow line of railway. The passengers—a large portion of whom are Irish—immediately proceeded to the office of Mr. Kenny, the agent of the owners, who exerted himself to the utmost, and succeeded, after a delay of about two hours, in finding lodgings for the entire number; and he has, of course, made himself responsible for their expenses. Many of them have lost everything they possessed; and although, happily, life to any large extent was not sacrificed, from all we can learn we believe that a close inquiry is necessary in reference to every circumstance connected with the vessel from the moment of her departure from Liverpool. The Racer was clipper-rigged, 1,700 tons burden, and built, we believe, in an American port. She was chartered by Messrs. Brown, Grinnel & Co., to take passengers to New York, and had, when she weighed anchor on Tuesday last, 700 souls on board. At Holyhead the pilot left the ship, and shortly afterwards the mate and captain, it is stated, went below, after giving the wheelman his point to steer by. The weather was somewhat heavy, with a fresh wind, and the passengers, of whom the greater number were little accustomed to the sea, turned into their berths at an early hour, expecting and hoping a prosperous voyage, and fearing nothing of greater consequence thon sea sickness. The full complement of hands for a vessel of the Racer's build and tonnage would be about twenty-eight able-bodied men. In fact, she was manned by twenty-seuen men, of whom the large majority—we have heard twenty-four—were men of color, and three Chinese. The passengers had not been long at rest, when they were rudely disturbed by the running of the ship right on shore. The crew turned out, the passengers ran to and fro in wild confusion, and the belief on every mind was, that inevitable destruction awaited them. An effort was made to bring off the ship, but without success, and the circumstances in which all on board were placed were of the most alarming character. It is stated by one of the parties, now in Dublin, that the captain, on being appealed to as to the chance of safety, in his hasty reply, profanely expressed his belief that they would all be involved in a common and terrific fate. Such opinions, at least, got abroad among the passengers, and the scene on board from that moment grew in its circumstances of horror, until the arrival of the Arklow fishing boats, caused every hope to revive, and, let us presume, awakened a feeling of humble thankfulness to God in many a mind relieved of its late anxieties. The fishermen of Arklow were prompt in their arrival when the news of the disaster reached them, and active in their exertions to land the numerous persons who called upon them for assistance; and when they had been landed the passengers received every attention on shore; and as soon as possible a committee of gentlemen in the neighborhood was formed, subscriptions raised, and all that could be done to relieve and make comfortable parties who had just lost their all was effected by the kind exertions of those who undertook the duty. Shortly after the striking of the vessel one of the black seamen fell overboard and was lost, and a female passenger was also carried into the sea, but she was happily recovered. Numbers of the passengers state, and their assertion is borne out by a report from the constabulary at Arklow, that immediately on the coming of the fishing smacks alongside, and whilst the passengers were swarming together in their anxiety to be brought again to terra firma, numbers of the seamen commenced and carried out without a check a system of wholesale plunder from the boxes and trunks of the emigrants. Here they had placed their little hoards of money, which were rifled without mercy, if the statements be reliable, and in one case as much as £200 was lost by a poor woman, and others lost various sums of from £10 to £50 in this way. When news of the disaster reached town two tug-boats were despatched by Mr. Kenny, with directions to bring off all that could be saved; and they also arrived on Saturday, laden with remnants of the wreck. As amongst these the boxes of many of the passengers have been brought up, the truth of the statement as to pillage can, at least to some extent, be easily tested. Several of the crew were brought up by the tug-boat, and are now in town. It is said by some of the passengers that certain requisites, with which the government emigrant agents very properly demand that each vessel shall be provided, and which are essential for the preservation of decency and health amongst the passengers, although they were prepared for the inspection when the officer came on board at Liverpool, were immediately knocked away when the ship put to sea.

Mr. Kenny has chartered two steam vessels to bring the passengers to Liverpool, preparatory, we presume, to shipping them on board a second vessel, to have, let us hope, a more prosperous though a longer voyage.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

Approaching Coronation of the Czar of Russia—Official Changes at Court.

The Emperor has issued the following manifesto on the subject of his approaching coronation:—

We, Alexander II., Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, King of Poland, &c., make known by these presents:

When we ascended our ancestral throne of Russia, and grand duchy of Finland, and the throne of Poland, which is inseparable from it, in the midst of severe trials, both for us and our country, we resolved in our heart to defer our coronation so long as the thunder of arms was not silenced within the limits of our realm, and the blood of our glorious Christian warriors, who had signalised themselves both by deeds of rare courage and by self-sacrifices, had not ceased to flow. Now that benificent peace is restoring to Russia her former tranquility, we intend, in conformity with the example of the former pious Emperors, our predecessors, to be crowned, and to receive the prescribed anointment, and at the same time to have our dearly beloved consort, the Empress Maria Alexandrowna, participate in the same. While we thus make known to our faithful subjects this our intention, which, with God's help, shall be carried into execution in the month of August of this year, we invite them at the same time to join their prayers to ours, that God's blessing may descend on us and on our government; that God may help us, while placing on our head the imperial crown, to take upon us the oath and vow to live solely and alone for the good of the nations that are put under our rule; and may Almighty God enlighten all our thoughts, and inspire all our acts by the bestowal on us of His holy spirit. ALEXANDER.

St. Petersburg, April 28, 1856.

From St. Petersburg we learn that the son of Count de Nesselrode has been appointed Chamberlain to the Emperor. The official announcement has been published of Count Chreptowitach's appointment as Russian Minister to the Court of St. James's.

Of all the official changes which have recently taken place, that of the removal of the Senator Puschkin from his post in the Educational administration of St. Petersburg seems to have created the greatest sensation in that capital. He stood at the head of the Upper Committee of Censorship, and it is believed that the intended innovations in the Ministry of Public Enlightenment, as it is called in Russia, were thought incompatible with his principles, as a member of the strictest Old Russian party, and the forms in which those principles exhibited themselves. He is represented as a man of high honor, and one of the most intelligent and enlightened among the superior officers of the State service, but at the same time as one who opposed fanatically what he thought the irruption of foreign ideas of civilization, and was most successful in keeping them at bay. Without going to the full extent in which some persons sanguinely hope, that the whole repressive system of censorship is now to be dropped in Russia, it may be safe to conclude that this removal of Puschkin by the Emperor is the evidence of a change for the better, as regards the application of liberal principles in the field of literature and the press.

The following is the Emperor's rescript addressed to Prince Dolgorouky on the occasion of he retirement:—

PRINCE WASSILI ANDREJEWITSCH—In relieving you, at your own request, from the office of Minister of War, I look upon it as my most agreeable duty to express to you my hearty gratitude for the exemplary and faithful services that you have done my never-to-be-forgotten father and myself. The extensive duties of Minister of War have been considerably increased in the course of the war, and, as I have been daily a witness of your labors, I cannot do otherwise than render full justice to your indefatigable activity and incessant care to bring everything into the desired state of order. In the firm conviction that I shall find in you a zealous executor of my views and wishes, I have in the recent general orders nominated you to be General of Cavalry, as a mark of my special favor. ALEXANDER

A letter from St. Petersburg, in the *Bœrsenhalle* of Hamburg, says:—Accounts of the scientific expedition to Eastern Siberia, dated from Irkutsch, have been received here. A considerable collection of plants, minerals, and animals had arrived in that town. A map of the Amoor river had been made, and the chief points determined by astronomical observation. Accounts from Kiachtai mention a great lack of copper and lead currency in China, the insurgents having cut off all communication with the lead and copper mines of Annan; and it was in contemplation to establish Russian copper works on the frontier, which, under the circumstances, would be highly profitable. There was great activity in Siberia, numbers of emigrants, gold finders, merchants, officers, and government officials having flocked in of late. This is attributable to the establishment of a line of troops beyond the Baikal, and the discovery of gold in the bed of the Lena.

AFFAIRS IN SPAIN.

Napoleon's Idea of Intervention—French Newspaper in Madrid.

[Correspondence of the London Times.]

PARIS, May, 11, 1856.

A French paper some time since established in Madrid, under the title of *Journal de Madrid*, has lately published an article which has excited surprise and no small amount of irritation. The article appeared, by a strange coincidence, on the 2d of May, the day that the army, the population, and the government were celebrating the anniversary of the rising of the Spanish people against their invaders and oppressors. The dictatorial tone of that effusion was still more irritating, and the sensations produced by it were painful from the fact of the writer selecting such a day, whilst thousands were gathered round the monument of Daoiz and Vilarde, who gave the signal of that glorious insurrection, to declare that French intervention in Spain was even a contingency. It appears that the editor of the paper is a M. Hugdmann, who took refuge in Spain after the *coup d'etat* of the 2d of December. When he arrived at Madrid he set up the journal first in a democratic sense. A few months ago he was amnestied, and came to Paris. It is rumored in Madrid that during his stay here he had interviews with certain influential persons, after which he returned to Madrid, furnished with sufficient funds to put his journal on a large scale, with correspondents, &c., and, as a letter from that city expresses it, "as an Imperial organ." The leading article I now refer to, and which, if published in the Spanish language, would have produced a still more serious impression, is, it appears, the first fruit of this new arrangement; and certainly M. Hugdmann does not appear to mince matters. The letter which mentions these facts contains the following observations:—

At Paris the French government do all they can to repudiate the idea of intervention. At Madrid their organs and the French Ambassador among the number, speak of it as a possibility in certain specified cases; and they use the idea as a thumbscrew, which is tightened or loosened according to the exigencies of the moment. England ought not to neglect this question. The policy of France towards Spain is stereotyped in the French Foreign office, and it never has and never will or can vary from the time of Louis XI. down to the present day. It was frankly (though perhaps imprudently) declared by M de Chateaubriand when he said, in 1823, *L'Espagne est un satellite qui doit toujours rester dans la sphere de la France pour la regularité de ses mouvements et des nôtres.*

I give a few of the more objectionable extracts from the article in question; they are intended as a comment on some of the papers that endeavored to excite popular indignation by the rumors of an armed intervention.

The Emperor Napoleon has no intention of carrying the arms of France where the legions of his uncle have left their spirit. He knows that in Spain all men of sense love the imperial institutions; he knows that they are all disposed to place the institutions of the Peninsula in relation with those of France, and to facilitate this harmony he spares no efforts.

The Emperor Napoleon, by establishing with the Spanish government the most friendly relations, by protecting the provinces of the north of the Peninsula against the partisans of absolutism, by seeking to facilitate the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Madrid and St. Petersburg, by allowing the riches of the West to flow in on Spanish markets—*the Emperor Napoleon, we repeat, is responsible before Europe for the future conduct of the Spaniards, whom he protects by his influence without demanding the slightest sacrifice of the liberties they enjoy at this moment*, even that of overwhelming him with ridiculous threats and gross insults, provided that those liberties do not degenerate into licentious extravagance, and that the Peninsula, adroitly led on by the spirit which seeks at this moment to again disturb the repose of the universe, be not a cause of disquiet for the world, and a danger to governments.

Unfortunately for the Peninsula, the few extravagant politicians to whom we have just alluded are not the only persons who, while appearing to attribute the intention to others, prepare a fatal struggle, which can only put in peril the interests of Spain. We thought we could recognize another hand than theirs in the events of Valencia. We are justly astonished at the presence of M. Barbès at Barcelona, and of that of an envoy from London on the eastern coast of the Peninsula. All this coinciding with certain articles of the English press, tending to excite dangerous hopes in the minds of the enemies of European order, and with the conduct of the personal enemies of the Emperor, whose duties give way to passion, must awaken not only our attention but that of all those who, like us, are interested in seeing Spain regenerated under the constitutional and prudently liberal government of Queen Isabella II. As affairs stand at present, nothing alarming is probable. Reason triumphs over folly, generous passions over bad passions, general interest over private interest. But if by any chance things turned out otherwise, (which God forbid!) if the Spanish monarchy were again menaced; if madness triumphed over reason, selfishness over patriotism, and evil over generosity, there is no doubt that the West and the majority of Spaniards themselves would oppose such a state of things; and, as one of our contemporaries has justly said, *nothing could arrest the march of 100,000 men sent to give battle to the revolution, for they would certainly be truer Spaniards than those whom they would encounter in their path.*

What may be the standing of the editor of the *Journal de Madrid* among those who know him I am unaware. To have been so lately an ultra-democrat, and now to figure as an ultra-imperialist, is no great recommendation. There are two factions in particular who remain the implacable enemies of the Spanish government—the revolutionists and the reactionists. The former, with all their madness, I hardly think would deliberately call in the aid of foreign bayonets to establish their system; the latter would be too proud to don the livery of any one who gave them a chance of recovering their lost position. Both are aware that nothing makes the blood of a true Spaniard so boil in his veins as the idea of foreign intervention, or of an attempt to subject him to French rule in any shape or form, whether by means of violence under a Bonaparte, or by hypocrisy under an Orleans. Whether the *Journal de Madrid* be the instrument of the reactionary party or not, they must know that if the Emperor Napoleon sent an army into Spain it would not be with the mission to support a Bourbon on its throne. It is curious that while the French government complains of the hostility of a portion of the Belgian press, it should not disavow any connexion with a paper published in their language in Madrid, containing articles offensive to the independence of the Spanish people, and contemplating in the capital which witnessed the struggle of the 2d May, the contingency of a French invasion. I am assured that the Spanish government continue to express themselves perfectly satisfied with that of France, and particularly with the Emperor.

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA.

Land Sales and Gold Statistics—Lola Montez—Markets, etc.

By way of England we have news from Australia dated at Adelaide, February 19; Sydney, February 20; and Melbourne, February 25.

In Sydney the banks had adapted uniform rates of exchange, the quotations being 2 per cent. premium for selling, and par for purchasing. Some fresh discoveries of gold had been made at Ophir Creek. The total of 28 days' earning of a party of diggers was 400 ounces, consisting principally of nuggets, one of which weighed 2lb. to 3lb. The opinion generally prevalent is that the Ophir country is one large rich gold field.

At Adelaide a severe storm had visited the Macclesfield district, doing great injury to the crops. Flour continued firm at £25 per ton at the port, and there was no change in imported produce and merchandise. But little wheat was changing hands.

New Zealand advices to January 26 have also been received. The Governor had recently paid a visit to Nelson, which had added considerably to his popularity. The Nelson *Examiner* gives glowing accounts of the progress of the settlement, the extension of commerce, the increased area of cultivation, and the improved appearance of the town. Some very fine specimens of copper ore had been found in the Dun Mountain mine.

The third session of the Provisional Council of Wellington was opened on Thursday, December the 27th. The Superintendent, in his opening address, estimated the revenue for the year 1856 at £38,000, which includes a balance in the treasury of £15,000. The cost of the several departments of government he does not think will exceed £10,000; a balance of £28,000 will thus be available for public works and undertakings. The Provisional government is represented as being very popular at the present time

The Melbourne correspondent of the London *News*, writing on the 24th of February, says:—The intelligence that England was likely to be embroiled with the United States, has caused great astonishment, but little perplexity. We cannot, in short, believe it. A very good feeling subsists between us and the States, which we should be sorry to see disturbed; but our sympathies, so far as I can judge, are sound, and we cannot but think that Brother Jonathan has been over hasty this time. We shall assuredly remain loyal.

Lola Montez was playing at the Victoria Theatre, Ballarat Diggings. An interesting *fracas* had taken place between her and Mr. H. Seekamp, editor of the Ballarat *Times*. It appears that a writer in the *Times* had made some remarks reflecting on the character of Lola as a woman, and not as an actress, and a few evenings afterwards the editor (Mr. Seekamp) called at the United States Hotel, where she was residing. Hearing he was below, she came down stairs with a whip, and laid it on his back with a hearty good will. Mr. Seekamp retaliated with a riding whip, and ere long the combatants had each other literally by the hair. Some of the parties interposed, and they were separated, but not before the preserves and revolvers were introduced.

At the theatre, next evening, Lola Montez was enthusiastically received, and at the close of the performance made the following very characteristic speech:—

I thank you most sincerely for your friendship. I regret to be obliged to refer again to Mr. Seekamp, but it is not my fault, as he again, in this morning's paper, repeats his attacks upon me. You have heard of the scene which took place yesterday afternoon. Mr. Seekamp threatens to continue his charges against my character, and I offered, though a woman to meet him with pistols, but the coward, who could not beat a woman, ran from a woman. He says he will drive me off the diggings, but I will change the tables, and make Seekamp decamp (Applause.) My good friends, I again thank you.

The amount of gold received at Melbourne for the week ending February 23, was 51,154 ounces, and £32,530 in coin.

LAND SALES AND GOLD STATISTICS.

[Melbourne Correspondence of London News.]

Some curious facts are perceivable in the latest returns of land sales, as contrasted with those of previous years; but before referring to them, it may be as well to mention that Mr. William Howitt was in error when he stated that the greater quantity of the land brought into the market had been bought up by the squatters, under the pre-emptive right; on the contrary, the truth is, that a vast quantity has been purchased by the colonists at large, who have invested freely, not only in the neighborhood of townships, but also in eligible spots throughout the colony. From a return, which I have before me, it appears that the quantity of land alienated from the crown during the yers

	Acres.	R.	P.		£	s.	d.
1853 was	281,330	1	11	for which the following amounts were received.	1,558,021	6	10
1854 "	404,472	0	1		1,378,858	18	11
1855 "	497,452	1	29		728,109	12	5

Thus showing that while a greater quantity was sold in 1855 than in the preceding year, the amount realised was rather more than half; while comparing the years 1853 and 1855, the result is still more striking. Nor must the fact be taken solely as an indication of greater poverty on the part of the buyers at large; indeed, this deduction is probably little to be trusted, but rather as a most satisfactory proof that we are coming to our senses, and that we look more to the actual value of the land as well as to the value of money. Perhaps, also, another cause of persons being less in a hurry to compete for land under the present system, would be found to reside in the confident hope that that system is about to expire, and that the lands of this noble colony are about to be alienated on a more equitable and extensive scale.

Again, the total quantity of land alienated from the crown during the last half of 1854 and the first half of 1855 was nearly equal, viz., 101,201 acres for the former period and 184,837 acres for the latter; but the amount realized during these periods was very different indeed, being not less than £290,000., or near 50 per cent., the respective amounts being for 1854, £568,069 and for 1855 £354,857.

Town lands sold from 30th June to 31st December, 1854:—

Area. A.	R.	P.	Amount Realized. £	s.	d.	Average per Acre. £	s.	d.
433	3	26	134,941	13	6	306	14	0

Town lands sold from 1st January to 30th June, 1855:—

Area. A.	R.	P.	Amount Realized. £	s.	d.	Average per Acre. £	s.	d.
400	3	23	23,402	13	3	56	19	1

These figures show still more striking results—the difference in the amount realized being about one-sixth, while the price per acre fell nearly in a like proportion. The results of sales in what are called fancy localities are not less surprising. In 1854, the quantity of land sold within the limits of Melbourne was 31 acres, and the price realized £51,972, at the rate of £1,656 per acre. During the first half of the year 1855 the area was insignificant in quantity, being only one rod 22 perches, and small in amount realized, being not more than £290. But instead of the scarcity of the article leading to greater competition and increased price, it was attended with the very opposite result, for the average price per acre fell more than 50 per cent as exhibited.

The gold statistics for the year 1855 have been published, and *show an increase of 35 per cent on the previous year*. This must be admitted to be satisfactory, when it is remembered that the introduction of machinery has not been altogether so successful as was anticipated. Amalgamation is the great desideratum. It is suggested that a handsome reward should be offered by council for the discovery of an efficient process; if this were done there can be little doubt that some of the great chemists of Europe would be induced to devote their skill to the solution of the problem. The paper says:—"Notwithstanding the number of men of Californian and of Continental experience, who professes a competent knowledge of the process, there is still evidently wanted the chemical ability to successfully combat with the foreign metals contained in the gold bearing quartz." As for the quartz itself, it may be said, in many localities, to be literally full of gold. I have myself seen, only a few days since, specimens of coarse nuggety gold produced from quartz roughly pounded on an anvil. An ounce and a half was knocked out in a forenoon by the rudest possible process, from half a bag of disintegrated quartz, and the quantity lost in minute dust was, perhaps, a fourth of the above quantity.

MARKETS.

MELBOURNE, Feb. 25.—The tendency in the gold market has been upward, and the price of gold has been for the past two days £3 16s. 6d. per ounce. The rise (according to Clark's *Gold Circular*) has caused a large quantity of gold to be released from deposit in the camps at the fields. In consequence of the number of first class vessels on the berth for London, the demand is likely to continue good for some time.

The *Journal of Commerce* says:—Orders from the interior are coming in, and a proportionate amount of our stock is finding its way to the diggings. Advanced rates have been paid for several articles, especially candles, which are held firmly for a further advance. No change to report in ale or beer. A good deal of speculation going forward in butter, but little going into consumption at 1s. 5d. per lb. for first brands. Coffee without material change, good samples getting scarcer. Some sales by auction of dry goods have brought good rates when compared with prices lately current, but by no means remunerative to shippers. In a short time, however, we think a better feeling will exist. No transactions in tallow to note. As there is shipping offering for dead weight, melters could command extreme rates. Hides are very firm. Large parcels much wanted. At auction a small lot inferior brought 11s.; heavy well cured are worth 13s. to 13s. 6d. A few lots (small) have changed hands at firm rates. There is no desire to operate in wool at present prices, and there is no supply. At the weekly produce sale there was a spirited competition, and prices of wool ruled ½d. per lb. over the rates of the previous sale. Breadstuffs declining in value.

The labor market keeps tolerably well supplied with labor, both skilled and unskilled. There exists a good demand for first rate ploughmen, employers being very particular as to competency in that branch of agriculture. The demand for mechanical labor is improving, and the prices now given for every branch leave the employed no just ground for complaint, considering the reduced state of the markets. Women are in good demand, and at very high wages; but really good thorough servants are extremely scarce; families having girls of that description will advance wages sooner than lose them.

At Ballarat, on February 21, trade had been rather dull, and complaints are again numerous among our dealers, the start that we noticed in our last having died away. The Chalk Hills, and that neighborhood still continue to get off a quantity of goods. Magpie has only a small consumption. Fiery Creek is now fully supplied direct from town, and we are unable to clear off any of our surplus produce in that quarter. A good many of our large storekeepers are selling off at present, which also tends to keep down prices. All sorts of farming produce command a ready market, and the supplies from towns are greatly stopped, as it is found that they can